

SUBMISSION TO 2023 to 2029 LEITRIM DRAFT PLAN

The scope of our submission is limited to access to and protection of our heritage, the countryside and the provision of walking and cycle routes for recreational purposes

Counties in bold are adjoining or in the Northern & Western Region.

The mention of a section in the Draft, without comment, indicates our support.

We are concerned that many of the excellent provisions in the 2015 Plan have not been carried forward to the Draft without any apparent reason. We will be referring to them in the course of our Submission. Therefore, we would ask you to look again to see if they could be included.

FORMAT

Index We submit that you should provide an Index, as recommended in the Development Plan Guidelines (5.15) and that the page numbers where topics are primarily dealt with should be bolded. See Sth Tipp, Clare, DLR & Waterford County.

Development Management Standards We submit that these should dealt with at the end of each Sec as this would make the plan more user friendly. At the very least the Pol/Objs Secs and Sec 13 should be cross referenced.

Layout We submit that this can be improved by sub-numbering or sub-lettering lists of points and paragraphs. The present layout creates difficulties when referring to particular points. Also that the Sec numbers should be placed on each page.

1 *The Planning and Development Act 2000 Sec 9(4) requires that the Plan must have regard to plans in adjoining counties.* See Carlow 1.1 1st para 2nd sentence.

2 *Co-ordinate the objectives in this plan with those in adjoining counties, except where it is considered to be inappropriate or unfeasible and take into account any significant likely effects the implementation of the plan may have any adjoining county.* Taken from Wicklow Vol 1 1.4 4th para 1st sentence.

3 *This Plan must conform to the RSES for the Northern & Western Region.*

4 *Strive to secure the financial resources to implement the policies and objects of the Plan.* Taken from Kerry 1.3 2nd para(7).

5 *Ensure that the development plan is consistent with the strategy of the NTA.* Taken from Wicklow 1.4 5th para.

We note that a rider on the lines of “***subject to the availability of financial resources***” is added to some Pol/Objs. We submit that where this appears in the Draft it should be deleted as many Pol/ Objs have financial implications, therefore it is invidious to single out particular ones.

VOLUME 1 – WRITTEN STATEMENT

5 TOURISM

We submit that you should add **AND RECREATION** to more accurately reflect its contents.

5.3 General Tourism Development

Policies

TOUR POLS 3 & 5 to 9

Objectives

TOUR OBJS 3, 7 & 8

5 We submit that:

**A you should delete *existing accesses* on line 2 as it is important to distinguish between them and public rights of way which unlike the latter confer no legal rights to users
AND**

B In line 1 you should substitute *two years* for *the lifetime of the plan*.

The wording in the Planning Act is quite clear: Each new development plan must fulfil the above requirement and no deferment will be permitted. See DOCELG letter to all Councils of 25/10/12 (PL 09/12).

2 Counties who have complied so far: Cavan 8.10 Table 8.4, Clare App 6, DLR App G, Donegal Part B App 3 T 15, Longford Table 13.2 & App 8, Kerry Vol 2 App 6, Kilkenny App D, Meath App14, Offaly Table 6.1 & Fig 6.18, Roscommon 8.7 Map 19, Sligo 6.7.4 Public rights of way Table 6.A, Sth Tipp 6.3.7 3rd para, Westmeath App 8, Wicklow Vol 1 Table 10

We note that the 2015 Plan also provided the same timescale.

We submit that you should include additional Pols/Objs:

1 *Protect the landscape from inappropriate tourism development by ensuring that developments and other activities associated with tourism or recreational activity are sensitively located so that they don't cause damage, be detrimental to or detract from the traditional character or appearance of areas of scenic or visual amenities and ensure that the layout, design and associated infrastructure are of highest quality. It must ensure the protection, maintenance, enhance and conservation of amenities, be compatible with their intensity, scale and balance and ensure that it is not located where it would be detrimental to environmentally sensitive areas and landscapes. Ensure the highest quality standards of design so that there are no significant adverse impact on nature the natural environment in coastal areas, Natura 2000*

sites, historic archaeological sites, maritime heritage or the countryside generally. It must be integrated, assimilated and absorbed into the landscape to take advantage of natural screening and topography. Based on Longford 10.5.3 CP0 10.2 & 10.5 last phrase, Cavan 9.7 RTO27, Mayo Vol 1 Chpt 2 Tourism TM-O1 & Vol 2 5.8, Roscommon 3.5 Pol 77, Galway County 4.14 Pol EDT - 1, 2015 Plan 2.2 Pol 1d) 1st phrase, Donegal 9.1 7th & 8th pts & many other plans.

2 Tourism and recreational development shall be assessed against the nature and scale appropriate to the character of the area and shall be located to be visually sympathetic to its surroundings.

Taken from Wicklow Vol 3 App 1 4 Tourism & Recreation, General criteria for tourism and recreational development 1st pt 1st sentence & 2nd pt 1st sentence.

3 The Council in assessing development proposals will consider the following criteria: The need for the development and facility to be provided, justification for the proposed site location, details on accessibility including pedestrian and cycle provisions and linkages to the proposed development. Taken from Longford DMS16.187 1st to 3rd pts.

OR

4 The Council in assessing development proposals will consider the following criteria: Where new buildings are proposed, they should be modest in scale, sensitively located and designed having regard to existing buildings, topography and landscape and be adequately serviced and suitably managed. Taken from Longford DMS16.189.

5 Direct tourist-based developments such as information centres and cultural centres into existing settlements where there is adequate Infrastructure to service these activities. Based on Kildare 5.16 ECD 29 1st phrase & Fingal 6.9 Tourism Sector Obj 61 last phrase.

6 *Seek to restrict and prevent developments which would damage or detract from the quality of scenic areas and identified natural heritage assets. Particular care shall be taken in regard to the siting of noise generating sports and golf course development so as not to be in conflict with the enjoyment of areas used for informal recreation and existing public rights of way and walking routes.

Taken from **Longford** 10.5.3 CPO 10.7 1st sentence last phrase & last sentence.

***It would be better *if seek to* was omitted**

7 *Monitor and manage any increases in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant detrimental effects/impacts including loss of habitat and disturbance and impacts on existing infrastructure. Seek to manage any increases in visitor numbers in order to avoid significant effects including loss of habitat and disturbance and impacts on existing infrastructure.* Based on **Longford** 10.5.3 CPO10.13 1st sentence & another plan.

8 *Safeguard our natural assets for future generations from unsuitable tourism projects.* Taken from **Kilkenny** 5.3.6 para last phrase under Pol 5.3.6 Tourism Objectives.

9 *Visitor/Habitat Management Plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.* Taken from **Longford** 10.5.3 CPO 1013 last sentence.

5.5 Greenways, Cycling and Walking

1st para

5.6 Adventure Tourism, Lakes and Waterways Objectives

ADV TOUR OBJS 1, 3, 4 & 6

We submit that you should include an additional Sub Sec:
Recreation and Sport

Pols/Objs

1 *Support development, in co-operation with various stakeholders to promote, preserve, improve and encourage public access to lakes, coasts, riversides, uplands and other areas that have been traditionally used for outdoor recreation and extend recreational amenities including riverside and canal walks.* Based on **2000 Planning and Development Act** Sec 10(2)(j), **Sligo** 6.7.4 P OR 14 1st sentence 1st phrase, **Galway County** 10.11 Pol RA 1 & another plan.

2 *Promote and encourage the recreational use of the coastline, rivers and the development of blueways which provide opportunities for walkers, cyclists and canoers.* Taken from **Wicklow** Vol 1 7.4 T34 1st sentence 1st phrase.

3 Implement the “Outdoor Recreation Plan for Public Lands and Waters in Ireland 2017-2021” and any subsequent edition in conjunction with stakeholders in the design of recreational facilities. Taken from Offaly 6.8 TRO-17.

4 Continue the development of projects for submission under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme and other funding schemes (e.g.(LEADER Programme). Taken from Kilkenny 5.3.6 5H.

5 Ensure that golf course development doesn't impinge on existing public rights of way and walking routes by identifying them prior to development. Taken from Sth Dublin 11.5.5(ii) last para & Kildare 14.12.2 RW 3.

Reason: Recreational users and golfers don't mix! While there are rights of way over golf courses, they aren't satisfactory as walkers run the risk of being hit by golf balls and golfers are distracted by people talking and moving about.

6 Development proposals for Noise Generating Sports will not normally be permitted unless there is no conflict with the enjoyment of areas used for informal recreation or unacceptable disturbance to wildlife. Taken from Kilkenny 8.5.5 Development Management Requirements 2nd & 3rd pts.

7 Adopt Bye-laws banning the use of motor bikes and quads (except for bona fide agricultural purposes) in privately- owned areas of rough grazing (including commonage) and motorised para gliders.

Note: Louth & Sligo have adopted bye-laws.

8 Development won't normally be permitted unless it doesn't result in damage to sites of nature conservation or important features of archaeological heritage or where it could cause harm to the appearance and character of the landscape and where it can be readily absorbed into its surroundings by taking advantage of existing vegetation and/or topography, or where enjoyment of the countryside isn't adversely affected by the nature, scale, extent, frequency or timing of the proposed activities including any noise likely to be generated and where ancillary development shall be small in scale, designed to a high standard and be sympathetic to the environment in its setting, layout and landscaping. Taken from

Carlow 8.11.2 Outdoor Recreation in the Countryside 1st, 3rd, 4th pt last phrase & 5th pts.

9 Support the protection, improvement and extension of recreational amenities and preserve their recreational attractions such as scenic beauty, woodlands, waterways, coastal areas and natural heritage, the character and distinctiveness of scenic landscape and environmental quality. Based on Offaly 6.8 TRO-03 & Wicklow Vol 1 7.3 Strategic Objs 8th & last pts.

10 Support working with relevant landholders and recreational agencies to increase access to the countryside and coastal areas to ensure maintenance and access to existing network of trails, paths, ways etc. Taken from Northern and Western RPO 4.1.

7 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

7.8.8 Burial Grounds

Text
3rd sentence

Policy
BUR GRD POL 1

We submit that you should include additional Pols/ Objs:

1 Promote local involvement and community stewardship in the care, maintenance, rehabilitation, management and conservation of historic graveyards and burial grounds in accordance with legislative best conservation and heritage principles and best practice guidelines. Based on Laois 4.2.4 BG3 last phrase & Fingal 10.2 Obj CH04.

2 Protect, preserve, enhance, conserve, maintain and promote the natural heritage of archaeological/historic graveyards/burial grounds and their settings and recorded monuments(including those identified in the RPM) and those in the guardianship of the Council in co-operation with the NMS. Encourage their rehabilitation and maintenance in accordance with legislation, best conservation principles and best practice. Based on Longford 7.4.12 CPO 7.65, Donegal 7.3.3 P 6, 2015 Plan 3.4.5 Pol 29, Sligo 7.2 P 5 1st sentence, Mayo Vol 1 Chpt 4 Archaeological Heritage j) & many other plans.

8 TRANSPORT

8.8 Walking and Cycling

Policies

WC POL 1

Objectives

WC OBJS 1 & 3

We submit that **you should include the following Tables with Maps:**

1 Way-marked Ways including medium/long-long distance walking routes, Greenways, Sli na Slainte, heritage/historic walking trails, pilgrim paths, paths to mass rocks and holy wells, looped walks, hill walks, forest walks and other defined walking trails. A data base should be set-up and up-dated as new trails emerge and should be included in your web-site. See Roscommon 8.7.1 T 8.2 & M 17 & many other counties.

2 Cycle Routes See Roscommon 8.7.1 Table 8.2 Map 17 & many other counties.

In respect of both Table you should add: ***Following the adoption of the Plan a temporary register of additional routes shall be maintained and should be included on the web site pending inclusion in the next Plan.***

We submit that **you should include additional Pols/Objs:**

A WALKING

1 *Support the development of Slí na Sláinte routes. These should be waymarked/signposted, where feasible. Based on Kildare 6.5 WCO 5 last pt & 14.12.1 CR 6 last phrase & DLR 4.1.2.16 Pol LHB17 last phrase & Dev & Text below Pol 2nd sentence.

