



# Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029

## Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report



Comhairle  
Chontae  
Liatroma | Leitrim  
County  
Council

# SEA ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

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FOR THE

## LEITRIM COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2023-2029

**for: Leitrim County Council**

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# Table of Contents

<b>List of Abbreviations .....</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>Glossary.....</b>	<b>vi</b>
<b>Section 1 SEA: Introduction and Benefits .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Introduction.....	1
1.2 Implications for the Planning Authority.....	1
1.3 Why SEA? The Benefits.....	1
<b>Section 2 The Plan .....</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1 Introduction.....	4
2.2 Content of the Plan .....	4
2.3 Vision and Strategic Aims.....	4
2.4 Strategic work undertaken by the Council to ensure contribution towards environmental protection and sustainable development .....	6
2.5 Relationship with other relevant Plans and Programmes .....	7
<b>Section 3 SEA Methodology .....</b>	<b>8</b>
3.1 Introduction to the Iterative Approach .....	8
3.2 Appropriate Assessment and Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment.....	9
3.3 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment .....	9
3.4 Scoping .....	10
3.5 Alternatives .....	10
3.6 Environmental Report .....	10
3.7 SEA Statement .....	11
<b>Section 4 Environmental Baseline .....</b>	<b>13</b>
4.1 Introduction.....	13
4.2 National Reporting on the Environment .....	13
4.3 Sustainable Development Goals.....	14
4.4 Likely Evolution of the Environment in the Absence of a new Plan .....	14
4.5 Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services.....	17
4.6 Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna .....	18
4.7 Population and Human Health .....	29
4.8 Soil .....	30
4.9 Water.....	36
4.10 Air and Climatic Factors .....	54
4.11 Material Assets.....	56
4.12 Cultural Heritage .....	66
4.13 Landscape .....	71
4.14 Overlay of Environmental Sensitivity Mapping .....	78
<b>Section 5 Strategic Environmental Objectives .....</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>Section 6 Description of Alternatives .....</b>	<b>88</b>
6.1 Introduction.....	88
6.2 Limitations in Available Alternatives .....	88
6.3 Type 1: Alternatives for an Ecosystem Services Approach to the Plan .....	88
6.4 Type 2: Alternatives for Population Allocations .....	88

6.5	Type 3: Alternatives for Settlement Role or Specialisms .....	89
6.6	Type 4: Serviced Sites within Rural Settlements .....	90
6.7	Type 5: Alternatives for Renewable Energy.....	90
<b>Section 7</b>	<b>Evaluation of Alternatives.....</b>	<b>91</b>
7.1	Introduction.....	91
7.2	Methodology.....	91
7.3	Detailed Assessment of Alternatives.....	93
7.4	Reasons for Choosing the Selected Alternatives in light of Other Reasonable Alternatives Considered.....	102
<b>Section 8</b>	<b>Evaluation of Plan Provisions.....</b>	<b>103</b>
8.1	Introduction.....	103
8.2	Cumulative Effects.....	105
8.3	Overall Evaluation (including Transboundary) .....	106
8.4	Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment .....	112
8.5	Integration of Climate Action into the Plan.....	112
8.6	Interrelationship between Environmental Components.....	114
8.7	Detailed Evaluation.....	115
<b>Section 9</b>	<b>Mitigation Measures.....</b>	<b>133</b>
9.1	Introduction.....	133
9.2	Strategic work undertaken by the Council to ensure contribution towards environmental protection and sustainable development .....	133
9.3	Consideration of Alternatives.....	133
9.4	Integration of environmental considerations into Zoning of the Plan .....	133
9.5	Integration of individual SEA, AA and SFRA provisions into the text of the Plan.....	134
<b>Section 10</b>	<b>Monitoring Measures .....</b>	<b>157</b>
10.1	Introduction.....	157
10.2	Indicators and Targets.....	157
10.3	Sources .....	157
10.4	Reporting .....	157
<b>Appendix I</b>	<b>Relationship with Legislation and Other Policies, Plans and Programmes.....</b>	<b>165</b>
<b>Appendix II</b>	<b>Ecological and Geological Designations .....</b>	<b>191</b>
<b>Appendix III</b>	<b>Non-Technical Summary.....</b>	<b>separately bound</b>

# List of Figures

Figure 1.1 Overlay of Environmental Sensitivities in County Leitrim.....	3
Figure 3.1 Overview of the SEA/AA/SFRA Plan-preparation Processes .....	8
Figure 4.1 European sites within and within 15 km of the County .....	22
Figure 4.2 Other connected European sites beyond 15 km of the County and hydrologically linked...	23
Figure 4.3 Natural Heritage Areas, Proposed Natural Heritage Areas and Areas of Special Scientific Interest within and within 15 km of the County .....	24
Figure 4.4 CORINE Land Cover 2018 .....	25
Figure 4.5 Areas likely to contain Annex I habitats, Ramsar sites and Nature Reserves.....	26
Figure 4.6 WFD Register of Protected Areas - Shellfish Areas .....	27
Figure 4.7 Margaritifera Sensitive Areas .....	28
Figure 4.8 Soil Type .....	32
Figure 4.9 County Geological Sites.....	33
Figure 4.10 Source Protection Areas .....	34
Figure 4.11 Landslide Susceptibility and Previous Landslide Events .....	35
Figure 4.12 WFD Surface Water Status (2013-2018) .....	44
Figure 4.13 WFD Groundwater Status (2013-2018) .....	45
Figure 4.14 Groundwater Vulnerability .....	46
Figure 4.15 Groundwater Productivity .....	47
Figure 4.16 WFD Register of Protected Areas: Nutrient Sensitive Areas.....	48
Figure 4.17 WFD Register of Protected Areas: Drinking Water.....	49
Figure 4.18 WFD Register of Protected Areas: Bathing Waters .....	50
Figure 4.19 Historical Flood Data .....	51
Figure 4.20 OPW Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) Mapping.....	52
Figure 4.21 OPW Catchment Flood Risk Assessment Mapping and OPW National Indicative Fluvial Mapping.....	53
Figure 4.22 Minerals Localities.....	61
Figure 4.23 Archaeological Heritage.....	69
Figure 4.24 Architectural Heritage .....	70
Figure 4.25 Landscape Character Types .....	74
Figure 4.26 Landscape Character Areas .....	75
Figure 4.27 Proposed Landscape Designations.....	76
Figure 4.28 Scenic Routes and Views.....	77
Figure 4.29 Overlay of Environmental Sensitivities in County Leitrim.....	80

## List of Tables

Table 3.1 Checklist of Information included in this Environmental Report .....	12
Table 4.1 WFD River, Lake and Canal Waterbodies Status .....	39
Table 4.2 Wastewater Constraints in County Leitrim (Irish Water, April 2020) .....	62
Table 4.3 Wastewater Treatment Plant Performance (Annual Environmental Reports 2019 and 2020, EPA) .....	63
Table 4.4 Details on Water Supply Schemes .....	65
Table 5.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs), Indicators and Targets .....	82
Table 6.1 Type 2 Alternatives: Population Allocations .....	89
Table 7.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives .....	91
Table 7.2 Effects common to Plans adopting each of the different alternatives .....	93
Table 7.3 Assessment of Type 1 Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives .....	97
Table 7.4 Assessment of Type 2 Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives .....	98
Table 7.5 Assessment of Type 3 Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives .....	99
Table 7.6 Assessment of Type 4 Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives .....	100
Table 7.7 Assessment of Type 5 Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives .....	101
Table 8.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives .....	103
Table 8.2 Overall Evaluation (including transboundary) – Effects arising from the Plan.....	107
Table 8.3 Presence of Interrelationships between Environmental Components.....	114
Table 9.1 Integration of Environmental Considerations into the Plan.....	135
Table 10.1 Indicators, Targets, Sources and Remedial Action.....	158

## List of Abbreviations

<b>AA</b>	Appropriate Assessment
<b>ACA</b>	Architectural Conservation Area
<b>CAFE</b>	Cleaner Air for Europe
<b>CFRAM</b>	Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management
<b>CORINE</b>	Co-ORDinated INformation on the Environment
<b>CSO</b>	Central Statistics Office
<b>DECC</b>	Department of Environment, Climate and Communications
<b>DEHLG</b>	Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government
<b>DHLGH</b>	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
<b>EIA</b>	Environmental Impact Assessment
<b>EPA</b>	Environmental Protection Agency
<b>EQS</b>	Environmental Quality Standard
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FPO</b>	Flora Protection Order
<b>GSI</b>	Geological Survey of Ireland
<b>NHA</b>	Natural Heritage Area
<b>NI</b>	Northern Ireland
<b>NIAH</b>	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
<b>NTA</b>	National Transport Authority
<b>OPW</b>	Office of Public Works
<b>pNHA</b>	proposed Natural Heritage Area
<b>PAS</b>	Priority Action Substance
<b>POPs</b>	Persistent Organic Pollutants
<b>PWS</b>	Public Water Supply
<b>RAL</b>	Remedial Action List
<b>RBD</b>	River Basin District
<b>RMP</b>	Record of Monuments and Places
<b>RPA</b>	Register of Protected Areas
<b>RSES</b>	Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy
<b>RWSS</b>	Regional Water Supply Scheme
<b>SAC</b>	Special Area of Conservation
<b>SEA</b>	Strategic Environmental Assessment
<b>SEO</b>	Strategic Environmental Objective
<b>SI No.</b>	Statutory Instrument Number
<b>SPA</b>	Special Protection Area
<b>THMs</b>	Trihalomethanes
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organisation
<b>WFD</b>	Water Framework Directive
<b>WWTP</b>	Wastewater Treatment Plant

# Glossary

## Appropriate Assessment

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

## Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna

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

Flora is all of the plants found in a given area.

Fauna is all of the animals found in a given area.

## Environmental Problems

Annex I of Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27<sup>th</sup> June 2001, on the assessment of the effects of certain Plans and programmes on the environment (the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive) requires that information is provided on 'any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme', thus, helping to ensure that the proposed strategic action does not make existing environmental problems worse.

Environmental problems arise where there is a conflict between current environmental conditions and ideal targets. If environmental problems are identified at the outset they can help focus attention on important issues and geographical areas where environmental effects of the plan or programme may be likely.

## Environmental Vectors

Environmental vectors are environmental components, such as air, water or soil, through which contaminants or pollutants, which have the potential to cause harm, can be transported, coming into contact with human beings.

## Mitigate

To make or become less severe or harsh.

## Mitigation Measures

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



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

## **Natural Heritage**

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

## **Protected Structure**

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

## **Recorded Monument**

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

## **Scoping**

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

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

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

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

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

# Section 1 SEA: Introduction and Benefits

## 1.1 Introduction

This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report for the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029, hereafter referred to as the “Plan”. It has been undertaken by CAAS Ltd. on behalf of Leitrim County Council. The purpose of this report is to provide a clear understanding of the likely environmental consequences of decisions regarding the adoption and implementation of the Plan.

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

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

## 1.2 Implications for the Planning Authority

SEA identifies the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan. The findings of the SEA are expressed in this Environmental Report, an earlier version of

which accompanied the Draft Plan on public display and has been updated following consultation, and identifies how environmental considerations were integrated into the Plan and how alternatives for the Plan were considered.

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

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

## 1.3 Why SEA? The Benefits

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

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

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

An overlay of environmental sensitivities in County Leitrim is shown on Figure 1.1. Further detail on the weighting applied to different sensitivities is provided under Section 4.14.

The overlay mapping shows that environmental sensitivities are not evenly distributed throughout the County. Most of the County is identified as having low to moderate levels of sensitivity.

<sup>1</sup> Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27<sup>th</sup> June 2001, on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, transposed into Irish Law through the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 435 of 2004), as amended by the

European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 200 of 2011), and the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004), as amended by the Planning and Development (SEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 201 of 2011).

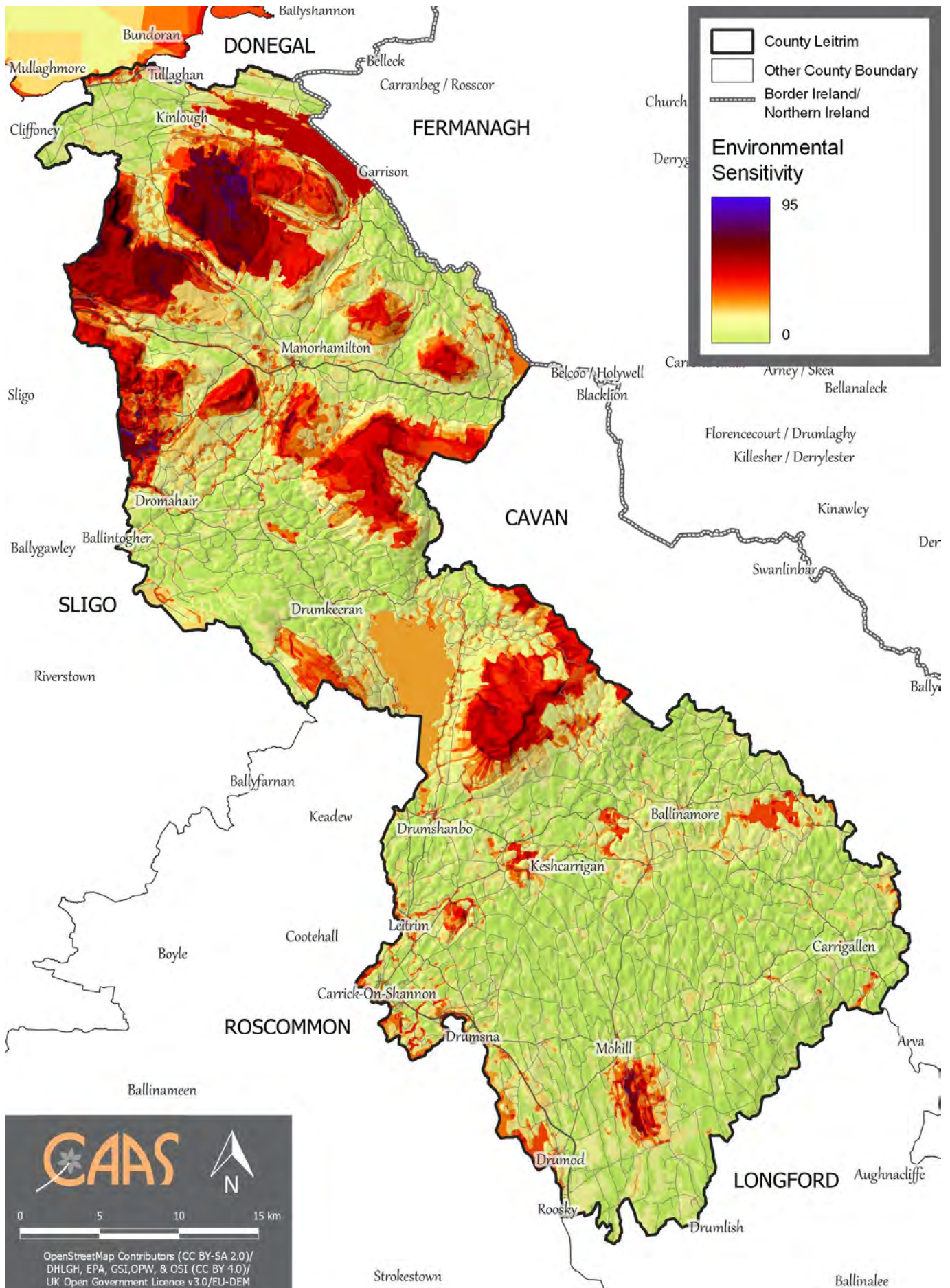
The most sensitive areas in the County include:

- Upland areas, such as the Arroo and Mountain Outliers, the Tievebaun Uplands, the Doons and Crockauns and the Boleybrack Uplands in the northern half of the County – on account of landscape designations, landslide susceptibility, ecological designations and groundwater vulnerability; and
- Lakes throughout the County, including Lough Allen, Lough Melvin and Lough MacNea Upper, on account of ecological and landscape designations, water status and flood risk;
- Certain locations and areas within the existing built-up footprint of the County's settlements, on account of cultural heritage designations, including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, Entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas;
- Coastal areas and areas adjacent to rivers and streams, on account of ecological and visual sensitivities and elevated levels of flood risk;
- Extensive areas of extreme and high groundwater vulnerability throughout the County.

The Plan directs incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and focuses on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprints of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in rural areas. Development of these generally more robust, well-serviced and well-connected areas of the County will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation.

Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's towns and villages to become more desirable places to live – so that they maintain and improve services to existing and future communities.

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



**Figure 1.1 Overlay of Environmental Sensitivities in County Leitrim**

## Section 2 The Plan

### 2.1 Introduction

The Leitrim County Development Plan is a land use plan and overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the functional area of County Leitrim over the six-year period 2023-2029. The Plan sets out the Council's proposed policies and objectives for the development of the County over the Plan period.

### 2.2 Content of the Plan

The Plan provides for the proper planning and sustainable development of County Leitrim over the period 2023-2029. It consists of a number of volumes with Volume 1 providing a written statement and maps over 13 chapters as follow:

- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: Core Strategy
- Chapter 3: Housing
- Chapter 4: Economic Development, including Retail
- Chapter 5: Tourism
- Chapter 6: Urban Settlements
- Chapter 7: Sustainable Communities
- Chapter 8: Transportation
- Chapter 9: Infrastructure and Energy
- Chapter 10: Rural Development
- Chapter 11: Heritage
- Chapter 12: Climate Action and Renewable Energy
- Chapter 13: Development Management Standards

Appendix I of the Written Statement contains a Statement prepared in accordance with Section 28 (1A) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) demonstrating how the Planning Authority in preparing the Development Plan has implemented the policies and objectives set out in Ministerial Guidelines issued under Section 28 of the Act.

Volume II contains Settlement Plans for towns and villages.

Volume III comprises the Book of Maps for both Volume I (Written Statement) and for Volume II (Settlement Plans).

Volume IV contains the proposed Record of Protected Structures.

The Plan also includes a range of supporting documents and strategies, including this SEA Environmental Report.

### 2.3 Vision and Strategic Aims

The vision for Leitrim proposed for the County Development Plan 2023-2029 is:

“County Leitrim to be a vibrant, creative, economically strong, socially inclusive, progressive and distinctive county, providing a quality experience for all who live in, work in, invest in and visit our county, fostering the development and wellbeing of our communities, offering excellent opportunities for employment across a diverse range of sectors, embracing the challenges which climate change presents in a responsible and practical manner while protecting, conserving and enhancing the best of the natural and built environment”.

In order to achieve this Overall Vision, the County Development Plan contains a number of strategic aims which are set out in this section. These aims are then expanded upon in the individual chapters which follow:

1. To guide the future development of Leitrim in line with the principles and objectives provided in the NPF and in the RSES for our region including the population projections set out therein;
2. To promote and facilitate the development of the county in accordance with the provisions of the Core Strategy, including directing appropriate levels of residential development in line with the Settlement hierarchy;
3. To ensure that towns and villages grow at a sustainable and appropriate level whilst pursuing a compact growth policy and seeking to better integrate

- transport and land use planning at a level practicable to Co. Leitrim;
4. To develop Carrick on Shannon (Key Town) as a settlement of regional scale for accelerated population growth through the delivery of significant compact growth and developing identified derelict and under utilised sites, with an initial focus within the town core. Carrick on Shannon is also identified as a key driver of economic development in the county.
  5. To deliver at least 30% of all new homes that are targeted in Carrick on Shannon, Ballinamore and Manorhamilton within the existing built-up footprints on infill and/or brownfield sites with a reduced target of 20% for the remaining lower tier settlements in the Settlement Hierarchy.
  6. To pursue balanced growth elsewhere within the county at an appropriate scale based upon the varied growth potential of different places to include individual houses in rural areas. The Core Strategy targets housing and employment growth in settlements that have the capacity to absorb such growth in a sustainable manner with the commensurate provision of the required supporting social infrastructure and community facilities.
  7. To support a rural housing policy for the open countryside which will seek to balance the need to sustain rural communities with the need to protect Leitrim's natural heritage, environment and landscape qualities. The rural housing policy will differentiate between the pressure for one off housing in the areas surrounding large towns (Carrick on Shannon and the impact of Sligo extending into Co. Leitrim) where an economic and social tie to an area must be established from the remainder of the countryside.
  8. To support the appropriate and sustainable development of rural areas by encouraging growth and arresting decline in areas that have experienced low population growth or decline in recent decades and by managing the growth of areas that are under strong urban influence to avoid over-development, while sustaining vibrant rural communities.
  9. To promote Carrick on Shannon as the main retail centre in the County with the provision of retail in other centres commensurate with their roles.
  10. To support the vitality and viability of existing town and village centres and facilitate a competitive and healthy environment for the retailing sector by ensuring that future growth in retail floorspace responds to the identified retail hierarchy, the sequential approach, and the needs of the projected population of the settlement areas.
  11. To create the appropriate conditions necessary to foster a healthy and vibrant retail environment in the county.
  12. Include objectives to support proposals for regeneration, rejuvenation of vacant and derelict sites, town and village centre renewal and public realm enhancement.
  13. To support, in principle, development that addresses climate change in terms of adaptation and mitigation measures including increasing flood resilience, the promotion of sustainable transport options and the development of renewable energy technologies where possible to achieve a successful transition to a low carbon economy.

Underpinning the strategic aims above in relation to population growth, housing requirements and the future spatial development of our county are the following complementary strategic aims which are integral in delivering the vision for the county during the period 2023-2029:

1. To build on the regional-level linkages between County Leitrim and other parts of the Northern and Western Region (with particular emphasis on the Sligo Regional Growth Centre) and adjoining regions such as the Eastern and Midlands Region and Fermanagh & Omagh District Council in Northern Ireland and by supporting the implementation of regional spatial and economic strategies, collaborating on support for critical enabling infrastructure, such as inter-regional road linkages, and co-operating on areas of mutual planning interest;
2. To target Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Irish Indigenous industries to appropriate zoned locations and build on the economic strengths and tourism opportunities of County Leitrim in a

balanced and sustainable manner focusing on the considerable opportunities within our county;

3. To facilitate the provision of and improvements to community, social and recreational infrastructure and ensure universal access to all to such facilities throughout the county for all its residents;
4. To facilitate job creation within the county to ensure that the county grows in a sustainable manner;
5. To provide for sustainable transport infrastructure and connectivity including walking and cycling infrastructure and initiatives and optimize the return of investment on infrastructure while preserving the natural and built heritage;
6. To achieve a sustainable, integrated and low carbon transport system for the county and to protect, improve and extend water services and other enabling infrastructure in line with national, regional and local population and economic growth for the county;
7. To protect, conserve and enhance the built, natural and cultural environment through promoting awareness, utilizing relevant heritage legislation and promoting good quality urban and rural design;
8. To support the development of key infrastructure such as telecommunications, electricity and sources of renewable energy to enable and facilitate economic development.
9. To ensure co-ordination between land use zoning and infrastructure availability through the implementation of the 'Tiered Approach to Land Use Zoning' as required under the NPF.

## **2.4 Strategic work undertaken by the Council to ensure contribution towards environmental protection and sustainable development**

Far in advance of the submission of the pre-Draft Plan to the Elected Members for approval, the placing of the Draft Plan on public display and adoption of the Plan, Leitrim County Council undertook various works in order to inform the preparation of the Plan.

The findings of this strategic work have been integrated into the Plan and will contribute towards both environmental protection and management and sustainable development within the County.

Strategic work undertaken by the Council includes background work in relation to Plan Strategies and other provisions for a variety of sectors, including:

- Housing;
- Economic Development;
- Tourism;
- Urban Settlements;
- Sustainable Communities;
- Transport;
- Infrastructure and Energy;
- Rural Development;
- Heritage; and
- Climate Action and Renewable Energy.

The undertaking of this SEA process and the associated AA and SFRA processes contributed towards the integration of environmental considerations into individual Plan provisions as detailed in Section 9 of this report.

## 2.5 Relationship with other relevant Plans and Programmes

It is acknowledged that many of the major issues affecting the County's development are contingent on national policy and government funding.

The Plan sits within a hierarchy of statutory documents setting out public policy for, among other things, land use planning, infrastructure, sustainable development, tourism, environmental protection and environmental management. The Plan must comply with relevant higher-level strategic actions and will, in turn, guide lower-level strategic actions. These documents include plans and programmes such as those detailed in Appendix I<sup>2</sup> (see also, Section 4 "Environmental Baseline", Section 6 "Description of Alternatives", Section 5 "Strategic Environmental Objectives" and Section 9 "Mitigation Measures"). These documents have been subject to their own environmental assessment processes, as relevant.

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out Ireland's planning policy direction up to 2040. The NPF is to be implemented through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSESs) and lower tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans. The RSES for the Northern and Western Region sets out objectives for land use planning, tourism, infrastructure, sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been subject to environmental assessment and must be implemented through the County Development Plan.

As required by the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the County Development Plan is consistent with and conforms with national and regional policies, plans and programmes, including the NPF and the RSES for the Northern and Western Region. The County Development Plan will, in turn, guide lower-level strategic actions, such as Local Area Plans that will be subject to their own lower-tier environmental assessments.

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

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<sup>2</sup> Appendix I is not intended to be a full and comprehensive review of EU Directives, the transposing regulations or the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. The information is not exhaustive and it is recommended to consult the Directive, Regulation, Plan or Programme to become familiar with the full details of each.



## Section 3 SEA Methodology

### 3.1 Introduction to the Iterative Approach

Figure 3.1 provides an overview of the integrated Plan preparation, SEA, Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) processes. The preparation of the Plan, SEA, AA and SFRA have taken place concurrently and the findings of the SEA, AA and SFRA have informed the Plan.

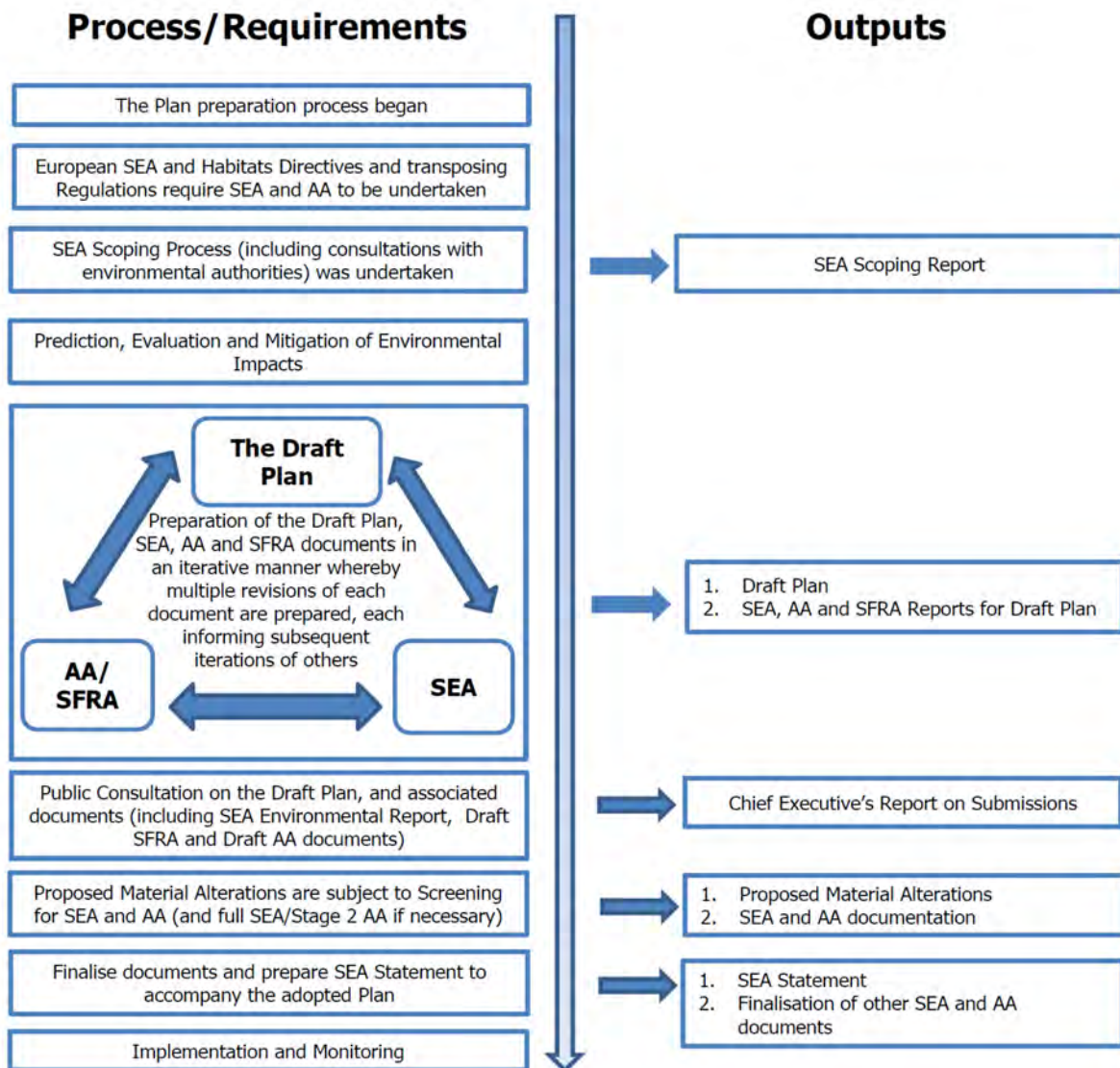


Figure 3.1 Overview of the SEA/AA/SFRA Plan-preparation Processes

## 3.2 Appropriate Assessment and Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment

### 3.2.1 Appropriate Assessment

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening and Stage 2 AA has been undertaken alongside the Plan. The requirement for AA is provided under the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 1992/43/EEC). The conclusion of the AA is that the Plan will not affect the integrity of the European Sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects.<sup>3</sup>

The preparation of the Plan, SEA and AA has taken place concurrently and the findings of the AA have informed the SEA. All recommendations from the AA process have been integrated into the Plan.

### 3.2.2 Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment

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

#### Scoping

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

#### Baseline

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

#### Alternatives

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

#### Impact assessment

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

#### Mitigation and monitoring

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

#### Reporting

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

#### Communication and consultation

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

## 3.3 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has been undertaken alongside the Plan. The requirement for SFRA is provided under 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of Environment and Office of Public Works, 2009) and associated Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government Circular PL2/2014. All

<sup>3</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: (a) no alternative solution available, (b) imperative

reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and (c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

recommendations from the SFRA process have been integrated into the Plan.

### 3.4 Scoping

The scope of environmental issues to be dealt with by the SEA together with the level of detail to which they are addressed was broadly decided upon taking into account the collection of environmental baseline data and input from environmental authorities. Scoping allowed the SEA to become focused upon key issues relevant to the environmental components that are specified under the SEA Directive<sup>4</sup>.

All relevant environmental authorities identified under the SEA Regulations as amended, were sent SEA scoping notices by the Council indicating that submissions or observations in relation to the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the environmental report could be made to the Council<sup>5</sup>.

Submissions received from the following environmental authorities influenced the scope of the assessment undertaken, the findings of which are included in this report:

- Environmental Protection Agency;
- Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (one from the Geological Survey Ireland and one from the Waste Policy and Resource Efficiency Division);
- Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine;
- Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media; and
- Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

### 3.5 Alternatives

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

<sup>4</sup> These components comprise biodiversity, fauna, flora, population, human health, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.

<sup>5</sup> The following authorities were notified: Environmental Protection Agency; Department of Environment, Climate and Communications; Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Department of

## 3.6 Environmental Report

This SEA Environmental Report predicts and evaluates the likely significant effects of the Plan and the alternatives.

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

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

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

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

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

There is a data gap relating to WFD surface water status data. There are a number of waterbodies within the Plan area with overall status currently not assigned to them and the term “unassigned status” applies in respect of these waterbodies. The SEA ensured that the Plan contains measures that will contribute towards the maintenance and improvement of status of all water bodies within the zone of influence.

Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media; Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage; Sligo County Council; Donegal County Council; Roscommon County Council; Longford County Council; and Cavan County Council. In addition to the environmental authorities, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, part of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland, was also notified.

### **3.7 SEA Statement**

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

- How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan, highlighting the main changes to the Plan that resulted from the SEA process;
- How the SEA Environmental Report and consultations have been taken into account, summarising the key issues raised in consultations and in the Environmental Report indicating what action was taken in response;
- The reasons for choosing the Plan in the light of the other alternatives, identifying the other alternatives considered, commenting on their potential effects and explaining why the Plan as adopted was selected; and
- The measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementing of the Plan.

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

<b>Information Required to be included in the Environmental Report</b>	<b>Corresponding Section of this Report</b>
(A) Outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes	Sections 2, 5 and 8
(B) Description of relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the evolution of that environment without implementation of the plan or programme	Section 4 and Appendices II and III
(C) Description of the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected	Sections 4, 7 and 8
(D) Identification of any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme, particularly those relating to European protected sites	Section 4
(E) List of environmental protection objectives, established at international, EU or National level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and describe how those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account when preparing the Plan	Sections 5, 7, 8, 9 and Appendix I
(F) Describe the likely significant effects on the environment	Sections 7 and 8
(G) Describe any measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse environmental effects of implementing the plan or programme	Section 9
(H) Give an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives considered, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken (including any difficulties)	Sections 3, 6, 7 and 8
(I) A description of proposed monitoring measures	Section 10
(J) A non-technical summary of the above information	Appendix III Non-Technical Summary
(K) Interrelationships between each environmental topic	Addressed as it arises within each Section

## Section 4 Environmental Baseline

### 4.1 Introduction

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

This description includes information that is relevant to lower tier planning, environmental assessments and decision-making<sup>6</sup>.

Given the potential for impacts beyond the County boundary, the spatial scope of the SEA considers the zone of influence (15km or greater where relevant) of the Plan.

### 4.2 National Reporting on the Environment

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

#### Environmental Policy Position

A national policy position for Ireland's Environment.

#### Full implementation

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

#### Health and Wellbeing

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

#### Climate

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

#### Air Quality

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

#### Nature

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

#### Water Quality

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

#### Marine

Reduce the human-induced pressures on the marine environment.

#### Clean Energy

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

#### Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture

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

#### Water Services

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

<sup>6</sup> Article 5 of the SEA Directive, in accordance with the established European principle of subsidiarity, requires that the Environmental Report includes the information that may reasonably be required

taking into account, inter alia, the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process in order to avoid duplication of the assessment.

### **Circular Economy**

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

### **Land Use**

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

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

## **4.3 Sustainable Development Goals**

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

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

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

In the absence of a new Plan it is uncertain how permission for new development would be applied for and considered.

The 2015 County Development Plan has contributed towards environmental protection within County Leitrim. If the 2015 Plan was to expire and not be replaced by the 2023-2029 Plan, this would result in a deterioration of the County's planning and environmental protection framework. Although higher level environmental protection objectives – such as those of various EU Directives and transposing Irish Regulations – would still apply, the deterioration of this framework would mean that new development would be less coordinated and controlled.

As a result, there would be a decreased likelihood in the extent, magnitude and frequency of positive/neutral effects occurring, including:

- Contribution towards protection of ecology (including designated sites, ecological connectivity, habitats) by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere.
- Contribution towards the maintenance of existing green infrastructure and associated ecosystem services, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats.
- Contribution towards protection and/or maintenance of biodiversity and flora and fauna by contributing towards the protection of natural capital including the environmental vectors of air, water and soil. Biodiversity and flora and fauna includes biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species (including birds and bats), listed/protected species, ecological connectivity and non-

designated habitats (including terrestrial and aquatic habitats), and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna – including terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity and flora and fauna.

- Sustains existing sustainable rural management practices – and the communities who support them – to ensure the continuation of long-established managed landscapes and the flora and fauna that they contain.
  - Promotion of economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management.
  - Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere.
  - Contribution towards the protection of human health by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere.
  - Contributes towards protection of human health as a result of contributing towards the protection of natural capital including environmental vectors, including air and water.
  - Contribution towards the protection of soils (including those used for agriculture) and designated sites of geological heritage by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere.
  - Contribution towards the protection of the environment from contamination
- the highest standards of remediation, and where appropriate to consultations with the EPA and other relevant bodies, will be required to resolve any instances of environmental pollution created by contaminated land.
  - Contribution towards the protection of water by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere.
  - Contributions towards the protection of water resources including the status of surface and groundwaters and water-based designations.
  - Contribution towards flood risk management and appropriate drainage.
  - Contribution towards compliance with national and regional water services and waste management policies.
  - Contribution towards increase in renewable energy use by facilitating renewable energy and electricity transmission infrastructure developments.
  - Contribution towards limits in increases in energy demand from the transport sector by facilitating sustainable compact growth.
  - Contribution towards reductions in average energy consumption per capita including promoting sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility, sustainable design and energy efficiency.
  - Contribution towards climate mitigation and adaptation by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere.
  - In combination with other plans, programmes etc., contribution towards the objectives of the wide policy framework relating to climate mitigation and adaptation, and associated contribution towards maintaining and improving air quality



and managing noise levels, including through measures relating to:

- Sustainable compact growth;
- Sustainable mobility, including walking, cycling and public transport;
- Drainage, flood risk management and resilience;
- Sectors including agriculture, forestry, energy and buildings; and
- Sustainable design, energy efficiency and green infrastructure.
- Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage elsewhere in the County by facilitating development within existing settlements.
- Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage within existing settlements by facilitating brownfield development and regeneration.
- Contributes towards protection of wider landscape and landscape designations by facilitating development within existing settlements.

As a result, there would be an increased likelihood in the extent, magnitude and frequency of adverse effects on all environmental components occurring, including:

- Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:
  - Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites, Wildlife Sites and Areas of Special Scientific Interest) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna;
  - Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and
  - Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats.
- Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors.

- Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands.
- Potential for riverbank and coastal erosion.
- Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.
- Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events.
- Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).
- Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).
- Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).
- Increases in waste levels.
- Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure.
- Interactions between agriculture and soil, water, biodiversity and human health – including phosphorous and nitrogen deposition as a result of agricultural activities and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter.
- Risk of aggregate potential sterilisation.
- Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives.
- Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality.
- Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors.
- Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management.

- Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology<sup>7</sup> and protected architecture<sup>8</sup> arising from construction and operation activities.
- Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape.

## 4.5 Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services

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

Ecosystems are multifunctional communities of living organisms interacting with each other and their environment. Ecosystems provide a series of services for human well-being (ecosystem services) either directly or indirectly contributing towards human wellbeing. There are four main types; provisioning, regulating, supporting and cultural services. Provisioning services are the products obtained from ecosystems such as food, fresh water, wood, fibre, genetic resources and medicines. Regulating services are defined as the benefits obtained from the regulation of ecosystem processes such as climate regulation, natural hazard regulation, water purification and waste

management, pollination or pest control. Support services highlight the importance of ecosystems to provide habitat for migratory species and to maintain the viability of gene-pools. Cultural services include non-material benefits that people obtain from ecosystems such as spiritual enrichment, intellectual development, recreation and aesthetic values<sup>9</sup>.

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

- a) Consideration of natural systems - by using knowledge of interactions in nature and how ecosystems function (including at Plan Chapter 11);
- b) Taking into account of the services that ecosystems provide - including those that underpin social and economic well-being, such as flood and climate regulation (including at Plan Chapters 6, 9 and 12), resources for food, fibre or fuel (including at Plan Chapters 10 and 11), or for recreation, culture and quality of life (including at Plan Chapters 5, 7 and 10);
- c) Involving people - those who benefit from the ecosystem services and those managing them need to be involved in decisions that affect them. Public consultation has informed the preparation of the Plan, taking into account submissions/observations made on the Draft Plan during public display.

The following natural capital and ecosystem services issues are relevant to this SEA and have been taken into account in the provisions of the Plan:

- Air quality;
- Noise pollution;
- Light pollution;
- Water quality and river basin management including interactions with soil;
- Soil and vegetation carbon, which helps to regulate greenhouse gas emissions;

<sup>7</sup> Archaeological heritage encompasses designated and unknown archaeological heritage including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, underwater archaeology, entries to the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record and Northern Ireland Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest and Archaeological Potential. Also encompassed are intervisibility and interrelationships between archaeological heritage within the wider landscape, including cross-border intervisibility and interrelationships.

<sup>8</sup> Architectural heritage encompasses that which is designated or included within the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH), NIAH Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Records of Protected Structures and Northern Ireland's Listed Buildings and Northern Ireland's Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes. Also encompassed are intervisibility and interrelationships between architectural heritage within the wider landscape, including cross-border intervisibility and interrelationships.

<sup>9</sup> <https://biodiversity.europa.eu/topics/ecosystem-services>

- Soil/geological storage of water, contributing towards flood control;
- Land supporting food production; and
- Natural resources supporting energy production and recreation.

County Leitrim shares a border with Northern Ireland and the potential for likely significant transboundary environmental effects is considered by the SEA. For this purpose, environmental baseline information at and across the border in Northern Ireland relating to each of the environmental components detailed below have been considered.

## 4.6 Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna

### 4.6.1 Introduction

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

### 4.6.2 Overview of High Value Biodiversity and Designations

The most ecologically sensitive, heavily designated and protected areas within County Leitrim include an extensive network of lakes, uplands, bogs and native woodlands.

Ecological designations within and surrounding in County Leitrim include:

- Special Protection Areas<sup>10</sup>;
- Special Areas of Conservation<sup>11</sup>;
- Natural Heritage Areas<sup>12</sup>;
- Proposed Natural Heritage Areas<sup>13</sup>;
- Certain entries to the Water Framework Directive Register of Protected Areas<sup>14</sup>;
- Flora Protection Order sites<sup>15</sup>; and
- Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs)<sup>16</sup>.

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

### 4.6.3 European Sites

European sites in the County occur in the greatest concentrations along the main waterways and in upland areas. European sites comprise:

- Special Areas of Conservation<sup>17</sup> (SACs); and
- Special Protection Areas<sup>18</sup> (SPAs).

The SEA uses the same general zone of influence cited in the AA, a 15 km buffer around the County. There are 40 European sites (29 SACs and 11 SPAs) in Ireland and 11 European sites (nine SACs and two SPAs) in Northern Ireland designated within this zone (mapped on Figure 4.1) out of which nine European sites (eight SACs and one SPA) are designated within or partially within County Leitrim.

Other European sites shown on Figure 4.2 include sites connected to the County via hydrological links but beyond the 15 km buffer.

<sup>10</sup> For more detail refer to Section 4.6.3.

<sup>11</sup> For more detail refer to Section 4.6.3.

<sup>12</sup> For more detail refer to Section 4.6.4.

<sup>13</sup> For more detail refer to Section 4.6.4.

<sup>14</sup> For more detail refer to Sections 4.6.6 and 4.9.7.

<sup>15</sup> The Flora (Protection) Order, 2015 (S.I. No. 356 of 2015) gives legal protection to 65 species of bryophytes in the Republic of Ireland (25 liverworts and 40 mosses). **There are 19 locations within the County with a number of species protected by the Order.** For more detail refer to: <https://dahg.maps.arcgis.com/>.

<sup>16</sup> Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) are protected areas that represent the best of Northern Ireland's wildlife and geological sites that make a considerable contribution to the conservation of Northern Ireland's most valuable natural places. **The relevant ASSIs are shown on Figure 4.3.**

<sup>17</sup> SACs have been selected for protection under the European Council Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (92/43/EEC) due to their conservation value for

habitats and species of importance in the European Union. The Habitats Directive seeks to establish Natura 2000, a network of protected areas throughout the EU. It is the responsibility of each member state to designate SACs to protect habitats and species, which, together with the SPAs designated under the 1979 Birds Directive, form Natura 2000. The European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 consolidate the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 to 2005 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Control of Recreational Activities) Regulations 2010. The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the Court of Justice of the European Union against Ireland, notably cases C-418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law.

<sup>18</sup> SPAs have been selected for protection under the 1979 European Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) - referred to as the Birds Directive - due to their conservation value for birds of importance in the EU.

All relevant European sites<sup>19</sup> and their sensitive features are listed in the Appendix II of this report. For more detail on European sites refer to the AA Natura Impact Report that accompanies the Plan and this SEA Environmental Report.

#### 4.6.4 Natural Heritage Sites and Proposed Natural Heritage Areas

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

There are 9 NHAs and 28 pNHAs designated within, partially within or adjacent to the County. These sites and sites within a 15 km buffer around the County are mapped<sup>20</sup> on Figure 4.3 and listed in Appendix II of this report.

#### 4.6.5 Land Cover Mapping

CORINE<sup>21</sup> land cover mapping for the County is shown on Figure 4.4. The most dominant land cover types are pastures and agricultural lands, with significant areas of peatland in the northern half of the County.

Categories from CORINE mapping that may indicate areas with the potential for Annex I habitats (Figure 4.5) include:

- Non-irrigated arable land;
- Pastures;
- Complex cultivated patterns;

- Land principally occupied by agriculture with significant areas of natural vegetation;
- Broad-leaved forest;
- Coniferous forest;
- Mixed forests;
- Natural grassland;
- Moors and heathland;
- Transitional woodland-shrub;
- Beaches – dunes - sands;
- Inland marshes;
- Peat bogs;
- Salt marshes;
- Intertidal flats;
- Water courses;
- Water bodies;
- Estuaries; and
- Sea and ocean.

#### 4.6.6 Register of Protected Areas

In response to the requirements of the Water Framework Directive a number of water bodies or parts of water bodies that must have extra controls on their quality by virtue of how their waters are used by people and by wildlife have been listed on Registers of Protected Areas (RPAs). Water bodies designated on these lists are mapped on Figure 4.6. They include Shellfish Waters<sup>22</sup> (WFD Surface Water and Groundwaters in Shellfish Areas), such as Drumcliff-Strandhill in the north-west of the County. RPAs relating to Nutrient Sensitive Waters, Bathing Waters and water bodies used for Drinking Water are addressed under Section 4.9 "Water".

There are a number of water dependent habitats in the County that are listed on RPAs – relating to designated SACs and SPAs (see Section 4.6.3).

<sup>19</sup> Including sites in Ireland and Northern Ireland within 15 km buffer around the County and sites connected to the County via hydrological links.

<sup>20</sup> Sites in neighboring counties are also shown on Figure 4.3.

<sup>21</sup> The CORINE (Coordinated Information on the Environment) land cover data series was devised as a means of compiling geo-spatial environmental information in a standardised and comparable manner. CORINE has become a key data source for informing environmental and planning policy on a national and European level. The main land cover type in Ireland is agricultural land including forestry, which accounts for two-thirds of the national landmass. Most of this is permanent grassland pastures. Peatlands and wetlands are the second most widespread land cover type, covering almost one-fifth of the country. While forested areas cover about

one-tenth of the country. Despite rapid development in the past two decades, Ireland's landscape is predominantly rural and agricultural. <sup>22</sup> In order to protect existing shellfish waters and to ensure the future protection of these areas, the European Union introduced the Shellfish Waters Directive (2006/113/EC). The purpose of this Directive is to put in place concrete measures to protect waters, including shellfish waters, against pollution and to safeguard certain shellfish populations from various harmful consequences, resulting from the discharge of pollutant substances into the sea. The Directive applies to the aquatic habitat of bivalve and gastropod molluscs only (includes oysters, mussels, cockles, scallops and clams). It does not include crustaceans such as lobsters, crabs and crayfish.

#### 4.6.7 Other Designations

Other relevant designations within, partially within or adjacent to County Leitrim include Nature Reserves and Ramsar sites (mapped on Figure 4.5) and Margaritifera Sensitive Areas (mapped on Figure 4.7).

**Freshwater pearl mussel** is a globally threatened, long-lived and extremely sensitive species that can be impacted by many forms of pollution, particularly sediment and nutrient pollution and by hydrological and morphological changes, which may arise from developments, activities or changes in any part of the catchment. There are two species of freshwater pearl mussel in Ireland (*Margaritifera* and *Margaritifera durrovensis*) and both are protected under Annex II and Annex V of the EU Habitats Directive. Margaritifera Sensitive Areas (mapped on Figure 4.7) closest to County Leitrim are found within the Erne Claddagh/Swanlinbar river catchment.

**Nature Reserves** in Northern Ireland contain a wide range of wildlife, habitats and geology, designated for preservation of their features through the development of experience and techniques in managing land for conservation. Nature Reserves in Northern Ireland closest to County Leitrim (mapped on Figure 4.5) include: Castlecaldwell Forest; Correl Glen Forest; Lough Naman Bog; Hanging Rock and Rossaa Forest; Crossmurrin; Killykeeghan; and Marble Arch.

**Ramsar sites** are wetlands designated to be of international importance under the Convention of Wetlands of International Importance (especially as Water Fowl Habitat), established at Ramsar in 1971. The main aim of the Convention is to secure the designation by each contracting state of wetlands in its territory for inclusion in a list of wetlands of international importance for waterfowl. This entails the commitment of each contracting state to a policy of protection and management of the designated wetlands, and of formulating and implementing planning so as to promote the conservation of designated wetlands and, as far as possible, the wise use of wetlands in its territory. Ramsar sites closest to County Leitrim in neighbouring Counties (mapped on Figure 4.5) include: Lough Gara in County Sligo; and Cuilcagh Mountain and Upper Lough Erne in County Fermanagh (Northern Ireland).

<sup>23</sup> There are 105 Important Bird Areas in Ireland.

#### 4.6.8 Other Sites of Ecological Importance

Within and surrounding the County, ecological networks are made up of components including wetlands, woodlands, trees and hedgerows. These components provide habitats for flora and fauna and facilitate linkages to the surrounding countryside for flora and fauna.

Hedgerows are a valuable resource in the countryside, benefiting agriculture, wildlife, the environment, tourism, and the general community. The network of hedges across the country provides links between surviving fragments of other wildlife habitats, thereby allowing the movement and dispersal of species through otherwise hostile agricultural landscapes.

Important Bird Areas are a BirdLife International Initiative aimed at identifying and protecting a network of critical sites for the conservation of the world's birds. BirdWatch Ireland Important Bird Areas (IBAs)<sup>23</sup> within or partially within County Leitrim include areas within the Sligo and Leitrim uplands.

#### 4.6.9 Existing Problems

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

- Agriculture;
- Forestry;
- Extraction of resources (minerals, peat, non-renewable energy resources);
- Energy production processes and related infrastructure development;
- Development and operation of transport systems;
- Development, construction and use of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructure and areas;
- Extraction and cultivation of biological living resources (other than agriculture and forestry);

- Military action, public safety measures, and other human intrusions;
- Alien and problematic species;
- Mixed source pollution;
- Human-induced changes in water regimes;
- Natural processes (excluding catastrophes and processes induced by human activity or climate change);
- Geological events, natural catastrophes;
- Climate change; and
- Unknown pressures, no pressures and pressures from outside the Member State.

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

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

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

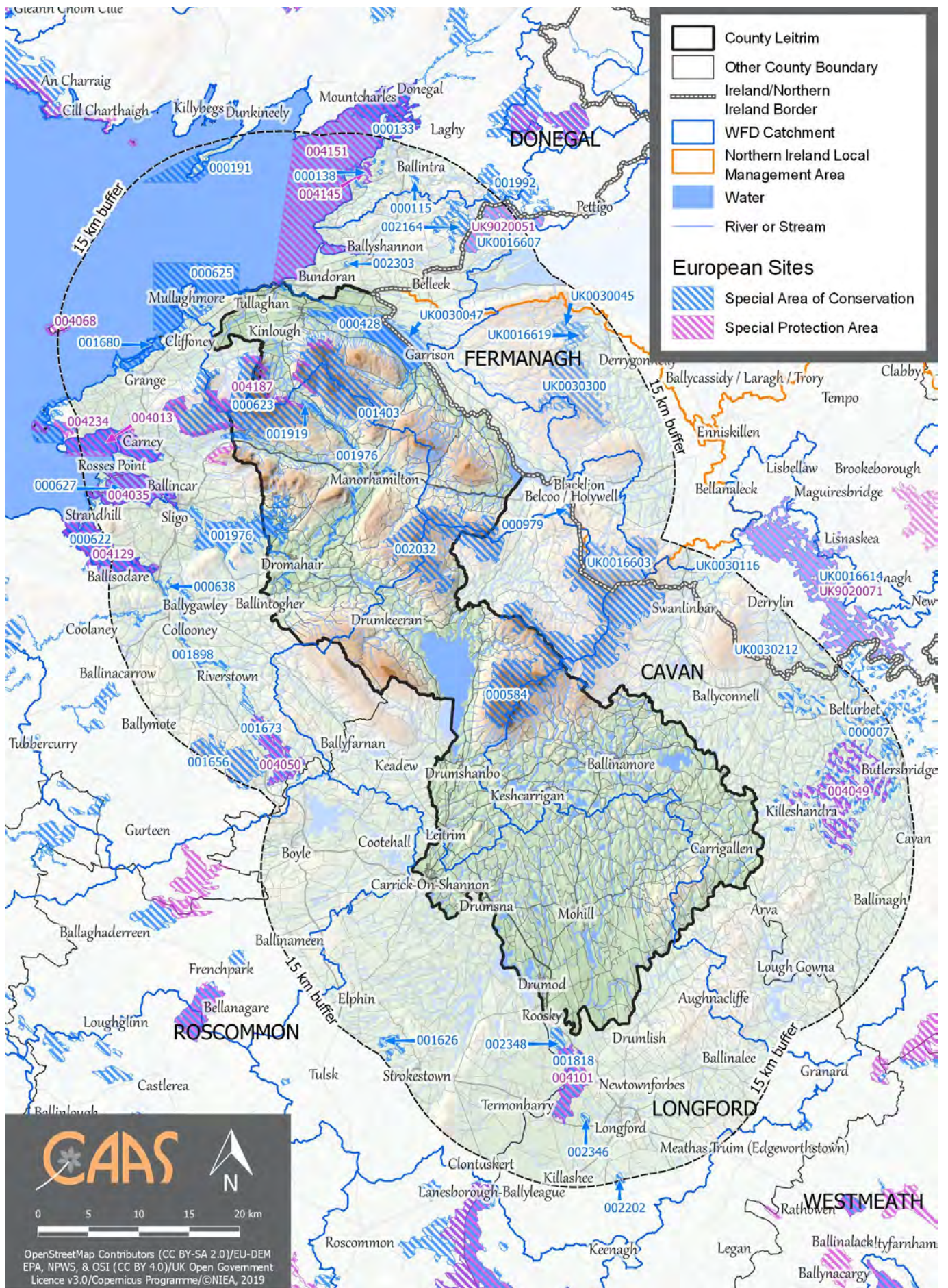
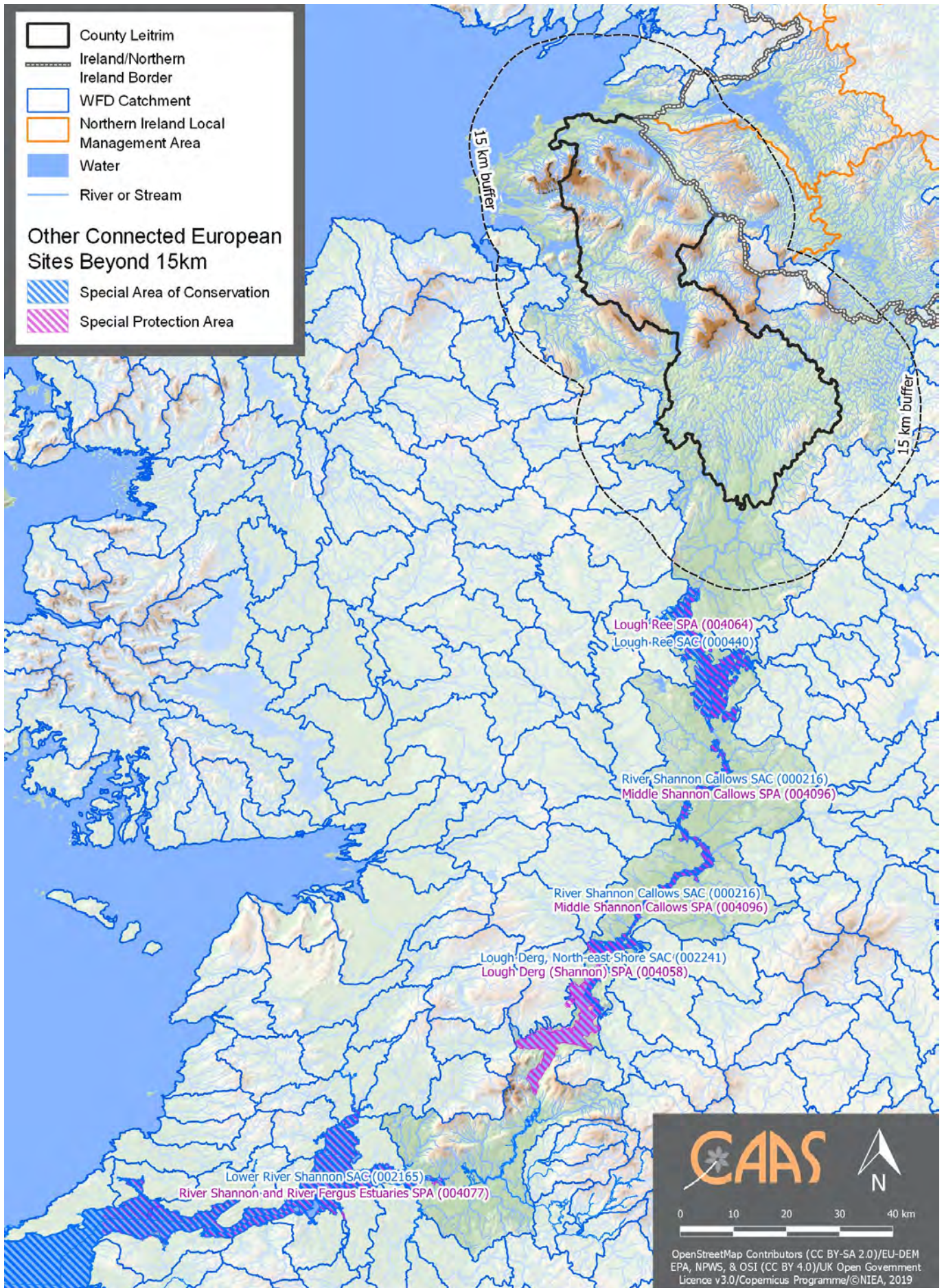


Figure 4.1 European sites within and within 15 km of the County



**Figure 4.2 Other connected European sites beyond 15 km of the County and hydrologically linked**





**Figure 4.3 Natural Heritage Areas, Proposed Natural Heritage Areas and Areas of Special Scientific Interest within and within 15 km of the County**

