

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

ON THE

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

OF THE

SLIGO COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2011-2017

for: Sligo County Council

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Sligo



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List of Abbreviations

AA	Appropriate Assessment
CSO	Central Statistics Office
DCENR	Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
DEHLG	Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EU	European Union
GSI	Geological Survey of Ireland
NHA	Natural Heritage Area
NIAH	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
NSS	National Spatial Strategy
RBD	River Basin District
RMP	Record of Monuments and Places
RPS	Record of Protected Structures
RPGs	Regional Planning Guidelines
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEO	Strategic Environmental Objective
SI No.	Statutory Instrument Number
SPA	Special Protection Area
WFD	Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)

Glossary

Appropriate Assessment

The obligation to undertake Appropriate Assessment derives from Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. AA is a focused and detailed impact assessment of the implications of a plan or project, alone and in combination with other plans and projects, on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site in view of its conservation objectives.

Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna

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

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

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

Biotic Index Values (Q Values)

The Biotic Index Values, or Q values, are assigned to rivers in accordance with biological monitoring of surface waters - low Q ratings, as low as Q1, are indicative of low biodiversity and polluted waters, and high Q ratings, as high as Q5, are indicative of high biodiversity and unpolluted waters. Good status as defined by the Water Framework Directive equates to approximately Q4 in the national scheme of biological classification of rivers as set out by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Environmental Problems

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

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

Environmental Vectors

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

Mitigate

To make or become less severe or harsh.

Mitigation Measures

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

Protected Structure

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

Recorded Monument

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

Scoping

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

Strategic Actions

Strategic actions include: *Policies*, which may be considered as inspiration and guidance for action and which set the framework for plans and programmes; *Plans*, sets of co-ordinated and timed objectives for the implementation of the policy; and *Programmes*, sets of projects in a particular area.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

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

Strategic Environmental Objective (SEO)

Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are methodological measures which are developed from international, national and regional policies which generally govern environmental protection objectives and against which the environmental effects of the Plan can be tested. The SEOs are used as standards against which the objectives of the Plan can be evaluated in order to help identify areas in which significant adverse impacts are likely to occur, if not mitigated.

Preamble

The Sligo County Development Plan 2011-2017 together with this accompanying SEA Environmental Report will need to be read in the context of other relevant plans and policies which relate to the County. It is important to understand that the control and care of the environment falls within the jurisdiction of a very wide range of departments and agencies. Within rural areas, for instance, major land-uses can be entirely regulated by Departments dealing with agriculture, forestry or energy – all of which have separate specialist approval and evaluation procedures that protect environmental resources. Similarly, it is important to note that other agencies make plans for the development of road, rail and energy infrastructure which must be accommodated by development and local area plans. Such agencies are responsible for the separate environmental assessment of the adoption of these plans.

Spatial plans are principally about the arrangement of landuses to avoid conflicts and to protect amenities. Such plans exist as a series of layers that range from broad national policies – that have little spatial specificity – through regional, development and local area plans. Only the latter two types are likely to identify the locations where actual developments – and associated effects – are likely to occur. Each level of planning is subject to separate levels of assessment.

There are significant bodies of legislation that regulate how environmental resources are to be cared for. These exist and are implemented at a national level – with no local discretion. Such regulations cover the quality of air and water (surface, ground, drinking, marine and bathing waters), they cover River Basin Districts, they cover the protection of ecological resources (habitats, species) and they cover the protection of archaeology and national monuments.

Section 1 SEA Introduction and Background

1.1 Introduction and Terms of Reference

This is the Environmental Report of the Sligo County Development Plan 2011-2017 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The purpose of the report is to provide a clear understanding of the likely environmental consequences of decisions regarding the future accommodation of development in County Sligo. The SEA is carried out in order to comply with the provisions of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004) and in order to improve planning and environmental management of future development in the County. This report should be read in conjunction with the County Development Plan.

1.2 SEA Definition

Environmental assessment is a procedure that ensures that the environmental implications of decisions are taken into account before the decisions are made. *Environmental Impact Assessment*, or EIA, is generally used for describing the process of environmental assessment which is limited to individual projects such as waste incinerators, housing developments or roads while *Strategic Environmental Assessment*, or SEA, is the term which has been given to the environmental assessment of plans, and other strategic actions, which help determine what kind of individual projects take place.

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

The kind of development that occurs in the County and where it occurs will be partly determined by the implementation of the County Development Plan. By anticipating the effects and avoiding areas in which growth cannot be sustainably accommodated and by directing development towards more

compatible and robust receiving environments real improvements in environmental management and planning can occur. Also, the scope of both SEAs which may be required for lower-tier plans and programmes within the County and EIAs which may be required for individual projects within the County may be reduced.

1.3 Legislative Context

Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27 June 2001, on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, 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 planning. The SEA Directive was transposed into Irish Law through the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 435 of 2004) and the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004). Both sets of Regulations became operational on 21 July 2004.

1.4 Implications for the Council and the Elected Members

The above legislation required the County Development Plan to undergo SEA. The findings of the SEA were expressed in an earlier draft of this Environmental Report which was submitted to the Elected Members alongside the Plan. The Elected Members were required to take account of the Environmental Report before the adoption of the Plan. On adoption of the Plan, the earlier draft of the Environmental Report was updated to become this final Environmental Report, taking into account changes which were made to the Draft Plan which was placed on public display. An SEA Statement has also been published and summarises, inter alia: how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan; and, the reasons for choosing the Plan as adopted over other alternatives detailed in the Environmental Report.

Section 2 SEA Methodology

2.1 Introduction

This section details how the SEA for the County Development Plan has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan. The SEA process started in November

2009 and this report has been produced in June 2011.

Figure 2.1 lays out the main stages in the Plan/SEA process.

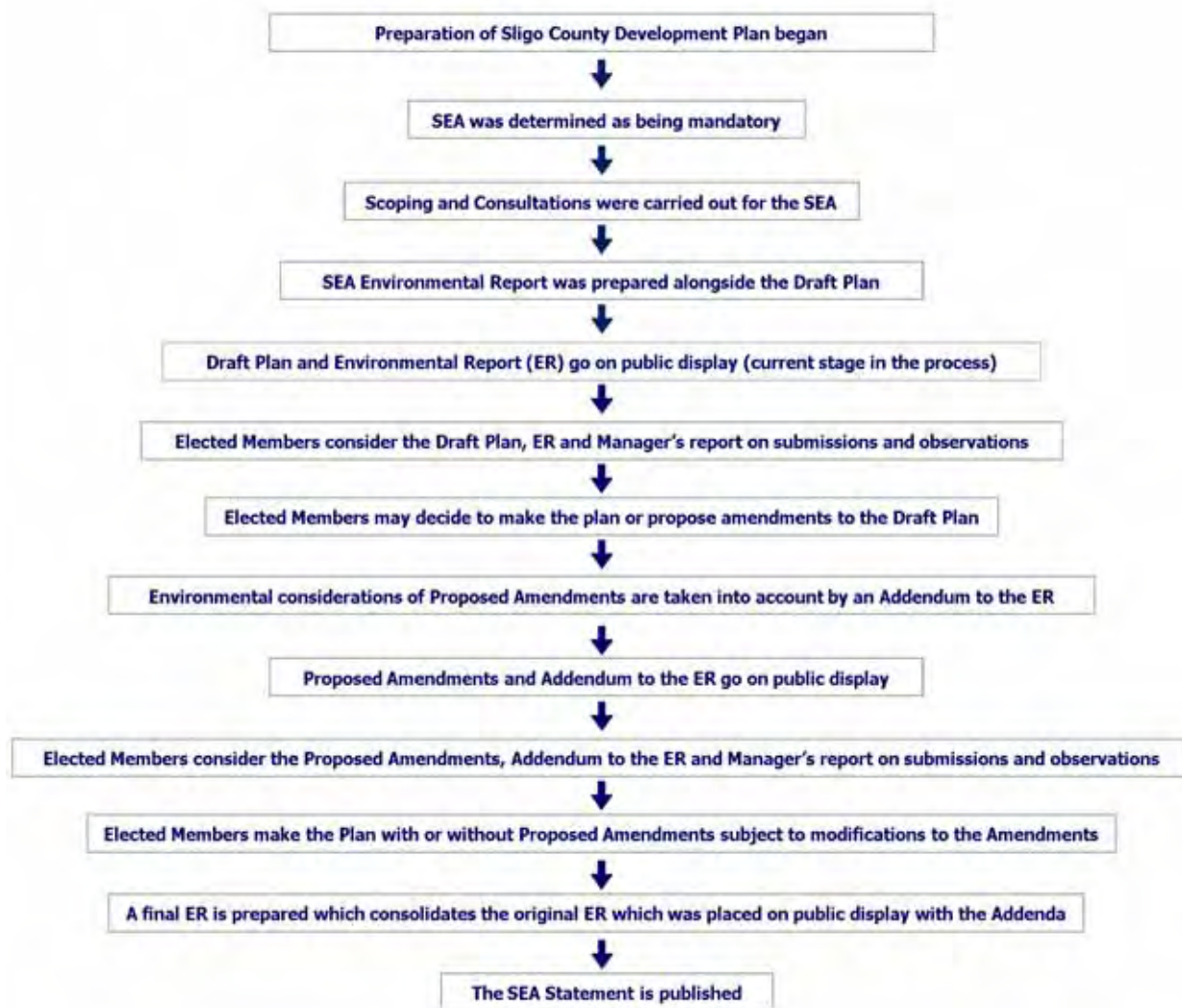


Figure 2.1 County Development Plan and SEA Stages

2.2 Scoping

In consultation with the relevant authorities, the scope of environmental issues to be dealt with by the SEA together with the level of detail to which they are to be addressed was broadly decided on after preliminary data collection. Scoping of the SEA was continuous with certain issues being selected for further examination after certain data was obtained. Scoping helped the SEA to become focused upon the important issues, such as those relating to existing and potential environmental issues and environmental problems¹, thereby avoiding resources being wasted on unnecessary data collection.

Scoping facilitated the selection of issues relevant to the environmental components which are specified under the SEA Directive - biodiversity, fauna, flora, population, human health, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, and landscape.

With regard to human health, impacts relevant to the SEA are those which arise as a result of interactions with environmental vectors (i.e. environmental components such as air, water or soil through which contaminants or pollutants, which have the potential to cause harm, can be transported so that they come into contact with human beings). Impacts upon human beings arising as a result of social and economic conditions are not considered by SEA.

As environmental authorities identified under the SEA Regulations, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural

Resources (DCENR)² were all 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. A written submission on the scope of the SEA was received from the EPA and this was taken into account during the formulation of the scope of the SEA.

Representatives from the EPA, the Western River Basin District Project Office, Sligo County Council's Water Services, Environment and Forward Planning sections and CAAS attended an SEA Scoping Meeting on 10 February 2010. The information provided at this meeting - including that which relating to Appropriate Assessment (AA)³ - was taken into account during the formulation of the scope of the SEA.

The findings of the SEA were communicated to the plan-making team on an ongoing basis from the outset in order to allow for their integration into the Plan thus minimising the potential for significant negative environmental effects arising from implementation of the Plan.

2.3 Appropriate Assessment & Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) have both been undertaken alongside the preparation and adoption of the Plan.

The requirement for AA is provided under the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 1992/43/EEC). The requirement for SFRA is provided under 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DEHLG, 2009).

The preparation and adoption of the Plan, SEA, AA & SFRA have taken place concurrently and the findings of the AA & SFRA have informed both the Plan and the SEA.

¹ Annex I of the SEA Directive requires that information is provided on 'any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme', thus, helping to ensure that the proposed strategic action does not make existing environmental problems worse. Environmental problems arise where there is a conflict between current environmental conditions and ideal targets. If environmental problems are identified at the offset they can help focus attention on important issues and geographical areas where environmental effects of the plan or programme may be likely.

² The Marine function of the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources has been transferred to the Department of Agriculture Food and Fisheries

³ An AA meeting attended by representatives of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Sligo County Council and CAAS took place on 1 March 2010.

2.4 Environmental Baseline Data and Other Strategic Actions

The SEA process is informed by the environmental baseline (i.e. the current state of the environment - flora and fauna, soil, water, cultural heritage etc.) to facilitate: the identification and evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the County Development Plan and the alternatives; and, the subsequent monitoring of the effects of the Plan as adopted. Data was collected to describe the environmental baseline and its likely evolution without implementation of the Plan.

The SEA Directive requires that information is provided on 'any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme'. Information is therefore provided on existing environmental problems which are relevant to the Plan, thus helping to ensure that the Plan does not exacerbate any existing environmental problems within or surrounding the County.

The SEA Directive requires that information on the baseline environment be focused upon the relevant aspects of the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected and the likely evolution of the current environment in the absence of the strategic action i.e. the Plan. Any information that does not focus upon this is surplus to requirements; therefore the SEA focuses on the significant issues, disregarding the less significant ones. In addition, the SEA Directive aims to avoid duplication of the assessment whereby a strategic action forms part of a hierarchy. Furthermore, if certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels of the hierarchy in which the Plan is positioned, or, if certain matters have already been assessed by a different level of the hierarchy then additional assessment is not needed.

In order to describe the baseline (the current state of the environment) in the County, data was collated from currently available, relevant environmental sources.

2.5 Alternatives

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.

Taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the County Development Plan, alternatives were formulated by the plan-making team with guidance from CAAS.

2.6 The SEA Environmental Report

In this Environmental Report - an earlier version of which was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan - the likely environmental effects of the Plan and the alternatives are predicted and their significance evaluated with regard to the environmental baseline. The Environmental Report provides the decision-makers, the members of the Sligo County Council, who decide what type of Plan to make, as well as the public, with a clear understanding of the likely environmental consequences of decisions regarding the future accommodation of growth in the County. Mitigation measures to prevent or reduce significant adverse effects posed by the Plan, or to maximise any benefits arising are identified - these have been integrated into the Plan. The alternatives are also presented in this report, as are measures concerning monitoring.

The draft of the Environmental Report which was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan was required to be updated to take account of changes which were made to the Draft Plan after it was placed on public display.

2.7 The SEA Statement

When a Plan is adopted, a document referred to as an SEA Statement must be made public. This is required to include information on: how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan - highlighting the main changes to the Plan which resulted from the SEA process; how the Environmental Report and consultations have been taken into account - summarising the key issues raised in consultations and in the Environmental Report indicating what action, if any, was taken in response; and the reasons for choosing the Plan in the light of the other alternatives, identifying the other alternatives considered,

commenting on their potential effects and explaining why the Plan was selected.

2.8 Legislative Conformance

This report complies with the provisions of the SEA Regulations and is written in accordance with Schedule 2B of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004).

Table 2.1 (overleaf) is a reproduction of the checklist of information to be contained in the Environmental Report (DEHLG, 2004)⁴ and includes the relevant sections of this report which deal with these requirements.

2.9 Difficulties Encountered

2.9.1 Centralised Data Source

The lack of a centralised data source that could make all environmental baseline data for the County both readily available and in a consistent format posed a challenge to the SEA process. This difficulty is one which has been encountered while undertaking SEAs at local authorities across the Country and was overcome by investing time in the collection of data from various sources and through the use of Geographical Information Systems.

⁴ DEHLG (2004) *Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities* Dublin: Government of Ireland.

Table 2.1 Checklist of Information included in this Environmental Report

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

Section 3 County Sligo Environmental Baseline

3.1 Introduction

The environmental baseline of County Sligo is described in this section. This baseline together with the Strategic Environmental Objectives, which are outlined in Section 4, is used in order to identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the County Development Plan and in order to determine appropriate monitoring measures.

The environmental baseline is described in line with the legislative requirements encompassing the following components – biodiversity, flora and fauna, population, human health, soil, water, air and climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between these components. A description is also included of the likely effects upon each environmental component under a do-nothing scenario i.e. the likely evolution of the environment without the implementation of the County Development Plan.

Interrelationships between environmental components are detailed as they arise under the various environmental components. They include those which occur between:

- the provision of appropriate waste water services and water quality;
- water quality and human health and biodiversity and flora and fauna;
- the provision of appropriate drinking water services and water quantity;
- water quantity and human health and biodiversity and flora and fauna; and

- brownfield/greenfield development and various environmental components including car dependency and greenhouse gas emissions, flood risk, biodiversity and architectural and archaeological heritage.

County Sligo is located in the north-west of Ireland and is bordered by counties Mayo, Roscommon and Longford. Sligo City is the main centre with Enniscrone, Ballymote and Tobercurry as supporting Towns.

Between 2002 and 2006 the population of County Sligo grew by 2,694 persons from 58,200 in 2002 to 60,894 in 2006 (Census 2006).

The County is served by the Dublin/Sligo railway line. Major roadways in the County include the N4, N15, N17 and N59.

Land use in the County is primarily agricultural in the rural areas. A wide variety of uses including commercial, industrial and residential, exist in the urban areas of the County.

County Sligo has a rich and diverse range of natural habitats such as woodland, hedgerows, rivers and lakes many of which are recognised as being of local, national and EU importance, and many are designated for protection/preservation under national and/or EU legislation.

The main river catchments falling within the County are the Ballysadare, Moy and Garavogue.



Figure 3.1 Context of County Sligo in relation to the Island of Ireland

3.2 Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna

3.2.1 Introduction

County Sligo supports a wide diversity of natural and semi-natural habitats and a wide range of plant and animal species, some of which have come under threat.

Green space, which makes up a large part of the County, consists of a variety of habitats and corridors which provide for the movement of wildlife. Green space within Sligo is comprised mainly of agricultural lands, woodlands and grasslands.

Woodlands like Slish Wood, Union Wood, Lough Gill Forest, Ben Bulbin Forest, Collooney Forest and Lough Talt Forest have significant stands of deciduous trees.

The County falls into the catchments of the Ballysadare, Moy and Garavogue. These rivers and their associated tributaries and lakes support good areas of biodiversity.

Man-made habitats within the Plan area are also important biodiversity areas. Gardens provide habitats for a range of wildlife including various bird species, invertebrates, such as bees and butterflies and mammals, such as hedgehogs, mice, rats and foxes. These species move around between gardens using hedgerows and vegetated areas. These urban green spaces, however small, are therefore of importance as they form part of a network of green spaces across the Plan area including gardens, parks, graveyards, amenity walks, railway lines and patches of woodland and scrub within which animals and plants continue to thrive.

3.2.2 CORINE Land Cover Mapping⁵

CORINE land cover mapping⁶ for the County for the year 2006 is shown on Figure 3.2.

⁵ European Environment Agency Coordination of Information on the Environment (2004) *Ireland's Corine Land Cover 2000 (CLC2000)* Copenhagen: EEA

⁶ CORINE Land Cover (CLC) is a map of the European environmental landscape based on interpretation of satellite images. Land cover is the observed physical cover, as seen from the ground or through remote

The predominant land cover is *Pastures*. Areas of *Peat Bogs* can be found in the north and mid-east and along the southern boundary extending to particularly large areas in the west of the County. Areas of *Complex Cultivation Patterns*, *Non-Irrigated Arable Land* and *Transitional Woodland Scrub* can be found dispersed throughout the County.

Water bodies are also visible, including Lough Arrow and Lough Gara in the south west of the County, Lough Easky and Lough Talt in the west and Cloonacleigha and Templehouse Loughs in the centre of the County.

Land cover differences between the CORINE 2006 data (see Figure 3.2) and the data for the year 2000 (see Figure 3.3) are illustrated on Figure 3.5. The differences indicate levels of urbanisation in Ballymote, Tobercurry, Coolaney, Ballysadare, Strandhill, Cooloney and Sligo City. Throughout the County, many areas classified as *Pasture*, *Agriculture with Natural Vegetation*, *Conifer and Mixed Forests*, *Natural Grassland* and *Peat Bog* have changed to *Transitional Woodland Scrub* in 2006. Planting of Coniferous Forests has taken place since 2000 with the main cluster occurring in the east of the County.

Land cover differences between the CORINE 2000 data (see Figure 3.3) and the data for the year 1990 (see Figure 3.4) are illustrated on Figure 3.6. The period from 1990-2000 saw a large amount of change in land cover in the County.

Land cover categories which indicate lands that are likely to be most valuable to biodiversity are illustrated on Figure 3.7. *Peat Bogs* make up the greatest extent of these land cover categories, followed by *Water Bodies*, *Transitional Wood/Scrub* and *Broad-Leaved Forest*. *Marshes*, *Moors and Heathlands*, *Mixed Forests* and *Natural Grasslands* make up the remaining sensitive land cover.

sensing, including for example natural or planted vegetation, water and human constructions which cover the earth's surface. Because of the scale of the CORINE data and the method by which it was collected there are likely to be a number of inaccuracies at the local level. It is noted, however, that the land cover shown on the maps is generally accurate. The European Environment Agency, in conjunction with the European Space Agency, the European Commission and member countries is currently updating the CORINE land cover database.

3.2.3 Ecological Networks

Article 10 of the Habitats Directive recognises the importance of ecological networks as corridors and stepping stones for wildlife, including for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of species of flora and fauna. The Directive requires that ecological connectivity and areas of ecological value outside the Natura 2000 network of designated ecological sites are maintained and it recognises the need for the management of these areas through land use planning and development policies. Ecological networks are important in connecting areas of local biodiversity with each other and with nearby designated sites so as to prevent islands of habitat from being isolated entities. Ecological networks are composed of linear features, such as treelines, hedgerows, rivers and streams, which provide corridors or stepping stones for wildlife species moving within their normal range. They are particularly important for mammals, especially for bats and small birds.

Key ecological corridors within the County include the following water bodies (including their tributaries and lakes where relevant):

- Garavogue
- Moy
- Owenaher
- Easky
- Owenboy
- Unshin
- Owenbeg
- Drumcliff
- Owenmore

3.2.4 Designations

3.2.4.1 Introduction

Figure 3.8 maps a range of designated ecological sites⁷ (Special Protection Areas, candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Natural Heritage Areas and Nature Reserves) across County Sligo.

Drumcliff Bay, Sligo Bay and Ballysadare Bay are designated along with Lough Gill, Lough Arrow and Lough Gara. A full list of the Designated Sites can be found on Table 3.1 on page 12.

⁷ Site Synopses for SPAs, cSACs and NHAs are available from the National Parks and Wildlife Service at www.npws.ie

3.2.4.2 Special Protection Areas

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) have been selected for protection under the 1979 European Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) - referred to as the Birds Directive - by the DEHLG due to their conservation value for birds of importance in the European Union.

There are 10 SPAs located wholly or partly within the County. These sites are listed on Table 3.1 and mapped on Figure 3.8 and Figure 3.9 and include various bogs, bays and loughs.

3.2.4.3 Special Areas of Conservation

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) have been selected for protection under the European Council Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (92/43/EEC) - referred to as the Habitats Directive - by the DEHLG due to their conservation value for habitats and species of importance in the European Union.

Candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs) have been selected for protection under the European Council Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC), referred to as the Habitats Directive, by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government due to their conservation value for habitats and species of importance in the European Union. The sites are *candidate* sites because they are currently under consideration by the Commission of the European Union.

There are 19 cSACs located wholly or partly within the County. These sites are listed on Table 3.1 and mapped on Figure 3.8 along with pNHAs, NHAs and Nature Reserves and on Figure 3.9 as part of the Natura 2000 network.

The Habitats Directive seeks to establish Natura 2000, a network of protected areas throughout the EU. It is the responsibility of each member state to designate SACs to protect habitats and species, which, together with the SPAs designated under the 1979 Birds Directive, form Natura 2000. Figure 3.9 maps and names Natura 2000 Sites within County Sligo and within 15km of the County's boundary.

3.2.4.4 Natural Heritage Areas

Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) are designated due to their national conservation value for

ecological and/or geological/geomorphological heritage. They cover nationally important semi-natural and natural habitats, landforms or geomorphological features, wildlife plant and animal species or a diversity of these natural attributes. NHAs are designated under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000.

Proposed NHAs were published on a non-statutory basis in 1995, but have not since been statutorily proposed or designated. There are 3 NHAs located within County Sligo, these are listed on Table 3.1 and mapped on Figure 3.8.

3.2.4.5 Ramsar Sites

The Convention of Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Water Fowl Habitat, was established at Ramsar in 1971 and ratified by Ireland in 1984. The main aim of the Convention is to secure the designation by each contracting state of wetlands in its territory for inclusion in a list of wetlands of international importance for waterfowl. This entails the commitment of each contracting state to a policy of protection and management of the designated wetlands, and of formulating and implementing planning so as to promote the conservation of designated wetlands and, as far as possible, the wise use of wetlands in its territory. Ireland presently has 45 sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance, with surface areas of 66,994 hectares.

There are 4 Ramsar sites designated wholly or partially within the County spanning 4,901 hectares of wetlands⁸. These are: Cummeen Strand, Easky Bog, Lough Gara and Killala Bay/Moy Estuary

3.2.4.6 Statutory Nature Reserves

Statutory Nature Reserves are state-owned land, inland waters or foreshore areas forming the habitat of a species or community of flora and fauna of scientific interest or forming part of an ecosystem of scientific interest, which would benefit from protection measures, established under the Wildlife Act, 1976 and the Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000 and are protected under Ministerial order. There are 2 of these reserves in County Sligo which are both State

owned, descriptions of each are given below (NPWS, 2007)⁹:

Ballygilgan (Lissadell) is a large grass field of approximately 29.5 ha, sloping south-westwards from the public road from Carney to Lissadell to the shore of Drumcliff Bay. It was established in 1986. The largest Irish mainland flock of Barnacle Geese graze on the reserve from October to May. It is a site of international importance for Barnacle Geese due to the number it supports (c.3,000 birds). In the summer the reserve is grazed by livestock.

Easkey Bog, established in 1990, is situated on the northern side of the Ox mountains. This is one of the few extensive areas (607 ha) of intermediate blanket bogs in the Country. It stretches between lowland and mountain blanket bog; the area grades into mountain blanket bog to the south while an extensive area of lowland blanket bog occurs about 2 km to the west. This site is one of the few places in the County where all three blanket bog types are more or less juxtaposed. Red Grouse and Curlew can be found and Golden Plover can be found here only during the winter when they visit from Iceland. The Irish Hare also makes its home there.

3.2.4.7 Register of Protected Areas

In response to the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, a number of water bodies, or parts of water bodies, which must have extra controls on their quality by virtue of how their waters are used by people and by wildlife, have been listed on Registers of Protected Areas (RPAs) (see Section 3.5.7 and Figure 3.31). There are a number of water dependent habitats in the County which have been listed on these registers.

3.2.4.8 Freshwater Pearl Mussels

The freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera Margaritifera*) is a bivalve, which is a type of mollusc or snail with a body that is almost completely enclosed between a pair of shells. The habitat of the freshwater pearl mussel in Ireland is restricted to near natural, clean flowing waters, often downstream of ultra-oligotrophic lakes.

⁸ Ramsar Convention Secretariat (2000) *The Annotated Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance* Switzerland: Ramsar Convention Secretariat

⁹ National Parks and Wildlife Service (2007) *Statutory Nature Reserves: County Offaly* Dublin: Government of Ireland

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government has prepared 27 Draft Management Plans for Freshwater Pearl Mussel in accordance with Article 13 (5) of the Water Framework Directive as transposed in Ireland by the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 722 of 2003) and the Habitats Directive as transposed in Ireland by the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 (S.I. No. 94 of 1997). The objective of the plans is to restore the freshwater pearl mussel populations in 27 rivers, or stretches of rivers that are within the boundaries of Special Areas of Conservation.

There are no areas within the County or near the County boundary which have a specified Freshwater Pearl Mussel population and hence a Draft Sub-Basin Management Plan. However, the Easky River is known to contain a healthy population of Freshwater Pearl Mussel¹⁰. Even though this river is not designated for the species, Freshwater Pearl Mussel is afforded protection under Section 23 of the Wildlife Act, 1976 (amended Section 31, 2000).

3.2.4.9 Salmonid Waters

Salmonid Waters are designated and protected under the European Communities (Quality of Salmonid Waters) Regulations 1998 (SI No. 293 of 1988). Salmonid Water designation imposes an obligation to maintain specific water quality standards and control pollution. The main channel of the River Moy is a designated Salmonid River along with its tributaries, the Owengarve, Mullaghanoe, Spaddagh, Trimoge, Glore, Yellow, Gwesstion, Manulla, Castlebar, Deel and Corryt. These waters are mapped on Figure 3.24.

3.2.5 Existing Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna Problems

Changes in land cover indicated by the CORINE data (see Figure 3.5 for 2000-2006 changes and Figure 3.6 for 1990-2000 changes) indicate that semi natural areas within the County have been replaced by uses which generally include impermeable surfaces. These changes are also likely to result in losses of biodiversity and flora and fauna.

¹⁰ Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2010) Submission on the Draft Sligo County Development Plan 2011-2017, dated 8 September 2010

Aquatic flora and fauna is vulnerable to all forms of pollution. Any existing problems with regard to surface water quality in the County (see Section 3.5) are likely to be impacting upon aquatic biodiversity and flora and fauna.

With regard to terrestrial flora and fauna, all greenfield development in the area will cause an impact - the replacement of natural and semi natural habitats with artificial surfaces results in loss of flora and fauna and therefore adversely impacts upon this environmental component.

The site synopses for certain designated sites in the County identify threats to the conservation value of the protected sites. Threats, such as overgrazing, afforestation, under-grazing and threats to water quality from agricultural run-off.

3.2.6 Evolution of Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna in the absence of the Plan

In the absence of a Development Plan, development would have no guidance as to where to be directed and planning applications would be assessed on an individual basis with flora and fauna, habitats and ecological connectivity protected under a number of strategic actions relating to biodiversity and flora and fauna protection.

In the absence of a Development Plan there would not be an integration of the ecological protection measures required by the Habitats Directive with the planning or development management of vulnerable areas. Therefore, it is likely that there would be less effective protection of ecological resources in the absence of a Plan.

The evolution of biodiversity and flora and fauna would be dependent on the rate and extent of developments which would take place.

Any future development along the edges of designated ecological sites would be likely to result in a reduction in habitats and could therefore reduce ecological connectivity on the edges of these sites.

Weakly controlled development along or adjacent to the banks of rivers or on the coastline could result in a reduction in ecological connectivity within and between these and other habitats.

Pollution of water bodies as a result of any poorly planned future development would be likely to adversely impact upon aquatic biodiversity and flora and fauna including salmonid species and other species protected under Annex II of the Habitats Directive.

Climate change has the potential to result in the loss of habitats - including those designated as SACs and SPAs - through rising sea levels and increased levels of surface run-off. Some of the coastal habitats which are important to bird populations could eventually be inundated. Increased precipitation may disrupt the salinity gradients within estuarine systems and, coupled with likely increased sedimentation, disrupt

spawning and nursery grounds as well as shellfish production and quality in such areas.

In the absence of a Development Plan, any greenfield development would adversely impact upon biodiversity and flora and fauna by replacing natural or semi natural habitats with artificial surfaces. The significance of such impacts would be dependent on whether such developments would result in the loss of habitats or species of importance as well as the cumulative loss and fragmentation of habitats and species as a result of all greenfield developments. It is noted that development of brownfield sites and re-development could also have impacts on terrestrial flora and fauna.

Table 3.1 Designated Sites in County Sligo

SPA	Site Code	SAC	Site Code
Drumcliff Bay	004013	Killala Bay/Moy Estuary	000458
Cummeen Strand	004035	Flughany Bog	000497
Killala Bay/Moy Estuary	004036	Ballysadare Bay	000622
Lough Gara	004048	Ben Bulbin, Gleniff and Glenade Complex	000623
Lough Arrow	004050	Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore	000625
Inishmurray	004068	Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay)	000627
Ballysadare Bay	004129	Lough Hoe Bog	000633
Aughris Head	004133	Lough Nabrickkeagh Bog	000634
Ardboline Island and Horse Island	004135	Templehouse and Cloonacleigha Loughs	000636
Sligo/Leitrim Uplands	004187	Turloughmore (Sligo)	000637
		Union Wood	000638
		Bricklieve Mountains and Keishcorran	001656
		Knockalongy and Knockachree Cliffs	001669
NHA	Site Code	Lough Arrow	001673
Slieveward Bog	001902	Streedagh Point Dunes	001680
Carrane Hill Bog	002415	Unshin River	001898
Crockauns / Keelogyboy Bogs	002435	Lough Gill	001976
		Ox Mountains Bogs	002006
		River Moy	002298

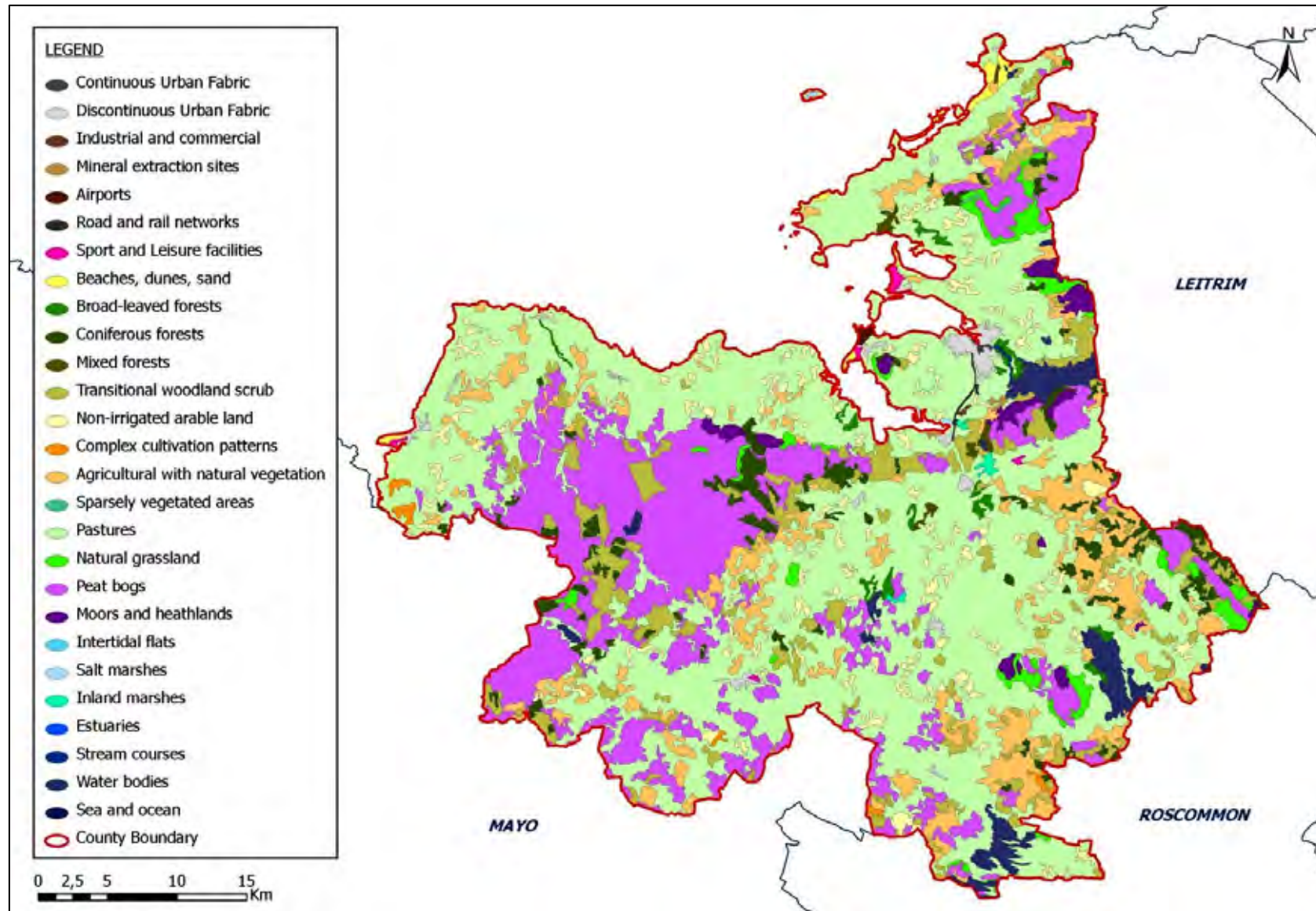


Figure 3.2 CORINE Land Cover 2006

Source: EPA (2009)

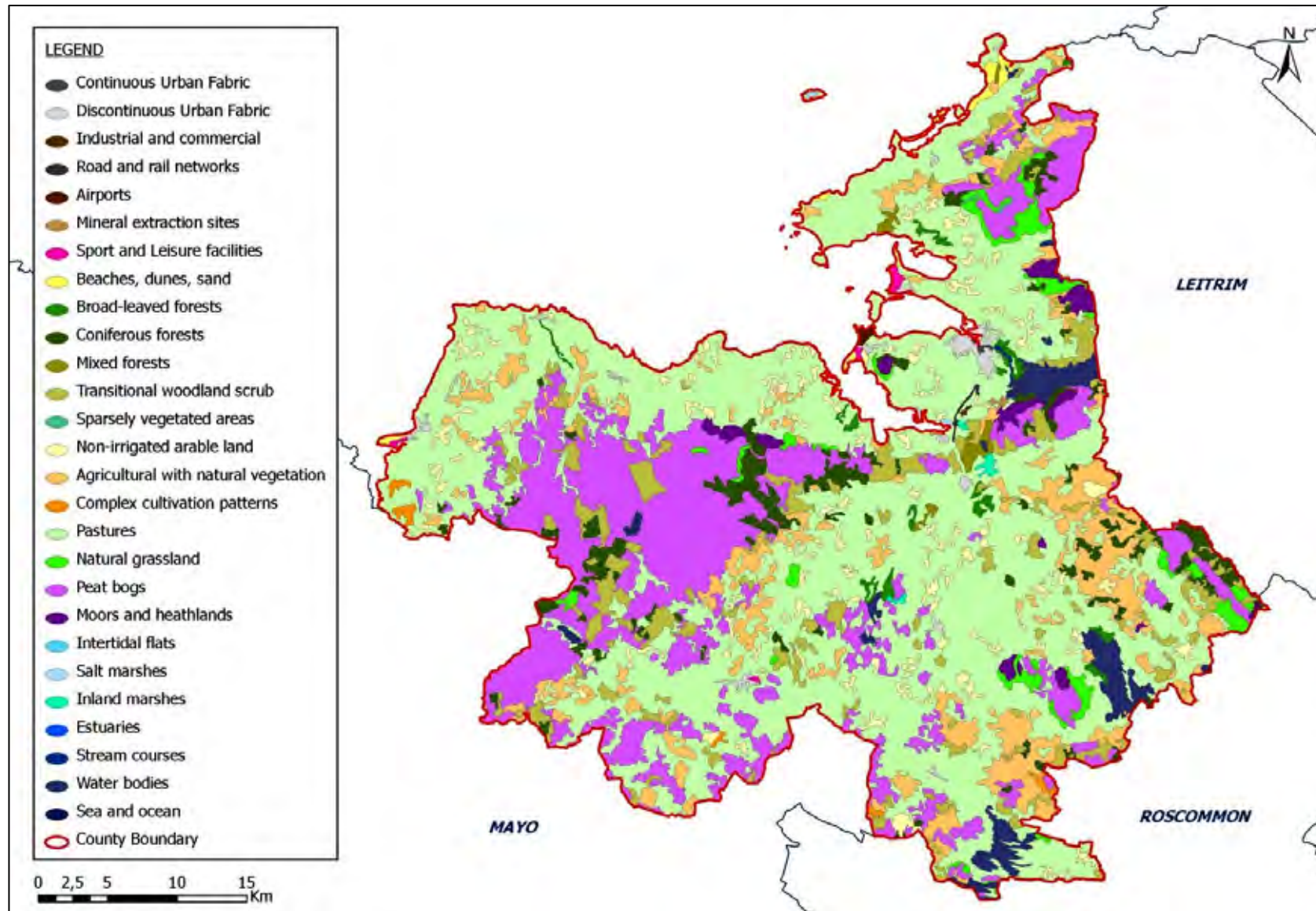


Figure 3.3 CORINE Land Cover 2000

Source: EPA (2009)

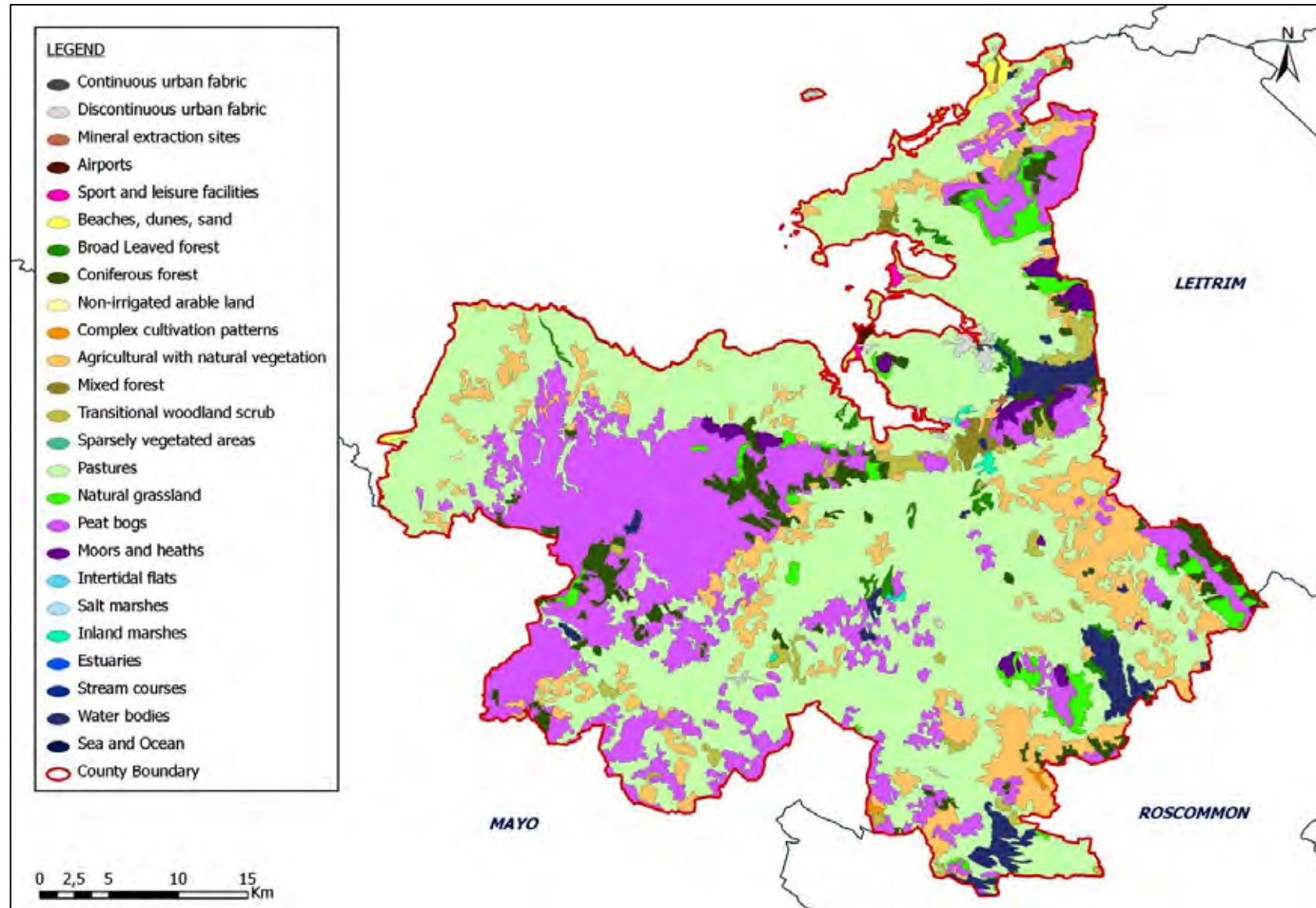


Figure 3.4 CORINE Land Cover 1990

Source: EPA (2004)

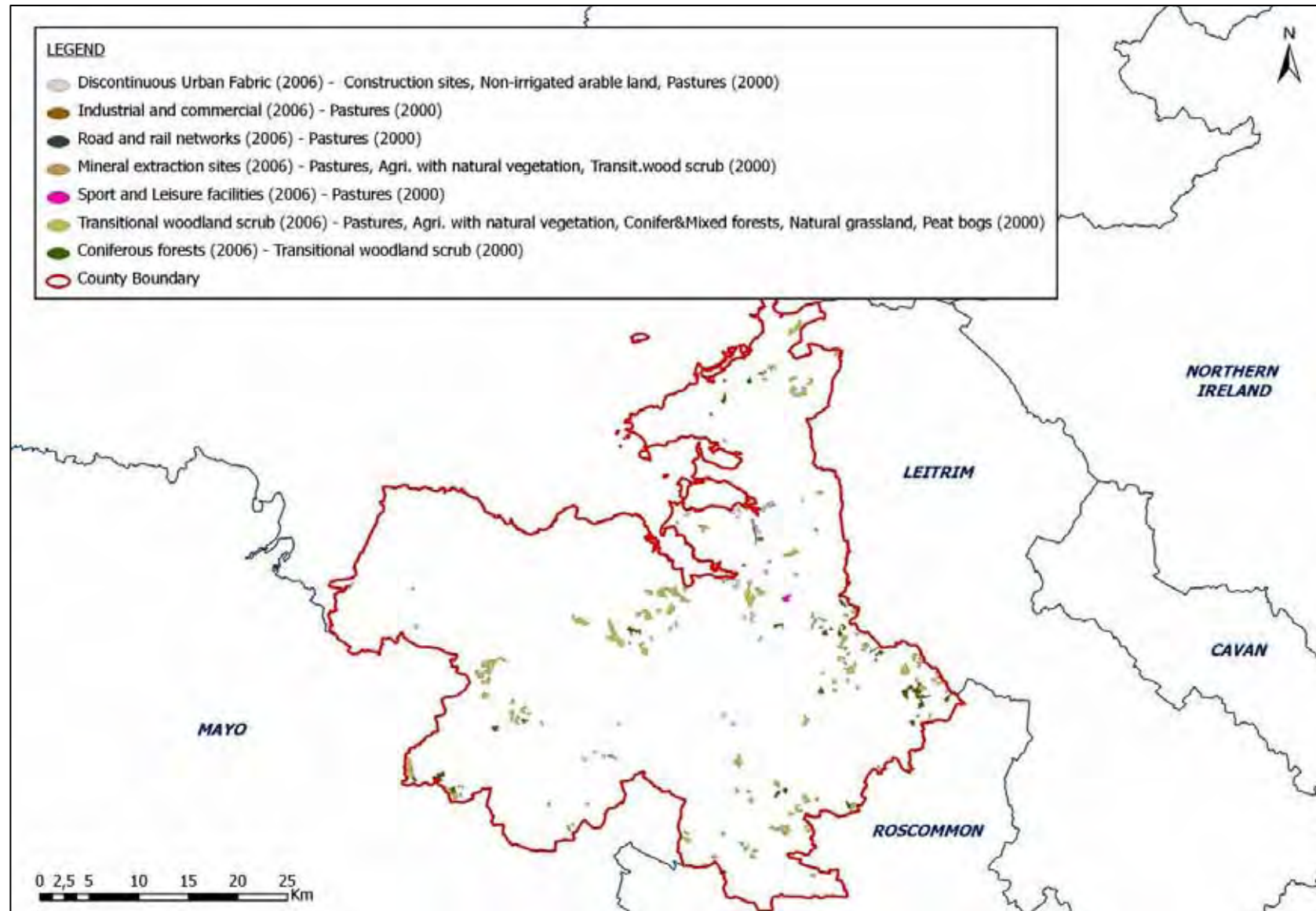


Figure 3.5 CORINE Land Cover Changes 2000-2006 showing their current (2006) cover

Source: EPA (2009)

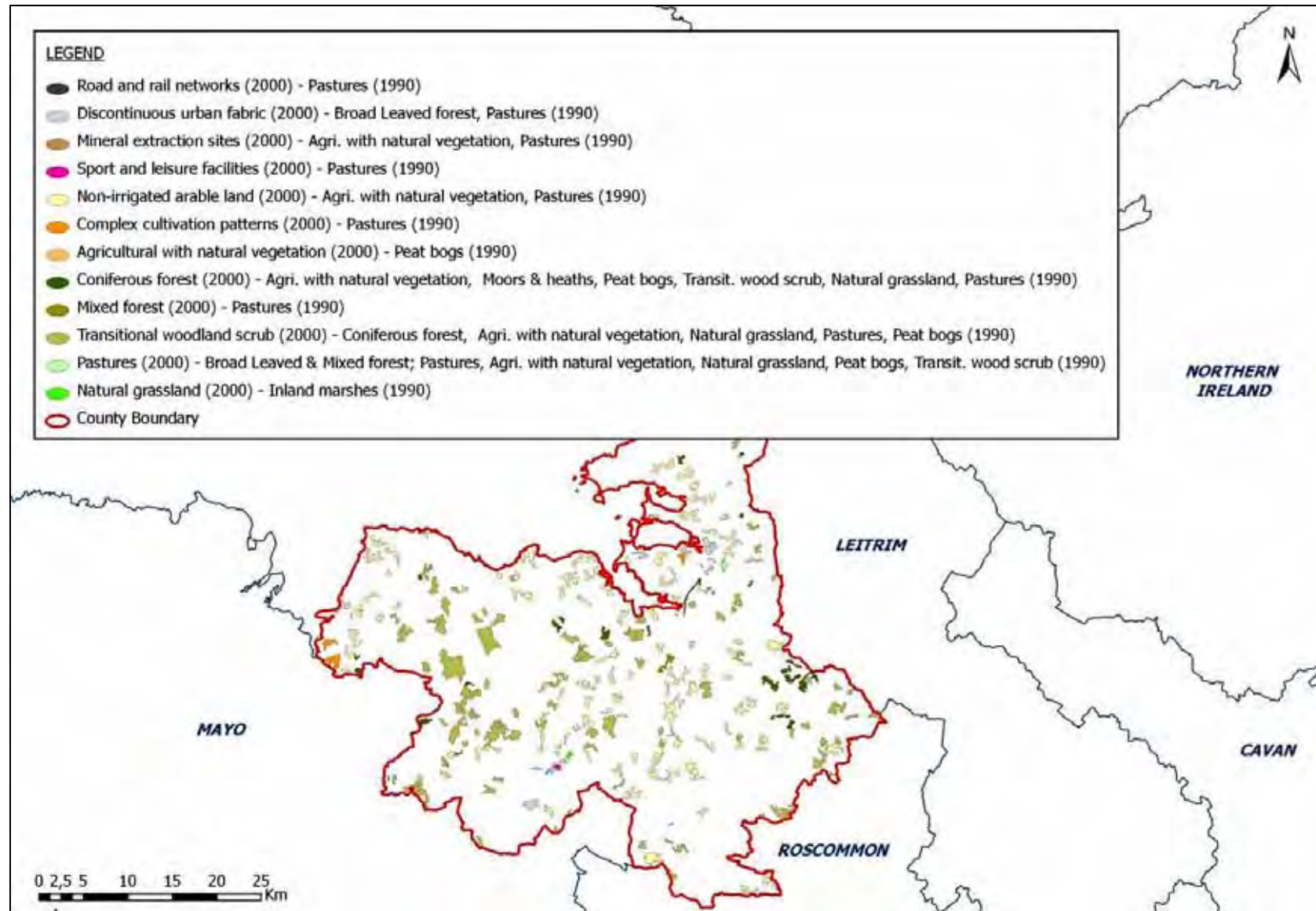


Figure 3.6 CORINE Land Cover Changes 1990-2000

Source: EPA (2004)

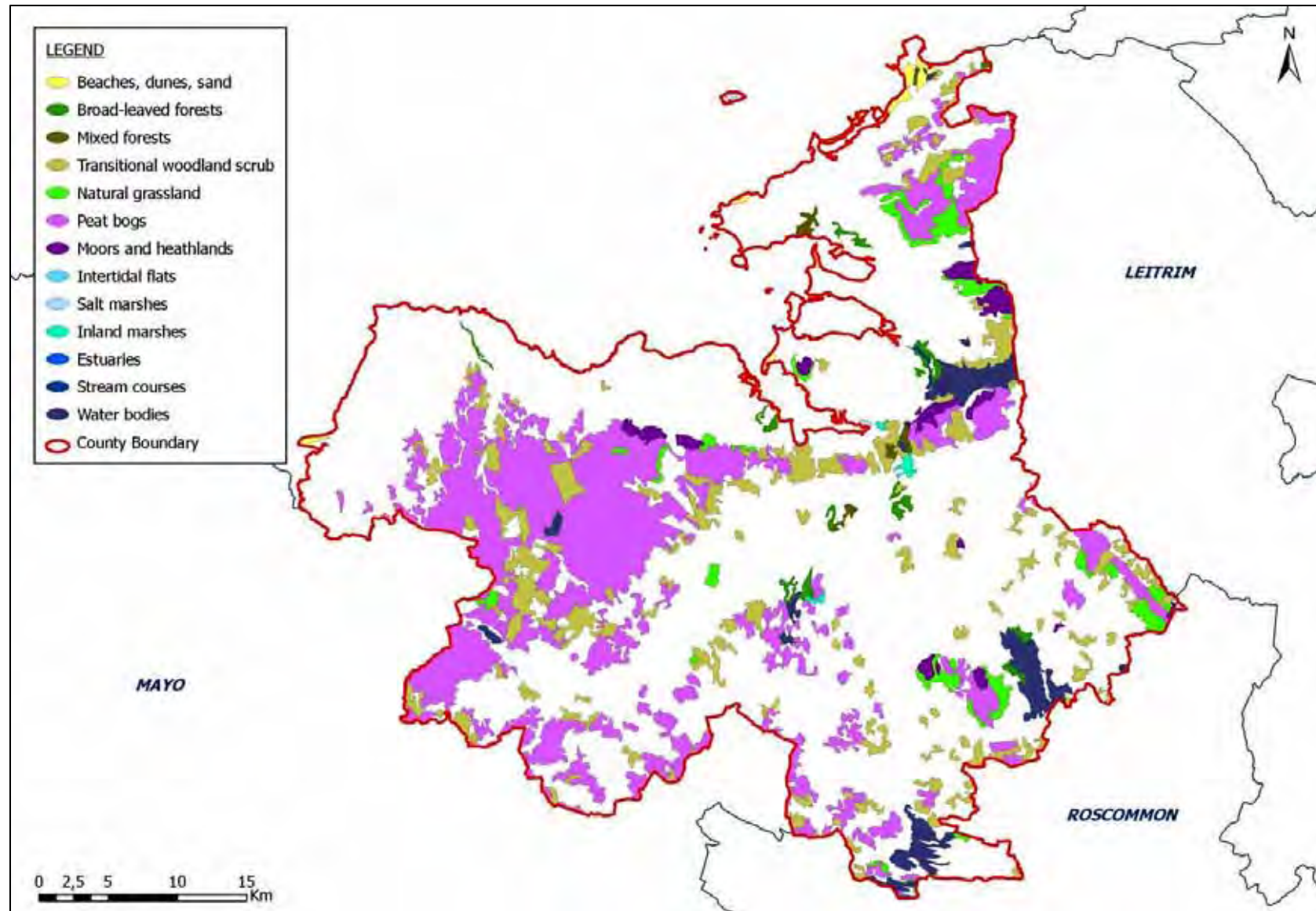


Figure 3.7 CORINE Sensitive Land Cover Classifications (lands that are likely to be most valuable to biodiversity)

Source: EPA: (2009)

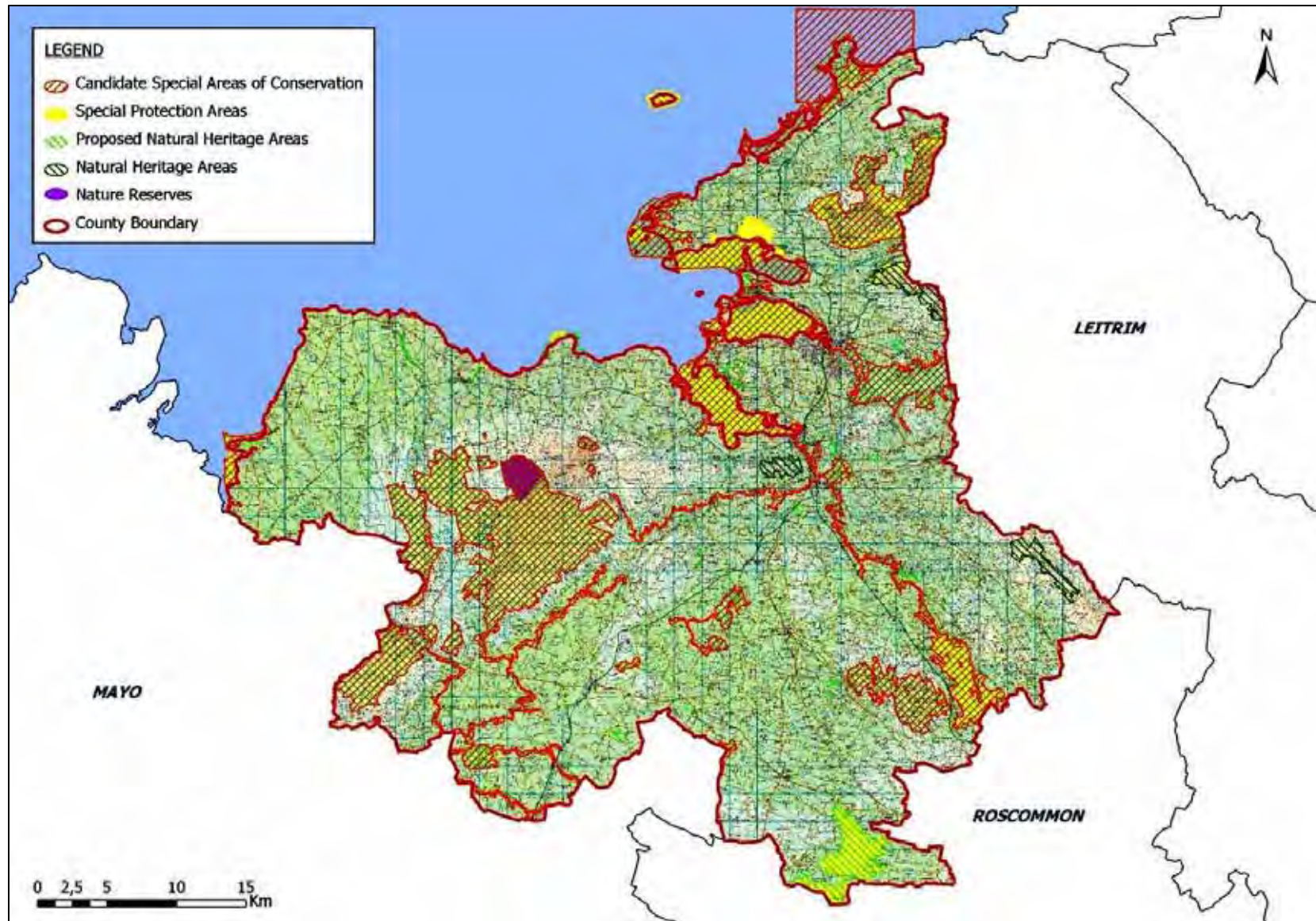


Figure 3.8 SPAs, cSACs, NHAs and pNHAs and Nature Reserves

Source: NPWS (datasets downloaded Feb. 2010)

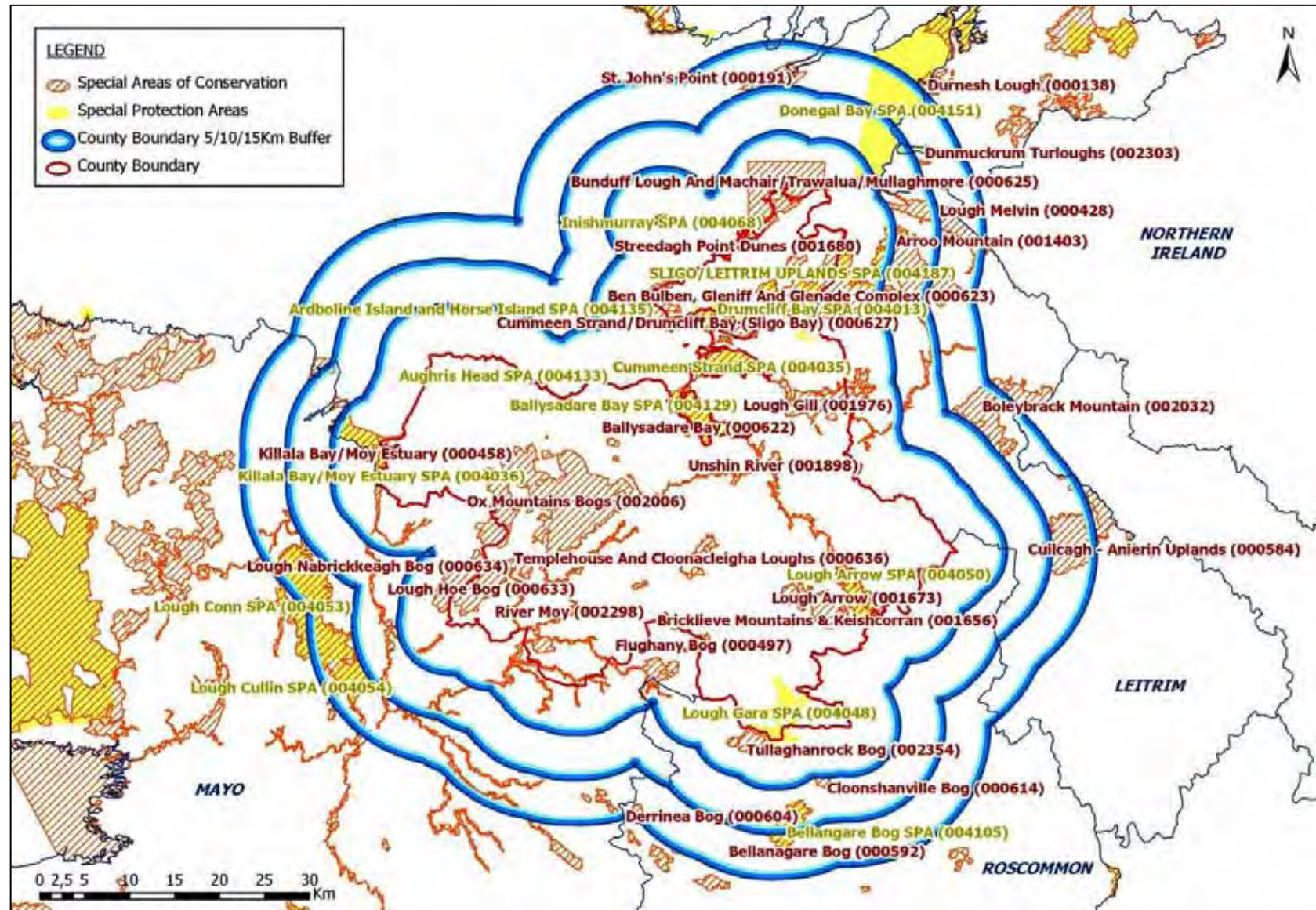


Figure 3.9 Natura 2000 Sites in the County and within 5, 10 and 15km of the boundary

Source: NPWS (datasets downloaded Feb. 2010)

3.3 Population and Human Health

3.3.1 Population¹¹

Figure 3.10 maps the population of the County at the most recent (2006) Census. Population of the County stood at 58,200 in 2002 and rose to 60,894 in 2006. Sligo City and Environs is, as expected, the most populous area. DEDs including the areas of Strandhill and Tobercurry have the next highest population. These are followed by the DEDs which included Ballymote, Enniscrone, Rosses Point and a DED east of Sligo City.