*This should be preceded by ***In view of the obesity and diabetes crisis.***

2 Promote walking through the development and expansion of a network of safe walking trails within towns and villages and their environs. Such routes can link with existing waymarked trails, Sli na Slainte, the Green Infrastructure Network and existing or new public rights of way. Taken from Longford 5.2.7 CPO 5.68.

3 Support the provision of proposed long distance walking trails that provide access to scenic uplands, riverine and coastal features. Taken from Fingal Chpt 5 Obj Walking Trails RF114 1st phrase.

4 Research and map existing network of traditional paths used for leisure purposes to determine their legal status. Taken from Carlow 8.11.10 Obj 3 2nd pt.

5 Improve the attractiveness and usability of the pedestrian environment in areas of high amenity. Taken from Longford 5.2.7CPO 5.76.

6 The Council will co-operate with relevant agencies, both public and private, including the National Trails Office, the NWMWAC, Coillte, the Heritage Council, adjoining councils, community groups, local landowners and other relevant bodies to support the development, maintenance, facilitation and enhancement of short, medium and long distance hiking/walking routes, community walks, looped walks, heritage trails and off-road trails particularly in the uplands. This will include consultation with adjoining councils with a view to promoting routes extending beyond the county boundary. Based on Kildare 14.12 CR6 1st phrase, DLR 4.1.2.16 para under Pol 2nd & 3rd sentences, Laois 5.13 TM21 1st sentence & Meath 4.6.8 ED OBJ9.

7 Lobby the appropriate Government Department to agree and implement a scheme to indemnify private landowners with regard to recreational users of their land. Taken from Action Plan for Rural Development 2017 Pillar 3 Act 176.

8 Established walking routes shall be identified prior to any new forestry planting, new infrastructural, energy/telecommunications or golf course developments. Taken from Kildare 14.12.2 RW 3.

9 Implement, at appropriate locations, pedestrian permeability schemes and enhancements. Taken from Longford 5.2.7 CPO 5.77.

10 Support initiatives for establishing new walking routes and enhanced accessibility. Taken from Longford 13.9 3rd para 4th sentence.

11 Preserve and protect and, where possible, enhance, the integrity of existing public walking and access routes(including long distance walking routes) which contribute to the general amenity. Based on Sligo 6.7.4 P OR 22 1st sentence & another plan.

12 Protect listed walks from development that creates or has the potential to create dis-amenities. Taken from Cavan 9.6.1 2nd para.

13 Take the potential impact of proposed development into account when considering/assessing applications for permission in the vicinity of established walking routes that might impinge on walking routes(including long distance or potential walking routes). Taken from Sligo 6.7.4 Established walking routes 2nd & 3rd sentences.

14 Protect access routes to upland walks and public rights of way. Taken from Laois 5.10 RUR14.

15 Prohibit the intrusion of development along public walking routes, particularly those in scenic areas so that development does not impinge on or have a negative impact on these routes particularly at seashores, mountains, lakeshores, river banks or other places of natural beauty or recreational activity and those in scenic and high amenity areas and along inland waterways. Based on Wexford 15.9 Obj RS36, Carlow 5.3.2 Pol 8 7th pt, Kildare 14.12.2 RW 2 & many other plans.

16 Maintain and signpost walking and pedestrian routes. Based on 2015 Plan 3.10 7 Obj 109 & another plan.

17 Ensure the protection of and co-ordinate the continuation of strategic walking routes and trails. Taken from Cavan 9.6.1 RTO3 10 1st phrase.

B CYCLING

18 Promote, facilitate, support, improve and actively encourage the development, enhancement and expansion of an integrated coherent network of safe cycle routes(including long distant routes) in association with other agencies by facilitating the construction of

cycleways. Enhance and maintain these routes with the provision of signposting, lighting and road surfaces to high standards and with separation from vehicular traffic as set out in 2020 DMURS Interim Advice Note. Encourage the development of off-road cycling. Ensure that the upgrading of roads will not impact negatively on the safety or perceived safety of cyclists and that any dedicated cycle routes should, where possible, follow off-road tracks and quiet country roads. Based on DoTT's NCPF(2009) OO Breadth of Interventions page 7, 6th pt on right hand col, 7th pt & 8th pts & Pol 3.4, Longford 5.2.7 CPO 5.74 1st para 1st phrase & 2nd para 1st sentence & many other plans.

19 Support the development, maintenance and enhancement of trails and routes in co-operation with the Sports Council, the NTA, the NTO, the NWMWAC, the Heritage Council and other bodies to develop cycle touring routes including those linking with adjoining counties particularly in areas of high amenity. Based on Kerry 5.5 T26 1st phrase, Kildare 14.12. 1 CR9 & Carlow 5.3.2 Pol 8 16th pt.

20 Produce cycle maps. Taken from NCPF 2009 Pol 6.2 1st sentence.

21 Support community, authority or agency- led projects that would deliver identified strategic cycling links. Taken from Laois 6.1.1 TRANS 38 1st phrase.

22 Ensure that any dedicated cycle routes which are developed away from the main public carriageway are well lit. Taken from Longford 5.2.7 CPO 74 2nd para 3rd sentence.

23 Implement the recommendations and proposals within the NCN Scoping Study(2010). Taken from Galway County 5.4 Obj TI 19.

C WALKING & CYCLING

24 Support the progression of long distance linear green ways and further develop and improve cycleways, walking trails and paths and develop links with adjoining counties. Taken from Kilkenny 8.4 7th para.

25 Signpost and waymark walking and cycle routes with appropriately designed quality signage and information boards. Based on Sligo 4.4 P TOU 4 1st phrase, Roscommon 8.7.1 Pol 8.37 & many other plans.

26 Provide, create, promote, plan, support, maintain, enhance, encourage, extend, facilitate and support initiatives to develop and improve walking, rambling and cycling in conjunction/co-operation the Irish Sports Council, walking and cycling groups, landowners, farmers, local communities and other relevant organisations and bodies by identifying/defining more dedicated walking and cycling routes(named) to enable the creation of a high quality, coherent, pleasant, integrated and comprehensive dedicated off road countywide joined up network of local and regional cycling/walking routes, footpaths, greenways, particularly in rural are and between settlements, that link communities to key destinations and amenities, including local walks, community walks, medium/long distance walks and established rights of way, through open spaces, strategic green corridors, river corridors and other off-road routes particularly those with historic associations or other areas of interest and maximise their potential. Expand and extend existing routes by utilising links from residential areas to provide access to coasts, mountains, lakeshores, rivers and scenic areas. Based on **DPG 3.5 Box 3 B Infrastructure 3rd pt, Smarter Travel 2009 - 2020 Cycling and Walking 1st para in line 6, Donegal 5.1.2 T-0-13 1st sentence & T-P-35 1st sentence, Cavan 9.6.1 RTO3 1st phrase, Roscommon 8.7.1 pol 8.36 1st sentence, Sligo 8.3 P CW 9 & many other plans.**

27 Seek opportunities for the development of suitable walking routes, cycle tracks and bridle paths along historic access routes. Explore the potential of inter-county trails(named). Augment existing networks and trails at key heritage sites. Based on **Action Plan for Rural Development 2017 Pillar 3 Action 200 & 2015 Plan 3.6.3 Obj 29.**

28 Develop and promote a Walking and Cycling Policy/Strategy within two years of the adoption of the Plan, working in partnership with statutory bodies, private and voluntary sectors, landowners and other stakeholders with a view to establishing a register of walking routes and the legal status of same, the mapping and promotion of guided walks developing links with adjoining counties. The Strategy should list trails, evaluate these routes and make recommendations for their promotion that would address, inter alia, the possibility of cycle-ways in recreational areas and along river banks, car parking for walkers and cyclists and improved signage. Based on **National Physical Activity Plan for Ireland App1 32, Limerick County 6.10.3 Obj COM O27 b), DLR 2.2.7.1**

1st para under Pol 3rd sentence & Kildare 14.12.1 CR 3 1st sentence 1st phrase & 2nd sentence.

29 Provide, where feasible, adequate car parking and/or lay-bys for walkers and cyclists, (from your local knowledge name important locations) **and other appropriate points to facilitate access to amenities from 9am until dark.** Based on **Sligo 4.4. P TOU 4** last phrase, **Donegal 5.1.2 P 35** last sentence & many other plans.

Note: The primary responsibility for the provision of car parking lies with councils

30 Establish new Walkways and cycle routes on a legal and permanent basis. Taken from Carlow 5.3.2 Pol 8 12 pt 1st line & Sth Dublin 2.2.14 2nd 15th para 1st line.

31 Develop a strategy to support and underpin funding for the development, extension and enhancement of walking/cycling trails, greenways and continue to engage with funding agencies such as the DoTTS, the NTA, the Heritage Council and associated transport agencies and LEADER. Based on **Action Plan for Rural Development 2017 Pillar 3 Action 167, Galway City 4.7 Community Spaces Medium/Long Term 3rd pt 8th sub pt** & many other plans.

32 Encourage and support the enhancement and extension of existing walking and cycle routes by utilising links from residential areas, parks and open spaces and existing and new public rights of way to facilitate the creation of a secure green network to provide access to scenic, mountain, lakeshore and river features. Taken from **Cavan 9.6.1 RTO 19 1st phrase.**

33 Bring mountain amenities closer to residential communities by promoting the establishment of a network of formal footpaths, off road paths and cycleways that are attractive and that facilitate casual walkers and cyclists. Taken from **Sth Dublin 9.4.0. Pol 16.5.**

34 Actively encourage the use of off road routes including disused railines and bridle paths to develop medium and long distance walking and cycle routes as well as the development of linkages between existing and new trails, particularly those with historic associations in adjoining counties, in co-operation with IW and other relevant stakeholders to provide linkages with trails in

adjoining counties in partnership with their councils. Taken from Roscommon 8.7.1 Pol 8.39 1st sentence.

35 Work with relevant statutory bodies and other relevant stakeholders to improve the existing level infrastructure and facilities for walking and cycling. Taken from Longford 5.2.7 CPO 5.65.

36 Identify and implement a strategic, coherent and high-quality cycling and walking network that is interconnected with recreational attractions. Taken from Longford 5.2.7 CPO 5.66 1st phrase.

37 Provide signposting, information boards and public lighting for walking cycle routes at appropriate locations. Taken from Longford 5.2.7 CPO 5.78.

38 Protect the integrity, extent, scenic quality, visual setting and functionality of existing Greenways and walking and cycle routes. Taken from Donegal 11.3 P13 last pt.

39 Protect the routes of, and prohibit development, which would hinder the creation and development of future Greenways, walking and cycling routes including those identified in the Plan. Taken from Donegal 11.3 P 13 2nd pt.

40 Ensure that development proposals protect the routes of potential linkages such as linear paths, footpaths, trails, greenways and cycleways through a site where the Council considers that an opportunity to provide a linkage to or between adjoining areas. Taken from Donegal 5.1.2 P31.

41 Protect established walking and cycling and keep them free from development which would adversely impact upon them. Taken from Cavan 9.8.1 RTO18 1st phrase.

42 Council may seek to incorporate the provision of pedestrian and cycleways routes to link amenities and points of interest as a condition of planning permission. Taken from Kilkenny 8.4 4th para 1st sentence.

43 Ensure the protection and maintenance and, where feasible, improvement of walking and cycling routes and the public footpaths network are. Based on Roscommon 8.7.1 Pol 8.37, Mayo Vol 1 Chpt 3 Pedestrians & Cyclists 1st sentence & Cavan 9.6.1 RTO3 last phrase.

44 Encourage the provision of access routes to amenity areas in co-operation with landowners and protect them from inappropriate development and will seek to extend those spaces and pathways that can usefully form green links, footways and cycleways to connect residential areas with parks and open space and with each other. Taken from Kilkenny 8.4 4th para last sentence.

D DISUSED RAILINES

45 Actively encourage, support, promote and facilitate the development/establishment of disused railways, including the former Sligo Leitrim Northern Counties line for greenways, walkways, cycleways and other recreational activity to develop a network including medium and long-distance walking and cycling routes and bridle paths to link other counties, with related signage and waymarking. Based on Smarter Travel 2009-2020 Act 17 2nd sentence page 45, 2017 Plan 3.6.3 2nd para 4th sentence & another plan.