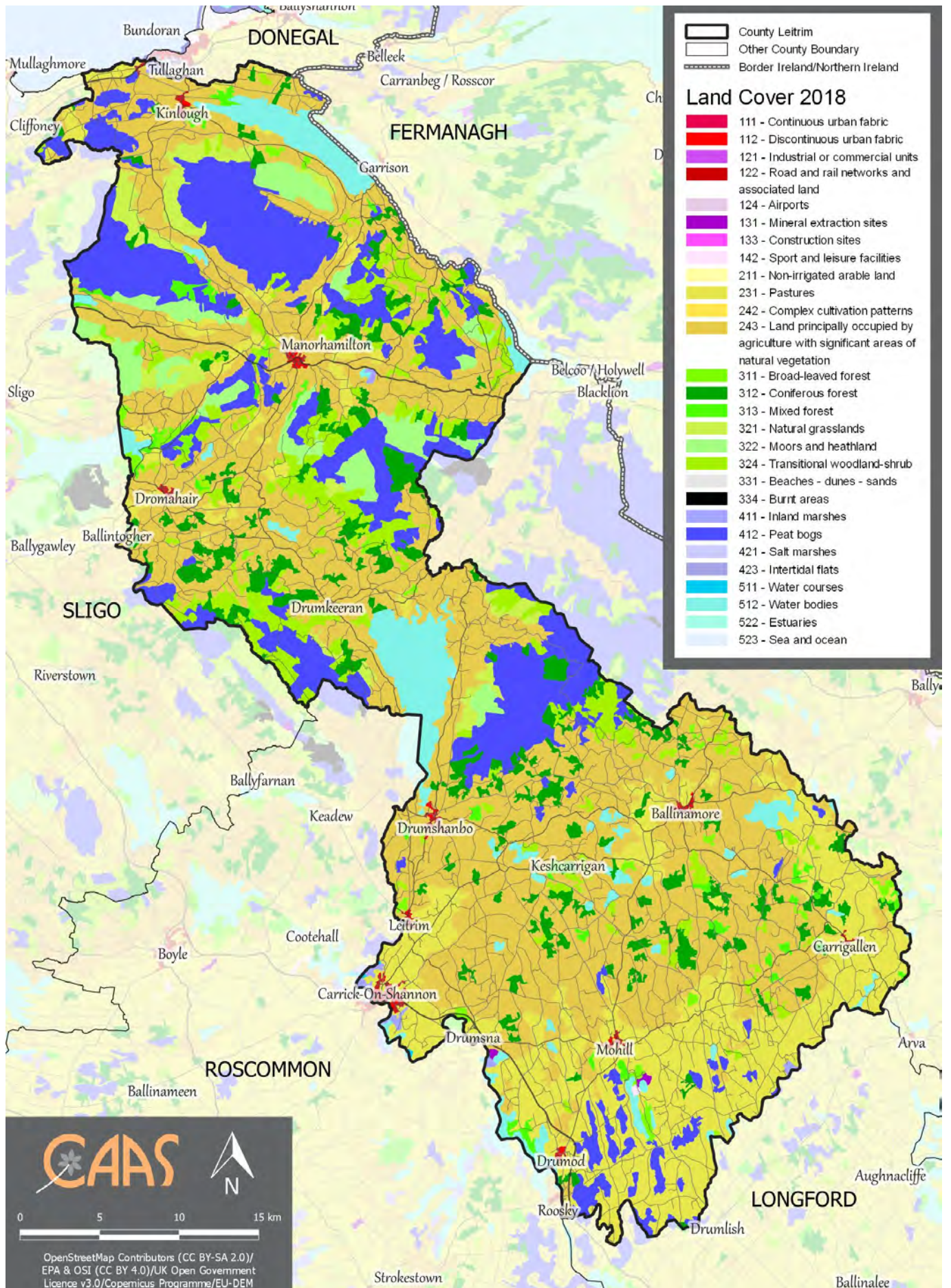


Figure 4.4 CORINE Land Cover 2018

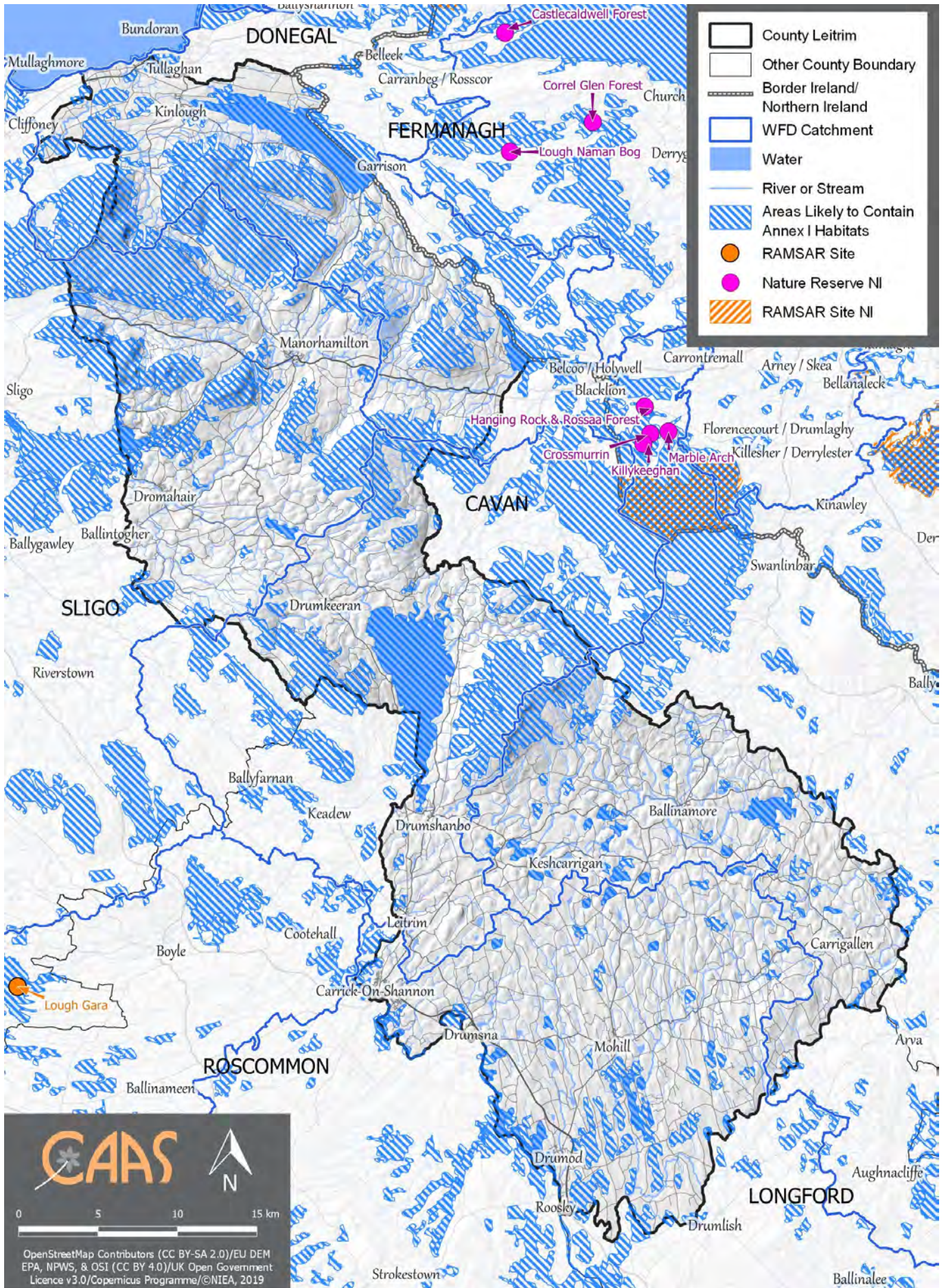


Figure 4.5 Areas likely to contain Annex I habitats, Ramsar sites and Nature Reserves

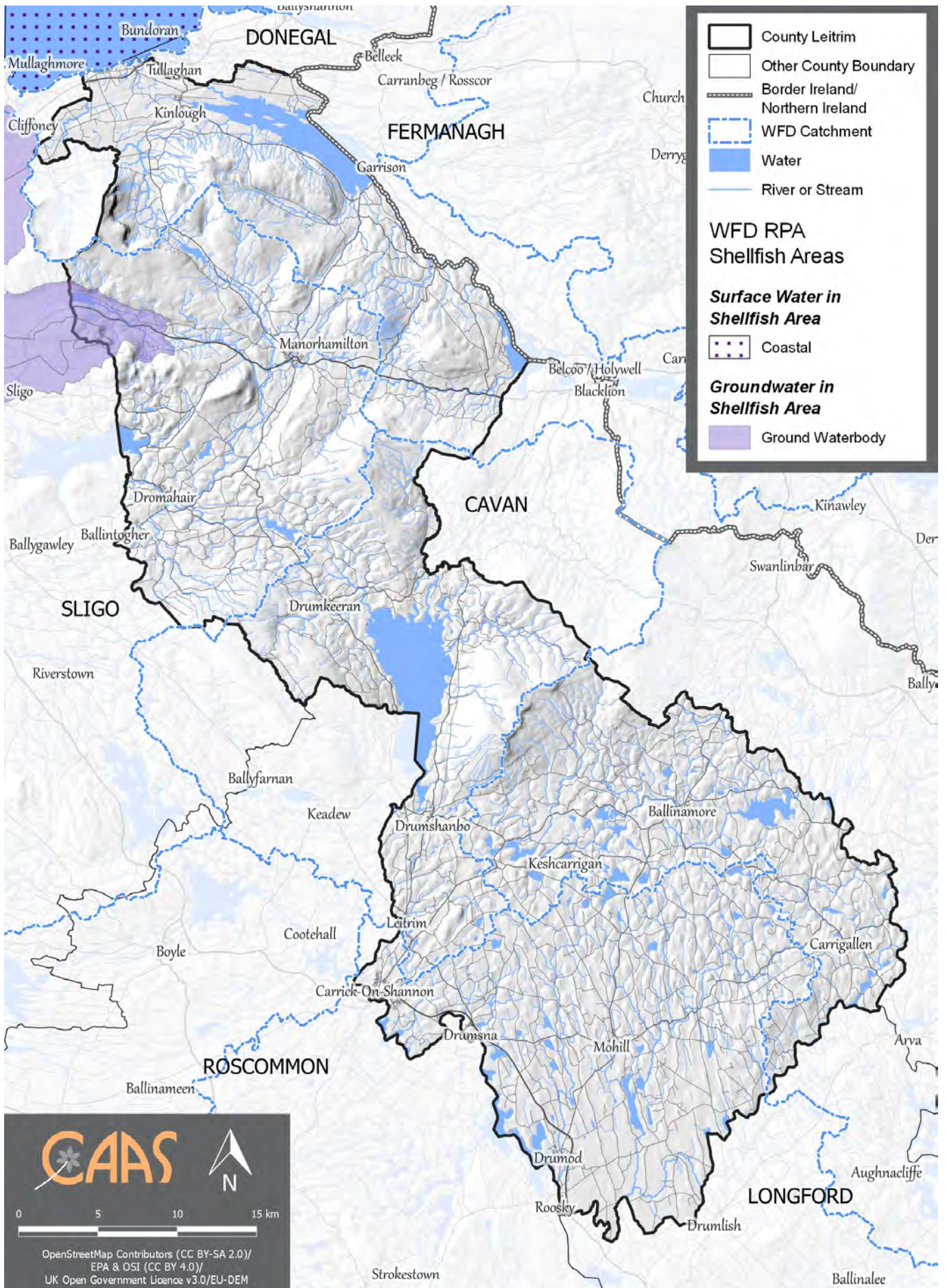


Figure 4.6 WFD Register of Protected Areas - Shellfish Areas

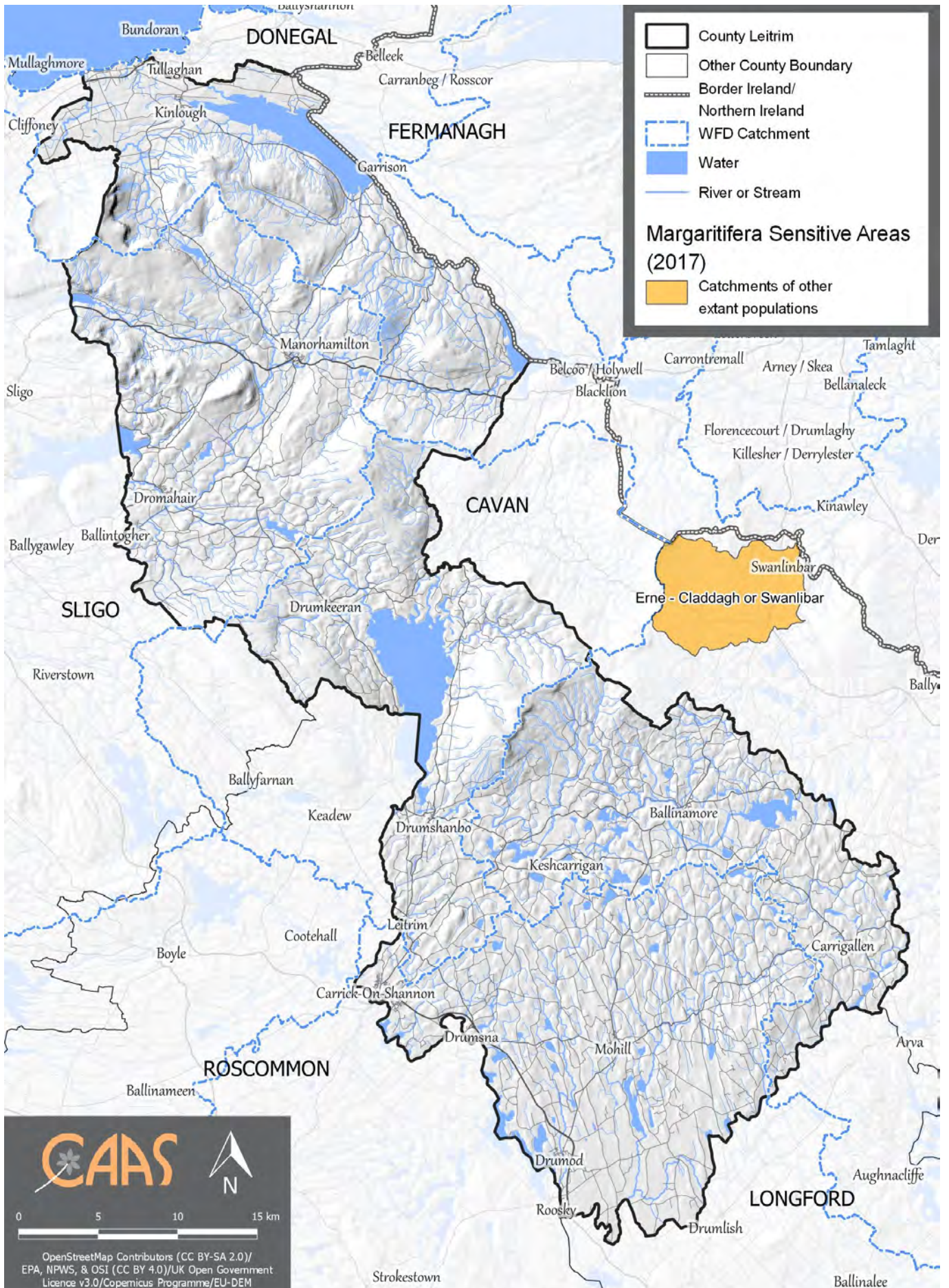


Figure 4.7 Margaritifera Sensitive Areas

## 4.7 Population and Human Health

### 4.7.1 Population

In the 2016 Census the total population of County Leitrim was identified as being of 32,044 persons, an increase in total population in the County by c. 0.8% (c. 246 persons) since the previous census. The population growth projections for the County indicate population growth up to 35,000 - 35,500 persons by 2026 and up to 36,000 - 37,000 persons by 2031.

Carrick-On-Shannon is Leitrim's County Town and the largest settlement in the County. It is designated as a Key Town in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Region. It is a significant employment centre and its strategic position on the River Shannon supports various tourism and transport functions. Key Towns provide important connections with adjoining regions and have the capacity and future growth potential to accommodate above average growth in tandem with the requisite investment in employment creation, services, amenities and sustainable transport.

The Plan designates a hierarchy of the County's settlements as follows:

- Key Town (Carrick on Shannon);
- Sub-Regional Growth Centres (Manorhamilton and Ballinamore);
- Support Towns (Dromahair, Drumshanbo, Mohill and Kinlough);
- Key Villages (Carrigallen, Dromod, Drumkeeran, Drumsna, Leitrim, Rossinver, and Tullaghan);
- Villages (Ballinaglera, Cloone, Dowra, Drumcong, Fenagh, Glenfarne, Jamestown, Keshcarrigan, Kilclare, Killarga, Kiltyclogher, Lurganboy, Newtowngore and Roosky); and
- Graigs (Askill, Gurteen, Largydonnell, Leckaun/Newtownmanor, Mullies, Aghacashel, Bellanagare/Carrowcrin, Derrintawy/Newbridge, Kilavoggy, Kilnagross, Tarmon, Tawneylea, Aghavas 1 and 2, Aughawillan, Aughnasheelan, Corrawaleen, Drumeela, Drumlea, Garvagh, Aghamore, Bornacoola, Efferinagh, Eslinbridge and Gortlettragh).

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

- Increase in demand for wastewater treatment at the municipal level;
- Recreational and development pressure on habitats and landscapes;
- Increase in demand for water supply and associated potential impact of water abstraction from the rivers;
- Potential interactions in flood-sensitive areas; and
- Potential effects on water quality.

### 4.7.2 Human Health

Human health has the potential to be impacted upon by environmental vectors (i.e. environmental components such as air, water or soil through which contaminants or pollutants, which have the potential to cause harm, can be transported so that they come into contact with human beings). Hazards or nuisances to human health can arise as a result of exposure to these vectors arising from incompatible adjacent land uses for example. These factors have been considered with regard to the description of: the baseline of each environmental component; and the identification and evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan.

### 4.7.3 Existing Problems

There is historic and predictive evidence of flooding in various locations across the County (see information on Strategic Flood Risk Assessment at Section 4.9.9).

The greatest health risk from radiation in Ireland is caused by radon. The presence of radon gas, a naturally occurring radioactive gas that originates from the decay of uranium in rocks and soils, occurs across the country. It accounts for more than half of the total radiation dose received by the Irish population. As a known carcinogen, in the same category as tobacco smoke and asbestos it is a cause of lung cancer. Exposure to radon for long periods or at high concentrations can lead to lung cancer. The number of homes within the County with radon levels above the reference

level is within the normal range experienced in other locations across the country<sup>24</sup>.

Information on the status of groundwaters and surface waters is provided under Section 4.9 while compliance issues in relation to water services are detailed under Section 4.11.10.

## 4.8 Soil

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

To date, there is no legislation which is specific to the protection of soil resources. Although a proposal for a Soil Framework Directive was withdrawn in 2014, the importance of sustainable soil management was recognised in the Seventh Environment Action Programme.

Surface water gleys<sup>25</sup> (found throughout the County) are the most dominant soil type in County Leitrim (shown on Figure 4.8). Peat soils are found throughout County.

Active blanket bogs and active raised bogs are considered to be priority habitats, listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. Ombrotrophic (rain-fed) and minerotrophic (groundwater-fed) peat soils are often indicative of areas that are the most sensitive to development due to ecological sensitivities and impeded drainage issues. Many of these

peat areas are also subject to ecological designations (Figure 4.1).

Other soil types (shown on Figure 4.8) identified within the County include:

- Alluvial soils<sup>26</sup> (in the flood plains of rivers and streams);
- Podzols<sup>27</sup> (mainly in the north-western upland areas of the County);
- Brown podzols<sup>28</sup> (in some areas of the north and south of the County);
- Luvisols<sup>29</sup> (mainly in the north and south of the County);
- Brown earths<sup>30</sup> (mainly in the north of the County); and
- Rendzina<sup>31</sup> (mainly in the north-west of the County).

Outcropping rock is identified within a number of upland locations.

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

- Upland Karst Area Overview report for County Leitrim;
- Aggregate Potential mapping;
- Bedrock mapping;
- Geochemistry mapping;
- Geophysical mapping;
- INFOMAR mapping;
- Quaternary and Physiographic mapping; and
- National Aquifer and Recharge mapping.

### 4.8.1 County Geological Sites

Geological Survey of Ireland coordinates the Irish Geological Heritage Programme, which seeks to identify and select sites of geological interest within each county across the country. The audit of County Geological Sites in County Leitrim was completed in 2020 and identified 32 County Geological Sites. Concentrations of these designations can be found in the upland

<sup>24</sup> Mapping available at <http://www.epa.ie/radiation/radonmap>

<sup>25</sup> Surface water gleys and groundwater gleys are wetland soils with slowly permeable horizons resulting in seasonal waterlogging.

<sup>26</sup> These are associated with alluvial (clay, silt or sand) river deposits.

<sup>27</sup> Infertile acidic soils with an ash-like subsurface layer associated with acid leaching typically formed under coniferous forest.

<sup>28</sup> Characterised by dark brown humus-mineral soil covered with a thin mat of partly decayed leaves.

<sup>29</sup> Generally fertile, widely used for agriculture and associated with significant accumulation of clay.

<sup>30</sup> Well drained mineral soils, associated with high levels of natural fertility.

<sup>31</sup> Very shallow soils over bedrock, liable to drought.

areas and in the north of the County. Leitrim County Geological Sites<sup>32</sup> are mapped on Figure 4.9 and listed in Appendix II.

#### 4.8.2 Potentially contaminated lands and landfill sites

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

As is the case with other areas across the country, there is potential for contamination at sites within County Leitrim, especially where land uses occurred in the past in the absence of environmental protection legislation. Such contamination has the potential to affect water quality, biodiversity and flora and fauna and human health.

#### 4.8.3 Source Protection Areas

Source Protection Area delineation provides an assessment of the land area that contributes groundwater to a borehole or spring. Source reports have been undertaken by the GSI on behalf of Local Authorities since the mid-1990s.

Public Supply Source Protection Areas comprise are managed by Irish Water to supply Public Water Supply Schemes across Ireland. Source Protection Areas provide protection by placing tighter controls on activities within all or part of the zone of contribution of the source.

Groundwater bodies are important water supply sources for private wells, group schemes and local authority supplies and for use in a range of commercial activities. This is particularly the case in rural areas that are not served by public or group water schemes, with private bored wells being the only source of supply.

There are a number of Source Protection Areas in County Leitrim, including:

- Group Scheme Preliminary Source Protection Areas at:

- Kildallan;
- Keelogyboy; and
- Sliabh An Iarainn.

Public Supply Source Protection Areas (including Inner Protection Areas<sup>33</sup>) and Group Scheme Preliminary Source Protection Areas<sup>34</sup> are shown on Figure 4.10.

#### 4.8.4 Landslides

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

The County has numerous locations with a history of landslide events<sup>35</sup> (shown on Figure 4.11). Many of these events are associated with the upland peatland areas in the centre and north of the County.

The GSI have identified that most of the County has relatively low levels of landslide susceptibility, with moderate to high susceptibility associated mainly within upland areas where the slope is elevated (as mapped on Figure 4.11).

#### 4.8.5 Existing Problems

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

<sup>32</sup> County Geological Sites in the neighbouring counties (also shown on Figure 4.9), which straddle County Leitrim boundaries, have also been considered by the assessment.

<sup>33</sup> The Zone of Contribution is the land area that contributes water to the well or spring. The Inner Protection Area (SI) is designed to protect against the effects of human activities that might have an immediate effect on the source and, in particular, against microbial pollution. The Outer Protection Area (SO) is encompassing the remainder of the zone of contribution to the groundwater abstraction point (e.g. borehole or spring).

<sup>34</sup> The Group Scheme Preliminary Source Protection Areas comprises Zones of Contribution to groundwater abstraction points that supply Group Water Schemes across Ireland that are affiliated to the National Federation of Group Water Schemes and that supply more than 15 people.

<sup>35</sup> Over 2,500 landslide events are recorded in the National Landslides Database available from GSI ([www.gsi.ie](http://www.gsi.ie)). This dataset also includes Landslide Susceptibility Mapping to assist in the identification of areas that are likely to experience landsliding.



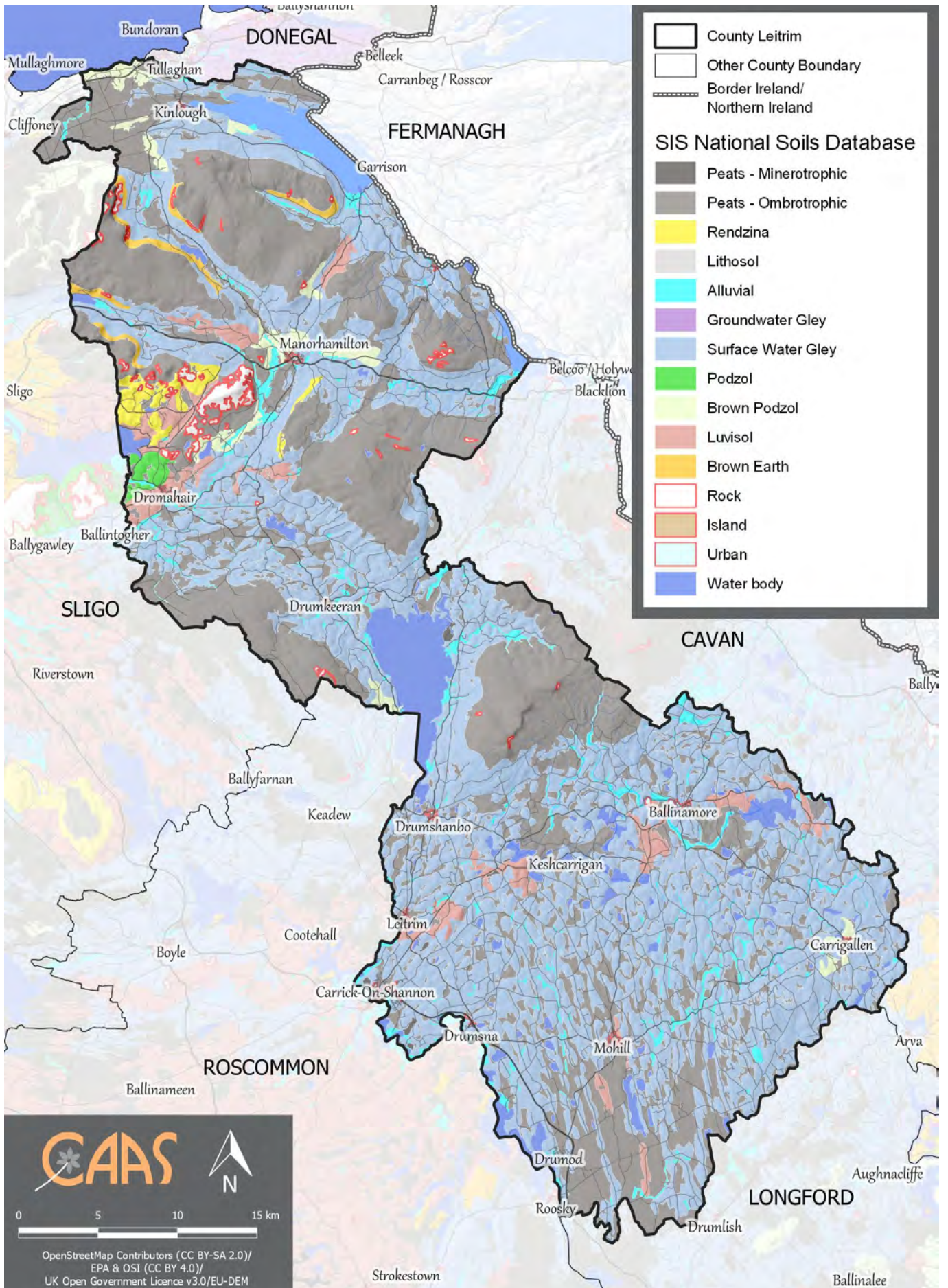


Figure 4.8 Soil Type

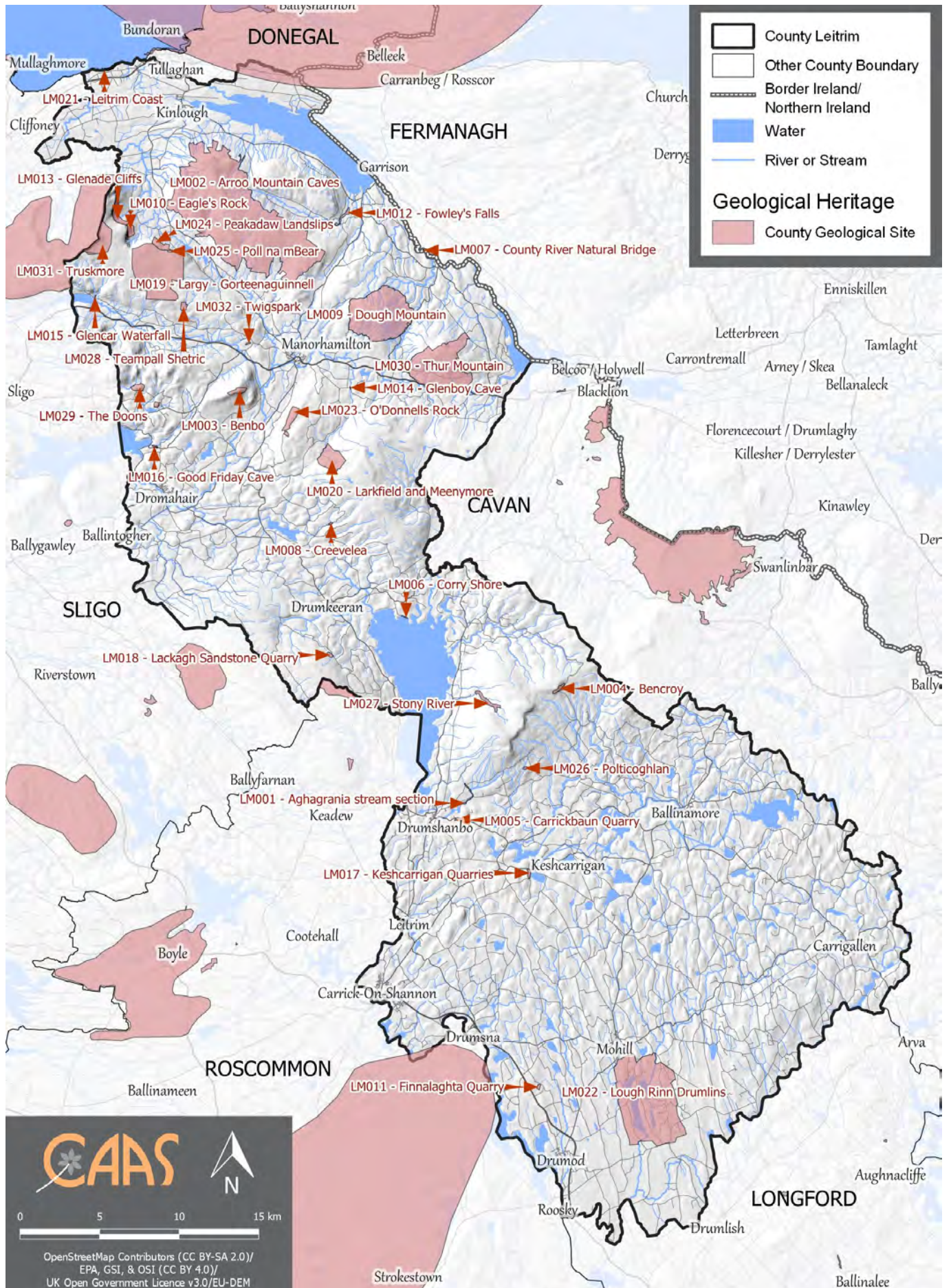


Figure 4.9 County Geological Sites

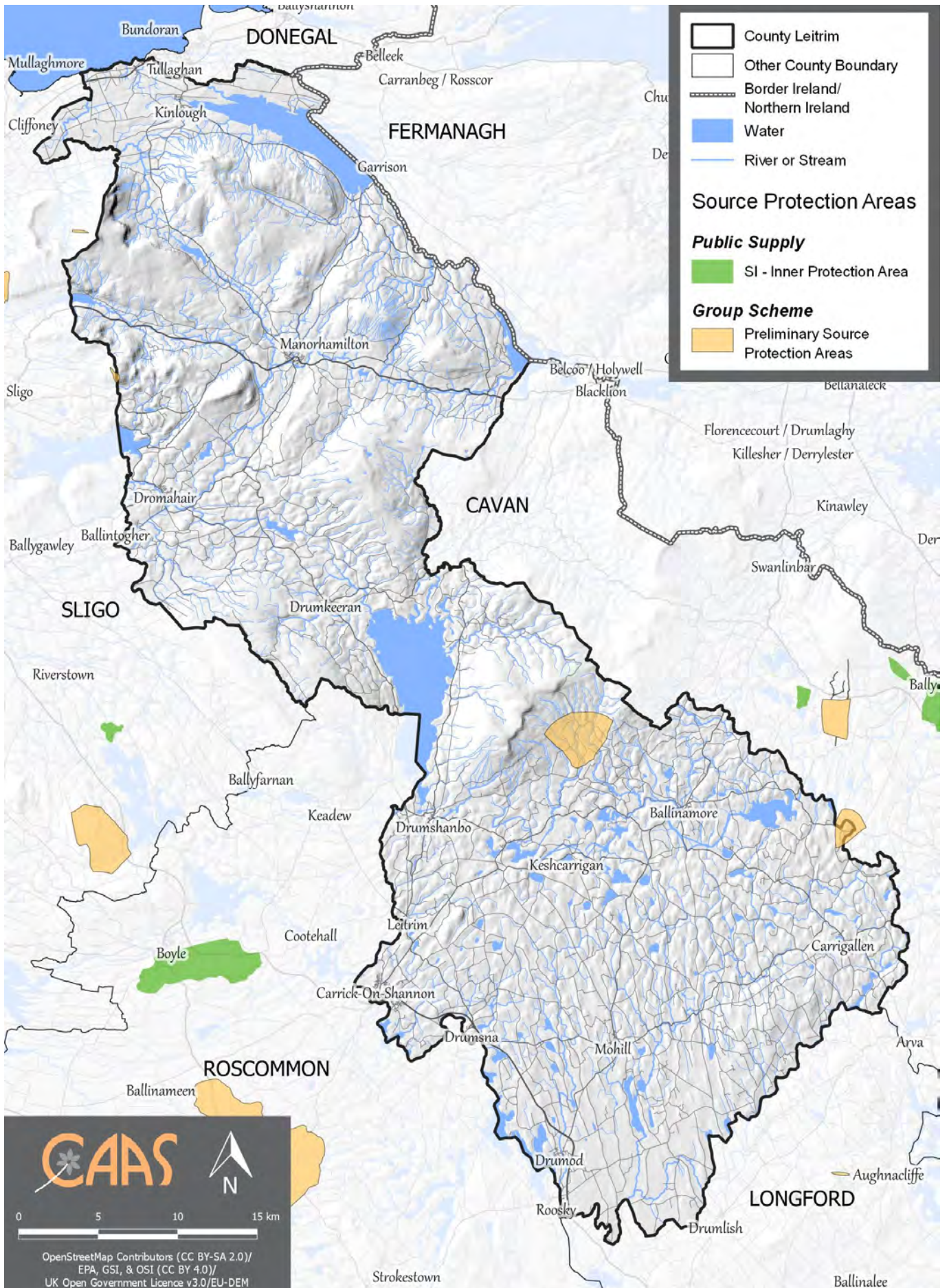
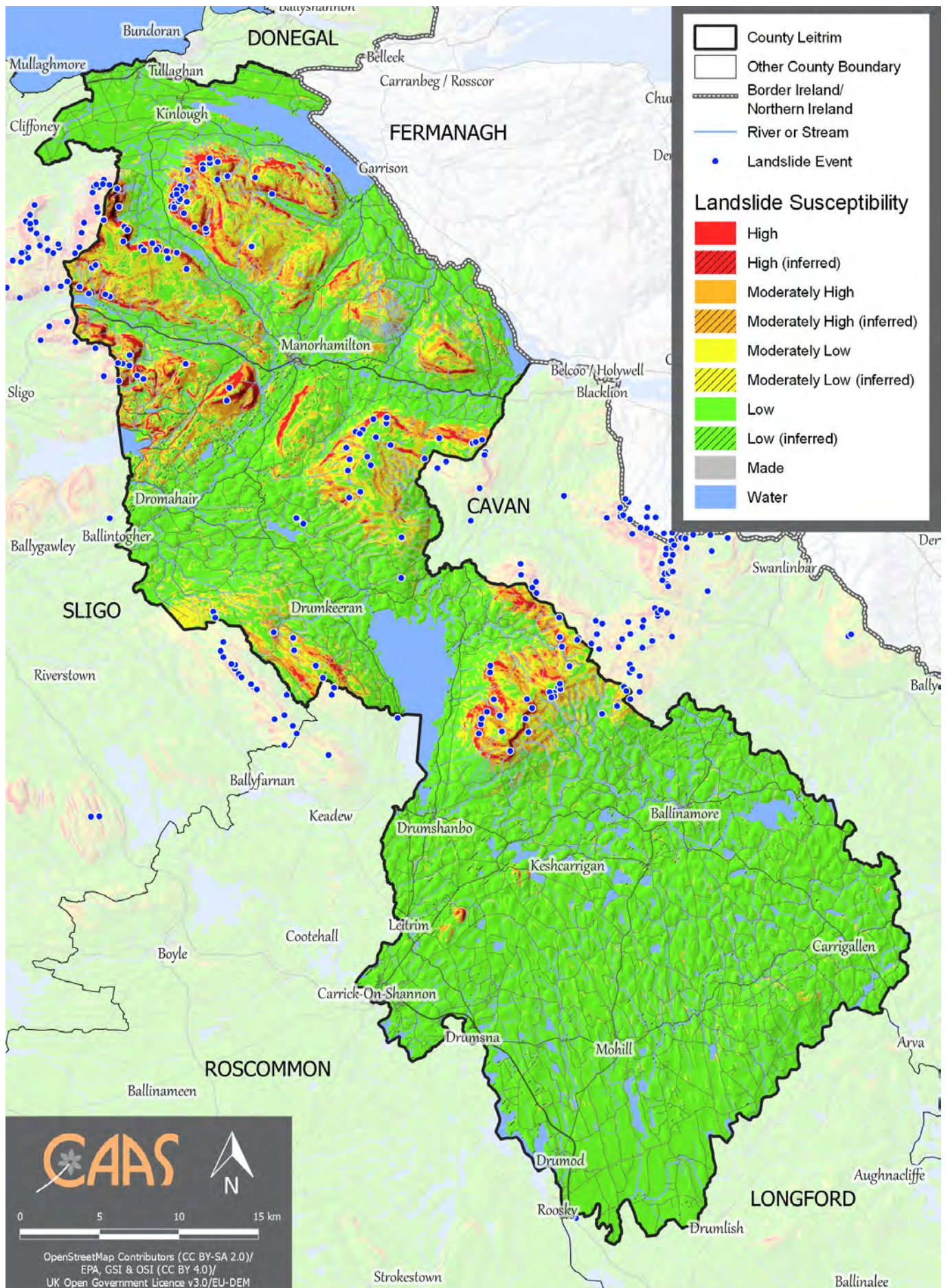


Figure 4.10 Source Protection Areas



**Figure 4.11 Landslide Susceptibility and Previous Landslide Events**

## 4.9 Water

### 4.9.1 Water Framework Directive

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

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

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

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

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (Northern Ireland) publish an annual "Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report", which includes information

on the status of waterbodies<sup>36</sup>. The 2019<sup>37</sup> report identified that:

- In 2018, 31.3% of NI river waterbodies were classified as "high" or "good" quality;
- In 2018, five of the 21 lake waterbodies in Northern Ireland were classified as having a "good" status; and
- In 2018, ten of the 25 marine water bodies around Northern Ireland's shores are classified as 'high' or 'good'.

### 4.9.2 Zone of Influence

The zone of influence of the Plan beyond the County boundary, with respect to impacts upon waters can be estimated to be all bodies of groundwater and all surface waters downstream areas of catchments which drain the County.

### 4.9.3 Surface Water Drainage

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

The County is situated within the surface water catchments Erne<sup>38</sup>, Sligo Bay<sup>39</sup> and Upper Shannon<sup>40</sup>. The main waterbodies in the County include Lakes Melvin and Allen and the Rivers Shannon, Erne, Duff, Cloone and Yellow.

### 4.9.4 Surface Water Status

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

<sup>36</sup> WFD data included is not updated each year due to the timescales of the monitoring. <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/water-framework-directive-statistics>

<sup>37</sup> The 2018 NI WFD statistics report (published in 2019) provides the most recent WFD assessment for all water bodies. The Lake Quality update 2020 is provided for lake water bodies only: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk>.

<sup>38</sup> This catchment is cross border and includes the area drained by the River Erne and all streams entering tidal water between Aughrus Point and Kildoney Point, Co. Donegal.

<sup>39</sup> This catchment includes all streams entering tidal water in Sligo Bay and between Lenadon Point and Aughrus Point, Co. Donegal.

<sup>40</sup> This catchment is characterised by the Brefine upland areas including the karst area of the Geevagh Hills, the karstic southern slopes of Cuilcagh Mountain and the western flanks of Slieve Anierin which surround the lowland area containing the large source of the River Shannon (Shannon Pot) and Lough Allen.

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

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

The WFD surface water status (2013-2018), for rivers, canals, lakes, coastal and transitional waters within and surrounding the County is shown on Figure 4.12 and on Table 4.1.

The WFD status of most of the rivers and lakes within the County is classified as *moderate*, *good* and *high*, however some sections<sup>41</sup> of rivers, canals and lakes are identified as *bad*<sup>42</sup> and *poor*<sup>43</sup> due to unsatisfactory ecological/biological and/or physio-chemical status.

The WFD surface water status (2013-2018) of coastal (including Bundoran Bay Donegal Bay – Erne) and transitional waterbodies (including Drowes Estuary and Duff Estuary) within and surrounding the County is identified as *unassigned*<sup>44</sup>.

The WFD status of river waterbodies in adjacent Northern Ireland<sup>45</sup> is shown on Figure 4.12 and ranges from *good* to *moderate*; however, certain waterbodies, (including Sillees River - Drumkeen) are identified as being *poor*. The WFD status of lake waterbodies in adjacent Northern Ireland (shown also on Figure 4.12) ranges from *bad* (including Lough Macnean Lower) to *poor* (including Lough Macnean Upper).

Significant pressures, those pressures which need to be addressed in order to improve water quality, have been identified<sup>46</sup> for waterbodies

that are 'At Risk' of not meeting their water quality objectives under the WFD. Significant pressures for surface water bodies within or adjacent to County Leitrim are identified on Table 4.1. There are various types of pressures identified, such as:

- **Agricultural pressures** - can include issues related to farming including loss of excess nutrients and sediment loss to surface waters from diffuse sources such as spreading of fertilisers and manures. Excess phosphorous and sediment are typically issues for rivers and lakes, and too much nitrogen is the main issue for estuaries and coastal waters.
- **Urban run-off pressures** - can include leaking sewers and run-off from paved and unpaved areas and misconnections where private foul connections are connected to storm sewers instead of the foul sewer network.
- **Urban wastewater pressures** - can include direct discharge of nutrients from urban wastewater treatment plants and discharge from combined storm overflows or storm water overflows. Discharges of elevated concentrations of phosphorus, ammonium and nitrogen impact on the ecology of surface waters.
- **Hydromorphological and anthropogenic pressures** are identified together in many instances. Hydromorphological pressures can include: modifications to the physical habitat conditions or the natural functioning of a waterbody which can impact on ecology, caused by dredging and straightening of rivers (channelisation), land drainage or hard infrastructure such as dams, weirs, culverts or other obstructions. Anthropogenic pressures can include: water abstractions; invasive species; agriculture; use of fertilizers, manures and pesticides; animal husbandry

<sup>41</sup> As per EPA classification system ([gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps](https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps))

<sup>42</sup> Including Lake Rinn.

<sup>43</sup> Including rivers and lakes: Bradog; Cullies; Douglas (Sligo); Drumshanbo Stream; Garavogue; Gowlaunrevagh; Killanummary; Laheen Stream; Legga Stream; Rinn; Shannon (Upper); Yellow (Ballinaglera); Acres; Belhavel; Bofin LM; Derrycassan Mid;

Glasshouse; Macnean Upper; Scur and Shannon Erne (Upper Shannon A).

<sup>44</sup> There is a data gap relating to WFD surface water status data. Overall status is currently not assigned and the term "*unassigned status*" applies in respect of these waterbodies.

<sup>45</sup> Mapping available at: <https://gis.daera-ni.gov.uk>

<sup>46</sup> EPA (2019): Report on Water Quality in Ireland 2013-2018

activities; inefficient irrigation practices; deforestation of woods; aquaculture; pollution due to industrial effluents and domestic sewage; and recreational activities.

- **Industrial pressures** - can include discharges and emissions from industrial and commercial facilities.
- **Extractive industry related pressures** – can include different activities that lead to the extraction of raw materials from the earth, such as oil, metals, mineral and aggregates. Impacts from extractive sites include sediment/siltation pollution and alteration to the physical environment.
- **Forestry pressures** - can include poorly managed and inappropriately sited forest operations, negatively impact on water quality and aquatic habitats and species. The most common water quality problems arising from forestry relate to the release of sediment and nutrients and the impacts from acidification. Forestry may also give rise to changes in stream flow regimes caused by associated land drainage.
- **Domestic wastewater pressures** – can include septic-tank systems associated with one-off housing and small unlicensed private urban wastewater treatment plants. If not correctly installed and well maintained, these systems can result in leakage of untreated effluent to waters.
- **Invasive species pressures** - can include those relating to non-native species introduced outside their natural range that threaten ecosystems, habitats and native species with environmental or socio-economic harm. Currently 37 species have been identified across the EU as a high priority for management, and nine of these occur in Ireland. The potential impacts of IAS include the alteration of eco-systems (by causing bank erosion, for example), inhibition of access to water bodies, hindrance of land development and, in some cases, potential human health impacts.
- **Other pressures** can include impacts from activities such as **historically polluted sites** and **aquaculture**. These activities each impact a relatively small number of water bodies so they have been grouped together.

Table 4.1 WFD River, Lake and Canal Waterbodies Status<sup>47</sup>

Name and Code <sup>48</sup>	Type	WFD Surface Waterbody Status (2013 -2018) <sup>49</sup>
Rinn	Lake	<b>Bad</b> - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified as being <b>under significant pressure from hydromorphological/anthropogenic, industrial, agricultural and invasive species sources.</b>
Yellow (Ballinaglera)_010	River	<b>Poor</b> - due to poor ecological/biological status. No pressures identified.
Shannon (Upper)_060	River	<b>Poor</b> - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified as being <b>under significant pressure from agricultural, domestic wastewater and urban wastewater sources.</b>
Rinn_010	River	<b>Poor</b> - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified as being <b>under significant pressure from urban wastewater sources.</b>
Legga Stream_020	River	<b>Poor</b> - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified as being <b>under significant pressure agricultural and industrial from sources.</b>
Laheen Stream_010	River	<b>Poor</b> - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified as being <b>under significant pressure from hydromorphological/anthropogenic and forestry sources.</b>
Killanummery_010	River	<b>Poor</b> - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified as being <b>under significant pressure from hydromorphological/anthropogenic and forestry sources.</b>
Gowlaunrevagh_010	River	<b>Poor</b> - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified as being <b>under significant pressure from hydromorphological/anthropogenic sources.</b>
Garavogue_010	River	<b>Poor</b> - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified as being <b>under significant pressure from forestry, urban run-off and urban wastewater sources.</b>
Drumshanbo Stream_010	River	<b>Poor</b> - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified as being <b>under significant pressure from agricultural and urban wastewater sources.</b>
Douglas (Sligo)_010	River	<b>Poor</b> - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified as being <b>under significant pressure from agricultural and forestry sources.</b>
Cullies_040	River	<b>Poor</b> - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified as being <b>under significant pressure from agricultural and forestry sources.</b>
Cullies_030	River	<b>Poor</b> - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified as being <b>under significant pressure from agricultural sources.</b>
Bradoge_010	River	<b>Poor</b> - due to poor ecological/biological status. No pressures identified.
Scur	Lake	<b>Poor</b> - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified as being <b>under significant pressure from agricultural sources.</b>
Macnean Upper	Lake	<b>Poor</b> - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified as being <b>under significant pressure from agricultural and forestry sources.</b>
Glasshouse	Lake	<b>Poor</b> - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified as being <b>under significant pressure from agricultural and forestry sources.</b>
Derrycassan Mid	Lake	<b>Poor</b> - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified as being <b>under significant pressure from agricultural sources.</b>
Bofin LM	Lake	<b>Poor</b> - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified as being <b>under significant pressure from invasive species sources.</b>
Belhavel	Lake	<b>Poor</b> - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified as being <b>under significant pressure from agricultural sources.</b>
Acres	Lake	<b>Poor</b> - due to poor ecological/biological status. This waterbody is also identified as being <b>under significant pressure from forestry sources.</b>
Shannon Erne (Upper Shannon A)	Canal	<b>Poor</b> - due to poor ecological/biological status. No pressures identified.
Yellow (Ballinamore)_010	River	<b>Moderate.</b> This waterbody is identified as being <b>under significant pressure from forestry sources.</b>
Shannon (Upper)_070	River	<b>Moderate.</b> This waterbody is identified as being <b>under significant pressure from hydromorphological/anthropogenic sources.</b>
Shannon (Upper)_040	River	<b>Moderate.</b> This waterbody is identified as being <b>under significant pressure from hydromorphological/anthropogenic sources.</b>
Rinn_030	River	<b>Moderate.</b> This waterbody is identified as being <b>under significant pressure from agricultural sources.</b>
Rinn_020	River	<b>Moderate.</b> This waterbody is identified as being <b>under significant pressure from agricultural sources.</b>
Owennayle_020	River	<b>Moderate.</b> No pressures identified.
Owennayle_010	River	<b>Moderate.</b> This waterbody is identified as being <b>under pressure from forestry sources.</b>
Legga Stream_010	River	<b>Moderate.</b> This waterbody is identified as being <b>under pressure from agricultural and extractive industry related sources.</b>
Eslin_040	River	<b>Moderate.</b> This waterbody is identified as being <b>under pressure from hydromorphological/anthropogenic and agricultural sources.</b>
Eslin_030	River	<b>Moderate.</b> This waterbody is identified as being <b>under pressure from agricultural sources.</b>
Eslin_010	River	<b>Moderate.</b> This waterbody is identified as being <b>under pressure from agricultural and hydromorphological/anthropogenic sources.</b>
Bradoge_020	River	<b>Moderate.</b> This waterbody is identified as being <b>under pressure from urban run-off, urban wastewater and domestic wastewater sources.</b>
Brackary_010	River	<b>Moderate.</b> No pressures identified.
Bonet_050	River	<b>Moderate.</b> No pressures identified.

<sup>47</sup> Source: <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/> and <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/Water>.

<sup>48</sup> The number at the end of each river water body name indicates where the waterbody is located along the main river channel. For example, the waterbody at the source is coded '\_010', the next waterbody downstream is coded '\_020' and the final waterbody before the river becomes transitional is '\_180'.

<sup>49</sup> There is a data gap relating to WFD surface water status data. There are a number of waterbodies within the Plan area with overall status currently not assigned to them and the term "*unassigned status*" applies in respect of these waterbodies. These are not included on Table 4.1



Name and Code <sup>48</sup>	Type	WFD Surface Waterbody Status (2013 -2018) <sup>49</sup>
Blackwater (Newtowngore)_010	River	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Rowan	Lake	Moderate. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from agricultural sources.
Melvin	Lake	Moderate. No pressures identified.
Glencar	Lake	Moderate. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from agricultural and invasive species sources.
Gill SO	Lake	Moderate. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from agricultural, extractive industry related and urban wastewater sources.
Garadice	Lake	Moderate. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from hydromorphological/anthropogenic sources.
Drumlaheen	Lake	Moderate. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from agricultural sources.
Boderg	Lake	Moderate. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from agricultural and invasive species sources.
Allen	Lake	Moderate. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from agricultural and invasive species sources.
Yellow (Ballinaglera)_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Willsborough Stream_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Shanvaus_010	River	Good. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from hydromorphological/anthropogenic sources.
Shannon (Upper)_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Relagh_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Owenmore (Manorhamilton)_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Owenmore (Manorhamilton)_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Owengar (Leitrim)_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Owengar (Leitrim)_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Killanummery_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Glenaniff_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Feorish (Ballyfarnon)_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Fardrumman Stream_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Duff_030	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Duff_010	River	Good. This waterbody is identified as being under significant pressure from agricultural sources.
Drumcliff_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Drowes_010	River	Good. This waterbody is identified as being under significant pressure from agricultural sources.
Diffreen_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Diffagher_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Derradda Stream_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Cullies_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Cullies_010	River	Good. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from agricultural and domestic wastewater sources.
Cornavannoge_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Cloone_030	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Cloone_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Cloone_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Cashel (Bonet)_010	Stream River	Good. No pressures identified.
Bonet_040	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Bonet_030	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Bonet_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Blackwater (Newtowngore)_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Black (South Leitrim)_040	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Black (South Leitrim)_030	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Black (South Leitrim)_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Arigna (Roscommon)_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Arigna (Roscommon)_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Annadale Stream_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Aghacashlaun_020	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Aghacashlaun_010	River	Good. No pressures identified.
Glenade	Lake	Good. No pressures identified.
Duff_020	River	High. This waterbody is identified as being under pressure from agricultural and extractive industry related sources.
Cornavannoge_020	River	High. No pressures identified.
Bonet_020	River	High. No pressures identified.

#### 4.9.5 Ground Water

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

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

The WFD status (2013-2018) of groundwater underlying the entire County (shown on Figure 4.13) is identified as being of *good* status, apart from an area of *poor*<sup>50</sup> status adjacent to the north-east of the County.

#### 4.9.6 Aquifer Vulnerability and Productivity

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

Aquifer vulnerability refers to the ease with which pollutants of various kinds can enter into groundwater. The vulnerability of aquifers underlying the County are mapped on Figure 4.14 and generally classified as being of:

- *Low*, throughout the County's lowland areas;
- *High and moderate vulnerability*, mainly in the north and east of the County; and
- *Extreme vulnerability and extreme (rock at or near surface or karst)* mainly in the north and north-west of the County.

The GSI also rates aquifers based on the hydrogeological characteristics and on the value of the groundwater resource. This is referred to as aquifer productivity and is mapped on Figure 4.15. Productivity within the County is generally classified as being:

- *Locally important aquifer bedrock which is moderately productive only in local zones;*
- *Locally important aquifer bedrock which is generally moderately productive;*
- *Poor aquifer bedrock which is generally unproductive except for local zones;*
- *Poor aquifer bedrock which is generally unproductive; and*
- *Regionally important aquifer karstified (conduit).*

The Geological Survey of Northern Ireland (GSNI) provides regional groundwater aquifer and vulnerability classification for Northern Ireland. More detail on groundwater vulnerability (Figure 4.14) and groundwater resources (Figure 4.15) for Northern Ireland are available from the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland's (GSNI) GeoIndex.<sup>51</sup>

#### 4.9.7 WFD Registers of Protected Areas

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

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

Entries to the RPAs within and adjacent to the County include:

<sup>50</sup> Underlying: Belcoo Boho

<sup>51</sup>[https://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/GSNI\\_Geoindex/home.html](https://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/GSNI_Geoindex/home.html)

- Groundwater<sup>52</sup> in Nutrient Sensitive Areas<sup>53</sup> - groundwater bodies partially underlying southern fringes of the County intersect Nutrient Sensitive Areas, as shown on Figure 4.16;
- Drinking Water Surface Water and Groundwater Bodies<sup>54</sup> (shown on Figure 4.17); and
- Bathing Water Areas<sup>55</sup> including surface waters and groundwater in bathing areas (shown on Figure 4.18).

RPA's relating to Shellfish Areas are addressed under Section 4.6 "Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna". There are also a number of water dependent habitats in the County that have been listed on RPA's – these relate to designated SACs and SPAs (see Section 4.6.3).

#### 4.9.8 Bathing Waters

Bathing locations identified as 'Bathing Waters' under the Bathing Water Regulations 2008, as amended, are mapped on Figure 4.18.

For bathing waters, Mandatory and Guide Values are set out for bathing waters in the 2006 EU Bathing Water Directive and transposing Regulations. Mandatory Values are values that must be observed if the bathing area is to be deemed compliant with the Directive. Compliance with Guide Values exceeds guidance with Mandatory Values and can be regarded as quality objectives which bathing sites should endeavour to achieve.

Bathing waters are now classified into four quality categories; '*excellent*', '*good*', '*sufficient*', or '*poor*' with a minimum target of '*sufficient*' required to be achieved for all bathing waters.

The most recent available data from the EPA for 2020<sup>56</sup> shows that locations of designated bathing waters (see Figure 4.12) are classified as *excellent*<sup>57</sup> at Keeldra Lough and Bundoran

(in County Donegal) and *sufficient* at Mullaghmore Beach (in County Sligo).

The Blue Flag award is given to beaches and marinas that have excellent water quality and maintain other standards including effective and appropriate management to ensure the protection of the natural environment and safety standards. Bathing locations at Bundoran (in County Donegal) was awarded with the Blue Flag in 2020.

#### 4.9.9 Flooding

Certain areas across the County are at risk from flooding from sources including groundwater, pluvial<sup>58</sup>, fluvial<sup>59</sup> and coastal<sup>60</sup>. There is historic evidence of flooding (shown on Figure 4.19) in various locations across the County, including along the County's various rivers and streams.

Predictive OPW Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment mapping (Figure 4.20)<sup>61</sup>, OPW Catchment Flood Risk Assessment Mapping and OPW National Indicative Fluvial Mapping (Figure 4.21) indicate areas likely to be at most risk of flooding in the County.

Locations within the County that were identified by the Office of Public Works (OPW) in 2012 as requiring detailed assessment of flood risk (Areas for Further Assessment) include: Ballinamore; Carrick-on-Shannon; Drumshanbo; Leitrim; Manorhamilton; and Mohill.

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA), as required by 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DEHLG and OPW, 2009), is being undertaken alongside the preparation of the SEA and the preparation of the Plan. This assessment considers available and emerging information on historical and predictive flood risk indicators.

<sup>52</sup> Groundwater bodies that intersect with areas designated as sensitive.

<sup>53</sup> Areas designated as sensitive under the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) and transposing Regulations.

<sup>54</sup> Various water bodies are used for drinking water abstraction in accordance with European Communities (Drinking Water) (No. 2) Regulations 2007 (SI No. 278/2007).

<sup>55</sup> Bathing Waters are designated under the Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008 S.I. No. 79 of 2008, as amended.

<sup>56</sup> EPA Report (2021) on *Bathing Water Quality in Ireland for the year 2020*

<sup>57</sup> The highest, cleanest class

<sup>58</sup> Resulting from high intensity rainfall events where run-off volume exceeds capacity of surface water network.

<sup>59</sup> Watercourse capacity is exceeded or the channel is blocked and excess water spills from the channel onto adjacent floodplains.

<sup>60</sup> Resulting from higher sea levels than normal causing the sea to overflow onto land. Such flooding is influenced by high tide level, storm surges and wave action.

<sup>61</sup> This mapping shows the likelihood of flooding from a number of sources, defined as the percentage probability of a flood occurring in any given year. For example, a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) indicates the severity of a flood that is expected to be exceeded on average once in 100 years, i.e. it has a 1 in 100 (1%) chance of occurring in any one year.

#### **4.9.10 Existing Problems**

Subject to exemptions provided for by Article 4 of the WFD, based on available water data, certain surface and groundwater bodies will need improvement in order to comply with the objectives of the WFD.

The Plan includes provisions that will contribute towards improvements in the status of waters.

There is historic and predictive evidence of elevated levels of flood risk from fluvial and coastal sources at various locations across the County.

