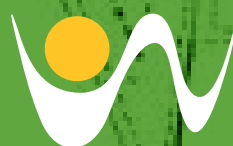


# GOREY

## GOREY TOWN AND ENVIRONS LOCAL AREA PLAN 2017-2023

### APPENDIX 4

#### STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT AND SEA STATEMENT



Comhairle Contae  
Loch Garman  
Wexford  
County Council

# SEA STATEMENT

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FOR THE

## GOREY TOWN AND ENVIRONS LOCAL AREA PLAN 2017-2023

### STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**for: Wexford County Council**

County Hall  
Carricklawn  
Wexford



**by: CAAS Ltd.**

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, The Courtyard  
25 Great Strand Street  
Dublin 1



**APRIL 2017**

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# Section 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Terms of Reference

This is the SEA Statement for the Gorey Town and Environs Local Area Plan (LAP) 2017-2023 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

## 1.2 SEA Definition and Legislation

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

Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 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 (Statutory Instrument Number (SI No. 435 of 2004) and the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004). Both sets of Regulations became operational on 21 July 2004. The Regulations have been amended by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 200 of 2011) and the Planning and Development (SEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 201 of 2011).

The Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004, as amended, require that SEA is undertaken for the preparation of certain LAPs. Where SEA is undertaken, the Regulations require that a Statement is made available to the public and the competent environmental authorities after the adoption of a LAP. This Statement is referred to as an SEA Statement<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2004) Implementation of SEA Directive

## 1.3 Content of the SEA Statement

The SEA Statement is required to include information summarising:

- a) how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan;
- b) how the following have been taken into account during the preparation of the Plan:
  - the environmental report,
  - submissions and observations made to the planning authority on the Draft Plan and Environmental Report, and
  - any transboundary consultations [this is not relevant to this SEA]
- c) the reasons for choosing the Plan in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and
- d) the measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementation of the Plan.

## 1.4 Implications of SEA for the Plan

Article 3 of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004) as amended requires that SEA is carried out for Local Area Plans where the population of the Plan area is 5,000 persons or more. The Plan area has a population that exceeds this threshold therefore full SEA must be undertaken.

The findings of the SEA are expressed in the Environmental Report. An earlier version of this report has been altered to take account of both: recommendations contained in submissions; and changes that were made to the Draft Plan on foot of submissions. Elected Members of Wexford County Council took account of the findings of this report and other related SEA output during their consideration of the Draft Plan and before its adoption.

(2001/42/EC): Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities, Dublin: Government of Ireland.



## **Section 2 How Environmental Considerations were integrated into the Plan**

### **2.1 Introduction**

Environmental considerations were integrated into the Plan through:

- Consultations with environmental authorities;
- Strategic work undertaken by the Council to ensure contribution towards environmental protection and sustainable development;
- Communication of environmental sensitivities through the SEA and associated Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA); and
- Integration of individual SEA, AA and SFRA provisions into the text of the Plan.

### **2.2 Consultations**

As environmental authorities identified under the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations, as amended, the following authorities were sent SEA scoping notices indicating that submissions or observations in relation to the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the environmental report could be made to the Council: Environmental Protection Agency; Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources; Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government; Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht; and adjoining planning authorities whose areas are contiguous to the administrative area of Wexford County Council.

Three submissions on the scope of the SEA were received and these were taken into account during the formulation of the scope of the SEA. Further detail on these submissions is provided under Section 3.2.

In addition, submissions were made on the Draft Plan and SEA Environmental Report while they were on public display (see Section 3.3).

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

Far in advance of both the submission of the pre-Draft Plan to the Elected Members for approval and the placing of the Draft Plan (and associated SEA, AA and SFRA documents) on public display, Wexford County Council undertook various works in order to inform the preparation of the Plan.

The findings of this strategic work have been integrated into the Plan and will be implemented, contributing towards both environmental protection and management and sustainable development within Gorey Town and Environs area and beyond.

Strategic work undertaken by the Council includes background work in relation to Plan Strategies and other provisions for a variety of sectors and issues including those relating to: access and movement; open space, recreation and green infrastructure; economic development; heritage; climate change, flood risk management and services; and land use zoning.

### **2.4 Communication of environmental sensitivities**

#### **2.4.1 Overview**

Environmental considerations were integrated into the Draft Plan – both text and zoning – before it was placed on public display.

The sensitivities considered by the SEA, AA and SFRA within the town and in the wider region include the following:

- European Sites (Natura 2000);
- Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas;
- Habitat Mapping;
- CORINE Land Cover Data;
- Soil Type;
- Water Framework Directive Surface Water Status;
- Q-Values at Points on Rivers;
- WFD Status of Groundwater;
- Aquifer Productivity;
- Aquifer Vulnerability;
- Source Protection Areas;
- WFD Entries to Drinking Water Register of Protected Areas;
- Flood Risk Zones;
- Wastewater Treatment capacity and demand;
- Drinking water supply and quality;
- Archaeological Heritage;
- Architectural Heritage; and
- Landscape Character Areas.

A number of these sensitivities are mapped on Figure 2.1, Figure 2.2, Figure 2.3 and Figure 2.4.

In order to identify where most sensitivities within the town occur, a number of the environmental sensitivities listed above were weighted and mapped overlapping each other. Figure 2.5 provides an overlay of environmental sensitivities for the town. The occurrence of multiple sensitivities in any location does not preclude development; rather it flags at a strategic level that the mitigation measures - which have already been integrated into the Plan as policies and objectives - will need to be complied with in order to ensure that the implementation of the Plan contributes towards environmental protection.

The most sensitive areas within Gorey Town and its Environs can be found along the River Banogue, particularly to the north of the town where flood risk areas have been identified. Other sensitive areas include cultural heritage and associated buffers applied by the overlay mapping exercise.

## 2.4.2 Appropriate Assessment

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan. The requirement for AA is provided under the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 1992/43/EEC). The AA Screening concluded that the Plan will not affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 network, consequently further stages of AA were not required.

The preparation of the Plan, SEA and AA has taken place concurrently and the findings of the AA have informed both the Plan and the SEA. Recommendations made by the AA were integrated into the Plan.

## 2.4.3 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan. The requirement for SFRA is provided under 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DEHLG, 2009).

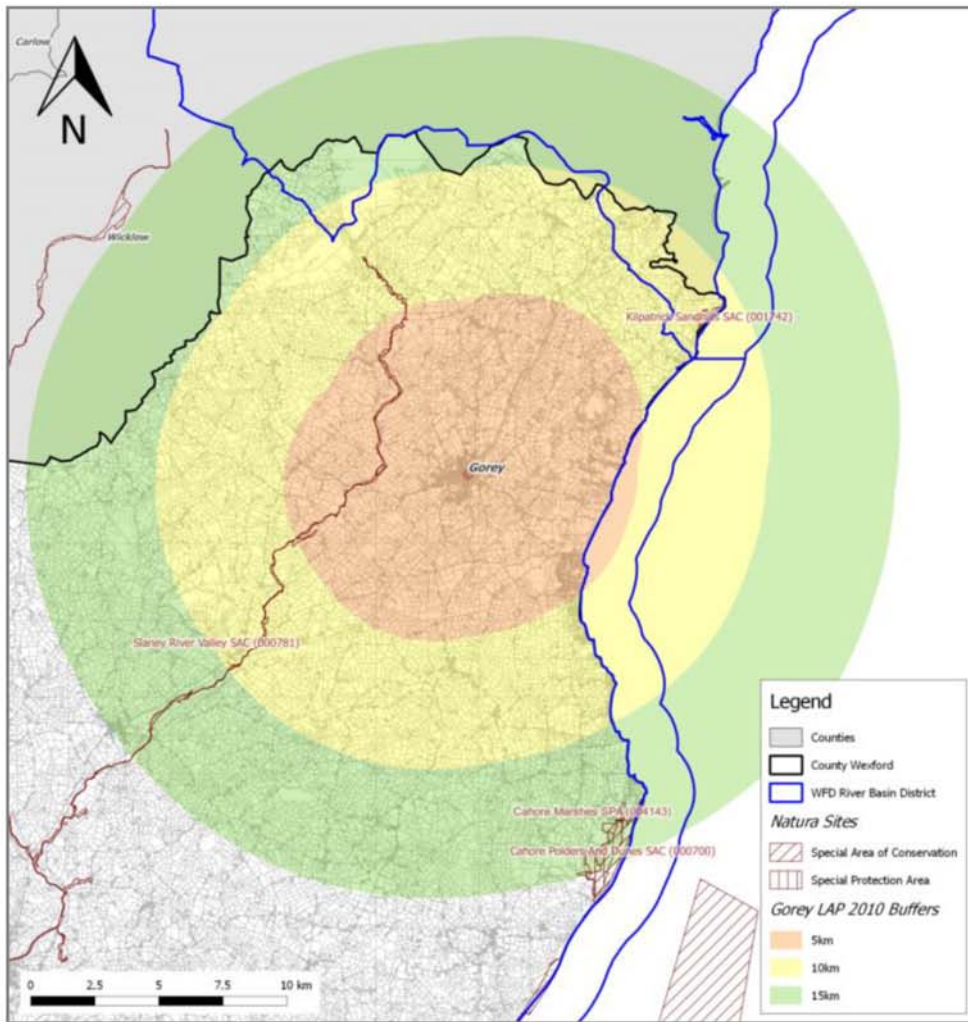
The preparation of the Plan, SEA and SFRA has taken place concurrently and the findings of the SFRA have informed both the Plan and the SEA. Various recommendations made by the SFRA have been integrated into the Plan and the land use zoning contained in the Plan has been informed by flood risk sensitivities.

## 2.5 Integration of Environmental Considerations into the text of the Plan

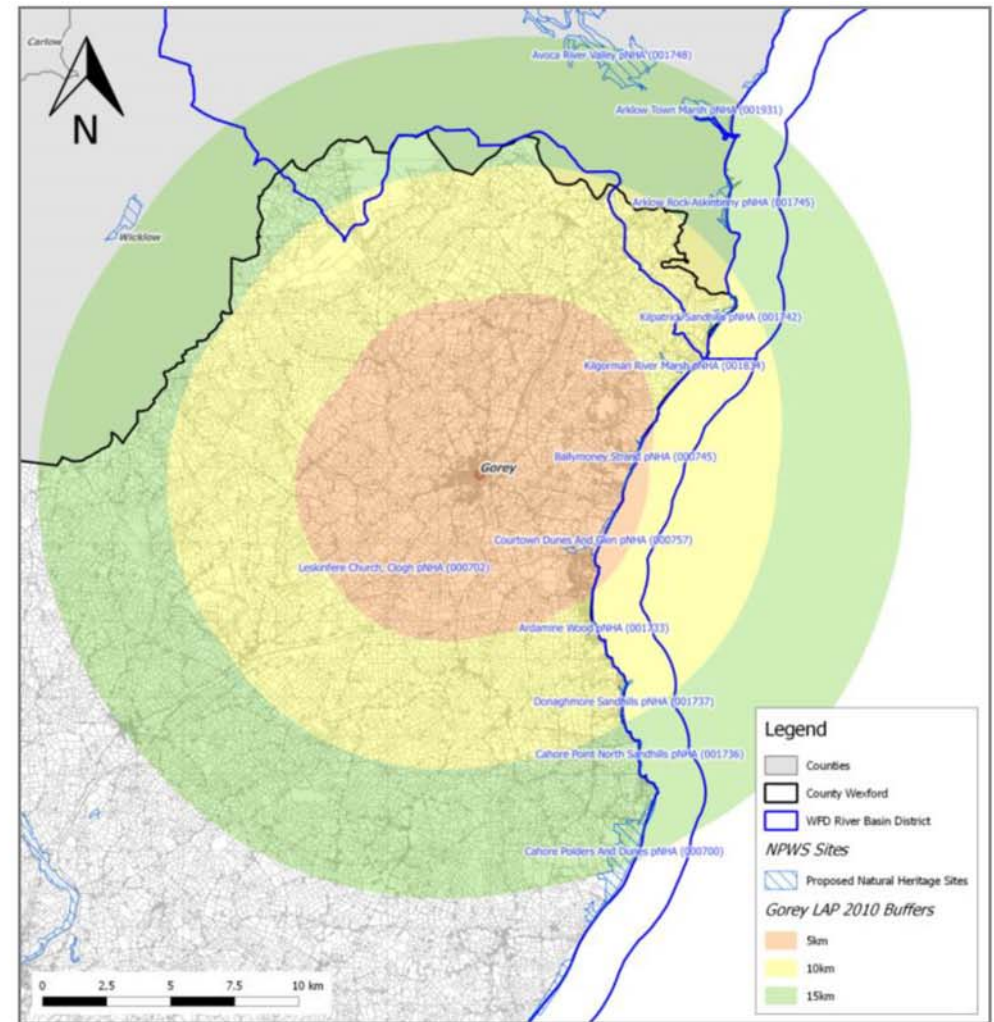
All recommendations made by the SEA, AA and SFRA processes were integrated into the Plan.

Table 2.1 links key mitigation measure(s) - which have been integrated into the Plan - to the potential significant effects of implementing the Plan, if unmitigated.

The measures generally benefit multiple environmental components i.e. a measure providing for the protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna could beneficially impact upon the minimisation of flood risk and the protection of human health, for example.



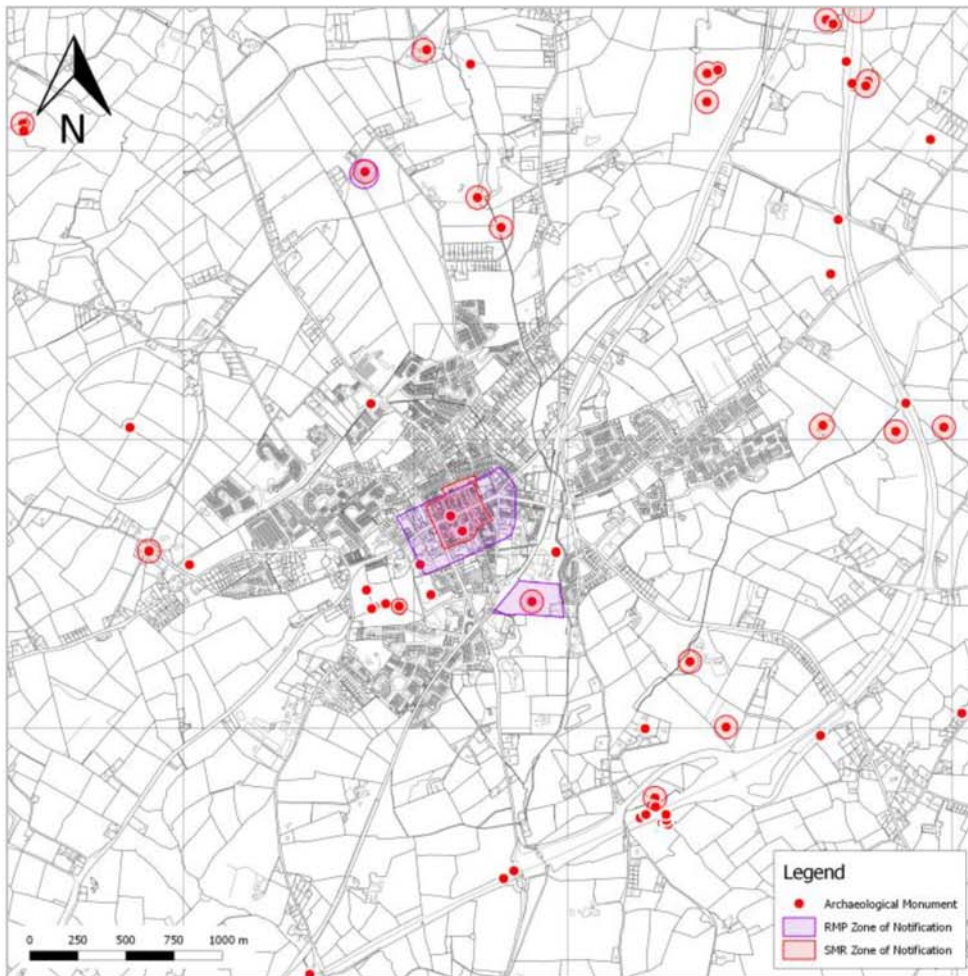
**cSACs and SPAs**



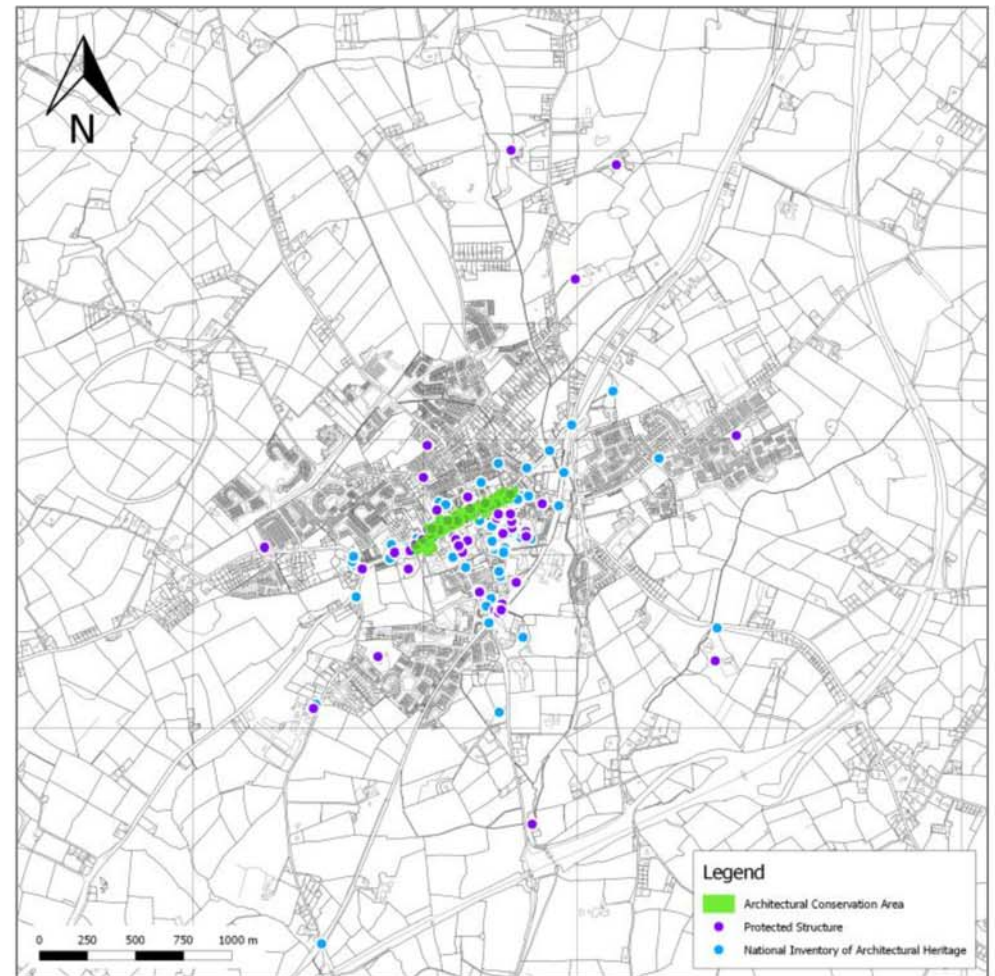
**NHAs and pNHAs**

**Figure 2.1 Selection of Environmental Sensitivities (Set 1 of 3)**  
CAAS for Wexford County Council (2016)





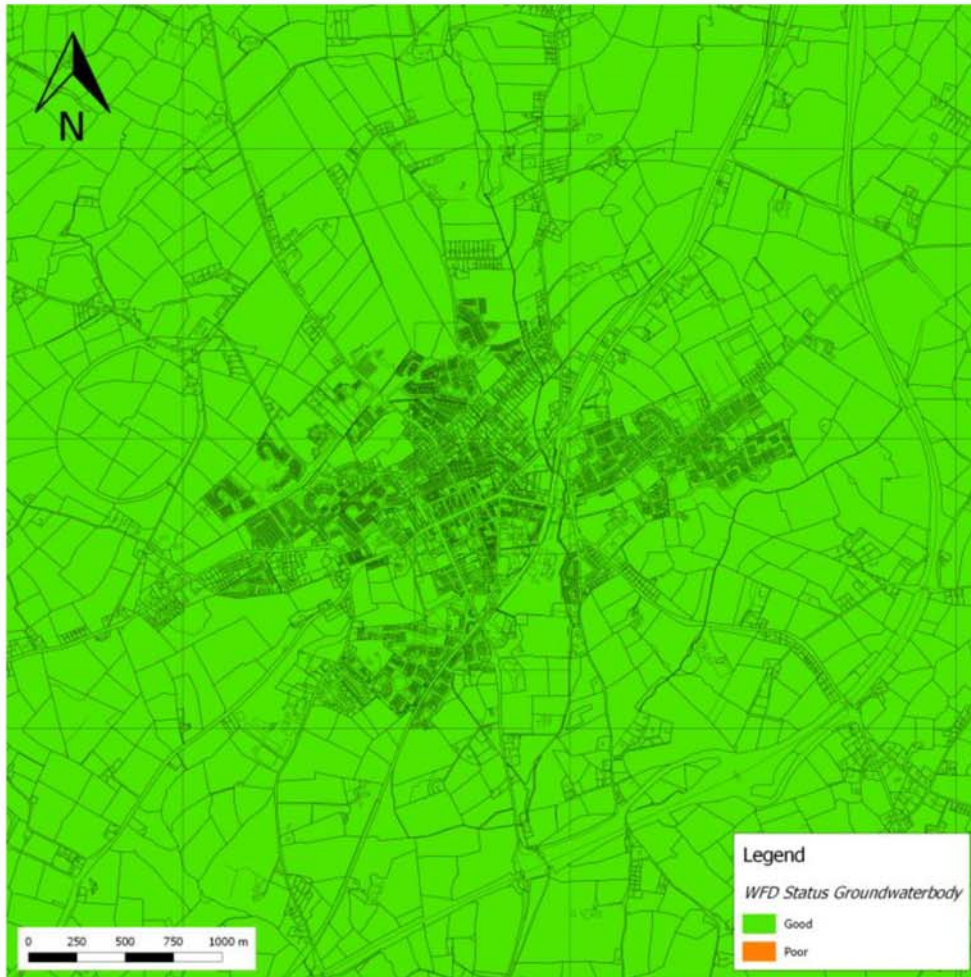
## Archaeological Heritage



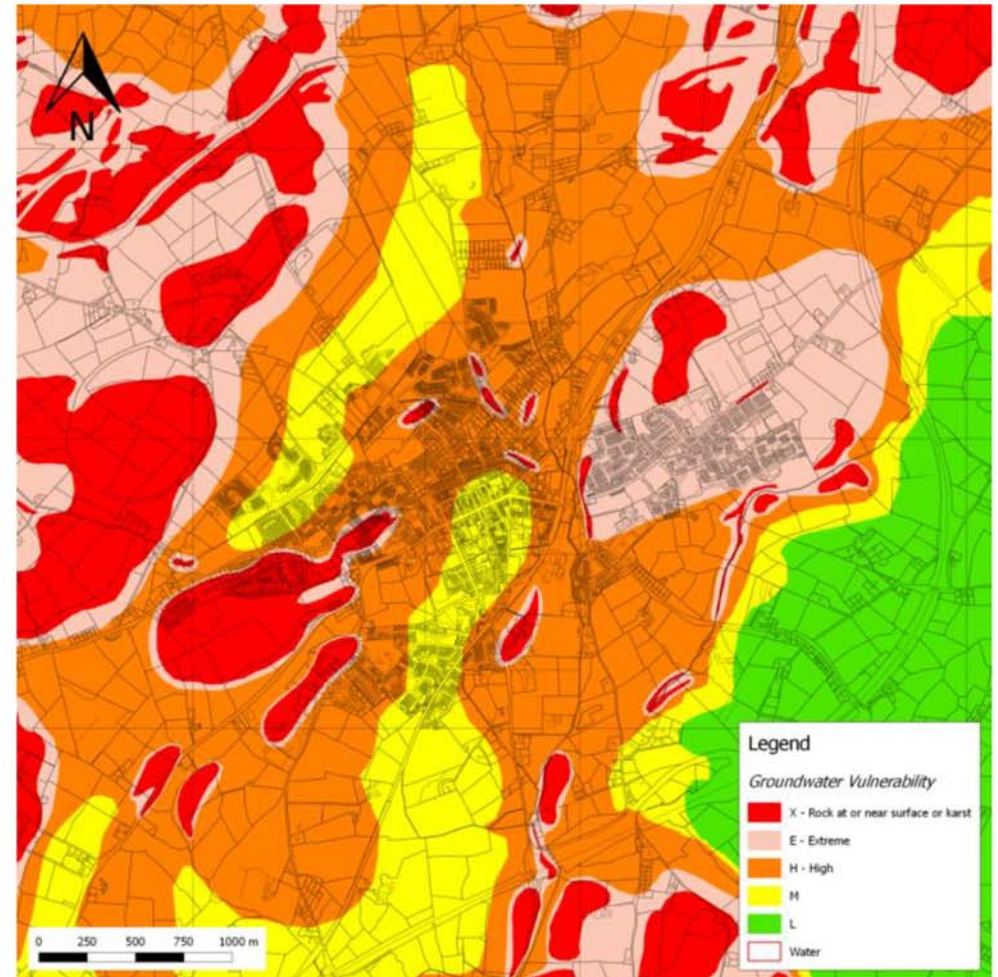
## Architectural Heritage

**Figure 2.2 Selection of Environmental Sensitivities (Set 2 of 3)**  
CAAS for Wexford County Council (2016)





**WFD Ground Water Status**

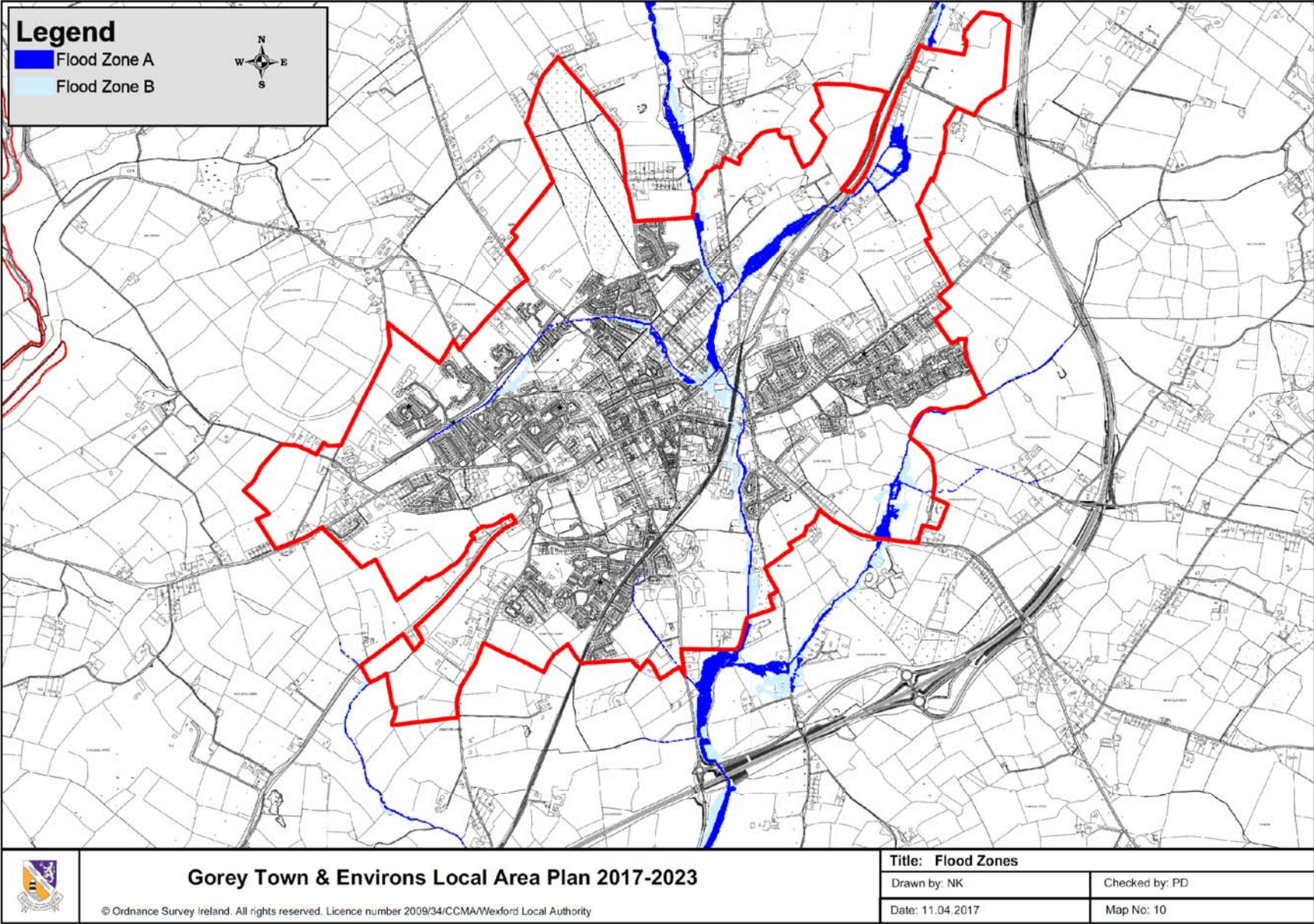


**Aquifer Vulnerability**

**Figure 2.3 Selection of Environmental Sensitivities (Set 3 of 3)**

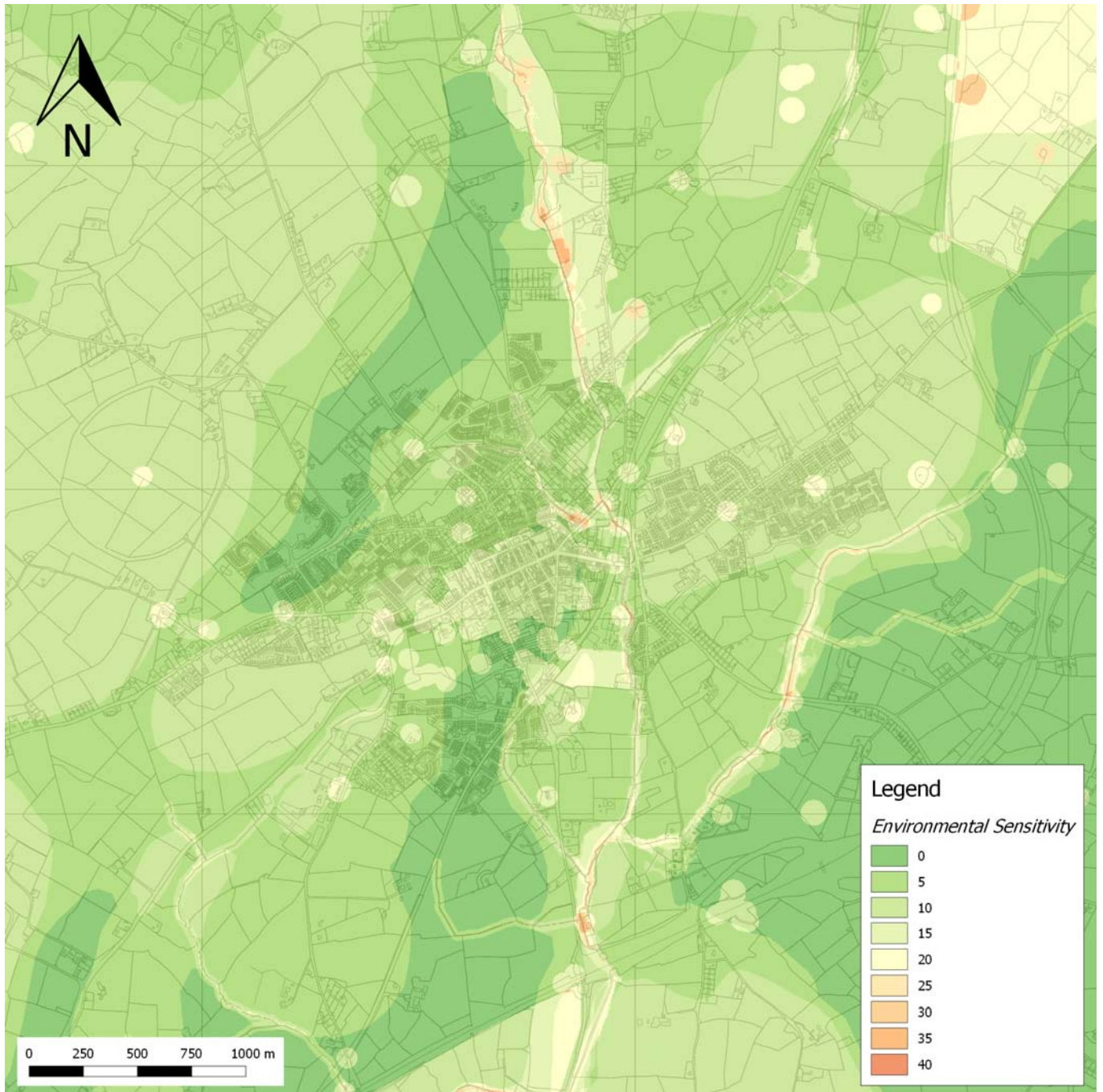
Source: CAAS for Wexford County Council (2016)





**Figure 2.4 SFRA Flood Mapping**  
Wexford County Council (2017)





**Figure 2.5 Overlay of Environmental Sensitivities**  
CAAS for Wexford County Council (2016)

Table 2.1 Mitigation Measures

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	CDP Measures, where not included in LAP	LAP Measures
<b>Biodiversity and flora and fauna</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure: loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including Natura 2000 Sites/Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna</li> <li>Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects.</li> <li>Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species.</li> </ul>	Also see measures under soil, water and material assets below.	<p><b>Objective AA01</b> The Council will ensure that any plan/project and any associated works, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, are subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity (defined by the structure and function) of any Natura 2000 site(s) and that the requirements of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive are fully satisfied. Where a plan/project is likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site or there is uncertainty with regard to effects, it shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment. The plan/project will proceed only after it has been ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site or where, in the absence of alternative solutions, the plan/project is deemed imperative for reasons of overriding public interest.</p> <p><b>Objective NH01</b> To protect existing ecological networks and wildlife corridors and provide for new and enhanced connections, where necessary, between fragmented areas. In this regard, the Council will carry out an ecological survey of the plan area and map the identified ecological networks and wildlife and any gaps therein.</p> <p><b>Objective NH02</b> To promote best practice in the control of invasive species and support measures for the prevention and/or eradication of invasive species as appropriate and as opportunities and resources allow.</p> <p><b>Objective NH03</b> To raise awareness in relation to invasive species, including making landowners and developers aware of best practice guidance in relation to the control of invasive species and encouraging them to adhere to same and, to ensure, in so far as possible, that proposals for development do not lead to the spread of invasive species.</p>



SEA Statement for the Gorey Town and Environs Local Area Plan 2017-2023 Strategic Environmental Assessment

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	CDP Measures, where not included in LAP	LAP Measures
			<b>Objective NH04</b> To ensure that proposals for development do not lead to the spread or introduction of invasive species. If developments are proposed on sites where invasive species are or were previously present, the applicants will be required to submit a control and management programme for the particular invasive species as part of the planning process.
<b>Population and human health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential interactions if effects upon environmental vectors such as water and air are not mitigated</li> </ul>	<p>Also see measures under environmental vectors soil, water and air below.</p> <p><b>Objective ED15</b> To seek to ensure that site security and health and safety is given high priority through the imposition and enforcement of conditions with regard to site security and warning signs. The Council will also report apparent dangerous situations or practices to the appropriate authorities.</p> <p><b>Objective ED19</b> To encourage and facilitate the diversification of the agricultural economy through farm diversification as defined by the Wexford Local Development's Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 provided that this does not negatively affect public health, the character and the amenity of the surrounding area or Natura 2000 sites and subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p> <p><b>Objective WS06</b> Where connection to an existing public water supply is not possible or the existing supply system does not have sufficient capacity, the provision of a private water supply will be considered where it can be demonstrated that the proposed water supply meets the standards set out in EU and national legislation and guidance, would not be prejudicial to public health or would not impact on the source of an existing supply or cumulatively on the Natura 2000 network.</p> <p><b>Objective COMAH02</b> To consult with and have regard to the technical advice of the Health and Safety Authority when preparing development plans and local area plans and assessing planning applications where the Major Accidents Directive and any associated regulations are relevant.</p>	<b>Objective EM03</b> To ensure the implementation of the specific guidance on radon prevention measures for new homes as contained within the existing Building Regulations (including any updated/superseding regulations that may be published within the lifetime of this Plan).
<b>Soil</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Damage to the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Objective HL01</b> To carefully consider the land use and proposals for developments within 250 metres of identified historic landfill sites in accordance with the provisions of the document Protection of New Buildings and Occupants from Landfill Gas (Department of the Environment and Local Government, 1994) and any subsequent updated version of this document.</p> <p><b>Objective HL02</b> To implement remediation plans for the identified historic landfills in the County.</p>	<b>Objective EM02</b> To ensure that adequate soil protection measures are undertaken where appropriate. Adequate and appropriate investigations shall be carried out into the nature and extent of any soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development work, where brownfield development is proposed. The EPA's publication Code of Practice: Environmental Risk Assessment for Unregulated Waste Disposal Sites (2007) shall be taken into account as relevant by proposals for development within or adjacent to old landfill sites.
<b>Water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adverse impacts upon the status of water bodies arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.</li> <li>Increase in the risk</li> </ul>	<p>Also see measures under soil above and material assets below.</p> <p><b>Objective ED21</b> To support the development of the fisheries and aquaculture industry and support its diversification at appropriate locations, having regard to the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive, the relevant River Basin Management Plans and the Habitats Directive.</p> <p><b>Objective WS01</b> To protect existing and potential water resources for the county, in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), the South-East River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 and any updated version, the Pollution Reduction Programmes for designated shellfish waters, the provisions of the Groundwater Protection Scheme for the county and any other protection plans for water supply sources.</p>	<b>Objective FRM01</b> To ensure that all development proposals in the plan area comply with the requirements of 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Office

## SEA Statement for the Gorey Town and Environs Local Area Plan 2017-2023 Strategic Environmental Assessment

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	CDP Measures, where not included in LAP	LAP Measures
	of flooding	<p><b>Objective WW01</b> To ensure that all wastewater generated is collected, treated and discharged after treatment in a safe and sustainable manner, having regard to the standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation and guidance and subject to complying with the provisions and objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive, relevant River Basin Management Plan, relevant Pollution Reduction Programmes for Shellfish Waters, Urban Wastewater Water Directive and the Habitats Directive</p> <p><b>Objective WW02</b> To provide, subject to funding, adequate wastewater facilities to serve the existing and future needs of populations in the towns and villages identified in the Settlement Hierarchy subject to complying with the provisions and objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive, relevant River Basin Management Plan, relevant Pollution Reduction Programmes for Shellfish Waters, Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive and the Habitats Directive.</p> <p><b>Objective WW03</b> a)To facilitate the provision and improvement of adequate wastewater services in order to serve the existing and future needs of the populations of towns, villages and settlements as identified in the settlement hierarchy and Core Strategy and as determined by the Water Services Assessment of Needs and as finances permit and in accordance with the Water Framework Directive 2000 and the EU Urban Wastewater Directive and Habitats Directive;</p> <p>b) To develop, where necessary, and in line with the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy, additional capacity of existing treatment plants to meet the requirements of future development proposals;</p> <p>c) To ensure that all foul water generated is collected and discharged after treatment in a safe and sustainable manner, having regard to the standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation.</p> <p><b>Objective WW04</b> The Council, in conjunction with Irish Water, shall have regard to the EPA (2015) publication 'Drinking Water Report 2014' (and any subsequent update) in the establishment and maintenance of water sources in the County.</p> <p><b>Objective WW05</b> To consider the provision of communal private wastewater treatment facilities where appropriate to serve developments in Strong Villages, Smaller Villages and Rural Settlements only where it demonstrated that the proposed wastewater treatment system will meet all the relevant environmental criteria of the EPA and the Planning Authority and subject to complying with the provisions and objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive, relevant River Basin Management Plan, relevant Pollution Reduction Programmes for Shellfish Waters and the Habitats Directive. An annual renewed contract for the management and maintenance of the system contracted to a reputable company/person will be required; details of which shall be submitted to the Planning Authority.</p> <p><b>Objective WW06</b> To permit the provision of private wastewater treatment facilities to serve a single dwelling house only where it demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority that the proposed wastewater treatment system is in accordance with the Code of Practice: Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (EPA, 2009) and subject to complying with the provisions and objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive, relevant River Basin Management Plan, relevant Pollution Reduction Programmes for Shellfish Waters and the Habitats Directive. An annual renewed contract for the management and maintenance of the system contracted to a reputable company/person will be required; details of which shall be submitted to the Planning Authority.</p> <p><b>Objective ED21</b> To support the development of the fisheries and aquaculture industry and support its diversification at appropriate locations, having regard to the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive, the relevant River Basin Management Plans and the Habitats Directive.</p> <p><b>Objective TM14</b> To ensure the full recreational potential of the River Barrow and its estuary is realised whilst taking cognisance of the aims and objectives of the South Eastern River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 and the requirement to achieve good status by 2015 and that all development is undertaken in compliance with Articles 6 and Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p><b>Objective WS01</b> To protect existing and potential water resources for the county, in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), the South-East River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 and any updated version, the Pollution Reduction Programmes for designated shellfish waters, the provisions of the Groundwater Protection Scheme for the county and any other protection plans for water supply sources.</p>	<p>of Public Works, 2009), as amended by Circular PL2/2014', and any subsequent review or other future update to the Guidelines.</p> <p><b>Objective FRM02</b> To have regard to the flood maps and the Flood Risk Management Plan prepared for Gorey Town and Environs as part of the South-East Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (CFRAM) and to ensure that development proposals comply with any relevant requirements set out therein.</p> <p><b>Objective FRM03</b> To require planning applications for development proposals within, incorporating or adjoining areas at moderate (Flood Zone B) to high (Flood Zone A) risk of fluvial flooding to carry out a site-specific and appropriately detailed flood risk assessment. The site-specified flood risk assessment shall be carried out by a suitably qualified and indemnified professional and in accordance with the requirements of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines For Planning Authorities (DEHLG, OPW 2009).</p> <p><b>Objective FRM04</b> To ensure riparian buffer zones are created between all watercourses and any development for a minimum of 10m to mitigate against flood risk. The extent of these buffer zones shall be determined in consultation with a qualified ecologist and following a Flood Risk Assessment. Any hard landscaping proposals shall be located outside of these buffer zones. In considering the appropriate width, the Council will have regard to 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment Guidelines' (Shannon Regional Fisheries Board).</p>