Figure 3.11 maps population change between the 2002 and the 2006 Census. The largest decrease in population in the County occurred in Sligo City where population in two DEDs decreased by 405 and between 50 and 206 persons.

The highest increase in population was at Strandhill where population increased by 351-384 persons. This DED also saw a significant increase in population for the previous inter-censal period from 1996-2002.

Figure 3.13 maps density in the County in 2006. Upland areas are the least populated with 1-7km² in most upland DEDs. Density in Sligo City is 250-1600 persons/km². Strandhill and Rosses Point DEDs have densities of 60-120persons/km². Density in the remainder of the County is 7-60 persons/km².

3.3.2 Human Health

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

significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan and the alternatives.

3.3.3 Existing Problems

Certain environmental vectors within the Plan area - such as air, water or soil - have the potential to transport and deposit contaminants or pollutants, which have the potential to cause harm and adversely impact upon the health of the area's population. Issues relevant to this potential in Sligo are expanded upon in the following sections.

IPPC licensed facilities could be potential polluters to the Plan area if the facilities do not comply with their licenses.

Although air quality in the County meets current standards, there are traffic "hotspots" located along the main road routes especially at intersections in urban areas. These give rise to a harsh sensory environment which may impact upon human health (see also Section 3.7.3).

3.3.4 Evolution of Population and Human Health in the absence of the Plan

In the absence of a Development Plan there would be no framework for the provision of infrastructure to serve existing and future development and this could delay or hinder the provision of infrastructure and result in impacts on environmental vectors to which humans are exposed. For example, a lack of appropriate waste water treatment infrastructure could adversely impact upon drinking water quality and subsequently upon human health.

¹¹ CSO (various) *Census 2006 Volume 1 - Population Classified by Area; Census 2002 Volume 1 - Population Classified by Area; Census 1996 Volume 1 - Population Classified by Area* Cork: CSO.

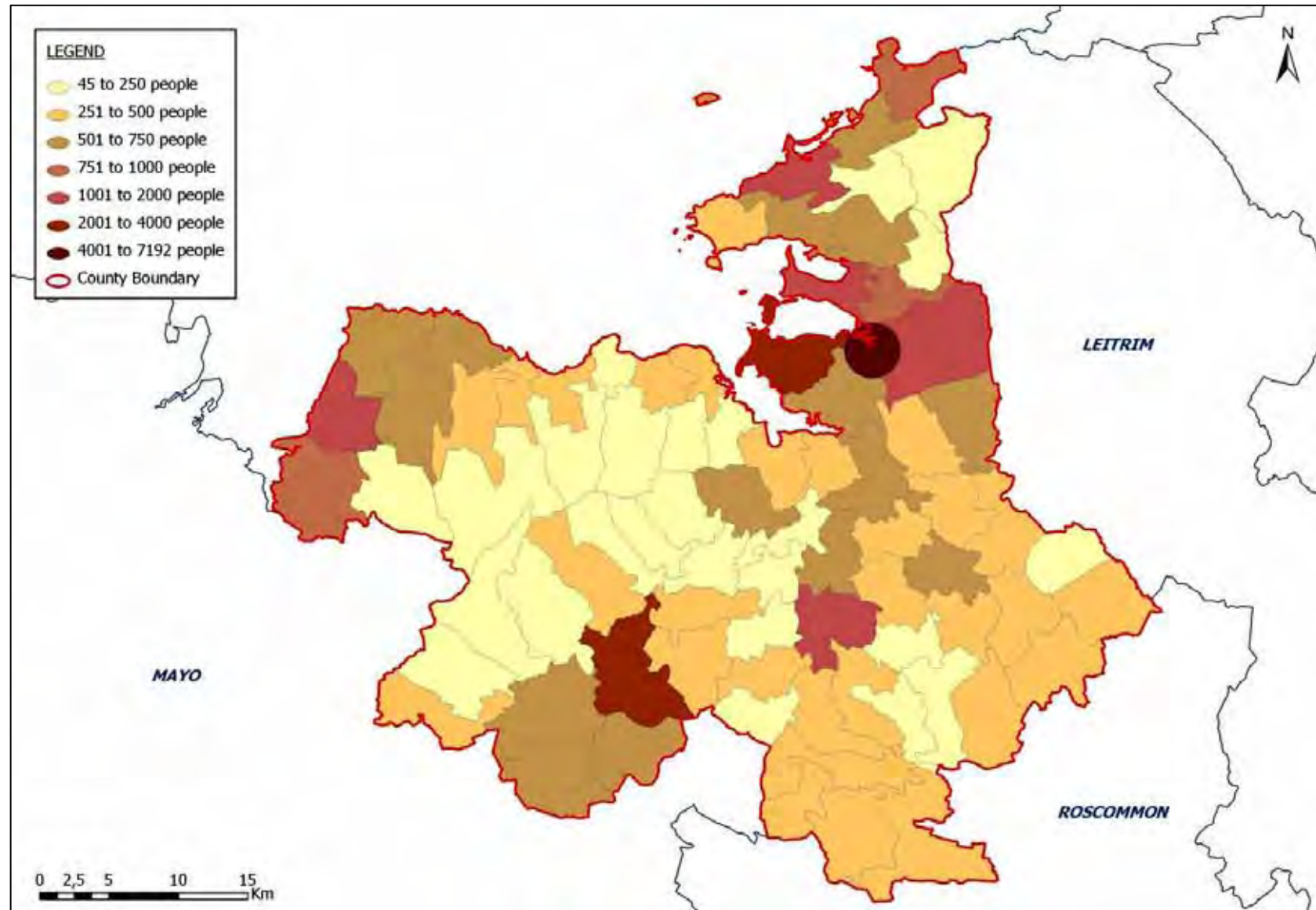


Figure 3.10 Population of Sligo 2006

Source: CSO (2007)

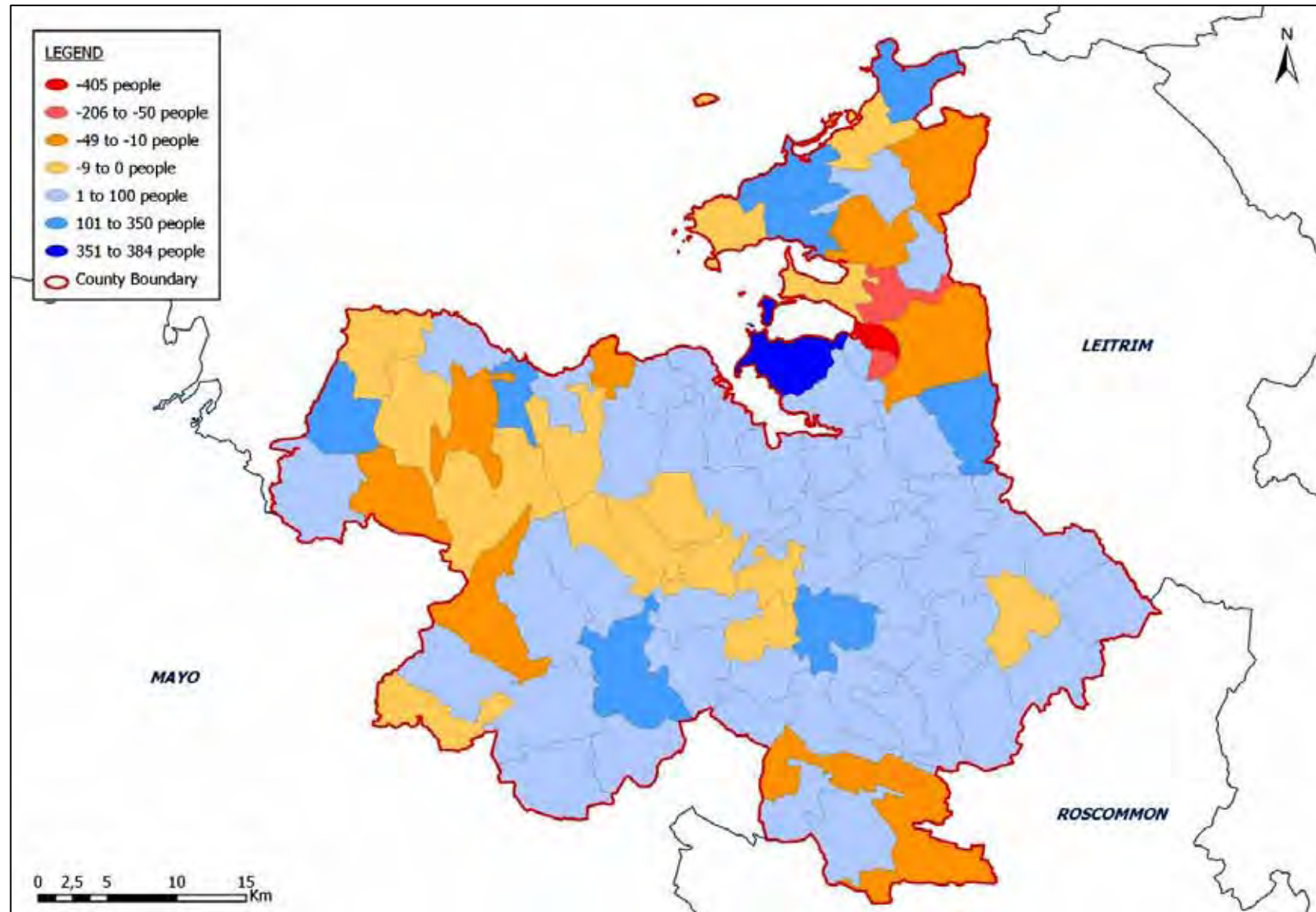


Figure 3.11 Population Change in the County 2002-2006

Source: CSO (2007)

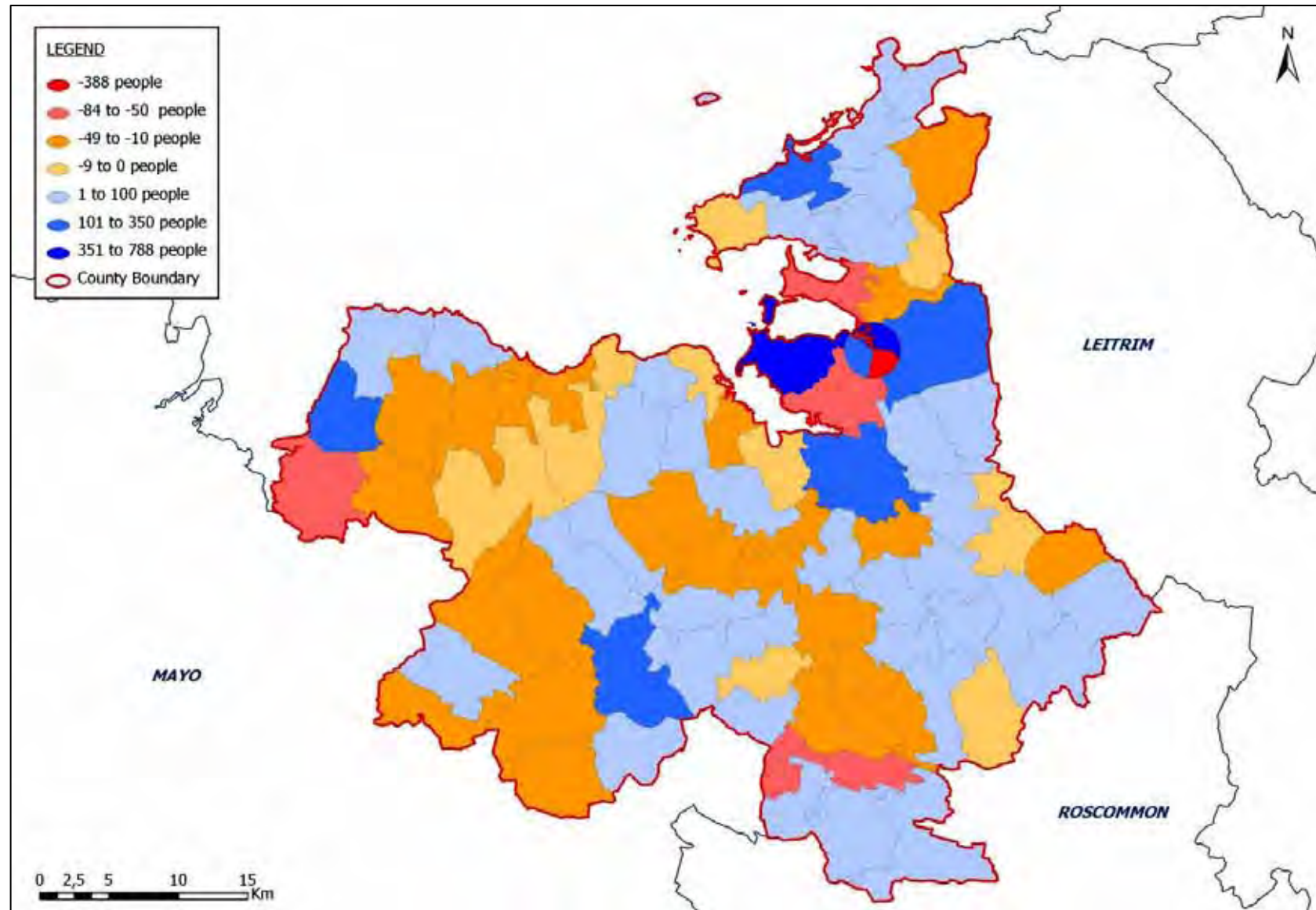


Figure 3.12 Population Change in the County 1996-2002

Source: CSO (2003)

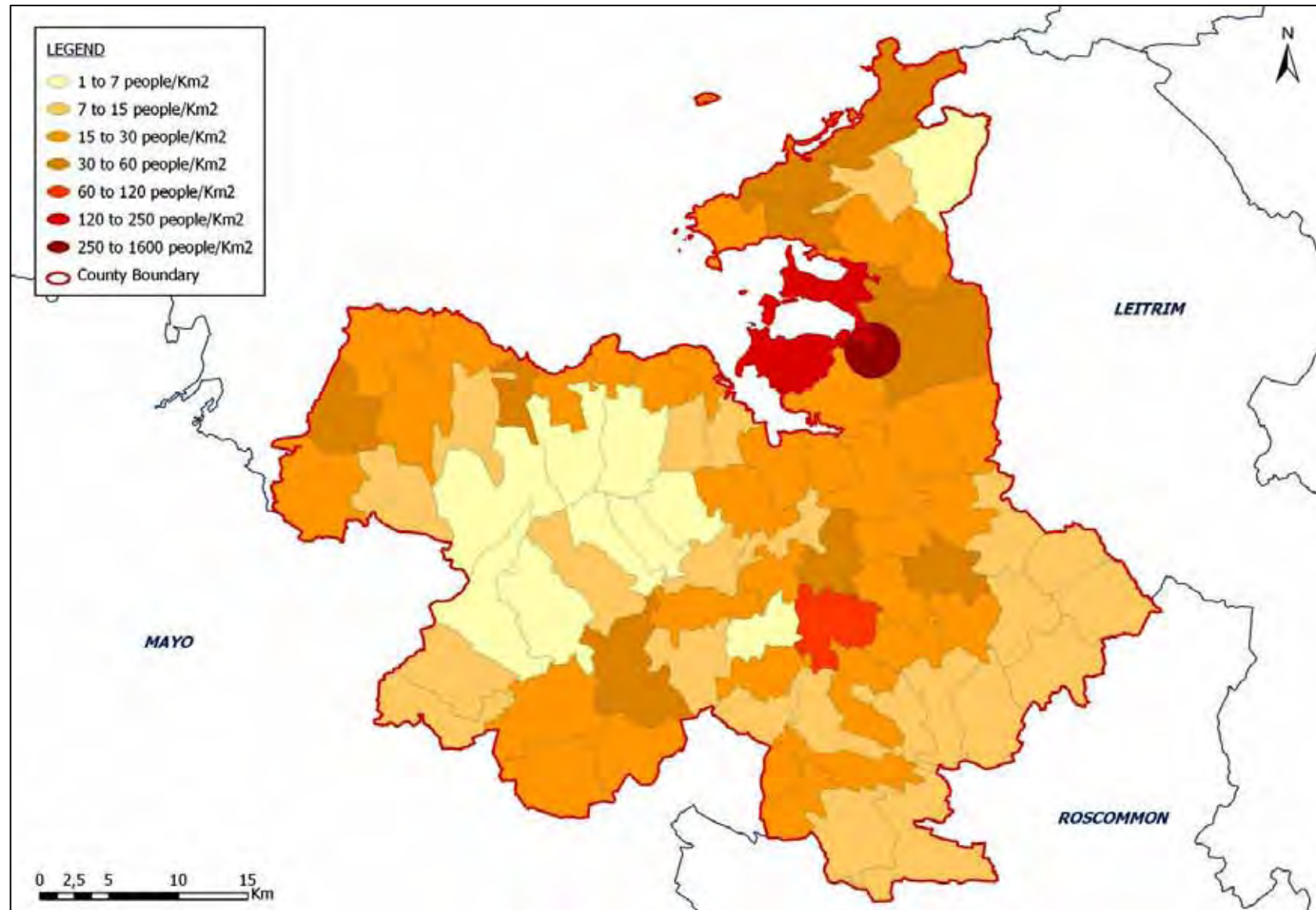


Figure 3.13 Population Density 2006

Source: CSO (2007)

3.4 Soil

3.4.1 Introduction

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

Soils in any area are the result of the interaction of various factors, such as parent material, climate, vegetation and human action.

To date, there is no legislation which is specific to the protection of soil resources. However, there is currently an EU Thematic Strategy on the protection of soil which includes a proposal for a Soil Framework Directive which proposes common principles for protecting soils across the EU.

3.4.2 Soil Types¹²

Soil types, as classified by Teagasc in co-operation with the Forest Service, EPA and GSI, are mapped on Figure 3.14. Subsoils in the County are mapped on Figure 3.15.

Large expanses of blanket, cutover and fen peat occur in Sligo, particularly in the west. Certain areas of the peat are internationally important supporting a large variety of rare flora and fauna and large areas are protected by a number of ecological designations identified under Section 3.2.4. Much of the County is also covered by till, in particular limestone, sandstone and shale and metaphoric till.

Figure 3.16 maps "soil sealing" in the County. This map indicates lands that have been built upon, thus sealing off the soil. Urbanised areas within the County are clearly seen.

3.4.3 Sites of Geological Importance

The Sites of Geological Importance which have been identified are mapped on Figure 3.18 are listed on Table 3.2 on page 27. The sites comprise caves, dry valleys, springs and swallow holes. Geological Heritage Sites, which are designated under the current Sligo County Development Plan 2005-2011 are identified on this map also.

3.4.4 Geology, Quarries and Minerals

The underlying of Sligo is mapped on Figure 3.17. Much of the County is underlain by limestone which is interspersed with bands of shale throughout. An area of granoblastic pelite runs westwards from Lough Gill into a large area of schist in the west of the County. Within the area of schist, monzogranite, metavolcanics and lava, granodiorite and psammite and quartzite can be found.

Figure 3.19 maps the third edition (2001) of the GSI active quarry directory and mineral locations in Sligo. Within the County, there are approximately 90 sites identified as mineral location sites. Three active quarries are identified in the vicinity of Ballysadare.

3.4.5 Landslides

In early 2004 the GSI established a multi-disciplinary team, the Irish Landslides disciplinary team, the Irish Landslides Working Group (ILWG), with expertise in geology, geomorphology, geotechnical engineering, planning, and GIS. One of the main objectives was to build a national database of past landslide events. The initial search of reference sources has identified 117 events. Each entry contains information according to topic (events, location, dimensions, mechanism, terrain, weather, Land use, impacts and references). Number of records entered so far is 150.

There are eight recorded landslide events in County Sligo. Four of these occur at Geevagh between 1831 and 1991. More recent events include Derrysallagh in 2008, Killoglashy in 2007 and Gleniff in 2006. These are mapped on Figure 3.20.

¹² Teagasc, GSI, Forest Service & EPA (2006) *Soils and Subsoils Class* Dublin: DEHLG

3.4.6 Existing Problems

Land cover differences between the CORINE 2006 data and the data for the year 1990 (see Section 3.2.2) indicate that semi natural areas within the County are being replaced by urban areas - this is likely to be resulting sealing off of soil resources.

Certain parts of the County are not within the catchment of waste water treatment networks and consequently development in these areas uses septic tanks systems to treat waste water arising - it is likely that local pollution of soil is occurring in certain areas as a result of poorly maintained systems.

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

Soil has the potential to be polluted and contaminated as a result of pollution from agricultural sources and development which is not serviced by appropriate waste water infrastructure.

Soil erosion due mainly to surface erosion resulting from construction works and agricultural / forestry operations has major potential to impact on water quality and fishery resources. Coastal erosion is also noted as a problem in the County.

In addition to water quality and fishery impacts, these can impact on infrastructure and can have health and safety implications.

3.4.7 Evolution of Soil in the absence of the Plan

In the absence of the Development Plan, the evolution of soil would be dependent on developments which take place.

The currently proposed Soil Directive suggests encouraging the rehabilitation of brownfield sites, thus reducing the depletion of greenfield sites. However, in the absence of Plan, there would be no framework for the direction of growth towards brownfield sites, where such direction is appropriate. As a result greenfield development would be likely to occur on an increased basis and would result in the building upon and thereby sealing off of the non-renewable subsoil and soil resources.

In the absence of a Plan, there would be no framework for the provision of infrastructure - such as that relating to waste water treatment - to serve existing and future development and therefore soil would have the potential to be polluted and contaminated as a result of pollution from development which is not serviced by appropriate waste water infrastructure.

Table 3.2 Sites of Geological Interest in County Sligo

Site Name	Principle Characteristics, Critical Features, Key Words
Mullawornia	Waulsortian complex: palaeontology
Mullawornia	Waulsortian: Lower Carboniferous stratigraphy
Ardnacassagh Quarry	Carboniferous stratigraphy
Esker North townland	Structural importance: truncated slump fold
Keel	Mineralogy: honey sphalerite
Keel and Garryman	Economic geology: zinc
Carrickboy Quarry	Waulsortian: Lower Carboniferous stratigraphy, palaeontology
Glen Lodge Stream	Youngest Silurian rocks in Longford - Down succession: Silurian stratigraphy
Glen Lodge Stream	Youngest Silurian rocks in Longford - Down succession: Silurian stratigraphy
Cleenrah	Economic Geology: mined haematitic-Mn Shale
Kilcoursey Quarry	Carbonate mudmound, post Waulsortian
Enaghan, near Arva	Historic Iron mine
Ardagullion Quarry	Carboniferous stratigraphy

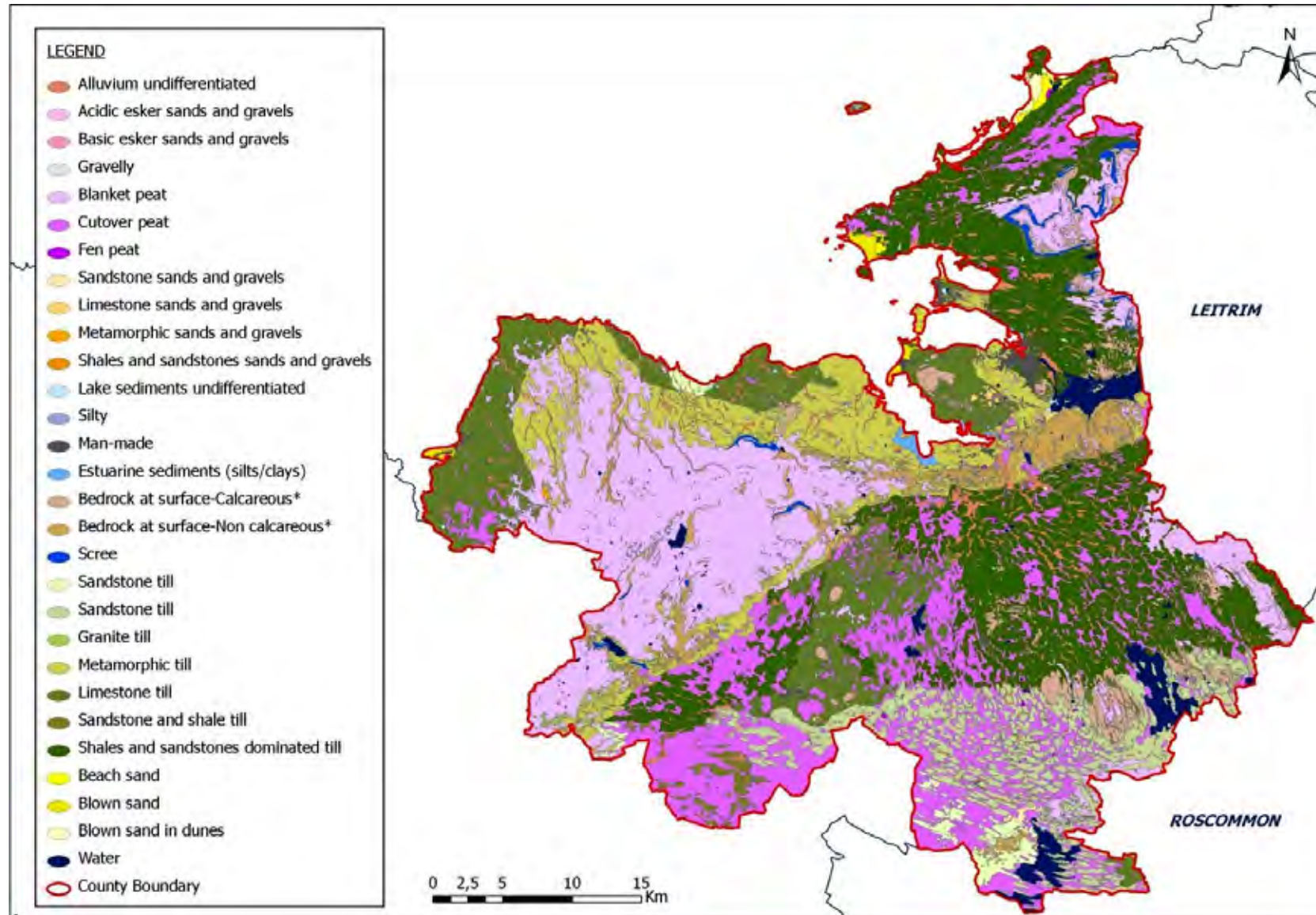


Figure 3.14 Soil Types

Source: Teagasc in co-operation with the Forest Service, EPA and GSI (2006)

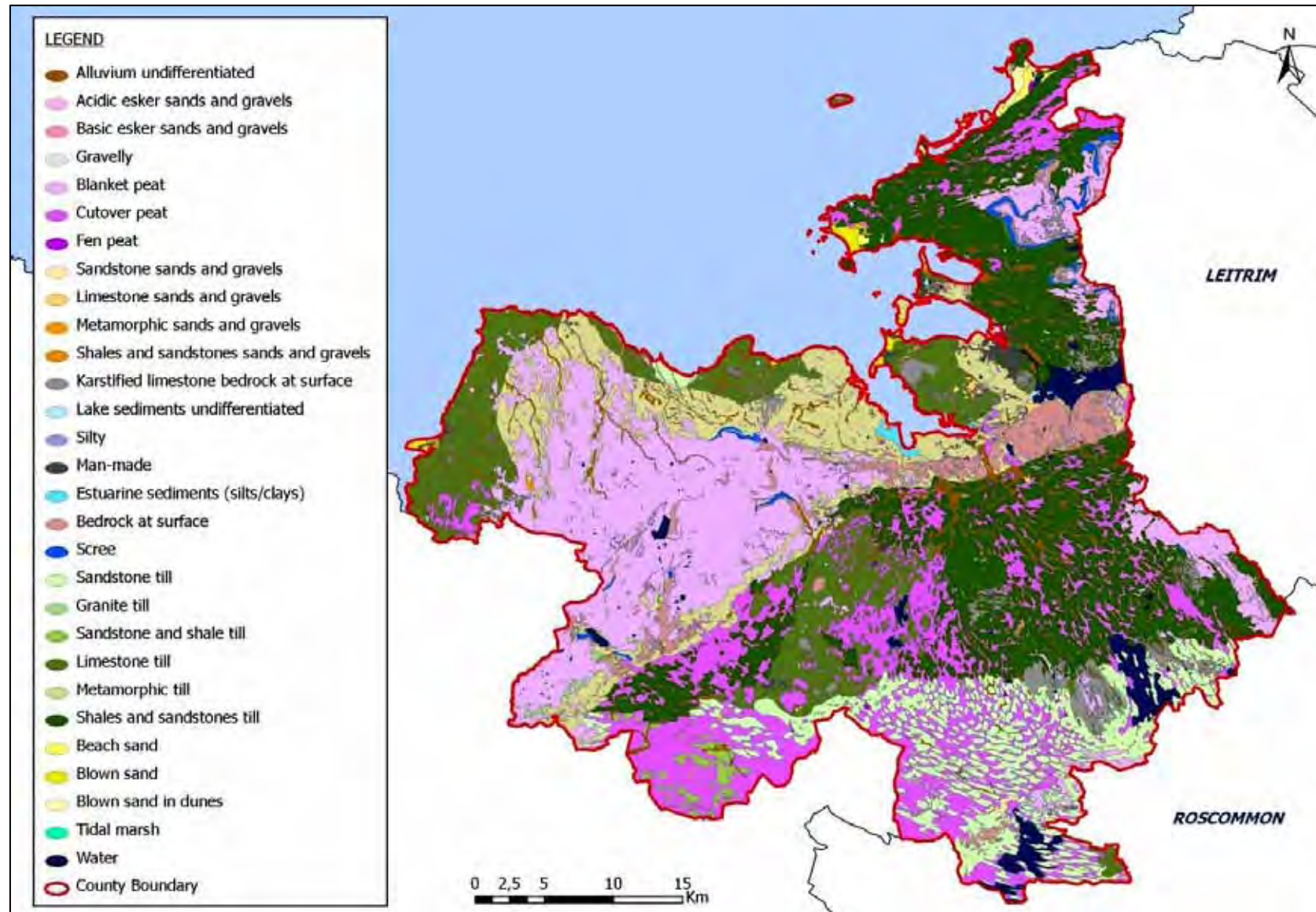


Figure 3.15 Subsoil Types

Source: Teagasc in co-operation with the Forest Service, EPA and GSI (2006)

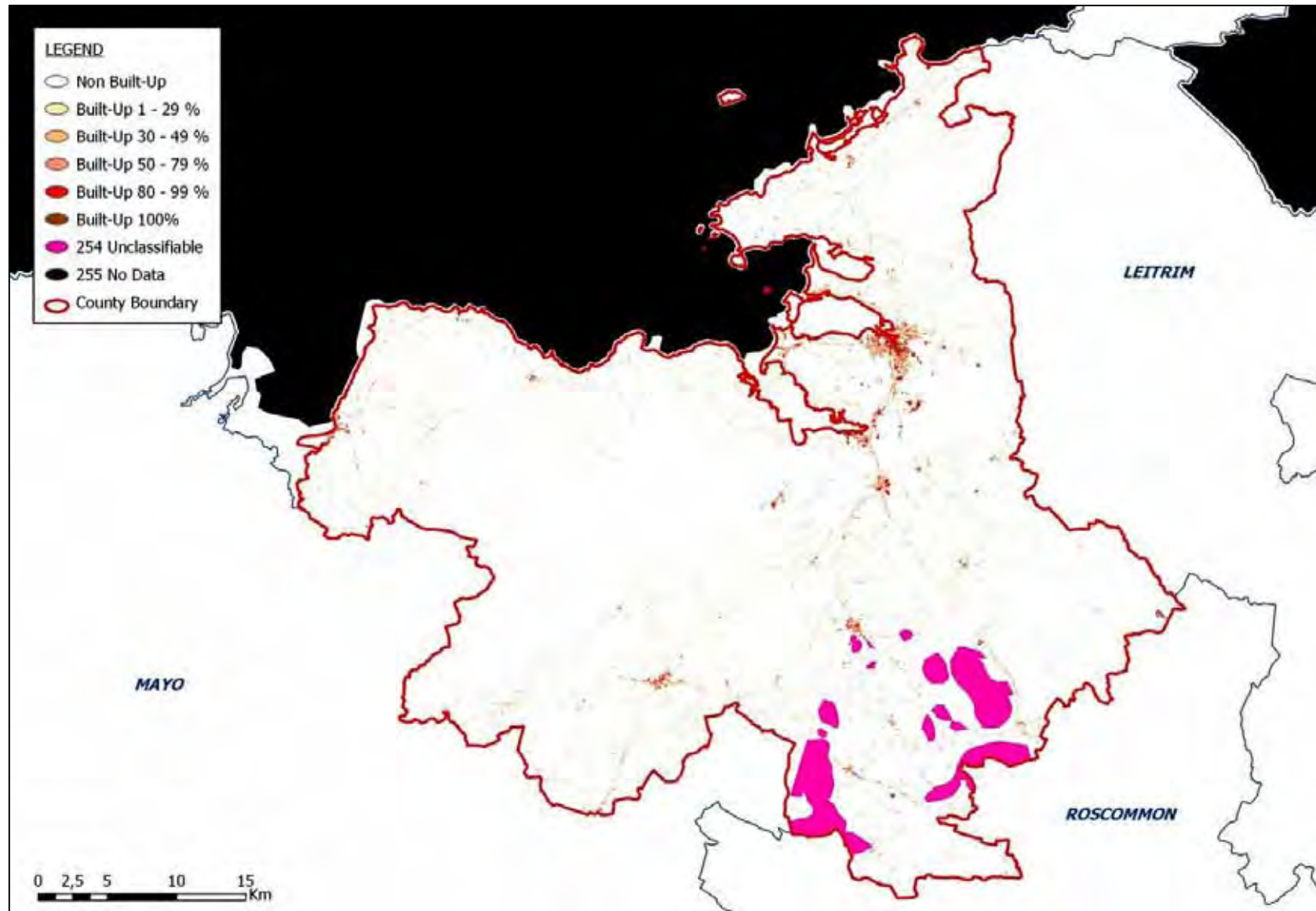


Figure 3.16 Soil Sealing

Source: EPA (2009)

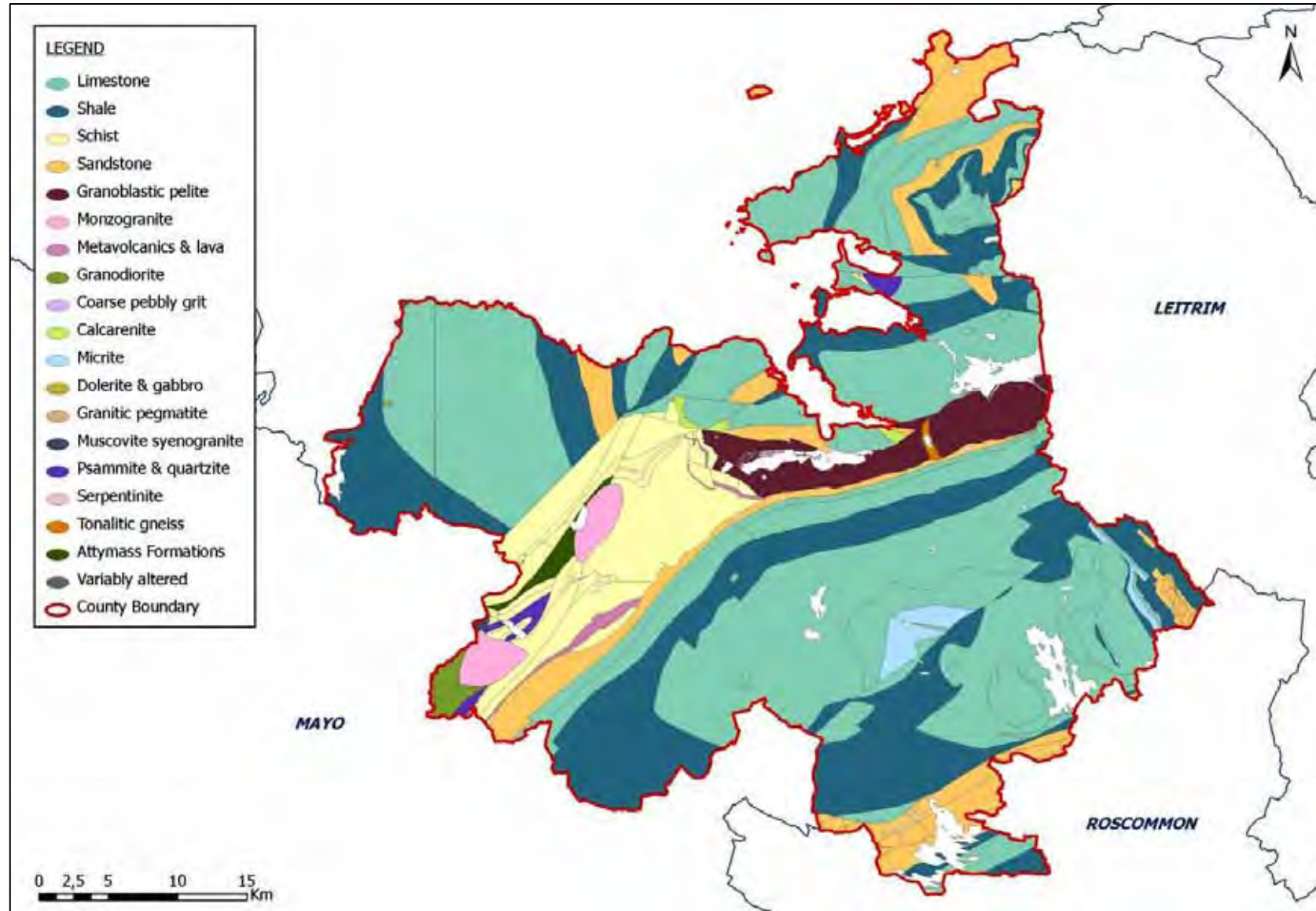


Figure 3.17 Geology

Source: GSI (2005)

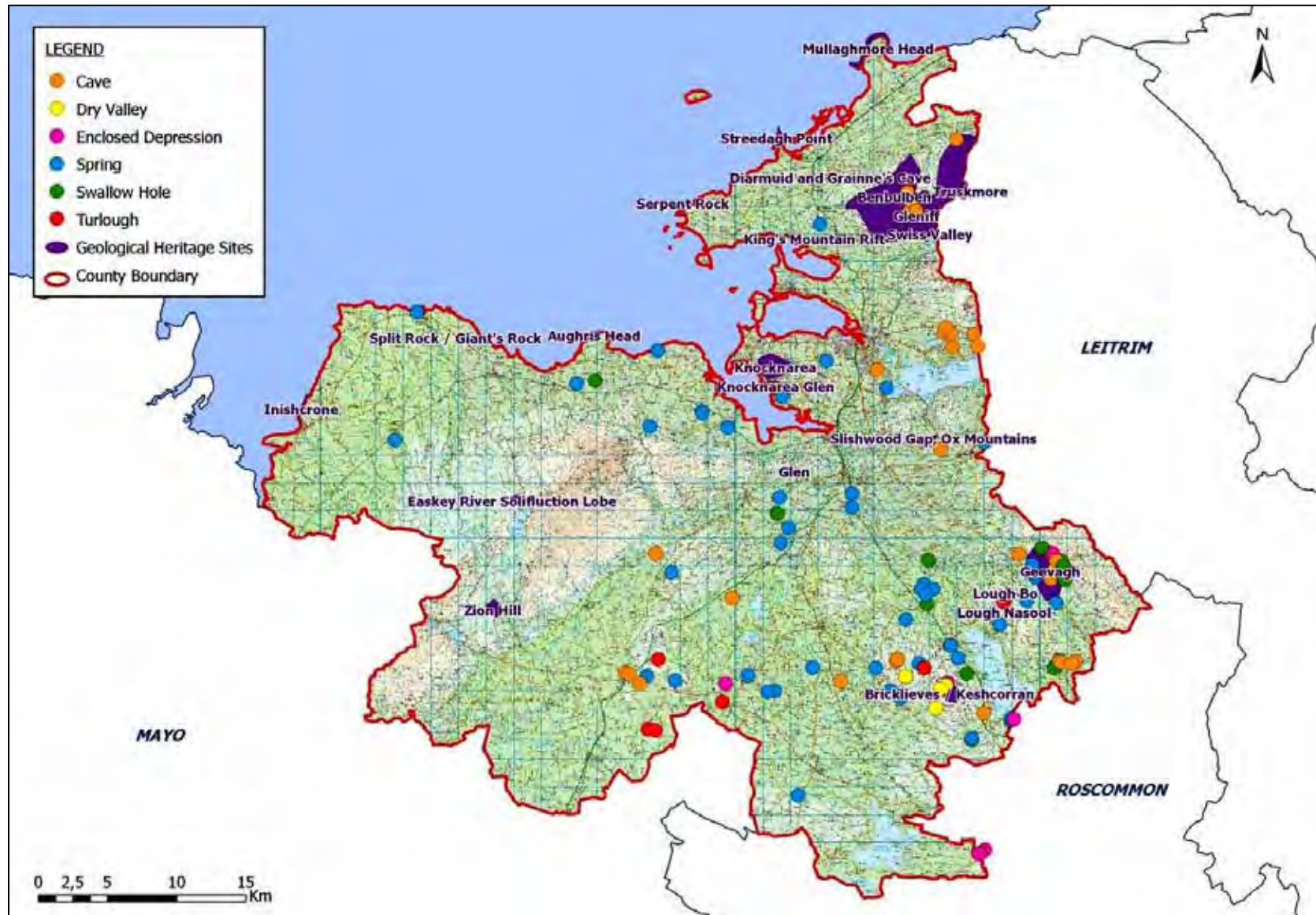


Figure 3.18 Sites of Geological Importance

Source : SCC CDP (2005-2011)

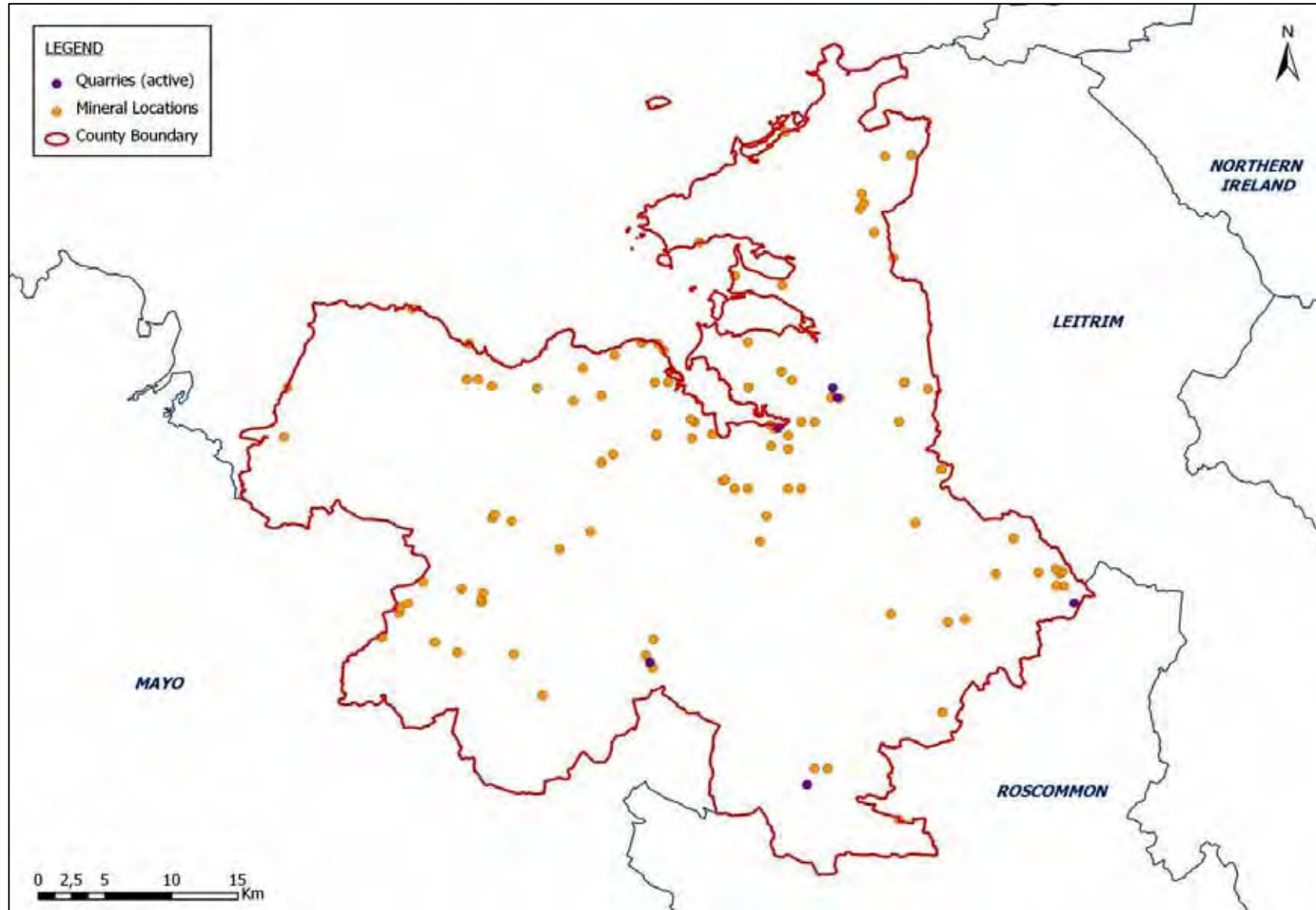


Figure 3.19 Quarries and Mineral Locations

Source: GSI (2001)

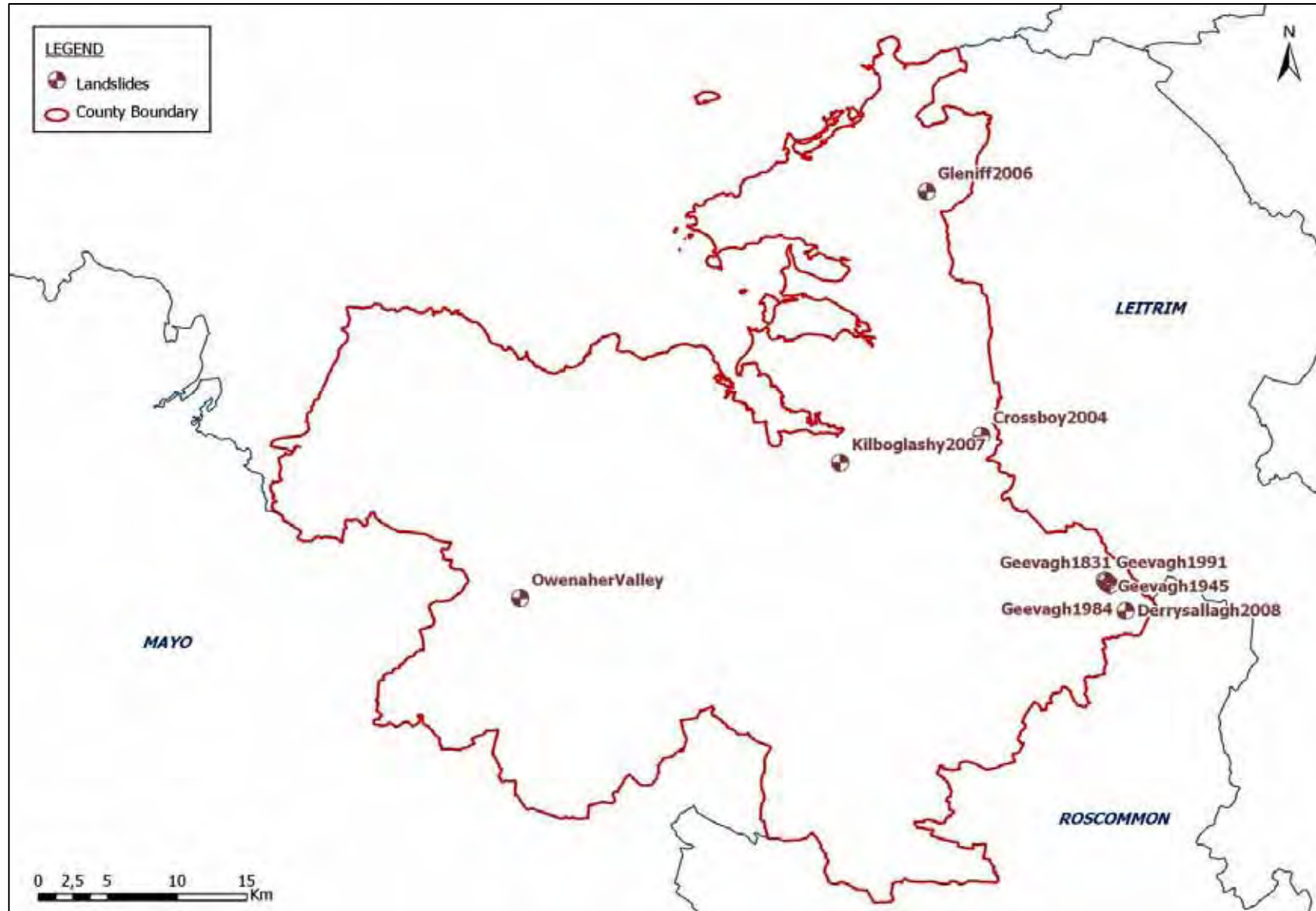


Figure 3.20 Landslides in the County

Source: GSI (2009)

3.5 Water

3.5.1 Introduction

Water within and surrounding the County has many functions: it provides drinking water to the area's population; it sustains the biodiversity and flora and fauna described under Section 3.2; it provides amenity; and, it is an integral part of the landscape.

3.5.2 Potential Pressures on Water Quality

Human activities, if not properly managed, can cause deterioration in water quality. Pressures exerted by human activities include the following:

- sewage and other effluents discharged to waters from point sources, e.g. pipes from treatment plants;
- discharges arising from diffuse or dispersed activities on land;
- abstractions from waters; and,
- structural alterations to water bodies.

A point source pressure has a recognisable and specific location at which pollution may originate. Examples of significant point source pressures include direct discharges from waste water treatment plants, licensed discharges from industrial activities, landfills, contaminated lands (e.g. disused gas works) and mines.

A diffuse source pressure unlike a point source is not restricted to an individual point or location. The source of a diffuse pressure can be quite extensive. Significant examples of diffuse pressures include runoff from forestry and agricultural lands.

Excessive abstractions from surface waters and groundwater for drinking and industrial purposes can create pressures on the ability of a water body to maintain both chemical and ecological status.

Structural alterations such as river straightening; construction of embankments, weirs, dams, port facilities and dredging can create conditions such that a water body is no longer able to

support the natural ecology which would have existed prior to such modifications. These pressures are also referred to as morphological pressures.

3.5.3 The Water Framework Directive

3.5.3.1 Introduction and Requirements

Since 2000, Water Management in the EU has been directed by the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC (WFD). The WFD requires that all Member States implement the necessary measures to prevent deterioration of the status of all waters - surface, ground, estuarine and coastal - and protect, enhance and restore all waters with the aim of achieving "good status" by 2015. All public bodies are required to coordinate their policies and operations so as to maintain the good status of water bodies which are currently unpolluted and improve polluted water bodies to good status by 2015.

3.5.3.2 River Basin Districts and Water Bodies

For the purpose of implementing the WFD, Ireland has been divided into eight river basin districts or areas of land that are drained by a large river or number of rivers and the adjacent estuarine / coastal areas. The management of water resources will be on these river basin districts.

Within each river basin district - for the purpose of assessment, reporting and management - water has been divided into groundwater, rivers, lakes, estuarine waters and coastal waters which are in turn divided into specific, clearly defined water bodies.

The majority of County Sligo falls within the Western River Basin District (RBD) with small areas at Geevagh and Monasteraden falling within the Shannon RBD. Part of the north of the County falls within the North Western RBD.

3.5.3.3 River Basin Management Plans

The Local Authorities located in the RBDs have prepared and adopted River Basin Management Plans. The Management Plans provide objectives for river basins in order to implement the requirements of the WFD to help protect and improve all waters in the RBDs.

3.5.3.4 Pollution Reduction Programmes

Pollution Reduction Programmes are carried out to improve water quality in designated Shellfish Areas and also to ensure compliance with the Quality of Shellfish Waters Regulations 2006 (S.I. No. 268 of 2006) (as amended) for the designated shellfish growing waters at designated Shellfish Areas and with Article 5 of Directive 2006/113/EC of the European parliament and of the Council on the quality required for shellfish waters.

The PRPs stem from the work undertaken in the characterisation reports carried out under the Water Framework Directive (WFD). The WFD characterisation reports provide prioritised lists of pressures/impacts/effects on water quality. The PRPs take these prioritised lists and address each issue with specific measures from the National Toolkit to help ensure that compliance with the relevant water quality standards is achieved. The National Toolkit has been derived from earlier work carried out on the River Basin Management Plans under the WFD, reflecting the common objective to improve water quality in the two Directives. An example of such a measure for waste water treatment plants would be to “impose development controls where there is, or is likely to be in the future, insufficient capacity at treatment plants”.

3.5.4 Surface Water

3.5.4.1 Introduction

Surface water in the County is made up of the various lakes and rivers in the County. The main lakes in the County include Lough Arrow and Lough Gara in the south west, Lough Easky and Lough Talt in the west and Cloonacleigha and Templehouse Loughs in the centre of the County. Rivers include the Garavogue, Moy, Owenaher, Easky, Owenboy, Unshin and Owenmore.

3.5.4.2 EPA Monitoring

Water quality within County Sligo is monitored by the EPA at a number of locations.

The most recent water quality data¹³ are mapped on Figure 3.21. The majority of Q

values¹⁴ in the County are of Good (Q4) or High (Q4-5, Q5) status.

The EPA classifies lakes according to their trophic status¹⁵. Good status as defined by the Water Framework Directive equates to mesotrophic in the trophic classification of lakes, as set out by the EPA.

Mesotrophic lakes are lakes with an intermediate level of productivity, greater than oligotrophic lakes, but less than eutrophic lakes.

The eutrophic status of lakes within the County is mapped on Figure 3.22¹⁶. All lakes in the County are classified as being oligotrophic/mesotrophic. These results meet the WFD standards.

3.5.4.3 WFD Surface Water Status

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

Chemical Status is a pass/fail assignment with a failure defined by a face-value exceedance of an Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) for one or more priority action substances (PAS) listed in Annex X of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). The EQS values for individual PAS substances are set at European level. Good surface water chemical status means that

¹⁴ The Biotic Index Values, or Q values, are assigned to rivers in accordance with biological monitoring of surface waters - low Q ratings, as low as Q1, are indicative of low biodiversity and polluted waters, and high Q ratings, as high as Q5, are indicative of high biodiversity and unpolluted waters. Good status as defined by the Water Framework Directive equates to approximately Q4 in the national scheme of biological classification of rivers as set out by the EPA.

¹⁵ Nutrient enrichment, resulting in eutrophication, is the principal pressure on lake quality in Ireland. Nutrient inputs result in plant growth in lakes whose presence is quantified by a measure of the algal pigment chlorophyll. Lake trophic status, or the extent to which a lake is nutrient enriched, is determined by a consideration of the annual maximum chlorophyll values. Trophic Status ranges from Oligotrophic/Mesotrophic to Moderately Eutrophic to Highly/Strongly Eutrophic to Hypertrophic.

¹⁶ EPA (2008) *State of lake water quality in Ireland including trends, legislation and actions required* Wexford: EPA.

¹³ EPA (various) *Water Quality in Ireland* Wexford: EPA

concentrations of pollutants in the water body do not exceed the environmental limit values specified in the Directive.

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

Generally, surface water in the County is of good status. A few areas, mainly in the uplands are of high status.

A stretch of the River Moy is unclassified with two of its tributaries classified as bad. The remaining rivers are classified as being moderate or poor status with one classified as “pass”.

Tullyvella Loughs and Lough Talt are classified as being of good status. Templehouse Lough is classified as bad and Lough Gill is classified as moderate. All remaining lakes are identified as being of good status.

Figure 3.23 maps the WFD Surface Water Status for the County.

3.5.4.4 Salmonid Rivers

Salmonid Waters are designated and protected under the European Communities (Quality of Salmonid Waters) Regulations 1998 (SI No. 293 of 1988). Salmonid Water designation imposes an obligation to maintain specific water quality standards and control pollution. Figure 3.24 maps salmonid rivers in the County. The rivers form part of the River Moy complex.

3.5.5 Ground Water

3.5.5.1 Introduction

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

3.5.5.2 EPA Groundwater Quality

The EPA national groundwater-monitoring network includes sampling at some locations that are used for the abstraction of drinking water. Groundwater is monitored at 7 locations throughout the County. These locations are mapped on Figure 3.25.

3.5.5.3 WFD Groundwater Status

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

Just over half the groundwater in the County is classified as being of Good Status. This is mapped on Figure 3.25 below. It should be noted that this dataset is in draft form, a finalised dataset is due to be released from the EPA in the coming months.

3.5.5.4 Groundwater Protection Schemes

Groundwater Protection Schemes are county-based projects that are undertaken jointly between the GSI and the respective Local Authority.

Groundwater sources, particularly public, group scheme and industrial supplies, are of critical importance in many regions. Consequently, the objective of source protection zones is to provide protection by placing tighter controls on activities within all or part of the zone of contribution (ZOC) of the source.

All groundwater in the County is required to be protected under the River Basin Management Plans.

The Groundwater Protection Scheme for County Sligo is mapped on Figure 3.26.

3.5.5.5 Aquifer Vulnerability

The Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) rates aquifers according to their vulnerability to pollution. Aquifer vulnerability refers to the ease with which pollutants of various kinds can enter underground water. Figure 3.27 shows aquifer vulnerability data for the County.

For the majority of the County, only an interim study has taken place and so the vulnerability is classified as *High to Low*. Areas around Lough Gill, particularly to the south of the lake rated as *Extreme (Karst/Surface Rock)* along with other localised areas throughout the County. Areas of *Extreme* vulnerability mainly occur along the south-east County boundary and along the coast from Corbally to Bealtra.

3.5.5.6 Aquifer Productivity

The GSI rates aquifers based on the hydrogeological characteristics and on the value of the groundwater resource. Ireland's entire land surface is divided into nine aquifer categories, seven of which occur in County Sligo. Figure 3.28 shows aquifer productivity data for the County.

The main types occurring in the County are:

- *Regionally Important Karstified Aquifers* which are found throughout the County.
- A band of *Poor Bedrock Aquifers*, which are generally unproductive, stretches across the County from Ballintoger to Aclare. This classification also occurs in the east and south-east of the County.
- The remainder of the County is made up of *Locally Important Aquifers*. These types of aquifers are capable of yielding enough water to boreholes or springs to supply domestic, commercial and industrial uses, depending on the nature and scale of the development.

3.5.6 Bathing Water

3.5.6.1 Introduction

EU Mandatory and Guide levels are set out for bathing waters in the 1976 Bathing Water Directive (Directive 76/160/EEC) as implemented in Ireland by the Quality of Bathing Water Regulations, 1992, (SI No. 155 of 1992). The purpose of the Bathing Water Regulations is the protection of human health, local authorities.

Mandatory Values are values which must be observed if the bathing area is to be deemed compliant with the Directive. Compliance with guide values exceeds compliance with mandatory values and can be regarded as a

quality objective which bathing sites should endeavour to achieve.

Bathing waters which comply with Guide and Mandatory values are deemed to be of a *good* water quality. Bathing waters which comply with Mandatory values but not with Guide values are deemed to be of a *sufficient* water quality. Bathing waters which do not comply with either Guide or Mandatory values are deemed to be of a *poor* water quality.

3.5.6.2 EPA Bathing Water Quality

The EPA monitors three bathing locations in the County, all of which are located on the coast.

The most recently published figures (EPA, 2009)¹⁷ show that:

- Water quality at Enniscrone and Mullaghmore was identified as being of a *good* water quality, complying with both Guide and Mandatory values.
- Water quality at Rosses Point was identified as being of a *sufficient* water quality, complying only with Mandatory values. The same level of compliance was achieved in 2007 whereas this location complied with Guide values from 2003-2006.

These values are mapped on Figure 3.29.

3.5.7 Coastal, Estuarine and Transitional Water

Coastal water is that area of surface water on the landward side of a line, every point of which is at a distance of one nautical mile on the seaward side from the nearest point of the baseline from which the breadth of territorial waters is measured, extending where appropriate up to the outer limit of transitional waters.

Estuarine and transitional waters are bodies of surface water in the vicinity of river mouths which are partly saline in character as a result of their proximity to coastal waters but which are substantially influenced by freshwater flows.