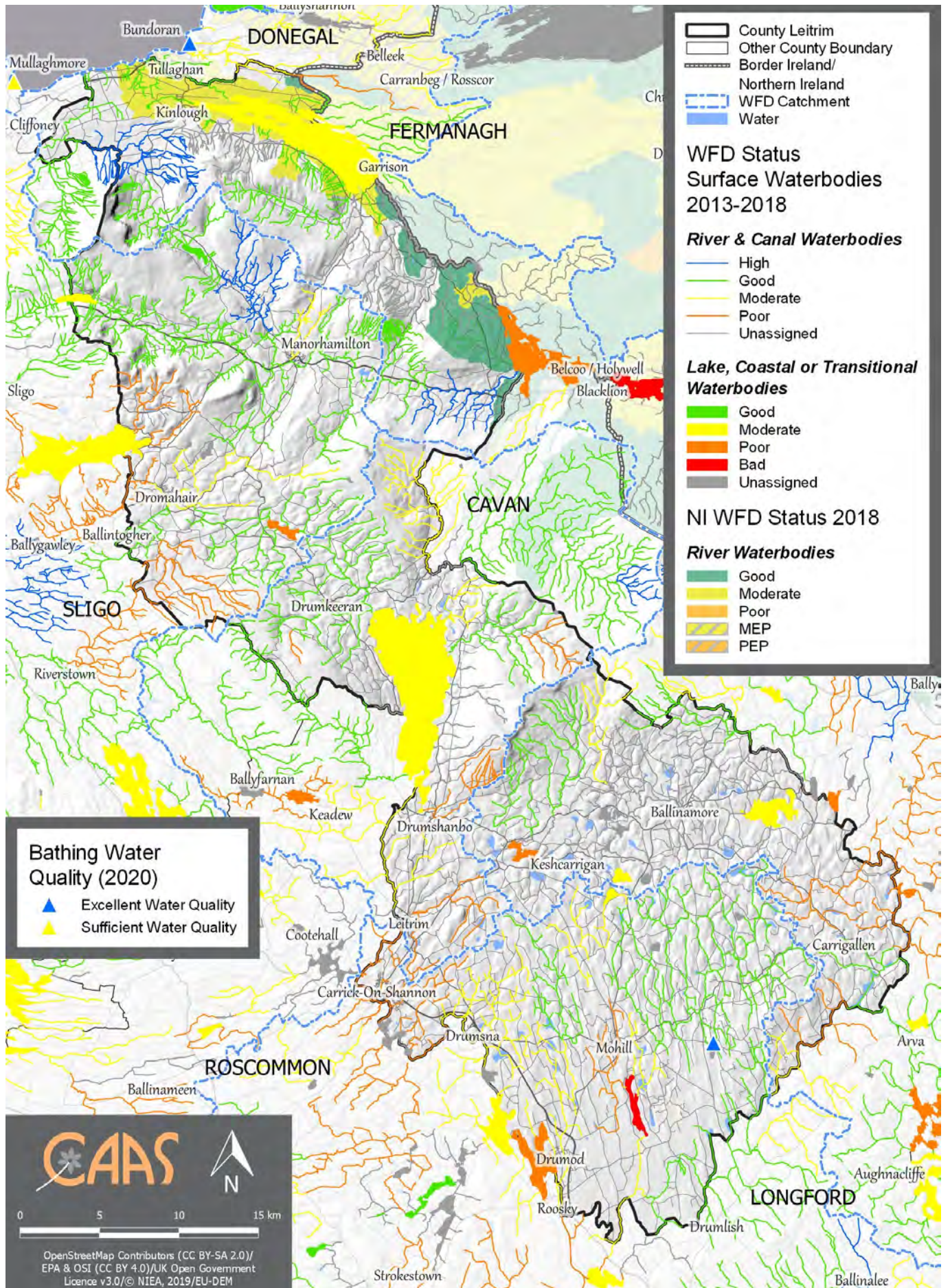


Figure 4.12 WFD Surface Water Status (2013-2018)

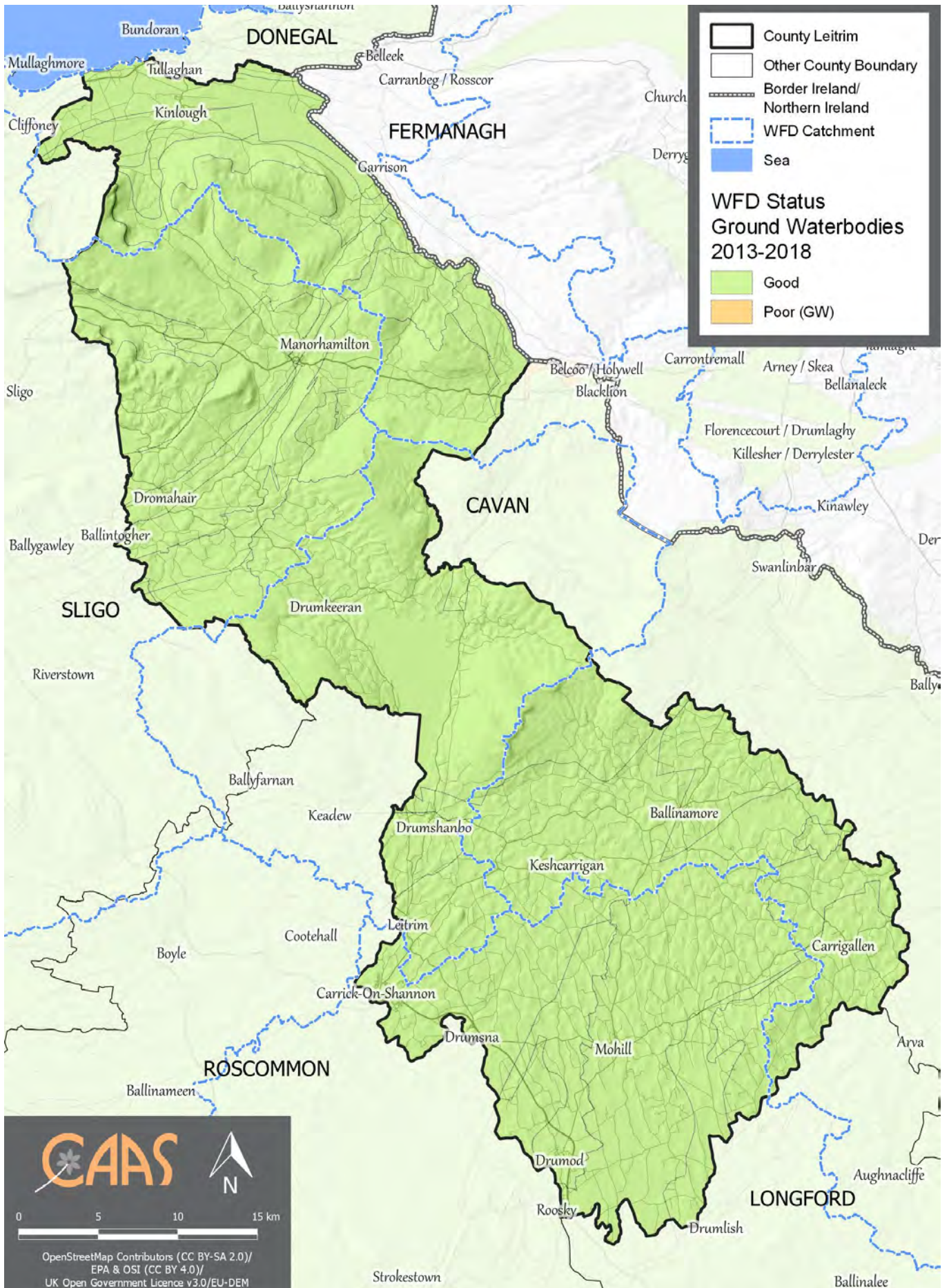


Figure 4.13 WFD Groundwater Status (2013-2018)

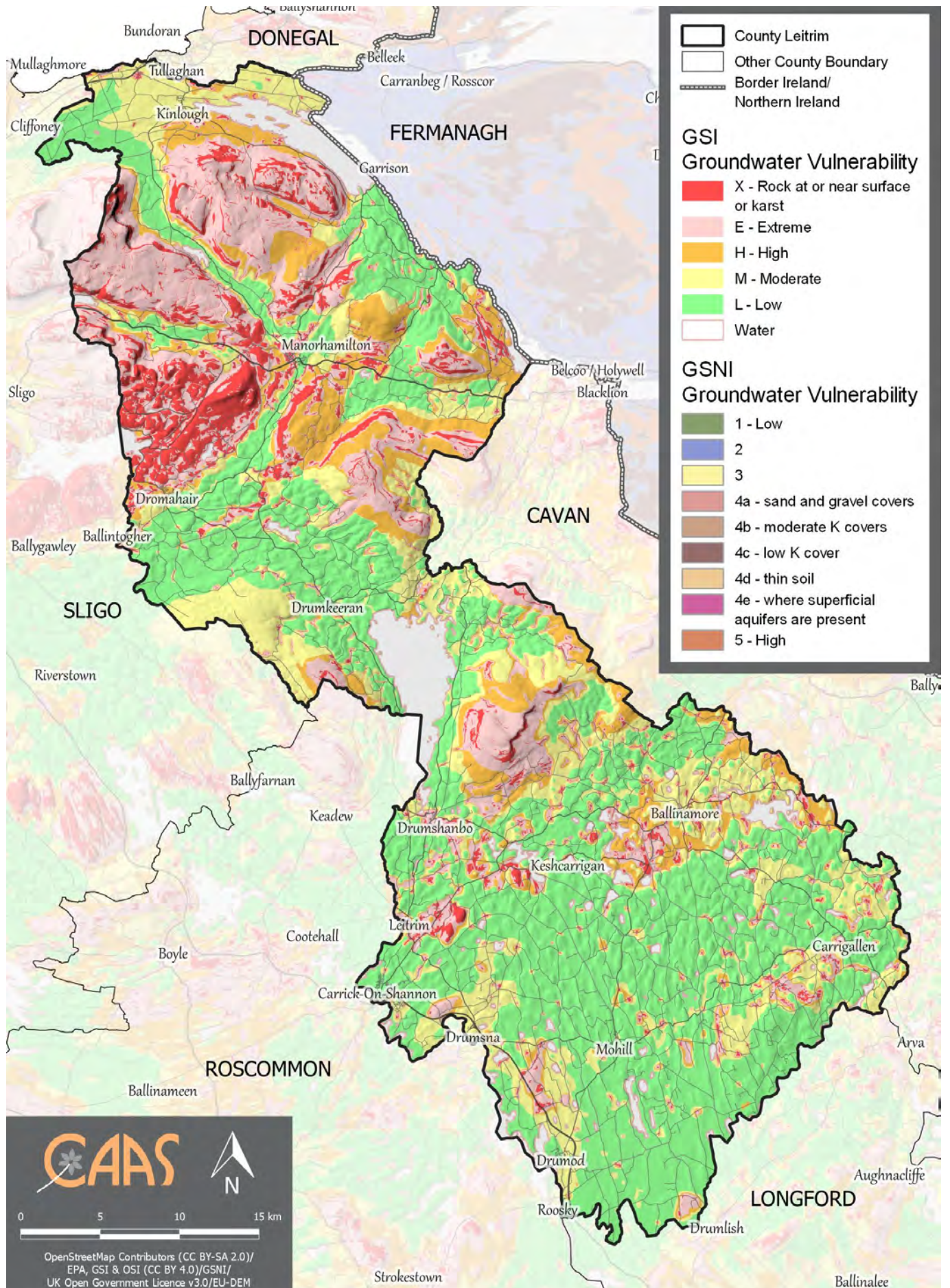


Figure 4.14 Groundwater Vulnerability

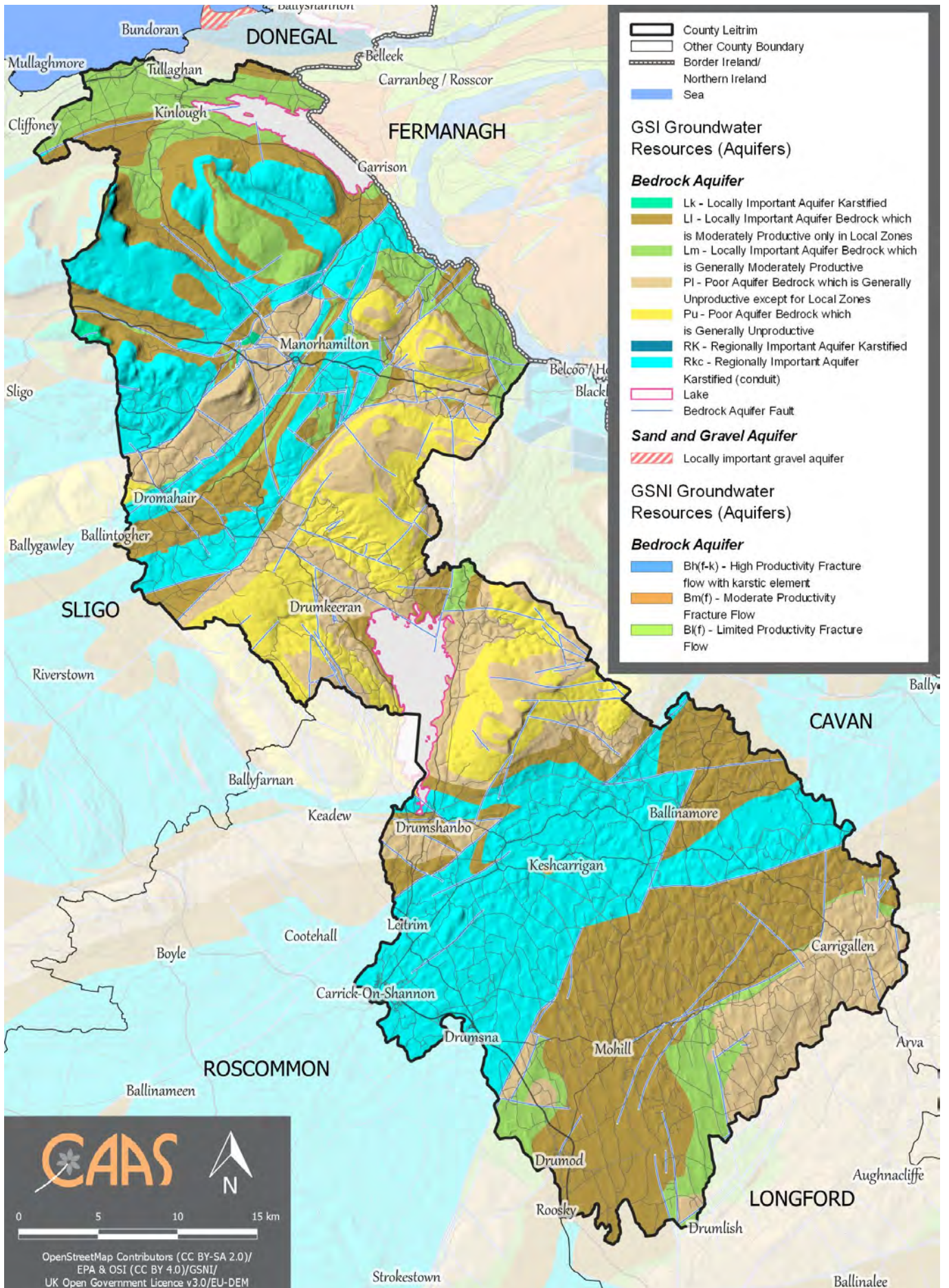


Figure 4.15 Groundwater Productivity



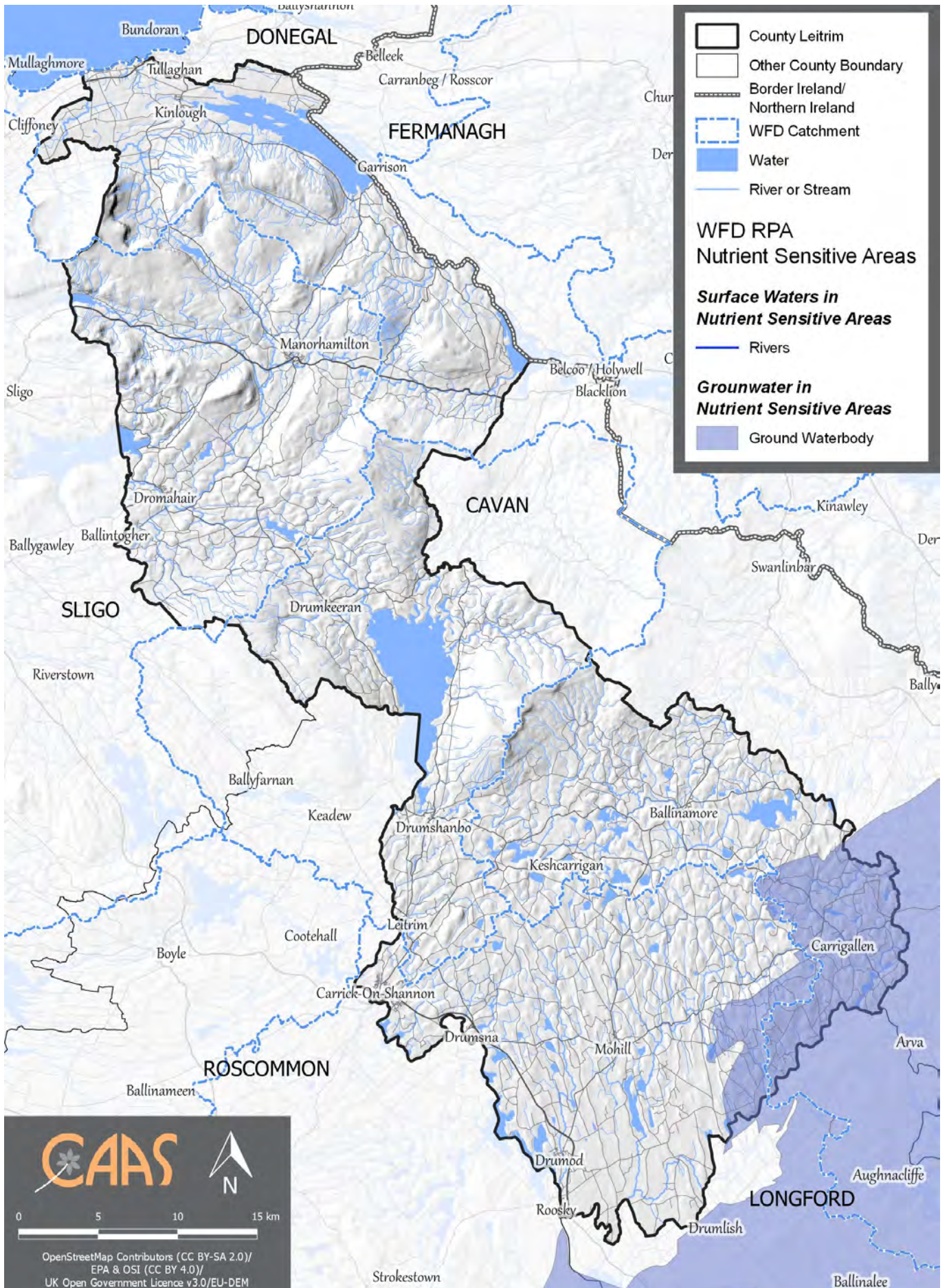


Figure 4.16 WFD Register of Protected Areas: Nutrient Sensitive Areas

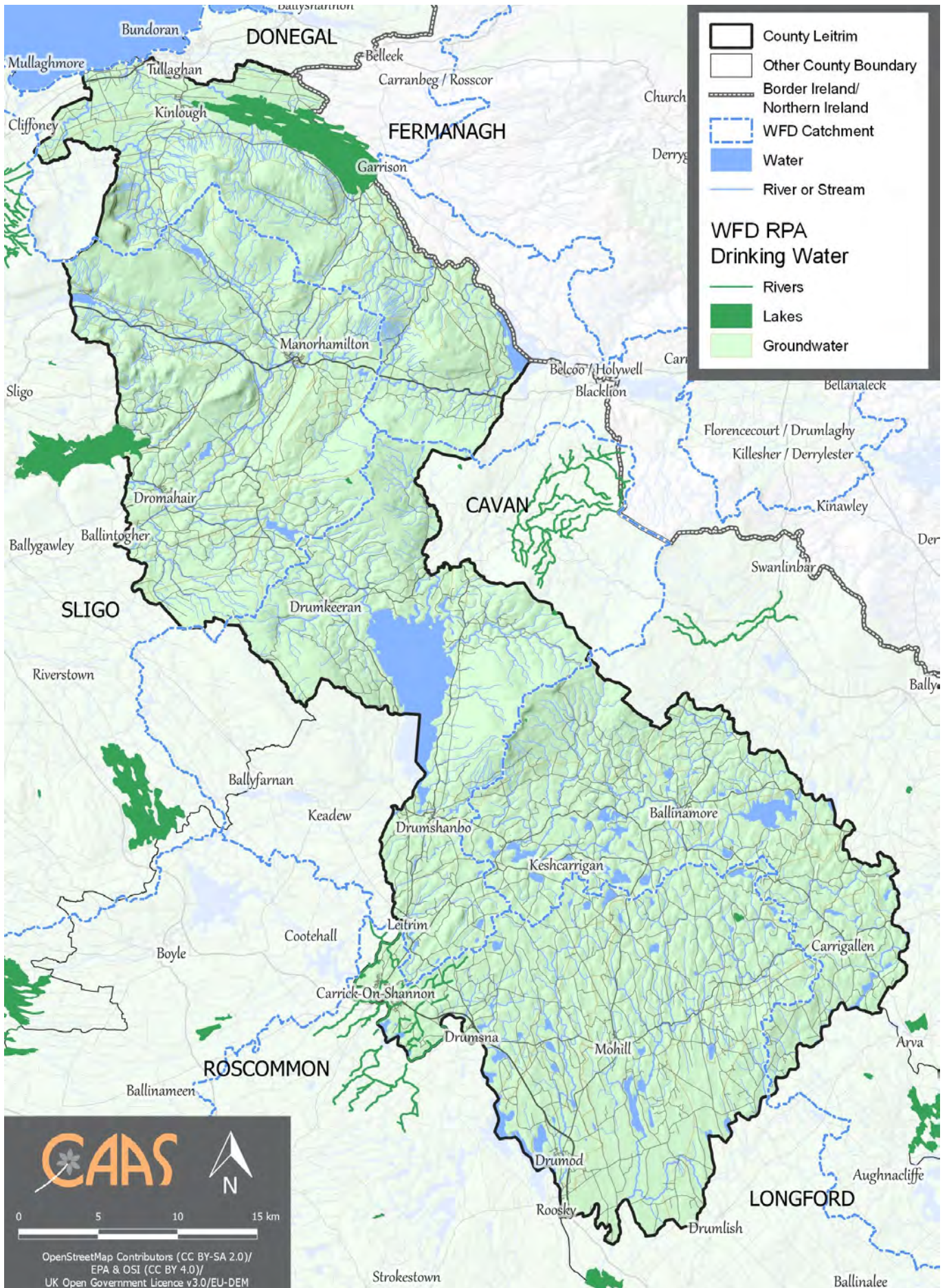


Figure 4.17 WFD Register of Protected Areas: Drinking Water

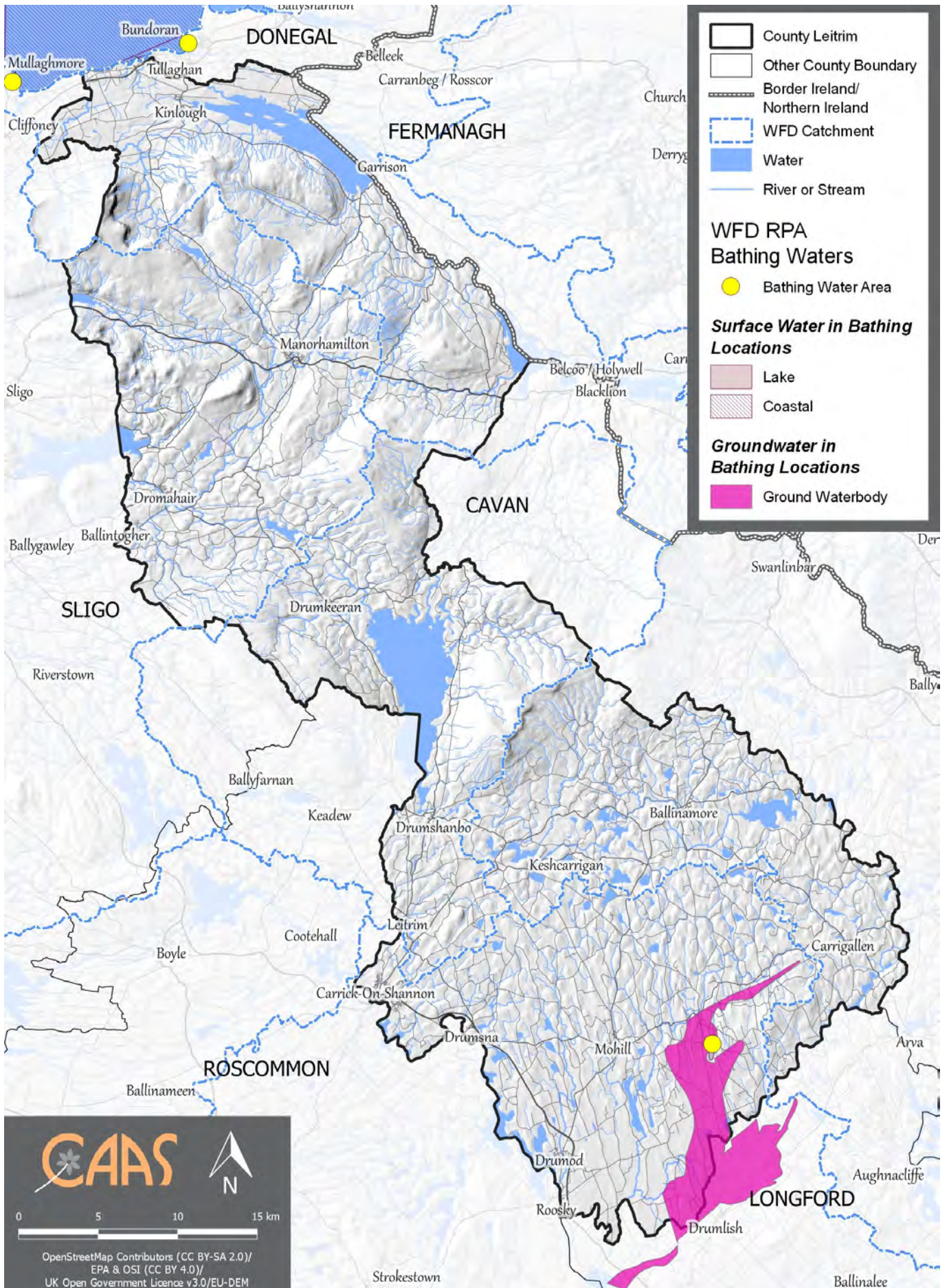


Figure 4.18 WFD Register of Protected Areas: Bathing Waters

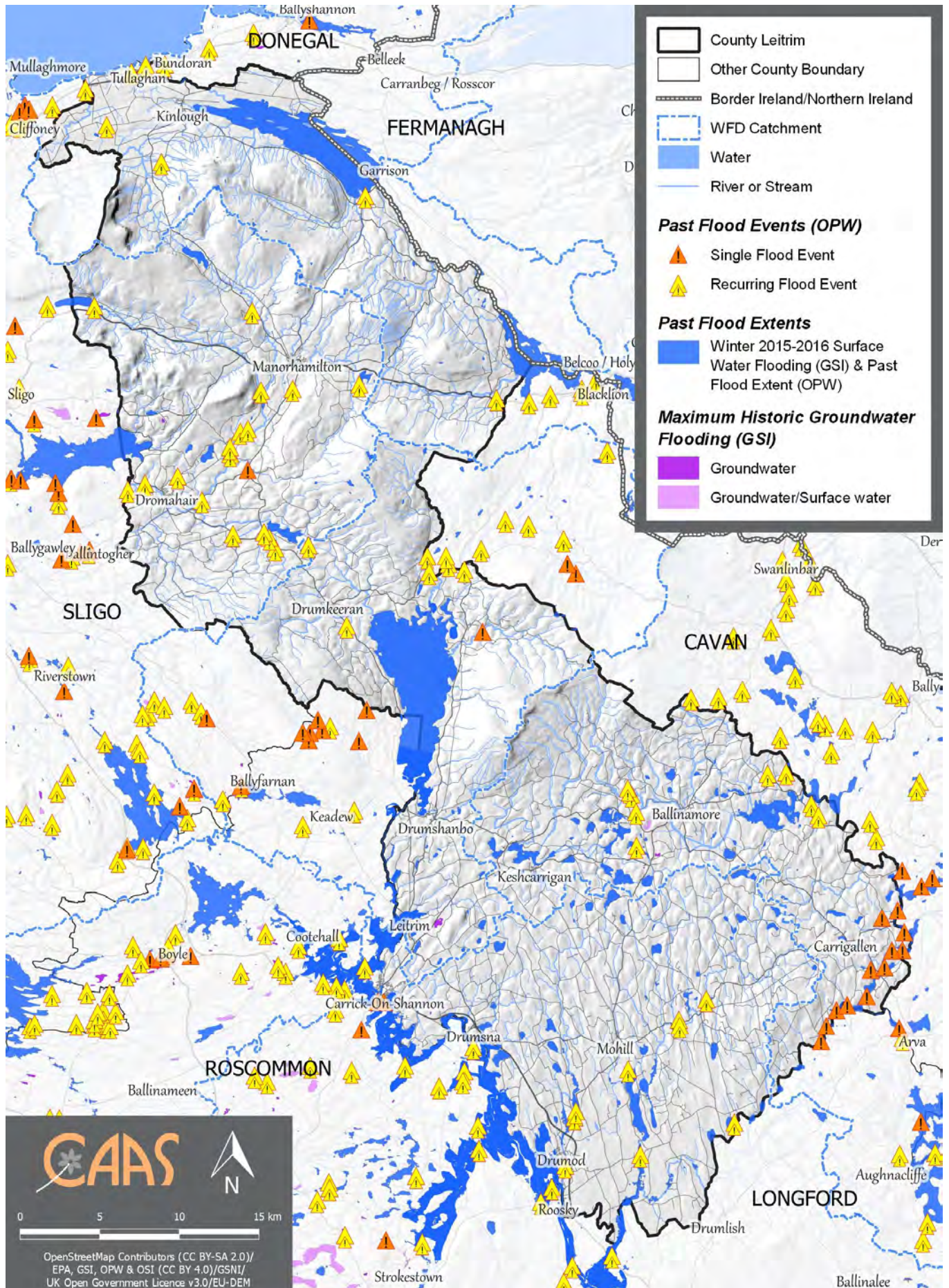


Figure 4.19 Historical Flood Data

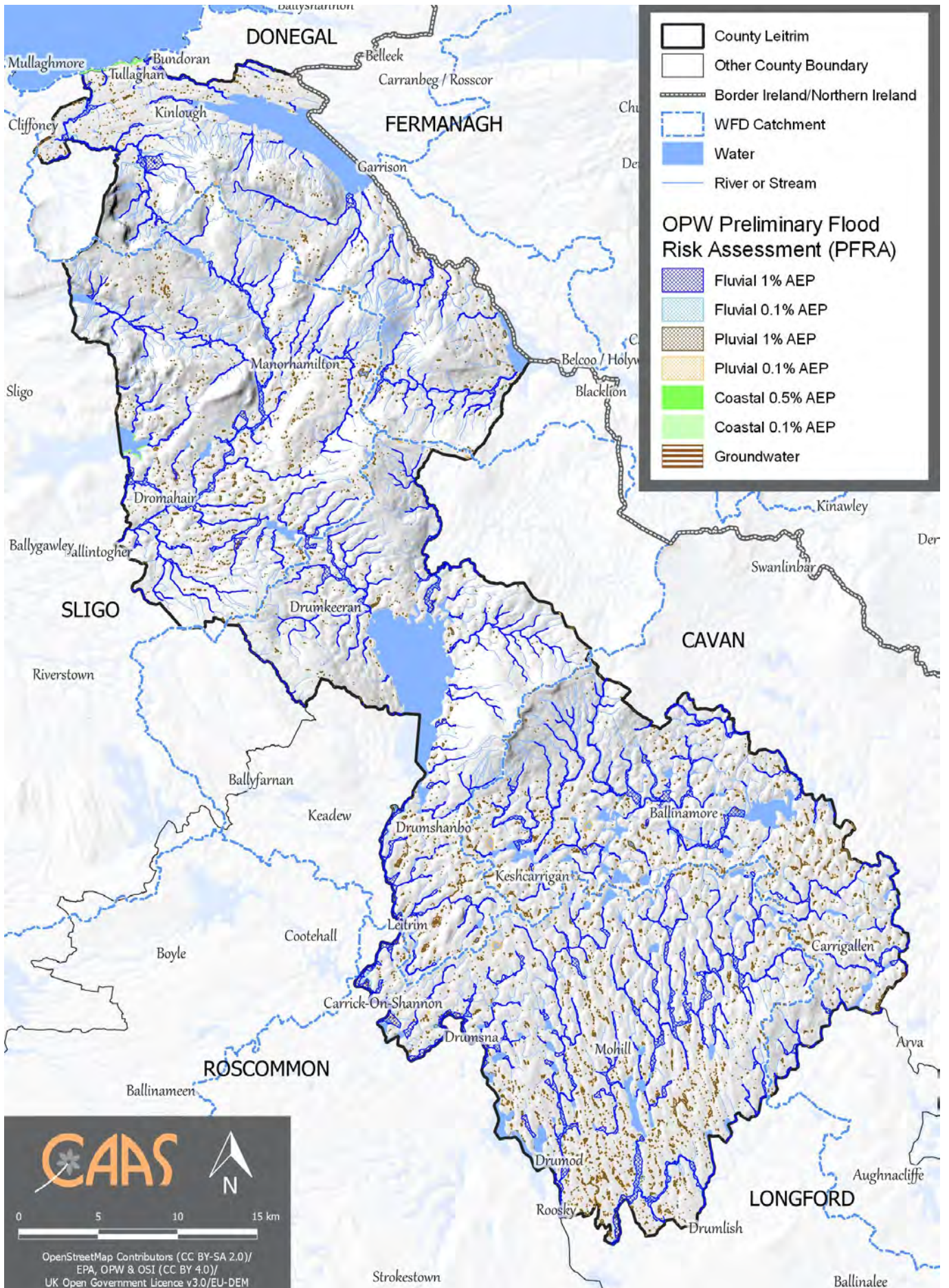
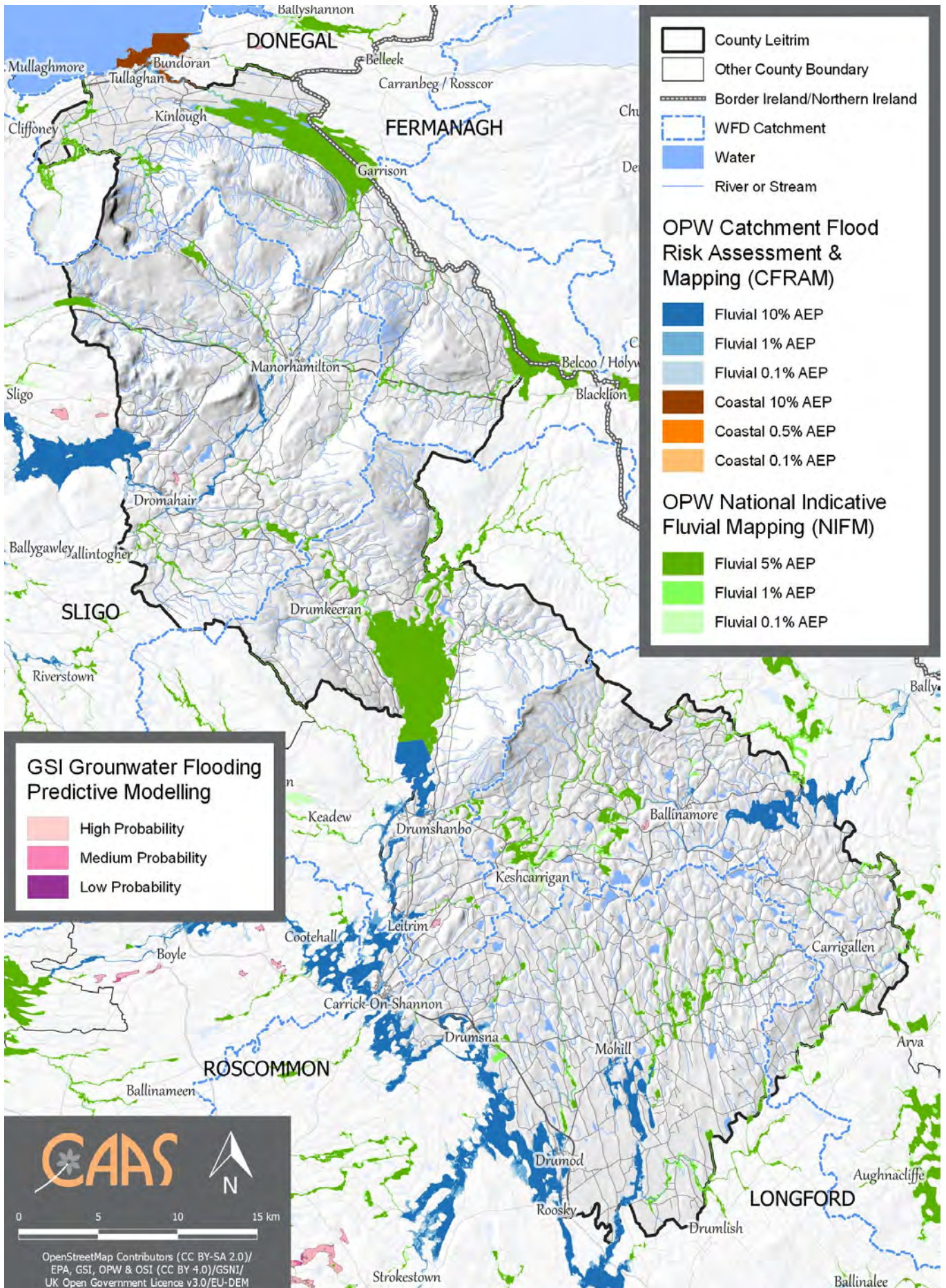


Figure 4.20 OPW Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) Mapping



**Figure 4.21 OPW Catchment Flood Risk Assessment Mapping and OPW National Indicative Fluvial Mapping**

## 4.10 Air and Climatic Factors

### 4.10.1 Introduction

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

The EPA 2021 publication *Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emission Projections 2020-2040* provides an assessment of Ireland's total projected greenhouse gas emissions from 2020 to 2040, updated using the latest Inventory data for 2019. The report also includes an assessment of progress towards achieving its emission reduction targets for 2020 and 2030 as set out under the EU Effort Sharing Decision (ESD)<sup>62</sup> and Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR)<sup>63</sup>. Key findings identified as part of the report's package of documents are that:

- Implementation of "Additional Measures" (including those in the 2019 Climate Action Plan) is projected to save 58 Mt CO<sub>2</sub> eq over the period 2021-2030 compared to the "With Existing Measures". This represents a reduction of 1.8% per annum in emissions over the period.
- Ireland's emissions covered by the 2013-2020 EU Effort Sharing Decision target are estimated to have been 7% below 2005 levels in 2020. Ireland is estimated to have cumulatively exceeded its compliance obligations by 12.2 Mt CO<sub>2</sub> eq over the 2013- 2020 period, and will need to use credits and/or purchase surplus annual emission allocations from other member states to achieve compliance.
- These Projections indicate that Ireland can meet its non-ETS EU targets over the period 2021 to 2030 assuming full implementation of the 2019 Climate

Action Plan and the use of the flexibilities available. Future, more ambitious targets as presented in the European Climate Law and Ireland's Climate Bill will require many (as yet unidentified) additional measures.

- Increased renewable electricity generation, including a projected 5GW of offshore wind generation, is expected to contribute to a 70% contribution of renewable energy in electricity generation by 2030. Energy industries emissions are projected to decrease by one third by 2030 compared to the most recent figures in 2019.
- Agriculture emissions are projected to decline by 1.2% per annum over the 2021- 2030 period, provided the 16.5 Mt CO<sub>2</sub> eq savings from the agriculture sector identified in the 2019 Climate Action Plan are realised. Increase use of protected urea fertilisers and low emission slurry spreading, along with other measures targeting methane emissions from animals, will be required.
- The impact of COVID is projected to have led to a 14% reduction in transport emissions in 2020 compared to 2019. The measures in the 2019 Climate Action Plan include 936,000 electric vehicles on the road by 2030 and are projected to reduce emissions to 25.5% below 2019 levels by 2030. It will be necessary to avoid a post-COVID surge in emissions to achieve that reduction.
- The projected impact of COVID in the residential sector in 2020 is an increase of almost 9% in emissions compared to 2019, driven by increased working from home. This highlights the need for our houses to become far more efficient, particularly in the context of broader home working. Implementing the 2019 Climate Action Plan measure for the installation of over 600,000 heat-pumps by 2030 as well as retrofitting 500,000 homes to a B2 equivalent BER will help achieve this.
- A strong impact from COVID is seen in the emissions projections for 2020 and 2021. A decrease of transport

<sup>62</sup> Decision No 406/2009/EC of 23 April 2009 on the effort of Member States to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to meet the Community's greenhouse gas emission reduction commitments up to 2020.

<sup>63</sup> Regulation (EU) 2018/842 on binding annual greenhouse gas emission reductions by Member States from 2021 to 2030 contributing to climate action to meet commitments under the Paris Agreement.

emissions and increase in residential emissions are the most obvious effects projected. Agriculture emissions are projected to have been little affected and energy emissions decreases are not primarily COVID related. As the economy exits from COVID restrictions, a “green recovery” where investment is targeted at measures which reduce or avoid greenhouse gas emissions, can result in better outcomes for society and the environment.

- The scale and pace of the changes needed to achieve the targets set out in the 2019 Climate Action Plan are significant, but the extent of change required to meet the Climate Bill and European Climate Law targets is unprecedented. Further ambitious measures in key sectors such as agriculture, transport and power generation will need to be identified, planned and implemented as soon as possible.

In 2020 the sectors with the largest contribution of emissions were agriculture (37.4%), transport (18.4%) and energy industries (14.8%). This projection includes the impact of COVID on the 2020 emissions, which due to national lockdowns saw transport emissions decline, but agriculture emissions were largely unaffected.

#### 4.10.2 Climate Action

The revised National Climate Action Plan 2023 provides a detailed plan for taking decisive action to achieve a 51% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and setting us on a path to reach net-zero emissions by no later than 2050. The Plan lists the actions needed to deliver on climate targets and sets indicative ranges of emissions reductions for each sector of the economy. Updates to the Climate Action Plan are intended to be issued periodically, to ensure alignment with Ireland’s legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral ceilings.

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

The use of alternative fuels, including electricity, forms a significant part of government policy to reduce emissions, including from transport. Greater use of alternative fuels, including renewable energy, has the potential to further contribute towards energy security.

The most recent emission projections do not consider the impact of new policies and measures that are included in the Action Plan. It is anticipated that future emission projections will include the additional impact of the Government Climate Action Plan.

The Climate Change Advisory Council’s Annual Review 2020 identified that the most recent projections demonstrate that, under different assumptions, Ireland will not meet its emissions reduction targets, even with the additional policies and measures included in the National Development Plan. The projections also show that progress on reducing emissions is sensitive to the future path of fuel prices. A significant and sustained rate of emissions reduction of approximately -2.5% per year is required to meet objectives for 2050. However, it must be noted that additional measures within the recent Climate Action Plan are not included in the analysis to date.

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

The National Adaptation Framework sets out the national strategy to reduce the vulnerability of the country to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of positive impacts. The National Adaptation Framework outlines a whole of government and society approach to climate adaptation. Under the Framework, a number of Government Departments will be required to prepare sectoral adaptation plans in relation to a priority area that they are responsible for.

The Leitrim County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 seeks to:

- Ensure a proper comprehension of the key risks and vulnerabilities of climate change;
- Bring forward the implementation of climate resilient actions in a planned and proactive manner; and



- Ensure that climate adaptation considerations are mainstreamed into all plans and policies and integrated into all operations and functions of the local authority.

### 4.10.3 Ambient Air Quality

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

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

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

The EPA's (2020) *Air Quality in Ireland 2019* identifies that:

- Air quality in Ireland is generally good however there are localised issues;
- Nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) from transport emissions is polluting urban areas; and
- Ireland was above World Health Organization air quality guideline value levels at 33 monitoring sites – mostly due to the burning of solid fuel within settlements across the country.

Problem pollutants identified by the EPA include particulate matter from burning of solid fuel and nitrogen dioxide from transport emissions in urban areas. Indications that Ireland will exceed EU limit values for nitrogen dioxide in the near future.

With regards to solutions, the report identifies that:

- To tackle the problem of particulate matter, clean ways of heating homes and improve energy efficiency of homes can be progressed; and
- To reduce the impact of nitrogen dioxide, transport options in the Government's Climate Action Plan can be implemented and transport choices can be considered by individuals.

In order to apply with European Directives relating to air quality, the EPA manages the National Ambient Air Quality Network and measures the levels of a number of atmospheric pollutants at locations across the country. The current<sup>64</sup> air quality within the County is identified by the EPA as being *good*.

### 4.10.4 Noise

Leitrim County Council has prepared a Noise Action Plan 2018-2023 in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006. The purpose of the Noise Action Plan is to avoid, prevent and reduce, on a prioritised basis the harmful effects, including annoyance due to the long-term exposure to environmental noise.

### 4.10.5 Existing Problems

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

## 4.11 Material Assets

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

### 4.11.1 Public Assets and Infrastructure

Public assets and infrastructure that have the potential to be impacted upon by the Plan, if unmitigated, include; settlements; resources such as public open spaces, parks and

<sup>64</sup> 02/11/2021 (<http://www.epa.ie/air/quality/>)

recreational areas; public buildings and services; transport and utility infrastructure (electricity, gas, telecommunications, water supply, wastewater infrastructure etc.); forestry; and natural resources that are covered under other topics such as water and soil.

#### 4.11.2 Green Infrastructure

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

#### 4.11.3 Land

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

#### 4.11.4 Forestry

Leitrim has the highest percentage of forest cover of any county in Ireland (18.9% in 2017).<sup>65</sup> Extents and types of forestry across the County are indicated on Figure 4.4, 51.3% of which are private forests. Other forested areas are owned by Coillte<sup>66</sup>, including Glenfarne Wood. Woodlands provide recreational opportunities in addition to their heritage and economic benefits. They are a valuable resource in terms of biodiversity, recreation and tourism, and also important as links in the County's green infrastructure network.

#### 4.11.5 Peatlands

Peatlands provide a valuable natural and archaeological resource. Peatlands are also important controllers of water levels in river catchments, providing a source of water in dry conditions and soaking up excess water during wetter periods; they actively capture and hold

carbon and are an important natural resource in combatting climate change. Cutaway bogs have the potential to facilitate land uses such as employment, renewable energy generation, waste management, industrial, and tourism and recreation. Peat soils are often indicative of areas that are the most sensitive to development due to ecological sensitivities and impeded drainage issues; various peatland areas are subject to ecological designations (see Section 4.6).

#### 4.11.6 Coastline

Management of the County's coastline and coastal erosion are topics with relevance to various environmental components. The coastline of Leitrim is sensitive and valuable in terms of natural and cultural heritage, scenic beauty and recreation. The coast is also an important economic resource - particularly for the fishing, aquaculture, leisure and tourism industries.

#### 4.11.7 Renewable Energy Potential

Under EU Directive 2001/77/EC Renewable Energy, renewable energy sources are defined as renewable non-fossil energy sources such as, but not limited to wind, solar, geothermal, wave, tidal, hydropower, biomass, landfill gas, sewage treatment plant gas, bio-gases and bio-char (i.e. the thermal treatment of natural organic materials in an oxygen-limited environment).

A Renewable Energy Strategy (RES) has been prepared for County Leitrim as part of the County Development Plan 2023-2029. The RES includes a comprehensive assessment and spatial evaluation of the County to identify the most suitable locations for renewable energy technologies, taking account of available natural resources, grid infrastructure, environmental considerations, impacts on local communities and quality of life.

#### 4.11.8 Minerals and Aggregates

Minerals such as iron and copper and aggregates such as sand and gravel can occur

<sup>65</sup> DAFM (2020): *Forest Statistics Ireland 2020*.

<sup>66</sup> Coillte Teoranta, the State Forestry Board, was established to manage the public forest built up since the commencement of State planting and is the largest provider of forest recreation in Ireland.

throughout the country. Minerals and aggregates are essential to manufacturing and construction.

Minerals localities within County Leitrim are shown on Figure 4.22. The GSI have a suite of data sources available that would be useful in planning and assessing individual projects with regard to the environmental topic(s) of soil and/or material assets. These include:

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

#### 4.11.9 Transport

Transport infrastructure in the County has the potential to support reductions in energy demand from the transport sector, including through electrification of modes.

The County is well served by public transport and road links. The N4/N15/N16 national routes traverse the County. Irish Rail operate services to Carrick on Shannon and Dromod via the Dublin/Sligo rail line.

There are a number of public and private bus operators linking settlements within the County. In addition, Bus Éireann and private operators service the number of long-distance routes to and from the County daily.

County Leitrim shares the international land border with Northern Ireland and is seen as a 'Gateway' to the North, providing fundamental connections with other urban centres in these regions. Both regional and local roads provide vital links between the towns and villages to retail, service and employment centres throughout the County and to adjoining counties.

#### 4.11.10 Water Services

It is the expressed view of Irish Water that the county is well served by its water and wastewater treatment plants and, notwithstanding constraints associated with the Carrick-on-Shannon water treatment plant and the wastewater treatment plant at Carrigallen which are expected to be addressed over the lifetime of the Plan, it is envisaged that the water and wastewater treatment plants can

generally accommodate the household or population levels stated in the Core Strategy of this Plan. In the case of Drumshanbo and Mohill wastewater treatment plants however, potential availability of capacity is dependent on any additional load not resulting in a significant breach of the combined approach as set out in Regulation 43 of the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007.

##### 4.11.10.1 Wastewater

From January 2014, Irish Water became responsible for all public water services, involving the supply of drinking water and the collection, treatment and disposal of wastewater. Irish Water is also responsible for the treatment and disposal of the sludge that is generated from both its water and wastewater treatment plants. The Council is an agent of Irish Water for operations and remains the designated Water Authority for the assessment and approval of on-site wastewater treatment systems and is responsible for surface water drainage in the County.

The provision of well-maintained quality wastewater treatment infrastructure is essential to facilitate sustainable development of the County in line with the Settlement and Core Strategy while also protecting the environment and public health. Irish Water is now responsible for the collection, treatment and disposal of wastewater where public wastewater facilities exist in towns and villages. In unserved areas and outside the main towns and villages, the main method of sewage disposal is by means of individual septic tanks and proprietary wastewater treatment systems.

It is the expressed view of Irish Water that capacity issues are not considered to exist in any wastewater treatment plant that would prohibit the realisation of the household or population levels provided for by the Plan.

The EPA's 2021 report '*Urban Waste Water Treatment in 2020*' identified that:

- Wastewater treatment at 12 large urban areas did not meet European standards;
- Raw sewage is released into the environment from 34 urban areas;
- Wastewater from 42 priority areas is the sole threat to waters at risk of pollution, including from the urban area of **Mohill in County Leitrim**;

- Wastewater contributed to poor quality bathing waters at three beaches in 2020;
- Discharges from 12 areas must improve to protect freshwater pearl mussels;
- Seven wastewater collection systems have been found non-compliant with European Union requirements.

The County is served by various Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs). In unserviced areas and outside the main settlements, the main method of sewage disposal is by individual septic tanks and other types of wastewater treatment.

Irish Water has provided information on wastewater treatment capacity, constraints and projects planned within the County to improve the existing network, to assist the Council in the preparation of the new County Development Plan (shown on Table 4.2). This information indicates where there may be wastewater treatment capacity available to accommodate growth (“headroom”) in terms of population equivalent<sup>67</sup> (PE) in areas serviced by a public wastewater treatment plant. Spare treatment capacity is identified as being available in all of these settlements except for: Drumshanbo WWTP; Mohill WWTP; Carrigallen WWTP; and Keshcarrigan WWTP. The highest levels of headroom (PE) are available at Carrick-on-Shannon WWTP (5,717 PE), Drumsna WWTP (728 PE) and Kinlough WWTP (678 PE).

Table 4.3 provides information on wastewater treatment plant performance sourced from the EPA’s 2019 and 2020 Annual Environmental Reports (AERs). These Wastewater Agglomerations are subject to Wastewater Discharge Licences issued by The Environmental Protection Agency. WWTPs non-compliant with the Emission Limit Values (ELVs) set in the Discharge Licences include:

- Drumshanbo WWTP (D0144-01);
- Manorhamilton WWTP (D0150-01);
- Mohill WWTP (D0277-01);
- Leitrim Village WWTP (D0278-01); and
- Ballinamore WWTP (D0281-01).

Leitrim County Council will work alongside and facilitate the delivery of Irish Water’s Water Investment Plan to support and facilitate the delivery of new or improved wastewater treatment plants in the County.

Projects have recently been completed at Drumshanbo, Mohill and Manorhamilton WWTPs. A further upgrade of the Carrigallen WWTP is being progressed under Irish Water’s Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme which is intended to provide growth capacity at WWTPs which would not otherwise be provided for in the 2020-2024 Capital Investment Plan.<sup>68</sup>

Irish Water is responsible for the treatment and disposal of the sludge that is generated from both its water and wastewater treatment plants. Irish Water has prepared a National Wastewater Sludge Management Plan 2016-2021 that outlines Irish Water’s strategy to ensure a nationwide standardised approach for managing wastewater sludge over a 25-year period. A separate plan will be prepared in relation to sludge produced at drinking water plants.

#### 4.11.10.2 Water Supply

Irish Water is responsible for providing and maintaining adequate public water supply infrastructure throughout the County. Public drinking water in County Leitrim is supplied through public water supply schemes. The remaining households are served by either Group Water Schemes or private wells, which do not fall within the remit of Irish Water.

It is the expressed view of Irish Water that capacity issues are not considered to exist in any water treatment plant that would prohibit the realisation of the household or population levels provided for by the Plan.

The public water supply in Leitrim is split into three Water Resource Zones: the South Leitrim Regional Water Supply Scheme, the North Leitrim Regional Water Supply Scheme and the Kinlough/Tullaghan Water Supply Scheme. More details of water supply and treatment for the County are shown on Table 4.4.

Under Section 58 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992, the EPA is required

<sup>67</sup> WWTPs are described in terms of their designed treatment capacity, which is generally expressed as population equivalent (PE). This is a measurement of total organic biodegradable load, including industrial, institutional, commercial and domestic organic load, on a wastewater treatment plant, converted to the equivalent

number of PEs. One person is considered to generate 60g of five-day Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) per day. 1 PE is defined as being equivalent to 60g of BOD per day.

<sup>68</sup> Leitrim CDP

to collect and verify monitoring results for all water supplies in Ireland covered by the European Communities (Drinking Water).

The EPA publishes their results in annual reports that are supported by Remedial Action Lists (RALs). The RAL identifies water supplies that are not in compliance with the Regulations mentioned above. There are no County Leitrim water supplies identified on the most recent available RAL (Q3 of 2021).

Currently, Irish Water is developing the National Water Resource Plan outlining how to move to a sustainable, secure and reliable public drinking water supply over a 25-year period while safeguarding the environment. It will outline how Irish Water intends to maintain a balance between supply from water sources around the country and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term. This will facilitate future planning and ensure provision of sufficient, safe, clean drinking water to facilitate the social and economic growth of the County.

It is the policy of the Council to work in conjunction with Irish Water to protect existing water infrastructure, to maximise the potential of existing capacity and to facilitate the timely delivery of new wastewater services infrastructure to facilitate future growth.

#### **4.11.10.3 Surface Water Drainage**

Sustainable Urban Drainage systems (SUDS) can minimise the quantity and increase the quality of surface water runoff as well as mitigating adverse impacts of climate change. SUDS can also provide amenity and biodiversity benefits. The Council seeks to ensure the sustainable management of surface water discharges in urban areas through the use of SUDS.

#### **4.11.11 Waste Management**

The Connacht-Ulster Waste Region comprises nine local authority areas of: Mayo; Galway; Galway City; Roscommon; Sligo; Leitrim; Donegal; Cavan; and Monaghan.

The Connacht-Ulster Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 provides the framework for solid waste management in the region and sets out a range of policies and actions to meet specified mandatory and performance-based targets. It is underpinned by National and European waste legislation and the work carried out will ensure

the continued management of waste in a safe and sustainable manner. The Plan includes three strategic targets:

- 1% reduction per annum in the quality of household waste generated per capita over the period of the Plan;
- Achieve a recycling rate of 50% of managed Municipal waste by 2020; and
- Reduce to 0% the direct disposal of unprocessed residual municipal waste to landfill (from 2016 onwards) in favour of higher value pre-treatment processes and indigenous recovery practices.

The Connacht-Ulster Waste Management Plan states that the future role of local authorities in waste management will be focused on education, prevention, and resource efficiency activities as well as regulating householders, businesses and waste operators and enforcing waste legislation. Waste infrastructure provided by local authorities will mainly include bring banks and civic amenities include bring banks and civic amenities.

#### **4.11.12 Existing Problems**

There are a number of challenges with respect to the provision of water services infrastructure that are described under Section 4.11 above.

The Water Services Section of Leitrim County Council will co-operate with Irish Water in providing and maintaining adequate public water supply and wastewater collection and treatment infrastructure throughout the County for the period of the plan and beyond. In conjunction with Irish Water, the Water Services Section of Leitrim County Council will endeavour to ensure the continued investment in and delivery of improvements to water infrastructure over the Plan period through the implementation of the Capital Investment Plan.