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	CDP Measures, where not included in LAP	LAP Measures
		<p><b>Objective WQ01</b> To protect existing and potential water resources for the county, in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) the South-East River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 and any updated version, the Pollution Reduction Programmes for designated shellfish waters, the provisions of Groundwater Protection Scheme for the county any other protection plans for water supply sources, with an aim to improving all water quality.</p> <p><b>Objective WQ04</b> To ensure that developments permitted comply with the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive, the relevant River Basin Management Plans and the Habitats Directive.</p> <p><b>Objective RS13</b> To facilitate the sustainable development of eco-tourism at appropriate locations in the county, whilst protecting areas of ecological value and ensuring that any development takes cognisance of the aims and objectives of the Water Framework Directive and ensuring that all development is undertaken in compliance with Articles 6 and Article 10 of the Habitats Directive</p> <p><b>Objective RS24</b> To promote the development of riverside walking routes, whilst protecting areas of ecological value and ensuring that any development takes cognisance of the aims and objectives of the Water Framework Directive and ensuring that all development is undertaken in compliance with Articles 6 and Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p><b>Objective CF12</b> Facilitate the provision of new burial grounds and the extension of existing burial grounds as appropriate to cater for the needs of a multi-cultural county, ensuring that any development takes cognisance of the aims and objectives of the Water Framework Directive and achieving good status by 2015 and that all development is undertaken in compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p>	
<b>Air and Climatic Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emissions to air including greenhouse gas emissions and other emissions.</li> </ul>	<p>Also see measure under human health above</p> <p><b>Objective GI01</b> To ensure the protection, enhancement and maintenance of the natural environment and recognise the economic, social, environmental and physical value of green spaces through the integration of Green Infrastructure planning and development in the planning process.</p> <p><b>Objective GI02</b> To develop and implement a Green infrastructure Strategy for the county within the lifetime of the Plan in consultation with adjoining local authorities, key stakeholders and the public, subject to compliance with Articles 6 and 10 of the Habitats Directive. The Strategy will integrate policies and objectives under a number of headings including; natural heritage, parks and open spaces, built heritage and archaeology, water management, flooding and climate change allowing for a strategic approach to green space planning in the County.</p> <p><b>Objective GI03</b> To identify, protect, enhance and manage Green Infrastructure in all Local Area Plans in an integrated and coherent manner.</p> <p><b>Objective GI04</b> To ensure the principles of Green Infrastructure and the County Green Infrastructure Strategy are used to inform the development management process in terms of design and layout of new residential schemes, business and industrial developments and other relevant projects, for example, through the integration of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) into the overall site concept and layout.</p> <p><b>Objective GI05</b> To require new developments to contribute to the protection and enhancement of existing Green Infrastructure, and the provision of new Green Infrastructure where appropriate, in an integrated and coherent manner. Such development shall be in compliance with all other planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p> <p><b>Objective GI06</b> To require proposals for medium to high-density residential schemes to have regard to the recommendations of the 'Green City Guidelines' (UCD Urban Institute of Ireland, 2008) when designing such schemes and to demonstrate this in the planning application.</p> <p><b>Objective GI07</b> To require proposals for significant development to submit a Green Infrastructure Plan as part of the planning application.</p> <p><b>Objective CC01</b> To have regard to the National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012 and any updated version of this document published during the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p><b>Objective CC02</b> To have regard to the any future Climate Change Action Plan for the South-East Region</p> <p><b>Objective CC03</b> To prepare, in conjunction with other key stakeholders, a Climate Change Strategy for the County during the lifetime of the Plan.</p>	<p>Various Plan provisions relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improvement of the public realm;</li> <li>Development of the town centre;</li> <li>Improved permeability;</li> <li>Implementation of the Neighbourhood Framework Plan for the Town Centre;</li> <li>Urban Design Guidelines;</li> <li>Reuse and regeneration of derelict land and buildings; and</li> <li>Development and regeneration of areas that are in need of regeneration</li> </ul> <p><b>Objective AMS01</b> To ensure the design of all streets and roads in the plan area complies with the objectives and guidelines in the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (Department of Transport and Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, 2013) and the Urban Design Strategy, the Access and Movement Strategy and the Urban Design Guidelines contained in Appendix 1 of the LAP.</p> <p><b>Objective AMS02</b> To secure the provision in tandem with new developments, or provide subject to available resources, the footpath and pedestrian linkage objectives detailed on Map 3.</p> <p><b>Objective AMS03</b> To undertake an accessibility audit of existing footpaths in the</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	CDP Measures, where not included in LAP	LAP Measures
		<p><b>Objective CC04</b> To minimise greenhouse gas emissions in order to contribute to a reduction and avoidance of human induced climate change in accordance with the Kyoto agreement. The Council supports and is committed to the National Climate Change Strategy and in general to facilitating measures, which seek to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.</p> <p><b>Objective CC05</b> To prepare a Renewable Energy Strategy for County Wexford during the lifetime of the Plan, which will build on and support the Wind Energy Strategy 2013-2019, any Climate Change Strategy prepared for the County and the National Renewable Energy Action Plan (Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, 2010).</p> <p><b>Objective CC06</b> To adopt sustainable planning strategies through the integration of land use and transportation as a means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p><b>Objective CC07</b> To raise awareness of climate change and its potential impacts and encourage businesses, local communities and people to be as self-sustaining as possible.</p> <p><b>Objective CC08</b> To encourage improved energy efficiency of existing building stock and to promote energy efficiency and conservation in the design and development of all new buildings and in residential schemes in particular.</p> <p><b>Objective CC09</b> To promote and encourage new developments to mitigate against, and adapt to, where possible the impacts of climate change through the location, layout and design of the development.</p> <p><b>Objective AQ01</b> To have regard to the Air Quality Standards Regulation 2011 (S.I. No. 180 of 2011) when assessing planning applications for development which may have effects on air quality.</p>	<p>plan area in order to identify and implement a scheme of works required to provide accessible and safe footpaths for all users.</p> <p><b>Objective AMS04</b> To secure the provision in tandem with new developments, or provide subject to available resources, the cycle objectives detailed on Map 4.</p> <p><b>Objective EM01</b> To promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development in accordance with the EU Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/50/EC) and ensure that all air emissions associated with new developments are within Environmental Quality Standards as out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (SI No. 180 of 2011) (or any updated/superseding documents).</p>
<b>Material Assets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Failure to provide adequate and appropriate wastewater treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water that is both wholesome and clean (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts)</li> <li>Increases in waste levels</li> </ul>	<p><b>Objective WW02</b> To provide, subject to funding, adequate wastewater facilities to serve the existing and future needs of populations in the towns and villages identified in the Settlement Hierarchy subject to complying with the provisions and objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive, relevant River Basin Management Plan, relevant Pollution Reduction Programmes for Shellfish Waters, Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive and the Habitats Directive.</p> <p><b>Objective WS02</b> To ensure drinking water supplied by the public water network complies with the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations 2007.</p> <p><b>Objective WM09</b> To encourage the development of Construction and Demolition waste recycling facilities at appropriate sites subject to complying with normal planning and environmental criteria and the relevant development management standards set out in Chapter 18.</p> <p><b>Objective WM10</b> To promote the recycling and reuse of aggregates from Construction and Demolition waste.</p> <p><b>Objective WM01</b> To implement the provisions of the Joint Waste Management Plan for the South-East Region 2006-2011, and any updated version published during the lifetime of the Plan, subject to compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p><b>Objective WM02</b> To increase public awareness of the importance of waste management, in particular prevention and minimisation of waste. The Council will encourage local communities, schools and businesses to become involved in environmental awareness activities and community based recycling or environmental management initiatives that will lead to local sustainable waste management practices.</p> <p><b>Objective WM03</b> To implement the National Waste Prevention Programme and any updated version published during the lifetime of the Plan. The Council will continue to support initiatives such as the 'Green Business Initiative' and the 'Green Schools Programme' which promote waste prevention in businesses and schools.</p> <p><b>Objective WM04</b> To encourage the development of waste minimisation strategies for domestic, commercial and industrial waste.</p> <p><b>Objective WM05</b> To support the development of appropriately sited waste recycling and recovery facilities, such as bring centres, civic amenity centres, waste transfer stations, waste material facilities and authorised treatment facilities for end-of-life vehicles as a means of facilitating a reduction in the quantity of waste that goes to landfill disposal sites subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the relevant development management standards set out in Chapter 18.</p>	<p><b>Objective WW01</b> To promote and facilitate the provision by Irish Water of adequate water and wastewater treatment infrastructure to serve the needs of the existing and future population of the plan area and ensure that such infrastructure is provided prior to, or in tandem with, new development.</p> <p><b>Objective WW02</b> To encourage the decommissioning of existing on-site private wastewater treatment facilities and the connection of the subject properties to the public wastewater treatment system subject to the compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation and guidance.</p> <p><b>Objective WW03</b> To implement, in conjunction with Irish Water, the relevant recommendations set out in the EPA (2015) publication 'Urban Wastewater Treatment in 2014' (and any subsequent update).</p> <p><b>Objective WW04</b> The Council, in conjunction with Irish Water, shall have regard to the EPA (2015) publication 'Drinking Water Report 2014' (and any subsequent update) in the establishment and maintenance of water sources in the County.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	CDP Measures, where not included in LAP	LAP Measures
		<p><b>Objective WM06</b> To ensure hazardous household waste is disposed off in accordance with the provisions of the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2008-2012, and any updated version published during the lifetime of the Plan, subject to compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p><b>Objective WM07</b> To encourage and facilitate the development of new alternatives and technological advances in relation to waste management such as Organic Waste to Energy/Combined Heat and Power schemes subject to the criteria for location of waste management facilities contained in Section 10.6.3 above and compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p> <p><b>Objective WM08</b> To support the provision of infrastructure for composting and other forms of recycling for bio-waste subject to the criteria for location of waste management facilities contained in Section 10.6.3 above and compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p> <p><b>Objective WM11</b> To ensure the disposal of agricultural waste is carried in a safe manner and in compliance with the Nitrates Directive, European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations, 2009 (S.I. No. 101 of 2009), the European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 610 of 2010), the Habitats Directive and any other relevant statutory provisions.</p> <p><b>Objective WM12</b> To have regard to the Sludge Management Plan for County Wexford 2001-2020 and any updated version published during the lifetime of the Plan, subject to compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p>	
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities.</li> </ul>		<p><b>Objective AH01</b> To protect the architectural heritage of Gorey Town through the prevention of any works to protected structures which would cause loss of, or damage to, the character and special interest of the structure and loss of, or damage to structures of heritage value within the curtilage or any specified features in the attendant grounds of the structure.</p> <p><b>Objective AH02</b> To promote the maintenance and appropriate reuse of protected structures and older buildings of architectural merit which make a positive contribution to the character and streetscape of Gorey Town.</p> <p><b>Objective AH03</b> To retain and reinforce the existing street layouts, historic building lines and traditional plot widths which derive from the town's historical development (except in circumstances where there is a reason of justifiable public interest).</p> <p><b>Objective AH04</b> To protect and enhance the form of groups of terrace buildings on the approach roads to the town centre, especially as regards roofscapes, chimneys, shape of opes and finishes.</p> <p><b>Objective AH05</b> To have regard to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) when considering development proposals relating to buildings included on</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	CDP Measures, where not included in LAP	LAP Measures
			<p>the inventory.</p> <p><b>Objective ACA01</b> To carry out a review of the architectural heritage of Gorey Town during the preparation of the Wexford County Development Plan 2019-2025 with a view to designating Architectural Conservation Area(s).</p> <p><b>Objective ACA02</b> To preserve the character of designated Architectural Conservation Area(s) by ensuring that all proposed development within these areas are carried out to the highest architectural and urban design standards.</p> <p><b>Objective ACA03</b> To engage in a targeted awareness campaign on the character and special interest of each Architectural Conservation Area during the process of designation and provide assistance and guidance in preserving these area.</p> <p><b>Objective ARH01</b> To have regard to the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and the newly identified sites identified on Map 9, when dealing with planning applications for development or threats to recorded items. Development shall be controlled in the vicinity of a recorded feature where it detracts from the setting of the feature or where it is injurious to its integrity, cultural or educational value. The Council shall consult with the National Monuments Service in the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht where appropriate.</p> <p><b>Objective ARH02</b> To have regard to the Zone of Archaeological Potential within Gorey town when dealing with planning applications for all development, including local authority own development. This area is identified on Map 9. Where permission for such proposals is granted, the applicant will have due regard to the recommendations of the National Monuments Service and the Heritage and Planning Division in the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. This may involve the employment of a licensed archaeologist at the expense of the developer to record any archaeological remains uncovered and to supervise all excavation works.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	CDP Measures, where not included in LAP	LAP Measures
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of the landscape.</li> </ul>		Various urban design guidelines including those relating to character, coherence, connectivity and permeability, continuity and enclosure, scale, landscape, adaptability, diversity, building style and materials and urban blocks.

## Section 3 Environmental Report and Submissions & Observations

### 3.1 Introduction

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

### 3.2 SEA Scoping Submissions

#### 3.2.1 Introduction

As environmental authorities identified under the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations, as amended, the following authorities were sent SEA scoping notices indicating that submissions or observations in relation to the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the environmental report could be made to the Council: Environmental Protection Agency; Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources; Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government; Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht; and adjoining planning authorities whose areas are contiguous to the administrative area of Wexford County Council.

Three submissions on the scope of the SEA were received and these were taken into account during the formulation of the scope of the SEA – these are detailed under Sections 3.2.2 to 3.2.4 below.

#### 3.2.2 Environmental Protection Agency

This submission covered issues under a range of headings, including:

- Water Framework Directive
- Adequate and Appropriate Critical Infrastructure
- Potential for Cumulative Effects
- Adequate and Appropriate Objectives and where necessary Mitigation Measures to address Environmental Sensitivities

- Flood Risk Assessment and Management
- Historic Landfill Sites within the Plan area
- Designated Sites
- The protection of and possible enhancement of Undesignated Biodiversity
- Scoping Process Guidance
- Environmental Authorities
- Integration of Environmental Considerations

These issues were taken into account during the undertaking of the SEA, SFRA and AA and informed the measures that were integrated into the LAP that will contribute towards sustainable development and environmental protection and management.

#### 3.2.3 Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

This submission covered issues under a range of headings, including:

- Archaeology
- Terrestrial & Underwater archaeology
- Nature Conservation: Plan
  - Legislation
  - Designated sites
  - Protected species
  - Article 10 of Habitats Directive
  - Hedgerows, bats and other protected species
  - Rivers and wetlands
  - Water
  - Roads
  - Alien invasive species
  - Amenity developments
  - Green Infrastructure
- Nature Conservation: SEA
  - Integrated assessment
  - Legislation
  - Baseline data
  - SEOs
  - Water issues and wetland habitats
  - Indicators, targets and monitoring
- Nature Conservation: Appropriate Assessment



- Guidance
- Integrated assessment
- Cumulative and ex-situ impacts

These issues were taken into account during the undertaking of the SEA, SFRA and AA and informed the measures that were integrated into the LAP that will contribute towards sustainable development and environmental protection and management.

### 3.2.4 Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

This submission covered issues under a range of headings, including:

- Relevant legislation, plans and policies
- Issues for consideration
- Potential impacts on sea fisheries and aquaculture
- Sources of marine data
- Who to consult with

These issues were taken into account during the undertaking of the SEA, SFRA and AA and informed the measures that were integrated into the LAP that will contribute towards sustainable development and environmental protection and management.

## 3.3 Submissions on the Draft Plan and Environmental Report

A number of submissions were made on the Draft Plan and SEA Environmental Report while these documents were on public display and these resulted in updates being made to both the Plan and the Environmental Report.

A submission from the Environmental Protection Agency on the Draft Plan and SEA Environmental Report resulted in the following text being inserted into Section 7.5 "Overall Findings" of the SEA Environmental Report:

*Residual effects are those that arise after mitigation. Mitigation measures are applied to potential adverse effects as indicated by Table 9.1 in Section 9.*

A subsequent submission from the Environmental Protection Agency on the Proposed Material Alterations and associated

SEA Screening Report resulted in references to the following plans/strategies being made in Appendix I "Relationship with Legislation and Other Plans and Programmes" to the SEA Environmental Report:

- *National Planning Framework (DHPCLG)*
- *Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (Regional Authorities)*
- *2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle of Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Plans (DHPCLG) - South Eastern CFRAMS (OPW)*

A number of alterations to the original Draft Plan that was placed on public display were made on foot of submissions. These alterations were considered by the SEA but did not affect the overall conclusions of the SEA that had been undertaken on the Draft Plan.

## 3.4 Environmental Report

The Draft Plan and accompanying documents (including SEA Environmental Report, AA Screening and SFRA) were placed on public display, having integrated all recommendations arising from the SEA, AA and SFRA processes.

Responses to submissions made on the Environmental Report and AA and SFRA documents during the period of public display were integrated into a Chief Executive's Report and considered by Wexford County Council.

Proposed Material Alterations were subjected to SEA (and AA) Screening with alterations and screening documents subsequently placed on public display. Responses to submissions made on these documents were integrated into a Chief Executive's Report and considered by Wexford County Council.

Wexford County Council has taken into account the findings of all relevant SEA output during the consideration of the Local Area Plan and before the Plan was adopted.

On adoption of the Plan, the original Environmental Report which had been placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan was updated to become a final Environmental Report which is consistent with the adopted Plan, taking into account recommendations included in the submissions as well as alterations that were made to the original Draft Plan that was placed on public display.

## Section 4 Alternatives and the Plan

### 4.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive requires that reasonable alternatives (taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme) are identified, described and evaluated for their likely significant effects on the environment.

The description of the environmental baseline (both maps and text) and Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are used in the evaluation of alternative development strategies.

### 4.2 Description of Alternatives

Wexford County Council in preparing the Local Area Plan considered four alternative development strategies for Gorey Town and its Environs. These are summarised on Table 4.1 below and mapped on Figure 4.1, Figure 4.2, Figure 4.3 and Figure 4.4.

**Table 4.1 Description of Alternative Development Strategies**

	<b>Alternative Development Strategy A</b>	<b>Alternative Development Strategy B</b>	<b>Alternative Development Strategy B1</b>	<b>Alternative Development Strategy C</b>
<b>Summary</b>	<p>Development Strategy A provides a crude sequential development of the town, ignoring the barrier provided by the rail line. Development would be pushed out along the approach roads of the town putting pressure on the outer motorway which acts like a ring road to facilitate radial movement due to lack of internal linkages.</p> <p>This alternative facilitates a high amount of edge development, which by nature reduces the walkability of the town and environs, as new development is concentrated a distance out of the town.</p>	<p>Alternative B recognises the barrier provided by the rail line and would allow for development in all directions from existing development, on either side of the rail line.</p> <p>This alternative also makes additional efforts to intensify uses within the existing town centre, through increased density redevelopment of sites within proximity to public transport nodes.</p> <p>This skewed concentric model would facilitate the delivery of some inner link roads, however: the barrier provided by the rail line would limit the long-term balanced growth of the town.</p>	<p>Alternative B1 is a variation of Alternative B that secures important linkages to address the severance that the railway line provides. By securing these linkages, Alternative B1 would facilitate a long-term sustainable development and growth of the town.</p>	<p>Alternative C allows for a mirrored type development of the town and environs, with the eastern side developing at a more rapid rate, right out to the M11 Motorway and walkability significantly reduced due to an extended town centre.</p> <p>This alternative would result in short trip traffic on the Motorway.</p> <p>This alternative would require major infrastructural investment in new linkages to cater for the movement of cars. The unbalanced development would have a negative effect of the west side of the Town.</p>

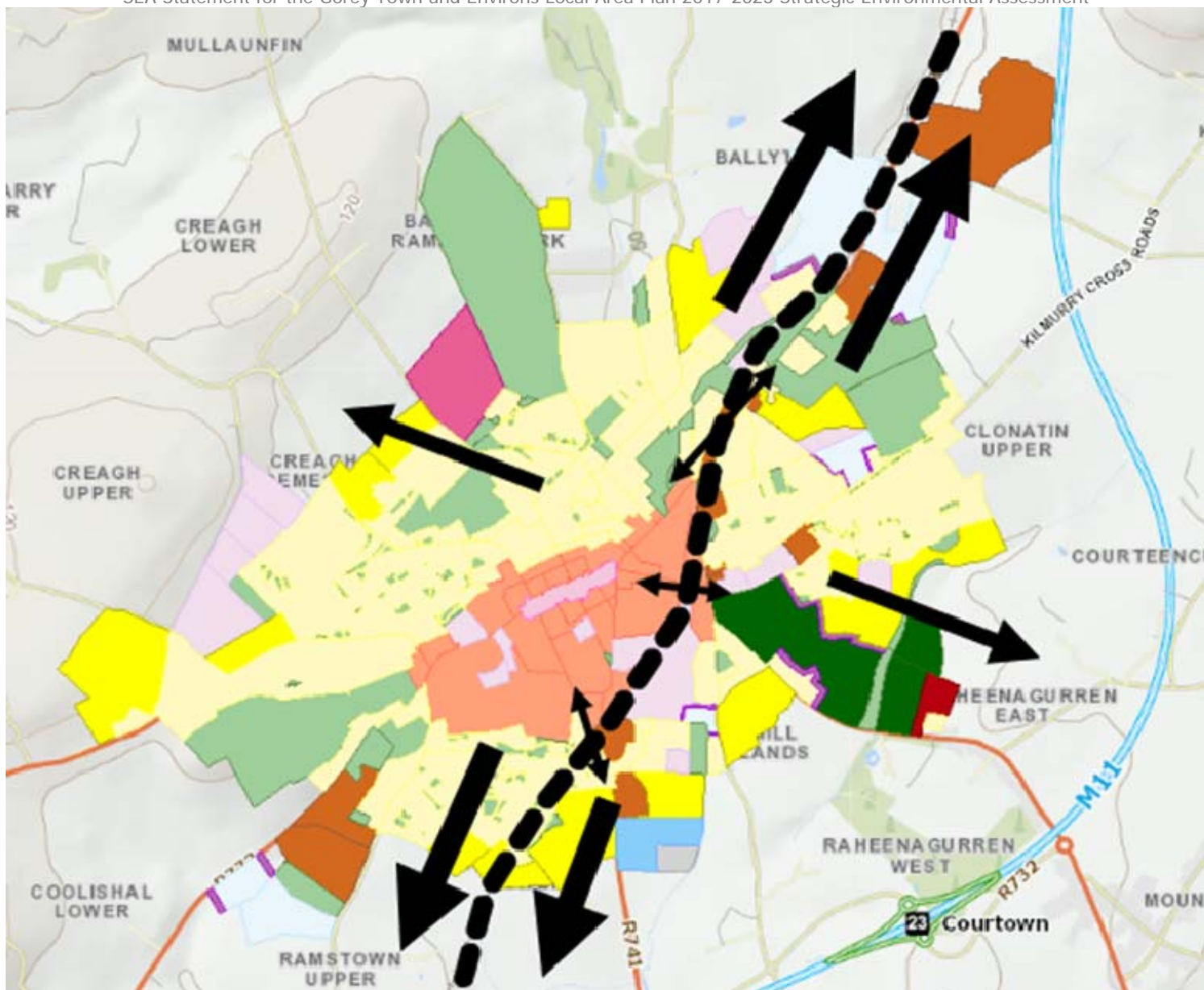


Figure 4.1 Alternative A: Concentric development ignoring the barrier provided by the rail line

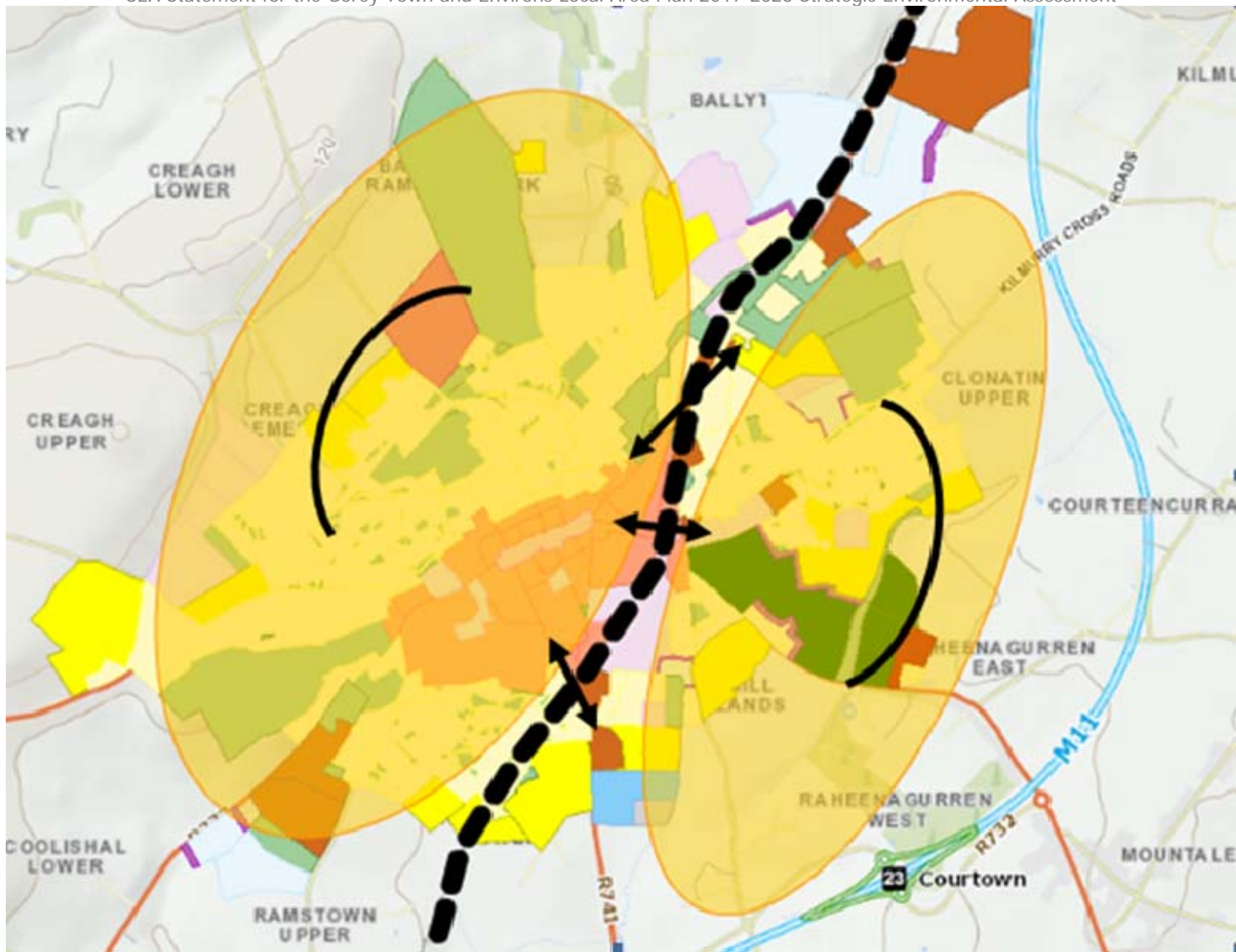


Figure 4.2 Alternative B: Skewed concentric development



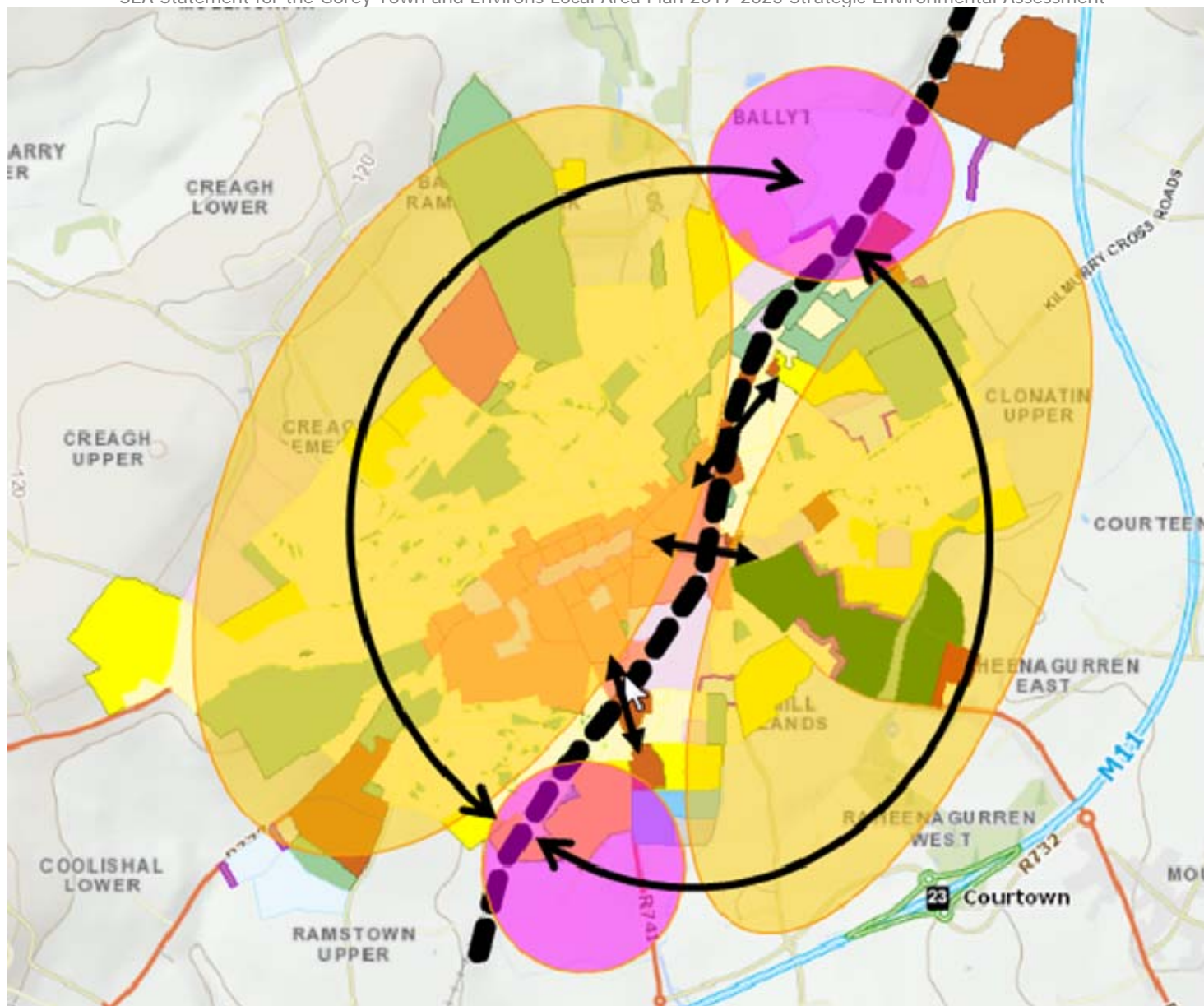


Figure 4.3 Alternative B1: Skewed concentric development with strategic reserve to secure long-term linkages

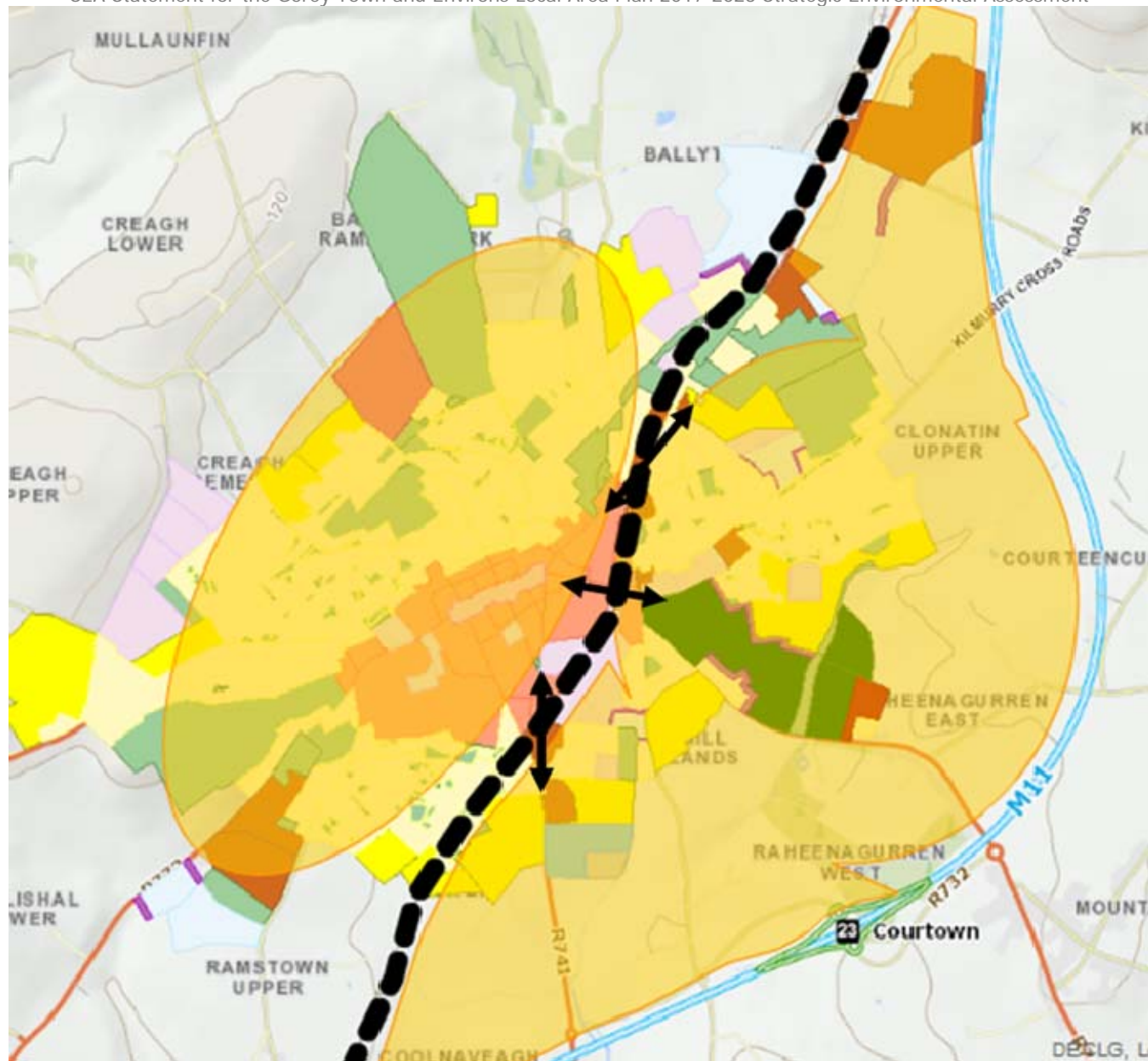


Figure 4.4 Alternative C: Development right up to motorway

## 4.3 Evaluation of Alternatives

### 4.3.1 Significant Positive Effects Common to all Alternatives

The Gorey town and environs area contains relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and designations and has capacity in transport and wastewater services. By providing for growth and development in this area, each of the four alternative development strategies would be likely to contribute towards a reduced need to develop more sensitive towns and rural and coastal areas elsewhere in the County and wider region. This would be likely to result in significant positive environmental effects on the following environmental components:

- Biodiversity and flora and fauna
- Population and human health
- Soil (especially soil on greenfield lands)
- Water (status of rivers and groundwater and flooding)
- Material Assets (provision of adequate and appropriate wastewater and drinking water services and waste management)
- Sustainable mobility and associated effects (energy usage and emissions to air including noise and greenhouse gases)
- Cultural Heritage (architectural and archaeological heritage)
- Landscape

### 4.3.2 Potentially Significant Adverse Effects Common to All Alternatives

A number of potentially significant adverse environmental effects that are common to all alternatives and are described on the Table below. For the chosen alternative, these effects are mitigated by measures that have been integrated into the Plan.

**Table 4.2 Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects common to all alternatives**

Environmental Component	Likely Significant Effect, if unmitigated
Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure: loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including Natura 2000 Sites/Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna</li> <li>○ Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects.</li> <li>○ Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species.</li> </ul>
Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Potential interactions if effects upon environmental vectors such as water and air are not mitigated</li> </ul>
Soil (especially soil on greenfield lands)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Damage to the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource.</li> </ul>
Water (including the Banoge River, its tributaries and underlying groundwater)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adverse impacts upon the status of water bodies arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.</li> <li>○ Increase in the risk of flooding.</li> </ul>
Material Assets (it is the function of Irish Water to provide for water services needs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Failure to provide adequate and appropriate wastewater treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>○ Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water that is both wholesome and clean (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts)</li> <li>○ Increases in waste levels</li> </ul>
Air and Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Emissions to air including greenhouse gas emissions and other emissions.</li> </ul>
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities.</li> </ul>
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of the landscape.</li> </ul>

### **4.3.3 Alternative A: Concentric development ignoring the barrier provided by the rail line**

Alternative A would result in a significant amount of conflict with efforts to improve sustainable mobility.

Ignoring the barrier presented by the rail line would increase journey times and would contribute towards increases in levels of unsustainable mobility and associated effects (energy usage and emissions to air including noise and greenhouse gases). This barrier would limit the long-term balanced growth of the town thereby limiting maximisation of positive effects.

This alternative facilitates a high amount of edge development and does not provide for a consolidated, compact urban form. This edge development would have the potential to result in higher levels of environmental conflicts with brownfield development not maximised and unnecessary greenfield development occurring on the fringes of the town and environs.

Greenfield development has a greater potential to result in higher levels of direct effects as a result of developing semi-natural lands – such effects include loss of ecology (including non-designated ecology and ecological corridors and stepping stones), visual impacts, the sealing of greenfield soils and threats to the status of waters (which has the potential to interact with aquatic ecology and human health). Greenfield development is less likely to facilitate sustainable mobility. Greenfield development is also less likely to facilitate the enhancement of cultural (archaeological and architectural) heritage and its context in urban areas.

By providing for development that does not take account of the rail barrier and by pushing development out along the approach roads of the town, this alternative would result in pressure on the outer motorway that acts like a ring road to facilitate radial movement due to lack of internal linkages (this would be contrary to the policies contained in the National Planning Roads Guidance documents). This would further contribute towards unsustainable mobility with walkability of the town reduced and development increasingly dispersed.

### **4.3.4 Alternative B: Skewed concentric development with consolidation of town centre**

Alternative B would contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility by recognising the barrier provided by the rail line and making efforts to intensify uses within the existing town centre.

Intensifying uses, by providing for increased density redevelopment of sites within proximity to public transport nodes, and delivering some inner link roads would contribute towards a more consolidated and compact town with associated benefits with respect to sustainable mobility, energy usage and emissions to air including noise and greenhouse gases.

Associated with a consolidated and compact town is lower levels of greenfield development and higher levels of brownfield development. This would have the potential to result in decreased levels of environmental conflicts. Regeneration of town centre sites would have the potential to contribute towards the protection of cultural heritage.

Brownfield development has a greater potential to result in lower levels of direct effects as a result of reducing the need to develop semi-natural greenfield lands – such effects include loss of ecology (including non-designated ecology and ecological corridors and stepping stones), visual impacts, the sealing of greenfield soils and threats to the status of waters (which has the potential to interact with aquatic ecology and human health). Brownfield development is more likely to facilitate both sustainable mobility and enhancement of cultural (archaeological and architectural) heritage and its context in urban areas. Brownfield development is also more likely to conflict, if unmitigated, with concentrations of cultural heritage – as these often occur in urban areas.



The barrier provided by the rail line would limit the long-term balanced growth of the town thereby limiting maximisation of positive effects. These effects include improvements in sustainable mobility and associated effects (energy usage and emissions to air including noise and greenhouse gases) that could be achieved within the town.

#### **4.3.5 Alternative B1: Skewed concentric development with consolidation of town centre and strategic reserve to secure long-term linkages**

Alternative B1 is a variation of Alternative B that secures important linkages to address the severance that the railway line provides. By securing these linkages, Alternative B1 would facilitate a long-term sustainable development and growth of the town and a maximisation of positive effects. These effects include improvements in sustainable mobility and associated effects (energy usage and emissions to air including noise and greenhouse gases) that could be achieved within the town.

#### **4.3.6 Alternative C: Development right up to motorway**

Alternative C would result in a significant amount of conflict with efforts to improve sustainable mobility.

Allowing for a mirrored type development of the town and environs as transected by the railway line, the eastern side of the town would develop at a more rapid rate, right out to the M11 Motorway. This extended area would increase journey times, reduce walkability and contribute towards increases in levels of unsustainable mobility and associated effects (energy usage and emissions to air including noise and greenhouse gases). The barrier provided by the rail line would limit the long-term balanced growth of the town thereby limiting maximisation of those positive effects.

This alternative would result in short trip traffic on the Motorway (this would be contrary to the policies contained in the National Planning Roads Guidance documents). This would further contribute towards unsustainable mobility with walkability of the town reduced and development increasingly dispersed. Major infrastructural investment in new linkages would be required to cater for the movement of cars.

This alternative would have the potential to result in higher levels of environmental conflicts as unnecessary greenfield development on the fringes of the town and environs would occur and brownfield development not maximised would not be maximised. Greenfield development has a greater potential to result in higher levels of direct effects as a result of developing semi-natural lands – such effects include loss of ecology (including non-designated ecology and ecological corridors and stepping stones), visual impacts, the sealing of greenfield soils and threats to the status of waters (which has the potential to interact with aquatic ecology and human health). Greenfield development is less likely to facilitate sustainable mobility. Greenfield development is also less likely to facilitate the enhancement of cultural (archaeological and architectural) heritage and its context in urban areas.

### 4.3.7 Evaluation Against SEOs

Table 4.3 below provides a comparative evaluation of the environmental effects of alternative development strategies against Strategic Environmental Objectives. This is supported by the narrative above and by effects that are common to all alternatives detailed in Section 4.3 above.

**Table 4.3 Comparative Evaluation of Alternative Development Strategies**

Alternative Development Strategy	Likely to <u>Improve</u> status of SEOs to a <u>greater</u> degree	Likely to <u>Improve</u> status of SEOs to an <u>intermediate</u> degree	Likely to <u>Improve</u> status of SEOs to a <u>lesser</u> degree	<u>Least Potential Conflict</u> with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated to greater degree, significant adverse effects <b>less likely</b>	<u>More Potential Conflict</u> with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated to an intermediate degree, significant adverse effects <b>more likely</b>	<u>Most Potential Conflict</u> with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated to lesser degree, significant adverse effects <b>more likely</b>
Alternative Development Strategy A			✓			✓
Alternative Development Strategy B		✓			✓	
Alternative Development Strategy B1	✓			✓		
Alternative Development Strategy C			✓			✓

## 4.4 Reasons for choosing the Plan in light of the other alternatives dealt with

The Alternative Development Strategy for the Draft Plan that emerged from the planning/SEA process is Alternative Development Strategy B1.

This strategy has been developed by the Planning Team and adopted as the Plan by the Council having regard to both:

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

The Land Use Zoning map from the Plan that evolved from and which is generally consistent with Alternative Development Strategy B1 is shown on Figure 4.5 overleaf.

By complying with appropriate mitigation measures - including those that have been integrated into the Plan (see Table 2.1) – potentially significant adverse environmental effects that could arise as a result of implementing the Plan would be likely to be avoided, reduced or offset.

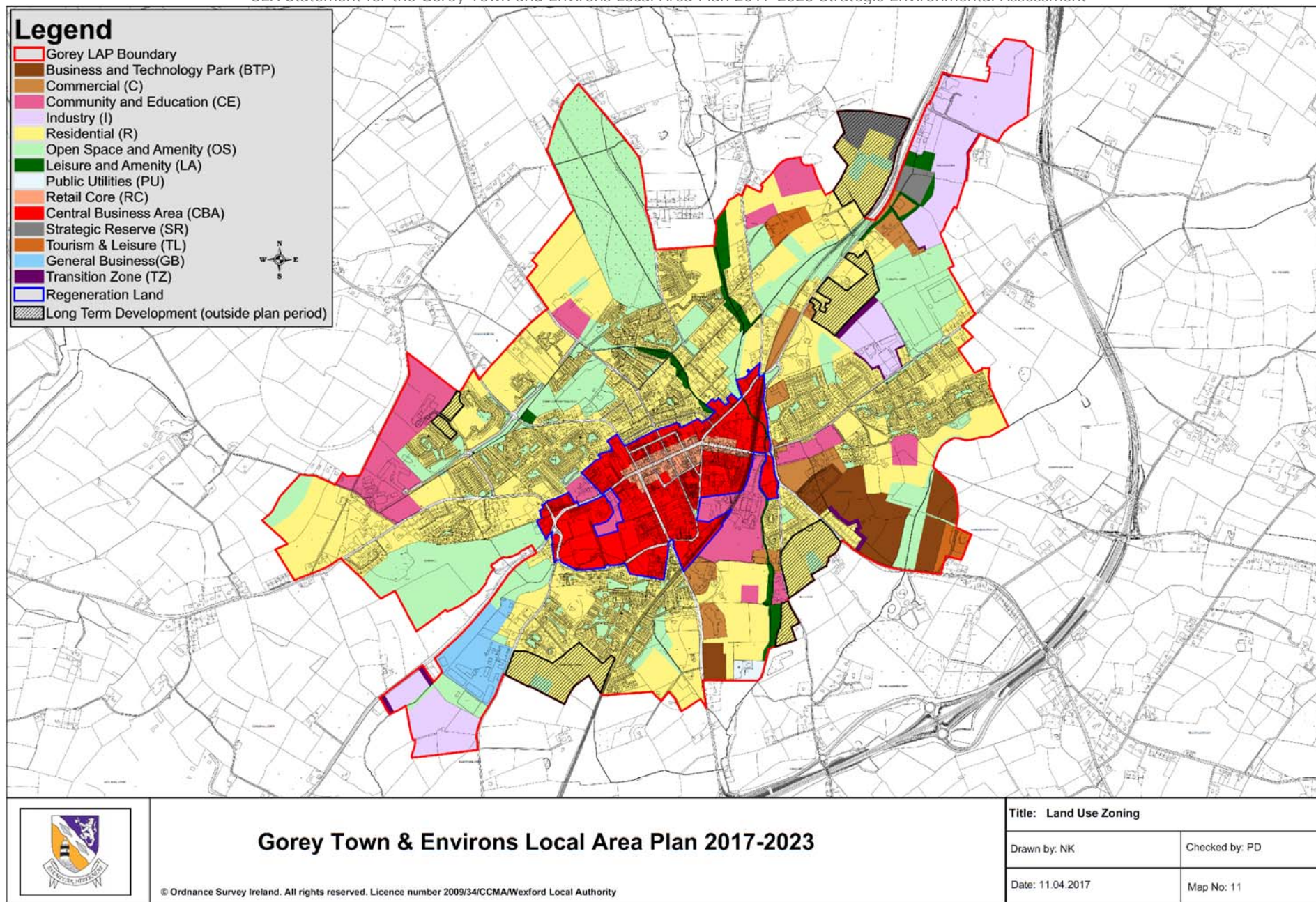


Figure 4.5 The Plan Land Use Zoning Map

## Section 5 Monitoring Measures

### 5.1 Introduction

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

Monitoring can enable, at an early stage, the identification of unforeseen adverse effects and the undertaking of appropriate remedial action.