The Assessment of Trophic Status of Estuaries and Bays in Ireland (ATSEBI) System is used by

¹⁷ Environmental Protection Agency (2009) *Bathing Water Quality in Ireland 2008* Wexford: Environmental Protection Agency

the EPA in order to classify the quality status of transitional waters. Categories of criteria for nutrient enrichment, accelerated growth, and undesirable disturbance are used by the ATSEBI in order to classify the estuarine and coastal waters.

Waters at Sligo Bay, Ballysadare Bay, Sligo Harbour and Killala Bay are unpolluted and have remained so since 1995. The Garavogue Estuary is classified as intermediate.

Intermediate waterbodies are those which do not fall into the Eutrophic or Potentially Eutrophic classes but in which breaches one or two of the criteria occur; Unpolluted waterbodies are those which do not breach any of the criteria.

The classification of these waters are mapped on Figure 3.29.

3.5.7.1 WFD Transitional and Coastal Water Status

For the purposes of the Water Framework Directive, transitional (estuaries and lagoons) and coastal waters are included as surface waters. Information on the status of these is included in section 3.5.4.3.

Of the transitional waters in the County, inner Ballysadare Bay is of moderate status, Sligo Harbour is of good status and Drumcliff is of high status.

WFD status of all coastal waters in the County is high, apart from outer Ballysadare Bay which is classified as good.

WFD status of Transitional and Coastal Waters is mapped on Figure 3.30.

3.5.8 Register of Protected Areas

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

The WFD requires that these RPAs contain: areas from which waters are taken for public or private water supply schemes; designated shellfish production areas; bathing waters; areas

which are affected by high levels of substances most commonly found in fertilizers, animal and human wastes - these areas are considered nutrient sensitive; areas designated for the protection of habitats or species e.g. salmonid areas; Special Areas of Conservation (SACs); and, Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Waters within and surrounding the County which are listed on the RPAs are shown on Figure 3.31.

In Ireland, waters intended for human consumption are protected under the Drinking Water Regulations (S.I. 439/2000). The actual protected areas for drinking water are not outlined within these Regulations, so the protected area for drinking waters is represented by the water body from which the water is abstracted, be it groundwater, river or lake. All groundwater underlying the County is listed on the RPA for Drinking Water Groundwater.

The RPA for Water Dependent Habitats includes habitats that are dependent on water: this includes areas already listed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service as Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas. Rivers on which certain habitats are dependant are also listed on the RPA. The SPAs and SACs identified under Section 3.2.4 are listed on the RPAs for *Water Dependent Habitats (SPA)* and *Water Dependent Habitats (SAC)*.

Shellfish Production areas (as listed in the Irish Shellfish Regulations S.I.200/1994) are protected by virtue of their status as an area designated for the production of economically significant aquatic species. Areas within the County are mapped on Figure 3.31, it is noted that these areas are currently under review.

Recreational waters (bathing waters) are included in this Register, and contains all the areas listed in the Bathing Water Regulations (SI 155/1992). These lines show the length of beach that is associated with each monitoring point, as verified by the relevant Local Authorities. Rosses Point is listed on the RPA for beaches.

3.5.9 Flooding

3.5.9.1 Introduction

Flooding is an environmental phenomenon which, as well have causing economic and social impacts, could in certain circumstances pose a risk to human health. County Sligo is vulnerable

to adverse effects which are exacerbated by changes in the occurrence of severe rainfall events, high tides and associated flooding of the County's rivers. Local conditions such as low-lying lands and inadequate surface water drainage increase the risk of flooding. The risk of flooding has also been increased in the past by human actions including the clearing of vegetation to make way for agriculture, draining of bog and wetland areas and the development of settlements in the flood plains of rivers. Infrastructural development, culverting, forestry operations and all urban development in the floodplain present ongoing flooding hazards. Increased surface water runoff due to construction of new hard surfaced areas is now generally not as significant a problem as it was in the past in terms of its impact on peak flows because of the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS).

3.5.9.2 EU Floods Directive

European Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks requires Member States to carry out a preliminary assessment by 2011 in order to identify the river basins and associated coastal areas at risk of flooding. For such zones, flood risk maps are required to be drawn up by 2013. Flood risk management plans focused on prevention, protection and preparedness must be established by 2015. The OPW is currently involved in a research project to develop maps with national coverage indicating areas that might be prone to flooding from rivers and streams. Further work is underway to refine the method and outputs, which, if successful, may enable this information to be made available in the near future.

3.5.9.3 DEHLG Flood Risk Management Guidelines

In November 2009 the DEHLG published *The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities*. These are aimed at ensuring a more consistent, rigorous and systematic approach which will fully incorporate flood risk assessment and management into the planning system. Planning authorities are required to undertake flood risk identification, assessment and management processes as appropriate when preparing or varying development plans and local area plans and in consideration of applications for planning permission.

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment was undertaken for the Plan which informed the SEA and which resulted in the integration of a number of policies and objectives into the Plan, in particular some of those in Chapter 4: Environmental Quality.

3.5.9.4 OPW's National Flood Hazard Mapping

Figure 3.33 maps the locations of the most significant flooding events in the Plan area - accessible from the OPW's National Flood Hazard Mapping website. Flood events are recorded at various locations along the County's rivers.

The Benefitting Land data originates from maps prepared by the OPW to identify areas that would benefit from land drainage schemes, and typically indicate low-lying land near rivers and streams that might be expected to be prone to flooding. Benefitting lands are identified in the north of the County, near to Sligo City and Corbally. A large portion of the lands in the centre of the County have been identified as Benefitting Lands, particularly along the River Moy and the Aileen River.

Drainage District and Land Commission maps are similar to the Benefitting Land Maps, but were prepared with respect to the Land Commission Embankments and Drainage District Works that pre-dated the Arterial Drainage Schemes that commenced in 1945. Drainage Districts can be found at various locations throughout the County. The only area in the County to be identified under the Land Commission is along the coast between Ballysadare and Beltra.

Figure 3.33 identifies Drainage Districts, Benefitting Lands and Lands Commissioned. Further information on flooding in the County can be found in the accompanying Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

3.5.9.5 Future Influences of Flood Risk

Large scale changes in the County which could significantly influence flood risk and increase the magnitude and occurrence of flooding in the future may include:

- Climate changes resulting in increased river flows and rising sea levels;
- Large scale land use changes such as increased afforestation and associated

- clear-cutting, changes in agricultural land use and drainage of upland wetlands;
- Urban development increasing the speed and volume of run-off; and
- Changes to geomorphological processes such as sediment transport, siltation and erosion.

3.5.10 Existing Problems

The above descriptions identify a number of sensitivities with regard to the status of water bodies within County Sligo. There are environmental problems in Sligo with regard to water quality which have the potential for significant adverse impact upon human health, drinking water supplies, biodiversity and flora and fauna.

Water quality data identifies multiple points on rivers throughout County Sligo as being of Moderate, Poor or Bad Status.

Flooding has occurred at various locations within the County.

3.5.11 Evolution of Water in the absence of the Plan

Based on the status data, certain surface and ground water bodies are at a status less than good, which is the standard required by 2015.

If growth is not accompanied by appropriate waste water infrastructure/capacity then it is likely that:

- Certain river and ground water bodies would fail to meet the objectives of the WFD by 2015; and,
- Significant adverse impacts upon the biodiversity and flora and fauna of the County could potentially arise.



Figure 3.21 Q-Values (Biotic Index Ratings) at Points on Rivers

Source: EPA (Various)

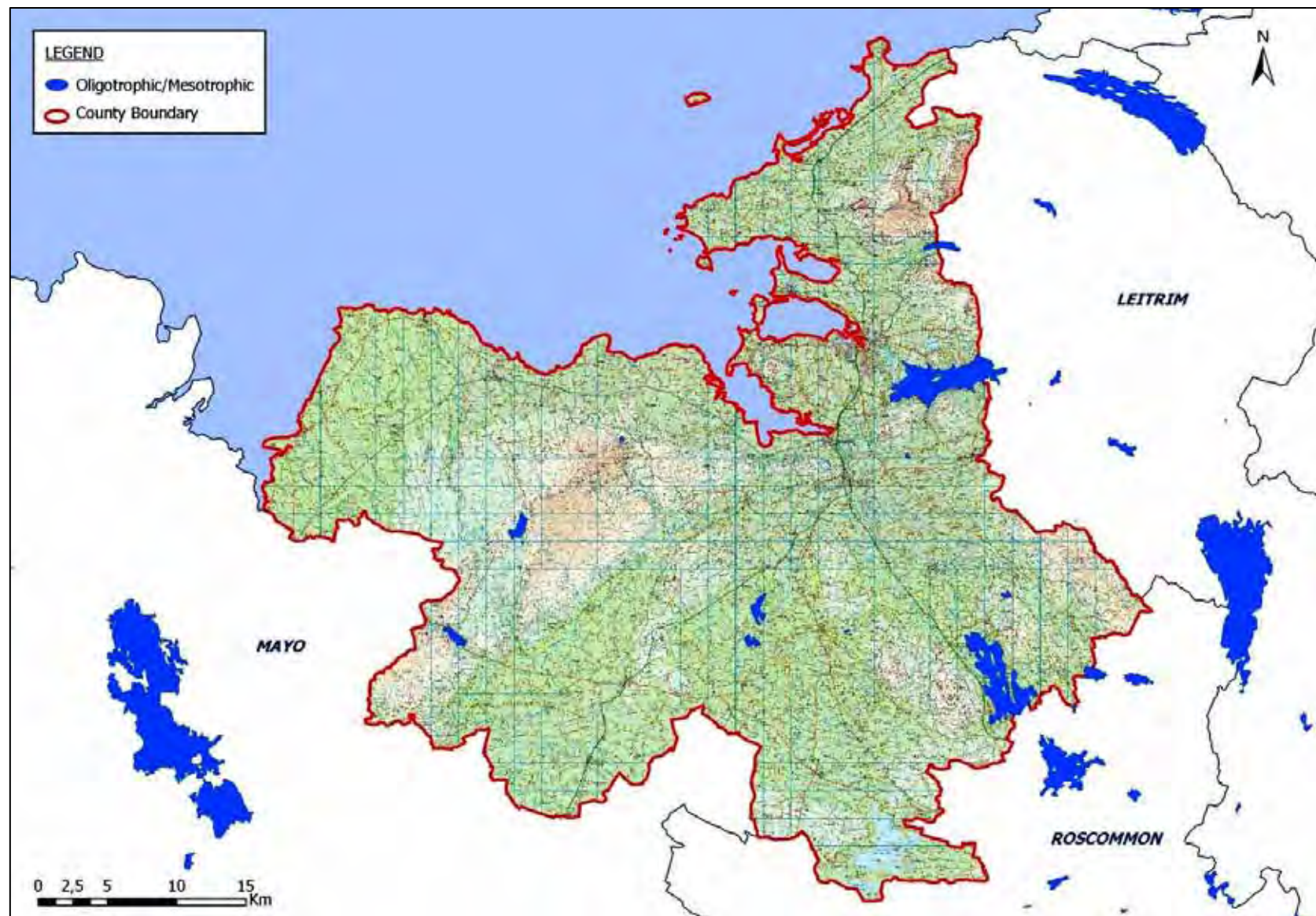


Figure 3.22 Lake Water Quality in the County

Source: EPA (2008)

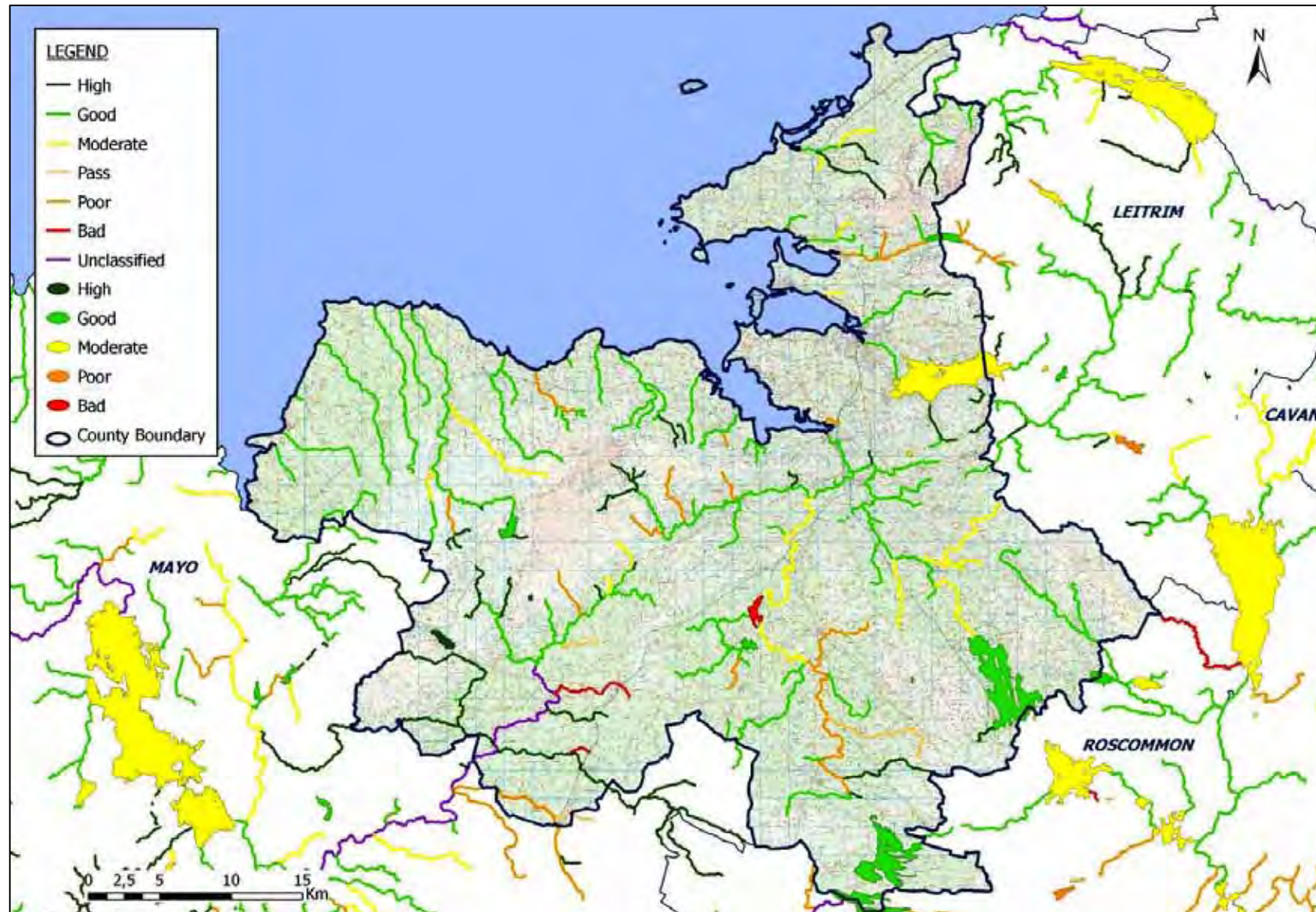


Figure 3.23 WFD Status of Surface Waters in the County

Source: EPA (2010)



Figure 3.24 Salmonid Rivers

Source: EPA (2009)

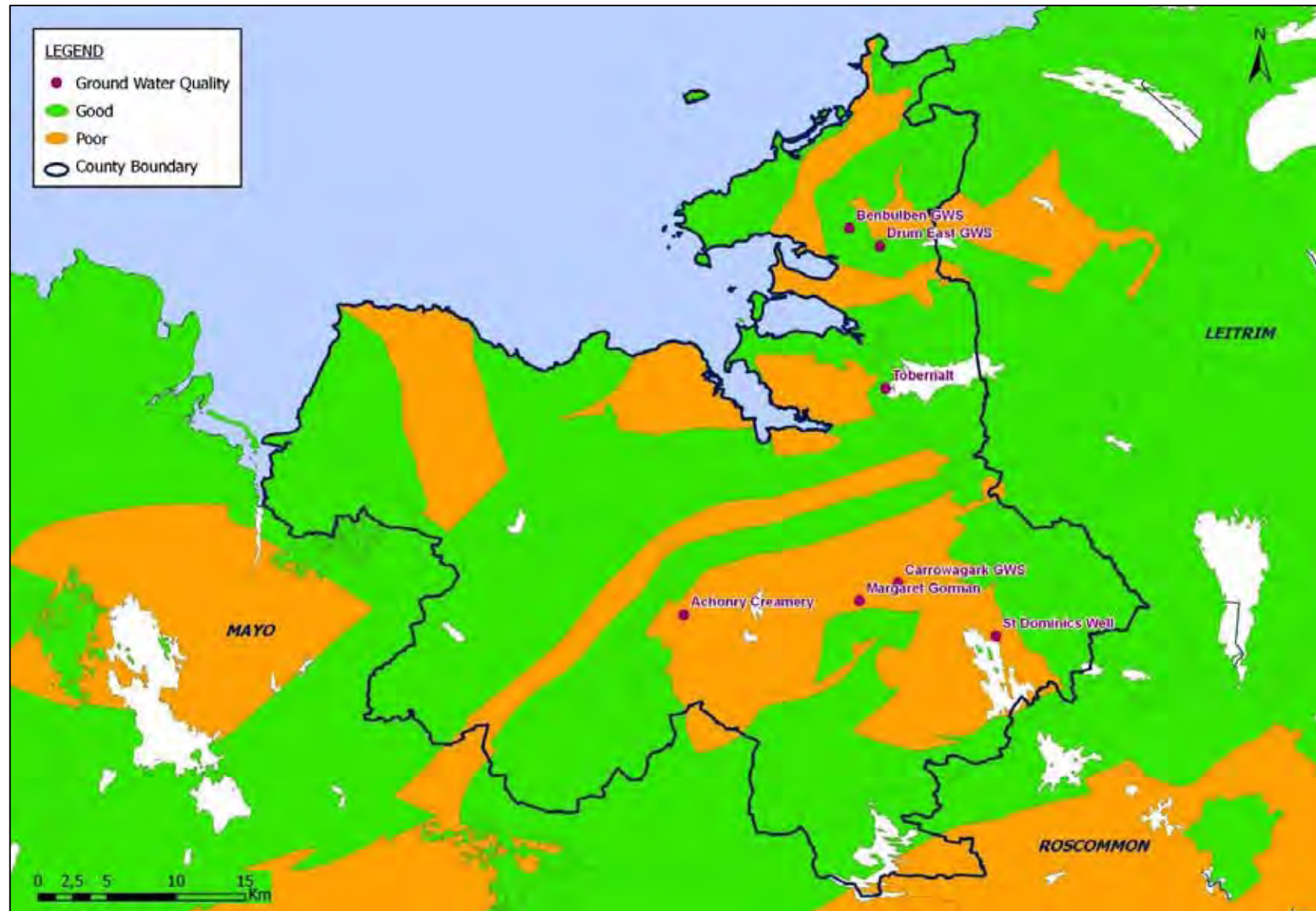
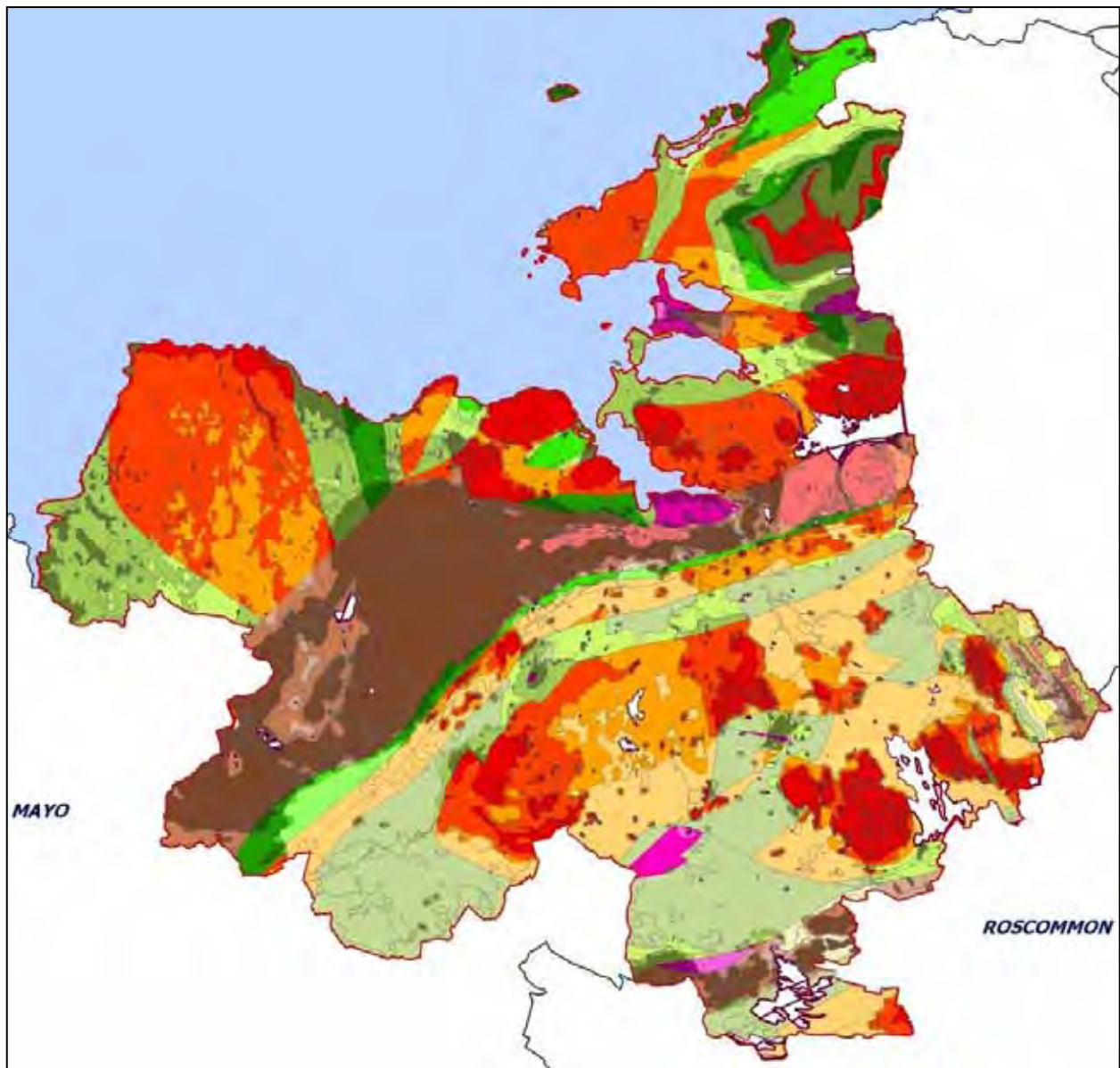


Figure 3.25 Groundwater Quality and WFD Status of Groundwater

Source: EPA (2009), EPA (2010)



LEGEND

- | | |
|---|---|
| Locally Important Bedrock Aquifers-Moderately Product. in Local Zones / High | PI Poor Bedrock Aquifers-Generally Unproductive except Local Zones / Extreme |
| Locally Important Karstified Bedrock Aquifer / Extreme | PI Poor Bedrock Aquifers-Generally Unproductive except Local Zones / High |
| Locally Important Karstified Bedrock Aquifer / High | PI Poor Bedrock Aquifers-Generally Unproductive except Local Zones / Moderate |
| Locally Important Karstified Bedrock Aquifer / Low | PI Poor Bedrock Aquifers-Generally Unproductive except Local Zones / Low |
| Locally Important Karstified Bedrock Aquifer / Moderate | Poor Bedrock Aquifers-Generally Unproductive / Extreme |
| Locally Important Sand/Gravel Aquifers / Extreme | Poor Bedrock Aquifers-Generally Unproductive / High |
| Locally Important Sand/Gravel Aquifers / High | Poor Bedrock Aquifers-Generally Unproductive / Moderate |
| Locally Important Sand/Gravel Aquifers / Moderate | Poor Bedrock Aquifers-Generally Unproductive / Low |
| Locally Important Sand/Gravel Aquifers / Low | Regionally Important Karstified Aquifers / Extreme |
| Locally Important Bedrock Aquifers-Generally Moderately Productive / Extreme | Regionally Important Karstified Aquifers / High |
| Locally Important Bedrock Aquifers-Generally Moderately Productive / High | Regionally Important Karstified Aquifers / Moderate |
| Locally Important Bedrock Aquifers-Generally Moderately Productive / Moderate | Regionally Important Karstified Aquifers / Low |
| Locally Important Bedrock Aquifers-Generally Moderately Productive / Low | Lake |
| | County Boundary |

Figure 3.26 Groundwater Protection Scheme
Source: Sligo County Council (2010)

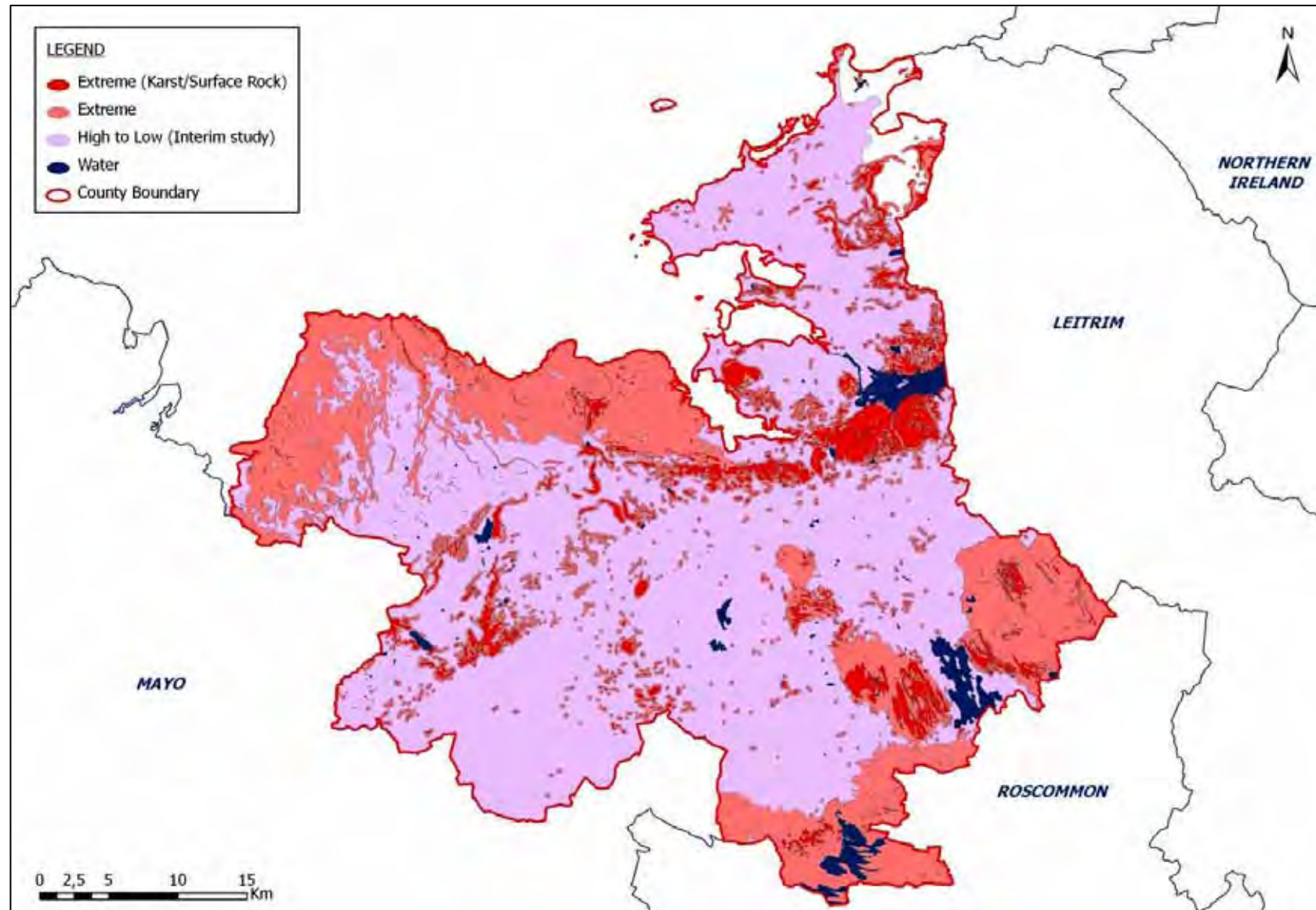


Figure 3.27 Aquifer Vulnerability

Source: GSI (2006)

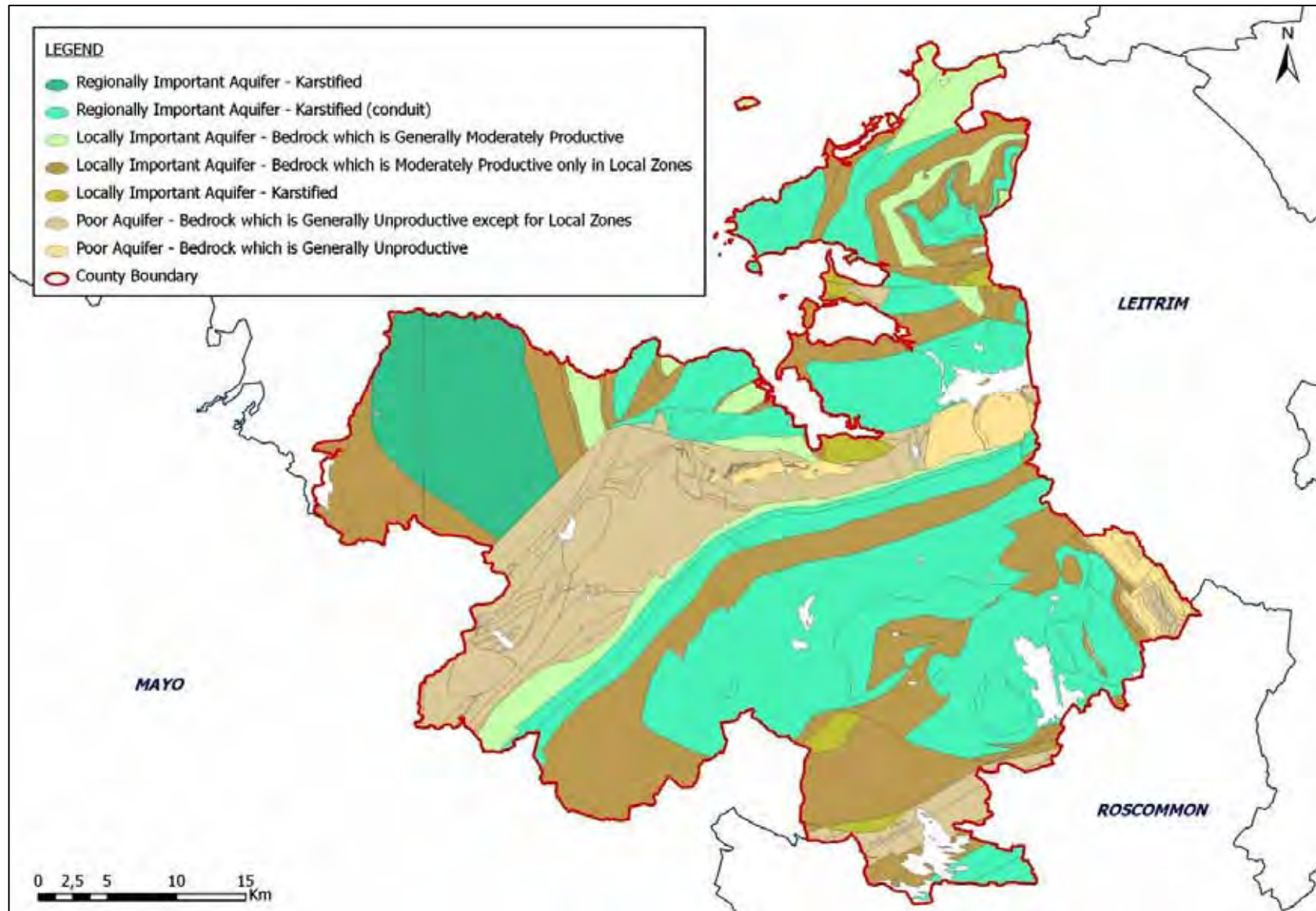


Figure 3.28 Aquifer Productivity

Source: GSI (2005)

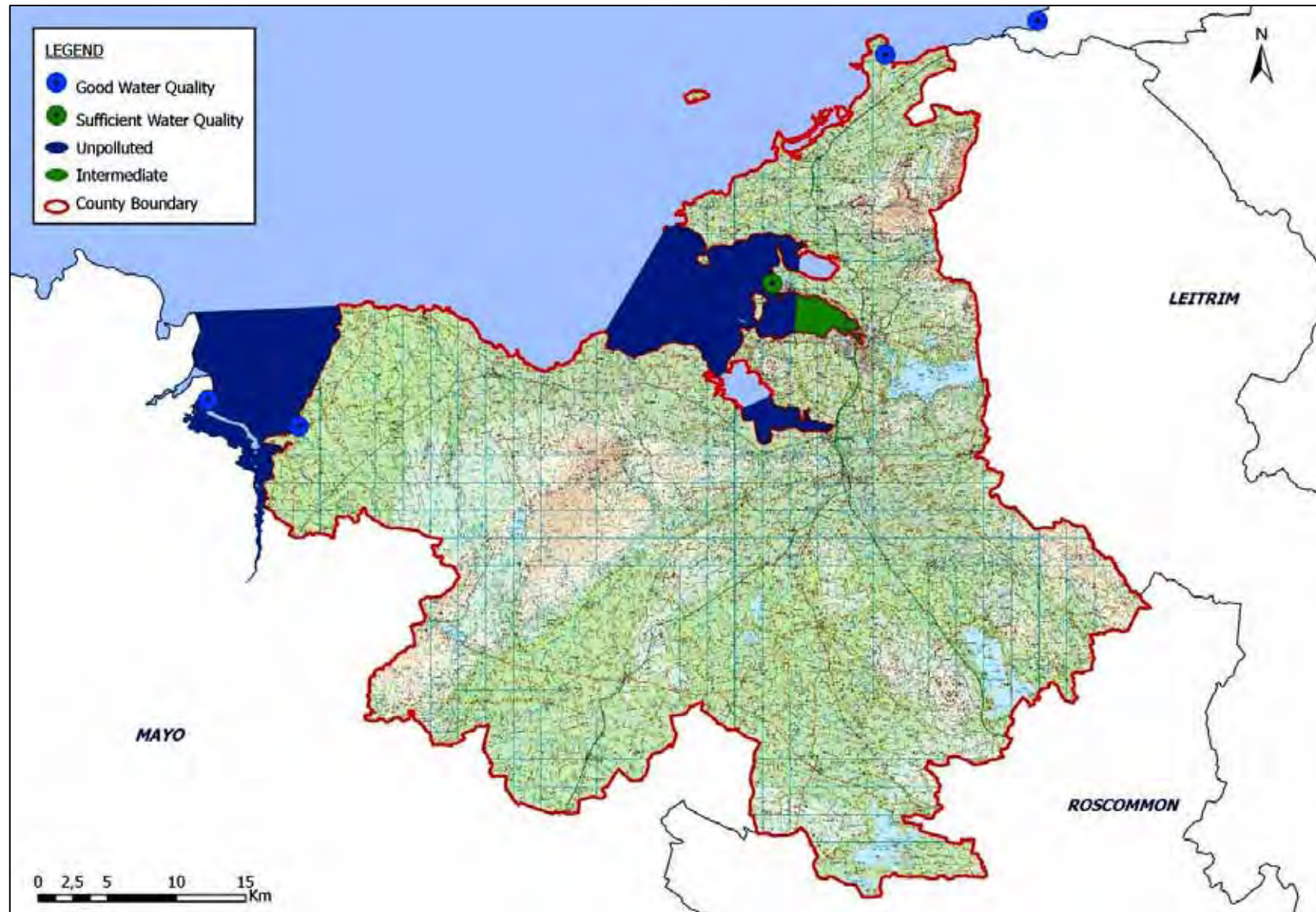


Figure 3.29 Bathing, Coastal and Estuarine Water Quality

Source: EPA (2008), EPA (2005)

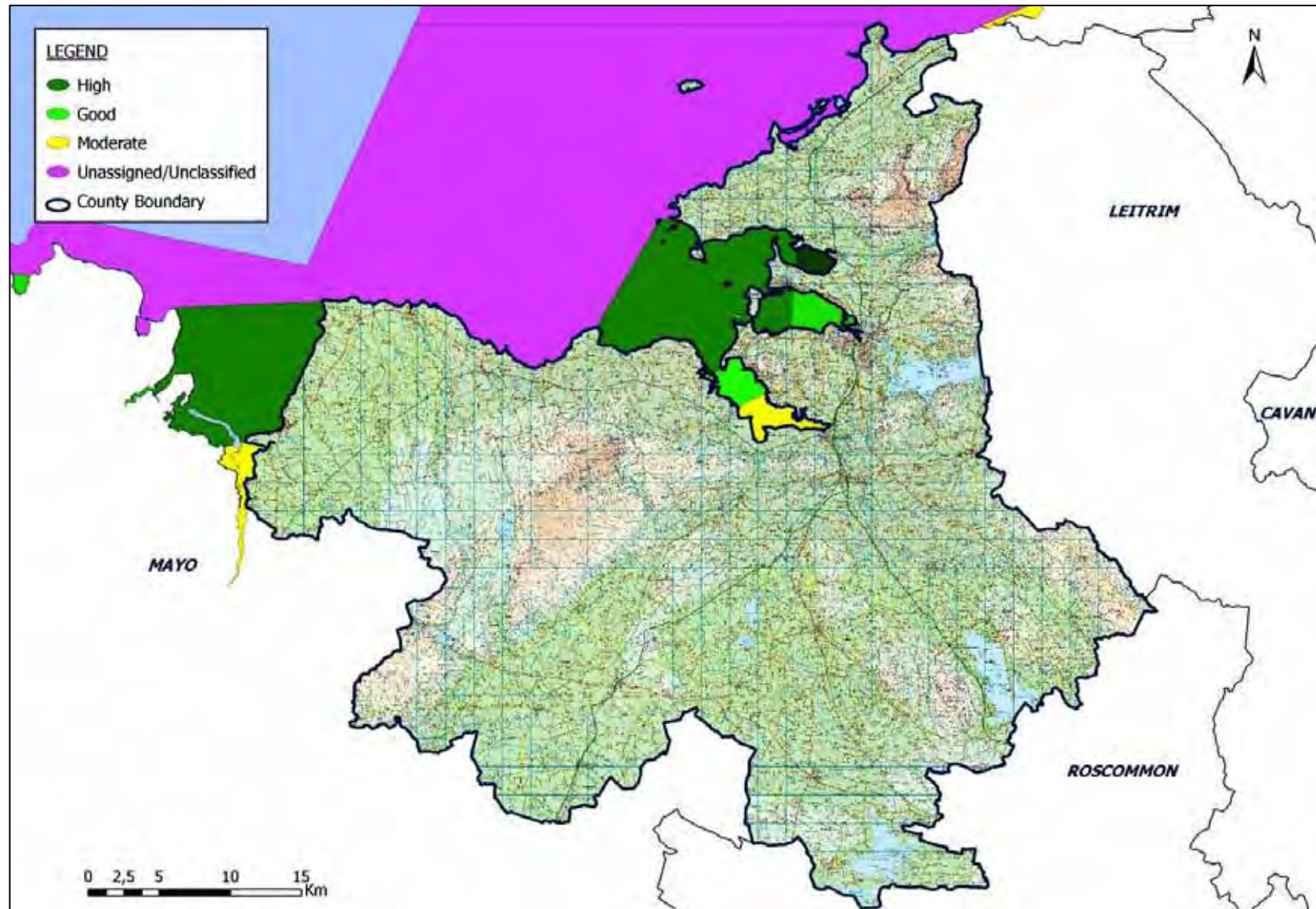


Figure 3.30 WFD Status of Transitional and Coastal Waters

Source: EPA (2008), EPA (2005)

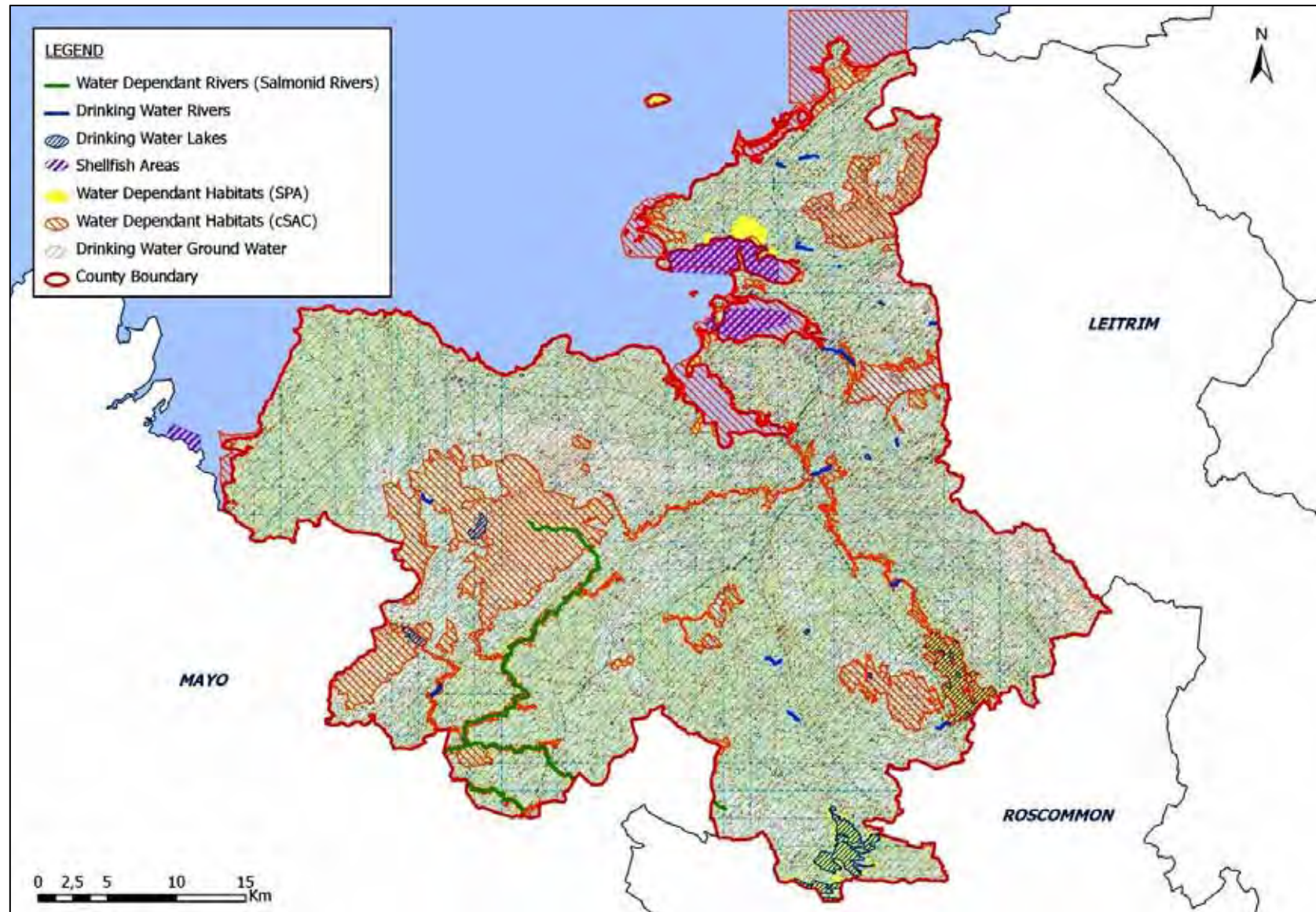


Figure 3.31 WFD Register of Protected Areas

Source: EPA (2009)

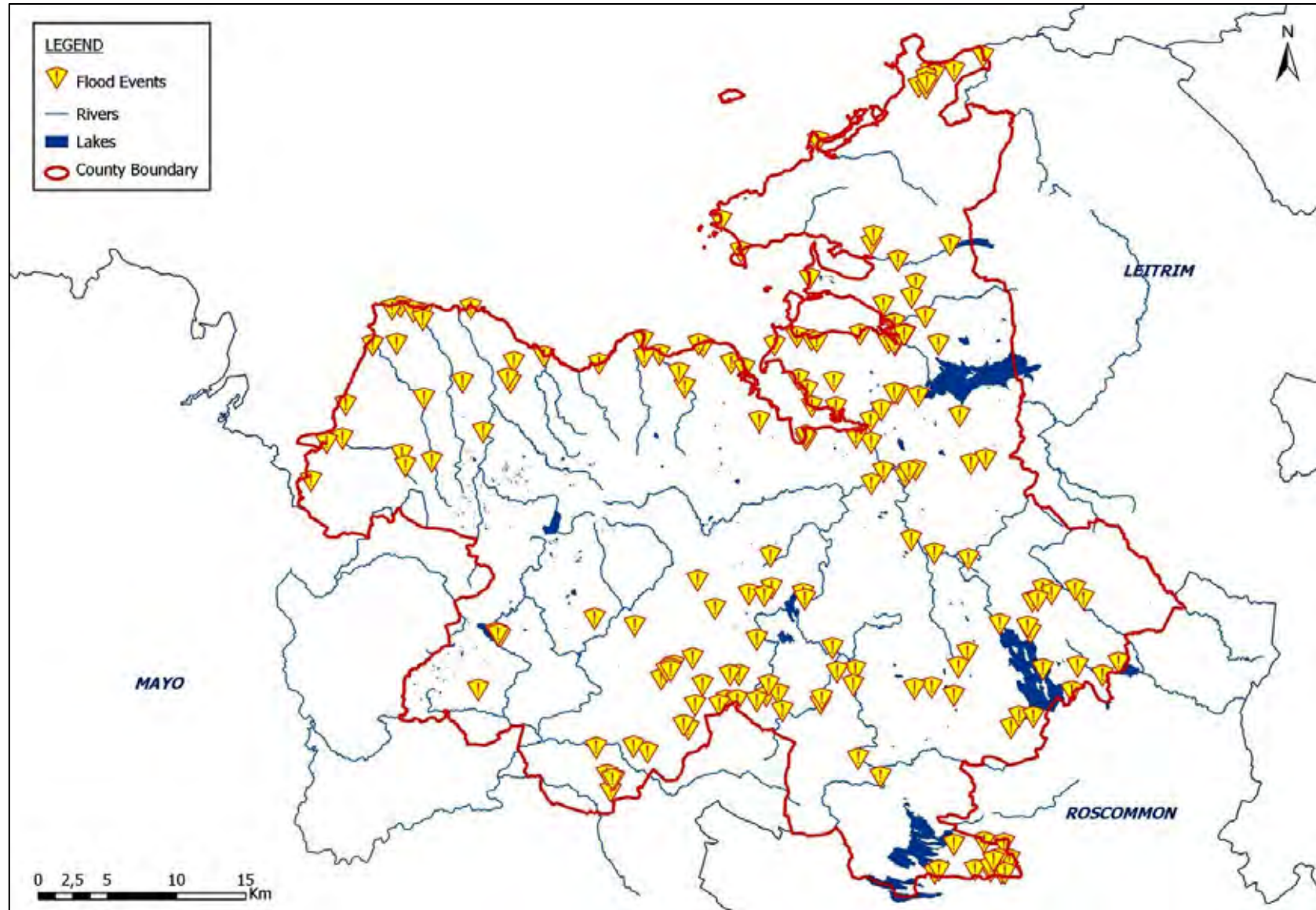


Figure 3.32 Rivers, Lakes and Flood Events in the County

Source: OPW (Various)

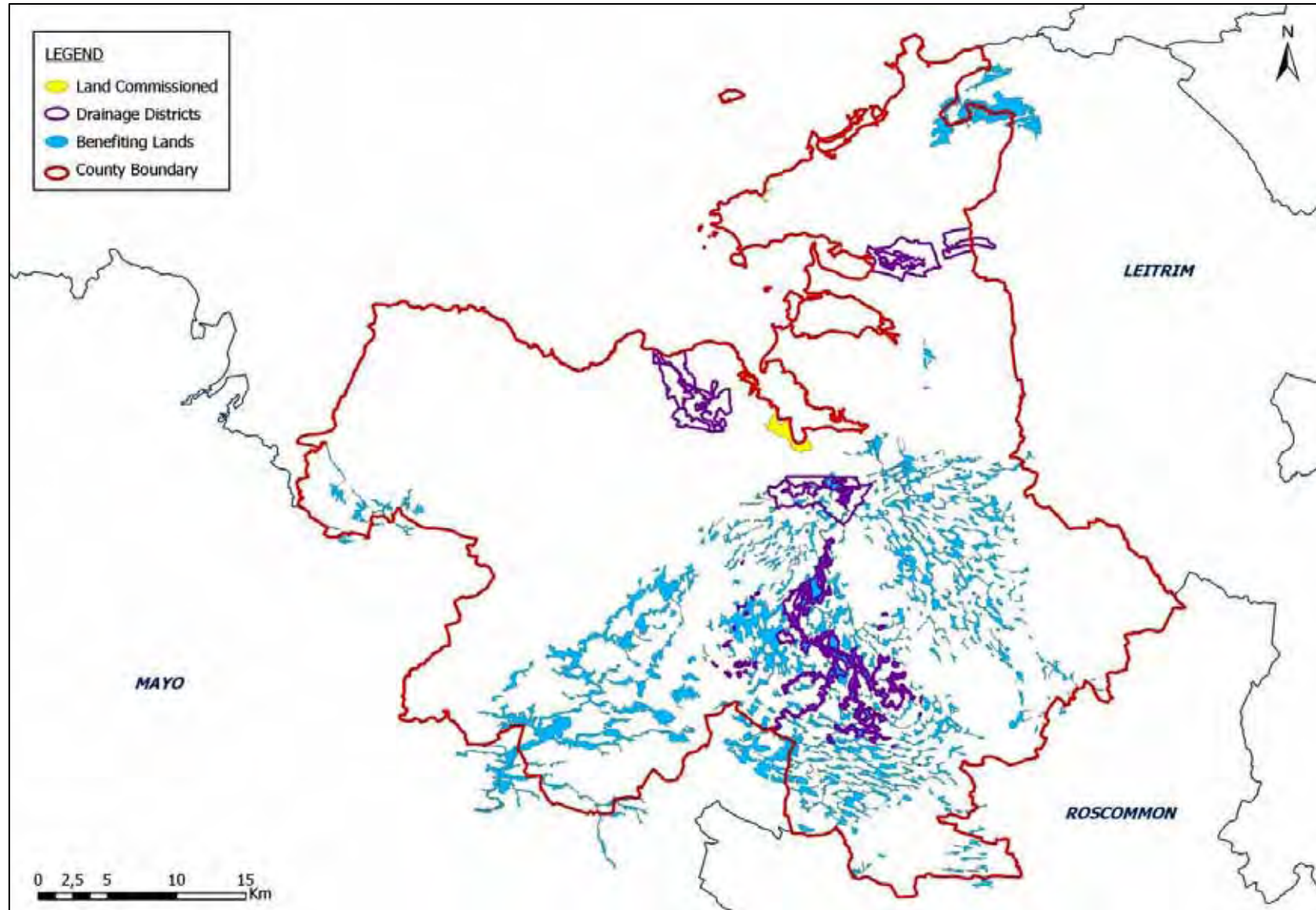


Figure 3.33 Commissioned Lands, Drainage Districts and Benefiting Lands

Source: OPW (Various)

3.6 Material Assets

3.6.1 Waste Water

3.6.1.1 Relevant Legislation

The treatment of wastewater is governed by the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) (amended by Directive 98/15/EEC) transposed into Irish law by the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2001 (SI 254 of 2001). The Directive aims to protect the environment from the adverse effects of the wastewater discharges by ensuring that wastewater is appropriately treated before it is discharged to the environment. The Regulations stipulate that sewage treatment facilities are in place in all towns by 2005. The treatment of wastewater is also relevant to the Water Framework Directive which requires all public bodies, including Sligo County Council, to coordinate their policies and operations so as to maintain the good status of water bodies which are currently unpolluted and bring polluted water bodies up to good status by 2015 (see Section 3.5 *Water*).

3.6.1.2 Current Capacity and Demand and Future Upgrades

Relevant available information on waste water infrastructure capacity and demand has been collated for each of the designated settlements within the County and is provided in this section.

Table 3.3 shows available information on waste water treatment capacity and demand at waste water treatment plants in the tiered settlements of the County. The table shows that the Gateway City of Sligo has a spare capacity of 19,800PE (Population Equivalent)¹⁸ while the Key Support Towns of Ballymore and Enniscrone have spare capacities of 447PE and 1,205PE respectively. Tubbercurry, the final Key Support Town is operating over capacity along with all Principal Satellite Villages except Ballisodare. Ballymote and Tobbercurry and the four Principal Satellite Villages which are operating over-capacity are listed for upgrades on the

DEHLGs Water Services Investment Programme (WSIP) 2010-2012.

Of the eight Secondary Satellite Villages included in the Plan, half of them have no waste water treatment plant. Of the remaining Villages, three of them have extra capacity but Ballintogher is operating over capacity although a new 500PE plant is proposed to be constructed in 2011-2012. Waste water from the Ballincar area, is to be connected to the Sligo Main Drainage Waste Water Treatment Plant.

The Plan identifies 19 Villages Sustaining Rural Communities. The plants at Ballinacarrow, Bunnanadden, Castlebaldwin, Clifffony, Easky and Mullaghmore are operating at or over capacity. Three of these plants have planned upgrades. Easky, which is operating at capacity and Castlebaldwin, which is operating over capacity by 10PE have no upgrades planned. Waste water from Bellaghy is treated in Charlestown, County Mayo. There are no waste water treatment plants in Banada or Tourlestrane.

Spare capacity at a waste water treatment plant indicates that plant is likely to be in conformance with the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive at present. Plants operating over capacity suggest that they are unlikely to be in conformance with the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive.

However, it is noted that there are many upgrades planned throughout the County. Once complete, these upgrades will help to ensure that waste water is treated to an appropriate standard and assist in meeting the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.

¹⁸ Population equivalent (in waste-water monitoring and treatment) refers to the amount of oxygen-demanding substances whose oxygen consumption during biodegradation equals the average oxygen demand of the waste water produced by one person. PE figures include waste waters from industrial sources, hotels, etc as well as domestic output.

Table 3.3 Waste Water Treatment Capacity and Demand and Future Upgrades a each of the Settlements in the County

Settlement	Estimated Capacity [PE] ¹⁹	Estimated Current Loading [PE]	Current Spare Capacity or Shortfall [PE] ²⁰	Upgrade ²¹	PE following upgrade
Gateway City					
Sligo	50000	30195	19805	No future upgrade identified	N/a
Key Support Towns					
Ballymote	3000	2553	447	Listed under "Schemes at Planning Stage 2010 – 2012" in DEHLGs Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2012.	Capacity of the proposed upgrade of the Ballymote WWTW will only be determined following the completion of a preliminary report
Enniscrone	5000	3795	1205	No future upgrade identified	N/a
Tubbercurry	1400	2283	-883	Listed under "Contracts to Start" in DEHLGs Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2012.	5000
Principal Satellite Villages					
Ballisodare	4500	1766	2734	No future upgrade identified	N/a
Collooney	1400	1930	-530	Listed under "Schemes at Planning Stage" in DEHLGs Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2012.	5000
Grange	280	844	-564	Listed under "Contracts to Start" in DEHLGs Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2012.	2500
Rosses Point	1500	2185	-685	Listed under "Contracts to Start" in DEHLGs Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2012.	Will discharge to the Sligo & Environs Sewerage network for treatment at Sligo Main Drainage WWTW
Strandhill	1500	1833	-333	Listed under "Contracts to Start" in DEHLGs Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2012.	4500

¹⁹ Population Equivalent²⁰ Shortfall indicates potential conflicts with the Water Framework Directive²¹ 0= No future upgrade identified;1= Need is identified in the Council's 2009 *Needs Assessment* Report and the Council is awaiting issue of the new 2010 DEHLG Water Services Investment Programme;

2= Upgrade is set for Tender Stage and the Council is awaiting issue of the new 2010 DEHLG Water Services Investment Programme;

3= In the planning process

Settlement	Estimated Capacity [PE] ²²	Estimated Current Loading [PE]	Current Spare Capacity or Shortfall [PE] ²³	Upgrade	PE following upgrade
Secondary Satellite Villages					
Ballincar ²⁴	0	2993	-2993	Listed under "Contracts to Start" in DEHLGs Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2012.	Will be connected to the Sligo Main Drainage Waste Water Treatment Plant
Ballintogher	200	300	-100	New 500PE plant proposed to be constructed in 2011-2012	500
Ballygawley ²⁴	0	335	-335	Submitted to DEHLG for inclusion on the WSIP 2010-2012 but was not included. This programme will be reviewed on a yearly basis.	N/a
Carney	2500	654	1846	No future upgrade identified	N/a
Coolaney-Rockfield	2500	1503	997	No future upgrade identified	N/a
Rockfield	250	152	98		
Drumcliff	150	95	55	No future upgrade identified	N/a
Ransboro ²⁴	0	Unknown	Unknown	No public scheme currently programmed	N/a
Rathcormack ²⁴	0	Unknown	Unknown	No public scheme currently programmed	N/a
Villages Sustaining Rural Communities					
Aclare	750	259	491	No future upgrade identified	N/a
Ballinacarrow	250	286	-36	Listed under "Contracts to Start" in DEHLGs Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2012	1000
Ballinafad	150	133	17	Submitted to DEHLG for inclusion on the WSIP 2010-2012 but was not included. This programme will be reviewed on a yearly basis.	N/a
Banada ²⁴	0	Unknown	Unknown	No public scheme currently programmed	N/a
Bellaghy ²⁵	n/a	n/a	n/a	MCC planning upgrade	Unknown
Bunnanadden	80	188	-108	New 350PE plant to be constructed in 2010-2011	350
Castlebaldwin	100	110	-10	No future upgrade identified	N/a

²² Population Equivalent²³ Shortfall indicates potential conflicts with the Water Framework Directive²⁴ No waste water treatment plant in operation for this settlement²⁵ Waste water from Bellaghy is treated in Charlestown in County Mayo by Mayo County Council.

Settlement	Estimated Capacity [PE ²⁶]	Estimated Current Loading [PE]	Current Spare Capacity or Shortfall [PE] ²⁷	Upgrade	PE following upgrade
Cliffony	450	703	-253	Listed under "Contracts to Start" in DEHLGs Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2012	1 st Phase: 1100, 2 nd Phase: 1750
Cloonacool	750	172	578	No future upgrade identified	N/a
Culfadda	150	110	40	No future upgrade identified	N/a
Curry	400	194	206	No future upgrade identified	N/a
Dromore West	2500	1192	1308	No future upgrade identified	N/a
Easkey	450	450	0	No future upgrade identified	N/a
Geevagh	250	221	29	No future upgrade identified	N/a
Gorteen	2500	1023	1477	No future upgrade identified	N/a
Monasteraden	400	110	290	No future upgrade identified	N/a
Mullaghmore	320	974	-654	Submitted to DEHLG for inclusion on the WSIP 2010-2012 but was not included. This programme will be reviewed on a yearly basis.	N/a
Riverstown	600	357	243	No future upgrade identified	N/a
Tourlestrane ²⁴	0	Unknown	Unknown	No public scheme currently programmed	N/a

²⁶ Population Equivalent

²⁷ Shortfall indicates potential conflicts with the Water Framework Directive

3.6.2 Drinking Water

3.6.2.1 Drinking Water Quality²⁸

Drinking water must be clean and wholesome. That means it must meet the relevant water quality standards and must not contain any other substance or micro-organism in concentrations or numbers that constitute a potential danger to human health.

Compliance with the drinking water requirements is determined by comparing the results of analyses submitted by water suppliers to the standard for 48 parameters specified in the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations (No. 2), 2007. To ensure that these standards are met, each water supply must be monitored on a regular basis.

Under Section 58 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 the EPA is required to collect and verify monitoring results for all water supplies in Ireland covered by the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations, 2000. The EPA publishes their results in annual reports which include Remedial Action Lists (RALs). The RAL identifies water supplies which are not in compliance with the Regulations mentioned above.

There are currently six public water supplies in Sligo on the Remedial Action List (RAL71) of public water supplies.

The Killaraght Public Water Supply and the South Sligo Regional Water Supply are listed for having elevated levels of THMs above the standard in the Drinking Water Regulations. THM compounds are undesirable in drinking water for two reasons. Firstly, the actual compounds themselves may pose a hazard to the health of the consumer if present in excessive amounts, as chloroform is a suspected carcinogen. Secondly, the presence of the THM group may be an indicator of the possible presence of other organic by-products of chlorination in trace amounts. The WHO advises that "In controlling trihalomethanes, a multistep treatment system should be used to reduce organic trihalomethane precursors, and primary consideration should be given to ensuring that disinfection is never compromised".

²⁸ Text in this section is sourced from EPA (2009) *The Provision and Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland: A Report for the Years 2007-2008*, Wexford: EPA

The Lough Easkey Regional Water Supply is on the RAL for excessive levels of aluminium in the treated water. Kilsellagh and Lough Talt Regional Water Supply are listed for inadequate treatment for *Cryptosporidium*. *Cryptosporidium* is a protozoal parasite that causes a diarrhoeal illness in humans known as cryptosporidiosis. Both humans and animals serve as potential reservoirs and there are multiple routes of transmission. The consumption of contaminated water is regarded as being an important transmission route.

The North Sligo Regional Water Supply is listed for failing to meet *E.coli*/Enterococci standard as reported in the EPA's Drinking Water Report and needs investigation and improvement if necessary to ensure that the root cause of the problem has been rectified.

Sligo County Council carried out 6,523 individual tests on drinking water during 2007. The overall rate of compliance in Co. Sligo, 96.9%, was slightly below the national average but did rise from 96.5% in 2006. There were 2 incidents of *E. coli*²⁹ contamination in the Kilsellagh (Direct) and Kilsellagh (Farancardy) supply zones due to the detection of a single *E. coli* organism.

