

SEA STATEMENT

FOR THE

SLIGO COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2024-2030

for: Sligo County Council

County Hall
Riverside
County Sligo



SLIGO
COUNTY COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH

by: CAAS Ltd.

1st Floor
24-26 Ormond Quay Upper
Dublin 7



OCTOBER 2024

Table of Contents

Section 1	Introduction	1
1.1	Introduction and Legislative Context	1
1.2	Content of the SEA Statement	1
1.3	Implications of SEA for the Plan.....	1
Section 2	How Environmental Considerations were integrated into the Plan ..	2
2.1	Overview	2
2.2	Instances whereby Environmental Considerations were not integrated into the Plan.....	2
2.3	Consultations	3
2.4	Communication of environmental sensitivities throughout the SEA process	3
2.5	Appropriate Assessment.....	4
2.6	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	4
2.7	Consideration of Alternatives	4
2.8	Integration of environmental considerations into Zoning of the Plan	4
2.9	Integration of individual SEA, AA and SFRA provisions into the text of the Plan.....	4
Section 3	Environmental Report and Submissions/ Observations.....	27
3.1	Introduction.....	27
3.2	SEA Scoping Notices and Submissions.....	27
3.3	Submissions on the Environmental Report for the Draft Plan	40
3.4	SEA documents including SEA Environmental Report	41
Section 4	Summary of Alternatives considered	42
4.1	Introduction.....	42
4.2	Limitations in Available Alternatives	42
4.3	Type 1: Alternatives for positioning in the Settlement Hierarchy	42
4.4	Type 2: Alternatives for Population Allocations.....	43
4.5	Type 3: Alternatives for Rural Settlements.....	43
4.6	Type 4: Alternatives for Residential Densities.....	44
4.7	Type 5: Alternatives for Land-Use Zoning (residential and mixed uses, including residential)44	
4.8	Reasons for Choosing the Selected Alternatives in light of Other Reasonable Alternatives Considered.....	45
Section 5	Monitoring Measures	46
5.1	Introduction.....	46
5.2	Indicators and Targets.....	46
5.3	Sources	46
5.4	Reporting	46

Section 1 Introduction

1.1 Introduction and Legislative Context

This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030.

SEA is a systematic process of predicting and evaluating the likely environmental effects of implementing a plan, or other strategic action, in order to ensure that these effects are appropriately addressed at the earliest appropriate stage of decision-making on a par with economic and social considerations.

Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27th June 2001, on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment, referred to hereafter as the SEA Directive, introduced the requirement that SEA be carried out on plans and programmes which are prepared for a number of sectors, including land use. The SEA Directive was transposed into Irish Law through the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 and the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004. The Regulations have been amended by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 and the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011.

1.2 Content of the SEA Statement

Where SEA is undertaken, the Regulations require that a Statement is made available to

the public and the competent environmental authorities after the making of the Plan.

This Statement is referred to as an SEA Statement.

The SEA Statement is required to include information summarising:

- a) how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan;
- b) how the following have been taken into account during the preparation of the Plan:
 - the environmental report,
 - submissions and observations made to the planning authority on the Draft Plan and Environmental Report, and
 - any transboundary consultations.
- c) the reasons for choosing the Plan in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and
- d) the measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan.

1.3 Implications of SEA for the Plan

SEA has been undertaken on the Plan and the findings of the SEA are expressed in an Environmental Report, the first published version of which accompanied the Draft Plan on public display. The Environmental Report was updated in order to take account of changes to the original Draft Plan that were made on foot of submissions and recommendations in the submissions.

Sligo County Council has been provided with the findings of SEA output during their consideration of the Plan and before the Plan was adopted.

Section 2 How Environmental Considerations were integrated into the Plan

2.1 Overview

Environmental considerations were presented to the Council for its consideration through:

1. Consultations;
2. Communication of environmental sensitivities throughout the SEA process;
3. Appropriate Assessment;
4. Strategic Flood Risk Assessment;
5. Consideration of alternatives;
6. Integration of environmental considerations; and
7. Integration of individual SEA and AA provisions into the Plan.

All parts of the Plan-preparation process were informed by the SEA, AA and SFRA processes - this includes the preparation of the Chief Executive's Draft Plan, Members' Amendments to that Plan in advance of public display, Proposed Material Alterations and Further Modifications.

2.2 Instances whereby Environmental Considerations were not integrated into the Plan

The Plan, considered as a whole, contributes towards environmental protection and management and sustainable development and complies with various legislative requirements. This is identified throughout the SEA documentation.

Various Plan provisions that would contribute towards the sustainable development of the County would, at the same time, have the potential to conflict with the environment, were mitigation measures not taken into account. This is normal and mitigation measures have been integrated into the Plan to deal with these potential effects.

However, a number of alterations were adopted by the Elected Members as part of the Plan that are somewhat inconsistent with the overall approach provided for by the Plan, including those which are identified on Table 2.1. Also included on this table is the advice that was provided by the SEA for consideration in advance of adoption of the Plan.

Table 2.1 Alterations Advised Against but Adopted

Proposed Amendment No's.	Commentary provided in advance of Plan Adoption, including
PA-50 PAZ-9 PAZ-10 PAZ-11 PAZ-12 PAZ-13 PAZ-14 PAZ-16 PAZ-21 PAZ-22 PAZ-31 PAZ-32 PAZ-33 PAZ-35 PAZ-40 PAZ-41 PAZ-42 PAZ-43 PAZ-44 PAZ-45 PAZ-46 PAZ-55 PAZ-56 PAZ-57 PAZ-58 PAZ-60 PAZ-64 PAZ-66 PAZ-73 PAZ-81 PAZ-84 PAZ-85	<p>This Proposed Amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and would have the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure (residual effects would occur); • Effects on ecology, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species (residual effects would occur); • Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces (residual effects would occur); • Occurrence of visual impacts (residual effects would occur); and • Increased loadings on water bodies.

Proposed Amendment No's.	Commentary provided in advance of Plan Adoption, including
PAZ-15 PAZ-34 PAZ-62 PAZ-76	<p>This Proposed Amendment would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development and would have the potential to undermine sustainable development and proper planning - with potential for associated unnecessary adverse environmental effects on various environmental components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility and a transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives (residual effects would occur); • Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure (residual effects would occur); • Effects on ecology, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats and species (residual effects would occur); • Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces (residual effects would occur); • Occurrence of visual impacts (residual effects would occur); and • Increased loadings on water bodies. <p>In addition, part of the undeveloped lands proposed to be zoned by this Proposed Amendment overlaps with Flood Zones A/B and would fail the Justification Test under the Flood Risk Management Ministerial Guidelines. However, the "Limitations related to Flood Risk Zones" at Chapter 10.5.4 "Land-use Zoning Matrix" of the Draft Plan would ensure that development is limited in these areas.</p>
PAZ-18 PAZ-63 PAZ-79 PAZ-80	<p>Part of the undeveloped lands proposed to be zoned by this Proposed Amendment overlaps with Flood Zones A/B and would fail the Justification Test under the Flood Risk Management Ministerial Guidelines. However, the "Limitations related to Flood Risk Zones" at Chapter 10.5.4 "Land-use Zoning Matrix" of the Draft Plan would ensure that development is limited in these areas.</p>

2.3 Consultations

As environmental authorities identified under the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations, as amended, the following authorities were sent SEA scoping notices indicating that submissions or observations in relation to the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the environmental report could be made to Sligo County Council; Environmental Protection Agency; Department of Environment, Climate and Communications; Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage; Leitrim County Council; Mayo County Council; and Roscommon County Council.

Detail on submissions made on foot of the SEA scoping notice is provided under Section 3.2.

Detail is also provided on submissions that were made on the Draft Plan and/or the SEA Environmental Report while they were on public display (see Section 3).

2.4 Communication of environmental sensitivities throughout the SEA process

Environmental considerations were integrated into the Plan before it was placed on public display. Individual sensitivities that were considered by the Planning Team preparing the Plan included the following:

- European Sites (Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas);
- Other Ecological Designations;
- Status of Surface and Ground Waters;
- Various entries to the Water Framework Directive's Register of Protected Areas;
- Groundwater Vulnerability;
- Water Services Capacity, Performance and Demand;
- Cultural heritage (archaeological and architectural) sensitivities; and
- Landscape Designations.

A number of these sensitivities are mapped on Figures 2.1 to 2.3.

Overlay mapping of environmental sensitivities was also prepared and a number of the environmental sensitivities described above were weighted and mapped overlapping each other. Figure 2.4 provides the overlay mapping of Environmental Sensitivities that was prepared. Environmental sensitivities are indicated by colours which range from higher to lower sensitivity.

2.5 Appropriate Assessment

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening and Stage 2 AA have been undertaken alongside the Plan. The requirement for AA is provided under the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 1992/43/EEC). The conclusion of the AA is that the Plan will not affect the integrity of the European Sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects.¹ The preparation of the Plan, SEA and AA has taken place concurrently and the findings of the AA have informed the SEA.

2.6 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

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

2.7 Consideration of Alternatives

Consideration of the environmental effects arising from a variety of different alternatives for the Plan (see Section 4) has contributed towards the protection and management of the environment within the Plan area.

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

2.8 Integration of environmental considerations into Zoning of the Plan

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

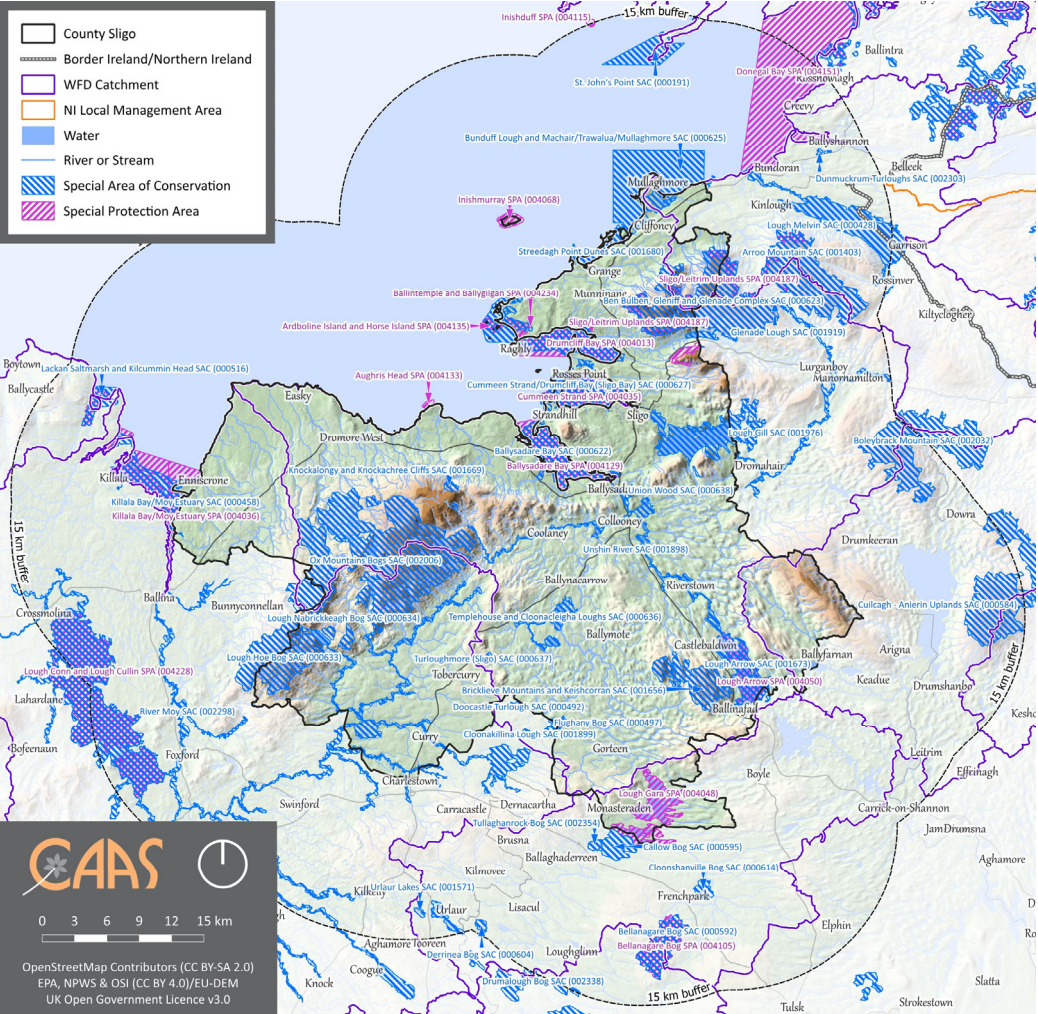
Zoning has been applied in a way that primarily seeks to achieve sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level NPF and Northern and Western RSES.

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

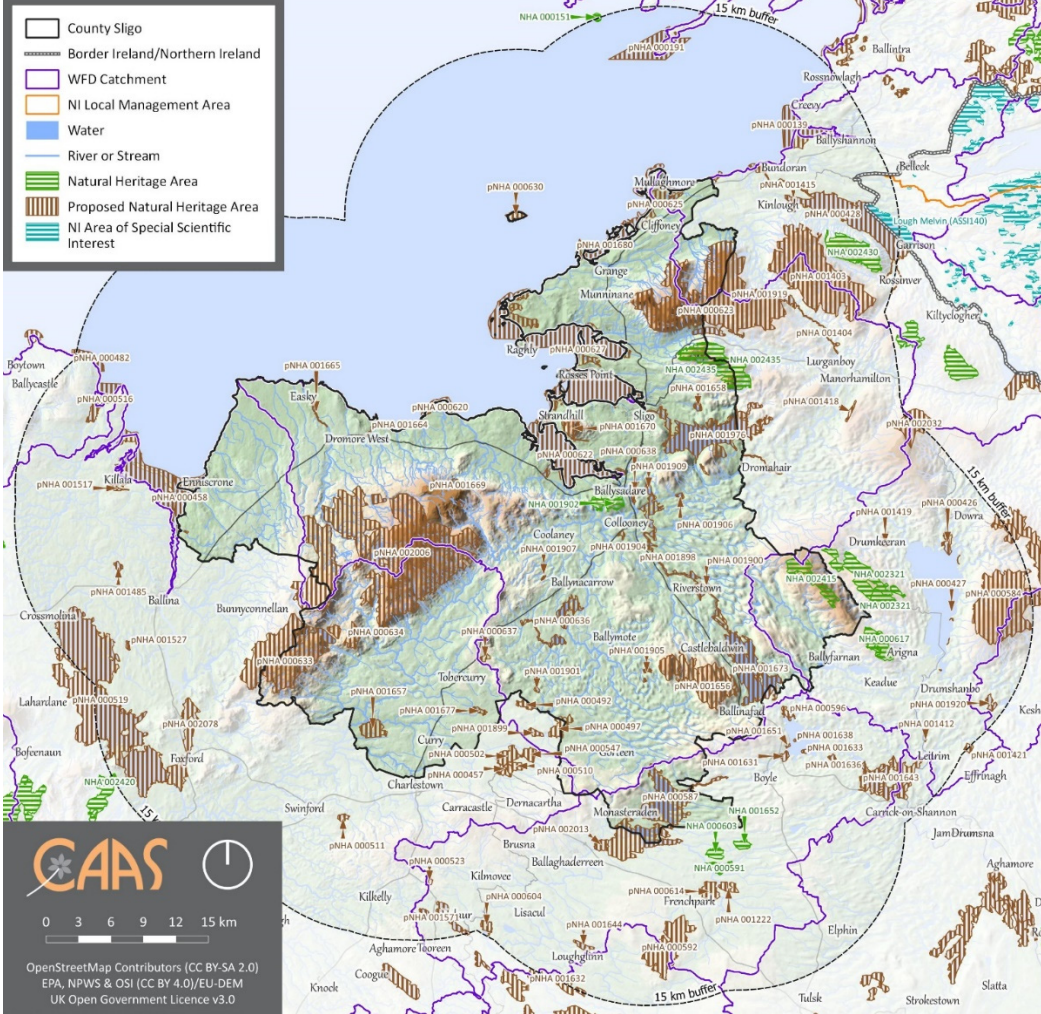
Also considered were environmental sensitivities relating to ecology, cultural heritage, landscape and water, as well as the overlay mapping of environmental sensitivities.

2.9 Integration of individual SEA, AA and SFRA provisions into the text of the Plan

Table 2.2 links key mitigation measure(s) - which have been integrated into the Plan - to the potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan, if unmitigated. The integration of these measures into the Plan occurred over a number of iterations and was informed by, inter alia, various communications through the SEA, AA and SFRA processes. The measures generally benefit multiple environmental components i.e. a measure providing for the protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna could beneficially impact upon the minimisation of flood risk and the protection of human health, for example.



European Sites within and adjacent to the Plan area



Selection of Other Ecological Designations within and adjacent to the Plan area

Figure 2.1 Selection of Individual Environmental Sensitivities taken into account (1 of 3)