### 5.2 Indicators and Targets

Monitoring is based around indicators that allow quantitative measures of trends and progress over time relating to the Strategic Environmental Objectives identified in the SEA Environmental Report. Each indicator to be monitored is accompanied by the target(s) which were identified with regard to the relevant strategic actions.

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

The Monitoring Programme may be updated to deal with specific environmental issues - including unforeseen effects - as they arise. Such issues may be identified by the Council or identified to the Council by other agencies.

### 5.3 Sources

Measurements for indicators generally come from existing monitoring sources. Existing monitoring sources include those maintained by the Council and the relevant authorities e.g. the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Central Statistics Office.

Internal monitoring of the environmental effects of grants of permission in the Council will provide monitoring of various indicators and targets on a grant of permission by grant

of permission<sup>2</sup> basis. Where significant adverse effects - including positive, negative, cumulative and indirect - have the potential to occur upon, for example, entries to the RMP, entries to the RPS or ecological networks as a result of the undertaking of individual projects or multiple individual projects such instances should be identified and recorded and should feed into the monitoring evaluation.

### 5.4 Reporting

A stand-alone Monitoring Report on the significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan will be prepared before in advance of the beginning of the review of the Plan. This report should address the indicators set out below.

The Council is responsible for the ongoing review of indicators and targets, collating existing relevant monitored data, the preparation of monitoring evaluation report(s), the publication of these reports and, if necessary, the carrying out of corrective action.

### 5.5 Thresholds

Thresholds at which corrective action will be considered include:

- The occurrence of flood events;
- Court cases taken by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs regarding impacts upon archaeological heritage including entries to the RMP;
- Complaints received from statutory consultees regarding avoidable environmental impacts resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan;
- Boil notices on drinking water; and
- Fish kills.

<sup>2</sup> The likely significant effects of development proposals on environmental sensitivities are further determined during the development management process. By documenting this determination (e.g. whether a proposed development will impact upon a Protected Structure or whether a proposed development can be adequately served with water services) while granting permissions, or at a later date, the requirement to monitor the effects of implementing the Plan can be achieved.

**Table 5.1 Selected Indicators, Targets and Monitoring Sources**

<b>Environmental Component</b>	<b>Selected Indicator(s)</b>	<b>Selected Target(s)</b>	<b>Source (Frequency)</b>
<b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b>	B1: Conservation status of habitats and species as assessed under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive	Maintenance of favourable conservation status for all habitats and species protected under national and international legislation to be unaffected by implementation of the Plan <sup>3</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant).</li> <li>Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht report of the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive - as required by Article 17 of the Directive (every 6 years).</li> <li>Consultations with the NPWS (at monitoring evaluation - see Section 5.4).</li> </ul>
	B2: Percentage loss of functional connectivity without remediation resulting from development provided for by the Plan	B2: No significant ecological networks or parts thereof which provide functional connectivity to be lost without remediation resulting from development provided for in the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant).</li> <li>CORINE mapping resurvey (every c. 5 years).</li> </ul>
	B3i: Number of significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites resulting from development provided for by the Plan B3ii: Number of significant impacts on the protection of species listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife Act 1976	B3i: Avoid significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites resulting from development provided for by the Plan B3ii: No significant impacts on the protection of species listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife Act 1976	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant).</li> <li>Consultations with the NPWS (at monitoring evaluation - see Section 5.4).</li> </ul>
<b>Population and Human Health</b>	PHH1: Occurrence (any) of a spatially concentrated deterioration in human health arising from environmental factors resulting from development provided for by the Plan, as identified by the Health Service Executive and Environmental Protection Agency	PHH1: No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultations with EPA and Health Service Executive (at monitoring evaluation - see Section 5.4).</li> </ul>
<b>Soil</b>	S1: Soil extent and hydraulic connectivity	S1: To minimise reductions in soil extent and hydraulic connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant).</li> </ul>

<sup>3</sup> Except as provided for in Section 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

- (a) no alternative solution available;
- (b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and
- (c) adequate compensatory measures in place.



Environmental Component	Selected Indicator(s)	Selected Target(s)	Source (Frequency)
<b>Water</b>	W1: 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)	W1: Not to cause deterioration in the status of any surface water or affect the ability of any surface water to achieve 'good status' <sup>4</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant).</li> <li>Data issued under the Water Framework Directive Monitoring Programme for Ireland.</li> </ul>
	W2: Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC	W2: Not to affect the ability of groundwaters to comply with Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant).</li> <li>Data issued under the Water Framework Directive Monitoring Programme for Ireland (multi-annual).</li> </ul>
	W3: Number of incompatible 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 The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant).</li> </ul>
<b>Material Assets</b>	M1: Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately and appropriately served with wastewater treatment over the lifetime of the Plan	M1: All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately and appropriately served by wastewater treatment over the lifetime of the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant).</li> </ul>
	M2: 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 as a result of implementing the Plan	M2: 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EPA The Provision and Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland reports (multi-annual).</li> <li>EPA Remedial Action List (every quarter).</li> </ul>
	M3i: Total collected and brought household waste	M3i: Minimise increases in and, where possible, reduce household waste generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EPA National Waste Reports</li> <li>EPA Ireland's Environment Reports</li> </ul>
	M3ii: Packaging recovered (t) by self-complying packagers	M3ii: Maximise increases in packaging recovered (t) by self-complying packagers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EPA Ireland's Environment Reports</li> </ul>
<b>Air and Climatic Factors</b>	C1: Percentage of population travelling to work, school or college by public transport or non-mechanical means	C1: An increase in the percentage of the population travelling to work, school or college by public transport or non-mechanical means	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSO Population Data (every c. 5 years).</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	CH1: Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places - and the context these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant - protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	CH1: Protect entries to the Record of Monuments and Places - and the context of these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant - protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant).</li> <li>Consultation with Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (at monitoring evaluation - see Section 5.4).</li> </ul>
	CH2: Percentage of entries to the Record of Protected Structures and their context protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	CH2: Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures and their context from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant).</li> <li>Consultation with Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (at monitoring evaluation - see Section 5.4).</li> </ul>
<b>Landscape</b>	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant).</li> </ul>

<sup>4</sup> Good status as defined by the WFD equates to approximately Q4 in the current national scheme of biological classification of rivers, as set out by the EPA.

# SEA ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

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FOR THE

## GOREY TOWN AND ENVIRONS LOCAL AREA PLAN 2017 - 2023

**for: Wexford County Council**

County Hall,  
Carricklawn,  
Wexford.



**by: CAAS Ltd.**

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, The Courtyard  
25 Great Strand Street  
Dublin 1



**APRIL 2017**

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## List of Abbreviations

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

# 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 strategic action or project, alone and in combination with other strategic actions and projects, on the integrity of a European site in view of its conservation objectives.

## Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna

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

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

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

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

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

## Environmental Vectors

Environmental vectors are environmental components, such as air, water or soil, through which contaminants or pollutants, which have the potential to cause harm, can be transported 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 and Development Act 2000 as amended to define a structure included by a planning authority in its Record of Protected Structures. Such a structure shall not be altered or demolished in whole or part without obtaining planning permission or confirmation from the planning authority that the part of the structure to be altered is not protected.

## **Recorded Monument**

A monument included in the list and marked on the map that 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 that have so far been identified.

## **Scoping**

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

## **Strategic Actions**

Strategic actions include: Policies/Strategies, 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 developed from policies which generally govern environmental protection objectives established at international, Community or Member State level and are used as standards against which the provisions of the Plan and the alternatives can be evaluated in order to help identify which provisions would be likely to result in significant environmental effects and where such effects would be likely to occur, if - in the case of adverse effects - unmitigated.

# **Section 1 SEA Introduction and Background**

## **1.1 Introduction and Terms of Reference**

This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report for the Gorey Town and Environs Local Area Plan 2017-2023. The SEA has been undertaken by CAAS Ltd. on behalf of Wexford County Council.

The purpose of this report is to provide a clear understanding of the likely environmental consequences of decisions regarding the adoption and implementation of the Plan. The SEA is carried out in order to comply with the provisions of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004) as amended. This report should be read in conjunction with the Local Area Plan.

## **1.2 SEA Definition**

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

## **1.3 SEA Directive and its transposition into Irish Law**

Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27<sup>th</sup> June 2001, on the Assessment of the

Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment, 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 (Statutory Instrument Number (SI No. 435 of 2004) and the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004). Both sets of Regulations became operational on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2004. The Regulations have been amended by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 200 of 2011) and the Planning and Development (SEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 201 of 2011).

## **1.4 Implications for the Local Area Plan and the Planning Authority**

Article 3 of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004) as amended requires that SEA is carried out for Local Area Plans where the population of the Plan area is 5,000 persons or more. The Plan area has a population that exceeds this threshold therefore full SEA must be undertaken.

The findings of the SEA are expressed in this Environmental Report. This report has been altered to take account of both: recommendations contained in submissions; and alterations that were made to the Plan on foot of submissions. Elected Members of Wexford County Council have taken into account the findings of this report and other related SEA output during their consideration of the Draft Plan and before its adoption. An SEA Statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan is prepared at the end of the process.

## Section 2 The Local Area Plan

### 2.1 Plan Format

The Gorey Towns and Environs Local Area Plan (LAP) 2017-2023 consists of a single document, comprising of a written statement and associated maps.

The written statement is made up of 10 sections as follows:

- Section 1 Introduction;
- Section 2 Population, Housing and Social Infrastructure Delivery;
- Section 3 Urban Design Strategy;
- Section 4 Access and Movement Strategy;
- Section 5 Greener Gorey - Open Space, Recreation and Green Infrastructure Strategy;
- Section 6 Economic Development Strategy;
- Section 7 Town Centre Development and Regeneration;
- Section 8 Retail;
- Section 9 Heritage;
- Section 10 Climate Change, Flood Risk Management and Services; and
- Section 11 Land Use Zoning and Matrix.

### 2.2 Statutory Context

The LAP has been prepared in accordance with Sections 18 to 20 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

LAPs are required to be consistent with the policies and objectives of the County Development Plan and its Core Strategy, as well as the Regional Planning Guidelines that apply to the area of the Plan.

The LAP should be read in conjunction with the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019, which sets out the overarching development strategy for the County.

Where any provisions of the LAP conflict with the provisions of the County Development Plan, the provisions of the LAP shall cease to have effect.

### 2.3 Vision for Gorey

Wexford County Council's vision for the town is as follows:

*By 2023 Gorey Town will be a high quality, green, well connected town with a compact, walkable urban form. It will have a network of sustainable neighbourhoods that are socially inclusive and desirable places to live. Gorey Town will have high quality sustainable jobs and it will be an attractive place to live in, to visit and to enjoy its high quality public realm, its vibrant arts and culture and its bustling town centre and premier retailing services.*

### 2.4 Key Principles

The key principles for achieving the Vision are to:

- Require high quality and people friendly design.
- Continue to develop Gorey as a thriving and attractive town with a vibrant mix of uses.
- Continue to develop the town as a premier retail destination.
- Continue to improve the public realm so that the town is an attractive place to live, work and visit.
- Prioritise local economic and employment development.
- Continue to ensure that adequate provision is made for childcare, educational and recreational facilities.
- Improve the movement, connectivity and legibility within the plan area for users of all forms of transport, in particular pedestrians and cyclists.
- Require high quality accessible public open spaces and continue to provide a network of public open spaces at appropriate locations in the plan area.
- Protect natural, built and cultural heritage
- Maximise the benefits of biodiversity and enhance the green infrastructure network in the area.

The Council is committed to delivering this vision of the town through working in



partnership with the local community and local organisations, and through promoting the policies and objectives contained in both the LAP, and future LAPs.

## **2.5 Relationship with other relevant Plans and Programmes**

### **2.5.1 Introduction**

The Plan sits within a hierarchy of strategic actions such as plans and programmes and is subject to a number of high-level environmental protection policies and objectives with which it must comply (including those detailed below and in Appendix I, Section 4 and Section 9 of this report).

As required by the Act, the Plan is consistent, in so far as is practicable, with such national plans, policies and strategies as the Minister determines relate to proper planning and sustainable development. The Plan may, in turn, guide lower level strategic actions. In this regard, Appendix I includes statutory provisions, plans, policies and strategies that set the context within which the Plan is framed and which have influenced the strategies and objectives of the Plan.

### **2.5.2 The National Spatial Strategy**

The National Spatial Strategy (NSS) is designed to achieve a better balance of social, economic, physical development and population growth between regions. This will be achieved through closer matching of where people live and where they work. The focus is on people, places and on building communities.

The key to the successful implementation of the NSS in the South-East Region is the formation of a strategic growth triangle with Waterford City as the Gateway, supported by Wexford and Kilkenny as hubs. Enniscorthy, New Ross and Gorey are recognised as important urban centres providing a range of services and opportunities for employment, whilst smaller towns and villages throughout the County will act as a focus for social and economic activity as well as housing.

### **2.5.3 Regional Planning Guidelines for the South-East Region 2010-2022**

The Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) set out a long-term strategic planning framework for the development of the South-East Region up to 2022. The South-East Region is divided into six smaller sub-areas. Gorey Town is located within Sub-Area 'North County Wexford'. The principal issues associated with this area are:

- Strong population growth-influence of the Greater Dublin Area is present.
- Strong physical links to Dublin and the Mid-East Regions.
- Demographic implications for the rest of the County and the Hub at Wexford Town.
- Tourism development to be facilitated.
- Urban sprawl to be controlled and monitored.
- Sensitive coastal landscapes.

The RPGs designate Gorey Town as a 'Larger Town'. The town has recently experienced high levels of population growth and the RPGs highlight that while the town will continue to be an attractive location for new residential development, care must be taken to ensure that the continued expansion of the town is more measured to ensure that community, social and retail development keep pace with recent rapid phases of mainly residential development.

The RPGs outline that the potential of these Larger Towns to support sustainable economic activity will need to be supported by the development of Industrial Estates and Enterprise Parks. The RPGs also highlight the importance of promoting town centres as the primary locations for retail activity and the role of the retail sector in employment and economic growth.

### **2.5.4 Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019**

The Core Strategy in the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019 sets out the settlement strategy and settlement hierarchy for the County and allocates population targets to the different levels in the hierarchy.

The Settlement Hierarchy reinforces Gorey Town's designation as a 'Larger Town' in the RPGs. The development approach for Gorey Town is to accommodate measured growth in the town, consolidating the existing pattern of development and ensuring that it does not grow to an inappropriate scale or suffer from overdevelopment. The focus will be on encouraging and facilitating the further development of physical and social infrastructure for the town. While there will be support for economic activity through the development of industrial estates, enterprise parks and district enterprise centres, Gorey will support the role of the Wexford Town Hub rather than competing with it.

### **2.5.5 Wexford Local Economic and Community Plan**

The enhanced role of Wexford County Council in economic development and community development is envisaged in the County's first Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). The purpose of the LECP is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of County Wexford. The LECP will be delivered by Wexford County Council, the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and through partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.

### **2.5.6 River Basin Management Plans**

Local Authorities, including Wexford County Council, have prepared the South Eastern River Basin Management Plan that is implemented in order to help protect and improve waters in the town and wider River Basin District. The Plan and associated Programme of Measures includes provisions to

help ensure that water bodies in the district meet the objectives of the Water Framework Directive.

### **2.5.7 Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Studies**

Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Studies are being undertaken for the South Eastern International River Basin District by the Office of Public Works.

The study is focusing on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. The final output from the study is a CFRAM Plan, to be finalised in 2017. The Plan will define the current and future flood risk in the River Basin District and set out how this risk can be managed.

## Section 3 SEA Methodology

### 3.1 Introduction to the Iterative Approach

This section details how the SEA has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan. Figure 3.1 lays out the main stages in the Plan/SEA preparation process.

The Plan and associated SEA, Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) documents were prepared in an iterative manner whereby multiple revisions of each document were prepared, each informing subsequent iterations of the others.

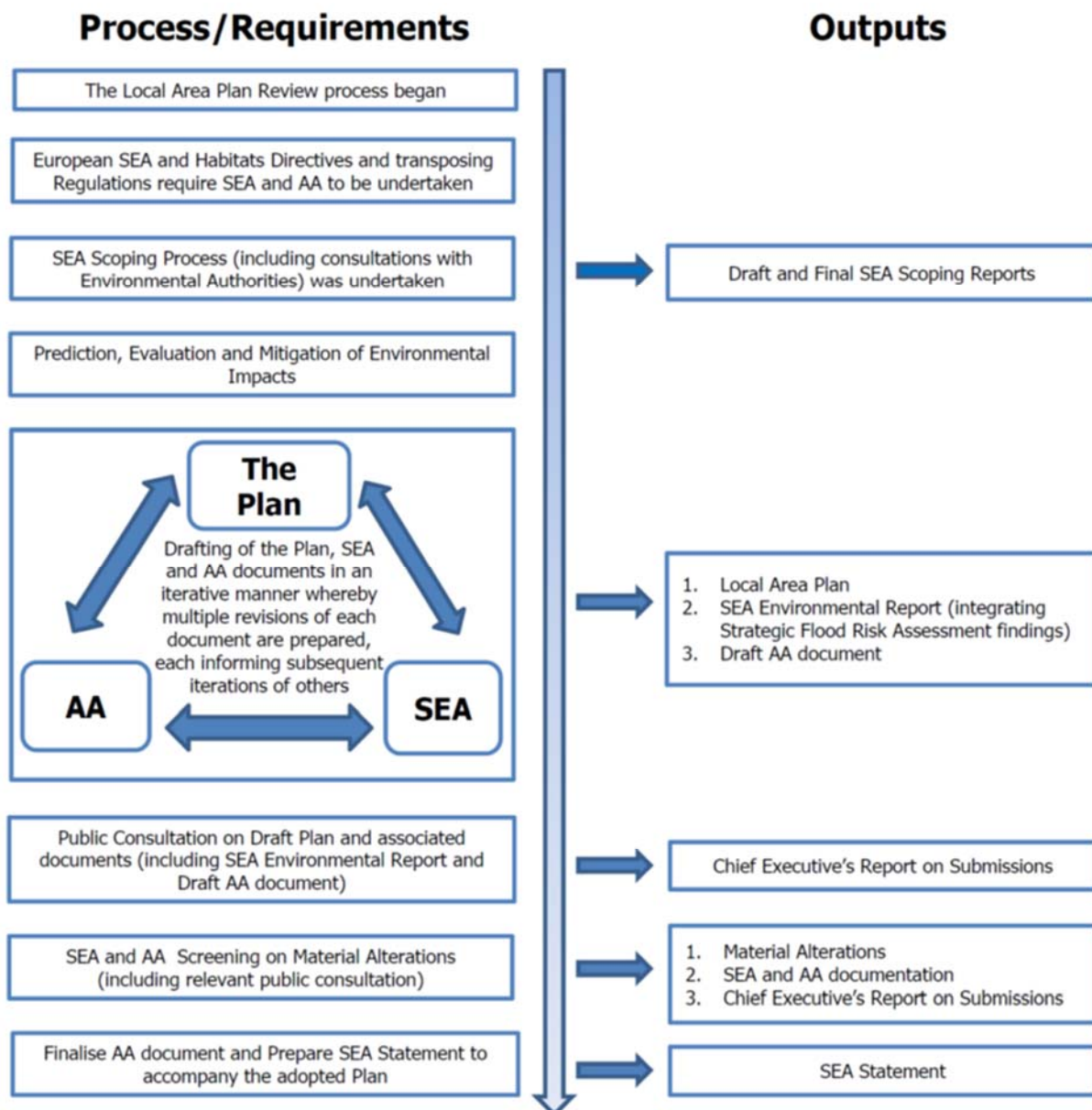


Figure 3.1 Gorey Town and Environs Local Area Plan and SEA, AA and SFRA Stages

## 3.2 Appropriate Assessment and Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment

### 3.2.1 Appropriate Assessment

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan.

The requirement for AA is provided under the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 1992/43/EEC).

The AA Screening concluded that the Plan will not affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 network, consequently further stages of AA were not required.

The preparation of the Plan, SEA and AA has taken place concurrently and the findings of the AA have informed both the Plan and the SEA. All recommendations made by the AA were integrated into the Plan.

## 3.3 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

<sup>L</sup> Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan. The requirement for SFRA is provided under 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DEHLG and OPW, 2009). The preparation of the Plan, SEA and SFRA has taken place concurrently and the findings of the SFRA have informed both the Plan and the SEA.

The SFRA has facilitated the integration of flood risk management considerations into the Plan.

## 3.4 Scoping

### 3.4.1 Introduction

In consultation with the environmental authorities, the scope of environmental issues to be dealt with by the SEA together with the

level of detail to which they are addressed was broadly decided upon taking into account the collection of environmental baseline data and input from environmental authorities. Scoping allowed the SEA to become focused upon key issues relevant to the environmental components that are specified under the SEA Directive<sup>1</sup>.

As the Plan is not likely to have significant effects on the environment in another Member State transboundary consultations as provided for by Article 7 of the SEA Directive were not undertaken.

### 3.4.2 Scoping Notices

All relevant environmental authorities<sup>2</sup> identified under the SEA Regulations as amended, were sent SEA scoping notices by the Council indicating that submissions or observations in relation to the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the environmental report could be made to the Council. Environmental authorities were informed that submissions, or parts of submissions, made on the AA or SFRA would also be taken into account.

### 3.4.3 Scoping Responses

Submissions were made by the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. These submissions influenced the scope of the assessments. These submissions were all taken into account during the undertaking of the SEA, SFRA and AA as relevant.

<sup>1</sup> These components comprise biodiversity, fauna, flora, population, human health, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.

<sup>2</sup> The following authorities were notified (note that the responsibilities and titles of some Departments would have changed since SEA Scoping notices were issued): Environmental Protection Agency; Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources; Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government; Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht; and adjoining planning authorities whose areas are contiguous to the administrative area of Wexford County Council.

### **3.5 Environmental Baseline Data**

The SEA process is informed by the environmental baseline (i.e. the current state of the environment) in order to facilitate the identification and evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the provisions of the Plan and the alternatives and the subsequent monitoring of the effects of implementing the provisions of the Plan.

### **3.6 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. In accordance with this requirement, alternatives are considered in Section 6.

### **3.7 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 were predicted and their significance evaluated.

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

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

The Environmental Report has been updated in order to take account of recommendations contained in submissions and in order to take account of alterations that were made to the original, Draft Plan that was placed on public display.

The Environmental Report is required to contain the information specified in Schedule 2

of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004) as amended (see Table 3.1).

### **3.8 The SEA Statement**

On the making of the Plan by the Council, a SEA Statement has been prepared which will 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 SEA Environmental Report and consultations have been taken into account, summarising the key issues raised in consultations and in the Environmental Report indicating what action was taken in response;
- The reasons for choosing the Plan in the light of the other alternatives, identifying the other alternatives considered, commenting on their potential effects and explaining why the Plan as adopted was selected; and
- The measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementing of the Plan.

### **3.9 Difficulties Encountered**

The lack of a centralised data source that could make all environmental baseline data for the Plan and surrounding areas both readily available and in a consistent format posed a challenge to the SEA process. This difficulty is one that 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 by using Geographical Information Systems.



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

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

## Section 4 Environmental Baseline

### 4.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive requires that the information on the baseline environment focuses on 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 Plan. Being consistent with the strategic provisions of the Plan, this section provides a strategic description of aspects of environmental components that have the greatest potential to be affected by implementation of the Plan, if unmitigated.

Article 5 of the SEA Directive states that the report shall include the information that may *reasonably* be required taking into account:

- Current knowledge and methods of assessment;
- The contents and level of detail in the plan or programme and its stage in the decision-making process; and
- The extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process in order to avoid duplication of the assessment.

What this means in practice is, inter alia, that SEA involves collating currently available, relevant environmental data; it does not require major new research. Where data deficiencies or gaps exist, this should be acknowledged in the report.

With respect to the likely evolution of the environment in the absence of the Plan:

The 2010-2016 Gorey Town and Environs Local Area Plan contains provisions that contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development within Gorey and its surrounding environs.

If the 2010-2016 Plan was to have expired and was not replaced by the new Plan, this would have resulted in a deterioration of the town's planning and environmental protection framework. Although higher-level environmental protection objectives - such as those of the 2013-2019 County Development

Plan and various EU Directives and transposing Irish Regulations – would still apply, the deterioration of this framework would mean that new development would be less coordinated and controlled. Such development would have the potential to result in an increase in the occurrence of adverse effects on all environmental components, especially those arising cumulatively. Cumulative effects occur as a result of the addition of many small impacts to create one larger, more significant, impact.

Such potential adverse effects could include:

- Loss of biodiversity with regard to European Sites/Annexed habitats and species;
- Loss of biodiversity with regard to ecological connectivity and stepping stones;
- Loss of biodiversity with regard to designated sites including Wildlife Sites and species listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife Act 1976;
- Spatially concentrated deterioration in human health;
- Adverse impacts on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource;
- Adverse impacts upon the status of water bodies arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology;
- Increase in the risk of flooding;
- Failure to provide adequate and appropriate wastewater treatment;
- Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water that is both wholesome and clean;
- Increases in waste levels;
- Failure to contribute towards sustainable transport and associated impacts;
- Effects on entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and other archaeological heritage;
- Effects on entries to the Records of Protected Structures and other architectural heritage; and
- Occurrence of adverse visual impacts.

## 4.2 Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna

### 4.2.1 Overview

The areas that are valuable areas to biodiversity within the Plan area include the woodland area at Ramsford Park in the north, various hedgerows and the Banogue and Ballyowen River corridors that traverse the Plan area.

European SitesCandidate 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) by the (former) Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government due to their conservation value for habitats and species of importance in the European Union.

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) have been selected for protection under the 1979 European Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) due to their conservation value for birds of importance in the European Union. SPAs, along with cSACs, comprise Ireland's Natura 2000 network – part of an EU-wide network of protected areas established under the Habitats Directive.

There are no European sites occurring inside the Plan boundary. There is one SPA and three cSACs located within a 15km radius of the plan area. These are shown on Figure 4.1 and are listed on Table 4.1 below.

The Slaney River Valley cSAC is the closest European site to the town and is located to the west, separated by the watershed boundary between the Slaney and Banoge catchments. Other cSACs within 15km are downstream along the County's coastline.

European Sites		
Designation	Code	Site Name
cSAC	000781	Slaney River Valley SAC
cSAC	001742	Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC
cSAC	000700	Cahore Polders And Dunes SAC
SPA	004143	Cahore Marshes SPA

**Table 4.1 European Sites within 15km of the Plan area**

Additional information on European sites is provided in the Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report that accompanies the Plan.

### 4.2.2 Proposed Natural Heritage Area

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 (pNHA) were published on a non-statutory basis in 1995, but have not since been statutorily proposed or designated.

There are no NHAs occurring inside the Plan boundary or within 15km of the Plan area. There are 12 pNHAs within 15km of the Plan area as listed on Table 4.2 and mapped on Figure 4.2. Most of these are situated downstream along the County's coastline. The closest pNHA is the Courtown Dunes and Glen pNHA that is located along the Owenavorrhagh River close to Courtown.

Proposed Natural Heritage Areas		
Designation	Code	Site Name
pNHA	000757	Courtown Dunes and Glen
	000745	Ballymoney Strand
pNHA	001745	Arklow Rock-Askintinny
pNHA	001742	Kilpatrick Sandhills
pNHA	001834	Kilgorman River Marsh
pNHA	001733	Ardamine Wood
pNHA	001737	Donaghmore Sandhills
pNHA	000700	Cahore Polders and Dunes
pNHA	001748	Avoca River Valley
pNHA	001931	Arklow Town Marsh
pNHA	000702	Leskinfere Church, Clogh
pNHA	001736	Cahore Point North Sandhills

**Table 4.2 NHAs and pNHAs within 15km of the Plan area**

### 4.2.3 CORINE Land Cover Mapping

CORINE land cover mapping<sup>3</sup> for Gorey town and surrounding environs for the year 2012 is shown on Figure 4.3.

The main types of land cover in the Plan area are Discontinuous Urban Fabric (indicative of the built area of the town) and Pastures. Smaller areas of Non- irrigated arable land surround the town. Complex cultivation patterns occur to the northeast of the Plan area indicating the various semi-natural habitats used for agriculture outside developed areas. Areas of coniferous and broad-leaved forest are present in the north of the plan area (in the Ramsford Park and Ballytegan Park areas area).

<sup>3</sup> 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 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 at the County level. 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.

### 4.2.4 Ecological Networks and Connectivity

Ecological networks are important in connecting areas of local biodiversity with each other and with nearby designated sites in order to prevent islands of habitat from being isolated entities. They are composed of linear features, such as treelines, hedgerows and rivers/streams, which provide corridors or stepping-stones for wildlife species moving within their normal range. They are important for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of species of flora and fauna particularly for mammals, especially for bats and small birds and facilitate linkages both between and within designated ecological sites, the non-designated surrounding countryside and the town.

Important ecological networks comprise a variety of features including the Banogue and Ballyowen River corridors that traverse the Plan area, various open spaces, hedgerows and the wooded Ramsford Park in the north of the Plan area.

### 4.2.5 Other Protected Species/Habitats

In addition to certain species and habitats already mentioned above, other species are protected under law wherever they occur, such as:

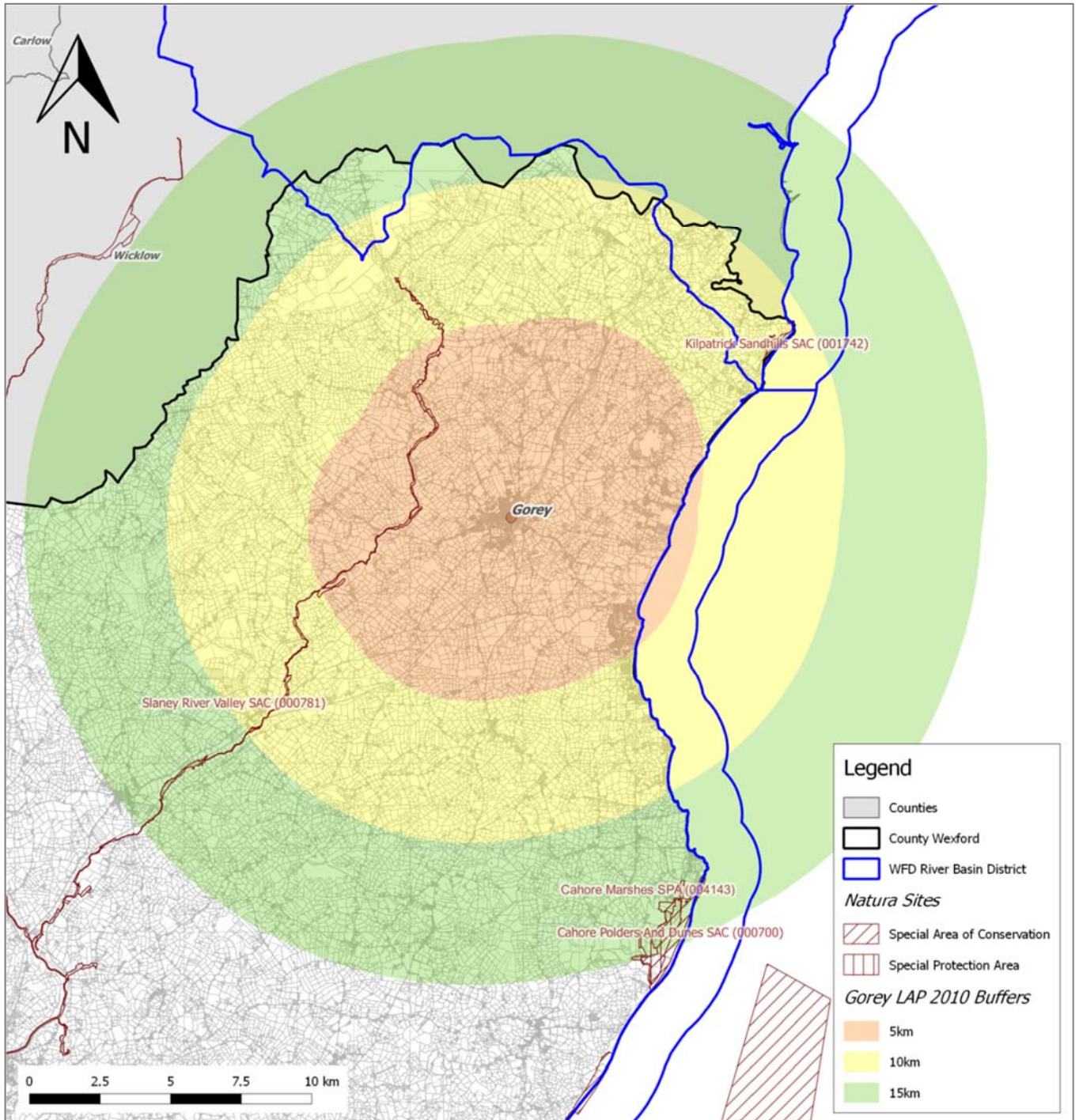
- 'Protected Species and natural habitats' as defined in the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) and European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations 2008 including annexed habitats and species listed under Annexes I, II and IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Annex I of the EU Birds Directive;
- Species/Habitats legally protected under the Flora Protection Order in the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000;
- Other species of flora and fauna and their key habitats which are protected under the Wildlife Acts 1976-2000 including all native mammals; and
- Stepping stones and ecological corridors including nature conservation sites (other than European sites),

habitats and species locations covered  
by Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.

#### **4.2.6 Existing Problems**

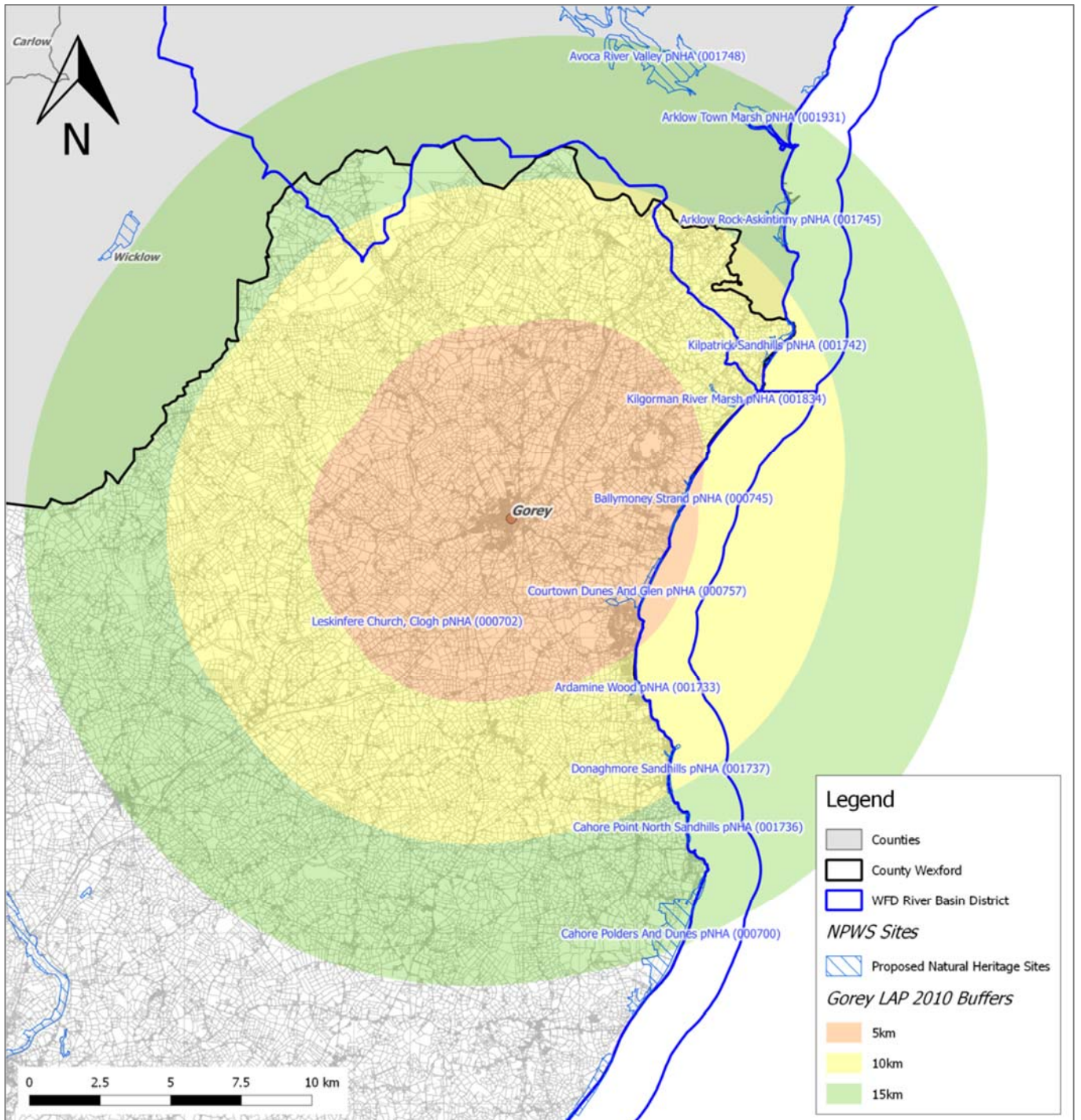
Previous developments such as residential, commercial and transportation have resulted in loss of biodiversity and flora and fauna however, legislative objectives governing biodiversity and fauna were not identified as being currently conflicted with.





**Figure 4.1 cSACs and SPAs in the vicinity of the Plan area**

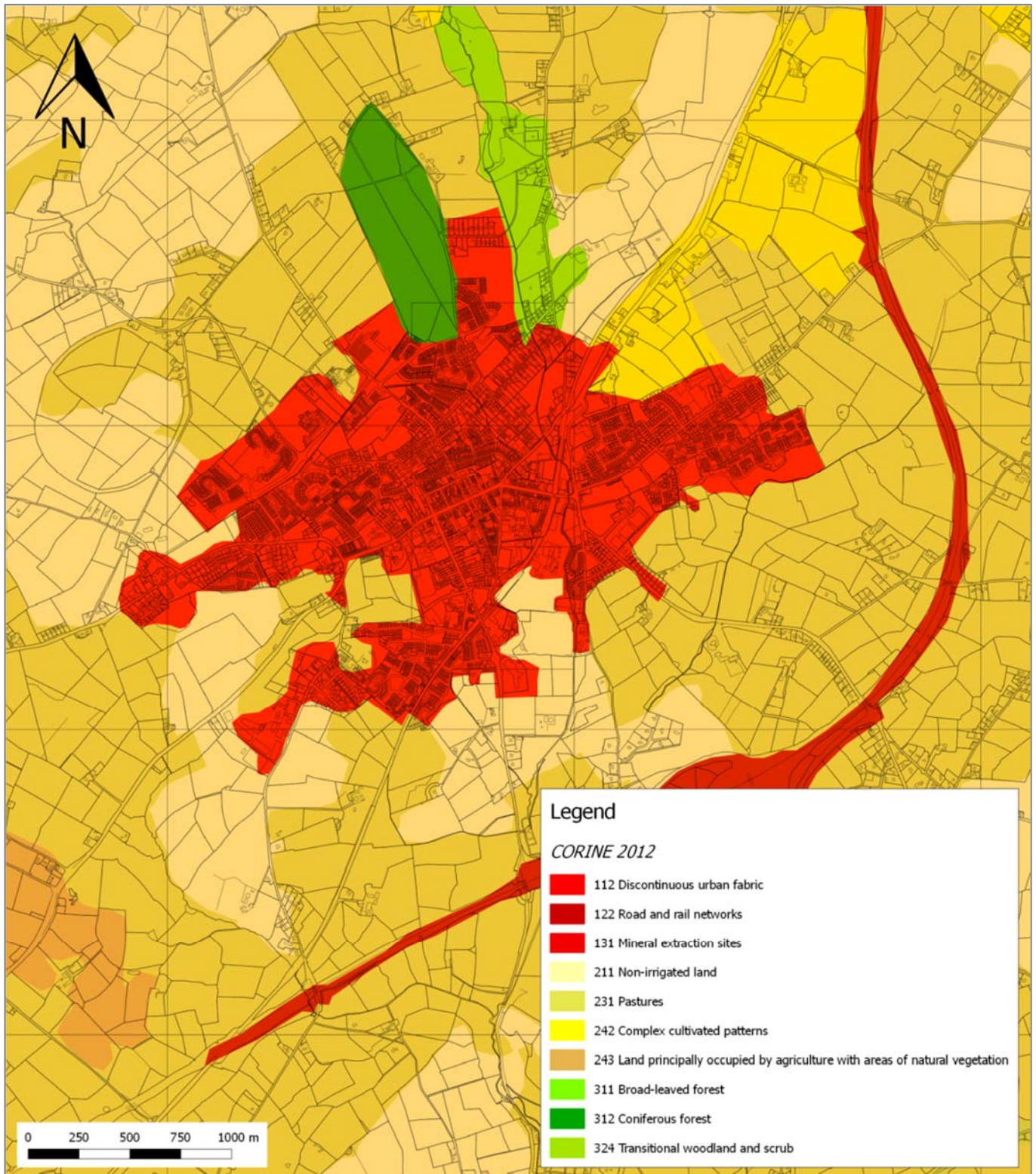
Source: NPWS (datasets downloaded February 2016)



**Figure 4.2 NHAs and pNHAs in the vicinity of the Plan area**

Source: NPWS (datasets downloaded February 2016)





**Figure 4.3 CORINE Land Cover Data 2012**

Source: EPA (2015)

## 4.3 Population and Human Health

### 4.3.1 Population

The Plan area has undergone significant change in its population and demographic profile since 2002. In Census 2002, the population was 5,282 persons. This increased to 7,193 persons in Census 2006 - an increase of 1,911 persons or 36%. The recorded population in Census 2011 was 9,114 persons. This represented an increase of 1,921 persons or 27% since 2006.

The significant increase in population between 2002 and 2011 is largely attributed to the area becoming a popular commuter town for Wicklow and Dublin for reasons including the availability of affordable housing, quality of life and improved transport links.

Gorey experienced a substantial increase in house construction from the mid-1990s to 2006. The demand for new private housing was met by the development of housing schemes in the environs area with the majority of the development occurring to the west of the railway line (to the southwest, northwest and north of the town centre). Clonattin Village developed to the east of the town and railway.

Despite the high level of new residential development in the environs area, the town centre continues to maintain a vibrant residential use and only experienced a 0.5% decline in its population during the period 2006 to 2011.

### 4.3.2 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.

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

Some areas within the Plan area are estimated as having >20% of homes to be above the reference level for Radon (mapping available at <http://www.epa.ie/radiation/radonmap>).

The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has identified lands that are at elevated levels of flood risk within the Plan area.

Compliance issues in relation to water services are detailed under Section 4.7.