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

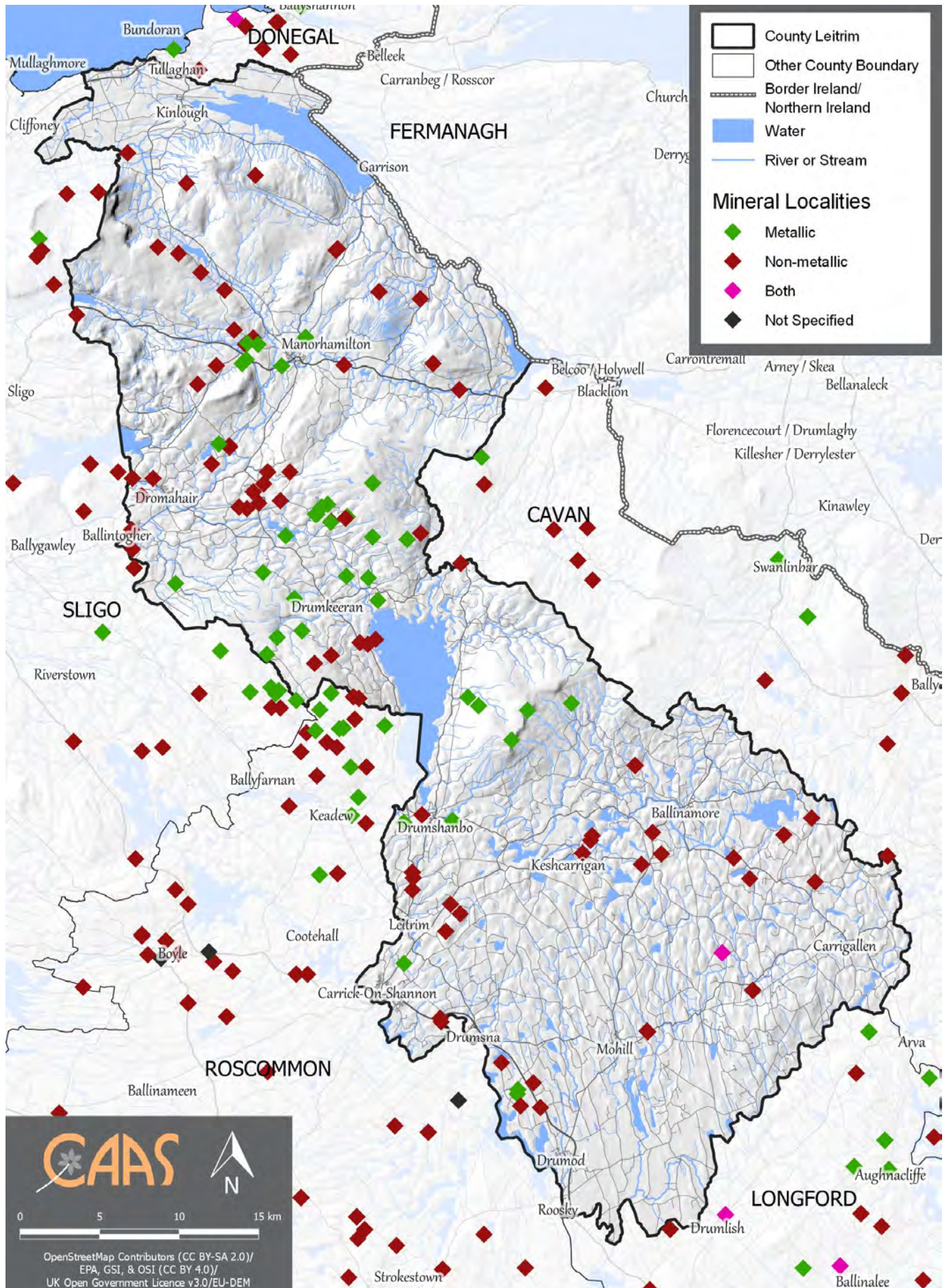


Figure 4.22 Minerals Localities

Table 4.2 Wastewater Constraints in County Leitrim (Irish Water, April 2020)

Region	County	Settlement	Census pop. (2016)	Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)	Reg #	Serves other areas?	WWTP Capacity (PE)		Load (PE) 2019	Headroom (PE)		Current project completion year
							Today	Upon works completion		WWDL ELV Capability	UWW Standards Capability (not WWDL ELVs)	
NW	Leitrim	Carrick on Shannon	53,504	Carrick-on-Shannon WWTP	D0154	No	11,500	=	5,783	5,717		
NW	Leitrim	Manorhamilton	1,374	Manorhamilton WWTP	D0150	No	2,600	=	2,170	430		
NW	Leitrim	Kinlough	946	Kinlough WWTP	D0280	No	2,100	=	1,422	678		
NW	Leitrim	Ballinamore	834	Ballinamore WWTP	D0281	No	2,000	=	1,373	627		
NW	Leitrim	Drumshanbo	699	Drumshanbo WWTP	D0144	No	4,000	=	1,654	0	2,346	
NW	Leitrim	Mohill	499	Mohill WWTP	D0277	No	1,800	=	1,271	0	529	
NW	Leitrim	Dromahair	438	Dromahair WWTP	D0279	No	2,200	=	1,127	1,073		
NW	Leitrim	Leitrim	434	Leitrim Village WWTP	D0278	No	1,000	=	863	137		
<b>CoA Headroom (PE)</b>												
NW	Leitrim	Aughnasheelan	Unavailable	Aughnasheelan WWTP	A0466	No	100	=	28	72		
NW	Leitrim	Ballinagleragh	Unavailable	Ballinagleragh WWTP	A0469	No	100	=	28	72		
NW	Leitrim	Carrigallen	387	Carrigallen WWTP	A0273	No	600	=	686			
NW	Leitrim	Cloone	Unavailable	Cloone WWTP	A0468	No	250	=	84	166		
NW	Leitrim	Dromod	Unavailable	Dromod WWTP	A0275	No	1,500	=	847	653		
NW	Leitrim	Drumcong	Unavailable	Drumcong WWTP	A0471	No	150	=	130	20		
NW	Leitrim	Drumkeeran	Unavailable	Drumkeeran WWTP	A0276	No	750	=	278	472		
NW	Leitrim	Drumsna	Unavailable	Drumsna WWTP	A0467	No	1,000	=	272	728		
NW	Leitrim	Fenagh	Unavailable	Fenagh WWTP	A0462	No	400	=	140	260		
NW	Leitrim	Jamestown	Unavailable	Jamestown WWTP	A0465	No	200	=	75	125		
NW	Leitrim	Keshcarrigan	Unavailable	Keshcarrigan WWTP	A0464	No	250	=	257			
NW	Leitrim	Killarga	Unavailable	Killarga WWTP	A0470	No	200	=	68	132		
NW	Leitrim	Kiltyclogher	Unavailable	Kiltyclogher WWTP	A0272	No	500	=	125	375		
NW	Leitrim	Newtowngore	Unavailable	Newtowngore WWTP	A0292	No	250	=	99	151		
NW	Leitrim	Tullaghan	253	Tullaghan WWTP	A0274	No	200	700	381	319		2021

Notes: <sup>69,70,71,72,73,74,75</sup><sup>69</sup> Wastewater Discharge Licences (WWDL) and Certificates of Authorisation (CoA)<sup>70</sup> WWTP Capacity (PE) Today = Overall design capacity of the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) in population equivalents (PE) today (the date at the top of this table).<sup>71</sup> WWTP Capacity (PE) Upon works completion = Overall design capacity of the WWTP in population equivalents (PE) upon completion of a relevant project delivering additional capacity. Note that 'WWDL' or 'UWW' following the capacity value indicates that the upgraded WWTP will have capability to achieve the full Wastewater Discharge Licence (WWDL) emission limit values (ELVs) in the former case, or at least the Urban Wastewater (UWW) Treatment Directive parametric values in the latter case.<sup>72</sup> Load (PE) 2019 = Wastewater load arising from the settlement(s) being served entering the WWTP in 2019.<sup>73</sup> Headroom (PE) = Headroom available at the WWTP in 2019 in terms of population equivalents based on available capacity now or by completion of a project by 2022 (where relevant). Green = spare capacity available. Amber = potential spare capacity. WWTP currently not compliant with Wastewater Discharge Licence emission limit values but is capable of achieving at least UWW standards. Potential availability of capacity in this case would be dependent on any additional load not resulting in a significant breach of the combined approach as set out in Regulation 43 of the Wastewater Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007. Red = no spare capacity available<sup>74</sup> Current project completion year = This is the current forecasted completion year as of date of this table and is subject to change. 'Post 2024' indicates that the project is proposed to be completed within the next investment period (2025-2029), subject to the planning and approval of the next capital investment plan. Note, there is no guarantee that this capacity will be delivered if the current Investment Plan is amended due to emerging needs or changes due to exchequer funding.<sup>75</sup> General notes (i) The headroom figure stated is based on available information on the date of issue of this table and is subject to change. (ii) The indication of spare treatment capacity has been determined based on a standardised national review of the available information. (iii) A Pre-Connection Enquiry should be submitted to Irish Water to determine the feasibility of connecting any particular site to the Irish Water network, feasibility should not be inferred from this register

**Table 4.3 Wastewater Treatment Plant Performance (Annual Environmental Reports 2019 and 2020, EPA)**

Plant name and Reference	Year	Treatment Provided	Overall Compliance (Pass/Fail)	Parameter Failed	Cause of Exceedances and Significance of Results (Water Quality)	Organic Capacities (PE)		
						As Constructed	Collected Load (peak week)	Remaining
<b>Drumshanbo D0144-01</b>	2020	Tertiary	Fail	Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceous ) mg/l ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l Suspended Solids mg/l	Cause: Variation in concentration in the influent. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The WWTP discharge was not compliant with the ELV's set in the wastewater discharge licence.</li> <li>The ambient monitoring results does not meet the required EQS. The EQS relates to the Oxygenation and Nutrient Conditions set out in the Surface Water Regulations 2009.</li> <li>Based on ambient monitoring results a deterioration in BOD, ortho-Phosphate and Ammonia, concentrations downstream of the effluent discharge is noted.</li> <li>A deterioration in water quality has been identified, however it is not known if it or is not caused by the WWTP.</li> <li>Other causes of deterioration in water quality in the area are: Drumshanbo downstream may be affected by forestry, agriculture and septic tanks.</li> <li>The discharge from the wastewater treatment plant does have an observable negative impact on the Water Framework Directive status.</li> </ul>	4000	1673	2327
<b>Manorhamilton D0150-01</b>	2019	Tertiary	Fail	Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceous BOD) mg/l Ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	Cause: The WWTP was being upgraded in 2019. The upgrade is required to ensure the plant meets the ELV's set out in the license. Incident number: INC1008055 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The WWTP discharge was not compliant with the ELV's set in the wastewater discharge licence.</li> <li>The ambient monitoring results do not meet the required EQS for Ammonia. The EQS relates to the Oxygenation and Nutrient Conditions set out in the Surface Water Regulations 2009.</li> <li>Based on ambient monitoring results a deterioration in Ammonia and Ortho-Phosphate concentrations downstream of the effluent discharge is noted.</li> <li>The discharge from the wastewater treatment plant does not have an observable negative impact on the Water Framework Directive status.</li> </ul>	2600	2170	430
<b>Carrick on Shannon D0154-01</b>	2019	Tertiary	pass	N/A	The WWTP is compliant with the Emission Limit Values set in the Wastewater Discharge Licence.	11500	5783	5717
<b>Mohill D0277-01</b>	2019	Tertiary	Fail	Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	Cause: Equipment failure at WWTP. Incident Number:16582 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The WWTP discharge was not compliant with the ELV's set in the wastewater discharge licence.</li> <li>The ambient monitoring results meet the required EQS. The EQS relates to the Oxygenation and Nutrient Conditions set out in the Surface Water Regulations 2009.</li> <li>Based on ambient monitoring results deterioration in BOD and Ammonia, concentrations downstream of the effluent discharge are noted.</li> </ul>	1000	863	137



## SEA Environmental Report for the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029

Plant name and Reference	Year	Treatment Provided	Overall Compliance (Pass/Fail)	Parameter Failed	Cause of Exceedances and Significance of Results (Water Quality)	Organic Capacities (PE)		
						As Constructed	Collected Load (peak week)	Remaining
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A deterioration in water quality has been identified, however it is not known if it or is not caused by the WWTP.</li> <li>Other causes of deterioration in water quality in the area are unknown.</li> </ul> <p>The discharge from the wastewater treatment plant does not have an observable negative impact on the Water Framework Directive status.</p>			
<b>Leitrim Village D0278-01</b>	2019	Tertiary	Fail	Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	<p>Cause: Equipment failure at WWTP. Incident Number:16582</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The WWTP discharge was not compliant with the ELV's set in the wastewater discharge licence.</li> <li>The ambient monitoring results meet the required EQS. The EQS relates to the Oxygenation and Nutrient Conditions set out in the Surface Water Regulations 2009.</li> <li>Based on ambient monitoring results deterioration in BOD and Ammonia, concentrations downstream of the effluent discharge are noted.</li> <li>A deterioration in water quality has been identified, however it is not known if it or is not caused by the WWTP.</li> <li>Other causes of deterioration in water quality in the area are unknown.</li> <li>The discharge from the wastewater treatment plant does not have an observable negative impact on the Water Framework Directive status.</li> </ul>	1000	863	137
<b>Dromahair D0279-01</b>	2019	Tertiary	Pass	N/A	The WWTP is compliant with the Emission Limit Values set in the Wastewater Discharge Licence.	2200	1127	1073
<b>Kinlough D0280-01</b>	2019	Tertiary	Pass	N/A	The WWTP is compliant with the Emission Limit Values set in the Wastewater Discharge Licence.	2600	1422	1178
<b>Ballinamore D0281-01</b>	2019	Tertiary	Fail	Suspended Solids mg/l	<p>Cause: Exceedance was caused by inadequate infrastructure. A plant upgrade is required in order to meet the ELV's set out in the licence. Incident Number: 1014219</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The WWTP discharge was not compliant with the ELV's set in the wastewater discharge licence.</li> <li>The ambient monitoring results meet the required EQS. The EQS relates to the Oxygenation and Nutrient Conditions set out in the Surface Water Regulations 2009.</li> <li>Based on ambient monitoring results, a deterioration in Ammonia, BOD and Ortho-Phosphate concentrations downstream of the effluent discharge is noted.</li> <li>The discharge from the wastewater treatment plant does have an observable negative impact on the Water Framework Directive status.</li> </ul>	2000	1373	627

**Table 4.4 Details on Water Supply Schemes<sup>76</sup>**

Water Treatment	Additional Details on Water Treatment
North Leitrim Regional Water Supply Scheme (NLRWSS)	The North Leitrim Regional Water Supply Scheme (NLRWSS) serves Manorhamilton, Dromahair and Drumkeeran. The NLRSSS was recently upgraded and is more than adequate to provide for the projected level of growth in these towns.
South Leitrim Regional Water Supply Scheme (SLRWSS)	The South Leitrim Regional Water Supply Scheme (SLRWSS) serves Carrick on Shannon, Drumshanbo, Mohill, Ballinamore, Leitrim Village, Dromod, Carrigallen, Cloone. Newtowngore, Rooskey, Drumsna and Jamestown. Ongoing monitoring of the Carrick-on-Shannon Water Treatment Plant (WTP) which serves the SLRWSS is required over the initial period of the Plan. As part of the National Water Resource Plan, it has been assessed that the SLRWSS, which supplies the key town of Carrick-on-Shannon, may require further investigative studies or interventions to facilitate significant new connections to the network. It is anticipated that ongoing and planned minor upgrade works, as well as leakage reduction activities, will provide capacity to accommodate growth in the short term. However, depending on the impact of these measures, a major upgrade at Carrick-on-Shannon water treatment plant may be required in order to accommodate the targeted growth in Carrick-on-Shannon and environs over the full plan period. It is envisaged that this would be undertaken in the 2025-2029 Investment Plan period, subject to funding approval.
Kinlough/Tullaghan Water Supply Scheme	The Kinlough Tullaghan Water Supply Scheme is a small scheme supplying Kinlough and Tullaghan and Group Water Schemes along the coastal area of the county. This scheme has spare capacity at present of about 300m <sup>3</sup> /day. The Kinlough Tullaghan WRZ is likely to require further investigative studies or interventions to facilitate significant new connections to the network

<sup>76</sup> Leitrim CDP  
CAAS for Leitrim County Council

## 4.12 Cultural Heritage

### 4.12.1 Archaeological Heritage

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

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

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is an inventory, put on a statutory basis by amendment to the National Monuments Act 1994, of sites and areas of archaeological significance, numbered and mapped.<sup>77</sup>

The term 'monument' includes all man-made structures of whatever form or date except buildings habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes. All monuments in existence before 1700 A.D. are automatically considered to be historic monuments within the meaning of the Acts. Monuments of architectural and historical interest also come within the scope of the Acts. Monuments include: any artificial or partly artificial building, structure or erection or group of such buildings, structures or erections; any cave, stone or other natural product, whether or not forming part of the ground, that has been artificially carved, sculptured or worked upon or which (where it does not form part of the place where it is) appears to have been purposely put or arranged in position; any, or any part of any, prehistoric or ancient tomb, grave or burial deposit, or, ritual, industrial or habitation site; and any place comprising the remains or traces of any such building, structure or erection, any such cave, stone or natural product or any such

tomb, grave, burial deposit or ritual, industrial or habitation site, situated on land or in the territorial waters of the State', but excludes 'any building or part of any building, that is habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes' (National Monuments Acts 1930-2004).

A recorded monument is a monument included in the list and marked on the map, which comprises the RMP set out county by county under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland. The definition includes Zones of Notification within which requirements for notifications of proposed works apply.

A Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)<sup>78</sup> is a manual containing a numbered list of all certain and possible monuments accompanied. An Urban Archaeology Survey was completed in 1995 and contained reports on historic towns dating to before 1700 A.D. with a view to delineating zones of archaeological potential (SMR Zones of Notification). The SMR formed the basis for issuing the RMP.

Figure 4.23 shows the spatial distribution of recorded monuments in County Leitrim. There are approximately 1,400 Recorded Monuments within the County, including examples of megalithic tombs, churches, castles, linear earthwork and ringforts. Sites of particular archaeological significance in the County include the Iron Age linear earthworks of the Black Pig's Dyke and Park's Castle on the shore of Lough Gill, constructed in the early 1600's. Clusters of archaeological heritage are identified within and surrounding settlements and in lowland rural areas. There are lower concentrations in the central upland areas.

There are seven Monuments in State Care (six in State Ownership and one in State Guardianship)<sup>79</sup> within the County, mapped on Figure 4.23:

- Druid's Alter Passage Grave (Aghaderrard Wes)t;
- Fenagh Abbey;
- Megalithic Tomb (Corraclona);
- Franciscan Friary (Creevelea);
- Park's Castle (Kilmore, Sramore E.D.);

<sup>77</sup> It is available from the National Monuments Service and at [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie).

<sup>78</sup> The RMP was issued for each county between 1995 and 1998 in a similar format to the existing SMR. However, the RMP differs from the earlier lists in that, as defined in the Act, only monuments with known locations or places where there are believed to be monuments are included. The large archive and supporting

database are managed by the National Monuments Service and the records are continually updated and supplemented as additional monuments are discovered. (<https://data.gov.ie/dataset/national-monuments-service-archaeological-survey-of-ireland>).

<sup>79</sup> This list of National Monuments in State care includes those which are in the ownership and guardianship of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

- Teach Mhic Dhiarmada (Laghty Barr); and
- Worm Ditch or Black Pigs Race (Lattone/ Gortnaderrary)

In addition, there are two monuments under Preservation Orders within the County, Commons Monastic Enclosure and Sheemore Passage Grave Cemetery.

The industrial heritage, including canals, lough gates and associated structures and waterway systems that traverse the County, are fine examples of 19<sup>th</sup> century industrial engineering and form an intrinsic part of the County's archaeological landscape.

Rivers, estuaries, marine and coastal areas within and adjacent to the County may contain many features and finds associated with riverine heritage such as shipwrecks, piers, quay walls, fords, stepping stones and associated archaeological objects and features. Leitrim has one Underwater Heritage Order in the County, which refers to Lough Donogher, located to the north-east of Cloone. The Underwater Archaeology Unit was established within the National Monuments Service to manage and protect Ireland's underwater cultural heritage, including the quantification of the underwater resource and assessing development impacts in order to manage and protect this aspect of Ireland's heritage. The Shipwreck Inventory is principally a desktop survey with information gathered from a broad range of cartographic, archaeological and historical sources, both documentary and pictorial. Wrecks over 100 years old and archaeological objects found underwater are protected under the National Monuments (Amendment) Acts 1987 and 1994. Significant wrecks less than 100 years old can be designated by Underwater Heritage Order on account of their historical, archaeological or artistic importance. Such Orders can also be used to designate areas of seabed or land covered by water to more clearly define and protect wreck sites and archaeological objects. Under the legislation all diving on known protected wreck sites or with the intention of searching for underwater cultural heritage is subject to licensing requirements.

Relevant archaeological heritage designations in Northern Ireland (also mapped on Figure 4.23), include Scheduled Historic Monuments

and entries to the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record<sup>80</sup>.

#### 4.12.2 Architectural Heritage

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

Records of Protected Structures are legislated for under Section 12 and Section 51 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. Protected structures are defined as amended, as structures, or parts of structures that are of special interest from an architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical point of view.

The Leitrim County Development Plan 2015-2021 Record of Protected Structures (RPS) contains a total of 272 no. structures. No structure has been added or deleted since the last Plan was adopted in February 2015.

County Leitrim has an important industrial heritage with many important historic structures, including examples of: cottages, houses, churches, castles, shops, railway stations, bridges, lodges, artisan dwellings, mills and canals. Notable protected structures in County Leitrim include Lough Rynn House, Roosky Bridge, Rossinver Church of Ireland Church and Swiss Cottage in Clooncahir.

Similar to the general spatial spread of archaeological heritage, clusters of architectural heritage are indicated within the County's settlements and in certain rural areas as shown on Figure 4.24.

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<sup>80</sup> More detail available at: <https://dfcgis.maps.arcgis.com>

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

- The interior of the structure;
- The land lying within the curtilage<sup>81</sup> of the structure;
- Any other structures lying within that curtilage and their interiors; and
- All fixtures and features that form part of the interior or exterior of any structure or structures referred to in subparagraph (i) or (iii).

In addition to Protected Structures, the Planning and Development Act, 2000 provides the legislative basis for the protection of Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs). An ACA is a place, area or group of structures or townscape that is of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or value, or contributes to the appreciation of protected structures, whose character it is an objective to preserve in a development plan. The ACA designation requires that planning permission must be obtained before significant works can be carried out to the exterior of a structure in the ACA that might alter the character of the structure or the ACA. There are eight ACAs designated in the County, mapped on Figure 4.24 and listed below:

- Carrick-on-Shannon ACA (St.George's Terrace, Main Street and Bridge Street);
- Ballinamore ACA (Town Centre);
- Dromahair ACA (the Village Centre);
- Drumkeeran ACA (the Main Street);
- Drumshanbo ACA (the Historic Town Core);
- Mohill ACA (Main Street including Áras O' Carolan and the Castle area);
- Manorhamilton ACA (the Historic Core/Village Centre); and
- Jamestown ACA (the Village Centre).

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

provisions of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999. The purpose of the NIAH is to identify, record, and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland, uniformly and consistently as an aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage. NIAH surveys provide the basis for the recommendations of the Minister of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to the local authorities for the inclusion of particular structures in their Record of Protected Structures. The NIAH includes historic gardens and designed landscapes. Figure 4.24 shows entries to NIAH within the County and beyond.

Relevant architectural heritage designations in Northern Ireland (mapped on Figure 4.24) include Listed Buildings and entries to the Industrial Heritage Record<sup>82</sup>.

### 4.12.3 Existing Problems

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

<sup>81</sup> Curtilage is normally taken to be the parcel of ground immediately associated with the Protected Structure, or in use for the purposes of the structure. Protection extends to the buildings and land lying within the curtilage. While the curtilage sometimes coincides with the present property boundary, it can originally have included lands, features or even buildings now in separate ownership, e.g. the lodge

of a former country house, or the garden features located in land subsequently sold off. Such lands are described as being attendant grounds, and the protection extends to them just as if they were still within the curtilage of the Protected Structure.

<sup>82</sup> Mapping available at: <https://dfcgis.maps.arcgis.com>.

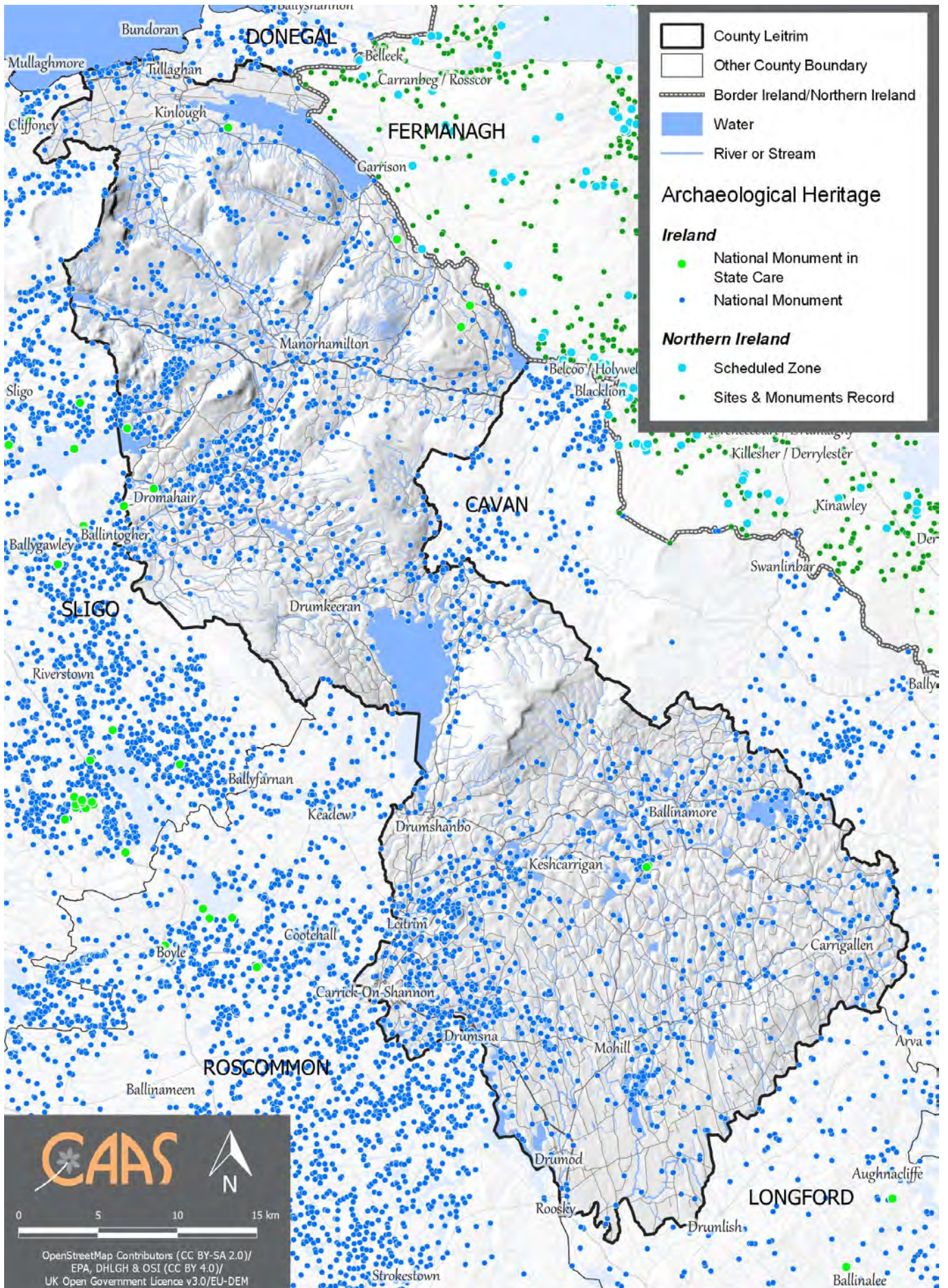


Figure 4.23 Archaeological Heritage

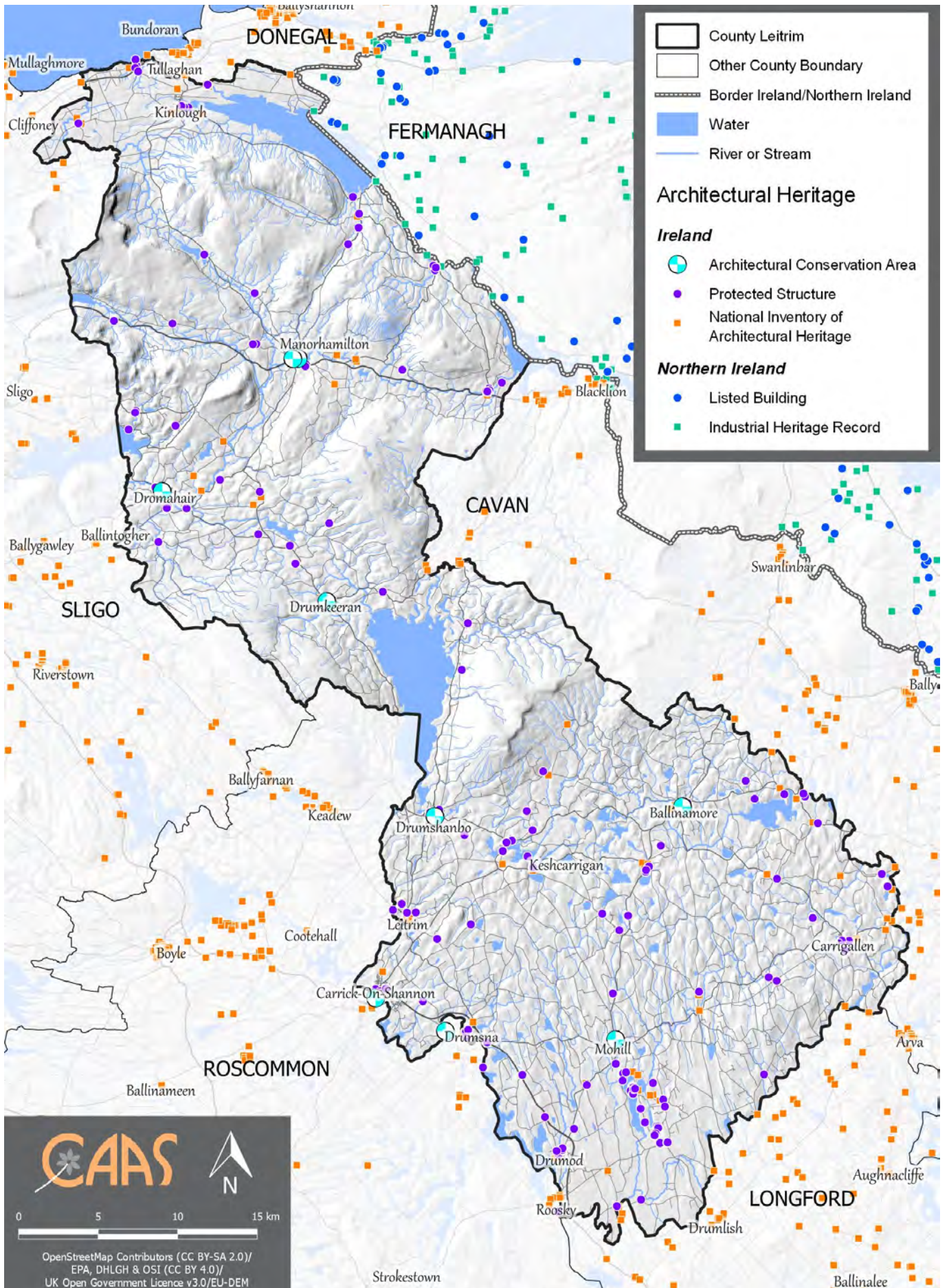


Figure 4.24 Architectural Heritage

## 4.13 Landscape

### 4.13.1 Introduction

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

County Leitrim is characterised by a variety of predominantly rural landscape types. The northern half of the County comprises of mountains, expansive lakes and deep glacial valleys, while the southern part of the County is characterised by drumlins interspersed with small lakes and rolling hills. The River Shannon with its associated lake systems forms the County's southwestern boundary with County Roscommon whilst Donegal Bay demarcates the northern extremity of the County.

### 4.13.2 Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) is a process which describes, maps and classifies landscapes. Landscape character is defined as a distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse. It is the process of identifying and describing variation in the character of the landscape. Defining landscape character enables an understanding to be formed of the inherent value and importance of individual elements and the processes that may alter landscape character. The cultural and ecological aspects of the landscape cannot be subtracted from its physical and visual characteristics so all of these elements are considered.

To inform the preparation of the Development Plan, Leitrim County Council commissioned RPS Group to undertake a review of the Landscape Character Assessment of County Leitrim, published in 2002. The purpose of the review

was to ground truth and verify the original study undertaken, documenting any changes and including these changes in an updated Landscape Character Assessment for County Leitrim.

The new Landscape Character Assessment forms an Appendix to the Plan. It provides guidance for a detailed understanding of the landscapes of the County. The assessment classifies 17 different Landscape Character Types across the County and defines 14 distinct Landscape Character Areas. The LCA will be used as a tool to guide development to be sympathetic to local variations in landscape character and to inform land management activity to conserve and enhance landscape character. The LCA creates a baseline to inform decision making by the Local Authority.

The Landscape Character Assessment for County Leitrim identifies 17 **Landscape Character Types**, mapped on Figure 4.25:

1. Coastal Plain
2. Coastal Drumlin Farmland
3. Wooded Lakeside Farmland
4. Cluffed Uplands and Landslips
5. Moorland Plateau
6. Moorland Hills
7. Upland Farmland and Foothills
8. Valley Farmland
9. Drumlin Farmland
10. Major Loughs
11. Drumlin Loughs and Stream Margins
12. River Floodplain
13. Low Limestone Outcrops
14. Drumlin Farmland with Peat Bogs
15. Undulating Hill Farmland
16. Steep Mountain Peaks
17. Tabular Hills

The assessment also identifies 14 distinct **Landscape Character Areas** across the County, mapped on Figure 4.26:

- LCA 1 : Tullaghan Coast
- LCA 2 : Lough Melvin Lowlands
- LCA 3 : Lough Macnean Upper
- LCA 4 : Arroo and Mountain Outliers
- LCA 5 : Tievebaun Uplands
- LCA 6 : The Doons and Crockauns
- LCA 7 : Benbo
- LCA 8 : The Boleybrack Uplands
- LCA 9 : The Northern Glens, Central Lowlands and Lough Allen
- LCA 10 : Slieve Anierin



- LCA 11 : Corry Mountain
- LCA 12 : Ballinamore Loughlands
- LCA 13 : South Leitrim Drumlins and Shannon Basin
- LCA 14 : Corriga Uplands

### 4.13.3 Landscape Designations

The previous County Development Plan 2015-2021 contained designated landscapes in the form of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Areas of High Visual Amenity. These designated landscapes were continued from previous Development Plans and at this juncture their actual provenance is uncertain. In June 2020, Leitrim County Council commissioned RPS Group to undertake a review of the designated landscapes published in the County Development Plan 2015 - 2021. This commission followed the review of the County Landscape Character Assessment outlined in the previous section of this Plan. The report which resulted from this study is 'Leitrim Review of Landscape Designations' (May 2021) and focuses on the designated landscapes and presents the findings of a comprehensive review of these landscapes in Co. Leitrim. Section 4 of the report presents an analysis of each of the designated landscapes in turn followed by recommendations which may include changes to the boundaries of a designated area and / or changes to the designation name to better reflect the special qualities therein. Table 21 of the Report provides a summary of the recommendations regarding the current designated landscapes in Leitrim which includes the abandonment of 2 previous designations. The proposed designated landscapes are each documented in map and written format including short statement of importance and an account of their special qualities. The Leitrim Review of Landscape Designations' (May 2021) forms an Appendix to the Plan.

Capacity or sensitivity is the ability that a landscape has to absorb specific types of development. It is only possible to define actual capacity on a case-by-case basis because it will vary according to the type and form of development, its specific location in relation to the landscape character area in question, and its visibility from it. The sensitivity of a landscape is its overall resilience to sustain its character in the face of change and its ability to recover from loss or damage to its components. Sensitivity is evaluated using criteria ranging from 'High' to 'Low'. A highly sensitive

landscape is likely to be vulnerable, fragile and susceptible to change whereas a landscape with low sensitivity is likely to be more robust and/or tolerant of change. The individual landscape designations seek to conserve the special qualities of the individual landscapes and assist in guiding future management and change in these landscapes.

Landscape designations are assigned to particular areas for the purpose of managing change whilst having regard for the full range of special qualities and natural and cultural values attached to these areas. Designation can help safeguard important and sensitive landscapes and landscape features which are particularly valued and may have limited capacity for change. The designation process can contribute to wider policies for guiding development, by specifically identifying and safeguarding areas of landscape which are of particular importance and sensitivity.

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty identified for County Leitrim are as follows:

- A1 Leitrim Coast
- A2 Lough Melvin
- A3 Mountains and Glens of North Leitrim
- A4 Lough Gill, Leean Mountain and Environs
- A5 Benbo
- A6 Lough Allen
- A7 Slieve Anierin and Bencroy
- V8 View towards Glencar Lake

Areas of High Visual Amenity identified for County Leitrim are as follows:

- B1 Farmed hinterland of Arroo and Tievebaun
- B2 Gulladoo Lake and Environs
- B3 Dough Mountain
- B4 Thur Mountain
- B5 Lough Macnean Upper and Environs
- B6 Sheemore
- B7 Corry Mountain
- B8 Laheen Lough, Kilnamar Lough and Environs
- B9 Lough Scur, St. John's Lough and Environs
- B10 Lough Garadice and Environs
- B11 River Shannon and Lakes
- B12 Lough Rynn, Lough Errew and Environs

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Areas of High Visual Amenity are mapped on Figure 4.27.

#### **4.13.4 Protected Views and Scenic Routes**

The Plan area encompasses many sites and vantage points from which views over areas of great natural beauty, local landmarks, historic landscapes, adjoining counties may be obtained.

The Leitrim Landscape Character Assessment identifies 29 Scenic Views and Prospects. These are mapped on Figure 4.28.

#### **4.13.5 Landscape Designations in Adjacent Counties**

County Sligo borders County Leitrim to the west. The landscape of Sligo is characterised as Normal Rural Landscape and Sensitive Rural Landscape. Landscape designations within County Sligo include Visually Vulnerable Areas, Scenic Routes and Proposed Scenic Routes.

County Roscommon borders County Leitrim to the south. Roscommon County Council have identified seven Landscape Character Types and 36 Landscape Character Areas within the County. Landscape Character Areas adjacent to County Leitrim, include: Lough Allen and Arigna Foothills; Upper Shannon and Derreenannagh Drumlin Belt; Lough Corry Drumlin Basin; Kilglass Drumlin Lakelands; and Slieve Bawn and Feirish Bogland Basin. Other landscape designations within County Roscommon include Scenic Views and Scenic Routes.

County Longford borders County Leitrim to the south-east. Landscape Character Areas within County Longford include: Northern Upland; Central Corridor; Inny Basin; Peatlands; Open Agricultural; and Northern Drumlin Lakeland and Shannon Basin/Lough Ree (adjacent to County Leitrim). Landscape designations within County Longford also include Broad Zones and Views.

County Cavan borders County Leitrim to the east. There are five Landscape Character Areas within County Cavan, including: Cuilcagh Anierin Uplands of West Cavan; The Lakelands; Lake Catchments of South Cavan; Drumlin Belt and Uplands of East Cavan; and Highlands of East Cavan. Other landscape designations in

County Cavan include: Areas of Special Landscape; High Landscape Areas; Scenic Viewing Points; and Scenic Routes.

County Fermanagh in Northern Ireland borders County Leitrim to the north. There are 26 Landscape Character Types designated within the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Area. The following landscape areas are adjacent to County Leitrim: Garrison Lowlands; and Lough Macnean Valley. Other landscape designations include Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

County Donegal borders County Leitrim to the North. There are 44 Landscape Character Areas identified in County Donegal. The River Erne Lowlands Landscape Character Area is adjacent to County Leitrim.

#### **4.13.6 Existing Environmental Problems**

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

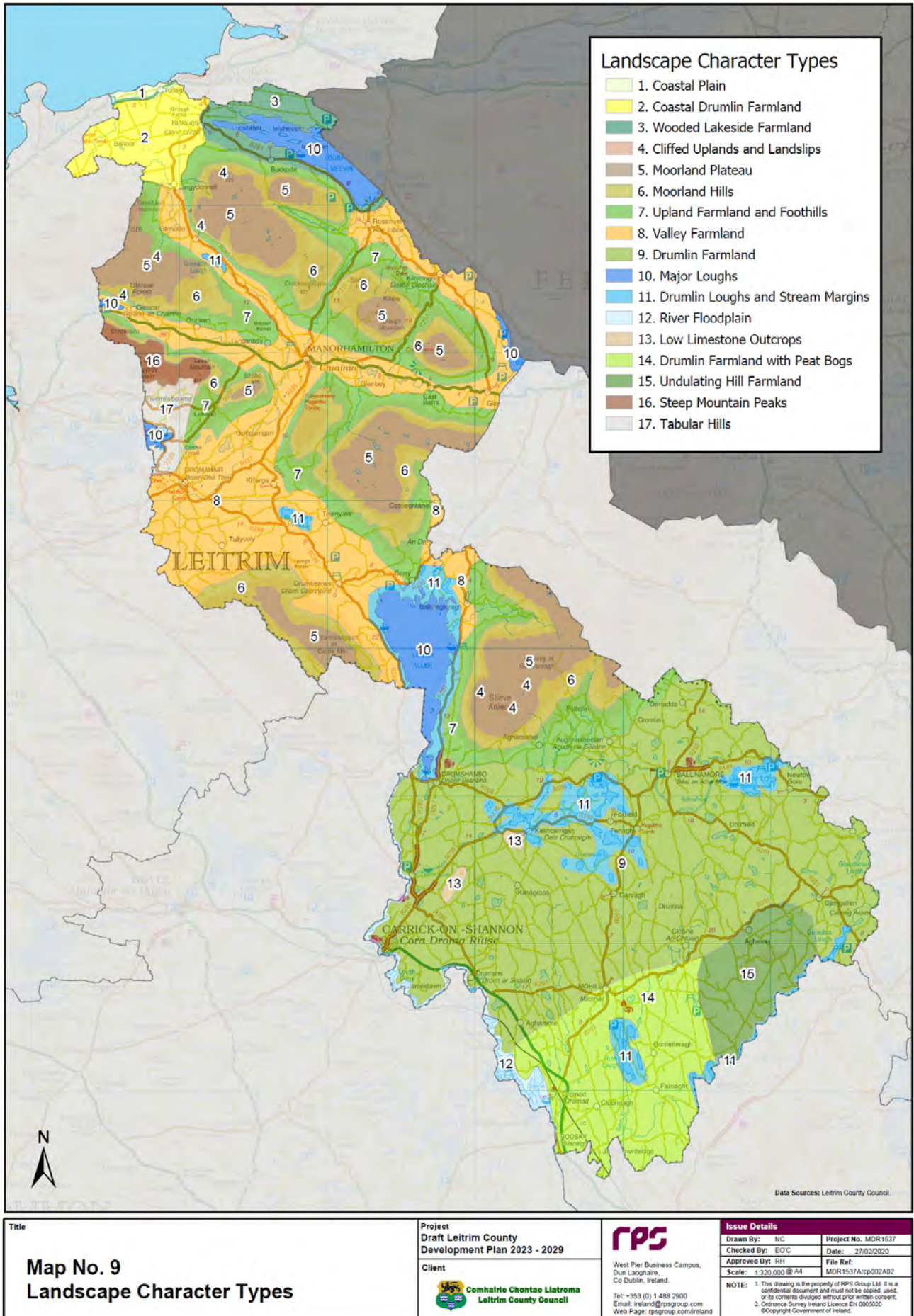


Figure 4.25 Landscape Character Types

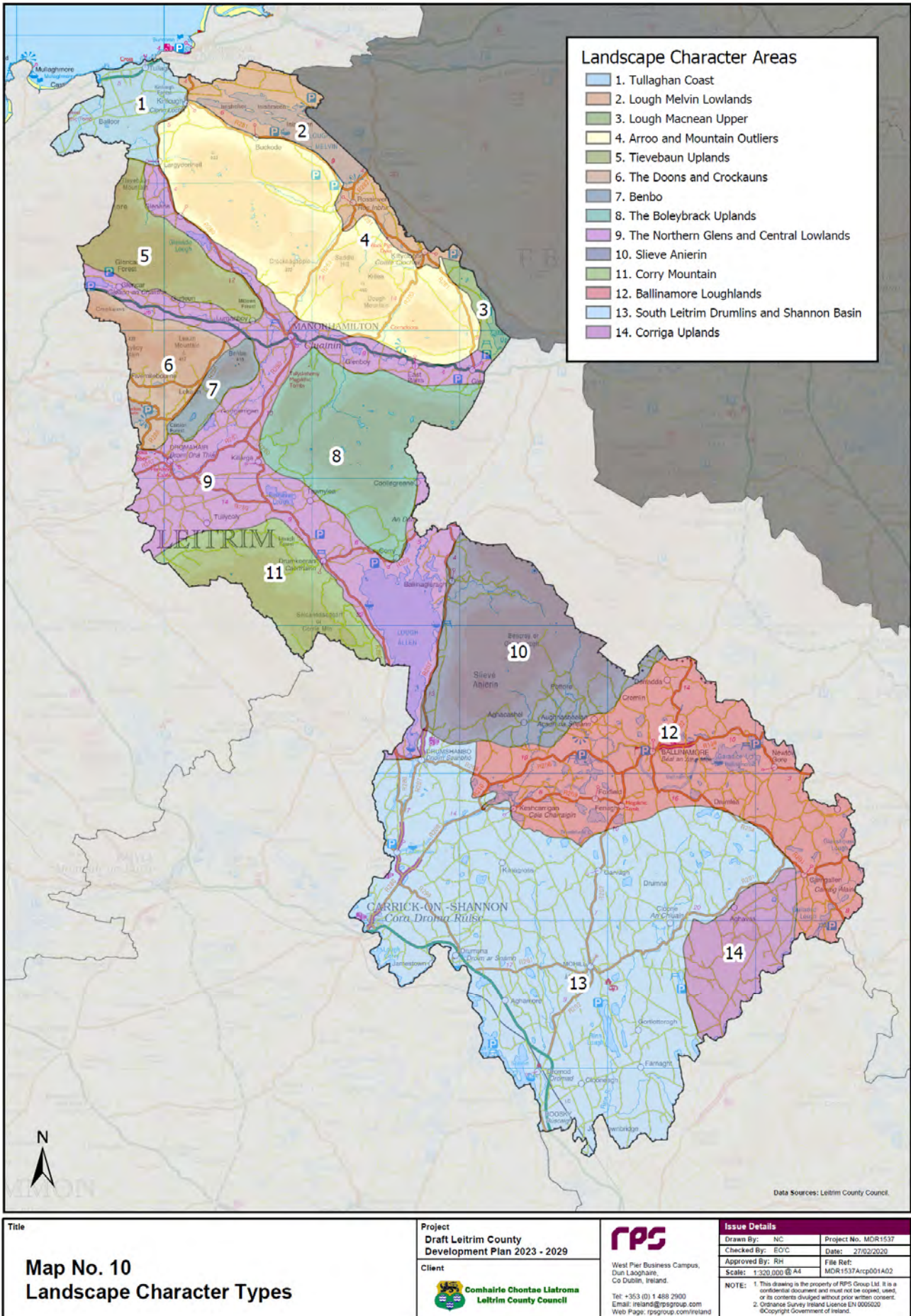


Figure 4.26 Landscape Character Areas

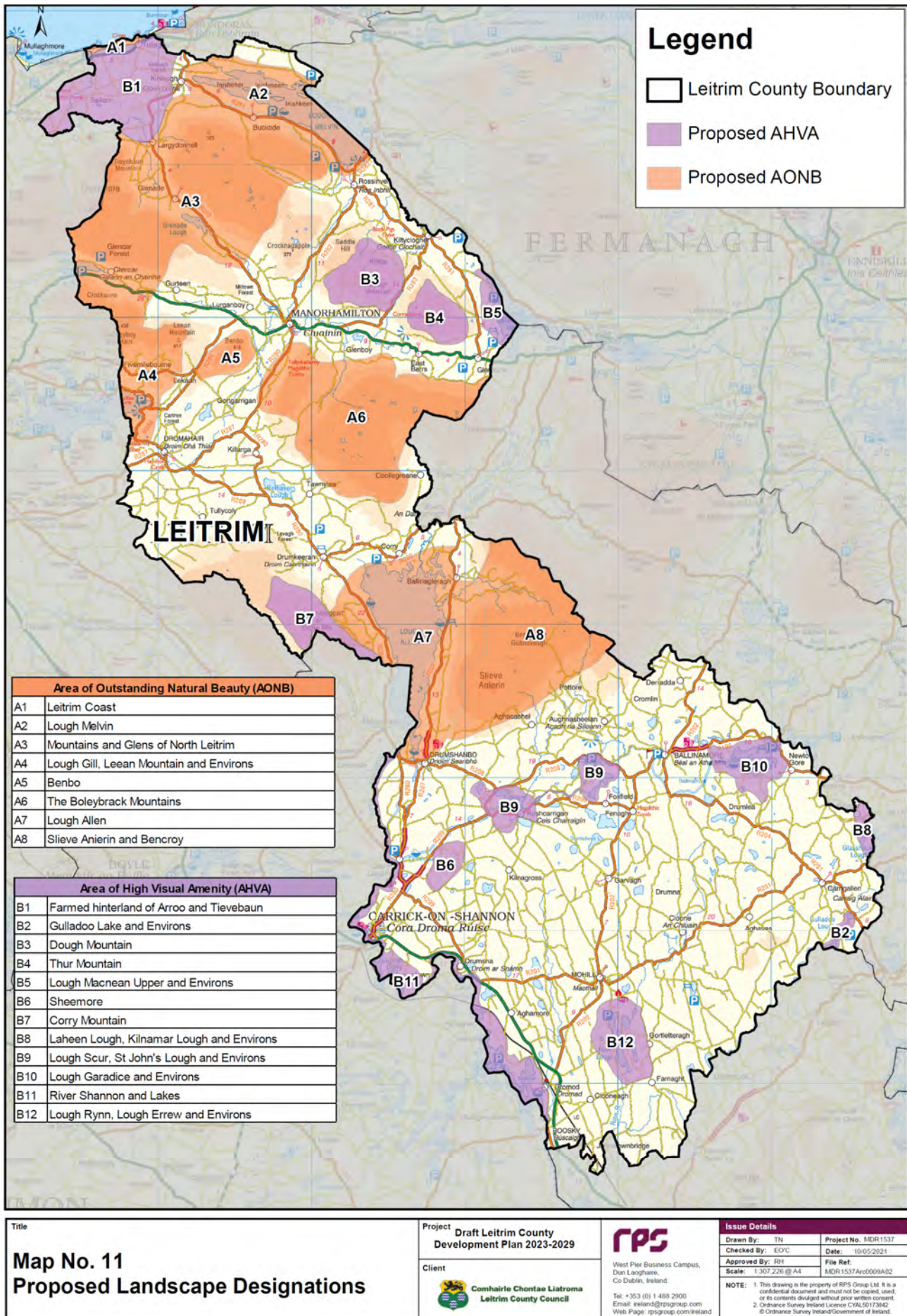


Figure 4.27 Proposed Landscape Designations

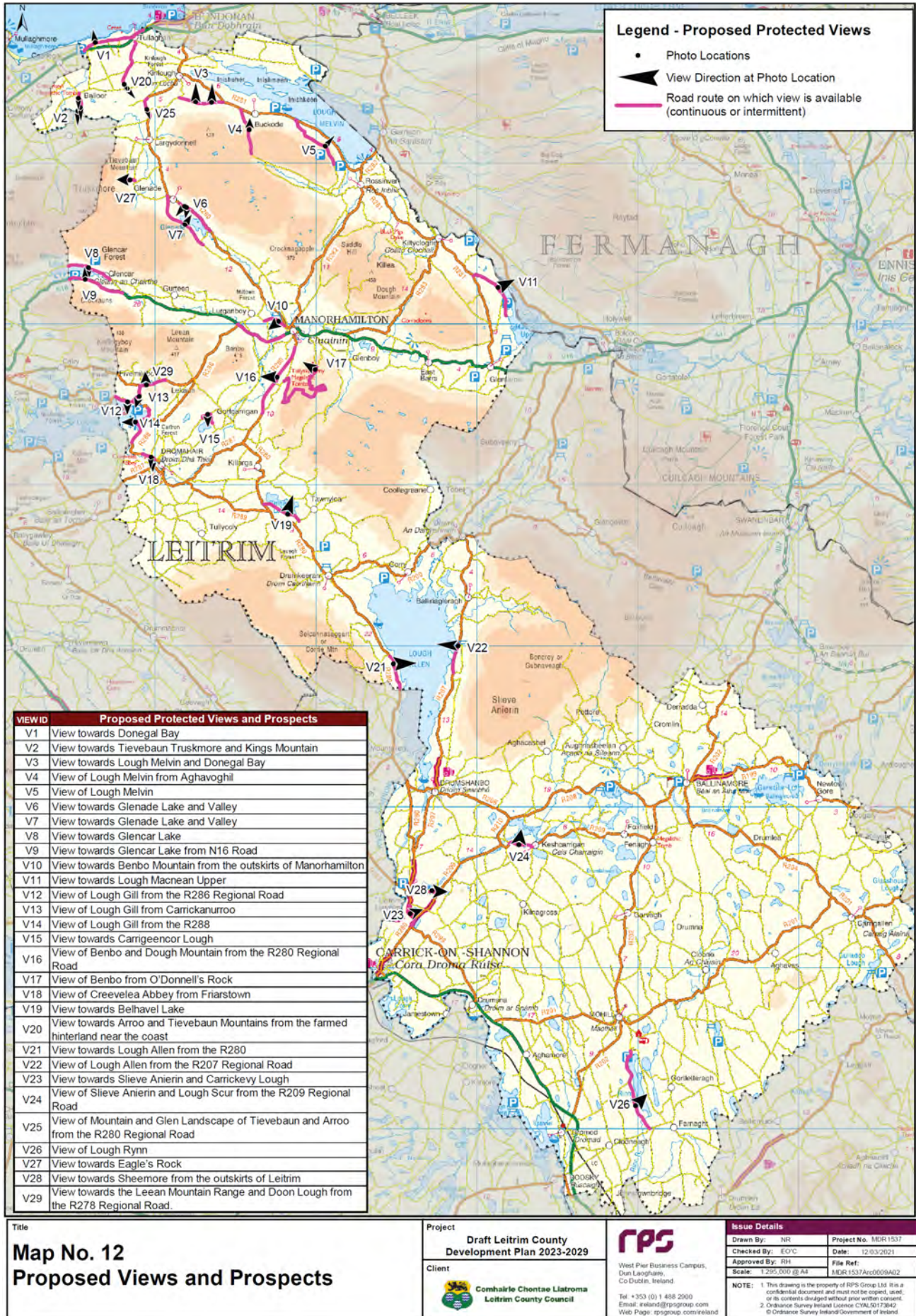


Figure 4.28 Scenic Routes and Views

## 4.14 Overlay of Environmental Sensitivity Mapping

In order to identify where most sensitivities within the County occur, a number of the environmental sensitivities described above were weighted and mapped overlapping each other.

Figure 4.29 provides an Overlay of Environmental Sensitivities in the County. Environmental sensitivities are indicated by colours which range from higher to lower sensitivity. The map was prepared using Geographical Information System (GIS) software that allowed for a weighting system to be applied with differentiation in certain layers as follows:

- European Sites – SACs and SPAs (10 points);
- Other Ecological designations – NHAs, pNHAs and National Parks (5 points);
- Sensitive Landcover Categories (10 points);
- WFD Status of Surface moderate and unassigned ecological status (5 points);
- WFD Status of Surface water poor ecological status (10 points);
- WFD Status of Surface water bad ecological status (15 points);
- Groundwater vulnerability (aquifers which are extremely vulnerable, 10 points; and highly vulnerable, 5 points);
- Source Protection Areas (Inner Protection Area and Group Scheme Preliminary Source Protection Area, 10 points);
- WFD RPA Rivers and Lakes for Drinking Water (10 points);
- WFD RPA Bathing Water Areas and Lakes (10 points);
- WFD RPA Rivers and Surface Water in Shellfish Areas (5 points);
- County Geological Sites (10 points);
- GSI Landslide Susceptibility (High or High Inferred, 10 points; Moderately High or Moderately High Inferred, 5 points);
- Flood Zones: CFRAM Fluvial 0.1% and Coastal 0.1% present day, PFRA Fluvial and Coastal 0.1%, NIFM 0.1% present day (10 points);

- Cultural Heritage including: Architectural Conservation Areas, entries to the Record of Protected Structures, entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, SMR and RMP Zones of Notification, National Monuments in State Care and entire to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (10 points);
- Scenic Views and Scenic Routes and High Visual Amenity Areas (10 points); Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (15 points); and
- Landscape Values: Iconic (15 points); Special (10 points); and High (5 points).

Where the mapping shows a concentration of environmental sensitivities there is an increased likelihood that development will conflict with these sensitivities and cause environmental deterioration. However, the occurrence of environmental sensitivities does not preclude development; rather it flags at a strategic level that the mitigation measures - which have been integrated into the Plan - will need to be complied with in order to ensure that the implementation of the Plan contributes towards environmental protection.

The overlay mapping shows that environmental sensitivities are not evenly distributed throughout the County. Most of the County is identified as having low to moderate levels of sensitivity.

The most sensitive areas in the County include:

- Upland areas, such as the Arroo and Mountain Outliers, the Tievebaun Uplands, the Doons and Crockauns and the Boleybrack Uplands in the northern half of the County – on account of landscape designations, landslide susceptibility, ecological designations and groundwater vulnerability; and
- Lakes throughout the County, including Lough Allen, Lough Melvin and Lough MacNea Upper, on account of ecological and landscape designations, water status and flood risk;
- Certain locations and areas within the existing built-up footprint of the County's settlements, on account of cultural heritage designations, including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, Entries to the

Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas;

- Coastal areas and areas adjacent to rivers and streams, on account of ecological and visual sensitivities and elevated levels of flood risk;
- Extensive areas of extreme and high groundwater vulnerability throughout the County.



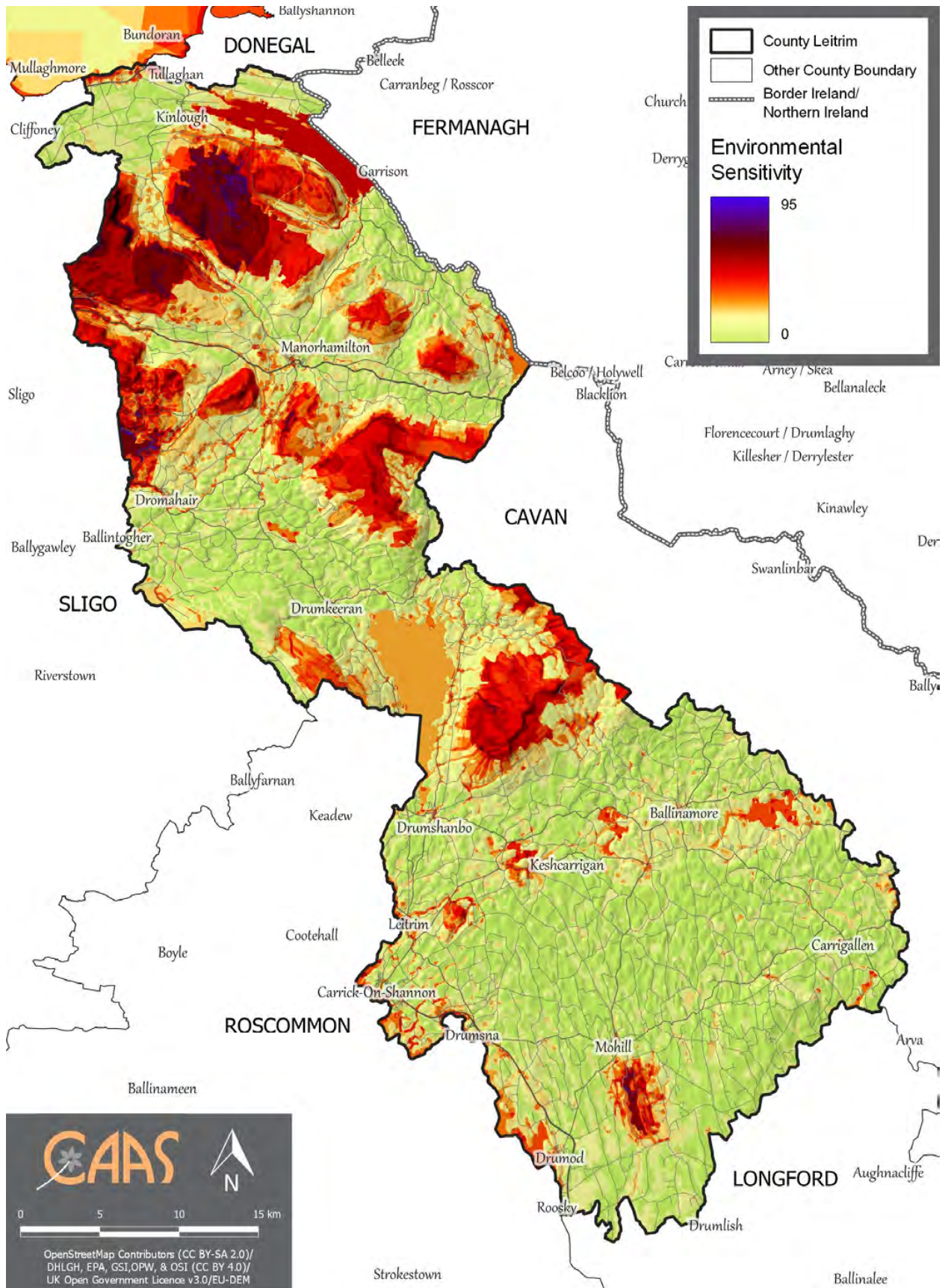


Figure 4.29 Overlay of Environmental Sensitivities in County Leitrim

## Section 5 Strategic Environmental Objectives

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

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

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

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

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

Given the position of the Development Plan in the land use planning hierarchy beneath the Northern and Western RSES, the measures identified in the RSES SEA have been used – as they are or having been slightly modified – in most instances. This consistency across the hierarchy of land use plans will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of future monitoring.