Full compliance with 24 of the 26 chemical parametric values was achieved in Sligo during 2007. There was one marginal fluoride exceedance in public water supplies during 2007 as well as a number of exceedances of the trihalomethanes (THM)³⁰ standard. All 3 trihalomethane exceedances were in the Kilsellagh supply. This supply originates from a raw water source with high colour and has no treatment other than disinfection. There were no chemical exceedances in the 9 private group water schemes monitored in Sligo during 2007.

Compliance with the indicator parametric values was less than that of the microbiological and chemical parametric values. The level of compliance in public water supplies with the

²⁹ The *E. coli* bacteria is present in very high numbers in human or animal faeces and is rarely found in the absence of faecal pollution. As such, its presence in drinking water is a good indication that either the source of the water has become contaminated or that the treatment process at the water treatment plant is not operating adequately.

iron³¹ (84%) and turbidity³² (85%) parametric values was low. Elevated levels of turbidity were recorded in 4 of the 7 supplies monitored indicating that these supplies are operating under risk of *Cryptosporidium*³³ being present in the drinking water if present in the raw water.

The EPA received 11 notifications of the failure to meet the parametric value from Sligo County Council in the period March 2007 to September 2008. The notifications were due to failures to meet the *E. coli* (1), coliform bacteria (4), *Cryptosporidium* (1), aluminium (3), colour (1) and iron (2) parametric values.

During this period 5 boil water notices were put in place in the following supplies; Calry (December 2007), Kilsellagh (August 2008), North Sligo (July 2007), Rosses Point (August 2008) and South Sligo (July 2008). Arising from these notifications one Direction was issued by the EPA to Sligo County Council which required the preparation of action programme.

3.6.2.2 Status of Water Supply in Sligo

Relevant available information on drinking water infrastructure supply and demand was collated for each of the designated settlements within the County and is provided in this section. It is noted that this information is imperfect but is the best available at this time. Water abstraction points, treatment works and supply networks are mapped on Figure 3.35.

Table 3.4 shows available information on water supply and demand at water treatment plants in the County.

The Sligo & Environs Water Supply Scheme incorporates Carns Hill Water Treatment Works (WTW), Foxes Den WTW & Kilsellagh WTW. Capacity at these plants stands at 5,450m³/day, 11,000m³/day and 4,500m³/day giving a total of 20,950m³/day. Drinking water demand for these three plants stands at 19,500m³/day leaving a shortfall of 1,450m³/day.

Carns Hill, which sources its water from ground water and Lough Gill, also serves the Principal Satellite Villages of Ballysadare, Colloney and Strandhill and the Secondary Satellite Villages of Ballintogher, Ballygawley and Ransboro. The recently upgraded Kilsellagh WTW supplies water to the Principal Satellite Village of Rosses Point and the Secondary Satellite Village of Ballincar.

The plant at Foxes Den may undergo an upgrade from 11,000m³/day to 16,500m³/day depending on future growth in Sligo City.

Water treatment works at Lough Easky, Lough Talt, South Sligo and Riverstown are operating at or below capacity.

The types of treatments drinking water is subject to include clarification, microstraining, ozonization and dissolved air flotation.

³¹ Iron is an abundant metal found in the Earth's crust. It is naturally present in water but can also be present in drinking water from the use of iron coagulants or the corrosion of steel and cast iron pipes during water distribution. Iron is an essential element in human nutrition. The WHO (WHO, 2004) states that values of up to 2 mg/l (10 times the parametric value) do not present a hazard to health. However, at levels less than 2 mg/l but above the parametric value, the colour of water may turn brown, become turbid or may deposit solids on clothes washed in the water or food cooked using water.

³² The control of turbidity is one of the indicators of the efficiency of treatment at the plant. Elevated levels of turbidity in the treated water indicate that the treatment process is not operating adequately. It also provides a good indication of whether the treatment plant is capable of removing *Cryptosporidium* oocysts.

Table 3.4 Drinking Water Supply and Demand for settlements in the County

Scheme	Serving Settlements:	Estimated 2010 population	Current Supply Capacity (m ³ /day-approx.)	Current Demand (m ³ /day-approx.)	Current Spare Capacity or Shortfall m ³ /day ³⁴	Planned Upgrades	Predicted future capacity at the end of the Plan's lifespan	Additional Growth during plan period	Total additional growth during plan period	Predicted additional demand for settlements (m ³ /day-approx.) ³⁵
Carns Hill Water Supply Scheme ³⁶	Ballintogher ³⁷ (GWS)	227	5,450	19,500	1,450	No upgrade proposed at present.	N/a	53	1336	240
	Ballygawley ³⁷ (GWS)	240						10		
	Ballysadare ³⁸ (Lough Gill)	1311						189		
	Collooney ³⁸ (Lough Gill)	1419						81		
	Ransboro ³⁷ (Lough Gill)	97						23		
	Strandhill ³⁸ (Lough Gill)	1320						380		
	Sligo City ³⁹	19,200						600		
Foxes Den Water Supply Scheme ³⁶	Sligo City ⁴⁰	19,200	11,000	See above ³⁶	See above ³⁶	Sligo & Environs WSS Phase 3 works – Upgrade design capacity from 11,000 to 16,500m ³ /day is dependent on future growth in the Sligo & Environs area	Possibly upgrade of Foxes den to 16,500, if required, this is not listed on the WSIP 2010-2012 but this programme will be reviewed on a yearly basis. It is envisaged that once the Stage 3 Phase 1 - water conservation rehabilitation contract is completed in Sligo Town that this will provide spare capacity.	600	600	108

³⁴ Based on highest demand³⁵ The estimated predicted additional demand (m³/day-approx.) is only for the settlements and does not include for any rural development which may occur within the Public Water Supply zones. A figure of 180litres/per person/per day has been used to calculate the predicted additional demand. This is arrived at as follows: the National Water Study – County Sligo Report uses 150L/person/day the following per capita consumption figures for Co. Sligo. Assuming two persons per household and household losses within a range of 12-60 L/connection/day (say 60L/connection per day).³⁶ The Sligo & Environs Water Supply Scheme incorporates Carns Hill WTW, Foxes Den WTW & Kilsellagh WTW.³⁷ Secondary Satellite Villages³⁸ Principal Satellite Villages³⁹ 2010 population for Sligo City is estimated at 19,200 and is served by 3 water schemes. It is estimated that the population of this area will increase by 2000 during the plan period and this 2000 has been divided between the 3 schemes as shown in column 4.⁴⁰ Gateway City

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Kilsellagh Water Supply Scheme ³⁶	Ballincar ³⁷ Rosses Point ³⁸ Sligo City	235 816 19,200	4,500	See above ³⁶	See above ³⁶	Dam upgrade works complete at Kilsellagh and new Water Treatment Works at Kilsellagh will be operational in May 2010.	N/a	45 134 800	979	176
Lough Easky Regional Scheme ⁴¹	Dromore West ⁴² Easkey ⁴² Enniscrone ⁴³	200 310 930	4,450	3,000-3,200	1,250	Strategic review of the existing Lough Easky scheme & minor upgrade work to be completed pending departmental approval. Not included in WSIP 2010-2012 for upgrade	Same as current	75 90 270	435	78
Lough Talt Regional Scheme ⁴⁴	Aclare ⁴² Ballinacarrow ⁴² Ballymote ⁴³ Banada ⁴² Bunnanaddan ⁴² Coolaney ³⁷ Curry ⁴² Tobercurry ⁴³ Tourlestraun ⁴²	101 132 1320 42 112 862 108 1400 68	8,500-10,000	8,500-10,000	0	Construction of a new Water Treatment Works, storage reservoirs & intake works.	Proposed new WTW with a capacity of 12,500m ³ /d. currently at Part 8 planning stage. It is envisage that once the Stage 3 Phase 2 - water conservation rehabilitation contract is completed that this will provide spare capacity.	79 68 380 18 58 38 42 400 32	1115	201
North Sligo Regional Scheme ⁴⁵	Carney ³⁷ Cliffoney ⁴² Grange ³⁸ Mullaghmore ⁴²	306 447 493 136	2,250	2,450-2,650	400	Strategic review of the existing North Sligo scheme & minor upgrade work to be completed pending departmental approval.	Not included in WSIP 2010-2012 for upgrade. This programme will be reviewed on a yearly basis. It is envisage that once the Stage 3 - water conservation rehabilitation contracts that this will provide spare capacity.	94 53 107 44	298	54
South Sligo Regional Scheme ⁴⁶	Gorteen ⁴² Monasteraden ⁴²	409 61	1,000	900-1,000	0	Strategic review of water supply to South Sligo Area.	It is envisage that once the Stage 3 - water conservation rehabilitation contracts that this will provide spare capacity.	91 9	100	18
Riverstown Regional Scheme	Riverstown ⁴²	317	500	300-500	0	Minor upgrade work to be completed as part of the small scheme programme.	Unknown	133	133	24

⁴¹ Submitted but not included on the DEHLGs WSIP 2010-2012. This upgrade will only be required if demand on the plant increases but at present, there is sufficient spare capacity.

⁴² Villages Sustaining Rural Communities

⁴³ Key Support Towns

⁴⁴ Currently progressing the planning stage of a new WTW at Lough Talt with a design capacity of 12,500m³/day. Ballymote WTW would only be put into operation in an emergency situation within the Lough Talt Water supply area. (capacity of 1000m³/day)

⁴⁵ Submitted on the 2009 needs assessment for inclusion to review this WTW for upgrade. Awaiting the new WSIP 2010-2012 publication.

⁴⁶ Water currently being supplied for Roscommon County Council

3.6.3 Waste

There are no landfills currently in use in Sligo. The refuse service is privatised and as such, the decision as to where waste arising in the County is sent is up to the individual Waste Collection Company. At present, refuse goes to Cavan, Mayo, Galway and to the landfill at Ballaghderreen Co. Roscommon.

3.6.4 Vehicular Circulation

The County is served by the Dublin/Sligo railway line. Mayor roadways in the County include the N4, N15, N17 and N59. Road networks in the County are mapped on Figure 3.36.

A number of bus services are also in operation with Bus Eireann providing Expressway Services, Local/Rural/Commuter and City/Town Services in the County.

3.6.5 Existing Problems relating to Material Assets

The Councils' ability to meet their commitments under the Water Framework Directive (see Section 3.5.3) could be compromised due to the shortfall in waste water treatment capacity. Eighteen of the County's thirty-six waste water treatment plants are operating at or over capacity.

The EPA publication *Urban Waste Water Discharges in Ireland for Population Equivalents Greater than 500 Persons - A Report for the Years 2006 and 2007* (EPA, 2009) identifies the Tubbercurry River as one of thirteen seriously Polluted Rivers Impacted by Municipal Waste Water at the end of the Reporting Period 2006/2007.

Certain parts of the County are not within the catchment of the waste water treatment network and consequently development in these areas use septic tanks to treat waste water arising. This has the potential to be a problem for other environmental components where the systems are not properly maintained.

The EPA identified⁴⁷ six public water supplies on their remedial action list.

All but one of the water supply schemes are overstretched.

The Western River Basin Management Plan has identified "Unsewered Areas" as one of the main reasons for poor water quality in areas including Ballygawley Village and Ballymote.

Measures have been integrated into the draft Plan which contribute towards solving the problems above relating to waste water treatment and water supply - these measures are identified in Sections 9.4.7 and 9.4.8.

3.6.6 Evolution of Material Assets in the absence of the Plan

In the absence of a Development Plan, there would be no framework to provide the infrastructure which is necessary across Sligo to serve existing and proposed development such as waste water treatment plants and networks, water supply infrastructure, transport infrastructure and powerlines etc.

Failure to provide sufficient infrastructure for development would be likely to result in significant adverse impacts. For example, failure to upgrade and provide new waste water infrastructure would be likely to adversely impact upon water quality and indirectly significantly adversely impact upon biodiversity and flora and fauna, drinking water supplies and human health.

⁴⁷ EPA (2007) *The Provision and Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland: A Report for the*

Years 2006-2007 Wexford: Environmental Protection Agency



Figure 3.34 Waste Water Treatment Plants, Section 4 Licenses and Sewer Network

Source: SCC (Various)

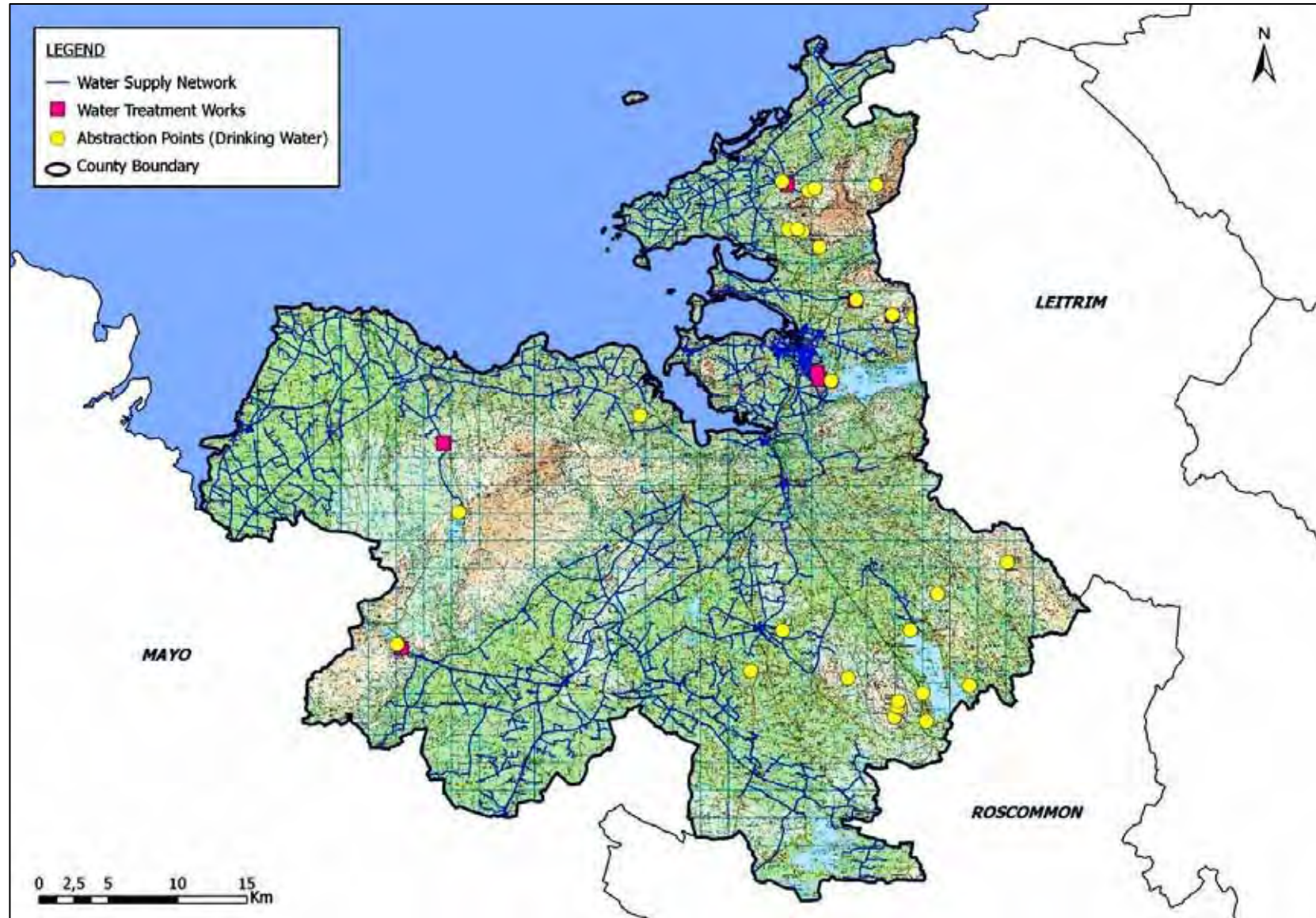


Figure 3.35 Water Abstraction Points, Treatment Works and Supply Network throughout the County

Source: SCC (Various)



Figure 3.36 Primary, Secondary, Regional and Local Roads in the County

Source: SCC (Various)

3.7 Air and Climatic Factors

3.7.1 Ambient Air Quality

3.7.1.1 Introduction and Legislation

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

The principles to this European approach are set out under the Air Quality Framework Directive 1996 as transposed into Irish law under the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 (Ambient Air Quality Assessment and Management) Regulations 1999 (SI No. 33 of 1999).

Four daughter Directives lay down limits or thresholds for specific pollutants. The first two of these directives cover: sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter and lead; and, carbon monoxide and benzene. Two more daughter directives deal with: ozone; and polyaromatic hydrocarbons, arsenic, nickel, cadmium and mercury in ambient air.

In order to comply with these directives, the EPA measures the levels of a number of atmospheric pollutants. For the purposes of monitoring in Ireland, four zones are defined in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2002 (SI No. 271 of 2002). The main areas defined in each zone are:

- Zone A: Dublin Conurbation.
- Zone B: Cork Conurbation.
- Zone C: 21 Other cities and large towns comprising Galway, Limerick, Waterford, Clonmel, Kilkenny, Sligo, Drogheda, Wexford, Athlone, Ennis, Bray, Naas, Carlow, Tralee and Dundalk.
- Zone D: Rural Ireland, i.e. the remainder of the State - small towns and rural areas of the country - excluding Zones A, B and C.

The Plan area comprises of Zones C and D. These zones are mapped on Figure 3.37, along with the location of the only air quality monitoring point in the County.

The Sligo site was located in the car park in front of the Regional Hospital overlooking the Town. Monitoring was done by a mobile unit containing continuous monitors for sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide and benzene. Continuous samples were also taken for particulates (PM10) and lead. Hourly averages were produced for the gases while the particulate and lead samples were taken away for laboratory analysis every three weeks. Results were collected from 21/01/2003 to 02/10/2003. The air quality measurements made at this site were used in the assessment of Zone C monitoring needs.

3.7.2 Potential Point Sources of Emissions to Air

3.7.2.1 IPPC Licensed Facilities

The EPA has been licensing certain large-scale industrial and agriculture activities since 1994. Originally the licensing system was known as Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) licensing, governed by the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992. The Act was amended in 2003 by the Protection of the Environment Act, 2003 which gave effect to the Integrated Pollution Prevention Control (IPPC) Directive. Detailed procedures concerning the IPPC licensing process are set out in the EPA Acts 1992 to 2007 and the associated licensing regulations.

IPPC licences aim to prevent or reduce emissions to air, water and land, reduce waste and use energy/resources efficiently. An IPPC license is a single integrated license which covers all emissions from the facility and its environmental management. All related operations that the license holder carries in connection with the activity are controlled by this license. Before a license is granted, the EPA must be satisfied that emissions from the activity do not cause a significant adverse environmental impact.

There are seven IPPC licensed facilities distributed throughout the County. These are mapped on Figure 3.39 and detailed in the following table.

3.7.2.2 Coal Restriction Areas

A ban on the marketing, sale and distribution of bituminous coal applies in sixteen towns and cities around the country (Dublin from 1990, Cork 1995, Arklow, Drogheda, Dundalk, Limerick and Wexford 1998, Celbridge, Galway, Leixlip, Naas and Waterford 2000, Bray, Kilkenny, Sligo and Tralee 2003). The origins of the coal bans date from the start of the 1990s when the main air quality problem facing Ireland was the occurrence of "winter smog" (smoke and

sulphur dioxide emissions) resulting from widespread use of bituminous coal in major urban areas, notably Dublin, leading to serious health effects for people. Regulations were made in 1990 to ban the marketing, sale and distribution of bituminous coal in the Dublin area. Smoke and sulphur dioxide (SO₂) levels showed considerable improvement once the ban was introduced and it was decided in subsequent years to extend the ban further in order to achieve and preserve good air quality in the selected areas.

Table 3.5 IPPC Licensed Facilities in the County

Registration No.	Name of Facility	Location	Principal Class of Activity
P0135-01	Saehan Media (Ireland) Ltd.	Hazelwood, Sligo	12.2.0: Surface Coatings
P0073-01	Cold Chon (Galway) Ltd. Sligo Depot	Sligo Depot, Deepwater Quay, Sligo	5.9.0: Chemicals
P0828-01	TopChem Pharmaceuticals Limited	Ballymote Business Park, Carrownanty, Ballymote	5.16.0: Chemicals
P0269-01	Basta Parsons Limited	Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo, Sligo	12.3.0: Surface Coatings
P0382-01	Mr Antone Kiernan	Carrowcushcly Pig Unit, Carrowcushcly, Ballymote	6.2.0: Intensive Agriculture
P0353-01	Supershrone Limited	Hazelwood, Sligo, Co. Sligo, Sligo	8.3.0: Wood, Paper, Textiles and Leather
P0465-01	G. Bruss GmbH Dichtungstechnik	Finisklin Road, Sligo	5.7.0: Chemicals

3.7.3 Noise

Noise is unwanted sound. It can seriously harm human health and interfere with daily activities at school, at work, at home and during leisure time. Areas within the County which are commonly affected by noise are urban areas and areas along roadsides.

Generally, the main noise source in the County is from traffic. Streets in low lying areas that have high traffic counts as well as enclosing taller buildings are likely to have harsh sensory environments with regard to noise levels with regard to this source. As mentioned below, traffic hotspots, such as intersections, are likely to have higher noise levels.

Traffic noise alone is harming today the health of almost every third European⁴⁸. *Traffic*

hotspots within some of the County's towns are likely to have elevated levels of air pollution and noise due to traffic congestion compared to surrounding rural areas. These hotspots are located along the main road routes - especially at intersections - and provide for a harsh sensory environment which may impact upon human health.

In addition, there are localised noise sources which include train movements, air conditioning equipment and night clubs.

3.7.4 Climatic Factors

3.7.4.1 Greenhouse Gases

In order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions the internationally agreed Kyoto Protocol established emissions reduction targets for developing countries. Ireland's emission target for greenhouse gases is to limit the increase in their combined emissions during the five-year

⁴⁸ World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (2003) *Technical meeting on exposure-*

response relationships of noise on health 19-21 September 2002 Bonn, Germany Bonn: WHO

period 2008-2012 to 13 per cent above 1990 levels.

Based on the inventory figures for 2006⁴⁹, the EPA estimates that Ireland's emissions in 2006 were 25.5 per cent higher than the baseline estimate that underlies Ireland's allowable emissions for the period 2008-2012, as agreed in the peer review of Ireland's 2006 submission to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

With regard to overall emissions, *Agriculture* is the single largest contributor, at 27.7% of the total, followed by *Energy* (power generation & oil refining) at 22.3% and *Transport* at 19.7%. The remaining 30% is made up by the Residential sector at 10.4%, *Industry and Commercial* at 17.2%, and *Waste* at 2.6%.

Transport continues to be the dominant growth sector with emissions at 682,000 tonnes higher in 2006 than in 2005. This represents a 5.2% increase on 2005 levels and 165% increase on the 1990 transport emissions. Road transport accounts for 97% of the transport sector emissions. The increase in the GHG emissions from the transport sector reflects sustained increases in fuel consumption with petrol usage up 3.4% and diesel consumption up 7.9% from the previous year.

3.7.4.2 Climate Change

Climate change refers to any change in climate over time, whether due to natural variability or as a result of human activity. The release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere as a result of human activities adds to natural climate variability by increasing the naturally occurring greenhouse effect. This greenhouse effect occurs in the atmosphere and is caused by greenhouse gases which exist naturally in the atmosphere. The greenhouse gases retain the radiation which is released from the earth as a result of heating by the sun. This retention maintains a global temperature which is suitable for ecosystems and life.

Climate change is not limited to changes in temperatures or weather - it can also mean changes in the occurrence of extreme and unstable weather conditions, storms and floods, droughts and coastal erosion.

3.7.4.3 Potential Effects of Changed Climate

The EPA's 'Climate Change: Regional Climate Model Predictions for Ireland' (2005)⁵⁰ report provides an analysis of future Irish climate conditions for the period 2021–2060 based on the outputs from a new regional climate modelling facility located in Met Éireann.

As increased temperatures will lead to greater amounts of water vapour in the atmosphere and an accelerated global water cycle, it is reasonable to expect that river catchment areas will be exposed to a greater risk of flooding. The increase in winter precipitation will be likely to produce a significant increase in the more intense discharge episodes, raising the risk of future flooding.

The report identifies that although it is not possible to comment on changes in flood magnitude and frequency, the increase in winter runoff indicated for many parts of the west of the country, especially under the scenario for the period 2061–2090, is likely to have significant implications. River flooding tends to be more common during the wetter winter months when soils are near saturation and can be exacerbated in coastal areas when interactions occur between high tides and high flows. Many of the rivers draining upland areas have a rapid or "flashy" response to rainfall enhanced by rising topography. Steep slopes and thin soils favour rapid flow pathways and water is rapidly transmitted to the channel network especially in urbanised catchments with extensive areas of impermeable surfaces.

3.7.5 Existing Problems

Traffic hotspots within the County area are likely to have elevated levels of air pollution and noise due to traffic congestion.

Localised air pollution incidences with regard to PM10 and PM2.5 and noise pollution are both likely to occur when demolition/construction takes place - especially in relation to PM10 if suppression techniques are not introduced - and when traffic is queuing for long periods of time.

Ireland's current emissions are exceeding targets agreed in the peer review of Ireland's

⁴⁹ EPA (2008) *Ireland's Emissions of Greenhouse Gases for the period 1990-2006* Wexford: EPA

⁵⁰ Community Climate Change Consortium for Ireland (2005) *Environmental RTDI Programme 2000–2006 Climate Change: Regional Climate Model Predictions for Ireland (2001-CD-C4-M2) Final Report* Wexford: Environmental Protection Agency

2006 submission to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. It is unlikely that Ireland will meet these targets and it is likely therefore that financial penalties will be incurred. Transport related emissions continue to be the dominant growth sector.

Changes in sea level and/or changes in the occurrence of severe rainfall events as a result of climate change could adversely impact upon the area's human beings, its biodiversity and its economy (see also Section 3.5.9 Flooding).

3.7.6 Evolution of Air and Climatic Factors in the absence of the Plan

Increases in the use of catalytic converters, cleaner fuels, better engine technology and maintenance is generally reducing the pollution omitted per motor vehicle, however, this reduction is probably being offset by the increase in the number of cars as well as the increase in the volume and incidences of traffic congestion. Increases in the number of cars as well as the increase in the volume and incidences of traffic congestion may lead to increases in air and noise pollution in the future.

If new dispersed development occurs in the County, adverse impacts upon air quality and noise levels, and resultant impacts upon human health, would be likely to arise if unmitigated.

In the absence of the Plan, the realisation of objectives relating to energy efficiency, renewable energy and a reduction in local transport related emissions to air contained within the Plan would be missed.

In the absence of the Plan, the realisation of objectives relating to energy efficiency, renewable energy and a reduction in local transport related emissions to air contained within the Plan would be dependent upon the objectives contained in lower tier development and local area plans - which are required to provide for proper planning and sustainable development.

The Plan inter alia grants an opportunity to provide for the regeneration of certain urban and inner suburban areas within the County, which are close to existing and proposed high quality public transport linkages. This regeneration would provide for an increased population which would be less dependent upon private modes for local transportation and would therefore be likely to generate less local transport related greenhouse gas emissions than populations located further away from the urban areas.

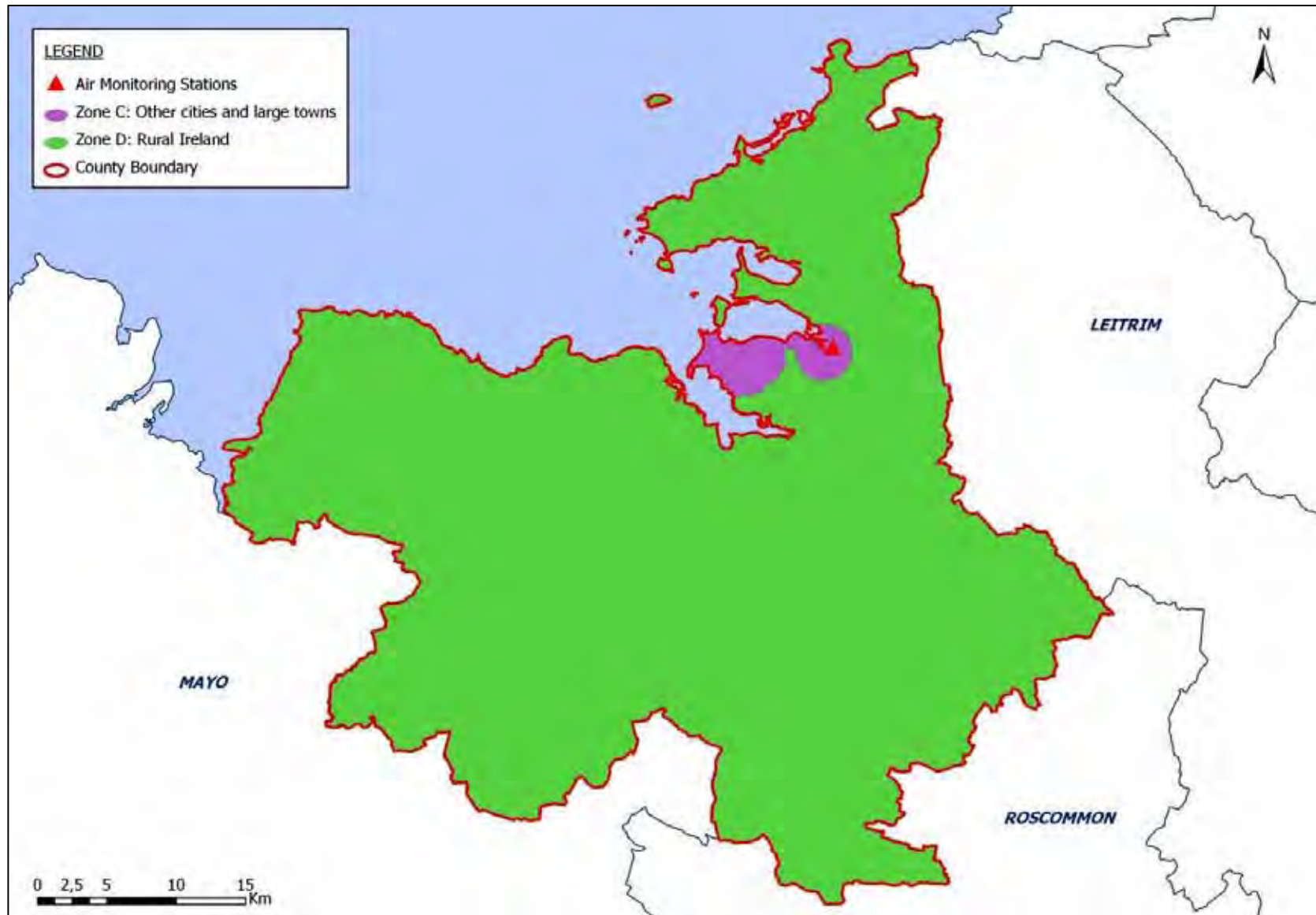


Figure 3.37 Air Quality Zones and Monitoring Sites

Source: EPA (2009)



Figure 3.38 Coal Restriction Areas

Source: EPA (2009)



Figure 3.39 IPPC Licensed Facilities

Source: EPA (2009)

3.8 Cultural Heritage

3.8.1 Introduction

Heritage, by definition, means inherited properties, inherited characteristics and anything transmitted by past ages and ancestors. It covers everything, from objects and buildings to the environment. Cultural heritage includes physical buildings, structures and objects, complete or in part, which have been left on the landscape by previous and indeed current generations.

Human interaction with the land is evident from the earliest of times up to the present in County Sligo, from agricultural landscapes to archaeological remains to growing urban centres.

County Sligo, with over 6,500 known archaeological sites and monuments, has one of the highest archaeological densities in the Country.

3.8.2 Archaeological Heritage

3.8.2.1 Introduction

Archaeology is the study of past societies through the material remains left by those societies and the evidence of their environment. Archaeological heritage consists of such material remains (whether in the form of sites and monuments or artefacts in the sense of moveable objects) and environmental evidence. As archaeological heritage can be used to gain knowledge and understanding of the past it is of great cultural and scientific importance.

Archaeological sites and monuments vary greatly in form and date; examples include earthworks of different types and periods, (e.g. early historic ringforts and prehistoric burial mounds), megalithic tombs from the Prehistoric period, medieval buildings, urban archaeological deposits and underwater features.

Archaeological sites may have no visible surface features; the surface features of an archaeological site may have decayed completely or been deliberately removed but archaeological deposits and features may survive beneath the surface.

The archaeological record includes megalithic sites, Fulachta Fiadh, Early Christian ecclesiastical sites, churches and graveyards, medieval buildings, castles, industrial archaeology sites and underwater sites such as wrecks.

3.8.2.2 Record of Monuments and Places

Sligo's archaeological heritage is protected under the National Monuments Acts (1930-2004), Natural Cultural Institutions Act 1997 and the Planning Acts. The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is an inventory, put on a statutory basis by amendment to the National Monuments Act 1994, of sites and areas of archaeological significance, numbered and mapped.

The term 'monument' includes all man-made structures of whatever form or date except buildings habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes. All monuments in existence before 1700 A.D. are automatically considered to be historic monuments within the meaning of the Acts.

There is a large number of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places within the County. Associated with each Recorded Monument is a Zone of Archaeological Potential (ZAP) which in some cases may be quite extensive. Its associated ZAP indicates where archaeology is known to be present.

Sligo has a number of significant archaeological and historical landscapes, the most notable being the Cuil Irra Peninsula (which includes Knocknarea, Carrowmore and Carns Hill), Carrowkeel and Inishmurray.

The group of megalithic tombs at Carrowmore represents one of four major passage tomb cemeteries in Ireland. There are approximately 30 passage-tombs, which date from around 4000 BC or earlier, as suggested from excavations. This site formed an important ritual centre for the Stone Age inhabitants of the Cuil Irra (Knocknarea) peninsula and perhaps further afield. Monuments of later periods, barrows (earthen burial mounds) and ringforts occur in the vicinity of the cemetery area with a number of isolated passage-tombs on the eastern edge of Sligo Town.

3.8.3 Architectural heritage

3.8.3.1 Introduction

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

Examples of note in the County include Lissadell House, Markree Castle, Sligo Townhall, the many bridges, shop and pub fronts and coastal structures including the Metal Man Beacon.

3.8.3.2 Record of Protected Structures

The Record of Protected Structures (RPS) is legislated for under Section 51 of the Planning and Development Act 2000.

Protected Structures are defined as structures, or parts of structures that are of special interest from an architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical point of view.

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

- the interior of the structure;
- the land lying within the curtilage⁵¹ of the structure;
- any other structures lying within that curtilage and their interiors; and,
- all fixtures and features which form part of the interior or exterior of any structure or structures referred to in subparagraph (i) or (iii).

⁵¹ Curtilage is normally taken to be the parcel of ground immediately associated with the Protected Structure, or in use for the purposes of the structure. Protection extends to the buildings and land lying within the curtilage. While the curtilage sometimes coincides with the present property boundary, it can originally have included lands, features or even buildings now in separate ownership, e.g. the lodge of a former country house, or the garden features located in land subsequently sold off. Such lands are described as being attendant grounds, and the protection extends to them just as if they were still within the curtilage of the Protected Structure.

Structures listed on the Record of Protected Structures are mapped on Figure 3.41 along with additions proposed under the Sligo CDP 2011-2017.

3.8.3.3 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) is a state initiative under the administration of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and established on a statutory basis under the provisions of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999.

The purpose of the NIAH is to identify, record, and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland, uniformly and consistently as an aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage. NIAH surveys provide the basis for the recommendations of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to the planning authorities for the inclusion of particular structures in their Record of Protected Structures (RPS).

Spatial distribution of monuments listed on the NIAH is mapped on Figure 3.42. Clusters occur at Sligo City, Collooney, Ballysadare, Ballymote, Riverstown and Tobercurry.

3.8.4 Existing Cultural Heritage Problems

Threats to cultural heritage might include the cumulative accommodation of large scale development in the County, development which involves material alteration or additions to protected structures, brownfield development and development on sites adjoining protected monuments, places or structures.

3.8.5 Evolution of Cultural Heritage in the absence of the Plan

In the absence of the Plan, the evolution of cultural heritage would be dependent on developments which take place.

Such development would have no guidance as to where to be directed and planning applications would be assessed on an individual basis with cultural heritage protected under a

number of strategic actions relating to archaeological and architectural protection.

Beneficial impacts upon the protection of cultural heritage which would be likely to arise as a result of the Plan provisions would not necessarily occur.

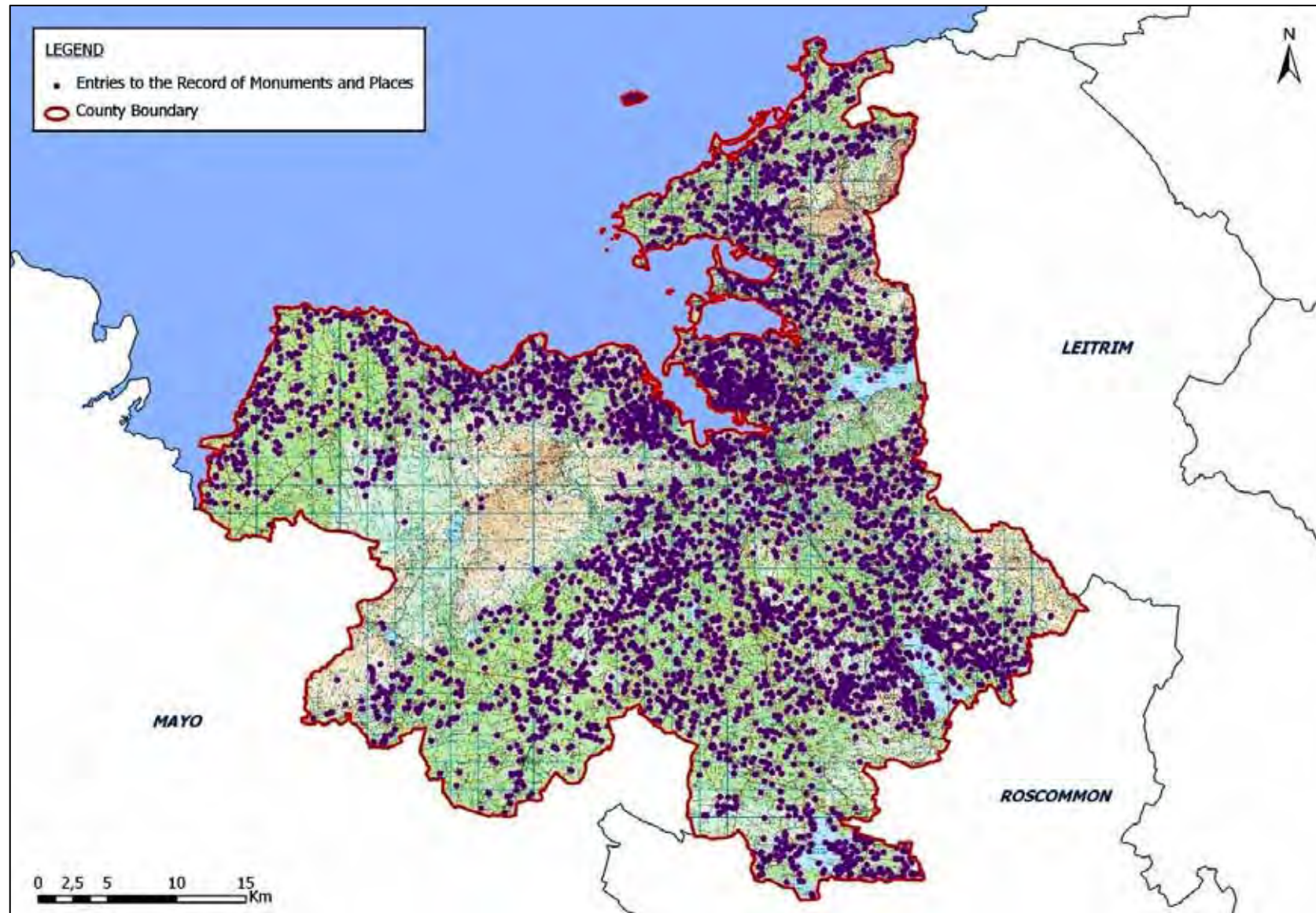


Figure 3.40 Entries to the Record of Monuments and Places

Source: SCC (Unknown)

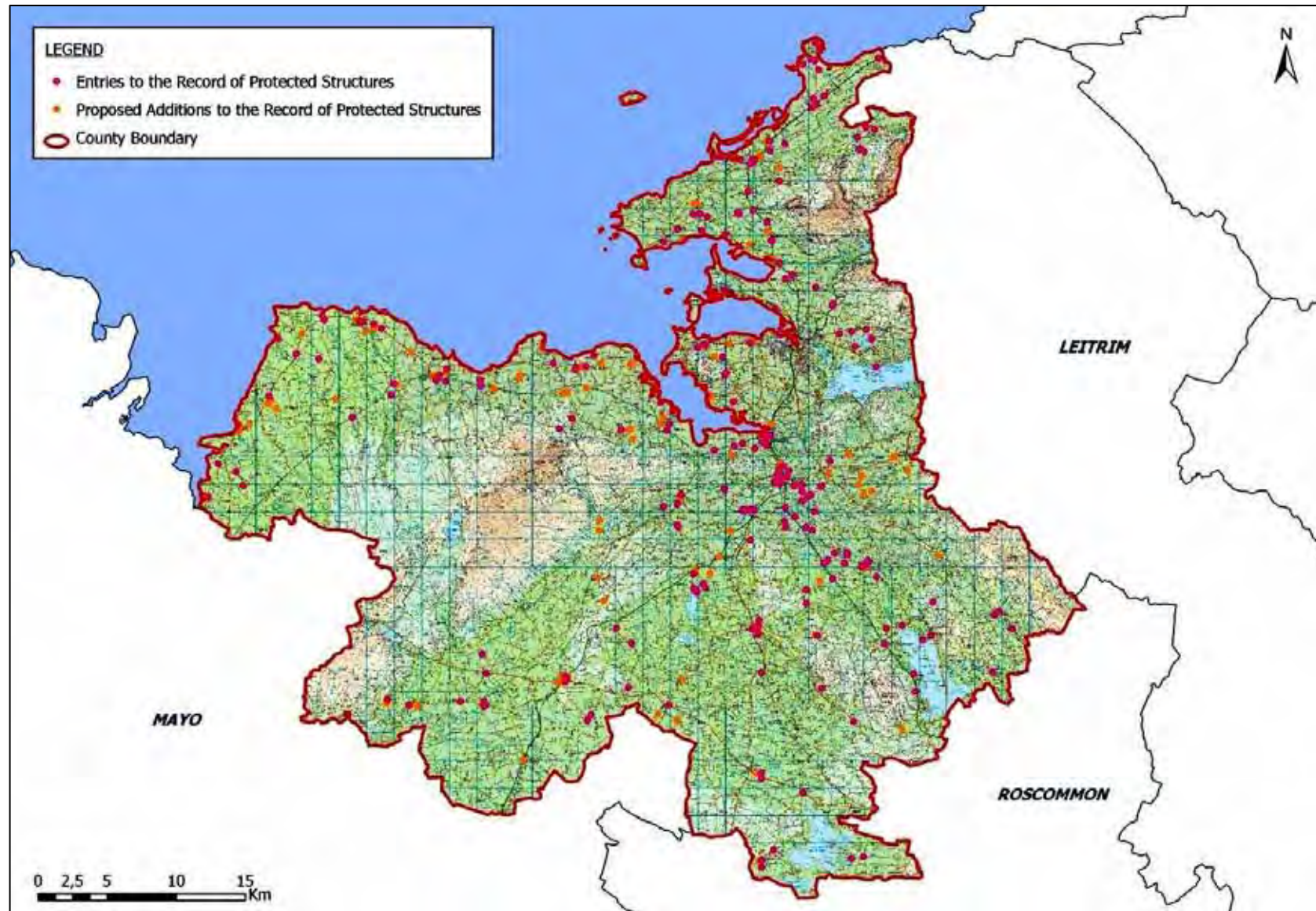


Figure 3.41 Entries to the Record of Protected Structures

Source: SCC CDP (2011-2017)

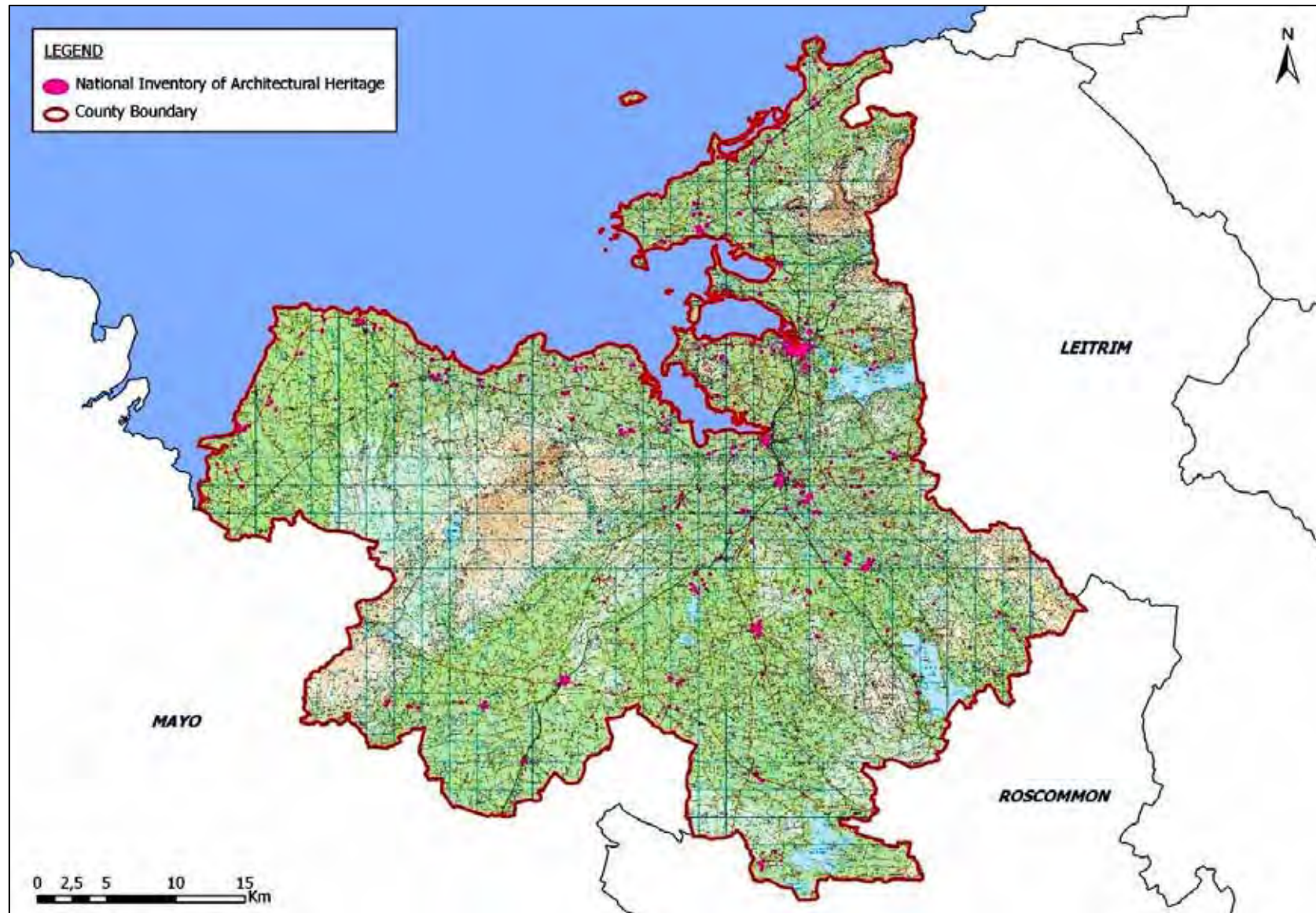


Figure 3.42 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

Source: DEHLG (2006)

3.9 Landscape

3.9.1 Introduction

Landscapes are areas which are perceived by people and are made up of a number of layers:

- landform, which results from geological and geomorphological history;
- land cover, which includes vegetation, water, human settlements;
- human values which are a result of historical, cultural, religious and other understandings and interactions with landform and land cover.

Mountains of note in the County include Benbulbin (526m), Truskmore (645m), Knocknarea and the Ox Mountains.

3.9.2 Scenic Evaluation Study

CAAS, on behalf of Sligo County Council, prepared a Scenic Evaluation Study for the County in 1997. The objective of the report was to map the areas of County Sligo according to their capacity to absorb new development without disproportionately changing the distinctiveness and character of the overall landscape. This resulted in a Development Control Policy Map, which formed part of the current Sligo County Development Plan 2005-2011.

The County Development Plan designates the following landscape classifications:

3.9.2.1 Normal Rural Landscapes

Areas with natural enclosing features (e.g. topography, vegetation), which have the capacity to absorb a wide range of new development forms – these are the main farming areas of the County.

3.9.2.2 Sensitive Rural Landscapes

Areas that tend to be open in character, with intrinsic scenic quality and a low capacity to absorb new development. Sensitive Rural Landscapes generally comprise the elevated areas, including lands to the south and south east of the Town.

3.9.2.3 Visually Vulnerable Areas

Distinctive and conspicuous natural features of significant natural beauty or interest, which have

extremely low capacity to absorb new development. Visually vulnerable areas exist along the coast and along the banks of the Garavogue River.

3.9.2.4 Scenic Routes

Public roads that coincide generally with popular tourist routes passing through or close to Sensitive Rural Landscapes, or adjoining Visually Vulnerable Areas, and affording unique scenic views of one or more distinctive natural features. A number of scenic routes exist mainly in the eastern and central parts of the Plan area.

3.9.3 Cuil Irra Peninsula

The archaeological landscape of the Cuil Irra (Knocknarea) peninsula lies to the south west of Sligo Town.

Providing a focus at the centre of the peninsula is the megalithic cemetery at Carrowmore comprising an oval-shaped cluster of 30 monuments surrounding the centrally placed cairn of “Listoghil”.

To the west of the peninsula and overlooking Carrowmore megalithic cemetery from the summit of Knocknarea Mountain is the iconic flat-topped cairn known as Miosgán Meadhbha (Maeve’s Cairn).

To the east of Cuil Irra and again overlooking Carrowmore are two large cairns on the summit of Carns Hill. The cairns are comparable in size to Maeve’s Cairn on the summit of Knocknarea.

3.9.4 Existing Landscape Problems

Generalised landscape problems include the cumulative visual impact resulting from developments such as one off houses. Such developments, which individually often do not have significant adverse impacts, have the potential to cumulatively and adversely significantly impact upon sensitive landscapes.

This problem becomes acute in areas such as the coastline or around Lough Gill where lands with views across water-bodies are much sought after and experience intense pressure for development, in order to enjoy the views of water.

3.9.5 Evolution of Landscape in the absence of the Plan

In the absence of a Development Plan, development would be likely to occur on a one-

off, dispersed basis. As outlined above, this could have cumulative impacts on the landscape. However, Development Management would continue to safeguard the landscape resources that have been highlighted above.

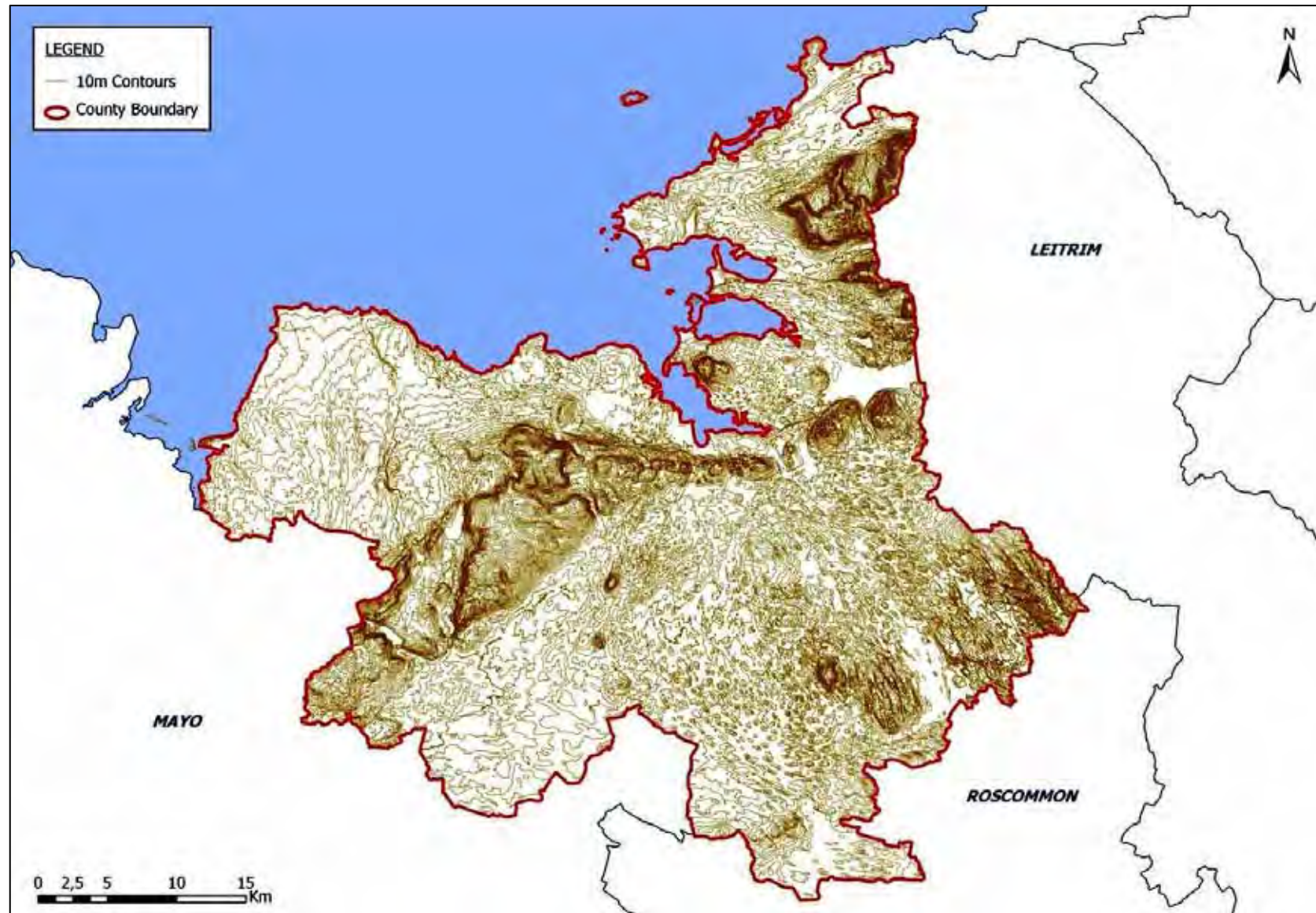


Figure 3.43 10 Metre Contour Map of the County

Source: SCC (2001)

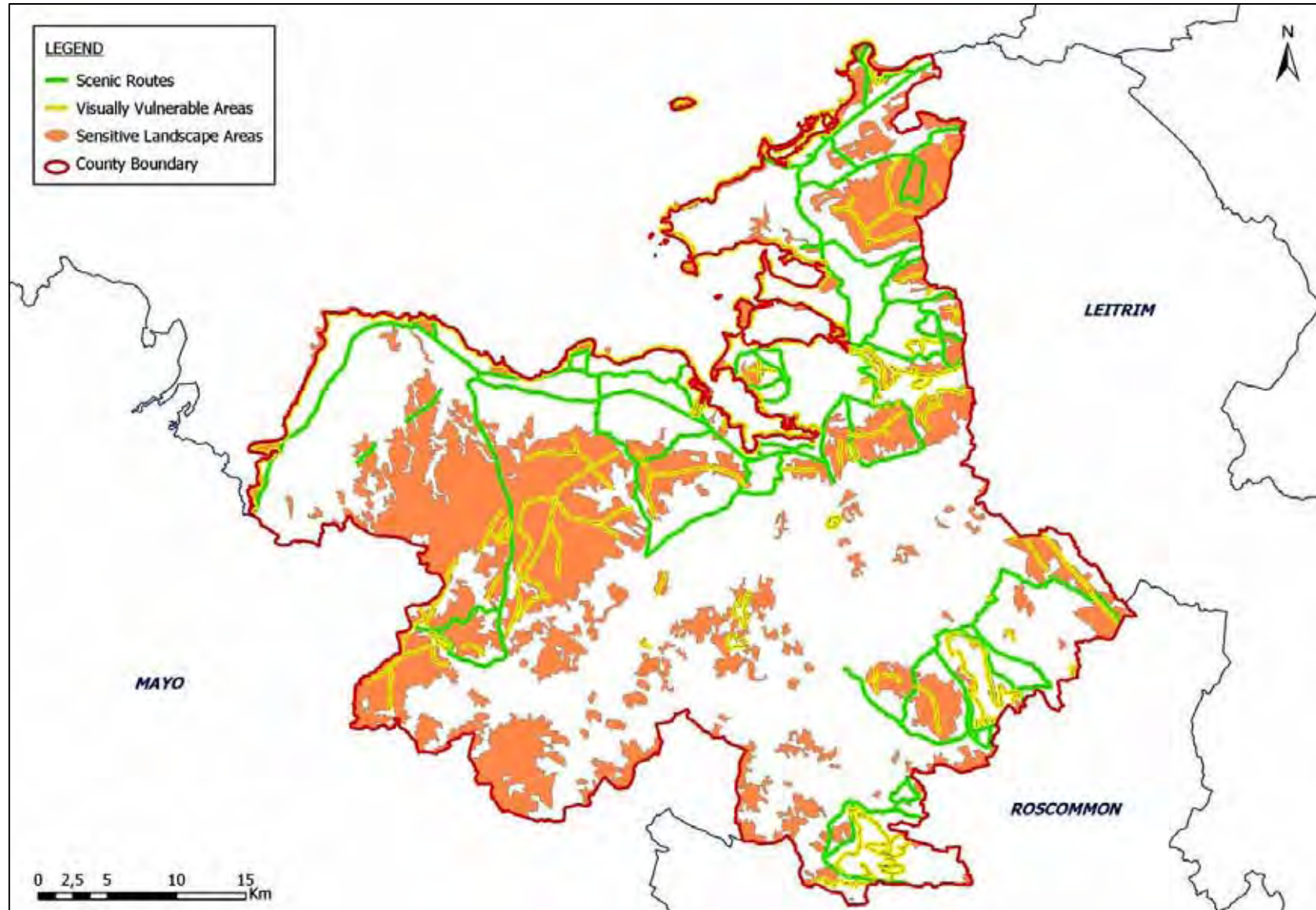


Figure 3.44 Scenic Routes, Visually Vulnerable Areas and Sensitive Landscape Areas

Source: Sligo County Council CDP (2005-2011)

3.10 Overlay Mapping of Environmental Sensitivities

3.10.1 Introduction and Methodology

In order to identify where most sensitivities within the County occur, a number of the environmental sensitivities described above were weighted and mapped overlapping each other. Figure 3.45 provides an overlay of environmental sensitivities in County Sligo.

Environmental sensitivities are indicated by colours which range from acute vulnerability (brown) extreme vulnerability (red) to high vulnerability (dark orange) to elevated vulnerability (light orange) to moderate vulnerability (yellow) to low vulnerability (green). Where the mapping shows a concentration of environmental sensitivities there is an increased likelihood that development will conflict with these sensitivities and cause environmental deterioration.

A weighting system applied through Geographical Information System (GIS) software was used in order to calculate the vulnerability of all areas in the County. Equal value is given to all environmental components (landscape, water, biodiversity etc.) with the following environmental sensitivity factors each attributed weighting of 5 points:

- Ecological designations (candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural Heritage Areas) Nature Reserves and Salmonid Rivers;
- Heritage designations (entries to Records of Protected Structures, entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and entries to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage);
- Sites of geological importance;
- Sensitive landscape areas, scenic routes and visually vulnerable areas;
- Entries to the Register of Protected Areas;
- Areas at risk of flooding (historic events, benefitting lands and alluvium soils);
- Surface and ground waters with poor or bad WFD status; and
- Regionally and locally important aquifers which are highly or extremely vulnerable to pollution.

The scale of sensitivity for each area of the County corresponds to the sensitivity factors: 5 points corresponds to one sensitivity factor; 10 points corresponds to two sensitivity factors; 20 points corresponds to four sensitivity factors and so on.

Table 3.6 Overall Vulnerability Classes

Score	Vulnerability Class
5-15	Low
20-25	Moderate
30-35	Elevated
40-45	High
50-60	Extreme
>60	Acute

Although there are limitations and elements of subjectivity to the overlaying of sensitivities the overlay mapping was used in order to speedily identify the areas where conflicts between development within the Plan area and environmental sensitivities would be likely to occur if unmitigated.

3.10.2 Conclusions

The main and largest area of acute vulnerability occurs in the north of the County in the vicinity of Ben Bulbin. This can be attributed to designated sites, landscape vulnerability, geological heritage sites and waters listed on the RPA.

Areas between Kesh and Lough Arrow in the south east of the County is also of acute vulnerability due to the presence of Carrowkeel Megalithic Cemetery, waters listed on the RPA for SACs and SPAs, a number of sites of geological importance, sensitive landscape areas and aquifers of extreme vulnerability.

Geological heritage sites, designations, landscape vulnerabilities and waters listed on the Register of Protected Areas contribute towards the high and extreme sensitivity of areas such as Ballinafad, Tobercurry, Achrony, Ballygawley and in areas around the Ox Mountains.

Some of the County's bays are of moderate vulnerability due to their ecological designation.