Note: As well as being a magnificent recreational resource, the opening up of these old rail lines can provide excellent amenities for walkers, cyclists and horse riders for local people and visitors. Substantial Government Grants are available for capital costs.

46 Protect and preserve routes of former railway lines by enhancing, conserving, safeguarding and preserving greenway routes as long distance walking and cycling routes along or in proximity of these rail lines from inappropriate development which could compromise their development. Along these corridors other uses shall not be considered. Where these corridors have been compromised by development, adjacent land which could provide opportunities to bypass such an impediment and reconnect these routes for walking/cycling shall be protected for this purpose.

Based on Donegal 5.1.2 P 24 all except last sentence, Mayo Vol 1 Chpt 4 Natural Heritage NH 01f) & many other plans.

47 While it should be possible to provide most routes along the existing track alignment, there may be a need for diversions and deviations following detailed survey and design work and consultation with landowners. The aim is to include these routes in

a map in the Plan. Meanwhile adequate protection needs to be given to abandoned rail lines so as to avoid inappropriate development that could compromise their viability. Taken from Cork County 8.7.6.5.

48 Where feasible, provide separate trails for walkers and cyclists in the interests of safety and convenience with appropriate surfaces for each type of user. Taken from Sligo 8.3 P CW 8 2nd sentence 1st phrase.

Note: The separation of walkways and cycleways is the practice in other countries particularly in Austria, Germany & Switzerland.

8.9 Blueways and Greenways

All

We submit that you should include an additional Sub Sec: **Public Rights of Way**

Text

1 Public Rights of Way have existed over the centuries and constitute an important recreational amenity. They enable the enjoyment of high quality landscape, natural and archaeological heritage and provide valuable links to rivers, lakes, bogs, forests and places of natural beauty. Based on Longford 13.9 1st para 1st & 2nd sentences, Sligo 6.7.4 Public rights of way 1st para 1st & 2nd sentences, Galway County 10.12 1st phrase, Cavan 8.10 1st para 1st sentence & 2nd sentence 1st phrase & many other plans.

2 A PROW or highway is a physically defined route over which the public have a right of passage even if the route is not in public ownership. It is described as “a user as of right” and confers an unrestricted right of the general public to pass and repass at all times of the day or night and at all seasons, without notice to, or permission from the landowner. The most common characteristic of a PROW is that it follows a defined route which may be sub-divided among different branches. Taken from Wicklow Vol 1 10.3.8 2nd para 2nd & 4th sentences & last sentence 1st pt. **See also Longford 13.9 1st para 3rd & last sentences & Sligo 6.7.4 Public rights of way 1st para last sentence.**

3 The listing and mapping of public rights of way will preserve Public Rights of Ways for recreational purposes. Taken from Kerry 9.10 2nd para last sentence.

4 The Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2000 makes it mandatory that the preservation of a public right of way which give access to seashore, mountain, lakeshore, riverbank and other places of natural beauty or recreational utility which public right of way shall be identified both by marking them on at least one of the maps forming part of the development plan and by indicating their location on a list appended to the development plan. Taken from Offaly 6.6 2nd & last para 1st sentence.

See also Cavan 8.10 1st para last sentence & Longford 13 9 2nd para 1st sentence.

5 Section 14 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 sets out the formal process for designating rights of way in development plans. The scope of these statutory provisions is grounded on identification of existing routes over which PROWS are deemed to exist. The inclusion of PROW objectives for their preservation provides greater protection for such routes under development management provisions of planning legislation whilst also restricting the scope of certain exempt development. Taken from Wicklow Vol 1 10.3.8 3rd para.

6 The listing of public rights of way is an urgent matter as the lack of certainty on access has not only affected the rights of local people but has been the major cause of the failure of walking tourism to reach its full potential in this country.

7 There is an excellent modus operandi for listing: Identify the existing public rights of way which give access to seashores, mountains, lakeshores, riverbanks or other places of natural beauty or recreational activity using the following methodology:

Place an advert in local papers seeking submissions from the public to identify public rights of way which give access to seashores, mountains, riverbanks or other places of natural beauty or recreational utility.

Identify existing rights of ways, paths and access points to seashores, mountains, lakeshores, riverbanks or other places of natural beauty or recreational activity.

Identify access points to seashores, mountains, riverbanks or other places of natural beauty or recreational activity which the Council have maintained or repaired with a view to identifying public rights of way.

Carry out a desktop analysis of public records, maps, aerial photographs and newspaper accounts to identify reputations of public rights of way.

Once the list is compiled, advertise and put it on display, the public will be invited to make submissions on the validity of the public rights of way.

Endeavor to verify and list the public rights of way and begin the formal process for designating rights of way under Section 14 of the Planning and

Development Act 2000 (as amended). Vary the Plan to include the list. Taken Cavan 8.10 NHE045.

8 *There are other pedestrian rights of way such as mass paths, which have existed for centuries but not all of which readily identified.* Taken from Longford 13.9 3rd para 3rd sentence.

Pols/Objs

1 *Existing Public Rights of Way shall be identified prior to any new forestry planting, new infrastructural, energy/telecommunications or golf course developments.* Taken from Kildare 14.12.2 RW 3 & Offaly 6.7 TRP-13. **See also Cavan 8.10 NHEO44.**

2 *When additional rights of way are identified they shall be incorporated into the Plan by way of a Variation.* Taken from Longford 13.9 2nd para last sentence.

3 *In accordance with the provisions of either Sections 206 or 207 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 encourage and bring forward proposals for the creation of additional rights of way and extend existing ones for pedestrian or amenity reasons to facilitate the development either by agreement/cooperation with landowners or by the use of compulsory powers, the creation of public rights of way, particularly in areas of high amenity and recreational importance, the coast, uplands, seashores, lakeshores, river banks, heritage and scientific sites, areas of historic, archaeological and recreational importance and National Monuments, to create a meaningful network and promote their greater use. Provide linkages from built up areas to the countryside and the coast. During the lifetime of the Plan carryout a survey of green links, footpaths, cycle ways and assess the potential of creating public rights of way.* Based on Longford 13.9 CPO 13.30 last phrase & CPO13.34, 2015 Plan 3.10.7 Obj 108 & many other plans.

4 *Ensure the provision of, and improvement to, signposting and waymarking on all public rights of way.* Based on Longford 13.9 CPO13.33 & many other plans

Reason: Its most important that public rights of way are marked on the ground because:

- 1 Walkers need to know of their existence to encourage usage**
- 2 Signage would alert local residents to planning applications affecting the integrity of public rights of rights of way**

3 Directional signage during the course of the route would prevent involuntary trespass on private property and prevent walkers getting lost which might impinge on walker safety.

5 *Designate Pilgrim Paths as public rights of way.*

Reason: We submit that as these Paths have been walked for many centuries their case for designation is surely irrefutable.

6 *Identify mass paths and routes to holy wells, mass rocks and penal mass stations and consider designating them as public rights of way.*

7 *Examine the feasibility of identifying and mapping new Public Rights of Way in recreational and amenity areas in the context of emerging national guidance.*
Taken from Offaly 6.8 TRO-22.

8 *Identify links to established public rights of way with adjoining counties where appropriate.* Taken from Longford 13.9 CPO 13.32.

9 *Prohibit development that might have a negative effect on public rights of way and keep them free from obstruction, particularly those at seashores, mountains, lakeshores, along inland waterways, riverbanks or other places of natural beauty or recreational activity and take legal action, if necessary, to prevent any attempt to close them off.* Based on DLR 4.1.2.13 LHB14 4th pt, Wexford 15.9 Obj RS36, Kildare 14.12.2 RW 2 1st phrase & Offaly 6.7 TRP-32. **See also 2015 Plan 3.10.7 Obj 110 & Galway County 10.11 Obj RA 6.**

10 *Look favourably on planning applications which include proposals to improve the condition and appearance of existing rights of way.* Taken from DLR 4.1.2.13 LHB14 6th pt, Laois 7.21 PRW5 2nd phrase, Carlow 8.12 Pol 6 7th pt & Kildare 14.12.2 RW 4.

11 *Development will not be permitted where a public right of way might be prejudiced, unless specific arrangements are made for suitable alternative linkages and that the developer can demonstrate that the level of amenity is maintained by:*
(i) *the footpath/bridleway being diverted by the minimal practical distance and that the route continues to be segregated from vehicular traffic;*
(ii) *Appropriate legal procedures have been undertaken to extinguish the existing right of way and to establish the new right of way to replace it,*

(iii) the diverted route is of at least equal character and convenience. Based on **Mayo** Vol 2 40.2, **2015 Plan** 4.5.12 & many other plans.

12 *Where, in the interest of proper planning and development, the extinguishment of an existing right of way becomes expedient, the Council may require the provision of a suitable alternative.* Taken from **Galway City** 4.5.1 4th para 3rd sentence.

13 *The Council will utilise its relevant statutory powers to preserve, as practicable, the character of listed public rights of way for amenity purposes.* Taken from **Wicklow** Vol 1 10.3.8 NH46 1st sentence.

14 *Council will use its powers under the Planning Acts to preserve, protect, maintain and enhance existing rights of way which give access to seashore, uplands, riverbank or other places of natural beauty or recreational use.* Taken from **Kilkenny** 8.6 2nd para last sentence.

15 *Protect and promote Greenways and consider designating them as public rights of way.* Taken from **Laois** 7.21 PRW5 1st phrase. **See also Sligo** 6.7.4 P OR 2.

16 *Preserve and maintain existing public rights of way in order to link amenities.* Taken from **Sth Tipp** 6.3.7 Access and Public Rights of Way 1st sentence.

17 *Council recognises the importance of promoting, encouraging and supporting the preservation, protection, enhancement, maintenance and improvement and further development of all public rights of way particularly those giving/providing access to state and semi state land and to seashores, mountains, uplands, lakes, water corridors, river banks, archaeological sites, National Monuments, geomorphological features of heritage value, and other places of natural beauty or recreational utility/activity by ensuring that development doesn't impinge thereon.* Based on **Longford** 13.9 CPO13.35, **Mayo** Vol 1 Chpt 3 Pedestrians & Cyclists Pc 01 1st sentence 2nd line, **Galway County** 10.13 PRW1 & many plans.

18 Review and protect existing public rights of way for the common good. Taken from Longford 13.9 CO 13.30 1st phrase.

9 INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY

9.12 Noise Pollution

All

9.13 Light Pollution

All

9.15 Energy Networks Infrastructure - Electricity and Natural Gas

Policies

EN POLS 2 & 3

We submit that you should include additional Pols/Objs:

1 *The undergrounding of transmission lines (including telephone and TV cables) shall be considered first as part of a detailed consideration and evaluation of all available options and having regard to national guidance. Where avoidance is not possible full consideration should be given to the undergrounding of the lines. Where technically feasible and environmentally appropriate, HV and other powerlines(including existing powerlines) and associated equipment should be placed underground to reduce the visual impact on the natural environment, possible interference with or damage to areas of archaeological importance from the visual intrusion of energy infrastructure in cooperation with other agencies as appropriate. Protect areas of recognised landscape importance and significant views from visually intrusive large scale energy transmission infrastructure especially in sensitive areas or areas of high visual amenity.* Based on Nth Tipp 7.13.7 Pol SERV 28 1st sentence, Kildare 8.12.2 TN 2 1st sentence & 8, Louth 9.2 EnCo 5, Meath 8.1.10 EC POL 19 & Limerick County 8.5.3 IN 053b). **See also Longford 5.7 CPO5.135 1st sentence, Cavan 4.7.1 PIO111 & 2015 Plan 3.11.4 Pol 127 6th pt.**

2 If, for whatever reason, Council has decided to permit overhead powerlines and television cables it is acknowledged that these powerlines can have an adverse impact on the natural environment and the character of its setting and natural heritage. Ensure that they are designed to have regard to possible interference with or damage to heritage sites, areas of archaeological importance, designated sites including pNHAs, cSACs, SPAs or sites of nature conservation. Minimise their obstructive impact and their visual intrusiveness particularly in mountain areas by their being integrated with their surroundings. Safeguard Natura sites and the sensitive, open character of areas of high visual amenity, high landscape designations and scenic views. The route should be identified with due consideration for environmental impacts. Where impacts are inevitable mitigation must be taken into account in respect of Natura Sites. Networks must comply with Art 6 of the Habitats Directive. Based on **Monaghan** 15.22 2nd para last phrase, **EGP 1** 1Last phrase & **EGP 2** last sentence last phrase, **Sligo** 11.1 SP-EN1 last phrase, **Galway City** Pol 9.14 last para & last para 4th pt, **2015 Plan** 3.11.4 Pol 127 last pt, **Roscommon** Pol 4.59 last phrase & many other plans.