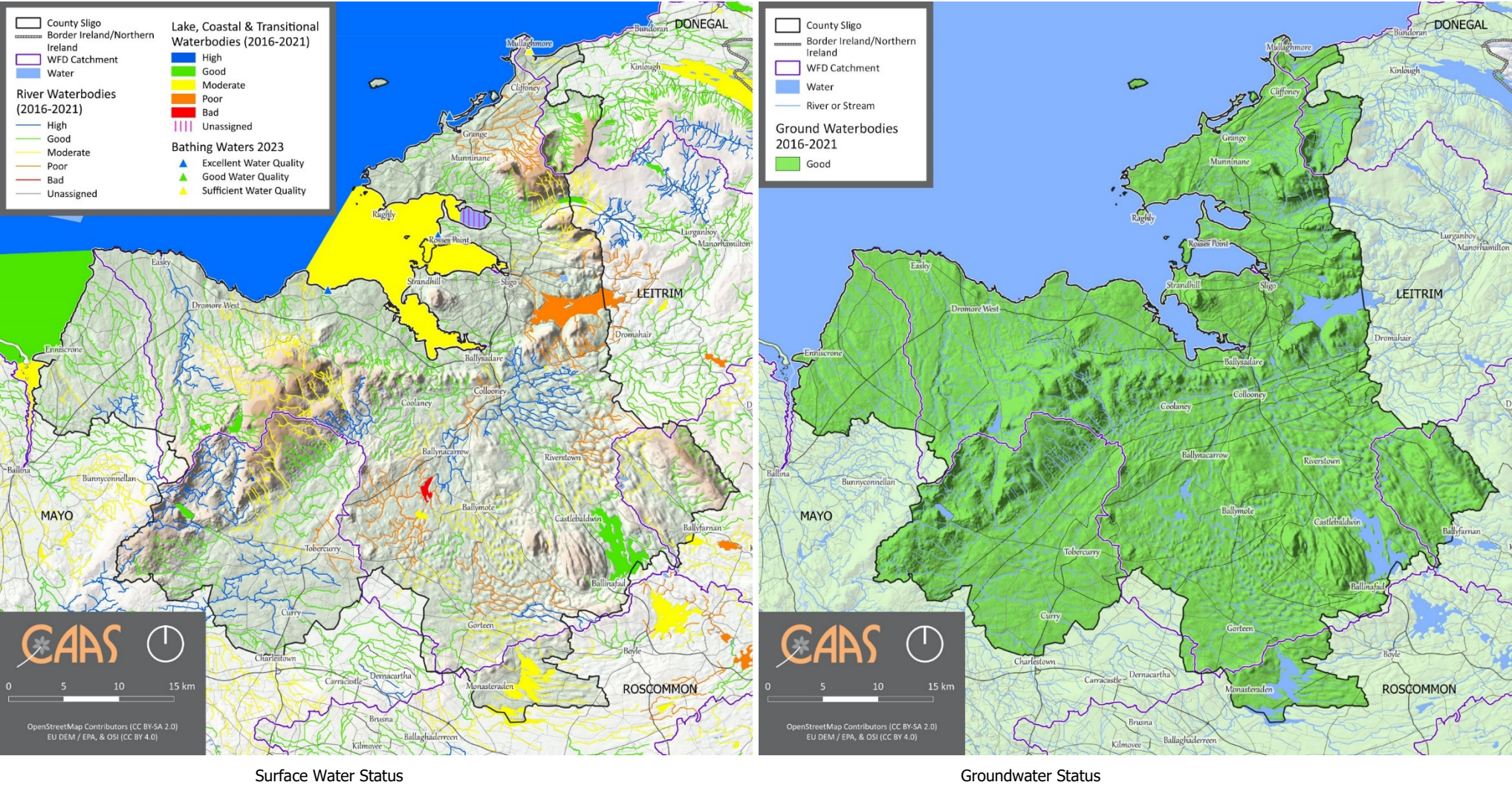
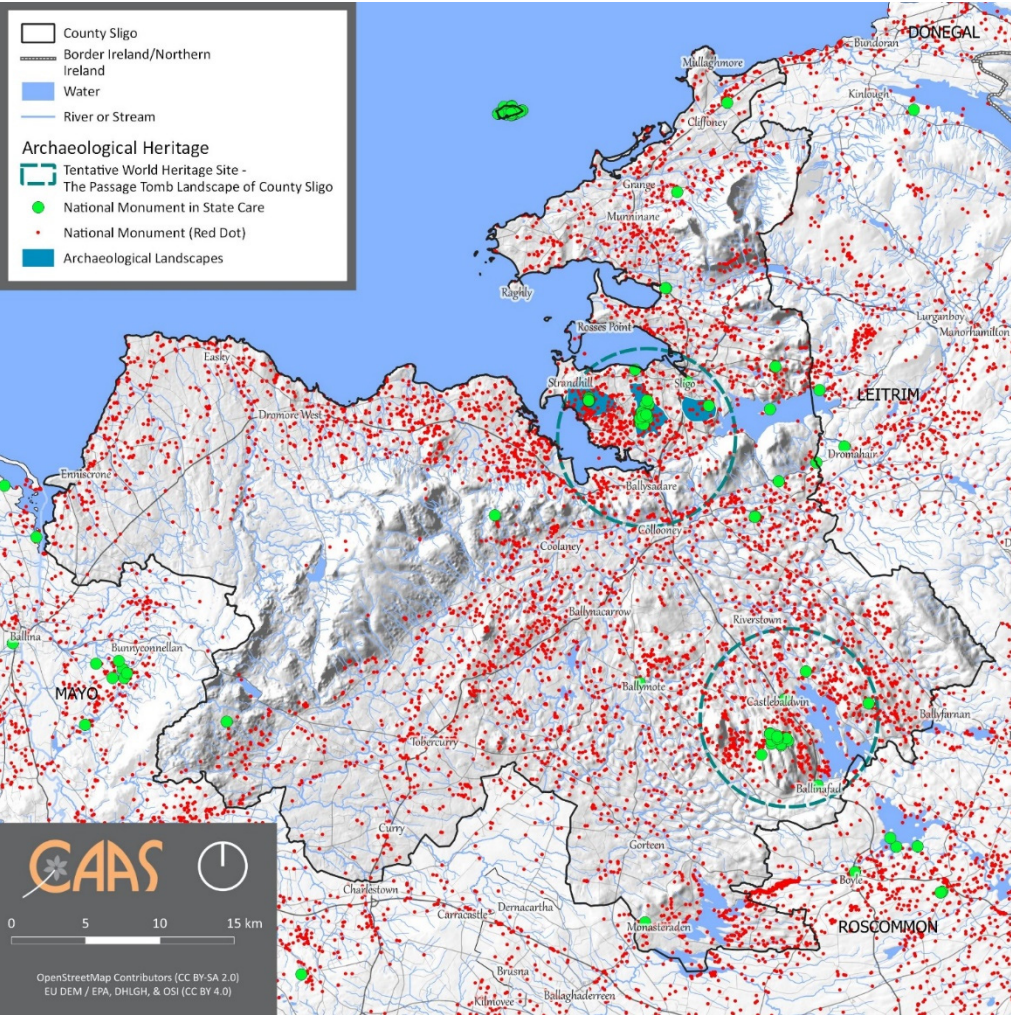
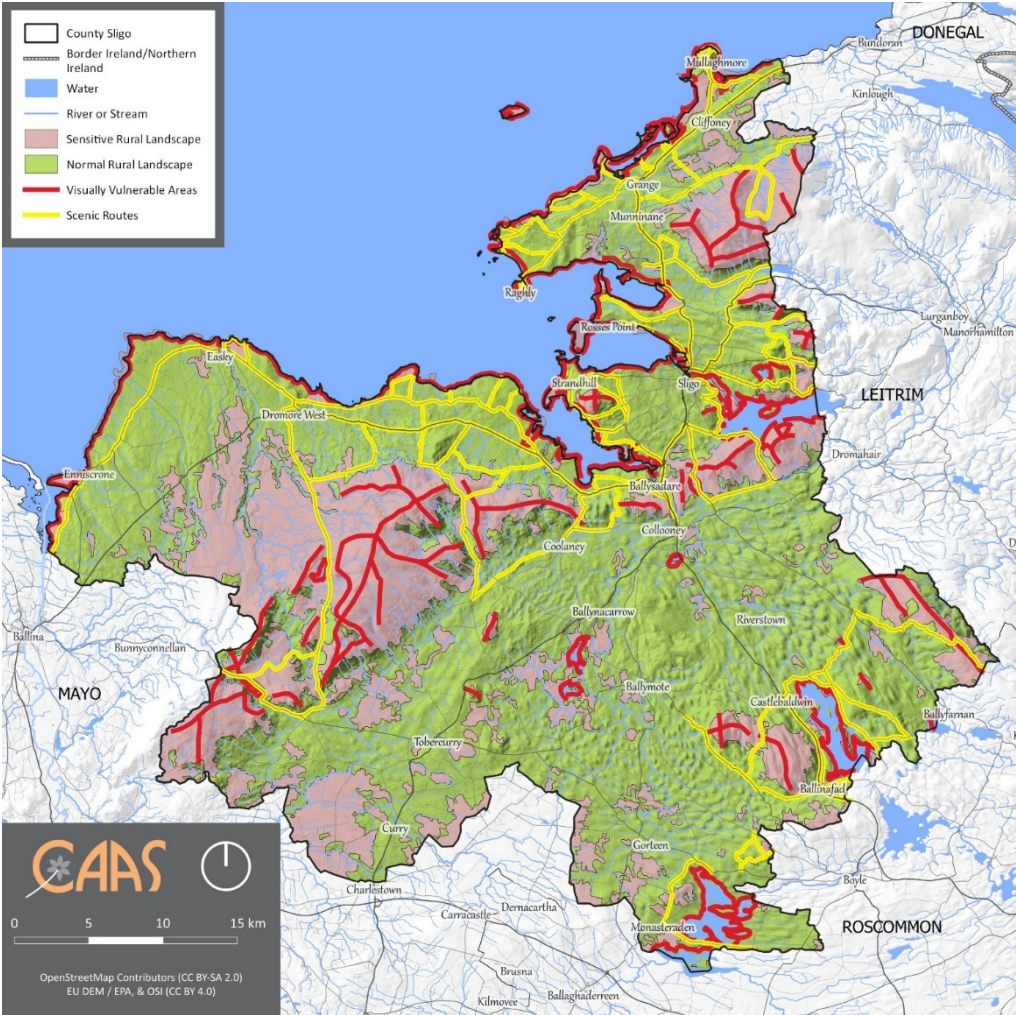


Figure 2.2 Selection of Individual Environmental Sensitivities taken into account (2 of 3)



Archaeological Designations



Landscape Sensitivity and Designations

Figure 2.3 Selection of Individual Environmental Sensitivities taken into account (3 of 3)

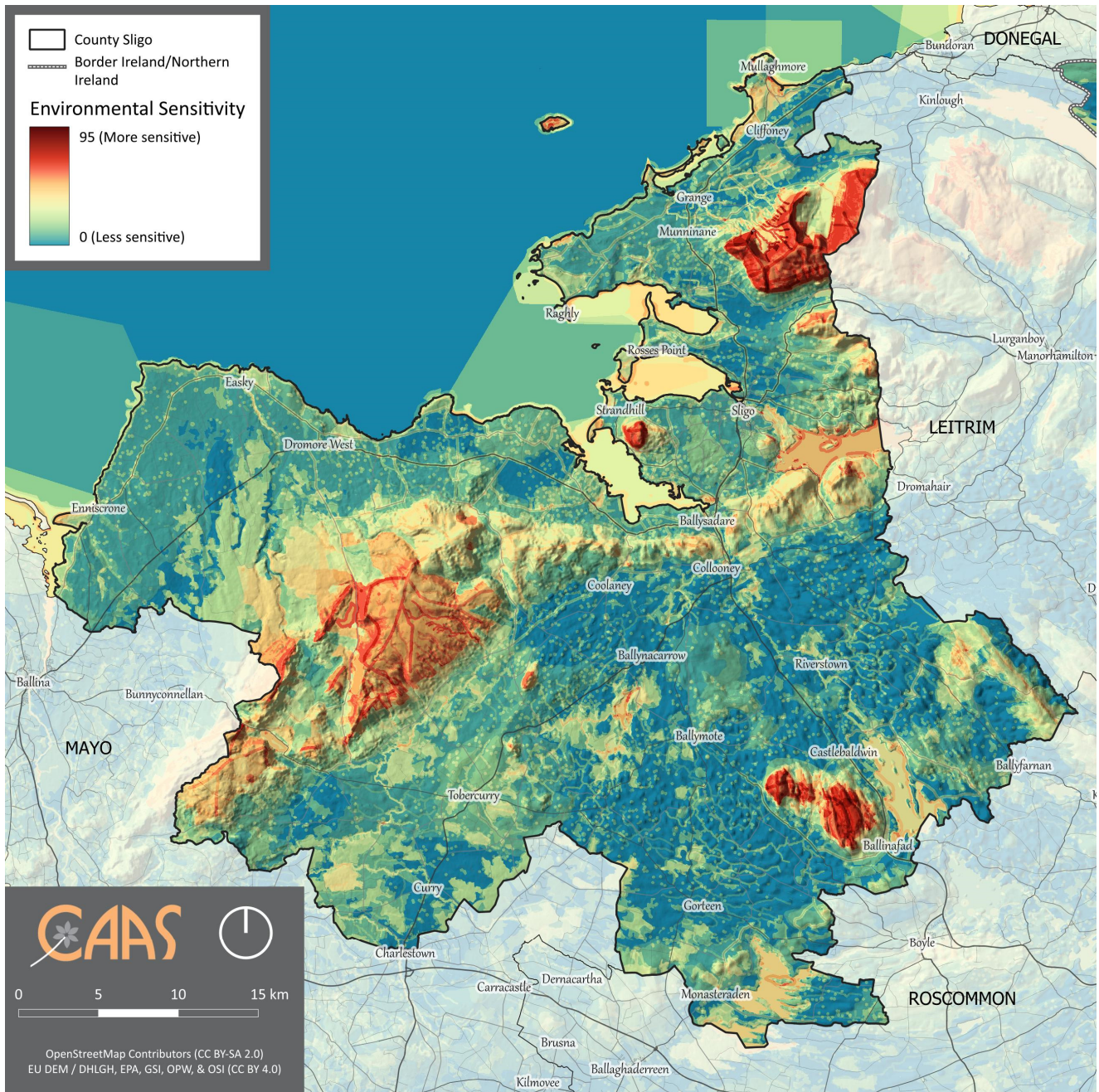


Figure 2.4 Overlay of Environmental Sensitivities

Table 2.2 Integration of Environmental Considerations²

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
Various	Various	<p>Various Development Management Standards from Chapter 33 of the Plan</p> <p>SP-S-7 Prevent inappropriate development around towns and villages by establishing Green Belts which shall serve the following general purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consolidate the settlements within development limits and retain their visual identity distinct from the surrounding countryside; • reserve land for future planned expansion of settlements and for the provision of major infrastructure (e.g. transport). <p>SO-HOU-2 Monitor residential development and manage the supply of new housing to ensure that it is consistent with the requirements of the Core Strategy and the infrastructural capacity of each settlement.</p> <p>P-DHOU-1 Encourage the renovation and reuse of derelict houses and consider proposals for replacement houses on their merits. The structures proposed for renovation or replacement should be generally intact and exhibit the main characteristics of a dwelling. The location, siting and design of any such replacement house shall reflect those of the existing derelict dwelling. Where vernacular non-residential buildings are located on the same site, consideration should be given to their retention or incorporation into any proposed development.</p> <p>P-DHOU-2 Generally require the retention and restoration of vernacular dwellings of local architectural, cultural or social significance. Demolition and replacement of vernacular houses will be considered only where it is clearly demonstrated, by way of a suitably qualified engineer's or architect's report, that the building cannot be made structurally sound through reasonable measures.</p> <p>P-RED-1 Facilitate farm diversification and the development of rural resource-based enterprise (such as organic farming, equestrian activities, bird watching, biomass and energy production, poultry, mushroom growing, flower growing etc.), subject to normal planning considerations and the protection of the environment. Where a proposed development needs to locate near an existing natural resource, it will be necessary to demonstrate that it can be accommodated without damage to the environment, natural or built heritage, visual amenity, and that it will not have a negative impact on the character of the area. The proposal shall also demonstrate that it does not conflict with the requirement to safeguard the strategic function, safety and investment in the strategic national road network to date, and is in compliance with the provisions of the Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines 'Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DoECLG, 2012).</p> <p>P-RED-2 Adopt a flexible approach to proposals for complementary economic enterprises undertaken to supplement income from farming. Such enterprises may be established at existing farm locations, subject to appropriate scale and intensity of development, having regard to traffic, environmental, landscape and residential amenity considerations. Where the enterprise is not dependent on a rural location, and the scale and intensity grow beyond family or personal income needs, it will be required, where appropriate, to relocate to a nearby town or village.</p> <p>P-RED-3 Facilitate remote working by rural dwellers who are not farmers, subject to normal planning considerations. Such activities would generally involve (but are not limited to) providers of professional services whose work can be carried out from a home office using high-speed broadband.</p> <p>P-RED-4 Encourage the growth or expansion of existing rural based or well-established small-scale industry and enterprise in rural County Sligo. Where an existing rural-based enterprise proposes to expand in its current location, it will be necessary to demonstrate that such expansion can be accommodated without damage to the environment, natural or built heritage, human health, visual and residential amenity, and that it will not have a negative impact on the character of the area.</p> <p>P-FOR-1 Support sustainable forestry development in County Sligo, subject to the protection of scenic landscapes and views, water quality, heritage features, residential amenity and public safety.</p> <p>P-FOR-2 Discourage new forestry development, except for broadleaf, in proposed/candidate and adopted NHAs, SACs and SPAs, in designated Sensitive Rural Landscapes and Visually Vulnerable Areas, along designated Scenic Routes and in water quality-sensitive areas. (Broadleaf forestry will be open to consideration in these areas and in all proposed and adopted NHAs, SPAs and SACs, will be subject to consultation with the DECLG and shall have regard to any management plans prepared by the Department.)</p> <p>P-FOR-3 Require identification of existing rights-of-way and established walking routes before planting commences. Forestry should not obstruct existing rights-of-way, traditional walking routes, recreational and tourism facilities.</p> <p>P-AMF-1 Facilitate sustainable fishing, aquaculture and mariculture development associated with job creation, in a manner that is compatible with other uses of the Sligo coast, and subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive, the provisions of the EC (Quality of Shellfish Waters) Regulations and objectives of Shellfish Pollution Reduction Programmes.</p> <p>P-MEQ-1 Ensure that extraction and associated processes are carried out in a sustainable manner, which minimises the impact on residential amenities, natural environment and water quality, and do not impinge on existing rights-of-way or walking routes.</p>

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

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>P-MEQ-2 Seek the reuse of worked out quarries for recreational, industrial, ecological, agricultural and other uses, following appropriate restoration.</p> <p>P-MEQ-3 In respect of development proposals on or in the proximity of quarry sites, the Council will require that appropriate investigations are carried out into the nature and extent of old quarries (where applicable), the nature and extent of soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development works. Adequate measures to mitigate these risks shall be submitted as part of the planning application.</p> <p>P-TOU-1 Promote the development of tourism in a sustainable manner and encourage the provision of a comprehensive range of tourism facilities, subject to location, siting planning considerations. Development that might be detrimental to scenic and heritage assets, in SACs, SPAs, proposed NHAs, designated Sensitive Rural Landscapes and Visually Vulnerable Areas, and along designated Scenic Routes will be strictly controlled. Development proposals shall also demonstrate that they do not conflict with the requirement to safeguard the strategic function, safety and investment in the strategic national road network to date, and are in compliance with the provisions of the Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines 'Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DoECLG, 2012).</p> <p>P-TOU-2 Support the development of high-quality tourist accommodation and ensure high standards of architectural and urban design in all new tourist accommodation and facilities.</p> <p>P-TOU-3 Ensure that all built elements of agri-tourism developments are appropriately designed, satisfactorily integrated into the landscape, conserve natural heritage, protect the environment and do not have a negative impact on the visual/scenic amenity of the countryside, on natural heritage or on the environment.</p> <p>P-TOU-4 Provide signposting, interpretative signs, information boards and improve roads, existing amenity and viewing areas, and provide for car parking, public facilities and access in scenic areas (refer also to Chapter 27, Section 27.7 Outdoor recreation).</p> <p>P-TOU-5 Provide, with the co-operation of private landowners, public access to heritage sites and features of natural heritage, geological and archaeological interest, coastal areas, islands, mountains, rivers, lakes and other natural amenities.</p> <p>P-TOU-6 Support the growth of cultural tourism in the County and its potential for niche tourism products by facilitating the development of cultural events, infrastructure and activities.</p> <p>P-CZT-1 Ensure that tourism facilities in coastal areas (e.g. car parking at WAW Discovery Points) will not be visually intrusive and will not impact on sensitive coastal environments (e.g. sand dune systems), by requiring appropriate siting, layout, design and natural screening, as well as compliance with the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>On beaches, within dunes and in other vulnerable areas, manage and control car parking, vehicular and pedestrian movements in compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive where relevant.</p> <p>P-CZT-2 Promote awareness of the sensitivity of the coastal environment through the provision of heritage appreciation programmes, public information boards and other appropriate means.</p> <p>P-CZT-3 Maintain and develop small piers and harbours along the Sligo Coast, subject to funding and compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>O-WAW-3 Provide Signature Discovery Point infrastructure at Mullaghmore, subject to appropriate siting and design.</p> <p>O-WAW-4 Monitor the future development of the County's section of the Wild Atlantic Way touring route to ensure that the scenic and tourism value of this important amenity is maintained. This will be done in co-operation with state agencies, local community groups and other bodies interested in protecting the coastal environment and in improving access and visitor management to the Wild Atlantic Way.</p> <p>28.1.5 Seveso sites</p> <p>The Chemicals Act (Control of Major Accident Hazards involving Dangerous Substances) Regulations 2015 (S.I. No. 209 of 2015), known as the "COMAH Regulations", implement the Seveso III Directive (2012/18/EU). These Regulations lay down rules for the prevention of major accidents involving dangerous substances and seek to limit the consequences of such accidents for human health and the environment.</p> <p>This Development Plan does not designate sites or zones for uses that might be classified as Seveso establishments and no such establishments exist at present. However, such developments may occur during the Plan's life.</p> <p>The Council will comply with the Seveso III Directive in reducing the risk and limiting the potential consequences of major industrial accidents. Any proposal for a Seveso development will be considered only in low-risk locations, within acceptable distances from relevant environmental sensitivities.</p> <p>Such development proposals will be referred to the Health and Safety Authority, whose technical advice will be taken into account in the overall assessment of the proposals, in addition to normal planning criteria.</p> <p>32.2.1 Coastal protection</p> <p>The OPW's National Coastal Flood Hazard Mapping, completed in 2021, provides updated national scale coastal flood extent and depth maps. Maps were produced for the 50% (equivalent to a one in two-year event), 20%, 10%, 5%, 2%, 1%, 0.5% and 0.1% (equivalent to a one in 1000-year event) Annual Exceedance Probabilities for the present-day scenario and for future climate change scenarios, which represent increases in sea level. The Irish Coastal Protection Strategy Study (ICPSS), completed in 2013, provides predictive erosion maps prepared for the years 2030 and 2050.</p> <p>Sligo has a varied coastline, over 197-km long. The identified areas of potentially significant coastal erosion in County Sligo are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marley's Point to Strandhill