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

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

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Objectives	Environmental Indicators	Targets
		serviced, well connected and sustainable residential, working, educational and recreational environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that existing population and planned growth is matched with the required public infrastructure and the required services</li> <li>• Safeguard the County's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors resulting from development permitted under the Plan</li> <li>• Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures</li> <li>• Number of spatial plans that include specific green infrastructure mapping</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan</li> <li>• Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures</li> <li>• Require all local level land use plans to include specific green infrastructure mapping</li> </ul>
<b>Soil (and Land)</b>	<b>S</b>	Ensure the long-term sustainable management of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect soils against pollution, and prevent degradation of the soil resource</li> <li>• Promote the sustainable use of infill and brownfield sites over the use of greenfield within the County</li> <li>• Safeguard areas of prime agricultural land and designated geological sites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion of population growth occurring on infill and brownfield lands compared to greenfield (also relevant to Material Assets)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain built surface cover nationally to below the EU average of 4% as per the NPF</li> <li>• In accordance with National Policy Objectives 3c of the National Planning Framework, a minimum of 30% of the housing growth targeted in any settlement is to be delivered within the existing built-up footprint of the settlement</li> <li>• To map brownfield and infill land parcels across the County</li> </ul>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instances where contaminated material generated from brownfield and infill must be disposed of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dispose of contaminated material in compliance with EPA guidance and waste management requirements</li> </ul>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental assessments and AAs as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Screen for and undertake environmental assessments and AA as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission</li> </ul>
<b>Water</b>	<b>W</b>	Protection, improvement and sustainable management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that the status of water bodies is protected, maintained and improved in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Status of water bodies as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programme for the WFD</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not to cause deterioration in the status of any surface water or affect the ability of any surface water to achieve 'good status'</li> <li>• Implementation of the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan</li> </ul>

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Objectives	Environmental Indicators	Targets
		of the water resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure water resources are sustainably managed to deliver proposed regional and County growth targets in the context of existing and projected water supply and wastewater capacity constraints ensuring the protection of receiving environments</li> <li>• Avoid inappropriate zoning and development in areas at risk of flooding and areas that are vulnerable to current and future erosion, including coastal areas</li> <li>• Integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, porous surfacing and green roofs) into development proposals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of incompatible developments permitted within flood risk areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimise developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk</li> </ul>
<b>Material Assets</b>	<b>MA</b>	Sustainable and efficient use of natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optimise existing infrastructure and provide new infrastructure to match population distribution proposals in the County</li> <li>• Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all which encourages a broad energy generation mix to ensure security of supply – wind, solar, hydro, biomass, energy from waste and traditional fossil fuels</li> <li>• Promote the circular economy, reduce waste, and increase energy efficiencies</li> <li>• Ensure there is adequate sewerage and drainage infrastructure in place to support new development</li> <li>• Reduce the energy demand from the transport sector and support moves</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programmed delivery of Irish Water infrastructure for all key growth towns in line with Irish Water Investment Plan and prioritisation programme to ensure sustainable growth can be accommodated</li> <li>• Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately and appropriately served with waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately and appropriately served by waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan</li> <li>• Where septic tanks are proposed, for planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that the outfall from the septic tank will not – in combination with other septic tanks – contribute towards any surface or ground water body not meeting the objective of good status under the Water Framework Directive</li> <li>• Facilitate, as appropriate, Irish Water in developing water and wastewater infrastructure</li> <li>• See also targets relating to greenfield and brownfield development of land under Soil and broadband under Population and Human Health</li> </ul>

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Objectives	Environmental Indicators	Targets
			<p>to electrification of road and rail transport modes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage the transition to a zero-carbon economy by facilitating the development of a grid infrastructure to support renewables and international connectivity. Reduce the average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart- buildings, cities and grids</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures</li> </ul>
<b>Air</b>	<b>A</b>	Support clean air policies that reduce the impact of air pollution on the environment and public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from all sectors with particular reference to emissions from transport, residential heating, industry and agriculture</li> <li>Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency</li> <li>Promote continuing improvement in air quality</li> <li>Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution</li> <li>Meet Air Quality Directive standards for the protection of human health — Air Quality Directive</li> <li>Significantly decrease noise pollution by 2020 and move closer to WHO recommended levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 National Travel Survey levels</li> <li>NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, PM10 and PM2.5 as part of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease in proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 National Travel Survey levels</li> <li>Improvement in Air Quality trends, particularly in relation to transport related emissions of NO<sub>x</sub> and particulate matter</li> </ul>

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Objectives	Environmental Indicators	Targets
<b>Climatic Factors</b> <sup>83</sup>	C	Achieving transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient economy that is cognisant of environmental impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To minimise emissions of greenhouse gasses</li> <li>• Integrate sustainable design solutions into the County's infrastructure (e.g. energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure)</li> <li>• Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets</li> <li>• Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change</li> <li>• Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of Plan measures relating to climate reduction targets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to climate reduction targets – including the legally binding targets of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, for Ireland to reach a target of net-zero emissions no later than 2050, and a cut of 51% by 2030 (compared to 2018 levels).</li> </ul>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute towards transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050</li> </ul>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share of renewable energy in transport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute towards the target of the Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC), for all Member States to reach a 10% share of renewable energy in transport by facilitating the development of electricity charging and transmission infrastructure, in compliance with the provisions of the Plan</li> </ul>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions across the electricity generation, built environment and transport sectors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute towards the target of reducing aggregate carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from electricity generation and large industry by 43% by 2030, relative to 2005 levels</li> <li>• Contribute towards the target of reducing aggregate carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from s from all other sectors, including agriculture, transport, buildings, and light industry, by 30% by 2030, relative to 2005 levels</li> </ul>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy consumption, the uptake of renewable options and solid fuels for residential heating</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To promote reduced energy consumption and support the uptake of renewable options and a move away from solid fuels for residential heating</li> </ul>

<sup>83</sup> Please also refer to relevant legislation and requirements under Section 4.10, Section 8.5 and Section 8.7.11 and Appendix I.

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Objectives	Environmental Indicators	Targets
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 levels</li> <li>• Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decrease in the proportion of journeys made by residents of the County using private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 levels</li> <li>• Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<b>CH</b>	Safeguard cultural heritage features and their settings through responsible design and positioning of development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context of these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan</li> </ul>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context protected from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan</li> </ul>
<b>Landscape</b>	<b>L</b>	Protect and enhance the landscape character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To implement the Plan's framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of developments permitted that result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan</li> </ul>



## Section 6 Description of Alternatives

### 6.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive requires that reasonable alternatives (taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme) are identified, described and evaluated for their likely significant effects on the environment. Available reasonable alternatives for the County Development Plan are provided under Types 1 to 5 detailed below. These alternatives are assessed in Section 7.

### 6.2 Limitations in Available Alternatives

The Plan is required to be prepared by 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 limited by the provisions of higher-level planning objectives, including those of the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Northern and Western Region. These documents set out various requirements for the content of the Plan including on topics such as settlement typology, land use zoning and the sustainable development of rural areas<sup>84</sup>.

### 6.3 Type 1: Alternatives for an Ecosystem Services Approach to the Plan

Although many natural capital<sup>85</sup> and ecosystem<sup>86</sup> service issues have been taken into account over previous Plan periods, the importance of these in fulfilling environmental obligations has increasingly emerged. An Ecosystems Services Approach would provide a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way.

- **Alternative Type 1 A:** A Plan that follows an Ecosystems Services Approach to a greater degree.
- **Alternative Type 1 B:** A Plan that does not follow, or follows to a lesser degree, an Ecosystems Services Approach.

### 6.4 Type 2: Alternatives for Population Allocations

Allocating higher or lower population allocations/future growth to different tiers of the settlement hierarchy provide reasonable alternatives for consideration. These alternatives are shown on Table 6.1.

- **Alternative Type 2 A** provides for the minimum requirement of growth for Carrick on Shannon of 30% as required under the RSES. Ballinamore and Manorhamilton are provided with 8% of the total population allocation each. Tier 4 Villages are provided with 7% of the total population allocation, Tier 5 Graigs are provided with 5% and Rural Housing is provided with 12%.
- **Alternative Type 2 B** provides more than the minimum requirement of growth for Carrick on Shannon as required under the RSES; 40% of the total population allocation under this

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<sup>84</sup> With respect to land use zoning, for example, the need to comply with the provisions of these higher level documents (including Appendix 3 to the National Planning Framework that provides a "Methodology for a Tiered Approach to Land Zoning") combined with the relatively limited extent of growth means that there are currently no significant land use zoning alternatives available. Notwithstanding this, significant alternatives relating to land use zoning will be available for land use zoning when it comes to preparing the Local Area Plan for Carrick-on-Shannon. These alternatives will be considered during the preparation and assessment of that Plan.

<sup>85</sup> Renewable and non-renewable resources (e.g. plants, animals, air, water, soils, minerals)

<sup>86</sup> Ecosystems are multifunctional communities of living organisms interacting with each other and their environment. Ecosystems provide a series of services for human well-being (ecosystem services) either directly or indirectly contributing towards human well-being

Alternative. Ballinamore and Manorhamilton are provided with 8% of the total population allocation each. Tier 4 Villages are provided with 4% of the total population allocation, Tier 5 Graigs are provided with 3% and Rural Housing is provided with 7%.

- **Alternative Type 2 C** provides more than the minimum requirement of growth for Carrick on Shannon as required under the RSES; 35% of the total population allocation under this Alternative. Ballinamore and Manorhamilton are provided with 5.5% of the total population allocation each. Tier 4 Villages are provided with 7% of the total population allocation, Tier 5 Graigs are provided with 5% and Rural Housing is provided with 12%.

**Table 6.1 Type 2 Alternatives: Population Allocations**

	Urban Centre	% Allocation		
		Alternative 2 A	Alternative 2 B	Alternative 2 C
<b>Tier 1</b> Key Town	Carrick on Shannon	<b>30</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Tier 2A</b> Sub Regional Growth Centres	Ballinamore	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5.5</b>
	Manorhamilton	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5.5</b>
<b>Tier 2B</b> Support Towns	Dromahair	4	4	4
	Drumshanbo	4	4	4
	Mohill	4	4	4
	Kinlough	4	4	4
<b>Tier 3</b> Key Villages	Carrigallen	3	3	3
	Dromod	2	2	2
	Drumkeeran	3	3	3
	Drumsna	2	2	2
	Leitrim	2	2	2
	Tullaghan	2	2	2
<b>Tier 4 - Villages</b>	15 No.	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Tier 5 - Graigs</b>	25 No.	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Other</b>	Rural Houses	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Total</b>		100	100	100

## 6.5 Type 3: Alternatives for Settlement Role or Specialisms

- **Alternative Type 3 A:** A Plan that provides additional focus to the particular roles/specialisations for the larger towns<sup>87</sup> in the County.
- **Alternative Type 3 B:** A Plan that does not provide additional focus to the particular roles/specialisations for the larger towns in the County is extended to include the Tier 2 A centres of Manorhamilton and Ballinamore.

<sup>87</sup> Comprising: Tier 1 Key Town - Carrick on Shannon; Tier 2A Sub Regional Growth Centres - Manorhamilton & Ballinamore; and Tier 2B Support Towns - Dromahair, Drumshanbo, Mohill & Kinlough.

## **6.6 Type 4: Serviced Sites within Rural Settlements**

- **Alternative Type 4 A:** Provide focus to and targeted policies/objectives for Rural Settlements to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.
- **Alternative Type 4 B:** Rural Settlements are included but there is no focus or no targeted provisions for these locations to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.

## **6.7 Type 5: Alternatives for Renewable Energy**

- **Alternative Type 5 A:** Less favourable approach to wind energy development.
- **Alternative Type 5 B:** More favourable approach to wind energy development.

## Section 7 Evaluation of Alternatives

### 7.1 Introduction

This section provides a comparative evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects<sup>88</sup> of implementing available alternatives that are described in Section 6. This determination sought to understand whether each alternative was likely to improve conflict with or have a neutral interaction with the receiving environment.

### 7.2 Methodology

The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment (see Section 4) and the Strategic Environmental Objectives (see Section 1 and Table 7.1) are used in the assessment of alternatives.

The degree to which effects can be determined is limited as implementation of the Plan will involve assessment, consideration and decision-making associated with lower tier plans and individual projects. Nonetheless a comparative evaluation of the various alternatives can be provided.

**Table 7.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives<sup>89</sup>**

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objectives
<b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b>	<b>BFF</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To preserve, protect, maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, particularly EU designated sites and protected species</li> <li>• Ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, with regard to its qualifying interests, associated conservation status, structure and function</li> <li>• Safeguard national, regional and local designated sites and supporting features which function as stepping stones for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species</li> <li>• Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and its targets</li> <li>• To protect, maintain and conserve the County's natural capital</li> </ul>
<b>Population and Human Health</b>	<b>PHH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management</li> <li>• Ensure that existing population and planned growth is matched with the required public infrastructure and the required services</li> <li>• Safeguard the County's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being</li> </ul>
<b>Soil (and Land)</b>	<b>S</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect soils against pollution, and prevent degradation of the soil resource</li> <li>• Promote the sustainable use of infill and brownfield sites over the use of greenfield within the County</li> <li>• Safeguard areas of prime agricultural land and designated geological sites</li> </ul>
<b>Water</b>	<b>W</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that the status of water bodies is protected, maintained and improved in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive</li> <li>• Ensure water resources are sustainably managed to deliver proposed regional and County growth targets in the context of existing and</li> </ul>

<sup>88</sup> These effects include secondary, cumulative (see also Section 8.2), synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.

<sup>89</sup> See also Section 1

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objectives
		<p>projected water supply and wastewater capacity constraints ensuring the protection of receiving environments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid inappropriate zoning and development in areas at risk of flooding and areas that are vulnerable to current and future erosion, including coastal areas</li> <li>• Integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, porous surfacing and green roofs) into development proposals</li> </ul>
<b>Material Assets</b>	<b>MA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optimise existing infrastructure and provide new infrastructure to match population distribution proposals in the County</li> <li>• Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all which encourages a broad energy generation mix to ensure security of supply – wind, solar, hydro, biomass, energy from waste and traditional fossil fuels</li> <li>• Promote the circular economy, reduce waste, and increase energy efficiencies</li> <li>• Ensure there is adequate sewerage and drainage infrastructure in place to support new development</li> <li>• Reduce the energy demand from the transport sector and support moves to electrification of road and rail transport modes</li> <li>• Encourage the transition to a zero-carbon economy by facilitating the development of a grid infrastructure to support renewables and international connectivity. Reduce the average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart-buildings, cities and grids</li> </ul>
<b>Air</b>	<b>A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from all sectors with particular reference to emissions from transport, residential heating, industry and agriculture</li> <li>• Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency</li> <li>• Promote continuing improvement in air quality</li> <li>• Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution</li> <li>• Meet Air Quality Directive standards for the protection of human health – Air Quality Directive</li> <li>• Significantly decrease noise pollution by 2020 and move closer to WHO recommended levels</li> </ul>
<b>Climatic Factors<sup>90</sup></b>	<b>C</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To minimise emissions of greenhouse gasses</li> <li>• Integrate sustainable design solutions into the County's infrastructure (e.g. energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure)</li> <li>• Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets</li> <li>• Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change</li> <li>• Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<b>CH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage</li> </ul>
<b>Landscape</b>	<b>L</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To implement the Plan's framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention</li> </ul>

<sup>90</sup> Please also refer to relevant legislation and requirements under Section 4.10, Section 8.5 and Section 8.7.11 and Appendix I.

## 7.3 Detailed Assessment of Alternatives

### 7.3.1 Effects Common to all Alternatives

Each of the alternatives would be part of a wider Plan envisaging – in compliance with the robust policy framework in place at national, regional and local level – sustainable development and compact growth in County Leitrim generally. As such, common environmental effects (as detailed on Table 7.2) would be present under Plans adopting each of the different alternatives, though to varying degrees.

**Table 7.2 Effects common to Plans adopting each of the different alternatives**

Environmental Component	Positive/Neutral Effects, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated
<b>Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution towards protection of ecology (including designated sites, ecological connectivity, habitats) by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere.</li> <li>• Sustains existing sustainable rural management practices – and the communities who support them – to ensure the continuation of long-established managed landscapes and the flora and fauna that they contain.</li> </ul>	<p>Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites, Wildlife Sites and Areas of Special Scientific Interest) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna;</li> <li>• Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and</li> <li>• Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats.</li> </ul>
<b>Population and Human Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management.</li> <li>• Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere</li> <li>• Contribution towards the protection of human health by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential adverse effects arising from flood events.</li> <li>• Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors.</li> </ul>

Environmental Component	Positive/Neutral Effects, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated
	thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere.	
<b>Soil</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution towards the protection of soils (including those used for agriculture) and designated sites of geological heritage by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands.</li> <li>• Potential for riverbank and coastal erosion.</li> </ul>
<b>Water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution towards the protection of water by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.</li> <li>• Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events.</li> </ul>
<b>Material Assets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-serviced lands elsewhere.</li> <li>• Contribution towards limits in increases in energy demand from the transport sector by facilitating sustainable compact growth.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>• Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>• Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>• Increases in waste levels.</li> <li>• Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure.</li> <li>• Interactions between agriculture and soil, water, biodiversity and human health - including phosphorous and nitrogen deposition as a result of agricultural activities and the</li> </ul>

Environmental Component	Positive/Neutral Effects, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated
		production of secondary inorganic particulate matter. • Risk of aggregate potential sterilisation.
<b>Air and Climatic Factors</b>	• Contribution towards climate mitigation and adaptation by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-serviced lands elsewhere.	• Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives. • Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality. • Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors. • Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	• Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage elsewhere in the County by facilitating development within existing settlements.	• Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology <sup>91</sup> and protected architecture <sup>92</sup> arising from construction and operation activities.
<b>Landscape</b>	• Contributes towards protection of wider landscape and landscape designations by facilitating development within existing settlements.	• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape.

<sup>91</sup> Archaeological heritage encompasses designated and unknown archaeological heritage including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, underwater archaeology, entries to the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record and Northern Ireland Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest and Archaeological Potential. Also encompassed are intervisibility and interrelationships between archaeological heritage within the wider landscape, including cross-border intervisibility and interrelationships.

<sup>92</sup> Architectural heritage encompasses that which is designated or included within the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH), NIAH Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Records of Protected Structures and Northern Ireland's Listed Buildings and Northern Ireland's Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes. Also encompassed are intervisibility and interrelationships between architectural heritage within the wider landscape, including cross-border intervisibility and interrelationships.



### 7.3.2 Type 1: Alternatives for an Ecosystem Services Approach to the Plan

**Alternative Type 1 A: “A Plan follows an Ecosystems Services Approach to a greater degree”** would integrate a strategy throughout the Plan for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way.

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

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

This would mean that there would be:

- An increased likelihood in the extent, magnitude and frequency of positive effects occurring with regard to natural capital and ecosystem service issues, such as the management of air quality, noise pollution, light pollution, pollination, flood risk, water bodies and river basins and natural resources supporting energy production and recreation; and
- A decreased likelihood in the extent, magnitude and frequency of adverse effects on natural capital and ecosystem services.

**Alternative Type 1 B: “A Plan that does not follow, or follows to a lesser degree, an Ecosystems Services Approach”** would not integrate a strategy throughout the Plan for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way.

As has been the case over previous plan periods, many natural capital and ecosystem service issues would be integrated into decision making at lower tiers of plan preparation and development management. However, this approach would be less coordinated and comprehensive than would be the case under an Ecosystems Services Approach.

This would mean that there would be:

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

Type 1 alternatives are assessed against Strategic Environmental Objectives on Table 7.3.

**Selected Alternative for the Plan: Type 1 A.**

**Table 7.3 Assessment<sup>93</sup> of Type 1 Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives**

Alternative  (selected alternative in <b>bold</b> )	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs		<b>Potential Conflict</b> with status of SEOs – likely to be mitigated	
	to a <b>Greater</b> degree	to a <b>Lesser</b> degree	to a <b>Lesser</b> degree	to a <b>Greater</b> degree
<b>Alternative Type 1 A. A Plan follows an Ecosystems Services Approach to a greater degree</b>	<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>		<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>	
Alternative Type 1 B. A Plan that does not follow, or follows to a lesser degree, an Ecosystems Services Approach		<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>		<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>

### 7.3.3 Type 2: Alternatives for Population Allocations

In terms of allocating populations, and associated growth, across the County, concentrating allocations into the larger settlements (especially Carrick-on-Shannon but also Manorhamilton and, to a lesser extent, Ballinamore) would help to ensure a more sustainable type of growth, where there are greater opportunities to consolidate development within the existing urban footprint of settlements, through infill and brownfield development. These larger settlements generally have a number of positive attributes such as a greater range of services, transport links, stronger employment bases, and greater capacities to facilitate population and economic growth. By concentrating allocations into these settlements, lower levels of commuting would result, benefiting efforts to improve sustainable mobility and meet greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. Development within these centres would generally be better serviced (including with transport and water services) and there would be a reduced need for greenfield development (and associated adverse environmental effects) in less well-served, less-well connected and more sensitive locations in the County.

Directing development towards smaller settlements, including Rural Settlements, can also promote compact growth and provide viable alternatives to rural housing.

The more dispersed the allocation of population, the greater the difficulty in delivering key infrastructure and placemaking projects. Development is more likely to occur on greenfield lands as there are less infill and brownfield sites available in Rural Settlements and the Other Rural Areas. Services and public transport are more limited and there would generally be a greater dependence on commuting for employment and accessing services. Higher levels of commuting would conflict with efforts to improve sustainable mobility and meet greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. Higher levels of greenfield development (and associated adverse environmental effects) would manifest in less well-served, less-well connected and more sensitive locations in the County. This type of development would result in an elevated potential for adverse environmental impacts, including effects on water, drinking water, human health, ecology and landscape designations.

<sup>93</sup> The alternatives are evaluated using compatibility criteria in order to determine how they would be likely to affect the status of the existing environment and the SEOs. The SEOs and the alternatives are arrayed against each other to demonstrate which interactions would cause effects on specific components of the environment. Where the appraisal identifies an interaction with the status of an SEO the relevant SEO code is entered into the relevant column.

The interactions identified are reflective of likely significant environmental effects:

1. Interactions that would be likely to improve the status of a particular SEO would be likely to result in a significant positive effect on the protection/management of the environmental component/issues to which the SEO relates.
2. Interactions that would potentially conflict with the status of an SEO and would be likely to be mitigated would be likely to result in a potential significant negative effect however these effects would be likely to be mitigated by measures which have been integrated into the Plan.

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

Alternative Type 2 A for Population Allocations would:

- Reinforce the critical mass of Carrick on Shannon which is the smallest county town in the country and the smallest of the Key Towns in the Region – to a lesser extent under this alternative than under Alternatives 2B or 2C;
- Help to ensure the return from investment in public infrastructure – to a lesser extent than Alternatives 2B and 2C;
- Provide an adequate allocation to Ballinamore and Manorhamilton, allowing for their sustainable development; and
- Provide a significant allocation for Rural Settlements and Other Rural Areas. This allocation would need to be accompanied by carefully prepared rural housing management and environmental protection/management policies.

Alternative Type 2 B for Population Allocations would:

- Reinforce the critical mass of Carrick on Shannon which is the smallest county town in the country and the smallest of the Key Towns in the Region – to the greatest extent of all three alternatives;
- Maximise the return from investment in public infrastructure – to the greatest extent of all three alternatives;
- Provide an adequate allocation to Ballinamore and Manorhamilton, allowing for their sustainable development; and
- Reduce the allocation for Rural Settlements and minimise the number of one-off houses Other Rural Areas, protecting the environment in rural areas to the greatest degree of all three alternatives. However, the reduced allocation, in particular for Rural Settlements, would have to be weighed against the socio-economic and societal impacts arising that are not fully within the scope of this assessment.










Alternative Type 2 C for Population Allocations would:


- Reinforce the critical mass of Carrick on Shannon which is the smallest county town in the country and the smallest of the Key Towns in the Region – to a lesser extent than Alternative 2B but to a greater extent than Alternative 2A;
- Help to ensure the return from investment in public infrastructure – to a lesser extent than Alternative 2B but to a greater extent than Alternative 2A;
- Not provide an adequate allocation Manorhamilton, as the town provides significant employment for its rural catchment to a greater extent presently than Carrick on Shannon. Ballinamore does not provide such an employment base presently; and
- Provide a significant allocation for Rural Settlements and Other Rural Areas. This allocation would need to be accompanied by carefully prepared rural housing management and environmental protection/management policies.

Type 2 alternatives are assessed against Strategic Environmental Objectives on Table 7.4.

**Selected Alternative for the Plan: aligns closest to Type 2 A.**

**Table 7.4 Assessment of Type 2 Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives**

Alternative (selected alternative in <b>bold</b> )	Likely to <b>improve</b> status of SEOs		Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs – likely to be mitigated	
	to a <b>Greater</b> degree	to a <b>Lesser</b> degree	to a <b>Lesser</b> degree	to a <b>Greater</b> degree
<b>Alternative Type 2 A</b> • Carrick on Shannon 30% • Ballinamore and Manorhamilton 8% each • Tier 4 Villages 7% • Tier 5 Graigs 5% • Rural Housing 12%	<b>PHH</b> 	A C S BFF W PHH MA L CH ▪  A C S BFF W PHH MA L CH 	<b>PHH</b> 	A C S BFF W PHH MA L CH ▪  A C S BFF W PHH MA L CH 
Alternative Type 2 B • Carrick on Shannon 40% • Ballinamore and Manorhamilton 8% each • Tier 4 Villages 4% • Tier 5 Graigs 3% • Rural Housing 7%	A C S BFF W PHH MA L CH ▪		A C S BFF W PHH MA L CH ▪  A C S BFF W PHH MA L CH 	
Alternative Type 2 C • Carrick on Shannon 35% of the total population allocation under this Alternative. • Ballinamore and Manorhamilton 5.5% each • Tier 4 Villages 7% • Tier 5 Graigs 5% • Rural Housing 12%	<b>PHH</b> 	A C S BFF W PHH MA L CH ▪  A C S BFF W PHH MA L CH 	<b>PHH</b> 	A C S BFF W PHH MA L CH ▪  A C S BFF W PHH MA L CH 

▪ = as a result of allocations to Carrick-on-Shannon, Ballinamore and Manorhamilton  
 = as a result of allocations to Rural Settlements and Other Rural Areas

### 7.3.4 Type 3: Alternatives for Settlement Role or Specialisms

- **Alternative Type 3 A** (A Plan that provides additional focus to the particular roles/specialisations for the larger towns<sup>94</sup> in the County) would support the County's settlements in attracting new development by focusing on the strengths and opportunities that are relevant to each settlement. Such development would contribute towards the success of the County's larger towns by: facilitating sustainable, compact growth; facilitating inward investment; and allowing them to become more desirable places to live and work in.

Compact, sustainable development within the County's larger towns would help to:

- Avoid potential adverse environmental effects on unzoned lands that are more environmentally sensitive, less well-serviced and less well-connected;
- Maximise benefits from infrastructural investment;;
- Contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health); and
- Deliver population growth targets and housing choice in line with the Core Strategy.

The expected development outcome would require a targeted economic marketing strategy to be prepared and pursued which identifies the sectors which the County seeks to develop for each urban centre. The success of such a strategy would also seek to provide additional employment opportunities in Ballinamore, Dromahair and Kinlough, again with a reduced carbon footprint associated with transport to and from work if more employment was provided locally. The reduction in the extent of commuting out of the County is an objective of the Plan but also to increase the level of employment within the County as a regional strength.

- **Alternative Type 3 B** (A Plan that does not provide additional focus to the particular roles/specialisations for the larger towns in the County) would be less likely to: facilitate sustainable, compact growth; facilitate inward investment into the County's larger towns; and allow County's larger towns to become more desirable places to live and work in.

Type 3 alternatives are assessed against Strategic Environmental Objectives on Table 7.5.

#### Selected Alternative for the Plan: Type 3 A.

**Table 7.5 Assessment of Type 3 Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives**

Alternative (selected alternative in <b>bold</b> )	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs		<b>Potential Conflict</b> with status of SEOs – likely to be mitigated	
	to a <b>Greater</b> degree	to a <b>Lesser</b> degree	to a <b>Lesser</b> degree	to a <b>Greater</b> degree
<b>Alternative Type 3 A</b> (A Plan that provides additional focus to the particular roles/specialisations for the larger towns in the County)	<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>		<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>	
Alternative Type 3 B (A Plan that does not provide additional focus to the particular roles/specialisations for the larger towns in the County)		<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>		<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>

<sup>94</sup> Comprising: Tier 1 Key Town - Carrick on Shannon; Tier 2A Sub Regional Growth Centres - Manorhamilton & Ballinamore; and Tier 2B Support Towns - Dromahair, Drumshanbo, Mohill & Kinlough.

### 7.3.5 Type 4: Serviced Sites within Rural Settlements

- **Alternative Type 4 A:** Provide focus to and targeted policies/objectives for Rural Settlements to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.

Serviced sites would be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure) and more likely to protect the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape. Development would be required to be subject to siting, design, protection of residential amenities and normal development management criteria, subject to the satisfactory provision of infrastructure and services and in keeping with the character of the settlement.

- **Alternative Type 4 B:** Rural Settlements are included but there is no focus or no targeted provisions for these locations to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.

Alternative B would be less likely to provide a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside. Development within the open countryside would be less likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure) and less likely to protect the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape.

Alternative B would be the least sustainable of these two alternatives and would be most harmful to the environment.

#### Selected Alternative for the Plan: Type 4 A.

Type 4 alternatives are assessed against Strategic Environmental Objectives on Table 7.6.

**Table 7.6 Assessment of Type 4 Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives**

Alternative  (selected alternative for the Plan in <b>bold</b> )	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs		<b>Potential Conflict</b> with status of SEOs – likely to be mitigated	
	to a <b>Greater</b> degree	to a <b>Lesser</b> degree	to a <b>Lesser</b> degree	to a <b>Greater</b> degree
<b>Alternative Type 4 A: Provide focus to and targeted policies/objectives for Rural Settlements to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.</b>	<b>PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L</b>		<b>PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L</b>	
Alternative Type 4 B: Rural Settlements are included but there is no focus or no targeted provisions for these locations to act as a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.		<b>PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L</b>		<b>PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L</b>

### 7.3.6 Type 5: Alternatives for Renewable Energy

- **Alternative Type 5 A**, a less favourable approach to wind energy development, would have the potential to:
  - Undermine and negate practical measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in compliance with high-level climate action policy (this approach may be contrary to such policy); and
  - Restrict the potential for wind energy development in the County, to the extent that the Plan may be contrary to national energy policy that supports reductions in the reliance on fossil fuels and the development of renewable energy resources, including wind energy infrastructure.

However, the need to mitigate potential construction and operational adverse environmental impacts arising from wind energy development would be reduced. This mitigation includes that relating to potential visual effects in sensitive landscapes, potential effects on biodiversity, potential effects on soil stability and potential effects on human health arising from noise and shadow flicker.

- **Alternative Type 5 B**, a more favourable approach to wind energy development, would have the potential to:
  - Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in compliance with high-level climate action policy; and
  - Allow for appropriate wind energy development in the County, in line with national energy policy that supports reductions in the reliance on fossil fuels and the development of renewable energy resources, including wind energy infrastructure.

However, the need to mitigate potential construction and operational adverse environmental impacts arising from wind energy development would be increased. This mitigation includes that relating to potential visual effects in sensitive landscapes, potential effects on biodiversity, potential effects on soil stability and potential effects on human health arising from noise and shadow flicker.

**Selected Alternative for the Plan: Type 5 B, a more favourable approach to wind energy development. This alternative complies with Government policy on climate action and energy.**

Type 5 alternatives are assessed against Strategic Environmental Objectives on Table 7.7.

**Table 7.7 Assessment of Type 5 Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives**

Alternative  (selected alternative for the Plan in <b>bold</b> )	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs		<b>Potential Conflict</b> with status of SEOs – likely to be mitigated	
	to a <b>Greater</b> degree	to a <b>Lesser</b> degree	to a <b>Lesser</b> degree	to a <b>Greater</b> degree
Alternative Type 5 A, a less favourable approach to wind energy development		PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L ▪	PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L ■	
<b>Alternative Type 5 B, a more favourable approach to wind energy development</b>	PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L ▪			PHH MA A C BFF S W CH L ■

▪ = as a result of contribution to climate mitigation/reductions in emissions, reducing burning of fossil fuels, protection of all environmental components from effects of climate change and reducing the need to extract and burn of fossil fuels

■ = as a result of potential adverse effects on all environmental components wind energy development within County Leitrim that would be mitigated by Plan provisions

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

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

These alternatives have been incorporated into the Plan having regard to both:

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

## Section 8 Evaluation of Plan Provisions

### 8.1 Introduction

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

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

**Table 8.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives<sup>95</sup>**

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objectives
<b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b>	<b>BFF</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To preserve, protect, maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, particularly EU designated sites and protected species</li> <li>• Ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, with regard to its qualifying interests, associated conservation status, structure and function</li> <li>• Safeguard national, regional and local designated sites and supporting features which function as stepping stones for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species</li> <li>• Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and its targets</li> <li>• To protect, maintain and conserve the County's natural capital</li> </ul>
<b>Population and Human Health</b>	<b>PHH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management</li> <li>• Ensure that existing population and planned growth is matched with the required public infrastructure and the required services</li> <li>• Safeguard the County's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being</li> </ul>
<b>Soil (and Land)</b>	<b>S</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect soils against pollution, and prevent degradation of the soil resource</li> <li>• Promote the sustainable use of infill and brownfield sites over the use of greenfield within the County</li> <li>• Safeguard areas of prime agricultural land and designated geological sites</li> </ul>
<b>Water</b>	<b>W</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that the status of water bodies is protected, maintained and improved in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive</li> <li>• Ensure water resources are sustainably managed to deliver proposed regional and County growth targets in the context of existing and projected water supply and wastewater capacity constraints ensuring the protection of receiving environments</li> <li>• Avoid inappropriate zoning and development in areas at risk of flooding and areas that are vulnerable to current and future erosion, including coastal areas</li> <li>• Integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, porous surfacing and green roofs) into development proposals</li> </ul>

<sup>95</sup> See also Section 1



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objectives
<b>Material Assets</b>	<b>MA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optimise existing infrastructure and provide new infrastructure to match population distribution proposals in the County</li> <li>• Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all which encourages a broad energy generation mix to ensure security of supply – wind, solar, hydro, biomass, energy from waste and traditional fossil fuels</li> <li>• Promote the circular economy, reduce waste, and increase energy efficiencies</li> <li>• Ensure there is adequate sewerage and drainage infrastructure in place to support new development</li> <li>• Reduce the energy demand from the transport sector and support moves to electrification of road and rail transport modes</li> <li>• Encourage the transition to a zero-carbon economy by facilitating the development of a grid infrastructure to support renewables and international connectivity. Reduce the average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart- buildings, cities and grids</li> </ul>
<b>Air</b>	<b>A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from all sectors with particular reference to emissions from transport, residential heating, industry and agriculture</li> <li>• Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency</li> <li>• Promote continuing improvement in air quality</li> <li>• Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution</li> <li>• Meet Air Quality Directive standards for the protection of human health – Air Quality Directive</li> <li>• Significantly decrease noise pollution by 2020 and move closer to WHO recommended levels</li> </ul>
<b>Climatic Factors</b>	<b>C</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To minimise emissions of greenhouse gasses</li> <li>• Integrate sustainable design solutions into the County's infrastructure (e.g. energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure)</li> <li>• Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets</li> <li>• Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change</li> <li>• Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<b>CH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage</li> </ul>
<b>Landscape</b>	<b>L</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To implement the Plan's framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention</li> </ul>

## 8.2 Cumulative Effects

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

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

- Potential *intra-Plan* cumulative effects - these arise from the interactions between different types of potential environmental effects resulting from a plan, programme, etc. Where there are elevated levels of environmental sensitivities (such as those identified under Section 4), future development could result in environmental conflicts and lead to a deterioration in environmental integrity. The interrelationships between environmental components that help determine these potential effects are identified on Table 8.3 e.g. interrelationships between: human health and water quality; human health and air quality; human health and flood risk; and ecology and water quality.
- Potential *inter-Plan* cumulative effects - these arise when the effects of the implementation of one plan occur in combination with those of other plans, programmes, developments, etc.

Effects that may arise as a result of implementing the Plan have been mitigated to the extent that the only residual adverse effects likely to occur as a result of implementation of the Plan are those which are identified under Table 8.2.

Other policies, plans and programmes that have been considered by the assessment of effects include those which are detailed under Section 2.5 (and associated Appendix I “Relationship with Legislation, Plans and Programmes”), Section 4 and Section 1. Plans and programmes from various sectors will interact with the Plan, including those relating to land use planning. These plans and programmes are subject to their own environmental assessment requirements as relevant. Examples include:

- Land use policy, plans and programmes (e.g. the National Planning Framework, the Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, adjoining County Development Plans, Local Area Plans and other land use plans);
- Leitrim Local Economic and Community Plan and the Local Economic and Community Plans of adjoining counties;
- Energy policy, plans and programmes (e.g. Grid25 and associated Implementation Programme, Ireland’s National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010, Strategy for Renewable Energy 2012-2020, Draft National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030 and the Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework);
- Climate related policy, plans and programmes (e.g. the National Climate Policy Position and Climate Action 2014, Low Carbon Development Act 2015, as amended, Climate Action Plan 2023, the National Adaptation Framework 2018, and the Leitrim Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019);
- Water services, waste management, transport and energy infrastructure plans (e.g. Irish Water’s Water Services Strategic Plan and associated Capital Investment Plan, Connacht-Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan and Transportation Policies and Strategies); and
- Environmental protection and management plans (e.g. River Basin Management Plan and Flood Risk Management Plans).

Potential cumulative/in combination effects include:

- Contributions towards reductions in travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air, reductions in consumption from non-renewables and associated achievement of legally binding targets (in combination with plans and programmes from all sectors, including energy, transport and land use planning) as a result of facilitating:
  - Sustainable compact growth;
  - Sustainable mobility, including walking, cycling and public transport;
  - Drainage, flood risk management and resilience;
  - Renewable energy; and

- Sustainable design, energy efficiency and green and blue infrastructure.
- Contributions towards travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air (in combination with plans and programmes from all sectors, including transport and land use planning) as a result of facilitating development which must be accompanied by road capacity;
- Facilitation of new development that is accompanied by appropriate levels of water services thereby contributing towards environmental protection;
- Need for and use of water and waste water treatment capacity arising from new developments and associated potential adverse effects;
- Potential cumulative effects upon surface and ground water status as a result of, for example, housing, employment, agricultural and forestry – loadings and abstractions;
- Potential cumulative effects (habitat damage, enhancing ecological connectivity, contributing towards sustainable mobility) arising from linear developments, such as those relating to green and blue infrastructure, including beyond the County border;
- Potential cumulative effects on flood risk by, for example, development of greenfield lands or obstruction of flood paths; and
- In combination with plans and programmes from all sectors potential adverse effects on all environmental components arising from all development in greenfield and brownfield areas (e.g. infrastructural, residential, economic, agricultural etc.). The type of these effects is consistent with those described on Table 8.2. These plans and programmes are required to comply with environmental legislation and undergo SEA and AA as relevant comply with environmental legislation while projects are subject to EIA and AA, as relevant.

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

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

### **8.3 Overall Evaluation (including Transboundary)**

Leitrim County Council have integrated various recommendations arising from the SEA, AA and SFRA processes into the Plan (see Section 9). Table 8.2 provides a detailed overall evaluation of the environmental effects arising from the Plan. The effects encompass all in-combination/cumulative effects arising from implementation of the Plan. The potentially significant adverse environmental effects (if unmitigated) arising from implementation of the Plan are detailed as are residual effects, considering mitigation through both provisions integrated into the Plan – see Section 9.

The scope of the assessment (including description of baseline, the relationship to other plans and programmes and the evaluation of effects) has considered the environment of both Ireland and Northern Ireland. Taking into account, *inter alia*, the detailed mitigation which has been integrated into the Plan (including that which is identified at Section 9), it has been determined that: significant residual adverse environmental effects will not occur in Ireland; and significant environmental effects will not occur in Northern Ireland.

**Table 8.2 Overall Evaluation (including transboundary) – Effects arising from the Plan**

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework		
	Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP 2021, the Northern and Western RSES, adjacent Development Plans and other plans and programmes – see Appendix I.		
	Positive/Neutral Effects, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects, following mitigation
<b>Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution towards protection of ecology (including designated sites, ecological connectivity, habitats) by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere.</li> <li>• Contribution towards the maintenance of existing green infrastructure and associated ecosystem services, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats.</li> <li>• Contribution towards protection and/or maintenance of biodiversity and flora and fauna by contributing towards the protection of natural capital including the environmental vectors of air, water and soil. Biodiversity and flora and fauna includes biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species (including birds and bats), listed/protected species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats (including terrestrial and aquatic habitats), and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna – including terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity and flora and fauna.</li> <li>• Sustains existing sustainable rural management practices – and the communities who support them – to ensure the continuation of long-established managed landscapes and the flora and fauna that they contain.</li> </ul>	<p>Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites, Wildlife Sites and Areas of Special Scientific Interest) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna;</li> <li>• Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and</li> <li>• Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of an extent of non-protected habitats and species arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces.</li> <li>• Losses or damage to ecology (these would be in compliance with relevant legislation).</li> </ul>

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework		
	Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP 2021, the Northern and Western RSES, adjacent Development Plans and other plans and programmes – see Appendix I.		
	Positive/Neutral Effects, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects, following mitigation
<b>Population and Human Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management.</li> <li>• Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere.</li> <li>• Contribution towards the protection of human health by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere.</li> <li>• Contributes towards protection of human health as a result of contributing towards the protection of natural capital including environmental vectors, including air and water.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential adverse effects arising from flood events.</li> <li>• Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential interactions with residual effects on environmental vectors – please refer to residual adverse effects under "Soil", "Water" and "Air and Climatic Factors" below.</li> </ul>
<b>Soil</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution towards the protection of soils (including those used for agriculture) and designated sites of geological heritage by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere.</li> <li>• Contribution towards the protection of the environment from contamination the highest standards of remediation, and where appropriate to consultations with the EPA and other relevant bodies, will be required to resolve any instances of environmental pollution created by contaminated land.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands.</li> <li>• Potential for riverbank and coastal erosion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces.</li> <li>• Riverbank erosion will continue to occur naturally over time and is likely to be enhanced by climate change.</li> </ul>

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework		
	Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP 2021, the Northern and Western RSES, adjacent Development Plans and other plans and programmes – see Appendix I.		
	Positive/Neutral Effects, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects, following mitigation
<b>Water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution towards the protection of water by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere.</li> <li>• Contributions towards the protection of water resources including the status of surface and groundwaters and water-based designations.</li> <li>• Contribution towards flood risk management and appropriate drainage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.</li> <li>• Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any increased loadings as a result of development to comply with the River Basin Management Plan.</li> <li>• Flood related risks remain due to uncertainty with regard to extreme weather events – however such risks will be mitigated by measures that have been integrated into the Plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Material Assets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere.</li> <li>• Contribution towards compliance with national and regional water services and waste management policies.</li> <li>• Contribution towards increase in renewable energy use by facilitating renewable energy and electricity transmission infrastructure developments.</li> <li>• Contribution towards limits in increases in energy demand from the transport sector by facilitating sustainable compact growth.</li> <li>• Contribution towards reductions in average energy consumption per capita including promoting sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility, sustainable design and energy efficiency.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>• Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>• Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>• Increases in waste levels.</li> <li>• Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure.</li> <li>• Interactions between agriculture and soil, water, biodiversity and human health - including phosphorous and nitrogen deposition as a result of agricultural activities and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter.</li> <li>• Risk of aggregate potential sterilisation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exceedance of capacity in critical infrastructure risks remain, including due to uncertainty with regard to climate – however, such risks will be mitigated by: measures, including those requiring the timely provision of critical infrastructure, and compliance with the Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin Management Plan.</li> <li>• Residual wastes to be disposed of in line with higher-level waste management policies.</li> <li>• Any impacts upon public assets and infrastructure to comply with statutory planning/consent-granting framework.</li> </ul>

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework		
	Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP 2021, the Northern and Western RSES, adjacent Development Plans and other plans and programmes – see Appendix I.		
	Positive/Neutral Effects, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects, following mitigation
<b>Air and Climatic Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution towards climate mitigation and adaptation by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere.</li> <li>• In combination with other plans, programmes etc., contribution towards the objectives of the wide policy framework relating to climate mitigation and adaptation, and associated contribution towards maintaining and improving air quality and managing noise levels, including through measures relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sustainable compact growth;</li> <li>○ Sustainable mobility, including walking, cycling and public transport;</li> <li>○ Drainage, flood risk management and resilience;</li> <li>○ Sectors including agriculture, forestry, energy and buildings; and</li> <li>○ Sustainable design, energy efficiency and green infrastructure.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives.</li> <li>• Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality.</li> <li>• Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors.</li> <li>• Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An extent of travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air. This has been mitigated by provisions which have been integrated into the Plan, including those relating to sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility.</li> <li>• Interactions between noise emissions and sensitive receptors. Various provisions have been integrated into the Plan to ensure that noise levels at sensitive receptors will be minimised.</li> </ul>

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework		
	Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP 2021, the Northern and Western RSES, adjacent Development Plans and other plans and programmes – see Appendix I.		
	Positive/Neutral Effects, likely to occur		Positive/Neutral Effects, likely to occur
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage elsewhere in the County by facilitating development within existing settlements.</li> <li>• Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage within existing settlements by facilitating brownfield development and regeneration.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology<sup>96</sup> and protected architecture<sup>97</sup> arising from construction and operation activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential effects on known architectural and archaeological heritage and unknown archaeology however, these will occur in compliance with legislation.</li> </ul>
<b>Landscape</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributes towards protection of wider landscape and landscape designations by facilitating development within existing settlements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscapes will change overtime as a result of natural changes in vegetation cover combined with new developments that will occur in compliance with the Plan's landscape protection measures.</li> </ul>

<sup>96</sup> Archaeological heritage encompasses designated and unknown archaeological heritage including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, underwater archaeology, entries to the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record and Northern Ireland Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest and Archaeological Potential. Also encompassed are intervisibility and interrelationships between archaeological heritage within the wider landscape, including cross-border intervisibility and interrelationships.

<sup>97</sup> Architectural heritage encompasses that which is designated or included within the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH), NIAH Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Records of Protected Structures and Northern Ireland's Listed Buildings and Northern Ireland's Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes. Also encompassed are intervisibility and interrelationships between architectural heritage within the wider landscape, including cross-border intervisibility and interrelationships.



## 8.4 Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) have been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan.

The requirement for AA is provided under the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 1992/43/EEC). The AA assesses the effects of the Plan on European Sites designated for certain habitats and species. The conclusion of the AA is that the Plan will not affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 network<sup>98</sup>.

SFRA is required by 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2009) and associated Government Circular PL2/2014. All recommendations from the SFRA have been integrated into the Plan.

Various policies and objectives have been integrated into the Plan through the SEA, SFRA and AA processes. The preparation of the Plan, SEA, AA and SFRA has taken place concurrently and the findings of the AA and SFRA have informed both the Plan and the SEA.

## 8.5 Integration of Climate Action into the Plan

The Plan will contribute towards climate action in combination with:

- The Climate Action Plan that identifies various climate mitigation and/or adaptation actions.
- The National Planning Framework, which has identified National Strategic Outcome Objectives 8 "Build Climate Resilience" and 9 "Support the transition to low carbon and clean energy" under National Strategic Outcome 8 "Transition to a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Society".
- The Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy that has identified various Regional Policy Objectives relating to climate action, including:
  - RPO 4.16 The NWRA shall co-ordinate the identification of potential renewable energy sites of scale in collaboration with Local Authorities and other stakeholders within 3 years of the adoption of the RSES. The identification of such sites (which may extend to include energy storage solutions) will be based on numerous site selection criteria including environmental matters, and potential grid connections. RPO 4.17 To position the region to avail of the emerging global market in renewable energy by: Stimulating the development and deployment of the most advantageous renewable energy systems; Supporting research and innovation; Encouraging skills development and transferability; Raising awareness and public understanding of renewable energy and encourage market opportunities for the renewable energy industry to promote the development and growth of renewable energy businesses; Encourage the development of the transmission and distribution grids to facilitate the development of renewable energy projects and the effective utilisation of the energy generated from renewable sources having regard to the future potential of the region over the lifetime of the Strategy and beyond.
  - RPO 4.18 Support the development of secure, reliable and safe supplies of renewable energy, to maximise their value, maintain the inward investment, support indigenous industry and create jobs.
  - RPO 4.20 Support and encourage the development of the bio-economy sector, and facilitate its development for energy production, heat, and storage distribution, in particular advocating Combined Heat and Power Units integrated into District Heating networks, in combination with Pyrogenic Carbon Capture and Storage or Bio-Energy

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<sup>98</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:  
 (a) no alternative solution available;  
 (b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan/programme/project to proceed; and  
 (c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

Carbon capture and storage all to be done in collaboration with EPA and other regulators.

- RPO 4.21 Promote innovative new building design and retrofitting of existing buildings, both private properties, and publicly owned, to improve building energy efficiency, energy conservation and the use of renewable energy sources following National Regulations, and Policy.
- RPO 5.1 The Assembly will support through CARO and Local Authorities the preparation and implementation of Local Climate Strategies which will, inter alia, address vulnerability to climate risks and provide prioritised actions in accordance with the guiding principles of the National Adaptation Framework.
- PO 6.51 Promote values and policies that make it easy to commute between home, work and school across the region in a way that contributes to a healthy, attractive and climate-friendly region.

Progressing climate action is a priority for the County Development Plan which will be done through a Climate Strategy which incorporates national and regional policy through an approach which includes mitigation and adaptation. These two components of climate action are critical in order to build resilience and adapt to the changing climate in a planned and structured way.

Climate Action Measures from the Plan, and in particular Chapter 12, encompass sectors including:

- Sustainable Transport
- Renewable Heat
- Energy Storage
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation
- Agriculture and Forestry
- Climate Action – Adaptation Measures for Leitrim
- Integrated Land Use and Transport
- Urban and Rural Regeneration
- Nature-Based Approaches and Green Infrastructure

## 8.6 Interrelationship between Environmental Components

The SEA Directive requires the Environmental Report to include information on the likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, fauna, flora, population, human health, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. Likely significant effects on environmental components which are identified include those which are interrelated; implementation of the Plan will not affect the interrelationships between these components. The presence of significant interrelationships between environmental components is identified on Table 8.3.

**Table 8.3 Presence of Interrelationships between Environmental Components**

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

## 8.7 Detailed Evaluation<sup>99</sup>

For an explanation of SEO codes e.g. **BFF**, **PHH**, **S**, **W**, etc. refer to Table 8.1 on page 103.

The following applies to each of the sub-sections 8.7.1 to 8.7.13 below:

The Plan is situated in a hierarchy of documents setting out public policy for, among other things, land use planning, infrastructure, sustainable development, tourism, environmental protection and environmental management, such as the National Planning Framework, the National Development Plan, the Climate Action Plan and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Region (for additional detail please refer to Section 2.5 *“Relationship with other relevant Plans and Programmes”* in this report).

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

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

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<sup>99</sup> The Plan's provisions are evaluated using compatibility criteria in order to determine how they would be likely to affect the status of the existing environment and the SEOs. The SEOs and the Plan provisions are arrayed against each other in order to demonstrate which interactions would cause effects on specific components of the environment. Where the appraisal identifies an interaction with the status of an SEO the relevant SEO code is entered into the relevant column.

The interactions identified are reflective of likely significant environmental effects:

1. Interactions that would be likely to improve the status of a particular SEO would be likely to result in a significant positive effect on the protection/management of the environmental component/issues to which the SEO relates.
2. Interactions that would potentially conflict with the status of an SEO and would be likely to be mitigated would be likely to result in a potential significant negative effect however these effects would be likely to be mitigated by measures which have been integrated into the Plan.

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

## 8.7.1 Chapter 2: Core Strategy

Plan Provisions, including:	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	<b>Mitigated Conflicts</b>	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
Provisions of this Chapter include those relating to the Plan's Core Strategy. For more details, please refer to the Plan.	<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>		<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>	
<p><b>Commentary</b></p> <p>The assessment of the Plan's Core Strategy against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and</li> <li>• Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report.</li> </ul> <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Leitrim County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and</li> <li>• The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.</li> </ul> <p>Various Core Strategy provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.</p>				

## 8.7.2 Chapter 3: Housing

Plan Provisions, including:	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Provisions of this Chapter include those relating to Housing. For more details, please refer to the Plan.	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
<p><b>Commentary</b></p> <p>The assessment of the Plan's Housing provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and</li> <li>• Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report.</li> </ul> <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Leitrim County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and</li> <li>• The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.</li> </ul> <p>With regard to housing in rural areas, the Plan identifies Low Capacity Areas and Other Rural Areas. Compliance of all types of developments, in all areas, with the mitigation included in the Plan is essential in order to protect and manage all environmental components.</p> <p>Various Housing provisions in this Chapter of the Plan, including those relating to energy efficiency, environmental performance, positive contributions to the built environment and local streetscape, backland development and Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines for Planning Authorities, would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.</p>				

### 8.7.3 Chapter 4: Economic Development, including Retail

Plan Provisions, including:	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	<b>Mitigated Conflicts</b>	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
Provisions of this Chapter include those relating to Economic Development, including Retail. For more details, please refer to the Plan.	<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>		<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>	
<p><b>Commentary</b></p> <p>The assessment of the Plan's Economic Development, including Retail, provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and</li> <li>• Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report.</li> </ul> <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy. The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Leitrim County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and</li> <li>• The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.</li> </ul> <p>Mitigation has been integrated into various Economic provisions, including that which: is related to the long term sustainable social and environmental development of rural areas; and referencing appropriate environmental assessments, high quality architectural design and the need for development to be subject to ensuring residential amenity and environmental protection. Various provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.</p>				

## 8.7.4 Chapter 5: Tourism

Plan Provisions, including:	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Provisions of this Chapter include those relating to Tourism. For more details, please refer to the Plan.	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
<p><b>Commentary</b></p> <p>The assessment of the Plan's Tourism provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and</li> <li>• Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report.</li> </ul> <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>This Chapter contributes towards the provision of land use activities and developments relating to tourism – and would be likely to contribute towards an increase in the number and dwell time of visitors and associated potential adverse effects. Such effects would include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, including tourism. Examples may include developments/operation of developments relating to water services, transport, energy, access or accommodation. Mobility has the potential to impact upon emissions, energy usage and infrastructural capacity. Accommodation and hospitality has the potential to impact upon land-take, water service capacity and water resources, energy usage. Tourism activities and products, especially in areas outside of settlements, have the potential to impact upon ecology, heritage, water and the landscape.</p> <p>The development of new greenways, blueways and walking and cycling routes, including those between County Leitrim, adjoining counties and beyond, including Northern Ireland, has the potential to contribute towards sustainable mobility and a better management of movements in sensitive areas, thereby benefitting various environmental components including habitats at certain locations. The development of these projects, however, presents a variety of potentially adverse environmental effects that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure are often constructed in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams. Potential adverse effects would be mitigated both by measures which have been integrated into the Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those identified at Section 9 of this report) and by measures arising from lower tier assessments (including those for the preparation of lower tier plans and projects). Projects would need to be subject to normal planning and environmental assessment processes, as well as complying with the Corridor and Route Selection Process for relevant new infrastructure (see Chapter 8 Transport). The development of green infrastructure can achieve synergies with regard to the provision of open space amenities, sustainable mobility, the sustainable management of water, the protection and management of biodiversity, the protection of cultural heritage and the protection of protected landscape sensitivities.</p> <p>Various Tourism provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment. The mitigation of potential adverse effects arising would be contributed towards by Plan provisions including those relating to visitor management, infrastructure capacity, green infrastructure and protection of ecology and water resources.</p>				



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

The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 “Mitigation Measures” of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Leitrim County Council is helping to ensure that:

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

## 8.7.5 Chapter 6: Urban Settlements

Plan Provisions, including:	Likely to <u>Improve</u> status of SEOs	Probable <u>Conflict</u> with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	<u>Mitigated Conflicts</u>	<u>No Likely</u> interaction with status of SEOs
Provisions of this Chapter include those relating to Urban Settlements. For more details, please refer to the Plan.	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
<p><b>Commentary</b></p> <p>The assessment of the Plan’s Urban Settlements provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and</li> <li>• Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report.</li> </ul> <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of the County’s towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County’s settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County’s sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 “Mitigation Measures” of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Leitrim County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and</li> <li>• The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.</li> </ul>				

Various provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment, including those under the headings of Healthy Placemaking, Compact Growth and Regeneration and Opportunity. Land Use provisions are applied to each Settlement Plan - see Section 8.7.13.

Mitigation has been integrated into various Urban Settlements provisions, including: Constrained Land Use provisions, which are detailed in full in Chapter 6 of the Plan, which will benefit flood risk management and help to ensure compliance with the Ministerial Guidelines on this topic; and LAND USE POL 3 which will contribute towards the protection of European Sites (“To protect the integrity of Special Areas of Conservation where such European Sites traverse through town and village settlements which includes lands identified for development within Dromahair, Kinlough, Manorhamilton and Rossinver development envelopes. These European Sites are protected from inappropriate development under the European Habitats Directive, transposing national legislation and various provisions under this Plan, which take primacy over other Development Plan provisions”).