3 When processing applications involving the siting of electricity powerlines and other overhead cables the following should be considered: Avoid areas of high value landscapes, where practicable, and areas of nature conservation and archaeological interest and minimise their visual impact. Taken from **Limerick County** 9.6.2 Last sentence 1st to 3rd pts.

4 *Seek to locate electricity transmission lines in non-scenic areas where possible. Taken from **Galway County** 13.9 DM Standard 31a) 1st sentence 1st phrase

* It would be better if **seek to** was omitted

9.18 Telecommunications

Policies

TEL POLS 1, 4 & 5

We submit that **you should include additional Pols/Objs:**

1 Require the identification of Public Rights of Way and established walking routes prior to any new telecommunication

developments(including associated processes) which will be prohibited if they impinge or impact thereon or on public access to the countryside or the natural environment. Taken from Sth Dublin 7.4 Obj 6. See also Roscommon 4.7 Pol 4.70, Cavan 4.8 PIO123 & Mayo Vol 2 55.3 4th pt.

Reason: Pending a complete listing of public rights of way, walking routes, as prospective rights of way, should be protected.

2 *Ensure that the location of telecommunications structures should minimise and or mitigate any adverse impacts on public rights of way or the natural environment.* Taken from Longford 5.9.2 CPO 5.175.

3 *The Council shall, in assessing an application, take into account the impact on established walking routes.* Taken from Mayo Vol 2 55.3 4th pt.

4 *The Council, in assessing development proposals, will consider the following criteria: Avoid the location of structures in sensitive landscapes, nature conservation areas or highly sensitive landscapes and where views are to be preserved.* Taken from Longford DMS16.84 ©.

10 RURAL ECONOMY

10.4 Rural Economy

Policies

RUR ECON POLS 1, 2, 4 & 5

Objectives

RUR ECON OBJ 3

10.5 Agriculture

We submit that **you should include additional Text:**

Commonage and other rough grazing land should be regarded primarily as an important recreational, environmental and amenity resource. Based on Galway City 4.6.2 1st para 1st sentence 1st phrase & another plan.

We submit that **you should include additional Pols/Objs:**

1 Recognise and support the role of farmers as custodians of the natural resources of the countryside and of rural landscapes. Taken from Cavan 3.5 EDO6 1st sentence 1st phrase.

2 Promote, at national level, the adoption of a Land Use Strategy.

Note: All EU countries(including Ireland) are under increasing pressure from the EU to comply with various EU Directives. In response to this Scotland adopted a Strategy in 2011. See the 2014 Report of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Agriculture, Food and Marine page 10.

3 Protect and conserve rural amenities, archaeological features, natural heritage, landscape, natural waters, watercourses, wildlife habitats, conservation areas, areas of ecological importance and the environment generally, from adverse impacts of agricultural practices and development particularly in high amenity areas.

Ensure that it does not have an undue negative impact on the visual/scenic amenity of the countryside or impinge thereon and identify mitigating measures where required. Integrate into the landscape. Based on Longford 9.3.2 County Policy Objectives CPO 9.17 last phrase & 18 last phrase & many other plans.

4 Maintain and enhance the standing of the rural environment through application of the EU Habitats Directive. Taken from Longford 9.3.2 County Policy Objectives CPO 9.14 last phrase.

5 Ensure the highest standards of environmental protection in assessing planning applications. Taken from Laois 5.10 RUR13 last sentence.

6 Ensure that development is in compliance with the EU “A Farm Fork Strategy” 2020 and parallel to the 14 point EU Nature Restoration Plan in the EU “Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives. Taken from Longford 9.3.2 County Policy Objectives CPO 9.22.

10.6 Forestry

10.6.5 Forestry Policy Framework 2nd & 5th paras

Policies

FOR POLS 1 to 4

Objectives

2 & 3

We submit that you should include additional Pols/Objs:

1 *Retain existing rights of way and identify them and established walking routes before planting commences and maintain them as rights of way/walking routes.* Taken from **Cavan 3.9 EDP15 & EDO 31 & Sligo 4.3.2 P FOR 3.**

Reason: If this isn't done walking routes tend to become subsumed into the network of forest roads thus making it very difficult, over time, to establish the existence of these routes.

2 *Encourage the provision of public access, in conjunction with relevant stakeholders, to new forests through walking trails, bridle paths, recreational areas and other similar facilities.* Taken from **Longford 9.3.3 CPO 9.26.**

3 *Encourage private forestry developers to provide access for walking routes, bike trails, bridle paths and other non noise generating activities as part of an integrated development.*
Taken from **Longford 9.3.3 CPO 9.27.**

4 *Ensure that existing public rights of way, traditional walking routes are not obstructed.* Taken from **Sligo 4.3.2 P 3 2nd sentence & Roscommon 3.4.2 Pol 3.44 1st sentence.**

5 *The Council, in assessing development proposals, will consider the following criteria:*

***Seek to ensure that:**

a) *Landscapes of scenic value are not unduly eroded.*

b) *Areas with environmental and archaeological protections are safeguarded.*

d) 1st sentence *A mixture of broadleaf and conifer species should be planted where possible so as to support a variety of flora and fauna species and to enliven forestry landscapes.*

*** It would be better if seek to was omitted**

Taken from **Longford 16.174**

10.6.6 Trees and Hedgerows Policies

TREE POLS 1 & 2

Objectives

TREE OBJ 1

We submit that you should include additional Pols/Objs:

1 Undertake a survey of trees and woodlands in order to identify groups/stands of trees of value worthy of protection. Taken from Longford 12.12 CPO 12.74 1st phrase.

2 Where appropriate, protect mature trees not formally protected by TPOs. Taken from Cork County 12.2. HE 2 5c).

3 Support the protection and management of the existing network of woodlands and trees of amenity value and/or which contributes to landscape character. Taken from Offaly 4.16 BLP-2 1st phrase.

4 Protect existing woodlands and trees and substantial areas of deciduous forest which are of amenity value and/or contribute to and interact with their landscape character and ensure that proper provision is made for their protection and management when undertaking, approving or authorising development and seek to interact with the landscape character of forest areas recognising the importance of working with the forest to achieve sustainable development proposals. Based on Longford 12.12 CPO 12.78 1st & 2nd sentences & another plan.

5 Discourage the felling of mature trees. Taken from Longford 12.12 CPO 12.77 1st phrase.

6 Manage, maintain, enhance, preserve, promote, encourage and facilitate, as far as practicable, the preservation, proper provision and retention of the existing network of native ancient woodlands and semi-natural woodlands (named) of amenity value especially broadleaf species for their contribution to landscape character. Based on Longford 12.12 CPO 12.73 & another plan.

7 Recognising the potential of forestry including Coillte's "open forest" policy, protect access to forestry and woodlands, in co-operation with private owners, for walking routes (including long-

distance and looped walks), mountain trails, nature trails etc.
Based on **Sligo** 6.7.4 P OR 23 1st phrase & another plan.

10.7 Extractive Industry and Building Materials Production Policies

AGG RES POLS 2 to 4, 6 & 7

We submit that you should include additional Pols/Objs:

1 *Applications for new development for aggregate extraction, processing and associated processes, shall identify existing public rights of way and walking routes which may be impacted on or adjacent to the development site. They shall be kept free from development as Rights of Way/Walking Routes.* Taken from **Cavan** 3.8 EDO25.

Reason

Pending a complete listing of public rights of way, walking routes, as prospective rights of way, should be protected.

2 *Restrict development of aggregate extraction, processing and associated concrete production which could impinge or impact on public rights of way or walking routes and can satisfactorily address the potential impact on recreational activities.* Based on **Monaghan** 15.25 EIP 4, **Sligo** 4.3.4 P MEQ 2 last phrase & many other plans.

3 *Prohibit development which could significantly impact on designated sites where these impacts cannot be satisfied by mitigation to ensure that development for aggregates/mineral extraction, processing and associated processes, in the vicinity of a recorded monument, sensitive landscapes, flora, fauna and World Heritage Sites* Based on **Longford** 9.3.7 CPO 9.41 1st to 4th pts, 6th & 7th pts, **Monaghan** 15.25 EIP 2, **Galway County** 6.21 Obj EQ 1, **Roscommon** 3.4.4 last para last sentence & Pol 3.57, **Donegal** 8.1.3 P2 2nd sentence 1st phrase, **Mayo** Vol 1 Chpt 2 Extractive Industries EI 01 & many other plans.

4 *In assessing applications for new quarries or extension to existing quarries the council will have regard to visual impact on sensitive landscapes.* Taken from **Louth** 3.8.1 DMC 1st para 2nd pt.

5 *Include screening proposals.* Taken from **Laois** 8.5 DM69 b).

6 Applicants must recognise that the aggregates (stone and gravel deposits) and the concrete products industry have a particularly sensitive role. Taken from Laois 8.5 DM69 f) 1st phrase.

We submit that you should include an additional Sub Sec:
Commercial Developments in the Countryside

Pols/Objs

1 Development must be limited to areas of low environmental sensitivity. Taken from Longford 9.3.1 CPO 9.11 1st pt last phrase.

2 Only grant planning permission for new buildings or the expansion of existing industrial business enterprises in the countryside where development would not cause a detrimental impact and is compatible with neighbouring land use. Any new buildings will be required to respect the appearance of and character of the landscape. Development will not be acceptable where it is unduly prominent in the landscape, where it results in the build-up of development when viewed with existing and/or approved building or where the impact of ancillary works, including the creation of visibility splays would damage rural character or impact negatively on the environment or which fails to protect Natura Sites, conservation areas, natural heritage or which fails to protect or is injurious to amenities (including visual amenities). Buildings should be kept simple and finished with material appropriate to rural settings and should reflect the size, scale, nature and pattern of development in the area. Buildings of excessive height will not be permitted and should be sited to make use of existing hedgerows and topography to provide natural screening. Based on Longford 9.3.1 CPO 9.11 1st pt 1st phrase, Roscommon 3.2.1 Pol 3.2 last phrase and many other plans.

OR

Only grant planning permission for a building in the countryside where the development would not cause a detrimental impact or erode rural character new building, will not be acceptable where it is unduly prominent in the landscape, where it results in the build-up of development when viewed with existing and/or approved buildings or where the impact of ancillary works, including the

creation of visibility splays would damage rural character. Taken from Monaghan 15.16 RCP 1 1st, 2nd & last pts.

11 HERITAGE

11.3 Natural Heritage and Biodiversity

All

We submit that you should include additional Sub Secs:

A County Heritage Plan

Pols/Objs:

1 Work with the Heritage Forum (if any) in order to deliver, support and promote the aims, objectives and actions of the County Heritage Plan and any revision thereof in relation to the protection of the natural heritage and implement, promote and actively work in partnership with the Heritage Council, the OPW, the NPWS, the NMS, community groups, the public and other relevant stakeholders. See our web-site (insert address). Based on Monaghan 6.2 HLP 1 & many other plans.

2 Review/Update the County Heritage Plan over the lifetime of the Plan in partnership with the County Heritage Forum (if any), relevant stakeholders and the community. Based on 2015 Plan 3.9.3 Obj 83 & many other plans.

B Access to Heritage

Pols/Objs

1 Publish a list with maps of heritage sites which are open to the public. Taken from Westmeath Heritage Plan 4.2.

You should add: **and post on the Council's web-site.**

2 Prepare and implement a strategy for access to heritage routes by identifying, promoting and supporting the development of a network of walking and cycling routes and heritage trails, with a focus on publicly accessible heritage sites and attractions in co-operation with community groups, landowners and other stakeholders, incorporating features of heritage interest. Based on Heritage Plans in Clare 2.3.1, Fingal Theme 4 36, Sth Dublin 2.4.(i), Westmeath 4.4 & 3.2.10 & Wicklow 2.1.