### 4.3.3 Existing Problems

Some areas within the Plan area are estimated as having >20% of homes to be above the reference level for Radon (mapping available at <http://www.epa.ie/radiation/radonmap>).

The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan has identified lands that are at elevated levels of flood risk within the Plan area. The SFRA has facilitated the integration of flood risk management considerations into the Plan.

## 4.4 Soil

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

#### **4.4.2 Soil Types**

Soil types, as classified by the EPA, are mapped on Figure 4.4.

The primary underlying soil below the town of Gorey is made soil (coral blue colour) – this reflects the built development of the town. Soil types of surrounding areas comprise a mixture of acid brown earths (red colour), lithosols (pink colour) and surface water gleys (dark blue colour). Alluvial soil (orange colour) indicates areas, which have flooded in the past.

#### **4.4.3 Geological Heritage**

The Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht are in the process of identifying important geological and geomorphological sites in Ireland for designation as NHAs. The sites are being selected under 16 different geological themes with a representative sample to be identified under each theme.

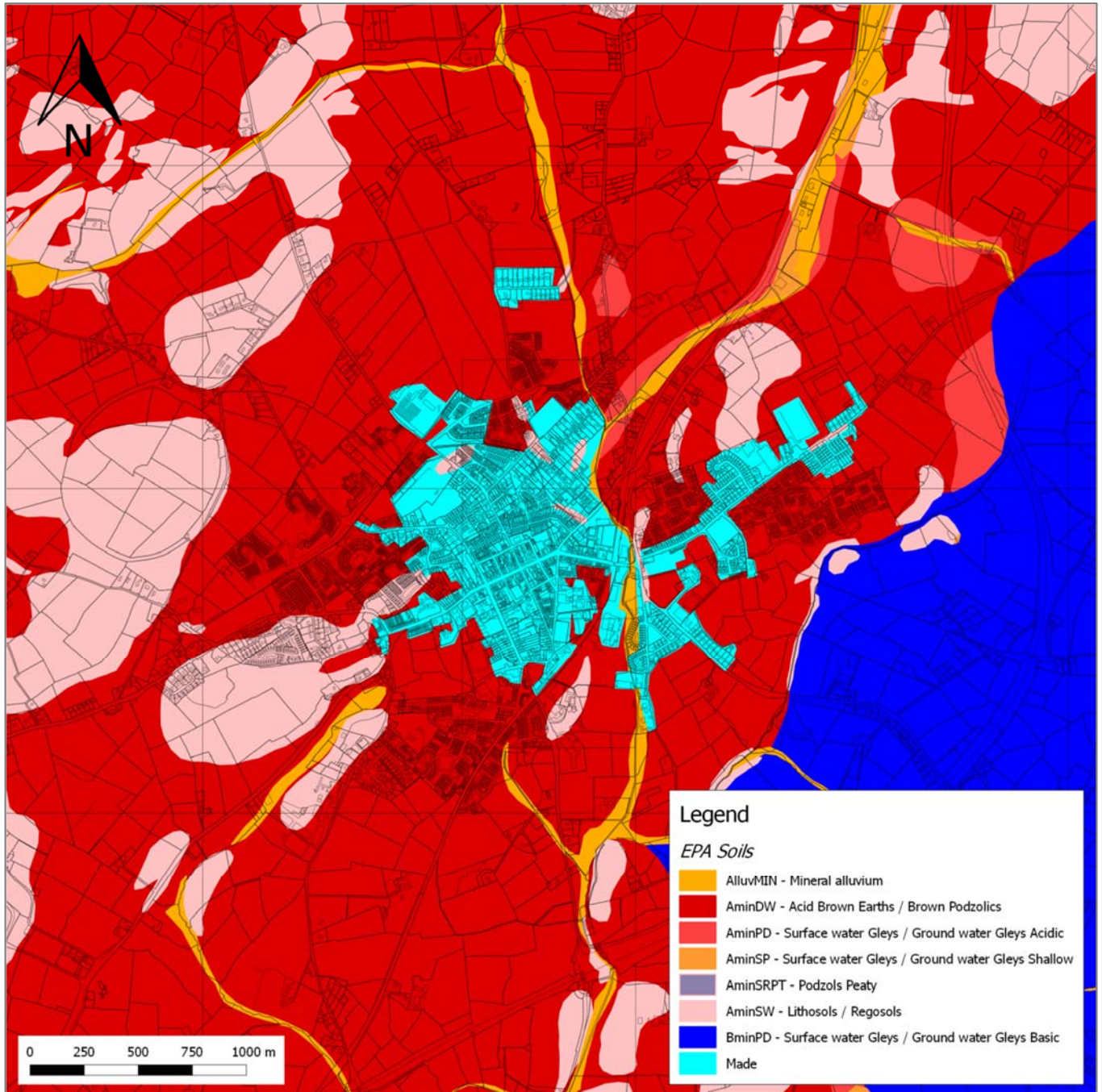
A second tier of County Geological Sites (CGS) are identified for inclusion in development plans in order to receive a measure of recognition and protection through the planning system. The closest County Geological Site in proximity to the Plan area is Ballymoney Strand to the north of Courtown, c. 5km away from the Plan area.

The programme of County Geological Site documentation is an on-going, dynamic process as additional sites may be added through new exposures such as quarrying and road cuttings and through notifications from local community knowledge.

#### **4.4.4 Existing Problems**

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





**Figure 4.4 Soil Type**

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



## 4.5 Water

### 4.5.1 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 wastewater 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.

### 4.5.2 The Water Framework Directive

#### 4.5.2.1 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". All public bodies are required to coordinate their policies and operations to maintain the good status of water bodies that are currently unpolluted and improve polluted water bodies to good status.

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

#### 4.5.2.2 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 is on these River Basin Districts. Gorey Town and its Environs fall within the South Eastern River Basin District.

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 that are in turn divided into specific, clearly defined water bodies.

#### 4.5.2.3 River Basin Management Plans

Local Authorities, including Wexford County Council, have prepared the South Eastern River Basin Management Plan that is

implemented in order to help protect and improve the status of waters.

### 4.5.3 Surface Water

#### 4.5.3.1 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'.

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

Chemical Status is a pass/fail assignment with a failure defined by a face-value exceedance of an Environmental Quality Standards for one or more Priority Action Substances listed in Annex X of the WFD. Good surface water chemical status means that concentrations of pollutants in the water body do not exceed the environmental limit values specified in the Directive.

Information on surface water status for the areas surrounding Gorey Town and its Environs, as currently available from the EPA is shown on Figure 4.5.

The Banoge River is the principal river that flows through the Plan area and its main tributaries are the Ballyowen River and the Clonattin Upper River.

The WFD status of the River Banoge is currently classified as being of *moderate status* upstream of the Regional Road R72 and *poor status* downstream of the Regional Road R72. The Ballyowen River that flows into the Banoge River upstream of the R72 bridge is identified as being of *moderate status*. The Clonattin Upper River that flows into the Banoge River downstream of the R72 bridge is identified as being of *poor status*.

The Banogue flows into the Owenavorrigh River that is classified as being of *moderate status* both upstream and downstream of the town.

The Owenavorrigh Estuary at Courtown is also classified as being of *moderate status* as are the coastal waters in this area.

### 4.5.4 Ground Water

#### 4.5.4.1 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.

#### 4.5.4.2 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.

The WFD status of all groundwater in the Plan area is shown on Figure 4.6 and classified as being of good status, meeting the objectives of the WFD.

#### 4.5.4.3 Aquifer Productivity, Vulnerability and Protection

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

Aquifer vulnerability refers to the ease with which pollutants of various kinds can enter underground water. Figure 4.7 maps aquifer vulnerability for the Plan and surrounding area – much of the area is identified as being of high or moderate vulnerability. A number of areas in the Plan area are identified as having rock at or near the surface, and aquifer vulnerability surrounding these areas is identified as being of extreme vulnerability. Areas to the east of Gorey Town are of low vulnerability.

A regionally important aquifer- fissure bedrock occurs under much of the Plan area,

particularly to the south and southeast. A locally important bedrock aquifer (Moderately Productive only in Local Zones) occurs to the north and northwest of the Plan area.

#### 4.5.5 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).

The groundwater underlying both the town and surrounding area is listed on the RPA for Drinking Water (Groundwater).

#### 4.5.6 Flooding

##### 4.5.6.1 Introduction

Flooding is an environmental phenomenon that, as well as having caused economic and social impacts, could in certain circumstances pose a risk to human health.

##### 4.5.6.2 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 currently being finalised. Flood risk management plans focused on prevention, protection and preparedness are being finalised in 2017. The Office of Public Works has prepared Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) maps that identify areas where the risks associated with flooding might be significant. Gorey has been determined at very low risk and therefore has not been taken forward for development of flood risk management options in the relevant Flood Risk Management Plan.

##### 4.5.6.3 DEHLG Flood Risk Management Guidelines

In 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 land use plans and in the consideration of applications for planning permission.

##### 4.5.6.4 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan. The requirement for SFRA is provided under the Flood Risk Management Guidelines.

The Banoge River is the principal river that flows through the Plan area and its main tributaries are the Ballyowen River and the Clonattin Upper River. The OPW has identified two recurring flood events within the Plan area along the Banoge River at the Gorey Arklow Road railway bridge and at Gorey Garden City. The Council has implemented measures including the installation of piping systems and improved drainage systems that have assisted in alleviating the flooding issue. Areas at risk of flooding adjacent to these watercourses are mapped on Figure 4.8.

The preparation of the Plan, SEA and SFRA has taken place concurrently and the findings of the SFRA have informed both the Plan and the SEA. The SFRA has facilitated the integration of flood risk management considerations into the Plan.

#### 4.5.7 Existing Problems

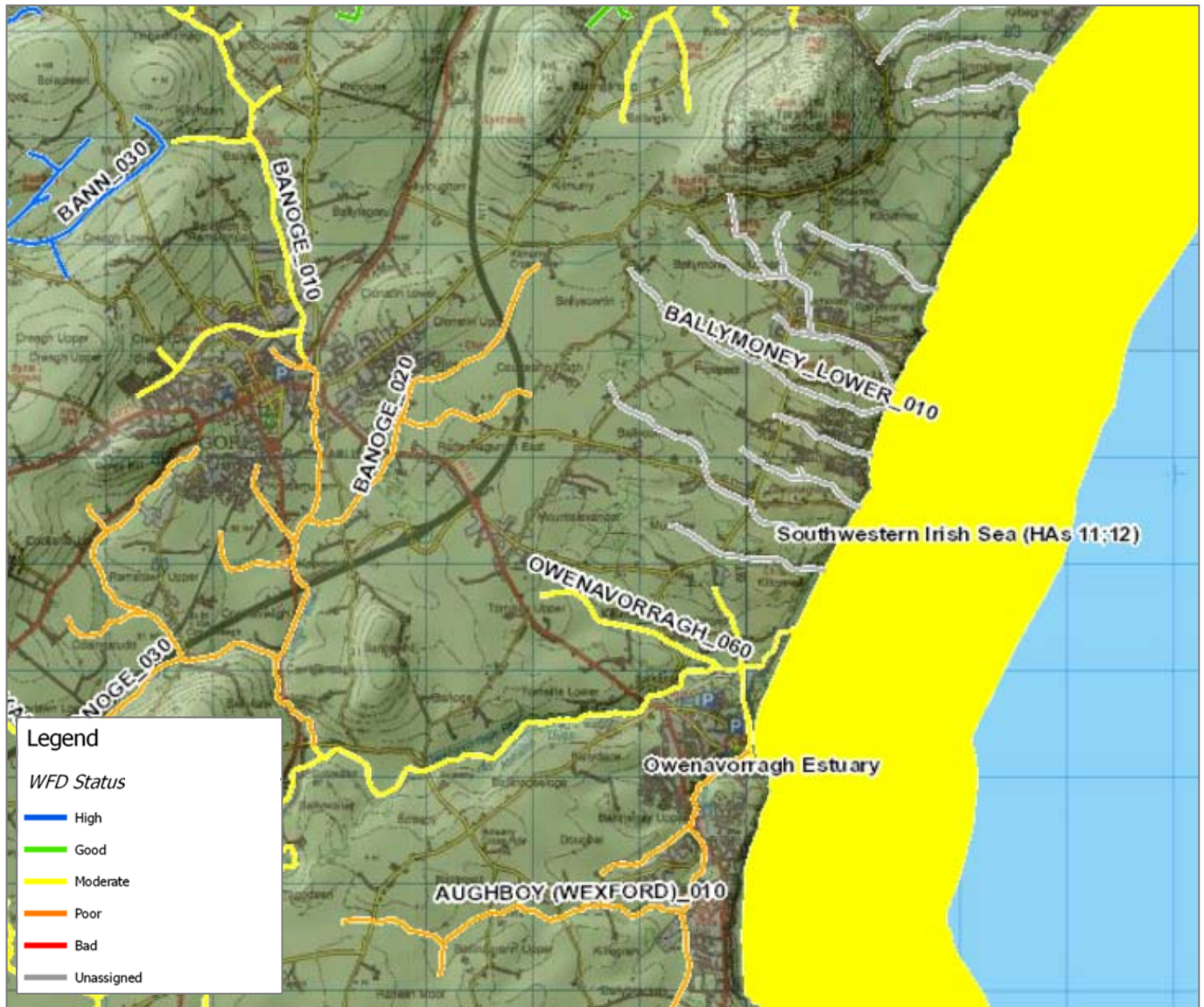
The SFRA has identified lands that are at elevated levels of flood risk within the Plan area and has facilitated the integration of flood risk management considerations into the Plan.

Based on the most recently available information, there are a number of issues with respect to compliance with the objectives of the WFD:

- The WFD status of the River Banoge is currently classified as *moderate* upstream of the town and *poor* downstream of the town.
- The Banogue flows into the Owenavorrage River which is classified

as *moderate* both upstream and downstream of the town.

- The Owenavorrigh Estuary at Courtown is also classified as having *moderate* status as are the coastal waters in this area.



**Figure 4.5 WFD Surface Water Status**

Source: EPA (2011; datasets downloaded February, 2014)

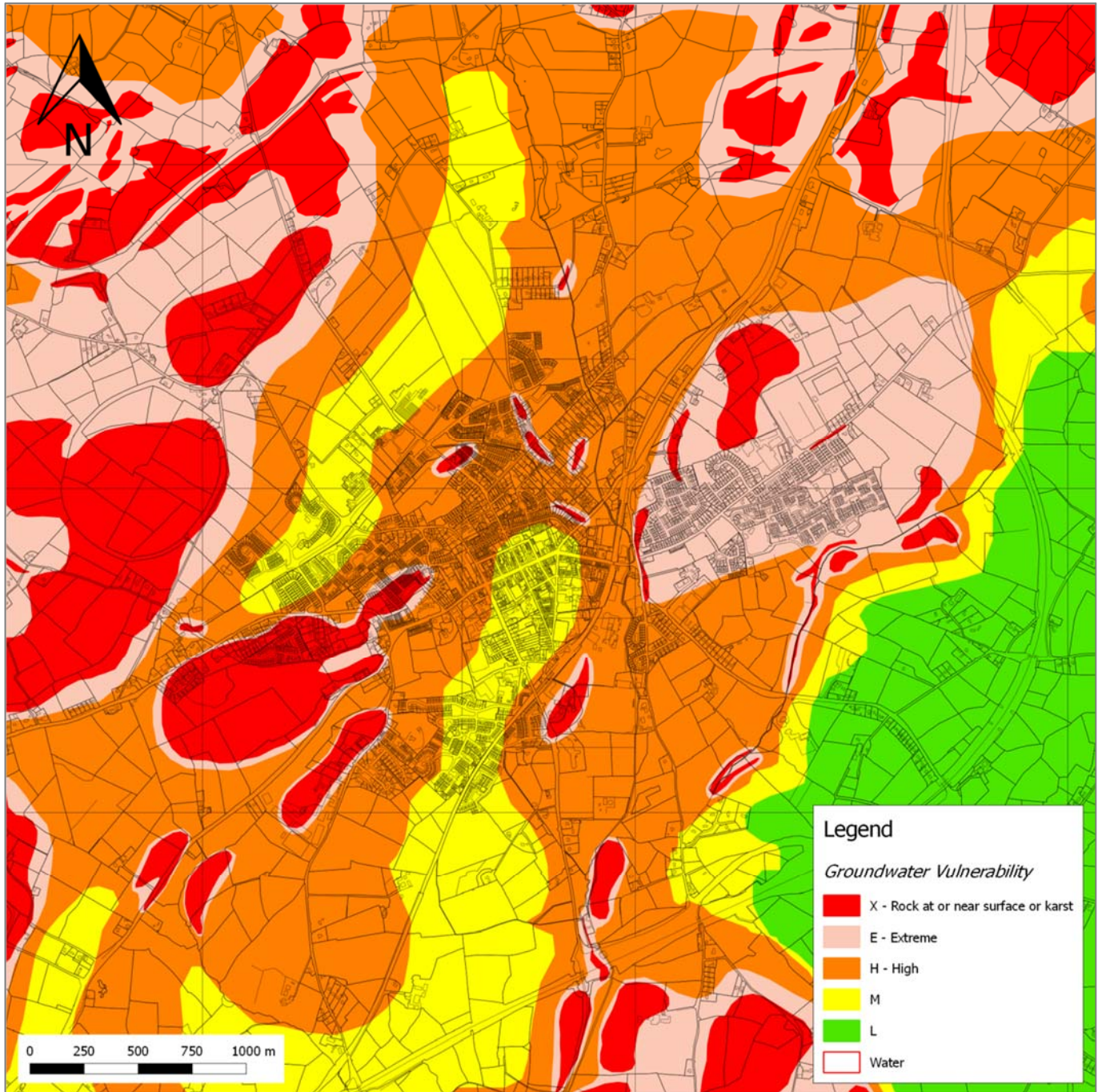




**Figure 4.6 WFD Status of Groundwater**

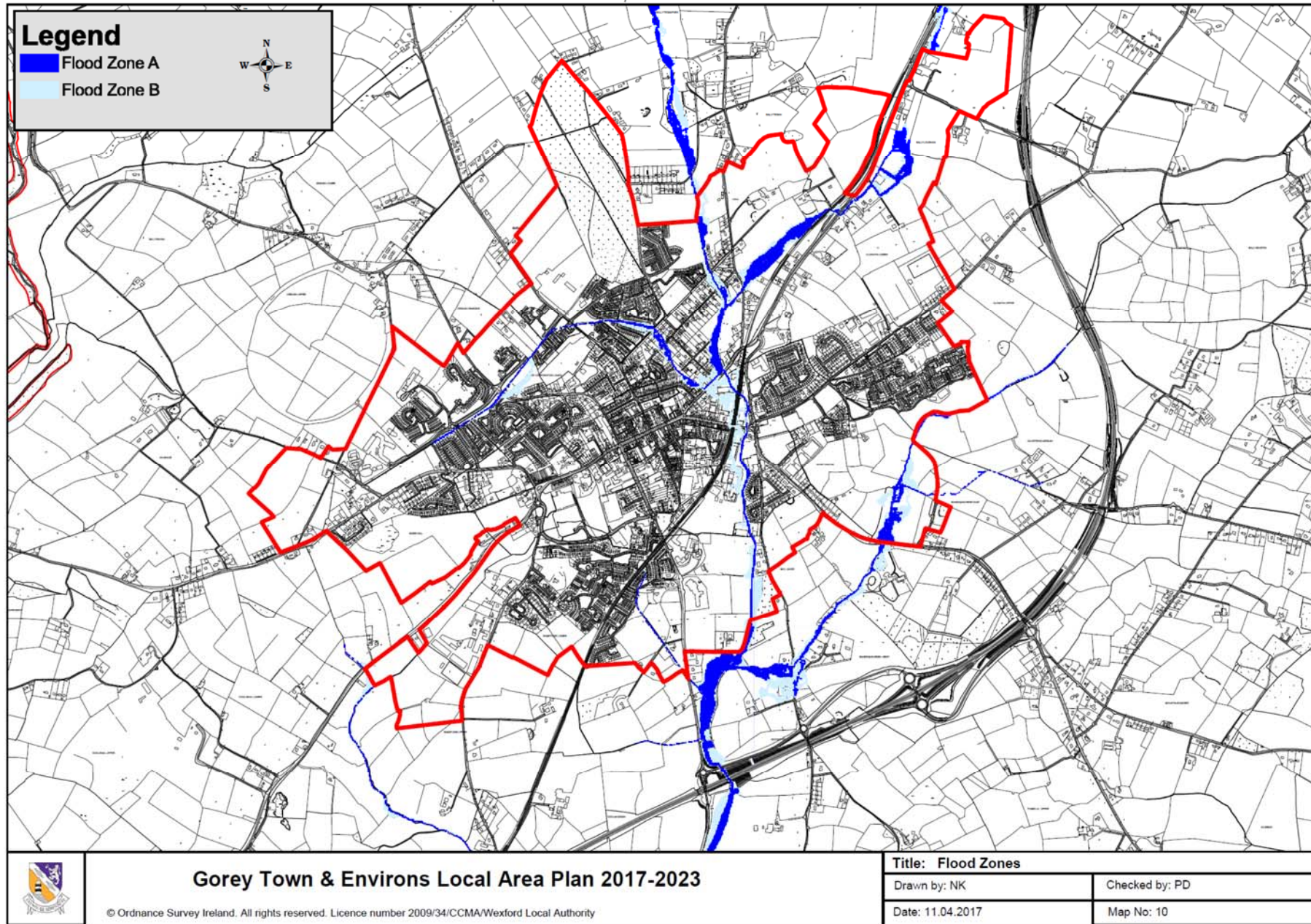
Source: EPA (2011; datasets downloaded March 2015)





**Figure 4.7 Aquifer Vulnerability**  
Source: GSI (2006)





**Figure 4.8 SFRA Flood Mapping**  
Source: SFRA (2016)

## 4.6 Air and Climatic Factors

### 4.6.1 Climatic Factors

The key issue involving the assessment of the effects of implementing the Plan on climatic factors relates to greenhouse gas emissions arising from transport. Climatic factors also interact with flooding (see Section 4.5).

Gorey is a commuter town for Wicklow and Dublin and as such the town's residents have become highly dependent on jobs located outside of the County.

According to an analysis of the 2011 Place of Work Census of Anonymised Records, there were 3,147 people residing in the Gorey settlement area who were classified as being 'At Work'. Of these workers, a total of 38% (1,183) were employed in Gorey, 18% (574) were employed elsewhere in Wexford and 30% (950) commute out of the County for employment. The remaining 14% (440) were either mobile workers/un-codeable work destination. The analysis also showed that an additional 1,723 workers commute into Gorey for employment every day. Of these, 84% (1,441) commute from elsewhere in Wexford and the remaining 16% (282) commute from outside the County.

The Plan facilitates improvements in sustainable mobility, thereby facilitating reductions in and limiting increases of greenhouse gas emissions. Such emissions would occur otherwise with higher levels of motorised transport and associated traffic.

Ireland's emissions profile has changed considerably since 1990, with the contribution from transport more than doubling and the share from agriculture reducing since 1998. Travel is a source of:

1. Noise;
2. Air emissions; and
3. Energy use (39% of Total Final Energy Consumption in Ireland in 2012 was taken up by transport, the largest take up of any sector)<sup>4</sup>.

Between 2008 and 2011, Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions decreased across all sectors due to the effects of the economic downturn with emissions falling by 15.2% between 2008 and 2011. However, 2012 saw emissions rise by 1.2% when compared with 2011<sup>5</sup>.

Between 1990 and 2013, the Transport sector shows the greatest overall increase at 115.5%. Emissions increased by 2.1% in 2013, the first increase in Transport emissions since 2007. However, Transport emissions have decreased by 23.1% below peak levels in 2007 primarily due to the economic downturn, improving vehicle standards due to the changes in vehicle registration tax and the increase use in biofuels. The increase up to 2007 can be attributed to general economic prosperity, increasing population with a high reliance on private car travel as well as rapidly increasing road freight transport.<sup>6</sup>

The EPA 2015 publication *Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emission Projections 2014-2035*, identifies that:

- Under the 'worst case' scenario, Ireland is projected to cumulatively exceed its obligations by 4 Mt of CO<sub>2eq</sub> over the period 2013-2020.
- Under the 'best case' scenario, Ireland is projected to cumulatively meet its compliance obligations over the 2013-2020 period and meet its 2020 target. This takes into account the overachievement of the annual limits in the period 2013- 2017 that is banked and used in the years 2018-2020. The report identifies that achieving the outlook under the 'best case' scenario will require focus and effort that includes meeting renewable targets for transport and heat as well as energy efficiency targets.
- Transport emissions are projected to show strong growth over the period to 2020 with a 13%-19% increase on current levels depending on the level of policy implementation. Relative to 2005, transport emissions are projected to remain the same or, at best, decrease by 4% by 2020.

<sup>4</sup> Sustainable Energy Ireland (2014) *Energy in Ireland 1990 – 2012*

<sup>5</sup> EPA (2013) Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2012

<sup>6</sup> EPA (2014) Ireland's Provisional Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2013

Maximising sustainable mobility will help Ireland meet its emission target for greenhouse gases under the 2020 EU Effort Sharing target that commits Ireland to reducing emissions from those sectors that are not covered by the Emissions Trading Scheme (e.g. transport, agriculture, residential) to 20% below 2005 levels.

Land-use planning contributes to the number and the extent of which journeys occur. By addressing journey time through land use planning and providing more sustainable modes and levels of mobility (as is provided for by the Plan), noise and other emissions to air and energy use 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.

Provisions in relation to climate change such as a commitment to have regard to any Climate Change Adaptation Strategy prepared for County Wexford have been integrated into the Plan.

Provisions in relation to green infrastructure have also been integrated into the Plan. Green infrastructure has the potential to achieve objectives and synergies with regard to the following:

- Provision of open space amenities;
- Sustainable management of water;
- Protection and management of biodiversity;
- Protection of cultural heritage; and
- Protection of protected landscape sensitivities.

## 4.6.2 Ambient Air Quality

### 4.6.2.1 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.

### 4.6.2.2 Air Zones

In order to comply with the directives mentioned above, the EPA measures the levels of a number of atmospheric pollutants. For the purposes of monitoring in Ireland, four zones are defined in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2002 (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 including 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.

Gorey Town and its Environs are located within Zone D where air quality is currently identified as being "good". The EPA's (EPA, 2015) Air Quality in Ireland 2014 identifies that air quality in Ireland continues to be good, with no exceedances for the pollutants measured.

### 4.6.3 Noise

Noise is unwanted sound. The Environmental Noise Regulations (SI No. 140 of 2006) transpose into Irish law the EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise, which is commonly referred to as the Environmental Noise Directive or END. The END defines a common approach intended to avoid, prevent

or reduce on a prioritised basis the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to exposure to environmental noise. The END 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. Limit values are left to each member state. At this point in time, Ireland does not have any statutory limit values.

#### 4.6.4 Existing Problems

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

### 4.7 Material Assets

#### 4.7.1 Water Services

##### 4.7.1.1 Irish Water

Irish Water has been responsible for the delivery of water and wastewater infrastructure in Ireland since 2014.

The function and role of Irish Water includes:

- Abstracting and treating water;
- Delivering water and wastewater services to homes and businesses;
- Installing water meters and billing domestic and business customers;
- Raising finance to fund improvements and repairs in the water system; and
- Maintaining and operating the water system.

The upgrading of the infrastructure will contribute towards compliance with the Water Framework Directive, EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive and Drinking Water Regulations and will help to protect human health and maintain the quality of coastal waters.

##### 4.7.1.2 Wastewater Performance

The EPA's most recent report on wastewater treatment performance 'Urban Wastewater Treatment in 2015', EPA 2016, identifies that the Courtown<sup>7</sup> Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) met the effluent quality standards,

<sup>7</sup> Courtown WWTP discharges to coastal water.

however the Gorey WWTP<sup>8</sup> failed the mandatory BOD/COD quality standards set down under requirements of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive<sup>9</sup>.

##### 4.7.1.3 Wastewater Capacity and Demand

Gorey Town and Environs was previously served by two wastewater treatment plants: the Gorey WWTP and the Courtown WWTP. The combined design capacity of both treatment plants was 16,500 PE with a combined load of 18,548 PE and therefore exceeded available demand/load capacities.

Wastewater from Gorey is now pumped to the treatment plant at Courtown, and the old Gorey treatment plant has now been decommissioned. Existing buildings at Gorey are being converted to provide screening and storm water storage.

This marks a critical investment by Irish Water in essential wastewater infrastructure in County Wexford. This project extended the capacity of the existing plant to 35,000 PE meaning future growth and economic development can be accommodated.

##### 4.7.1.4 Drinking Water Performance

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.

<sup>8</sup> Gorey WWTP was a smaller plant, providing secondary treatment with Phosphorus removal, with a discharge to Banoge River. The plant was decommissioned in late 2016.

<sup>9</sup> The previous EPA report on wastewater treatment performance *Urban Wastewater Treatment in 2014* (EPA, 2015) identified that the Courtown and Gorey Wastewater Treatment Plants passed the water quality standards set down under requirements of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive.

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 that are supported by Remedial Action Lists (RALs). The RAL identifies water supplies that do not comply with the Regulations mentioned above.

The Gorey Town Water Supply System is not listed on the EPA's most recent (Q4 of 2016) Remedial Action List (a list of public water supplies where remedial action is required to ensure compliance with drinking water standards). The EPA previously issued a Direction in June 2014 to install a *Cryptosporidium* barrier by 30/06/15 due to inadequate treatment for *Cryptosporidium*. A follow up audit by the EPA in 2015 found that a temporary treatment plant with coagulation, filtration and ultraviolet disinfection was installed and in operation since 05/01/2015<sup>10</sup>.

Available data on Drinking Water Supplies around the Plan area from EPA's '*Drinking Water Audit Report*' (EPA, 2015) is shown on Table 4.3 Drinking Water Supplies in Plan Area. The supply passed the standard for all of the parameters detailed in the 2007 Drinking Water Regulations.

**Table 4.3 Drinking Water Supplies in Plan Area**

Drinking Water Treatment Plant	Current Population served by the water supply	Volume Supplied
Gorey Regional Public Water Supply	4,500	2,500m-3/day

#### 4.7.1.5 Capacity and Demand

Gorey Town and Environs is served by the Gorey Town Water Supply System (WSS), which is supplied by Water Treatment Plants at Creagh and Barnadown and smaller boreholes at Balykale and Coolishall. At present, the Gorey Town Water Supply System has limited headroom to meet future needs.

The Gorey Regional Water Supply Scheme is included in Irish Water's Capital Investment Programme. This scheme will include a new water treatment plant at Ballyminaun Hill and will bring into operation new wells. The

scheme is scheduled to be completed approximately three and a half years from now. In order to facilitate orderly development and protection of the environment, it is essential that all drinking water infrastructure capacity to reach population and development targets is provided as required and in advance of development.

### 4.7.2 Waste Management

In March 2011, the EC (Waste Directive) Regulations 2011 came into force. As well as including new re-use and recycling targets, these Regulations included a requirement to evaluate existing waste management plans by 31 December 2012 and make a recommendation to revise or replace the existing plans. An evaluation of the South East Plan was carried out and it was recommended that the plan be replaced with a new plan. In 2015, a new plan was published: the Southern Region Waste Management Plan 2015-2021, with an objective to set out a framework for the prevention and management of waste on a regional scale.

Wexford County Council currently operates a Household Recycling Facility in the Gorey Business Park at Ramstown. There are also a number of recycling banks provided within the Plan area. There are no operational landfills or historic landfills within or adjoining the Plan area.

### 4.7.3 Transport

Gorey town is strategically positioned in the north east of the County just off the M11 motorway, which forms part of the N11 route; a national primary road running for 135 km along the east side of Ireland from Dublin to Wexford.

The town is situated at the junction of a number of regional roads including:

- R772 Regional Road, which links the north of Arklow to Clogh, via Gorey
- R741 and R742, which link Gorey to the centre of Wexford Town.
- R725 which links Gorey to Carlow town

Access from the adjoining hinterland is provided via the local road network.

<sup>10</sup> Source: *Drinking Water Audit Report* (EPA, 2015)



A range of public transport facilities are currently in operation in the town. A rail service currently operates through Gorey, with the main station located within walking distance of the town centre. The Gorey to Dublin service runs eight trains a day to Dublin with an early morning service and six trains a day from Dublin to Gorey. A frequent bus service by Bus Éireann (hourly buses) links the town with Dublin to the north and Rosslare to the South. There are also a number of private operators that run frequent services to Dublin.

#### **4.7.4 Existing Problems**

No existing conflicts with legislative objectives governing material assets have been identified.

### **4.8 Cultural Heritage**

#### **4.8.1 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 current generations.

#### **4.8.2 Archaeological Heritage**

##### **4.8.2.1 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.

##### **4.8.2.2 Record of Monuments and Places**

Archaeological sites and monuments are protected under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004. The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), which was established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994, provides a statutory list of all protected archaeological remains in Ireland. It includes a set of maps and a list of monuments and places for each county. These are known as Recorded Monuments. Zones of archaeological potential (urban areas identified by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government for general protection) are also included.

Gorey Town is a recorded monument and a Zone of Archaeological Potential. It includes a church, graveyard and tomb on Council lands within the centre of the town.

Other entries to the RMP within the Plan area include a standing stone, a kiln, a holy well and various monuments in Ramstown Lower including burnt mounds, fulacht fias and metalworking sites.

All entries to the RMP are shown on Figure 4.9. Zones of Notification are also shown on this map – the largest of which is that of the Gorey Town Zone of Archaeological Potential, in the centre of the town.

#### **4.8.3 Architectural Heritage**

##### **4.8.3.1 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.

#### 4.8.3.2 Record of Protected Structures

The principle medium for protecting architectural heritage is through the Record of Protected Structures. A protected structure is a structure that the Planning Authority considers to be worthy of special interest from an architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical point of view. The Record of Protected Structures (RPS) forms part of the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019 and it includes 69 structures that are located within the LAP boundary. These are mapped on Figure 4.11.

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

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

#### 4.8.3.3 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

There are many buildings in the Plan area that are included in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH). Entries to the NIAH provide the basis for the recommendations of the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for the inclusion of particular structures into the RPS. Entries to the NIAH are mapped on Figure 4.11.

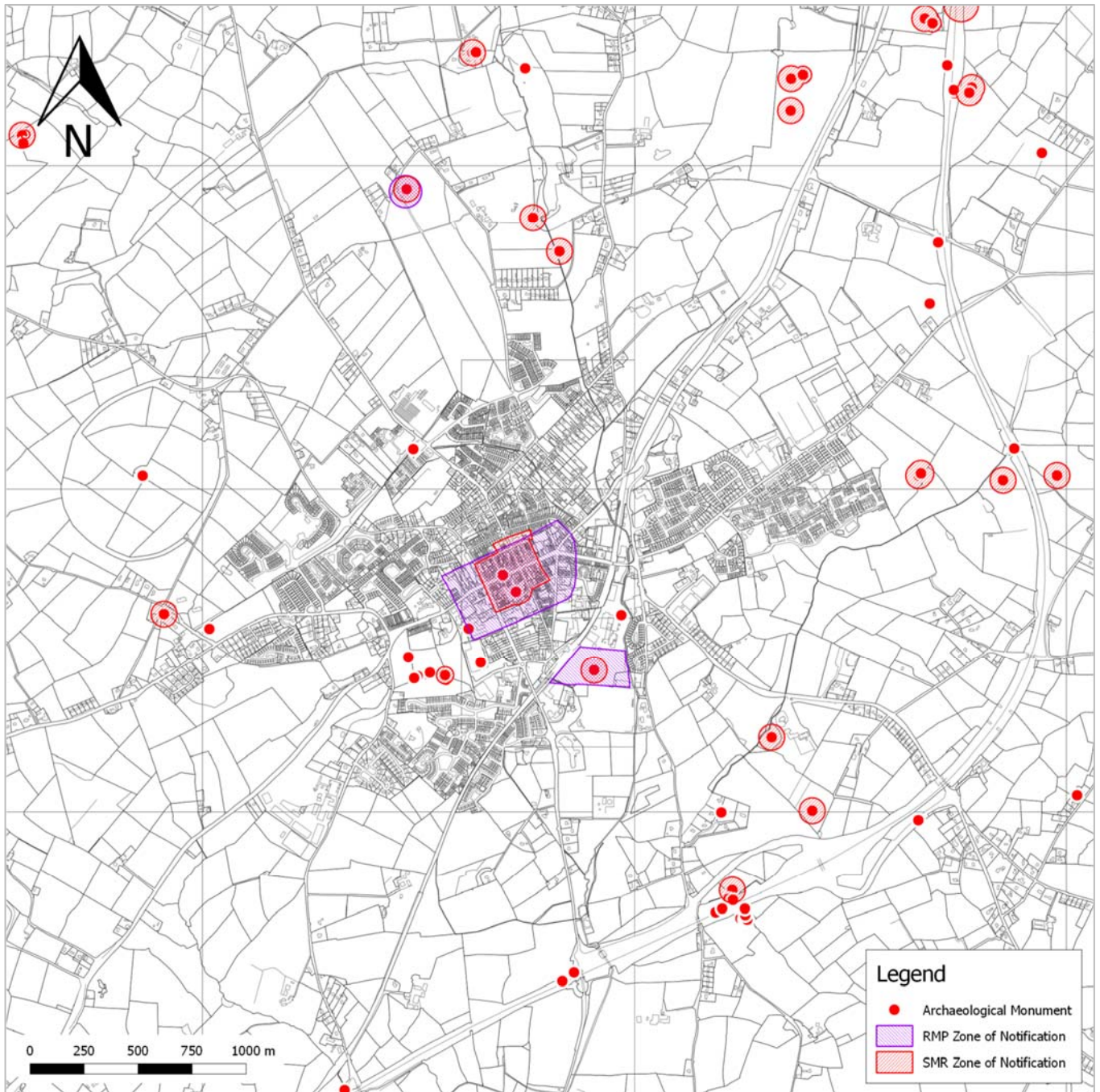
#### 4.8.3.4 Architectural Conservation Area

An Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) is a place, area, group of structures or townscape, which is of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or contributes to the appreciation of a Protected Structure. An ACA may or may not include Protected Structures. In an ACA, protection is placed on the external appearance of such areas or structures. Planning permission must be obtained before significant works can be carried out to the exterior of a structure in an ACA, which might alter the character of the structure, or of the ACA.

There are currently no ACAs in the Plan area, however: as Gorey has a distinctive town centre in terms of scale, composition of streetscape and buildings of different periods and styles, it is proposed to review the town during the preparation of the next County Development Plan 2019-2025 with a view to designating ACAs. It is intended to designate at least one part of the town centre as an ACA and an indication of this area is identified on Figure 4.11.

#### 4.8.4 Existing Problems

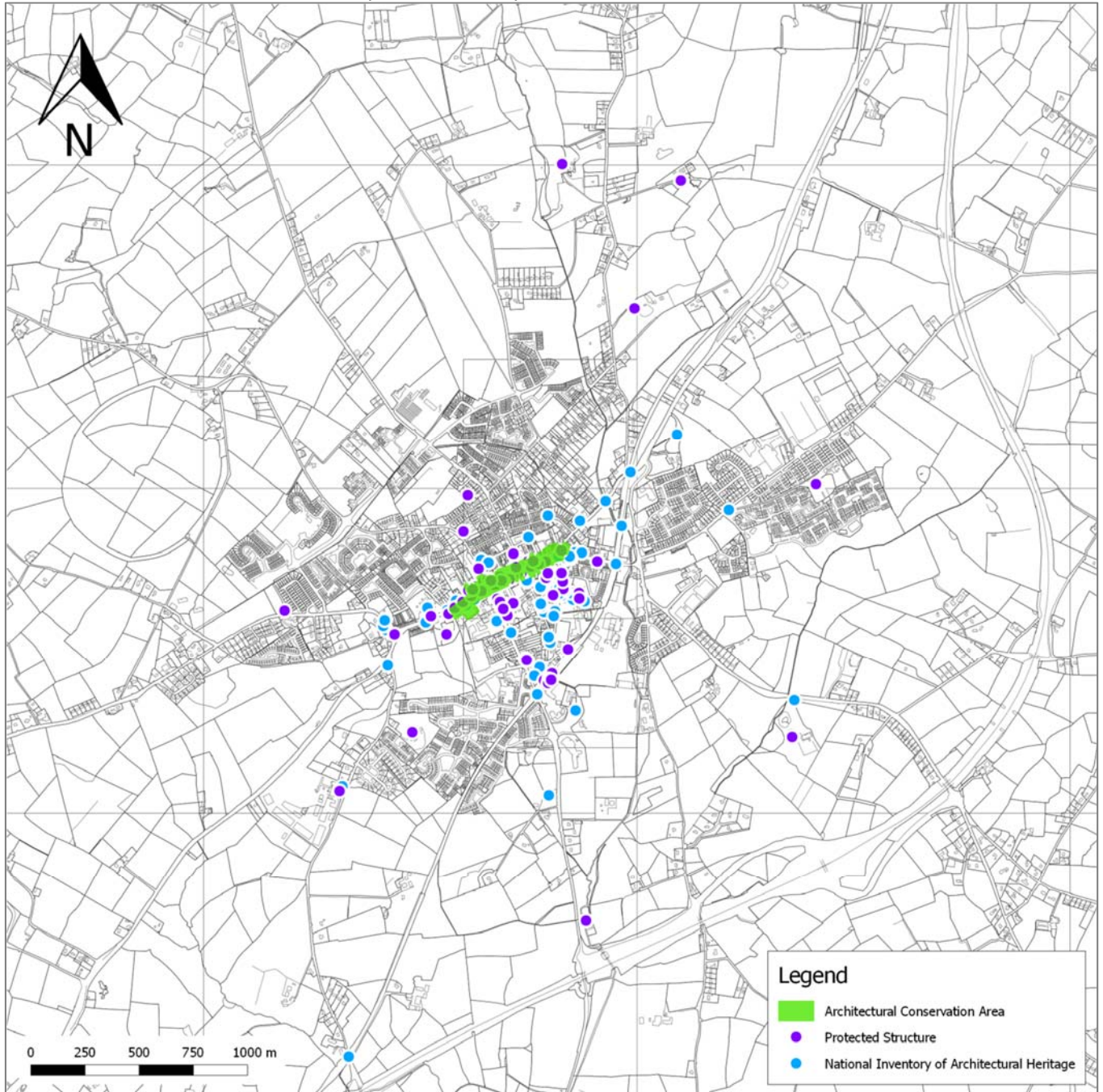
The context of archaeological and architectural heritage has changed over time within the Plan area however no existing conflicts with legislative objectives governing archaeological and architectural heritage have been identified.