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raghly • Streedagh Point to Cliffony <p>Coastal protection works aim to reduce loss of land, infrastructure, and the impacts of coastal flooding. This may require hard-engineered defences in order to withstand the storms and retain and defend a location. Such defences may be necessary, but can cause alterations to nearby coastal behaviour. Softer-engineered solution may be appropriate in many areas and where loss of lives is unlikely. Other options include sacrificial areas and allowing nature to take its course. The Council will contribute towards adherence to the following general guidelines in the coastal zone:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no building or development within 100 metres of 'soft' shorelines; • no further reclamation of estuary land; • no removal of sand dunes, beach sand or gravel; • all proposed coastal defence measures should be assessed for environmental impact and habitats directive assessment; • careful consideration should be given to the implications of using 'hard engineering' solutions, which should only be reserved for densely-populated coastal villages or for the protection of significant public infrastructure (e.g. harbours, piers, outfalls, public roads). <p>The planning and design of coastal protection works must have regard to the coastal dynamics. In light of the high cost of such defences, there is a case for restricting development near the coast, so as to minimise future demands for costly protection measures.</p> <p>P-CP-1 Ensure that visual and environmental considerations are considered in the design of coastal defence works including compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives.</p> <p>P-CP-2 Require that any development within the coastal zone is appropriately sited and designed, having regard to coastal flooding, future shoreline erosion, predicted sea-level rise and OPW flood mapping.</p> <p>P-CP-3 Require that detailed flood risk assessment is carried out in relation to development proposals within the coastal zone and particularly on all low-lying areas, where appropriate.</p> <p>Objectives for coastal protection</p> <p>O-CP-1 Identify, prioritise and implement coastal protection works within the coastal zone where considered necessary, subject to the availability of resources and subject to compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives.</p> <p>O-CP-2 Monitor existing dune management schemes on an ongoing basis and carry out appropriate repairs, improvements and extensions, subject to the availability of resources and compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives. Where appropriate, continue to employ soft engineering techniques (i.e. dune stabilisation and planting).</p> <p>O-CP-3 Examine existing beach bye-laws and make appropriate amendments, in the interest of protecting sand dunes from encroachment and damage.</p> <p>33.2.5 Surface water drainage</p> <p>All applications for planning permission shall incorporate proposals for the disposal of surface water. The use of nature-based solutions will be required in all medium to large scale development proposals.</p> <p>Nature-based solutions for managing rainwater and surface water runoff in urban areas seek to replicate the natural water cycle, whereby rainwater soaks into the open ground and from there into the groundwater. This slows down the speed of the runoff and also removes many of the pollutants through filtration.</p> <p>All new developments in urban areas are required to provide separate drainage systems, including nature-based SUDs (sustainable urban drainage systems) where appropriate. This approach will protect the capacity of public wastewater treatment plants and will assist in managing surface water runoff onto public roads.</p> <p>For all developments, regardless of scale, applicants will be required, as part of pre-planning and/or a planning application, to illustrate how they propose to manage rainwater. The use of nature-based solutions will be strongly encouraged. Nature-based solutions to rainwater management should be identified at the early stages of the planning and design process.</p> <p>Planning applications for larger developments should include hydraulic and topographical surveys showing the proposed development within the existing natural catchment, as well as a detailed rainwater management plan showing how nature-based solutions are being applied.</p> <p>Within the curtilage of buildings, every effort should be made to reduce the percentage of surfacing that is impermeable. Starting at ground or street level, the use of cellular grass paving systems should be considered for parking areas, hard standings, emergency median crossings and accesses.</p> <p>The replacement of impermeable surfacing with nature-based planted areas that are designed to absorb, retain, store, and treat urban runoff prior to discharge back into the environment is strongly encouraged. The Planning Authority will encourage green roofs as a proportion of all roof space for all large commercial, industrial, institutional and residential buildings (apartment blocks).</p> <p>Storm water will not generally be allowed into the foul sewerage network and should be disposed of, subject to suitable treatment where necessary, to available watercourses or through separate surface water drains to independent outfalls.</p> <p>In rural areas, when creating a new vehicular access onto public roads, existing roadside drainage shall be maintained by the incorporation of a suitably sized drainage pipe. In these circumstances, each application shall be accompanied by design calculations or appropriate evidence to support the size of pipe selected. In</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>any event, surface water shall not be allowed to discharge onto the adjoining public road from the proposed development.</p> <p>33.2.6 Flood risk assessment</p> <p>Development management should follow the sequential approach when considering the location of development in areas at risk of flooding. Applicants may be required to submit a detailed, site-specific flood risk assessment. Pre-planning consultation is critical to the consideration of flood risk in the planning application. It is the responsibility of the applicant at this stage to gather relevant information for flood risk screening.</p> <p>Flood risk assessments should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proportionate to the risk scale, nature and location of the development; • undertaken by a competent person, such as a suitably qualified hydrologist, flood risk management professional or specialist water engineer; • undertaken as early as possible in the particular planning process; • supported by appropriate data and information, including historical information on previous events, but focusing more on predictive assessment of less frequent or more extreme events, taking the likely impacts of climate change into account; • clearly state the risk to people and development, and how that risk will be managed over the lifetime of the development. <p>Where required, flood risk assessments shall specify, in exceptional circumstances and where the criteria of the Justification Test have been met, the design of structural or non-structural flood risk management measures as prerequisites to development in specific areas, ensuring that flood hazard and risk to other locations will not be increased or, if practicable, will be reduced.</p> <p>These measures may relate to:</p> <p>Floor levels</p> <p>In areas of limited flood depth, the specification of the threshold and floor levels of new structures shall be raised above expected flood levels to reduce the risk of flood losses to a building, by raising floor heights within the building structure using a suspended floor arrangement or raised internal concrete platforms.</p> <p>When designing an extension or modification to an existing building, an appropriate flood risk reduction measure shall be specified to ensure the threshold levels into the building are above the design flood level. However, care must also be taken to ensure access for all is provided in compliance with Part M of the Building Regulations.</p> <p>Where threshold levels cannot be raised to the street for streetscape, conservation or other reasons, the design shall specify a mixing of uses vertically in buildings - with less vulnerable uses located at ground floor level, along with other measures for dealing with residual flood risk.</p> <p>Internal layout</p> <p>Internal space layout shall be designed and specified to reduce the impact of flooding [for example, living accommodation, essential services, storage space for provisions and equipment shall be designed to be located above the predicted flood level]. In addition, designs and specifications shall ensure that, wherever reasonably practicable, the siting of living accommodation (particularly sleeping areas) shall be above flood level.</p> <p>With the exception of single-storey extensions to existing properties, new single-storey accommodation shall not be deemed appropriate where predicted flood levels are above design floor levels. In all cases, specifications for safe access, refuge and evacuation shall be incorporated into the design of the development.</p> <p>Flood-resistant construction</p> <p>Developments in flood vulnerable zones shall specify the use of flood-resistant construction aimed at preventing water from entering buildings, in order to mitigate the damage that flood water causes to buildings.</p> <p>Developments shall specify the use of flood-resistant construction, prepared using specialist technical input to the design and specification of the external building envelope, with measures to resist hydrostatic pressure (commonly referred to as "tanking") specified for the outside of the building fabric.</p> <p>The design of the flood-resistant construction shall specify the need to protect the main entry points for flood water into buildings, such as doors and windows (including gaps in sealant around frames), vents, air-bricks and gaps around conduits or pipes passing through external building fabric.</p> <p>The design of the flood-resistant construction shall also specify the need to protect against flood water entry through sanitary appliances as a result of backflow through the drainage system.</p> <p>Flood-resilient construction</p> <p>Developments in flood vulnerable zones that are at risk of occasional inundation shall incorporate design and specifications for flood resilient construction which accepts that flood water will enter buildings, and provides for this in the design and specification of internal building services and finishes. These measures limit damage caused by flood water and allow relatively quick recovery.</p> <p>This can be achieved by specifying wall and floor materials such as ceramic tiling that can be cleaned and dried relatively easily, provided that the substrate materials (e.g. blockwork) are also resilient. Electrics, appliances and kitchen fittings shall also be specified to be raised above floor level, and one-way valves shall be incorporated into drainage pipes.</p> <p>Emergency response planning</p> <p>In addition to considering physical design issues for developments in flood vulnerable zones, the developer shall specify that the planning of new development also</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>takes account of the need for effective emergency response planning for flood events in areas of new development. Applications for developments in flood vulnerable zones shall provide details that the following measures will be put in place and maintained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision of flood warnings, evacuation plans and ensuring public awareness of flood risks to people where they live and work; - Coordination of responses and discussion with relevant emergency services i.e. Local Authorities, Fire and Rescue, Civil Defence and An Garda Síochána through the SFRA; and - Awareness of risks and evacuation procedures and the need for family flood plans. <p>Access and egress during flood events</p> <p>Applications for developments in flood vulnerable zones shall include details of arrangements for access and egress during flood events. Such details shall specify that: flood escape routes have been kept to publicly accessible land; such routes will have signage and other flood awareness measures in place, to inform local communities what to do in case of flooding; and this information will be provided in a welcome pack to new occupants.</p> <p>Further information</p> <p>Further and more detailed guidance and advice can be found at http://www.flooding.ie and in the Building Regulations.</p>
Biodiversity and flora and fauna	<p>Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites, Wildlife Sites and Areas of Special Scientific Interest) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna; • Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and • Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats. 	<p>P-BD-1 Protect, conserve, enhance and sustainably manage the natural heritage, biodiversity, geological heritage, landscape and environment of County Sligo.</p> <p>P-BD-2 Protect and, where possible, enhance the plant and animal species and their habitats that have been identified under EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), the EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI 477/2011) as amended, Flora (Protection) Order 2015, the Wildlife Act 1976 (as amended), and the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000 as amended, including all statutory instruments made under each act.</p> <p>P-BD-3 Ensure that the ecological impact of all development proposals on habitats and species are appropriately assessed by suitably qualified professionals, in accordance with best practice guidelines, taking full account of the precautionary principle where uncertainty exists.</p> <p>P-BD-4 Minimise adverse impacts of proposed developments on existing habitats (whether designated or not) by including mitigation and/or compensation measures as appropriate. This shall comprise the retention and enhancement of all possible existing habitats, vegetation and breeding sites in the early design stages of the development.</p> <p>P-BD-5 Raise public awareness of the natural heritage and biodiversity of the County and encourage increased public participation in biodiversity conservation by supporting community-led initiatives.</p> <p>P-BD-6 Support the implementation of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 and any subsequent revisions.</p> <p>P-BD-7 Require development proposals on sites of 0.5 ha and over to demonstrate a site-specific biodiversity net gain (BNG), indicating how the approach to development will leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was beforehand. The same approach will be encouraged, although not required, on sites under 0.5 ha. The biodiversity net gain (BNG) shall consist of the enhancement and restoration of existing habitats or by the creation of new areas for wildlife, where the biodiversity value of the site is low or non-existent (e.g. certain brownfield sites).</p> <p>P-BD-8 Where buildings are proposed to be restored or demolished/replaced, the applicants/developers shall check for the presence of protected wildlife species and follow the protocols set out in the Heritage Council's guidelines "Wildlife in Buildings – Linking Our Built and Natural Heritage" (https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/Wildlife-in-Buildings-linking-our-built-and-natural-heritage.pdf)</p> <p>O-BD-1 Implement, in partnership with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, relevant stakeholders and the community, the objectives and actions of both the County Sligo Biodiversity Action Plan and the National Biodiversity Action Plan as it relates to the remit and functions of Sligo County Council.</p> <p>O-BD-2 Prepare and support the implementation of a Green Infrastructure Strategy for County Sligo.</p> <p>P-DSNC-1 Protect and maintain the conservation status of all natural heritage sites designated or proposed for designation in accordance with European and national legislation and agreements. These include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), Natural Heritage Areas (NHA), proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA), Ramsar Sites, Statutory Nature Reserves, as identified by the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, and any other sites that may be proposed for designation during the lifetime of this Plan.</p> <p>In addition, the Council will identify, maintain and develop non-designated areas of high nature conservation value which serve as linkages or 'stepping stones' between protected sites in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>P-DSNC-2 Promote the maintenance and, as appropriate, achievement of 'favourable conservation status' of habitats and species in association with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).</p> <p>P-DSNC-3 Carry out an appropriate level of assessment for all development plans, land-use plans and projects that the Council authorizes or proposes to undertake or adopt, to determine the potential for these plans or projects to impact on designated sites, proposed designated sites or associated ecological corridors and linkages in accordance with the Habitats Directive. All appropriate assessments shall be in compliance with the provisions of Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).</p> <p>P-DSNC-4 Ensure that all development proposals are subject to the process of Screening for Appropriate Assessment and subsequent stages of Appropriate Assessment, as relevant, carried out to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority, in consultation with National Parks and Wildlife Service, as appropriate.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>O-DSNC-1 Identify any areas of high nature conservation value which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, and which have not been previously identified.</p> <p>O-DSNC-2 Undertake appropriate surveys and collect data to provide an evidence-base to assist the Council in meeting its obligations under Article 6 of the Habitats Directives (92/43/EEC) as transposed into Irish Law, subject to available resources.</p> <p>P-PS-1 Ensure that development does not have a significant adverse impact incapable of satisfactory mitigation on plant, animal or bird species protected by law.</p> <p>P-PS-2 Consult with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (DHLGH) and take account of any licensing requirements when undertaking, approving and authorising development which is likely to affect plant, animal or bird species protected by law.</p> <p>P-PS-3 Provide guidance to developers and others in relation to species protected by law and their protection and management in the context of development.</p> <p>P-PS-4 Ensure, where appropriate, the protection and conservation of areas, sites, species and ecological networks of biodiversity value outside designated sites, and require an appropriate level of ecological assessment by suitably qualified professionals to accompany any development proposals likely to impact on such areas or species.</p> <p>P-PS-5 Require all new developments to incorporate habitat facilities for wildlife species, including Swifts, in or on buildings or their facades, where appropriate.</p> <p>O-PS-1 Undertake surveys, as appropriate, to establish the location of protected flora and fauna in the Plan area through the County Heritage Plan and the County Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p>P-NCODS-1 Minimise the impact of new development on habitats of natural value that are key features of the County's ecological network. Developments likely to have an adverse effect on recognised sites of local nature conservation importance will be required to demonstrate the impacts on the ecological value of the site and will not be approved unless it can be clearly demonstrated that there are reasons for the development that outweigh the need to safeguard the nature conservation value of the site.</p> <p>P-NCODS-2 Ensure that development proposals, where relevant, improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>P-NCODS-3 Ensure that proposals for development protect and enhance biodiversity, wherever possible, by minimising adverse impacts on existing habitats and by including mitigation and/or compensation measures, as appropriate, which ensure that biodiversity is enhanced.</p> <p>P-NCODS-4 Applications for development that is likely to have significant impact on natural habitats or species shall be required to be accompanied by an ecological impact assessment (EcIA), to ensure that such proposed development will not affect the integrity and conservation value of important biodiversity sites.</p> <p>P-NCODS-5 Ensure that no ecological networks, or parts thereof which provide significant connectivity between areas of local biodiversity, are lost without remediation as a result of implementation of this Plan.</p> <p>P-NCODS-6 Provide guidance for developers and the general public in relation to nature conservation outside designated sites and the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and geological heritage in general.</p> <p>P-NCODS-7 Integrate biodiversity considerations into Local Authority plans, programmes and activities where appropriate.</p> <p>O-NCODS-1 Continue the County Habitat Mapping project, thereby generating the necessary information to identify landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna, flora and County Biodiversity Sites, as key features of the county's ecological network.</p> <p>O-NCODS-2 Identify and protect, in co-operation with the relevant statutory agencies and other relevant groups, County Biodiversity Sites which are not otherwise protected by legislation.</p> <p>O-NCODS-3 Ensure that the findings of the County Habitat Mapping project (when completed) are utilised to inform the development management process.</p> <p>P-WET-1 Have regard to the County Sligo Wetlands Surveys 2008-2011 and subsequent wetland surveys that may be published during the lifetime of this Plan. Protect surveyed wetland sites that have been rated of A (International), B (National) and C+ (County) importance.</p> <p>P-WET-2 Ensure that an ecological assessment at an appropriate level (including EIA, where appropriate) is undertaken in conjunction with proposals involving drainage, reclamation or infilling of wetland habitats.</p> <p>P-WHT-1 Protect woodlands, hedgerows and trees from development that would impact adversely upon them. Promote new tree and woodland planting and the enhancement of existing hedgerows by seeking increased coverage, in conjunction with new development using native species of local provenance, where possible.</p> <p>P-WHT-2 Discourage the felling of mature trees to facilitate development and, where appropriate make use of tree preservation orders to protect important trees and groups of trees which may be at risk or have an important amenity or historic value.</p> <p>P-WHT-3 Require the planting of native broadleaved species, and species of local provenance, in new developments and as part of Sligo County Council's own landscaping works.</p> <p>P-WHT-4 Encourage the retention of hedgerows and other distinctive boundary treatments in rural areas, and prevent loss and fragmentation where practically possible.</p> <p>If removal of a hedgerow, stone wall or other distinctive boundary treatment is unavoidable, reinstatement of the same type of boundary shall be required.</p> <p>P-WHT-5 Promote awareness and require the retention and protection of hedgerows which mark townland boundaries, in recognition of their historic value and</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>archaeological importance.</p> <p>P-WHT-6 Protect native and semi-natural woodlands, groups of trees and individual mature trees in line with best practice, and encourage their effective management and retention.</p> <p>Tree surgery rather than felling will be required, where possible, when undertaking, approving or authorising development.</p> <p>P-WHT-7 When undertaking, approving, or authorising development, ensure or require the protection of trees subject of Tree Preservation Orders, as well as Champion and Heritage Trees identified on the Tree Register of Ireland.</p> <p>P-WHT-8 Work in partnership with relevant stakeholders to develop, enhance and explore opportunities to develop woodland sites under the Native Woodland Scheme.</p> <p>P-INV-1 Prevent and control the spread of invasive plant and animal species within the county.</p> <p>P-INV-2 Require all development proposals to address the presence of invasive alien species on proposed development sites and (if necessary) require applicants to prepare and submit an Invasive Species Management Plan, in compliance with the provisions of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2015.</p> <p>P-INV-3 Promote best practice in the control of invasive species when carrying out statutory functions of the County Council in association with relevant bodies, including TII, the Department of Transport and the Department of Rural and Community Development.</p> <p>O-INV-1 Undertake studies through the County Heritage Plan and County Biodiversity Plan to quantify the extent of selected invasive species (Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed and Himalayan Balsam) within the Plan area, with recommendations of priority species for control or eradication, the degree of threat posed and the resources required for effective management.</p> <p>P-OR-6 Where feasible, develop walkways and cycleways between green spaces or green corridors in built-up areas and recreational areas located outside settlements, including coastal, upland, lakeland and forestry sites and subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>P-OR-15 Preserve and improve access for the public to lakes, beaches, coastal, riverside, upland and other areas that have traditionally been used for outdoor recreation and subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive. Where feasible, apply or support the application of universal design principles, as recommended in Building for everyone – a Universal Design Approach (NDA, 2012).</p> <p>P-OR-16 Support the sustainable development of water-based leisure, tourism and related activities in County Sligo, subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>P-OR-18 Protect existing known rights of way and seek the establishment of additional rights of way, by agreement with landowners, to extend existing walking trails or create new ones and subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>O-TOU-1 Secure the establishment of a flagship visitor attraction in the County, subject to normal development control standards and compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>O-A-2 Support proposals to upgrade facilities and improve the viability of Sligo Airport, subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>P-ALAN-1 Ensure that artificial lighting of public buildings and car parking areas is used only when necessary, with dark-sky friendly lighting and design. New developments shall eliminate or mitigate for potential light pollution.</p> <p>P-ALAN-2 Where artificial lighting must be used, require developments to avoid glare and light trespass on adjacent natural areas such as hedgerows, road verges, tree lines, wetlands and river corridors, using shields and appropriate lighting design.</p> <p>P-ALAN-3 Require proposals for floodlighting of playing fields/pitches to include lighting schemes with measures to mitigate for light pollution through timing and the use of shielding. All schemes shall comply with the guidance within the Institution of Lighting Professionals (ILP) Guidance Note (GN01-2021) The Reduction of Obtrusive Light.</p>
Population and human health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential adverse effects arising from flood events. • Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors. 	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors.</p> <p>SP-RGC-1 Support population, housing and employment growth in Sligo RGC to achieve the targets set in the RSES (2020) and subsequent reviews.</p> <p>SP-RGC-2 Assist the IDA in the development of a new Business Park at Oakfield.</p> <p>SP-RGC-3 Ensure that the required infrastructure is in place to support the transformation of Sligo into a Smart City as envisaged in the LECP/Sligo 2030 strategy.</p> <p>SO-RGC-1 Complete the Eastern Garavogue Bridge and Approach Roads Scheme within the lifetime of this development plan.</p> <p>SO-RGC-2 Carry out a building height study targeting increased housing densities in Sligo Town Centre in conjunction with the preparation of a Local Area Plan for Sligo and Environs.</p> <p>SO-RGC-3 Complete the implementation of the Cranmore Regeneration Project.</p> <p>SO-RGC-4 Seek the development of new urban quarters at Caltragh and Ballinode, based on land assembly and comprehensive masterplanning with appropriate phasing.</p> <p>SO-RGC-5 Prepare a masterplan for the Docklands area, focusing on the provision of mixed residential, employment and recreational uses while retaining the functions of a fully operational Port.</p> <p>SO-RGC-6 Coordinate and oversee the implementation of the masterplan for the Centre Block/Wine Street Car Park area, aiming to deliver a mixture of housing and</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>employment uses through a high-quality urban design solution.</p> <p>SO-RGC-7 In conjunction with ATU Sligo, prepare and implement a masterplan for the City Campus site – Sligo's Cultural and Learning Hub involving the regeneration of this block of the town incorporating new County Library and museum facilities, enterprise space, residential units and high quality public realm.</p> <p>SO-RGC-8 Pursue the refurbishment of Sligo's town centre in line with the Public Realm Plan.</p> <p>SP-S-1 Pursue the accelerated and compact development of Sligo Town as a Regional Growth Centre and economic driver for the North-West region.</p> <p>SP-S-2 Promote consolidation and regeneration in the Support Towns of Ballymote, Enniscrone and Tobercurry.</p> <p>SP-S-3 Carefully manage development in the Satellite Villages of Ballysadare, Collooney, Coolaney, Grange and Strandhill, prioritising investment in social infrastructure and active travel infrastructure.</p> <p>SP-S-4 Support the Villages with Special Coastal Tourism Functions – Easky, Mullaghmore, Rosses Point – to achieve their full potential for sustainable tourism development.</p> <p>SP-S-5 Direct new small-scale rural development proposals into the designated Villages Sustaining Rural Communities, in the interest of their continued viability.</p> <p>SP-S-6 In unserved villages, promote clustering of development within village development limits, to facilitate their future connection to service infrastructure.</p> <p>SP-ED-1 Ensure that sufficient, serviced and suitable land is reserved for new enterprise development at key locations in Sligo Town, Tobercurry, Ballymote and Enniscrone, and promote the Support Towns as secondary employment centres, after Sligo Town.</p> <p>SP-ED-2 Promote the integration of employment with other land uses and the transportation network and ensure that employment-intensive uses are located in proximity to existing and planned strategic routes, where public transport is most viable.</p> <p>SP-ED-3 Facilitate the development of small-scale enterprise space, including digital hubs and cluster centres in villages where good access, infrastructure and services are readily available or can be provided at a reasonable cost.</p> <p>SP-ED-4 Liaise with the IDA and Enterprise Ireland to ensure a co-ordinated approach to the provision of necessary infrastructure and services to support enterprise and industrial development.</p>
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands. Potential for riverbank and coastal erosion. 	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Water.</p> <p>O-SGI-1 Protect from inappropriate development, and maintain the character, integrity and conservation value of those features or areas of geological interest that are listed in this Plan or that may be proposed by the DHLGH and/or the GSI in the lifetime of this Plan.</p> <p>33.3.10 Soil protection and remediation of contamination</p> <p>Adequate and appropriate investigations shall be carried out into the nature and extent of any soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development works, where brownfield development is proposed. All undeveloped, contaminated sites shall be remediated to internationally accepted standards prior to redevelopment.</p> <p>All applications shall be accompanied by a report from a qualified, expert consultant in remediation, incorporating international best practice and expertise on innovative ecological restoration techniques, including specialist planting and green initiatives that create aesthetically improved sites, healthy environments and contribute to the provision of new green open spaces as integral parts of newly created areas.</p> <p>Treatment/management of any contaminated material shall comply as appropriate with the Waste Management Act 1996 (waste licence, waste facility permit), as amended, and under the EPA Act 1992 (Industrial Emissions licensing, in particular the First Schedule, Class 11 Waste), as amended. These measures will ensure that contaminated material will be managed in a manner that removes any risk to human health and ensures that the end use will be compatible with any risk.</p>
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology. Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events. 	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil and Material Assets.</p> <p>P-INW-1 Protect rivers, streams and other water courses and their associated Core Riparian Zones (CRZs) from inappropriate development and maintain them in an open state, capable of providing suitable habitats for fauna and flora. Structures (e.g. bridges) crossing fisheries waters shall be clear-span and shall be designed and built in consultation with Inland Fisheries Ireland.</p> <p>P- INW-2 Protect and enhance biodiversity richness by protecting rivers, stream corridors and valleys by reserving land along their banks for ecological corridors, maintaining them free from inappropriate development and discouraging culverting or realignment.</p> <p>P- INW-3 Ensure that all proposed greenfield residential and commercial developments use sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) in accordance with best current practice, ensuring protection of the integrity of wetland sites in the adjoining area, including their hydrological regime.</p> <p>P- INW-4 Ensure that floodplains and wetlands within the Plan area are retained for their biodiversity and flood protection value.</p> <p>P- INW-5 Ensure that proposed developments do not adversely affect groundwater resources and groundwater-dependent habitats and species.</p> <p>O- INW-1 Consult with prescribed bodies prior to undertaking, approving or authorising any works or development that may impact on rivers, streams and watercourses.</p> <p>O- INW-2 Require that runoff from a developed area does not result in deterioration of downstream watercourses or habitats, and that pollution generated by a development is treated within the development area prior to discharge to local watercourses.</p> <p>P-WQ-1 Support the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive, National River Basin Management Plan and Blue Dot Catchment Programme, to ensure</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>protection and improvement of all waters in the County.</p> <p>P-WQ-2 Applications for development must demonstrate that such proposed development would not adversely affect the ability of any water body to meet its objectives under the Water Framework Directive, individually (as a result of the proposed development) or cumulatively (in combination with other developments). Evidence to this effect may include correspondence from Uisce Eireann.</p> <p>P-WQ-3 Protect the quality of estuarine and coastal waters by controlling land-based discharges to these areas.</p> <p>P-WQ-4 Prohibit any development which is likely to lead to the deterioration of the status of any water body (water quality).</p> <p>P-WQ-5 Ensure that all development proposals have regard to the Sligo Groundwater Protection Scheme, in order to protect groundwater resources and groundwater-dependent habitats and species.</p> <p>P-WQ-6 Strictly limit and control new development in or near the catchment areas of water bodies, particularly salmonid rivers and those that are the source of the following drinking water supplies: Lough; Lough Easky; Lough Arrow; Gortnaleck and Lyle streams; Kilsellagh Source catchment; Riverstown Source Catchment; Lough Talt; GWS source catchments.</p> <p>O-WQ-1 Continue to monitor, audit, and review the environmental status with regard to the water quality of rivers, lakes, estuarine and coastal waters.</p> <p>O-WQ-2 Protect, maintain, or improve water quality to the status set out in the national RBMP. All discharges to water bodies shall be licensed in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Water pollution) Acts 1977 & 1990.</p> <p>O-WQ-3 Implement the Programme of Measures detailed in the national RBMP.</p> <p>O-WQ-4 Ensure compliance with the relevant objectives and measures that will be set out in the Groundwater Protection Scheme for County Sligo.</p> <p>24.6.6 Groundwater quality</p> <p>Groundwater is an important natural resource which supplies water for drinking, for industry, for agriculture and helps maintain wetlands and river flows through dry periods.</p> <p>Discharges to groundwater are subject to the European Communities (EC) Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations, which were transposed into Irish Law as Statutory Instrument No. 9 of 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010). Under Regulation 4 of the Groundwater Regulations, a duty is placed on public authorities to promote compliance with the requirements of the regulations and to take all reasonable steps to prevent or limit the input of pollutants into groundwater and prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater.</p> <p>A practical and effective means of protecting groundwater and preventing pollution is through the use of the Sligo Groundwater Protection Scheme which was prepared in 2009 by the Geological Survey Ireland (GSI). The scheme provides a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater.</p> <p>In the most recent groundwater assessment issued by the Environmental Protection Agency, based on data recorded during the period 2013-2018, all groundwater within County Sligo is classified at good status, which must be protected and maintained by the Council.</p> <p>P-FRM-1 Protect and enhance the County's floodplains, wetlands and coastal areas subject to flooding and associated dunes, beach sand and gravel. These areas represent a vital green infrastructure, which provides space for storage and conveyance of floodwater, enabling flood risk to be more effectively managed and reducing the need to provide flood defences in the future.</p> <p>P-FRM-2 Zone land for development in areas with a high or moderate risk of flooding only where it can be clearly demonstrated, on a solid evidence base, that the zoning satisfies the justification test set out in chapter 4 of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines.</p> <p>P-FRM-3 Contribute towards the general maintenance of a 20-metre-wide flood protection zone around lakes and along both sides of all rivers, and a 100-metre-wide flood protection zone from soft shorelines. Development proposals will be required to maintain these flood protection zones generally free from development. Exceptions may be considered for strategic road projects, water services infrastructure, river bank enhancement works, bridge and road repair works, in the case of brownfield sites, development on lands zoned subject to policy.</p> <p>P-FRM-2 and in cases where the maintenance of the flood protection zone is not practically achievable. Such cases will be assessed on an individual basis and subject to compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives.</p> <p>P-FRM-4 Ensure that new developments proposed in Arterial Drainage Schemes and Drainage Districts preserve access for maintenance and do not result in a significant negative impact on the integrity, function and management of these areas.</p> <p>Where developments are proposed in the vicinity of Flood Relief Schemes, drainage channels and rivers for which the OPW is responsible, the Planning Authority will consult with the OPW and, where appropriate, will require the retention of a strip on either side of such channels, to facilitate maintenance access thereto.</p> <p>P-FRM-5 Restrict development in areas at elevated risk of flooding unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – it is demonstrated that there are wider sustainability grounds for appropriate development; – the flood risk can be managed to an acceptable level without increasing flood risk elsewhere; – the overall flood risk is reduced, where possible. <p>Developments considered necessary in order to meet the objectives of this Plan, or required on wider sustainability grounds, will be subject to the development</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>management justification test outlined in chapter 5 of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines. Measures such as flood compensation storage works or new hard-engineered flood defences alone will not be acceptable as justification for development in flood risk areas. Such measures will be subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive and will only be considered as part of a proposal if the development is warranted by the development management justification test set out in the Flood Risk Management Guidelines.</p> <p>P-FRM-6 Require development proposals, where appropriate, to be accompanied by a detailed flood risk assessment in accordance with the provisions of the DoEHLG's and OPW's Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities and to address flood risk management in the detailed design of development, as set out in Appendix B of the Guidelines. The following provisions apply:</p> <p>The following provisions shall apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Extensions of existing uses or minor development within flood risk areas may be permitted, provided that they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - do not obstruct important flow paths; - do not introduce a number of people into flood risk areas; - do not entail the storage of hazardous substances; - do not have adverse impacts or impede access to a watercourse, floodplain or flood protection and management facilities; - do not increase the risk of flooding elsewhere. B. Applications for development within Flood Zones A or B and on lands subject to the mid-range future scenario floods extents, as published by the Office of Public Works, shall be subject to site-specific flood risk assessment and shall provide details of structural and non-structural flood risk management measures, such as those relating to floor levels, internal layout, flood-resistant construction, flood-resilient construction, emergency response planning and access and egress during flood events (for more detail refer to Chapter 33 "Development Management Standards" subsection 33.2.6 "Flood risk assessment"). <p>Site-specific flood risk assessments shall consider climate change impacts and adaptation measures, shall apply the precautionary approach recommended in the Guidelines, and shall be informed by the advice on the expected impacts of climate change and the allowances to be provided for future flood risk management (refer to the OPW's 2019 Flood Risk Management Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan and the guidance on potential future scenarios contained therein).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> C. Where a 'Justification Test' applies, it must be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority that the flood risk can be adequately managed, and that the use and the development of the lands will not cause unacceptable impacts elsewhere. D. In Flood Zone C, where the probability of flooding is low (less than 0.1%), site-specific flood risk assessment may be required, and the developers should satisfy themselves that the probability of flooding is appropriate to the development being proposed. <p>Prospective applicants shall consult the SFRA datasets accompanying this Development Plan and the most up-to-date Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme climate scenario mapping.</p> <p>Applications for development on sites identified as "benefitting lands' may be prone to flooding, and site-specific flood risk assessments may be required in these areas.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> E. Groundwater and pluvial flood risks shall be considered by any site-specific flood risk assessment undertaken at project level, in compliance with the Planning Systems and Flood Risk Management Guidelines (DEHLG, 2009). <p><i>Note: For the avoidance of doubt, the OPW's Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment indicative pluvial maps (2012) are NOT considered to be reliable for assessing pluvial risk.</i></p> <p>P-FRM-7 Support and facilitate the implementation of CFRAM Flood Risk Management Plans, and support the OPW in the development and implementation of sustainable flood risk management actions, including the delivery of Flood Relief Schemes.</p> <p>P-FRM-8 Protect the integrity of any formal flood risk management infrastructure, thereby ensuring that any new development does not negatively impact any existing defence infrastructure or compromise any proposed new defence infrastructure.</p> <p>P-FRM-9 Consider, as appropriate any new and/or emerging data, including, when available, any relevant information contained in the CFRAM Flood Risk Management Plans.</p> <p>30.3 Surface water management</p> <p>Stormwater flows can have a significant detrimental impact on the available capacity of combined sewer networks and at treatment plants. Climate change is exacerbating the impact by way of more frequent and intense rainfall. This brings challenges in terms of drainage and capacity, traditionally addressed by hard engineering options (concrete gullies, pipes, drains etc.).</p> <p>Sustainable (urban) Drainage Systems, commonly known as SuDS, seek to manage surface water as close as possible to its origin by various nature-based or engineering solutions that replicate natural drainage processes. SuDS and nature-based solutions provide many benefits, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlling the quantity of run-off to support the management of flood risk and maintain and protect the natural water cycle;