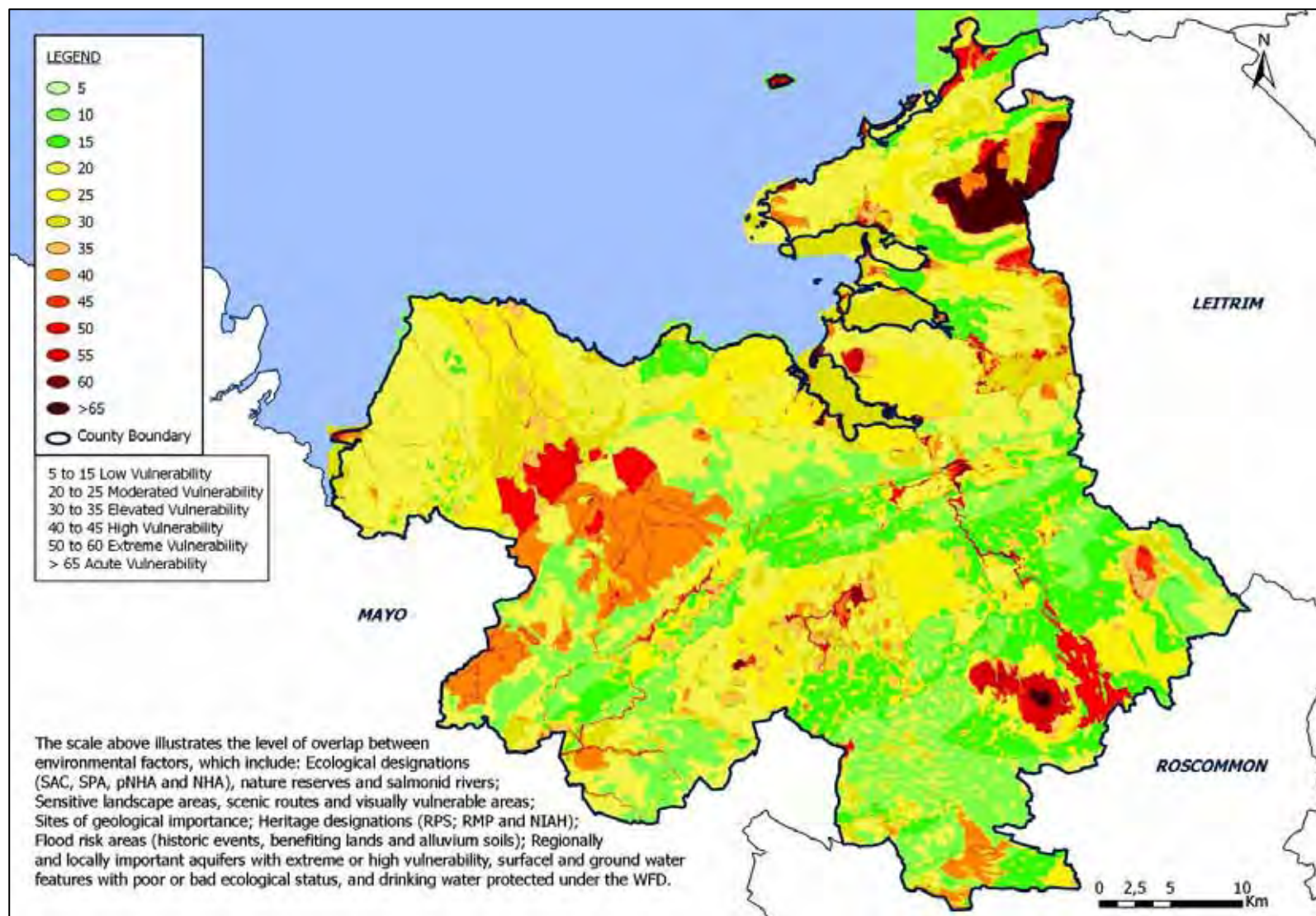


Figure 3.45 Overlay of Environmental Sensitivities

Source: CAAS (2011)

Section 4 Strategic Environmental Objectives

4.1 Introduction

Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are methodological measures against which the environmental effects of the Plan can be tested. If complied with in full, SEOs would result in an environmentally neutral impact from implementation of the Plan. The SEOs are set out under a range of topics and are used as standards against which the provisions of the Plan can be evaluated in order to help identify areas in which significant adverse impacts are likely to occur, if unmitigated.

SEOs are distinct from the objectives of the Plan - although they will often overlap - and are developed from international, national and regional policies which generally govern environmental protection objectives. Such policies include those of various European Directives which have been transposed into Irish law and which are intended to be implemented within the County.

The SEA Directive requires that the evaluation of plans and programmes be focused upon the relevant aspects of the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected. In compliance with this requirement, the SEA has focused upon the most relevant aspects of the environmental characteristics within and surrounding the County. SEOs relating to these environmental characteristics have been identified and developed for the SEA. Most attention has been given to environmental components which are likely to be impacted as a result of implementation of the County Development Plan.

A number of SEOs are linked to indicators which can facilitate monitoring the environmental effects of implementing the Plan when adopted, as well as to targets which the Plan can help work towards.

The primary source used in formulating the SEOs was Table 4B of the SEA Guidelines (DEHLG, 2004)⁵². This list has been amended to give affect to objectives that are considered relevant to this Plan. The use of SEOs, although not a statutory requirement, does fulfil

⁵² DEHLG (2004) Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): *Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities* Dublin: Government of Ireland.

obligations set out in Schedule 2B of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004).

4.2 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

4.2.1 International, European and National Strategic Actions

4.2.1.1 UN Convention on Biological Diversity 1992

The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity 1992 requires the promotion of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

4.2.1.2 National Biodiversity Plan 2002

The preparation and implementation of Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan 2002⁵³ complies with an obligation under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. The overall goal of the Plan is to secure the conservation, including where possible the enhancement and sustainable use of biological diversity in Ireland and to contribute to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity globally. Objectives following on from this goal are to:

- Conserve habitat diversity, including all sites of special biodiversity importance;
- Conserve species diversity;
- Conserve genetic diversity, both wild and domesticated; and
- Contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and to advancing other obligations of the CBD in the EU, regionally and internationally.

4.2.1.3 Birds Directive 1979

The 1979 European Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC), referred to as the Birds Directive, - as well as its

⁵³ Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (2002) *National Biodiversity Plan* Dublin: Government of Ireland

amending acts - seeks to: protect, manage and regulate all bird species naturally living in the wild within the European territory of the Member States, including the eggs of these birds, their nests and their habitats; and regulate the exploitation of these species.

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are provided protection under the Directive and have been designated by the DEHLG due to their conservation value for birds of importance in the European Union.

4.2.1.4 Habitats Directive 1992

The European Council Directive on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (92/43/EEC), referred to as the Habitats Directive, aims to ensure the conservation of certain natural habitats and species which are at favourable conservation status. Article 10 of the Habitats Directive recognises the importance of ecological networks as corridors and stepping stones for wildlife, including for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of species of flora and fauna. The Directive requires that ecological connectivity and areas of ecological value outside the network of designated ecological sites are maintained and it recognises the need for the management of these areas through land use planning and development policies.

The obligation to undertake Appropriate Assessment derives from Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Appropriate Assessment is a focused and detailed impact assessment of the implications of a plan or project, alone and in combination with other plans and projects, on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site in view of its conservation objectives.

The Habitats Directive seeks to establish Natura 2000, a network of protected areas throughout the EU. SACs together with SPAs - which are designated under the 1979 Birds Directive - form Natura 2000.

4.2.1.5 Wildlife Act 1976 and Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000

The basic designation for wildlife is the Natural Heritage Area (NHA). They cover nationally important semi-natural and natural habitats, landforms or geomorphological features, wildlife plant and animal species or a diversity of these natural attributes. Under the Wildlife Amendment Act (2000), NHAs are legally

protected from damage from the date they are formally proposed for designation.

Proposed NHAs (pNHAs) were published on a non-statutory basis in 1995, but have not since been statutorily proposed or designated - designation will proceed on a phased basis over the coming years.

Prior to statutory designation, pNHAs are subject to limited protection, in the form of:

- Forest Service requirement for NPWS approval before they will pay afforestation grants on pNHA lands; and/or
- Recognition of the ecological value of pNHAs by Planning and Licensing Authorities.

Statutory Nature Reserves are state-owned land, inland waters or foreshore areas forming the habitat of a species or community of flora and fauna of scientific interest or forming part of an ecosystem of scientific interest, which would benefit from protection measures, established under the Wildlife Act, 1976 and the Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000. Statutory Nature Reserves are protected under Ministerial order.

4.2.1.6 European Freshwater Directive 1978

Salmonid Waters are designated and protected under the European Communities (Quality of Salmonid Waters) Regulations 1998 (SI No. 293 of 1988) which implements the European Council Directive on the quality of fresh waters needing protection or improvement in order to support fish life (78/659/EEC), referred to as the European Freshwater Directive as amended and codified. Salmonid Water designation imposes an obligation to maintain specific water quality standards and control pollution.

4.2.2 SEOs, Indicators and Targets

The following SEOs, Indicators and Targets have been identified and developed with regard to the objectives of the above strategic actions and the environmental baseline described in Section 3.

SEO B1:	To ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive with regard to the protection of Natura 2000 Sites and habitats and species listed under Annexes I and II of the Directive
Indicator B1:	Conservation status of habitats and species as assessed under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive
Target B1:	Maintenance of favourable conservation status for all habitats and species protected under national and international legislation

SEO B2:	To ensure compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the protection of macro-corridors and contiguous areas of habitat ⁵⁴ which are important on a County level for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species
Indicator B2:	Percentage loss of functional connectivity to macro-corridors and contiguous areas of habitat which are important on a County level without remediation as a result of implementation of the Plan
Target B2:	No significant macro-corridors and contiguous areas of habitat or parts thereof which are important on a County level and which provide functional connectivity to be lost without remediation as a result of implementation of the Plan

⁵⁴ Important macro-corridors and contiguous areas of habitat include the County's rivers, lakes, uplands and peatlands. It is recommended that important macro-corridors and contiguous areas of habitat are identified as part of the monitoring programme and that time resources are spent in the monitoring of these rather than in the monitoring of corridors or areas of habitat which are not important at County level.

SEO B3:	To sustain existing rural management practices - and the communities who support them - to ensure the continuation of long established managed landscapes and the flora and fauna that they contain
Indicator B3:	Population of the County involved in land management
Target B3:	Sustain the population of the County involved in land management

Note: the impact of implementing the Plan on aquatic biodiversity and flora and fauna is also influenced by both impacts upon the quality of surface water bodies - which relates to SEO W1 - and the provision of appropriate levels of waste water treatment infrastructure - this relates to SEO M1.

4.3 Population and Human Health

4.3.1 Population

In order to promote sustainable development and allow for public transport systems to function more effectively - as promoted by higher level land use strategic actions including the National Spatial Strategy - it is essential to consolidate the physical growth of settlements within the County.

Within the County's settlements this can be achieved through the development of vacant, derelict and underutilised lands, in particular where they are in close proximity to public transport routes.

The DEHLG's Residential Density Guidelines 1999 and the DEHLG's Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas Guidelines 2008 recommend planning authorities to promote higher residential densities, particularly in redeveloping 'brownfield' sites and in proximity to town centres and public transport corridors.

The impacts of implementing the Development Plan on both the spatial distribution of population and the nature of development with regard to greenfield and brownfield development relates to SEO P1 which aims to

maximise sustainable brownfield development and minimise greenfield development.

4.3.2 Human Health

4.3.2.1 Introduction

The impact of implementing the Development Plan on human health is determined by the impacts which the Plan will have upon environmental vectors. Impacts which the Plan might have upon these vectors would be influenced by:

- The extent to which new development is accompanied by appropriate infrastructure - this relates to SEOs M1 and M2;
- Impacts upon the quality of water bodies - these relate to SEOs W1 and W2;
- The extent of development provided by the Plan which would increase flood risk - this relates to SEO W3; and,
- The interaction between human beings and the noise generated by the landuses provided for by the Plan.

4.3.2.2 Emission Limits

Emission limits for discharges to air, soil and water are set with regards to internationally recognised exposure limit values. These are generally set to be many times the safe exposure limit - in order to provide protection. In the event that a land-use plan began to have adverse health effects on surrounding populations it is likely that it would have been identified as being in breach of such emission standards at a very early stage - and long before the manifestation of any adverse health effects in the population. Nonetheless for the sake of consistency with the requirements of the SEA Regulations this section includes an objective, indicator and target for health.

4.3.3 SEOs, Indicators and Targets

The following SEO, Indicator and Target have been identified and developed for the environmental components of population and human health.

SEO P1:	Maximise the sustainable re-use of brownfield lands, and maximise the use of the existing built environment rather than developing greenfield lands
Indicator P1:	Area of brownfield lands developed over the Development Plan's lifespan
Target P1:	Reduced availability of brownfield land (subject to availability on the open market, the demand for such land and the ability for such lands to be sustainably re-used) at the end of the Development Plan lifespan

SEO HH1:	To protect human health from hazards or nuisances arising from exposure to incompatible landuses
Indicator HH1:	Occurrence (any) of a spatially concentrated deterioration in human health arising from environmental factors as identified by the Health Service Executive and Environmental Protection Agency
Target HH1:	No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan

4.4 Soil

4.4.1 Proposal for a Soil Framework Directive

To date, there is no legislation which is specific to the protection of soil resources and soil protection is addressed indirectly and/or within sectoral policies: water, waste, chemicals, industrial pollution prevention, nature protection, pesticides and agriculture.

However, there is currently an EU Thematic Strategy on the protection of soil which includes a proposal for a Soil Framework Directive which proposes common principles for protecting soils across the EU.

Article 5 of the proposed Directive states that, for the purposes of preserving the various functions of soil; sealing, the development of artificial surfaces on top of soil resources, should be limited. The proposed Directive suggests that this may be achieved through rehabilitating brownfield sites, thus reducing the depletion of greenfield sites. The proposed Directive also states soil should be used in a sustainable manner which preserves its capacity to deliver ecological, economic and social services, while maintaining its functions so that future generations can meet their needs.

4.4.2 SEOs, Indicators and Targets

The formulation of SEO P1 has taken into account the above policy context for soil while SEO S1 relates to the protection of soil from pollution or contamination.

SEO S1:	To prevent pollution and/or contamination of soil
Indicator S1:	Number of instances of pollution and/or contamination of soil
Target S1:	No significant instances pollution and/or contamination of soil

4.5 Water

4.5.1 The Water Framework Directive 2000

Since 2000, Water Management in the EU has been directed by the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC (WFD). The WFD has been transposed into Irish legislation by the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (SI No. 722 of 2003). The WFD requires that all member states implement the necessary measures to prevent deterioration of the status of all waters - surface, ground, estuarine and coastal - and protect, enhance and restore all waters with the aim of achieving good status by 2015.

4.5.2 Quality Standards for Surface Waters

The European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009

(SI No. 272 of 2009) is the final major piece of legislation needed to support the WFD and gives statutory effect to Directive 2008/105/EC on environmental quality standards in the field of water policy. The Surface Waters Regulations also give further effect to the WFD, establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy and Directive 2006/11/EC on pollution caused by certain dangerous substances discharged into the aquatic environment of the Community.

The Surface Waters Regulations apply to all surface waters - including lakes, rivers, canals, transitional waters, and coastal waters - and provide, inter alia, for:

- The establishment of legally binding quality objectives for all surface waters and environmental quality standards for pollutants;
- The examination and where appropriate, review of existing discharge authorizations by Public Authorities to ensure that the emission limits laid down in authorisations support compliance with the new water quality objectives/standards;
- The classification of surface water bodies by the EPA for the purposes of the Water Framework Directive;
- The establishment of inventories of priority substances by the EPA, and;
- The drawing up of pollution reduction plans by coordinating local authorities (in consultation with the EPA) to reduce pollution by priority substances and to cease and/or phase out discharges, emissions or losses of priority hazardous substances.

In addition, the Regulations require that a public authority shall not, in the performance of its functions, undertake those functions in a manner that knowingly causes or allows deterioration in the chemical status or ecological status (or ecological potential as the case may be) of a body of surface water.

In order to satisfy the overall WFD objective of 'good status', a surface water body must achieve the requirements of the good ecological⁵⁵ and chemical⁵⁶ status.

⁵⁵ Ecological status comprises: biological quality elements, physiochemical conditions and hydromorphological quality elements. The overall

4.5.3 Quality Standards and Threshold Values for Ground Water

Detailed provisions to achieve the aims of the WFD for ground water have been presented in a Groundwater Daughter Directive (Directive 2006/118/EC on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration).

This Directive sets up environmental objectives of good groundwater quantitative and chemical status, as well as ensuring a continuity to the 1980 Groundwater Directive (Directive 80/68/EEC on the protection of groundwater against pollution caused by dangerous substances) which is due to be repealed under the WFD by the end of 2013.

The WFD requires that threshold values are established by Member States for all pollutants and indicators of pollution which characterise groundwater bodies classified as being at risk of failing to achieve good groundwater chemical status under the WFD. Threshold values are required to be established in a way that, should the monitoring results at a representative monitoring point exceed the thresholds, this will indicate a risk that one or more of the conditions for good groundwater chemical status - with regard to the ability of groundwater to support human uses and with regard to waters used for the abstraction of drinking water - are not being met.

Article 3 of the 2006 Daughter Directive requires that the assessment of the chemical status of groundwater use both quality standards identified in Annex I of the Directive and threshold values to be set by individual member states.

Groundwater quality standards are environmental quality standards expressed as the concentration of a particular pollutant, group of pollutants or indicator of pollution in groundwater, which should not be exceeded in order to protect human health and the

ecological status of the water body is determined by the lowest level of status achieved across all quality elements.

⁵⁶ Chemical status assessment is based on compliance with the standards laid down for priority substances by Directive 2008/105/EC on environmental quality standards in the field of water policy (the Surface Waters Regulations give effect to the environmental standards established by this Directive).

environment. Annex I of the Directive sets standards for two pollutants: Nitrates - 50mg/l - and; Active substances in pesticides⁵⁷, including their relevant metabolites, degradation and reaction products - 0,1 µg/l and 0,5 µg/l (total⁵⁸).

Irish groundwater threshold values⁵⁹ are included in the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (SI No. 9 of 2010).

4.5.4 Bathing Water

EU Mandatory and Guide levels are set out for bathing waters in the *1976 Bathing Water Directive* (Directive 76/160/EEC) as implemented in Ireland by the Quality of Bathing Water Regulations, 1992, (SI No. 155 of 1992). The purpose of the Bathing Water Regulations is the protection of human health, local authorities.

Mandatory Values are values which must be observed if the bathing area is to be deemed compliant with the Directive. Compliance with guide values exceeds guidance with mandatory values and can be regarded as quality objectives which bathing sites should endeavour to achieve.

A new *2006 Bathing Water Directive* (2006/7/EC) - which entered into force in March 2008 - revises the 1976 Directive with the purpose of: preserving, protecting and improving the quality of the environment and protecting human health by complementing the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC). The 2006 Bathing Water Directive is implemented by the Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008 (SI No. 79) of 2008.

The 2006 Directive establishes a new classification system for bathing water quality based on four classifications 'poor', 'sufficient', 'good' and 'excellent' and generally requires that a classification of 'sufficient' be achieved by 2015 for all bathing waters.

⁵⁷ 'Pesticides' means plant protection products and biocidal products as defined in Article 2 of Directive 91/414/EEC and in Article 2 of Directive 98/8/EC, respectively.

⁵⁸ 'Total' means the sum of all individual pesticides detected and quantified in the monitoring procedure, including their relevant metabolites, degradation and reaction products.

⁵⁹

The new classification system is currently being introduced and related to current EU guide and mandatory standards specified in the 1976 EU Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC) by the EPA⁶⁰. The 'good' classification is related to compliance with guide and mandatory values, the 'sufficient' classification is related to compliance with the mandatory values only, whereas the 'poor' classification is non-compliance with mandatory values. The 1976 Directive does not have bathing water standards that equate to an 'excellent' classification.

4.5.5 Flooding

4.5.5.1 EU Floods Directive

European Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks aims to reduce and manage the risks that floods pose to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity. The Directive applies to inland waters as well as all coastal waters across the whole territory of the EU.

The Directive requires Member States to carry out a preliminary assessment by 2011 in order to identify the river basins and associated coastal areas at risk of flooding. For such zones flood risk maps are required to be drawn up by 2013. By 2015 flood risk management plans focused on prevention, protection and preparedness must be established by 2015.

The Directive is to be carried out in coordination with the Water Framework Directive and flood risk management plans and river basin management plans should be coordinated.

4.5.5.2 DEHLG Flood Risk Management Guidelines

In November 2009 the DEHLG issued *The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines* for Planning Authorities. These are aimed at ensuring a more consistent, rigorous and systematic approach which will fully incorporate flood risk assessment and management into the planning system.

The Guidelines require the planning system to, among other things:

- Avoid development in areas at risk of flooding, particularly flood plains, unless

there are proven sustainability grounds that justify appropriate development and where flood risk can be reduced or managed to an acceptable level, without increasing flood risk elsewhere;

- Adopt a sequential approach to flood risk management when assessing the location for new development based on avoidance, reduction and mitigation of flood risk; and,
- Incorporate flood risk assessment into the process of making decisions on planning applications and planning appeals.

4.5.6 SEOs, Indicators and Targets

The following SEOs, Indicators and Targets have been identified and developed with regard to the objectives of the above strategic actions and the environmental baseline described in Section 3.

⁶⁰ Transitional measures are in place until the new Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008 (SI No. 79 of 2008) are fully implemented

SEO W1:	To maintain and improve, where possible, the status of surface waters
Indicator W1i:	Classification of Overall Status (comprised of ecological and chemical status) under the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (SI No. 272 of 2009)
Target W1i:	To achieve 'good status' ⁶¹ in all bodies of surface waters by 2015 and to not knowingly allow deterioration in the status of any surface water
Indicator W1ii:	Poor, Sufficient, Good and Excellent classifications of bathing water as set by Directive 2006/7/EC
Target W1ii:	To achieve - as a minimum - the 'Sufficient' classification as set by Directive 2006/7/EC, and where possible to achieve the 'Good' or 'Excellent' classifications

SEO W2:	To prevent pollution and contamination of ground water
Indicator W2:	Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC
Target W2:	Compliance with Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC

⁶¹ Good status as defined by the WFD equates to approximately the following in the current national schemes of classification as set out by the EPA:

- Q4 in the biological classification of *rivers*;
- *Mesotrophic* in the classification of *lakes*; and,
- *Unpolluted* status in the Assessment of Trophic Status of *Estuaries and Bays* in Ireland (ATSEBI).

SEO W3:	To manage areas that are currently at risk of flooding or are likely to pose a significant flood risk in the future
Indicator W3:	Number of developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk
Target W3:	Minimise developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk in compliance with <i>The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines</i> for Planning Authorities

4.6 Material Assets

4.6.1 Water Services Act 2007

The Water Services Act 2007 (SI No. 30 of 2007) incorporates a comprehensive review, update and consolidation of all existing water services⁶² legislation, and facilitates the establishment of a comprehensive supervisory regime to ensure compliance with specified performance standards.

Section 36 of the Act provides for the making of 6-year Water Services Strategic Plans (WSSPs) in order to:

- to protect human health and the environment;
- to facilitate the provision of sufficient water services for domestic and non-domestic requirements in the area to which the plan relates; and
- to support proper planning and sustainable development, including sustainable use of water resources.

⁶² Services, including the provision of water intended for human consumption, which provide storage, treatment or distribution of surface water, groundwater or water supplied by a water services authority, or waste water collection, storage, treatment or disposal.

WSSPs are to be made by Water Services Authorities for their functional areas. The Act allows for two or more Water Services Authorities to jointly make a WSSP in relation to all of their combined functional areas, or parts thereof.

WSSPs are required to include information on the following:

- drinking water quality;
- the prevention or abatement of risk to human health or the environment;
- current and projected need for water services;
- arrangements in place or planned for the provision of water services;
- shortfalls in the provision of water services;
- water conservation measures in place or planned;
- monitoring arrangements;
- asset management planning; and,
- income and expenditure.

Section 36 (9) of the Act allows for the making of regulations prescribing the manner in which any matter is to be set out or addressed in a water services strategic plan, notification or consultation requirements and procedures or associated time limits, prior to and after its making.

4.6.2 Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive 2001

The treatment of wastewater is governed by the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) (amended by Directive 98/15/EEC) transposed into Irish law by the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2001 (SI No. 254 of 2001). The Directive aims to protect the environment from the adverse effects of the wastewater discharges by ensuring that wastewater is appropriately treated before it is discharged to the environment. The Regulations stipulate that sewage treatment facilities are in place in all towns by 2005.

Appropriate treatment is essential in order to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (see Section 4.5.1).

4.6.3 Drinking Water Regulations 2007

The environmental baseline with regard to drinking water demand and supply is identified in Section 3 and measures have been integrated into the County Development Plan in order to help ensure a clean and wholesome water supply.

The European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations (No. 2) 2007 require the compliance of water intended for human consumption with 48 parameters.

4.6.4 SEOs, Indicators and Target

The following SEOs, Indicators and Targets have been identified and developed with regard to the objectives of the above strategic actions and the environmental baseline described in Section 3.

SEO M1:	To serve new development with appropriate waste water treatment
Indicator M1i:	Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately served with waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan
Target M1i:	All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately served by waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan
Indicator M1ii:	Preparation of a Water Services Strategic Plan - in compliance with the Water Services Act - for the functional area of the Council
Target M1ii:	For the Council to prepare a Water Services Strategic Plan in compliance with the Water Services Act

SEO M2:	To serve growth areas with drinking water that is both wholesome and clean
Indicator M2i:	Number of non-compliances with the 48 parameters identified in the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations (No. 2) 2007 which present a potential danger to human health
Target M2i:	No non-compliances with the 48 parameters identified in the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations (No. 2) 2007 which present a potential danger to human health as a result of implementing the Plan
Indicator M2ii ⁶³ :	Preparation of a Water Services Strategic Plan - in compliance with the Water Services Act - for the functional area of the Council
Target M2ii:	For the Council to prepare a Water Services Strategic Plan in compliance with the Water Services Act

4.7 Air and Climatic Factors

4.7.1 Introduction

The impact of implementing the Plan on air quality and climatic factors will be determined by the impacts which the Plan has upon the traffic levels which relate to SEOs C1 and C2.

Travel is the source of most:

- Noise;
- Air emissions; and
- Energy use (41.4% oil equivalent of final energy consumption in 2006 was taken up by transport - sourced from Sustainable Energy Ireland's online Energy Statistics Data Bank).

⁶³ Indicator and Target M2ii are the same as Indicator and Target M1ii

Land-use planning contributes to what number and what extent of journeys occur. By addressing journey time through land use planning, increases in greenhouse gases can be minimised. Furthermore, by concentrating populations, greenfield development - and its associated impacts - can be minimised and the cost of service provision can be reduced.

4.7.2 Air Quality

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

The principles to this European approach are set out under the Air Quality Framework Directive 1996 while four daughter Directives lay down limits or thresholds for specific pollutants.

4.7.3 Climatic Factors

In order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions the internationally agreed Kyoto Protocol established emissions reduction targets for developing countries. Ireland's emission target for greenhouse gases is to limit the increase in their combined emissions during the five-year period 2008-2012 to 13 per cent above 1990 levels.

4.7.4 Noise

Noise is unwanted sound. Traffic noise alone is harming today the health of almost one third of Europeans⁶⁴.

The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing

⁶⁴ World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (2003) *Technical meeting on exposure-response relationships of noise on health 19-21 September 2002* Bonn, Germany Bonn: WHO

Community policy on noise reduction from source.

The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to:

- Draw up *strategic noise maps* for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators⁶⁵ and use these maps to assess the number of people which may be impacted upon as a result of excessive noise levels;
- Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and
- Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise.

The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.

4.7.5 SEOs, Indicators and Targets

The following SEOs, Indicators and Targets have been identified and developed with regard to the objectives of the above strategic actions and the environmental baseline described in Section 3.

It is noted that - in addition to being addressed as part of this assessment - traffic issues will also be addressed by lower-tier plans and at the level of individual projects by the development management process and, for certain projects, by EIA.

SEO C1: To reduce travel related greenhouse emissions to air

Indicator C1i⁶⁶: Percentage of population within the County travelling to work or school by public transport or non-mechanical means

Target C1i: An increase in the percentage of the population travelling to work or school by public transport or non-mechanical means

Indicator C1ii⁶⁷: Average distance travelled to work or school by the population of the County

Target C1ii: A decrease in the average distance travelled to work or school by the population of the County

SEO C2: To encourage modal change from car to more sustainable forms of transport

The use of the SEO C2 provides a qualitative directional measure which is used to evaluate the effects of implementing the Plan.

4.8 Cultural Heritage

4.8.1 Archaeological Heritage

4.8.1.1 Valletta Convention 1992

The European Convention on Protection of the Archaeological Heritage known as the Valletta Convention of 1992. This was ratified by Ireland in 1997 and requires that appropriate consideration be given to archaeological issues at all stages of the planning and development process.

4.8.1.2 National Heritage Plan for Ireland 2002

The core objective of the National Heritage Plan for Ireland 2002⁶⁸ is to protect Ireland's heritage. In this regard the polluter pays and the precautionary principle are operable.

⁶⁵ [L_{den} (day-evening-night equivalent level) and L_{night} (night equivalent level)]

⁶⁶ As measured by the Central Statistics Office

⁶⁷ As measured by the Central Statistics Office

⁶⁸ Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (2002) *National Heritage Plan for Ireland* Dublin: Government of Ireland

4.8.1.3 National Monuments Acts

Archaeology in Ireland is protected under the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2004.

Recorded monuments are protected by inclusion on the list and marked on the map which comprises the Record of Monuments and Places set out County by County under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland. The definition includes Zones of Archaeological Potential in towns and all other monuments of archaeological interest which have so far been identified.

Any works at or in relation to a recorded monument requires two months notice to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government under section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994.

Direct impacts on national monuments in State or Local Authority care or subject to a preservation order require the consent of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government under Section 14 of the National Monuments Act 1930 as amended by Section 5 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 2004.

4.8.2 Architectural Heritage

4.8.2.1 Planning and Development Act 2000

Records of Protected Structures (RPSs) are legislated for under Section 51 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 and include structures which form part of the architectural heritage and which are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.

4.8.2.2 Architectural Heritage and Historic Monuments Act 1999

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) is a state initiative under the administration of the DEHLG which was established on a statutory basis under the provisions of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999. Its purpose is to identify, record, and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland, uniformly and consistently as an aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage. It is intended

that the NIAH provides the basis for the inclusion of particular structures in RPSs.

4.8.3 SEOs, Indicators and Targets

The following SEOs, Indicators and Targets have been identified and developed with regard to the objectives of the above strategic actions and the environmental baseline described in Section 3.

SEO CH1:	To protect the archaeological heritage of the County including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and/or their context
Indicator CH1:	Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places - including Zones of Archaeological Potential - (and their context of the above within the surrounding landscape where relevant) protected
Target CH1:	Protect entries to the Record of Monuments and Places - including Zones of Archaeological Potential - (and their context of the above within the surrounding landscape where relevant)

SEO CH2:	To preserve and protect the special interest and character of the County's architectural heritage
Indicator CH2i:	Percentage of entries to the Record of Protected Structures (and/or their context within the surrounding landscape where relevant) protected
Indicator CH2ii:	Number of additions to the Record of Protected Structures and the number of additional ACAs
Target CH2i:	Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures (and/or their context within the surrounding landscape where relevant)
Target CH2ii:	Make Additions to the Record of Protected Structures and make additional ACAs, where appropriate

above and the environmental baseline described in Section 3.

SEO L1:	To avoid significant adverse impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscapes which are most valuable and most sensitive to change – including seascapes and coastscapes - and protected views and routes
Indicator L1:	Number of complaints received from statutory consultees regarding avoidable impacts on the landscape resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan
Target L1:	No developments permitted which result in avoidable impacts on the landscape resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan

4.9 Landscape

4.9.1 Introduction

The County's landscapes - in particular, landscapes which are most vulnerable and sensitive to change and views and scenic routes - are protected through policies contained in the current County Development Plan.

Ireland signed and ratified the European Landscape Convention (2000) in 2002 with the Convention entering into force in Ireland in 2004. The aims of the Convention include: to conserve and maintain the significant or characteristic features of a landscape, justified by its heritage value derived from its natural configuration and/or from human activity; to harmonise changes in the landscape which are brought about by social, economic and environmental processes, and to enhance landscapes.

4.9.2 SEO, Indicator and Target

The following SEO, Indicator and Target have been identified and developed with regard to the objectives of the strategic actions mentioned

Section 5 Context for the County Development Plan

5.1 Legislative Context

Under Section 9 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, every planning authority must make a development plan, setting the framework for all future development in the planning authority's area for the stated period, for the whole functional area of the authority every six years.

The Sligo County Development Plan 2011-2017 has been prepared in accordance with the requirements and provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended. It sets out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of County Sligo over the period 2011-2017 and beyond to the horizon year of 2022.

5.2 Structure of the Plan

The Plan is set out in a written statement, with accompanying maps. It comprises 13 main chapters as follows:

- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: SEA
- Chapter 3: Core Strategy
- Chapter 4: Economic Development
- Chapter 5: Housing
- Chapter 6: Community Facilities
- Chapter 7: Heritage
- Chapter 8: Transport
- Chapter 9: Environmental Infrastructure
- Chapter 10: Environmental Quality
- Chapter 11: Energy and Telecommunications
- Chapter 12: Development Management Standards
- Chapter 13: Mini-Plans General Policies

Also included are a number of chapters containing mini plans and a number of Appendices.

5.3 Alternatives

Sections 6 and 7 of this report identify, describe and evaluate different alternative development scenarios for the Plan, taking into account the relevant land use strategic actions (see Section

5.4), the SEOs identified in Section 4 as well as the geographical scope of the County.

The evaluation of the alternatives results in the identification of potential environmental effects. These environmental effects are considered alongside planning - social and economic - effects leading to the emergence of a preferred alternative.

5.4 Interactions with Relevant Planning Policy

5.4.1 Introduction

A wide variety of national, regional and local government policy documents have been reviewed in preparing the County Development Plan. Policy developments with a particular relevance to County Sligo and the Plan include:

- at **national** level: the *National Development Plan 2007-2013* (NDP), *National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020* (NSS), *National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012* and various Planning Guidelines;
- at **regional** level: the *Border Regional Planning Guidelines 2010* (RPGs), *Connacht Waste Management Plan 2006-2011*, *River Basin Management Plan* (RBMPs) for the Western River Basin District (RBD), Shannon International RBD and the North-western International RBD.
- at **local** level: *Sligo and Environs Development Plan 2010-2016* and Sligo County Development Board's *Integrated Economic, Social and Cultural Strategy 2002-2012* and *Action Plan 2009-2012*.

5.4.2 Key Messages

Key messages from these and other relevant policy documents, to which this Plan responds, are as follows:

At **national** level:

1. The NDP aims to deliver a programme of prioritised and structured investment in Ireland's physical, economic and social infrastructure, in order to strengthen Ireland's competitiveness, sustain economic and employment growth, foster balanced regional development and promote social inclusion. For Sligo, the NDP represents recognition by Government that investment in critical infrastructure is necessary to sustain balanced regional development and needs to be responded to through a dynamic planning and development framework and investments prioritised and structured around a development programme.
2. The NSS represents the first national strategic planning framework and identifies Sligo as an urban centre to be developed in an accelerated manner as a Gateway City to drive the overall development of the North-West. The *Sligo and Environs Development Plan 2010-2016* has set out a framework for Sligo City and this County Development Plan responds to the call in the NSS for frameworks at the county level to achieve balanced development in areas outside of the gateways.

At **regional** level:

1. The Border RPGs 2010 aim to support the development of the gateways identified in the NSS within a more detailed framework that includes Hubs and other key towns outside the Gateways. The Guidelines establish a broad framework for county development plans to ensure that the development of the Gateways under the NSS moves forward in tandem with a process of strengthening other urban areas and supporting a dynamic rural community. The RPGS also set minimum population targets and related housing land requirements for counties and major urban centres in the Border Region.
2. The River Basin Management Plans will identify the specific environmental objectives to be achieved by the end of

2015 and corresponding programmes of measures (i.e. actions that will be taken to achieve the objectives). Sligo County Council is responsible for the implementation of the RBMPs. Development plan policy must have due regard for the programme of measures detailed in the Management Plans. The RBMPs are due to be published in 2010.

At **local** level:

1. The *Sligo and Environs Development Plan 2010-2016* sets out a detailed development framework to transform Sligo into a Gateway City, as outlined in the NSS.
2. The County Development Board has established an economic, social and cultural development strategy for Sligo with the support of key interest groups and agencies. This strategy promotes balanced spatial development, social inclusion and enhancement of the living culture of Sligo as the aims for the future.

5.4.3 Lower Tier Land Use Plans

Local Area Plans are prepared by the Council for designated Census towns with a population over 2,000 or areas which were identified for significant levels of development. They set out in greater detail the Council's requirements for new development, including such factors as density, layout and design requirements, community facilities, transportation, open space and recreational facilities. These plans must be consistent with the County Development Plan.

Local Area Plans are currently in force or are being prepared for:

- Strandhill
- Enniscrone
- Hazelwood-Ballinode
- Ballymote
- North Fringe
- Charlestown - Bellaghy
- Tubbercurry

The Sligo and Environs Development Plan 2010-2016 is in force for the Sligo City and Environs area.

5.5 Environmental Protection Objectives

The Plan is subject to a number of high level national, international and regional environmental protection policies and objectives, including those which have been identified as Strategic Environmental Objectives in Section 4.

Examples of Environmental Protection Objectives include the aim of the EU Habitats Directive - which is to contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural

habitats and of wild fauna and flora in the European territory of Member States - and the purpose of the Water Framework Directive - which is to establish a framework for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater which, among other things, prevents deterioration in the status of all water bodies and protects, enhances and restores all waters with the aim of achieving good status by 2015.

The Plan must be consistent with these objectives and implement them at County level in Sligo.

Section 6 Description of Alternative Development Scenarios for the Plan

6.1 Introduction

One of the critical roles of the SEA is to facilitate an evaluation of the likely environmental consequences of a range of alternative scenarios for accommodating future growth in County Sligo.

These alternative development scenarios must be realistic, capable of implementation, and should represent a range of different approaches within statutory and operational requirements of the County Development Plan. In some cases the preferred scenario will combine elements from the various alternatives considered.

This section identifies and describes different alternative development scenarios, taking into account higher level strategic actions as well as the geographical scope of the County.

The scenarios are evaluated in Section 7 resulting in the identification of potential effects and informing the selection of a preferred alternative for the Plan. The policies and objectives which are required to realise the preferred alternative are evaluated in Section 8.

Mitigation measures attempt to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the preferred alternative have been integrated into the Plan - these are identified in Section 9.

6.2 Excluding the 'Do-Nothing' Scenario

As the current Plan is required to be reviewed and replaced by a new Plan under legislation a 'do-nothing' alternative is not considered, nor is it required to be by the SEA Directive.

Annex I of the SEA Directive specifies that information should be provided in the environmental report on *inter alia* 'the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme'. Section 3 identifies the evolution of each

component of the environment in the absence of implementing the Plan.

6.3 Description of Alternative Scenarios

6.3.1 Introduction

The following summarises a series of 'Scenarios' which provide alternative visions of how the future development of the County might occur. These are neither predictions nor preferences - instead they offer a range of plausible and internally consistent narratives of the outcome of different planning and development strategies. These provide the basis for the comparative evaluation of the likely environmental effects of each plan, which in turn serves the purpose of identifying which features of plans and policies are likely to be sensitive or robust over the widest range of circumstances.

6.3.2 Alternative Scenario 1: *Recent Trends - demand led growth*

Overzoning, developer-led growth and an increase in the number of one-off rural housing have been the main features of recent years in County Sligo.

According to 2006 Census data, just one year after the adoption of the CDP 2005-2011 growth in the satellite villages had already attained levels beyond what was envisaged in the Settlement Strategy and sustainable in terms of Gateway promotion. Furthermore, the zoning of much more land than what was realistically needed in certain settlements has now resulted in a large number of vacant dwellings. Some of the Key Satellites of Sligo, but also other villages located in majority in the Sligo Sub-region, have been affected by these trends.

At the same time, there has been a small but steady growth in rural one-off houses, not just in the rural areas in need of regeneration, but also in the rural areas under strong urban influence. This growth did not appear to be

hindered by the rural housing policies, which were nonetheless drawn up in accordance with the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines.

It should be emphasised that the type of development outlined in this scenario has occurred not in the absence of a Plan, but during the life and within the framework provided by the Sligo County Development Plan 2005-2011. This was possible partly because the bulk of planning permissions which led to excess housing provision in the “wrong” locations were granted before the adoption of the Plan, and partly because of overzoning in the mini-plans, without regard to the settlement strategy and recommended population levels. It is noted that overzoning has also occurred as part of preparing the LAPs, which were all adopted before the County Development Plan 2005-2011.

Alternative Scenario 1 (see Figure 6.1) provides for the continuation of the above parallel trends into the period 2011-2017, which would result in the undermining of population growth in the Gateway City and in the Key Support Towns with subsequent loss of economies of scale and synergies capable of fostering sustainable urban growth. More descriptively, the Scenario would result in:

- The occurrence of population growth predominantly in a few settlements where overzoning and consequent substantial housing development have taken place;
- The Gateway would continue to stagnate and even to lose population to the satellites and smaller villages in the Sub-region where there is an excess of housing and further zoned land; and
- Growth in Key Support Towns and consolidation of smaller villages would be hindered by the lack of new residents, as newly-formed households are drawn into overgrown satellites of Sligo or choose to settle in rural locations outside of towns and villages, particularly in Rural Areas in Need of Regeneration.

6.3.3 Alternative Scenario 2: *Spreading out development - small village catch up*

There are many settlements in County Sligo where very little or no development has taken place during the construction boom, primarily because no tax incentives were available for house construction at those locations.

It could be argued that these and other similar settlements also “deserve” their “fair” share of future growth, alongside the towns and villages that have already seen a substantial amount of development in recent years.

Alternative Scenario 2 (see Figure 6.2) provides for sufficient land to be zoned and serviced in those Sligo villages that were “left behind” and advocates adequate infrastructure to be put in place in order to cater for population and employment growth in these locations.

This scenario would result in:

- A degree of population growth in the more attractive and better serviced villages as a result of residential zoning and additional infrastructural commitments;
- Continued stagnation or loss of the Gateway’s population to the satellites and smaller villages in the Sub-region where there is an excess of housing; and
- The hindrance of growth in Key Support Towns, as newly-formed households occupy vacant houses in Gateway satellites or prefer to settle in smaller villages or outside settlements, in rural areas, particularly in “rural areas in need of regeneration”.

6.3.4 Alternative Scenario 3: *Focused growth - Gateway focus + key town consolidation*

The development of the Gateway as envisaged in the National Spatial Strategy and the consolidation of a number of key towns that provide services to rural areas are the main elements of Alternative Scenario 3 (see Figure 6.3).

In order to channel growth into these selected locations, development in other, non-strategic locations would be confined to levels that would not undermine the potential of the Gateway and Key Support Towns.

No additional residential development would take place in the majority of the satellites, where housing is already in excess supply. This would be achieved through the introduction of a moratorium on the construction of multiple-housing schemes, which would be reviewed in 2013, two years after the next Census.

The Key Support Towns would see a limited amount of growth, in a reasonable proportion to their existing population, and only small-scale residential development would be facilitated in small villages that need new residents in order to retain and support local services.

Under this scenario:

- The loss of Gateway population could be halted and possibly reversed;
- Key Support Towns would develop in proportion to their strategic role and size;
- There would be small-scale population growth in smaller villages; and
- The further growth of satellites would be curtailed.

It is acknowledged that some of the satellites and other villages have new wastewater treatment plants with a capacity much higher than their existing and envisaged population. However, wastewater treatment capacity is only one in an array of planning issues that must be taken into consideration when determining the optimal population level in a particular settlement for the period of a development plan.

Scenario 1 – Recent Trends

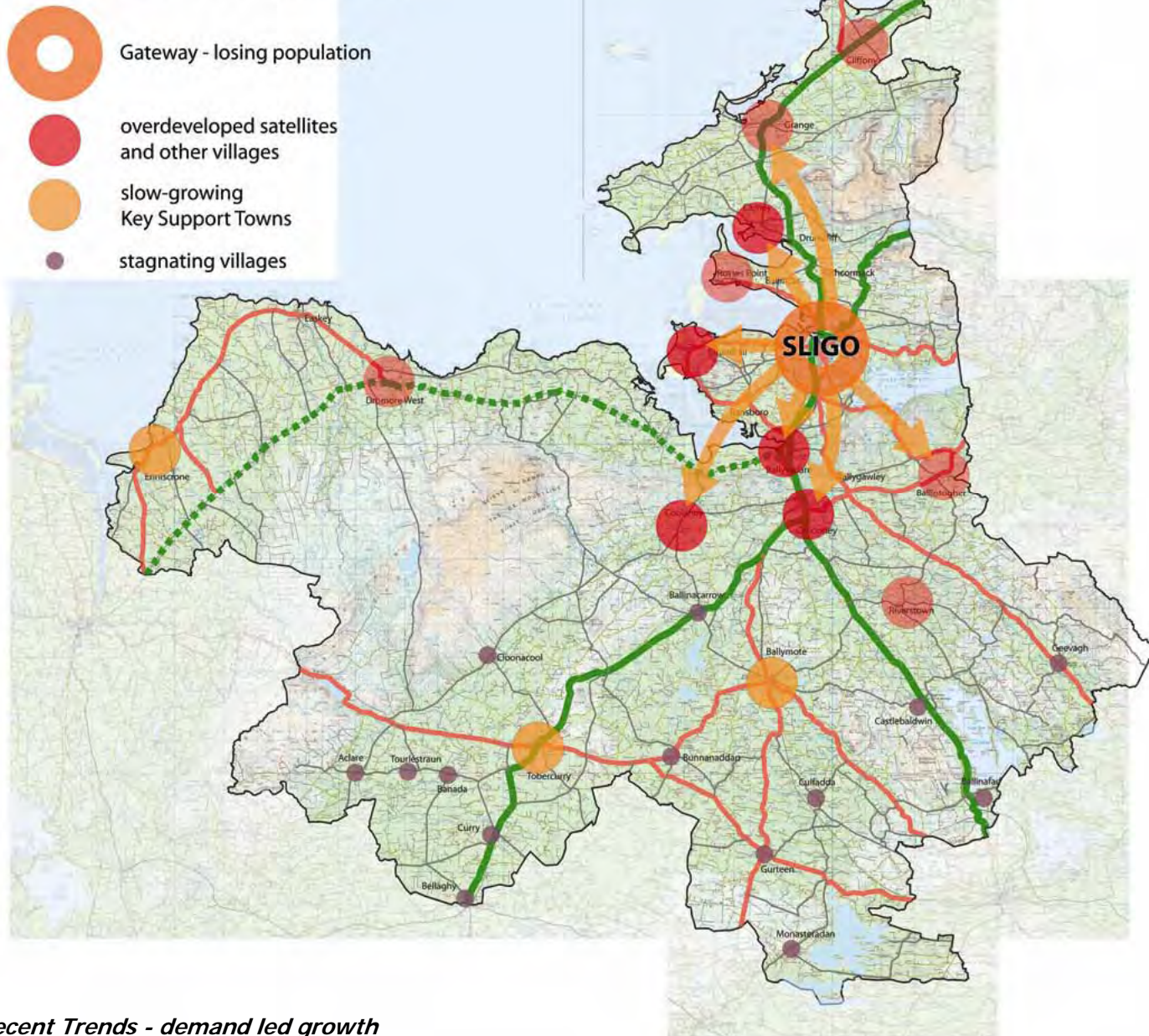


Figure 6.1 Scenario 1: *Recent Trends - demand led growth*

Scenario 2 – Spread development



All settlements receive an equal share of future growth as development is spread throughout the County

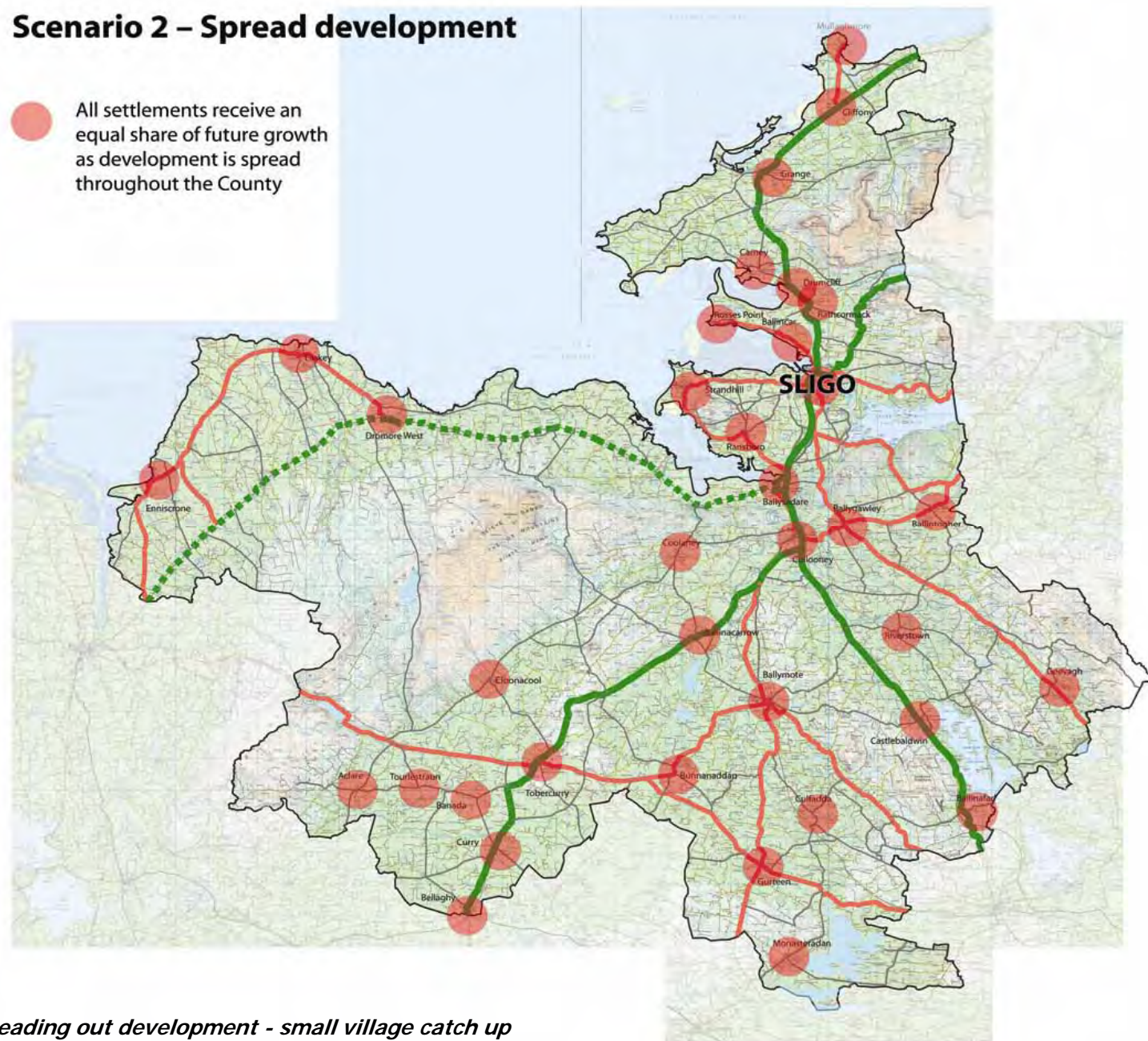


Figure 6.2 Scenario 2: *Spreading out development - small village catch up*

Scenario 3 – Focused Growth

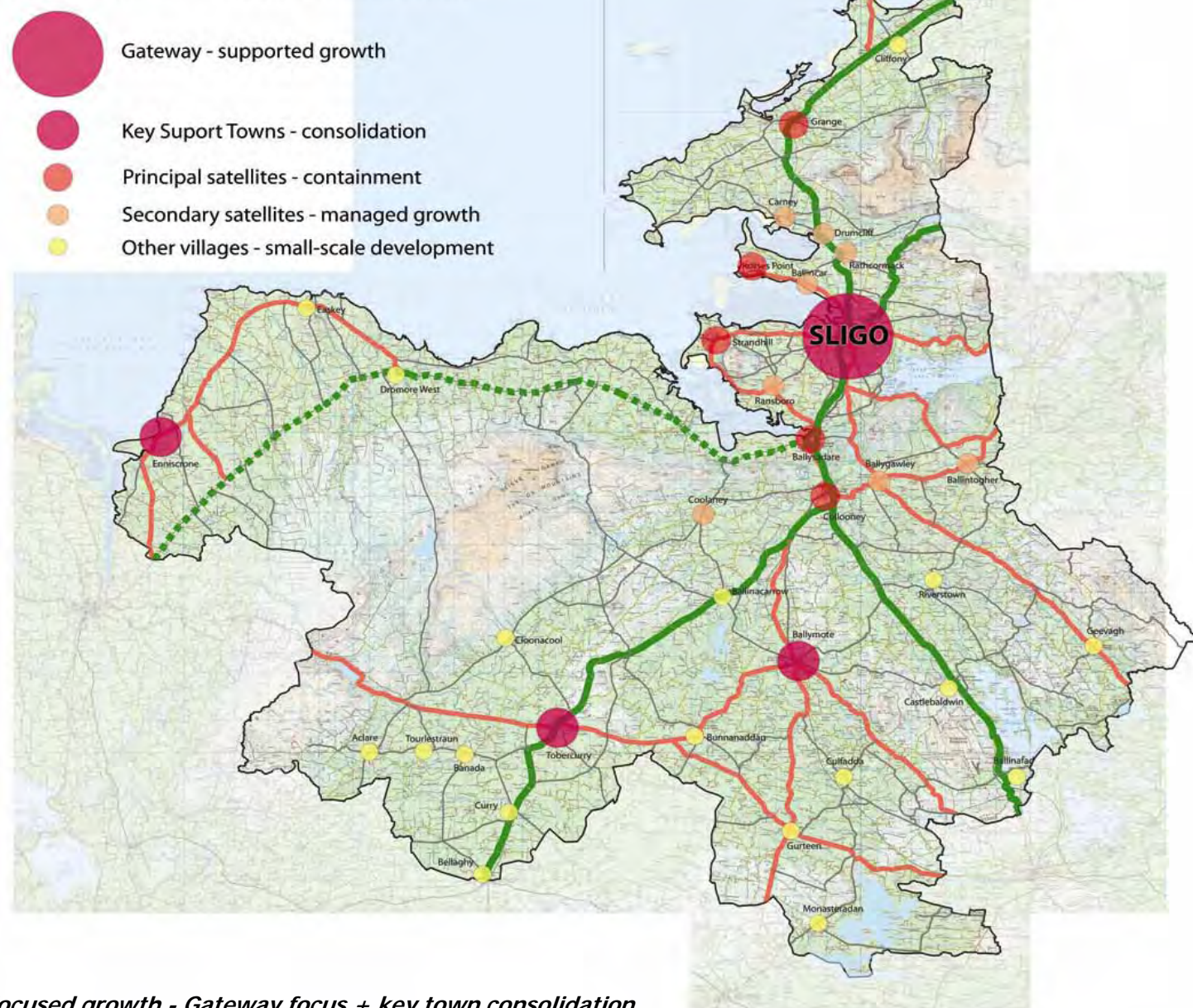


Figure 6.3 Scenario 3: *Focused growth - Gateway focus + key town consolidation*

Section 7 Evaluation of Alternative Development Scenarios for the Plan

7.1 Introduction

The objective of this section is to determine the relative merits of three alternative development scenarios for accommodating future growth in County Sligo. This determination sought to understand whether each alternative was likely to improve, conflict with or have a neutral interaction with the receiving environment.

7.2 Methodology

Scenarios are evaluated in a succinct and focused way for environmental effects against both the existing environment which is described and mapped in Section 3 and the Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) which are identified in Section 4.

Each of the schematic diagrams of the 3 alternative scenarios were considered alongside the Overlay Mapping of environmental sensitivities in order to show locations where conflicts would be likely to occur in the future. It is noted that this mapping does not take account of all factors such as waste water treatment capacity or the assimilative capacity of individual sections of rivers. The Overlay Mapping and the mapping of individual environmental components were considered by the Council during the preparation of the draft Plan.

In order to comply with the SEA Directive Strategic Environmental Objectives have been

grouped under relevant parent components such as *water* and *landscape*.

Based on an understanding of the existing and emerging environmental conditions in the County a series of SEOs were identified and developed in order to assess the likely environmental effects which would be caused by implementation of each of the three alternative scenarios described in Section 6. The alternatives are evaluated using compatibility criteria (see Table 7.1) in order to determine how they are likely to affect the status of these SEOs.

Table 7.2 brings together all the SEOs which have been developed from international and national policies which generally govern environmental protection objectives.

The SEOs and the alternative scenarios are arrayed against each other to identify which interactions - if any - would cause impacts on specific components of the environment.

Where the appraisal identifies a likely conflict with the status of an SEO the relevant SEO code is entered into the conflict column - e.g. B1 which stands for SEO likely to be affected - in this instance 'to ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive with regard to the protection of Natura 2000 Sites'.

Table 7.1 Criteria for appraising the effect of Alternatives and Plan provisions on SEOs

Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs- unlikely to be mitigated	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
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Table 7.2 Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)⁶⁹

SEO Code	SEO
B1	To ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive with regard to the protection of Natura 2000 Sites and habitats and species listed under Annexes I and II of the Directive
B2	To ensure compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the protection of macro-corridors and contiguous areas of habitat which are important on a County level for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species
B3	To sustain existing rural management practices - and the communities who support them - to ensure the continuation of long established managed landscapes and the flora and fauna that they contain
P1	Maximise the sustainable re-use of brownfield lands, and maximise the use of the existing built environment rather than developing greenfield lands
HH1	To protect human health from hazards or nuisances arising from exposure to incompatible landuses
S1	To prevent pollution and/or contamination of soil
W1	To maintain and improve, where possible, the status of surface waters
W2	To prevent pollution and contamination of ground water
W3	To manage areas that are currently at risk of flooding or are likely to pose a significant flood risk in the future
M1	To serve new development with appropriate waste water treatment
M2	To serve growth areas with drinking water that is both wholesome and clean
C1	To reduce travel related greenhouse emissions to air
C2	To encourage modal change from car to more sustainable forms of transport
CH1	To protect the archaeological heritage of the County including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and/or their context
CH2	To preserve and protect the special interest and character of the County's architectural heritage
L1	To avoid significant adverse impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscapes which are most valuable and most sensitive to change – including seascapes and coastscapes - and protected views and routes

⁶⁹ Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are methodological measures which are developed from international, national and regional policies which generally govern environmental protection objectives and against which the environmental effects of the Plan and the alternatives can be tested. The SEOs are used as standards against which the provisions of the Plan can be evaluated in order to help identify areas in which significant adverse impacts are likely to occur, if unmitigated against.

7.3 Evaluation of Alternative Scenarios⁷⁰

7.3.1 Alternative Scenario 1: *Recent Trends - demand led growth*

7.3.1.1 Environmental Effects

Adverse

Continued growth in the 11 overdeveloped satellites and other villages (Cliffony, Grange, Carney, Rosses Point, Strandhill, Ballisodare, Collooney, Dromore West, Coolaney, Riverstown and Ballintogher), 6 of which (Cliffony, Grange, Rosses Point, Strandhill, Collooney and Ballintogher) have current loadings that exceed current waste water treatment capacity⁷¹, would have a negative effect by increasing in pressure on surface, groundwater and estuarine water quality⁷² – particularly in the north-east of the county.

Dispersed development on the outskirts of overdeveloped satellites and other villages would give rise to continued cumulative pressure – particularly in the north-east of the county – on:

- Groundwater and surface water quality⁷³;
- Archaeological and architectural heritage⁷⁴;
- The landscape and visual amenity⁷⁵; and,
- The continuity and integrity of extensive habitats⁷⁶ – such as hedges and streams.

The dispersed pattern of general settlement would lead to increased levels of those environmental effects associated with additional commuting⁷⁷ which include:

- Increased energy consumption;
- Increased emissions to air⁷⁸; and,
- Increased emissions of noise⁷⁹.

Increased levels of cumulative effects due to the provision and maintenance of extensive and more heavily trafficked roads – including effects on water quality, bio-diversity, landscape and cultural heritage⁸⁰ – would be likely to occur.

There would be lower levels of efficiency and higher levels of operating costs with regard to the supply of environmental services⁸¹ to a dispersed population.

Beneficial

Growth would be concentrated away from Sligo and its immediate environs which is the area with the highest concentration of environmental⁸² [water and ecology] sensitivities within the County.

⁷⁰ Footnotes like this are used in this section in order to identify instances where interactions between the relevant Scenario and the relevant SEOs occur. The nature of these interactions is identified on Table 7.3.

⁷¹ SEO M1 (Also relates to SEOs W1, W2, B1, B2 & HH1)

⁷² SEOs W1 & W2 (Also relates to SEOs B1, B2 & HH1)

⁷³ SEOs W1 & W2 (Also relates to SEOs B1, B2 & HH1)

⁷⁴ SEOs CH1 & CH2

⁷⁵ SEO L1

⁷⁶ SEOs B1 & B2

⁷⁷ SEOs C1 & C2

⁷⁸ SEO HH1

⁷⁹ SEO HH1

⁸⁰ SEOs W1, W2, B1, B2, L1, CH1 & CH2

⁸¹ SEOs M1 & M2 (Also relates to SEOs W1, W2, B1, B2 & HH1)

⁸² SEOs B1, B2, W1 & W2

7.3.1.2 Planning Effects

- Oversized dormitory settlements would not be properly served in terms of commercial, social, community and recreational facilities, which were not developed in tandem with new housing and most of the residents of these settlements would have to commute to Sligo to work or school;
- Undermining of population growth in the Gateway City and in the Key Support Towns would result in losses to economies of scale - the cost of maintaining roads and providing environmental infrastructure (essentially water and wastewater treatment facilities) to more locations in the County would increase - and synergies capable of fostering sustainable urban growth;
- Undermining of population growth in the Gateway City and in the Key Support Towns would be at odds with higher level land use policy; and,
- There would be a potential reduction in vacancy in settlements such as Ballysadare or Collooney, combined with a parallel decrease in the demand for one-off houses.