**Figure 4.9 Archaeological Heritage**

Source: Wexford County Council (2016)





**Figure 4.10 Architectural Heritage (including an indication of the area to be considered for ACA designation in the future)**

Source: Wexford County Council (2016)

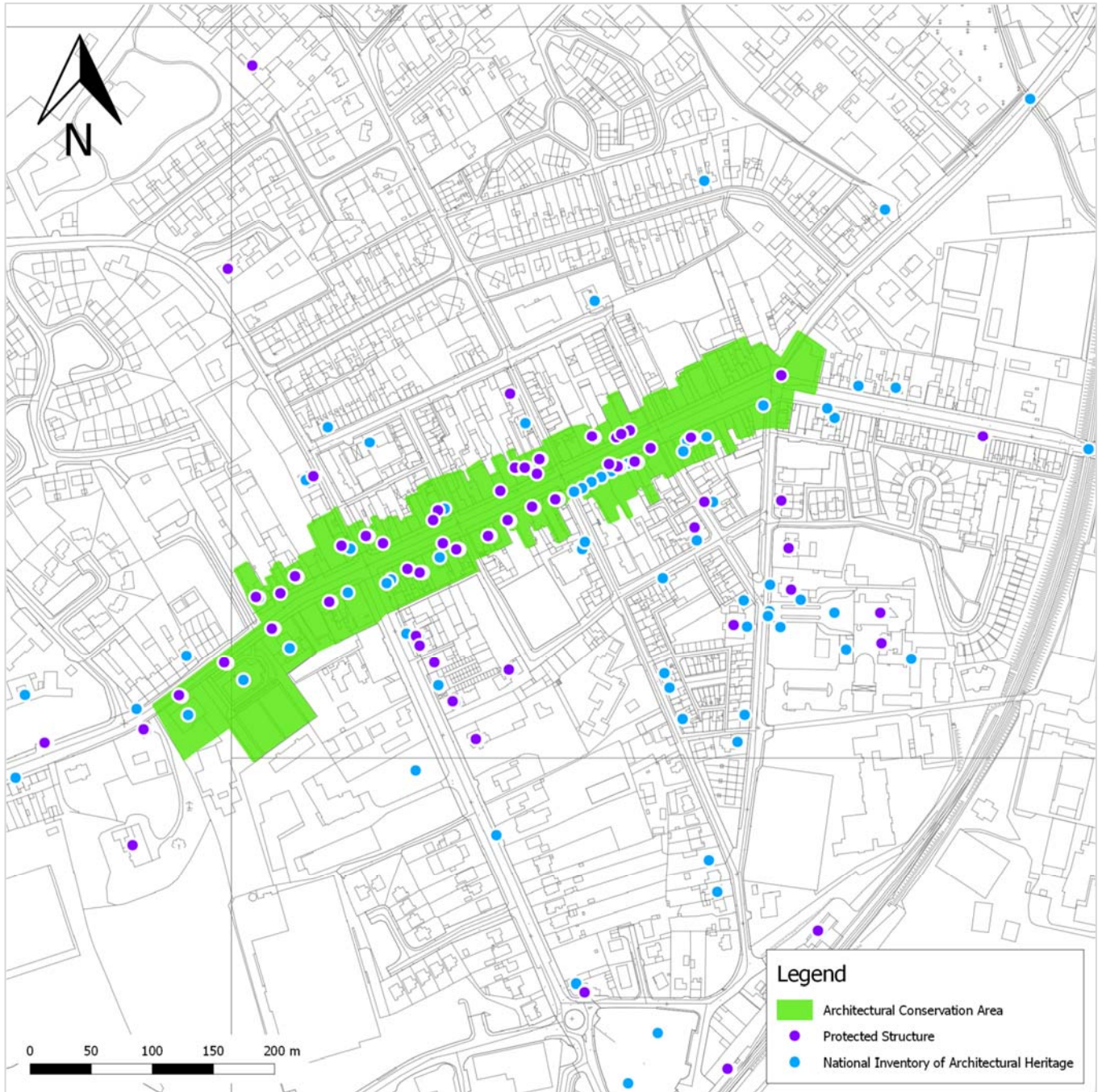


Figure 4.11 Architectural Heritage (more detail)



## 4.9 Landscape

### 4.9.1 Introduction

Landscapes are areas that are perceived by people and are made up of a number of layers: landform, which results from geological and geomorphological history; landcover, which includes vegetation, water, human settlements, and; human values that are a result of historical, cultural, religious and other understandings and interactions with landform and landcover.

### 4.9.2 Legislation

The importance of landscape and visual amenity and the role of its protection are recognised in the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended, which requires that Plans include objectives for the preservation of the landscape, views and the amenities of places and features of natural beauty.

### 4.9.3 Landscape Character Area

A Landscape Character Assessment is a study of a given landscape to determine its 'character'. Landscape character is the combination of physical, as well as, perceived aspects of the landscape.

The Landscape Character Assessment undertaken for County Wexford identifies the Gorey Towns and Environs LAP as part of Landscape Character Area No. 2 "The Lowlands". This Character Area is described as follows by the Landscape Character Assessment:

*The Lowlands unit is generally made up of gently undulating lands and relates to extensive areas of the County. There are generally higher levels of population and more intensive agriculture. The slopes and topography in this unit are shallower.*

*Agricultural lands tend to be characterised by views across larger fields as a result of the generally low well-trimmed hedges. There are a number of prominent hills within the Lowlands which provide more enclosure and 'punctuation' within the*

*overall landscape. The 'Kettle and Kame' landscape near Screen is distinctive and interesting. These have been highlighted as Landscapes of Greater Sensitivity on the Landscape Character Assessment map.*

*This landscape unit hosts the principle towns and major infrastructure such as the main roads and railways. The predominant agricultural use of most of the Lowlands unit is expected to continue due to the high quality and fertility of the soils. Intensification of agricultural practices and expansion of urban settlements will be factors of change in this landscape. The lowland unit generally has characteristics which have a higher capacity to absorb development without it causing significant visual intrusion although, care still needs to be taken on a site by site basis, particularly to minimise the risks of developments being visually intrusive.*

### 4.9.4 Landscapes of Greater Sensitivity

The Landscape Character Assessment identifies various areas within County Wexford that are of greater sensitivity to new development. Gorey Town and its Environs are not considered one of these landscapes. Ask Hill and Ballyminaun Hill, both to the east of the town are the closest Landscapes of Greater Sensitivity to the town.

### 4.9.5 Views and Prospects

It is the policy of the Council to protect scenic views and routes within the County. The Plan area does not contain protected scenic views or routes.

### 4.9.6 Existing Problems

Developments have resulted in changes to the visual appearance of the landscape within the Plan area however, legislative objectives governing landscape and visual appearance were not identified as being conflicted with.



## 4.10 Overlay of Environmental Sensitivities

### 4.10.1 Introduction and Methodology

In order to identify where most sensitivities within Gorey town and its environs occur, a number of the environmental sensitivities described above were weighted and mapped overlapping each other. Figure 4.12 provides an overlay of environmental sensitivities for the town.

It is emphasised that the occurrence of environmental sensitivities does not preclude development; rather it flags at a strategic level that the mitigation measures - which have already been integrated into the Plan - will need to be complied with in order to ensure that the implementation of the Plan contributes towards environmental protection.

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). Only low and moderate levels of vulnerability occur within and adjacent to the Plan area. 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 town. Environmental considerations are given equal weight as follows, with a slight differentiation is made in certain layers:

- Cultural heritage (entries to the Record of Protected Structures, entries to the National Inventory of Archaeological Heritage and Archaeological Monuments - 10 points);
- Landscape greater sensitivity (10 points);

- Sensitive landcover categories (broad-leaved forests - 10 points);
- Surface and groundwaters with and poor (5 points) status;
- Aquifers which are highly (5 points) or extremely (10 points) vulnerable to pollution;
- Flood Zones A (10 points) and B (5 points) from the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment; and
- WFD Register of Protected Areas for 'Groundwater in Salmonid Regs' (10 points).

The scores for each area are added together in order to determine overall vulnerability as shown on Table 4.4.

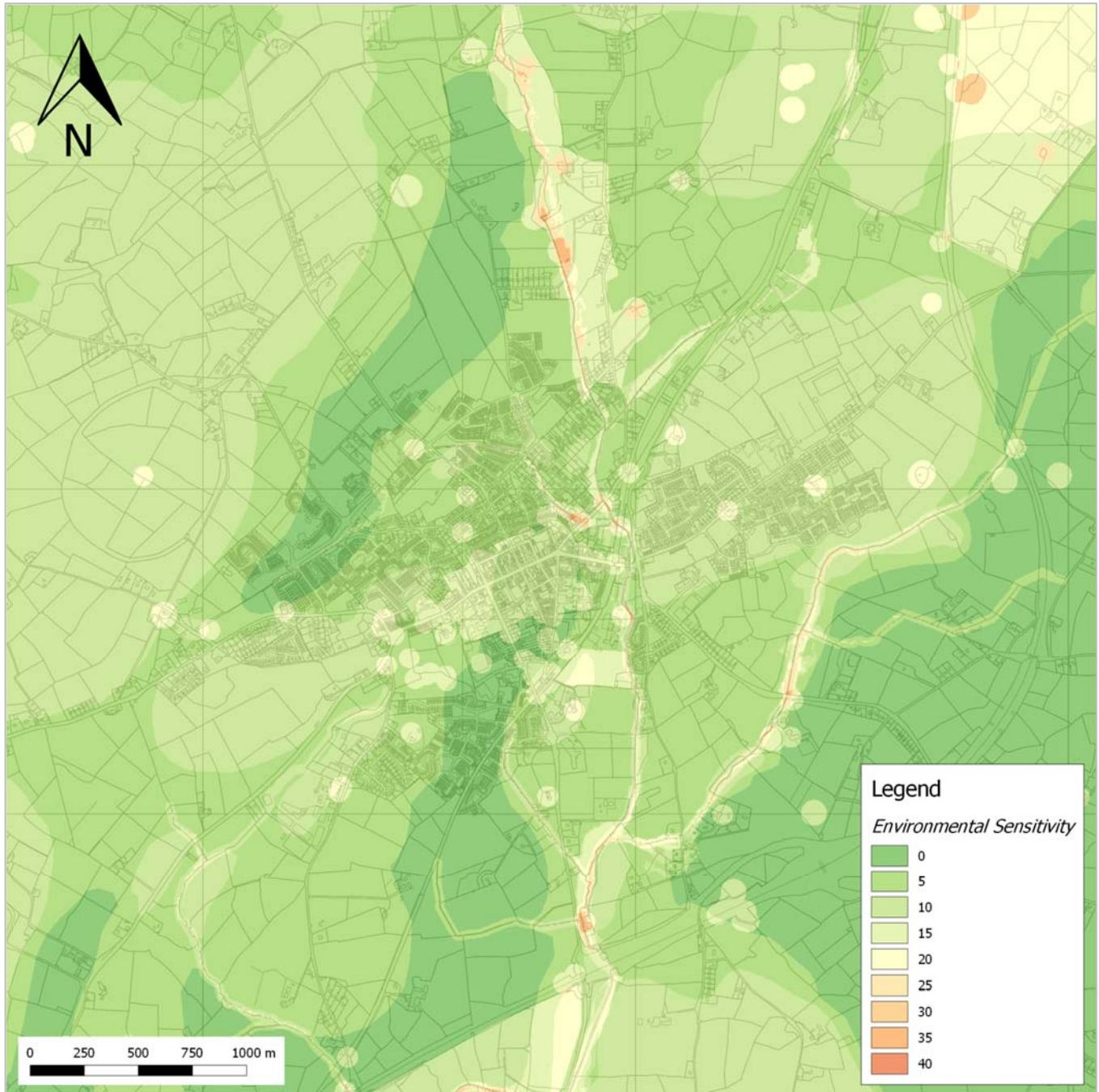
**Table 4.4 Overall Vulnerability Classes**

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

### 4.10.2 Conclusions

The overlay of environmental sensitivities for Gorey Town and Environs and the surrounding area is provided at Figure 4.12. The overlay clearly shows the robustness of the environment in Gorey. The majority of areas are shown to be of a low vulnerability.

The most sensitive areas within Gorey Town and its Environs can be found along the River Banogue, particularly to the north of the town where flood risk areas have been identified. Other sensitive areas include cultural heritage and associated buffers applied by the overlay mapping exercise.



**Figure 4.12 Overlay of Environmental Sensitivities**

Source: CAAS (2016)

## **Section 5 Strategic Environmental Objectives**

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

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

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

All SEOs, indicators and targets are provided on Table 5.1 overleaf while background to these measures is provided in the subsections below.

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

**Table 5.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives, Indicators and Targets**

<b>Environmental Component</b>	<b>Strategic Environmental Objectives</b>	<b>Selected Indicator(s)</b>	<b>Selected Target(s)</b>
<b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b>	B1: To ensure compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to the protection of European Sites/Annexed habitats and species <sup>11</sup>	B1: Conservation status of habitats and species as assessed under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive	Maintenance of favourable conservation status for all habitats and species protected under national and international legislation to be unaffected by implementation of the Plan <sup>12</sup>
	B2: To ensure compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the management of features of the landscape which - by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function act as stepping stones (designated or not) - are of major importance for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species	B2: Percentage loss of functional connectivity without remediation resulting from development provided for by the Plan	B2: No significant ecological networks or parts thereof which provide functional connectivity to be lost without remediation resulting from development provided for in the Plan
	B3: To avoid significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites <sup>13</sup> and to ensure compliance with the Wildlife Acts 1976-2010 with regard to the protection of species listed on Schedule 5 of the principal Act	B3i: Number of significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites resulting from development provided for by the Plan  B3ii: Number of significant impacts on the protection of species listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife Act 1976	B3i: Avoid significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites resulting from development provided for by the Plan  B3ii: No significant impacts on the protection of species listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife Act 1976
<b>Population and Human Health</b>	PHH1: To protect human health from exposure to incompatible landuses	PHH1: Occurrence (any) of a spatially concentrated deterioration in human health arising from environmental factors resulting from development provided for by the Plan, as identified by the Health Service Executive and Environmental Protection Agency	PHH1: No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan
<b>Soil</b>	S1: To avoid damage to the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource	S1: Soil extent and hydraulic connectivity	S1: To minimise reductions in soil extent and hydraulic connectivity

<sup>11</sup> 'Annexed habitats and species' refer to those listed under Annex I, II & IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.

<sup>12</sup> Except as provided for in Section 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

(a) no alternative solution available;  
(b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and  
(c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

<sup>13</sup> The Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended defines a 'wildlife site', which includes proposed Natural Heritage Areas.

Environmental Component	Strategic Environmental Objectives	Selected Indicator(s)	Selected Target(s)
<b>Water</b>	W1: To maintain and improve, where possible, the quality and status of surface waters	W1: 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)	W1: Not to cause deterioration in the status of any surface water or affect the ability of any surface water to achieve 'good status' <sup>14</sup>
	W2: To prevent pollution and contamination of ground water	W2: Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC	W2: Not to affect the ability of groundwaters to comply with Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC
	W3: To comply as appropriate with the provisions of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities	W3: Number of incompatible 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 The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities
<b>Material Assets</b>	M1: To serve new development with adequate and appropriate wastewater treatment	M1: Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately and appropriately served with wastewater treatment over the lifetime of the Plan	M1: All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately and appropriately served by wastewater treatment over the lifetime of the Plan
	M2: To serve new development with adequate drinking water that is both wholesome and clean	M2: 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 as a result of implementing the Plan	M2: 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
	M3: To reduce waste volumes, minimise waste to landfill and increase recycling and reuse	M3i: Total collected and brought household waste  M3ii: Packaging recovered (t) by self-complying packagers	M3i: Minimise increases in and, where possible, reduce household waste generation  M3ii: Maximise increases in packaging recovered (t) by self-complying packagers
<b>Air and Climatic Factors</b>	C1: To reduce travel related emissions to air and to encourage modal change from car to more sustainable forms of transport	C1: Percentage of population travelling to work, school or college by public transport or non-mechanical means	C1: An increase in the percentage of the population travelling to work, school or college by public transport or non-mechanical means
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	CH1: To protect archaeological heritage including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and/or their context	CH1: Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places - and the context these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant - protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	CH1: Protect entries to the Record of Monuments and Places - and the context of these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant - protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan
	CH2: To protect architectural heritage including entries to the Record of Protected Structures and their context	CH2: Percentage of entries to the Record of Protected Structures and their context protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	CH2: Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures and their context from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan

<sup>14</sup> Good status as defined by the WFD equates to approximately Q4 in the current national scheme of biological classification of rivers, as set out by the EPA.



<b>Environmental Component</b>	<b>Strategic Environmental Objectives</b>	<b>Selected Indicator(s)</b>	<b>Selected Target(s)</b>
<b>Landscape</b>	L1: To avoid significant adverse impacts on the 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

## Section 6 Alternative Development Strategies

### 6.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive requires that reasonable alternatives (taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme) are identified, described and evaluated for their likely significant effects on the environment.

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 that 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 Description of Alternative Development Strategies

Wexford County Council in preparing the Local Area Plan 2017-2023 considered the four alternative development strategies for Gorey Town and its Environs detailed below:

#### **Alternative A**

##### **Concentric development ignoring the barrier provided by the rail line**

Alternative A (see Figure 6.1) provides a crude sequential development of the town, ignoring the barrier provided by the rail line. Ignoring this barrier would increase journey times (with associated effects on sustainable mobility). Development would be pushed out along the approach roads of the town putting pressure on the outer motorway which acts like a ring road to facilitate radial movement due to lack of internal linkages.

This alternative facilitates a high amount of edge development, which by nature reduces the walkability of the town and environs, as new development is concentrated a distance out of the town.

#### **Alternative B**

##### **Skewed concentric development with consolidation of town centre**

Alternative B (see Figure 6.2) recognises the barrier provided by the rail line and would allow for development in all directions from existing development, on either side of the rail line.

This alternative also makes additional efforts to intensify uses within the existing town centre, through increased density redevelopment of sites within proximity to public transport nodes.

This skewed concentric model would facilitate the delivery of some inner link roads, however: the barrier provided by the rail line would limit the long-term balanced growth of the town.

#### **Alternative B1**

##### **Skewed concentric development with consolidation of town centre and strategic reserve to secure long-term linkages**

Alternative B1 (see Figure 6.3) is a variation of Alternative B that secures important linkages to address the severance that the railway line provides. By securing these linkages, Alternative B1 would facilitate a long-term sustainable development and growth of the town.

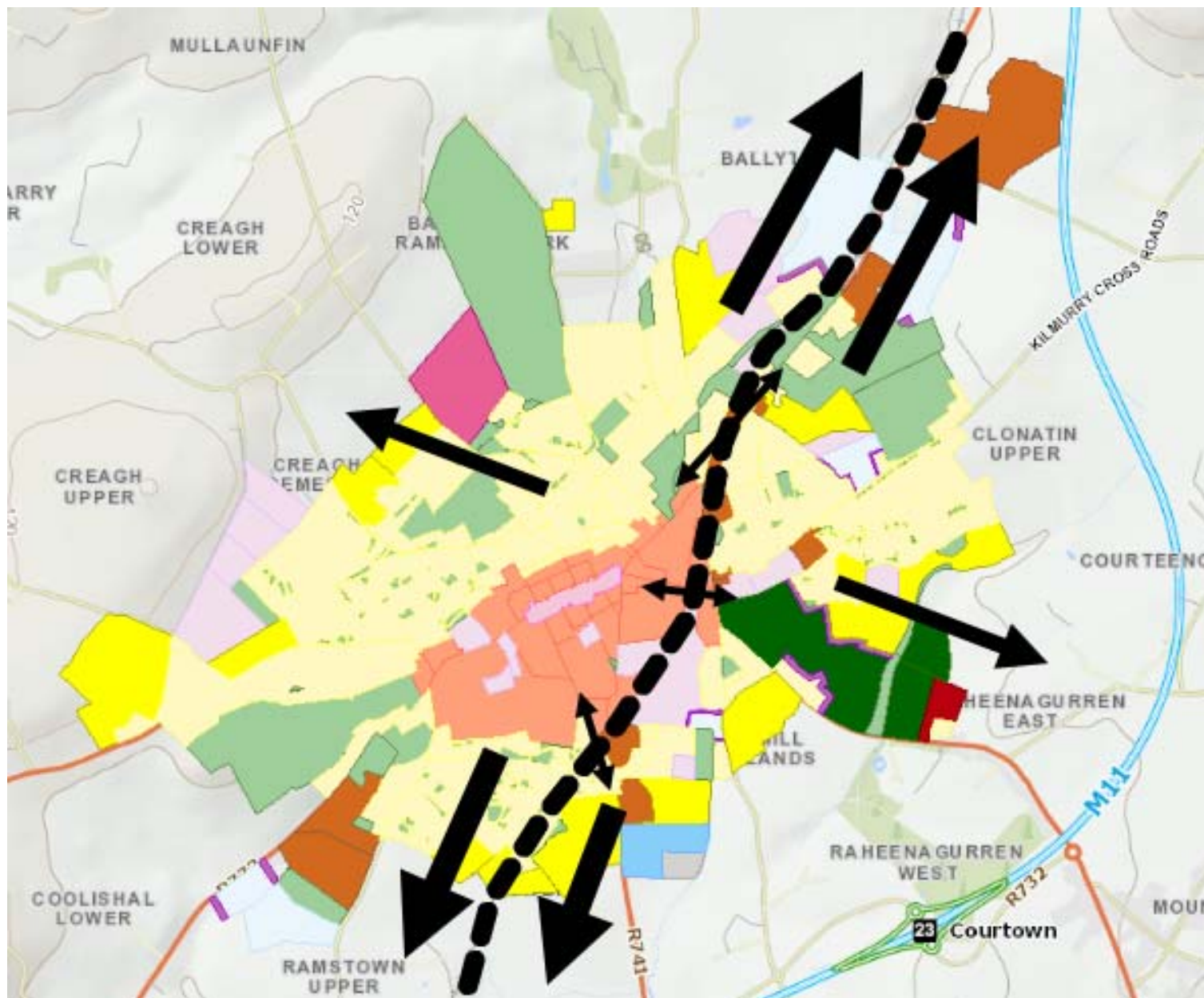
### **Alternative C**

#### **Development right up to motorway**

Alternative C (see Figure 6.4) allows for a mirrored type development of the town and environs, with the eastern side developing at a more rapid rate, right out to the M11 Motorway and walkability significantly reduced due to an extended town centre.

This alternative would result in short trip traffic on the Motorway.

This alternative would require major infrastructural investment in new linkages to cater for the movement of cars. The unbalanced development would have a negative effect of the west side of the Town.



**Figure 6.1 Alternative A: Concentric development ignoring the barrier provided by the rail line**

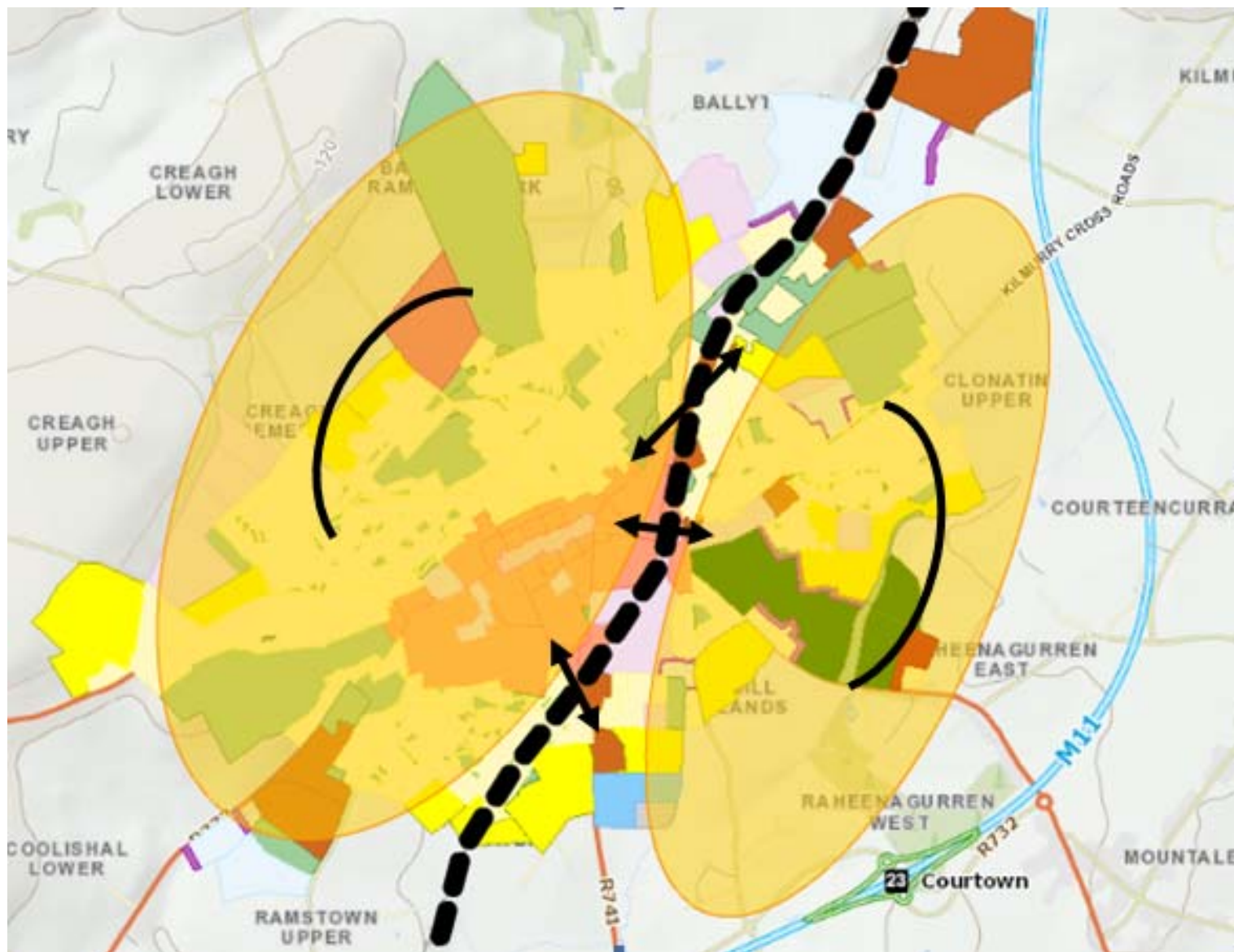
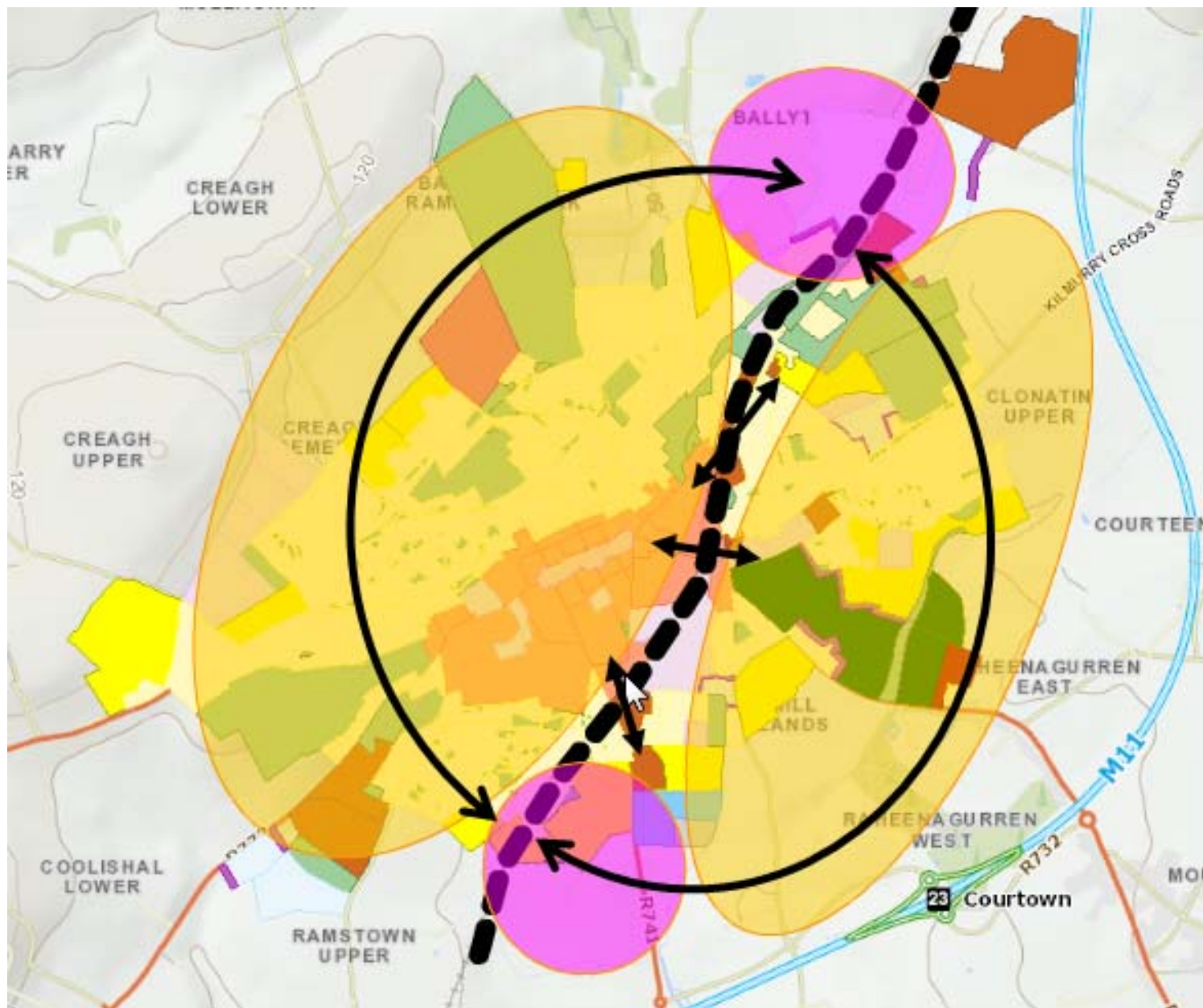
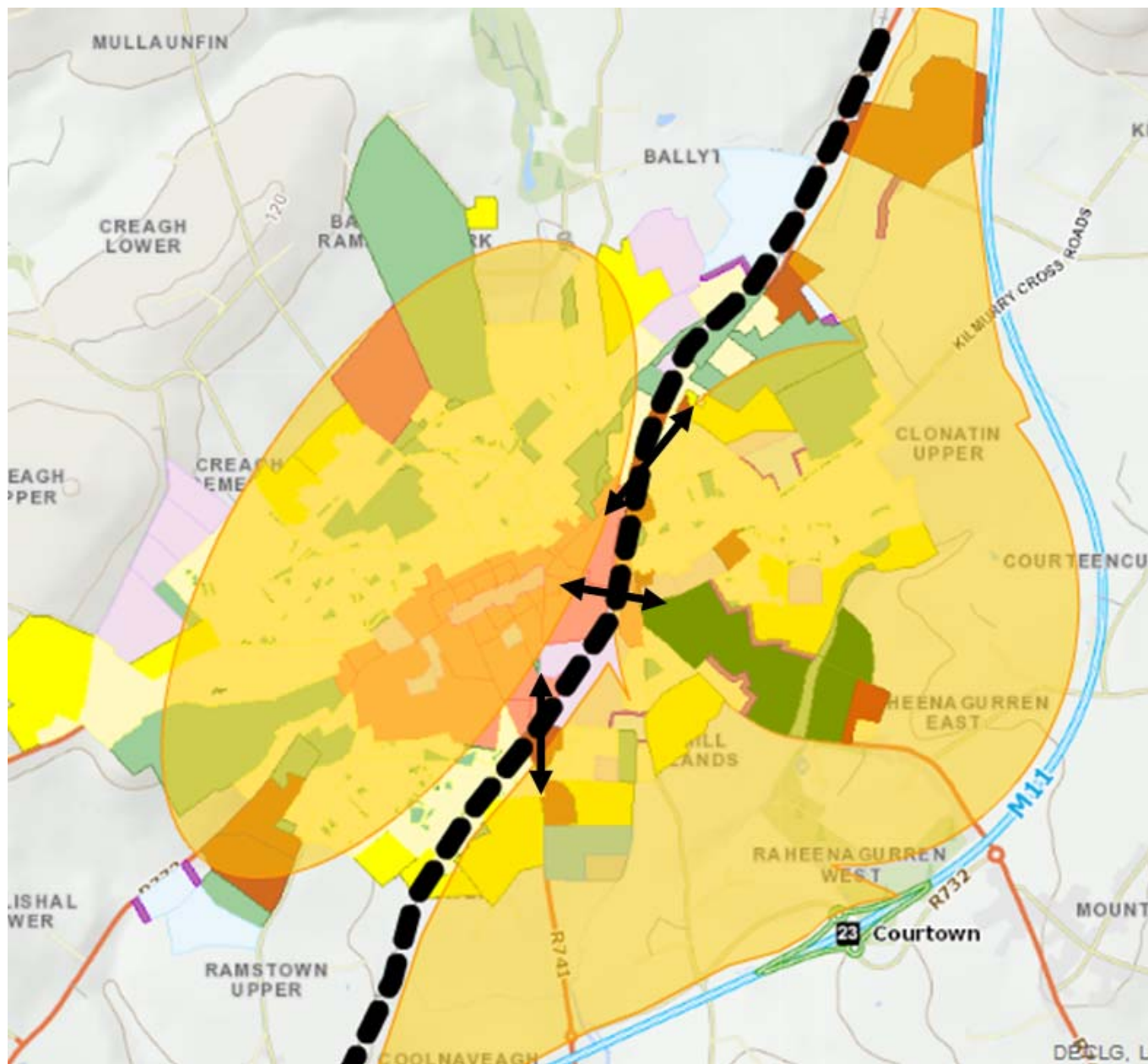


Figure 6.2 Alternative B: Skewed concentric development





**Figure 6.3 Alternative B1: Skewed concentric development with strategic reserve to secure long-term linkages**



**Figure 6.4 Alternative C: Development right up to motorway**

## Section 7 Evaluation of Alternatives

### 7.1 Methodology

The description of the environmental baseline together with the maps provided in Section 4 of this report (including the Environmental Sensitivity Overlay Mapping) is used in the evaluation.

Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) identified in and reproduced overleaf are also used.

The provisions of the alternatives are evaluated using compatibility criteria (see Table 7.2 below) in order to determine how they would be likely to affect the status of the SEOs. The SEOs and the alternatives are arrayed against each other to identify which interactions - if any - would cause effects 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 the SEO likely to be affected - in this instance 'to ensure compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to the protection of European Sites/Annexed habitats and species'<sup>15</sup>.

The interactions identified are reflective of likely significant environmental effects<sup>16</sup>:

1. Interactions that would be likely to improve the status of a particular SEO would be likely to result in a significant positive effect on the environmental component to which the SEO relates. The extent of positive effects which would be likely to occur varies and there are three 'likely to improve columns' (see Table 7.2)
2. Interactions that would potentially conflict with the status of an SEO and

would be likely to be mitigated are divided into three groups (see Table 7.2):

- Interactions that would conflict the least with the status of SEOs – these would be likely to be mitigated to a greater degree and significant adverse effects would be less likely;
- Interactions that would conflict more with status of SEOs - these would be likely to be mitigated to an intermediate degree and significant adverse effects would be more likely.
- Interactions that would conflict the most with status of SEOs - these would be likely to be mitigated to a lesser degree and significant adverse effects would be more likely.

The degree of significance of effects occurring cannot be fully determined at this level of decision making due to the lack of exact detail available with regard to the type or scale of development that will be permitted under the Plan. Nonetheless, a comparative evaluation of the various alternatives can be provided.

<sup>15</sup> 'Annexed habitats and species' refers to those listed under Annex I, II & IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.

<sup>16</sup> These effects include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.

**Table 7.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives<sup>19</sup>**

SEO Code	SEO
<b>B1</b>	To ensure compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to the protection of European Sites/Annexed habitats and species <sup>17</sup>
<b>B2</b>	To ensure compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the management of features of the landscape which - by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function act as stepping stones - are of significant importance for wild fauna and flora and/or essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species
<b>B3</b>	To avoid significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites <sup>18</sup> and to ensure compliance with the Wildlife Acts 1976-2010 with regard to the protection of species listed on Schedule 5 of the principal Act
<b>PHH1</b>	To protect populations and human health from exposure to incompatible landuses
<b>S1</b>	To avoid damage to the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource
<b>W1</b>	To maintain and improve, where possible, the quality and status of surface waters
<b>W2</b>	To prevent pollution and contamination of ground water
<b>W3</b>	To comply as appropriate with the provisions of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines
<b>M1</b>	To serve new development with adequate and appropriate wastewater treatment
<b>M2</b>	To serve new development with adequate drinking water that is both wholesome and clean
<b>M3</b>	To reduce waste volumes, minimise waste to landfill and increase recycling and reuse
<b>C1</b>	To reduce travel related emissions to air and to encourage modal change from car to more sustainable forms of transport
<b>CH1</b>	To protect archaeological heritage including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and/or their context
<b>CH2</b>	To protect architectural heritage including entries to the Record of Protected Structures and their context
<b>L1</b>	To avoid significant adverse impacts on the landscape

**Table 7.2 Criteria for appraising the effect on SEOs**

Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs to a <b>greater degree</b>	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs to an <b>intermediate degree</b>	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs to a <b>lesser degree</b>	<b>Least Potential Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated to greater degree, significant adverse effects <b>less likely</b>	<b>More Potential Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated to an intermediate degree, significant adverse effects <b>more likely</b>	<b>Most Potential Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated to lesser degree, significant adverse effects <b>more likely</b>
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<sup>17</sup> 'Annexed habitats and species' refer to those listed under Annex I, II & IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.

<sup>18</sup> The Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended defines a 'wildlife site', which includes proposed Natural Heritage Areas.

<sup>19</sup> See Section 5 for a description of Strategic Environmental Objectives.

## 7.2 Cumulative Effects

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

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

- Potential intra-Plan cumulative effects - these arise from the interactions between different types of potential environmental effects resulting from a Plan, programme etc. Where there are elevated levels of environmental sensitivities, future development could result in environmental conflicts and lead to a deterioration in environmental integrity. The interrelationships between environmental components that help determine these potential effects are identified on Table 8.4 in Section 8 e.g. interrelationships between: human health and water quality; human health and air quality; human health and flood risk; and ecology and water quality
- Potential inter-Plan cumulative effects - these arise when the effects of the implementation of one plan occur in combination with those of other plans, programmes, developments, etc.

Effects that may arise as a result of implementing the Plan have been mitigated to the extent that the only residual adverse effects likely to occur as a result of implementation of the Plan are those that are identified under Section 8.7.

With regard to potential *inter-Plan* cumulative environmental effects, these occur as a result of the combination of: potential environmental effects that are identified by the assessment; and the effects arising from other legislation, plans, programmes or developments arising.

In considering the relationship with legislation and other plans and programmes it is important to note that the Plan will be implemented within areas that have existing plans and programmes (see Appendix I, Section 4, Section 5 and Section 9 of this report) for a range of sectors at a range of levels (e.g. National, River Basin District, Regional, County and Local) that are already subject to more specific higher and lower tier SEA and AA.

The assessment of the likely *inter-Plan* cumulative environmental effects requires knowledge of the likely effects of all plans/developments under consideration. The assessment is limited in this instance as there has been limited assessment of the likely types of developments provided for by other policies, plans and programmes that could occur in combination with the implementation of the Plan – such as future developments of utilities by Agencies such as TII, Irish Water or EirGrid. Where they exist, the SEA recognises the existence of other environmental assessments with a view to avoid duplication of assessment, in compliance with the SEA Directive.

The SEA undertaken for the Plan has taken account of the Council's obligation to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Cumulative effects that have been considered include those resulting from the Plan and:

- Other land use Plans (e.g. the Wexford County Development Plan, the Courtown and Riverchapel Local Area Plan and the Wicklow County Development Plan,);
- Infrastructural plans such as those relating to water services and energy infrastructure (e.g. Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan and associated Capital Investment Plan 2014-2016 and Grid25 and its associated Implementation Programme);
- County Wexford's Local Economic and Community Plan; and



- Environmental protection and management plans (e.g. South-Eastern River Basin Management Plan and flood risk management plan).

Such potential cumulative effects include the following (note that potential adverse cumulative effects will be mitigated by provisions that have been integrated into the Plan):

- Contributions towards reductions in travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air (in combination with plans and programmes from all sectors, including transport and land use planning) as a result of consolidating development and facilitating sustainable mobility/a shift from motorised transport modes to more sustainable and non-motorised transport modes.
- Contributions towards travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air (in combination with plans and programmes from all sectors, including transport and land use planning) as a result of facilitating development that must be accompanied by road capacity.
- Facilitation of new development that is accompanied by appropriate levels of water services thereby contributing towards environmental protection.
- Need for and use of water and wastewater treatment capacity arising from new developments and associated potential adverse effects.
- Potential cumulative effects upon surface and ground water status as a result of development including housing and employment – loadings and abstractions;
- Potential cumulative effects (habitat damage, enhancing ecological connectivity, contributing towards sustainable mobility) arising from linear developments, such as those relating to Green Infrastructure;
- Potential cumulative effects on flood risk by, for example, development of greenfield lands;
- Potential cumulative visual impact of development at the interface between the LAP boundary and the surrounding area of the County which is subject to the provisions of the County Development Plan; and
- In combination with plans and programmes from all sectors potential adverse effects on all environmental components arising from all development in greenfield and brownfield areas (e.g. infrastructural, residential, economic, agricultural etc.). The type of these effects are consistent with those described on Table 7.3. These plans and programmes from other sectors undergo SEA and comply with environmental legislation while projects are subject to EIA and AA, as relevant.

## 7.3 Comparative Evaluation of all Alternative Development Strategies

### 7.3.1 Significant Positive Effects Common to all Alternatives

The Gorey town and environs area contains relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and designations and has capacity in transport and wastewater services. By providing for growth and development in this area, each of the four alternative development strategies would be likely to contribute towards a reduced need to develop more sensitive towns and rural and coastal areas elsewhere in the County and wider region. This would be likely to result in significant positive environmental effects on the following environmental components:

- Biodiversity and flora and fauna
- Population and human health
- Soil (especially soil on greenfield lands)
- Water (status of rivers and groundwater and flooding)
- Material Assets (provision of adequate and appropriate wastewater and drinking water services and waste management)
- Sustainable mobility and associated effects (energy usage and emissions to air including noise and greenhouse gases)
- Cultural Heritage (architectural and archaeological heritage)
- Landscape

### 7.3.2 Potentially Significant Adverse Effects Common to all Alternatives

A number of potentially significant adverse environmental effects are common to all alternatives and are described on Table 7.3. For the Plan, these effects will be mitigated by measures that have been integrated into the Plan.

**Table 7.3 Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects common to all alternatives**

Environmental Component	Likely Significant Effect, if unmitigated
Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure: loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites/Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna</li> <li>○ Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects.</li> <li>○ Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species.</li> </ul>
Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Potential interactions if effects upon environmental vectors such as water and air are not mitigated</li> </ul>
Soil (especially soil on greenfield lands)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Damage to the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource.</li> </ul>
Water (including the Banoge River, its tributaries and underlying groundwater)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adverse impacts upon the status of water bodies arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.</li> <li>○ Increase in the risk of flooding.</li> </ul>
Material Assets (it is the function of Irish Water to provide for water services needs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Failure to provide adequate and appropriate wastewater treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>○ Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water that is both wholesome and clean (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts)</li> <li>○ Increases in waste levels</li> </ul>
Air and Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Emissions to air including greenhouse gas emissions and other emissions.</li> </ul>
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities.</li> </ul>
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of the landscape.</li> </ul>

### 7.3.3 Other Specific Effects for Alternatives

Wexford County Council in preparing the Local Area Plan considered the three alternative development strategies for Gorey Town and its Environs detailed below:

#### **Alternative A**

##### **Concentric development ignoring the barrier provided by the rail line**

Alternative A would result in a significant amount of conflict with efforts to improve sustainable mobility.

Ignoring the barrier presented by the rail line would increase journey times and would contribute towards increases in levels of unsustainable mobility and associated effects (energy usage and emissions to air including noise and greenhouse gases). This barrier would limit the long-term balanced growth of the town thereby limiting maximisation of those positive effects detailed under Section 7.3.1 above.

This alternative facilitates a high amount of edge development and does not provide for a consolidated, compact urban form. This edge development would have the potential to result in higher levels of environmental conflicts with brownfield development not maximised and unnecessary greenfield development occurring on the fringes of the town and environs.

Greenfield development has a greater potential to result in higher levels of direct effects as a result of developing semi-natural lands – such effects include loss of ecology (including non-designated ecology and ecological corridors and stepping stones), visual impacts, the sealing of greenfield soils and threats to the status of waters (which has the potential to interact with aquatic ecology and human health). Greenfield development is less likely to facilitate sustainable mobility. Greenfield development is also less likely to facilitate the enhancement of cultural (archaeological and architectural) heritage and its context in urban areas.

By providing for development that does not take account of the rail barrier and by pushing development out along the approach roads of the town, this alternative would result in pressure on the outer motorway that acts like a ring road to facilitate radial movement due to lack of internal linkages (this would be contrary to the policies contained in the National Planning Roads Guidance documents). This would further contribute towards unsustainable mobility with walkability of the town reduced and development increasingly dispersed.

#### **Alternative B**

##### **Skewed concentric development with consolidation of town centre**

Alternative B would contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility by recognising the barrier provided by the rail line and making efforts to intensify uses within the existing town centre.

Intensifying uses, by providing for increased density redevelopment of sites within proximity to public transport nodes, and delivering some inner link roads would contribute towards a more consolidated and compact town with associated benefits with respect to sustainable mobility, energy usage and emissions to air including noise and greenhouse gases.