## 8.7.6 Chapter 7: Sustainable Communities

Plan Provisions, including:	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	<b>Mitigated Conflicts</b>	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
Provisions of this Chapter include those relating to Sustainable Communities. For more details, please refer to the Plan.	<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>		<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>	
<p><b>Commentary</b></p> <p>The assessment of the Plan's Sustainable Communities provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and</li> <li>• Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report.</li> </ul> <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 “Mitigation Measures” of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Leitrim County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and</li> <li>• The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.</li> </ul> <p>The Plan's Sustainable Communities provisions would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.</p>				

## 8.7.7 Chapter 8: Transport

Plan Provisions, including:	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Provisions of this Chapter include those relating to Transport. For more details, please refer to the Plan.	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
<p><b>Commentary</b></p> <p>The assessment of the Plan’s Transport provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and</li> <li>• Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report.</li> </ul> <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of the County’s towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County’s settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County’s sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>Many of the provisions in this Chapter primarily contribute towards maximising sustainable mobility and associated interactions with emissions to air (including noise and greenhouse gas emissions), energy usage, air quality and human health. The facilitation of journeys by car, in particular, would give rise to emissions to air. The Plan references various projects that are provided for by higher level plans and programmes. Certain new transport infrastructure projects, including blueways and greenways, that are not already provided for by existing plans/programmes, which have been subject to environmental assessment, or are not already permitted, are required by Policy ILU POL 6 to be subject to feasibility assessment, considering need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report, and objectives relating to sustainable mobility. Where feasibility is established, a Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken, where appropriate, in two stages: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection; and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection. This provision and the others cited in Section 9 of this report will ensure that no significant adverse effects will arise from implementation of the Plan within or beyond the County border.</p> <p>The development of new greenways, blueways and walking and cycling routes, including those between County Leitrim, adjoining counties and beyond, including Northern Ireland, has the potential to contribute towards sustainable mobility and a better management of movements in sensitive areas, thereby benefitting various environmental components including habitats at certain locations. The development of these projects, however, presents a variety of potentially adverse environmental effects that would, if unmitigated, have the potential to arise from both the construction and operation of such developments and/or their ancillary infrastructure. These types of infrastructure are often constructed in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams. Potential adverse effects would be mitigated both by measures which have been integrated into the Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (including those identified at Section 9 of this report) and by measures arising from lower tier assessments (including those for the preparation of lower tier plans and projects). Projects would need to be subject to normal planning and environmental assessment processes, as well as complying with the Corridor and Route Selection Process for relevant new infrastructure. The development of green infrastructure can achieve synergies with regard to the provision of</p>				

open space amenities, sustainable mobility, the sustainable management of water, the protection and management of biodiversity, the protection of cultural heritage and the protection of protected landscape sensitivities.

The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 “Mitigation Measures” of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Leitrim County Council is helping to ensure that:

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

The Transport provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.

### 8.7.8 Chapter 9: Infrastructure and Energy

Plan Provisions, including:	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Mitigated Conflicts	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Provisions of this Chapter include those relating to Infrastructure and Energy. For more details, please refer to the Plan.	BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L		BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L	
<p><b>Commentary</b></p> <p>The assessment of the Plan’s Infrastructure and Energy provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and</li> <li>• Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report.</li> </ul> <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of the County’s towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County’s settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County’s sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The focus of most of the provisions in this Chapter is the protection and management of the County’s environment, including the protection and management of environmental components including water resources and the Water Framework Directive, human health, climate, noise, light pollution and waste management.</p> <p>Provisions relating to water supply, wastewater and surface/storm water drainage would, by protecting water resources, providing safe drinking water and appropriately treating waste water, contribute towards the protection of various environmental components including: human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna, the status of waters, flood risk management and soil. There would be potential for significant adverse environmental effects upon various environmental components to arise during construction of water services infrastructure. Such</p>				

potential significant adverse effects could also arise during operation: the protection of human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the status of waters, could all be conflicted with by outflows and abstractions. Mitigation has been integrated into the Plan that address these effects, for example, WI POL 4 provides that “water abstractions should ensure appropriate levels of environmental management and protection, including ensuring compliance with the Water Framework Directive and Habitats Directive”.

In certain locations, due to the soils and drainage, certain waste water treatment systems do not provide the necessary level of treatment and other options should be investigated such as wetland systems or clusters of rural serviced sites. In other areas various systems will work subject to the relevant requirements.

Flood risk management provisions would contribute towards the protection and management of human health, biodiversity, flora and fauna, cultural heritage, water status and existing infrastructure and services. Flood risk management infrastructure (if required) has the potential to result in significant adverse environmental effects during construction and operation on most environmental components. These types of infrastructure are often constructed in ecologically and visually sensitive areas and adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams. Potential adverse effects will be mitigated both by measures which have been integrated into the Plan (including those identified at Section 9 of this report) and by measures arising from lower tier assessments. SUDS can contribute towards the maintenance and improvement in the status of water bodies and flood risk management.

Waste Management provisions incorporate circular economy principles that are supported in the RSES.

Major Accidents provisions would to contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.

Supporting the sustainable development, maintenance and upgrading of electricity and gas infrastructure contributes towards the framework for the development of energy. These provisions would contribute towards achieving various government objectives and targets including those relating to climate mitigation and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing the amount of energy to be consumed from renewable sources. The development of renewable energy would have the potential to adversely impact upon the environment, if unmitigated. Further general commentary on the types of potential effects arising from certain renewable energy types is provided under Section 8.7.11.

Information Communications Technology infrastructure, Broadband and Telecommunications developments have the potential to result in significant adverse effects. Some of these types of developments require significant levels of energy to operate. Mitigation, including ensuring that telecommunications structures are located to minimise and /or mitigate any adverse impacts on communities, residential properties, schools and the built or natural environment, have been integrated into these provisions.

The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 “Mitigation Measures” of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Leitrim County Council is helping to ensure that:

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

Various Infrastructure and Energy provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.

## 8.7.9 Chapter 10: Rural Development

Plan Provisions, including:	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	<b>Mitigated Conflicts</b>	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
Provisions of this Chapter include those relating to Rural Development. For more details, please refer to the Plan.	<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>		<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>	
<p><b>Commentary</b></p> <p>The assessment of the Plan's Rural Development provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and</li> <li>• Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report.</li> </ul> <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>Agriculture and forestry are essential to the sustenance of rural populations and associated existing sustainable rural management practices, which can often sustain biodiversity.</p> <p>Agriculture is essential to the sustenance of rural populations and associated existing sustainable rural management practices which can often sustain biodiversity. Agriculture is however a source of waste and emissions of ammonia from agricultural activities (e.g. manure handling, storage and spreading) and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter can have significant effects on water, soil, water, biodiversity and human health.</p> <p>Forestry and access to forestry for amenity would contribute towards the sustenance of rural populations and can improve the biodiversity value of the countryside. Depending on how it is developed, forestry has the potential to adversely affect various environmental components including biodiversity and flora and fauna, water and human health, the landscape.</p> <p>An extractive industry is essential for sustainable development however it presents the potential for significant adverse environmental effects to arise with regard to all environmental components, if unmitigated.</p> <p>Various Rural Development provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment. Mitigation intending to protect the environment has been integrated into provisions throughout in this Chapter, including through the various Trees and Hedgerows provisions and Policy RUR ECON POL 5, which relates to the sustainable development of fisheries.</p>				

## 8.7.10 Chapter 11: Heritage

Plan Provisions, including:	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	<b>Mitigated Conflicts</b>	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
Provisions of this Chapter include those relating to Heritage. For more details, please refer to the Plan.	<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>		<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>	
<p><b>Commentary</b></p> <p>The assessment of the Plan's Heritage provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and</li> <li>• Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report.</li> </ul> <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The focus of most of the provisions in this Chapter is the protection and management of the County's natural heritage (including biodiversity, water, soil and landscape) and built heritage (including archaeological heritage and architectural heritage).</p> <p>Provisions, such as those related to Invasive Alien Species, will ensure that no significant adverse effects will arise from implementation of the Plan within or beyond the County border.</p> <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Leitrim County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and</li> <li>• The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.</li> </ul> <p>Various Natural Heritage provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.</p>				

## 8.7.11 Chapter 12: Climate Action and Renewable Energy

Plan Provisions, including:	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	<b>Mitigated Conflicts</b>	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
Provisions of this Chapter include those relating to Climate Action and Renewable Energy. For more details, please refer to the Plan.	<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>		<b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b>	
<p><b>Commentary</b></p> <p>The assessment of the Plan's Climate Action and Renewable Energy provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and</li> <li>• Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report.</li> </ul> <p>Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.</p> <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards the Statutory consent granting and decision-making framework for land use developments and activities, and sustainable development of the County, in combination with other Plan provisions and other plans, programmes, strategies, etc. Potential adverse environmental effects arising from land use development and activities include in-combination effects arising from services and infrastructure to service development, for example those relating to water services, transport and energy.</p> <p>The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 "Mitigation Measures" of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Leitrim County Council is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and</li> <li>• The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Plan and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised.</li> </ul> <p>The provisions in this Chapter of the Plan will, in-combination with related provisions from the Climate Action Plan, National Planning Framework and the Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy contribute towards climate mitigation and adaptation in County Leitrim. A variety of sectors are addressed, including sustainable transport, renewable heat, energy storage, energy efficiency and conservation, agriculture and forestry, integrated land use and transport, urban and rural regeneration and nature-based approaches and green infrastructure.</p> <p>Renewable energy provisions would contribute towards achieving various government objectives and targets, including those relating to climate mitigation, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing the amount of energy to be consumed from renewable sources. The development of renewable energy would also have the potential to adversely impact upon the environment, if unmitigated. Further general commentary on the types of potential effects arising from certain renewable energy types is provided below.</p>				



**Wind Energy**

Positive Effects: Contribution towards renewable energy and minimisation of greenhouse gases targets

Potential Negative Effects, if unmitigated:

- Potential impacts include those associated with construction and operation of the turbines and ancillary facilities and infrastructure (including roads and electrical infrastructure)
- Potential human health impact: shadow flicker, noise, and impacts arising from landslides
- Potential impact upon designated and non-designated biodiversity and flora and fauna including birdlife
- Potential loss of soil/subsoil/geological stability, including peat slippage
- Potential erosion of peatlands as a result of wind farm and ancillary infrastructure (e.g. roads) development, alone and in combination with forestry
- Potential interactions leading to change in structure of soil and geology and changes to drainage
- Potential impacts on water status during construction – this could interact with drinking water sources and biodiversity
- Potential impacts upon the context of protected archaeological and architectural heritage – including the context of this heritage – as well as unknown archaeological heritage
- Potential impacts upon traffic during construction due to transportation of turbine components
- Changes to the character of areas would be likely to occur however visual impacts would depend on various factors including the size, number and spacing of the turbines, perception of the relevant areas and any cumulative effect arising from multiple wind farms

**Solar Energy**

Positive Effects: Contribution towards renewable energy and minimisation of greenhouse gases targets

Potential Negative Effects, if unmitigated:

- Potential impacts on architectural heritage – including the context of this heritage – at micro scale
- Potential impacts on habitats and species and micro scale
- Large scale installations may have visual impacts – these would depend on perception of the relevant area -, however these are unlikely to be provided for

**Bio-Energy**

Positive Effects: Contribution towards renewable energy and minimisation of greenhouse gases targets. Can provide for the use of agricultural and other wastes

Potential Negative Effects, if unmitigated:

- Potential impact upon designated and non-designated biodiversity and flora and fauna arising from changes in vegetation. Soil structure may also be impacted upon.
- Changes in farming practices may lead to changes in drainage and runoff which could impact upon biological and chemical status of waters - - this could interact with drinking water sources and biodiversity
- Potential human health impact: odour and noise from operation of plants
- Potential impacts upon traffic during operation due to transportation of fuel to plants
- Fuels derived from bio-mass still produce emissions however these are less than those derived from fossil fuels
- Changes to the land cover of areas could occur however visual impacts would depend on perception of the relevant area;
- Biomass plants may have visual impacts - these would depend on perception of the relevant area

**Hydro-Energy**

Positive Effects: Contribution towards renewable energy and minimisation of greenhouse gases targets

Potential Negative Effects, if unmitigated:

- Depending on the scale and location of the development there is potential for impacts to occur on biodiversity, in particular aquatic biodiversity
- Potential to impact upon the morphological, biological and chemical status of waters - this could interact with drinking water sources (in freshwater) and biodiversity
- Potential interactions leading to change in structure of soil and geology
- Operation could impact upon flood risk elsewhere
- Potential impacts upon archaeological heritage or nearby architectural heritage, including context
- Changes to the character of locations may occur however visual impacts would depend upon, inter alia, the size of the installation, ancillary facilities and the perception and visibility of the relevant area

**Geothermal Energy**

Positive Effects: Contribution towards renewable energy and minimisation of greenhouse gases targets.

<p>Potential Negative Effects, if unmitigated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential impacts upon the status of waters and ecology contained within, especially arising from changes in the temperature of groundwater which can impact upon the structure and ecology of the aquifer and any dependent surface waters - this could interact with drinking water sources</li> <li>• Potential interactions leading to change in structure of soil and geology</li> <li>• Potential impacts upon archaeology, including unknown underground archaeology</li> <li>• Potential impacts upon on site water services</li> <li>• Potential impacts upon context of archaeological and architectural heritage arising from surface installation</li> </ul>
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### 8.7.12 Chapter 13: Development Management Standards

Plan Provisions, including:	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	<b>Mitigated Conflicts</b>	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
<p><b>Various Development Management Measures, including under the headings of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Advice Relevant to All Prospective Developments</li> <li>• Environmental Assessments</li> <li>• Non-Conforming Uses</li> <li>• Material Contravention</li> <li>• Development Contributions</li> <li>• Bonds</li> <li>• Failure to Comply with Previous Permission</li> <li>• Enforcement</li> <li>• General Development Standards</li> <li>• Residential Development - Towns and Villages</li> <li>• Residential Development Rural Areas</li> <li>• Economic Development</li> <li>• Retail Development</li> <li>• Community Development</li> <li>• Natural and Built Heritage</li> <li>• Transport</li> <li>• Infrastructure, Flooding and Environmental Management</li> <li>• Rural Development</li> <li>• Tourism Related Development</li> <li>• Energy, Telecommunications and Services</li> <li>• Seveso Sites</li> </ul>	<p><b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b></p>		<p><b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b></p>	
<p><b>Commentary</b></p> <p>The assessment of the Plan's Development Management provisions against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs BFF, PHH, S, W, MA, A, C, CH and L) is consistent with the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and</li> <li>• Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report.</li> </ul>				

Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.

The focus of most of the provisions in this Chapter is the protection and management of the County's environment and the achievement of proper planning and sustainable development.

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

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

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

Various Development Management provisions in this Chapter of the Plan would contribute towards sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.

### 8.7.13 Volume 2: Settlement Plans

Plan Provisions, including	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	<b>Mitigated Conflicts</b>	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
<p>Chapter 2 of the Plan provides the Core Strategy (see Section 8.7.1), which sets out the settlement hierarchy for the County, informed by the settlement hierarchy in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy. A joint Local Area Plan with Roscommon County Council will be prepared to deliver a collaborative and integrated framework for the future development of the county town, Carrick on Shannon. A settlement plan has been developed for each of the other settlements as listed below, with Land Use Zoning objectives from Chapter 6 of the Plan (Urban Settlements – see Section 8.7.5) applied for each. Settlement Plans are included for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ballinaglera;</li> <li>• Ballinamore;</li> <li>• Carrigallen;</li> <li>• Cloone;</li> <li>• Dowra;</li> <li>• Dromahair;</li> <li>• Dromod;</li> <li>• Drumcong;</li> <li>• Drumkeeran;</li> </ul>	<p><b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b></p>		<p><b>BFF PHH S W MA A C CH L</b></p>	

- Drumshanbo;
- Drumsna;
- Fenagh;
- Glenfarne;
- Jamestown;
- Keshcarrigan;
- Kilclare;
- Killarga;
- Kiltyclogher;
- Kinlough;
- Leitrim;
- Lurganboy;
- Manorhamilton;
- Mohill;
- Newtowngore;
- Roosky;
- Rossinver; and
- Tullaghan.

#### Commentary

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

- Environmental effects detailed under subsections 8.2 to 8.7 of this report; and
- Assessments of the selected alternatives for the Plan provided at Section 7 of this report.

Implementing the Plan will help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and to focus on directing: compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of the County's towns and villages; and sustainable development elsewhere, including in the rural area of the County. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint, which are generally more robust, better serviced and better connected, will contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development can be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable the County's settlements to become more desirable places to live – so that they can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities. Compatible sustainable development in the County's sensitive areas is also provided for, subject to various requirements relating to environmental protection and management being met.

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

Each settlement is defined by a development boundary, wherein development is generally encouraged in an orderly sequential manner outward from the core area. This pattern of development will maximise the utility of existing and future infrastructure provision in a manner that promotes sustainability, active travel and makes more efficient use of underutilised lands.

The Plans will guide development to the right location and ensure that the development takes places in a coordinated and coherent way, while protecting the built and natural environment of each settlement.

Environmental considerations were integrated into the land use zoning through an interdisciplinary approach involving Planners and environmental specialists. Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF and Northern and Western RSES. The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input from the SEA and AA process facilitated zoning that avoids impacts upon sensitive ecology and European Sites. The AA concludes that the Plan, including Settlement Plans will not affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 network of European Sites<sup>100</sup>. The detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input from the SFRA process facilitated zoning that avoids inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated flood risk. The planning team also took into account other environmental considerations including sustainable mobility and sensitivities relating to cultural heritage, landscape and water as detailed in Section 4 of this report.

There are a wide range of land use types identified under most of the Land Use Zoning Objectives. Proposals for development will need to demonstrate compliance with the various written provisions of the Plan, as relevant, including those relating to environmental protection and management. Environmental considerations, such as those related to elevated levels of flood risk or ecological sensitivities may limit the types of uses that may be possible at certain sites. These provisions include those from Chapter 6 “Urban Settlements” relating to Constrained Land Use and the protection of European Sites (LAND USE POL 3).

The SEA process that has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has brought about various changes to the emerging Plan through an iterative process. Some of these measures are reproduced under Section 9 “Mitigation Measures” of this report. By integrating SEA recommendations into the Plan, Leitrim County Council is helping to ensure that:

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

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<sup>100</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: (a) no alternative solution available, (b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and (c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

## Section 9 Mitigation Measures

### 9.1 Introduction

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

Mitigation was achieved through the:

- Strategic work undertaken by the Council to ensure contribution towards environmental protection and sustainable development;
- Considering alternatives for the Plan;
- Integration of environmental considerations into zoning provisions of the Plan; and
- Integration of individual SEA, AA and SFRA provisions into the text of the Plan.

### 9.2 Strategic work undertaken by the Council to ensure contribution towards environmental protection and sustainable development

Far in advance of the submission of the pre-Draft Plan to the Elected Members for approval, the placing of the Draft Plan on public display and the adoption of the Plan, Leitrim County Council carried out research and data analysis, including the preparation of a Strategic Issues Paper and Background papers in order to inform the preparation of the Draft Plan.

The findings of this strategic work have been integrated into the Plan and will contribute towards both environmental protection and management and sustainable development within the County.

Strategic work undertaken by the Council includes background work in relation to Plan Strategies and other provisions for a variety of sectors.

### 9.3 Consideration of Alternatives

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

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

### 9.4 Integration of environmental considerations into Zoning of the Plan

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

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

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

Also considered were environmental sensitivities relating to ecology, cultural heritage, landscape and water, as well as the overlay mapping of environmental sensitivities.

## **9.5 Integration of individual SEA, AA and SFRA provisions into the text of the Plan**

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

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

**Table 9.1 Integration of Environmental Considerations into the Plan<sup>101</sup>**

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
Various	Various	<p>Development Management Standards from Chapter 13 of the Plan</p> <p>ILU POL 6 New transport infrastructure projects, including blueways and greenways, that are not already provided for by existing plans/programmes, which have been subject to environmental assessment, or are not already permitted, will be subject to feasibility assessment, considering need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report, and objectives relating to sustainable mobility. Where feasibility is established, a Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken, where appropriate, in two stages: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection; and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection. This Corridor and Route Selection Process will not be applicable to national roads schemes which are required to be progressed in accordance with statutory processes and TII Publications, including the Project Management Guidelines and Project Appraisal Guidelines.</p> <p>RUR SET POL 7 To have regard to the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines for Planning Authorities, April 2005, and any replacement guidance which require that new houses in rural areas be sited and designed to integrate with their physical surroundings and be generally compatible with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The protection of water quality in the arrangements made for onsite wastewater disposal facilities,</li> <li>The provision of a safe means of access in relation to road and public safety, and,</li> <li>The conservation of sensitive areas such as natural habitats, protected landscapes, the environs of protected structures and other aspects of our heritage.</li> </ol> <p>BG OBJ 1 To facilitate and lead in the delivery and completion of the Sligo Leitrim Northern Counties Railway Greenway along / adjoining the former Sligo Leitrim Northern Counties Railway (SLNCR) between Collooney, Co. Sligo and Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh in co-operation with Sligo and Cavan County Councils and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council subject to obtaining the necessary planning consent and only where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network. All proposed developments shall be in accordance with the Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive and all other relevant EU Directives.</p> <p>BG OBJ 2 To seek to advance the design and obtaining necessary planning consent to construct a Greenway along / adjoining the former Cavan &amp; Leitrim Rail line between Dromod and Belturbet, Co. Cavan in co-operation with Cavan County Council. The required planning consent will require the demonstration that the development will not have significant adverse effects on the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network. All proposed developments shall be in accordance with the Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive and all other relevant EU Directives.</p> <p>BG OBJ 4 To deliver a Blueway linking Carrick-on-Shannon to Leitrim Village and onwards to Battlebridge subject to obtaining the necessary planning consent and only where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network. All proposed developments shall be in accordance with the Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive and all other relevant EU Directives.</p>

<sup>101</sup> Note that non-material changes to individual Plan provisions referenced in this report may be updated during the finalisation of the Plan, including numbering, formatting and graphic design.



Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>BG OBJ 3 To complete the Blueway from Kilclare to Ballinamore subject to obtaining the necessary planning consent and only where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network. All proposed developments shall be in accordance with the Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive and all other relevant EU Directives.</p> <p>WI POL 5 To ensure the efficient and sustainable use and development of water resources and water services infrastructure, in order to manage and conserve water resources in a manner that supports a healthy society, economic development requirements and a cleaner environment. Water abstractions should ensure appropriate levels of environmental management and protection, including ensuring compliance with the Water Framework Directive and Habitats Directive.</p> <p>PL POL 1 To control lighting in urban and rural areas and in particular in sensitive locations, in order to minimise impacts on residential amenity, habitats and species of importance.</p> <p>AGG RES POL 7 To ensure that development for aggregates / mineral extraction, processing and associated processes does not significantly impact in the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Special Areas of Conservation and / or Special Protection Areas,</li> <li>Natural Heritage Areas and Proposed Natural Heritage Areas,</li> <li>Other areas of importance for the conservation of flora and fauna,</li> <li>Areas of significant archaeological potential,</li> <li>In the vicinity of a recorded National Monument,</li> <li>Sensitive Landscapes and,</li> <li>County Geological Sites and/or sites of geological importance</li> </ol> <p>WE POL 2 To ensure that the assessment of wind energy development proposals will have regard to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sensitivities of the county's landscapes;</li> <li>visual impact on protected views, prospects, designated landscapes, as well as local visual impacts;</li> <li>impacts on nature conservation designations, archaeological areas, county geological sites, historic structures, public rights of way and walking routes;</li> <li>local environmental impacts, including those on residential properties, such as noise and shadow flicker;</li> <li>visual and environmental impacts of associated development, such as access roads, plant and grid connections from the proposed wind farm to the electricity transmission network;</li> <li>scale, size and layout of the project and any cumulative effects due to other projects;</li> <li>the impact of the proposed development on protected bird and mammal species.</li> </ul>
<b>Biodiversity and flora and fauna</b>	<p>Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of/damage to biodiversity in</li> </ul>	<p>TOUR POL 6 To seek to sustainably manage any increase in visitor numbers in order to avoid significant effects including loss of habitat and disturbance, including ensuring that any new projects, such as blueways and greenways, are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities, such as riparian zones.</p> <p>TOUR POL 7 Where relevant, the Council and those receiving consent for development shall seek to sustainably manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant effects to sensitive habitats, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Management measures may include ensuring that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities. Visitor/Habitat Management Plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<p>designated sites (including European Sites, Wildlife Sites and Areas of Special Scientific Interest) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and</li> <li>• Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:</b></p> <p>ADV TOUR OBJ 4 To prepare Habitat and Visitor Management Plans for the protection of areas which are particularly sensitive to visitors subject to the availability of funding. The first such plan will be developed for Sheemore</p> <p>LAND USE POL 3 To protect the integrity of Special Areas of Conservation where such European Sites traverse through town and village settlements which includes lands identified for development within Dromahair, Kinlough, Manorhamilton and Rossinver development envelopes. These European Sites are protected from inappropriate development under the European Habitats Directive, transposing national legislation and various provisions under this Plan, which take primacy over other Development Plan provisions.</p> <p>RUR ECON POL 5 The Council will provide for the sustainable development of fisheries, where this is in compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives and other ecological protection objectives. Where new infrastructure is being provided, it should be positioned at already modified locations where feasible and sedimentation and siltation issues should be considered, with floating infrastructure used where feasible. Fishery related developments may necessitate the preparation of a Visitor/Habitat Management Plan that includes requirements in relation to sustainable fishing practices that would not affect the ecological site integrity and invasive species.</p> <p>AGR OBJ 1 To facilitate the development of agriculture while ensuring that natural waters, wildlife habitats and conservation areas are protected from pollution.</p> <p>FOR POL 3 To have regard to the recommendations contained in the Landscape Capacity Study for Commercial Forestry (March 2022) which forms Appendix VI to this Plan in informing the responses submitted by the Local Authority to all relevant applications for Tree Planting and Tree Felling licenses to the Forest Service or subsequent appeals to the Forestry Appeals Committee. This will be in line with the content of Section 10.6.5.</p> <p>AGG RES POL 4 To ensure that projects associated with the extractive industry carry out screening for Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the E.C. Habitats Directive and comply with all relevant Environmental Legislation as required.</p> <p><b>Natural Heritage Policies</b></p> <p>NH POL 1 To protect and conserve Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas.</p> <p>NH POL 2 To implement Article 6(3) and where necessary Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, including to ensure that Appropriate Assessment is carried out in relation to works, plans and projects with the potential to impact European sites (SACs and SPAs), whether directly or indirectly or in combination with any other plan(s) or project(s). All assessments must be in compliance with the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended, and the Planning and Development Act, as relevant.</p> <p>NH POL 3 To protect designated Natural Heritage Area (NHA) sites, including proposed Natural Heritage Area sites (pNHA) and seek to develop linkages between designated sites and other non-designated sites of ecological importance, where feasible and as resources permit.</p> <p>NH POL 4 To consult with relevant prescribed bodies, such as the National Parks and Wildlife Service (DoH/LGH), and take account of any licensing requirements when undertaking, approving and authorising development which is likely to affect plant, animal or bird species or habitats protected by law.</p> <p>NH POL 5 To ensure that development does not have a significant adverse impact on plant, animal or bird species or habitats protected by law, subject to satisfactory mitigation measures.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>NH POL 6 To protect and where possible enhance wildlife habitats and landscape features which act as ecological corridors/networks and stepping stones, such as river corridors, hedgerows and road verges, and to minimise the loss of habitats and features of the wider countryside (such as ponds, wetlands, trees) which are not within designated sites.</p> <p>NH POL 7 To treat the uplands of North Leitrim located above the 160m contour, as an ecologically-sensitive entity, where these uplands are not already designated as such.</p> <p>NH POL 8 To protect ecological networks linking protected and designated important sites within the County, in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>NH POL 9 To ensure that appropriate mitigation and/or compensation measures to conserve biodiversity, landscape character and green infrastructure networks are required in developments where habitats are at risk or lost as part of a development.</p> <p>NH POL 10 To ensure the protection, conservation and enhancement of the biodiversity of the county.</p> <p><b>Natural Heritage Objectives</b></p> <p>NH OBJ 1 To ensure that no project or programme giving rise to significant adverse, direct, indirect, secondary or cumulative impacts on the integrity of any Natura 2000 site(s), having regard to their qualifying interests and conservation objectives, arising from their size, scale, area or land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) .</p> <p>NH OBJ 2 To protect and conserve those sites designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) during the lifetime of this plan. The list of current SACs is contained in Table 1 of this chapter.</p> <p>NH OBJ 3 To protect and conserve those sites designated as Special Protection Areas during the lifetime of this plan. There is current one SPA in Co. Leitrim which is contained in Table 2 of this chapter.</p> <p>NH OBJ 4 To protect and conserve Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) that become designated and notified to the Local Authority during the lifetime of this plan. The list of current NHAs and proposed NHAs are contained in Table 3 and 4 of this chapter.</p> <p>NH OBJ 5 To protect the character, appearance and quality of the habitats and semi-natural features in County Leitrim such as woodlands, hedgerows, peatlands, wetlands and artificial waterways of historic or ecological importance.</p> <p>NH OBJ 6 To promote, in partnership with the relevant agencies, the development and implementation of codes of best practice through initiatives such as the Local Floral Pride initiatives, Community Environmental Action and the Green Schools projects.</p> <p>NH OBJ 7 To encourage appropriate management of landscape features, particularly through the development management process and using planning agreements with landowners and developers, where appropriate.</p> <p>NH OBJ 8 To identify and map over the lifetime of the Plan habitats and green infrastructure / sites of local biodiversity value of county importance and to raise awareness and understanding of the county's natural heritage and biodiversity.</p> <p>NH OBJ 9 To support the implementation of the relevant recommendations contained in the National Biodiversity Action Plan and the All Ireland Pollinator Plan.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>NH OBJ 10 To support the implementation of the actions contained in the Biodiversity Action Plan 2021-2025 when finalised, or any successor plan, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders and subject to the availability of the necessary funding sources.</p> <p><b>Peatlands Policies</b></p> <p>PEAT POL 1 To conserve peatlands and protect peatland landscapes within the County.</p> <p>PEAT POL 2 To seek hydrological reports for significant developments within and close to peatlands, to assess potential impacts on the integrity of the peatland ecosystems.</p> <p><b>Trees, Woodlands &amp; Hedgerows Policies</b></p> <p>TWH POL 1 To discourage the felling of healthy mature trees to facilitate development and to encourage the retention of healthy mature trees within developments to the maximum extent practicable.</p> <p>TWH POL 2 To require the planting of native broadleaved species, and species of local provenance, in new developments as appropriate. (See Table 5 in this regard).</p> <p>TWH POL 3 To support the Native Woodland and Neighbourhood schemes and other initiatives that aim to establish and enhance woodlands for recreational and wildlife benefits, in partnership with local communities.</p> <p>TWH POL 4 To protect and preserve existing hedgerows and minimise their removal. Where their removal is necessary, to seek their replacement with new hedgerow material native to the area (See Table 5 in this regard).</p> <p>TWH POL 5 To retain distinctive boundary treatment such as stone walls, when undertaking, authorising or approving development. Where the loss of the existing boundary is unavoidable as part of development, to ensure that the wall is re-built using local stone and local vernacular design.</p> <p><b>Objectives</b></p> <p>TWH OBJ 1 To use Tree Preservation Orders to protect important trees, groups of trees or woodlands, as appropriate which may be at risk or have an amenity, biodiversity or historic value during the lifetime of this plan.</p> <p><b>Pollinators Objective</b></p> <p>POLL OBJ 1 To manage and restore semi-natural habitats and their native plants on Council land in as far as is practicable and affordable.</p> <p><b>Invasive Species Policy</b></p> <p>IS POL 1 To require relevant development proposals to address the presence or absence of invasive alien species on proposed development sites and (if necessary) require applicants to prepare and submit an Invasive Species Management Plan where such a species exists to comply with the provisions of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2015 and the EU Regulation on Invasive Alien Species 1143/2014.</p> <p><b>Nature-Based Approaches and Green Infrastructure – Policies</b></p> <p>NBGI POL 1 To actively promote and encourage nature-based approaches and green infrastructure solutions as viable mitigation and adaptation measures to reduce GHG emissions, increase the adaptive capacity of ecosystems and optimise the multifaceted benefits through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation, promotion, and restoration of the natural environment;</li> <li>• Integrating an ecosystem services approach and promote healthy living environments through enhanced connection with nature and recreation/amenity;</li> </ul>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhancing biodiversity in urban and rural settings;</li> <li>• Assist with water and flood risk management; and</li> <li>• Carbon storage or sequestration.</li> </ul>
<b>Population and human health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential adverse effects arising from flood events.</li> <li>• Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors.</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors.</p> <p><b>Major Accident Directive Policies</b></p> <p>SEV POL 1 To comply with the Seveso III Directive in reducing the risk and limiting the potential consequences of major industrial accidents.</p> <p>SEV POL 2 To have regard to the advice of the Health &amp; Safety Authority when considering proposals for new SEVESO sites.</p> <p>SEV POL 3 To permit new Seveso development only in low risk locations within acceptable distances from vulnerable residential, retail and commercial development.</p> <p><b>Air Quality Policies</b></p> <p>AQ POL 1 To promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development in accordance with the EU Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/5/0/EC) and ensure that all air emissions associated with new developments are within Environmental Quality Standards as out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (SI No. 180 of 201) (or any updated/superseding documents).</p> <p>AQ POL 2 To promote air quality improvements, where practicable, through a shift to more sustainable modes of transport, reduced use of fossil fuels and a resulting reduction in carbon dioxide emissions.</p> <p><b>Noise Pollution Policies</b></p> <p>NP POL 1 To support the implementation of the Noise Directive 2002/49/EC and associated Environmental Noise Regulations 2006.</p> <p>NP POL 2 To require individual development proposals to be assessed against the Noise Assessment Criteria contained in Section ** of Chapter 12, Development Management Standards.</p> <p>NP POL 3 To have regard to acoustical planning in the planning process to ensure that future developments include provisions to protect the population from the effects of environmental noise in the interests of residential amenity and public health.</p> <p>NP POL 4 Development proposals should identify and implement noise mitigation measures, where warranted, for development proposed in the vicinity of existing or proposed national roads. The costs of implementing mitigation measures shall be borne by the developer, as the Authority will not be responsible for the provision of additional noise mitigation.</p> <p><b>Noise Pollution Objective</b></p> <p>NP OBJ 1 To implement the actions contained in the Leitrim Noise Plan 2018-2023 (or any replacement Plan) which seeks to address environmental noise from major roads in the county and which endeavours to maintain satisfactory noise environments where they exist.</p>
<b>Soil</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Water.</p> <p>WQ POL 10 To assess proposals for development in terms of their impact on human health to include, inter alia, the potential impact on existing adjacent developments, on existing land uses and / or the surrounding landscape. Where proposed developments would be likely to have a significant adverse effect on the amenities of the area through pollution by noise, fumes,</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<p>resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential for riverbank and coastal erosion.</li> </ul>	<p>odours, dust, grit or vibration, or cause pollution of air, water and/or soil, mitigation measures shall be introduced in order to eliminate adverse environmental impacts or reduce them to an acceptable operating level.</p> <p>WQ POL 11 Where brownfield redevelopment is proposed, adequate and appropriate investigations shall be carried out into the nature and extent of any soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development work.</p> <p>WE POL 2 To ensure that the assessment of wind energy development proposals will have regard to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sensitivities of the county's landscapes;</li> <li>• visual impact on protected views, prospects, designated landscapes, as well as local visual impacts;</li> <li>• impacts on nature conservation designations, archaeological areas, county geological sites, historic structures, public rights of way and walking routes;</li> <li>• local environmental impacts, including those on residential properties, such as noise and shadow flicker;</li> <li>• visual and environmental impacts of associated development, such as access roads, plant and grid connections from the proposed wind farm to the electricity transmission network;</li> <li>• scale, size and layout of the project and any cumulative effects due to other projects;</li> <li>• the impact of the proposed development on protected bird and mammal species.</li> </ul> <p><b>Peatlands Policies</b></p> <p>PEAT POL 1 To conserve peatlands and protect peatland landscapes within the County.</p> <p>PEAT POL 2 To seek hydrological reports for significant developments within and close to peatlands, to assess potential impacts on the integrity of the peatland ecosystems.</p> <p><b>Areas of Geological Interest Policies</b></p> <p>AGI POL 1 To recognise the need to identify sites of geological interest in the County and to protect these sites in the interest of protecting our geological heritage.</p> <p>AGI POL 2 To protect County Geological Sites from inappropriate development, as outlined in Appendix ** of this Plan.</p> <p><b>Aggregate Resources</b></p> <p>AGG RES POL 8: To ensure that the extraction of minerals and aggregates protects to the maximum practicable extent the visual quality of the receiving landscape and do not adversely affect the environment or adjoining existing land uses.</p> <p>AGG RES POL 9: The use of the following chemicals as a processing agent shall not be permitted as part of any proposed processing operation located above or adjacent to surface or ground waters, or which could potentially impact such waters regardless of their location - mercury, cyanide or cyanide compounds, breakdown products of cyanide, or sulfuric acid. These present an unreasonable risk of environmental harm due to the toxicity of such chemicals and their demonstrated potential to cause damage to the environment.</p>
<b>Water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil and Material Assets.</p> <p>WI POL 5 To ensure the efficient and sustainable use and development of water resources and water services infrastructure, in order to manage and conserve water resources in a manner that supports a healthy society, economic development requirements and a cleaner environment. Water abstractions should ensure appropriate levels of environmental management and protection, including ensuring compliance with the Water Framework Directive and Habitats Directive.</p>

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	<p>(ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Water Quality Policies</b></p> <p>WQ POL 1 To protect existing groundwater sources and aquifers in the county and to manage development in a manner consistent with the protection of these resources.</p> <p>WQ POL 2 To support the preparation of Drinking Water Protection Plans and Source Protection Plans to protect sources of public water supply, in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and the current and future cycles of River Basin Management Plans. In this regard, the Council supports mitigation and protection measures for all protected areas, including Drinking Water Protected Areas.</p> <p>WQ POL 3 In conjunction with Irish Water, to have regard to the EPA 2019 publication “Drinking Water Report for Public Water Supplies 2018” (and any subsequent update) in the establishment and maintenance of water sources in the County.</p> <p>WQ POL 4 To ensure that the delivery and phasing of water services are subject to the required appraisal, planning and environmental assessment processes and avoid impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.</p> <p>WQ POL 5 To encourage the use of catchment-sensitive farming practices, in order to meet Water Framework Directive targets and to comply with the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>WQ POL 6 To discourage the over-concentration of individual septic tanks and treatment plants in any given area to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution.</p> <p>WQ POL 7 To seek to protect water quality in areas of high groundwater vulnerability in the consideration of development proposals which rely on individual wastewater treatment systems and which would increase effluent loading from such systems within a concentrated area.</p> <p>WQ POL 8 To provide guidance and advice regarding the protection of water supply to private wells with the overall responsibility remaining with the householder.</p> <p>WQ POL 9 To permit new development only in instances where it has been demonstrated to the satisfaction of Irish Water that there is sufficient capacity (in compliance with the Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plan) for appropriate collection, treatment and disposal of waste water to cater for the anticipated loading arising from the proposed development.</p> <p>WQ POL 10 To assess proposals for development in terms of their impact on human health to include, inter alia, the potential impact on existing adjacent developments, on existing land uses and / or the surrounding landscape. Where proposed developments would be likely to have a significant adverse effect on the amenities of the area through pollution by noise, fumes, odours, dust, grit or vibration, or cause pollution of air, water and/or soil, mitigation measures shall be introduced in order to eliminate adverse environmental impacts or reduce them to an acceptable operating level.</p> <p>WQ POL 11 Where brownfield redevelopment is proposed, adequate and appropriate investigations shall be carried out into the nature and extent of any soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development work.</p> <p><b>Water Quality Objectives</b></p> <p>WQ OBJ 1 To promote public awareness of water quality issues and the measures required to protect surface water, coastal and transitional waters and groundwater bodies from inappropriate and damaging development.</p> <p>WQ OBJ 2 To achieve our targets of attaining and maintaining a minimum of ‘good status’ in all water bodies in compliance with the Water Framework Directive and to co-operate with the implementation of the National River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021, and subsequent replacement plans. This includes contributing towards the protection of blue dot catchments and</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>drinking water resources whilst having cognisance of the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Documents No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>WQ OBJ 3 To implement the measures of the River Basin Management Plan, including continuing to work with communities through the Local Authority Waters Programme to restore and improve water quality in the identified areas of action.</p> <p>WQ OBJ 4 To ensure that development will not have an unacceptable adverse impact on water quality including surface water, ground water, designated source protection areas, river corridors and associated wetlands.</p> <p>WQ OBJ 5 To request the Geological Survey of Ireland to complete a Groundwater Protection Scheme for County Leitrim to assist in decision making by the Local Authority on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater.</p> <p>WQ OBJ 6 To promote the sustainable use of water and water conservation measures in existing and new development within the County and encourage demand management measures among all water users.</p> <p><b>Flood Risk Management Policies</b></p> <p>FRM POL 1 To adopt a comprehensive risk-based planning approach to flood management to prevent or minimise future flood risk. In accordance with the Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities, the avoidance of development in areas where flood risk has been identified shall be the primary response.</p> <p>FRM POL 2 To ensure that a flood risk assessment is carried out for any development proposal, in accordance with the Planning System and Flood Risk Management (DoEHLG/OPW 2009) and Circular PL2/2014. This assessment shall be appropriate to the scale and nature of risk to the potential development.</p> <p>FRM POL 3 To consult with the OPW in relation to proposed developments in the vicinity of drainage channels and rivers for which the OPW are responsible, and to retain a strip on either side of such channels where required, to facilitate maintenance access thereto. In addition, to promote the sustainable management and uses of water bodies and avoid culverting or realignment of these features.</p> <p>FRM POL 4 To protect and enhance the County's floodplains and wetlands as 'green infrastructure' which provides space for storage and conveyance of floodwater, enabling flood risk to be more effectively managed and reducing the need to provide flood defences in the future, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria.</p> <p>FRM POL 5 To protect the integrity of any formal flood risk management infrastructure, thereby ensuring that any new development does not negatively impact any existing defense infrastructure or compromise any proposed new defense infrastructure.</p> <p>FRM POL 6 To ensure that where flood risk management works take place that the natural, cultural and built heritage, rivers, streams and watercourses are protected and enhanced to the maximum extent possible.</p> <p>FRM POL 7 To ensure each flood risk management activity is examined to determine actions required to embed and provide for effective climate change adaptation as set out in the OPW Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan Flood Risk Management applicable at the time.</p> <p>FRM POL 8 To consult, where necessary, with Inland Fisheries Ireland, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and other relevant agencies in the provision of flood alleviation measures in the County.</p>



Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>FRM POL 9 To ensure that in assessing applications for developments, that consideration is had to the impact on the quality of surface waters having regard to targets and measures set out in the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 and any subsequent local or regional plans.</p> <p>FRM POL 10 Development proposals will need to be accompanied by a Development Management Justification Test when required by the Guidelines. Where only a small proportion of a site is at risk of flooding, the sequential approach shall be applied in site planning, in order to seek to ensure that no encroachment onto or loss of the flood plain occurs and/or that only water compatible development such as 'Open Space' would be permitted for the lands which are identified as being at risk of flooding within that site.</p> <p>FRM POL 11 To require proposals for development to comply with requirements of the Planning System and Flood Risk Assessment Guidelines including providing detailed design specifications as may be required to facilitate the impact of development.</p> <p>a) Extensions of existing uses or minor development within flood risk areas shall not: obstruct important flow paths; introduce a number of people into flood risk areas; entail the storage of hazardous substances; have adverse impacts or impede access to a watercourse, floodplain or flood protection and management facilities; or increase the risk of flooding elsewhere.</p> <p>b) Applications for development within Flood Zones A or B, and on lands subject to the mid-range future scenario floods extents, as published by the Office of Public Works, shall be subject to site specific flood risk assessment. Such assessments shall consider climate change impacts and adaptation measures and shall provide details of structural and non-structural flood risk management measures, to include, but not be limited to specifications of the following:</p> <p><b>Floor Levels</b></p> <p>In areas of limited flood depth, the specification of the threshold and floor levels of new structures shall be raised above expected flood levels to reduce the risk of flood losses to a building, by raising floor heights within the building structure using a suspended floor arrangement or raised internal concrete platforms.</p> <p>When designing an extension or modification to an existing building, an appropriate flood risk reduction measure shall be specified to ensure the threshold levels into the building are above the design flood level. However, care must also be taken to ensure access for all is provided in compliance with Part M of the Building Regulations.</p> <p>Where threshold levels cannot be raised to the street for streetscape, conservation or other reasons, the design shall specify a mixing of uses vertically in buildings - with less vulnerable uses located at ground floor level, along with other measures for dealing with residual flood risk.</p> <p><b>Internal Layout</b></p> <p>Internal layout of internal space shall be designed and specified to reduce the impact of flooding [for example, living accommodation, essential services, storage space for provisions and equipment shall be designed to be located above the predicted flood level]. In addition, designs and specifications shall ensure that, wherever reasonably practicable, the siting of living accommodation (particularly sleeping areas) shall be above flood level.</p> <p>With the exception of single storey extensions to existing properties, new single storey accommodation shall not be deemed appropriate where predicted flood levels are above design floor levels. In all cases, specifications for safe access, refuge and evacuation shall be incorporated into the design of the development.</p> <p><b>Flood-Resistant Construction</b></p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>Developments in flood vulnerable zones shall specify the use of flood-resistant construction aimed at preventing water from entering buildings - to mitigate the damage floodwater caused to buildings.</p> <p>Developments shall specify the use of flood resistant construction prepared using specialist technical input to the design and specification of the external building envelope – with measures to resist hydrostatic pressure (commonly referred to as “tanking”) specified for the outside of the building fabric.</p> <p>The design of the flood resistant construction shall specify the need to protect the main entry points for floodwater into buildings - including doors and windows (including gaps in sealant around frames), vents, air-bricks and gaps around conduits or pipes passing through external building fabric.</p> <p>The design of the flood resistant construction shall also specify the need to protect against flood water entry through sanitary appliances as a result of backflow through the drainage system.</p> <p><b>Flood-Resilient Construction</b></p> <p>Developments in flood vulnerable zones that are at risk of occasional inundation shall incorporate design and specification for flood resilient construction which accepts that floodwater will enter buildings and provides for this in the design and specification of internal building services and finishes. These measures limit damage caused by floodwater and allow relatively quick recovery. This can be achieved by specifying wall and floor materials such as ceramic tiling that can be cleaned and dried relatively easily, provided that the substrate materials (e.g. blockwork) are also resilient. Electrics, appliances and kitchen fittings shall also be specified to be raised above floor level, and one-way valves shall be incorporated into drainage pipes.</p> <p><b>Emergency Response Planning</b></p> <p>In addition to considering physical design issues for developments in flood vulnerable zones, the developer shall specify that the planning of new development also takes account of the need for effective emergency response planning for flood events in areas of new development.</p> <p>Applications for developments in flood vulnerable zones shall provide details that the following measures will be put in place and maintained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of flood warnings, evacuation plans and ensuring public awareness of flood risks to people where they live and work;</li> <li>• Coordination of responses and discussion with relevant emergency services i.e. Local Authorities, Fire and Rescue, Civil Defence and An Garda Síochána through the SFRA; and</li> <li>• Awareness of risks and evacuation procedures and the need for family flood plans.</li> </ul> <p><b>Access and Egress During Flood Events</b></p> <p>Applications for developments in flood vulnerable zones shall include details of arrangements for access and egress during flood events. Such details shall specify that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• flood escape routes have been kept to publicly accessible land;</li> <li>• such routes will have signage and other flood awareness measures in place, to inform local communities what to do in case of flooding;</li> <li>• this information will be provided in a welcome pack to new occupants.</li> </ul> <p><b>Further Information</b></p> <p>Further and more detailed guidance and advice can be found at <a href="http://www.flooding.ie">http://www.flooding.ie</a> and in the Building Regulations.</p>

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		<p>c) In Flood Zone C, where the probability of flooding is low (less than 0.1%, Flood Zone C), site-specific Flood Risk Assessment may be required and the developer should satisfy themselves that the probability of flooding is appropriate to the development being proposed. The County Development Plan SFRA datasets and the most up to date information on flood risk, including that relating to climate scenarios, should be consulted by prospective applicants for developments in this regard and will be made available to lower-tier Development Management processes in the Council.</p> <p>FRM POL 12 To require that Strategic Flood Risk Assessments and site-specific Flood Risk Assessments shall provide information on the implications of climate change with regard to flood risk in relevant locations. The 2009 OPW Draft Guidance on Assessment of Potential Future Scenarios for Flood Risk Management (or any superseding document) shall be consulted with to this effect.</p> <p>FRM POL 13 To require the submission of site-specific Flood Risk Assessments for developments undertaken within Flood Zones A &amp; B and on lands subject to the mid-range future scenario floods extents, as published by the Office of Public Works. These Flood Risk Assessments shall consider climate change impacts and adaptation measures including details of structural and non-structural flood risk management measures, such as those relating to floor levels, internal layout, flood-resistant construction, flood-resilient construction, emergency response planning and access and egress during flood events.</p> <p>FRM POL 14 To require the undertaking of site-specific flood risk assessments for applications for development on land identified as benefitting land which may be prone to flooding</p> <p>FRM POL 15 To ensure that new developments proposed in Arterial Drainage Schemes and Drainage Districts do not result in a significant negative impact on the integrity, function and management of these areas.</p> <p>FRM POL 16 Any potential future variations to and review of the Plan shall consider, as appropriate any new and/or emerging data relating to flood risk.</p> <p><b>Objectives</b></p> <p>FRM OBJ 1 To implement and comply fully with the recommendations of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment prepared as part of the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029.</p> <p>FRM OBJ 2 To implement in conjunction with the Office of Public Works the recommendations contained in the Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMP's), including planned investment measures for managing and reducing flood risk, subject to obtaining the necessary planning consent and undertaking the required environmental assessments.</p> <p><b>Storm Water Management Policies</b></p> <p>SWM POL 1 To implement Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) in developments to encourage a more sustainable approach to storm water management.</p> <p>SWM POL 2 To resist the discharge of additional surface water to combined sewers and promote Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDs) and solutions to maximise the capacity of towns with combined drainage systems, where practicable.</p> <p>SWM POL 3 To require that new developments are adequately serviced with surface water drainage infrastructure which meets the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, associated River Basin Management Plans and CFRAM Management Plans.</p> <p>SWM POL 4 To limit the rate of surface water run off to pre development levels for all green-field developments.</p> <p>SWM POL 5 In the case of one-off rural dwellings, surface water shall be disposed of, in its entirety within the curtilage of the development site by way of suitably sized soak holes.</p>

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		<p><b>Storm Water Management Objectives</b>            SWM OBJ 1 To require the use of SuDS to minimise and limit the extent of hard surfacing and paving and require the use of sustainable drainage techniques where appropriate, for new development or for extensions to existing developments, in order to reduce the potential impact of existing and predicted flooding risks.            SWM OBJ 2 To encourage the use of Green Roof technology particularly on apartment, commercial, leisure and educational buildings.</p>
<p><b>Air and Climatic Factors</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives.</li> <li>• Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality.</li> <li>• Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors.</li> <li>• Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management.</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to Plan's various sustainable transport provisions and detailed measures for Climate Action to <b>Section 8.5</b> of this SEA Environmental Report "<b>Integration of Climate Action into the Plan</b>".</p> <p><b>Air Quality Policies</b>            AQ POL 1 To promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development in accordance with the EU Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/5/0/EC) and ensure that all air emissions associated with new developments are within Environmental Quality Standards as out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (SI No. 180 of 201) (or any updated/superseding documents).            AQ POL 2 To promote air quality improvements, where practicable, through a shift to more sustainable modes of transport, reduced use of fossil fuels and a resulting reduction in carbon dioxide emissions.</p> <p><b>Noise Pollution Policies</b>            NP POL 1 To support the implementation of the Noise Directive 2002/49/EC and associated Environmental Noise Regulations 2006.            NP POL 2 To require individual development proposals to be assessed against the Noise Assessment Criteria contained in Section ** of Chapter 12, Development Management Standards.            NP POL 3 To have regard to acoustical planning in the planning process to ensure that future developments include provisions to protect the population from the effects of environmental noise in the interests of residential amenity and public health.            NP POL 4 Development proposals should identify and implement noise mitigation measures, where warranted, for development proposed in the vicinity of existing or proposed national roads. The costs of implementing mitigation measures shall be borne by the developer, as the Authority will not be responsible for the provision of additional noise mitigation.</p> <p><b>Noise Pollution Objective</b>            NP OBJ 1 To implement the actions contained in the Leitrim Noise Plan 2018-2023 (or any replacement Plan) which seeks to address environmental noise from major roads in the county and which endeavours to maintain satisfactory noise environments where they exist.</p> <p><b>Climate Action – Overarching Policies</b>            CA POL 1 To support the implementation of the European, national, regional and local objectives for climate adaptation and mitigation detailed in the EU Green Deal, Programme for Government 2020, Climate Action Plan 2019, National Climate Change Adaptation Framework 2018, Climate Adaptation Strategy, any Regional Decarbonisation Plan, relevant sectoral adaptation plans prepared to comply with the requirements of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, the Leitrim Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024, or any replacement plans or strategies.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>CA POL 2 To support the transition of the County towards a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050 by providing for consolidated development forms which facilitate the reduction of energy demand and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and which supports sustainable travel patterns in line with the Core Strategy.</p> <p>CA POL 3 To co-operate with and support the role of the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office (CARO).</p> <p>CA POL 4 To provide for a reduction in energy demand and greenhouse gas emissions by providing for consolidated development forms in settlements in Co. Leitrim.</p> <p>CA POL 5 To promote and encourage positive community and / co-operative led climate action initiatives and projects that seek to reduce emissions, improve energy efficiency, enhance green infrastructure and encourage awareness on climate change issues.</p> <p>CA POL 6 To encourage innovation and facilitate the development of pilot schemes that support climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.</p> <p><b>Climate Action – Overarching Objectives</b></p> <p>CA OBJ 1 To work in collaboration with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) and relevant stakeholders to deliver and support a number of Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs) throughout the county.</p> <p>CA OBJ 2 To develop a Decarbonisation Zone in Carrick on Shannon in accordance with Action 165 of the Climate Action Plan 2019. (see also CS OBJ 10 for further detail in this regard).</p> <p>CA OBJ 3 To review the outcomes of the forthcoming update to the Development Plan Guidelines when finalised and to consider reasonable steps to align with the approach to climate change advocated in the guidelines over the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p>CA OBJ 4 To support the development of both climate mitigation and climate adaptation initiatives and seek funding for the implementation of these initiatives from available sources including the Climate Action Fund administered by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC).</p>
<b>Material Assets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>• Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services)</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Soil, Water, Air, various Land Use and Phasing provisions.</p> <p><b>Water Infrastructure Policies</b></p> <p>WI POL 1 To collaborate with Irish Water in the preparation and prioritisation of their Investment Plans to ensure that the required piped water services capacity and infrastructure in the County is provided in a timely manner to facilitate future growth in accordance with the Core Strategy.</p> <p>WI POL 2 To prohibit the discharge of additional surface water to combined (foul and surface water) sewers in order to maximise the capacity of existing collection systems for foul water.</p> <p>WI POL 3 To support Irish Water in the promotion of effective management of trade discharges to sewers in order to maximise the capacity of existing sewer networks and minimise detrimental impacts on wastewater treatment works.</p> <p>WI POL 4 To ensure that all new developments connect to the public wastewater infrastructure, where available, and to encourage existing developments that are in close proximity to a public sewer to connect to that sewer subject to obtaining a connection agreement with Irish Water.</p> <p>WI POL 5 To ensure the efficient and sustainable use and development of water resources and water services infrastructure, in order to manage and conserve water resources in a manner that supports a healthy society, economic development</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<p>infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>• Increases in waste levels.</li> <li>• Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure.</li> <li>• Interactions between agriculture and soil, water, biodiversity and human health - including phosphorous and nitrogen deposition as a result of agricultural activities and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter.</li> </ul>	<p>requirements and a cleaner environment. Water abstractions should ensure appropriate levels of environmental management and protection, including ensuring compliance with the Water Framework Directive and Habitats Directive.</p> <p>WI POL 6 To ensure that adequate water services will be available to service development and that existing water services are not negatively impacted upon prior to making a decision to grant planning permission.</p> <p>WI POL 7 To require all new development to provide a separate foul and surface water drainage system and to incorporate sustainable urban drainage systems where appropriate in new development and the public realm.</p> <p>WI POL 8 To require developments to connect to public water supplies where available.</p> <p><b>Water Infrastructure Objectives</b></p> <p>WI OBJ 1 To work closely with Irish Water to identify and facilitate the timely delivery of the water services infrastructure required to realize the development objectives of this plan.</p> <p>WI OBJ 2 To pursue and support Irish Water in the upgrade of the Carrick-on-Shannon Water Treatment Plant as a project necessary to deliver the growth model outlined in the Core Strategy of the new County Development Plan.</p> <p>WI OBJ 3 To protect both ground and surface water resources including taking account of the impacts of climate change, and to support Irish Water in the development and implementation of Drinking Water Safety Plans and the National Water Resources Plan.</p> <p>WI OBJ 4 To promote water conservation and demand management measures among all water users, and to support Irish Water in implementing water conservation measures such as leakage reduction and network improvements.</p> <p>WI OBJ 5 To ensure that adequate storm water infrastructure is provided in order to accommodate the planned levels of growth within the plan area and to ensure that appropriate flood management measures are implemented to protect property and infrastructure.</p> <p>WI OBJ 6 To support the servicing of rural villages and graigs to include the development of serviced sites as an alternative to one-off housing in the countryside.</p> <p>WI OBJ 7 To facilitate the provision of appropriate sites for required water services infrastructure.</p> <p>WI OBJ 8 To proactively implement the Rural Water Programme and to transfer / transition rural schemes to Irish Water where possible and appropriate.</p> <p><b>Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Policies</b></p> <p>WWT POL 1 To ensure that private wastewater treatment plants, where permitted, are operated in compliance with the EPA Code of Practice for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (Population Equivalent ≤ 10) (March 2021), as may be amended.</p> <p>WWT POL 2 To promote the discontinuation of use of septic tanks / individual wastewater treatment systems and the connection of houses to piped foul sewers in all cases where this is feasible (subject to connection agreements with Irish Water) and require that all new developments utilise and connect to the piped wastewater infrastructure where available.</p> <p>WWT POL 3 The Planning Authority will consider where appropriate proposals for private communal sewerage schemes, subject to the protection of the receiving environment, in the following cases:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In areas where Irish Water do not propose to carry out a piped wastewater collection and treatment scheme.</li> <li>2. In areas where Irish Water intend at a later stage to provide a piped wastewater collection and treatment scheme.</li> </ol> <p>In the latter case, schemes should be so designed as to be capable of being connected to the Irish Water scheme in due course. Such schemes shall be purpose designed, appropriate in scale, specification and capacity, designed to the needs of users and shall</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk of aggregate potential sterilisation.</li> </ul>	<p>be subject to legally binding maintenance and bonding arrangements agreed with the County Council. Such proposals shall adhere to the EPA Code of Practice for Small Communities.</p> <p><b>Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Objective</b>  WWT OBJ 1 To continue to research and trial options in conjunction with academic partners and other stakeholders to provide an acceptable waste water treatment system solution to the poor percolation characteristics of sub soils which affect the majority of the county that would be suitable, affordable and not represent a risk of pollution to ground or surface waters or to public health.</p> <p><b>Storm Water Management Objectives</b>  SWM OBJ 1 To require the use of SuDS to minimise and limit the extent of hard surfacing and paving and require the use of sustainable drainage techniques where appropriate, for new development or for extensions to existing developments, in order to reduce the potential impact of existing and predicted flooding risks.  SWM OBJ 2 To encourage the use of Green Roof technology particularly on apartment, commercial, leisure and educational buildings.</p> <p><b>Waste Management Policies</b>  WM POL 1 To support the implementation of the Connacht Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021(as amended) or any replacement plan with particular emphasis on encouraging reuse, recycling and disposal of residual waste.  WM POL 2 To encourage and support waste prevention, minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery as methods of managing waste.  WM POL 3 To facilitate the transition from a waste management economy to a green circular economy to increase the value recovery and recirculation of resources.  WM POL 4 To encourage and support the provision of separate collection of waste in accordance with the requirements of the Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009, the Waste Framework Directive Regulations, 2011 and other relevant legislation.  WM POL 5 To promote and facilitate communities to become involved in environmental awareness activities and community based recycling initiatives or environmental management initiatives that will lead to local sustainable waste management practices.  WM POL 6 To encourage the development of waste infrastructure and associated developments in appropriate locations, as deemed necessary in accordance with the requirements of the Connacht Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021(as amended) or any replacement plan.  WM POL 7 To require the provision of bring banks, bottle banks or other appropriate recycling facilities as part of the overall development in the case of new or extended commercial, employment, educational, recreational facilities and managed residential developments (in excess of 20 no. residential units).  WM POL 8 To encourage the recycling of construction and demolition waste and the reuse of aggregate and other materials in future construction projects.  WM POL 9 To facilitate high quality sustainable waste recovery and disposal infrastructure / technology including composting (anaerobic digester) plants for managing organic solid waste, at appropriate locations, within the County subject to the protection of the amenities of the surrounding environment including European Sites, and in keeping with the EU waste hierarchy.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p><b>Waste Management Objectives</b></p> <p>WM OBJ 1 To continue to maintain the level of provision of existing civic amenity sites in the County in accordance with Waste Management Plan 2015 – 2021.</p> <p>WM OBJ 2 To ensure that the Council fulfils its duties under the Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery Activity) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No 524 of 2008), including those in relation to the identification and registration of closed landfills.</p> <p>WM OBJ 3 To identify suitable sites for additional recycling centres and bring bank facilities subject to the availability of appropriate funding and infrastructure, through the public or private sector, as appropriate.</p> <p>WM OBJ 4 To facilitate the provision of appropriate waste recovery and disposal facilities in accordance with the principles set out in the appropriate Waste Management Plan applicable from time to time made in accordance with the Waste Management Act 1996 (as amended).</p> <p>WM OBJ 5 To continue to reduce incidents of littering through the continued implementation and updating of the Council's Litter Management Plan.</p> <p>WM OBJ 6 To continue to support and work with local Tidy Towns groups in the maintenance and conservation of our towns and villages throughout the county.</p> <p><b>Energy Networks Infrastructure Policies</b></p> <p>ENI POL 1 To support the development of a safe, secure and reliable electricity network which assists EirGrid in their grid development programme, as set out in the Grid Development Strategy – Your Grid, Your Tomorrow, 2017 and Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios 2017: Planning our Energy Future, 2017.</p> <p>ENI POL 2 To co-operate and liaise with statutory and other energy providers in relation to power generation in order to ensure that the energy needs of future population and economic expansion within designated growth areas and across the wider region can be delivered in a sustainable and timely manner, which minimizes impacts on environmental sensitive and high visual quality areas and that capacity is available at local and regional scale to meet future needs.</p> <p>ENI POL 3 To require comprehensive studies to be undertaken for all technical and environmental considerations, to inform the assessment of proposed transmission routes brought forward for planning consent.</p> <p>ENI POL 3 To support the renewal, reinforcement and strengthening of the electricity transmission network with particular reference to the regionally important projects such as Renewable Integration Development Project.</p> <p>ENI POL 4 To support the necessary integration of the transmission network requirements to allow linkages with renewable energy proposals at all levels to the electricity transmission grid in a sustainable and timely manner.</p> <p>ENI POL 6 To support the build-out of the gas supply network into Co. Leitrim.</p> <p><b>Energy Networks Infrastructure Objective</b></p> <p>ENI OBJ 1 To safeguard existing strategic energy corridors from encroachment by other developments that could compromise the delivery of energy networks.</p> <p><b>Information Communications and Technology Policy</b></p> <p>DS POL 1 To support the implementation and roll out of action contained in the Digital Strategy for Leitrim 2021-2023 or any replacement Strategy.</p>



Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p><b>Broadband Policies</b></p> <p>BR POL 1 To support and facilitate the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and public and private agencies as appropriate, in improving high quality broadband infrastructure throughout the county and supporting the roll out of the National Broadband Plan.</p> <p>BR POL 2 To support and facilitate the delivery of the National Broadband Plan and Leitrim County Councils Digital Strategy as a means of developing further opportunities for enterprise, employment, education, innovation and skills development, for those who live and work in rural areas throughout Leitrim, where appropriate.</p> <p>BR POL 3 To promote the potential of the Metropolitan Area Network fibre optic cable managed by eNET.</p> <p><b>Telecommunications Policies</b></p> <p>TEL POL 1 To promote and facilitate the provision of a high quality telecommunications infrastructure network throughout the county having regard to the requirements of the "Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures – Guidelines for Planning Authorities".</p> <p>TEL POL 2 To support service providers in the development of key telecommunications infrastructure.</p> <p>TEL POL 3 To support the delivery of high capacity Information Communications Technology Infrastructure, broadband connectivity and digital broadcasting, throughout the county, in order to ensure economic competitiveness and in enabling more flexible work practices.</p> <p>TEL POL 4 To encourage co-location of antennae on existing telecommunications structures. The shared use of existing structures will be required where the numbers of masts located in any single area is considered to have an excessive concentration.</p> <p>TEL POL 5 To ensure that telecommunications structures are located to minimise and /or mitigate any adverse impacts on communities, residential properties, schools and the built or natural environment.</p> <p><b>Telecommunications Objectives</b></p> <p>TEL OBJ 1 To ensure that all areas of the county have adequate mobile communication coverage and in particular to require service providers to provide services in areas where existing coverage is poor.</p>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology<sup>102</sup> and protected architecture<sup>103</sup> arising from</li> </ul>	<p><b>Protection of the Built Environment Policies</b></p> <p>BH POL 1 To protect all structures in the Record of Protected Structures (Appendix ** of this plan).</p> <p>BH POL 2 To promote best conservation principles and practice with regard to protecting Leitrim's considerable architectural heritage.</p> <p>BH POL 3 To encourage the sympathetic retention, reuse and rehabilitation of Protected Structures and their setting.</p> <p>BH POL 4 To ensure that proposed development within the curtilage or attendant grounds of a Protected Structure respects the Protected Structure and its setting.</p>

<sup>102</sup> Archaeological heritage encompasses designated and unknown archaeological heritage including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, underwater archaeology, entries to the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record and Northern Ireland Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest and Archaeological Potential. Also encompassed are intervisibility and interrelationships between archaeological heritage within the wider landscape, including cross-border intervisibility and interrelationships.