C Natural Heritage, Environment and the Uplands and Access to the Countryside

Objs/Pols

1 Recognizing the role played by natural amenities and landscapes, support, promote, encourage and facilitate, public access to heritage sites, features of archaeological interest, natural heritage, amenity areas, including Natura 2000 sites, nature reserves, mountains, uplands, moorlands, forests, rivers, lakes, valleys, scenic areas, areas of natural of beauty and other natural amenities traditionally used for recreation, and to the countryside generally, by creating a meaningful network of access routes as the opportunity or need arises in co-operation with landowners and other relevant stakeholders. Based on Longford 12.4 CPO12.2, Roscommon Pol 3.7.5 1st phrase & many other plans.

2 Designate traditional walking routes to the uplands as public rights of way. Taken from Sligo 6.7.4 POR 16 last phrase.

3 *Seek to negotiate access to lands for amenity purposes using access agreements, where appropriate and feasible. Taken from Fingal 5.2 Obj RF 119.

*It would be better *if seek to* was omitted.

4 Encourage and support sensitive development which provides for the provision of access to natural habitats and heritage features. Taken from Meath 4.6 ED POL 42 42 1st phrase.

5 Engage with stakeholders, including local communities, and statutory authorities to identify, protect, preserve, manage, enhance, maintain, safeguard, facilitate and conserve all relevant aspects of natural heritage and its settings, visual and scenic amenities, the rich quality and character of the natural heritage features and the natural environment including rivers, streams, wetlands, woodlands, scenic areas and the general amenity of the countryside and in recognition of its importance as a non-renewable resource, from intrusive development that would detrimentally impact on it, while maximising the recreational amenity and quality of life by the provision of visual relief from the built environment. Avoid unnecessary harm and reduce its effect where it cannot be avoided by replacing like with like. Based on DPG 3.5 Box 3: Suggested Structures and Content of Development Plans Environment, Heritage & Amenities last pt, **2000 Planning & Development Act Part 11 Development Plans** Chapt 1 Sec 10(2)(c) 1st phrase, **Project Ireland 2040** Pol Obj 60, **Sligo 7.1** Natural heritage -

general policies P-N-1 1st line, & **2015 Plan** 1.10.2 (b) & 3.8.1 1st para GENERAL 3rd pt, last para I & ii, **Galway County** 9.3 Pol GH 4, **Longford** 12.4 CPO 12.1 1st sentence 1st phrase & many other plans.

6 Implement the provisions of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) which offers protection for natural heritage.
Taken from **Galway County** 9.3 Pol GH3.

7 Impose “Precautionary Principles” which are an integral component of planning policies on environmental and heritage matters. Where uncertainty exists regarding the potential impact of a proposed development on natural heritage, full account shall be taken of these Principles. Taken from Carlow 9.1 Heritage Pol 1 5th pt.

8 Adopt a regional approach to the protection, conservation and management of the environment by co-operating with adjoining councils to ensure that the natural environment is maintained to encourage a collaborative and consistent policy that could identify threats to the integrity of sites through a transboundary approach. Based on **2015 Plan** 1.10.2 g) 1st phrase & **Monaghan** 6.5 HLP 10.

9 Protect amenity areas from inappropriate development.
Taken from Nth Tipp Policy H ERT 19 last phrase.

10 Council recognises the important role of the environment through diversity, quality, integrity and quality of life by promoting the protection, conservation and enhancement of the natural environment as an integral part of all development. Taken from **Kilkenny** 9.2 last para.

11 Protect, conserve and enhance natural heritage including wildlife (flora and fauna), habitats, landscapes features of importance to wildlife or which play a key role in the conservation and management of natural resources.
Taken from **Longford** 12.4 CPO 12.1.

12 The Council, in assessing development proposals, will consider the following criteria: Only permit development on or adjacent to designated SACs, SPAs, NHAs, Statutory

Nature Reserves or those to be designated over the period of the Plan, where an appropriate level of assessment can clearly demonstrate that it will have no significant adverse effect on the integrity of the site. Taken from Longford 16.4.22 DMS16.201.

13 Preserve the open character of commonage land and other hill land and secure access over paths and tracks through consensus with landowners, particularly in mountain areas. Taken from Wicklow Vol1 10.3.7. See also Sligo 7.4 P CAP 7.

14 Encourage and support sensitive development which provides access to natural habitats subject to nature conservation considerations. Taken from Meath 4.6 POL 42.

15 Support the maintenance of and promote the enhanced/increased access to state and semi-state lands such as Bord na Mona Bogs, National Parks, Forest Parks, Waterways and Monuments and Historic Properties for recreational purposes, subject to the requirements of the Habitats Directive, National Monuments Act and other provisions and policies to protect and safeguard these resources. Based on Longford 10.5.3 CPO 10.9 1st phrase & Northern & Western RPO 4.2 1st phrase.

D National Parks

Text

National Parks provide major recreational amenities and allow access to wilderness and highly scenic areas which would otherwise might have limited access rights.

Pol/Obj

1 Promote the designation of the North Sligo/North Leitrim(Benbulbin and its hinterland), the surrounding area and including Lough Arrow/LoughKey as potential National Parks/National Recreation Areas in collaboration and partnership with the appropriate Government Department, landowners, local communities and other stakeholders. It supports collaboration with stakeholders including the NPWS, Councils and the appropriate Government Dept. Taken from Northern & Western RPO 5.3.

11.3.1 European, National and Other Environmentally Sensitive Sites

All

11.3.2 Natura Sites

All

11.3.4 Protected Plant and Animal Species

Policies

All

Objectives

NH OBJS 1 to 5

We submit that you should include additional Pols/Objs:

A Euro/ Natura Sites

1 Strictly protect, support and maintain the conservation and enhancement of sites as defined in the Planning and Development Acts 200-2010(SPAs, SACs) including any additional sites that may be proposed during the lifetime of the plan. Protect the Natura 2000 network from plans or development proposals likely to have a significant effect on the ecological coherence or integrity of a site. Encourage the retention and management of landscape features of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Art 10 of the Habitats Directive. Based on Planning and Development Act 2000 Part 11 Plans and Guidelines Chpt 1 Development Plans 10.(c) 3rd line, 2015 Plan 3.8.3.1 Pol, Northern & Western RPO 5.5 last sentence & many other plans.

B NHAs

2 Actively promote the conservation and protection of proposed or designated NHA's and associated habitats. Protect and conserve the character and integrity of designated or proposed NHAs including those that may be identified or notified to the Council. Ensure the protection of the ecological, visual, recreational, environmental and amenity values. Ensure that any development is designed and sited as to minimise its impact on landscape values. Based on Roscommon 7.1 Pol 7.2, Northern & Western RPO 5.5 2nd sentence & many other plans.

3 Restrict development within a pNHA to development that is directly related to the area's amenity potential and subject to the protection and enhancement of natural heritage, visual amenities and the landscape. Taken from Sth Dublin 9.3.2 HCL13 Obj 2.

4 Assess all proposed developments in order to determine if they are likely to impact directly, indirectly or cumulatively on designated natural heritage sites in accordance with relevant legislation. Taken from Waterford City 10.4.2 Objs 6th pt & Carlow 9.1.1 Pol 2 5th pt.

5 Only consider development proposals within or affecting a Site if it can clearly demonstrate that the development will not have a significant adverse effect thereon. Maintain its conservation value, by avoiding/resisting proposed development within/near/adjacent to Sites which could result in their deterioration or which are likely to have a significant adverse effect/impact, direct, indirect or cumulative, on features for which the sites were designated or proposed for designation. Based on Roscommon 7.1 Natural Heritage Areas 2nd sentence & many other plans.

C Combined Euro/Natura Sites & NHAs

6 Maintain, and where necessary restore, the conservation value of Euro, NHA, SPA and SAC Sites. Taken from Sth Tipp 6.3.3 Designated Environmental Sites 2nd para 1st pt 1st phrase & Nth Tipp 8.4.10 4th para 1st pt 1st phrase.

7 Protect the conservation value of SPAs, SACs and NHAs identified by the Minister for DAHG and any other sites that may be proposed for designation during the lifetime of this plan. Taken from Cavan 8.4.2 NHEO5 & Longford 12.5 CPO 12.5.

8 Protect, conserve, preserve, enhance, identify and maintain sites of natural heritage importance, in co-operation with relevant stakeholders. Where necessary, restore the integrity of designated or proposed Natura sites been identified that can be put in place and NHA Sites, including areas adjacent thereto, designated or proposed under National and European legislation for SACs, SPAs and NHAs by resisting development which might damage or be harmful to or result in serious deterioration, dereliction or disturbance of species or which could have a significant adverse effect on the integrity of a site and maintain and develop linkages between them. This protection will extend to any additions or alterations to sites that may arise during the lifetime of this Plan. Based on Roscommon 7.1 Strategic Aim for Designated Sites 1st & 2nd pts & Pol 1, Sligo 7.1.1 P- DNSC - 1 1st para 1st sentence & last sentence 1st phrase, Mayo Vol 1 4 Natural Heritage NHO-3 & many other plans.

9 Apply the precautionary principle in relation to proposed developments in environmentally sensitive areas to ensure that all potential adverse impacts on a designated NHA or Natura 2000 Site arising from any proposed development or land use activity are avoided, remedied or mitigated.

Taken from Limerick City 11 Pol LBR 8. See also 2015 Plan 1.10.2(a).

10 Development on or adjacent to a proposed or designated National or European Site will be permitted only where an assessment has been carried out to the satisfaction of the Council in consultation with the NPWS and where the overall integrity of the site will not be compromised or adversely affected. Taken from Cavan 8.4.2 NHEP 9.

11 Restrict/Resist any development in or adjacent to sites which would be harmful to or that would result in a significant deterioration of habitats and/or disturbances of species in proposals for these sites. Based on Monaghan 6.10 Heritage, Conservation and Landscape Policies HLP 13 1st phrase & another plan

12 Assess all property developments in order to determine if they are likely to impact directly, indirectly or cumulatively on designated sites in accordance with relevant legislation. Taken from Waterford City 10.4.2 6th pt.

13 Maintain the quality and conservation value of designated and proposed SACs, SPAs and NHAs and when assessing development proposals make sure that there are provisions for their protection and enhancement. Taken from Nth Tipp 8.4.10 Pol HERT 29.

D Ramsar and other sites

14 Conserve, preserve and protect the integrity of and maintain the favourable conservation value/status of sites within or adjacent to Ramsar Sites, Statutory Nature and Reserves, Biogenetic Reserves, Wildfowl Sanctuaries and all existing and proposed NHAs. These should be designed and sited so as to minimise their impact on the ecological and landscape values of these sites under National and European legislation and International Agreements and maintain and develop linkages between them. Prohibit development which would damage or threaten their integrity. Based on Sligo 7.1.1 P-

DSNC-1 1st para 1st sentence & 2nd sentence last phrase & many other plans.

15 Only permit development on or adjacent to designated SACs, SPAs, NHAs, Statutory Nature Reserves or those proposed to be designated over the period of the Plan where an appropriate level of assessment can clearly demonstrate that it will have no significant adverse effect on the integrity of the site. Taken from Longford 12.5 CPO12.10.

E Other Sites

16 Identify and provide appropriate zones between Designated Sites and areas zoned for development. Taken from Longford 12.5 CPO 12.12.

17 Conserve and protect habitats and species listed in the Annexes of the EU Habitats Directive(92/43/EEC) (as amended), the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), Directive Annex 2, the Wildlife Acts 1976 to 2000, The Wildlife Acts 1976(as amended) and the Flora Protection Order No 94 of 1999. Based on Offaly 4.16 BLP-02 & Waterford County 8.18 Pol 14.

18 Maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of designated or proposed site under the control of the Council. Taken from Roscommon 7.1 Obj 1.

19 Identify and protect areas of high nature conservation value and support the landscape features which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora in accordance with Art 10 of the Habitats Directive. Taken from Sligo 7.1.1 O-DSNC-1.