Associated with a consolidated and compact town is lower levels of greenfield development and higher levels of brownfield development. This would have the potential to result in decreased levels of environmental conflicts. Regeneration of town centre sites would have the potential to contribute towards the protection of cultural heritage.

Brownfield development has a greater potential to result in lower levels of direct effects as a result of reducing the need to develop semi-natural greenfield lands – such effects include loss of ecology (including non-designated ecology and ecological corridors and stepping

stones), visual impacts, the sealing of greenfield soils and threats to the status of waters (which has the potential to interact with aquatic ecology and human health). Brownfield development is more likely to facilitate both sustainable mobility and enhancement of cultural (archaeological and architectural) heritage and its context in urban areas. Brownfield development is also more likely to conflict, if unmitigated, with concentrations of cultural heritage – as these often occur in urban areas.

The barrier provided by the rail line would limit the long-term balanced growth of the town thereby limiting maximisation of those positive effects detailed under Section 7.3.1 above. These effects include improvements in sustainable mobility and associated effects (energy usage and emissions to air including noise and greenhouse gases) that could be achieved within the town.

#### **Alternative B1**

##### **Skewed concentric development with consolidation of town centre and strategic reserve to secure long-term linkages**

Alternative B1 is a variation of Alternative B that secures important linkages to address the severance that the railway line provides. By securing these linkages, Alternative B1 would facilitate a long-term sustainable development and growth of the town and a maximisation of those positive effects detailed under Section 7.3.1 above. These effects include improvements in sustainable mobility and associated effects (energy usage and emissions to air including noise and greenhouse gases) that could be achieved within the town.

#### **Alternative C**

##### **Development right up to motorway**

Alternative C would result in a significant amount of conflict with efforts to improve sustainable mobility.

Allowing for a mirrored type development of the town and environs as transected by the railway line, the eastern side of the town would develop at a more rapid rate, right out to the M11 Motorway. This extended area would increase journey times, reduce walkability and contribute towards increases in levels of unsustainable mobility and associated effects (energy usage and emissions to air including noise and greenhouse gases). The barrier provided by the rail line would limit the long-term balanced growth of the town thereby limiting maximisation of those positive effects detailed under Section 7.3.1 above.

This alternative would result in short trip traffic on the Motorway (this would be contrary to the policies contained in the National Planning Roads Guidance documents). This would further contribute towards unsustainable mobility with walkability of the town reduced and development increasingly dispersed. Major infrastructural investment in new linkages would be required to cater for the movement of cars.

This alternative would have the potential to result in higher levels of environmental conflicts as unnecessary greenfield development on the fringes of the town and environs would occur and brownfield development not maximised would not be maximised. Greenfield development has a greater potential to result in higher levels of direct effects as a result of developing semi-natural lands – such effects include loss of ecology (including non-designated ecology and ecological corridors and stepping stones), visual impacts, the sealing of greenfield soils and threats to the status of waters (which has the potential to interact with aquatic ecology and human health). Greenfield development is less likely to facilitate sustainable mobility. Greenfield development is also less likely to facilitate the enhancement of cultural (archaeological and architectural) heritage and its context in urban areas.

### 7.3.4 Summary Evaluation Against SEOs

Table 7.4 provides a comparative evaluation of alternative scenarios against the SEOs.

Due to the relative environmental robustness of the Gorey town and environs area, the alternative development strategies give rise to a lesser extent of differences in likely significant environmental outcomes than might otherwise be the case when considering other settlements that are not as robust environmentally. However, with an internal comparison to each other significant differences were identified.

The Gorey town and environs area contains relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and designations and has capacity in transport and wastewater services. By providing for growth and development in this area, each of the four alternative development strategies would be likely to contribute towards a reduced need to develop more sensitive towns and rural and coastal areas elsewhere in the County and wider region. This would be likely to result in significant positive environmental effects on various environmental components.

Under Alternatives A and C brownfield development and consolidation of the existing town and environs is not maximised and unnecessary greenfield development occurs on the fringes. This leads to significant conflicts with efforts to maximise sustainable mobility. The barrier provided by the rail line would limit long-term balanced growth of the town thereby limiting maximisation of positive effects occurring elsewhere in the County and wider region as a result of development within the town.

Under Alternative B, intensification of uses and higher levels of consolidation and brownfield development lead to improvements in sustainable mobility and lower levels of environmental conflicts. The barrier provided by the rail line would limit long-term balanced growth of the town thereby limiting maximisation of positive environmental effects occurring elsewhere in the County and wider region as a result of development within the town.

Alternative B1 is a variation of Alternative B that secures important linkages to address the severance that the railway line provides. By securing these linkages Alternative B1 would facilitate a long term sustainable development and growth of the town and a maximisation of those positive environmental effects occurring elsewhere in the County and wider region as a result of development within the town. Alternative B1 contributes the greatest extent towards sustainable development (including sustainable mobility) and environmental protection and management with the least amount of conflicts.



Table 7.4 Comparative Evaluation of Alternative Development Strategies

Alternative Development Strategy	Likely to <u>Improve</u> status of SEOs to a <u>greater degree</u>	Likely to <u>Improve</u> status of SEOs to an <u>intermediate degree</u>	Likely to <u>Improve</u> status of SEOs to a <u>lesser degree</u>	<u>Least Potential Conflict</u> with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated to greater degree, significant adverse effects <u>less likely</u>	<u>More Potential Conflict</u> with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated to an intermediate degree, significant adverse effects <u>more likely</u>	<u>Most Potential Conflict</u> with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated to lesser degree, significant adverse effects <u>more likely</u>
Alternative Development Strategy A			B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 C1 CH1 CH2 L1			B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 C1 CH1 CH2 L1
Alternative Development Strategy B		B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 C1 CH1 CH2 L1			B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 C1 CH1 CH2 L1	
Alternative Development Strategy B1	B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 C1 CH1 CH2 L1			B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 C1 CH1 CH2 L1		
Alternative Development Strategy C			B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 C1 CH1 CH2 L1			B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 C1 CH1 CH2 L1

## **7.4 Selected Alternative Development Strategy for the Plan**

The Alternative Development Strategy for the Plan that emerged from the planning/SEA process is Alternative Development Strategy B1.

This strategy has been developed by the Planning Team and adopted by the Council having regard to both:

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

The Land Use Zoning map from the Plan that evolved from and which is consistent with Alternative Development Strategy B1 is shown on Figure 7.1 overleaf.

## **7.5 Overall Findings**

Alternative B1 contributes the greatest extent towards sustainable development (including sustainable mobility) and environmental protection and management with the least amount of conflicts and is the preferred and selected alternative development strategy that has been developed for the Plan.

Table 7.5 details the overall findings of the assessment with respect to this preferred and selected alternative scenario.

By complying with appropriate mitigation measures - including those that have been integrated into the Plan (see Section 9 of this report) – potentially significant adverse environmental effects that could arise as a result of implementing the Plan would be likely to be avoided, reduced or offset.

Residual effects are those that arise after mitigation. Mitigation measures are applied to potential adverse effects as indicated by Table 9.1 in Section 9.

**Table 7.5 Overall Findings – Effects arising from the Preferred Alternative Scenario for the Plan**

<b>Environmental Component</b>	<b>Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur</b>	<b>Potential Effect, if unmitigated</b>	<b>Residual Adverse Effects</b>
Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitates lower overall effects on ecology (including designated sites, ecological connectivity, habitats) – due to reducing the need for development within more sensitive, less well served locations within the County and wider Region; and intensifying uses and consolidating development, including brownfield development.</li> <li>Facilitates protection of ecology with respect to the provision of adequate and appropriate water services.</li> <li>Facilitates contribution towards the protection of ecology as a result of contributing towards the protection of environmental vectors, including air and water.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure: loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites/Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna</li> <li>Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects.</li> <li>Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of an extent of non-protected habitats and species arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces.</li> <li>Losses or damage to ecology (these would comply with relevant legislation).</li> </ul>
Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitates protection of human health with respect to the provision of adequate and appropriate water services and the provision of transport infrastructure integrated with land use planning – and associated interactions with sustainable mobility, emissions and energy usage.</li> <li>Facilitates contribution towards the protection of human health as a result of contributing towards the protection of environmental vectors, including air and water.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential interactions if effects upon environmental vectors such as water and air are not mitigated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential interactions with residual effects on environmental vectors. This has been mitigated by provisions that have been integrated into the Plan, including those relating to sustainable mobility and infrastructural provision.</li> </ul>
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitates lower overall effects on soil – due to reducing the need for development within more sensitive, less well-served locations within the County and wider Region; and intensifying uses and consolidating development, including brownfield development.</li> <li>Facilitates protection of soil with respect to the provision of water services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Damage to the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces.</li> </ul>
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitates lower effects on ground and surface waters due to reducing the need for development within more sensitive, less well-served locations within the County and wider Region that would be less capable of delivering Water Framework Directive targets.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adverse impacts upon the status of water bodies arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.</li> <li>Increase in the risk of flooding.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased loadings as a result of development to comply with River Basin Management Plans.</li> <li>Flood related risks remain due to uncertainty with regard to extreme weather events.</li> </ul>

Environmental Component	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potential Effect, if unmitigated	Residual Adverse Effects
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides for planned infrastructure including water services infrastructure and transport infrastructure.</li> <li>Make most use of existing water services and drainage infrastructure.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Failure to provide adequate and appropriate wastewater treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water that is both wholesome and clean (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts)</li> <li>Increases in waste levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residual wastes to be disposed of in line with higher level waste management policies.</li> </ul>
Air and Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximises sustainable mobility and associated effects (energy usage and emissions to air including noise and greenhouse gases).</li> <li>Facilitates contribution towards a shift from car to more sustainable and non-motorised transport modes.</li> <li>Facilitates contribution towards reducing congestion and associated adverse effects on air quality.</li> <li>Facilitates contribution towards reductions in travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emissions to air including greenhouse gas emissions and other emissions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An extent of travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air. This has been mitigated by provisions that have been integrated into the Plan, including those relating to sustainable mobility.</li> </ul>
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution towards the protection of cultural heritage by facilitating compliance with protection legislation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential alteration to the context and setting of architectural heritage however, these will occur in compliance with legislation.</li> <li>Potential alteration to the context and setting of archaeological heritage however, this will occur in compliance with legislation.</li> <li>Potential loss of unknown archaeology however, this loss will be mitigated by measures integrated into the Plan.</li> </ul>
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution towards the protection/management of landscape – due to reducing the need for development within more sensitive, less well-served locations within the County and wider Region.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of the landscape.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None. The Plan contributes towards the protection of the landscape. The Town and Environs landscape will change overtime as a result of natural changes in vegetation cover combined with new developments.</li> </ul>

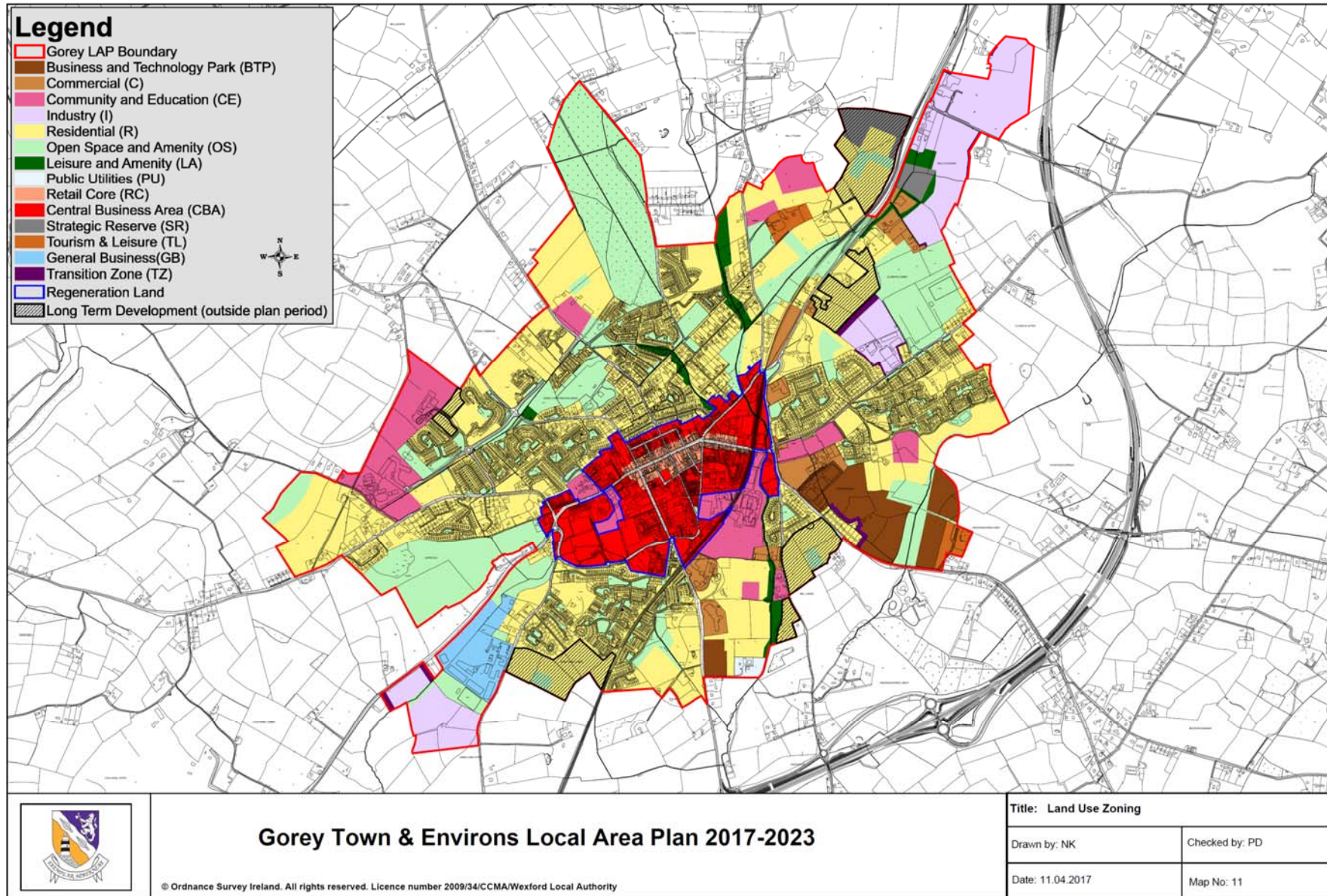


Figure 7.1 Land Use Zoning Map from the LAP



## Section 8 Evaluation of Plan Provisions

### 8.1 Methodology

This section evaluates the provisions of the Plan. The description of the environmental baseline together with the maps provided in Section 4 of this report (including the Environmental Sensitivity Overlay Mapping) is used for this purpose. Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) identified in Section 5 and reproduced overleaf are also used.

The provisions of the Plan are evaluated using compatibility criteria (see Table 8.1 below) in order to determine how they would be likely to affect the status of the SEOs. The SEOs and the provisions of the Plan are arrayed against each other to identify which interactions - if any - would cause effects 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 the SEO likely to be affected - in this instance 'to ensure compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to the protection of European Sites/Annexed habitats and species'<sup>20</sup>.

The interactions identified are reflective of likely significant environmental effects<sup>21</sup>:

1. Interactions that would be likely to improve the status of a particular SEO would be likely to result in a significant positive effect on the environmental component to which the SEO relates.
2. Interactions that would potentially conflict with the status of an SEO and would be likely to be mitigated would be likely to result in potential significant negative effects however these effects would be likely to be mitigated by measures which have been integrated into the Plan – these interactions are termed 'mitigated conflicts'.
3. Interactions that would probably conflict with the status of an SEO and would be unlikely to be mitigated would be likely to result in a significant negative effect on the environmental component to which the SEO relates.

Mitigation measures to prevent or reduce significant adverse effects posed by the Plan are identified in Section 9 - these have been integrated into the Plan (the Council have integrated all recommendations arising from the SEA and AA processes into the Plan - see Section 9). Both the Planning and the assessment teams contributed towards the mitigation that was developed over multiple iterations and reviews and was informed by, inter alia, various communications through the SEA, AA and SFRA processes.

In accordance with the established European principle of subsidiarity, more detailed assessment will be undertaken as appropriate at lower tiers of decision-making. More detailed environmental measures would be likely to emanate from such assessments, further facilitating the mitigation of adverse effects.

**Table 8.1 Criteria for appraising the effect of Plan provisions on SEOs**

Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs- unlikely to be mitigated	Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
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<sup>20</sup> 'Annexed habitats and species' refers to those listed under Annex I, II & IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.

<sup>21</sup> These effects include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.

**Table 8.2 Strategic Environmental Objectives<sup>22</sup>**

SEO Code	SEO
<b>B1</b>	To ensure compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to the protection of European Sites/Annexed habitats and species <sup>23</sup>
<b>B2</b>	To ensure compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the management of features of the landscape which - by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function act as stepping stones - are of significant importance for wild fauna and flora and/or essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species
<b>B3</b>	To avoid significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites <sup>24</sup> and to ensure compliance with the Wildlife Acts 1976-2010 with regard to the protection of species listed on Schedule 5 of the principal Act
<b>PHH1</b>	To protect populations and human health from exposure to incompatible landuses
<b>S1</b>	To avoid damage to the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource
<b>W1</b>	To maintain and improve, where possible, the quality and status of surface waters
<b>W2</b>	To prevent pollution and contamination of ground water
<b>W3</b>	To comply as appropriate with the provisions of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines
<b>M1</b>	To serve new development with adequate and appropriate wastewater treatment
<b>M2</b>	To serve new development with adequate drinking water that is both wholesome and clean
<b>M3</b>	To reduce waste volumes, minimise waste to landfill and increase recycling and reuse
<b>C1</b>	To reduce travel related emissions to air and to encourage modal change from car to more sustainable forms of transport
<b>CH1</b>	To protect archaeological heritage including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and/or their context
<b>CH2</b>	To protect architectural heritage including entries to the Record of Protected Structures and their context
<b>L1</b>	To avoid significant adverse impacts on the landscape

## 8.2 Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening and a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) have both been undertaken alongside the preparation 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 and OPW, 2009).

The AA Screening concluded that the Plan will not affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 network, consequently further stages of AA were not required. The SFRA has facilitated the integration of flood risk management considerations into the Plan.

The preparation of the Plan, SEA, AA and SFRA has taken place concurrently and the findings of the AA and SFRA have informed both the Plan and the SEA. All recommendations made by the AA and SEA were integrated into the Plan.

<sup>22</sup> See Section 5 for a description of Strategic Environmental Objectives.

<sup>23</sup> 'Annexed habitats and species' refer to those listed under Annex I, II & IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.

<sup>24</sup> The Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended defines a 'wildlife site', which includes proposed Natural Heritage Areas.

### 8.3 Potential Adverse Effects and their Determination

Environmental impacts which occur, if any, will be determined by the nature and extent of multiple or individual projects and site-specific environmental factors.

Avoidance of conflict with SEOs and the environment is dependent upon compliance with the mitigation measures which have emerged through the SEA, AA and SFRA processes and which have been integrated into the Plan. The potentially significant adverse environmental effects arising from implementation of the Plan are detailed on Table 8.3 below.

**Table 8.3 Potential Adverse Effects**

<b>Environmental Component</b>	<b>Likely Significant Effect, if unmitigated</b>
Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure: loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites/Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna</li> <li>○ Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects.</li> <li>○ Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species.</li> </ul>
Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Potential interactions if effects upon environmental vectors such as water and air are not mitigated</li> </ul>
Soil (especially soil on greenfield lands)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Damage to the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource.</li> </ul>
Water (including the Banoge River, its tributaries and underlying groundwater)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adverse impacts upon the status of water bodies arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.</li> <li>○ Increase in the risk of flooding.</li> </ul>
Material Assets (it is the function of Irish Water to provide for water services needs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Failure to provide adequate and appropriate wastewater treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>○ Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water that is both wholesome and clean (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts)</li> <li>○ Increases in waste levels</li> </ul>
Air and Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Emissions to air including greenhouse gas emissions and other emissions.</li> </ul>
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities.</li> </ul>
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of the landscape.</li> </ul>

### 8.4 Interrelationship between Environmental Components

The SEA Directive requires the Environmental Report to include information on the likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, fauna, flora, population, human health, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.

Likely significant effects on environmental components that are identified include those that are interrelated; implementation of the Plan will not affect the interrelationships between these components. The presence of significant interrelationships between environmental components is identified on Table 8.4.

**Table 8.4 Presence of Interrelationships between Environmental Components**

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

## 8.5 Cumulative Effects

The consideration of cumulative effects provided under Section 7.2 should be referred to.

## 8.6 Residual Adverse Effects

Section 9 outlines the measures that have mitigated and will mitigate the potential negative effects that are detailed above. Residual adverse effects likely to occur - considering the extent of detail provided by the Plan and assuming that all mitigation measures are complied with by development - are identified for each of the environmental components on Table 8.5 below.

**Table 8.5 Residual Adverse Effects**

<b>Environmental Component</b>	<b>Residual Adverse Effects</b>
Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of an extent of non-protected habitats and species arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces.</li> <li>Losses or damage to ecology (these would comply with relevant legislation).</li> </ul>
Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential interactions with residual effects on environmental vectors. This has been mitigated by provisions that have been integrated into the Plan, including those relating to sustainable mobility and infrastructural provision.</li> </ul>
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces.</li> </ul>
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased loadings as a result of development to comply with River Basin Management Plans.</li> <li>Flood related risks remain due to uncertainty with regard to extreme weather events.</li> </ul>
Air and Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An extent of travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air. This has been mitigated by provisions that have been integrated into the Plan, including those relating to sustainable mobility.</li> </ul>
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residual wastes to be disposed of in line with higher level waste management policies.</li> </ul>
Architectural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential alteration to the context and setting of architectural heritage however, these will occur in compliance with legislation.</li> </ul>
Archaeological Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential alteration to the context and setting of archaeological heritage however, this will occur in compliance with legislation.</li> <li>Potential loss of unknown archaeology however, this loss will be mitigated by measures integrated into the Plan.</li> </ul>
Landscape Designations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None. The Plan contributes towards the protection of the landscape. The Town and Environs landscape will change overtime as a result of natural changes in vegetation cover combined with new developments.</li> </ul>



## 8.7 Detailed Evaluation

For an explanation of SEO codes e.g. **B1**, **B2**, **B3**, **PHH1**, etc. refer to Table 8.2 on page 63.

### 8.7.1 Section 1: Introduction

	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
<b>Vision and Key Principles</b>				
<p>Wexford County Council's vision for the town is as follows:</p> <p>By 2023 Gorey Town will be a high quality, green, well connected town with a compact, walkable urban form. It will have a network of sustainable neighbourhoods that are socially inclusive and desirable places to live. Gorey Town will have high quality sustainable jobs and it will be an attractive place to live in, to visit and to enjoy its high quality public realm, its vibrant arts and culture and its bustling town centre and premier retailing services</p> <p>The key principles for achieving the Vision are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require high quality and people friendly design.</li> <li>• Continue to develop Gorey as a thriving and attractive town with a vibrant mix of uses.</li> <li>• Continue to develop the town as a premier retail destination.</li> <li>• Continue to improve the public realm so that the town is an attractive place to live, work and visit.</li> <li>• Prioritise local economic and employment development.</li> <li>• Continue to ensure that adequate provision is made for childcare, educational and recreational facilities.</li> <li>• Improve the movement, connectivity and legibility within the plan area for users of all forms of transport, in particular pedestrians and cyclists.</li> <li>• Require high quality accessible public open spaces and continue to provide a network of public open spaces at appropriate locations in the plan area.</li> <li>• Protect natural, built and cultural heritage</li> <li>• Maximise the benefits of biodiversity and enhance the green infrastructure network in the area.</li> </ul>	<b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1</b> <b>S1 W1 W2 W3 C1</b> <b>M1 M2 M3 CH1</b> <b>CH2 L1</b>		<b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1</b> <b>S1 W1 W2 W3 C1</b> <b>M1 M2 M3 CH1</b> <b>CH2 L1</b>	
<p><b>Commentary:</b></p> <p>The Vision and Key Principles reflect the preferred and selected development strategy for the Local Area Plan and the evaluation against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) that is provided above is consistent with the evaluation of the preferred strategy that is provided in Section 7. The Vision and Key Principles are expanded upon through the provisions of other Chapters within the Plan.</p> <p>The Gorey town and environs area contains relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and designations and has capacity in transport and wastewater services. By providing for growth and development in this area, the Plan would be likely to contribute towards a reduced need to develop more sensitive towns and rural and coastal areas elsewhere in the County and wider region. This would be likely to result in significant positive environmental effects on various environmental components.</p> <p>The Vision ("...high quality, green, well-connected town with a compact, walkable urban form.... network of sustainable neighbourhoods... high quality public realm") and Key Principles ("...people friendly urban design...", "...improve the public realm...", "Improve movement, connectivity and legibility within the plan area for users of all forms of transport, in particular, pedestrians and cyclists." and "Maximise the benefits of biodiversity and enhance the green infrastructure network...") contribute towards both sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment.</p> <p>By reducing the need for development within more sensitive, less well-served locations within the County and wider Region and intensifying uses and consolidating development, including brownfield development the Local Area Plan would be likely to result in significant positive environmental effects on the following environmental components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity and flora and fauna (<b>SEOs B1 B2 B3</b>);</li> </ul>				

	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Population and human health (<b>SEO HH1</b>);</li> <li>Soil (especially soil on greenfield lands) (<b>SEO S1</b>);</li> <li>Water (status of rivers and groundwater and flooding) (<b>SEOs W1 W2 W3</b>);</li> <li>Material Assets (provision of adequate and appropriate wastewater and drinking water services and waste management) (<b>SEOs M1 M2 M3</b>);</li> <li>Sustainable mobility and associated effects (energy usage and emissions to air including noise and greenhouse gases) (<b>SEO C1</b>);</li> <li>Cultural Heritage (architectural and archaeological heritage) (<b>SEOs CH1 CH2</b>); and</li> <li>Landscape (<b>SEO L1</b>).</li> </ul> <p>The construction and operation of all infrastructure, economic and housing development has the potential to result in adverse effects upon all environmental components however these effects have been mitigated by provisions that have been integrated into the Plan, including those that are identified in Section 9 of this report. The potential adverse effects (if unmitigated) include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including Natura 2000 Sites/Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna (<b>SEOs B1 B2 B3</b>);</li> <li>Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects (<b>SEOs B1 B2 B3</b>);</li> <li>Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species (<b>SEOs B1 B2 B3</b>);</li> <li>Potential interactions with human health if effects upon environmental vectors such as water and air are not mitigated (<b>SEO PHH1</b>);</li> <li>Damage to the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource (<b>SEO S1</b>);</li> <li>Adverse impacts upon the status and quality of water bodies (<b>SEOs W1 W2</b>);</li> <li>Increase in the risk of flooding (<b>SEO W3</b>);</li> <li>Failure to provide adequate and appropriate wastewater treatment (<b>SEO M1</b>; water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts);</li> <li>Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water that is both wholesome and clean (<b>SEO M2</b>; water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts);</li> <li>Increases in waste levels (<b>SEO M3</b>);</li> <li>Emissions to air including greenhouse gas emissions and other emissions (<b>SEO C1</b>);</li> <li>Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities (<b>SEOs CH1 CH2</b>); and</li> <li>Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of the landscape (<b>SEO L1</b>).</li> </ul>				

## 8.7.2 Section 2: Population, Housing and Social Infrastructure Delivery

	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
<b>Housing Objectives</b>				
<b>H01</b> To ensure that all new residential developments in the plan area provide a high quality accessible living environment with attractive and efficient dwellings located in a high quality public realm and served by well designed and located open spaces. <b>H02</b> To provide social housing and housing supports in accordance with the Social Housing Assessment of Needs. <b>H03</b> To facilitate new residential development in accordance with the Core Strategy and to require physical, social and community infrastructure to be provided either prior to or in tandem with this new residential development. No dwelling within that residential development shall be occupied until the required infrastructure has been provided. The required infrastructure which is identified on Maps 3 and 4 and in Appendix 1 Neighbourhood Framework Plans and Appendix 2 Implementation and Infrastructure Delivery Schedules includes wastewater and water supply, public lighting, footpaths,	<b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</b>		<b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</b>	

	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
<p>cycleways, play ground/play facilities, parks and schools.</p> <p><b>H04</b> To require planning applications for residential developments to demonstrate how the scheme complies with the Neighbourhood Framework Plan which the subject lands are located in. It must be demonstrated how the development complies with the layout, form, density, linkages and accessibility and open space provision. Where a deviation from the framework is proposed, the application must demonstrate that this deviation does not compromise the delivery of the Framework and is equally permeable and proposes a positive relationship with adjacent existing and proposed development, including public open spaces and linkages.</p> <p><b>H05</b> To require residential schemes to provide an appropriate mix of house types that will cater for the various household compositions in the plan area. In general the following house type ratio will be required in residential schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25% two bedroom dwellings</li> <li>• 30% three bedroom dwellings</li> <li>• 30% four bedroom dwellings</li> <li>• 15% to be allocated to any of the above based on evidence of demand.</li> </ul> <p>The Council will consider a deviation from this mix ratio where it is demonstrated that there is an overprovision of a particular type of house type or there is lack of demand for a particular house type(s) in the area.</p> <p><b>H06</b> To ensure that the phased development of a residential scheme delivers the quantum of public open space commensurate to the number of dwellings in that particular phase. Planning applications for residential schemes of 25 or more dwellings shall be accompanied by a detailed phasing schedule detailing the number of dwellings, amount of public open space and infrastructure which will be developed as part of each phase.</p>				
<b>Community Facilities Objectives</b>				
<p><b>Objective CF01</b> To support the provision of a multi-user community building at an appropriate location in the plan area.</p>	<p><b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</b></p>		<p><b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</b></p>	
<b>Arts and Culture Objectives</b>				
<p><b>Objective ACF01</b> To continue to actively foster and promote the development of the arts and cultural diversity in Gorey and to facilitate infrastructural improvements, including the provision of an Arts Centre, to assist in the development of the arts and culture.</p> <p><b>Objective ACF02</b> To support the provision of spaces for artists in suitable buildings to live, work and exhibit their work such as the temporary use of vacant buildings as pop up shops and the use of vacant public buildings.</p> <p><b>Objective ACF03</b> To promote the continued use of Market House, and ensure any future development protects and enhances the building's architectural character and heritage.</p> <p><b>Objective ACF04</b> To encourage the use of public art in public spaces including the Town Park, and in large scale developments.</p> <p><b>Objective ACF05</b> To promote the town's local cultural heritage by using local placenames, cultural or geographical names in the naming of new residential or other developments.</p>	<p><b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</b></p>		<p><b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</b></p>	

	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
<b>Accessibility and Universal Design Objective</b>				
<b>Objective AUD01</b> To ensure that Gorey Town is a safe, accessible, age friendly and socially inclusive place which is well planned and designed, is people friendly and is easy and efficient to get around.	<b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</b>		<b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</b>	
<p><b>Commentary:</b></p> <p>These provisions are part of the preferred and selected development strategy for the Local Area Plan and the evaluation against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) that is provided above is consistent with the evaluation of the preferred strategy that is provided in Section 7.</p> <p>The provision of housing, community, arts and culture and accessibility and urban design developments and activities within Gorey reduces the need for development within more sensitive, less well-served locations within the County and wider Region. The Plan provides for these developments and activities within a framework that intensifies uses and consolidates development. This approach contributes towards sustainable development and environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Housing objectives provide specific requirements for new developments that would be likely to result in positive effects upon the environment and sustainable mobility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective H01 provides for a “high quality public realm” and nearby open spaces (“served by well designed and located open spaces”);</li> <li>Objective H03 requires housing development to be accompanied by necessary infrastructure including “wastewater and water supply, public lighting, footpaths, cycleways, play ground/play facilities and schools”; and</li> <li>Objective H04 provides requirements in relation to “how the development complies with the layout, form, density, linkages and accessibility and open space provision” contained within the Urban Design Masterplan Framework.</li> </ul> <p>Facilitates lower overall effects on ecology (including designated sites, ecological connectivity, habitats) – due to reducing the need for development within more sensitive, less well served locations within the County and wider Region; and intensifying uses and consolidating development, including brownfield development</p> <p>Objective CF01 provides for a multi-user community building and contributes towards the preferred and selected development strategy for the Local Area Plan detailed in Section 7.</p>				

### 8.7.3 Section 3: Urban Design Strategy

	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
<b>Urban Design Objectives</b>				
<b>Objective UD01</b> To require planning applications to demonstrate compliance with the Neighbourhood Framework Plan within which the subject lands are located. It must be demonstrated that the development will deliver the main components and objectives of each Neighbourhood Framework Plan with regard layout, form, density, linkages, infrastructure, open space provision and key infrastructure provision. Where a deviation from the framework is proposed, it must be demonstrated that the development does not compromise the delivery of the components or objectives of the Framework. <b>Objective UD02</b> To require developments to demonstrate compliance with the Urban Design Strategy above and the Urban Design Guidelines contained in Appendix 1. <b>Objective UD03</b> To encourage innovation in the built environment and to ensure that high quality urban design and architecture is carried out in accordance with the guidelines contained in this LAP along the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on	<b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</b>		<b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</b>	

	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas, its companion document Urban Design Manual (DEHLG, 2009), the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Street (DTTS and DCLG, 2013), the Architectural Heritage Protection - Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DAHG, 2011) and the National Disability Authority (NDA) Buildings for Everyone: A Universal Design Approach.				
<p><b>Commentary:</b></p> <p>The Urban Design Strategy (which relates to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management) would contribute towards the achievement of the preferred alternative development strategy for the Plan. The evaluation against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) that is provided above is consistent with the evaluation of the preferred development strategy that is provided in Section 7 including contributing towards sustainable development and the protection of the environment.</p> <p>The Gorey town and environs area contains relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and designations and has capacity in transport and wastewater services. By providing for growth and development in this area, the Plan would be likely to contribute towards a reduced need to develop more sensitive towns and rural and coastal areas elsewhere in the County and wider region. This would be likely to result in significant positive environmental effects on various environmental components.</p> <p>The Urban Design Strategy includes three Objectives and, at Appendix I, Neighbourhood Framework Plans (NFPs) that set out more detailed urban design objectives and key components for key areas of the town. The NFPs are indicative frameworks and there may be deviation from these frameworks – within the bounds of other Plan provisions – during implementation of the Plan. These provisions provide specific requirements for new developments that would cumulatively contribute towards positive effects upon the environment and sustainable mobility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective UD01 requires planning applications to demonstrate compliance with the NFPs that encompass issues relating to layout, form, density, linkages, infrastructure, open space provision and key infrastructure provision. Key environmental sensitivities that have been considered within each NFP are detailed below.</li> <li>Objective UD02 require developments to demonstrate compliance with detail relating to a variety of issues including character, coherence, connectivity and permeability, continuity and enclosure, scale, landscape, adaptability, diversity, building style and materials and urban blocks.</li> <li>Objective UD03 provides for high quality urban design and architecture, referencing guidelines including those contained in the LAP, Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas, the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Street (DTTS and DCLG, 2013) and the Architectural Heritage Protection - Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DAHG, 2011). Urban</li> </ul> <p>Key environmental sensitivities which have been considered within each of the NFP areas include:</p> <p><b>Town Centre</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poor Status Stream (Banoge)</li> <li>Medium-High groundwater vulnerability</li> <li>Proposed Architectural Conservation Area</li> <li>Protected Structures and entries to the National Inventory for Architectural Heritage</li> <li>Archaeological Monuments and Zone of Notification</li> <li>Flood zones (A and B)</li> </ul> <p><b>Creagh</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderate status stream</li> <li>Medium-High groundwater vulnerability</li> <li>Protected structures</li> <li>Archaeological monument</li> <li>Flood zones (A and B)</li> <li>Forested area</li> </ul> <p><b>Ballytegan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sensitive land-cover (Broad-leaved forest)</li> <li>Moderate status stream (Banoge)</li> <li>High groundwater vulnerability</li> <li>Protected structure</li> <li>Flood zones (A and B).</li> </ul>				



	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
<p>Clonattin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extreme groundwater vulnerability</li> <li>• Protected structure</li> <li>• Archaeological monument</li> <li>• Poor Status Stream (Clonattin Upper)</li> <li>• Protected structures and entries to the National Inventory for Architectural Heritage</li> <li>• Flood zones (A and B)</li> </ul> <p>Gorey South</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor Status Stream (Banoge)</li> <li>• Medium-High groundwater vulnerability</li> <li>• Protected Structures and entries to the National Inventory for Architectural Heritage</li> <li>• Archaeological monument</li> <li>• Flood zones (A and B)</li> </ul> <p>Various provisions that have been integrated into the Plan (including those referenced at Section 9 of this report) will help to ensure that adverse effects arising from the Urban Design Strategy, including the Neighbourhood Framework Plans, are mitigated.</p>				

#### 8.7.4 Section 4: Access and Movement Strategy

	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
<b>Access and Movement Objectives</b>				
<p><b>Objective AMS01</b> To ensure the design of all streets and roads in the plan area complies with the objectives and guidelines in the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (Department of Transport and Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, 2013) and the Urban Design Strategy, the Access and Movement Strategy and the Urban Design Guidelines contained in Appendix 1 of the LAP.</p> <p><b>Objective AMS02</b> To secure the provision in tandem with new developments, or provide subject to available resources, the footpath and pedestrian linkage objectives detailed on Map 3.</p> <p><b>Objective AMS03</b> To undertake an accessibility audit of existing footpaths in the plan area in order to identify and implement a scheme of works required to provide accessible and safe footpaths for all users.</p> <p><b>Objective AMS04</b> To secure the provision in tandem with new developments, or provide subject to available resources, the cycle objectives detailed on Map 4.</p> <p><b>Objective AMS05</b> To support the development of a public transport hub incorporating an accessible inter-modal transport node with park and ride facilities at an appropriate location in the plan area.</p>	<p><b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</b></p>		<p><b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</b></p>	

	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
<p><b>Commentary:</b></p> <p>The provisions of the Plan relating to Access and Movement will primarily contribute towards maximising sustainable mobility and associated interactions with emissions to air, energy usage and human health (<b>SEOs C1 PHH1</b>). Regeneration of town centre sites would have the potential to contribute towards the protection of cultural heritage (<b>SEOs CH1 and CH2</b>). Directly (from the construction and operation of transport infrastructure) and indirectly (from facilitating non-transport development) these provisions have the potential to result in significant adverse effects upon most environmental components including ecology (<b>SEOs B1 B2 B3</b>), soil function (<b>SEO S1</b>), the status of water bodies (<b>SEOs W1 W2</b>), flood risk (<b>SEOs W3 PHH1</b>), cultural heritage (<b>SEOs CH1 CH2</b>), the landscape (<b>SEO L1</b>) and emissions and energy usage (<b>SEOs C1 PHH1</b>).</p> <p>The provisions of the Plan relating to Access and Movement would also contribute towards and support the preferred alternative development strategy (see details and evaluation at Section 7). Therefore, the effects arising from implementation of the preferred alternative development strategy – both beneficial and potentially adverse - are contributed towards by these provisions. Potential adverse effects would be mitigated by the measures that have been integrated into the Plan (see Section 9) and any additional requirements arising through lower tier assessments or granting of permission.</p> <p>The provision of access and movement infrastructure and facilities contributes towards a long term sustainable development and growth of the town and a maximisation of those positive environmental effects occurring elsewhere in the County and wider region as a result of development within the town.</p>				

### 8.7.5 Section 5: Greener Gorey - Open Space, Recreation and Green Infrastructure Strategy

	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
<b>Hub Open Spaces Objectives</b>				
<b>Objective OS01</b> To support the development of Gorey Town Park, Ramsfortpark Forest and Clonattin Park for high level recreational and amenity uses. The delivery of Gorey Town Park and Ramsfortpark Forest will be supported through the Development Contribution Scheme. Clonattin Park will be delivered in tandem with the development of the residential and the business lands in this area.	<b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</b>		<b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</b>	
<b>Pocket Open Spaces Objectives</b>				
<b>Objective OS02</b> To require a 15% provision of the overall site area for use as public open space in new residential schemes. This open space shall be provided as set out in Sections 5.3.2 Neighbourhood Parks and 5.3.3 Pocket Parks.	<b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</b>		<b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</b>	
<b>Green corridors and River corridors objectives</b>				
<b>Objective OS03</b> To have regard to the 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment Guidelines' (Shannon Regional Fisheries Board) when considering development proposals in the vicinity of rivers and streams within and adjoining the plan area.	<b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</b>		<b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</b>	
<b>Objective OS04</b> To ensure riparian buffer zones, a minimum of 10m in width (in some cases buffers zones up to 50m may be appropriate), are created between all watercourses and any future development. In considering the appropriate width, the Council will have regard to 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment Guidelines' (Shannon Regional Fisheries Board).				
<b>Objective OS05</b> To only consider proposals for culverting/piping of streams and watercourses where these works are deemed absolutely necessary and appropriate. Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI), National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and the Office of				

	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
Public Works (OPW) will be consulted, where appropriate.				
<b>Play Facilities Objectives</b>				
<b>Objective OS06</b> To require high quality landscaped areas with play facilities within new residential developments of 50+ residential units as detailed in accordance with the standards contained in Section 5.4.1. Details of proposals shall be submitted with the planning application. <b>Objective OS07</b> To target underutilised play for improvement or replacement, subject to the availability of the necessary resources. <b>Objective OS08</b> To encourage and provide Multi-User Games Areas (MUGAs) at appropriate locations within the plan area.	<b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1</b> <b>S1 W1 W2 W3 C1</b> <b>M1 M2 M3 CH1</b> <b>CH2 L1</b>		<b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1</b> <b>S1 W1 W2 W3 C1</b> <b>M1 M2 M3 CH1</b> <b>CH2 L1</b>	
<b>Commentary:</b>  By facilitating open space, recreation and green infrastructure development (which includes new built development and facilities and the construction and operation of infrastructure to service this development), these provisions would potentially conflict with the full range of environmental components (SEOs <b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 C1 CH1 CH2 L1</b> ). Potential adverse effects would be mitigated by measures that have been integrated into the Plan (see Section 9). The evaluation against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) that is provided above is consistent with the evaluation of the preferred development strategy that is provided in Section 7.  The development of green infrastructure such as sports fields and open space would facilitate: contributions towards increases in sustainable mobility and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions (SEO <b>C1</b> ); increases in flood risk management (SEO <b>W3</b> ) and protection of human health (SEO <b>PHH1</b> ); protection and management biodiversity and water quality (SEOs <b>B1 B2 B3 W1 W2</b> ); and protection cultural heritage and landscape sensitivities (SEOs <b>CH1 CH2 L1</b> ). The development of green infrastructure potentially conflicts with most environmental components (SEOs <b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</b> ). This type of infrastructure is often constructed in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams. Potential adverse effects would be mitigated by measures that have been integrated into the Plan and any additional requirements arising through lower tier assessments or granting of permission.  By providing open space, recreation and green infrastructure development alongside other types of development these various objectives would contribute towards maximising sustainable mobility and associated interactions with emissions to air, energy usage and human health (SEO <b>C1 PHH1</b> ). There would also be beneficial interactions with respect to the protection of ecology and status of waters and the minimisation of flood risk; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective OS03- "To have regard to the 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment Guidelines'..."</li> <li>• Objective OS04- "...ensure riparian buffer zones, a minimum of 10m in width (in some cases buffers zones up to 50m may be appropriate), are created...."</li> <li>• Objective OS05- "Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI), National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and the Office of Public Works (OPW) will be consulted, where appropriate"</li> </ul>				

### 8.7.6 Section 6: Economic Development Strategy

	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
<b>Economic Development Objectives</b>				
<b>Objective EDS01</b> To encourage and facilitate appropriate employment opportunities in the plan area to allow Gorey Town to become more self-sufficient in terms of employment and to provide the opportunity for people to work locally rather than commute out of the county for work subject to compliance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. <b>Objective EDS02</b> To work with State agencies and other relevant bodies to attract new industries and enterprises to Gorey Town and to facilitate the expansion of existing industries in the town subject to the proper planning and sustainable development of	<b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1</b> <b>S1 W1 W2 W3 C1</b> <b>M1 M2 M3 CH1</b> <b>CH2 L1</b>		<b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1</b> <b>S1 W1 W2 W3 C1</b> <b>M1 M2 M3 CH1</b> <b>CH2 L1</b>	