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving water quality by preventing pollution; • Supporting biodiversity; • Contributing to the visual amenity of surrounding areas; • building resilience to climate change through micro-cooling and carbon sequestration. <p>The application of SuDS techniques and nature-based solutions allows surface water to be either infiltrated or conveyed more slowly to water courses, using porous surface treatments such as bioretention areas, ponds, swales, basins, rain gardens, wetlands, filter drains, green roofs etc. These are often less expensive to construct and easier to maintain than underground solutions.</p> <p>The Planning Authority will require the application of SuDS and nature-based solutions in new development proposals, in the redevelopment of existing brownfield sites and proposals to extend existing developments. The use of soakaways is deemed suitable for single dwelling houses and extensions to single dwellings, but not suitable for urban areas.</p> <p>While traditionally the application of SDS techniques is site-specific and depends on the site's characteristics, the Council will work with designers and developers to deliver an integrated and area-based approach where possible, so that the approach works like a mini-catchment.</p> <p>Surface water drainage policies</p> <p>P-SWD-1 Require all new developments, redevelopment of brownfield sites and extensions to existing developments (where appropriate) to provide a separate foul and surface water drainage system and to incorporate sustainable urban drainage systems, where feasible.</p> <p>Such developments shall connect to existing surface water drainage systems (where available) which, in the opinion of the Planning Authority, have adequate capacity to accommodate additional loading (refer also to Section 3.5 of the accompanying SFRA, "Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and Surface Water Guidance and Strategy").</p> <p>P-SWD-2 Require that planning applications are accompanied by a comprehensive SuDS assessment that addresses run-off quantity, run-off quality and its impact on the existing habitat and water quality.</p> <p>In the case of one-off rural dwellings or extensions to dwellings without access to existing surface water drainage systems, surface water shall be disposed of, in its entirety, within the curtilage of the development by way of suitably-sized soakaways.</p> <p>In all instances the use of nature-based solutions is preferred to engineering solutions. Developers will be required to apply the provisions of 'Nature-Based Solutions to the Management of Rainwater and Surface Water Runoff in Urban Areas' (water sensitive urban design) Best Practice Interim Guidance Document (DHLGH, 2001) and any subsequent review.</p> <p>P-SWD-3 Seek to minimise the extent of hard surfacing and paving in all development proposals.</p> <p>P-SWD-4 Ensure that adequately designed oil interceptors are installed in all commercial developments that include car-parks or other oil- and petrol-related activities.</p> <p>P-SWD-5 Prohibit the alteration of natural and existing drainage systems, in order to preserve and protect historic drainage channels/paths and flow characteristics of existing catchments. In the case of development works, require the provision of acceptable mitigation measures in order to minimise the risk of flooding and negative impacts on water quality (including run-off, erosion and sedimentation).</p> <p>P-SWD-6 Protect the drainage characteristics of river channels and streams that can facilitate surface water drainage, by ensuring that development is kept at an appropriate distance from stream banks and/or adequate protection measures are put in place.</p> <p>P-NR-4 Safeguard the capacity and efficiency of the national road network drainage regimes in County Sligo and ensure that private developments do not discharge surface water to national road drainage.</p>
Air and Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives. • Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including 	<p>Also refer to Plan's various sustainable transport provisions and detailed measures for Climate Action.</p> <p>SP-CA-1 Support the implementation of the government's climate action policy in accordance with the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, the national Climate Action Plan 2023, the National Adaptation Framework 2018 and all subsequent relevant updates.</p> <p>SP-CA-2 Ensure that Sligo County Council's Climate Adaptation Strategy, Climate Action Plan and County Development Plan are fully aligned.</p> <p>SP-CA-3 Integrate appropriate climate mitigation and adaptation considerations and measures into all relevant development management and development planning processes.</p> <p>SP-TRA-1 Strengthen the strategic transport links providing regional, national and international connectivity, in accordance with the NSO 2 of the NPF and the RSES Transport Investment Priorities.</p> <p>SP-TRA-2 Support the creation of an integrated and sustainable transport system, in particular with regard to accessibility and choice of transport, with a quality bus and rail service, alongside the promotion of cycle and pedestrian facilities.</p> <p>SP-TRA-3 Encourage the shift from car use to sustainable modes of transport such as cycling and walking.</p> <p>SP-TRA-4 Reduce the demand for travel by integrating land use with transport planning, ensuring that new development takes place in a compact form at locations with the highest levels of accessibility for public transport and active travel (walking and cycling).</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<p>those from cars, and air quality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors. • Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management. 	<p>SP-TRA-5 Plan for the future traffic and transportation needs in Sligo and ensure that new development does not compromise the expansion of rail, road and cycling corridors in the County. Proposed road realignment/improvement lines, road corridors and national cycle route corridors shall be preserved free from development that would prejudice the implementation of the schemes.</p> <p>SO-TRA-1 Implement the relevant national transportation policies set out in the National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland (NIFTI) and National Sustainable Mobility Policy, in partnership with funding agencies.</p> <p>SO-TRA-2 Progress the development of the Atlantic Economic Corridor through County Sligo by upgrading sections of the national roads N-17 and N-15, in conjunction with the TII.</p> <p>SO-TRA-3 Extend and improve the cycle network in the County in accordance with the National Cycle Network plan.</p> <p>SO-TRA-4 Implement a programme of measures to support active travel in the county with the support of funding from the Active Travel Investment Programme of the NTA and pursue the implementation of the sustainable transport targets set out in Table 9.1 (Performance indicators and target aspirations for assessing progress of the LTP).</p> <p>SO-TRA-5 Implement the principles and objectives of the Local Transport Plan for the Sligo Regional Growth Centre by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting the convenience and attractiveness of bus, rail and park-and-ride facilities. Enhancing integration between existing and proposed land-uses and the transport network. Improving accessibility to Sligo Town from the settlements located in the LTP Study Area. Developing an enhanced pedestrian network, improving permeability and creating a 'sense of place' within Sligo Town. Extending and enhancing the cycle network throughout the LTP Study Area. <p>SO-TRA-6 Facilitate the roll-out of charging infrastructure for electric vehicles, in line with the NDP Strategic Investment Priority for Transport target of nearly one million electric vehicles on the road by 2030, and with the Implementation Plan associated with the Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy 2022-2025 (and subsequent reviews).</p> <p>Chapter 29. Transport infrastructure</p> <p>Development Plan policy aims to promote sustainable transport systems through the integration of land use and transportation, the promotion of compact development to minimise journey length and maximise opportunities to use sustainable modes.</p> <p>The requirements of the Climate Action Plan, the technological progress in the transport industry and the public attitude towards sustainable travel (e.g. the move towards electricity and other fuel sources, digital connectivity, autonomous vehicles, car and bike sharing etc) have obvious consequences for development plan policy.</p> <p>Sligo County Council must respond in a pro-active and collaborative manner to ensure that the county is prepared for such changes and that all local communities will benefit from them.</p> <p>The identification of transport infrastructure proposals in this Plan (including locations/routes and any associated mapping), that is not already permitted or provided for by other existing plans or programmes, is non-binding and indicative.</p> <p>New transport infrastructure will be considered subject to environmental constraints, including those related to potential impacts on habitats. This will include minimising river crossings, avoiding sensitive habitats and disturbance from lighting, not increasing barriers to flood waters, and sustainable design and construction techniques.</p> <p>Applications for transport infrastructure projects, including greenways and blueways that are not already provided for by existing plans/programmes or are not already permitted, shall demonstrate that they have been subject to feasibility assessment, considering need, environmental sensitivities and objectives relating to sustainable mobility.</p> <p>Where feasibility is established, and where appropriate, applications for transport infrastructure projects shall demonstrate that they have been subject to a Corridor and Route Selection Process undertaken in two stages: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection; and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection.</p> <p>By promoting sustainable mobility initiatives, the Development Plan will contribute towards a reduction in exposure to pollution from emissions to air, including unacceptable noise levels from traffic. Proposed interventions will be required to demonstrate that they are consistent with all relevant legislative requirements, including those relating emissions to air and noise.</p> <p>P-CW -1 Promote cycling and walking as a sustainable and viable commuting mode of transport by making provision for the safe and efficient movement of cyclists and pedestrians at public transportation nodes and village/town centres, public car parks and Institutions.</p> <p>P-CW-2 Ensure that adequate cycle facilities are provided in all new institutions, employment centres, sports complexes and leisure facilities, in the form of sheltered bicycle parking and locker rooms with shower facilities.</p> <p>P-CW-3 Require that all new developments are designed to integrate into a cycling network linking with adjoining development areas and schools, and provide cycle and pedestrian-friendly development layouts, infrastructure and facilities.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>P-CW-4 Consider the use of off-road routes, such as disused railway lines and bridle paths, for both walking and cycling to improve access to rural tourist attractions. Where feasible, provide separate trails for walkers and cyclists in the interests of safety and convenience, with appropriate surfaces for each type of user and subject to compliance with legislative requirements.</p> <p>P-CW-5 Provide, improve and extend cycle and pedestrian routes on existing roads, proposed roads, roads being upgraded and green corridors (including river corridors), and make provision for filtered permeability where feasible and practical, and subject to compliance with legislative requirements.</p> <p>P-CW-6 Support the development of the cycling routes identified in the final NTA document CycleConnects and facilitate the development of services and utilities for electric bikes throughout the County.</p> <p>O-CW-1 Complete the development of the N-4 Collooney to Castlebaldwin Active Travel Scheme using the infrastructure (combined cycle and footway) already constructed from Toberbride Td to Doorly Td.</p> <p>O-CW-2 Seek the development of a greenway from Collooney to Bellaghy (Sligo/Mayo county boundary).</p> <p>O-CW-3 Support the development of a greenway from Collooney to Enniskillen, with a connection from Collooney to Sligo Town, which can also serve as a Smarter Travel commuter route.</p> <p>O-CW-4 Develop the Inter-Urban Cycle Network routes listed in Table 29.5, as part of the implementation of the Sligo Local Transport Plan.</p> <p>P-PT-1 Strengthen Sligo's function as a transportation node in the North-West and facilitate an easy interchange between different transportation modes.</p> <p>P-PT-2 Promote the consolidation of settlements on existing public transport routes.</p> <p>P-PT-3 Support the provision of public transport services by reserving land in suitable locations for public transport infrastructure and ancillary facilities, such as park-and-ride.</p> <p>P-PT-4 Support the provision of a local commuter rail service on the existing Sligo-Dublin railway line, in conjunction with the upgrading of services to one train per two hours, as recommended in the (Draft) All-Island Strategic Rail Review.</p> <p>P-PT-5 Protect the route of the Western Rail Corridor as a strategic transport corridor linking Sligo to Co. Mayo, for potential future transport-related uses.</p> <p>P-PT-6 Continue to work with the service providers, such as Iarnrod Eireann and Bus Eireann, to encourage the reduction in the need for car trips by improving the availability, reliability and quality of public transport.</p> <p>P-PT-7 Ensure that the design and layout of new developments facilitates circulation by public transport.</p> <p>P-EN-1 Support the sustainable development, upgrading and maintenance of energy generation, transmission, storage and distribution infrastructure, to ensure the security of energy supply and provide for future needs, as well as protection of the landscape, natural, archaeological and built heritage, and residential amenity.</p> <p>P-EN-2 Facilitate the production of energy from renewable sources and secure the maximum potential from wind energy resources within County Sligo, including the augmentation, upgrading and improvements to existing wind farms, subject to strict location, siting and design criteria.</p> <p>P-EN-3 Support the development of energy from biomass, such as solid fuels (e.g. wood pellets), liquid fuels or biogas (e.g. biomethane), including the cultivation, processing and conversion of energy crops.</p> <p>P-EN-4 Support existing and new enterprises that wish to use renewable energy to serve their own needs by on-site energy production, as well as farm diversification into solar energy production for own use or selling to the grid, subject to normal planning considerations</p> <p>P-EN-5 Collaborate with urban and rural communities in the development of community-level energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, including solar energy developments where suitable, subject to visual, landscape, heritage, environmental and amenity considerations.</p> <p>O-REN-1 Prepare a Renewable Energy Strategy for County Sligo within one year of the publication of the Regional Renewable Electricity Strategy (NWRA) or the revised Methodology for Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategies (SEAI), as provided for in the Climate Action Plan 2024, whichever occurs first.</p> <p>O-REN-2 Seek the progression of the Sligo Local Gas Network project in co-operation with ATU, Sligo Sustainable Energy Communities, the SEAI and all other relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>P-ENE-1 Encourage the use of renewable energy sources in buildings and the retrofitting of buildings for higher energy efficiency in line with national retrofitting goals.</p> <p>The retrofitting of protected structures and buildings located within ACAs or in historic streetscapes will be facilitated where it is shown that the proposed works will not negatively impact upon the character of the structure or streetscape.</p> <p>P-ENE-2 Promote the incorporation of energy-efficiency measures in the design of new buildings, such as passive solar design, natural ventilation, and vegetation (e.g. green roofs), as well as other design solutions that make effective and sustainable use of water, aggregates and other resources.</p> <p>The proposed energy-efficiency measures or design solutions should be included as part of the documentation submitted at planning application stage.</p> <p>33.2.9 Air and noise</p> <p>Sligo County Council supports the implementation of the Noise Directive 2002/49/EC and associated Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 and will seek to minimise noise disturbance by implementing the Sligo Noise Action Plan 2018 (and all updates thereafter), including provisions relating to the design and operation of developments and associated relevant noise management standards and guidance.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		The Council promotes the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development in accordance with the EU Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/50/EC) and will ensure that all air emissions associated with new developments are within Environmental Quality Standards as out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (SI No. 180 of 201) (or any updated/superseding documents).
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). • Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). • Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). • Increases in waste levels. • Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure. • Interactions between agriculture and soil, water, biodiversity and human health - including phosphorous and nitrogen deposition as a result of agricultural activities and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter. 	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Soil, Water, Air, various Land Use and Phasing provisions.</p> <p>P-WS -1 Co-operate with Uisce Éireann to maximise the potential of existing capacity and to facilitate the timely delivery of new water services infrastructure, in order to support population and economic growth as set out in the Core Strategy of this Plan.</p> <p>P-WS -2 Liaise with Uisce Éireann in seeking to establish source management and protection zones around drinking water supply sources (ground and surface water) and develop appropriate management and maintenance measures for these sources.</p> <p>P-WS-3 Support the implementation of the Uisce Éireann's Capital Investment Programmes (CIP) and Minor Works Programmes (MWP).</p> <p>P-WS-4 Promote the use of water conservation measures such as rainwater harvesting and grey water use in all new developments, in order to minimise water wastage and as viable alternative to attenuation.</p> <p>P-WS-5 Where connection to a public water supply is not possible, or the existing supply does not have sufficient capacity, the provision of a private water supply will be permitted only where it can be demonstrated that the proposed water supply meets the standards set out in the EU and national legislation and guidance, would not be prejudicial to public health and would not have a significant negative impact on the source or yield of an existing supply.</p> <p>P-WS-6 Proposals relating to water abstractions shall be subject to the appropriate environmental assessments and demonstrate compliance with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and with the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>P-WWT-1</p> <p>A. Co-operate with Uisce Éireann in the provision of adequate wastewater infrastructure to support the growth of County Sligo's settlements in accordance with the Core Strategy, and to realize the objectives and policies of the Plan, including projects and programmes identified in Uisce Éireann's Capital Investment Plan and any superseding investment plans in relation to Cliffony, Mullaghmore, Castlebaldwin, Geevagh and Ballintogher</p> <p>B. Pursue the provision of WWTPs in the unserved settlements of Ballygawley and Rathcormac under Measure A8 of the DHLGH Circular L1-22, 'Wastewater Collection and Treatment needs for Villages and Settlements without access to Public Wastewater Services' or any superseding circulars.</p> <p>P-WWT-2 Require sustainable collection, treatment and discharge of wastewater effluent generated within the County and ensure that effluent/sludge is treated and reused in accordance with the required EU standards and UÉ's National Wastewater Sludge Management Plan (and any superseding plans).</p> <p>P-WWT-3 Maximise the capacity of existing collection systems for foul water by prohibiting the discharge of additional surface water to combined (foul and surface water) sewers.</p> <p>P-WWT-4 Require all new developments to connect to the public wastewater infrastructure, where available, subject a connection agreement with UÉ. In cases where a settlement is not served by a public wastewater treatment plant, or where no spare capacity exists in the relevant wastewater treatment plants, proposals for single houses using on-site wastewater treatment will be considered subject to appropriate scale, site assessment, design and ground conditions, taking groundwater vulnerability into account and subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Any such permitted development shall be subject to legally binding maintenance arrangements agreed with the Planning Authority and shall be required to connect to the public wastewater treatment plant when adequate capacity becomes available.</p> <p>However, communal on-site wastewater treatment systems for multiple housing developments (i.e. systems servicing more than one residential unit) will not be permitted.</p> <p>P-WWT-5 All proposals for on-site treatment systems shall be designed, constructed and maintained in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency's 2021 Code of Practice: Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems (Population Equivalent ≤10) and/or Treatment Systems for Small Communities, business, Leisure Centres and Hotels, (EPA, 1999) as amended, and any guidance documents issued by the County Council.</p> <p>33.2.8 Waste management</p> <p>Sligo County Council supports the sustainable management of waste and seeks to enable a significant reduction in the production of waste in County Sligo, in line with the principles of the Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy (DECC, 2021).</p> <p>The identification and provision of facilities for the reception of C&D waste should be integrated into the project planning and design processes. In order to ensure that this occurs, conditions will be included in the permissions granted to particular developments, requiring resource and waste management plans be drawn up prior to the commencement of the development.</p> <p>These plans will be subject to approval by the Planning Authority and will include site inspections to ensure that all wastes generated during development are being handled in an environmentally-sound and sustainable manner.</p> <p>The plans must be prepared and carried out in accordance with the EPA's Best Practice Guidelines for the Preparation of Resource & Waste Management Plans for Construction & Demolition Projects (2021).</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of aggregate potential sterilisation. 	<p>The Council will continue to fulfil its duties under the Waste Management (certification of historic unlicensed waste disposal and recovery activity) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No 524 of 2008), including those in relation to the identification and registration of closed landfills.</p>
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology³ and protected architecture⁴ arising from construction and operation activities. 	<p>P-AH-1 Protect, manage, and enhance archaeological sites, monuments and landscapes, underwater archaeology (including protected wrecks), historic burial grounds (including their setting, appreciation and visual amenity) listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), the Register of Historic Monuments, and any additional newly discovered archaeological sites and/or sub-surface archaeological remains. This shall be done in accordance with conservation principles and best practice guidelines.</p> <p>P-AH-2 Require Archaeological Impact Assessment, surveys, test excavation and/or monitoring, as appropriate, for development in the vicinity of monuments or in areas of archaeological potential. Where there are upstanding remains, a visual assessment may be required.</p> <p>P-AH-3 Require the preservation of the context, amenity, visual integrity and connection of archaeological monuments to their setting. Views to and from archaeological monuments shall not be obscured by inappropriate development. Where appropriate, Archaeological Visual Impact Assessments will be required to demonstrate the continued preservation of an archaeological monument's siting and context.</p> <p>P-AH-4 Require Archaeological Impact Assessments, geophysical survey, test excavations or monitoring, as appropriate, where development proposals involve ground clearance of more than 0.5 ha, for linear developments over 1 km in length, and for developments in proximity to areas of known archaeological monuments and history of discovery, as identified by suitably qualified archaeologists.</p> <p>P-AH-5 Secure the preservation in situ or by record of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the archaeological monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places as established under section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994; - any sites and features of historical and archaeological interest; - any subsurface archaeological features that may be discovered during the course of infrastructural/development works in the operational area of the Plan. <p>Preservation relates to archaeological sites or objects and their settings. Preservation in situ is most effectively achieved by the refurbishment of existing buildings, in situations where it is possible to retain the greater part of existing structures without the need for new foundations.</p> <p>P-AH-6 Protect historic burial grounds that are National and/or Recorded Monuments and encourage their maintenance in accordance with best conservation principles. Development may be restricted or conditions requiring substantial excavation may be imposed in and adjacent to former burial grounds.</p> <p>P-AH-7 Where possible, facilitate and enhance public access to and understanding of the archaeological heritage and disseminate archaeological information and advice to prospective developers and the general public.</p> <p>P-AH-8 Require that all development proposals for industrial buildings and sites of industrial archaeological importance be accompanied by an Industrial Archaeology Assessment of the surrounding environment. The preservation in situ of significant examples of industrial or military heritage will be required. New development should be designed in sympathy with existing features and structures.</p> <p>P-AH-9 Protect and preserve the archaeological value of underwater archaeological sites and associated features. In assessing proposals for development, the Council will take account of the potential underwater archaeology of rivers, lakes, intertidal and subtidal environments.</p> <p>P-AH-10 Refer to the National Monuments Section (DHLGH) all development proposals within the archaeological and historic landscape of the Cuil Irra Peninsula (which includes the core areas of Knocknarea, Carrowmore and Carns Hill) as identified in Fig.25.A.</p> <p>P-AH-11 Ensure that Archaeological Impact Assessments are requested at pre-planning and planning application stage for all development proposals within the archaeological and historic landscape of the Cuil Irra Peninsula (which includes the core areas of Knocknarea, Carrowmore and Carns Hill).</p> <p>P-AH-12 Implement the County Sligo Heritage Plan and all its revisions, in partnership with the County Sligo Heritage Forum and all relevant stakeholders and the community.</p> <p>O-AH-1 Identify and protect internationally important archaeological landscapes such as the Carrowkeel, Inishmurray and the Cuil Irra Peninsula (which includes the core areas of Knocknarea, Carrowmore and Carns Hill), in co-operation with landowners and relevant stakeholders and statutory agencies.</p> <p>O-AH-2 Identify appropriate archaeological sites in the Plan area to which public access could be provided and work to secure public access, where appropriate, in consultation with the landowners.</p> <p>O-AH-3 Prepare and implement conservation plans, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, for key heritage sites in County Sligo, including Sligo Gaol, the Green Fort (Sligo), Drumcliffe Monastic Site and Inishmurray.</p> <p>P-ARH-1 Preserve, protect and enhance the architectural heritage of County Sligo for future generations by seeking to prevent the demolition or inappropriate</p>