20 Continue to identify & map habitats Taken from Kilkenny 9.2.Obj 9A 1st phrase.

21 Support and co-operate with statutory authorities and others in support of measures taken to manage proposed or designated sites in order to achieve conservation objectives. Taken from Offaly 4.16 BLP-3.

22 Protect, and where possible, enhance, wildlife Habitats and landscape features which act as ecological corridor/networks and stepping stones, such as river corridors, hedgerows and road

verges so as to minimise the loss of habitats and features of the wider countryside (such as ponds, wetlands and trees) which are not within designated sites. Taken from Kilkenny Development Management Requirements 2nd pt.

11.4 Development Management Guidance on Ecologically Sensitive Sites **All**

11.5 Biodiversity Outside of Habitats Designated for Nature Conservation **All**

11.7 Areas of Geological Interest

Policies

All

We submit that you should include additional Pols:

1 *Promote, encourage, facilitate and support access and public rights of way to geological and geo-morphological features of interest in cooperation/consultation with landowners (where appropriate/practicable).* Based on Longford 12.6 CPO 12.28 1st phrase, Sligo 4.4.1 P TOU 8 & many other plans.

2 *Increase pedestrian access and co-ordinate the continuing development of strategic walking routes/cycling trails and other countryside recreational opportunities.* Based on Cavan Geological Heritage Obj 8.5 NHEO11 & another plan.

3 *Where appropriate, restore geological sites.* Taken from Mayo Vol 1 4 Natural Heritage (e) last phrase.

4 *Promote the protection and preservation of sites of Geological and Geomorphological importance, including proposed NHAs and CGs that become designated during the lifetime of the Plan.* Based on Longford 12.6 CPO 12.27 1st phrase & another plan.

5 *Explore UNESCO Global Geopark Designation.* Taken from Heritage Plan Objective Support the Conservation and Recording of Heritage 6th pt last phrase.

11.8 Wetlands

Policies

All

We submit that you should include additional Pols:

1 Support and protect the recreational and amenity potential of wetlands. Based on Kerry 10.6 NE-29 & Meath 9.7.10 POL21.

2 Protect and conserve wetlands from infilling, fragmentation, degradation and resist development that would destroy, fragment or degrade any wetland. Taken from Longford 12.7 CP O12.31.

3 Resist development (including land reclamation) which would impact on destroy, fragment or degrade wetlands, coastal wetlands, estuarine marshland by controlling adjacent development by the use of buffer zones. Based on Galway County 8.7 Obj FL3, Cavan 8.5.2 NHEO16 & many other plans.

4 Ensure that development proposals or activities that may impact on sensitive water habitats, in particular turloughs and wetlands, shall not be permitted without the introduction of mitigation measures agreed with the Council to eliminate negative environmental impacts. Taken from Longford 12.7 CPO 12.32 1st para.

5 Proposals to drain or otherwise interfere with the sources of turloughs will not be permitted. Taken from Longford 12.7 CPO 12.32 last para.

6 Implement the relevant parts of the Planning and Development (Amendment (No 2) Regulations 2011 and the European Communities (Amendment to Planning and Development Regulations 2011, which requires planning permission to be applied or where the area impacted by works relating to the drainage or reclamation of a wetland exceeds 0.1ha or where such works have a significant effect on the environment. Taken from Longford 12.7 CPO 12.33 1st sentence.

7 Planning permission will be required where the area impacted by works relating to the drainage or reclamation of wetlands exceeds 0.1 ha or where such works may have a significant effect on the environment. Taken from Longford 12.9 CPO 12.55 2nd para 1st sentence.

11.9 Peatlands

Text

Last para 1st sentence

Policies

All

We submit that **you should include additional Pols:**

1 *Resource EU and national funding to support projects which assist the transition of industrial peatlands to sustainable after uses.* Taken from Offaly 3.9 CAEO-06.

2 *Support the provision of outdoor pursuits, walking and cycle routes.* Taken from Offaly BLP-16 1st phrase.

3 *Support the implementation of any relevant recommendations of the National Peatlands Strategy and any subsequent revisions and the implementation of the National Raised Bog Special Area of Conservation Management Plan 2017-2022 and the restoration works which will be a positive conservation measure.* Based on Longford 12.9 CPO 12.54 1st phrase & another plan.

4 *Work in partnership with relevant stakeholders on all suitable peatland sites to demonstrate best practice in sustainable peatland conservation, management and restoration techniques and promote their heritage value.* Taken from Longford 12.9 CPO 12.52 1st phrase.

5 *The Council recognises the importance of raised bogland as a major natural, archaeological and amenity resource and will liaise with the relevant Government departments and NGOs to try to secure the conservation of original peatland areas.* Taken from Nth Tipp 4.8 Peatlands 2nd para.

6 *Ensure that renewable energy projects located on or near peatlands don't negatively impact on any rehabilitation measures including enhanced rehabilitation measures (i.e blocking and re-wetting).* Taken from Offaly 3.9 CAEO-07.

7 Protect peatlands from inappropriate development having regard to their visual sensitivity value. Taken from Kilkenny 9.2.8 last para.

8 Ensure that peatland areas which are designated (or proposed for designation) as NHAs, SACs or SPAs are conserved for their ecological, archaeological and archaeological significance. Taken from Longford 12.9 CPO12.51 1st phrase.

11.10 Trees, Woodlands & Hedgerows

All

11.13 Landscape

11.14.1 Landscape Character Types

All

11.4.2 Landscape Character Areas

Text and Figure 11.1 : Landscape Character Types

Policies

All

Objectives

All

We submit that you should include additional Pols/Objs:

1 Prepare a County Landscape Character Assessment and support and implement the objectives contained in all relevant legislation and guidance documents following the publication of the forthcoming National and Regional LCA. Based on Longford 14.5 CPO 14.1 & another plan

2 Review, in the context of a regional approach to landscape assessment, the LCA following publication of statutory guidelines for Planning Authorities on local LCAs as outlined in the National Landscape Strategy 2015 to 2025. Taken from Longford 14.5 CPO14.2.

3 Provide and increase managed public access to interesting and

attractive landscapes or to semi-natural and landscape amenity areas for recreational purposes. Based on Cork City Obj 10.3 & Dublin City 10.5.2 GIO9.

4 Ensure the preservation of the uniqueness of a landscape character type by having regard to the character, value, sensitivity of a landscape in new development proposals. Any new development should respect and reinforce the distinctiveness and sense of place of the landscape and character types, including the retention of important features or characteristics, taking into account the various elements which contribute to their distinctiveness. Taken from Longford 14.5 CPO 14.4.

5 Preserve, maintain and enhance the visual integrity of the rich heritage of hill and upland areas which have retained a predominately undisturbed upland character. Based on Laois 7.19 LS01 1st phrase & 30 & Kildare 14.8.3 LU 4.

6 Preserve the status of traditionally open/unfenced landscapes including commonages and other hill land. Taken from Galway County 9.11 Obj LCM 3 1st sentence.

7 Protect, conserve, preserve, maintain and enhance the visual integrity and character of areas of exceptional values and sensitivities including medium to high value natural unspoilt landscapes. Based on Louth 3.10.7 1, Sth Dublin 9.20 Landscapes HERITAGE, CONSERVATION AND LANDSCAPES Policy 7 Landscapes 1st phrase, Meath 9.8.6 OBJ 1 last phrase & Kildare 14.8.1 LA 1 1st phrase.

8 Adopt a regional approach to the protection of the landscape in co-operation with adjoining counties. Taken from 2015 Plan 1.10.2 g) 1st phrase.

9 In areas of high landscape sensitivity the design and location of proposed development will be critical. Taken from Kildare 14.8.1 LA 1 last phrase.

10 Ensure that development will not have a disproportionate visual impact (due to excessive bulk, scale or inappropriate siting) and won't significantly interfere with or detract from scenic upland vistas, when viewed from nearby scenic routes, view points or

settlements. Taken from Kildare14.8.3 LU 1.

11 *Have regard to the potential for screening vegetation when evaluating proposals for developments within the uplands.* Taken from Kildare14.8.3 LU 5.

12 *Ensure that landscape is considered to be an important factor in the management of development and that new development doesn't impinge in any significant way on the character, integrity, distinctiveness of highly sensitive areas and doesn't detract from scenic value of areas. New development will not be permitted if it causes unacceptable visual harm or introduces incongruous landscape elements.* Based on Longford 14.5 CPO14.3 & many other plans.

We submit that you should include an additional Sub Sec:

Fencing of Hitherto Open Land

Text

1 *It is a requirement of the Planning Regulations 2001 Art 9(I)(a)(x) that the fencing or enclosure of land open to or used by the public during the ten years preceding such fencing or enclosure for recreational purposes or as a means of access to any seashore, mountain or other place of natural beauty or recreational utility, requires planning permission.* Taken from Kilkenny 7.2.4 1st para 1st sentence. See also Mayo Vol 2 40.3.

2 *Wire fencing constitutes visual pollution and destroys the "away from it all" feeling which makes upland areas such an attraction.* Taken from Kilkenny 7.2.4 1st para 2nd sentence.

3 *There has been a large increase in the amount of new fencing in upland areas. Barbed wire has been used in most of this new fencing, which, in the absence of stiles or gates, makes access for recreational users of our countryside almost impossible. Traditional hill-sheep farming rarely required fencing, but since the introduction of AEOS, sheep-farmers must, in certain circumstances, stock-proof their land. The challenge is to ensure that such fencing will be done in a manner that will meet the requirements of AEOS without impinging on access for walkers and other recreational users.*

Pol /Obj

As new fencing of land open to or used by the public during the ten years preceding is not exempt development in accordance with Art

9(1)(a)(x) of the Planning and Development Regulations the following criteria will be used when assessing planning applications for new fencing of hitherto open land: Fencing, particularly in upland, highly scenic or amenity areas, will not normally be permitted unless such fencing is essential to the viability of the farm. The nature of the material to be used, the height of the fence, and in the case of a wire fence the type of wire to be used will be taken into account. Stiles or gates at appropriate places will be required. Barbed-wire will not be used for the top line of wire. Based on Mayo Vol 2 40.3.1, Sligo 7.4 P LCAP 6 2nd to last sentences & many other plans.

Notes

1 As fencing may have a cross-county dimension it is important that this development plan should be in conformity with those in adjoining counties.

2 As wild goats are now being extensively used in fighting gorse fires it is recommended not to fence in these areas.

11.15.3 Development Management

All

11.16 Views and Prospects

All

11.16.1 Development Management

All

11.17 Protection of the Built Environment

All

We submit that you should include additional Sub Secs:

A Islands

Pols/Objs

1 Protect and enhance the landscape character heritage, historic and scenic importance of islands in lakes and rivers from inappropriate development whether on the islands themselves or at locations that interferes with their integrity and settings. Based on Longford 12.8 CPO12.45 & another plan.

2 Support and promote, with the co-operation of private landowners, public access to islands. Taken from Sligo 4.4 P TOU 8 & Longford 12.8 CDP12.46.

B Coastal

Pols/Objs

1 Provide, support, actively promote, maintain, protect, improve and enhance public access to the coast, seashore, coastal heritage and scenic landscapes in co-operation with landowners, relevant stakeholders, local groups and with statutory and relevant organisations for recreational activities. Where feasible, develop walkways/cycleways between the coast and green spaces in built-up areas. Based on Sligo 4.4 P TOU 8, 2015 Plan 3.3.3 Pol 19 & many other plans.

2 Examine the designation of traditional walking routes to the coast as public rights of way. Taken from Fingal 9.5 Obj NH65 3rd phrase.

3 Protect, conserve, safeguard, preserve, manage and enhance the special character of the coast for its visual, scenic, recreational and environmental quality and distinctiveness, its seascapes and as a valuable local amenity. Based on Project Ireland 2040 NPF National Policy Obj 41a, Galway County 9.9 Obj 10 1st & 3rd sentences & many other plans.

4 Proposals for tourism development in coastal areas must demonstrate that there will be no negative impacts on amenities or the integrity of the natural environment. Taken from Clare CDP 9.12 in line 2.