	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
<p>the area.</p> <p><b>Objective EDS03</b> To encourage and assist the redevelopment of already developed or brownfield lands for enterprise and employment subject to the compliance with the land use zoning objectives for the subject lands and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.</p> <p><b>Objective EDS04</b> To facilitate the provision of, or provide enterprise centres, training infrastructure and incubator units which provide support and shared facilities in a nurturing environment for entrepreneurs to start and develop their businesses.</p> <p><b>Objective EDS05</b> To ensure the development of buildings and land for enterprise and employment related uses are of a high standard in terms of their design, layout, siting and the associated signage and infrastructure. Established building lines and boundary treatments should be respected where appropriate and where no apparent building line exists the applicant should discuss the appropriate location for the building with the planning authority.</p> <p><b>Objective EDS06</b> To support the development of future phases of the 'IT Innovation Hub' located at Knockmullen.</p> <p><b>Objective EDS07</b> To develop the public realm and amenities of Gorey Town and to facilitate the provision of adequate and attractive housing so that the quality of life of employees and residents will act as a selling point for investors in the town.</p> <p><b>Objective EDS08</b> To develop and maximise the tourism potential of Gorey Town and the wider North Wexford area by facilitating the expansion of existing and the provision of new sustainable tourism products, facilities and infrastructure and by protecting and improving the existing heritage and natural assets of the town.</p>				
<p><b>Commentary:</b></p> <p>These economic development provisions are consistent with and would contribute towards the development of the Town and Environs as part of the preferred alternative development strategy for the Plan (see Section 7). The evaluation against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) that is provided above is consistent with the evaluation of the preferred strategy that is provided in Section 7.</p> <p>The Gorey town and environs area contains relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and designations and has capacity in transport and wastewater services. By providing for growth and development in this area, the Plan would be likely to contribute towards a reduced need to develop more sensitive towns and rural and coastal areas elsewhere in the County and wider region. This would be likely to result in significant positive environmental effects on various environmental components.</p> <p>Environmental protection and management has been integrated into a number of the provisions in this section including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective EDS01 "...self-sufficient ...subject to compliance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area."</li> <li>• Objective EDS02 "...subject to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area."</li> <li>• Objective EDS03 "...brownfield lands...subject to the compliance with the land use zoning objectives for the subject lands and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area."</li> <li>• Objective EDS08 "...by protecting and improving the existing heritage and natural assets of the town."</li> </ul>				

## 8.7.7 Section 7: Town Centre Development and Regeneration

	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
<b>Town Centre Development Objectives</b>				
<b>Objective TC01</b> To prepare and implement a Public Realm Plan for the town centre. <b>Objective TC02</b> To utilise the Council's powers of Compulsory Purchase to improve the public realm and stimulate economic and cultural development. The Council will assist with site assembly where this is in the interests of the integrated development of the town centre. <b>Objective TC03</b> To establish a Town Team which will engage with key stakeholders to identify and implement measures for the benefit and advancement of the physical, economic and social well being of the town. <b>Objective TC04</b> To promote and encourage the development of over-the-shop development and ensure that vacancy at first floor level is avoided. <b>Objective TC05</b> To provide for the development of a mix of uses within the town centre, including residential, retail, services, commercial, complementary leisure, entertainment, cultural and community facilities. <b>Objective TC06</b> To encourage the use of town houses as an appropriate form of housing which is appropriately sized to meet the smaller household sizes and single occupancy households. <b>Objective TC07</b> To implement the recommendations of the Neighbourhood Framework Plan for the Town Centre contained in Appendix 1. An emphasis will be placed on increasing permeability, in particular, pedestrian movement to/from and within the town centre. <b>Objective TC08</b> To implement the urban design recommendations contained in Appendix 1.	<b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1</b> <b>S1 W1 W2 W3 C1</b> <b>M1 M2 M3 CH1</b> <b>CH2 L1</b>		<b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1</b> <b>S1 W1 W2 W3 C1</b> <b>M1 M2 M3 CH1</b> <b>CH2 L1</b>	
<b>Derelict Sites Objectives</b>				
<b>Objective DS01</b> To encourage and facilitate the reuse and regeneration of derelict land and buildings. <b>Objective DS02</b> To use the powers, where appropriate, under the Derelict Sites Act, 1990, to include sites on the Register of Derelict Sites and charge levies. <b>Objective DS03</b> To prioritise sites adjacent to major thoroughfares and public spaces, adjoining schools or community spaces and sites that seriously detract from residential amenity.				
<b>Vacant Sites Objectives</b>				
<b>Objective VS01</b> To pursue and encourage the development and regeneration of areas that are in need of regeneration in order to prevent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adverse effects on existing amenities in such areas, in particular as a result of the ruinous or neglect condition of any land;</li> <li>Urban blight and decay;</li> <li>Anti-social behaviour; or</li> <li>A shortage of habitable houses or of land suitable for residential use or a mixture of residential and other uses.</li> </ul>				

	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
<b>Objective VS02</b> To examine all lands zoned 'Residential' and 'Regeneration Land' within the boundary of the Gorey Town and Environs LAP 2017-2023 and enter such lands on the Vacant Sites Register and apply the appropriate levies where they satisfy the criteria laid down in the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015.				
<b>Commentary:</b>  These town centre development and regeneration objectives provisions are consistent with and contribute towards the preferred alternative development strategy for the Plan. The evaluation against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) that is provided is consistent with the evaluation of the preferred development strategy that is provided in Section 7 including contributing towards sustainable development and the protection of the environment.  The Gorey town and environs area contains relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and designations and has capacity in transport and wastewater services. By providing for growth and development in this area, including in the town centre and at derelict and vacant sites, the Plan would be likely to contribute towards a reduced need to develop more sensitive towns and rural and coastal areas elsewhere in the County and wider region. This would be likely to result in significant positive environmental effects on various environmental components.  By providing for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>improvement of the public realm;</li> <li>development of the town centre;</li> <li>improved permeability;</li> <li>implementation of the Neighbourhood Framework Plan for the Town Centre (see also 8.7.3 above);</li> <li>implementation of Urban Design Guidelines (see also 8.7.3 above);</li> <li>reuse and regeneration of derelict land and buildings; and</li> <li>development and regeneration of areas that are in need of regeneration</li> </ul> these provisions would: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Help to maximise the uptake in smarter, more sustainable modes of transport and minimise transport related emissions (including indirect benefits with regard to the protection of human health <b>SEOs C1 PHH1</b>);</li> <li>Contribute towards the protection of many environmental components outside of the town that would otherwise occur as a result of urban generated development. Such components include biodiversity and flora and fauna, soil, water (including interactions with population and human health), landscape designations and cultural heritage (<b>SEOs B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</b>); and</li> <li>Make most use of existing water services and drainage infrastructure, subject to capacity being provided (including indirect benefits with regard to the protection of water, biodiversity and flora and fauna, soil and human health) (<b>SEOs M1 M2 W1 W2 W3 B1 B2 B3 S1 PHH1</b>).</li> </ul> The construction and operation of developments has the potential to result in adverse effects upon all environmental components however these effects have been mitigated by provisions that have been integrated into the Plan, including those that are identified in Section 9 of this report. The potential adverse effects (if unmitigated) include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of biodiversity with regard to Natura 2000 Sites/Annexed habitats and species (<b>SEO B1</b>)</li> <li>Loss of biodiversity with regard to ecological connectivity and stepping stones (<b>SEO B2</b>)</li> <li>Loss of biodiversity with regard to designated sites including Wildlife Sites and listed species (<b>SEO B3</b>)</li> <li>Spatially concentrated deterioration in human health (<b>SEO PHH1</b>)</li> <li>Damage to the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource (<b>SEO S1</b>)</li> <li>Adverse impacts upon the status and quality of water bodies (<b>SEOs W1 W2</b>)</li> <li>Increase in the risk of flooding (<b>SEO W3</b>)</li> <li>Failure to provide adequate and appropriate wastewater treatment (<b>SEO M1</b>; water services infrastructure and capacity is needed to ensure the mitigation of potential conflicts)</li> <li>Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water that is both wholesome and clean (<b>SEO M2</b>; water services infrastructure and capacity is needed to ensure the mitigation of potential conflicts)</li> <li>Increases in waste levels (<b>SEO M3</b>)</li> <li>Effects on entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and other archaeological heritage (<b>SEO CH1</b>)</li> <li>Effects on entries to the Records of Protected Structures and other architectural heritage (<b>SEO CH2</b>)</li> <li>Occurrence of adverse visual impacts (<b>SEO L1</b>)</li> </ul>				



## 8.7.8 Section 8: Retail

	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
<b>Retail Objectives</b>				
<b>Objective RS01</b> To promote and protect the vitality and viability of the retail core, identified on Map 6, and to ensure that it remains the primary location for retail development. <b>Objective RS02</b> To restrict development outside of the retail core in accordance with Section 8.3 and the Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities, 2012. <b>Objective RS03</b> To retain the retail function of ground floors on the Primary Retail Streets identified on Map 6. The Planning Authority will prohibit development which would individually or cumulatively undermine the primary use of the street for retail purposes (with the exception of temporary uses to address vacancy). <b>Objective RS04</b> To ensure the scale of retail development in the Local Community Spaces shall reflect the size of the neighbourhood it is intended to serve.	<b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1</b> <b>S1 W1 W2 W3 C1</b> <b>M1 M2 M3 CH1</b> <b>CH2 L1</b>		<b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1</b> <b>S1 W1 W2 W3 C1</b> <b>M1 M2 M3 CH1</b> <b>CH2 L1</b>	
<b>Betting Offices and Takeaways Objectives</b>				
<b>Objective RS05</b> To restrict the development of betting offices on Main Street and Esmonde Street. Where development is permitted for other development to which Class 2 of Part 4 of Schedule 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) relates (e.g. financial and professional services), a condition will be imposed restricting any change of use to a betting office. <b>Objective RS06</b> To restrict the development of fast food restaurants, takeaways and amusement arcades on Main Street and Esmonde Street and to restrict the development of fast food restaurants and take-aways within 250m of existing schools. Where development is permitted for a shop or restaurant in these areas a condition will be imposed restricting any change of use accordingly.	<b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1</b> <b>S1 W1 W2 W3 C1</b> <b>M1 M2 M3 CH1</b> <b>CH2 L1</b>		<b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1</b> <b>S1 W1 W2 W3 C1</b> <b>M1 M2 M3 CH1</b> <b>CH2 L1</b>	
<b>Commentary:</b>  The retail development provisions from the Plan set out the overall strategy for the future development of retailing in the Plan area and will, in combination with the implementation of other provisions from the Plan, towards the overall development of the Town and Environs. By providing for the development of retail (which would encompass new built development and the construction and operation of infrastructure to service this development), these provisions would potentially conflict with the full range of environmental components ( <b>SEOs B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 C1 CH1 CH2 L1</b> ). Potential adverse effects would be mitigated by measures that have been integrated into the Plan (see Section 9).  The evaluation against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) that is provided above is consistent with the evaluation of the preferred development strategy that is provided in Section 7. This development strategy would contribute towards the protection of many environmental components ( <b>SEOs B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</b> ). Retail provisions place an emphasis on the provision within Gorey Town and its Environs of a range of retail goods and services – this will have various benefits on the protection and management of the environment and will contribute towards maximising sustainable mobility and associated interactions with emissions to air, energy usage and human health ( <b>SEO C1 PHH1</b> ).				

## 8.7.9 Section 9: Heritage

	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
<b>Architectural Heritage, Architectural Conservation Areas and Archaeological Heritage</b>				
<b>Architectural Heritage</b> <b>Objective AH01</b> To protect the architectural heritage of Gorey Town through the prevention of any works to protected structures which would cause loss of, or damage to, the character and special interest of the structure and loss of, or damage to structures of heritage value within the curtilage or any specified features in the attendant grounds of the structure. <b>Objective AH02</b> To promote the maintenance and appropriate reuse of protected structures and older buildings of architectural merit which make a positive contribution to the character and streetscape of Gorey Town. <b>Objective AH03</b> To retain and reinforce the existing street layouts, historic building lines and traditional plot widths which derive from the town's historical development (except in circumstances where there is a reason of justifiable public interest). <b>Objective AH04</b> To protect and enhance the form of groups of terrace buildings on the approach roads to the town centre, especially as regards roofscapes, chimneys, shape of opes and finishes. <b>Objective AH05</b> To have regard to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) when considering development proposals relating to buildings included on the inventory. <b>Architectural Conservation Areas</b> <b>Objective ACA01</b> To carry out a review of the architectural heritage of Gorey Town during the preparation of the Wexford County Development Plan 2019-2025 with a view to designating Architectural Conservation Area(s). <b>Objective ACA02</b> To preserve the character of designated Architectural Conservation Area(s) by ensuring that all proposed development within these areas are carried out to the highest architectural and urban design standards. <b>Objective ACA03</b> To engage in a targeted awareness campaign on the character and special interest of each Architectural Conservation Area during the process of designation and provide assistance and guidance in preserving these area. <b>Archaeological Heritage</b> <b>Objective ARH01</b> To have regard to the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and the newly identified sites identified on Map 9, when dealing with planning applications for development or threats to recorded items. Development shall be controlled in the vicinity of a recorded feature where it detracts from the setting of the feature or where it is injurious to its integrity, cultural or educational value. The Council shall consult with the National Monuments Service in the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht where appropriate. <b>Objective ARH02</b> To have regard to the Zone of Archaeological Potential within Gorey town when dealing with planning applications for all development, including local authority own development. This area is identified on Map 9. Where permission for such proposals is granted, the applicant will have due regard to the recommendations of the National Monuments Service and the Heritage and Planning Division in the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. This may involve the employment of a licensed archaeologist at the expense of the developer to record any archaeological remains uncovered and to supervise all excavation works.	<b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1</b> <b>S1 W1 W2 W3 C1</b> <b>M1 M2 M3 CH1</b> <b>CH2 L1</b>		<b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1</b> <b>S1 W1 W2 W3 C1</b> <b>M1 M2 M3 CH1</b> <b>CH2 L1</b>	

	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
<b>Natural Heritage Objectives</b>				
<p><b>Objective AA01</b> The Council will ensure that any plan/project and any associated works, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, are subject to Screening for Appropriate Assessment to ensure there are no likely significant effects on any Natura 2000 site(s) and that the requirements of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive are fully satisfied. Where a plan/project is likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site or there is uncertainty with regard to effects, it shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment. The plan/project will proceed only after it has been ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site or where, in the absence of alternative solutions, the plan/project is deemed by the competent authority imperative for reasons of overriding public interest.</p> <p><b>Objective NH01</b> To protect existing ecological networks and wildlife corridors and provide for new and enhanced connections, where necessary, between fragmented areas. In this regard, the Council will carry out an ecological survey of the plan area and map the identified ecological networks and wildlife and any gaps therein.</p> <p><b>Objective NH02</b> To promote best practice in the control of invasive species and support measures for the prevention and/or eradication of invasive species as appropriate and as opportunities and resources allow.</p> <p><b>Objective NH03</b> To raise awareness in relation to invasive species, including making landowners and developers aware of best practice guidance in relation to the control of invasive species and encouraging them to adhere to same and, to ensure, in so far as possible, that proposals for development do not lead to the spread of invasive species.</p> <p><b>Objective NH04</b> To ensure that proposals for development do not lead to the spread or introduction of invasive species. If developments are proposed on sites where invasive species are or were previously present, the applicants will be required to submit a control and management programme for the particular invasive species as part of the planning process.</p>	<p><b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</b></p>		<p><b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</b></p>	
<p><b>Commentary:</b></p> <p>These built and natural heritage provisions primarily contribute towards the protection and management of architectural and archaeological heritage (<b>SEOs CH1 CH2</b>) and ecology (<b>SEOs B1 B2 B3</b>). These provisions would also benefit the protection and management of environmental components including soil, water, human health and flood risk management (<b>SEOs S1 PHH1 W1 W2 W3</b>).</p> <p>Certain provisions that provide or that could potentially provide for development – e.g. Objectives ARH02 (“maintenance and appropriate reuse”), ARH03 (“reinforce the existing street layouts”), ARCH04 (“enhance the form of groups”) and NH01 (“provide for new and enhanced connections”) – could potentially conflict with environmental components (<b>SEOs B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</b>) and would contribute towards the overall sustainable development of the Town and Environs area in combination with other Plan provisions. Adverse effects would be mitigated by both measures that have been integrated into the Plan (see Section 9) and any additional requirements arising through lower tier assessments or granting of permission.</p> <p>By allowing for sympathetic re-development of urban sites, the built heritage provisions would contribute towards sustainable mobility and associated interactions with emissions to air, energy usage and human health (<b>SEOs C1 PHH1</b>).</p>				

## 8.7.10 Section 10: Climate Change, Flood Risk Management and Services

	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
<b>Climate Change Objectives</b>				
<b>Objective CC01</b> To have regard to the future National Mitigation Plan, the future National Climate Change Adaptation Framework and any future Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for County Wexford. <b>Objective CC02</b> All planning applications for new residential, commercial and industrial units within the plan area shall be accompanied by an Energy Efficiency Statement showing how energy considerations have been incorporated into the design of the proposed development.	<b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</b>		<b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</b>	
<b>Commentary:</b>  The National Climate Change Policy Framework provides a strategic policy focus to ensure adaptation measures are taken across different sectors and levels of government to reduce Ireland's vulnerability to the negative impacts of climate change. Climate change adaptation measures have the potential to result in beneficial significant environmental effects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land use planning, providing for the location of new development close to existing development and serviced by public transport, at an appropriate density, can reduce the need to travel by car and contribute towards increases in sustainable mobility and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions (<b>SEO C1</b>).</li> <li>Adaptation measures such as flood risk management infrastructure could, inter alia, help to protect humans (<b>SEO PHH1</b>) from flood risk (<b>SEO W3</b>), prevent the loss of biodiversity and heritage (<b>SEOs B1 B2 B3 CH1 CH2 L1</b>) and protect existing infrastructure and services (<b>SEOs M1 M2 M3 W1 W2</b>) with resultant protection of the status of waters and soils during flood events (<b>SEOs W1 W2 S1</b>).</li> <li>The development of green infrastructure could: contribute towards increases in sustainable mobility and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions (<b>SEO C1</b>); minimise increases in flood risk (<b>SEO W3</b>) and protect human health (<b>SEO HH1</b>); contribute towards the provision of various services and the sustainable management of water (<b>SEOs M1 M2 M3</b>); protect and manage biodiversity and water quality (<b>SEOs B1 B2 B3 W1 W2</b>); and protect cultural heritage and landscape sensitivities (<b>SEOs CH1 and CH2</b>).</li> </ul> Certain climate change adaptation actions, such as flood defence infrastructure and the development of green infrastructure, have the potential to result in significant adverse environmental effects during construction and operation on most environmental components ( <b>SEOs B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</b> ). These types of infrastructure are often constructed in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams.  These provisions would also contribute towards and support the preferred alternative development strategy (see details and evaluation at Section 7). Therefore, the effects arising from implementation of the preferred strategy – both beneficial and potentially adverse – are contributed towards by these provisions. Potential adverse effects would be mitigated by the measures that have been integrated into the Plan (see Section 9) and any additional requirements arising through lower tier assessments or granting of permission.  Incorporating energy considerations into the design of proposed developments will facilitate reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from these developments.				
<b>Flood Risk Management Objectives</b>				
<b>Objective FRM01</b> To ensure that all development proposals in the plan area comply with the requirements of 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Office of Public Works, 2009), as amended by Circular PL2/2014', and any subsequent review or other future update to the Guidelines. <b>Objective FRM02</b> To have regard to the flood maps and the Flood Risk Management Plan prepared for Gorey Town and Environs as part of the South-East Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (CFRAM) and to ensure that development proposals comply with any relevant requirements set out therein. <b>Objective FRM03</b> To require planning applications for development proposals within, incorporating or adjoining areas at moderate (Flood Zone B) to high (Flood Zone A) risk of fluvial flooding to carry out a site-specific and appropriately detailed flood risk assessment. The site-specified flood risk assessment shall be carried out by a suitably qualified and indemnified professional and in accordance with the requirements of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines	<b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</b>		<b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</b>	

	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
<p>For Planning Authorities (DEHLG, OPW 2009).</p> <p><b>Objective FRM04</b></p> <p>To ensure riparian buffer zones are created between all watercourses and any development for a minimum of 10m to mitigate against flood risk. The extent of these buffer zones shall be determined in consultation with a qualified ecologist and following a Flood Risk Assessment. Any hard landscaping proposals shall be located outside of these buffer zones. In considering the appropriate width, the Council will have regard to 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment Guidelines' (Shannon Regional Fisheries Board).</p>				
<p><b>Commentary:</b></p> <p>In addition to facilitating the development of the Town and Environs as part of the preferred alternative development strategy for the Plan (see Section 7), these provisions contribute towards: improvements in flood risk management (<b>SEO W3</b>); the protection water resources (<b>SEOs W1 W2</b>); the protection of human health (<b>SEO PHH1</b>); the protection of ecology (<b>SEOs B1 B2 B3</b>); and the protection of existing services and infrastructure during flood events (<b>SEOs M1 M2 M3</b>).</p> <p>Flood risk management infrastructure and the implementation of the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (CFRAM) have the potential to result in significant adverse environmental effects during construction and operation on most environmental components (<b>SEOs B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</b>). Flood risk management infrastructure are often constructed in ecologically and visually sensitive areas adjacent to the banks of rivers and streams. Potential adverse effects would be mitigated both by measures which have been integrated into the Plan (see Section 9) and by measures arising from lower tier assessments.</p>				
<b>Water and Wastewater Objectives</b>				
<p><b>Objective WW01</b></p> <p>To promote and facilitate the provision by Irish Water of adequate water and waste water treatment infrastructure to serve the needs of the existing and future population of the plan area and ensure that such infrastructure is provided prior to, or in tandem with, new development.</p> <p><b>Objective WW02</b></p> <p>To encourage the decommissioning of existing on-site private waste water treatment facilities and the connection of the subject properties to the public waste water treatment system subject to the compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation and guidance.</p> <p><b>Objective WW03</b></p> <p>To implement, in conjunction with Irish Water, the relevant recommendations set out in the EPA (2015) publication 'Urban Waste Water Treatment in 2014' (and any subsequent update).</p> <p><b>Objective WW04</b></p> <p>The Council, in conjunction with Irish Water, shall have regard to the EPA (2015) publication 'Drinking Water Report 2014' (and any subsequent update) in the establishment and maintenance of water sources in the County.</p>	<b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</b>		<b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</b>	

	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
<p><b>Commentary:</b></p> <p>In addition to facilitating the development of the Town and Environs as part of the preferred alternative development strategy for the Plan (see Section 7), the appropriate treatment of wastewater (<b>SEO M1</b>) would contribute towards the protection of various environmental components including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Human health (<b>SEO PHH1</b>);</li> <li>o Biodiversity, flora and fauna (<b>SEO B1 B2 B3</b>);</li> <li>o The status of waters (<b>SEO W1 W2</b>); and</li> <li>o Soil (<b>SEO S1</b>).</li> </ul> <p>There would be potential for significant adverse environmental effects (<b>SEOs B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 C1 CH1 CH2 L1</b>) upon various environmental components to arise during both construction and operation (outflow could conflict with various components including the status of water bodies, aquatic ecology and human health for example).</p> <p>In addition to facilitating the orderly development of the Town and Environs as part of the preferred alternative scenario for the Plan (see Section 7), the provision of safe drinking water (<b>SEO M2</b>) would contribute towards the protection of human health (<b>SEO PHH1</b>).</p> <p>There would be potential for significant adverse environmental effects (<b>SEOs B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 C1 CH1 CH2 L1</b>) upon various environmental components to arise during both construction – if required – and operation (abstraction of water could conflict with the status of water bodies and aquatic ecology for example).</p> <p>Such effects could be mitigated by measures including those that have been integrated into the Plan and any additional requirements arising through lower tier assessments.</p>				
<b>Broadband Objectives</b>				
<p><b>Objective TC01</b> To facilitate the delivery of high-capacity telecommunications and broadband infrastructure in the town.</p> <p><b>Objective TC02</b> To facilitate the provision of an accessible and free WiFi zone in the town centre.</p> <p><b>Objective TC03</b> To require services, including electricity, telephone and TV cabling, to be located underground unless it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority that this is not feasible and to encourage the progressive undergrounding of existing overhead cables and associated equipment in association with any other underground works being carried out.</p>	<p><b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</b></p>		<p><b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</b></p>	
<p><b>Commentary:</b></p> <p>The above provisions would contribute towards the development of the Town and Environs as part of the preferred alternative development strategy for the Plan (see Section 7). The evaluation against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) that is provided above is consistent with the evaluation of the preferred strategy that is provided in Section 7. The undergrounding of cables can result in elevated potential for impacts upon environmental components including archaeological heritage and biodiversity.</p>				
<b>Environmental Management Objectives</b>				
<p><b>Objective EM01</b> To promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development in accordance with the EU Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/50/EC) and ensure that all air emissions associated with new developments are within Environmental Quality Standards as out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (SI No. 180 of 2011) (or any updated/superseding documents).</p> <p><b>Objective EM02</b> To ensure that adequate soil protection measures are undertaken where appropriate. Adequate and appropriate investigations shall be carried out into the nature and extent of any soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development work, where brownfield development is proposed. The EPA's publication Code of Practice: Environmental Risk Assessment for Unregulated Waste Disposal Sites (2007) shall be taken into account as relevant by proposals for development within or adjacent to old landfill sites.</p>	<p><b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 C1</b></p>			<p><b>W3 M1 M2 M3 CH1 CH2 L1</b></p>



	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
<b>Objective EM03</b> To ensure the implementation of the specific guidance on radon prevention measures for new homes as contained within the existing Building Regulations (including any updated/superseding regulations that may be published within the lifetime of this Plan).				
<b>Commentary:</b> These provisions would contribute towards environmental protection and management, benefitting multiple environmental components including air quality ( <b>SEO C1</b> ), human health ( <b>SEO PHH1</b> ) and soil ( <b>SEO S1</b> ) and groundwater ( <b>SEO W2</b> ), and indirectly surface water ( <b>SEO W1</b> ) and ecology ( <b>SEO B1 B2 B3</b> ).				

### 8.7.11 Section 11 Land Use Zoning and Matrix

	Likely to <b>Improve</b> status of SEOs	Probable <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs - unlikely to be mitigated	Potential <b>Conflict</b> with status of SEOs- likely to be mitigated	<b>No Likely</b> interaction with status of SEOs
<b>Land use zoning Objectives</b>				
This section details land use zoning objectives and a land use zoning matrix.	<b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1</b> <b>S1 W1 W2 W3 C1</b> <b>M1 M2 M3 CH1</b> <b>CH2 L1</b>		<b>B1 B2 B3 PHH1</b> <b>S1 W1 W2 W3 C1</b> <b>M1 M2 M3 CH1</b> <b>CH2 L1</b>	
<b>Commentary:</b> The evaluation provided for the land use zoning provisions of the Plan reflect the preferred and selected development strategy for the Local Area Plan and the evaluation against Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) that is provided above is consistent with the evaluation of the preferred strategy that is provided in Section 7. The Gorey town and environs area contains relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and designations and has capacity in transport and wastewater services. By providing for growth and development in this area, the Plan would be likely to contribute towards a reduced need to develop more sensitive towns and rural and coastal areas elsewhere in the County and wider region. This would be likely to result in significant positive environmental effects on various environmental components.				

## **Section 9 Mitigation Measures**

### **9.1 Introduction**

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

Mitigation was achieved through the:

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

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

Far in advance of both the submission of the pre-Draft Plan to the Elected Members for approval and the placing of the Draft Plan (and associated SEA, AA and SFRA documents) on public display, Wexford County Council undertook various works in order to inform the preparation of the Plan.

The findings of this strategic work have been integrated into the Plan and will be implemented when it is adopted, contributing towards both environmental protection and management and sustainable development within the Town and Environs area and beyond.

Strategic work undertaken by the Council includes background work in relation to Plan Strategies and other provisions for a variety of sectors and issues including those relating to: access and movement; open space, recreation and green infrastructure; economic development; heritage; climate change, flood risk management and services; and land use zoning.

### **9.3 Integration of Environmental Considerations**

All recommendations made by the SEA, AA and SFRA processes were integrated into the Local Area Plan (LAP).

As detailed in the LAP, new applications for development must comply with the various provisions and development management standards included in the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019 (or subsequent County Development Plan), including those relating to sustainable development and environmental protection and management.

Consequently, Table 9.1 links the potential significant effects of implementing the Plan, if unmitigated, to both LAP and County Development Plan provisions that will ensure the mitigation of potentially adverse environmental effects arising from implementation of the LAP.

The measures generally benefit multiple environmental components i.e. a measure providing for the protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna could beneficially impact upon the minimisation of flood risk and the protection of human health, for example.

**Table 9.1 Integration of Environmental Considerations**

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	CDP Measures, where not included in LAP	LAP Measures
<b>Biodiversity and flora and fauna</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure: loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including Natura 2000 Sites/Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna</li> <li>Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects.</li> <li>Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species.</li> </ul>	Also see measures under soil, water and material assets below.	<p><b>Objective AA01</b> The Council will ensure that any plan/project and any associated works, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, are subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity (defined by the structure and function) of any Natura 2000 site(s) and that the requirements of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive are fully satisfied. Where a plan/project is likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site or there is uncertainty with regard to effects, it shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment. The plan/project will proceed only after it has been ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site or where, in the absence of alternative solutions, the plan/project is deemed imperative for reasons of overriding public interest.</p> <p><b>Objective NH01</b> To protect existing ecological networks and wildlife corridors and provide for new and enhanced connections, where necessary, between fragmented areas. In this regard, the Council will carry out an ecological survey of the plan area and map the identified ecological networks and wildlife and any gaps therein.</p> <p><b>Objective NH02</b> To promote best practice in the control of invasive species and support measures for the prevention and/or eradication of invasive species as appropriate and as opportunities and resources allow.</p> <p><b>Objective NH03</b> To raise awareness in relation to invasive species, including making landowners and developers aware of best practice guidance in relation to the control of invasive species and encouraging them to adhere to same and, to ensure, in so far as possible, that proposals for development do not lead to the spread of invasive species.</p>

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	CDP Measures, where not included in LAP	LAP Measures
			<b>Objective NH04</b> To ensure that proposals for development do not lead to the spread or introduction of invasive species. If developments are proposed on sites where invasive species are or were previously present, the applicants will be required to submit a control and management programme for the particular invasive species as part of the planning process.
<b>Population and human health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential interactions if effects upon environmental vectors such as water and air are not mitigated</li> </ul>	<p>Also see measures under environmental vectors soil, water and air below.</p> <p><b>Objective ED15</b> To seek to ensure that site security and health and safety is given high priority through the imposition and enforcement of conditions with regard to site security and warning signs. The Council will also report apparent dangerous situations or practices to the appropriate authorities.</p> <p><b>Objective ED19</b> To encourage and facilitate the diversification of the agricultural economy through farm diversification as defined by the Wexford Local Development's Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 provided that this does not negatively affect public health, the character and the amenity of the surrounding area or Natura 2000 sites and subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p> <p><b>Objective WS06</b> Where connection to an existing public water supply is not possible or the existing supply system does not have sufficient capacity, the provision of a private water supply will be considered where it can be demonstrated that the proposed water supply meets the standards set out in EU and national legislation and guidance, would not be prejudicial to public health or would not impact on the source of an existing supply or cumulatively on the Natura 2000 network.</p> <p><b>Objective COMAH02</b> To consult with and have regard to the technical advice of the Health and Safety Authority when preparing development plans and local area plans and assessing planning applications where the Major Accidents Directive and any associated regulations are relevant.</p>	<b>Objective EM03</b> To ensure the implementation of the specific guidance on radon prevention measures for new homes as contained within the existing Building Regulations (including any updated/superseding regulations that may be published within the lifetime of this Plan).
<b>Soil</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Damage to the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Objective HL01</b> To carefully consider the land use and proposals for developments within 250 metres of identified historic landfill sites in accordance with the provisions of the document Protection of New Buildings and Occupants from Landfill Gas (Department of the Environment and Local Government, 1994) and any subsequent updated version of this document.</p> <p><b>Objective HL02</b> To implement remediation plans for the identified historic landfills in the County.</p>	<b>Objective EM02</b> To ensure that adequate soil protection measures are undertaken where appropriate. Adequate and appropriate investigations shall be carried out into the nature and extent of any soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development work, where brownfield development is proposed. The EPA's publication Code of Practice: Environmental Risk Assessment for Unregulated Waste Disposal Sites (2007) shall be taken into account as relevant by proposals for development within or adjacent to old landfill sites.
<b>Water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adverse impacts upon the status of water bodies arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.</li> <li>Increase in the risk of flooding</li> </ul>	<p>Also see measures under soil above and material assets below.</p> <p><b>Objective ED21</b> To support the development of the fisheries and aquaculture industry and support its diversification at appropriate locations, having regard to the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive, the relevant River Basin Management Plans and the Habitats Directive.</p> <p><b>Objective WS01</b> To protect existing and potential water resources for the county, in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), the South-East River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 and any updated version, the Pollution Reduction Programmes for designated shellfish waters, the provisions of the Groundwater Protection Scheme for the county and any other protection plans for water supply sources.</p>	<b>Objective FRM01</b> To ensure that all development proposals in the plan area comply with the requirements of 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Office

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	CDP Measures, where not included in LAP	LAP Measures
		<p><b>Objective WW01</b> To ensure that all wastewater generated is collected, treated and discharged after treatment in a safe and sustainable manner, having regard to the standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation and guidance and subject to complying with the provisions and objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive, relevant River Basin Management Plan, relevant Pollution Reduction Programmes for Shellfish Waters, Urban Wastewater Water Directive and the Habitats Directive</p> <p><b>Objective WW02</b> To provide, subject to funding, adequate wastewater facilities to serve the existing and future needs of populations in the towns and villages identified in the Settlement Hierarchy subject to complying with the provisions and objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive, relevant River Basin Management Plan, relevant Pollution Reduction Programmes for Shellfish Waters, Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and the Habitats Directive.</p> <p><b>Objective WW03</b> a) To facilitate the provision and improvement of adequate wastewater services in order to serve the existing and future needs of the populations of towns, villages and settlements as identified in the settlement hierarchy and Core Strategy and as determined by the Water Services Assessment of Needs and as finances permit and in accordance with the Water Framework Directive 2000 and the EU Urban Wastewater Directive and Habitats Directive;</p> <p>b) To develop, where necessary, and in line with the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy, additional capacity of existing treatment plants to meet the requirements of future development proposals;</p> <p>c) To ensure that all foul water generated is collected and discharged after treatment in a safe and sustainable manner, having regard to the standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation.</p> <p><b>Objective WW04</b> The Council, in conjunction with Irish Water, shall have regard to the EPA (2015) publication 'Drinking Water Report 2014' (and any subsequent update) in the establishment and maintenance of water sources in the County.</p> <p><b>Objective WW05</b> To consider the provision of communal private wastewater treatment facilities where appropriate to serve developments in Strong Villages, Smaller Villages and Rural Settlements only where it demonstrated that the proposed wastewater treatment system will meet all the relevant environmental criteria of the EPA and the Planning Authority and subject to complying with the provisions and objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive, relevant River Basin Management Plan, relevant Pollution Reduction Programmes for Shellfish Waters and the Habitats Directive. An annual renewed contract for the management and maintenance of the system contracted to a reputable company/person will be required; details of which shall be submitted to the Planning Authority.</p> <p><b>Objective WW06</b> To permit the provision of private wastewater treatment facilities to serve a single dwelling house only where it demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority that the proposed wastewater treatment system is in accordance with the Code of Practice: Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (EPA, 2009) and subject to complying with the provisions and objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive, relevant River Basin Management Plan, relevant Pollution Reduction Programmes for Shellfish Waters and the Habitats Directive. An annual renewed contract for the management and maintenance of the system contracted to a reputable company/person will be required; details of which shall be submitted to the Planning Authority.</p> <p><b>Objective ED21</b> To support the development of the fisheries and aquaculture industry and support its diversification at appropriate locations, having regard to the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive, the relevant River Basin Management Plans and the Habitats Directive.</p> <p><b>Objective TM14</b> To ensure the full recreational potential of the River Barrow and its estuary is realised whilst taking cognisance of the aims and objectives of the South Eastern River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 and the requirement to achieve good status by 2015 and that all development is undertaken in compliance with Articles 6 and Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p><b>Objective WS01</b> To protect existing and potential water resources for the county, in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), the South-East River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 and any updated version, the Pollution Reduction Programmes for designated shellfish waters, the provisions of the Groundwater Protection Scheme for the county and any other protection plans for water supply sources.</p>	<p>of Public Works, 2009), as amended by Circular PL2/2014', and any subsequent review or other future update to the Guidelines.</p> <p><b>Objective FRM02</b> To have regard to the flood maps and the Flood Risk Management Plan prepared for Gorey Town and Environs as part of the South-East Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (CFRAM) and to ensure that development proposals comply with any relevant requirements set out therein.</p> <p><b>Objective FRM03</b> To require planning applications for development proposals within, incorporating or adjoining areas at moderate (Flood Zone B) to high (Flood Zone A) risk of fluvial flooding to carry out a site-specific and appropriately detailed flood risk assessment. The site-specified flood risk assessment shall be carried out by a suitably qualified and indemnified professional and in accordance with the requirements of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines For Planning Authorities (DEHLG, OPW 2009).</p> <p><b>Objective FRM04</b> To ensure riparian buffer zones are created between all watercourses and any development for a minimum of 10m to mitigate against flood risk. The extent of these buffer zones shall be determined in consultation with a qualified ecologist and following a Flood Risk Assessment. Any hard landscaping proposals shall be located outside of these buffer zones. In considering the appropriate width, the Council will have regard to 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment Guidelines' (Shannon Regional Fisheries Board).</p>

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	CDP Measures, where not included in LAP	LAP Measures
		<p><b>Objective WQ01</b> To protect existing and potential water resources for the county, in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) the South-East River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 and any updated version, the Pollution Reduction Programmes for designated shellfish waters, the provisions of Groundwater Protection Scheme for the county any other protection plans for water supply sources, with an aim to improving all water quality.</p> <p><b>Objective WQ04</b> To ensure that developments permitted comply with the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive, the relevant River Basin Management Plans and the Habitats Directive.</p> <p><b>Objective RS13</b> To facilitate the sustainable development of eco-tourism at appropriate locations in the county, whilst protecting areas of ecological value and ensuring that any development takes cognisance of the aims and objectives of the Water Framework Directive and ensuring that all development is undertaken in compliance with Articles 6 and Article 10 of the Habitats Directive</p> <p><b>Objective RS24</b> To promote the development of riverside walking routes, whilst protecting areas of ecological value and ensuring that any development takes cognisance of the aims and objectives of the Water Framework Directive and ensuring that all development is undertaken in compliance with Articles 6 and Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p><b>Objective CF12</b> Facilitate the provision of new burial grounds and the extension of existing burial grounds as appropriate to cater for the needs of a multi-cultural county, ensuring that any development takes cognisance of the aims and objectives of the Water Framework Directive and achieving good status by 2015 and that all development is undertaken in compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p>	
<b>Air and Climatic Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emissions to air including greenhouse gas emissions and other emissions.</li> </ul>	<p>Also see measure under human health above</p> <p><b>Objective GI01</b> To ensure the protection, enhancement and maintenance of the natural environment and recognise the economic, social, environmental and physical value of green spaces through the integration of Green Infrastructure planning and development in the planning process.</p> <p><b>Objective GI02</b> To develop and implement a Green infrastructure Strategy for the county within the lifetime of the Plan in consultation with adjoining local authorities, key stakeholders and the public, subject to compliance with Articles 6 and 10 of the Habitats Directive. The Strategy will integrate policies and objectives under a number of headings including; natural heritage, parks and open spaces, built heritage and archaeology, water management, flooding and climate change allowing for a strategic approach to green space planning in the County.</p> <p><b>Objective GI03</b> To identify, protect, enhance and manage Green Infrastructure in all Local Area Plans in an integrated and coherent manner.</p> <p><b>Objective GI04</b> To ensure the principles of Green Infrastructure and the County Green Infrastructure Strategy are used to inform the development management process in terms of design and layout of new residential schemes, business and industrial developments and other relevant projects, for example, through the integration of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) into the overall site concept and layout.</p> <p><b>Objective GI05</b> To require new developments to contribute to the protection and enhancement of existing Green Infrastructure, and the provision of new Green Infrastructure where appropriate, in an integrated and coherent manner. Such development shall be in compliance with all other planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p> <p><b>Objective GI06</b> To require proposals for medium to high-density residential schemes to have regard to the recommendations of the 'Green City Guidelines' (UCD Urban Institute of Ireland, 2008) when designing such schemes and to demonstrate this in the planning application.</p> <p><b>Objective GI07</b> To require proposals for significant development to submit a Green Infrastructure Plan as part of the planning application.</p> <p><b>Objective CC01</b> To have regard to the National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012 and any updated version of this document published during the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p><b>Objective CC02</b> To have regard to the any future Climate Change Action Plan for the South-East Region</p> <p><b>Objective CC03</b> To prepare, in conjunction with other key stakeholders, a Climate Change Strategy for the County during the lifetime of the Plan.</p>	<p>Various Plan provisions relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improvement of the public realm;</li> <li>Development of the town centre;</li> <li>Improved permeability;</li> <li>Implementation of the Neighbourhood Framework Plan for the Town Centre;</li> <li>Urban Design Guidelines;</li> <li>Reuse and regeneration of derelict land and buildings; and</li> <li>Development and regeneration of areas that are in need of regeneration</li> </ul> <p><b>Objective AMS01</b> To ensure the design of all streets and roads in the plan area complies with the objectives and guidelines in the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (Department of Transport and Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, 2013) and the Urban Design Strategy, the Access and Movement Strategy and the Urban Design Guidelines contained in Appendix 1 of the LAP.</p> <p><b>Objective AMS02</b> To secure the provision in tandem with new developments, or provide subject to available resources, the footpath and pedestrian linkage objectives detailed on Map 3.</p> <p><b>Objective AMS03</b> To undertake an accessibility audit of existing footpaths in the</p>



Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	CDP Measures, where not included in LAP	LAP Measures
		<p><b>Objective CC04</b> To minimise greenhouse gas emissions in order to contribute to a reduction and avoidance of human induced climate change in accordance with the Kyoto agreement. The Council supports and is committed to the National Climate Change Strategy and in general to facilitating measures, which seek to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.</p> <p><b>Objective CC05</b> To prepare a Renewable Energy Strategy for County Wexford during the lifetime of the Plan, which will build on and support the Wind Energy Strategy 2013-2019, any Climate Change Strategy prepared for the County and the National Renewable Energy Action Plan (Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, 2010).</p> <p><b>Objective CC06</b> To adopt sustainable planning strategies through the integration of land use and transportation as a means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p><b>Objective CC07</b> To raise awareness of climate change and its potential impacts and encourage businesses, local communities and people to be as self-sustaining as possible.</p> <p><b>Objective CC08</b> To encourage improved energy efficiency of existing building stock and to promote energy efficiency and conservation in the design and development of all new buildings and in residential schemes in particular.</p> <p><b>Objective CC09</b> To promote and encourage new developments to mitigate against, and adapt to, where possible the impacts of climate change through the location, layout and design of the development.</p> <p><b>Objective AQ01</b> To have regard to the Air Quality Standards Regulation 2011 (S.I. No. 180 of 2011) when assessing planning applications for development which may have effects on air quality.</p>	<p>plan area in order to identify and implement a scheme of works required to provide accessible and safe footpaths for all users.</p> <p><b>Objective AMS04</b> To secure the provision in tandem with new developments, or provide subject to available resources, the cycle objectives detailed on Map 4.</p> <p><b>Objective EM01</b> To promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development in accordance with the EU Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/50/EC) and ensure that all air emissions associated with new developments are within Environmental Quality Standards as out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (SI No. 180 of 2011) (or any updated/superseding documents).</p>
<b>Material Assets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Failure to provide adequate and appropriate wastewater treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water that is both wholesome and clean (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts)</li> <li>Increases in waste levels</li> </ul>	<p><b>Objective WW02</b> To provide, subject to funding, adequate wastewater facilities to serve the existing and future needs of populations in the towns and villages identified in the Settlement Hierarchy subject to complying with the provisions and objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive, relevant River Basin Management Plan, relevant Pollution Reduction Programmes for Shellfish Waters, Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and the Habitats Directive.</p> <p><b>Objective WS02</b> To ensure drinking water supplied by the public water network complies with the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations 2007.</p> <p><b>Objective WM09</b> To encourage the development of Construction and Demolition waste recycling facilities at appropriate sites subject to complying with normal planning and environmental criteria and the relevant development management standards set out in Chapter 18.</p> <p><b>Objective WM10</b> To promote the recycling and reuse of aggregates from Construction and Demolition waste.</p> <p><b>Objective WM01</b> To implement the provisions of the Joint Waste Management Plan for the South-East Region 2006-2011, and any updated version published during the lifetime of the Plan, subject to compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p><b>Objective WM02</b> To increase public awareness of the importance of waste management, in particular prevention and minimisation of waste. The Council will encourage local communities, schools and businesses to become involved in environmental awareness activities and community based recycling or environmental management initiatives that will lead to local sustainable waste management practices.</p> <p><b>Objective WM03</b> To implement the National Waste Prevention Programme and any updated version published during the lifetime of the Plan. The Council will continue to support initiatives such as the 'Green Business Initiative' and the 'Green Schools Programme' which promote waste prevention in businesses and schools.</p> <p><b>Objective WM04</b> To encourage the development of waste minimisation strategies for domestic, commercial and industrial waste.</p> <p><b>Objective WM05</b> To support the development of appropriately sited waste recycling and recovery facilities, such as bring centres, civic amenity centres, waste transfer stations, waste material facilities and authorised treatment facilities for end-of-life vehicles as a means of facilitating a reduction in the quantity of waste that goes to landfill disposal sites subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the relevant development management standards set out in Chapter 18.</p>	<p><b>Objective WW01</b> To promote and facilitate the provision by Irish Water of adequate water and waste water treatment infrastructure to serve the needs of the existing and future population of the plan area and ensure that such infrastructure is provided prior to, or in tandem with, new development.</p> <p><b>Objective WW02</b> To encourage the decommissioning of existing on-site private waste water treatment facilities and the connection of the subject properties to the public waste water treatment system subject to the compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation and guidance.</p> <p><b>Objective WW03</b> To implement, in conjunction with Irish Water, the relevant recommendations set out in the EPA (2015) publication 'Urban Waste Water Treatment in 2014' (and any subsequent update).</p> <p><b>Objective WW04</b> The Council, in conjunction with Irish Water, shall have regard to the EPA (2015) publication 'Drinking Water Report 2014' (and any subsequent update) in the establishment and maintenance of water sources in the County.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	CDP Measures, where not included in LAP	LAP Measures
		<p><b>Objective WM06</b> To ensure hazardous household waste is disposed off in accordance with the provisions of the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2008-2012, and any updated version published during the lifetime of the Plan, subject to compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p><b>Objective WM07</b> To encourage and facilitate the development of new alternatives and technological advances in relation to waste management such as Organic Waste to Energy/Combined Heat and Power schemes subject to the criteria for location of waste management facilities contained in Section 10.6.3 above and compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p> <p><b>Objective WM08</b> To support the provision of infrastructure for composting and other forms of recycling for bio-waste subject to the criteria for location of waste management facilities contained in Section 10.6.3 above and compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p> <p><b>Objective WM11</b> To ensure the disposal of agricultural waste is carried in a safe manner and in compliance with the Nitrates Directive, European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations, 2009 (S.I. No. 101 of 2009), the European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 610 of 2010), the Habitats Directive and any other relevant statutory provisions.</p> <p><b>Objective WM12</b> To have regard to the Sludge Management Plan for County Wexford 2001-2020 and any updated version published during the lifetime of the Plan, subject to compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p>	
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities.</li> </ul>		<p><b>Objective AH01</b> To protect the architectural heritage of Gorey Town through the prevention of any works to protected structures which would cause loss of, or damage to, the character and special interest of the structure and loss of, or damage to structures of heritage value within the curtilage or any specified features in the attendant grounds of the structure.</p> <p><b>Objective AH02</b> To promote the maintenance and appropriate reuse of protected structures and older buildings of architectural merit which make a positive contribution to the character and streetscape of Gorey Town.</p> <p><b>Objective AH03</b> To retain and reinforce the existing street layouts, historic building lines and traditional plot widths which derive from the town's historical development (except in circumstances where there is a reason of justifiable public interest).</p> <p><b>Objective AH04</b> To protect and enhance the form of groups of terrace buildings on the approach roads to the town centre, especially as regards roofscapes, chimneys, shape of opes and finishes.</p> <p><b>Objective AH05</b> To have regard to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) when considering development proposals relating to buildings included on</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	CDP Measures, where not included in LAP	LAP Measures
			<p>the inventory.</p> <p><b>Objective ACA01</b> To carry out a review of the architectural heritage of Gorey Town during the preparation of the Wexford County Development Plan 2019-2025 with a view to designating Architectural Conservation Area(s).</p> <p><b>Objective ACA02</b> To preserve the character of designated Architectural Conservation Area(s) by ensuring that all proposed development within these areas are carried out to the highest architectural and urban design standards.</p> <p><b>Objective ACA03</b> To engage in a targeted awareness campaign on the character and special interest of each Architectural Conservation Area during the process of designation and provide assistance and guidance in preserving these area.</p> <p><b>Objective ARH01</b> To have regard to the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and the newly identified sites identified on Map 9, when dealing with planning applications for development or threats to recorded items. Development shall be controlled in the vicinity of a recorded feature where it detracts from the setting of the feature or where it is injurious to its integrity, cultural or educational value. The Council shall consult with the National Monuments Service in the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht where appropriate.</p> <p><b>Objective ARH02</b> To have regard to the Zone of Archaeological Potential within Gorey town when dealing with planning applications for all development, including local authority own development. This area is identified on Map 9. Where permission for such proposals is granted, the applicant will have due regard to the recommendations of the National Monuments Service and the Heritage and Planning Division in the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. This may involve the employment of a licensed archaeologist at the expense of the developer to record any archaeological remains uncovered and to supervise all excavation works.</p>

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	CDP Measures, where not included in LAP	LAP Measures
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of the landscape.</li> </ul>		Various urban design guidelines including those relating to character, coherence, connectivity and permeability, continuity and enclosure, scale, landscape, adaptability, diversity, building style and materials and urban blocks.