³ Archaeological heritage encompasses designated and unknown archaeological heritage including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and underwater archaeology. Also encompassed are intervisibility and interrelationships between archaeological heritage within the wider landscape, including cross-border intervisibility and interrelationships.

⁴ Architectural heritage encompasses that which is designated or included within the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH), NIAH Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes and Records of Protected Structures. Also encompassed are intervisibility and interrelationships between architectural heritage within the wider landscape, including cross-border intervisibility and interrelationships.

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>alteration of protected structures and their settings.</p> <p>P-ARH-2 Ensure that any development, modifications, alterations, or extensions affecting a protected structure, an adjoining structure or a structure within an ACA is sited and designed appropriately and is not detrimental to the character of the structure, to its setting or the general character of the ACA.</p> <p>P-ARH-3 Exempt a development proposal from the normal requirement for the payment of a development contribution if the proposal involves restoration/refurbishment of a protected structure to a high architectural standard.</p> <p>P-ARH-4 Facilitate 'enabling development' to be carried out in conjunction with works to protected structures.</p> <p>P-ARH-5 Protect important non-habitable structures such as historic bridges, harbours, railways or non-structural elements such as roadside features (e.g. historic milestones, cast-iron pumps and post-boxes), street furniture, historic gardens, stone walls, landscapes, demesnes and curtilage features, in cases where these are not already included in the Record of Protected Structures.</p> <p>P-ARH-6 Encourage the re-use of industrial heritage structures, provided that change of use does not impact on the intrinsic character of the structure, and that all works are carried out in accordance with best conservation practice.</p> <p>P-ARH-7 Protect and enhance the built heritage of the Sligo-Leitrim & Northern Counties Railway (SLNCR) and Great Southern & Western Railway (GS&WR / Limerick & Sligo Branch) and associated structures.</p> <p>In as far as practically possible, development which may impact on the character and setting of these structures shall be sensitively designed.</p> <p>P-ARH-8 Require an Architectural/Archaeological Heritage Assessment, as appropriate, which references the Sligo Industrial Heritage Survey and other relevant sources, for all proposed developments relating to industrial heritage structures or sites.</p> <p>Designed landscapes, gardens and demesnes</p> <p>P-ARH-9 Require the protection and enhancement of heritage gardens and demesne landscapes, and support the provision of public access to these sites in consultation with landowners.</p> <p>P-ARH-10 Discourage development that would adversely affect the character, the principal components or the setting of historic parks, gardens and demesnes of heritage significance.</p> <p>P-ARH-11 Require an appraisal of the landscape, designed views and vistas, including a tree survey, where relevant, to accompany proposals for development in designed landscapes and demesnes, in order to inform site-appropriate design</p> <p>O-ARH-1 Carry out Phase 2 of the Sligo Industrial Heritage Survey comprising field surveys and assessments. Where appropriate, propose the addition of surviving sites and structures to the Record of Protected Structures.</p> <p>P-ACA-1 Conserve and enhance the special character of the Architectural Conservation Areas in this plan. The special character of an area includes its traditional building stock and material finishes, spaces, streetscapes, shop fronts, landscape and setting.</p> <p>P-ACA-2 Protect all buildings, structures, groups of structures, sites, landscapes and all features considered to be intrinsic elements to the special character of the ACA from demolition, removal and non-sympathetic alterations.</p> <p>Any proposal for demolition or alteration within an ACA shall be accompanied by a measured and photographic survey, a Condition Report and an Architectural Heritage Assessment.</p> <p>P-ACA-3 Promote appropriate and sensitive reuse and rehabilitation of buildings and sites within ACAs.</p> <p>P-ACA-4 Require the retention of original windows, doors, renders, roof coverings, chimneys, rainwater goods and other significant features of structures of architectural heritage merit, whether protected or not.</p> <p>P-ACA-5 Seek the repair and reuse of traditional shopfronts and where appropriate, encourage new shopfronts of a high-quality architectural design.</p> <p>P-ACA-6 Ensure that new development within or adjacent to an ACA respects the established character of the area, contributes positively in terms of design, scale, setting and material finishes to the ACA.</p> <p>Such development shall be appropriately sited and designed, having regard to advice given in the Statement of Character for the respective ACA, where available.</p> <p>P-ACA-7 Promote high quality architectural design within ACAs, including redevelopment in the traditional or historicist manner, where appropriate.</p> <p>P-ACA-8 Ensure that all new signage, lighting, advertising and utilities on buildings within an ACA are designed, constructed, and located in such a manner that they do not detract from the character of the ACA.</p> <p>P-ACA-9 Protect and enhance the quality of open spaces within ACAs and ensure the protection and where necessary reuse of street furniture and use of appropriate materials during the course of public infrastructure schemes within ACAs.</p> <p>O-ACA-1 Identify places of special character in the County, with a view to designating them as Architectural Conservation Areas or to modify existing ACAs, where necessary.</p> <p>O-ACA-2 Prepare and review, where necessary, a detailed Character Statement and planning guidance for each ACA.</p> <p>P-VH-1 Generally require the retention, sensitive restoration and sustainable re-use of historic building, structures and features in the County, including vernacular dwellings, farm buildings, paving, historic boundary treatments or layouts.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>There will be a presumption against the demolition of older buildings where restoration and adaptation are feasible.</p> <p>P-VH-2 Ensure that conversions or extensions to vernacular buildings or the provision of new adjoining buildings, are sensitively designed and do not detract from the character of the historic building. Demolition or removal will be considered only in exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>P-VH-3 Encourage the retention and restoration of thatched dwellings and promote available grant schemes to assist owners with such works.</p> <p>P-VH-4 Seek the retention of original or historic fabric such as windows, doors, wall renders, roof coverings, shopfronts, pub fronts and other significant features of older or historic buildings, whether protected or not.</p> <p>P-VH-5 Promote the retention and re-use of the vernacular built heritage through increasing public awareness of its potential and adaptability to change.</p> <p>P-VH-6 When considering proposals to adapt vernacular buildings to meet contemporary living standards and needs, require applicants to apply the conservation principles and guidelines set out in the ICOMOS Charter on the Built Vernacular Heritage (Mexico 1999) – refer to Appendix XX of this Plan.</p> <p>P-VH-7 Seek the retention of surviving historic plot sizes and street patterns in the villages and towns of Sligo, and incorporate ancient boundaries or layouts, such as burgage plots and townland boundaries, into any re-developments.</p> <p>O-VH-1 Update the survey of surviving thatched structures in the County.</p> <p>P-HS-1 Seek the retention of surviving street layout, historic building lines, traditional plot sizes/widths in the villages and towns of Sligo where these derive from medieval or earlier origins, and incorporate ancient boundaries or layouts, such as burgage plots and townland boundaries, into any re-developments.</p> <p>P-HS-2 Require the preservation in-situ of significant medieval masonry remains found during the course of development works and, where practicable, support the presentation of such remains as part of the completed development.</p> <p>P-HS-3 Secure the preservation in-situ of surviving above-ground urban medieval and 16th/17th century structures, by ensuring that any permitted development does not result in the loss of such remains which may survive within buildings which are, or appear to be, of later date.</p> <p>P-HS-4 Consider excluding basement developments in archaeologically sensitive areas, particularly in urban Zones of Archaeological Potential and where there are buried waterlogged deposits.</p>
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape. 	<p>Also refer to measures under Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna and Cultural Heritage.</p> <p>WHS-1 To support the State in the nomination process of 'The Passage Tomb Landscape of County Sligo' to UNESCO World Heritage status, in co-operation with relevant State agencies and key stakeholders.</p> <p>P-LCP-1 Protect the physical landscape, visual and scenic character of County Sligo and seek to preserve the County's landscape character. Planning applications for developments that have the potential to impact significantly and adversely upon landscape character, especially in Sensitive Rural Landscapes, Visually Vulnerable Areas and along Scenic routes, may be required to be accompanied by a visual impact assessment using agreed and appropriate viewing points and methods for the assessment.</p> <p>P-LCP-2 Discourage any developments that would be detrimental to the unique visual character of designated Visually Vulnerable Areas.</p> <p>P-LCP-3 Preserve the scenic views listed in Appendix X and the distinctive visual character of designated Scenic Routes by controlling development along such Routes and other roads, while facilitating developments that may be tied to a specific location or, in the case of individual houses, to the demonstrated needs of applicants to reside in a particular area.</p> <p>In all cases, strict location, siting and design criteria shall apply, as set out in Section 33.4 Housing in rural areas (development management standards).</p> <p>P-LCP-4 Strictly control new development in designated Sensitive Rural Landscapes, while considering exceptions that can demonstrate a clear need to locate in the area concerned.</p> <p>Ensure that any new development in designated Sensitive Rural Landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does not impinge in any significant way on the character, integrity and distinctiveness of the area; • does not detract from the scenic value of the area; • meets high standards of siting and design; • satisfies all other criteria with regard to, inter alia, servicing, public safety and prevention of pollution. <p>P-LCP-5 Protect the County's Sensitive Rural Landscapes from the visual intrusion of large-scale energy and telecommunications infrastructure.</p> <p>P-LCP-6 Protect the archaeological heritage, rural character, setting and amenity of the Cuil Irra Peninsula, Carrowkeel and Inishmurray.</p> <p>P-LCP-7 Preserve the status of traditionally open/unfenced landscapes. Fencing in upland or amenity areas will not normally be permitted unless such fencing is essential to the viability of the farm and conforms to best agricultural practice. 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. Barbed-wire shall not be used for the top line of wire. Stiles or gates at appropriate places will be required.</p> <p>P-LCP-8 Where possible, preserve the open character of commonage and other hill land and secure access thereto.</p> <p>O-LCP-1 Seek the designation of a Landscape Conservation Area, pursuant to Section 204 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), for the Cuil Irra Peninsula and Carrowkeel.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
		<p>O-LCP-2 Seek the designation of a Landscape Conservation Area, pursuant to Section 204 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), for Inishmurray.</p> <p>O-LCP-3 Prepare an updated Landscape Character Assessment for County Sligo in conjunction with the forthcoming Renewable Energy Strategy (refer to objective O-REN-1 in Chapter 31).</p> <p>O-LCP-4 Investigate the feasibility and potential of North Sligo (Ben Bulbin and its hinterland) and Lough Arrow as National Parks / National Recreation Areas in conjunction with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and other relevant stakeholders.</p>

Section 3 Environmental Report and Submissions/ Observations

3.1 Introduction

This section details how both the Environmental Report and submissions and observations made to Sligo County Council on the Environmental Report and SEA process have been taken into account during the preparation of the Plan and the SEA.

3.2 SEA Scoping Notices and Submissions

As part of the scoping process for preparation of the Plan, environmental authorities⁵ were notified that a submission or observation in relation to the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the Environmental Report could be made to the Council.

Submissions were made by the following environmental authorities:

- Environmental Protection Agency;
- Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (one from the Geological Survey Ireland and one from the Waste Policy and Resource Efficiency Division);
- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Fisheries Division); and
- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

The issues raised in these submissions and how these issues have been taken into account during preparation of the Plan and the SEA are provided on Table 3.1 below. Taking into account these submissions included integrating environmental considerations into the Plan, including through the selection of Plan provisions identified on Table 2.2.

⁵ The following authorities were notified: Environmental Protection Agency; Department of Environment, Climate and Communications; Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage; Leitrim County Council; Mayo County Council; and Roscommon County Council.