5 Prohibit mineral extraction along the coast, particularly in proximity to estuaries except in exceptional circumstances, where it can be demonstrated that there will be no significant adverse impact on the environment, visual amenity, heritage or the conservation objectives of Euro Sites. Taken from Fingal 5.3 Obj RF94.

6 Prohibit development of facilities for fishing and leisure developments where the siting of such installations and supporting infrastructure could cause landscape and environmental degradation or instability, have adverse effects on natural heritage or designated sites or detract from the visual amenity of an area.

Based on Fingal 9.5 Obj NH66 & Waterford County 6.15 Pol RCD 25 last phrase.

7 Introduce bye-laws restricting or prohibiting jet-skiing and water skiing. See Louth Harbour Bye-Laws 200.

Note

Have Done: Clare DLR & Meath

8 Protect established rights of way to coastal areas. Taken from Louth 2.7 CON33.

9 In assessing proposals for Water Sports Development ensure that the following criteria are satisfied: that proposals are fully compatible with existing use, will not result in damage to nature conservation or archaeological features, can be integrated into the seascape landscape, will not have an unacceptable impact on visual amenity especially in locally important scenic areas and will not unduly restrict access. Taken from DLR 8.2.10.5 (ii) 1st pt 1st phrase, 2nd pt, 3rd pt 1st phrase, 4th & 6th pts.

10 Strictly control the nature and pattern of development and ensure that it is designed and landscaped to the highest standards and sited so as not to detract from visual amenities. Development must accord with its surroundings in scale, density, height, massing, layout and must not have a detrimental impact on skylines or important views. Development shall be prohibited where it poses a significant or potential threat to coastal features and/or where the development is likely to result in altered patterns of erosion or deposition. Based on Donegal 7.1.3 & 10.3P9 & 10, 2015 Plan 3.3.3 para under Pol 18 2nd & 3rd pts, Galway County 9.9 NHB 8 c) & many other plans.

11 Protect the special character of the coast by preventing inappropriate development along the coastline, particularly along the seaward side of coast roads. Taken from Fingal 9.5 Obj NH 59 1st sentence.

C Inland Waterways

Note This is a recommended topic under the Heritage Act 1995 Sec 6(1).

We submit that you should include a **Table of Existing or potential riverside walks/cycle routes.** See Kildare 5.9.5 ECD. 29.

Pols/Objs

1 *In partnership with the NPWS, WI, Councils, community groups, landowners and other relevant stakeholders, provide, protect, promote, encourage, develop, maintain, facilitate, manage, increase and improve access to inland waterways including rivers, lakes and riparian/waterway corridors.* Based on National Heritage Plan 4.17, 2015 Plan 3.10.4 Pol 110 & many other plans.

2 *Recognising the importance of rivers, riparian corridors and buffer zones for their natural amenity and scenic values including rivers and canals in the facilitation and creation of linear parks, in co-operation with landowners, WI, the NPWS, Government Departments, community groups and other councils to develop their infrastructure, quality and amenity. Provide promote, develop and accommodate access for suitable walking, cycling tracks/routes, bridle paths and other compatible recreational activities.* Based on 2015 Plan 5.6.3 Obj 29 & many other plans.

3 *Support and facilitate the development of Greenways and Trails along (named) rivers.* Taken from Sth Dublin 4.5.0 Pol 6 Obj 1.

4 *Reserve, preserve, protect and set aside, for public access, an undisturbed buffer zone between new development and river corridors, canal banks, lakeshores and other water bodies to promote and facilitate the creation of linear parks to link with existing routes and amenity spaces to accommodate/facilitate the provision of walking and cycling routes and to encourage increased recreational opportunities.* Based on Longford 12.8 CPO12.39, 12.48 1st sentence & another plan.

5 *Take into account any proposal to increase and enhance public access to inland waterways as a condition of any development granted.* Based on Roscommon 7.4 Obj 7.32 1st phrase & another plan.

6 *Strengthen the network of waterways at regional level.* Taken from Kildare 13.10.2 GI 18 last phrase.

7 *Promote the natural, historic and amenity value of watercourses to address the long term management and protection and strengthen regional links.* Taken from Sth Dublin 8.20 Pol 3.

8 Promote the removal of historic culverts and infilling of water courses. Taken from Offaly 4.16 BPL-22.

9 Uncover existing culverts where possible. Taken from Sth Dublin 8.2.0 Obj 4 1st phrase.

10 Recognise and promote inland waters, river corridors, turloughs, lakes, fens and other water bodies as natural environmental assets. Taken from Clare 14.3.11 14a) 1st & 2nd phrases.

11 Improve aquatic riparian strips free from inappropriate development. Taken from Kerry 10.7.1 NE 36 & Fingal 9.2 Obj NH25 3rd line.

12 Where necessary, restore the conservation value of waterways. Taken from Mayo Vol 1 Chpt 4 Natural Heritage Text & NH-01f) 1st line.

13 Require that development along rivers set aside land for pedestrian routes that could be linked to established settlements. Taken from Carlow 8.11.10 Pol 5 2nd pt 1st phrase.

14 Potential applicants will ensure that full public access to lands along waterways which are in private ownership is maintained. Taken from Dublin City 23.9 2nd para last sentence.

15 Protect, enhance and improve existing public rights of way and, where possible, provide additional access to inland waterways, lake shores, river and canal banks through agreement, permissive access and/or the acquisition of land for public rights of way and parking and lay-by facilities. Taken from Longford 12.8 CP012.38 1st para.

16 Where a proposed development adjoining or adjacent to a river or canal bank or other watercourses reserve land to promote and facilitate the creation of waterside linear parks to link with existing parks and open spaces and to facilitate the provision of walking and cycling routes along canals and watercourses. Taken from Dublin City App 23.9 1st para 1st sentence.

17 Council will co-operate with other agencies in the development of blueways along existing watercourses as considered appropriate with existing greenways and blueways. Taken from Kilkenny 8.4 6th para. See also Northern & Western RPO 5.20 1st phrase.

18 In order to build on their amenity potential the Council will support the development and upgrading of Inland Waterways and their associated facilities in accordance with relevant management strategies, key stakeholders and other bodies including Waterways Ireland. Taken from Longford 12.8 CPO12.35 1st sentence.

19 Reserve land free from development to facilitate access. Taken from Waterford City 10.3 Pol 4th pt last phrase.

20 Work with relevant stakeholders to ensure the protection, management, preservation, conservation, encouragement and enhancement of waterbodies, watercourses, rivers (named), streams, lakes, springs, riparian corridors, core riparian zones and the amenity of the shoreline of river corridors, fens, turloughs, designated sites, wildlife and aquatic habitats from degradation and damage as important assets. Protect their visual integrity, amenity (including recreational amenities), natural heritage, historical or landscape character and their natural characteristics. Based on Longford 12.8 CPO12.34 1st phase, Galway County 9.9 Pol NHB 4 1st phrase & Obj NHB 9, Cavan 8.9 NHEP21 1st phrase, 2015 Plan 3.8.4.2 3rd para & many other plans.

21 All proposed developments shall be in accordance with the Birds and Habitats Directives and other relevant EC Directives. Taken from Clare CDP.9.13.

22 Normally only permit development proposals associated with water sports adjacent to waterways (including lakes) where the proposed facilities are compatible with existing use of water including non-recreational uses, which will not result in damage to important features of archaeological heritage or Natura Sites and where they can be satisfactorily integrated into the landscape so that they will not have an unacceptable impact on visual or environmental amenities especially in areas of high amenity or scenic importance. Based on Kilkenny 8.4.3 1st to 4th pts, Carlow 8.11.9 1st pt, 2nd pt 1st phrase, 3rd pt 1st phrase, 4th & 5th pts & last pt 1st phrase, Limerick County 6.12 Obj COM034 a) & c) 2nd pt, 3rd pt 1st phrase & last pt.

23 As water sports cover a wide range of activities from tranquil uses such as sailing, canoeing, rowing and sail boarding to powered activities such as water-skiing and powerboat uses, the

Council may require management plans for particular areas to address the compatibility of such varying demands. Taken from Carlow 8.11.9 2nd para 1st sentence.

24 Adopt bye laws prohibiting or restricting jet-skiing, water skiing and any other noise generating activities within one year of the adoption of the Plan. Adapted from 2015 Plan 3.10.3 4th para.

Note: Fingal & Mayo have adopted bye laws

25 When considering development applications relating to activities such as the use of jet-skis and power boats have regard to the recommendations of any national guidelines which may come into force with respect their potential impacts on nature conservation.

Taken from Roscommon 7.3 Obj 7.14.

26 In areas adjacent to inland waterways, lakes, canals and rivers where planning permission is sought conditions may be attached requiring the retention or creation of public access to waterways in order to facilitate creation or expansion of walking/cycle routes.

Taken from Longford 12.8 CPO12.38 last para.

27 Adopt a regional approach to the protection of watercourses in co-operation with adjoining counties. Taken from 2015 Plan 1.10.2 g) 1st phrase.

28 The line of development within river valleys shall be strictly controlled so as to maintain the integrity of the natural topography. The maintenance of natural river banks shall be required to be without physical or visual encroachment.

Taken from Dublin City 23.9 1st para 2nd sentence.

29 Any existing blockages to permeability such as redundant buildings should be resolved where possible. Taken from Dublin City 23.9 2nd para 2nd sentence.

30 Prohibit development along canal and river banks and other navigable and non-navigable waterways and preserve, conserve, enhance and protect these areas, their quality, natural heritage, landscape character and features at or close to them. Maintain river and stream corridors and river valleys free from inappropriate development. Any development that will adversely affect the visual integrity of distinctive linear sections of water corridors, river valleys by maintaining buffer zones where development should be avoided. Based on Cavan 8.9 NHEP21 1st phrase, Sligo Riparian zones

1st para 2nd sentence 7.1.6 P1 – INW 1st phrase & P2- INW - 2nd phrase, Galway County 9.9 Pol NHB 4 last & many other plans.

31 *Development will not be permitted if it materially or detrimentally affects natural conditions.* Taken from **2015 Plan** 4.1.1 4th para 8.

32 *Maintain and protect rivers, streams, stream corridors and riparian zones in an open state by discouraging land filing, culverting or realignment.* Based on Kilkenny 8.2.6 last para 1st sentence, Nth Tipp 8.4.11 HERT 31: Lakes and inland Waterways last phrase, Carlow 9.1.7 Obj 3 1st pt, DLR 4.1.3.7 LHB25 last para below Pol 4th pt & Kildare 13.10.2 GI 23 last phrase. **See also Sligo** 7.1.6 P2- INW - 2 last phrase.

33 *Protect, enhance and improve existing public rights of way and, where possible, provide additional access to inland waterways through agreement, permissive access and/or the acquisition of land for public rights of way and parking and lay-by facilities.* Taken from Longford 12/8 CPO 12.48 last sentence.

B CANALS

34 *Ensure, where feasible, that canal towpaths are made available for the development of cycle and walking trails.* Taken from **Smarter Travel 2009-2020** Act 17 2nd sentence page 45. **See also Galway City** Pol 4.3 8th pt last phrase.

35 *Ensure the conservation of canal corridors and require that developments abutting the canal relate to the context of the adjacent environment and contribute to their overall amenity.* Taken from **Galway City** Pol 4.3 8th para 1st phrase.

C LAKES

36 *Promote the provision of access to lakes.* Taken from **Galway County** 9.3.4.1 HL55 8th pt.

37 *Maintain the amenity value of major lakes and their environs by restricting and regulating development that would prejudice the use of these areas.* Taken from **Cavan** 8.8.1 NHEO33 1st phrase.

D RIVERS

38 *Factors that will be taken into account when considering proposals include any landscape or archaeological designation for the area, any proposals to increase the extent of public access, the*

extent of any environmental improvements to the water environment and its surroundings, the nature of any recreation proposed and any conflict or compliance with proposals for walking and cycling routes. Taken from Kilkenny 8.4.2.

E SPECIFIC RIVERS

39 Promote and develop the towpaths along the River Shannon Navigation to expand recreation and in co-operation with WI.

Taken from **Action Plan for Rural Development 2017 Pillar 3 Act 168** 1st phrase.