7.3.2 Alternative Scenario 2: *Spreading out development - small village catch up*

7.3.2.1 Environmental Effects

Adverse

Continued growth in the vicinity of all settlements – many of which appear to have current loadings that exceed current waste water treatment capacity⁸³ - will have a negative effect by increasing in pressure on surface, groundwater and estuarine water quality⁸⁴ – over a wide area – throughout the County.

Dispersed development on the outskirts of all settlements would give rise to continued cumulative pressure on:

- Groundwater and surface water quality⁸⁵;
- Archaeological and architectural heritage⁸⁶;
- The landscape and visual amenity⁸⁷; and,
- The continuity and integrity of extensive habitats⁸⁸ – such as hedges and streams.

The dispersed pattern of general settlement would lead to increased levels of those environmental effects associated with additional commuting⁸⁹ which include:

- Increased energy consumption;
- Increased emissions to air⁹⁰; and,
- Increased emissions of noise⁹¹.

Increased levels of cumulative effects due to the provision and maintenance of extensive and more heavily trafficked roads – including effects on water quality, bio-diversity, landscape and cultural heritage⁹² – would be likely to occur.

There would be lower levels of efficiency and higher levels of operating costs with regard to the supply of environmental services⁹³ to a dispersed population.

⁸³ SEO M1 (Also relates to SEOs W1, W2, B1, B2 & HH1)

⁸⁴ SEOs W1 & W2 (Also relates to SEOs B1, B2 & HH1)

⁸⁵ SEOs W1 & W2 (Also relates to SEOs B1, B2 & HH1)

⁸⁶ SEOs CH1 & CH2

⁸⁷ SEO L1

⁸⁸ SEOs B1 & B2

⁸⁹ SEOs C1 & C2

⁹⁰ SEO HH1

⁹¹ SEO HH1

⁹² SEOs W1, W2, B1, B2, L1, CH1 & CH2 (Also relates to SEO HH1)

⁹³ SEOs M1 & M2 (Also relates to SEOs W1, W2, B1, B2 & HH1)

Beneficial

Growth would be concentrated away from Sligo and its immediate environs which is the area with the highest concentration of environmental⁹⁴ [water and ecology] sensitivities within the County.

7.3.2.2 Planning Effects

- Commuting would increase, with negative environmental effects and infrastructural cost impacts;
- Although this scenario might be seen as “fair” or “equitable” to all settlements, the spreading out of limited resources for transport and environmental infrastructure would result in significant losses to economies of scale and inevitably lead to insufficient or deficient provision of such services, effectively hindering growth in settlements and/or negatively impacting on the environment;
- Weakening the Gateway City and in the Key Support Towns would be at odds with higher level land use policy; and,
- Vacancy rates in settlements with excess housing supply - especially the overgrown satellites - would continue to remain high.

7.3.3 Alternative Scenario 3: *Focused growth - Gateway focus + key town consolidation*

7.3.3.1 Environmental Effects

Adverse

Growth would concentrate on Sligo and its immediate environs which is the area with the highest concentration of environmental⁹⁵ (water and ecology) sensitivities within the County. Appropriate water services infrastructure⁹⁶ with sufficient capacity would need to be provided to development within the Gateway in order to mitigate effects on the estuarine water quality, water dependent habitats and human health⁹⁷.

Although limiting growth in other settlements across the County, this scenario does allow for a certain amount of growth these settlements. Such growth would potentially conflict with various aspects of the environment (protecting biodiversity and flora and fauna⁹⁸, human health⁹⁹, water resources¹⁰⁰, landscape and visual amenity¹⁰¹ and cultural heritage¹⁰² - architectural and archaeological -; reducing flood risk¹⁰³; providing appropriate water services infrastructure and capacity¹⁰⁴ to new populations; minimising increases in travel related greenhouse emissions to air¹⁰⁵ and reducing car dependency¹⁰⁶; and, minimising greenfield development¹⁰⁷) however, such conflicts would be mitigated by adherence to environmental management and protection measures integrated into the scenario.

Beneficial

The curtailment of growth in four Principal Satellite Towns (Rosses Point, Collooney, Strandhill and Ballysadare) - three of which appear to have current loadings that exceed current waste water treatment capacity¹⁰⁸ - and the limiting of growth in various other settlements across the County

⁹⁴ SEOs B1, B2, W1 & W2

⁹⁵ SEOs B1, B2, W1 & W2

⁹⁶ SEOs M1 & M2

⁹⁷ SEOs W1, W2, B1, B2 & HH1

⁹⁸ SEOs B1 & B2

⁹⁹ SEO HH1

¹⁰⁰ SEOs W1 & W2

¹⁰¹ SEO L1

¹⁰² SEOs CH1 & CH2

¹⁰³ SEO W3

¹⁰⁴ SEOs M1 & M2

¹⁰⁵ SEOs C1

¹⁰⁶ SEOs C2

¹⁰⁷ SEO S2

¹⁰⁸ SEOs M1 & M2

would reduce increases in pressures on surface, groundwater and estuarine water quality¹⁰⁹, ecology¹¹⁰, landscape¹¹¹ and cultural heritage¹¹² – over the wider County area, outside of the Gateway.

Because of the concentrated nature of development provided for by this scenario, there would be a lower extent of environmental effects associated with less commuting¹¹³ - energy consumption and air and noise emissions¹¹⁴ - and there would be a more efficient use of installed and planned environmental infrastructure¹¹⁵.

7.3.3.2 Planning Effects

- There would be benefits for retail, business and general economic competitiveness arising from the halting and possible reversing of Gateway population loss;
- Local retail and employment consolidation would be facilitated by the development of Key Support Towns in proportion to their strategic role and size;
- Services in smaller villages would be retained and supported as an effect of small-scale population growth in these villages;
- The further growth of satellites to the detriment of the Gateway would be curtailed, while vacancy rates would fall faster;
- Commuting would decrease as more people would live closer to their places of work or study;
- Environmental infrastructure could be provided in a more efficient, cost-effective manner;
- Well-serviced towns and villages could become more attractive to some of those who would otherwise settle in rural areas further decreasing commuting and improving economies of scale in the provision of environmental infrastructure; and,
- Overall, it is considered that the Focused Growth Scenario is in accordance with the NSS principle of promoting growth in the Gateways while supporting the role of smaller towns and villages at local level.

7.3.4 Evaluation against SEOs

The table overleaf provides an evaluation of each of the alternative development scenarios for the Plan against the Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).

¹⁰⁹ SEOs W1 & W2

¹¹⁰ SEO L1

¹¹¹ SEOs CH1 & CH2

¹¹² SEOs W1 & W2

¹¹³ SEOs C1 & C2

¹¹⁴ SEO HH1

¹¹⁵ SEO M1 & M2

Table 7.3 Evaluation of Alternative Development Scenarios against SEOs

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - would be mitigated
<p>Scenario 1:</p> <p>Recent Trends - demand led growth</p>	<p>B1 B2 W1 (concentration of growth away from Sligo and its immediate environs - this area has the highest concentration of ecological and water sensitivities in the County)</p> <p>B3 (dispersed development strategy contributes to the sustenance of existing rural management practices and the communities that support them)</p>	<p>C1 C2 (dispersed development leading to significant additional commuting)</p> <p>P1 (sustainable reuse of brownfield lands not maximised; growth consolidation hindered)</p>	<p>M1 W1 W2 HH1 B1 B2 See Note 1 Waste Water (overleaf) – this note refers under this Scenario, in particular, to a lack of spare waste water treatment capacity in 6 out of the 11 ‘overdeveloped satellites and other villages’</p> <p>B1 B2 W1 W2 M2 HH1 W3 S1 L1 CH1 CH2 (cumulative adverse effects on water, soil, biodiversity, human health, flooding, landscape and cultural heritage as a result of dispersed development on the outskirts of overdeveloped satellites and other villages, particularly in the north-east of the County) Also see Note 2 Drinking Water (overleaf).</p>
<p>Scenario 2:</p> <p>Spreading out development - small village catch up</p>	<p>B1 B2 W1 (concentration of growth away from Sligo and its immediate environs - this area has the highest concentration of ecological and water sensitivities in the County)</p> <p>B3 (dispersed development strategy contributes to the sustenance of existing rural management practices and the communities that support them)</p>	<p>C1 C2 (dispersed development leading to significant additional commuting)</p> <p>P1 (sustainable reuse of brownfield lands not maximised; growth consolidation hindered)</p>	<p>B1 B2 W1 W2 CH1 CH2 L1 (additional commuting leading to increased provision and maintenance of extensive and more heavily tracked roads)</p> <p>M1 W1 W2 HH1 B1 B2 See Note 1 (Waste Water) – this note refers under this Scenario to a lack of spare waste water treatment capacity in many settlements across the County</p> <p>B1 B2 W1 W2 M2 HH1 W3 S1 L1 CH1 CH2 (cumulative adverse effects on water, human health, flooding, soil, biodiversity, landscape and cultural heritage as a result of dispersed development in and on the outskirts of settlements across the County) Also see Note 2 Drinking Water (overleaf).</p>
<p>Scenario 3:</p> <p>Focused growth - Gateway focus + key town consolidation</p>	<p>B1 B2 W1 W2 M2 HH1 S1 L1 CH1 CH2 (curtailment of growth in settlements including the 4 Principal Satellites would have cumulative beneficial effects on the protection of water, human health, soil, biodiversity, landscape and cultural heritage as a result of dispersed development in and on the outskirts of settlements across the County)</p> <p>C1 C2 (Gateway focused growth and concentrated nature of development could facilitate less commuting)</p> <p>B3 (structured settlement strategy contributes to the sustenance of existing rural management practices and the communities that support them)</p> <p>P1 (consolidation, containment and management of growth would contribute towards the sustainable reuse of brownfield lands)</p>		<p>B1 B2 W1 (concentration of growth in Sligo and its immediate environs - this area has the highest concentration of ecological and water sensitivities in the County)</p> <p>M1 W1 W2 HH1 B1 B2 See Note 1 (Waste Water) – this note refers under this Scenario, in particular, to a lack of spare waste water treatment capacity in many settlements across the County, especially in the Key Support Town of Tobbercurry, the Principal Satellites of Grange, Rosses Point, Strandhill, Collooney</p> <p>B1 B2 W1 W2 M2 HH1 W3 S1 L1 CH1 CH2 (potential conflicts between the certain amount of growth which is allowed by this alternative and various aspects of the environment which would need to be mitigated) Also see Note 2 Drinking Water (overleaf).</p>

7.3.5 Notes referred to in Table 7.3

Note 1 Waste Water

The avoidance of significant impacts upon the County's water resources and upon aquatic biodiversity and flora and fauna and human health is dependent on compliance of new developments with Plan provisions which require development in designated settlements to be accompanied by waste water treatment infrastructure with adequate capacity that would enable compliance with the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, Water Framework Directive, Habitats Directive and Birds Directive.

Note 2 Drinking Water

With regard to the treatment and disposal of waste water, limitations in the assimilative capacity of water bodies can be dealt with by engineering solutions. However, the capacity of water bodies to allow abstractions of water for human use without compromising the ability of the water bodies to meet legislative requirements - such as the Water Framework Directive - is limited and cannot be overcome by engineering solutions. Measures which recognise this limitation have been integrated into the Plan.

7.3.6 The Selected Alternative Development Scenario

The Alternatives that were examined were produced and evaluated at an earlier - more embryonic - stage to facilitate the evaluation and selection of a plan - having regard, *inter alia* to environmental consequences.

The Alternative Scenario for the Development Plan which emerged from the Plan preparation process and was adopted by the Elected Members is Scenario 3 (*Focused growth - Gateway focus + key town consolidation*) – this Scenario achieves a good balance between potential environmental impact and conformance with relevant National and Regional planning objectives.

The Settlement Hierarchy Map from the County Development Plan is shown on Figure 7.1.

With the integration of appropriate mitigation measures (including those which are identified in Section 9 of this report) potential adverse environmental effects which could arise as a result of implementing this scenario would be likely to be avoided, reduced or offset.

Alternative Scenario 3 was chosen to be developed for the Development Plan by the plan-making team and adopted by the Elected Members having regard to both:

1. The environmental effects which were identified by the Strategic Environmental Assessment; and,
2. Planning - including social and economic - effects.

7.3.7 Evaluation of Plan Provisions prepared to realise the Selected Alternative

Section 8 evaluates the policies and objectives which have been prepared to realise Scenario 3 (the selected Development Plan Scenario). Some of these provisions are likely to have a range of beneficial effects with regard to the protection of the environment while some are likely to have a range of potential adverse effects which will be mitigated by other provisions which have been integrated into the Plan, including those which have emerged through the SEA process. Some provisions are likely to have a range of both beneficial effects and potential adverse effects which will be mitigated by other provisions within the Plan, including those which have emerged through the SEA process.

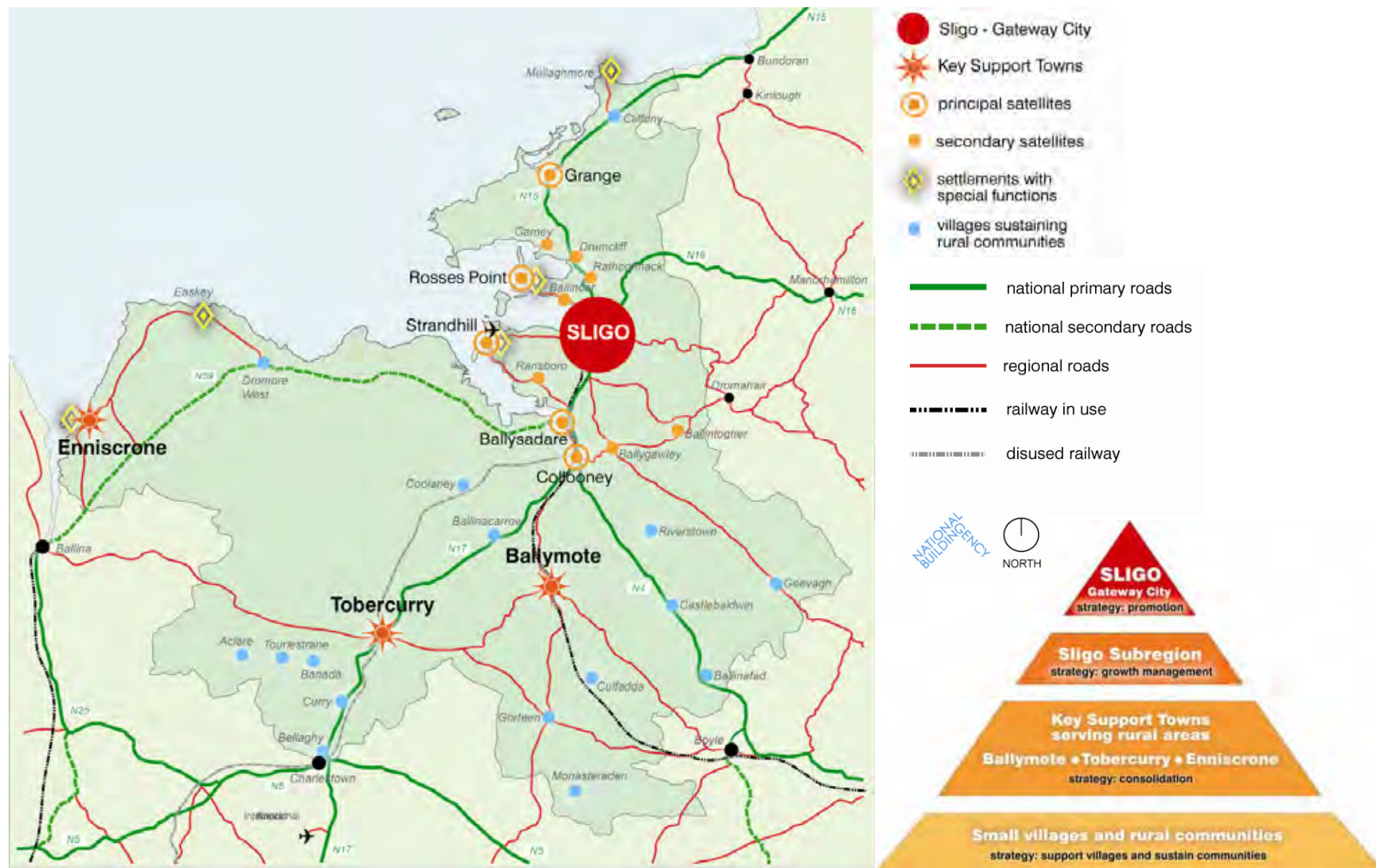


Figure 7.1 Plan Settlement Structure and Hierarchy Map & Settlement Strategy Principles

Section 8 Evaluation of Plan Provisions

8.1 Methodology

This section evaluates the Plan's policies and objectives. Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are used for this purpose as outlined under Section 7.2. Use has also been made of the environmental baseline descriptions and the maps of the individual components provided in Section 3.

The interactions between the SEOs and the policies and objectives of the Plan determine the likely significant effects of implementing the Plan. These effects include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.

Table 8.1 brings together all the SEOs which have been developed from international, national and regional policies which generally govern environmental protection objectives.

Table 8.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)¹¹⁶

SEO Code	SEO
B1	To ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive with regard to the protection of Natura 2000 Sites and habitats and species listed under Annexes I and II of the Directive
B2	To ensure compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the protection of macro-corridors and contiguous areas of habitat which are important on a County level for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species
B3	To sustain existing rural management practices - and the communities who support them - to ensure the continuation of long established managed landscapes and the flora and fauna that they contain
P1	Maximise the sustainable re-use of brownfield lands, and maximise the use of the existing built environment rather than developing greenfield lands
HH1	To protect human health from hazards or nuisances arising from exposure to incompatible landuses
S1	To prevent pollution and/or contamination of soil
W1	To maintain and improve, where possible, the status of surface waters
W2	To prevent pollution and contamination of ground water
W3	To manage areas that are currently at risk of flooding or are likely to pose a significant flood risk in the future
M1	To serve new development with appropriate waste water treatment
M2	To serve growth areas with drinking water that is both wholesome and clean
C1	To reduce travel related greenhouse emissions to air
C2	To encourage modal change from car to more sustainable forms of transport
CH1	To protect the archaeological heritage of the County including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and/or their context
CH2	To preserve and protect the special interest and character of the County's architectural heritage
L1	To avoid significant adverse impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscapes which are most valuable and most sensitive to change – including seascapes and coastscapes - and protected views and routes

¹¹⁶ Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are methodological measures which are developed from international, national and regional policies which generally govern environmental protection objectives and against which the environmental effects of the Plan and the alternatives can be tested. The SEOs are used as standards against which the provisions of the Plan can be evaluated in order to help identify areas in which significant adverse impacts are likely to occur, if unmitigated against.

8.2 Determination of Potential Interactions

Certain Plan policies and objectives are evaluated as having a potential conflicting interactions with the status of SEOs. The interaction and environmental impacts, if any, which occur will be determined by: the nature and extent of individual projects or multiple projects; lower tier plans and subsequent development; and, site specific environmental factors.

These impacts may be assessed as part of a lower tier environmental assessment and/or by the development management process.

Avoidance of conflict is dependent upon the Council managing permissions in a way which does not conflict with the status of SEOs.

Providing other Plan measures are complied with, unnecessary conflicts with SEOs would be avoided.

8.3 Water Services¹¹⁷

As identified and demonstrated in Section 3, there is imperfect knowledge about the baseline situation with regard to water services both within and across County boundaries.

Strategic water, wastewater and storm drainage objective SO-W-5 which has been integrated into the Plan commits the Council:

Prepare a Water Services Strategic Plan – in compliance with the Water Services Act – for the functional area of the Council. Such a Plan may be prepared jointly with other Water Services Authorities.

This will involve the compilation of better baselines on a County level and will contribute towards the implementation of the Water Services Act over the period of the Plan.

The need for undertaking separate Strategic Environmental Assessment(s) of the Water Services Plan(s) is outlined under the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 435 of 2004)¹¹⁸.

8.4 Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) have both been undertaken alongside the preparation and adoption of the Plan.

The requirement for AA is provided under the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 1992/43/EEC). The requirement for SFRA is provided under 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DEHLG, 2009).

The preparation and adoption of the Plan, SEA, AA & SFRA have taken place concurrently and the findings of the AA & SFRA have informed both the Plan and the SEA.

¹¹⁷ Services, including the provision of water intended for human consumption, which provide storage, treatment or distribution of surface water, groundwater or water supplied by a water services authority, or waste water collection, storage, treatment or disposal.

¹¹⁸ The European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 435 of 2004) requires the carrying out of an environmental assessment for all plans and programmes (a) which are prepared for sectors including waste management and water management and which set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annexes I and II to the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive, or (b) which are not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site but, either individually or in combination with other plans, are likely to have a significant effect on any such site.

8.5 Chapter 3: County Sligo in the Future – Core Strategy

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs- unlikely to be mitigated	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Core Aims Taking account of recent policy developments, current trends, the achievements of the previous Development Plan and the collective implications of the above for the period to 2017, the core aims of this Plan are:				
CA-1 To develop the full potential of each part of County Sligo to contribute to the optimal performance of the County as a whole – economically, socially and environmentally;	B3 P1 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2	
CA-2 To adequately provide for the growth of Sligo towards a target population of up to 74,000 by 2017, structured in a balanced manner between: — the Gateway City of Sligo (up to 34,000) — the wider area of County Sligo (up to 40,000), encompassing the consolidation of Key Support Towns and smaller settlements, and the maintenance of viable rural communities in the hinterlands of these towns and villages.	B3 P1 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	
CA-3 To support the implementation of the Gateway status for Sligo City, as set out in the NSS, the RPGs and as provided for in the Sligo and Environs Development Plan 2010-2016, by ensuring the structured and orderly development of Sligo as a compact and sustainable city;	B3 P1 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	
CA-4 To sustain the vitality of urban and rural communities throughout the County in a way that will complement the vibrancy of the Gateway and reinforce the identity of Sligo, ensuring that culture is central to its identity and to the quality of life for all those who live, work and visit the County;	B3 P1 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2	

CA-5 To ensure that the nationally – and internationally – renowned natural and cultural heritage of Sligo is wisely conserved and enhanced, both as a driver of Sligo's identity and attractiveness for investment and business activities, and as a key legacy to be handed forward to future generations.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1			P1 W3 C1 C2
CA-6 To build up the regional-level linkages between County Sligo and other parts of the Border Region and adjoining regions, such as the Western Region and Northern Ireland, by supporting the implementation of regional spatial strategies, such as the Border Regional Planning Guidelines, collaborating on support for critical enabling infrastructure, such as inter-regional road and rail linkages, and co-operating on areas of mutual planning interest.			B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	
Strategic Goals				
SG-1 Supporting balanced economic development a. Facilitate and encourage the development of Sligo as a Gateway City and economic growth driver for the North-West region. b. Integrate business locations with the surrounding land uses and transportation network. c. Promote economic development and the provision of industry/enterprise in the Key Support Towns of Tobercurry, Ballymote and Enniscrone. d. Promote rural/agricultural diversification, through the sustainable use of natural resources, e.g. tourism, forestry, energy production. e. Market and promote Sligo as an attractive place to live and work. f. Involve Sligo Institute of Technology in the promotion of Sligo as a centre of third-level education and hence an attractive place for investment. g. Promote Sligo City and County as a suitable location for the relocation of state and/or semi-state bodies. h. Work with the relevant providers of to ensure adequate infrastructure in terms of road, rail, aviation, energy and broadband telecommunications. i. Work in partnership with key organisations, such as the Industrial Development Authority and Enterprise Ireland, whose remit it is to promote and/or secure economic development. j. Encourage and facilitate the sustainable development of the creative and cultural industries as a driver of the local economy. k. Work with Fáilte Ireland, Sligo Marketing Forum and the County Development Board on the development of niche cultural tourism initiatives as an economic growth driver for the region.	B3 P1 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2	
SG-2. Carefully managing development patterns a. Implement a clear spatial development strategy that maintains the distinctive landscape attributes of Sligo. b. Promote a balanced settlement pattern in urban areas, while facilitating sustainable rural settlement. c. Encourage, in the Sligo Subregion, a mix of land uses in villages with connections to efficient public transportation systems, to reduce growth in car-based commuting patterns, to reduce inefficient use of energy and resources and to promote social inclusion and more sustainable development patterns. d. Encourage the location of new strategic economic developments in and around key urban centres in order to strengthen the Gateway City and Key Support Towns. e. Counteract tendencies towards extensive ribbon development and urban sprawl, particularly on the immediate environs of Sligo City and Key Support Towns. f. Strengthen existing rural communities, by ensuring that the planning system facilitates the housing needs of persons with roots in,	B3 P1 C1 C2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	

or links to rural areas, as provided for in the NSS, as well as local enterprise initiatives.				
<p>SG-3 Conserving environmental quality</p> <p>a. Wisely conserve and manage the natural and cultural heritage of the County, including the character of the landscape, views and prospects, and the environmental quality of the County.</p> <p>b. Conserve the landscape character and ecological integrity of the coastal zone.</p> <p>c. Enhance the physical environment of towns and villages through the Urban and Village Renewal Scheme and other urban design initiatives.</p> <p>d. Support applicants and potential applicants in ensuring that environmental and landscape matters are considered in the initial stages of development proposals.</p> <p>e. Protect and where necessary improve water quality within the County.</p>	<p>B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1</p>		<p>B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1</p>	
<p>SG-4 Driving urban renewal</p> <p>a. Drive the process of regenerating derelict and under-used areas within the County's towns and villages.</p> <p>b. Conserve the historic form and character of the towns and villages.</p> <p>c. Promote Sligo City as the main retail and service centre, with support from Tobercurry, Ballymote, Enniscrone, and promote Collooney and Grange as lower-tier retail/service centres.</p>	<p>B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1</p>		<p>B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1</p>	
<p>SG-5 Promoting effective transportation</p> <p>a. Target, prioritise and promote investment in inter-city and inter-county road and rail connections, as a means of realising the potential of Sligo as an important economic centre in the North-West.</p> <p>b. Promote the development of settlements along existing and former railway lines, so as to facilitate future rail initiatives in the County, with adequate reservations for park-and-ride facilities.</p> <p>c. Integrate the public transportation system with a quality bus and rail service, alongside the promotion of cycle and pedestrian facilities within and adjacent to existing settlements.</p> <p>d. Encourage large employers, including public services (such as schools) to locate on sites close to village and urban centres, where public transport can be provided more easily.</p> <p>e. Promote 'commuter planning' for large employers in the County.</p> <p>f. Promote the development of quality interchange facilities between road, rail, bus and bicycle in Sligo City Centre, Key Support Towns and settlements along rail corridors.</p> <p>g. Promote community transport services, in particular the Rural Transport Initiative, aimed at people who are excluded, or who may become excluded because transport is not available.</p> <p>h. Promote and support the development and use of Sligo Regional Airport so as to ensure a better level and frequency of service and enhance Sligo's accessibility to tourists and businesses, both nationally and internationally.¹¹⁹</p>	<p>B3 P1 C1 C2</p>		<p>B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2</p>	

¹¹⁹ Further development and/or intensification of Sligo Airport may have to be accompanied by sufficient amounts of infrastructure and/or increases in the capacity of existing infrastructure - including supporting public and private transport and water infrastructure and services. Significant amounts of greenfield lands, may be required for any expansion with significant residual impacts likely on the landscape. Potential conflicts could arise between further development and/or intensification and ecology and additional amounts of greenhouse gas emissions, energy usage and noise emissions could be generated. Further development and/or intensification may be required to undergo Environmental Impact Assessment through which both the need for the proposed project and alternatives for providing for the need would have to be thoroughly examined.

SG-6 Delivering improved infrastructure a. Provide adequate water and sewerage capacity to accommodate the projected needs of the future population ensuring the sustainable use of water resources. b. Maximise the use of existing water, sewerage, electricity and telecommunications networks and support the provision of broadband. c. Promote the development of gas supply and alternative energy forms in County Sligo. d. Encourage energy-efficient building, layout and design. e. Implement the Connaught Regional Waste Management Plan 2006-2011 and successor documents and provide the necessary waste management infrastructure.	B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	C1 C2
Strategic spatial development policies				
SP-SD-1 Promote residential and employment growth in the Gateway City of Sligo.	B3 P1 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	
SP-SD-2 Support the ongoing development of the Atlantic Road Corridor, and the upgrading of road links to other NSS Gateways, important urban centres and Northern Ireland.	B3 C1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2	M1 M2 P1
SP-SD-3 Promote public transport by road and rail and support the reopening of the Western Rail Corridor.	B3 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	M1 M2 P1
SP-SD-4 Seek co-ordination between residential/economic development and transport corridors and encourage concentration of such development at locations that are optimally served by existing and planned road/rail connections.	B3 P1 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2	
SP-SD-5 Outside the Gateway, direct growth into towns and villages and promote compact settlement forms.	B3 P1 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	

SP-SD-6 Establish a system of buffer zones around settlements so as to restrict sprawl and the possible merging of distinct settlement areas. These buffer zones will be determined by setting "Plan limits" as part of the preparation of local area plans and mini-plans.	B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1			
SP-SD-7 Monitor and strictly control residential and commercial development in the Gateway Satellites/villages in the Subregion.	B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1			
SP-SD-8 Consolidate the three Key Support Towns of Ballymote (serving South Sligo), Enniscrone (serving West Sligo) and Tobercurry (serving South-West Sligo) by providing them with an appropriate range of services including social infrastructure, retail, office, commercial and enterprise facilities to enable them to serve their respective rural catchments in an optimal manner.	B3 P1 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	
SP-SD-9 Revitalise small villages through the promotion of limited development within their built-up areas (on infill sites, vacant sites and backlands) in preference to continued ribbon development on the approach roads, thereby ensuring the efficient use of public infrastructure and providing a suitable alternative to rural housing.	B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	
SP-SD-10 Carefully manage development patterns in rural areas and facilitate sustainable activities or uses that help preserve the vitality of rural communities while protecting the environment and heritage of the County.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1			C1 C2
SP-SD-11 Ensure that sensitive coastal environments are generally maintained free from development between settlements, except where there are proposals for significant public infrastructure (e.g. roads, piers, marinas) or where significant public benefit may arise.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	P1 M1 M2 C1 C2

Strategic spatial development objectives				
SO-SD-1 Review the existing local area plans for the Key Support Towns of Ballymote and Enniscrone by 2014.			B1 B2 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	
SO-SD-2 Prepare a local area plan for the Key Support Town of Tobercurry by 2014.			B1 B2 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	
SO-SD-3 Review Strandhill Local Area Plan by 2012.			B1 B2 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	
SO-SD-4 Amend Charlestown-Bellaghy Local Area Plan following the adoption of this Plan, if required for compliance with this development plan.			B1 B2 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	
SO-SD-5 Prepare a local area plan for any other area in the County that might come under significant development pressure during the lifetime of this development plan.			B1 B2 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	
Strategic Settlement Policies				
SP-S-1 Recognising the role of the Gateway City of Sligo as a key driver of social and economic development in the County and in the North-West, support its growth towards a population of 34,000 by 2017.	B3 P1 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	

SP-S-2 Encourage growth in the Gateway and Key Support Towns by applying a moratorium on multiple housing developments in the settlements listed in Schedule 3.X until the year 2013, when a review should be undertaken based on new Census figures. The moratorium shall apply exclusively to multiple housing schemes and should not affect infill development, renovations, replacements and subdivisions of existing units. Applications for multiple residential development will not normally be permitted, except where they replace previously permitted development (live permission only) consisting of the same or a higher number of units. The moratorium shall exclude applications for social and special-needs housing.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2	
SP-S-3 Manage growth in the Gateway's principal and secondary satellites so as to ensure that the population in these settlements does not exceed the levels set out in the Housing Strategy 2011-2017 (shown in Tables 3.N and 3.O).	B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2	
SP-S-4 Encourage population growth in the Key Support Towns of Ballymote, Enniscrone and Tobercurry to the levels set out in the Housing Strategy 2011-2017 (shown in Table 3.P.)	B3 P1 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2	
SP-S-5 Support and facilitate appropriate population growth in smaller settlements throughout the County, to the levels set out in Table 3.Q, based on mini-plans, subject to availability of infrastructural capacity.	B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2	
SP-S-6 In settlements for which no mini-plans are available, facilitate small-scale residential growth of maximum 10% of existing development, subject to availability of infrastructural capacity.	B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2	

SP-S-7 In order to ensure that development takes place in accordance with the Settlement and Housing Strategies, cumulated permitted residential development, if occupied, should not lead to more than 10% excess in the allocated population for each settlement during the lifetime of this Plan.	B3 P1 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2	
Strategic Settlement Objectives				
SO-S-1 Implement a system of monitoring residential vacancy in all settlements, and particularly in those subject to a moratorium on new residential development.				B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
SO-S-2 Review the moratorium on residential development in 2013 as part of the Manager's Progress Report on the implementation of the CDP objectives, in accordance with the plan-monitor-manage approach stated in this Plan.				B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
Zoning principles				
The approach to zoning is based on the following Zoning Principles:				
ZP-1 the requirement to reserve land for residential development in accordance with the preferred population growth scenario, the Core Strategy, the Settlement Structure and the Draft RPG recommendations;	B3 P1 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2	

ZP-2	the need to provide suitably-located lands for a variety of uses, including commercial, enterprise, community facilities, open space, sports and recreation amenities to serve and complement residential uses;	B3 P1 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2	
ZP-3	the core aim of protecting the environment, landscape setting and heritage in and around settlements (see core aim CA-5 and strategic goal SG-3 Section 3.1);	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1			P1 W3 C1 C2
ZP-4	the goal of consolidating Sligo settlements (see and strategic goal SG-2 points a, b, and e in Section 3.1);	B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	
ZP-5	the principle of sequential development (see Box 3.S below).	B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1			
Strategic Zoning Policies					
SP-Z-1	Use zoning to promote the sustainable development of compact, liveable, pedestrian-friendly settlements, with a defined commercial/retail core and an adequate economic basis. No lands shall be zoned for development in isolation, outside the development limits of settlements.	B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1			

SP-Z-2 Ensure that sufficient land is available for a wide range of non-residential uses at appropriate locations in order to achieve balanced development of the County as a whole.	B3 P1 C1 C2			B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1
SP-Z-3 Ensure that the amount of land zoned for residential uses is consistent with the requirements of the Settlement and Housing Strategies and the provisions of the (Draft) Border Regional Planning Guidelines. Land proposed for zoning in excess of requirements, if any, shall be included in a strategic reserve for potential development after the lifetime of this Plan, in accordance with the Settlement and Housing Strategy in operation at that stage.	B3 P1 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2	
SP-Z-4 Facilitate mixes of uses appropriate for each area, with a view to reducing the need to travel by car between home, work/school and local facilities.	B3 P1 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	
SP-Z-5 Prioritise the redevelopment of under-utilised and brownfield lands over greenfield, particularly in the Key Support Towns and Gateway Satellites, thus increasing the efficient use of essential infrastructure.	B3 P1 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	
SP-Z-6 Protect designated nature conservation sites, landscape, archaeology, valuable natural amenity areas, water and natural resources through appropriate zoning designations, while allowing for the possible further expansion of settlements in the long-term.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1			P1 C1 C2
SP-Z-7 Make adequate land reservations for the development of future infrastructural projects.	B3		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2	

SP-Z-8 Provide a clear demarcation between settlement built-up areas and the surrounding countryside through appropriate zoning objectives, development limits and plan limits.	B3 P1 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	
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8.6 Chapter 4: Economic Development

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs- unlikely to be mitigated	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Strategic economic development policies				
SP-ED-1 Ensure that sufficient and suitable land is reserved for new enterprise development at key locations throughout the County, particularly in the Key Support Towns of Tobercurry, Ballymote and Enniscrone, and promote these towns as secondary employment centres, after Sligo City.	B3 P1 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2	
SP-ED-2 Facilitate enterprise development in other urban locations where infrastructural facilities, services and good communications are readily available or can be provided at a reasonable cost.	B3 P1 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2	
SP-ED-3 Encourage the development of small-scale enterprise space in villages and facilitate teleworking.	B3 P1 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2	
SP-ED-4 Adopt a flexible approach to start-up businesses and resource-based, small-scale industrial/enterprise activities. 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.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1			P1 C1 C2

SP-ED-5 Encourage and facilitate small indigenous industries, in recognition of their increasing importance in providing local employment and helping to stimulate economic activity among local communities.	B3		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2	
SP-ED-6 Support an expanded education and research sector in County Sligo.	B3 P1 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2	
SP-ED-7 Facilitate the growth of creative businesses, particularly the high-productivity creative technology sector, by seeking the provision of enhanced broadband capacity and by encouraging the growth and clustering of the creative and cultural industries in the County.	B3 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2	
SP-ED-8 Liaise with the IDA, Enterprise Ireland and the County Enterprise Board, to ensure a co-ordinated approach to the provision of necessary infrastructure and services to support enterprise and industrial development.	B3		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2	
SP-ED-9 Promote the integration of employment with other land uses and the transportation network and ensure, in particular, that employment-intensive uses are located in proximity to existing and planned strategic routes, where public transport is most viable.	B3 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1	
SP-ED-10 Acquire sites for industry and enterprise, subject to the availability of funds.	B3		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2	

SP-ED-11 Ensure that a high standard of design, layout and amenity is provided and maintained at locations selected for enterprise development.	B3		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2	
SP-ED-12 Continue to support and facilitate cross-border co-operation and trade between County Sligo and Northern Ireland.	B3		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2	
Rural development and enterprise policies				
P-RDE-1 Develop the potential for innovation and diversification in the rural economy, as a means of retaining population into rural areas and supporting rural services.	B3			B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2
P-RDE-2 Support the active involvement of rural communities in the provision of local services and the development of rural resource-based enterprise, such as organic farming, equestrian activities, bird watching etc, subject to normal planning considerations and the protection of the environment.	B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1			
P-RDE-3 Promote the continuance of Rural Transport Initiatives as an essential service to people in rural areas, who would otherwise be excluded because transport is not available, accessible or affordable to them locally.	B3 C1 C2			B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1
P-RDE-4 Facilitate the development of broadband telecommunications, as enabler of rural enterprise, to counteract the effects of remoteness.	B3		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2	

Forestry policies				
P-FOR-1 Support and promote sustainable forestry development in County Sligo, subject to the protection of, inter alia, scenic landscapes and views, water quality, heritage features, residential amenity and public safety.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M2 L1		W3	P1 M1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
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 DoEHLG and shall have regard to any management plans prepared by the Department.)	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M2 L1			P1 M1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 W3
P-FOR-3 Adopt a proactive approach in conjunction with the Forest Service and Coillte to ensure sustainable forestry development.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 CH1 CH2 L1			P1 M1 C1 C2
P-FOR-4 Encourage access to forestry, including private forestry, for walking routes, mountain bike trails, bridle paths and other non-noise generating activities.	B3 HH1 C1 C2 L1		B1 B2	S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 P1
P-FOR-5 Forestry should not obstruct existing rights of way, traditional walking routes and recreational and tourism facilities	B2 C1 C2			B3 L1 B1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 P1 L1
P-FOR-6 Identify existing rights of way and established walking routes before planting commences.	B2 C1 C2			B3 L1 B1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 P1 L1
P-FOR-7 Forestry will not be permitted on ridgelines and will not have a negative visual impact. On steep slopes above the 300 metre line planting will be strongly discouraged and where possible existing areas under forestry will be reduced and/or redesigned following clear felling.	L1			B3 B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 P1 C1 C2
Forestry objective				
O-FOR-1 Prepare an Indicative Forestry Strategy for County Sligo in conjunction with the Forestry Service and incorporate it in the County Development Plan. The Strategy should provide for the maintenance of public rights of way and traditional walking routes. The Indicative Forestry Strategy shall undergo SEA and AA screening.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 L1	P1 M1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2

Aquaculture, mariculture and fishing policies				
P-AMF-1 Encourage and facilitate sustainable 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 & provisions of the European Communities (Quality of Shellfish Waters) Regulations and objectives of Shellfish Pollution Reduction Programmes".	B1 B2 B3 L1		HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 P1 C1 C2 L1	
P-AMF-2 Work with the mariculture industry to increase environmental sustainability.	B3 L1 B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 P1 C1 C2 L1			
P-AMF-3 Support and facilitate the development of the existing fishing industry, where such development is compatible with provisions for the protection of the Natura 2000 network	B1 B2 B3		HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 P1 C1 C2 L1	
P-AMF-4 Encourage the expansion of sport fishing, subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive	B1 B2 B3		HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 P1 C1 C2 L1	
Policies for agricultural diversification				
P-AGD-1 Promote agriculture and sustainable agricultural diversification (to include recreational uses), while seeking to protect and maintain bio-diversity, wildlife habitats, water quality and nature conservation.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 L1			C2 P1 W3 CH1 CH2 C1
P-AGD-2 Provide infrastructure to serve the needs of agriculture, in-cooperation with the appropriate agencies.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2		B1 B2 HH1 P1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 M2 L1 C1	C2
P-AGD-3 Support mechanisms to reduce agricultural pollution and the eutrophication of rivers and lakes.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2			CH1 CH2 L1 C1 C2 W3 P1

P-AGD-4 Support secondary and tertiary economic activities associated with the primary activities of agriculture, forestry, mineral extraction, fishing, aquaculture and mariculture, subject to environmental considerations.	B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1			
P-AGD-5 Facilitate farm diversification and possible spin-offs (e.g. biomass and energy production, poultry, mushroom growing, flower growing, equestrian facilities), in association with vigorous and adequate environmental controls upon their development.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2		P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	
P-AGD-6 Support farm families seeking to establish alternative and/or complementary economic enterprises to supplement their income from farming, 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 income needs, it will be encouraged, where appropriate, to relocate to a nearby town or village.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1			P1
P-AGD-7 Facilitate the development of niche activities, such as those relating to food (particularly value-added products), forestry (e.g. wood products), crafts, eco-tourism and agri-tourism – e.g. farmhouse accommodation, pet farms, farm holidays, health farms, equestrian activities, bird-watching holidays; painting/photography tuition, angling tourism, field studies and hill-walking. Other pursuits that will be facilitated are: walking, cycling, mountain and other off-road biking, nature trails, wildlife trails, maritime trails, back-packing, orienteering, para- and hang- gliding, canoeing & kayaking, caving, mountaineering, rock climbing, adventure sports, swimming in waterways, wild camping, pony trekking, boating and archaeological guided walks.	B3		B1 B2 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	
Mineral extraction and quarrying activity – policies				
P-MEQ-1 Protect all known unworked deposits from development that might limit their scope for extraction (e.g. one-off housing).	C1		B3	B1 B2 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-MEQ-2 Ensure that extraction and associated processes are carried out in a sustainable manner and do not impinge on existing rights-of-way or walking routes.	B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH1 CH2 L1			C2

P-MEQ-3 Minimise the impact of quarrying on residential and natural amenities and water quality through rigorous licensing, development control and enforcement measures.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
P-MEQ-4 Encourage development proposals – subject to normal planning criteria – that can demonstrate a commitment to good environmental management through the implementation of recognised environmental management practices approved by the Planning Authority.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			C1 C2 P1 CH1 CH2
P-MEQ-5 Seek the reuse of worked out quarries for recreational, industrial, ecological and other uses, following appropriate restoration.	B3			B1 B2 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 C1 L1 C2
P-MEQ-6 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.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 L1			C1 C2 P1 CH1 CH2 W3
Mineral extraction and quarrying activity – objectives				
O-MEQ-1 Cooperate with the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) in the identification of major mineral deposits in County Sligo through Aggregate Potential Mapping (APM) and safeguard these resources for future extraction.	C1		B3	B1 B2 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
O-MEQ-2 Identify the location of marine aggregate deposits, if any, along and off the coast of County Sligo, with the assistance for the GSI/Marine Institute, based on the National Seabed Survey.				B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
O-MEQ-3 Ensure that any future proposals for extraction of marine/coastal aggregates along or off the Sligo coast are subject to detailed environmental impact assessment. This shall include an assessment of the impact(s), if any, of the natural coastal processes.	B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH1 CH2 L1			C2

O-MEQ-4 The processing and storage of extracted aggregates on lands within the coastal zone shall be carried out in a manner that minimises the impact on natural and residential amenities.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
Retail planning policies				
P-RP-1 Support and encourage the key role of retailing within the towns and villages of County Sligo, particularly for daily convenience shopping, e.g. foodstuffs.	B3 P1 C1 C2			B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-RP-2 Facilitate small-scale retail development in villages, provided that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> there is no significant adverse impact on the vitality and viability of established centres of Tobercurry, Ballymote, Enniscrone, Grange and Collooney, and the proposals are of appropriate scale and are acceptable in terms of design, impact on residential amenity, servicing and parking arrangements. 	B3 P1 C1 C2			B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-RP-3 Encourage the retention of retail/service outlets (e.g. general food stores, newsagents, post offices, pharmacies, pubs, restaurants and cafés) within town and village centres, with the exception of commercial operations that are no longer viable or are more appropriately located elsewhere (e.g. petrol filling stations).	B3 P1 C1 C2			B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-RP-4 Encourage uses that support local retail and service outlets, such as tourism-related ventures, hotels, craft shops and shops specialising in outdoor pursuits and water sports.	B3			B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-RP-5 Ensure that retail and service outlets are located within the central area of a town or village, where they can best serve the surrounding population.	B3 P1 C1 C2			B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-RP-6 Discourage inappropriate out-of-town shopping facilities that detract from the vitality, viability and/or character of existing town and village centres.	B3 P1 C1 C2			B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1

P-RP-7 Generally discourage any retail outlet in excess of 500 square metres retail floor space, including extensions that would enlarge an existing development over this threshold. Development over this size is clearly intended to serve more than a local catchment and would therefore be more suitably located in Sligo City and Environs.	B3 C1 C2			B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-RP-8 Acknowledge the fact that many retail cores have an interspersed residential element. Give favourable treatment to proposed changes of use to retail, where the dwelling has adjacent retail uses on both sides, as this helps to create compact and sustainable retail cores.	B3 P1 C1 C2			B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-RP-9 Facilitate the reuse of existing vacant retail outlets in towns and villages.	B3 P1 C1 C2			B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-RP-10 Promote initiatives or programmes to enhance the character and urban design quality of Tobercurry, Ballymote, Enniscrone, Collooney and Grange, to ensure that they remain attractive for investment in commerce and retailing.	CH1 CH2 L1		CH1 CH2 L1	B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2
P-RP-11 Ensure that all new retail and commercial development proposals respect the scale and character of the streetscape within which they are proposed.	CH1 CH2 L1		P1	B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2
P-RP-12 Encourage the retention of traditional shop fronts and pub fronts of character and good design quality.	CH2 L1		P1	B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1
Retail planning objectives				
O-RP-1 Facilitate the provision of an additional supermarket in Ballymote.	B3 C1 C2			B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1

O-RP-2 Restrict the further development of retail warehousing in Collooney and Grange and encourage the conversion of vacant units to appropriate uses, in accordance with the respective zoning objectives.	B3 P1 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	
Tourism development policies				
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 and design criteria, the protection of environmentally sensitive areas and other planning considerations.	B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1			
P-TOU-2 Protect and conserve those natural, built and cultural heritage features that form the basis of the County's tourism industry, including areas of important landscape, coastal scenery, areas of important wildlife interest, historic buildings and structures and the traditional form and general appearance of towns and villages.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1		P1	C1 C2
P-TOU-3 Promote the development of high-quality tourist accommodation, especially hotels and guesthouses, and ensure high standards of architectural and urban design in all new tourist accommodation and facilities	B3 CH2		B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	
P-TOU-4 Strictly control development that might be detrimental to scenic and heritage assets, in cSACs, SPAs, proposed NHAs, designated Sensitive Rural Landscapes and Visually Vulnerable Areas, and along designated Scenic Routes. The Council will use its other statutory procedures, particularly in relation to waste management, water and air pollution, to ensure that these natural amenities remain unpolluted and visually unspoilt.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1			C1 C2 P1
P-TOU-5 Provide signposting and improve roads, existing amenity and viewing areas, and provide for car parking, public facilities and access in scenic areas, subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive	B1 B2 B3		HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	

P-TOU-6 In recognising the special amenity value of mountains, moorlands and forests, valleys and lakes, it is the Council's policy to encourage use of these areas for activities such as touring, sightseeing, mountaineering, and hillwalking, subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive. This will be done in co-operation with state agencies and other interested bodies and local community groups. In this regard, the Council will, within financial resources, improve access and create public rights of way.	B1 B2 B3		HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	
P-TOU-7 Promote walking, rambling and cycling as appropriate recreational and tourism activities within the Plan area.	C1 C2 B3		B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	
P-TOU-8 Explore the provision of sustainable medium- and long-distance walking routes, in co-operation with adjoining local authorities.	B3		B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 C1 C2	
P-TOU-9 Support and promote, 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, subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.	B1 B2 B3		HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 C1 C2	
P-TOU-10 Promote the development of eco-tourism and other leisure activities, in an effort to diversify the range of tourist experiences available in the County and extend the tourist season, subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive	B1 B2 B3		HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 C1 C2	
P-TOU-11 Promote the development of interpretative signs and information boards at important sites of archaeological and natural interest.	B3		CH1 L1	B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH2 C1 C2

P-TOU-12 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.	B3		B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 C1 C2	
Tourism development objectives				
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	B1 B2 B3		HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 C1 C2	
O-TOU-2 Examine the feasibility of providing a walkway through Union Wood, subject to availability of resources and compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.	B1 B2 B3			HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 C1 C2
O-TOU-3 Seek to establish a bird-watching area at the Ballygilgan Nature Reserve (Carney), subject to appropriate environmental considerations.	B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			C1 C2 HH1 P1 CH1 CH2
O-TOU-4 Develop a coherent network of attractive cultural hubs/clusters with good access and supporting tourism and cultural signage.	C1 C2 B3		B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 C2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	
Coastal zone tourism policies				
P-CZT-1 Ensure that future caravan, camping and parking facilities in coastal areas will not be visually intrusive or impact on sensitive coastal environments (e.g. sand dune systems), by requiring, inter alia, appropriate siting, layout, design and natural screening, and compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.	B1 B2 B3		HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 C1 C2 L1	
P-CZT-2 Ensure continued compliance with EU Directives on water quality for all bathing beaches.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1			P1 M2 W3 CH1 CH2 C1 C2 L1

P-CZT-3 Promote awareness of the sensitivity of the coastal environment, amongst visitors and residents alike, through the provision of educational/heritage appreciation programmes, public information boards and other appropriate means.	B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 M1 L1 HH1			W3 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 P1
P-CZT-4 Maintain and develop small piers and harbours along the Sligo Coast, subject to funding and compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.	B1 B2 B3		S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 L1 HH1 P1 CH1 CH2	C1 C2 M2
P-CZT-5 Give priority to coastal areas within County-wide programmes to signpost and improve public rights of way.	B3		B1 B2 L1	S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 HH1 P1 CH1 CH2 C1 C2 M2
Coastal zone tourism objectives				
O-CZT-1 Manage and control car parking and vehicular and pedestrian movements on beaches and within dunes and other vulnerable areas. The management and control of car parking shall be carried out in compliance with the Habitats Directive where relevant.	B1 B2 B3		L1 W1 W3 HH1 P1 CH1 CH2	S1 W2 M1 C1 C2 M2
O-CZT-2 Develop green parking areas in appropriate coastal locations, i.e. soft areas that can be left in their natural state during out-of-season months and used to provide overflow facilities during peak periods. The development of such car parking areas shall be subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.	B1 B2 B3		L1 W1 W3 HH1 P1 CH1 CH2	S1 W2 M1 C1 C2 M2
O-CZT-3 Exclude land-based and marine-based motor sports activities from beaches.	B3 B1 B2 L1 W1 HH1			S1 W2 M1 C1 C2 M2 W3 P1 CH1 CH2
O-CZT-4 Provide a number of designated facilities and access points for controlled water-sports activities, in a manner that avoids conflict with nature conservation and activities such as swimming, sailing, fishing and mariculture.	B3 B1 B2 HH1 L1 W1		W3 P1 CH1 CH2	S1 W2 M1 C1 C2 M2
O-CZT-5 Liaise with the National Trails Advisory Committee to investigate the possibility of providing a coastal path along the coastline of County Sligo, with a right-of-way status and liaise with counties Mayo, Leitrim and Donegal to set-up a study group to advance this matter. The study group should be established within one year from the adoption of this Plan. Development of a coastal path shall be subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.	B1 B2 B3		HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 C1 C2	
O-CZT-6 Identify existing and/or potential coastal walking routes which can be developed as a tourism product and a local amenity. These routes will ideally be permanent, of high quality and adequately managed, should allow for further expansion and provide links to other activities and facilities.	C1 C2		B1 B2 B3 W1 W2 W3 L1	HH1 S1 CH1 CH2 M1 M2 P1

8.7 Chapter 5: Housing

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs- unlikely to be mitigated	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Strategic housing policies				
SP-HOU-1 Encourage a balanced supply of private housing in the county, in a manner that is consistent with the Core Strategy and the Settlement Structure, and which will support the creation of sustainable communities through the provision of an appropriate range of housing types and high-quality residential environments.	B3 P1 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2	
SP-HOU-2 Reserve 20% of eligible sites which are subject to new residential development (or a mix of uses including residential) for the development of social and affordable units, in accordance with the Housing Strategy and the requirements of Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000.				B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
SP-HOU-3 Ensure that the needs of older people, people with disabilities and other special-needs persons and households are adequately catered for in new developments.				B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
Strategic housing objectives				
SO-HOU-1 Implement the relevant provisions of the Sligo City and County Joint Housing Strategy 2010-2017.	B3 P1 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2	

SO-HOU-2 Continue to monitor the extent of residential development in the county area to ensure that sufficient land is zoned to accommodate housing demand over the Plan period.				B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
SO-HOU-3 Ensure that 20% of all sites eligible for Part V is reserved for the development of new social and affordable residential units.				B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
SO-HOU-4 Continue with the programme of refurbishment and regeneration of existing local authority housing stock.	P1 C1 C2		CH2	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 L1
SO-HOU-5 Establish a register of eligible households interested in acquiring affordable housing.				B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
General housing policies				
GP-HOU-1 Have regard to the principle of sequential development in assessing all new residential development proposals, whereby areas closer to settlement centres will be prioritised for development in advance of lands further from settlement centres. Notwithstanding this principle, each proposal will be considered on its merits and having regard to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.	B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1			

GP-HOU-2 Require high quality and innovation in the layout and design of new residential development, particularly with regard to: a. environmental sustainability and energy efficiency; b. site layouts and internal layouts that may incorporate live/work units and/or home zones ;	B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1			
GP-HOU-3 Ensure the provision of a suitable range of house types and sizes to facilitate the changing demographic structure and in particular the increasing trend towards smaller household sizes. In private housing schemes, the following mix of house types should generally apply: House type Proportion in the scheme 1-2 bedrooms Minimum 30% of total no. of houses 3 bedrooms Minimum 30% of total no. of houses 4+ bedrooms Maximum 20% of total no. of houses				B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
GP-HOU-4 Promote more compact forms of residential development, such as infill and backland development, and ensure – through the development management process – that access points to backland areas are reserved or that adequate road frontage is reserved to provide future road access to enable comprehensive backland development.	B1 B2 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1			B3
GP-HOU-5 Ensure that services and utilities in residential developments are provided concurrently with the construction of new dwellings.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1			P1
GP-HOU-6 Ensure that all apartment and mixed-use developments provide for estate management so as to preserve the amenity, quality and visual character of the development, to ensure adequate maintenance of common facilities and areas, and encourage tenant involvement and participation in estate management. (Refer also to the Development Management Standards Chapter of this Draft Plan).	CH2 L1			B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1
GP-HOU-7 Promote higher densities of residential development in appropriate locations and circumstances, having regard to the principles outlined in the DoEHLG's publication Guidelines for Planning Authorities – Sustainable residential development in urban areas (cities, towns and villages).	B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1			

GP-HOU-8 Ensure that new housing development in towns and villages is of appropriate scale, layout and quality design, and that it relates to the character and form of the settlement in question.	CH1 CH2 L1			B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2
GP-HOU-9 Ensure that all new multiple housing development proposals, including apartment and mixed-use developments, provide adequate facilities for the storage, separation and collection of waste (organic, recyclable and landfill waste) and ensure the ongoing operation of these facilities.	C1 C2			B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1
General housing objective				
GO-HOU-1 Monitor and manage the extent of existing and permitted residential development to ensure that it is consistent with the Settlement Structure and the infrastructural capacity of each settlement.				B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
Social and affordable housing policies				
P-SA-HOU-1 Promote social inclusion by ensuring that social and affordable housing is well distributed throughout all residential areas rather than concentrated in a few locations.				B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-SA-HOU-2 Ensure that development in areas subject to an agreement under Section 96 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, is integrated with the rest of the development, so as to avoid undue social segregation.				B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-SA-HOU-3 Ensure that the supply of housing units under the Housing Strategy reflects the current and anticipated demographic characteristics and household sizes.				B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1

P-SA-HOU-4 Encourage linkages between existing public and private housing areas through the provision of shared facilities, services and pedestrian/cycle and vehicular connections, as appropriate, between these areas.	B3 P1 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2	
P-SA-HOU-5 Where a particular need is identified, provide housing schemes designed for the needs of older people and/or those with special needs. Otherwise, housing schemes shall be designed with a suitable mix of house types and designs which can be easily adapted to accommodate special housing needs.				B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
Social and affordable housing objectives				
O-SA-HOU-1 Prepare and implement an updated Social and Affordable Housing Action Plan to address direct housing provision and assistance towards housing provision.				B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
Traveller accommodation policies				
P-TA-HOU-1 Provide for the accommodation needs of Travellers, as far as is reasonable and practicable, using the full range of housing options available to the Local Authorities and having regard to the policies outlined in the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009–2013.				B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-TA-HOU-2 Consider the submissions of Travellers, their representative organisations and those of the local communities in relation to the siting, planning and design of prospective halting sites or group housing schemes so as to avoid social conflict and promote social inclusion.				B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-TA-HOU-3 Provide and manage halting sites in a manner compatible with the local environment and the needs of the travelling community, based on management plans set up in co-operation with Traveller families. Halting sites will be subject to the detailed design standards as outlined in the Department of the Environment's Guidelines for Residential Caravan Parks for Travellers (October 1997), and normal development management standards.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1			P1

Traveller accommodation objectives				
O-TA-HOU-1 Provide appropriate accommodation to meet the needs of Travellers through the implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009–2012 and the Joint Housing Strategy.				B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
O-TA-HOU-2 Provide Traveller Accommodation at Collooney, Tobercurry, Cloonamahon (existing site to be redeveloped) and Ballyfree (existing site to be redeveloped).	B3 P1 C1 C2		HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2	B1 B2
Voluntary and cooperative housing policies				
P-VC-HOU-1 Assist voluntary and non-profit cooperative housing associations in the provision of housing and encourage a more active involvement of these sectors in the housing market.				B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
Special-needs housing policies				
P-SN-HOU-1 Continue to support independent living for older people and the provision of specific, purpose-built accommodation.				B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-SN-HOU-2 Continue to meet the housing needs of persons with special needs both by direct provision of accommodation and by facilitating the provision of housing by the voluntary sector.				B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1

P-SN-HOU-3 Continue to implement the following grant schemes: Housing Adaption Grant for People with Disability, Mobility Aids Grant and Housing Aid for Older People Scheme.				B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-SN-HOU-4 Promote a partnership approach between the HSE, disability interest groups, voluntary housing associations and the local authority in meeting the particular needs of people with disabilities and the elderly.				B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-SN-HOU-5 Facilitate the provision of suitable accommodation for the homeless and for those in need of emergency accommodation.				B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-SN-HOU-6 Implement the provisions of DoEHLG's Homeless Strategy 2008–2013 and the Action Plan on Homelessness in Sligo 2009-2011.				B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-SN-HOU-7 Ensure that housing developments accommodating the elderly, the disabled and the households least likely to own cars have easy and convenient access to local facilities and to public transport.				B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-SN-HOU-8 Support proposals for the provision of sheltered housing and work with the various bodies / organisations responsible for provision of this type of accommodation.				B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1

Rural Housing Policies				
P-RHOU-1 Ensure that, in permitting one-off rural housing, key rural assets such as water quality, natural and cultural heritage and landscape quality are respected and protected.	B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1			W3 C1 C2
P-RHOU-2 Encourage the renovation and reuse of existing derelict rural properties and consider proposals for replacement dwelling houses on their merits. These properties should generally be intact and exhibit the essential characteristics of a dwelling house as outlined in section 7.7.6 The location, siting and design of any such proposal shall also reflect that of the existing property.	B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1			W3 C1 C2 B1 B2
<p>P-RHOU-3 Facilitate rural-generated housing in all areas of the County, while providing for urban-generated housing in Rural Areas in Need of Regeneration, subject to the policy considerations set out below:</p> <p>a. Control of ribbon development, especially close to Key Support Towns and other settlements.</p> <p>b. Control of rural housing in the coastal zone, especially between coastal roads and the sea.</p> <p>c. Protection of designated heritage sites, such as proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs), candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).</p> <p>d. Protection of the integrity of designated Visually Vulnerable and Sensitive Rural Landscapes and Scenic Routes (refer to Fig. ?? Development Control Policy Map).</p> <p>e. Protection of key natural assets, such as surface and ground water and aggregate or mineral reserves.</p> <p>f. Ensuring the safe operation of key transport arteries, particularly National Primary and Secondary Routes and the rail network. Access to national roads shall be restricted in accordance with the National Roads Authority's publication <i>Spatial Planning and National Roads (Draft) Guidelines for Planning Authorities.</i></p> <p>g. Ensuring that physical planning standards are met – e.g. soil conditions suitable for effluent disposal, availability of a suitable and reliable water supply, adequate flood control/avoidance measures. All proposed on-site wastewater treatment systems shall comply with the EPA document "Code of practice for Wastewater Treatment and disposal Systems serving Single House" (2009).</p> <p>h. Incorporation of existing natural and heritage features into the development, e.g. tree stands, significant hedgerows, stone walling, wetlands and streams.</p> <p>i. Minimising the visual impact of the development on the surrounding landscape by ensuring that normal siting, layout and design criteria are met – e.g. avoid visually prominent sites, design the dwelling house to integrate appropriately with its landscape context, include screening and landscaping proposals.</p> <p>j. Ensuring that the scale, bulk and massing of the proposed development is in keeping with existing developments in the area</p> <p>k. Encouraging innovative design, provided it does not dominate its setting or alter the character of the landscape.</p> <p>l. Promotion of building layouts that maximise the potential for solar gain and wind protection.</p> <p>m. Ensuring that there is adequate infrastructure available to service the development.</p> <p>n. Ensuring that the road network is adequate to cater for the development, that safe vehicular access is available and that the traffic movements generated by the development will not give rise to traffic hazard.</p> <p>o. In granting permission for one-off rural housing, the Council is insistent that it will not provide public services, such as footpaths, public lighting, water or sewerage connections where they do not already exist.</p> <p>p. Where hedgerows forming roadside boundaries are required to be removed for road safety reasons, they should be reinstated on the new boundary line, in order to ensure the continuity of wildlife corridors.</p>	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 W3		P1 C1 C2	