<sup>103</sup> Architectural heritage encompasses that which is designated or included within the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH), NIAH Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Records of Protected Structures and Northern Ireland's Listed Buildings and Northern Ireland's Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes. Also encompassed are intervisibility and interrelationships between architectural heritage within the wider landscape, including cross-border intervisibility and interrelationships.

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	construction and operation activities.	<p>BH POL 5 To have regard to the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (October 2011) or replacement Section 28 Guidelines as may be issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage when assessing proposals for development affecting a protected structure and buildings listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage.</p> <p>BH POL 6 To require the preparation of an Architectural Impact Assessment undertaken by an architect or other suitably qualified professional with conservation expertise, where appropriate, for developments which include or relate to a Protected Structure or their curtilage and attendant grounds.</p> <p>BH POL 7 To promote the principles of best practice in conservation in terms of use of appropriate materials, repair techniques, and thermal upgrades by adhering to the guidelines as set out in Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht's Advice Series publications or their replacement.</p> <p>BH POL 8 To promote awareness and the appropriate adaptation of the county's architectural and archaeological heritage to deal with the effects of climate change.</p> <p><b>Protection of the Built Environment Objectives</b></p> <p>BH OBJ 1 To seek the protection of all structures within the County that are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.</p> <p>BH OBJ 2 To maximise funding opportunities for the conservation and restoration of Protected Structures.</p> <p>BH OBJ 3 To administer grant schemes which provide funding opportunities for the conservation and restoration of Protected Structures.</p> <p>BH OBJ 4 To support and implement the actions listed in the County Heritage Plan 2020 – 2025, and subsequent heritage plans, during the lifetime of this plan, subject to the availability of specific funding and resources.</p> <p>BH OBJ 5 To seek the appointment of a Conservation Officer to improve the level of expertise available to the Council and to support the protection and conservation of the rich built and cultural heritage within the County. However the Council will seek to develop in-house expertise in the interim in the absence of this appointment.</p> <p><b>Architectural Conservation Areas Policies</b></p> <p>ACA POL 1 To ensure the preservation of the special character of each Architectural Conservation Area listed in this Plan (See Table 6) by exercising specific design control with particular regard to building scale, proportions, historical plot sizes, building lines, height, general land use, fenestration, signage, and other appendages such as electrical wiring, building materials, historic street furniture, paving and shopfronts.</p> <p>ACA POL 2 To have regard to the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (October 2011) or replacement Section 28 Guidelines as may be issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage when assessing proposals for development affecting the character of an Architectural Conservation Area.</p> <p>ACA POL 3 To ensure the retention, repair and the regular maintenance, rather than replacement, of original / early features in buildings which contribute to the character of an Architectural Conservation Area such as chimney stacks, roof coverings, roof profiles, external wall treatments, doors and windows, shopfronts and pub fronts, while ensuring appropriate materials and repair techniques are used when repairs are being carried out.</p> <p>ACA POL 4 To ensure that inappropriate materials for windows, doors and rainwater goods constructed in aluminium or uPVC are not introduced to buildings within Architectural Conservation Areas.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>ACA POL 5 To encourage high quality, contemporary design and materials where appropriate when new buildings are being introduced into an Architectural Conservation Area and the retention of the historic scale and plot size. Such buildings should contribute to the visual enhancement of the area and respect the character of the Architectural Conservation Area as set out in the statement of character (when prepared).</p> <p>ACA POL 6 To ensure that new fascia boards inserted in the shopfront entablature are seamless without visible vertical joints or fixing materials. Hand painted fascia are encouraged and will be favoured over glossy, reflective signage.</p> <p>ACA POL 7 To retain historic items of street furniture where they contribute to the character of the ACA, such as, post boxes, benchmarks, gates, plaques, milestones, railings, etc.,</p> <p>ACA POL 8 To facilitate the removal of overhead cables throughout the Architectural Conservation Areas.</p> <p>ACA POL 9 To ensure the embodied energy of the current building stock within Architectural Conservation Area are acknowledged when considering proposed developments, and to encourage the reuse of these building over demolition.</p> <p><b>Architectural Conservation Areas Objectives</b></p> <p>ACA OBJ 1 To prepare a statement of character for each of the listed Architectural Conservation Areas in Table 6 within 2 years of the adoption of the County Development Plan in order to identify the character that is worthy of protection for each.</p> <p>ACA OBJ 2 To designate additional Architectural Conservation Areas where appropriate and provide a local policy framework for the preservation of the character of these areas. Consideration will be given to Lough Rynn and Drumsna in the first instance.</p> <p>ACA OBJ 3 To review the County Leitrim Shopfront Guidelines within the life of the County Development Plan.</p> <p><b>Archaeological Heritage Policies</b></p> <p>ARCH POL 1 To secure the preservation (i.e. preservation in-situ or in particular circumstances where the Council is satisfied that this is not possible, preservation by record as a minimum) of all archaeological remains and sites of importance such as National Monuments, Recorded Monuments, their setting and context.</p> <p>ARCH POL 2 To promote public awareness of the rich archaeological heritage that exists in County Leitrim.</p> <p>ARCH POL 3 To protect and enhance public accessibility to the County's industrial heritage.</p> <p>ARCH POL 4 To protect, preserve and promote the archaeological value of underwater archaeological sites and objects in rivers, lakes, intertidal and subtidal environments. In assessing proposals for development, the Council will take account of the archaeological potential of rivers, lakes, intertidal and sub-tidal environments. Where flood relief schemes are being undertaken, the Council will have regard to the 'Archaeological Guidelines for Flood Relief Schemes' (DHLGH and OPW 2021).</p> <p>ARCH POL 5 To support community initiatives and projects regarding preservation, presentation, publication of and access to archaeological heritage and underwater cultural heritage, provided such are compatible with appropriate conservation policies and standards, having regard to the guidance and advice of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.</p> <p><b>Archaeological Heritage Objectives</b></p> <p>ARCH OBJ 1 To promote the County's archaeological heritage as a tourism resource, in partnership with tourism organisations and stakeholders.</p> <p>ARCH OBJ 2 To ensure that any development (above or below ground or underwater), within the vicinity of a site of archaeological interest or protected wreck or area of underwater archaeological heritage shall not be detrimental to the archaeological remains, character of the site or its setting.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>ARCH OBJ 3 To require, where appropriate, that an archaeological assessment or underwater archaeological impact assessment be carried out by a suitably qualified person prior to the commencement of any activity that may impact upon archaeological heritage, including underwater archaeological heritage.</p> <p>ARCH OBJ 4 To protect the zones of archaeological potential, as identified in the Record of Monuments and Places, protected reefs and underwater archaeological heritage.</p> <p>ARCH OBJ 5 To protect archaeological sites, protected wrecks and underwater archaeological heritage discovered since the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places, which are recorded in the Sites and Monuments Record.</p>
<b>Landscape</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape.</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna and Cultural Heritage.</p> <p><b>Landscape Policies</b></p> <p>LCA POL 1 To conserve and enhance the high nature conservation value of the Landscape Character Areas in order to create/protect ecologically resilient and varied landscapes.</p> <p>LCA POL 2 To protect, enhance and contribute to the physical, visual and scenic character of County Leitrim and to preserve its unique landscape character.</p> <p>LCA POL 3 To ensure that landscape sensitivity and the preservation of the uniqueness of a landscape character area (where appropriate) is an important consideration in determining the appropriateness of development uses and proposals in areas of landscape sensitivity, (scenery, nature conservation or archaeology) in conjunction with the siting, design and materials proposed.</p> <p>LCA POL 4 To seek to ensure that local landscape features, including historic features and buildings, hedgerows, shelter belts and stone walls, are retained, protected and enhanced where appropriate, so as to preserve the local landscape and character of an area, whilst providing for future development</p> <p>LCA POL 5 To require landscape and visual impact assessments prepared by suitably qualified professionals be submitted with planning applications for development which may have significant impact on landscape character areas of medium or high sensitivity.</p> <p><b>Landscape Objectives</b></p> <p>LCA OBJ 1 To protect and enhance the quality, character, and distinctiveness of the physical, visual and scenic character of landscapes of the County in accordance with national policy and guidelines and the recommendations of the Leitrim Landscape Character Assessment (2020) in Appendix *.</p> <p>LCA OBJ 2 To ensure that the management of development will have regard to the value of the landscape, its character, importance, sensitivity and capacity to absorb change as outlined in Appendix * Leitrim Landscape Character Assessment (2020) and its recommendations.</p> <p><b>Landscape Designations Policies</b></p> <p>LD POL 1 To safeguard the protected views and prospects contained in Table 6 and on Map ** from intrusive development which would interfere unduly with the character and visual amenity of the landscape.</p> <p>LD POL 2 To protect Areas of High Visual Amenity from inappropriate development and reinforce their character, distinctiveness and sense of place.</p> <p>LD POL 3 To permit development in an Area of High Visual Amenity only where the applicant has demonstrated a very high standard of site selection, site layout and design and where the Planning Authority is satisfied that the development could not be accommodated in a less-sensitive location.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>LD POL 4 To require that a landscape and visual impact assessment, prepared by a suitably qualified professional, be submitted with planning applications for development which may have an impact on the landscape character of the area.</p> <p>LD POL 5 To ensure that development proposals have regard to the Landscape Character Assessment, the value of the landscape, its character, importance, sensitivity and capacity to absorb change.</p> <p>LD POL 6 To protect lakeshores from inappropriate development which would detract from the natural amenity of the area.</p> <p>LD POL 7 To permit development in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty where the applicant can satisfy the Planning Authority that it is not practicable to develop in a less-sensitive location and where it is demonstrated that the development will not impinge in any significant way on the character, integrity or uniformity of the landscape.</p> <p><b>Landscape Designations Objectives</b></p> <p>LD OBJ 1 To protect the quality, character and distinctiveness of the landscapes of the County.</p> <p>LD OBJ 2 To provide and maintain facilities, including viewing areas, lay-bys, safe pedestrian access and/or car parking, and where appropriate, associated seats and signs in the immediate vicinity of views that are identified in this Plan and as funds allow.</p> <p>LD OBJ 3 To undertake and adopt a landscape capacity assessment of the county for commercial afforestation.</p> <p>LD OBJ 4 To protect Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Areas of High Visual Amenity from inappropriate forms of development.</p>

## Section 10 Monitoring Measures

### 10.1 Introduction

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

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

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

### 10.2 Indicators and Targets

Monitoring is based around indicators which allow quantitative measures of trends and progress over time relating to the Strategic Environmental Objectives identified in Section 1 and used in the evaluation. Each indicator to be monitored is accompanied by the target(s) which were identified with regard to the relevant strategic actions. Given the position of the Development Plan in the land use planning hierarchy beneath the Northern and Western RSES, the measures identified in the RSES SEA have been used – as they are or having been slightly modified – in most instances. This consistency across the hierarchy of land use plans will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of future monitoring.

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

Monitoring is an ongoing process and the programme allows for flexibility and the further refinement of indicators and targets. The

Monitoring Programme may be updated to deal with specific environmental issues – including unforeseen effects – as they arise.

### 10.3 Sources

The Plan forms part of the wider land use planning framework comprising a hierarchy of policies, plans, programmes, etc. This wider framework, including the National Planning Framework and the Northern and Western RSES, is subject to its own SEA (and associated monitoring) requirements. At lower tiers of the hierarchy, Local Area Plans and individual projects will be subject to their own monitoring requirements as relevant. In implementing the Monitoring Programme the Council will take into account this hierarchy of planning and environmental monitoring. Sources for indicators may include existing monitoring databases (including those maintained by planning authorities and national/regional government departments and agencies) and the output of lower-tier environmental assessment and decision making (including a review of project approvals granted and associated documents and the output of any EIA monitoring programmes).

### 10.4 Reporting

The Council shall, in conjunction with the Regional Assembly and other sources as relevant, implement the monitoring programme as set out on Table 10.1. This will include the preparation of stand-alone SEA Monitoring Reports:

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 Plan, as required by Article 13J(2) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended);
2. On the significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in advance of the beginning of the review of the next Plan.

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

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
<b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b>	<b>BFF</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Condition of European sites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions in their land use plans and as a minimum, to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species</li> <li>• Implement and review, as relevant, County Leitrim Local Biodiversity Action Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DHLGH report of the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive - as required by Article 17 of the Directive (every 6 years)<sup>104</sup></li> <li>• DHLGH National Birds Directive Monitoring Report for the under Article 12 (every 3 years)<sup>105</sup></li> <li>• Consultations with the NPWS<sup>106</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where condition of European sites is found to be deteriorating this will be investigated with the Regional Assembly and the DHLGH to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of spatial plans that have included ecosystem services content, mapping and policy to protect ecosystem services when their relevant plans are either revised or drafted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions in their land use plans and as a minimum, to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species</li> <li>• Implement and review, as relevant, County Leitrim Local Biodiversity Action Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal review of local land use plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review internal systems</li> </ul>

<sup>104</sup> Including confirmation with development management that the following impacts have been considered and including use of monitoring data, where available: biodiversity/habitat loss; nitrogen deposition impacts on Natura 2000 sites; recreational disturbance resulting from implementation of tourism and recreation policies and objectives particularly in riparian areas; biodiversity enhancement; and disturbance /visitor pressure impacts of recreation, amenity and tourism development.

<sup>105</sup> Including confirmation with development management that the following impacts have been considered and including use of monitoring data, where available: biodiversity/habitat loss; nitrogen deposition impacts on Natura 2000 sites; recreational disturbance resulting from implementation of tourism and recreation policies and objectives particularly in riparian areas; biodiversity enhancement; and disturbance /visitor pressure impacts of recreation, amenity and tourism development.

<sup>106</sup> Including confirmation with development management that the following impacts have been considered and including use of monitoring data, where available: biodiversity/habitat loss; nitrogen deposition impacts on Natura 2000 sites; recreational disturbance resulting from implementation of tourism and recreation policies and objectives particularly in riparian areas; biodiversity enhancement; and disturbance /visitor pressure impacts of recreation, amenity and tourism development.

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SEAs and AAs as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Screen for and undertake SEA and AA as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of preparation of local land use plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review internal systems</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Status of water quality in the County's water bodies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Included under Water below</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Included under Water below</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Included under Water below</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compliance of planning permissions with Plan measures providing for the protection of Biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Chapter 11 “Heritage”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that they comply with all Plan measures providing for the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Chapter 11 “Heritage”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review internal systems</li> </ul>
<b>Population and Human Health</b>	<b>PHH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of Plan measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Chapter 4 “Economic Development, including Retail”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Chapter 4 “Economic Development, including Retail”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives</li> <li>Consultations with DECC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review internal systems</li> <li>Consultations with DECC</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors resulting from development permitted under the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultations with the Health Service Executive and EPA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultations with the Health Service Executive and EPA</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSO data</li> <li>Monitoring of Leitrim County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of spatial plans that include specific green infrastructure mapping</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require all local level land use plans to include specific green infrastructure mapping</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal review of local land use plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review internal systems</li> </ul>



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
Soil (and Land)	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of population growth occurring on infill and brownfield lands compared to greenfield (also relevant to Material Assets)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain built surface cover nationally to below the EU average of 4% as per the NPF</li> <li>In accordance with National Policy Objectives 3c of the National Planning Framework, a minimum of 30% of the housing growth targeted in any settlement is to be delivered within the existing built-up footprint of the settlement</li> <li>To map brownfield and infill land parcels across the County</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EPA Geoportal</li> <li>Compilation of greenfield and brownfield development for the DHLGH</li> <li>AA/Screening for AA for each application</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where the proportion of growth on infill and brownfield sites is not keeping pace with the targets set in the NPF and the RSES, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly to establish reasons and coordinate actions to address constraints to doing so.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instances where contaminated material generated from brownfield and infill must be disposed of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dispose of contaminated material in compliance with EPA guidance and waste management requirements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal review of grants of permission where contaminated material must be disposed of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultations with the EPA and Development Management</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental assessments and AAs as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Screen for and undertake environmental assessments and AA as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of grants of permission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review internal systems</li> </ul>
Water	W	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Status of water bodies as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programme for the WFD</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not to cause deterioration in the status of any surface water or affect the ability of any surface water to achieve 'good status'</li> <li>Implementation of the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EPA Monitoring Programme for WFD compliance<sup>107</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where water bodies are failing to meet at least good status this will be investigated with the DHLGH Water Section, the EPA Catchment Unit, the Regional Assembly and, as relevant, Irish Water to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance.</li> <li>Where planning applications are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the WWTP or failure of the WWTP to</li> </ul>

<sup>107</sup> Including monitoring of water quality and nitrogen deposition due to bioenergy and agricultural projects where available.

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of incompatible developments permitted within flood risk areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimise developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission</li> </ul>	<p>meet Emission Limit Values, the Council will consider whether it is necessary to coordinate a response with the Regional Assembly, EPA and Irish Water to achieve the necessary capacity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where planning applications are being permitted on flood zones, the Council will ensure that such grants are in compliance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines and include appropriate flood risk mitigation and management measures.</li> </ul>
<b>Material Assets</b>	<b>MA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programmed delivery of Irish Water infrastructure for all key growth towns in line with Irish Water Investment Plan and prioritisation programme to ensure sustainable growth can be accommodated</li> <li>• Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately and appropriately served with waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately and appropriately served by waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan</li> <li>• Where septic tanks are proposed, for planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that the outfall from the septic tank will not – in combination with other septic tanks– contribute towards any surface or ground water body not meeting the objective of good status under the Water Framework Directive</li> <li>• Facilitate, as appropriate, Irish Water in developing water and wastewater infrastructure</li> <li>• See also targets relating to greenfield and brownfield development of land under Soil and broadband under Population and Human Health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission Consultations with the Irish Water</li> <li>• DHLGH in conjunction with Local Authorities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where planning applications are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the WWTP or failure of the WWTP to meet Emission Limit Values, the Council will consider whether it is necessary to coordinate a response with the Regional Assembly, EPA and Irish Water to achieve the necessary capacity.</li> </ul>

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSO data</li> <li>Monitoring of Leitrim County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.</li> </ul>
<b>Air</b>	<b>A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 National Travel Survey levels</li> <li>NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, PM10 and PM2.5 as part of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decrease in proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 National Travel Survey levels</li> <li>Improvement in Air Quality trends, particularly in relation to transport related emissions of NO<sub>x</sub> and particulate matter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSO data</li> <li>Data from the National Travel Survey</li> <li>EPA Air Quality Monitoring</li> <li>Consultations with Department of Transport and DECC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response. See also entry under Population and human health above</li> </ul>
<b>Climatic Factors</b> <sup>108</sup>	<b>C</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of Plan measures relating to climate reduction targets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to climate reduction targets – including the legally binding targets of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, as amended, for Ireland to reach a target of net-zero emissions no later than 2050, and a cut of 51% by 2030 (compared to 2018 levels).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review internal systems</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute towards transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring of Leitrim County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where targets are not achieved, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly and the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office to establish reasons and develop solutions.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of renewable energy in transport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute towards the target of the Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC), for all Member States to reach a 10% share of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EPA Annual National Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory reporting</li> </ul>	

<sup>108</sup> Please also refer to relevant legislation and requirements under Section 4.10, Section 8.5 and Section 8.7.11 and Appendix I.

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
			renewable energy in transport by facilitating the development of electricity charging and transmission infrastructure, in compliance with the provisions of the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Action Regional Office</li> <li>• Consultations with DECC</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions across the electricity generation, built environment and transport sectors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute towards the target of reducing aggregate carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from electricity generation and large industry by 43% by 2030, relative to 2005 levels</li> <li>• Contribute towards the target of reducing aggregate carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from s from all other sectors, including agriculture, transport, buildings, and light industry, by 30% by 2030, relative to 2005 levels</li> </ul>		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy consumption, the uptake of renewable options and solid fuels for residential heating</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To promote reduced energy consumption and support the uptake of renewable options and a move away from solid fuels for residential heating</li> </ul>		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decrease in the proportion of journeys made by residents of the County using private fossil fuel-based car compared to 2016 levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSO data</li> <li>• Monitoring of Leitrim County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where trends toward carbon reduction are not recorded, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly and the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office to establish reasons and develop solutions.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above 2016 CSO figures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSO data</li> <li>• Monitoring of Leitrim County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above CSO 2016 figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.</li> </ul>

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

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

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

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>International/European Level</b>			
<b>SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.</li> <li>Provide for a high level of protection of the environment by carrying out an environmental assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out an environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive.</li> <li>Prepare an environmental report which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives that consider the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme.</li> <li>Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission.</li> <li>Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects.</li> <li>Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme.</li> <li>Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive.</li> <li>Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.</li> <li>Aims to assess and implement avoidance or mitigation measures to eliminate environmental effects, before consent is given of projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are made subject to a requirement for development consent and an assessment with regard to their effects. Those projects are defined in Article 4.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA.</li> <li>For projects listed in Annex II, a “screening procedure” is required to determine the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case by case examination. This should take into account Annex III.</li> <li>The environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case and in accordance with Articles 4 to 12, the direct and indirect effects of a project on the following factors: human beings, fauna and flora, soil, water, air, climate and the landscape, material assets and the cultural heritage, the interaction between each factor.</li> <li>Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.</li> <li>Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.</li> <li>Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest.</li> <li>Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species.</li> <li>Establish a network of European sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, to enable the natural habitat types and the species' habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.</li> <li>Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present.</li> <li>Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats.</li> <li>Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation.</li> <li>The species included in Annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1.</li> <li>Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas).</li> <li>Ensure the upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones, re-establish destroyed biotopes and creation of biotopes.</li> <li>Measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I is required as regards their breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along their migration routes. The protection of wetlands and particularly wetlands of international importance.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and – preventing further such pollution.</li> </ul>	<p>Ireland's Nitrates Action Programme is designed to prevent pollution of surface waters and ground water from agricultural sources and to protect and improve water quality. Ireland's third NAP came into operation in 2014. Each Member State's NAP must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a limit on the amount of livestock manure applied to the land each year</li> <li>set periods when land spreading is prohibited due to risk</li> <li>set capacity levels for the storage of livestock manure</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the

SEA Environmental Report for the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>EU Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive (2008/1/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The purpose of this Directive is to achieve integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from the activities listed in Annex I. It lays down measures designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions in the air, water and land from the abovementioned activities, including measures concerning waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole, without prejudice to Directive 85/337/EEC and other relevant Community provisions.</li> </ul>	<p>The IPPC Directive is based on several principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>an integrated approach</li> <li>best available techniques,</li> <li>flexibility; and</li> <li>public participation</li> </ul>	<p>achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>EU Plant Protection (products) Directive 2009/127/EC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Directive aims at reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and</li> <li>the environment by introducing different targets, tools and measures such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) or National Action Plans (NAPs).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Framework Directive applies to pesticides which are plant protection products.</li> <li>Regarding pesticide application equipment already in professional use, the Framework Directive introduces requirements for the inspection and maintenance to be carried out on such equipment.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>EU Renewables Directive (2009/28/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Renewable Energy Directive establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU.</li> <li>It requires the EU to fulfil at least 20% of its total energy needs with renewables by 2020 – to be achieved through the attainment of individual national targets.</li> <li>All EU countries must also ensure that at least 10% of their transport fuels come from renewable sources by 2020.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Directive promotes cooperation amongst EU countries (and with countries outside the EU) to help them meet their renewable energy targets.</li> <li>The Directive specifies national renewable energy targets for each country, taking into account its starting point and overall potential for renewables.</li> <li>EU countries set out how they plan to meet these targets and the general course of their renewable energy policy in national renewable energy action plans.</li> <li>Progress towards national targets is measured every two years when EU countries publish national renewable energy progress reports.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Indirect Land Use Change Directive (2012/0288 (COD))</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 3(4) of Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (3) requires Member States to ensure that the share of energy from renewable energy sources in all forms of transport in 2020 is at least 10 % of their final energy consumption.</li> <li>The blending of biofuels is one of the methods available for Member States to meet this target, and is expected to be the main contributor.</li> <li>Other methods available to meet the target are the reduction of energy consumption, which is imperative because a mandatory percentage target for energy from renewable sources is likely to become increasingly difficult to achieve sustainably if overall demand for energy for transport continues to rise, and the use of electricity from renewable energy sources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limit the contribution that conventional biofuels (with a risk of ILUC emissions) make towards attainment of the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive;</li> <li>Improve the greenhouse gas performance of biofuel production processes (reducing associated emissions) by raising the greenhouse gas saving threshold for new installations subject to protecting installations already in operation on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014;</li> <li>Encourage a greater market penetration of advanced (low-ILUC) biofuels by allowing such fuels to contribute more to the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive than conventional biofuels;</li> <li>Improve the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by obliging Member States and fuel suppliers to report the estimated indirect land-use change emissions of biofuels.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive (2014/94/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Directive establishes a common framework of measures for the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure in the Union in order to minimise dependence on oil and to mitigate the environmental impact of transport.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Directive sets out minimum requirements for the building-up of alternative fuels infrastructure, including recharging points for electric vehicles and refuelling points for natural gas (LNG and CNG) and hydrogen, to be implemented by means of Member States' national policy frameworks, as well as common technical specifications for such recharging and refuelling points, and user information requirements.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>EU Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishes a set of binding measures to help the EU reach its 20% energy efficiency target by 2020.</li> <li>Under the Directive, all EU countries are required to use energy more efficiently at all stages of the energy chain, from production to final consumption.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy distributors or retail energy sales companies have to achieve 1.5% energy savings per year through the implementation of energy efficiency measures</li> <li>EU countries can opt to achieve the same level of savings through other means, such as improving the efficiency of heating systems, installing double glazed windows or insulating roofs</li> <li>The public sector in EU countries should purchase energy efficient buildings, products and services</li> <li>Every year, governments in EU countries must carry out energy efficient renovations on at least 3% (by floor area) of the buildings they own and occupy</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy consumers should be empowered to better manage consumption. This includes easy and free access to data on consumption through individual metering</li> <li>National incentives for SMEs to undergo energy audits</li> <li>Large companies will make audits of their energy consumption to help them identify ways to reduce it</li> <li>Monitoring efficiency levels in new energy generation capacities.</li> </ul>	framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Directive lays down rules for the prevention of major accidents which involve dangerous substances, and the limitation of their consequences for human health and the environment, with a view to ensuring a high level of protection throughout the Union in a consistent and effective manner.</li> </ul>	<p>The Seveso Directive is well integrated with other EU policies, thus avoiding double regulation or other administrative burden. This includes the following related policy areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals;</li> <li>The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism;</li> <li>The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure;</li> <li>Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law;</li> <li>Safety of offshore oil and gas operations.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Maritime Spatial Planning Directive (2014/89/EU)</b>	This Directive establishes a framework for maritime spatial planning aimed at promoting the sustainable growth of maritime economies, the sustainable development of marine areas and the sustainable use of marine resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each Member State shall establish and implement maritime spatial planning.</li> <li>In doing so, Member States shall take into account land-sea interactions.</li> <li>The resulting plan or plans shall be developed and produced in accordance with the institutional and governance levels determined by Member States. This Directive shall not interfere with Member States' competence to design and determine the format and content of that plan or those plans.</li> <li>Maritime spatial planning shall aim to contribute to the objectives listed in Article 5 and fulfil the requirements laid down in Articles 6 and 8.</li> <li>When establishing maritime spatial planning, Member States shall have due regard to the particularities of the marine regions, relevant existing and future activities and uses and their impacts on the environment, as well as to natural resources, and shall also take into account land-sea interactions.</li> <li>Member States may include or build on existing national policies, regulations or mechanisms that have been or are being established before the entry into force of this Directive, provided they are in conformity with the requirements of this Directive.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>UK Marine Policy Statement and the Draft Marine Plan for Northern Ireland.</b> UK Marine Policy Statement and the Draft Marine Plan for Northern provide the policy framework for both planning and marine licensing authorities in making their decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Achieving a sustainable marine economy</li> <li>Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society</li> <li>Living within environmental limits</li> <li>Promoting good governance</li> <li>Using sound science responsibly</li> </ul>	<p>The MPS will facilitate and support the formulation of Marine Plans, ensuring that marine resources are used in a sustainable way in line with the high-level marine objectives and thereby:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote sustainable economic development;</li> <li>Enable the UK's move towards a low-carbon economy, in order to mitigate the causes of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>climate change and ocean acidification and adapt to their effects;</li> </ul> </li> <li>Ensure a sustainable marine environment which promotes healthy, functioning marine ecosystems and protects marine habitats, species and heritage assets; and</li> <li>Contribute to the societal benefits of the marine area, including the sustainable use of marine resources to address local social and economic issues</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009</b>	Aims to provide the legal mechanism to help ensure clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas by putting in place a new system for improved management and protection of the marine and coastal environment.	<p>The Marine Act comprises eight key elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marine Management Organisation (MMO)</li> <li>Strategic Marine Planning System</li> <li>Streamlined Marine Licensing System</li> <li>Marine Nature Conservation</li> <li>Fisheries Management and Marine Enforcement</li> <li>Migratory and Freshwater Fisheries</li> <li>Coastal Access</li> <li>Coastal and Estuarine Management</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Marine (Northern Ireland) Act 2013</b>	Aims to provide for marine plans in relation to the Northern Ireland inshore region; to provide for marine conservation zones in that region; to make further provision in relation to marine licensing for certain electricity works in that region; and for connected purposes.	<p>The Marine Act sets out a new framework for Northern Ireland's seas based on: a system of marine planning that will balance conservation, energy and resource needs; improved management for marine nature conservation and the streamlining of marine licensing for some electricity projects. The main provisions of the Act are outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marine Planning</li> <li>Nature Conservation</li> <li>Marine Licensing</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Green Infrastructure Strategy</b>	Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoting GI in the main EU policy areas.</li> <li>Supporting EU-level GI projects.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc.,



SEA Environmental Report for the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improving access to finance for GI projects.</li> <li>Improving information and promoting innovation.</li> </ul>	Individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>UNESCO (1972) The Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>links concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties; and</li> <li>recognizes the way in which people interact with nature, and the fundamental need to preserve the balance between the two.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sets out the duties of States Parties in identifying potential sites and their role in protecting and preserving them;</li> <li>each country pledges to conserve not only the World Heritage sites situated on its territory, but also to protect its national heritage;</li> <li>encourages to integrate the protection of the cultural and natural heritage into regional planning programmes, set up staff and services at their sites, undertake scientific and technical conservation research and adopt measures which give this heritage a function in the day-to-day life of the community.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>UN (1992) The Convention on Biological Diversity</b>	An overall objective is to develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.	The Convention has three main goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity);</li> <li>the sustainable use of its components; and</li> <li>the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>UN (1992) Framework Convention on Climate Change</b>	It is aimed at stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.	The Convention acknowledges the vulnerability of all countries to the effects of climate change and calls for special efforts to ease the consequences, especially in developing countries which lack the resources to do so on their own.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>UN Kyoto Protocol (2<sup>nd</sup> Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement)</b>	The UN Kyoto Protocol set of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.  The Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) aims to identify and develop all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to implement the Kyoto Protocol.  At the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal. The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II).</li> <li>EU member states implement measures to improve on or compliment the specified measures and policies arising from the ECCP.</li> <li>Under COP21, governments agreed to come together every 5 years to set more ambitious targets as required by science; report to each other and the public on how well they are doing to implement their targets; track progress towards the long-term goal through a robust transparency and accountability system.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU 2020 Climate and Energy Package</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Binding legislation which aims to ensure the European Union meets its climate and energy targets for 2020.</li> <li>Aims to achieve a 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels.</li> <li>Aims to raise the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20%.</li> <li>Achieve a 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency.</li> </ul>	Four pieces of complimentary legislation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reform of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to include a cap on emission allowances in addition to existing system of national caps.</li> <li>Member States have agreed national targets for non-EU ETS emissions from countries outside the EU.</li> <li>Meet the national renewable energy targets of 16% for Ireland by 2020.</li> <li>Preparing a legal framework for technologies in carbon capture and storage.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 2030 Framework for climate and energy, including EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period between 2020 and 2030 that has been agreed by European countries.</li> </ul>	To meet the targets, the European Commission has proposed the following policies for 2030: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A reformed EU emissions trading scheme (ETS).</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-

SEA Environmental Report for the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Targets include a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels, at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption and at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New indicators for the competitiveness and security of the energy system, such as price differences with major trading partners, diversification of supply, and interconnection capacity between EU countries.</li> <li>First ideas for a new governance system based on national plans for competitive, secure, and sustainable energy. These plans will follow a common EU approach. They will ensure stronger investor certainty, greater transparency, enhanced policy coherence and improved coordination across the EU.</li> </ul>	<p>combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC)</b> <b>(EU Air Framework Directive)</b></p> <p><b>Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The CAFE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive).</li> <li>Sets new air quality objectives for PM<sub>2.5</sub> (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives.</li> <li>Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values.</li> <li>Allows the possibility for time extensions of three years (PM<sub>10</sub>) or up to five years (NO<sub>2</sub>, benzene) for complying with limit values, based on conditions and the assessment by the European Commission.</li> <li>The Fourth Daughter Directive lists pollutants, target values and monitoring requirements for the following: arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets objectives for ambient air quality designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole.</li> <li>Aims to assess the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria.</li> <li>Obtains information on ambient air quality in order to help combat air pollution and nuisance and to monitor long-term trends and improvements resulting from national and community measures.</li> <li>Ensures that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public.</li> <li>Aims to maintain air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases.</li> <li>Aims to promote increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)</b></p>	<p>The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source.</p>	<p>The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draw up strategic noise maps for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators and use these maps to assess the number of people which may be impacted upon as a result of excessive noise levels;</li> <li>Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and</li> <li>Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise.</li> </ul> <p>The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks</li> <li>Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk from flooding through Flood Risk Assessment</li> <li>Prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps outlining the extent or potential of flooding and assets and humans at risk in these areas at River Basin District level (Article 3(2) (b)) and areas covered by Article 5(1) and Article 13(1) (b) in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3.</li> <li>Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above.</li> <li>Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a framework for the protection of water bodies to include inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater and their dependent wildlife and habitats.</li> <li>Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain "good status" of water bodies.</li> <li>Promote sustainable water usage.</li> <li>The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive</li> <li>Sampling Drinking Water Directive</li> <li>Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive</li> <li>Shellfish Directive</li> <li>Freshwater Fish Directive</li> <li>Groundwater (Dangerous Substances) Directive</li> <li>Dangerous Substances Directive</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive.</li> <li>Achieve "good status" for all waters.</li> <li>Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts.</li> <li>Involve the public and streamline legislation.</li> <li>Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas.</li> <li>Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, groundwater status and protected areas.</li> <li>Recover costs for water services.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect, control and conserve groundwater.</li> <li>Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater.</li> <li>Implements measures to prevent and control groundwater pollution, including criteria for assessing good groundwater chemical status and criteria for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and for the definition of starting points for trend reversals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive.</li> <li>Meet threshold values adopted by national legislation for the pollutants, groups of pollutants and indicators of pollution which have been identified as contributing to the characterisation of bodies or groups of bodies of groundwater as being at risk, also taking into account Part B of Annex 11.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029

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<b>Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve and maintain the quality of water intended for human consumption.</li> <li>Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set values applicable to water intended for human consumption for the parameters set out in Annex I.</li> <li>Set values for additional parameters not included in Annex I, where the protection of human health within national territory or part of it so requires. The values set should, as a minimum, satisfy the requirements of Article 4(1) (a).</li> <li>Implement all measures necessary to ensure that regular monitoring of the quality of water intended for human consumption is carried out, in order to check that the water available to consumers meets the requirements of this Directive and in particular the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5.</li> <li>Ensure that any failure to meet the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5 is immediately investigated in order to identify the cause.</li> <li>Ensure that the necessary remedial action is taken as soon as possible to restore its quality and shall give priority to their enforcement action.</li> <li>Undertake remedial action to restore the quality of the water where necessary to protect human health.</li> <li>Notify consumers when remedial action is being undertaken except where the competent authorities consider the non-compliance with the parametric value to be trivial.</li> </ul>	<p>framework for environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors.</li> <li>The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban waste water entering collecting systems shall before discharge, be subject to secondary treatment.</li> <li>Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges.</li> <li>Establishes minimum requirements for urban waste water collection and treatment systems in specified agglomerations to include special requirements for sensitive areas and certain industrial sectors.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC and Directive 2013/30/EU</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a framework of environmental liability based on the 'polluter-pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relates to environmental damage caused by any of the occupational activities listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities; damage to protected species and natural habitats caused by any occupational activities other than those listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities, whenever the operator has been at fault or negligent.</li> <li>Where environmental damage has not yet occurred but there is an imminent threat of such damage occurring, the operator shall, without delay, take the necessary preventive measures.</li> <li>Where environmental damage has occurred the operator shall, without delay, inform the competent authority of all relevant aspects of the situation and take all practicable steps to immediately control, contain, remove or otherwise manage the relevant contaminants and/or any other damage factors in order to limit or to prevent further environmental damage and adverse effects on human health or further impairment of services and the necessary remedial measures, in accordance with Article 7.</li> <li>The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive.</li> <li>The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator.</li> <li>The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met.</li> <li>The Environmental Liability Directive has been amended through a number of Directives. Implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive is contributed towards by a Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) 'Making the Environmental Liability Directive more fit for purpose' that is updated annually to changing developments, growing knowledge and new needs.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta 1992)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The aim of this (revised) Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study.</li> </ul>	<p>The Valletta Convention makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. It also deals with public access, in particular to archaeological sites, and educational actions to be undertaken to develop public awareness of the value of the archaeological heritage. It also constitutes an institutional framework for pan-European co-operation on the archaeological heritage, entailing a systematic exchange of experience and experts among the various States.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory</p>

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<b>Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties.</li> <li>The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co-operation between states and regions.</li> </ul>	<p>framework for environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>ICOMOS (2011) Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes ('Dublin Principles')</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is aimed to assist in the documentation, protection, conservation and appreciation of industrial heritage as part of the heritage of human societies around the World.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(I) Document and understand industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes and their values;</li> <li>(II) Ensure effective protection and conservation of the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes;</li> <li>(III) Conserve and maintain the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; and</li> <li>(IV) Present and communicate the heritage dimensions and values of industrial structures, sites, areas and landscapes to raise public and corporate awareness, and support training and research.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time.</li> <li>A heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognise that rights relating to cultural heritage are inherent in the right to participate in cultural life, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.</li> <li>Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage.</li> <li>Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal.</li> <li>Take the necessary steps to apply the provisions of this Convention concerning the role of cultural heritage in the construction of a peaceful and democratic society.</li> <li>Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>European Landscape Convention 2000</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques, together with the practices followed in town and country planning, transport, networks, tourism and recreation, and at a more general level, changes in the world economy, have in many cases accelerated the transformation of landscapes. The Convention expresses a concern to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment. It aims to respond to the public's wish to enjoy high quality landscapes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes.</li> <li>Organise European co-operation on landscape issues.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>The Seventh Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community (2013-2020)</b>	<p>It identifies three key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital</li> <li>to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy</li> <li>to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing</li> </ul>	<p>Four so called "enablers" will help Europe deliver on these objectives (goals):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better implementation of legislation.</li> <li>Better information by improving the knowledge base.</li> <li>More and wiser investment for environment and climate policy.</li> <li>Full integration of environmental requirements and considerations into other policies.</li> </ul> <p>Two additional horizontal priority objectives complete the programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To make the Union's cities more sustainable.</li> <li>To help the Union address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats)</b>	<p>The convention has three main aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats</li> <li>to promote cooperation between states</li> <li>to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species</li> </ul>	<p>The Parties under the convention recognise the intrinsic value of nature, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations, they also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek to ensure the conservation of nature in their countries, paying particular attention to planning and development policies and pollution control.</li> <li>Look at implementing the Bern Convention in central Eastern Europe and the Caucasus.</li> <li>Take account of the potential impact on natural heritage by other policies.</li> <li>Promote education and information of the public, ensuring the need to conserve species is understood and acted upon.</li> <li>Develop an extensive number of species action plans, codes of conducts, and guidelines, at their own initiative or in co-operation with other organisations.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029

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<b>Bali Road Map (2007)</b>	<p>The overall goals of the project are twofold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To increase national capacity to co-ordinate ministerial views, participate in the UNFCCC process, and negotiate positions within the timeframe of the Bali Action Plan; and</li> <li>To assess investment and financial flows to address climate change for up to three key sectors and/or economic activities.</li> </ul>	<p>The Bali Action Plan is centred on four main building Blocks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mitigation</li> <li>adaptation</li> <li>technology</li> <li>financing</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Cancun Agreements (2010)</b>	<p>Set of decisions taken at the COP 16 Conference in Cancun in 2010 which addresses a series of key issues in the fight against climate change. Cancun Agreements' main objectives cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mitigation</li> <li>Transparency of actions</li> <li>Technology</li> <li>Finance</li> <li>Adaptation</li> <li>Forests</li> <li>Capacity building</li> </ul>	<p>Among the most prominent agreements is the establishment of a Green Climate Fund to transfer money from the developed to developing world to tackle the impacts of climate change.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Doha Climate Gateway (2012)</b>	<p>Set of decisions taken at the COP 18 meeting in Doha in 2012 which pave the way for a new agreement in Paris in 2015.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015 (to come into effect in 2020);</li> <li>Complete the work under Bali Action Plan and to focus on new completing new targets;</li> <li>Strengthen the aim to cut greenhouse gases and help vulnerable countries to adapt;</li> <li>Amend Kyoto Protocol to include a new commitment period for cutting down the greenhouse gases emissions; and</li> <li>Provide the financial and technology support and new institutions to allow clean energy investment and sustainable growth in developing countries.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>EU Common Agricultural Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To improve agricultural productivity, so that consumers have a stable supply of affordable food; and</li> <li>To ensure that EU farmers can make a reasonable living.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ensuring viable food production that will contribute to feeding the world's population, which is expected to rise considerably in the future;</li> <li>Climate change and sustainable management of natural resources;</li> <li>Looking after the countryside across the EU and keeping the rural economy alive.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006)</b>	<p>Aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment through the better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemical substances.</p>	<p>The aims are achieved by applying REACH, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registration,</li> <li>Evaluation,</li> <li>Authorisation; and</li> <li>Restriction of chemicals.</li> </ul> <p>REACH also aims to enhance innovation and competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Stockholm Convention</b>	<p>The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibit and/or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) that are listed in Annex A to the Convention</li> <li>Restrict the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex B to the Convention</li> <li>Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention</li> <li>Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner</li> <li>To target additional POPs</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other provisions of the Convention relate to the development of implementation plans, information exchange, public information, awareness and education, research, development and monitoring, technical assistance, financial resources and mechanisms, reporting, effectiveness evaluation and non-compliance</li> </ul>	framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Ramsar Convention</b>	The Convention's mission is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world".	Under the "three pillars" of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands;</li> <li>Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and ensure their effective management;</li> <li>Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European 2020 Strategy for Growth</b>	Europe 2020 sets out a vision of Europe's social market economy for the 21st century and puts forward three mutually reinforcing priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation;</li> <li>Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy;</li> <li>Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion.</li> </ul>	In order to reach these priorities, the Commission proposes five quantitative targets to fulfil by 2020: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed;</li> <li>3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&amp;D;</li> <li>the "20/20/20" climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right);</li> <li>the share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree;</li> <li>20 million less people should be at risk of poverty.</li> </ol>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Parliament resolutions, including the European Green Deal (EGD) 2020</b>	The deal sets out how to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, boosting the economy, improving people's quality of life, caring for nature and leaving no one behind.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It sets out a roadmap with actions to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy, restore biodiversity and cut pollution.</li> <li>It outlines investments required, financing tools available and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition.</li> <li>In order to meet the goal to become climate neutral by 2050 as part of the European Green Deal, the European Union (EU) Commission proposed on 4th March 2020 to bring about the first European Climate Law and legally bind the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU (2020) Biodiversity Strategy</b>	A long-term plan for protecting nature and reversing the degradation of ecosystems across the European Union.	The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea, building upon existing Natura 2000 areas, with strict protection for areas of very high biodiversity and climate value.</li> <li>An EU Nature Restoration Plan - a series of concrete commitments and actions to restore degraded ecosystems across the EU by 2030, and manage them sustainably, addressing the key drivers of biodiversity loss.</li> <li>A set of measures to enable the necessary transformative change: setting in motion a new, strengthened governance framework to ensure better implementation and track progress, improving knowledge, financing and investments and better respecting nature in public and business decision-making.</li> <li>Measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge, demonstrating that the EU is ready to lead by example towards the successful adoption of an ambitious global biodiversity framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU (2018) Clean Air Policy Package</b>	Aims to substantially reduce air pollution across the EU.	The proposed strategy sets out objectives for reducing the health and environmental impacts of air pollution by 2030, and contains legislative proposals to implement stricter standards for emissions and air pollution.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

SEA Environmental Report for the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029

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<b>Leaders Pledge for Nature 2020</b>	Political leaders (including Taoiseach Michael Martin) participating in the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity in September 2020, representing 75 countries from all regions and the European Union, have committed to reversing biodiversity loss by 2030.	As part of the UN Decade of Action to achieve sustainable development, the leaders commit to achieve the vision of Living in Harmony with Nature by 2050 by undertaking ten actions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Putting biodiversity, climate, and the environment at the heart of COVID-19 recovery strategies and investments as well as national and international development and cooperation;</li> <li>• Developing and implementing an ambitious and transformational post-2020 global biodiversity framework for adoption at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Kunming, China, as a key instrument to reach the SDGs;</li> <li>• Raising ambition and aligning domestic climate policies with the Paris Agreement on climate change, with enhanced nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and long-term strategies consistent with the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement, and the objective of net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by mid-century, and strengthen climate resilience of economies and ecosystems; and</li> <li>• Mainstream biodiversity into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies at all levels, including in food production, agriculture, fisheries and forestry, energy, tourism, infrastructure and extractive industries, and trade and supply chains, as well as into key international agreements and processes.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Northern Ireland)</b>	Spatial strategy for the future development of Northern Ireland. Strategic planning framework to facilitate and guide public and private sectors.	Aims to provide long-term policy direction with a strategic spatial perspective.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>NI Regional Landscape Character Assessment</b>	In recognising the importance of sustaining local identity, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) has commissioned Landscape Character Assessments of Northern Ireland from environmental consultants, which resulted in the identification of distinct character areas within Northern Ireland.	The Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment provides a strategic overview of the landscape in Northern Ireland and subdivides the countryside into 26 Regional Landscape Character Areas based upon information on people and place and the combinations of nature, culture and perception which make each part of Northern Ireland unique.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>NI Regional Seascape Character Assessment</b>	The aim of this study is to provide a strategic understanding of different areas of regional seascape character along the entire Northern Ireland coast, complementing similar assessments undertaken elsewhere in the UK. This will contribute to the aims of the European Landscape Convention through promoting the protection, management and planning of the seascape, and to support the European cooperation in landscape issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and map the different regional seascape character areas.</li> <li>• Describe the key features and characteristics of each seascape character area.</li> <li>• Relate the description of each seascape character area to its neighbouring terrestrial landscape character areas (as described in the NI Landscape Character Assessment, 2000) and take account of boundaries identified in relation to neighbouring seascape areas for the British and Irish coastline.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Level</b>			
<b>Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework and the National Development Plan</b>	<p>The National Planning Framework is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of to the year 2040. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for people, and to protect and enhance the environment - from villages to cities, and everything around and in between.</p> <p>As part of Project Ireland 2040 the National Development Plan sets out the Government's over-arching investment strategy and budget for the period 2021-2030. It is an ambitious plan that balances the significant demand for public investment across all sectors and regions of Ireland with a major focus on improving the delivery of infrastructure projects to ensure speed of delivery and value for money.</p>	<p>The National Planning Framework published alongside the National Development Plan yields ten National Strategic Outcomes as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Compact Growth</li> <li>2. Enhanced Regional Accessibility</li> <li>3. Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities</li> <li>4. Sustainable Mobility</li> <li>5. A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills</li> <li>6. High-Quality International Connectivity</li> <li>7. Enhanced Amenities and Heritage</li> <li>8. Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society</li> <li>9. Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources</li> <li>10. Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services</li> </ol>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

SEA Environmental Report for the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029

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<b>National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland</b>	<p>The high-level strategic framework for prioritising future investment in the land transport network.</p> <p>This new framework is the Department of Transport's contribution to Project Ireland 2040, Government's long-term strategy for accommodating population growth in a sustainable manner and making Ireland a better country for all of its people. It has been developed to ensure that our transport sectoral strategy is underpinned by and supports the achievement of the spatial objectives and National Strategic Objectives set out in the National Planning Framework.</p>	<p>The framework establishes high-level investment priorities to efficiently and effectively address key transport challenges identified by the background analysis and to ensure that transport investment is aligned with and supports Government's overarching spatial and climate change objectives, as articulated in the National Planning Framework and Climate Action Plan.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The core principal objectives of this Act are to amend the Planning Acts of 2000 – 2009 with specific regard given to supporting economic renewal and sustainable development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development, with certain exceptions, is subject to development control under the Planning Acts and the local authorities grant or refuse planning permission for development, including ones within protected areas.</li> <li>There are, however, a range of exemptions from the planning system. Use of land for agriculture, peat extraction and afforestation, subject to certain thresholds, is generally exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission.</li> <li>Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large-scale projects.</li> <li>Under planning legislation, Development Plans must include mandatory objectives for the conservation of the natural heritage and for the conservation of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed. There are also discretionary powers to set objectives for the conservation of a variety of other elements of the natural heritage.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004), as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 (O.J. No. L 197, 21 July 2001) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment – commonly known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning.</li> <li>These Regulations also amend certain provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to provide the statutory basis for the transposition of the Directive in respect of land-use planning.</li> <li>Transposition in respect of the land-use planning sector is contained in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004).</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011, as amended)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These Regulations provide a new for the implementation in Ireland of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on habitats and protection of wild fauna and flora (as amended) and for the implementation of Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of wild birds.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They provide, among other things, for: the appointment and functions of authorized officers; identification, classification and other procedures relative to the designation of Community sites.</li> <li>The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the CJEU against Ireland, notably cases C-418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Waste Management Act 1996, as amended</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To make provision in relation to the prevention, management and control of waste; to give effect to provisions of certain acts adopted by institutions of the European communities in respect of those matters; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, and to repeal certain enactments and to provide for related matters.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Waste Management Act contains a number of key legal obligations, including requirements for waste management planning, waste collection and movement, the authorisation of waste facilities, measures to reduce the production of waste and/or promote its recovery.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (FPM) Regulations 2009 (S.I 296 of 2009)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set environmental quality objectives for the habitats of the freshwater pearl mussel populations named in the First Schedule to these Regulations that are within the boundaries of a site notified in a candidate list of European sites, or designated as a Special Area of Conservation, under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 94/1997).</li> <li>Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives.</li> <li>Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>



SEA Environmental Report for the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029

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<b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 366 of 2010), as amended (S.I. No. 366 of 2016)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To amend the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) to make further provision to implement Commission Directive 2014/80/EU of 20 June 2014 amending Annex II to Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration.</li> </ul>	<p>The substances and threshold values set out in Schedule 5 to S.I. No. 9 of 2010 have been reviewed and amended where necessary, based on existing monitoring information and international guidelines on appropriate threshold values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part A of Schedule 6 has been amended to include changes to the rules governing the determination of background levels for the purposes of establishing threshold values for groundwater pollutants and indicators of pollution.</li> <li>Part B of Schedule 6 has been amended to include nitrites and phosphorus (total) / phosphates among the minimum list of pollutants and their indicators which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must consider when establishing threshold values.</li> <li>Part C of Schedule 6 amends the information to be provided to the Minister by the EPA with regard to the pollutants and their indicators for which threshold values have been established.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 31 of 2014)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These Regulations, which give effect to Ireland's 3<sup>rd</sup> Nitrates Action Programme, provide statutory support for good agricultural practice to protect waters against pollution from agricultural sources</li> </ul>	<p>The Regulations include measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Periods when land application of fertilisers is prohibited</li> <li>Limits on the land application of fertilisers</li> <li>Storage requirements for livestock manure; and</li> <li>Monitoring of the effectiveness of the measures in terms of agricultural practice and impact on water quality.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 (as amended)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An Act to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy.</li> </ul>	<p>When considering a plan or framework, for approval, the Government shall endeavour to achieve the national transition objective within the period to which the objective relates and shall, in endeavouring to achieve that objective, ensure that such objective is achieved by the implementation of measures that are cost effective and shall, for that purpose, have regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ultimate objective specified in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change done at New York on 9 May 1992 and any mitigation commitment entered into by the European Union in response or otherwise in relation to that objective,</li> <li>The policy of the Government on climate change,</li> <li>Climate justice,</li> <li>Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any international agreement referred to in section 2; and</li> <li>The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions, prepared by the Agency.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Climate Action Plan</b>	The Climate Action Plan provides a detailed framework for taking decisive action to achieve a 51% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and setting Ireland on a path to reach net-zero emissions by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Programme for Government and set out in the Climate Act 2021.	The Climate Action Plan lists the actions needed to deliver on climate targets and set indicative ranges of emissions reductions for each sector of the economy. Updates to the Climate Action Plan are intended to be issued periodically, to ensure alignment with Ireland's legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral ceilings.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>The Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan (2018 – 2020)</b>	National Implementation Plan 2018 - 2020 is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Plan provides an 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the 169 targets. It also includes an 'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets.	The Plan identifies four strategic priorities to guide implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness: raise public awareness of the SDGs;</li> <li>Participation: provide stakeholders opportunities to engage and contribute to follow-up and review processes, and further develop national implementation of the Goals;</li> <li>Support: encourage and support efforts of communities and organisations to contribute towards meeting the SDGs, and foster public participation; and</li> <li>Policy alignment: develop alignment of national policy with the SDGs and identify opportunities for policy coherence.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan (2016-2021)</b>	€27 billion multi-annual Exchequer Capital Investment Plan, which is supported by a programme of capital investment in the wider State sector, and which over the period 2016 to 2021 will help to lay the foundations for continued growth in Ireland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Capital Plan reflects the Government's commitment to supporting strong and sustainable economic growth and raising welfare and living standards for all.</li> <li>It includes allocations for new projects across a number of key areas and funding to ensure that the present stock of national infrastructure is refreshed and maintained.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and