Table 3.1 Taking into account SEA Scoping Submissions

Ref.	Issue raised in submission	SEA Response
1. Submission from the Environmental Protection Agency		
A	The EPA is one of the statutory environmental authorities under the SEA Regulations. In our role as an SEA environmental authority, we focus on promoting the full and transparent integration of the findings of the Environmental Assessment into the Plan and advocating that the key environmental challenges for Ireland are addressed as relevant and appropriate to the plan. Our functions as an SEA environmental authority do not include approving or enforcing SEAs or plans.	Noted.
B	As a priority, we focus our efforts on reviewing and commenting on key sector plans. For land use plans at county and local level, we provide a 'self-service approach' via the attached guidance document ' <i>SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans – EPA Recommendations and Resources</i> '. This document is updated regularly and sets out our key recommendations for integrating environmental considerations into Local Authority land use Plans. We recommend that you take this guidance document into account in preparing the Plan and SEA.	The ' <i>SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans – EPA Recommendations and Resources</i> ' document has been considered in the preparation of the SEA Scoping Report and will be kept on file for reference throughout the SEA process.
C	In preparing the Plan, Sligo County Council should also ensure that the Plan aligns with key relevant higher-level plans and programmes and is consistent with the relevant objectives and policy commitments of the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern & Western Region.	The SEA will seek to ensure that the Plan aligns with key relevant higher-level plans and programmes and is consistent with the relevant objectives and policy commitments of the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern & Western Region.
D	Specific Scoping/Issues Paper Comment As well as our attached guidance, we include here some key environmental considerations which should also be taken into account in preparing the Plan. The EPA may provide additional comments upon receipt of the SEA Scoping Report for the Plan.	Noted.
E	<i>Community Engagement</i> One of the key messages from the State of the Environment Report (EPA, 2016) is the importance and value of Community Engagement. In preparing the Plan and carrying out the SEA (including developing alternatives), the need to proactively engage local communities should be a core consideration.	The public (including the local community) will be provided with an opportunity to make a submission on the Draft Plan and associated environmental documents during public display.
F	<i>Sustainable Development Goals</i> Describing the links with the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) would help to frame the Plan (and SEA) within the context of the wider sustainable development agenda and ensure that the Plan is consistent with achieving the SDGs. Relevant targets and actions in Ireland's SDG Implementation Plan (DCCAE, 2018) should be integrated as appropriate into the Plan.	The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and relevant targets and actions in Ireland's SDG Implementation Plan (DCCAE, 2018) have been considered in the preparation of the SEA Scoping Report and will be kept on file for reference throughout the SEA process, as relevant and appropriate to the Plan.
G	<i>Critical service infrastructure</i> In proposing and in implementing the Plan, you should ensure that the Plan is consistent with the need for proper planning and sustainable development. Adequate and appropriate critical service infrastructure should be in place, or required to be put in place, to service any development proposed and authorised during the lifetime of the Plan.	Noted. The SEA will seek to ensure that the Plan requires adequate and appropriate critical service infrastructure to be in place to service developments authorised under the Plan.
H	<i>Integration of transport & land-use planning</i> The Plan should support the need for compact growth and better integration of transport and land-use planning, including walking and cycling infrastructure, public transport, park-and-ride facilities, etc.	The SEA will seek to ensure that the Plan supports compact growth and sustainable transport solutions.
I	<i>Biodiversity</i> The Plan should include specific actions/objectives and commitments to protect designated habitats and protected species (and associated ecological corridors/linkages) within, and adjacent to, the Plan area. The EPA has published guidance on ' <i>Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment - Streamlining AA, SEA and EIA Processes. Best Practice Guidance</i> '. The aim of this guidance is to inform practitioners, plan/project proponents and consent authorities on integrating SEA, EIA and AA processes and requirements to streamline biodiversity considerations. This may be useful to consider in preparing the Plan and SEA.	The cited guidance will be considered as part of the preparation of the Plan and associated environmental assessments. The SEA will seek to ensure that the Plan includes specific actions/objectives and commitments to protect designated habitats and protected species (and associated ecological corridors/linkages) within, and adjacent to, the Plan area.
J	<i>Climate Action</i> You should ensure that the Plan aligns with national commitments on climate change mitigation and adaptation, including those set out in the Climate Action Plan 2019, as well as incorporating any relevant recommendations and measures in sectoral, regional and local climate adaptation and mitigation	The SEA will seek to ensure that the Plan aligns with national commitments on climate change and adaptation, as well as relevant sectoral, regional and local adaptation plans.

Ref.	Issue raised in submission	SEA Response
	plans. Key climate-related aspects to consider in the Plan and SEA include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct and indirect impacts of the Plan on greenhouse gas emissions and removals (Mitigation); • Direct and indirect impacts of climate change on the implementation of the Plan, e.g. the resilience of critical water service infrastructure to flooding and drought (Adaptation); • The linkages between mitigation and adaptation (inter-relationships). 	
K	The following resources may be of assistance in incorporating these factors into the Plan and SEA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections for 2018-2040</i> • <i>Integrating Climatic Factors into the Strategic Environmental Assessment Process in Ireland</i> • <i>Local Authority Adaptation Strategy Development Guideline</i> • <i>Integration of Climatic Factors into SEA in Ireland</i> 	These resources will be considered by the Plan and associated environmental assessments.
L	Key Plans and Programmes Some suggested national/regional/sectoral plans to consider in preparing the Plan and SEA are listed below. <u>Spatial Planning</u> - Local Authority Development Plans <u>Sustainable Development</u> - National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals <u>Tourism</u> - National Greenways Strategy - Local authority tourism strategies <u>Climate</u> - Relevant sectoral, regional and local authority climate adaptation and mitigation plans/strategies – including Climate Change Adaptation Plan for Built and Archaeological Heritage (DCHG, in preparation). - Relevant OPW Flood Risk Managements Plans and associated flood risk mapping - National Climate Action Plan 2019 - National Energy and Climate Plan (DCCAE, in preparation) - National Mitigation Plan - National Adaptation Framework <u>Biodiversity</u> - National Biodiversity Action Plan - All Island Pollinator Plan - Any available biodiversity/heritage plans and habitat mapping <u>Water & Water Services</u> - River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 - Water Services Strategic Plan / Capital Investment Programme and Draft National Water Resources Plan (Irish Water) - National Marine Planning Framework (draft) <u>Transport</u> - Planning Land Use and Transport – Outlook 2040 (DTTAS, in preparation) <u>Air & Noise</u> - Local Authority Noise Action Plans - National Clean Air Strategy (DCCAE, in preparation) - National Air Pollution Control Programme (DCCAE, 2019)	These plans and programmes (and any new, subsequent versions) will be considered as part of the preparation of the Plan and associated environmental assessments, as relevant.
M	Available Guidance & Resources Our website contains various SEA resources and guidance, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SEA process guidance and checklists - Inventory of spatial datasets relevant to SEA - topic specific SEA guidance (including Good practice note on Cumulative Effects Assessment (EPA, 2020), Guidance on SEA Statements and Monitoring (EPA, 2020), Integrating climatic factors into SEA (EPA, 2019), Developing and Assessing Alternatives in SEA (EPA, 2015), and Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment (EPA, 2012)) You can access these guidance notes and other resources at: https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/assessment/strategic-environmental-assessment/sea-topic-and-sector-specific-guidance/	These resources and guidance have been considered in the preparation of the SEA Scoping Report and will be accessed, as relevant, for reference throughout the SEA process.
N	Environmental Sensitivity Mapping (ESM) Webtool The ESM Webtool is a new decision support tool to assist SEA and planning processes in Ireland. The tool brings together over 100 datasets and allows users to explore environmental considerations within a particular area and create plan-specific environmental sensitivity maps. These maps can help planners anticipate potential land-use conflicts and help identify suitable development locations, while also protecting the environment. The ESM Webtool is available at www.enviromap.ie .	The ESM Webtool has been considered in the preparation of this report and will be considered throughout the SEA process, where relevant.

Ref.	Issue raised in submission	SEA Response
O	<i>EPA SEA WebGIS Tool</i> Our SEA WebGIS Tool has been updated recently and is now publicly available at https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/SEA . It allows public authorities to produce an indicative report on key aspects of the environment in a specific geographic area. It is intended to assist public authorities in SEA screening and scoping exercises.	Available online EPA resources, including mapping resources, have been considered in the preparation of this report and will be considered throughout the SEA and AA processes.
P	<i>EPA WFD Application</i> Our WFD Application provides a single point of access to water quality and catchment data from the national WFD monitoring programme. The Application is accessed through EDEN https://wfd.edenireland.ie/ and is available to public agencies. Publicly available data can be accessed via the Catchments.ie website.	
R	<i>EPA AA GeoTool</i> Our AA GeoTool application has been developed in partnership with the NPWS. It allows users to select a location, specify a search area and gather available information for each European Site within the area. It is available at: https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/AAGeoTool .	
S	<i>State of the Environment Report – Ireland’s Environment 2020</i> In preparing the Plan and SEA, the recommendations, key issues and challenges described within our State of the Environment Report Ireland’s Environment – An Assessment 2020 (EPA, 2020) should be considered, as relevant and appropriate to the Plan. This should also be taken into account, in preparing the Plan and SEA.	The recommendations, key issues and challenges described within the current version of Ireland’s Environment will be considered in the preparation of the Plan and SEA.
T	<i>Transition to a low carbon climate resilient economy and society</i> You should ensure that the Plan aligns with national commitments on climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as relevant sectoral, regional and local adaptation plans.	The SEA will seek to ensure that the Plan aligns with national commitments on climate change and adaptation, as well as relevant sectoral, regional and local adaptation plans.
U	<i>Environmental Authorities</i> Under the SEA Regulations, you should consult with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Protection Agency; • Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage; • Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media (formerly Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (functions transferred from Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government/ Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government to Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht by S.I. 192 of 2011); • Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications; and • Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine. • any adjoining planning authority whose area is contiguous to the area of a planning authority which prepared a draft plan, proposed variation or local area plan.	Notice has been given to relevant environmental authorities as part of the SEA scoping process.
2. Submission from the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (from the Geological Survey Ireland)		
A	Geological Survey Ireland is the national earth science agency and is a division of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. We provide independent geological information and advice and gather various data for that purpose. Please see our website for data availability. We recommend using these various data sets, when conducting the EIAR, SEA, planning and scoping processes. Use of our data or maps should be attributed correctly to 'Geological Survey Ireland'. With reference to the email from Sligo County Council received on the 29 July 2021, concerning the preparation of Sligo CDP 2023-2029 – SEA Scoping Notice, Geological Survey Ireland would encourage use of and reference to our datasets. This data can add to the content and robustness of the SEA process. With this in mind please find attached a list of our publicly available datasets that may be useful to the environmental assessment and planning process. We recommend that you review this list and refer to any datasets you consider relevant to your assessment. The remainder of this letter and following sections provide more detail on some of these datasets.	Noted. Relevant GSI data sets have been considered in the preparation of the SEA Scoping Report and will be considered throughout the SEA process.
B	<u>Geoheritage</u> The Geological heritage county audit was completed in 2004. We would encourage the inclusion of County Geological Sites (CGSs) as specific policy objectives within the draft CDP. The following points are suggested by the Geological Heritage Programme of Geological Survey Ireland, as appropriate ways in which to address the need to protect geological heritage in any one of Ireland’s local authority areas: As a minimum, Geological Survey Ireland would like the Local Authority to include a policy objective with wording such as: "to protect from inappropriate development the scheduled list of geological	This information will be considered when preparing the Draft Plan and undertaking the SEA.

Ref.	Issue raised in submission	SEA Response
	<p>heritage sites [Appendix X]." Or "to protect from inappropriate development the following list of County Geological Sites"</p> <p>The Geological Heritage Programme views the Local Authorities as critical partners in protecting, through the planning system, those CGS which fall within their county limits. In many cases these are often sites of high amenity or educational value, already zoned or listed in the plan. Listing in the CDP provides protection of the sites against potentially damaging developments that normally require planning permission, such as building, quarrying, landfilling or forestry. It is also important that the democratic process of public consultation and approval by councillors of the CDP means that stakeholders in the sites and all the local community can buy into the process.</p> <p>CGSs have been adopted in the National Heritage Plan, and will form a major strand of geological nature conservation to complement the various ecological and cultural conservation measures.</p> <p>It is important to note however, that management issues for the majority of geological heritage sites may differ from ecological sites, and in some cases development may facilitate enhanced geological understanding of a site by exposing more rock sections - for example, in a quarry extension. Consultation at the earliest stages can identify any issues relevant to an individual site or proposed development.</p> <p>County Geological Sites are the optimal way of addressing the responsibility of each authority under the Planning and Development Act 2000 and its amendments, to protect sites of geological interest. It would also be necessary to include a policy objective to protect geological NHAs as they become designated and notified to the Local Authority, during the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p>As always we are available if you require any further information, please feel free to contact Clare Glanville (Clare.Glanville@gsi.ie).</p>	
C	<p><u>Culture and Tourism</u></p> <p>Over the past number of years geology has become a large part of Irish tourism. Ireland currently has three UNESCO Global Geoparks, and a number of other geotourism projects. These Geoparks, along with other tourism initiatives such as the Wild Atlantic Way, Irelands Ancient East, and Irelands Hidden Heartlands have bolstered tourism in various parts of Ireland and helped to increase its levels in areas that were previously not as popular with tourists. We would encourage Sligo County Council to continue this trend, and to use the geological audit information making it easily available to the general public. We would encourage geology to be a significant part of any tourism initiative that may be introduced.</p>	This information will be considered when preparing the Draft Plan and undertaking the SEA, where relevant.
D	<p><u>Dimension Stone/Stone Built Ireland</u></p> <p>Stone Built Ireland is a 2 year research collaboration agreement between Geological Survey Ireland, Trinity College Dublin & the office of Public Works. The project aims to document building and decorative stone in Ireland to inform government agencies, building owners and conservationists of the sources for suitable replacement stone in restoration work and to develop a greater awareness among the general public. In addition to promoting citizen science and awareness of local materials, the inventory will aid the public in complying with part 4 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, which requires owners to conserve protected structures. It will also assist local authorities in issuing Section 57 Declarations, which outline 'the type of works which it considers would or would not materially affect the character of the structure or any element of the structure'.</p> <p>This project will build on work already completed funded by the Irish Research Council (March 2019 - September 2020) that carried on primary research on the topic and developed a simple database and web-based platform as well as hosting various heritage displays at venues.</p>	This information will be considered when preparing the Draft Plan and undertaking the SEA, where relevant.
E	<p><u>Groundwater</u></p> <p>Geological Survey Ireland's Groundwater and Geothermal Unit, provides advice, data and maps relating to groundwater distribution, quality and use, which is especially relevant for safe and secure drinking water supplies and healthy ecosystems.</p> <p>Proposed developments need to consider any potential impact on specific groundwater abstractions and on groundwater resources in general. We recommend using the groundwater maps on our Map viewer which should include: wells; drinking water source protection areas; the national map suite - aquifer, groundwater vulnerability, groundwater recharge and subsoil permeability maps. For areas underlain by limestone, please refer to the karst specific data layers (karst features, tracer test database; turlough water levels (gwlevel.ie). Background information is also provided in the Groundwater Body Descriptions. Please read all disclaimers carefully when using Geological Survey Ireland data.</p> <p>Our Groundwater and Geothermal Unit run GWClimate which is a groundwater monitoring and modelling project that aims to investigate the impact of climate</p>	<p>Impacts on groundwater will be considered by the SEA.</p> <p>Aquifer productivity and vulnerability mapping will be included in the SEA Environmental Report.</p> <p>The SEA will reference datasets available from GSI that may be useful to lower-tier project planning, including those relating to Aquifer Productivity, Aquifer Vulnerability, Bedrock Geology, Quaternary Geology, Mineral deposits, Aggregate Potential, Groundwater Resources, Geohazards, such as Landslide Events and Landslide Susceptibility Mapping, Physiographic</p>

Ref.	Issue raised in submission	SEA Response
	change on groundwater in Ireland. This is a follow on from a previous project (GW Flood) and the data may be useful in relation to Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and management plans. Groundwater maps and data are available on the Map viewer.	Units Mapping, Geochemistry data, Geophysical data of soils and rocks and GSI Marine and Coastal Unit data.
F	<u>Geological Mapping</u> Geological Survey Ireland maintains online datasets of bedrock and subsoils geological mapping that are reliable and accessible. We would encourage you to use these data which can be found here, in your future assessments.	Regarding geothermal energy, SEA considers the environmental effects of Plan policies and objectives – including any providing for geothermal energy.
G	<u>Geohazards</u> Geohazards can cause widespread damage to landscapes, wildlife, human property and human life. In Ireland, landslides, flooding and coastal erosion are the most prevalent of these hazards. We recommend that geohazards be taken into consideration, especially when developing areas where these risks are prevalent, and we encourage the use of our data when doing so. Geological Survey Ireland has information available on landslides in Ireland via the National Landslide Database and Landslide Susceptibility Map both of which are available for viewing on our dedicated Map Viewer. Associated guidance documentation relating to the National Landslide Susceptibility Map is also available. Geological Survey Ireland also engaged in a national project on Groundwater Flooding. The data from this project may be useful in relation to Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and management plans, and is described in more detail under 'Groundwater' above. Coastal Vulnerability while seen as a potential geohazard, is discussed in more detail under our marine and coastal unit information below.	Potential environmental effects arising from geothermal energy may include contributions towards greenhouse gas emission targets and effects on water quality, ecology, soil stability. Inclusion of Geothermal Suitability mapping is not within the scope of the SEA, however where it forms part of Plan policies/objectives, it would be considered by the SEA. Mineral resources will be recognised as a material asset by the SEA.
H	<u>Geothermal Energy</u> Geothermal energy harnesses the heat beneath the surface of the Earth for heating applications and electricity generation, and has proven to be secure, environmentally sustainable and cost effective over long time periods. Geothermal applications can range in depth from a few metres below the surface to several kilometres. Ireland has widespread shallow geothermal resources for small and medium-scale heating applications, which can be explored online through Geological Survey Ireland's Geothermal Suitability maps for both domestic and commercial use. We recommend use of our Geothermal Suitability maps to determine the most suitable type of ground source heat collector for use with heat pump technologies. Ireland also has recognised potential for deep geothermal resources. The Roadmap for a Policy and Regulatory Framework for Geothermal Energy was launched at the Geoscience 2020 Conference in November 2020. The Assessment of Geothermal Resources for District heating in Ireland and the Roadmap for a Policy and Regulatory framework for Geothermal Energy in Ireland documents have been developed to support the Government's commitments under the Climate Action Plan 2019 and the Programme for Government. For further information please see our Geoenergy pages on our website or contact the Groundwater and Geothermal Unit of the Geological Survey Ireland directly.	
I	<u>Natural Resources (Minerals/Aggregates)</u> Geological Survey Ireland is of the view that the sustainable development of our natural resources should be an integral part of all development plans from a national to regional to local level to ensure that the materials required for our society are available when required. Geological Survey Ireland highlights the consideration of mineral resources and potential resources as a material asset which should be explicitly recognised within the environmental assessment process. Geological Survey Ireland provides data, maps, interpretations and advice on matters related to minerals, their use and their development in our Minerals section of the website. The Active Quarries, Mineral Localities and the Aggregate Potential maps are available on our Map Viewer.	
J	<u>Physiographic Units</u> Geological Survey Ireland maintains online datasets of geological mapping that are reliable and accessible. Physiographic units are cartographic representations of the broad-scale physical landscape of a region. They delineate physical regions showing internal uniformity with respect to one or more environmental attributes that can be clearly differentiated from neighbouring regions. They are valuable for regional land-use planning, and in studies of the influence of physical landscape on the ecological environment. This map is produced in support of the actions to be implemented in National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015 – 2025. We would encourage you to use our physiographic units map data which can be found here.	

Ref.	Issue raised in submission	SEA Response
K	<u>Geochemistry of soils, surface waters and sediments</u> Geological Survey Ireland provides baseline geochemistry data for Ireland as part of the Tellus programme. Baseline geochemistry data can be used to assess the chemical status of soil and water at a regional scale and to support the assessment of existing or potential impacts of human activity on environmental chemical quality. Tellus is a national-scale mapping programme which provides multi-element data for shallow soil, stream sediment and stream water in Ireland. At present, mapping consists of the border, western and midland regions. Data is available at https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/data-and-maps/Pages/Geochemistry.aspx . This page also hosts Geochemical Mapping of Agricultural and Grazing Land Soil of Europe (GEMAS) and lithogeochemistry (rock geochemistry) from southeast Ireland datasets. Geological Survey Ireland and partners are undertaking applied geochemistry projects to provide data for agriculture (Terra Soil), waste soil characterisation (Geochemically Appropriate Levels for Soil Recovery Facilities) and mineral exploration (Mineral Prospectivity Mapping).	
L	<u>Geophysical data</u> Geological Survey Ireland produces high-resolution geophysical data (Magnetic field, electrical conductivity, natural gamma-ray radiation) of soils & rocks as part of the Tellus programme. These data currently cover approximately 75% of the country and provide supporting geological information on a regional scale useful for assessing environmental impact and risk.	
M	<u>Marine and Coastal Unit</u> Our marine environment is hugely important to our bio-economy, transport, tourism and recreational sectors. It is also an important indicator of the health of our planet. Geological Survey Ireland's Marine and Coastal Unit in partnership with the Marine Institute, jointly manages INFOMAR, Ireland's national marine mapping programme; providing key baseline data for Ireland's marine sector. The programme delivers a wide range of benefits to multi-sectoral end-users across the national blue economy with an emphasis on enabling our stakeholders. Demonstrated applications for the use of INFOMAR's suite of mapping products include Shipping & Navigation, Fisheries Management, Aquaculture, Off-shore Renewable Energies, Marine Leisure & Tourism and Coastal Behaviour. Of particular interest to tourism is the extensive database of shipwrecks mapped by the INFOMAR programme, many lost close to the coast and with engaging human interest stories associated with them https://www.infomar.ie/maps/story-maps/shipwrecks . INFOMAR also produces a wide variety of seabed mapping products that enable public and stakeholders to visualize Ireland's seafloor environment https://www.infomar.ie/maps/downloadable-maps/maps . Story maps have also been developed providing a different perspective of some of the bays and harbors of the Irish coastline https://www.infomar.ie/maps/story-maps/exploring-dingle-bay-different-perspective . We would therefore recommend use of our Marine and Coastal Unit datasets available on our website and Map Viewer. The Marine and Coastal Unit also participate in coastal change projects such as CHERISH (Climate, Heritage and Environments of Reefs, Islands, and Headlands) and are undertaking mapping in areas such as coastal vulnerability and coastal erosion. Further information on these projects can be found here .	
3. Submission from the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (from the Waste Policy and Resource Efficiency Division)		
A	In respect of waste in the within documentation, we would be obliged if the local authority would consult directly with their respective Regional Waste Management Planning Office regarding development of the final plans.	Noted. The Draft Plan will be placed on public display in the future and submissions will be invited. Any submissions made on the Draft Plan and associated environmental assessments will be taken into account before the Plan is finalised.
4. Submission from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine		
A	Commercial sea fishing is a long standing, pre-existing and traditional activity in the marine environment. The evaluation and consideration of potential impacts on any commercial sea fishing activities needs to be given consideration as part of any planning/proposal process and during the development process itself. It is imperative that engagement should be sought with the fishing industry and other relevant stakeholders at as early a stage as possible to discuss any changes that may affect them to afford a chance for their input. Fishers' interests and livelihoods must be fully recognised, supported, and taken into account.	Noted. These issues will be taken into account in the Plan preparation and associated SEA process, where relevant. Fisheries will be recognised as a material asset by the SEA.