Holiday/second homes policies				
P-HHOU-1 Direct proposals for holiday homes and second homes into existing serviced settlements, particularly into Easkey, Mullaghmore, Rosses Point, Strandhill and Enniscrone.	B3 P1 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2	
P-HHOU-2 Ensure that an appropriate balance is maintained between the number of holiday/second homes and the number of permanent homes within each settlement with special functions.	B3 B1 B2 HH1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 C1 C2 S1 CH1 CH2 L1
P-HHOU-3 Ensure that the total amount of holiday or second home developments permitted in any other settlement is limited in scale to maximum 10% of the number of permanently-occupied houses.	B3 B1 B2 HH1 W1 W2 S1 M1 M2			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-HHOU-4 Require where appropriate, through the development management process, the submission of precise details regarding the intentions for tenure and management of potential holiday/second home developments.				B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
Holiday/second homes objectives				
O-HHOU-1 Establish baseline data on the number of holiday/second homes and the number of permanent homes in relevant settlements and continue to carry out monitoring of this data throughout the plan period.				B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
Vacant housing policies				
P-VHOU-1 Adopt a flexible and supportive approach towards alternative uses of vacant residential units/buildings, subject to appropriate scale, design and compatibility with existing and proposed surrounding uses.	P1 CH2 C1 C2 B3 B1 B2 HH1 W1 W2 S1 M1 M2			CH1 CH2 L1
P-VHOU-2 Strive to ensure – through the enforcement process – that housing developments and associated services and facilities are completed to a standard that is in accordance with the terms of the relevant planning permission.	P1 CH2 C1 C2 B3 B1 B2 HH1 W1 W2 S1 M1 M2			CH1 CH2 L1

Vacant housing objectives				
O-VHOU-1	Establish baseline data on the number of vacant residential units in each settlement in the CDP area and continue to carry out monitoring of vacancy throughout the plan period.			B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1

8.8 Chapter 6: Community Development

		Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs- unlikely to be mitigated	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Community facilities policies					
P-CF-1	Assist as far as possible in the provision of community facilities by reserving suitably-located land, by assisting in the provision of finance for their development (where appropriate), and/or by the use of the development management process to ensure provision is made for such facilities as the Council considers appropriate.	B3 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	
P-CF-2	Encourage high standards in the design and finishes of community facilities.	CH2 L1			B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 P1 B3 C1 C2
P-CF-3	Continue to apply development levies to provide for recreational and community facilities relating to new developments.	B3 C1 C2			B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1

P-CF-4 Optimise existing and proposed physical resources / infrastructure by supporting multi-functional building use and provision.	C1 C2			B1 B2 B3 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-CF-5 Recognise the importance of community participation in the improvement of existing community and recreational facilities, and encourage increased involvement of local groups, both independently and in association with the relevant statutory bodies, in the future provision of such facilities.				B1 B2 B3 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-CF-6 Encourage the siting of community facilities in suitable locations, especially within residential / village centre areas, or close to existing facilities / services and public transport routes.	B3 C1 C2 P1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	
P-CF-7 Work with relevant agencies in identifying areas for the provision of quality social infrastructure.				B1 B2 B3 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-CF-8 Promote social inclusion by exploring ways to integrate minority groups into the community and by supporting the development of fully-integrated communities catering for people of different ages and incomes. The Sligo County Community Forum will have a key role in implementing this policy.				B1 B2 B3 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-CF-9 Encourage the establishment of specific bodies and programmes to facilitate the integration of those with special needs, and people of all age groups.				B1 B2 B3 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1

P-CF-10 Adopt a flexible and supportive approach towards proposals for the provision of community facilities within a wide variety of land-use zoning categories, in particular lands zoned for community facilities, village-centre-type mixed uses, residential development and commercial/enterprise uses. Any such proposal should be suitably located within the development limits of the relevant settlement and should be easily accessible for all sections of the community. It is also acknowledged that some community facilities may be accommodated in rural areas, subject to site suitability.	B3 C1 C2 P1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	
P-CF-11 Consider the accommodation of small-scale community enterprise developments within existing and proposed community facilities areas, subject to appropriate design, layout and servicing.	B3 C1 C2 P1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	
Community facilities objective				
O-CF-1 Facilitate the phased redevelopment of the existing Wisdom services care facility at Cregg to provide an integrated residential and educational community to include a range of facilities for those with and without intellectual disabilities and special needs, subject to the availability of adequate wastewater treatment infrastructure.	B3 P1 M1		CH2 L1	B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 C1 C2 CH1
Education facilities policies				
P-ED-1 Support the provision of additional land for educational uses through the consideration (on suitable sites) of such facilities in a wide variety of land-use zoning categories, in particular lands zoned for community facilities, mixed uses and residential development.	B3		B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	
P-ED-2 Promote the location of new educational facilities within existing settlements, and preferably near community facilities (such as community centres, playing fields and libraries) and public transport services. Only in exceptional cases will out-of-town locations be considered.	B3 C1 C2 P1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	
P-ED-3 Support the educational institutions in their plans to expand and develop.	B3 P1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	

P-ED-4 Encourage and support the development of further educational facilities and training programmes to ensure a suitably skilled local workforce, including those for children and adults with special needs.	B3		B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	
P-ED-5 Encourage facilities connected with the integration of those with special needs into the education system of streamlined schools.	B3		B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	
P-ED-6 Support Sligo's schools in the upgrading and modernisation of their building stock so as to ensure that these institutions can accommodate population growth.	B3		B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	
P-ED-7 Ensure that appropriate infrastructure is provided concurrent with the development of an educational facility. Such infrastructure may include footpaths, pedestrian crossings, cycle lanes, parking facilities, ramps and facilities for those with special needs.	B3 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	M1
P-ED-8 Support the further development of St Angela's College, subject to appropriate siting, design and servicing infrastructure.	B3		B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	

P-ED-9 Promote the development of outreach programmes between businesses and third-level institutions, whereby Sligo can develop as a centre of excellence in research and development.				B1 B2 B3 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
Childcare policies				
P-CC-1 Work with the Sligo County Childcare Committee in the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2007–2010 and successor documents.	B3 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	
P-CC-2 Consider childcare needs in future local area plans and residential development proposals.	B3 C1 C2			B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-CC-3 Encourage the establishment of appropriate childcare facilities in suitable locations, such as village centres, areas of concentrated employment, in the vicinity of schools, adjacent to public transport corridors and /or pedestrian areas, and in larger new housing estates.	B3 C1 C2 P1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	
P-CC-4 Have regard to the DoEHLG's Childcare Facilities – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2001). In applying standards regarding the provision of childcare facilities in larger residential developments, the Planning Authorities will show flexibility by considering the provision of multi-purpose community facilities in certain cases, as appropriate.	B3 C1 C2 P1			B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-CC-5 Support proposals that provide an improved variety of childcare services (both in terms of childcare providers, i.e. private / community, and childcare type, i.e. sessional services / full-day care), having particular regard to the deficits identified in the SCCC Strategic Plan 2007–2010.	B3		B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	

P-CC-6 Optimise existing physical resources/infrastructure within the County by supporting multi-functional building use and provision, to include childcare facilities.	C1 C2			B1 B2 B3 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1
Children's play policies				
P-CP-1 Support the implementation of Sligo County Council's Play Policy in co-operation with the relevant community organisations and agencies.	B3 C1 C2 P1			M1 B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-CP-2 Seek to maximise the range of play opportunities available to children, particularly children who are marginalised or disadvantaged or who have a disability.	B3 C1 C2			M1 B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-CP-3 Take a lead role in the development of stand-alone, outdoor play areas, subject to funding, and agree on priority areas in consultation with the County Childcare Committee.	B3 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	M1
Children's play objective				
O-CP-1 Prepare a plan for the development of play provision in the County, in conjunction with the County Development Board and in consultation with children and young people.	B3 C1 C2 P1			M1 B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 CH1 CH2 L1
Sports, recreation and open space policies				
P-SRO-1 Support the aims, goals and objectives of the Sligo Sport & Recreation Partnership Strategic Plan 2007-2012: Making Sport and Recreation a way of life.	B3 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	

P-SRO-2 Preserve existing public or private recreation areas, including sports clubs, grounds, built leisure facilities and open space. If a change of use is sought, ensure that alternative recreational facilities are provided in a suitable location.	B3 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	
P-SRO-3 Facilitate shared use of existing sports and recreation facilities, particularly school facilities.	B3 C1 C2			B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-SRO-4 Support local sports and community groups in the development of facilities through appropriate land use zoning.	B3 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	
P-SRO-5 Ensure that all new facilities are appropriately located where they can best meet the needs of all sections of the community that they are intended to serve.	B3 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	
P-SRO-6 Encourage the provision of sports and recreation infrastructure as an integral part of new residential schemes.	B3 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	
P-SRO-7 Encourage and, if necessary, require developers to incorporate natural features such as rivers, streams, trees and tree groups into open space layouts in the planning of future developments.	B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 CH1 CH2 L1			M1 B3 C1 C2

P-SRO-8 Require the preparation and implementation of landscaping plans and open space maintenance arrangements for all proposed open spaces areas.	B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 CH1 CH2 L1			M1 B3 C1 C2
P-SRO-9 Preserve and improve access for the public to lakes, coastal, riverside, upland and other areas that have traditionally been used for outdoor recreation, subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.	B1 B2 B3 C1 C2		HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	
P-SRO-10 Assist in developing a network of sports, recreation and open space facilities throughout the County to encourage a range of recreational and amenity activities that will cater for both active and passive needs.	B3 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	
P-SRO-11 Actively promote and protect public access to the coast and designate traditional walking routes thereto as public rights of way.	B3 C1 C2		B1 B2	HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1
P-SRO-12 Where feasible, develop walkways/cycleways between coastal sites and green spaces in built-up areas.	B3 C1 C2 P1		B1 B2	HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-SRO-13 Ensure that golf course development does not damage or encroach upon vulnerable dune systems and does not impinge on existing rights of way or walking routes.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 L1			P1 M1 M2 W3 CH1 CH2 C1 C2
Healthcare policies				
P-HC-1 Encourage the integration of health services and facilities with new and existing community facilities, where feasible.	B3 C1 C2 P1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	
P-HC-2 Promote the location of health services and care facilities within existing settlements, on sites convenient to pedestrian access and public transport.	B3 C1 C2 P1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2	

			W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	
P-HC-3 Support the provision of health services and facilities for people with learning disabilities and special needs.	B3 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	
P-HC-4 Accommodate the provision of accessible care facilities throughout the County to cater for the specific needs of the elderly and those of young people.	B3 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	
P-HC-5 Support existing healthcare facilities in their plans to develop and expand.	B3 C1 C2 P1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	
Burial grounds policies				
			P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2
P-BG-1 Provide or assist in the provision of new burial grounds and extensions to existing burial grounds, by reserving sufficient land in suitable locations.	B3 C1 C2		CH1 L1 B1 B2	B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2
P-BG-2 Encourage the development of burial grounds to take account of cremation and 'green lawn' principles, to promote more efficient use of land and to facilitate maintenance.	B3 C1 C2		CH1 L1 B1 B2 HH1	B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2

P-BG-3 Promote the establishing of burial ground committees and assist them in the appropriate maintenance and management of burial grounds.			CH1 L1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2
P-BG-4 Ensure that appropriate archaeological assessment is carried out in relation to any works to burial grounds which are designated National Monuments, in accordance with the requirements of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 2004.	CH1 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2
Arts and cultural facilities policy				
P-AC-1 Encourage and assist in the development of the arts and to support the ongoing development of cultural infrastructure throughout the County.	B3 C1 C2			B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-AC-2 Continue to enhance the public domain by encouraging the provision of public art, both temporary and permanent, across all art forms and artistic disciplines in towns, villages and new residential developments through the government-supported Per Cent For Art scheme.			CH1 CH2 L1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2
Allotments policy				
P-A-1 Facilitate the development of allotments at suitable locations throughout the County. Any such facility should be located within or close to an existing settlement and should be easily accessible.	P1 C1 C2			B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1

8.9 Chapter 7: Heritage

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs- unlikely to be mitigated	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Heritage objectives				
O-H-1 Implement, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders, the County Heritage Plan 2007-2011 and subsequent heritage plans.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1			P1 C1 C2
O-H-2 Adopt and implement, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders, a County Biodiversity Action Plan and subsequent biodiversity plans.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
Natural heritage - general policies				
P-NH-1 Protect, sustainably manage and enhance the natural heritage, biodiversity, geological heritage, landscape and environment of County Sligo in recognition of its importance for nature conservation and biodiversity, and as a non-renewable resource, in association with all stakeholders.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1			P1 C1 C2
P-NH-2 Ensure as far as possible that development does not impact adversely on wildlife habitats and species. In the interest of sustainability, biodiversity should be conserved for the benefits of future generations.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
P-NH-3 To promote increased understanding and awareness of the natural heritage and biodiversity of the county.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2

P-NH-4 Protect and, where possible, enhance the plant and animal species and their habitats that have been identified under the EU Habitats Directive, EU Birds Directive, the Wildlife Act and the Flora Protection Order.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
P-NH-5 The 'polluter pays' and the 'precautionary' principles are integral components of planning policies that deal with environmental and heritage matters. Where uncertainty exists regarding the potential impact of a proposed development on the natural heritage resource, full account shall be taken of the precautionary principle.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1			P1 C1 C2
European and national designated natural heritage sites – objectives				
O-NH-1 Protect and maintain the favourable conservation status and conservation value of all natural heritage sites designated or proposed for designation in accordance with European and national legislation and in other relevant international conventions, agreements and processes. This includes sites designated or proposed as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Ramsar sites and Statutory Nature Reserves.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
O-NH-1a Promote the maintenance and as appropriate achievement of favourable conservation status of protected habitats and species in association with NPWS.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
O-NH-2 Assess, in accordance with the relevant legislation, all proposed developments which are likely to have a significant effect (directly or through indirect or cumulative impact) on designated natural heritage sites, sites proposed for designation and protected species.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
O-NH-3 When considering any plan or project prepared or assessed on the basis of this development plan, the planning authority must comply fully with Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive (as transposed into Irish Law by the EU Habitats Regulations 1997 and subsequent amendments) and assess whether the plan or project is likely to have a significant impact upon the integrity, conservation objectives and qualifying interests of any Natura 2000 site.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
O-NH-4 Consult with the relevant prescribed bodies and appropriate agencies when considering undertaking, approving or authorising developments which are likely to affect designated natural heritage sites or those proposed to be designated.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
O-NH-5 Establish and maintain an up-to-date planning register of all previously adopted and proposed plans/programmes and all granted and proposed developments which are likely to have a significant effect (directly or through indirect cumulative/in-combination effects) on European Sites within or adjoining the County, to allow for the appropriate assessment of potential 'ex situ' and cumulative/in combination effects of proposed plans, programmes and projects on such sites.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2

O-NH-5a An appropriate assessment screening determination shall be made for all land use plans, related variations and projects in consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.'	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
O-NH-6 Support and co-operate with statutory authorities and others in support of measures taken to manage designated nature conservation sites in order to achieve their conservation objectives and where available specific regard shall be made to Conservation Management Plans and their conservation objectives/management practices where they exist.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
O-NH-7 Promote development for recreational and educational purposes that would not conflict with maintaining favourable conservation status and the meeting of the conservation objectives for designated sites.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1		P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	
Nature conservation outside designated sites – policies				
P-NH-6 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.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
P-NH-7 Ensure that development proposals, where relevant, improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network and encourage the management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
P-NH-8 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.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
P-NH-9 Apply the precautionary principle in relation to development proposals with potential to impact on County Biodiversity Sites or of local nature conservation interest by requiring an ecological impact assessment to ensure that any proposed development will not affect the integrity and conservation value of the site.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
P-NH-10 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 the Plan.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2

Nature conservation outside designated sites – objectives				
O-NH-8 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 which will enable planning for future development in a sensitive manner while protecting sites of high nature conservation value.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
O-NH-9 Identify and protect, in co-operation with the relevant statutory agencies and other relevant groups, County Biodiversity Sites, not otherwise protected by legislation.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
O-NH-10 Ensure that the findings of habitat mapping projects (when completed) are utilised to inform the development management process.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
O-NH-11 Endeavour, where considered necessary, to improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 Network, by encouraging the preservation and management of features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as referred to in Article 10 of the Habitats Directive. These features include those which, by virtue of their linear and continuous structure (such as rivers with their banks or the traditional systems for marking field boundaries) or their function as stepping stones (such as ponds or small woods), are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
O-NH-12 Integrate biodiversity considerations into Local Authority plans, programmes and activities where appropriate.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
O-NH-13 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.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
Woodlands, trees and hedgerows policies				
P-NH-11 Protect trees and hedgerows from development that would impact adversely upon them, and promote the enhancement of existing hedgerows by seeking increased coverage, in conjunction with new development.	B2 B3 L1			B1 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
P-NH-12 Protect woodlands and hedgerows from damage and/or degradation and work to prevent the disruption of the connectivity of the woodlands and hedgerows of the county.	B1 B2 B3 L1			P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2

P-NH-13 Protect and manage existing woodlands, trees and hedgerows which are of amenity or biodiversity value and/or contribute to landscape character, and ensure that proper provision is made for their protection and management when undertaking, approving or authorising development.	B1 B2 B3 L1			P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
P-NH-14 Ensure that, when undertaking, approving or authorising development, sufficient information is provided to enable an assessment of impacts on woodlands, trees and hedgerows.	B1 B2 B3 L1			P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
P-NH-15 Encourage development proposals that enhance the landscape through positive management and additional planting/sensitive replanting of native tree species.	B2 B3 L1			B1 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
P-NH-16 Ensure, where required, that applications for development include proposals for planting/ leave a suitable ecological buffer zone, between the development works and areas/features of ecological importance.	B1 B2 B3 W1 L1			P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
P-NH-17 Recognise the biodiversity and archaeological importance of townland boundaries, including hedgerows, and promote their protection and retention.	B2 B3 CH1 L1			B1 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2
P-NH-18 Encourage the development of proposals for new woodlands utilising funding available through schemes such as the NeighbourWood and Native Woodland Schemes.	B2 B3 L1			B1 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
Woodlands, trees and hedgerows objectives				
O-NH-14 Undertake a study to document and map significant mature trees within the County area within the lifetime of the plan.	B2 B3 L1			B1 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
O-NH-15 Make Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's) as required in order to ensure the protection of important trees in urban and rural areas that contribute to public amenity, particularly indigenous trees and trees under threat.	B2 B3 L1			B1 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2

O-NH-16 Preserve and conserve trees or groups of trees identified as 'Trees for Preservation' at Mullaghmore (TPO no. XxXX)	B1 B2 B3 L1			P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
Inland waters policies				
P-NH-19 Protect rivers, streams and other water courses and their associated Core Riparian Zones (CRZ's) wherever possible and maintain them in an open state capable of providing suitable habitat for fauna and flora.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
P-NH-20 Protect and enhance the natural heritage and landscape character of river and stream corridors and valleys, maintain them free from inappropriate development and make provision for public access where feasible and appropriate.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1			P1 C1 C2
P-NH-21 Protect and enhance biodiversity richness by protecting rivers and stream corridors and valleys by reserving land along their banks for ecological corridors, maintaining them free from inappropriate development, and discouraging culverting or realignment.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
P-NH-22 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.	B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2			B3 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-NH-23 Ensure that floodplains and wetlands within the Plan area are retained for their biodiversity and flood protection value.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 M1 CH1 CH2
P-NH-24 Ensure that proposed developments do not adversely affect groundwater resources and groundwater dependent habitats and species.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-NH-25 Work with landowners, local communities and other relevant groups to protect and manage inland waters, river corridors and their floodplains from degradation and damage, and to recognise and promote them as natural assets of the urban and rural environment.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2

P-NH-26 Have regard to the County Sligo Wetlands Surveys 2008 and 2009 and subsequent wetland surveys that may be published during the lifetime of this Plan.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
Inland waters objectives				
O-NH-17 Consult with prescribed bodies prior to undertaking, approving or authorising any works or development that may impact on rivers, streams and watercourses.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 S1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
O-NH-18 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.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 W3 S1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
O-NH-19 Ensure that an appropriate ecological assessment is undertaken for developments with the potential to impact on inland waters.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
Protected species policies				
P-NH-27 Protect plant species and their associated habitats listed in the Flora (Protection) Order 1999.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
P-NH-28 Protect species and their associated habitats that require strict protection under the Habitats Regulations (S.I. No. 94 of 1997, 233 of 1998 and 378 of 2005).	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
P-NH-29 Protect animal and bird species and their associated habitats protected under the Wildlife Act 1976 and Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
P-NH-30 Ensure that development does not have a significant adverse impact, incapable of satisfactory mitigation, on plant, animal or bird species protected by law.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2

Protected species objectives				
O-NH-20 Consult with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (DoEHLG) 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.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
O-NH-21 Provide guidance to developers and others in relation to species protected by law and their protection and management in the context of development.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
O-NH-22 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.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
Invasive species policies				
P-NH-31 Prevent the spread of invasive species within the Plan area, including requiring landowners and developers to adhere to best practice guidance in relation to the control of invasive species.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 W3
P-NH-32 Seek the control and/or eradication of invasive species as appropriate within the Plan area as opportunities and resources allow. Targeted invasive species control should be informed by current distribution of species, degree of threat posed and resources available to control and/or eradicate them.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 L1			P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 M1 M2
P-NH-33 Promote public awareness/engagement with regard to invasive species through awareness campaigns and the provision of targeted information on the role of the general public in the control of invasive species.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 L1			P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 M1 M2
Invasive species objective				
O-NH-23 Undertake a study through the County Heritage Plan and County Biodiversity Plan to quantify the extent of invasive species with the Plan area, with recommendations of priority species for control and /or eradication, the degree of threat posed and the resources required for effective management.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2			P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 M1 M2
Sites of geological interest – objective				
O-NH-24 Protect 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 DoEHLG and/or the GSI in the lifetime of this Plan.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH2

Archaeological heritage policies				
P-AH-1 Protect and enhance archaeological sites, monuments, their setting, appreciation and amenity within the Plan area, including those that are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) or newly discovered archaeological sites and/or sub-surface archaeological remains.	CH1 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2
P-AH-2 Require archaeological assessment, surveys, test excavation and/or monitoring for planning applications in areas of archaeological importance, if a development proposal is likely to impact upon in-situ archaeological monuments their setting and archaeological deposits.	CH1 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2
P-AH-3 Ensure that full consideration is given to the protection of archaeological heritage when undertaking, approving or authorising development in order to avoid unnecessary conflict between development and the protection of the archaeological heritage.	CH1 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2
<p>P-AH-4 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>	CH1 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2
P-AH-5 Ensure that development within the vicinity of a Recorded Monument does not detract from the setting of the feature and is sited and designed appropriately.	CH1 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2
P-AH-6 Protect historic burial grounds that are recorded monuments and encourage their maintenance in accordance with conservation principles. Development may be restricted or conditions requiring substantial excavation may be imposed in and adjacent to former burial grounds.	CH1 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2
P-AH-7 Encourage and promote the appropriate management and enhancement of the archaeological heritage within the Plan area.	CH1 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2

P-AH-8 Facilitate and enhance public access to and understanding of the archaeological heritage and disseminate information and advice on the archaeological heritage to prospective developers and the general public.	CH1 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2
P-AH-9 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. New development should be designed in sympathy with existing features and structures.	CH1 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2
P-AH-10 Ensure, through the application of appropriate design standards and criteria, that land uses do not give rise to significant losses of the integrity, quality or context of archaeological material except as may be conditioned or directed by the appropriate heritage agencies.	CH1 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2
P-AH-11 Have regard to the policy recommendations and guidelines established in the Conservation Plans for Carrowkeel and Inishmurray, commissioned by Sligo County Council.	CH1 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2
P-AH-12 Have regard to the recommendations and guidelines which will be established in the document A Conservation Study of the Passage Tomb Group and Associated Archaeological Features and Other Monuments of Knocknarea, Carrowmore and Cairns Hill, Co. Sligo, commissioned by the DoEHLG in partnership with relevant stakeholders.	CH1 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2
Archaeological heritage objectives				
O-AH-1 Require an Archaeological Impact Assessment when considering development proposals with a potential to affect archaeological heritage, and have regard to the advice and recommendations of the prescribed bodies as defined in the Planning and Development Act 2000 in relation to undertaking, approving or authorising development.	CH1 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2
O-AH-2 Referr to the above-mentioned prescribed bodies all proposals for linear development over one kilometre in length, or proposals for development involving ground clearance of a half hectare or more, or proposals for development affecting present or former wetlands, unenclosed land, or rivers and estuaries.	CH1 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2
O-AH-3 Require the preservation of the context amenity and visual integrity and connection of archaeological monuments to their setting. Views to and from archaeological monuments should not be obscured by inappropriate development. Archaeological visual impact assessments should be undertaken to demonstrate the continued preservation of an archaeological monuments siting and context.	CH1 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2

O-AH-4 Ensure that a suitably qualified archaeologist carries out all archaeological works required when permission is granted for development that requires mitigation of impacts on the archaeological heritage.	CH1 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2
O-AH-5 Encourage the incorporation of, or the reference to significant archaeological finds into development schemes, where feasible. Archaeological monuments should not form part of green space or car parking allocations in proposed developments.	CH1 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2
O-AH-6 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.	CH1 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2
O-AH-7 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 land owners.	CH1 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2
O-AH-8 Protect and preserve archaeological sites discovered since the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places (1995).	CH1 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2
O-AH-9 Protect and preserve the archaeological value of underwater archaeological sites. In assessing proposals for development, the Council will take account of river, lake, intertidal and sub tidal environments.	CH1 L1			P1 B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2
O-AH-10 Protect and preserve the archaeological value of industrial heritage sites as identified in the Industrial Archaeology Survey of County Sligo (2005). Proposals for refurbishment, works to or redevelopment/conversion of these sites will be subject to a full architectural and archaeological assessment.	CH1 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2
Objectives for the Cuil Irra Peninsula – Carrowmore, Knocknarea and Carns Hill				
O-CIP-1 Have regard to the recommendations and guidelines which will be established in the document A Conservation Study of the Passage Tomb Group and Associated Archaeological Features and Other Monuments of Knocknarea, Carrowmore and Carns Hill, Co. Sligo, commissioned by the DoEHLG in partnership with relevant stakeholders.	CH1 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2

O-CIP-2 Protect groups of important National Monuments in the Cuil Irra Peninsula, inclusive of their contextual setting and interpretation through careful management of development in the area.	CH1 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2
O-CIP-3 Protect the vulnerable archaeological and cultural landscape and protect views within and adjacent to Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery, Knocknarea and Carns Hill.	CH1 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2
O-CIP-4 Protect the context, amenity and integrity of the archaeological heritage and landscape at Carns Hill, including the direct intervisibility between the core areas of the Cuil Irra Peninsula (Knocknarea, Carrowmore and Carns Hill) and other relevant locations within the wider Cuil Irra passage tombs complex.	CH1 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2
O-CIP-5 Establish a co-ordinated signage programme (directional and information signage) for Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery, Knocknarea and Carns Hill with the relevant agencies including the OPW and NMS, DoEHLG.	CH1 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2
O-CIP-6 Refer to the National Monuments Section DoEHLG 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 the map provided in Appendix X.	CH1 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2
O-CIP-7 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).	CH1 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2
O-CIP-8 Put in place a development management strategy for the protection of the archaeological landscape of the Cuil Irra Peninsula, to include Knocknarea, Carrowmore and Carns Hill, in partnership with landowners, the relevant agencies and stakeholders.	CH1 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2
Architectural heritage policies				
P-BH-1 Preserve, protect and enhance the architectural heritage of County Sligo for future generations. The area's architectural heritage is of national and regional importance and is central to Sligo's ability to promote itself as a centre for cultural tourism.	CH2 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1

P-BH-2 Secure the protection of buildings and structures or features of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest identified on the Record of Protected Structures.	CH2 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1
P-BH-3 Generally encourage the re-use of older buildings through renovation and rehabilitation, in preference to their demolition or reconstruction.	CH2 L1 P1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1
P-BH-4 Have regard to the 2004 Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines and subsequent guidance issued by the DoEHLG when assessing proposals for development affecting a protected structure.	CH2 L1 P1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1
P-BH-5 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.	CH2 L1 P1			B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1
P-BH-6 Ensure that any development, modifications, alterations, or extensions affecting a protected structure, adjoining structure or 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.	CH2 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1
P-BH-7 Promote the principles of contextual compatibility for all new buildings within the historic built environment and promote carefully-designed architectural solutions that are modern and innovative, except in or adjoining an ACA or a protected structure, where, in the opinion of the planning authority, redevelopment in the traditional or historicist manner may be more appropriate.	CH2 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1
P-BH-8 Ensure that any new development activity acknowledges the traditional frame for development - in particular, buildings will be required to maintain historical building lines. There will be a presumption against new buildings stepping back from established building lines, except for key public buildings, or where a new building might interfere with the setting of a protected structure or an ACA.	CH2 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1
P-BH-9 Maintain the traditional plot width along the perimeter of blocks within historic streetscapes, particularly where the building façade is manifested on the streetscape. Under some circumstances, a new building with a broader plot width might be permitted, but the façade will be required to include some form or articulation that emulates or fits in with the traditional streetscape character.	CH2 L1 P1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1

P-BH-10 Facilitate and permit plot amalgamation and land assembly in the centre of blocks (backlands of plots) so as to promote commercial viability while ensuring that there is a balance between the scale of the development proposals, in terms of height, mass and bulk, so as not to dwarf the traditional perimeter buildings of the block.	CH2 L1 P1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1
P-BH-11 Generally maintain a continuous building line along streetscapes - this assists in maintaining the character of an area and can screen car parks, loading bays and service yards within blocks.	CH2 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1
P-BH-12 For new or replacement buildings, encourage the retention of subtle variations in building lines, building heights and plot widths, which are a trademark of the traditional Irish streetscape.	CH2 L1			B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1
P-BH-13 Generally, only consider applications for change of use where the level of physical intervention required to make the building suitable for its new use does not damage or alter the character of the structure that makes it of special interest.	CH2 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1
P-BH-14 Protect important non-habitable structures such as historic bridges, harbours, railways, roadside features (such as 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.	CH1 CH2 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2
P-BH-15 Support the visual attractiveness of the county by encouraging owners of derelict sites/buildings to develop and improve them in an appropriate manner and pursue, where necessary, owners of buildings and sites under the Derelict Sites Act, 1990.	CH2 L1 P1			B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1
P-BH-16 Facilitate enabling development to be carried out in conjunction with works to protected structures where consistent with the parameters outlined in Section 7.3.5 Enabling Development.	CH2 L1 P1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1
P-BH-17 Continue to develop the Council's advisory/educational role with regard to heritage matters and to promote awareness and understanding of the architectural heritage.	CH2 L1			B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1
P-BH-18 Encourage 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.	CH2 L1			B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2

				C1 C2 CH1
P-BH-19 Encourage the restoration or appropriate replacement of original doors, sash/casement timber windows and slate roofs over their replacement with modern materials (such as PVC windows and doors) or designs that may be insensitive in their detailing or relief to traditional façades and roofs.	CH2 L1			B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1
P-BH-20 Ensure that modern design solutions have regard for the traditional context and streetscape elements and utilise some of the traditional architectural idioms in their composition, form and/or design.	CH2 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1
Built/architectural heritage objectives				
O-BH-1 Ensure the protection of all structures (or parts of structures) included in the Record of Protected Structures. In accordance with this objective, a Record of Protected Structures has been established (see separate RPS publication).	CH2 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1
O-BH-2 Review the RPS on an ongoing basis and add structures of special interest as appropriate, including 20th-century structures and incorporating recommendations from the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage. Identification of structures for inclusion in the RPS will be based on criteria set out in the Architectural Heritage Protection - Guidelines for Planning Authorities published by the DoEHLG (2005).	CH2 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1
O-BH-3 Have regard to the advice and recommendations of prescribed bodies in relation to undertaking, approving or authorising development.	CH2 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1
O-BH-4 Provide detailed guidance notes and advice to the public, developers, public bodies, groups and associations with regard to protected structures, ACAs, conservation grant schemes and architectural heritage in general.	CH2 L1			B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1
O-BH-5 Assess the surviving demesnes within the Plan area and promote the conservation of their essential character, both built and natural, while allowing for appropriate re-use.	B1 B2 P1 CH1 CH2 L1			B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2
O-BH-6 Identify and retain in situ good examples of historic street furniture, e.g. cast-iron post-boxes, water pumps, signage, street lighting, kerbing, traditional road and street surface coverings/finishes etc.	CH1 CH2 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2

O-BH-7 Promote awareness and best practice in relation to the protection of non-structural elements.	CH1 CH2 L1			B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1
O-BH-8 Where appropriate, identify and designate Architectural Conservation Areas in conjunction with the preparation of local area plans and other land use plans and establish special planning controls for these areas.	CH2 L1		P1	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1
O-BH-9 Encourage and advise on the restoration of traditional shop fronts.	CH2 L1			B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1
Landscape character assessment and protection policies				
P-LCAP-1 Promote the understanding of Sligo's landscape in terms of its inherent and unique character and to recognise what elements should be preserved, conserved or enhanced.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1			P1 C1 C2
P-LCAP-2 Promote a unified approach to landscape planning and management, linking policies and objectives for the preservation of the county's unique landscape character to all relevant planning policies and objectives throughout the Plan.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1			P1 C1 C2
P-LCAP-3 Protect the physical landscape and visual character of the County.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1			P1 C1 C2
P-LCAP-4 Protect the historic and archaeological landscapes of the County.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1			P1 C1 C2
P-LCAP-5 Protect and enhance the visual qualities of rural areas through the sensitive design of necessary development.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1			P1 C1 C2

	M2 CH1 CH2 L1			
P-LCA-6 Maintain a variety of settlement types as a critical part of landscape character in Sligo and preserve the essential characteristics of individual settlements within their settings by developing robust design guidance.	B3 P1 CH1 CH2 L1			B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2
P-LCAP-7 Have regard to the potential environmental impacts of new infrastructure and industrial development, such as noise and air pollution impinging on views, tranquility and character, and the consequences that such development may have for the evolution of settlements.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1			
P-LCAP-8 Promote the development of tourism in a sustainable manner and encourage the provision of a comprehensive range of tourist facilities, subject to location, siting, design criteria and compliance with the Habitats Directive	B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	
P-LCAP-9 Encourage the continued sustainable development of rural communities without compromising the physical, environmental, natural and heritage resources of the county.	B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1			
P-LCAP-10 Maintain a vibrant and healthy agricultural sector based on the principles of sustainable development whilst at the same time finding alternative employment in or close to rural areas to sustain rural communities.	B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	
P-LCAP-11 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 will not be used for the top line of wire. Stiles or gates at appropriate places will be required.	B1 B2 B3 L1			P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2

P-LCAP-12 Where possible, preserve the open character of commonage and other hill land and secure access thereto.	B1 B2 B3 L1			P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
Landscape character assessment and protection objectives				
O-LCAP-1 Undertake a Landscape Character Assessment for County Sligo within the lifetime of this Plan in accordance with the principles of the European Landscape Convention and best practice guidance.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1			P1 C1 C2
O-LCAP-2 Explore, within the lifetime of this Plan, the opportunity of preparing a Local Area Plan and/or designating of Landscape Conservation Area(s), pursuant to Section 204 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000, in respect of the following heritage landscapes: Cuil Irra Peninsula, Carrowkeel and Inishmurray.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	
O-LCAP-3 Seek to preserve the landscape character of County Sligo by assessing all development proposals against the provisions of the Development Control Policy Map. Planning applications that have the potential to impact significantly and adversely upon landscape character or scenic views may be required to be accompanied by a visual impact assessment using agreed and appropriate viewing points and methods for the assessment.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1			P1 C1 C2
O-LCAP-4 Discourage any developments that would be detrimental to the unique visual character of designated Visually Vulnerable Areas.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1			P1 C1 C2
O-LCAP-5 Strictly control new development in designated Sensitive Rural Landscapes, while considering exceptions that can demonstrate a clear need to locate in the area concerned.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1			P1 C1 C2
O-LCAP-6 Ensure that any new development in designated Sensitive Rural Landscapes: – 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.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1			P1 C1 C2

O-LCAP-7	Preserve the scenic views listed in Appendix X by controlling development along designated Scenic Routes and other roads, while facilitating developments that may be tied to a specific location or to the demonstrated needs of applicants to reside in a particular area. In all cases, strict location, siting and design criteria shall apply, as set out in Section 12.3 Residential Development Standards.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1			P1 C1 C2
LCAP-8	Liaise with adjoining planning authorities to ensure that development plan policies are consistent in the protection and management of landscape.	L1			B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 P1 C1 C2

8.10 Chapter 8: Transport

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs- unlikely to be mitigated	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Mobility - strategic policies				
SP-MOB-1 Integrate transportation planning and land-use planning in order to reduce the need to travel (especially by car), by promoting the consolidation of development in a network of settlements with existing services and facilities.	B3 P1 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	
SP-MOB-2 Support the creation of an integrated and environmentally-sound transport system, in particular with regard to accessibility and choice of transport, with a quality intercity bus and rail service, alongside the promotion of cycle facilities and pedestrian movements.	B3 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	P1 M1
SP-MOB-3 Make optimal use of existing transportation infrastructure by using traffic management in order to reduce travel times and congestion.	B3 C1			B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 C2 P1 M1
SP-MOB-4 Promote increased use of and investment in public transport by means of appropriate land use planning measures close to existing transport nodes, routes and corridors.	B3 C1 C2 P1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	
SP-MOB-5 Encourage the shift from car use to more environmentally-friendly modes of transport and ensure the provision of quality interchange facilities between road, rail, bus and bicycle in relevant settlements.	B3 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	

SP-MOB-6 Promote the reopening of the Western Rail Corridor from Athenry to Sligo, subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.	B1 B2 B3 C1 C2 P1		HH1 S1 W1 W2 M2	W3 M1 CH1 CH2 L1
SP-MOB-7 Plan for the future traffic and transportation needs in Sligo and ensure that new development does not compromise the expansion of rail and road corridors in the County. Proposed road realignment/improvement lines and associated corridors shall be preserved free from development that would prejudice the implementation of the road scheme.	B3 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	P1 M1
SP-MOB-8 Protect the traffic carrying capacity of national roads, the level of service they deliver and the period over which they continue to perform efficiently, by avoiding the creation of new access points or the generation of increased traffic from existing accesses onto the N4, N15, N16, N17 and N59 outside the 50 km/h speed limit, in accordance with the National Roads Authority's publication <i>Spatial Planning and National Roads (Draft) Guidelines for Planning Authorities</i> .	B3 C1			B1 B2 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 C2 L1
SP-MOB-9 Promote improved access to and sustainable development and operation of Sligo Regional Airport and Sligo Port. Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive. ¹²⁰	B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2	
Mobility – strategic objectives				
SO-MOB-1 Implement the relevant policies in relation to sustainable transport and in particular the Department of Transport's policy document Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future, A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009–2020.	C1 C2 B3 P1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	M1
SO-MOB-2 Develop a strategy to promote and facilitate greater use of sustainable modes of travel such as walking and cycling, in line with the Department of Transport's <i>Smarter Travel, Cycle and Walking Strategies</i> .	C1 C2 B3 P1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	M1

¹²⁰ Providing improved access to Sligo Airport could involve the provision of additional or upgraded transport infrastructure which could conflict with various environmental components. Further development and/or intensification of Sligo Airport may have to be accompanied by sufficient amounts of infrastructure and/or increases in the capacity of existing infrastructure - including supporting public and private transport and water infrastructure and services. Significant amounts of greenfield lands, may be required for any expansion with significant residual impacts likely on the landscape. Potential conflicts could arise between further development and/or intensification and ecology and additional amounts of greenhouse gas emissions, energy usage and noise emissions could be generated. Further development and/or intensification may be required to undergo Environmental Impact Assessment through which both the need for the proposed project and alternatives for providing for the need would have to be thoroughly examined.

Public transport policies				
P-PT-1 Promote the consolidation of settlements on existing public transport routes and along the Western Rail Corridor.	C1 C2 B3 P1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	
P-PT-2 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.	C1 C2 B3		B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	M1
P-PT-3 Support the provision of a local commuter rail service on the existing mainline railway.	C1 C2 B3			B1 B2 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-PT-4 Promote the development of the Western Rail Corridor, as a strategic transport corridor linking Sligo and the North-West with Mayo, Galway and Limerick. Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.	B1 B2 B3 C1 C2		HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	M1 P1
P-PT-5 Support local, community transport services in consultation with the local communities.	C1 C2 B3			B1 B2 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1
Public transport objectives				
O-PT-1 Continue to work with the service providers, such as Iarnrod Eireann and Bus Eireann, to reduce the need for car trips by improving the availability, reliability and quality of public transport.	B3 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	M1 P1
O-PT-2 Examine the feasibility of a rail link between Sligo and Derry via Manorhamilton and Enniskillen, and the integration of such a rail link with new national road alignments and designs, i.e. N16 (Enniskillen Road). Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive	B1 B2 B3 C1 C2		HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	M1 P1

O-PT-3 Ensure that the design and layout of new developments facilitates circulation by public transport.	B3 C1 C2			B1 B2 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1
General roads objective				
O-R-1 It is the objective of Sligo County Council to bring National Roads up to appropriate standards, as resources become available, and to continue improvement works on non-national roads so as to develop a safe and comprehensive road system for the county.	B3 C1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	M1 P1 C2
Policies for roads and other linear infrastructure crossing Natura 2000 sites				
P-N2000-1 Demonstrate the need for the project in light of a “do nothing” context.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1			P1 M1
P-N2000-2 Examine the potential for intensifying or upgrading existing roads as an alternative to carrying out new road development affecting a Natura 2000 site.	B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 C1 C2 L1			M1 P1 CH1 CH2
P-N2000-3 Develop and evaluate a comprehensive series of plausible alternative routes and design strategies (to include long-span and tunnel options).	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1			P1 M1
P-N2000-4 Demonstrate how each route has taken due account of, and accommodated ecological and legal considerations including the requirements of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1			P1 M1

P-N2000-5 Demonstrate that the chosen route will not cause any incursions onto or significant adverse effects on habitats in Natura 2000 sites.				B1 HH1 W1 W3 C1	B2 S1 W2 M2 L1			M1 P1 CH1 CH2	
National roads objectives									
O-NR-1 Facilitate programmed improvements to the National Road network, including the programme of realignments and upgrades, as set out in Table 8.B, subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.				B1 B2 B3			HH1 W1 W3 C1 CH1 L1	S1 W2 M2 C2 CH2 L1	P1 M1
Table 8.B National road projects in Co. Sligo									
Road number	Route	Description of work	Estimated completion time/status - subject to NRA approval/funding						
N4	Collooney to Castlebaldwin	realignment and upgrading	2013: completion*						
N17	Tobercurry Bypass	realignment and upgrading	2013: completion*						
N17	Collooney to Charlestown (including bypass at Bellaghy/Charlestown)	realignment	2015: completion*						
N17	Collooney to Tobercurry Bypass	-	No completion date						
N15	Sligo to Leitrim County boundary	realignment and upgrading	2015: completion*						
N4/N15	Sligo to Borough Boundary & Environs	realignment and upgrading	2013: completion*						
N16	Sligo to Leitrim County boundary	realignment and upgrading	2018: completion*						
N59	Farranyharpy to Ballygreighan	realignment and upgrading	2012: completion*						
N59	Ballysadare to Mayo County Boundary	improvements	ongoing						
N4/ N15	Sligo Bypass	Route Selection Study	2012: completion*						
*Note: the timeframe for all projects is subject to NRA approval.									
O-NR-2 Restrict new access points onto national roads in accordance with NRA policy, publication <i>Spatial Planning and National Roads (Draft) Guidelines for Planning Authorities</i> in order to maintain traffic capacity, minimise traffic hazard and protect and maximise public investment in such roads.				C1 B3				B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	

O-NR-3 Carry out a Route Selection Study for a City By-Pass for Sligo City and Environs.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1			P1 M1
O-NR-4 Maintain the national road bridge stock.	C1 B3		B1 B2 HH1 W1 W2 W3 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	S1 M1 C1 C2
Non-national roads and bridges objectives				
O-NNR-1 Identify local priorities for road improvements in conjunction with the preparation of mini-plans and local area plans.	B3		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	P1 M1
O-NNR-2 Implement the roads and traffic management objectives of adopted mini-plans/local area plans, subject to the availability of funding.	B3		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 C1 C2	M1 P1
O-NNR-3 Improve road access to Sligo Regional Airport, subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.	B1 B2 B3		HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 C1 C2	M1 P1
O-NNR-4 Continue investment in local roads infrastructure in County Sligo, in order to improve access to peripheral areas of the County and promote social inclusion.	B3		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 C1 C2	M1 P1

O-NNR-5 Carry out improvement works on regional and local roads, and in particular to the regional road network as set out in Table 8.C, subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.	B1 B2 B3		HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 C1 C2	M1 P1
O-NNR-6 Continue to maintain, repair, replace and preserve the considerable bridge stock of the county, subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.	B1 B2 B3		HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 C1 C2	M1 P1
O-NNR-7 Develop the Strategic Non-National Road – the Western Distributor Road, subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.	B1 B2 B3		HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 C1 C2	M1 P1
O-NNR-8 Develop the Strategic Non-National Road – The Eastern Garavogue Bridge and Approach Roads, subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.	B1 B2 B3		HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 C1 C2	M1 P1
Cycling and walking policies				
P-CW-1 Promote walking and cycling as sustainable transport modes and healthy recreational activities.	B3 C1 C2			P1 M1 B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-CW-2 Promote cycling as a viable commuting mode of transport.	B3 C1 C2			P1 M1 B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 CH1 CH2 L1
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.	B3 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	P1 M1
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.	C1 C2 P1		B1 B2	B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1

P-CW-5 Protect and promote Greenways and consider designating them as public rights of way.	C1 C2 P1		B1 B2	B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-CW-6 A number of long-distance walking routes exist throughout the county. These long-distance walks together with local walks provide important access networks. This is an important recreational resource whose integrity should be protected. The impact of any proposed development on these routes should be taken into account when considering applications for permission for developments in the vicinity.	C1 C2 P1		B1 B2	B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1
Cycling and walking objectives				
O-CW-1 Provide, improve and extend cycle and pedestrian routes on existing roads, proposed roads, roads being upgraded and green corridors, where feasible and practical, subject to compliance with Habitats Directive.	B1 B2 B3 C1 C2		HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	P1 M1
O-CW-2 Develop cycle routes from Strandhill, Rosses Point, Ballysadare and Collooney to Sligo City subject to compliance with Habitats Directive.	B1 B2 B3 C1 C2		HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	P1 M1
O-CW-3 Plan and make provision for the safe and efficient movement of cyclists and pedestrians in and around built-up areas	B3 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	P1 M1
O-CW-4 Make provision for the integration of pedestrian and cycle facilities (i.e. bicycle parking) at public transportation nodes and village/town centres.	B3 C1 C2		CH1 CH2 L1	B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 P1 M1
O-CW-5 Implement the relevant policies of the Department of Transport's National Cycle Policy Framework and support the provision of a National Cycle Network.	B3 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	P1 M1
O-CW-6 Commence the process of mapping rights of way in the County during the lifetime of this development plan.				B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1 C1 C2 HH1 P1 CH1 CH2

O-CW-7 Implement the relevant provisions of the Department of Transport's Walking Policy, when published	C1 C2 P1		B1 CH1 L1 W2 B2 CH2 W1 W3	B3 HH1 S1 M1 M2
O-CW-8 Provide appropriate facilities for pedestrians and for people with special mobility needs.				B1 S1 W3 L1 HH1 CH1 B2 W1 M1 C1 P1 W2 M2 C2 W2
O-CW-9 Prepare a Transport Plan for Sligo to include all modes of transport, in line with the Department of Transport's guidelines, when published.	C1 C2 P1		B1 CH1 L1 W2 B2 CH2 W1 W3	B3 HH1 S1 M1 M2
O-CW-10 Support the development of a foot- and cycleway (greenway) alongside the disused railway line from Claremorris to Collooney, subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive, insofar as such route does not compromise the reopening of the Western Rail Corridor.	C1 C2 P1			B1 HH1 W3 CH1 B2 W1 M1 M2 S1 W2 M2 CH2 L1
Airports objective				
O-A-1 Promote and support improved access to and expansion of Sligo Regional and Knock International Airports, so as to secure a better level and frequency of service and promote Sligo's accessibility to tourists and businesses, both nationally and internationally. Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive ¹²¹	B1 C1 B2 B3 C2		B1 HH1 W3 M2 CH2 P1 B2 S1 W2 M1 CH1 L1 C2	
Port and harbours policies				
P-PH-1 Continue to support the sustainable development and operation of Sligo Port.	B1 P1 S1 W2 M1 C1 CH1 L1 B2 HH1 W1 W3 M2 C2 CH2 L1 B3		B1 HH1 W1 M1 CH2 P1 B2 S1 W3 CH1 L1	M2 W2

¹²¹ Expansion of Sligo Airport may have to be accompanied by sufficient amounts of infrastructure and/or increases in the capacity of existing infrastructure - including supporting public and private transport and water infrastructure and services. Significant amounts of greenfield lands, may be required for any expansion with significant residual impacts likely on the landscape. Potential conflicts could arise between expansion of the Airport and ecology and additional amounts of greenhouse gas emissions, energy usage and noise emissions could be generated. Further development and/or intensification may be required to undergo Environmental Impact Assessment through which both the need for the proposed project and alternatives for providing for the need would have to be thoroughly examined.

P-PH-2 Support the role of harbours, piers and shipways in facilitating fishing, marine leisure, recreation and other activities including the RNLI station at Rosses Point.	B3		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W3 M1 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2	M2 W2
Port and harbours objectives				
O-PH-1 Improve road and rail access to the Port, in order to boost its viability as an international freight port.	B3 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1	
O-PH-2 Carry out improvements at Mullaghmore, Enniscrone and Pullacheeney Harbours and maintain and improve other piers and harbours, as resources allow subject to the requirements of the Habitats Directive.	B3		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W3 M1 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2	M2 W2
O-PH-3 Maintain navigation aids and tidal gauges as necessary for the benefit of the maritime and coastal communities subject to the requirements of the Habitats Directive.				B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1

8.11 Chapter 9: Environmental Infrastructure

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs- unlikely to be mitigated	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Strategic water, wastewater and storm drainage objectives				
SO-W-1 Improve water and wastewater services in those areas of the county where deficiencies exist at present, subject to the availability of resources and appropriate statutory approvals.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2		B1 B2 HH1 W1 W2 M2	P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1

SO-W-2 Carry out measures to address deficiencies in existing water and wastewater infrastructure, so as to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements and the objectives of the Water Framework Directive.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
SO-W-3 Preserve and further develop water and wastewater infrastructure in order to facilitate the growth of settlements at an appropriate rate which is consistent with the Core Strategy and the Settlement Structure.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 W1 W2 M2	W3 CH1 CH2 L1
SO-W-4 Implement adequate surface water drainage measures and prohibit unsuitable development in flood-susceptible areas.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
SO-W-5 Prepare a Water Services Strategic Plan – in compliance with the Water Services Act – for the functional area of the Council. Such a Plan may be prepared jointly with other Water Services Authorities.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 C1 C2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1
Water supply policies				
P-WS-1 Ensure an adequate, sustainable and economic supply of good quality water for domestic, commercial and industrial use, subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 M2		W1 W2	P1 S1 W3 C1 C2 M1 CH1 CH2 L1
P-WS-2 Conserve water supplies through the minimisation of leakage and wastage in the interests of efficiency and sustainability.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M2			P1 S1 W3 C1 C2 M1 CH1 CH2 L1
P-WS-3 Promote public awareness and involvement in water conservation measures.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M2			P1 S1 W3 C1 C2 M1 CH1 CH2 L1
P-WS-4 Co-operate, support and advise in the provision and management of group water schemes in the County.	B3 HH1 M2		B1 B2 W1 W2	P1 S1 W3 C1 C2 M1 CH1 CH2 L1
P-WS-5 Promote the inclusion of water conservation and sustainability measures so as to minimise the use of potable water in new developments.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M2			P1 S1 W3 C1 C2 M1 CH1 CH2 L1
P-WS-6 Existing and future population within the County shall be served with clean and wholesome drinking water. It is Council policy to ensure that all drinking water complies with the European Union Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC as given effect in Irish law by the European Communities (Drinking Water) (No.2) Regulations 2007, as may be amended, and to implement the relevant recommendations set out in The Provision and Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland – A report for the Years 2007-2008 (EPA Office of Environment Enforcement, 2009).	B3 HH1 M2			B1 B2 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 C2 M1 CH1 CH2 L1

Water supply objectives				
O-WS-1 Complete the construction of the new water treatment plant at Kilsellagh, subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 M2		W1	B1 B2 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 C2 M1 CH1 CH2 L1
O-WS-2 Complete the planning and construction of the new water treatment plant at Lough Talt subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 M2		W1	P1 S1 W2 W3 C1 C2 M1 CH1 CH2 L1
O-WS-3 Extend the existing water treatment plant at Foxes Den (depending on future growth in the Sligo and Environs area), subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 M2		W1	P1 S1 W2 W3 C1 C2 M1 CH1 CH2 L1
O-WS-4 Carry out a strategic review of both North Sligo and Lough Easky Regional Water Supply Schemes. Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 M2		W1	P1 S1 W2 W3 C1 C2 M1 CH1 CH2 L1
O-WS-5 Continue to advance the Water Conservation Programme in the County area.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M2			P1 S1 W3 C1 C2 M1 CH1 CH2 L1
O-WS-6 Improve the water supply to the South Sligo Area.	B3 HH1 M2		B1 B2 W1 W2	P1 S1 W2 W3 C1 C2 M1 CH1 CH2 L1
O-WS-7 Implement the requirements of the EC (Drinking Water) (No. 2) Regulations 2007.	B3 HH1 M2			B1 B2 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 C2 M1 CH1 CH2 L1
O-WS-8 Provide an adequate water supply for fire fighting, where feasible.				B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 C2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1
O-WS-9 Continue to implement the annual Rural Water Programme.. Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 M2		W1 W2	P1 S1 W2 W3 C1 C2 M1 CH1 CH2 L1

O-WS-10 Advance all the schemes listed on the Water Services Investment Programmes, subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 M2		W1 W2	P1 S1 W2 W3 C1 C2 M1 CH1 CH2 L1
Wastewater policies				
P-WW-1 Ensure sustainable collection, treatment and discharge of wastewater effluent generated within the County.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-WW-2 Ensure that developers provide effective drainage systems with separate foul and surface water networks.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-WW-3 Ensure that effluent / sludge is treated and disposed-of in accordance with the required EU standards.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-WW-4 Promote the sustainable use of wastewater treatment facilities.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-WW-5 Strive to provide adequate wastewater treatment capacity to facilitate development in county Sligo. The provision of such infrastructure will only be pursued where the planning authority is satisfied that it is necessary and in accordance with the requirements of the Core Strategy and the Settlement Structure of the County.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 W1 W2 M2	W3 CH1 CH2 L1
P-WW-6 Facilitate appropriate proposals from private developers to extend existing public wastewater infrastructure networks, where such proposals would result in the servicing of lands zoned in accordance with the Core Strategy. Any such proposal shall be assessed on a case-by-case basis.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 W1 W2 M2	W3 CH1 CH2 L1
P-WW-7 Ensure that public wastewater treatment infrastructure is in place, with adequate capacity, prior to developments being occupied.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-WW-8 All proposals for on-site Treatment Systems shall be designed, constructed and maintained in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency Code of Practice for Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (p.e.≤10)". (EPA 2009) and/or Treatment Systems for Small Communities, business, Leisure Centres and Hotels", and any guidance documents issued by the County Council.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1

P-WW-9 As relevant and as appropriate, seek to implement the relevant measures for individual water bodies set out in the Western River Basin Management Plan and the Shannon and North Western International River Basin Management Plans and the associated Programmes of Measures.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-WW-10 Prohibit the discharge or disposal of domestic wastewater from one-off houses, following treatment, to surface water bodies.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 M1 M2			P1 W2 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-WW-11 Ensure that adequately designed grease-traps are installed and maintained in all commercial premises where food is prepared.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 W1 M1 M2			P1 S1 W2 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-WW-12 Ensure that adequately designed oil interceptors are installed in all commercial developments that include car-parks or other oil- and petrol-related activities.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 M1 M2			P1 W2 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-WW-13 Regulate discharges to local authority sewerage schemes to protect and improve groundwater and surface water quality in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-WW-14 Ensure tertiary treatment (phosphorus removal) is provided in proposed upgrades to existing or new local authority wastewater treatment infrastructure.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-WW-15 Discourage the use of pumping stations in private developments. Storm overflows from pumping stations serving private developments shall not be permitted.				B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 C2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-WW-16 Promote the establishment of a satisfactory management structure in relation to existing in-situ private wastewater pumping stations.				B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 C2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1

P-WW-17 Development proposing to connect to the public wastewater treatment system shall not be permitted unless the planning authority is satisfied that adequate capacity is available. Exceptions to this policy will be considered in cases where works on upgrading the wastewater facilities have commenced and will be completed within a reasonable timeframe. In such cases, appropriate conditions shall be applied to planning permissions to ensure that the proposed development and the upgrading works are suitably phased.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2		B1 B2 HH1 W1 W2 M2	P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-WW-18 In cases where a settlement is not served by a public wastewater treatment plant, or where no spare capacity exists in an existing wastewater treatment plant, individual developments proposing to use on-site wastewater treatment will be considered subject to appropriate scale, assessment, design and conditions, taking groundwater vulnerability into account. Any such permitted development shall be subject to legally binding maintenance and bonding arrangements agreed with the planning authority and shall be required to connect to the public wastewater treatment plant when/if adequate capacity becomes available. However, communal on-site wastewater treatment systems (i.e. systems servicing more than 1 residential unit / commercial premises etc) will not be permitted in any case.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2		B1 B2 HH1 W1 W2 M2	P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-WW-19 In cases where capacity exists, all proposed developments will be required to connect to the public wastewater treatment plant.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-WW-20 Development shall be accompanied by financial contributions to facilitate the provision of wastewater treatment infrastructure with adequate capacity that will ensure compliance with the provisions of the relevant River Basin Management Plan(s) and the Habitats Directive.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-WW-21 It is Council policy to implement the relevant recommendations set out in Urban Waste Water Discharges in Ireland for Population Equivalents Greater than 500 Persons – A Report for the Years 2006 and 2007 (EPA Office of Environment Enforcement, 2009) where feasible, and to examine the feasibility of connecting unsewered areas including individual properties/premises currently serviced by septic tanks to existing and planned sewer networks subject to the availability of resources.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
Wastewater objectives				
O-WW-1 Complete the construction of the new wastewater treatment plants at Tobercurry, Grange, Strandhill and Ballinafad.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2		B1 B2 HH1 W1 W2 M2	
O-WW-2 Complete the planning and construction of the new wastewater treatment plant at Ballintogher, Bunnanadden, Cliffony, Ballinacarrow, Mullaghmore and Ballygawley, subject to necessary approvals and compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2		HH1 W1 W2 M2	
O-WW-3 Complete the construction of a wastewater collection system to pump wastewater from Rosses Point, Ballincar and Cregg into Sligo Main Drainage.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2		B1 B2 HH1 W1 W2 M2	
O-WW-4 Complete the planning stage for upgrade works to Collooney and Ballymote WWTPs, subject to necessary approvals and compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2		HH1 W1 W2 M2	

O-WW-5 Facilitate the sustainable development of towns and villages by improving and extending wastewater infrastructure as set out in Table 9.B, subject to the availability of necessary funding and compliance with the Core Strategy and Settlement Structure for the County.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2		B1 B2 HH1 W1 W2 M2	
O-WW-6 Achieve compliance with the Urban Wastewater Treatment (Amendment) Regulations 2004 with regard to wastewater collection, treatment and discharge and implement the relevant recommendations set out in <i>Urban Waste Water Discharges in Ireland for Population Equivalents Greater than 500 Persons – A Report for the Years 2006 and 2007</i> (EPA).	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2		B1 B2 HH1 W1 W2 M2	
O-WW-7 Implement the Sludge Management Plan for the County.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2		B1 B2 HH1 W1 W2 M2	
O-WW-8 Achieve compliance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2			
Surface water drainage policies				
P-SW-1 Require the provision and use of separate foul and surface water drainage systems.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1 W3
P-SW-2 Ensure that developments are kept at an appropriate distance from watercourses, to protect them from contamination, allow for natural drainage and facilitate channel clearing maintenance.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
P-SW-3 Preserve and protect the water quality of natural surface water storage sites, such as wetlands, where these help to regulate stream flows, recharge groundwater and screen pollutants (such features also provide important habitat functions).	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-SW-4 Protect wetland areas and floodplains from development.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 M1 CH1 CH2
P-SW-5 Prohibit the alteration of natural drainage systems and, 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).	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 M1 CH1 CH2