SEA Environmental Report for the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029

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<b>European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-Fisheries) Regulations 2013 (S.I. 290 of 2013)</b>	These regulations have been drafted to implement the responsibilities of the Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine in relation to sea fisheries in European sites, in accordance with the Habitats and Birds Directives as transposed by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulation 3 provides for the submission of a Fisheries Natura Plan in relation to planned fisheries;</li> <li>Regulation 4 provides for a screening of a Fisheries Natura Plan to determine whether or not an appropriate assessment is required;</li> <li>Regulation 5 provides for an appropriate assessment of a Fisheries Natura Plan and also provides for public and statutory consultation;</li> <li>Regulation 6 provides for the Minister to make a determination to adopt a Fisheries Natura Plan. The Minister may amend, withdraw or revoke a plan;</li> <li>Regulation 7 provides for publication of the adopted Fisheries Natura Plan;</li> <li>Regulation 8 provides for a Risk Assessment of unplanned fisheries and also provides for public and statutory consultation on the assessment;</li> <li>Regulation 9 provides for the issue of a Natura Declaration to prohibit, restrict including restricting by permit, control, etc. of sea fishing activities;</li> <li>Regulation 10 provides for Natura Permits to be issued where required by Natura Declarations; and</li> <li>Regulations 11 to 31 deal with functions of authorised officers and related matters, offences, etc.</li> </ul>	cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.  Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Ireland's National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010 (Irish Government submission to the European Commission)</b>	The National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) sets out the Government's strategic approach and concrete measures to deliver on Ireland's 16% target under Directive 2009/28/EC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NREAP sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Strategy for Renewable Energy (2012-2020)</b>	<p>The Government's overarching strategic objective is to make renewable energy an increasingly significant component of Ireland's energy supply by 2020, so that at a minimum it will achieve its legally binding 2020 target in the most cost-efficient manner for consumers.</p> <p>Of critical importance is the role which the renewable energy sector plays in job creation and economic activity as part of the Government's action plan for jobs.</p>	<p>This document sets out five strategic goals, reflecting the key dimensions of the renewable energy challenge to 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing on and offshore wind,</li> <li>Building a sustainable bioenergy sector,</li> <li>Fostering R&amp;D in renewables such as wave &amp; tidal,</li> <li>Growing sustainable transport; and</li> <li>Building out robust and efficient networks.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Governments White Paper 'Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future' (2015 – 2030)</b>	The White Paper sets out a vision and a framework to guide Irish energy policy between now and 2030. A complete energy policy update informed by the vision to transform Ireland into a low carbon society and economy by 2050.	<p>2030 will represent a significant milestone, meaning:</p> <p>Reduced GHG emissions from the energy sector by between 80% and 95% Ensuring that secure supplies of competitive and affordable energy remain available to citizens and businesses.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (2014)</b>	<p>The National Policy Position provides a high-level policy direction for the adoption and implementation by Government of plans to enable the State to move to a low carbon economy by 2050.</p> <p>Statutory authority for the plans is set out in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.</p>	<p>National climate policy in Ireland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognises the threat of climate change for humanity;</li> <li>Anticipates and supports mobilisation of a comprehensive international response to climate change, and global transition to a low-carbon future;</li> <li>Recognises the challenges and opportunities of the broad transition agenda for society; and</li> <li>Aims, as a fundamental national objective, to achieve transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

SEA Environmental Report for the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029

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<b>National Clean Air Strategy [in preparation]</b>	The Clean Air Strategy will provide the strategic policy framework necessary to identify and promote integrated measures across government policy that are required to reduce air pollution and promote cleaner air while delivering on wider national objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having a National Strategy will provide a policy framework by which Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation.</li> <li>• The Strategy should also help tackle climate change.</li> <li>• The Strategy will consider a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture.</li> <li>• In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people's health is paramount and this will be a strong theme of the Strategy.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EirGrid's Grid25 Strategy and associated Grid25 Implementation Programme 2017-2022</b>	EirGrid's mission is to develop, maintain and operate a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient transmission system for Ireland; <i>"Our vision is of a grid developed to match future needs, so it can safely and reliably carry power all over the country to the major towns and cities and onwards to every home, farm and business where the electricity is consumed and so it can meet the needs of consumers and generators in a sustainable way."</i>	Grid25, EirGrid's roadmap to uprate the electricity transmission grid by 2025, continues to be implemented so as to increase the capacity of the grid, to satisfy future demand, and to help Ireland meet its target of 40 per cent of electricity from renewable energy by 2020.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>All Island Grid Study 2008</b>	The All Island Grid Study is the first comprehensive assessment of the ability of the electrical power system and, as part of that, the transmission network ("the grid") on the island of Ireland to absorb large amounts of electricity produced from renewable energy sources. The objective of this five-part study is to assess the technical feasibility and the relative costs and benefits associated with various scenarios for increased shares of electricity sourced from renewable energy in the all island power system.	Key conclusions of the study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The presented results indicate that the differences in cost between the highest cost and the lowest cost portfolios are low (7%), given the assumptions made and costs included in the Study.</li> <li>• All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to significant reductions of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions compared to portfolio 1</li> <li>• All but the high coal-based portfolio lead to reductions on the dependency of the all island system on fuel and electricity imports.</li> <li>• The limitations of the study may overstate the technical feasibility of the portfolios analysed and could impact the costs and benefits resulting. Further work is required to understand the extent of such impact.</li> <li>• Timely development of the transmission networks, requiring means to address the planning challenge, is a precondition for implementation of the portfolios considered.</li> <li>• Market mechanisms must facilitate the installation of complementary, i.e. flexible, dispatchable plant, so as to maintain adequate levels of system security.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)</b>	The objective of this Strategy is to assist in the strategic development of nationally and regionally significant Greenways in appropriate locations constructed to an appropriate standard in order to deliver a quality experience for all Greenways users.  It also aims to increase the number and geographical spread of Greenways of scale and quality around the country over the next 10 years with a consequent significant increase in the number of people using Greenways as a visitor experience and as a recreational amenity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Strategic Greenway network of national and regional routes, with a number of high capacity flagship routes that can be extended and/or link with local Greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure;</li> <li>• Greenways of scale and appropriate standard that have significant potential to deliver an increase in activity tourism to Ireland and are regularly used by overseas visitors, domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity;</li> <li>• Greenways that provide a substantially segregated off road experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; and</li> <li>• Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and</li> <li>• Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Water Resources Plan [in preparation]</b>	The NWRP is a plan on how to provide a safe, secure and reliable water supply to customers for the next 25 years, without causing adverse impact on the environment. The objective of the NWRP is to set out how we intend to maintain the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term whilst minimising the impact on the environment.	The key objectives of the plan are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions</li> <li>• Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry</li> <li>• Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland's water resources</li> <li>• Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events</li> <li>• Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water</li> <li>• Identify, develop and assess options to help meet potential shortfalls in water supplies</li> <li>• Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

SEA Environmental Report for the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029

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<b>National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Development (2014-2020)</b>	Vision: <i>“Aquaculture in RC is economically, socially and ecologically sustainable, with a developed infrastructure, strong human potentials and an organized market. The consumption of aquaculture products is equal or above EU average, while the technological development of the sector is among the best in the EU.”</i>	General development and growth objectives of marine and freshwater aquaculture (2014 – 2020): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen the social, business and administrative environment for aquaculture development</li> <li>Increase in the total production to 24,050 tonnes while adhering to the principles of economic, social and ecological sustainability</li> <li>Improvement of the perception and increase in the national consumption of National products</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector</b>	Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry. The Strategy aims both to increase the capacity of the sector to create and maintain jobs, and to deliver a sustainable sector, operating at an appropriate level. It seeks to learn the lessons of the past and to ensure that the right structures and mechanisms are in place so that they are not repeated.	This Strategy therefore addresses issues including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A strategic approach to the provision of housing, based on real and measured needs, with mechanisms in place to detect and act when things are going wrong;</li> <li>Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements;</li> <li>The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects;</li> <li>Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms;</li> <li>Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety;</li> <li>Ensuring a fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce achieving high quality and standards; and</li> <li>Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997)</b>	The overall aim of this Strategy is to ensure that economy and society in Ireland can develop to their full potential within a well-protected environment, without compromising the quality of that environment, and with responsibility towards present and future generations and the wider international community.	The Strategy addresses all areas of Government policy, and of economic and societal activity, which impact on the environment. It seeks to re-orientate policies as necessary to ensure that the strong growth Ireland enjoys and seeks to maintain will be environmentally sustainable.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character Assessment [pending preparation]</b>	The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing the landscape while positively managing its change. It will provide a high-level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions.  Landscape Strategy Vision: <i>“Our landscape reflects and embodies our cultural values and our shared natural heritage and contributes to the well-being of our society, environment and economy. We have an obligation to ourselves and to future generations to promote its sustainable protection, management and planning.”</i>	The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement the European Landscape Convention by integrating landscape into the approach to sustainable development;</li> <li>Establish and embed a public process of gathering, sharing and interpreting scientific, technical and cultural information in order to carry out evidence-based identification and description of the character, resources and processes of the landscape;</li> <li>Provide a policy framework, which will put in place measures at national, sectoral - including agriculture, tourism, energy, transport and marine - and local level, together with civil society, to protect, manage and properly plan through high quality design for the sustainable stewardship of the landscape;</li> <li>Ensure that we take advantage of opportunities to implement policies relating to landscape use that are complementary and mutually reinforcing and that conflicting policy objectives are avoided in as far as possible.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Ireland’s National Waste Policy 2020 – 2025</b>	The Policy sets out new targets to tackle waste and move towards a circular economy.	The plan includes halving our food waste by 2030, the introduction of a deposit and return scheme for plastic bottles and cans, a ban on certain single use plastics from July 2021, and a levy on disposable cups. Other measures include applying green criteria and circular economy principles in all public procurement, a waste recovery levy to encourage recycling, and ensuring all packaging is reusable or recyclable by 2030.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (EPA) 2014-2020 and new National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2021-2027</b>	This Plan sets out the priorities to be pursued over the next six years and beyond to improve the management of hazardous waste, taking into account the progress made since the previous plan and the waste policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the previous plan was published.  Section 26 of the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended, sets out the overarching objectives for the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan. In	The Environmental Protection Agency has a statutory responsibility to prepare National Hazardous Waste Management Plans. The National Hazardous Waste Management Plan for the period 2014-2020 was the third such national plan and had 27 recommendations with the following objectives: to prevent and reduce the generation of hazardous waste; to maximise the collection of hazardous waste; to strive for increased self-sufficiency in the management of hazardous waste and to minimise hazardous waste export; and to minimise the environmental, health, social and economic impacts of hazardous waste generation and management.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the

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	<p>this context, the following objectives are included as priorities for the revised Plan period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To prevent and reduce the generation of hazardous waste by industry and society generally;</li> <li>To maximise the collection of hazardous waste with a view to reducing the environmental and health impacts of any unregulated waste;</li> <li>To strive for increased self-sufficiency in the management of hazardous waste and to minimise hazardous waste export;</li> <li>To minimise the environmental, health, social and economic impacts of hazardous waste generation and management.</li> </ul>	<p>The Environmental Protection Agency has prepared a revised National Hazardous Waste Management Plan for the period 2021 to 2027.</p>	<p>achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines</b></p>	<p>The Department produces a range of guidelines designed to help planning authorities, An Bord Pleanála, developers and the general public and cover a wide range of issues amongst others, architectural heritage, child care facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density.</p>	<p>The Minister issues statutory guidelines under Section 28 of the Act which planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are obliged to have regard to in the performance of their planning functions.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>HSE Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025</b></p>	<p>The vision is: <i>“A Healthy Ireland, where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone’s responsibility.”</i></p>	<p>These four goals are interlinked, interdependent and mutually supportive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life</li> <li>Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities</li> <li>Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing</li> <li>Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Our Sustainable Future: A Framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012</b></p>	<p>A medium to long term framework for advancing sustainable development and the green economy in Ireland. It identifies spatial planning as a key challenge for sustainable development and sets a series of measures to address these challenges.</p>	<p>Sets out the challenges facing us and how we might address them in making sure that quality of life and general wellbeing can be improved and sustained in the decades to come.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020 (2009)</b></p>	<p>Outlines a policy for how a sustainable travel and transport system can be achieved. Sets out five key goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To reduce overall travel demand.</li> <li>To maximise the efficiency of the transport network.</li> <li>To reduce reliance on fossil fuels.</li> <li>To reduce transport emissions.</li> <li>To improve accessibility to transport.</li> </ul>	<p>Others lower level aims include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reduce distance travelled by private car and encourage smarter travel, including focusing population growth in areas of employment and to encourage people to live in close proximity to places of employment</li> <li>ensuring that alternatives to the car are more widely available, mainly through a radically improved public transport service and through investment in cycling and walking</li> <li>improving the fuel efficiency of motorised transport through improved fleet structure, energy efficient driving and alternative technologies</li> <li>strengthening institutional arrangements to deliver the targets</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Investing in our Future: A Strategic Framework for Investment in Land Transport (SFILT) – Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport</b></p>	<p>SFILT sets out a set of priorities to guide the allocation of the State’s investment to best develop and manage Ireland’s land transport network over the coming decades.</p>	<p>The three priorities stated in SFILT are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Priority 1: Achieve steady state maintenance (meaning that the maintenance and renewal of the existing transport system is at a sufficient level to maintain the system in an adequate condition);</li> <li>Priority 2: Address urban congestion; and</li> <li>Priority 3: Maximise the value of the road network.</li> </ul> <p>In delivering on the steady state maintenance objective set out in SFILT, the Plan includes for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planned replacement programme for the bus fleet operated under Public Service Obligation (“PSO”) contracts;</li> <li>Tram refurbishment and asset renewal in the case of light rail; and</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To the extent within the Authority' remit, support for the operation of the existing rail network within the GDA.</li> </ul>	
<b>Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020 (2007)</b>	White paper setting out a framework for delivering a sustainable energy future in Ireland. Outlines strategic Goals for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Security of Supply</li> <li>Sustainability of Energy</li> <li>Competitiveness of Energy Supply</li> </ul>	The underpinning Strategic Goals are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring that electricity supply consistently meets demand</li> <li>Ensuring the physical security and reliability of gas supplies to Ireland</li> <li>Enhancing the diversity of fuels used for power generation</li> <li>Delivering electricity and gas to homes and businesses over efficient, reliable and secure networks</li> <li>Creating a stable attractive environment for hydrocarbon exploration and production</li> <li>Being prepared for energy supply disruptions</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2018 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans</b>	NAF specifies the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities in their administrative areas in order to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of any positive effects that may occur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adaptation under this Framework should seek to minimise costs and maximise the opportunities arising from climate change.</li> <li>Adaptation actions range from building adaptive capacity (e.g. increasing awareness, sharing information and targeted training) through to policy and finance-based actions.</li> <li>Adaptation actions must be risk based, informed by existing vulnerabilities of our society and systems and an understanding of projected climate change.</li> <li>Adaptation actions taken to increase climate resilience must also consider impacts on other sectors and levels of governance</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>2030 Climate and Energy Framework</b>	Adopted October 2014, includes EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period from 2021 to 2030.	Key targets for 2030: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions (from 1990 levels).</li> <li>At least 32% share for renewable energy. This was revised upwards in 2018.</li> <li>At least 32.5% improvement in energy efficiency. This was revised upwards in 2018.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Renewable Energy Action Plan (2010)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive.</li> </ul>	Including Ireland's 16% target of gross final consumption to come from renewables by 2020.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland (2009 – 2020)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is the second National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Plan reviews the original 90 actions outlined in the first Plan and updates/renews/removes them as appropriate.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Energy &amp; Climate Plan (NECP) 2021 – 2030</b>	Ireland's National Energy & Climate Plan (NECP) 2021-2030 takes into account energy and climate policies developed up to 2019, the levels of demographic and economic growth identified in the National Planning Framework - Project 2040 and includes all of the climate and energy measures as set out in the National Development Plan 2018-2027.	The planned policies and measures that were identified up to the end of 2019, collectively deliver a 30% reduction by 2030 in non-Emission Trading Systems greenhouse gas emissions (from 2005 levels). Ireland is committed to achieving a 7% annual average reduction in greenhouse gas emissions between 2021 and 2030. The NECP was drafted in line with the current EU effort-sharing approach, before the Government committed to this higher level of ambition, and therefore does not reflect this higher commitment. Ireland is currently developing those policies and measures and intends to integrate the revision of the NECP into the process which will be required for increasing the overall EU contribution under the Paris Agreement.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory

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<b>Wildlife Act of 1976</b> <b>Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000</b>	The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems</li> <li>• Give statutory protection to NHAs</li> <li>• Enhances wildlife species and their habitats</li> <li>• Includes more species for protection</li> </ul>	framework for environmental protection and management. Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Actions for Biodiversity (2017-2021)</b> <b>Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan</b>	Sets out strategic objectives, targets and actions to conserve and restore Ireland's biodiversity and to prevent and reduce the loss of biodiversity in Ireland and globally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To mainstream biodiversity in the decision-making process across all sectors.</li> <li>• To substantially strengthen the knowledge base for conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity.</li> <li>• To increase awareness and appreciation of biodiversity and ecosystems services.</li> <li>• To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside.</li> <li>• To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the marine environment.</li> <li>• To expand and improve on the management of protected areas and legally protected species.</li> <li>• To substantially strengthen the effectiveness of international governance for biodiversity and ecosystem services.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Broadband Plan (2012)</b>	Sets out the strategy to deliver high speed broadband throughout Ireland.	The Plan sets out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High-Speed Broadband.</li> <li>• Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high-speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered.</li> <li>• The strategy and interventions that will underpin the successful implementation of these targets.</li> <li>• A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 722 of 2003)</b>  <b>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 350 of 2014)</b>  <b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (SI 272 of 2009)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation.</li> <li>• Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water.</li> <li>• Identifies the competent authorities in charge of water policy (amended to Irish Water in 2013) and gives EPA and the CER the authority to regulate and supervise their actions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on River Basin Districts (RBDs).</li> <li>• Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies.</li> <li>• Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body.</li> <li>• Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances.</li> <li>• Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater.</li> <li>• Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies.</li> <li>• Outlines surface water quality standards.</li> <li>• Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations of 2010 (SI 9 of 2010)</b>	Transpose the requirements of the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC into Irish Legislation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for groundwater bodies of groundwater against pollution and deterioration in quality.</li> <li>• Sets groundwater quality standards.</li> <li>• Outlines threshold values for the classification and protection of groundwater.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990</b>	The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division.	The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prosecute for water pollution offences.</li> <li>• Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters.</li> <li>• Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• issue notices requiring a person to cease the pollution of waters and requiring the mitigation or remedying of any effects of the pollution in the manner and within the period specified in such notices;</li> <li>• Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects.</li> <li>• Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas.</li> </ul>	achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<p><b>Water Services Act 2007</b></p> <p><b>Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012</b></p> <p><b>Water Services Act (No. 2) 2013</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides the water services infrastructure.</li> <li>• Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services.</li> <li>• Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and waste water supply.</li> </ul> <p>Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and waste water services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland.</p>	<p>Key strategic objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring Irish Water delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector.</li> <li>• Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services in the gateways and hubs listed in the National Spatial Strategy, and in other locations where services need to be enhanced.</li> <li>• Ensuring good quality drinking water is available to all consumers of public and group water supplies, in compliance with national and EU drinking water standards</li> <li>• Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary waste water treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive.</li> <li>• Promoting water conservation through Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan, the Rural Water Programme and other measures.</li> <li>• Monitoring the on-going implementation of septic tanks inspection regime and the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems.</li> <li>• Ensuring a fair funding model to deliver water services.</li> <li>• Overseeing the establishment of an economic regulation function under the CER.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<p><b>Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2014-2016)</b></p>	<p>This Water Services Strategic Plan sets out strategic objectives for the delivery of water services to 2040. It details current and future challenges which affect the provision of water services and identifies the priorities to be tackled in the short and medium term.</p>	<p>Six strategic objectives as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet Customer Expectations.</li> <li>• Ensure a Safe and Reliable Water Supply.</li> <li>• Provide Effective Management of Waste water.</li> <li>• Protect and Enhance the Environment.</li> <li>• Support Social and Economic Growth.</li> <li>• Invest in the Future.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<p><b>Raised Bog SAC Management Plan and Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Areas</b></p>	<p>Aims to meet nature conservation obligations while having regard to national and local economic, social and cultural needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that the implications of management choices for water levels, quantity and quality are fully explored, understood and factored into policy making and land use planning.</li> <li>• Review the current raised bog NHA network in terms of its contribution to the national conservation objective for raised bog habitats and determine the most suitable sites to replace the losses of active raised bog habitat and high bog areas within the SAC network and to enhance the national network of NHAs.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<p><b>Agri-Food Strategy 2030</b></p>	<p>This 10-year Strategy sets out four high-level "Missions" to be achieved in order to develop such a system in Ireland:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A Climate Smart, Environmentally Sustainable Agri-Food Sector</li> <li>2. Viable and Resilient Primary Producers with Enhanced Wellbeing</li> <li>3. Food that is Safe, Nutritious and Appealing, Trusted and Valued at Home and Abroad</li> <li>4. An Innovative, Competitive and Resilient Sector, driven by Technology and Talent</li> </ol>	<p>Each of the Missions has a set of Goals which are underpinned by a series of Actions.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<p><b>Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS)</b></p> <p><b>Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS)</b></p> <p><b>Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS)</b></p>	<p>Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection. GLAS is the new replacement for REPS and AEOS which are both expiring.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation.</li> <li>• Protect biodiversity, endangered species of flora and fauna and wildlife habitats.</li> <li>• Ensure food is produced with the highest regard to the environment.</li> <li>• Implement nutrient management plans and grassland management plans.</li> <li>• Protect and maintain water bodies, wetlands and cultural heritage.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory



SEA Environmental Report for the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029

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<b>National Rural Development Programme</b>	The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and prioritises improving the competitiveness of agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas	At a more detailed level, the programme also: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation;</li> <li>• Aims to improve the environment, biodiversity and the amenity value of the countryside by support for land management through funds such as Natura 2000 payments etc.; and</li> <li>• Aims to improve quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity through the implementation of local development strategies such as non-agricultural activities</li> </ul>	framework for environmental protection and management. Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Realising our Rural Potential: The Action Plan for Rural Development 2017</b>	The Plan aims to unlock the potential of rural Ireland through a framework of supports at national and local level which will ensure that people who live in rural areas have increased opportunities for employment locally, and access to public services and social networks that support a high quality of life.	The Plan contains 276 actions across five key pillars. The five pillars are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting Sustainable Communities,</li> <li>• Supporting Enterprise and Employment,</li> <li>• Maximising our Rural Tourism and Recreation Potential,</li> <li>• Fostering Culture and Creativity in Rural Communities, and</li> <li>• Improving Rural Infrastructure and Connectivity.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Forestry Programme (2014-2020)</b>	Represents Ireland's proposals for 100% State aid funding for a new Forestry Programme for the period 2014 – 2020.	Measures include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Afforestation and Creation of Woodland</li> <li>• NeighbourWood Scheme</li> <li>• Forest Roads</li> <li>• Reconstitution Scheme</li> <li>• Woodland Improvement Scheme</li> <li>• Native Woodland Conservation Scheme</li> <li>• Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions</li> <li>• Producer Groups</li> <li>• Innovative Forest Technology</li> <li>• Forest Genetic Reproductive Material</li> <li>• Forest Management Plans</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>River Basin Management Plans for Ireland 2018-2021 and 2022-2027 [in preparation]</b>	The River Basin Management Plan sets out the measures that are necessary to protect and restore water quality in Ireland. The overall aim of the plan is to ensure that our natural waters are sustainably managed and that freshwater resources are protected so as to maintain and improve Ireland's water environment.	The River Basin Management Plan sets out the measures necessary to protect and improve the quality of Ireland's waters. These plans are prepared in 6-year cycles, during which a programme of measures must be implemented so as to achieve water quality objectives. Good water quality contributes to protecting human health by improving the quality of drinking water sources and bathing waters.  UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 6 <i>'ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all'</i> have been integrated into the measures and the governance arrangements for the proposed River Basin Management Plan.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Peatlands Strategy (2015-2025)</b>	This Strategy aims to provide a long-term framework within which all of the peatlands within the State can be managed responsibly in order to optimise their social, environmental and economic contribution to the well-being of this and future generations.	Objectives of the Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To give direction to Ireland's approach to peatland management.</li> <li>• To apply to all peatlands, including peat soils.</li> <li>• To ensure that the relevant State authorities and state-owned companies that influence such decisions contribute to meeting cross-cutting objectives and obligations in their policies and actions.</li> <li>• To ensure that Ireland's peatlands are sustainably managed so that their benefits can be enjoyed responsibly.</li> <li>• To inform appropriate regulatory systems to facilitate good decision making in support of responsible use.</li> <li>• To inform the provision of appropriate incentives, financial supports and disincentives where required.</li> <li>• To provide a framework for determining and ensuring the most appropriate future use of cutover and cutaway bogs.</li> <li>• To ensure that specific actions necessary for the achievement of its objectives are clearly identified and delivered by those involved in or responsible for peatlands management or for decisions affecting their management.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

SEA Environmental Report for the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029

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<b>Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme</b>	The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011 and is being overseen by the Office of Public Works. The CFRAM Programme is intended to deliver on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Floods Directive.	CFRAM Studies have been undertaken for all River Basin Districts. The studies are focusing on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. Flood Risk and Hazard mapping, including Flood Extent Mapping, was finalised in 2017. The final outputs from the studies are the CFRAM Plans, finalised in 2018. The Plans define the current and future flood risk in the River Basin Districts and set out how this risk can be managed.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 - 2020</b>	The Draft Bioenergy Plan sets out a vision as follows:  Bioenergy resources contributing to economic development and sustainable growth, generating jobs for citizens, supported by coherent policy, planning and regulation, and managed in an integrated manner.	Three high level goals, of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To harness the market opportunities presented by bioenergy in order to achieve economic development, growth and jobs.</li> <li>• To increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing bioenergy.</li> <li>• To ensure that bioenergy developments do not adversely impact the environment and its living and non-living resources.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE) 2016</b>	Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.	Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTAS) 2017- 2030</b>	This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.	Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AFV forecasts</li> <li>• Electricity targets</li> <li>• Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets</li> <li>• Hydrogen targets</li> <li>• Biofuels targets</li> <li>• LPG targets</li> <li>• Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Food Wise 2025 (DAFM)</b>	Food Wise 2025 sets out a ten-year plan for the agri-food sector. It underlines the sector's unique and special position within the Irish economy, and it illustrates the potential which exists for this sector to grow even further.	Food Wise 2025 identifies ambitious and challenging growth projections for the industry over the next ten years including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 85% increase in exports to €19 billion.</li> <li>• 70% increase in value added to €13 billion.</li> <li>• 60% increase in primary production to €10 billion.</li> <li>• The creation of 23,000 additional jobs all along the supply chain from producer level to high-end value-added product development.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Cycle Network Scoping Study 2010</b>	Outlines objectives and actions aimed at developing a strong cycle network in Ireland. Sets out 19 specific objectives, and details the 109 actions, aimed at ensuring that a cycling culture is developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sets a target where 10% of all journeys will be made by bike by 2020</li> <li>• Proposes the planning, infrastructure, communication, education and stakeholder participations measures required to implement the initiative</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

SEA Environmental Report for the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029

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<b>National Policy Framework for Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030</b>	<p>This National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport represents the first step in communicating our longer-term national vision for decarbonising transport by 2050, the cornerstone of which is our ambition that by 2030 all new cars and vans sold in Ireland will be zero-emissions capable.</p> <p>By 2030 it is envisaged that the movement in Ireland to electrically-fuelled cars and commuter rail will be well underway, with natural gas and biofuels developing as major alternatives in the freight and bus sectors.</p>	<p>This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce overall travel demand</li> <li>• Maximise the efficiency of the transport network</li> <li>• Reduce reliance on fossil fuels</li> <li>• Reduce transport emissions</li> <li>• Improve accessibility to transport</li> </ul> <p>These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021</b>	<p>The Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021 sets out actions that the Tourism Leadership Group has identified as priorities to be progressed until 2021 in order to maintain sustainable growth in overseas tourism revenue and employment. Each action involves specific tourism stakeholders, both in the public and private sectors, all of whom we expect to proactively work towards the completion of actions within the specified timeframe.</p>	<p>The Plan contains 27 actions focusing on the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy Context</li> <li>• Marketing Ireland as a Visitor Destination</li> <li>• Enhancing the Visitor Experience</li> <li>• Research in the Irish Tourism Sector</li> <li>• Supporting Local Communities in Tourism</li> <li>• Wider Government Policy</li> <li>• International Context</li> <li>• Co-ordination Structures</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025</b>	<p>The main goal of this policy statement is to have a vibrant, attractive tourism sector that makes a significant contribution to employment across the country; is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable; helps promote a positive image of Ireland overseas, and is a sector in which people want to work.</p>	<p>The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year net of inflation excluding carrier receipts;</li> <li>• 250,000 people employed in tourism; and</li> <li>• 10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE)</b>	<p>Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.</p>	<p>Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.</p> <p>Methodology: Development of the Policy and Development Framework is to be informed by the carrying out of an SEA, including widespread consultation with stakeholders and public, and with AA under the Habitats Directive.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTTAS) 2017- 2030</b>	<p>This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.</p>	<p>Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AFV forecasts</li> <li>• Electricity targets</li> <li>• Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets</li> <li>• Hydrogen targets</li> <li>• Biofuels targets</li> <li>• LPG targets</li> </ul> <p>Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>People Place and Policy - Growing Tourism to 2025, (DTTAS, 2014)</b>	<p>Growing Tourism to 2025 is a policy framework for the development of tourism within the Country.</p>	<p>The framework establishes the overall tourism goal of Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment in the tourism sector will be 250,000 by 2025, compared with around 200,000 at present.</li> <li>• There will be 10 million visits to Ireland annually by 2025.</li> </ul> <p>The Government's ambition is that overseas tourism revenue will reach €5 billion in real terms by 2025.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029

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<b>Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan 2016-2020</b>	The overarching aim of the Plan is to: <i>"Identify and protect the unique waterways heritage and promote its sustainable use for the enjoyment of this and future generations"</i> .	Four objectives of the Plan include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective 1: Fostering partnerships to continue building waterway heritage knowledge through storing information, undertaking research and developing best practice.</li> <li>Objective 2: Promoting awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of our waterway heritage with a focus on community engagement.</li> <li>Objective 3: Promoting the integrated management, conservation, protection and sustainable use of the inland navigable waterway asset.</li> <li>Objective 4: To develop Waterways Ireland as a heritage organisation committed to achieving the aim of this plan.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Tourism Development and Innovation – A Strategy for Investment 2016-2022, (Fáilte Ireland, 2016)</b>	This strategy sets out the framework and mechanism for the delivery of investment to cities, towns, villages, communities and businesses across the country. It identifies priorities to support innovation in the sector to retain and grow the country's competitiveness in the marketplace. Its ultimate aim is to strengthen the appeal of Ireland for international visitors.	The objectives of the Tourism Development and Innovation Strategy are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To successfully and consistently deliver a world class visitor experience;</li> <li>To support a tourism sector that is profitable and achieves sustainable levels of growth and delivers jobs;</li> <li>To facilitate communities to play an enhanced role in developing tourism in their locality, thereby strengthening and enriching local communities; and</li> <li>To recognise, value and enhance Ireland's natural environment as the cornerstone of Irish tourism.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Aquaculture Acts 1997 to 2006 (Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006), s. 1(3)) Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997 (23/1997) Fisheries and Foreshore (Amendment) Act 1998 (54/1998), ss. 2, 3 and 4 Fisheries (Amendment) Act 2001 (40/2001) Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006)</b>	The Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division ensures the efficient and effective management of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities.	The Strategic Objectives of the Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to develop and manage an efficient and effective regulatory framework in respect of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities;</li> <li>to secure a fair financial return from the State's foreshore estate in the context of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities;</li> <li>to progressively reduce arrears in the clearing of licence applications.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Foreshore Acts 1933 to 2011</b>	The Foreshore Acts require that a lease or licence must be obtained from the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government for the carrying out of works or placing structures or material on, or for the occupation of or removal of material from, State-owned foreshore, which represents the greater part of the foreshore. Construction of permanent structures on privately owned foreshore also required the prior permission of the Minister under the Foreshore Act.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developments on the foreshore require planning permission in addition to a Foreshore Lease/Licence/Permission. All Foreshore Leases, Licences</li> <li>Permissions are without prejudice to the powers of the local planning authority. Applicants should, therefore, consult initially with the local planning authority regarding their proposal.</li> <li>In the case of developments on foreshore for, by or on behalf of a Local Authority where an EIS is required, applications should be made to An Bord Pleanála under Part XV, Planning and Development Act 2000.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Marine Planning Development Management Bill (General Scheme), 2019</b>	The Bill seeks to establish in law a completely new regime for the maritime area which will replace existing State and development consent regimes and streamline arrangements on the basis of a single consent principle.	One of the aims is to establish a legal basis for An Bord Pleanála and coastal local authorities to consent to development in the maritime area, while retaining existing foreshore and planning permission provisions for aquaculture and sea fisheries related development. It will also provide for a single environmental impact assessment (EIA) and a single appropriate assessment (AA), where applicable.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF)</b>	The NMPF details how marine activities will interact with each other in an ocean space that is under increasing spatial pressure, ensuring the sustainable use of Ireland's marine resources to 2040. The NMPF has been prepared with an ecosystem-based approach and informed by best available knowledge.	The National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) brings together all marine-based human activities for the first time, outlining the Government's vision, objectives and marine planning policies for each marine activity.  The NMPF is intended as the marine equivalent to the National Planning Framework. This approach will enable the Government to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>set a clear direction for managing our seas</li> <li>clarify objectives and priorities</li> <li>direct decision makers, users and stakeholders towards strategic, plan-led, and efficient use of our marine resources</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

SEA Environmental Report for the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>National Seafood Operational Programme (2014-2020)</b>	<p>The Operational Programme (OP) supported by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) in Ireland aims at achieving key national development priorities along with the EU's "Europe 2020" objectives. The OP supports the general reform of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and the development of its Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) in Ireland.</p> <p>The OP strategy is designed around the Irish national priorities in the agri-food sector: 'Act Smart' by encouraging knowledge and innovation, 'Think Green' through a responsible and sustainable use of resources, 'Achieve Growth' in order to maintain and create jobs.</p>	<p>The Irish OP is organised around the following priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Union Priority 1 (UP1): €67 million (28% of the total allocation) aim at assuring the sustainable development of fishing activities, while protecting the marine environment.</li> <li>• Union Priority 2 (UP2): €30 million (12% of the total allocation) will support the Irish National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture that aims at boosting the competitiveness of the aquaculture sector.</li> <li>• Union Priority 3 (UP3): €84.8 million (35.4% of the total allocation) will go towards compliance with CFP rules regarding control and data collection.</li> <li>• Union Priority 4 (UP4): €12 million (5% of the total allocation) will support local development initiatives — a substantial, eleven-fold increase compared to the 2007-2013 funding period.</li> <li>• Union Priority 5 (UP5): €33 million (13.8% of the total allocation) will go towards creating scale in the Irish marketing and processing sectors, starting from the base of very small-scale businesses.</li> <li>• Union Priority 6 (UP6): €10.6 million (4% of the total allocation) will be used on measures to improve the knowledge on the state of the marine environment and the level of protection of marine areas.</li> </ul>	<p>framework for environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth: An Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland 2012</b>	<p>Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth is an Integrated Marine Plan (IMP), setting out a roadmap for the Government's vision, high-level goals and integrated actions across policy, governance and business to enable our marine potential to be realised. Implementation of this Plan will see Ireland evolve an integrated system of policy and programme planning for our marine affairs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable economic growth of marine/ maritime sectors;</li> <li>• Increase the contribution to the national GDP;</li> <li>• Deliver a business friendly yet robust governance, policy and planning framework;</li> <li>• Protect and conserve our rich marine biodiversity and ecosystems;</li> <li>• Manage our living and non-living resources in harmony with the ecosystem;</li> <li>• Implement and comply with environmental legislation;</li> <li>• Building on our maritime heritage, strengthen our maritime identity;</li> <li>• Increase our awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits; and</li> <li>• Engagement and participation by all.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020 and 2021-2025 [in preparation]</b>	<p>The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is an island-wide attempt to reverse declines in pollinating insects in order to ensure the sustainability of our food, avoid additional economic impacts on agriculture, and protect the health of the environment.</p> <p>The main objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making farmland, public land and private land in Ireland pollinator friendly;</li> <li>• Raising awareness of pollinators and how to protect them;</li> <li>• Managed pollinators – supporting beekeepers and growers;</li> <li>• Expanding our knowledge of pollinators and pollination service; and</li> <li>• Collecting evidence to track change and measure success.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This voluntary Plan identified 81 actions, shared out between over 100 governmental and non-governmental organisations.</li> <li>• A large focus of the Plan is to identify actions to improve the quality and amount of flower-rich habitat.</li> <li>• Actions range from creating pollinator highways along our transport routes, to supporting pollinators on farmland, in gardens, businesses, and on public land.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Regional/ County/Local Level</b>			
<b>Northern and Western Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy 2020-2032</b>	<p>The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy provides a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the Northern and Western Region in order to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework.</p>	<p>The Northern and Western Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its nine constituent local authorities: Donegal County Council; Leitrim County Council; Cavan County Council; Monaghan County Council; Roscommon County Council; Mayo County Council; Sligo County Council; Galway City Council; Galway County Council.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024</b>	<p>The priorities in the Integrated Infrastructure Plan align with the objectives and priorities set out in the Greater Dublin Transport Strategy 2016-2035, focused on improving public and sustainable transport. While the bulk of the Plan relates solely to the Greater Dublin Area, certain areas such as public transport services and activities related to small public service vehicles are dealt with on a national basis.</p>	<p>The Implementation Plan identifies investment proposals for a number of areas including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bus</li> <li>• Light Rail;</li> <li>• Heavy Rai;</li> <li>• Integration Measures and Sustainable Transport Investment;</li> <li>• Integrated Service Plan; and</li> <li>• Integration and Accessibility.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

SEA Environmental Report for the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs</b>	Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site</li> <li>To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest</li> <li>To describe the site and its management</li> <li>To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site</li> <li>To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs (i.e. sites within the Natura 2000 network) have to be set for the habitats and species for which the sites are selected.</li> <li>These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Groundwater Protection Schemes</b>	A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the quantity and quality of groundwater, and in some cases improve it, by applying a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Land Use Plans (including Development Plans and Local Area Plans) in force within County Leitrim, in other adjoining planning authorities and in adjoining planning authorities in Northern Ireland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outline planning objectives for land use development.</li> <li>Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Northern and Western Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy.</li> <li>Set out the policies and proposals to guide development in the relevant area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify future infrastructure, development and zoning required.</li> <li>Protect and enhances amenities and environment.</li> <li>Guide planning authority in assessing proposals.</li> <li>Aim to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development.</li> <li>Aim to promote sustainable development.</li> <li>Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs), including Leitrim LECP 2016-2022</b>	The overarching vision for each LECP is: “to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities	The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>County Leitrim Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Character Assessments in adjoining counties</b>	Characterises the geographical dimension of the landscape.	Identifies the quality, value, sensitivity and capacity of the landscape area. Guides strategies and guidelines for the future development of the landscape.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Leitrim Heritage Plan 2020 - 2025</b>	This Heritage Plan is a 6 year plan with 33 actions and will form the basis of the work programme of the Heritage Office and the Heritage Forum.	Heritage Plan Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the Conservation and Recording of Leitrim's Heritage;</li> <li>Raise Awareness of Leitrim's Heritage;</li> <li>Engage Communities with their Heritage;</li> <li>Support Sustainable Heritage Tourism in Leitrim.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

SEA Environmental Report for the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>Leitrim Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) 2021-2026</b>	Planning Authorities play a key role in supporting biodiversity initiatives, including implementing Local Biodiversity Action Plans. The Council fully recognises the National Biodiversity Action Plan and the need to protect the County's biodiversity. The Leitrim Development Company, in partnership with Leitrim County Council, has prepared the first Leitrim Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) to coincide with the period 2021-2026.	The BAP identifies 33 actions across six themes for biodiversity specific to County Leitrim ranging from raising awareness of biodiversity amongst individuals and communities in County Leitrim to identifying support structures to further engage with biodiversity through education and practical conservation participation.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Leitrim Noise Action Plan 2019-2023</b>	Noise Action Plans are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006, Statutory Instrument 140 of 2006. These Regulations give effect to the EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. This Directive sets out a process for managing environmental noise in a consistent manner across the EU and the Noise Regulations set out the approach to meeting the requirements of the Directive in Ireland.	The main purpose of Noise Action Plans is to: Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects and the measures which may be considered to address noise problems Address strategic noise issues by requiring competent authorities to draw up action plans to manage noise issues and their effects Reduce noise, where possible, and maintain the environmental acoustic quality where it is good	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Leitrim County Council's Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024</b>	This Climate Change Adaptation Strategy represents a proactive step by Leitrim County Council in the process of adaptation planning to build resilience and respond effectively to the threats posed by climate change.	The Climate Change Adaptation Strategy takes on the role as the primary instrument at local level to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure a proper comprehension of the key risks and vulnerabilities of climate change;</li><li>• Bring forward the implementation of climate resilient actions in a planned and proactive manner; and</li><li>• Ensure that climate adaptation considerations are mainstreamed into all plans and policies and integrated into all operations and functions of Leitrim County Council.</li></ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Connacht-Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021</b>	These plans give effect to national and EU waste policy, and address waste prevention and management (including generation, collection and treatment) over the period 2015-2021.	To manage wastes in a safe and compliant manner, a clear strategy, policies and actions are required.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Fáilte Ireland Tourism plans, strategies, including those relating to the Wild Atlantic Way</b>	Fáilte Ireland's work includes preparing various plans and strategies for Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way and other brands and initiatives. These plans are subject to their own environmental assessment processes and any project arising is required to be consistent with and conform with the provisions of all adopted/approved Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes, including provisions for the protection and management of the environment.	Some of Fáilte Ireland's plans and strategies include various projects relating to land use and infrastructural development, including those relating to development of land or on land and the carrying out of land use activities. Many of these projects exist already while some are not currently in existence. The Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes that provide for different projects undergo a variety of environmental assessments. These assessments ensure that environmental effects are considered, including: those arising from new and intensified uses and activities; and those arising from various sectors such as tourism.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Various existing, planned and emerging projects provided for by the above plans and programmes</b>	These projects have been provided for by higher-level plans and programmes.	These projects will contribute towards the development of the area to which the Plan relates and/or wider area and will contribute towards environmental protection and management.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects (see Section 8.2) may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

## Appendix II Ecological and Geological Designations

SACs (8) and SPAs (1) within County Leitrim		
Site Code	Site Name	Sensitive Features
001403	Arroo Mountain SAC	Sensitive features include: wet heath; dry heath; alpine and subalpine heaths; blanket bogs; petrifying springs; calcareous scree; and calcareous rocky slopes.
000623	Ben Bulbin, Gleniff and Glenade Complex SAC	Sensitive features include: floating river vegetation; wet heath; dry heath; alpine and subalpine heaths; juniper scrub; orchid-rich calcareous grassland; species-rich nardus grassland; hydrophilous tall herb communities; petrifying springs; blanket bogs; transition mires; alkaline fens; siliceous scree; calcareous scree; calcareous rocky slopes; geyser's whorl snail; and otter.
002032	Boleybrack Mountain SAC	Sensitive features include: dystrophic lakes; wet heath; dry heath; molinia meadows; and blanket bogs.
000625	Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore SAC	Sensitive features include: tidal mudflats and sandflats; large shallow inlets and bays; reefs; marram dunes; fixed dunes; humid dune slacks; machairs; juniper scrub; orchid-rich calcareous grassland; alkaline fens; marsh fritillary; and petalwort.
000584	Cuilcagh - Anierin Uplands SAC	Sensitive features include: oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals; dystrophic lakes; wet heath/dry heath; alpine and subalpine heaths; species-rich nardus grassland; blanket bogs; transition mires; petrifying springs; siliceous scree; siliceous rocky slopes; and slender green feather-moss.
001919	Glenade Lough SAC	Sensitive features include: natural eutrophic lakes; white-clawed crayfish; and slender naiad.
001976	Lough Gill SAC	Sensitive features include: natural eutrophic lakes; orchid-rich calcareous grassland; old oak woodlands; alluvial forests; white-clawed crayfish; sea lamprey; brook lamprey; river lamprey; Atlantic salmon; and otter.
000428	Lough Melvin SAC	Sensitive features include: oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters; molinia meadows; Atlantic salmon; and otter.
004187	Sligo/Leitrim Uplands SPA	Sensitive features include: peregrine and clough.
SACs (21) and SPAs (10) within 15km buffer, but beyond County's boundary		
Site Code	Site Name	Sensitive Features
000007	Lough Oughter And Associated Loughs SAC	Sensitive features include: natural eutrophic lakes; bog woodland; otter.
000115	Ballintra SAC	Sensitive features include: dry heath; and limestone pavement.
000133	Donegal Bay (Murvagh) SAC	Sensitive features include: tidal mudflats and sandflats; fixed dunes; dunes with creeping willow; humid dune slacks; common (harbour) seal.
000138	Durnesh Lough SAC	Sensitive features include: coastal lagoons; and molinia meadows.
000191	St. John's Point SAC	Sensitive features include: large shallow inlets and bays; reefs; vegetated sea cliffs; orchid-rich calcareous grassland; molinia meadows; alkaline fens; limestone pavement; sea caves; and marsh fritillary.
000622	Ballysadare Bay SAC	Sensitive features include: estuaries; tidal mudflats and sandflats; embryonic shifting dunes; marram dunes; fixed dunes; humid dune slacks; narrow-mouthed whorl snail; common (harbour) seal.
000627	Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) SAC	Sensitive features include: estuaries; tidal mudflats and sandflats; embryonic shifting dunes; marram dunes; fixed dunes; juniper scrub; orchid-rich calcareous grassland; petrifying springs; narrow-mouthed whorl snail; sea lamprey; river lamprey; and common (harbour) seal.
000638	Union Wood SAC	Sensitive features include: old oak woodland.
000979	Corratirrim SAC	Sensitive features include: limestone pavement.
001626	Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC	Sensitive features include: alkaline fens and Greyer's whorl snail.
001656	Bricklieve Mountains and Keishcorran SAC	Sensitive features include: turloughs; orchid-rich calcareous grassland; lowland hay meadows; calcareous scree; marsh fritillary; and white-clawed crayfish.
001673	Lough Arrow SAC	Sensitive features include: hard water lakes.
001680	Streedagh Point Dunes SAC	Sensitive features include: tidal mudflats and sandflats; perennial vegetation of stony banks; Atlantic salt meadows; Mediterranean salt meadows; marram dunes; fixed dunes; narrow-mouthed whorl snail.
001818	Lough Forbes Complex SAC	Sensitive features include: natural eutrophic lakes; raised bog; degraded raised bog; rhynchosporion vegetation; and alluvial forest.
001898	Unshin River SAC	Sensitive features include: floating river vegetation; orchid-rich calcareous grassland; molinia meadows; alluvial forests; Atlantic salmon; and otter.
001992	Tamur Bog SAC	Sensitive features include: wet heath; blanket bogs; and rhynchosporion vegetation.
002164	Lough Golagh And Breesy Hill SAC	Sensitive features include: blanket bogs.
002202	Mount Jessop Bog SAC	Sensitive features include: degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration; and bog woodland.
002303	Dunmuckrum Turloughs SAC	Sensitive features include: turloughs.



SEA Environmental Report for the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029

002346	Brown Bog SAC	Sensitive features include: raised bog; degraded raised bog; and rhynchosporion vegetation.
002348	Clooneen Bog SAC	Sensitive features include: active raised bog; degraded raised bog; rhynchosporion vegetation; bog woodland.
004013	Drumcliff Bay SPA	Sensitive features include: sanderling; bar-tailed godwit; wetland and waterbirds
004035	Cummeen Strand SPA	Sensitive features include: light-bellied brent goose; oystercatcher; redshank; and wetland and waterbirds.
004049	Lough Oughter SPA	Sensitive features include: great crested grebe; whooper swan; wigeon; and wetland and waterbird.
004050	Lough Arrow SPA	Sensitive features include: little grebe; tufted duck; wetland and waterbirds.
004068	Inishmurray SPA	Sensitive features include: shag; barnacle goose; herring gull; and Arctic tern.
004101	Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA	Sensitive features include: Greenland white-fronted goose.
004129	Ballysadare Bay SPA	Sensitive features include: light-bellied brent goose; grey plover; dunlin; bar-tailed godwit; redshank; wetland and waterbird.
004145	Durnesh Lough SPA	Sensitive features include: whooper swan; and Greenland white-fronted goose.
004151	Donegal Bay SPA	Sensitive features include: great northern diver; light-bellied brent goose; common scoter; sanderling; wetland and waterbird.
004234	Ballintemple and Ballygilgan SPA	Sensitive features include: barnacle goose.
<b>SACs (9) and SPAs (2) in Northern Ireland within 15 km buffer, but beyond County's boundary</b>		
Site Code	Site Name	Sensitive Features
UK0016603	Cuilcagh Mountain SAC	Sensitive features include: blanket bogs; alpine and boreal heaths; European dry heaths; natural dystrophic lakes and ponds; and Northern Atlantic wet heaths.
UK0016614	Upper Lough Erne SAC	Sensitive features include: alluvial forests; otter; natural eutrophic lakes; and old sessile oak woods.
UK0016619	Monawilkin SAC	Sensitive features include: semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies; and old sessile oak woods.
UK0016607	Pettigoe Plateau SAC	Sensitive features include: blanket bogs; European dry heaths; natural dystrophic lakes and ponds; northern Atlantic wet heaths; and Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters.
UK0030045	Largalunny SAC	Sensitive features include: old sessile oak woods.
UK0030047	Lough Melvin SAC	Sensitive features include: oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters; old sessile oak woods; and Atlantic salmon.
UK0030116	Cladagh (Swanlinbar) River SAC	Sensitive features include: freshwater pearl mussel; and water courses of plain to montane levels.
UK0030212	Moninea Bog SAC	Sensitive features include: active raised bogs.
UK0030300	West Fermanagh Scarplands SAC	Sensitive features include: blanket bogs; limestone pavements; petrifying springs with tufa formation; alkaline fens; natural eutrophic lakes; and Northern Atlantic wet heaths.
UK9020071	Upper Lough Erne SPA	Sensitive features include: whooper swan wintering population.
UK9020051	Pettigoe Plateau SPA	Sensitive features include: hen harrier; merlin; dunlin; common tern; golden plover; and Greenland white-fronted goose.
<b>Other SACs (4) and SPAs (4) connected to County Leitrim but Beyond 15 km Buffer</b>		
Site Code	Site Name	Sensitive Features
000216	River Shannon Callows SAC	Sensitive features include: molinia meadows; lowland hay meadows; alkaline fens; limestone pavement; alluvial forests; and otter.
000440	Lough Ree SAC	Sensitive features include: natural eutrophic lakes; orchid-rich calcareous grassland; active raised bog; degraded raised bog; alkaline fens; limestone pavement; bog woodland; alluvial forests; and otter.
002165	Lower River Shannon SAC	Sensitive features include: sandbanks; estuaries; tidal mudflats and sandflats; coastal lagoons; large shallow inlets and bays; reefs; perennial vegetation of stony banks; vegetated sea cliffs; salicornia mud; Atlantic salt meadows; Mediterranean salt meadows; floating river vegetation; molinia meadows; alluvial forests; freshwater pearl mussel; sea lamprey; brook lamprey; river lamprey; Atlantic salmon; bottle-nosed dolphin; and otter.
002241	Lough Derg, North-east Shore SAC	Sensitive features include: juniper scrub; cladium fens; alkaline fens; limestone pavement; alluvial forests; yew woodland.
004058	Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA	Sensitive features include: cormorant; tufted duck; goldeneye; common tern; wetland and waterbirds.
004064	Lough Ree SPA	Sensitive features include: little grebe; whooper swan; wigeon; teal; mallard; shoveler; tufted duck; common scoter; goldeneye; coot; golden plover; lapwing; common tern; wetland and waterbirds.
004077	River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA	Sensitive features include: cormorant; whooper swan; light-bellied brent goose; shelduck; wigeon; teal; pintail; shoveler; scaup; ringed plover; golden plover; grey plover; lapwing; knot; dunlin; black-tailed godwit; bar-tailed godwit; curlew; redshank; greenshank; black-headed gull; wetland and waterbirds.
004096	Middle Shannon Callows SPA	Sensitive features include: whooper swan; wigeon; corncrake; golden plover; lapwing; black-tailed godwit; black-headed gull; wetland and waterbirds.

## SEA Environmental Report for the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029

## NHAs (15) and pNHAs (73) within 15km buffer of County Leitrim

Site Code	Site Name	Site Code	Site Name
000009	Slieve Rushen Bog NHA	000007	Lough Oughter And Associated Loughs pNHA
000422	Aghnamona Bog NHA	000115	Ballintra pNHA
000617	Kilronan Mountain Bog NHA	000133	Donegal Bay (Murvagh) pNHA
000691	Rinn River NHA	000138	Durnesh Lough pNHA
001405	Cashel Bog (Leitrim) NHA	000139	Erne Estuary/Finner Dunes pNHA
001420	Corracramph Bog NHA	000191	St. John's Point pNHA
001423	Cloonageeher Bog NHA	000424	Clooncoe Wood And Lough pNHA
001450	Mount Jessop Bog NHA	000426	Kilgarriff Marsh pNHA
001652	Tullaghan Bog (Roscommon) NHA	000427	Lough Allen, South End and Parts pNHA
001902	Slieveward Bog NHA	000428	Lough Melvin pNHA
002321	Corry Mountain Bog NHA	000442	Brown Bog pNHA
002384	Dough/Thur Mountains NHA	000445	Clooneen Bog pNHA
002415	Carrane Hill Bog NHA	000447	Derrymore Bog pNHA
002430	Aghavoghil Bog NHA	000584	Cullcagh - Anierin Uplands pNHA
002435	Crockauns/Keelogyboy Bogs NHA	000596	Corrigeenroe Marsh pNHA
000002	Bruse Hill pNHA	000608	Kilglass And Grange Loughs pNHA
000622	Ballysadare Bay pNHA	000627	Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) pNHA
000623	Ben Bulbin, Gleniff And Glenade Complex pNHA	000630	Inishmurray pNHA
000625	Bunduff Lough And Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore	000638	Union Wood pNHA
000974	Annagh Lough (Ballyconnell) pNHA	000976	Blackrock's Cross pNHA
000977	Clonty Lough pNHA	000980	Drumkeen House Woodland pNHA
000978	Cordonaghy Bog pNHA	000983	Glasshouse Lake pNHA
000979	Corratirrim pNHA	000986	Lough Macnean Upper pNHA
000992	Lough Gowna pNHA	001412	Drumhierny Wood pNHA
001402	Annaghealy Lough pNHA	001413	Garadice Lough Wood pNHA
001403	Arroo Mountain pNHA	001415	Kinlough Wood pNHA
001404	Bonet River pNHA	001417	Lough Rinn pNHA
001407	Corduff Lough pNHA	001418	O'Donnell's Rock Wood pNHA
001409	Cromlin Bridge Wood pNHA	001419	Owengar Wood pNHA
001421	Sheemore Wood pNHA	001633	Drumman's Island (Lough Key) pNHA
001449	Lough Naback pNHA	001636	Fin Lough (Roscommon) pNHA
001626	Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) pNHA	001638	Hog's Island (Lough Key) pNHA
001631	Drum Bridge (Lough Key) pNHA	001642	Lough Boderg And Lough Bofin pNHA
001643	Lough Drumharlow pNHA	001680	Streedagh Point Dunes pNHA
001651	Tawnytaskin Wood (Lough Key) pNHA	001807	Lough Errew pNHA
001656	Bricklieve Mountains and Keishcorran pNHA	001673	Lough Arrow pNHA
001658	Colgagh Lough pNHA	001808	Lough Sallagh pNHA

SEA Environmental Report for the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029

001670	Knocknarea Mountain And Glen pNHA	001818	Lough Forbes Complex pNHA
001822	Carrickglass Demesne pNHA	001900	Meharth Lough pNHA
001898	Unshin River pNHA	001904	Knockmullin Fen pNHA
001906	Lough Dargan pNHA	001920	Carrickaport Lough pNHA
001909	Ballygawley Lough pNHA	001976	Lough Gill pNHA
001919	Glenade Lough pNHA	001992	Tamur Bog pNHA
002032	Boleybrack Mountain pNHA	002068	Carricknahorna Lough And Lough Gorman pNHA
002103	Royal Canal pNHA		

Leitrim's County Geological Sites (32)

Site Code	Site Name	Site Code	Site Name	Site Code	Site Name	Site Code	Site Name
LM001	Aghagrania stream section	LM002	Arroo Mountain Caves	LM003	Benbo	LM004	Bencroy
LM005	Carrickbaun Quarry	LM006	Corry Shore	LM007	County River Natural Bridge	LM008	Creevelea
LM009	Dough Mountain	LM010	Eagle's Rock	LM011	Finnalaghta Quarry	LM012	Fowley's Falls
LM013	Glenade Cliffs	LM014	Glenboy Cave	LM015	Glencar Waterfall	LM016	Good Friday Cave
LM018	Keshcarrigan Quarries	LM018	Lackagh Sandstone Quarry	LM019	Largy - Gorteenaguinnell	LM020	Larkfield and Meenymore
LM021	Leitrim Coast	LM022	Lough Rinn Drumlins	LM023	O'Donnells Rock	LM024	Peakadaw Landslips
LM025	Poll na mBear	LM026	Polticoghlan	LM027	Stony River	LM028	Teampall Shetric
LM029	The Doons	LM030	Thur Mountain	LM031	Truskmore	LM032	Twigspark



## Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029

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