40 Protect the landscape associated with the River Shannon. Taken from Offaly 4.16 BLP-19 1st sentence 1st phrase.

11.20 Architectural Conservation Areas

All

11.21 Archaeological Heritage

Policies

All

Objectives

ARCH OBJ 2 to 5

We submit that you should include additional Pols/Objs:

1 Identify, promote, enhance, facilitate, encourage, support, improve, and protect public access to archaeological sites, castles, sites and features of historic interest in co-operation/partnership with landowners. Based on Roscommon 3.5 Pol 3.75 1st phrase, Sligo 4.4 P TOU 8 & 7.2 P AH 6 & many other plans.

2 Promote, provide and encourage appropriate signage to publicly accessible archaeological sites and National Monuments listed in the RMP. Based on DLR 6.1.2.1 1st para, Kildare 12.8.4 AH 9 & Laois 7.4 OBJ 2 last sentence.

3 Traditional access routes will be designated as public rights of way. In other cases, routes will be acquired by agreement with landowners or by way of compulsory powers. Taken from Laois 7.4 OBJ2 2nd & 3rd sentences.

4 The Council will continue to develop a programme of survey and management of Council-owned monuments and structures of historic interest. Taken from Sth Dublin 9.1.0 Pol 2 Action.

5 When dealing with development proposals that would impact upon archaeological sites and or features, there will be a presumption in favour of preservation in situ of archaeological remains and settings in accordance with Government policy. Taken from Offaly 10.11 BHP-37 2nd sentence.

6 Support and promote the protection and appropriate management and sympathetic enhancement of archaeological heritage and in particular by implementing the Planning & Development Act 2000(as amended) and the National Monuments Act (as amended). Taken from Offaly 10.11 BHP-33.

7 Ensure the support and promote the protection and appropriate management and sympathetic enhancement of archaeological heritage and in particular by implementing the Planning & Development Act 2000(as amended) the National Monuments Act (as amended) and implementation of the legislative, statutory and policy provisions relevant to the conservation of archaeological heritage. Based on Galway County 9.7 Pol ARC 1 2nd sentence & another pla.

8 Promote access to historic and archaeological landscapes(including battlefields). Taken from Wexford 14.5 AHO6 1st phrase.

9 Council recognises the importance of archaeological sites and National Monuments as part of our heritage. Provide, encourage, facilitate and improve public access to archaeological sites and National Monuments in State care, control or ownership or council care or guardianship. Based on Mayo Vol 1 Chpt 4 Access to Heritage & Amenities & many other plans.

10 Encourage and promote the appropriate management and enhancement archaeological heritage, to include community initiatives. Taken from Longford 11.9 CPO 11.51.

11 Support the implementation of the Sectoral Adoption Plan which provides that in some locations, in consultation with landowners, it

may be possible to access sites. Taken from Kilkenny 9.3.1 last para 1st phrase.

12 Council recognises the importance of promoting, encouraging, and securing/ensuring the protection, conservation, preservation, enhancement, safeguarding and appropriate management of sites, structures, settings and features of archaeological/historic interest including the protection of their intrinsic value, character, integrity, context and settings of National/Recorded Monuments, monastic sites or newly-discovered archaeological sites and areas and/or sub-surface archaeological remains, known and unknown, including those identified in the RMP, RHM, RM and RCM. Extend this protection to cover additions or alterations that may arise during the adoption of this Plan and to newly discovered remains and features. Protect and preserve any sites and features of historic or archaeological interest and any subsurface archaeological features that may be discovered during development. Based on 2000 Planning & Development Act Part 11 Development Plans Chapt 1 Sec 10(2)(c) 1st phrase, DPG Archaeological Heritage 4.26 1st para last sentence last phrase, Galway County 9.7 Obj ARC 1 & Pol ARC 1, Longford 11.9 CPO 11.48 1st phrase, Mayo Vol 1 4 Archaeological Heritage AoH 01 & many other plans.

13 Protect and preserve in situ all archaeological sites and features of historic interest discovered/identified subsequent to the publication of the RMP. Taken from Limerick County 7.5.2 Obj EH 026. See also 2015 Plan 9.7 Obj 96 & Galway County 9.7 Obj ARC3.

14 When assessing planning applications for development, have regard to the RMP and archaeological sites identified since the publication of the RPM. Taken from Kildare 12.9.1 AH2 1st sentence.

15 Protect National Monuments and other monuments protected under/subject to Preservation Orders. Based on Mayo Vol 1 4 Archaeological Heritage AoH 01 1st phrase, Galway County 9.7 Obj ARC 1 & Longford 11.9 CPO 11.49 1st phrase.

16 In assessing development proposals council will consider the following criteria: Development within a 20m radius of a recorded monument will not be permitted and proposed developments within 75m radius will be discouraged. Taken from Longford 16.4.21.3 DMS 16.195.

17 Resist development or proposed development, either above or below ground, taking place within or adjacent to archaeological sites or National Monuments should be designed to ensure that it will not seriously detract from, impact upon or damage features of historic or archaeological interest and shall respect their character and settings, which could be seriously injurious to the settings, the character of the sites or RPMs by reason of their bulk or detailing and shall be sited and designed in a manner which minimises its impact on settings. Based on **DPG** Archaeological Heritage 4.28 General Policies on Archaeology 2nd para last sentence, **Galway County** 9.7 Obj 7 & **Roscommon** 6.7 Obj 6.22.

18 Protect known and unknown archaeological sites, structures and monuments. Taken from **Longford** 11.9 CPO 11.47.

19 Support the preparation of a Conservation Management Plan for herniate resources. Taken from **Heritage Plan** Objective Support the Conservation and Recording of Heritage 7th pt.

20 Promote heritage funding opportunities and facilitate community groups and owner/managers of heritage sites to avail of funding for the conservation, management and promotion of herniate sites and projects. Taken from **Heritage Plan** Objective Support the Conservation and Recording of Heritage last pt.

21 Support the conservation of the region's National Monuments that are of special archaeological interest that are of Regional Significance. Taken from **Northern & Western RPO** 5.14.

We submit that **you should include additional Sub Secs**

A Mass Rocks & Holy Wells

Pol/Obj

Preserve, protect and, where necessary, enhance mass rocks and holy wells. Taken from **Nth Tipp** 8.4.5(iii) & **Offaly** 10.11 BHP-44.

B Prospective Special Amenity Area Orders

PolsObjs

1 Actively propose the designation of (local area) as a Special Amenity Area, seek an Order to that effect as per section 202 of the Planning and Development Act 2000(as amended) and undertake a feasibility study to report on other areas considered worthy of designation, to report within two years of the adoption of the Plan.

Adapted from **Kildare** 14.8.5 WC 7, **Laois** 7.19 LS39, & **Dublin City** 10.5.3 GIO14.

2 Review the possibility of selecting a particular area as being suitable for designation during the lifetime of the Plan. Taken from Cavan 8.8 last sentence.

Note: Orders have already been made covering the Liffey Valley and the Howth peninsula (both in Dublin) and Bray Head in Co Wicklow and by all accounts they are working very well.

C WORLD HERITAGE SITES

Pol/Obj

Undertake a feasibility study to report on areas considered worthy of inclusion in the Tentative List of World Heritage Sites to report within two years of the adoption of the Plan.

12 CLIMATE ACTION & RENEWABLE ENERGY

2.6 Climate Action – Mitigation Measures

We submit that you should include an additional Sub Sec:
Renewable Energy

Pols/Objs:

1 Produce a Renewable Energy Strategy within the lifetime of the Plan. Taken from Monaghan 8.24EP 2 1st sentence, 1st phrase.

2 Developments must be appropriately/suitably located. Taken from Sligo 11.1 SP EN 2 1st para 4th line.

3 Development proposals must be considered individually by taking into account their scale and layout and their incremental/cumulative effect due to other proposals, the degree to which impacts are highly visible over a vast area, their visual impact on scenic landscape as well as local visual impacts, And impacts on archaeology. They should not create a hazard or nuisance, including the risk of land instability and take into account the character and appearance of the surrounding area, the openness and visual amenity of the countryside, landscapes, protected areas such as NHAs, SPAs, SACs and sites of historic or archaeological interest or in proximity to National Monuments. Development will only be permitted where it will not have an adverse impact on the environment including the protection of

amenities and landscapes or designated heritage areas. Where impacts are inevitable mitigation measures must be taken into account or in the case of European conservation sites, facilities can only be accepted if they comply with Art 6 of the Habitats Directive. Based on Longford 5.8 CPO 5.143 last phrase & many other plans.

4 In assessing development proposals the Council will take into account/take cognisance of public access to the countryside, the impact on the landscape, public rights of way and walking routes, protected or designated areas - NHAs, SPAs, national monuments and mitigation features where impacts are inevitable. Taken from Meath 11.15.1 1st para 3rd, 4th, 6th & last pts. See also Longford 5.8 CPO 5.144.

12.6.2 Wind Energy

Policies

WE POL 3 1st to 3rd & 5th & last pts

We submit that you should include additional Pols/Objs:

1 Prepare Maps showing the degree of acceptability from prohibition to preferred including areas in adjoining counties considered unsuitable. See Cork County Fig 9.2.

2 Undertake an analysis of suitable areas for wind energy and prepare a map showing the Landscape Suitability for Wind Energy Development in accordance with national guidelines including section 3.5 of the Wind Energy Guidelines(2006) and any subsequent revisions and as recommended in the LCA. Taken from Sligo 11.1 SO EN 2.

3 Prepare a Wind Energy Development Strategy within one year of the adoption of the Plan and publish it as a proposed variation of this plan following the review of the DECLG's Wind Energy Development Guidelines. Taken from Kildare 8.5 WEO 1.

4 Identify existing public rights of way and established walking routes and maintain and preserve them free from development. Taken from Cavan 4.73 PIO 117.8.

5 Restrict large scale wind energy structures in the rural hinterland and mountain areas to protect their overriding visual and environmental values. Taken from Sth Dublin 10.27 Pol 9.

6 Ensure that the assessment of wind energy development proposals will have regard to the impacts on public rights of way and walking routes. Taken from Kildare 8.5 WE2 3rd pt last phrase.

7 The assessment of wind energy proposals will include consideration of the sensitivity of the landscape, the scale, size and layout of the project, any cumulative effects due to other projects and the degree to which impacts are highly visible over extensive areas, the visible impact on protected views and prospects, designated scenic landscapes and public rights of way and walking routes, the impact on nature conservation and archaeology, protected bird and mammal species, geological sites and the visual and environmental impacts of access roads and plant and grid connections. Based on Longford 5.7 CPO 6.153 1st pt, 2nd pt 1st phrase, 5th pt, 6th pt 1st phrase & last phrase & many other plans.

8 In assessing planning applications Council will have regard to existing and future international, European, national and regional policy directives and legislation. Taken from Offaly 3.8 CAEP-37 (e).

9 When considering an application for wind energy development, Council may consider the potential impact on natural heritage, including direct and indirect effects on protected sites, habitats of ecological sensitivity and, where necessary, management plans to deal with the satisfactory co-existence of the development, in particular, species /habitats identified. Taken from Kilkenny 11.5.3 Development Management Guidance 8th pt.

12.6.3 Solar Energy

Policies

SE POL 3

We submit that you should include an additional Pol: ***Make representations to the appropriate government department to make Planning Guidelines for ground mounted solar farms.***

12.6.5 Micro Hydroelectric Power

We submit that you should include additional Pols:

1 Ensure that the assessment of micro-hydro development proposals will have regard to the sensitivity of the landscape and the impacts on protected views, prospects, scenic routes, local visual impacts, nature conservation designations, archaeological areas, public rights of way

and walking routes. Taken from **Longford 15.8.3 CPO 5.163**
2nd to last pts.

2 Ensure that small scale hydroelectric projects on rivers, water courses, dams and weirs do not impact on natural heritage features. Taken from **Longford 15.8.3 CPO 5.162.**

13 DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT STANDARDS

13.20.4 Undergrounding of Cables

All

OVERVIEW

The Draft fails to comply with, have regard to or take into account:

Planning & Development Acts

Plans in adjoining counties

DoECLG Guidelines

Heritage Act 1995

National Heritage Plan

RSES for Northern & Western Region

KEEP IRELAND OPEN

Apr 2022