P-SW-6 Protect 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.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
P-SW-7 Promote storm water retention facilities for new developments and existing catchment areas, particularly where developments are proposed in proximity to an existing open water course or stream.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-SW-8 Encourage and, where appropriate, require that the permitted flow from a development to a public storm water drain or watercourse is restricted/equal to the natural run-off rates from the undeveloped site.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
Waste management policies				
P-WM-1 Promote reduction, recycling, reuse and proper management of all waste through practices which limit environmental pollution.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 W3 L1
P-WM-2 Liaise with and encourage the private sector, semi-state and voluntary groups to actively pursue initiatives which involve recycling and/or reuse. Minimise unnecessary consumption of depletable natural resources and, through the proper reuse and recycling of waste, divert as much waste from landfill as possible.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M2			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 M1 W3 L1
P-WM-3 Promote the development of facilities in accordance with the waste hierarchy principle, which involves a shift toward preventive and waste minimization measures, while developing recycling and reuse, disposal with energy recovery and, as the last option, disposal of residual waste to landfill.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M2			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 M1 W3 L1
P-WM-4 Promote measures to reduce the production of waste and encourage the recycling of construction and demolition waste and the reuse of aggregates and other materials in future construction projects.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M2 C1			P1 C2 CH1 CH2 M1 W3 L1
P-WM-5 Require the incorporation of waste reduction/minimisation measures in the design and construction of developments, particularly those that are likely to give rise to large amounts of C&D waste. For certain developments, site-specific waste plans will be required.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M2 C1			P1 C2 CH1 CH2 M1 W3 L1
P-WM-6 Require all new developments – including residential, commercial and industrial developments, neighbourhood centres, shopping and retail areas – to provide adequate storage for the three segregated municipal waste types (organic, recyclable and landfill waste) and incorporate waste management facilities commensurate with their nature and scale. Waste collection points shall have adequate access to provide for loading and further division after recycling on site, in order to facilitate the achievement of high recycling levels, as specified in the Waste Management Plan.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M2 C1 C2			P1 CH1 CH2 M1 W3 L1

P-WM-7 Encourage and enforce initiatives under Waste Management Regulations made under the Waste Management Acts 1996 to 2010 and implement the 'polluter pays principle', proximity principle, precautionary principle and the principle of shared responsibility in all waste management initiatives and investigations.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M2 C1			P1 C2 CH1 CH2 M1 W3 L1
Waste management objectives				
O-WM-1 Implement the Connacht Waste Management Plan and strive to provide, or assist the private sector in the provision of the necessary waste management infrastructure required for the achievement of the targets.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 C1 C2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	
O-WM-2 Make appropriate provision for a bring bank centre for glass and cans in each village.	C1 C2		CH1 CH2 L1	B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2
O-WM-3 Co-operate with other agencies in ensuring the safe disposal of hazardous waste by implementing the relevant provisions of the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2008-2012.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 C1 C2 M1 M2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	
O-WM-4 Examine the feasibility of energy recovery from large sewage treatment facilities.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 W1 M1 M2			P1 S1 W2 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
O-WM-5 Strive to implement the Litter Management Plan 2007-2010 and successor plans.	HH1 CH1 CH2 L1			B1 B2 B3 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 C2 M1 M2
O-WM-6 Where resources allow, carry out risk assessments in accordance with the EPA published code of practice Environmental Risk Assessments for Unregulated Waste Disposal Sites for any historic unregulated waste disposal sites identified and develop appropriate remediation plans for such sites.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 M2 CH1 CH2 L1			C1 C2 M1
O-WM-7 Promote the roll-out and encourage the use of the third bin for organic waste.	C1 C2			B1 B2 B3 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 M2 CH1 CH2 L1
O-WM-9 In relation to any proposals for development of lands that may be contaminated or filled with waste (e.g. reclaimed / filled lands), require the applicants to engage specialist environmental consultants to investigate and assess the presence and extent of contamination, and to recommend remediation measures for agreement with the Local Authorities.	P1		S1 B1 B2 B3 CH1	HH1 W1 W2 M2 L1 CH2 C1 C2

O-WM-10 Require the preparation of Waste Management Plans for the construction stages of developments where deemed necessary.				B3 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 B1 B2 C1 C2
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8.12 Chapter 10: Environmental Quality

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs- unlikely to be mitigated	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Water quality policies				
P-WQ-1 Ensure that all development proposals have regard to the policies, objectives and measures detailed in the River Basin Management Plans.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-WQ-2 Ensure that all development proposals have regard to the policies and objectives of the Sligo Groundwater Protection Scheme to ensure the protection of groundwater resources and groundwater dependent habitats and species.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-WQ-3 Ensure compliance with the provisions of the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I.9 of 2010) and the Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-WQ-4 Ensure compliance with the provisions of the European Communities (Quality of Shellfish Waters) Regulations and the objectives of Shellfish Pollution Reduction Programmes.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-WQ-5 Ensure compliance with the requirements of the Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008 (S.I. No. 79 of 2008).	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-WQ-6 Protect the quality of estuarine, coastal and designated Shellfish Waters by controlling land-based discharges to these waters.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1

P-WQ-7 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lough Gill • Lough Arrow • Kilsellagh Source catchment • Lough Talt • Lough Easky • Gortnaleck and Lyle streams • Riverstown Source Catchment • GWS Source Catchments 	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1		P1	C1 C2 CH1 CH2
P-WQ-8 Require adherence to any source protection plans for the above-mentioned drinking water source catchments.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-WQ-9 Require that all proposals for on-site wastewater treatment systems be designed and constructed in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency's Code of Practice for Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (P.E. ≤ 10) (EPA 2009).	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-WQ-10 Prohibit any development which is likely to lead to the deterioration of water quality.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-WQ-11 Ensure compliance with European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2009.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
Water quality objectives				
O-WQ-1 Implement the management measures contained in the Western RBD, Shannon International RBD and North-western International RBD Management Plans.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
O-WQ-2 Implement the Shellfish Pollution Reduction Programmes.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
O-WQ-3 Ensure the continuation of measures to enforce water pollution legislation.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
O-WQ-4 Seek to achieve consistency between development management and environmental pollution control measures, taking adaptation to climate change into account.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1

O-WQ-5 Continue monitoring, auditing and reviewing County Sligo's environmental status with regard to the quality of groundwater, river, lake, estuarine and coastal waters.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
O-WQ-6 Require farmers in high-risk areas to prepare nutrient management plans.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
O-WQ-7 Consider drafting bye-laws under the Local Government (Water Pollution) (Amendment) Act 1990, where it is considered necessary for the regulation of agricultural and forestry activities and on-site wastewater treatment systems.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
O-WQ-8 Maintain existing satisfactory water quality and improve all unsatisfactory waters in the County in accordance with the provisions of the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)).	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
O-WQ-9 Prepare and enforce Source Protection Plans for drinking water catchments within the County.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
O-WQ-10 Require that all discharges to waters and sewers be licensed in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts 1977 & 1990, European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (S.I. No. 272 of 2009) and European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations, 2010.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
O-WQ-11 Promote public awareness of invasive species, to maximise protection for all water bodies from infestation by invasive species, including Zebra Mussel, and Japanese Knotweed.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 W1			P1 W2 W3 S1 C1 C2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1
O-WQ-12 Promote public awareness on the protection of water quality and water conservation.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
Policies for development in coastal areas				
P-DCA-1 Generally restrict development in the coastal zone - specifically between coastal roads and the sea - except where it can be demonstrated that it does not detract from views or impact on environmentally sensitive areas. Exceptions will be considered for sustainable tourism development, public infrastructural works and development that is contiguous with existing towns and villages.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 L1	P1 C1 C2 CH2

P-DCA-2 Restrict the location of industrial development within the coastal zone to resource-based activities that have a clear and demonstrable need, i.e. those dependent on resources offered at the sea or coast (e.g. maritime industries, mariculture). All such proposals will be subject to the strict application of location, siting and design criteria.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	P1 C1 C2
P-DCA-3 Promote existing degraded coastal areas, i.e. those where quarrying or other deleterious activities have taken place, as significant brownfield development sites, subject to appropriate environmental mitigation measures and the strict application of location, siting and design criteria.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1			
P-DCA-4 Any development proposal in coastal areas will be subject to the requirements of the Habitats Directive, including the assessment of potential cumulative, in-combination effects in association with other, plans, programmes, projects and works.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 L1			CH1 CH2 P1 C1 C2 M1 M2
P-DCA-5 Ensure all new developments incorporate appropriate measures to minimise odour nuisance from the development.	HH1			CH1 CH2 P1 C1 C2 M1 M2 B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 W3 L1
P-DCA-6 Protect the air quality in the County and promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development.	B1 B2 HH1 S1			CH1 CH2 P1 C1 C2 M1 M2 B3 W1 W2 W3 L1
Objectives for development in coastal areas				
O-DCA-1 Maintain and update the Marine Emergency Response Plan for the Sligo Coast.				B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
O-DCA-2 Control and minimise sources of water and land pollution.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
O-DCA-3 Consider the establishment of a local forum for each of the coastal cells along the County's coastline, involving landowners, local communities and relevant interest groups, to explore and resolve coastal zone management issues that are specific to each area.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W3 M1 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 CH1 CH2 L1	W2 M2 P1 C1 C2

Policies for coastal protection				
P-CP-1 Ensure that regard is paid to visual and environmental considerations in the design of coastal defence works.	B1 B2 HH1 W1 W3 CH1 CH2 L1			B3 S1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2
P-CP-2 Ensure that any developments permitted within the coastal zone are appropriately sited, having regard to coastal flooding, vulnerability and the predicted rise in sea level.	HH1 W3 B3			B1 B2 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-CP-3 Require that flood risk assessment is carried out in relation to development proposals within the coastal zones, where appropriate.	HH1 W3 B3			B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-CP-4 Establish development limits and natural buffers at the coast, particularly in conjunction with the preparation of local area plans and mini-plans.	B1 B2 HH1 W1 W3 L1			B3 S1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
P-CP-5 Strictly control the nature and pattern of development on all promontories and headlands, and ensure that, if development is permitted, it is designed and landscaped to the highest standards. Landscaping will be of a type that is predominantly native to the area and sea-salt spray-resistant.	CH1 CH2 L1			B1 B2 B3 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 C1 C2
Objectives for coastal protection				
O-CP-1 Carry out the coastal zone management and protection works outlined in Table XX.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W3 M1 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 CH1 CH2 L1	W2 M2 P1 C1 C2
O-CP-2 Identify, prioritise and implement coastal protection works within the coastal zone that are considered necessary, subject to the availability of resources.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W3 M1 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 CH1 CH2 L1	W2 M2 P1 C1 C2
O-CP-3 Monitor existing dune management schemes on an ongoing basis and effect appropriate repairs, improvements and extensions, subject to the availability of resources and compliance with the Habitats Directive.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 W3 CH1 CH2 L1		HH1 S1 W1 CH1 CH2 L1	W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2
O-CP-4 Examine existing beach bye-laws and make appropriate amendments, in the interest of protecting sand dunes from encroachment and damage.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 W3 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 CH1 CH2 L1	W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2

O-CP-5 Continue to employ soft engineering techniques (i.e. dune stabilisation and planting) where appropriate.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 W3 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2	P1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 C1 C2
Air quality policies				
P-AQ-1 Support the ban on bituminous coal in Sligo City and Environs and encourage the use of smokeless fuel throughout the County.	HH1			B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-AQ-2 Encourage a more energy-efficient approach to the design and servicing of buildings for residential, commercial, industrial and other uses, including public buildings.				B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-AQ-3 Facilitate and encourage an increase in the supply and use of public transport.	C1 C2			B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 CH1 CH2 L1
P-AQ-4 Ensure, in conjunction with the EPA, that all existing and new developments are operated in a manner that does not contribute to deterioration in air quality.	HH1			B1 B2 P1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-AQ-5 Ensure that the impact of odour from restaurant, takeaway and bar developments are minimised.	HH1			B1 B2 P1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-AQ-6 Promote the retention of trees, hedgerows and other vegetation, and encourage as a means of air purification and filtering of suspended particles. tree planting	B1 B2 B3 L1			P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
Noise control policies				
In Irish legislation, noise is addressed under the EPA Act 1992 and the EPA Noise Regulations 1994. Most large-scale activities that result in high noise levels are subject to an Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) licence from the EPA.				
P-NC-1 Seek to protect the amenity of dwellings, businesses, community facilities and other existing developments when assessing proposals for development that is likely to generate significant levels of noise.	HH1			B1 B2 P1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1

P-NC-2 Ensure all new developments incorporate appropriate measures to minimise noise nuisance from the development.	HH1			B1 B2 P1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
Major Accidents Directive policy				
P-MAD-1 Consult with the Health and Safety Authority when assessing proposals for a new Seveso establishment or modifications to an establishment, and when assessing proposals for development in the vicinity of existing Seveso establishments.	B1 B2 B3 S1 HH1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
Major Accidents Directive objective				
O-MAD-1 Maintain appropriate distances between establishments covered by the Major Accidents Directive and residential areas, areas of public use and areas of particular natural sensitivity or interest.	B1 B2 B3 S1 HH1 W1 W2 M1 M2			P1 W3 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
Flood risk management policies				
P-FRM-1 Protect and enhance the County's floodplains, wetlands and coastal areas subject to flooding as 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.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 L1			P1 C1 C2 M1 CH1 CH2
P-FRM-2 Establish a 20-metre-wide strip/buffer zone around lakes and along both sides of all rivers and a 50-metre-wide buffer zone from soft shorelines. Development proposals will be required to maintain these buffer zones free from development. Exceptions to this may be considered for strategic road projects river banks enhancement works, in the case of brownfield sites and in cases where the maintenance of the buffer zone is not practically achievable. In such cases a reduced buffer width may be accepted and any such cases will be assessed on an individual basis.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 L1			C1 C2 M1 CH1 CH2
P-FRM-3 Restrict development within 50 m of soft shoreline and require any development proposal in the coastal zone to consider the implications of predicted sea-level rise.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W3 L1			W2 M2 P1 C1 C2 M1 CH1 CH2
P-FRM-4 Where new or upgraded flood/coastal defences are essential to protect existing development, subject all such proposals to appropriate assessments in accordance with the requirements of the Floods and Habitats Directives.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 W3			P1 C1 C2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 B3 S1 W1 W2 L1
P-FRM-5 Ensure that no removal of sand dunes, beach sand or gravel is undertaken.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W3 L1			P1 W1 W2 C1 C2 M1 M2 CH1 CH2

P-FRM-6 Implement the provisions of the DEHLG's The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities.	HH1 W3 B3		B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	M1
P-FRM-7 Direct strategically significant growth, projects and infrastructure to areas with a low risk of flooding.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2			P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-FRM-8 Zone/designate 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 or designation will satisfy the justification test set out in chapter 4 of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines.	HH1 W3 B3		B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	M1
P-FRM-9 Restrict development in areas at risk of flooding unless: – 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. Developments considered necessary in order to meet the objectives of this Plan, or required on wider sustainability grounds, will be subject to the development 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 only be considered as part of a proposal if the development is warranted by the justification test on planning and sustainability grounds in the first instance, and where no alternative site is available.	HH1 W3 B3			B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-FRM-10 Require development proposals, where appropriate, to be accompanied by a detailed flood risk assessment in accordance with the provisions of the DEHLG's The 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.	HH1 W3 B3			B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-FRM-11 Require new developments and extensions to existing developments, where relevant, to use Sustainable Drainage Systems (SDS) in order to minimise the extent of hard surfacing and paving.	B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2			B3 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-FRM-12 Assess flood risk in Local Area Plans in accordance with the <i>Flood Risk Management Guidelines</i> (OPW and DoEHLG 2009) in a manner that is appropriate to the scale and circumstances of each area and having regard to the priorities set out in the SFRA that accompanies this Plan.	HH1 W3 B3			B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1

Flood risk management objectives				
O-FRM-1 Cooperate with the Office of Public Works in developing catchment-based Flood Risk Management Plans (CFRAMs) and incorporate relevant CFRAM recommendations into the Development Plan.	HH1 W3 B3		B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	M1
O-FRM-2 Work with the OPW to establish of catchment-based Flood Planning Groups involving all key actors and groups representing agriculture, forestry, water management and land management.	HH1 W3 B3			B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
O-FRM-3 Complete future SFRAs/FRAs in accordance with the prioritisation set out in the SFRA, subject to review and the availability of additional data during the lifetime of this Plan.	HH1 W3 B3			B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1
O-FRM-4 Undertake Stage II Flood Risk Assessments when reviewing local area plans, in accordance with the OPW/DoEHLG's <i>Flood Risk Management Guidelines</i> .	HH1 W3 B3			B1 B2 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1

8.13 Chapter 11: Energy and Telecommunications

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs- unlikely to be mitigated	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Strategic energy policies				
SP-EN-1 Support the sustainable infrastructural development of energy generation and transmission networks, to ensure the security of energy supply and provide for future needs subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.	B3		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	P1 M1 C1 C2 W3
SP-EN-2 Promote energy conservation and efficiency measures and facilitate innovative building design that promotes energy efficiency in accordance with national policy and guidelines subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.	B3		CH2 L1	B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M2 CH1 P1 M1 C1 C2 W3

SP-EN-3 Encourage the development of sustainable, energy-efficient buildings throughout the plan area.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1			
Strategic energy objectives				
SO-EN-1 Preserve significant landscape views from the visual intrusion of large-scale energy infrastructure.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1			P1 C1 C2 W3
SO-EN-2 Seek the extension of the natural gas supply infrastructure to Sligo.	B3		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	P1 M1 C1 C2 W3
SO-EN-3 Implement Government policy on limiting emissions of greenhouse gasses and encouraging the development of renewable energy sources in an appropriate and sustainable manner.	B3 P1 C1 C2		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	M1 W3
Policies for the provision of electricity				
P-EL-1 Facilitate the provision of new sustainable high-voltage electricity infrastructure in County Sligo.	B3		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	P1 M1 C1 C2 W3
P-EL-2 Support the maintenance and upgrading of electricity infrastructure throughout the County.	B3		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	P1 M1 C1 C2 W3
Renewable energy policies				
P-REN-1 Support and promote a move away from fossil-fuel energy production through investment in sustainable renewable energy.	B3		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	P1 M1 C1 C2 W3

P-REN-2 Encourage and facilitate the production of energy from renewable sources, energy conversion and capture in forms such as wind power, hydro-power, wave-generated energy, biomass, solar technology and energy-efficient building design/servicing. All such development proposals will be assessed for their potential impact on Natura 2000 sites, designated Sensitive Rural Landscapes, Visually Vulnerable Areas, Scenic Routes and scenic views, as well as in accordance with strict location, siting and design criteria	B3 B1 L1		B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M2 CH1 CH2	P1 M1 C1 C2 W3
P-REN-3 Support existing and new enterprises who wish to use renewable energy to serve their own needs by on-site energy production, subject to normal planning criteria.			B1 B2 B3 S1 CH1 CH2 L1	P1 M1 C1 C2 W3 HH1 W1 W2 M2
Renewable energy objectives				
O-REN-1 Identify and map, during the lifetime of this Plan (subject to resources), areas within the county where there is significant wind energy potential and where energy development would be acceptable in principle, subject to subject to visual, landscape, heritage, environmental and amenity considerations.	B3 B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M2 CH1 CH2 L1			P1 M1 C1 C2 W3
O-REN-2 Facilitate small-scale renewable energy developments within urban areas, where appropriate, and support small community-based generation projects in rural areas, subject to visual, landscape, heritage, environmental and amenity considerations.	B3 B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M2 CH1 CH2 L1			P1 M1 C1 C2 W3
O-REN-3 Implement the provisions of the integrated Regional Energy Strategy that will be prepared by the Border Regional Authority in accordance with the (Draft) Regional Planning Guidelines 2010.	B3		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	P1 M1 C1 C2 W3
Telecommunications policies				
P-TEL-1 Protect areas of significant landscape importance from the visual intrusion of large-scale telecommunications infrastructure.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1			P1 C1 C2
P-TEL-2 Ensure that telecommunications infrastructure is adequately screened, integrated and/or landscaped, so as to minimise any adverse visual impacts on the environment	CH1 CH2 L1 B3			B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2
P-TEL-3 Facilitate open access to high-speed and high-capacity broadband digital networks to support the development of a smart economy within the County	B3			B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 M1 C1 C2 W3

Telecommunications objectives				
O-TEL-1 Support a programme of broadband connectivity throughout the County by liaising with telecommunication service providers.	B3		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	P1 M1 C1 C2 W3
O-TEL-2 Support the National Broadband Scheme in its bid for funding for development of broadband in the county	B3		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	P1 M1 C1 C2 W3
O-TEL-3 Support and facilitate take-up of the Group Broadband Scheme and the School Broadband Access Programme.	B3			B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 M1 C1 C2 W3
O-TEL-4 Support, by planning condition where appropriate, the development of underground broadband infrastructure for road, commercial and residential schemes, as set out in the government's recommendations.	B3		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	P1 M1 C1 C2 W3
O-TEL-5 Have regard to Government guidelines on telecommunications infrastructure, including Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures – Guidelines for Planning Authorities 1996 (DoEHLG) and any subsequent revisions.	B3 B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M2 CH1 CH2 L1			P1 M1 C1 C2 W3
O-TEL-6 Implement the provisions of the Draft Border Regional Planning Guidelines 2010 by: a. supporting the repair and upgrading of the existing telephone network including the provision of improved broadband enabled individual line services to all subscribers (INFO12) b. promoting the provision of open access ducting in all new developments (INFO13) c. supporting the network-enabling of all new residential development and the provision of open access co-located communication service connection and access facilities (INFO14) d. providing open access ducting in all public infrastructural projects (INFO15) e. supporting the extension of access to the MANs to small business and residential users through lower connection and use costs (INFO17)	B3		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	P1 M1 C1 C2 W3

8.14 Chapter 13: Mini Plans General Policies

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs- unlikely to be mitigated	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
13.1 Landscape, natural heritage, open space policies A.Protect and enhance all river banks as wildlife corridors. In order to assist in this regard, the planning authority will establish a 20-metre wide river buffer zone along both sides of all rivers. B.Require development proposals to maintain the river buffer zone free from development (apart from river bank enhancement works). Exceptions may also be considered in the case of brownfield sites and in cases where the maintenance of the zone is not practically achievable. In such cases, a reduced buffer width may be accepted. Any such cases will be assessed on an individual basis. C.Ensure that river bank enhancement works and any other development along rivers are undertaken only after consultation with the North Western Regional Fisheries Board and the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. D.Maintain important biodiversity habitats and features through protection from development or integration into new developments as necessary. Although not exclusive, the following are considered to be important biodiversity habitats: mature trees, groups of trees, woodlands, hedgerows. E.In accordance with the policies outlined in section 7.1 of this Plan, protect and maintain the conservation value of all natural heritage sites designated or proposed for designation in accordance with European and national legislation and in other relevant international conventions, agreements and processes. This includes sites designated or proposed as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Ramsar sites and Statutory Nature Reserves. F. When considering any proposed development within the mini-plan areas, the planning authority must comply fully with Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive (as transposed into Irish Law by the EU Habitats Regulations 1997 and subsequent amendments) and assess whether the proposed development is likely to have a significant impact upon the integrity, conservation objectives and qualifying interests of any Natura 2000 site, notwithstanding any particular mini-plan objective that may apply to the relevant lands. G. Facilitate the development of allotments in the buffer zone and at other suitable locations. Any such facility should be located within or close to existing settlements and should be easily accessible.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 P1 L1			M1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2
13.2 Built heritage, streetscape and building design policies A. New development should seek to create coherent and attractive streetscape, reflecting and respecting the prevailing architectural style and detailing of the adjacent buildings. B. New development should respect and complement the form and scale of the existing village structure and should innovate by reinterpretation. The incorporation of design elements that reflect those traditional to the village streetscape will be encouraged in new development. C. Encourage the redevelopment of vacant and derelict structures/sites within the village. D. Some objectives maps identify key sites or structures that have potential or already contribute to the village character by closing a view or containing a space. These sites and buildings should be developed, redeveloped or renovated with particular care having regard to their location, so that they enhance the streetscape and act as focal points or landmarks. E. Where possible, new development should use existing redundant buildings that contribute significantly to the village character. Wherever possible, stonewalled buildings should be protected and renovated for new use. F. Where feasible, stone walls should be preserved, enhanced and extended, in a manner that is in-keeping with traditional	CH1 CH2 P1 L1 B3 C1 C2		CH1 CH2 L1	B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 M1

<p>stone-walling in the vicinity. Other important non-structural elements of the built heritage should also be protected.</p> <p>G. The design of shop fronts, advertisements and signs should match the overall form and structure of the buildings to which they pertain.</p> <p>H. The size, design, colour, material and illumination of signs should be subdued. Signs should generally be positioned well below the first-floor window level. Hanging signs should be restricted to one per shop or business and their size should be proportional to the building.</p> <p>I. External illumination of buildings and signs is acceptable only by use of appropriate spotlighting of key buildings of particular architectural interest. Internal illumination of signs will not be permitted.</p> <p>J. Overhead lines and cables should be placed underground, where possible.</p> <p>K. Public lighting should be maintained and improved where possible.</p>				
<p>13.3 Transport, circulation and parking policies</p> <p>A. Within villages the Council shall strive to achieve the upgrading of roads, footpaths, entrances, car-parking and junctions wherever possible, along with the development of traffic-calming measures where appropriate and the extended provision of pavement appropriate for wheelchair users.</p> <p>B. Require new development to provide sufficient on-site parking, which should be designed and landscaped to a high standard. Off-street parking associated with road/street frontage development should be located at the rear of the structures.</p> <p>C. Provide pedestrian and cycling linkages within and between existing and new housing/mixed-use/sports and recreational development throughout the area. Note: The routes of the proposed linkages, as indicated on the objectives maps for each settlement, are indicative only. The precise route of any such linkage shall be agreed with developers/applicants during the planning application process and shall be included as an integral part of new developments.</p> <p>D. Retain access to important natural and archaeological features.</p> <p>E. Endeavour to prepare a traffic management plan for each village. This plan shall examine all existing problems relating to traffic, parking, mobility and pedestrian movements and will identify appropriate solutions for the locality. Prospective developments shall incorporate the provisions of any such plan when prepared.</p> <p>F. Require the provision of secure cycle parking facilities within new developments where appropriate.</p> <p>G. Any proposal for the provision of pedestrian/cycle links along riverside areas shall be screened for the requirement of an appropriate assessment in compliance with Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive (as transposed into Irish Law by the EU Habitats Regulations 1997 and subsequent amendments), and in accordance with the policies outlined in Section 7.1 of this Plan.</p>	<p>B1 B2 B3 C1 C2</p>		<p>HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 P1 L1 CH1 CH2</p>	<p>M1</p>
<p>13.4. Village-centre-type mixed zones policies</p> <p>A. Facilitate a blend of mainly residential and commercial/retail activities in the areas zoned for mixed uses.</p> <p>B. Require high standards of design and landscaping for new development, integrating with old and new streetscape.</p> <p>C. Give special attention to the siting, layout and design of new or redeveloped buildings around junctions. Such development should ensure that a suitable façade is presented when viewed from surrounding vantage points, whilst also ensuring that appropriate building setbacks are incorporated in order to facilitate improved traffic and pedestrian circulation.</p> <p>D. Enhance existing civic space and, where feasible, provide additional small civic squares or street pockets with appropriate furniture, planting, landscaping and public lighting.</p> <p>E. Provide pedestrian-only spaces within the mixed-use zones, with particular attention to the needs of wheelchair users.</p> <p>F. Facilitate proposals for the appropriate re-use of existing vacant properties.</p> <p>G. Maintain an appropriate balance of development between the traditional village centre and new areas zoned for village centre type uses. The development of new village centre areas should not adversely impact on the traditional village core to the extent that it would undermine its quality or the role the traditional village centre plays in the economic and social life of the local community.</p>	<p>C1 C2 B3 P1 CH1 CH2 L1</p>		<p>B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 L1 CH1 CH2</p>	<p>M1</p>

<p>13.5 Community facilities policies</p> <p>A. Maintain and enhance existing, and provide additional, sports, recreational and playground facilities where feasible.</p> <p>B. Encourage the provision of crèche/childcare, healthcare and elderly care facilities within the development limits of villages, on sites that are easily accessible for all sections of the community.</p> <p>C. Encourage the provision of additional recycling facilities on lands zoned for community uses. Such facilities will also be considered at other appropriate locations.</p> <p>D. Adopt a flexible and supportive approach towards the accommodation of community facilities within a wide variety of land-use zoning categories, in particular lands zoned for community facilities, village-centre-type mixed uses, residential development and commercial/enterprise uses.</p> <p>E. Promote cultural development that acknowledges and builds upon local character and distinctiveness through the natural, built and community environment.</p> <p>F. Develop area-based cultural objectives for inclusion in mini-plans.</p> <p>G. Facilitate the development of allotments in the buffer zone and at other suitable locations. Any such facility should be located within or close to existing settlements and should be easily accessible.</p>	<p>C1 C2 B3 CH1 CH2 L1</p>			<p>B1 B2 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1 CH1 CH2</p>
<p>13.6 Residential development policies</p> <p>A. Residential development should generally take place incrementally, from the core towards the edges, in a manner capable of consolidating the existing village and at a pace consistent with its infrastructural capacity (in terms of physical and community infrastructure) to accommodate further development.</p> <p>B. Promote residential development such as terraced townhouses and, where appropriate, apartments with communal parking and service areas.</p> <p>C. New residential schemes should incorporate a variety of house types and sizes, to offer choice and cater for a mix of households of different sizes.</p> <p>D. Encourage the development of backlands through land assembly, using shared-access arrangements and creating pedestrian and cycling linkages with existing developments.</p> <p>E. Preserve and enhance public or incidental open space within existing housing estates and provide high-quality, suitably located and well-landscaped open space in every new residential development.</p> <p>F. Design the open space associated with new development to connect, or integrate, with adjoining natural features such as woodland, mature trees, groups of trees, hedgerows etc.</p> <p>G. Encourage the provision of additional residential units on lands where current densities are very low, subject to appropriate scale and the protection of existing residential amenities.</p> <p>H. Develop new residential schemes at a density that is appropriate to the scale of each settlement and the location of the site within that settlement. On this matter, regard will be had to the DoEHLG publication Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (Cities, Towns and Villages), 2009.</p> <p>I. Encourage, where appropriate, the use of vacant residential properties for social and affordable housing. Where appropriate, community and/or commercial uses may also be accommodated in vacant residential properties. Any such proposal shall be of an appropriate scale/design, and shall be restricted to uses that are compatible with surrounding properties.</p> <p>J. Residential development will be permitted at a rate that is consistent with the Core Strategy and the Settlement Structure and also the capacity of infrastructure in each settlement. The number of existing and permitted residential units will be monitored to ensure that the potential population of each settlement is consistent with both the Settlement Structure and the infrastructural capacity.</p>	<p>B2 B3 P1 C1 C2 W1 W2 HH1 S1 M1 M2</p>		<p>B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1 C2</p>	

<p>13.7 Business, enterprise and industrial development policies</p> <p>A. New business, enterprise or industrial units shall have shared access arrangements, where possible.</p> <p>B. Screen and landscape new business, enterprise and industrial development to a high standard, and give special attention to the design of structures located in highly visible positions or fronting main roads.</p> <p>C. If industries requiring large volumes of water wish to locate in any particular settlement, they should seek to use a private water source and provide the necessary wastewater treatment facilities, in the event that the public services do not have the required capacity to deal with the extra loading (see also section 13.9 below).</p> <p>D. Adopt a flexible and supportive approach towards the accommodation of small-scale business and enterprise proposals on lands zoned for residential, village-centre and community uses. Proposals that would be compatible with existing and proposed development in the surrounding area will be encouraged subject to appropriate scale, design and servicing.</p>	<p>CH1 CH2 L1 M1 M2 B3</p>		<p>B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2</p>	
<p>13.8 Buffer zone policies</p> <p>A. Establish a buffer zone around settlements, between the plan limit and the development limit, with a view to: consolidating and containing settlements within a single development limit; safeguarding land for the future expansion of settlements and for the provision of infrastructure; preserving views; protecting the integrity of archaeological sites and monuments in the area surrounding the village; protecting and enhancing designated nature conservation sites (pNHAs, SACs, SPAs etc); excluding from development lands at risk of flooding</p> <p>B. Reserve the buffer zone principally for agricultural use.</p> <p>C. Site and construct new roads and buildings in the buffer zone so as to minimize their visual and environmental impact.</p> <p>E. Within the Buffer Zone, proposals for one-off rural housing shall only be accommodated in cases of proven need of immediate family members of locally-resident families who wish to build on their own land and have no suitable option on their holdings outside the buffer zone.</p> <p>F. In relation to housing, give preference to the sensitive renovation or replacement of existing vacant or derelict structures.</p>	<p>B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 P1 L1 M1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2</p>			
<p>13.9 Water quality, water supply, surface water and wastewater treatment policies</p> <p>A. The County Council will endeavour to ensure the protection of, and where necessary, the improvement of water quality within the mini-plan areas.</p> <p>B. Strive to provide each area with an adequate and reliable water supply and a network from which to accommodate an increase in domestic, commercial and industrial growth.</p> <p>C. Ensure that all proposed developments can demonstrate the availability of a water supply of sufficient quantity and quality to serve the needs of the proposed development.</p> <p>D. Strive to provide settlements with public wastewater treatment facilities in accordance with details outlined in Chapter 9 (refer to Volume 1, the main CDP document).</p> <p>E. Development proposing to connect to the public wastewater treatment system will not be permitted unless the planning authority is satisfied that adequate capacity is available. Exceptions to this policy will be considered in cases where works on upgrading the wastewater facilities have commenced and would be completed within a reasonable timeframe. In such cases, appropriate conditions will be applied to planning permissions to ensure that the proposed development and the upgrading works are suitably phased.</p> <p>G. In cases where capacity exists, all proposed developments will be required to connect to the public wastewater treatment plant and the public water supply.</p> <p>H. In cases where a settlement is not served by a public wastewater treatment plant, or where no spare capacity exists in an existing wastewater treatment plant, individual developments proposing to use on-site wastewater treatment will be considered subject to appropriate scale, assessment, design and conditions. Any such permitted development shall be subject to legally binding maintenance and bonding arrangements agreed with the planning authority and shall be required to connect to the public wastewater</p>	<p>B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 P1 L1 M1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2</p>		<p>B1 B2 W1 W2</p>	

<p>treatment plant when/if adequate capacity becomes available. However, communal on-site wastewater treatment systems (i.e. systems servicing more than 1 residential unit / commercial premises etc) shall not be permitted in any case.</p> <p>I. A buffer zone shall apply in the vicinity of the existing and proposed WWTP sites. Development within this zone may be restricted or prohibited in the interests of public health and/or the protection of residential amenities. The extent of development restrictions in each individual case will be assessed at planning application stage.</p> <p>J. Maintain and upgrade, wherever possible, the surface water network within the village.</p>				
<p>13.10 Flood Risk Management</p> <p>A. The County Council will implement the recommendations and provisions of The Planning System and Flood Risk Management, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG & OPW, November 2009). Where appropriate, and notwithstanding any particular zoning objective that may apply to the relevant lands, development proposals will be assessed in accordance with the provisions of the Guidelines, as well as those of section 10.6.2 of this Plan (see Volume 1).</p>	HH1 W3 B3		B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	M1

8.15 Mini Plans

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs- unlikely to be mitigated	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
Settlement				
Aclare	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2 L1	
Ballinacarrow	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2	
Ballinafad	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 L1	
Ballincar	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	
Ballintogher	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2	
Ballygawley	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2 L1	
Ballysadare	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	
Banada	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2	
Bunnaaddan	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2	
Carney	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	
Castlealdwin	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2 L1	
Cliffony	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	
Cloonacool	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1	
Collooney	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2	
Coolaney-Rockfield	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	
Culfadda	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2	
Curry	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2	
Dromore West	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	
Drumcliff	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	

Easky	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	
Geevagh	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2	
Grange	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	
Gurteen	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2	
Monasteraden	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2 L1	
Mullaghmore	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1	
Ransboro	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		HH1 S1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 L1	
Rathcormack	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2 L1	
Riverstown	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2	
Rosses Point	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH1 CH2	
Tourlestraun	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 C2 CH1 CH2 L1		HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 C2 CH2	

Note that with regard to positive interactions with the status of SEOs - these are likely to arise by providing for development within existing settlements thereby reducing the likelihood of conflicting interactions occurring in alternative, more rural areas where the provision infrastructure and services may not be as economically viable and where elevated levels of environmental sensitivities may occur. With regard to conflicting interactions with the status of SEOs, these have the potential to arise from accommodating development within the various settlements.

Potentially conflicting interactions between development and the provision of appropriate waste water treatment and collection infrastructure (and the consequent interactions with other SEOs) will depend upon the capacity of this infrastructure and loadings – current and future; domestic and non-domestic -

upon this infrastructure. Information on the current capacity and loading of waste water treatment plants is provided in Section 3.

Potentially conflicting interactions between development and the protection of architectural, archaeological and landscape have been determined with reference to the presence (within the development limits of the various settlements) of Recorded Monuments, proposed or existing Protected Structures and Scenic Views to be Preserved. Use has been made of the Mini-Plans for this determination. Potential conflicts may arise at each of the Mini-Plan settlements however they are more likely at those at which the aforementioned features occur.

Potential conflicting interactions between development and the minimisation of flood risk has been determined with reference to the environmental baseline contained in this report and the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

Section 9 Mitigation Measures

9.1 Introduction

Mitigation measures are measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse impacts on the environment of implementing the County Development Plan.

Mitigation involves ameliorating significant negative effects. Where there are significant negative effects, consideration is given in the first instance to preventing such effects or, where this is not possible for stated reasons, to lessening or offsetting those effects. Mitigation measures can be roughly divided into those that: *avoid* effects; *reduce* the magnitude or extent, probability and/or severity of effects; *repair* effects after they have occurred, and; *compensate* for effects, balancing out negative impacts with other positive ones.

The mitigation measures may be incorporated into the briefing of design teams as well as the subsequent design, specification and development management of the landuses to be accommodated within the County.

Additional more detailed mitigation measures to those identified below would be likely to be required by the development management and EIA processes of individual projects and would be likely to be required to be integrated into relevant lower-tier plans and programmes.

9.2 Mitigation through Consideration of Alternatives

A range of potential alternative development scenarios for the County Development Plan were identified at an early stage in the process and evaluated for their likely significant environmental effects (see Sections 6 and 7).

The environmental baseline and the Strategic Environmental Objectives (see Sections 3 and 4) were used in order to predict and evaluate the environmental effects of implementing the alternatives.

Communication of the findings of this evaluation helped the Planning team make an informed

choice as to which alternative was to be put before the Members of the Council.

Communication of this evaluation to the Members of the Council through this report will help the Members to make an informed choice with regard to the making of the Plan.

9.3 Mitigation Integrated into Town Plans

The Plan includes a number of settlement or 'mini' plans. Environmental considerations have been integrated into the land use zoning objectives contained in these Plans through the SEA process from the SEA Scoping stage to the submission of the Plan to the Elected Members.

Careful consideration in particular has been paid to the protection of Natura 2000 Sites and to the appropriate management of flood risk through the SEA, Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) processes.

9.4 Mitigation by Addition of Policies and Objectives

This section lists key measures which have been integrated into the Plan which are envisaged to mitigate significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the Plan. Mitigation measures generally benefit multiple environmental components i.e. a measure providing for the 'protection of surface water resources' could beneficially impact upon the protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna, drinking water resources, human health and provision of appropriate waste water treatment infrastructure.

The reference codes are those which accompany the relevant measures in Section 8 of this report and in the Plan.

9.4.1 Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna

Policies: P-NH-6, P-NH-7 and P-NH-10

Objectives: O-NH-1, O-NH-2, O-NH-3, O-NH-4, O-NH-5, O-NH -5a and O-NH-6

9.4.2 Human Health

See measures under Soil, Water, Water Services, Air and Noise and Quarries (environmental risks) Sections.

9.4.3 Soil

For soil quality see measures in this section under:

- Risks Associated with Quarries
- Water Protection
- Water Services (waste water)

For minimising loss of soil resources as a result of unnecessary greenfield development:

- Various Plan provisions including the overall development strategy of focused growth in the Gateway and consolidation of the key towns.

For protection of mineral deposits:

- Policy: P-MEQ-1
- Objectives: O-MEQ-1 and O-MEQ-2

9.4.4 Quarries (environmental risks)

Policy: P-MEQ-6

9.4.5 Water

Policies: P-WQ-1, P-WQ-2, P-WQ-3, P-WQ-4, P-WQ-5 and P-WQ-9

Objectives: O-WQ-1, O-WQ-2 and O-WQ-8

Also see measures in this section under Water Services (waste water).

9.4.6 Flooding

Policies: P-FRM-1, P-FRM-2, P-FRM-3, P-FRM-4, P-FRM-5, P-FRM-6, P-FRM-7, P-FRM-8, P-FRM-9, P-FRM-10, P-FRM-11 and P-FRM-12

Objectives: O-FRM-1, O-FRM-2, O-FRM-3 and O-FRM-4

9.4.7 Water Services (Waste Water)

Strategic Objectives: SO-W-2 and SO-W-5

Policies: P-WW-1, P-WW-3, P-WW-9, P-WW-14, P-WW-17, P-WW-18, P-WW-21

Objectives: O-WW-6 and O-WW-8

9.4.8 Water Services (Drinking Water)

Strategic Objectives: SO-W-2 and SO-W-5

Policies: P-WS-1 and P-WS-6

Objectives: O-WS-7

9.4.9 Waste Management

Policies: P-WM-1 and P-WM-5

9.4.10 Air and Noise

Policies: P-AQ-3, P-AQ-4 and P-NC-1

9.4.11 Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Policies: SP-MOB-1, SP-MOB-2, SP-MOB-4, SP-MOB-5, SP-MOB-6 and O-CW-5

Objectives: SO-MOB-1, SO-MOB-2, P-CW-2 and P-CW-3

9.4.12 Archaeological Heritage

Policies: P-AH-1, P-AH-2, P-AH-3, P-AH-4 and P-AH-5

Objectives: O-AH-1, O-AH-6, O-CIP-2, O-CIP-3, O-CIP-4, O-CIP-6 and O-CIP-8

9.4.13 Architectural Heritage

Policies: P-BH-2, P-BH-6 and P-BH-16

Objectives: O-BH-1, O-BH-2 and O-BH-8

9.4.14 Landscape

Policy: P-LCAP-3

Objectives: O-LCAP-1, O-LCAP-3, O-LCAP-4, O-LCAP-5, O-LCAP-6 and O-LCAP-7

9.5 Re-worded Policies and Objectives

This section shows how certain Plan provisions were reworded as a result of the SEA and AA processes. The **green** text is new text added to the original policy/objective.

Aquaculture, mariculture and fishing policies:

P-AMF-1 Encourage and facilitate sustainable 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 & provisions of the European Communities (Quality of Shellfish Waters) Regulations and objectives of Shellfish Pollution Reduction Programmes**".

P-AMF-3 Support and facilitate the development of the existing fishing industry, **where such development is compatible with provisions for the protection of the Natura 2000 network**

P-AMF-4 Encourage the expansion of sport fishing, **subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive**

Tourism development policies:

P-TOU-5 Provide signposting and improve roads, existing amenity and viewing areas, and provide for car parking, public facilities and access in scenic areas, **subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive**

P-TOU-6 In recognising the special amenity value of mountains, moorlands and forests, valleys and lakes, it is the Council's policy to encourage use of these areas for activities such as touring, sightseeing, mountaineering, and hillwalking, **subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive**. This will be done in co-operation with state agencies and other interested bodies and local community groups. In this regard, the Council will, within financial resources, improve access and create public rights of way.

P-TOU-9 Support and promote, 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, **subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive**

P-TOU-10 Promote the development of eco-tourism and other leisure activities, in an effort to diversify the range of tourist experiences available in the County and extend the tourist season, **subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive**

Tourism development objectives:

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**

O-TOU-2 **Examine the feasibility of** providing a walkway through Union Wood, subject to availability of resources **and compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive**.

Coastal zone tourism policies:

P-CZT-1 Ensure that future caravan, camping and parking facilities in coastal areas will not be visually intrusive or impact on sensitive coastal environments (e.g. sand dune systems), by requiring, inter alia, appropriate siting, layout, design and natural screening, **and compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive**.

P-CZT-2 **Ensure** continued compliance with EU Directives on water quality for all bathing beaches.

P-CZT-4 Maintain and develop small piers and harbours along the Sligo Coast, subject to funding **and compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive**.

Coastal zone tourism objectives:

O-CZT-1 Manage and control car parking and vehicular and pedestrian movements on beaches and within dunes and other vulnerable areas. **The management and control of car**

parking shall be carried out in compliance with the Habitats Directive where relevant.

O-CZT-2 Develop green parking areas in appropriate coastal locations, i.e. soft areas that can be left in their natural state during out-of-season months and used to provide overflow facilities during peak periods. **The development of such car parking areas shall be subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.**

O-CZT-5 Liaise with the National Trails Advisory Committee to investigate the possibility of providing a coastal path along the coastline of County Sligo with a right-of-way status and liaise with counties Mayo, Leitrim and Donegal to set-up a study group to advance this matter. The study group should be established within one year from the adoption of this Plan. **Development of a coastal path shall be subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.**

Sports, recreation and open space policies:

P-SRO-9 Preserve and improve access for the public to lakes, coastal, riverside, upland and other areas that have traditionally been used for outdoor recreation, **subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.**

European and national designated natural heritage sites – objectives:

O-NH-3 When considering any plan or project **prepared or assessed on the basis of this development plan**, the planning authority must comply fully with Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive (as transposed into Irish Law by the EU Habitats Regulations 1997 and subsequent amendments) and assess whether the plan or project is likely to have a significant impact upon the integrity, conservation objectives and qualifying interests of any Natura 2000 site.

O-NH-5 Establish and maintain an up-to-date planning register of all previously **adopted and proposed plans/programmes and all** granted and proposed developments which are likely to have a significant effect (directly or through indirect cumulative/in-combination effects impact) on European Sites within or adjoining the County, to allow for the appropriate assessment of potential 'ex situ' and cumulative/in combination effects **of proposed**

plans, programmes and projects on such sites.

Landscape character assessment and protection policies:

P-LCAP-8 Promote the development of tourism in a sustainable manner and encourage the provision of a comprehensive range of tourist facilities, subject to location, siting, design **criteria and compliance with the Habitats Directive**

Landscape character assessment and protection objectives:

O-LCAP-3 Seek to preserve the landscape character of County Sligo by assessing all development proposals against the provisions of the Development Control Policy Map. **Planning applications that have the potential to impact significantly and adversely upon landscape character or scenic views may be required to be accompanied by a visual impact assessment using agreed and appropriate viewing points and methods for the assessment.**

Mobility - strategic policies:

SP-MOB-6 Promote the reopening of the Western Rail Corridor from Athenry to Sligo, **subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive**

SP-MOB-9 Promote improved access to and sustainable development and operation of Sligo Regional Airport and Sligo Port. **Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.**

Public transport policies:

P-PT-4 Promote the development of the Western Rail Corridor, as a strategic transport corridor linking Sligo and the North-West with Mayo, Galway and Limerick. **Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.**

Public transport objectives:

O-PT-2 Examine the feasibility of a rail link between Sligo and Derry via Manorhamilton and

Enniskillen, and the integration of such a rail link with new national road alignments and designs, i.e. N16 (Enniskillen Road). **Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive**

National roads objectives:

O-NR-1 Facilitate programmed improvements to the National Road network, including the programme of realignments and upgrades, as set out in Table 8.B, **subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.**

Water supply objectives:

O-WS-1 Complete the construction of the new water treatment plant at Kilsellagh, **subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.**

O-WS-2 Complete the planning and construction of the new water treatment plant at Lough Talt **subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.**

O-WS-3 Extend the existing water treatment plant at Foxes Den (depending on future growth in the Sligo and Environs area), **subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.**

O-WS-4 Carry out a strategic review of both North Sligo and Lough Easky Regional Water Supply Schemes. **Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.**

O-WS-9 Continue to implement the annual Rural Water Programme.. **Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.**

O-WS-10 Advance all the schemes listed on the Water Services Investment Programmes, **subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive..**

Wastewater objectives:

O-WW-2 Complete the planning and construction of the new wastewater treatment plant at Ballintogher, Bunnanadden, Clifony, Ballinacarrow, Mullaghmore and Ballygawley, subject to necessary approvals **and compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.**

O-WW-4 Complete the planning stage for upgrade works to Collooney and Ballymote WWTPs, **subject to necessary approvals and compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.**

Objectives for coastal protection:

O-CP-3 Monitor existing dune management schemes on an ongoing basis and effect appropriate repairs, improvements and extensions, subject to the availability of resources **and compliance with the Habitats Directive.**

Section 10 Monitoring Measures

10.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive requires that the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programmes are monitored. This Environmental Report puts forward proposals for monitoring the likely significant effects of implementing the County Development Plan.

Monitoring enables, at an early stage, the identification of unforeseen adverse effects and the undertaking of appropriate remedial action. In addition to this, monitoring can also play an important role in assessing whether the Plan is achieving environmental objectives and targets - measures which the Plan can help work towards - whether these need to be reexamined and whether the proposed mitigation measures are being implemented.

10.2 Indicators and Targets

Monitoring is based around the indicators which were chosen earlier in the process. These indicators allow quantitative measures of trends and progress over time relating to the Strategic Environmental Objectives used in the evaluation. Focus is given to indicators which are relevant to the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan and existing monitoring arrangements will be used in order to monitor the selected indicators. Each indicator to be monitored is accompanied by the target(s) which were identified with regard to the relevant legislation (see Section 4).

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

It is noted that with regard to Indicator B2, important macro-corridors and contiguous areas of habitat include the County's rivers, lakes, uplands and peatlands. It is recommended that important macro-corridors and contiguous areas of habitat are identified as part of the monitoring programme and that time resources are spent in the monitoring of these rather than in the monitoring of corridors or areas of habitat which are not important at County level.

10.3 Sources

Measurements for indicators should come from existing monitoring sources and no new monitoring should be required to take place. Existing monitoring sources exist for each of the indicators and include those maintained by the Sligo County Council and other relevant authorities e.g. the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Central Statistics Office.

Where significant adverse environmental effects - including positive, negative, cumulative and indirect - are likely to occur as a result of implementing relevant lower-tier plans and programmes such instances should be identified and recorded and should feed into the monitoring evaluation.

10.4 Reporting

A preliminary monitoring evaluation report on the effects of implementing the County Development Plan will be prepared to coincide with the Manager's report to the Elected Members on the progress achieved in securing Plan objectives within two years of the making of the Plan (this Manager's report is required under Section 15 of the 2000 Planning Act). Indicators and targets will be reviewed during the preparation of the preliminary monitoring evaluation report.

10.5 Responsibility

Sligo County Council is responsible for collating existing relevant monitored data, the preparation of preliminary and final monitoring evaluation reports, the publication of these reports and, if necessary, the carrying out of corrective action.

It is recommended that a Steering Committee be established within the Council to oversee the monitoring process.

10.6 Thresholds

Thresholds at which corrective action will be considered are as follows:

- boil notices on drinking water;
- fish kills;
- failure to achieve a classification of Sufficient under Directive 2006/7/EC by bathing waters;
- court cases taken by the DEHLG regarding impacts upon archaeological heritage including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places; and,
- complaints received from statutory consultees regarding avoidable environmental impacts resulting from development which is granted permission under the County Development Plan.

Table 10.1 Selected Indicators, Targets and Monitoring Sources

Environmental Component	Selected Indicator(s)	Selected Target(s)	Source
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	<p>B1: Conservation status of habitats and species as assessed under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive</p> <p>B2: Percentage loss of functional connectivity to macro-corridors and contiguous areas of habitat which are important on a County level without remediation as a result of implementation of the Plan</p> <p>B3: Population of the County involved in land management</p>	<p>B1: Maintenance of favourable conservation status for all habitats and species protected under national and international legislation</p> <p>B2: No significant macro-corridors and contiguous areas of habitat or parts thereof which are important on a County level and which provide functional connectivity to be lost without remediation as a result of implementation of the Plan</p> <p>B3: Sustain the population of the County involved in land management</p>	<p>DEHLG report of the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive - as required by Article 17 of the Directive</p> <p>CORINE mapping resurvey, Consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service & Development Management Processes in the Council</p> <p>Central Statistics Office</p>
Population and Human Health	<p>P1: Area of brownfield lands developed over the Development Plan's lifespan</p> <p>HH1: Occurrence (any) of a spatially concentrated deterioration in human health arising from environmental factors as identified by the Health Service Executive and Environmental Protection Agency</p>	<p>P1: Reduced availability of brownfield land (subject to availability on the open market, the demand for such land and the ability for such lands to be sustainably re-used) at the end of the Development Plan lifespan</p> <p>HH1: No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan</p>	<p>Development Management Process in the Council</p> <p>EPA and Health Service Executive</p>
Soil	S1: Number of instances of pollution and/or contamination of soil	S1: No significant instances pollution and/or contamination of soil	EPA

Environmental Component	Selected Indicator(s)	Selected Target(s)	Sources
Water	W1i: Classification of Overall Status (comprised of ecological and chemical status) under the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (SI No. 272 of 2009)	W1i: To achieve 'good status' in all bodies of surface waters by 2015 and to not knowingly allow deterioration in the status of any surface water	EPA
	W1ii: Poor, Sufficient, Good and Excellent classifications of bathing water as set by Directive 2006/7/EC	W1ii: To achieve - as a minimum - the 'Sufficient' classification as set by Directive 2006/7/EC, and where possible to achieve the 'Good' or 'Excellent' classifications	EPA
	W2: Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC	W2: Compliance with Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC	EPA
	W3: Number of developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk	W3: Minimise developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk in compliance with <i>The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities</i>	Development Management Process in the Council
Material Assets	M1i: Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately served with waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan	M1i: All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately served by waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan	Development Management Process in the Council
	M1ii: Preparation of a Water Services Strategic Plan - in compliance with the Water Services Act - for the functional area of the Council	M1ii: For the Council to prepare a Water Services Strategic Plan in compliance with the Water Services Act	Sligo County Council

Environmental Component	Selected Indicator(s)	Selected Target(s)	Sources
Material Assets cont.	M2i: Number of non-compliances with the 48 parameters identified in the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations (No. 2) 2007 which present a potential danger to human health	M2i: No non-compliances with the 48 parameters identified in the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations (No. 2) 2007 which present a potential danger to human health as a result of implementing the Plan	EPA, EPA Remedial Action List and Sligo County Council
	M2ii ¹²² : Preparation of a Water Services Strategic Plan - in compliance with the Water Services Act - for the functional area of the Council	M2ii: For the Council to prepare a Water Services Strategic Plan in compliance with the Water Services Act	Sligo County Council
Air and Climatic Factors	C1i: Percentage of population within the County travelling to work or school by public transport or non-mechanical means	C1i: An increase in the percentage of the population travelling to work or school by public transport or non-mechanical means	Central Statistics Office
	C1ii: Average distance travelled to work or school by the population of the County	C1ii: A decrease in the average distance travelled to work or school by the population of the County	Central Statistics Office
Cultural Heritage	CH1: Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places - including Zones of Archaeological Potential - (and their context of the above within the surrounding landscape where relevant) protected	CH1: Protect entries to the Record of Monuments and Places - including Zones of Archaeological Potential - (and their context of the above within the surrounding landscape where relevant)	Development Management/ Enforcement Process in the Council; Complaints from statutory consultees
	CH2i: Percentage of entries to the Record of Protected Structures (and/or their context within the surrounding landscape where relevant) protected	CH2i: Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures (and/or their context within the surrounding landscape where relevant)	Development Management/ Enforcement Process in the Council; Complaints from statutory consultees
	CH2ii: Number of additions to the Record of Protected Structures and the number of additional ACAs	CH2ii: Make Additions to the Record of Protected Structures and make additional ACAs, where appropriate	Sligo County Council

¹²² Indicator and Target M2i are the same as Indicator and Target M1

Environmental Component	Selected Indicator(s)	Selected Target(s)	Sources
Landscape	L1: Number of complaints received from statutory consultees regarding avoidable impacts on the landscape resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	L1: No developments permitted which result in avoidable impacts on the landscape resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	Development Management/ Enforcement Process in the Council; Complaints from statutory consultees

Section 11 SEA Summary Table

Below is a summary table outlining how likely significant effects (if unmitigated) are linked to relevant mitigation measure(s) - which have been integrated into the Plan - and indicator(s) which will be used for monitoring.

Table 11.1 SEA Summary Table: Likely Significant Effects, Mitigation Measures and Indicators for Monitoring

Likely Significant Effect, if unmitigated	Mitigation Measure Reference(s) from Plan	Primary Indicator(s) for Monitoring
Loss of biodiversity with regard to Natura 2000 Sites and habitats and species listed under Annexes I and II of the Directive	Objectives: O-NH-1, O-NH-2, O-NH-3, O-NH-4, O-NH-5, O-NH-5a and O-NH-6	B1: Conservation status of habitats and species as assessed under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive
Loss of biodiversity with regard to ecological connectivity and stepping stones	Policies: P-NH-6, P-NH-7 and P-NH-10	B2: Percentage loss of functional connectivity to macro-corridors and contiguous areas of habitat which are important on a County level without remediation as a result of implementation of the Plan
Loss of rural management practices	Various provisions of the Core Strategy, Economic Development Strategy, Housing and other sectoral Chapters	B3: Population of the County involved in land management
Failure to maximise the sustainable reuse of brownfield lands	Various provisions of Plan including those in Core Strategy and Housing Chapters	P1: Area of brownfield lands developed over the Development Plan's lifespan
Spatially concentrated deterioration in human health arising from exposure to incompatible land uses	See measures related to soils, water protection, water services and air and noise.	HH1: Occurrence (any) of a spatially concentrated deterioration in human health arising from environmental factors as identified by the Health Service Executive and Environmental Protection Agency
Pollution and/or contamination of soils.	See measures related to water protection and water services.	S1: Number of instances of pollution and/or contamination of soil
Adverse impacts upon the quality of water bodies (rivers, lakes, transitional waters, coastal, ground waters)	Policies: P-WQ-1, P-WQ-2, P-WQ-3, P-WQ-4, P-WQ-9 and P-MEQ-6 Objectives O-WQ-1, O-WQ-2 and O-WQ-8	W1i: Classification of Overall Status (comprised of ecological and chemical status) under the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (SI No. 272 of 2009) W2: Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC
Adverse impacts upon the quality of bathing waters	Policy: P-WQ-5	W1ii: Poor, Sufficient, Good and Excellent classifications of bathing water as set by Directive 2006/7/EC
Flooding	Policies: P-FRM-1, P-FRM-2, P-FRM-3, P-FRM-4, P-FRM-5, -FRM-6, P-FRM-7, P-FRM-8, P-FRM-9, P-FRM-10, P-FRM-11 and P-FRM-12 Objectives: O-FRM-1, O-FRM-2, O-FRM-3 AND O-FRM-4	W3: Number of developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk

Likely Significant Effect, if unmitigated	Mitigation Measure Reference(s) from Plan	Primary Indicator(s) for Monitoring
Inadequate waste water treatment for new populations	Strategic Objectives: SO-W-2 and SO-W-5 Policies: P-WW-1, P-WW-3, P-WW-9, P-WW-14, P-WW-17, P-WW-18 and P-WW-21 Objectives: O-WW-6 and O-WW-8	M1i: Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately served with waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan M1ii: Preparation of a Water Services Strategic Plan - in compliance with the Water Services Act - for the functional area of the Council
Inadequate drinking water supply for new populations & Reduction in water quality which would present a potential danger to human health	Strategic Objectives: SO-W-2 and SO-W-5 Policies: P-WS-1 and P-WS-6 Objectives: O-WS-7	M2i: Number of non-compliances with the 48 parameters identified in the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations (No. 2) 2007 which present a potential danger to human health M2ii ¹²³ : Preparation of a Water Services Strategic Plan - in compliance with the Water Services Act - for the functional area of the Council
Increases in travel related greenhouse gas emissions and increases in car dependency	Policies: SP-MOB-1, SP-MOB-2, SP-MOB-4, SP-MOB-5, SP-MOB-6 and O-CW-5 Objectives: SO-MOB-1, SO-MOB-2, P-CW-2 and P-CW-3	C1i: Percentage of population within the County travelling to work or school by public transport or non-mechanical means C1ii: Average distance travelled to work or school by the population of the County
Effects on archaeological heritage including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places	Policies: P-AH-1, P-AH-2, P-AH-3, P-AH-4 and P-AH-5 Objectives: O-AH-1, O-AH-6, O-CIP-2, O-CIP-3, O-CIP-4, O-CIP-6 and O-CIP-8	CH1: Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places - including Zones of Archaeological Potential - (and their context of the above within the surrounding landscape where relevant) protected
Effects on architectural heritage including entries to the Records of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas	Policies: P-BH-2, P-BH-6 and P-BH-16 Objectives: O-BH-1, O-BH-2 and O-BH-8	CH2i: Percentage of entries to the Record of Protected Structures (and/or their context within the surrounding landscape where relevant) protected CH2ii: Number of additions to the Record of Protected Structures and the number of additional ACAs
Visual impacts to sensitive landscapes and designated scenic views	Policy: P-LCAP-3 Objectives: O-LCAP-1, O-LCAP-3, O-LCAP-4, O-LCAP-5, O-LCAP-6 and O-LCAP-7	L1: Number of complaints received from statutory consultees regarding avoidable impacts on the landscape resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan

¹²³ Indicator and Target M2i are the same as Indicator and Target M1