Ref.	Issue raised in submission	SEA Response
5. Submission from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage		
A	<p>Nature Conservation <u>Context of Observations:</u> The following observations are made by the Department in its role as the authority with overarching responsibility for nature conservation and the nature directives (i.e. the Birds and Habitats Directives). The observations are not exhaustive but are intended to assist the planning authority in meeting its obligations in relation to nature conservation, European sites, biodiversity and environmental protection in the process of reviewing and preparing the County Development Plan 2023-2029 for Sligo, hereafter referred to as the CDP. The Department welcomes the opportunity to provide observations at this early 'Issues Paper' stage of the review process.</p>	Noted.
B	<p>1. Government policy in relation to nature conservation: We are in the midst of a national and global biodiversity crisis. The recent (2019) Article 17 report on the Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland and Article 12 report on the status and trends of Ireland's bird species have shown that even with strict protection these habitats and species are continuing to deteriorate. Ireland's 6th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity has identified that although some progress has been made by Ireland in achieving the 20 UN Aichi Biodiversity targets, progress is at an insufficient rate. These reports are available at www.npws.ie. Government policy on nature conservation is clearly set out in the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 (NBAP) and Ireland is also fully committed to putting Europe's biodiversity on the path to recovery by 2030 for the benefit of people, climate and the planet as set out in the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030 and is a signatory to the United Nations (UN) Convention on Biological Diversity Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. These policies are reflected in Ireland's vision for biodiversity: 'That biodiversity and ecosystems in Ireland are conserved and restored, delivering benefits essential for all sectors of society and that Ireland contributes to efforts to halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystems in the EU and globally'. Never before has this statement been more relevant, the recent Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the value of biodiversity in relation to our physical and mental wellbeing, now more than ever there is an urgent need to protect our natural resources for present and future generations. Objective 1 in the NBAP is to 'Mainstream biodiversity into decision-making across all sectors' and this objective is reflected in Regional Policy Objective (RPO) 5.5 of the North Western Regional Spatial Economic Strategy 2020-2032 that 'there is no net contribution to biodiversity loss arising from development supported in this strategy'. In support of these objectives, the Department would recommend including objectives in the development plan to implement and monitor the actions as set out in the NBAP; the conservation of biodiversity is an essential component of sustainable development. The Department also provides support to local authorities in carrying out actions under the NBAP through the Local Authority Biodiversity Grant scheme. This funding for biodiversity action in local areas, made available through the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department, is an important element of the overall NBAP implementation. The Department welcomes Sligo's intention to implement major changes to the core strategy by ensuring 'green growth' is at the centre of all policies and objectives of the new plan. In support of this vision and to help build a county that is a healthy place for its people and visitors the Department would recommend, in reviewing the CDP, the local authority is fully cognisant of Ireland's International, European and National commitments to biodiversity. The protection, conservation and enhancement of biodiversity will help create the foundations for a 'smart' and 'green' economy and will provide for other valuable ecosystem services such as; food production, clean air and water, improved mental and physical health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department recommends a clear policy objective in the draft CDP: Ensure all developments arising from this plan include measures to conserve, protect and enhance biodiversity. • The Department recommends a clear policy objective in the draft CDP: To support the aims of the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 and County Sligo Heritage Plan 2016 -2020 and any subsequent plans in this regard over the lifetime of this plan. 	The information provided will be integrated into the SEA ER as appropriate. The SEA will seek to ensure that the Plan contributes towards the protection and management of biodiversity and flora and fauna. The SEA and AA, as relevant, will take account of the issues raised and will identify the likely significant effects of implementing the Plan.

Ref.	Issue raised in submission	SEA Response
C	<p>2. Environmental assessments and nature conservation:</p> <p>It is important that the CDP sets out the legislative requirements in relation to the protection of designated sites and protected species under both European (EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) and Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)) and national legislation (i.e. Wildlife Act 1976-2018), but the CDP should also ensure that Government policy on biodiversity can be delivered in County Sligo. It is imperative that environmental assessments (Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)) in relation to the CDP are fully integrated with the plan-making process and apply the precautionary principal to ensure there is no further deterioration of habitats and species both within and outside designated across the county and its zone of influence. The council should ensure that ecological expertise is available to it in undertaking these assessments.</p> <p>The Department recommends that there is an overarching commitment in the CDP to undertake Appropriate Assessment (AA), Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) as required and appropriate in relation to all downstream plans and projects. Where development projects arising from the CDP are not subject to EIA, assessment of the impacts to biodiversity will best be facilitated through the preparation of an Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA). The Department recommends including an objective in the CDP in this regard. Surveys carried out for the preparation of NIS/NIR, ER, EIAR or EcIA generally generate biodiversity data, and the Department encourages the Council to include an objective to ensure these data are made available to the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NDBC) on an ongoing basis. This will strengthen the county's biodiversity knowledge base and ultimately aid its protection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department recommends a clear policy objective in the draft CDP: To ensure all downstream plans and projects arising from this plan will be required to undertake Appropriate Assessment (AA), Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) as required and appropriate. • The Department recommends a clear policy objective in the draft CDP: Biodiversity data generated, during the lifetime of this plan, for the preparation of environmental assessment reports (e.g. ER, EIAR, NIS/NIR or EcIA) shall be submitted to the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NDBC). 	<p>This topic will be addressed as relevant in the description (mapped and textual) of the environmental baseline, in Strategic Environmental Objectives, indicators and targets and in the identification of likely significant environmental effects, if any, and in the updating of existing Plan provisions (arising from superseded legislation, guidelines, etc.) and the inclusion of new Plan provisions for environmental protection and sustainable development.</p> <p>The information provided will be integrated into the SEA ER as appropriate. The SEA will seek to ensure that the Plan contributes towards the protection and management of biodiversity and flora and fauna.</p> <p>The SEA and AA, as relevant, will take account of the issues raised and will identify the likely significant effects of implementing the Plan and will seek to ensure that the Plan aligns with national commitments on nature conservation.</p>
D	<p>3. Nature conservation within the plan:</p> <p>The Department notes the council's existing strong commitment to biodiversity protection under the current CDP 2017-2023, and it is hoped that this focus on biodiversity protection will continue when reviewing the natural heritage objectives as part of the CDP review process. The Department would like to commend the council on their achievements to date and in particular the funding and promotion of the County Sligo Swift Survey 2019 and their on-going support and commitment to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. The council should build on this commitment and seek to strengthen biodiversity protection within the CDP area and its zone of influence.</p> <p>There are real opportunities to protect and enhance biodiversity when considered early in any development proposal and in particular at strategic plan level. The Department recommends that biodiversity considerations are integrated into all sections of the plan and are taken into account when zoning lands for development. It is also important, when biodiversity measures are incorporated into development proposals, that the measures are appropriate to the particular situation and they can be sustained long term (i.e. evidence based solutions to biodiversity protection and enhancement). The incorporation of advice from a professional ecologist early in spatial planning processes can assist in addressing these matters and is recommended by the Department.</p> <p>Whilst reviewing the CDP policies and objectives the Department would like to advise the planning authority of the importance of avoiding policies and objectives that undermine or are in direct conflict with natural heritage policies and objectives. The review of the plan's policies and objectives should take place with a view to streamlining and strengthening policies and ensuring that they are consistent with current European and National plans, reports, guidance documents and case law relating to biodiversity (i.e. policies and objectives must be biodiversity-proofed).</p> <p>The Department recommends that natural heritage objectives are clear and robust, and there is an objective to protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity both within and outside protected sites. The CDP should provide a list of proposed Natural Heritage Areas within the county with a clear objective to protect and conserve these sites of high nature value. This will be critical if the council is to meet its obligations in relation to nature conservation and Ireland</p>	<p>The information provided will be integrated into the SEA ER as appropriate. The SEA will seek to ensure that the Plan contributes towards the protection and management of biodiversity and flora and fauna.</p> <p>The SEA and AA, as relevant, will take account of the issues raised and will identify the likely significant effects of implementing the Plan and will seek to ensure that the Plan aligns with national commitments on nature conservation.</p>

Ref.	Issue raised in submission	SEA Response
	<p>is to meet its target to halt the loss of biodiversity. The council should continue to lead by example by ensuring the CDP has a strong policy commitment to positive biodiversity actions. For example, the Department would welcome the inclusion of an objective whereby all public buildings and public open spaces in the county incorporate positive biodiversity measures as standard practice. Actions can include simple measures, e.g. all new public buildings incorporate nesting boxes for swifts, bat boxes and/or bat bricks, the creation of wildlife habitats on public open spaces, to more ambitious measures that will ensure 'biodiversity net gain' in public development schemes. The Department would recommend the inclusion of objectives to promote the National Pollinator Plan 2021-2025, this plan has particular actions that are targeted for implementation by local authorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department recommends a clear policy objective in the draft CDP: To ensure the conservation and protection of all areas of high biodiversity value within the county, (e.g. European and Nationally designated sites, Statutory Nature Reserves, Refuges for Fauna, Ramsar Sites and proposed Natural Heritage Areas). • The Department recommends a clear policy objective in the draft CDP: To promote the objectives of the National Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 and in particular within local authority managed or owned lands. 	
E	<p>4. Climate change and biodiversity:</p> <p>There is growing acknowledgement that restoring and protecting nature is one of the best strategies for tackling climate change. The strategy of using nature as a defence against climate impacts is called Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA)⁵. The Department's Biodiversity Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan 2019⁶ includes the objective to 'Protect, restore and enhance biodiversity to increase the resilience of natural and human systems to climate change'. The Department highlights that rapid climate change is likely to result in more immediate effects in the coastal zone and recommends that development projects or plans located in Sligo's coastal zone should be future proofed for worst case scenarios. It is imperative that Sligo's natural defence systems are protected, restored and enhanced to build resilience to this real and growing threat and any development in the coastal zone should be planned and considered accordingly adopting an ecosystem service approach. The CDP should be cognisant of the new functions of local authorities outlined under the National Marine Planning Framework and the Marine Planning and Development Management Bill. The Department would recommend that the CDP set out a policy framework for development projects and plans within Sligo's coastal zone (i.e. within the councils remit). This framework should consider the context of rapidly changing environmental conditions, legal obligations under SEA, EIA and AA for the protection of designated sites and habitats and/or species of nature conservation interest as well as the protection of biodiversity in the coastal zone as stipulated by the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017 – 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department recommends a clear policy objective in the draft CDP: Protect, restore and enhance biodiversity to increase the resilience of natural and human systems to climate change, with greater consideration given to nature based solutions. • The Department recommends a clear policy objective in the draft CDP: To develop a framework where all developments, (including local authority developments), within Sligo's coastal zone will adequately consider changing environmental conditions due to climate change, legal obligations under SEA, EIA and AA for the protection of designated sites, habitats and/or species of nature conservation interest as well as the protection of biodiversity in the coastal zone as stipulated by the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017 – 2021. 	<p>The information provided will be integrated into the SEA ER as appropriate. The SEA will seek to ensure that the Plan contributes towards the protection and management of biodiversity and flora and fauna and climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p>The SEA and AA, as relevant, will take account of the issues raised and will identify the likely significant effects of implementing the Plan and will seek to ensure that the Plan aligns with national commitments on climate change adaptation and mitigation.</p>
F	<p>5. Green Infrastructure (GI):</p> <p>The incorporation of Green Infrastructure (GI), as defined by the EU Commission⁷, in spatial planning is one of the ways in which the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017 -2021 seeks to address the main drivers of biodiversity loss in Ireland. This is also a National Policy Objective of the National Planning Framework⁸. Sligo is predominately a rural county and developments should avoid the fragmentation of landscape features, including ecological corridors which allow for the mobility of species in a changing climate. It is apparent that native hedgerows are being removed during development projects and being replaced by post and rail fencing and non-native hedge species throughout the county. The Department recommends that the council include the objective that all hedgerows will be retained and subject to appropriate long-term management in any new development and where</p>	<p>Green infrastructure will considered in the SEA process to ensure the provisions of the Plan will contribute towards protection of the environment with regard to impacts arising from material assets.</p> <p>The SEA and AA, as relevant, will take account of the issues raised and will identify the likely significant effects of implementing the Plan and will seek to ensure that the Plan aligns with national legislation.</p>

Ref.	Issue raised in submission	SEA Response
	<p>removal is absolutely necessary that the same length of compensatory hedgerow will be planted using appropriate native species.</p> <p>It is an objective of the National Planning Framework to promote compact growth in larger urban centres and the Department would advise that the promotion of GI should be integrated into these developments with a commitment to reverse the loss of green urban ecosystems. The Department notes that the local authority has developed a Public Realm Plan (PRP) for Sligo City and this plan has identified areas which could benefit from enhancements in order to create 'high quality urban spaces'. It is imperative that the local authority has the appropriate ecological advice available to it as it undertakes any actions arising from this PRP.</p> <p>The Department would welcome a commitment in the CDP to the preparation of an overall green infrastructure strategy for the county, (i.e. a network of natural areas), in accordance with the EU Strategy on Green Infrastructure⁹. The Department would recommend the inclusion of clear objectives with regard to the protection of trees, hedgerows and other habitats which contribute to GI in the county.</p> <p>A clear distinction should be made between GI and Greenways, Blueways and Peatways within the plan. As advised in the National Greenway Strategy¹⁰, greenways and other associated linear trails should be designed to take into account, and avoid where necessary, the sensitivities of natural heritage. Whilst the development of Greenways, Blueways and Peatways is welcomed, the same risks to biodiversity can be associated with these type of trails, as with any other road or infrastructure development, and the Department recommends that such proposals are subject to route/site selection processes to ensure that impacts to biodiversity and nature conservation interests are avoided. The Department also notes the need to apply the precautionary principle when screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) and/or undertaking AA for Greenways, Blueways and Peatways.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department recommends a clear policy objective in the draft CDP: To develop a Green Infrastructure Strategy for the county. This Strategy will provide for a strategic approach to green space planning in County Sligo • The Department recommends a clear policy objective in the draft CDP: To ensure the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological networks within the plan area in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive. This will ensure landscape features, which act as ecological corridors and stepping stones, will improve the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network and biodiversity in general. • The Department recommends a clear policy objective in the draft CDP: To ensure biodiversity and nature conservation interests are fully incorporated into route/site selection processes during the development of Greenways, Blueways and Peatways. 	
G	<p>6. Threats and pressures to nature conservation in County Sligo:</p> <p>6.1 Water Quality:</p> <p>Sligo is experiencing increased demands from an expanding population and associated urban development and these demands, particularly in relation to the supply of clean drinking water, frequently manifest as impacts on key ecological features and protected habitats or species within the county (e.g. Lough Hoe Bog Special Area of Conservation, Site Code 000633, incorporating Lough Talt). The Department highlights that current pressure levels may already be beyond the carrying capacity of the natural environment and the ramifications of continuing 'as is' may be significant for the natural environment. The Department recommends that future development planning should take account of current pressure levels on the natural environment, any future pressures including impacts arising from climate change and the need for sustainable development throughout the entire county, including in urban areas. The Department recommends that the CDP explicitly acknowledges the constraints to development arising from the need to protect European and Nationally important sites and the need for adequate resources in the council to support informed decision making regarding ecological assessment and sustainable development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department recommends a clear policy objective in the draft CDP: To ensure all developments arising from the plan adhere to the concept of sustainable development and no developments will be permitted that adversely impact on the integrity of European designated sites (Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas) and biodiversity in general. 	<p>This topic will be addressed as relevant in the description (mapped and textual) of the environmental baseline, in Strategic Environmental Objectives, indicators and targets and in the identification of likely significant environmental effects, if any, and in the updating of existing Plan provisions (arising from superseded legislation, guidelines, etc.) and the inclusion of new Plan provisions for environmental protection and sustainable development.</p> <p>The SEA will use information from the EPA regarding surface water status, including that contained within Integrated Water Quality Reports. The SEA will also include information on groundwater status.</p> <p>Pressures on waterbodies, such as forestry or domestic waste water treatment systems, that are failing to meet the WFD's overall objective of good status will be identified by the SEA and policy responses will be recommended as necessary.</p>

Ref.	Issue raised in submission	SEA Response
H	<p>6.2 Invasive Alien Species (IAS): The spread of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) is recognised as a significant cause of global biodiversity loss, (IBPES 2019)¹¹. The recent (2019) Article 17 report on the Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland has also noted the significant threat IAS poses to the protection of biodiversity in Ireland. The presence of the invasive plant species such as Japanese Knotweed, Rhododendron, Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed is of particular concern in County Sligo. The Department is aware that Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) is working with local communities and councils in a number of areas across the country on the eradication of IAS from water courses and would encourage the inclusion of objectives in the CDP in relation to the containment and control of invasive species with reference to the requirements of the EC (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 - 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department recommends a clear policy objective in the draft CDP: To control and prevent the spread of Invasive Alien Species (IAS), all developments, where IAS is a known threat, will be required to provide an IAS management plan as part of the planning process and to comply with the provisions of the European Communities Birds and Habitats Regulations 2011, as amended. 	Management of invasive species will be addressed by the Plan.
I	<p>6.3 Light Pollution: The Department wishes to highlight the impacts of light pollution on wildlife in general and in particular to bat species. The Department would recommend that the CDP includes a lighting policy that will reduce these impacts and the planning authority should refer to the EUROBATs guidelines¹² and Dark Sky lighting recommendations¹³ for further information in this regard. It is important to note that the correct LEDs and light fittings can ensure these impacts are avoided or minimised and can also reduce carbon emissions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department recommends a clear policy objective in the draft CDP: To develop a public lighting policy for the county that will ensure proposals to upgrade or expand artificial lighting will consider the impacts to biodiversity and climate change. 	Light pollution will be addressed by the Plan.
J	<p>6.4 Wetlands: The Department notes that wetlands across the county are particularly vulnerable to development pressure due to changes in drainage systems, siltation, infilling, and recreational use. The Department would like to highlight recent guidance produced by Inland Fisheries Ireland with respect to development around waterways and in urban habitats. Wetlands provide an essential service in relation to flood alleviation and in particular the Department wishes to highlight the significant role of peatlands in relation to climate sequestration. It is recommended that the CDP include an objective to support the aims of the National Peatlands Strategy 2015¹⁵ and the implementation of the National Raised Bog Special Areas of Conservation Management Plan 2017-2022¹⁶. The protection and restoration of both designated and undesignated peatland sites can assist Sligo in meeting its climate action objectives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department recommends a clear policy objective in the draft CDP: To ensure development on wetlands, including peatlands, are subject to the requirements of the planning code as provided for in the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended) and environmental assessment in this regard. • The Department recommends a clear policy objective in the draft CDP: To support the aims of the National Peatlands Strategy and the implementation of the National Raised Bog Special Areas of Conservation Management Plan 2017-2022. 	This topic will be addressed as relevant in the description (mapped and textual) of the environmental baseline, in Strategic Environmental Objectives, indicators and targets and in the identification of likely significant environmental effects, if any, and in the updating of existing Plan provisions (arising from superseded legislation, guidelines, etc.) and the inclusion of new Plan provisions for environmental protection and sustainable development.
K	<p>7. Monitoring the impacts of the plan on biodiversity: As stated in the 'Issue Papers' the development plan will be subject to environmental assessments and the Department would advise that particular attention should be placed on the requirements of Article 10 of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC, whereby Member States are required to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans. Monitoring during plan implementation should allow for corrective action and intervention if environmental damage is noted and it will provide a learning opportunity for practitioners and decision makers for future land use plans. Monitoring can use existing sources of information including data collected by other government departments or agencies but the loss or enhancement of biodiversity due to development can only be adequately monitored and recorded through the planning process. The Department would welcome a clear and specific monitoring plan to be included with the Strategic Environmental Report that would clearly outline how it is proposed to record</p>	The SEA and AA will include information on the nature and frequency of monitoring to be carried out and organisations responsible for carrying out the monitoring. Emerging guidance from the EPA will be taken into account in this regard.

Ref.	Issue raised in submission	SEA Response
	<p>the impacts of plan implementation on biodiversity, both in terms of biodiversity loss and biodiversity enhancement during the lifetime of the plan. The Department would also welcome the publishing of such reports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Department recommends a clear policy objective in the draft CDP: To monitor and record biodiversity loss and enhancement as a result of any development proposals arising from plan implementation and Sligo County Council will ensure such reports are available for public inspection. <p>The Department is available to assist in clarifying any of the observations raised in this submission should this be of further assistance to Sligo County Council in the process of preparing the County Development Plan.</p>	
L	<p>Various recommendations on relating to cultural heritage.</p>	<p>This topic will be addressed as relevant in the description (mapped and textual) of the environmental baseline, in Strategic Environmental Objectives, indicators and targets and in the identification of likely significant environmental effects, if any, and in the updating of existing Plan provisions (arising from superseded legislation, guidelines, etc.) and the inclusion of new Plan provisions for environmental protection and sustainable development.</p> <p>The SEA Environmental Report will include information on the architectural heritage of County Sligo, including that relating to designations such as the Record of Protected Structures.</p> <p>The information provided will be integrated into the SEA ER as appropriate. The SEA will seek to ensure that the Plan contributes towards the conservation, protection and management of cultural heritage including architecture.</p>

3.3 Submissions on the Environmental Report for the Draft Plan

Various submissions were made on the Draft Plan, Proposed Material Alterations and/or associated environmental assessment documents while these documents were on public display.

Updates made on foot of submissions include:

- Various modifications to Draft Plan provisions on environmental protection and management and sustainable development.
- Prepare overlay mapping for the final, consolidated Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) report, with Flood Zones A and B overlain on final land use zoning.
- In the SFRA Report, include a note with Table 3 Predictive Flood Risk Indicators, indicating the Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) as the data source for the groundwater mapping.
- In the SFRA Report, include Flood Zone A on the Sligo Town Flood Zones Map in the area shown in the OPW's submission 73.
- Updated Flood Zones with zoning and amendments shown:
 - In the SFRA Report, include Flood Zone A on the Ballinacar Flood Zones Map.
 - In the SFRA Report, correct the boundaries of Flood Zone A on the Ballymote Flood Zones Map in the northern part of the town.
 - In the SFRA Report, include Flood Zone A on the Ballymote Flood Zones Map along the identified watercourse in the western part of the town.
 - In the SFRA Report, correct the boundaries of Flood Zone A on the Ballysadare Flood Zones Map to include the area shown in the Office of Public Work's (OPW's) submission on the Draft Plan and associated documents.
 - In the SFRA Report, include Flood Zone A on the Castlebaldwin Flood Zones Map in the area shown in the OPW's submission on the Draft Plan and associated documents.
 - In the SFRA Report, review the boundaries of Flood Zones on the Grange Flood Zones Map in the area shown in the OPW's submission on the Draft Plan and associated documents.
 - In the SFRA Report, include Flood Zone B on the Gorteen Flood Zones Map in the area shown in the OPW's submission on the Draft Plan and associated documents.
- To add the text to Section 3.3 "Flood Risk Zone Mapping" of the final SFRA report that is prepared following adoption of the Plan:
 - "Flood Zones were delineated by the SFRA as per the Flood Risk

Management Guidelines, taking precautionary approach and using in-field observations.

- For, Ballinacar, this included the size of the catchment, topography and the potential source and direction of flood paths.
- For, Rathcormac, this included the size of the catchment, topography, man-made structures and the potential source and direction of flood paths.
- For, Cliffony, this included the size of the catchment, topography and the potential source and direction of flood paths.
- For Grange, CFRAMS mapping, local knowledge regarding the backing up of a culvert, the size of the catchment, topography, man-made structures and the potential source and direction of flood paths from surface water bodies were all taken into account in the delineation of the flood zones.
- At Strandhill (at Sligo Airport), the National Coastal Flood Hazard model identifies lands including those within Sligo Airport as being at elevated risk of coastal flooding. The lands identified as being at elevated risk at Sligo Airport include an area to the immediate north of the airport buildings currently used for the People's Market. Taking into account the presence of a drain (it is not clear if the model took account of this drain), the potential source and direction of flood paths and topography, this site was identified by the SFRA to be part of Flood Zone C. The remainder of the lands within the Plan area identified by the National Coastal Flood Hazard model as being at elevated risk of coastal flooding are identified by the SFRA as being within Flood Zone A/B.
- At Oakfield in Sligo Town, the CFRAMS model identifies an area at elevated risk of fluvial flooding. This appears to be aberration in the model. This area is not connected to a surface water body and taking into account topography, the size of the catchment and the potential source and direction of flood paths from surface water bodies, this site was identified by the SFRA to be part of Flood Zone C.

For further information on how submissions were considered, refer to the Chief Executive's Report on submissions received on the Draft Plan and associated documents and the Chief Executive's Report on submissions received on the Proposed Material Alterations and associated documentation – both available at <https://www.Sligococo.ie/>.

All parts of the Plan-preparation process were informed by the SEA, AA and SFRA processes - this includes the preparation of the Chief Executive's Draft Plan, Members' Amendments to that Plan in advance of public display, Proposed Material Alterations and Further Modifications. The mitigation integrated into the final, adopted Plan includes that identified at Table 2.2 of this report.

3.4 SEA documents including SEA Environmental Report

The Draft Plan and accompanying documents (including SEA Environmental Report and AA and SFRA documents) were placed on public display, having integrated various recommendations arising from the SEA, AA and SFRA processes. Responses to submissions made during the period of public display of a Draft Plan were integrated into a Chief Executive's Report and considered by Sligo County Council.

A number of material alterations were proposed after public display of the Draft Plan. The Proposed Material Alterations were subject to Screening for SEA and AA and a selection of Alterations were subject to SEA and Stage 2 AA.

On adoption of the Plan, the Environmental Report that had been placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan was updated to become a final Environmental Report that is consistent with the adopted Plan, taking into account all changes that were made to the original Draft Plan that was placed on public display.

Section 4 Summary of Alternatives considered

4.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive requires that reasonable alternatives (taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme) are identified, described and evaluated for their likely significant effects on the environment. Available reasonable alternatives for the County Development Plan are identified in this section which also summarises the environmental assessment provided in the main SEA Environmental Report.

4.2 Limitations in Available Alternatives

The Plan is required to be prepared by the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), which specifies various types of objectives that must be provided for by the Plan. The alternatives available for the Plan are limited by the provisions of higher-level planning objectives, including those of the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Northern and Western Region. These documents set out various requirements for the content of the Plan including on topics such as settlement typology, land use zoning and the sustainable development of rural areas. In addition, the Development Plan Guidelines (2022) contain a detailed methodology (in Section 4 and Appendix A) for implementing the NPF requirement regarding Infrastructural Assessment (IA) of existing and proposed zoned lands. The Settlement Capacity Audit (SCA), based on the IA, must be the basis of Core Strategy formulations and corresponding zoning decisions for residential development.

4.3 Type 1: Alternatives for positioning in the Settlement Hierarchy

Alternative A would retain the Support Towns designations for Ballymote, Enniscrone and Tobercurry, despite relatively low population growth in these towns, compared to Satellite Villages. Ballymote, Enniscrone and Tobercurry are urban centres with multiple functions, capable of providing local employment and a good variety of services not just to their residents, but also to rural communities in their large rural hinterlands. These towns, located in the south, south-west and extreme west of the County, are closer and are more accessible to large numbers of rural dwellers than Sligo Town.

Consolidation of these towns, supporting their economic development and improving their social/community infrastructure would help create additional local jobs and services, thereby reducing their residents' need to commute to Sligo Town for work, school, shopping etc.

Alternative B would retain the Support Town designation for Tobercurry and instead designate Ballysadare, Collooney and Strandhill Support Towns, since their population is higher than that of Ballymote and Enniscrone. Ballysadare, Collooney and Strandhill have seen substantial growth between 2002 and 2022, doubling or even nearly tripling their population – 104%, 190% and 97% respectively.

However, they continue to lack jobs, services and community infrastructure, and function largely as "dormitories" for people who work elsewhere, mostly in Sligo Town. While their designation as Support Towns might help in the provision of suitable community and recreational facilities, it would not be likely to stimulate local jobs creation, given the proximity and competition of Sligo Town.

There are also physical constraints to the further development of these settlements, especially Ballysadare and Strandhill, which are adjoining highly sensitive European sites.

Selected Type 1 Alternative for the Plan: Alternative A.

4.4 Type 2: Alternatives for Population Allocations

Alternative A comprises "Support "Towns-only" growth", i.e. allocate significant proportions of future housing and corresponding additional population to Sligo Town/Regional Growth Centre and to the Support Towns (Ballymote, Enniscrone and Tobercurry), and strictly limit growth in Satellite Villages and lower levels.

Under this option, future population and housing would be directed into Sligo Town, Ballymote, Enniscrone and Tobercurry, where employment and services can be provided more efficiently.

The existing residential and mixed-use zoning in Ballymote and Enniscrone would be largely retained. Up to 20-23 ha would be zoned in Tobercurry (as per the Draft LAP 2015). All zoning would be subject to infrastructural assessment.

In order to ensure that sufficient housing land is available in the four towns, no sites would be designated for residential development (or mix of uses including residential) outside these urban areas.

Undeveloped lands previously zoned for residential and mixed uses in serviced villages would be zoned "RV" (Rural Village) instead. The flexible "RV" (Rural Village) zoning objective would allow for local housing need to be catered for in villages with adequate service infrastructure, while unserviced settlements would not be zoned.

Alternative B comprises "Driving growth through the Sligo Regional Growth Centre", i.e. allocate the majority of future housing and corresponding additional population to Sligo Town, and a small proportion to the Satellite Villages located within the RGC Strategic Plan Area (as specified in the NWRA RSES).

This approach would be the most closely aligned with the RSES, which promotes development in the Sligo Regional Growth Centre and requires a Local Transport Plan for the Sligo RGC Strategic Plan Area. Population and housing growth would be promoted in the area where land-use can be best integrated with public transport and active travel.

While the focus remains on Sligo RGC, there would be reasonable population and housing allocations for the three Support Towns (Ballymote, Enniscrone, Tobercurry), recognising their roles in the Settlement Strategy.

Similar to Alternative A, the flexible "RV" (Rural Village) zoning objective would allow for locally-needed housing and minimal population growth in other villages with adequate service infrastructure, while unserviced settlements would not be supported for growth.

Selected Type 2 Alternative for the Plan: Alternative B.

4.5 Type 3: Alternatives for Rural Settlements

Alternative A would include specific objectives for serviced villages to support their economic, social and community infrastructure, thereby offering a more attractive alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside.

Objectives would be provided in Village Plans for small settlements with adequate wastewater treatment system but no specific housing or population allocations.

Objectives would relate to the design of any new village-centre development, the provision or improvement of local infrastructure (e.g. school extensions, parks, walkways etc.), and the protection of significant natural and built heritage.

A flexible RV ("Rural Village") zoning objective would allow for the construction of locally-needed houses, thereby providing an alternative to the construction of isolated rural dwellings served by on-site wastewater treatment systems.

Alternative B would designate only development limits for villages, without any provisions targeting economic, social and community infrastructure.

The purpose of designating development limits would be to encourage the clustering of one-off houses in compact areas, to take advantage of existing wastewater treatment infrastructure or to facilitate their future servicing by Uisce Éireann. However, this alternative would not include specific objectives to support the villages in developing community and recreational facilities, or to protect the natural/built heritage and amenities. As a consequence, these villages would not become more attractive as places to live, and would not be seen as viable alternatives to the open countryside in terms of building individual houses.

Selected Type 3 Alternative for the Plan: Alternative A.

4.6 Type 4: Alternatives for Residential Densities

Alternative A would apply standard residential densities to lands zoned for housing across the entire County, set at the levels recommended in Chapters 5 and 6 of the Sustainable Residential Development Guidelines (2009) for larger towns, smaller towns and villages.

A key objective of the NPF and RSES is to promote the compact growth of towns and villages by increasing the density of development in existing built-up areas and in new developments, particularly in town centres. This would lead to more efficient use of existing physical infrastructure and services, thereby reducing the need for motorised travel. It is also likely to decrease the amount of open space and residential amenities available to local people.

Alternative B would involve adopting a tailored approach to residential development by specifying locally appropriate residential densities, to ensure that new development responds to the character, scale and setting of the town or village (as specified in the Circular Letter NRUP 02/2021).

Adapting the scale, design and layout of housing in towns and villages would ensure that suburban or high-density urban approaches are not applied to small villages or to settlements where the natural and built heritage would be negatively affected by dense development.

Reducing the attractiveness of small towns and villages by imposing out-of-character, high-density development is likely to stimulate more house-building in the open countryside.

Having regard to the NPF, the Sustainable Residential Development Guidelines (2009) and subsequent Circular Letter (2021), the Planning Authority would determine the appropriate average residential density in each town and village subject to land-use zoning.

Selected Type 4 Alternative for the Plan: Alternative B.

4.7 Type 5: Alternatives for Land-Use Zoning (residential and mixed uses, including residential)

The provisions for land-use zoning introduced by the NPF and Development Plan Guidelines 2022, particularly for residential and mixed uses, including residential, have severely limited the options previously available to the Planning Authority when preparing town and village plans.

Fixed housing targets (calculated in accordance with the Housing Supply Targets Methodology) and increased density requirements indicate clearly that the amount of land currently (2023) zoned for

housing and mixed uses needs to be substantially reduced. Two realistic alternatives have been examined in this regard.

Alternative A would retain unchanged the extent of land zoned for residential and mixed uses including residential, but introduce a phasing policy, whereby only a specified proportion/area of each zoned site can be developed during the Plan period.

Under this approach, lands which have been zoned for residential and mixed uses for more than two iterations of the Development Plan (2011 to present), and which could not be developed because of the economic crisis, Covid-19 pandemic, recent steep rise in energy prices etc., would be given an opportunity to fulfil their potential for development by 2030.

Alternative B would zone lands for residential and mixed uses based on a scoring system designed e.g., to promote the sequential and compact growth of settlements (using the methodology recommended in the Development Plan Guidelines 2022).

This approach would entail an Infrastructural Assessment (IA) and a Settlement Capacity Audit (SCA) for each town or village where land is proposed to be zoned.

The IA would consider the availability of transport infrastructure (roads, footpaths, cycleways) and service infrastructure (watermains, foul sewers, surface drainage systems) that would allow the development of lands immediately or during the Plan period.

"Tier 1" (fully serviced) sites resulting from the IA would be subject to a further assessment as part of the SCA. This further evaluation would assign numerical scores to sites, based on criteria grouped under two main headings:

- "Spatially sequential" test – where the main consideration was proximity to the town/village centre (defined as the walking distance to a specified landmark); and
- Availability of social/community/recreational infrastructure in the surrounding area (e.g. primary school, grocery shop, pharmacy, public open space).

Further points would be awarded to sites where planning permission had been previously granted or a Local Authority housing scheme had been approved ("Part 8" development).

In Sligo Town, additional points would also be given to sites that are highlighted in the RSES for their high potential to contribute to the development of the Regional Growth Centre.

Selected Type 5 Alternative for the Plan: Alternative B.

4.8 Reasons for Choosing the Selected Alternatives in light of Other Reasonable Alternatives Considered

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

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

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

Section 5 Monitoring Measures

5.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive requires that the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programmes are monitored. This section details the measures which will be used in order to monitor the likely significant effects of implementing the Plan. Monitoring can both demonstrate the positive effects facilitated by the Plan and can enable, at an early stage, the identification of unforeseen adverse effects and the undertaking of appropriate remedial action.

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

5.2 Indicators and Targets

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

Table 5.1 overleaf shows the indicators and targets which have been selected for monitoring the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan, if unmitigated.

Monitoring is an ongoing process and the programme allows for flexibility and the

further refinement of indicators and targets. The Monitoring Programme may be updated to deal with specific environmental issues – including unforeseen effects – as they arise.

5.3 Sources

The Plan will form part of the wider land use planning framework comprising a hierarchy of policies, plans, programmes, etc. This wider framework, including the National Planning Framework and the Northern and Western RSES, is subject to its own SEA (and associated monitoring) requirements. At lower tiers of the hierarchy, Local Area Plans and individual projects will be subject to their own monitoring requirements as relevant. In implementing the Monitoring Programme the Council will take into account this hierarchy of planning and environmental monitoring.

Sources for indicators may include existing monitoring databases (including those maintained by planning authorities and national/regional government departments and agencies) and the output of lower-tier environmental assessment and decision making (including a review of project approvals granted and associated documents and the output of any EIA monitoring programmes).

5.4 Reporting

The Council shall, in conjunction with the Regional Assembly and other sources as relevant, implement the monitoring programme as set out on Table 5.1. This will include the preparation of stand-alone SEA Monitoring Reports:

1. To accompany the report required of the manager under Section 15(2) of the Act, including information in relation to progress on, and the results of, monitoring the significant environmental effects of implementation of the Plan, as required by Article 13J(2) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended);
2. On the significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan, in advance of the beginning of the review of the next Plan.

Table 5.1 Indicators, Targets, Sources and Remedial Action

Environmental Component	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition of European sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions in their land use plans and as a minimum, to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species Implement and review, as relevant, County Sligo Local Biodiversity Action Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DHLGH report of the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive - as required by Article 17 of the Directive (every 6 years)⁶ DHLGH National Birds Directive Monitoring Report for the under Article 12 (every 3 years)⁷ Consultations with the NPWS⁸ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where condition of European sites is found to be deteriorating this will be investigated with the Regional Assembly and the DHLGH to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of spatial plans that have included ecosystem services content, mapping and policy to protect ecosystem services when their relevant plans are either revised or drafted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions in their land use plans and as a minimum, to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species Implement and review, as relevant, County Sligo Local Biodiversity Action Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of local land use plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEAs and AAs as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screen for and undertake SEA and AA as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of preparation of local land use plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of water quality in the County's water bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included under Water below 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included under Water below 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included under Water below
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance of planning permissions with Plan measures providing for the protection of Biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Chapter 24 "Natural Heritage" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that they comply with all Plan measures providing for the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Chapter 24 "Natural Heritage" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Plan measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Chapter 7 "Economic Strategy" and Chapter 28 "Economic Development" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Chapter 7 "Economic Strategy" and Chapter 28 "Economic Development" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives Consultations with DECC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems Consultations with DECC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors resulting from development permitted under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations with the Health Service Executive and EPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations with the Health Service Executive and EPA

⁶ Including confirmation with development management that the following impacts have been considered and including use of monitoring data, where available: biodiversity/habitat loss; nitrogen deposition impacts on Natura 2000 sites; recreational disturbance resulting from implementation of tourism and recreation policies and objectives particularly in riparian areas; biodiversity enhancement; and disturbance /visitor pressure impacts of recreation, amenity and tourism development.

⁷ Including confirmation with development management that the following impacts have been considered and including use of monitoring data, where available: biodiversity/habitat loss; nitrogen deposition impacts on Natura 2000 sites; recreational disturbance resulting from implementation of tourism and recreation policies and objectives particularly in riparian areas; biodiversity enhancement; and disturbance /visitor pressure impacts of recreation, amenity and tourism development.

⁸ Including confirmation with development management that the following impacts have been considered and including use of monitoring data, where available: biodiversity/habitat loss; nitrogen deposition impacts on Natura 2000 sites; recreational disturbance resulting from implementation of tourism and recreation policies and objectives particularly in riparian areas; biodiversity enhancement; and disturbance /visitor pressure impacts of recreation, amenity and tourism development.

SEA Statement for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Environmental Component	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Monitoring of Sligo County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above Previous CSO figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of spatial plans that include specific green infrastructure mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all local level land use plans to include specific green infrastructure mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of local land use plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
Soil (and Land)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of population growth occurring on infill and brownfield lands compared to greenfield (also relevant to Material Assets) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain built surface cover nationally to below the EU average of 4% as per the NPF In accordance with National Policy Objectives 3c of the National Planning Framework, a minimum of 30% of the housing growth targeted in any settlement is to be delivered within the existing built-up footprint of the settlement To map brownfield and infill land parcels across the County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA Geoportal Compilation of greenfield and brownfield development for the DHLGH AA/Screening for AA for each application 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where the proportion of growth on infill and brownfield sites is not keeping pace with the targets set in the NPF and the RSES, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly to establish reasons and coordinate actions to address constraints to doing so.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instances where contaminated material generated from brownfield and infill must be disposed of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dispose of contaminated material in compliance with EPA guidance and waste management requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal review of grants of permission where contaminated material must be disposed of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations with the EPA and Development Management
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental assessments and AAs as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screen for and undertake environmental assessments and AA as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of water bodies as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programme for the WFD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not to cause deterioration in the status of any surface water or affect the ability of any surface water to achieve 'good status' Implementation of the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA Monitoring Programme for WFD compliance⁹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where water bodies are failing to meet at least good status this will be investigated with the DHLGH Water Section, the EPA Catchment Unit, the Regional Assembly and, as relevant, Uisce Éireann to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance. Where planning applications are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the WWTP or failure of the WWTP to meet Emission Limit Values, the Council will consider whether it is necessary to coordinate a response with the Regional Assembly, EPA and Uisce Éireann to achieve the necessary capacity.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of incompatible developments permitted within flood risk areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where planning applications are being permitted on flood zones, the Council will ensure that such grants are in compliance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines and include appropriate flood risk mitigation and management measures.
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programmed delivery of Uisce Éireann infrastructure for all key growth towns in line with Uisce Éireann 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately and appropriately served by waste water treatment over the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where planning applications are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the WWTP or failure of the WWTP to meet Emission Limit Values, the Council

⁹ Including monitoring of water quality and nitrogen deposition due to bioenergy and agricultural projects where available.

SEA Statement for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Environmental Component	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
	<p>Investment Plan and prioritisation programme to ensure sustainable growth can be accommodated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately and appropriately served with waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan 	<p>lifetime of the Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where septic tanks are proposed, for planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that the outfall from the septic tank will not – in- combination with other septic tanks– contribute towards any surface or ground water body not meeting the objective of good status under the Water Framework Directive Facilitate, as appropriate, Uisce Éireann in developing water and wastewater infrastructure See also targets relating to greenfield and brownfield development of land under Soil and broadband under Population and Human Health 	<p>Consultations with the Uisce Éireann</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DHLGH in conjunction with Local Authorities 	<p>will consider whether it is necessary to coordinate a response with the Regional Assembly, EPA and Uisce Éireann to achieve the necessary capacity.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Monitoring of Sligo County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above Previous CSO figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.
Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous National Travel Survey levels NO_x, SO_x, PM10 and PM2.5 as part of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease in proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous National Travel Survey levels Improvement in Air Quality trends, particularly in relation to transport related emissions of NO_x and particulate matter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Data from the National Travel Survey EPA Air Quality Monitoring Consultations with Department of Transport and DECC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above Previous CSO figures, Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response. See also entry under Population and human health above
Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Plan measures relating to climate reduction targets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to climate reduction targets – including the legally binding targets of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, as amended, for Ireland to reach a target of net-zero emissions no later than 2050, and a cut of 51% by 2030 (compared to 2018 levels). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review internal systems
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute towards transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of Sligo County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where targets are not achieved, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly and the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office to

SEA Statement for the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030

Environmental Component	Indicators	Targets	Sources	Remedial Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share of renewable energy in transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute towards the target of the Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC), for all Member States to reach a 10% share of renewable energy in transport by facilitating the development of electricity charging and transmission infrastructure, in compliance with the provisions of the Plan 	2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA Annual National Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory reporting Climate Action Regional Office Consultations with DECC 	establish reasons and develop solutions.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy consumption, the uptake of renewable options and solid fuels for residential heating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote reduced energy consumption and support the uptake of renewable options and a move away from solid fuels for residential heating 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease in the proportion of journeys made by residents of the County using private fossil fuel-based car compared to previous levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Monitoring of Sligo County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where trends toward carbon reduction are not recorded, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly and the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office to establish reasons and develop solutions.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO data Monitoring of Sligo County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above Previous CSO figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context of these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where monitoring reveals visitor pressure is causing negative effects on key tourist features along these routes, the Council will work with Regional Assembly, Fáilte Ireland and other stakeholders to address the pressures through additional mitigation tailored to the plans.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context protected from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation with DHLGH 	
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of developments permitted that result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where monitoring reveals developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, the Council will re-examine Plan provisions and the effectiveness of their implementation