## Section 10 Monitoring Measures

### 10.1 Introduction

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

Monitoring can enable, at an early stage, the identification of unforeseen adverse effects and the undertaking of appropriate remedial action.

### 10.2 Indicators and Targets

Monitoring is based around indicators that allow quantitative measures of trends and progress over time relating to the Strategic Environmental Objectives identified in Section 5 and used in the evaluation. Each indicator to be monitored is accompanied by the target(s) that were identified with regard to the relevant strategic actions.

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

The Monitoring Programme may be updated to deal with specific environmental issues - including unforeseen effects - as they arise. Such issues may be identified by the Council or identified to the Council by other agencies.

### 10.3 Sources

Measurements for indicators generally come from existing monitoring sources. Existing monitoring sources include those maintained by the Council and the relevant authorities e.g. the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Central Statistics Office.

Internal monitoring of the environmental effects of grants of permission in the Council will provide monitoring of various indicators

and targets on a grant of permission by grant of permission<sup>25</sup> basis. Where significant adverse effects - including positive, negative, cumulative and indirect - have the potential to occur upon, for example, entries to the RMP, entries to the RPS or ecological networks as a result of the undertaking of individual projects or multiple individual projects such instances should be identified and recorded and should feed into the monitoring evaluation.

### 10.4 Reporting

A stand-alone Monitoring Report on the significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan will be prepared before the review of the Plan. This report should address the indicators set out below.

The Council is responsible for the ongoing review of indicators and targets, collating existing relevant monitored data, the preparation of monitoring evaluation report(s), the publication of these reports and, if necessary, the carrying out of corrective action.

### 10.5 Thresholds

Thresholds at which corrective action will be considered include:

- The occurrence of flood events;
- Court cases taken by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs regarding impacts upon archaeological heritage including entries to the RMP;
- Complaints received from statutory consultees regarding avoidable environmental impacts resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan;
- Boil notices on drinking water; and
- Fish kills.

<sup>25</sup> The likely significant effects of development proposals on environmental sensitivities are further determined during the development management process. By documenting this determination (e.g. whether a proposed development will impact upon a Protected Structure or whether a proposed development can be adequately served with water services) while granting permissions, or at a later date, the requirement to monitor the effects of implementing the Plan can be achieved.

**Table 10.1 Selected Indicators, Targets and Monitoring Sources**

Environmental Component	Selected Indicator(s)	Selected Target(s)	Source (Frequency)
<b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b>	B1: Conservation status of habitats and species as assessed under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive	Maintenance of favourable conservation status for all habitats and species protected under national and international legislation to be unaffected by implementation of the Plan <sup>26</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant).</li> <li>Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht report of the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive - as required by Article 17 of the Directive (every 6 years).</li> <li>Consultations with the NPWS (at monitoring evaluation - see Section 10.4).</li> </ul>
	B2: Percentage loss of functional connectivity without remediation resulting from development provided for by the Plan	B2: No significant ecological networks or parts thereof which provide functional connectivity to be lost without remediation resulting from development provided for in the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant).</li> <li>CORINE mapping resurvey (every c. 5 years).</li> </ul>
	B3i: Number of significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites resulting from development provided for by the Plan B3ii: Number of significant impacts on the protection of species listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife Act 1976	B3i: Avoid significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites resulting from development provided for by the Plan B3ii: No significant impacts on the protection of species listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife Act 1976	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant).</li> <li>Consultations with the NPWS (at monitoring evaluation - see Section 10.4).</li> </ul>
<b>Population and Human Health</b>	PHH1: Occurrence (any) of a spatially concentrated deterioration in human health arising from environmental factors resulting from development provided for by the Plan, as identified by the Health Service Executive and Environmental Protection Agency	PHH1: No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultations with EPA and Health Service Executive (at monitoring evaluation - see Section 10.4).</li> </ul>
<b>Soil</b>	S1: Soil extent and hydraulic connectivity	S1: To minimise reductions in soil extent and hydraulic connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant).</li> </ul>

<sup>26</sup> Except as provided for in Section 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

- (a) no alternative solution available;
- (b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and
- (c) adequate compensatory measures in place.



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Environmental Component	Selected Indicator(s)	Selected Target(s)	Source (Frequency)
<b>Water</b>	W1: 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)	W1: Not to cause deterioration in the status of any surface water or affect the ability of any surface water to achieve 'good status' <sup>27</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant).</li> <li>Data issued under the Water Framework Directive Monitoring Programme for Ireland.</li> </ul>
	W2: Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC	W2: Not to affect the ability of groundwaters to comply with Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant).</li> <li>Data issued under the Water Framework Directive Monitoring Programme for Ireland (multi-annual).</li> </ul>
	W3: Number of incompatible 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 The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant).</li> </ul>
<b>Material Assets</b>	M1: Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately and appropriately served with wastewater treatment over the lifetime of the Plan	M1: All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately and appropriately served by wastewater treatment over the lifetime of the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant).</li> </ul>
	M2: 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 as a result of implementing the Plan	M2: 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EPA The Provision and Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland reports (multi-annual).</li> <li>EPA Remedial Action List (every quarter).</li> </ul>
	M3i: Total collected and brought household waste	M3i: Minimise increases in and, where possible, reduce household waste generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EPA National Waste Reports</li> <li>EPA Ireland's Environment Reports</li> </ul>
	M3ii: Packaging recovered (t) by self-complying packagers	M3ii: Maximise increases in packaging recovered (t) by self-complying packagers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EPA Ireland's Environment Reports</li> </ul>
<b>Air and Climatic Factors</b>	C1: Percentage of population travelling to work, school or college by public transport or non-mechanical means	C1: An increase in the percentage of the population travelling to work, school or college by public transport or non-mechanical means	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSO Population Data (every c. 5 years).</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	CH1: Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places - and the context these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant - protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	CH1: Protect entries to the Record of Monuments and Places - and the context of these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant - protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant).</li> <li>Consultation with Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (at monitoring evaluation - see Section 10.4).</li> </ul>
	CH2: Percentage of entries to the Record of Protected Structures and their context protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	CH2: Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures and their context from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant).</li> <li>Consultation with Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (at monitoring evaluation - see Section 10.4).</li> </ul>
<b>Landscape</b>	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal monitoring of environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant).</li> </ul>

<sup>27</sup> Good status as defined by the WFD equates to approximately Q4 in the current national scheme of biological classification of rivers, as set out by the EPA.

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

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

<b>European</b>				
<b>Directive/ Protocol/ Strategy/Programme</b>	<b>High Level Aim/ Purpose/ Objective</b>	<b>Lower level objectives, actions etc.</b>	<b>Relevant legislation in Ireland</b>	<b>Relevance to the CDP</b>
UN Kyoto Protocol and the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II)	The UN Kyoto Protocol set of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions The Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) aims to identify and develop all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to implement the Kyoto Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II)</li> <li>EU member states implement measures to improve on or complement the specified measures and policies arising from the ECCP</li> </ul>	National Policy Position and final Heads of the Climate Action and Low-Carbon Development Bill	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
EU 2020 climate and energy package	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Binding legislation which aims to ensure the European Union meets its climate and energy targets for 2020</li> <li>Aims to achieve a 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels</li> <li>Aims to raise the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20%</li> <li>Achieve a 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency</li> </ul>	Four pieces of complimentary legislation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reform of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to include a cap on emission allowances in addition to existing system of national caps</li> <li>Member States have agreed national targets for non-EU ETS emissions from countries outside the EU</li> <li>Meet the national renewable energy targets of 16% for Ireland by 2020</li> <li>Preparing a legal framework for technologies in carbon capture and storage</li> </ul>	The Framework for Climate Change Bill  European Communities (Renewable Energy) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 147/2011)	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora</li> <li>Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora</li> <li>Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of Community interest</li> <li>Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species</li> <li>Establish a network of European sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, to enable the natural habitat types and the species' habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range</li> <li>Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present</li> <li>Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV</li> </ul>	European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477/2011)  The Wildlife Act 1976 and the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations

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Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats</li> <li>Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation</li> <li>The species included in Annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1.</li> <li>Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas); ensure the upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones, re-establish destroyed biotopes and creation of biotopes</li> <li>Measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I is required as regards their breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along their migration routes. The protection of wetlands and particularly wetlands of international importance.</li> </ul>	European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477/2011)	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations
European Union Biodiversity Strategy to 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aims to halt or reverse biodiversity loss and speed up the EU's transition towards a resource efficient and green economy</li> <li>Halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outlines six targets and twenty actions to aid European in halting the loss to biodiversity and eco-system services</li> <li>The six targets cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity</li> <li>Maintaining, enhancing and protecting for ecosystems, and green infrastructure</li> <li>Ensuring sustainable agriculture, and forestry</li> <li>Sustainable management of fish stocks</li> <li>Reducing invasive alien species</li> <li>Addressing the global need to contribute towards averting global biodiversity loss</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016 Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan, 2011	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
<p>The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC)</p> <p>Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The CAFE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive)</li> <li>Sets new air quality objectives for PM2.5 (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives</li> <li>Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values</li> <li>Allows the possibility for time extensions of three years (PM10) or up to five years (NO2, benzene) for complying with limit values, based on conditions and the assessment by the European Commission.</li> <li>The Fourth Daughter Directive lists pollutants, target values and monitoring requirements for the following: arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets objectives for ambient air quality</li> <li>designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole</li> <li>Aims to assess the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria;</li> <li>Obtains information on ambient air quality in order to help combat air pollution and nuisance and to monitor long-term trends and improvements resulting from national and Community measures;</li> <li>Ensures that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public;</li> <li>Aims to maintain air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases;</li> <li>Aims to promote increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution.</li> </ul>	<p>Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 180 of 2011)</p> <p>Arsenic, Cadmium, Mercury, Nickel and Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons in Ambient Air Regulations 2009 (S.I. No. 58 of 2009)</p>	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations

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Noise Directive 2002/49/EC	The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source.	<p>The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draw up strategic noise maps for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators and use these maps to assess the number of people which may be impacted upon as a result of excessive noise levels;</li> <li>• Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and</li> <li>• Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise.</li> </ul> <p>The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.</p>	Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 (S.I. No. 140 of 2006)	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations
Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks</li> <li>• Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk from flooding through Flood Risk Assessment</li> <li>• Prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps outlining the extent or potential of flooding and assets and humans at risk in these areas at River Basin District level (Article 3(2) (b)) and areas covered by Article 5(1) and Article 13(1) (b) in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3</li> <li>• Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above</li> <li>• Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process</li> </ul>	<p>European Communities (Assessment and Management of Flood Risks) Regulations (S.I. 122/2010)</p> <p>European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Flood Risk) Regulations 2012 (S.I. No. 470/2012)</p>	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations
Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cycle of Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Plans (in preparation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a framework for the protection of water bodies to include inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater and their dependent wildlife and habitats</li> <li>• Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain "good status" of water bodies</li> <li>• Promote sustainable water usage</li> <li>• The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive</li> <li>◦ Sampling Drinking Water Directive</li> <li>◦ Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive</li> <li>◦ Shellfish Directive</li> <li>◦ Freshwater Fish Directive</li> <li>◦ Groundwater (Dangerous Substances) Directive</li> <li>◦ Dangerous Substances Directive</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive</li> <li>• Achieve "good status" for all waters by December 2015</li> <li>• Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts</li> <li>• Involve the public and streamline legislation</li> <li>• Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas</li> <li>• Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, ground water status and protected areas</li> <li>• Recover costs for water services</li> </ul>	European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 722 of 2003) (as amended)	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations

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Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect, control and conserve groundwater</li> <li>Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater</li> <li>Implements measures to prevent and control groundwater pollution, including criteria for assessing good groundwater chemical status and criteria for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and for the definition of starting points for trend reversals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive</li> <li>Meet threshold values adopted by national legislation for the pollutants, groups of pollutants and indicators of pollution which have been identified as contributing to the characterisation of bodies or groups of bodies of groundwater as being at risk, also taking into account Part B of Annex II</li> </ul>	European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 9/2010) (as amended)	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations
Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preserve, protect and improve the quality of the environment and to protect human health by complementing the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify all bathing waters and define the length of the bathing season</li> <li>Monitor bathing water quality as per Annex 1, Column A at the frequency outlined in Annex IV of the Directive</li> <li>Determine the quality status of the bathing water</li> <li>Achieve at least 'sufficient' standard by 2015 with the aim increase the standard to 'excellent' or 'good'</li> <li>Prepare, review and update a bathing water profile of each in accordance with Annex III</li> <li>Manage bathing water areas in exceptional circumstances to prevent an adverse impact on bathing water quality and on bathers' health</li> <li>Provide public information on bathing water quality</li> </ul>	Bathing Water Quality (Amendment) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No. 79 of 2008) (as amended)	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations
Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve and maintain the quality of water intended for human consumption</li> <li>Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set values applicable to water intended for human consumption for the parameters set out in Annex I</li> <li>Set values for additional parameters not included in Annex I, where the protection of human health within national territory or part of it so requires. The values set should, as a minimum, satisfy the requirements of Article 4(1) (a)</li> <li>Implement all measures necessary to ensure that regular monitoring of the quality of water intended for human consumption is carried out, in order to check that the water available to consumers meets the requirements of this Directive and in particular the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5</li> <li>Ensure that any failure to meet the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5 is immediately investigated in order to identify the cause</li> <li>Ensure that the necessary remedial action is taken as soon as possible to restore its quality and shall give priority to their enforcement action</li> <li>Undertake remedial action to restore the quality of the water where necessary to protect human health</li> <li>Notify consumers when remedial action is being undertaken except where the competent authorities consider the non-compliance with the parametric value to be trivial</li> </ul>	<p>European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 106 of 2007) (as amended)</p> <p>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 722 of 2003)</p>	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations

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Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban wastewater and the treatment and discharge of wastewater from certain industrial sectors</li> <li>The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of wastewater discharges</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban wastewater entering collecting systems shall before discharge, be subject to secondary treatment</li> <li>Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges</li> <li>Establishes minimum requirements for urban wastewater collection and treatment systems in specified agglomerations to include special requirements for sensitive areas and certain industrial sectors</li> </ul>	European Communities (Urban Waste Water Treatment) Regulations 2001 (S.I. No. 254/2001)	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations
Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a framework of environmental liability based on the 'polluter-pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relates to environmental damage caused by any of the occupational activities listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities; damage to protected species and natural habitats caused by any occupational activities other than those listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities, whenever the operator has been at fault or negligent</li> <li>Where environmental damage has not yet occurred but there is an imminent threat of such damage occurring, the operator shall, without delay, take the necessary preventive measures</li> <li>Where environmental damage has occurred the operator shall, without delay, inform the competent authority of all relevant aspects of the situation and take all practicable steps to immediately control, contain, remove or otherwise manage the relevant contaminants and/or any other damage factors in order to limit or to prevent further environmental damage and adverse effects on human health or further impairment of services and the necessary remedial measures, in accordance with Article 7.</li> <li>The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive</li> <li>The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator</li> <li>The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met</li> </ul>	European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations, 2008	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations



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SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development</li> <li>Provide for a high level of protection of the environment by carrying out an environmental assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out an environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive</li> <li>Prepare an environmental report which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives that consider the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme</li> <li>Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission</li> <li>Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects</li> <li>Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme</li> <li>Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive</li> <li>Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment</li> </ul>	<p>European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 435/ 2004) (as amended)</p> <p>Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436/2004) (as amended)</p>	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations
EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment</li> <li>Aims to assess and implement avoidance or mitigation measures to eliminate environmental effects, before consent is given of projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are made subject to a requirement for development consent and an assessment with regard to their effects. Those projects are defined in Article 4</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA</li> <li>For projects listed in Annex II, a "screening procedure" is required to determine the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case by case examination. This should take into account Annex III.</li> <li>The environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case and in accordance with Articles 4 to 12, the direct and indirect effects of a project on the following factors: human beings, fauna and flora, soil, water, air, climate and the landscape, material assets and the cultural heritage, the interaction between each factor</li> <li>Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made</li> <li>The information to be provided by the developer in accordance with paragraph 1 shall include at least: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a description of the project comprising information on the site, design and size of the project;</li> <li>a description of the measures envisaged in order to avoid, reduce and, if possible, remedy significant adverse effects;</li> <li>the data required to identify and assess the main effects which the project is likely to have on the environment;</li> <li>an outline of the main alternatives studied by the developer and an indication of the main reasons for his choice, taking into account the environmental effects;</li> <li>a non-technical summary of the information referred to each of the above.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1989 (S.I. No. 349/1989) (as amended)</p> <p>European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Flood Risk) Regulations 2012 (S.I. No. 470/2012)</p>	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of the Directive and transposing regulations

<b>National</b>				
<b>Policy/ Framework / Initiative / Strategy</b>	<b>High Level Aim/ Purpose/ Objective</b>	<b>Lower level relevant objectives , actions etc.</b>	<b>Relevant legislation</b>	<b>Relevance to the CDP</b>
Infrastructure and Capital Investment 2012-16: Medium Term Exchequer Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reviews infrastructure and capital spending over a medium timeframe to ensure investment is made in the best areas</li> <li>Identifies gaps in existing infrastructure that require addressing to aid economic recovery, social cohesion and environmental sustainability</li> </ul>	<p>The approach identifies four main components of the investment strategy as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic infrastructure – encompassing transport networks, energy provision and telecommunications capacity</li> <li>Investment in the productive sector and human capital – such as direct supports for enterprise development; science, technology and innovation advancement; supports for tourism, agriculture, fisheries and forestry; and capital investment in education infrastructure</li> <li>Environmental infrastructure – including our waste and water systems and investment for environmental sustainability</li> <li>Critical social investment – such as the health service and social housing programmes</li> </ul>	not applicable	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020 (2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outlines a policy for how a sustainable travel and transport system can be achieved</li> <li>Sets out five key goals:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To reduce overall travel demand.</li> <li>To maximise the efficiency of the transport network.</li> <li>To reduce reliance on fossil fuels.</li> <li>To reduce transport emissions.</li> <li>To improve accessibility to transport.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Others lower level aims include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reduce distance travelled by private car and encourage smarter travel, including focusing population growth in areas of employment and to encourage people to live in close proximity to places of employment</li> <li>ensuring that alternatives to the car are more widely available, mainly through a radically improved public transport service and through investment in cycling and walking</li> <li>improving the fuel efficiency of motorised transport through improved fleet structure, energy efficient driving and alternative technologies</li> <li>strengthening institutional arrangements to deliver the targets</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	not applicable	In combination with this Policy the CDP will contribute towards smarter travel and associated positive environmental effects.
Ireland's First National Cycle Policy Framework (2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outlines objectives and actions aimed at developing a strong cycle network in Ireland</li> <li>Sets out 19 specific objectives, and details the 109 actions, aimed at ensuring that a cycling culture is developed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets a target where 10% of all journeys will be made by bike by 2020</li> <li>Proposes the planning, infrastructure, communication, education and stakeholder participations measures required to implement the initiative</li> </ul>	not applicable	In combination with this Framework the CDP will contribute towards smarter travel and associated positive environmental effects.
Scoping Study for a National Cycle Network (NCN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigated the feasibility of developing a National Cycle Network for recreational routes in rural areas, urban areas and connecting larger urban areas</li> <li>The scoping study and subsequent workshops resulted in a recommended National Cycle Network</li> </ul>	not applicable	not applicable	In combination with this Study the CDP will contribute towards smarter travel and associated positive environmental effects.
Strategic Framework for Integrated Land use and Transport (SFILT) – Department of Transport, Tourism And Sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presents the findings and conclusions of a steering group that was convened and tasked with overseeing the preparation of an integrated, evidence-based framework that would guide key land transport investment decisions.</li> </ul>	<p>Key features of the framework policy include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on economic growth</li> <li>Principles to frame future investment</li> </ul>	not applicable	In combination with this Study the CDP will contribute towards smarter travel and associated positive environmental effects.

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National Climate Change Strategy 2007 – 2012 (2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outlines measures to be undertaken to meet greenhouse gas emission commitments</li> </ul>	not applicable	not applicable	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020 (2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>White paper setting out a framework for delivering a sustainable energy future in Ireland</li> <li>Outlines strategic Goals for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Security of Supply</li> <li>Sustainability of Energy</li> <li>Competitiveness of Energy Supply</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The underpinning Strategic Goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring that electricity supply consistently meets demand</li> <li>Ensuring the physical security and reliability of gas supplies to Ireland</li> <li>Enhancing the diversity of fuels used for power generation</li> <li>Delivering electricity and gas to homes and businesses over efficient, reliable and secure networks</li> <li>Creating a stable attractive environment for hydrocarbon exploration and production</li> <li>Being prepared for energy supply disruptions</li> </ul>	not applicable	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (DECLG, 2012)	The National Climate Change Adaptation Framework provides a strategic policy focus to ensure adaptation measures are taken across different sectors and levels of government to reduce Ireland's vulnerability to the negative impacts of climate change.	<p>Actions include those relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research and Knowledge Base</li> <li>Governance</li> <li>Local Plans</li> <li>Stakeholder Consultation</li> </ul>	not applicable	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
National Renewable Energy Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A strategic approach for Ireland including measures to meet European targets for 2020 including Ireland's 16% target of gross final consumption to come from renewables by 2020</li> </ul>	not applicable	Renewable Energy Directive 2009/28/EC	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland 2007 – 2020 (2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is the second National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Plan reviews the original 90 actions outlined in the first Plan and updates/renews/removes them as appropriate</li> </ul>	not applicable	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management

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Sustainable Development – A Strategy for Ireland (1997)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides an analysis and a strategic framework for sustainable development in Ireland</li> <li>Identifies the approaches required to support sustainable development</li> </ul>	not applicable	not applicable	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Wildlife Act of 1976 Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems</li> <li>Give statutory protection to NHAs</li> <li>Enhances wildlife species and their habitats</li> <li>Includes more species for protection</li> </ul>	not applicable	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of this legislation
Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016 Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets out strategic objectives, targets and actions to conserve and restore Ireland's biodiversity and to prevent and reduce the loss of biodiversity in Ireland and globally</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To mainstream biodiversity in the decision making process across all sectors</li> <li>To substantially strengthen the knowledge base for conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity</li> <li>To increase awareness and appreciation of biodiversity and ecosystems services</li> <li>To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside</li> <li>To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the marine environment</li> <li>To expand and improve on the management of protected areas and legally protected species</li> <li>To substantially strengthen the effectiveness of international governance for biodiversity and ecosystem services</li> </ul>	not applicable	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets out comprehensive mechanisms for the incorporation of flood risk identification, assessment and management into the planning process</li> <li>Ensures flood risk is a key consideration in preparing development plans and local area plans and in the assessment of planning applications</li> <li>Implementation of the Guidelines is through actions at national, regional, local authority and site-specific levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding</li> <li>Avoid new developments increasing flood risk elsewhere, including that which may arise from surface water run-off</li> <li>Ensure effective management of residual risks for development permitted in floodplains</li> <li>Avoid unnecessary restriction of national, regional or local economic and social growth</li> <li>Improve the understanding of flood risk among relevant stakeholders</li> <li>Ensure that the requirements of EU and national law in relation to the natural environment and nature conservation are complied with at all stages of flood risk management.</li> </ul>	<p>Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)</p> <p>S.I. No. 122/2010 EC (Assessment and Management of Flood Risks) Regulations 2010</p> <p>S.I. No. 470/2012 European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Flood Risk) Regulations 2012.</p>	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of these Guidelines

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European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 722 of 2003)  European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 350 of 2014)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation</li> <li>• Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water</li> <li>• Identifies the competent authorities in charge of water policy (amended to Irish Water in 2013) and gives EPA and the CER the authority to regulate and supervise their actions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implements River basin districts and characterisation of RBDs and River Basin Management Plans</li> <li>• Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on RBDs</li> <li>• Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies</li> <li>• Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body</li> <li>• Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances</li> <li>• Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater</li> </ul>	Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of this legislation
European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (SI 272 of 2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transpose the requirements of the Water Framework Directive into Irish Legislation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies</li> <li>• Outlines surface water quality standards</li> <li>• Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality</li> </ul>	Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of this legislation
European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations of 2010 (SI 9 of 2010)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transpose the requirements of the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC into Irish Legislation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for groundwater bodies of groundwater against pollution and deterioration in quality</li> <li>• Sets groundwater quality standards</li> <li>• Outlines threshold values for the classification and protection of groundwater</li> </ul>	Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)  European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 9/2010) (as amended)	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of this legislation
Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division</li> </ul>	The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• prosecute for water pollution offences;</li> <li>• attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters;</li> <li>• issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution;</li> <li>• issue notices requiring a person to cease the pollution of waters and requiring the mitigation or remedying of any effects of the pollution in the manner and within the period specified in such notices;</li> <li>• seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects;</li> <li>• prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas</li> </ul>	Water Services Act 2013	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of this legislation
European Communities (Urban Waste Water Treatment) Regulations 2001 (S.I. No. 254/2001)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transpose the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive into Irish Legislation</li> <li>• Aims to protect receiving waters from environmental damage arising from Urban Wastewater</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sets out the legislative requirements for urban wastewater collection and treatment systems</li> <li>• Provides for monitoring programmes of discharges</li> <li>• Specifies threshold values and minimum standards for water quality</li> </ul>	Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of this legislation

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<p>Water Services Act 2007</p> <p>Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012</p> <p>Water Services Act (No. 2) 2013</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides the water services infrastructure</li> <li>Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services</li> <li>Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and wastewater supply</li> <li>Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and wastewater services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland</li> </ul>	<p>Key strategic objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring Irish Water delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector.</li> <li>Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services in the gateways and hubs listed in the National Spatial Strategy, and in other locations where services need to be enhanced.</li> <li>Ensuring good quality drinking water is available to all consumers of public and group water supplies, in compliance with national and EU drinking water standards</li> <li>Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary wastewater treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive.</li> <li>Promoting water conservation through Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan, the Rural Water Programme and other measures.</li> <li>Monitoring the on-going implementation of septic tanks inspection regime and the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems.</li> <li>Ensuring a fair funding model to deliver water services.</li> <li>Overseeing the establishment of an economic regulation function under the CER.</li> </ul>	not applicable	The Council is obliged to comply with, as relevant and appropriate, the requirements of this legislation
Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan (Draft 2015) and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan 2014-2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Water Services Strategic Plan sets out strategic objectives for the delivery of water services over the next 25 years up to 2040. It details current and future challenges which affect the provision of water services and identifies the priorities to be tackled in the short and medium term.</li> </ul>	<p>Six strategic objectives as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet Customer Expectations.</li> <li>Ensure a Safe and Reliable Water Supply.</li> <li>Provide Effective Management of Wastewater.</li> <li>Protect and Enhance the Environment.</li> <li>Support Social and Economic Growth.</li> <li>Invest in Our Future.</li> </ul>	The Water Services (No. 2) Act (2013)	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020 (2002) (to be replaced by National Planning Framework – in preparation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning framework for Ireland</li> <li>Aims to achieve a better balance of social, economic and physical development across Ireland, supported by effective planning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposes that areas of sufficient scale and critical mass will be built up through a network of gateways, hubs and key town</li> </ul>	Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Grid25 Implementation Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Framework for the development of the electricity transmission grid in the short, medium and long terms, to support a long-term sustainable and reliable electricity supply</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seeks to implement the provisions of the 2007 Government White Paper on Energy -"Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland" in terms of development of electricity transmission infrastructure</li> </ul>	not applicable	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management



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National Landscape Strategy 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aims to implement the European Landscape Convention in Ireland by providing for specific measures to promote the protection, management and planning of the landscape.</li> </ul>	<p>The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognise landscapes in law</li> <li>Develop a National Landscape Character Assessment;</li> <li>Develop Landscape Policies;</li> <li>Increase Landscape Awareness;</li> <li>Identity Education, Research and Training Needs; and</li> <li>Strengthen Public Participation.</li> </ul>	not applicable	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
National Rural Development Programme (draft/in preparation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and prioritises improving the competitiveness of agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas</li> </ul>	<p>At a more detailed level, the programme also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation;</li> <li>Aims to improve the environment, biodiversity and the amenity value of the countryside by support for land management through funds such as Natura 2000 payments etc.; and</li> <li>Aims to improve quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity through the implementation of local development strategies such as non-agricultural activities</li> </ul>	not applicable	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
National Forestry Programme 2014-2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Represents Ireland's proposals for 100% State aid funding for a new Forestry Programme for the period 2014 – 2020.</li> </ul>	<p>Measures include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Afforestation and Creation of Woodland</li> <li>NeighbourWood Scheme</li> <li>Forest Roads</li> <li>Reconstitution Scheme</li> <li>Woodland Improvement Scheme</li> <li>Native Woodland Conservation Scheme</li> <li>Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions</li> <li>Producer Groups</li> <li>Innovative Forest Technology</li> <li>Forest Genetic Reproductive Material</li> <li>Forest Management Plans</li> </ul>	not applicable	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
National Peatlands Strategy (draft/in preparation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Draft Strategy, prepared by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, will, when finalised, establish principles in relation to Irish peatlands in order to guide Government policy. The Draft Strategy aims to provide a framework for which all of the peatlands within the State can be managed responsibly in order to optimise their social, environmental and economic contribution.</li> </ul>	not applicable	not applicable	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management

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National Biodiversity Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Action Plan sets out an integrated strategy for collective delivery of the potential benefits of bioenergy resources across the agriculture, enterprise, transport, environment and energy sectors.</li> </ul>	Includes detailed actions for the electricity sector, transport fuel sector, heat sector, research and development sector.	not applicable	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and South Eastern CFRAMS (in preparation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011 and is being overseen by the Office of Public Works. The CFRAM Programme is intended to deliver on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Floods Directive.</li> </ul>	<p>CFRAM Studies are being undertaken for all River Basin Districts.</p> <p>The studies are focusing on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. In 2014, draft Flood Maps will be published. The final output from the studies will be CFRAM Plans, to be published in or after 2016. The Plans will define the current and future flood risk in the River Basin Districts and set out how this risk can be managed.</p>	not applicable	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Food Harvest 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets out a vision and recommendations for the agri-food industry based on factual information, figures and trends in order to allow for further productivity, prosperity and sustainability within this sector.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seeks for the improvement of all agricultural sectors at all levels in terms of sustainability, environmental consideration and marketing development.</li> </ul>	not applicable	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
<b>Regional and Inter-County</b>				
<b>Plan / Programme / Guidelines</b>	<b>High Level Aim/ Purpose/ Objective</b>	<b>Lower level relevant objectives , actions etc.</b>	<b>Relevant legislation in Ireland</b>	<b>Relevance to the CDP</b>
Regional Planning Guidelines for the South East Region 2010 -2022 (to be replaced by Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (Regional Authorities) – in preparation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Guidelines provide a planning framework for the future physical, economic and social development of the South East Region which includes County Wexford</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aim to give regional effect to the National Spatial Strategy</li> <li>Guide the Development Plans and lower tier plans of planning authorities</li> </ul>	Requirement of the Planning and Development Act (2000), as amended	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management

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The South East River Basin Management Plan and associated Programmes of Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a framework for the protection of water bodies at River Basin District (RBD) level</li> <li>Preserve, prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain "good status" of water bodies in that RBD</li> <li>Promote sustainable water usage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aim to protect and enhance all water bodies in the RBD and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive</li> <li>Identify and manages water bodies in the RBD</li> <li>Establish a programme of measures for monitoring and improving water quality in the RBD</li> <li>Involve the public through consultations</li> </ul>	<p>Requirement of the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)</p> <p>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations, 2003 (SI No. 722) (as amended)</p> <p>Guidelines for the Establishment of River Basin District Advisory Councils (RBDAC)</p>	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Water Quality Management Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that the quality of waters covered by the plan is maintained</li> <li>Maintain and improve the quantity and quality of water included in the Plan scope</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring of water bodies against quality standards</li> <li>Outlines management programmes for water catchments</li> <li>Purpose is to maintain and improve the quantity and quality of groundwater</li> </ul>	Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Management Plans for European sites (note that no Management Plans which have been prepared for European sites relevant to the Plan)	Article 6(1) of the Habitats Directive requires that Member States establish the necessary conservation measures for Special Area of Conservation involving, if need be, appropriate management plans specifically designed for the sites or integrated into other development plans.	Integrated Management Plans can be practical, achievable and sustainable and have regard to all relevant ecological, cultural, social and economic considerations and with special regard to local communities.	Habitats Directive	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Outputs from the South Eastern Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011 and is being overseen by the Office of Public Works. The CFRAM Programme is intended to deliver on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Floods Directive. The Programme is being implemented through CFRAM Studies which are being undertaken for each of the six river basin districts in Ireland.</li> </ul>	CFRAM Studies are being undertaken for all River Basin Districts. The studies are focusing on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. In 2014, draft Flood Maps will be published. The final output from the studies will be CFRAM Plans, to be published in or after 2016. The Plans will define the current and future flood risk in the River Basin Districts and set out how this risk can be managed.	not applicable	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management

SEA Environmental Report for the Gorey Town and Environs Local Area Plan 2017-2023

Southern Region Waste Management Plan 2015-2021	The regional plan provides the framework for waste management for a period of six years and sets out a range of policies and actions in order to meet specified mandatory and performance targets. The strategic vision of the regional waste plan is to rethink our approach to managing waste, by viewing our waste streams as valuable material resources, leading to a healthier environment and sustainable commercial opportunities for our economy.	Strategic objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Policy &amp; Legislation</li><li>• Prevention</li><li>• Resource Efficiency</li><li>• Coordination</li><li>• Infrastructure Planning</li><li>• Enforcement &amp; Regulations</li><li>• Protection</li><li>• Other Wastes</li></ul>	European Directive (2008/98/EC) on Waste (Waste Framework Directive); Council Decision (200/532/EC) establishing a list of wastes; and Regulation (1013/2006) on the shipments of waste	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
Freshwater Pearl Mussel Basin Management Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identifies the current status of the species and the reason for loss or decline</li><li>• Identifies measure required to improve or restore current status</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identifies pressures on Freshwater Pearl Mussels for each of the designated populations in Ireland</li><li>• Outlines restoration measures required to ensure favourable conservation status</li></ul>	Requirement of Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 722 of 2003) European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477/2011) The Wildlife Act 1976 and the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
<b>County and Local</b>				
<b>Plan / Programme / Guidelines</b>	<b>High Level Aim/ Purpose/ Objective</b>	<b>Lower level relevant objectives , actions etc.</b>	<b>Relevant legislation in Ireland</b>	<b>Relevance to the CDP</b>
County Development Plans, Local Area Plans and associated documents in the following authorities: Carlow, Kilkenny, Wicklow, Waterford and Wexford.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Statutory documents which provide detailed planning policies to ensure proper planning and sustainable development of area</li><li>• Set out objectives for future planning and development</li><li>• County Development Plans provide the key parameters for lower tier plans such as the future population and housing targets and sets out the broad strategy for the future economic and social development of these towns.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify issues of relevance to the area and outlines principles for future development of area</li><li>• Is consistent with relevant County/Town Development Plans, National Spatial Strategy and Regional Planning Guidelines</li></ul>	Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management

SEA Environmental Report for the Gorey Town and Environs Local Area Plan 2017-2023

County Wexford Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016-2021	The LECP is to set out, for a six year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.	The LECP and County Development Plan are closely linked. The LECP must be consistent with the Core Strategy of the development plan and the development plan will need to underpin the aims of the LECP where there are 'land use' or 'development' related objectives contained in the LECP. The development plan gives effect to the objectives of the LECP.	Local Government Reform Act 2014	To cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management
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# SEA ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

## APPENDIX II – NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

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FOR THE

### GOREY TOWN AND ENVIRONS LOCAL AREA PLAN 2017 - 2023

**for: Wexford County Council**

County Hall,  
Carricklawn,  
Wexford.



**by: CAAS Ltd.**

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, The Courtyard  
25 Great Strand Street  
Dublin 1



**APRIL 2017**



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## **Section 1 Introduction and Terms of Reference**

This is the Non-Technical Summary of the Environmental Report for the Gorey Town and Environs Local Area Plan 2017-2023. The purpose of the Environmental Report is to provide a clear understanding of the likely environmental consequences of decisions regarding the adoption and implementation of the Plan.

### **What is an SEA?**

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 ensure that these effects are appropriately addressed at the earliest appropriate stage of decision-making on a par with economic, social and other considerations.

### **Why is it needed?**

The SEA has been carried out in order to comply with the provisions of the SEA Regulations and in order to improve planning and environmental management within Gorey Town and its Environs. The output of the process is an Environmental Report that should be read in conjunction with the Plan.

### **How does it work?**

All of the main environmental issues in the area were assembled and presented to the team who prepared the Plan. This helped them to devise a Plan that protects whatever is sensitive in the environment. It also helped to identify wherever potential conflicts between the Plan and the environment exist and enabled these conflicts to be mitigated.

The SEA was scoped in consultation with designated environmental authorities.

### **What is included in the Environmental Report that accompanies the Plan?**

The Environmental Report contains the following information:

- A description of the environment and the key environmental issues;
- A description and assessment of alternatives for the Plan;
- An assessment of the provisions of the Plan; and,
- Mitigation measures which set out to aid compliance with important environmental protection legislation - e.g. the Water Framework Directive, the Habitats Directive - and which will avoid/reduce the environmental effects of implementing the Plan.

### **What happens at the end of the process?**

An SEA Statement is prepared which summarises, inter alia, how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan.

## Section 2 The Local Area Plan

### 2.1 Vision and Key Principles

Wexford County Council's vision for the town included in the Plan is as follows:

*By 2023 Gorey Town will be a high quality, green, well connected town with a compact, walkable urban form. It will have a network of sustainable neighbourhoods that are socially inclusive and desirable places to live. Gorey Town will have high quality sustainable jobs and it will be an attractive place to live in, to visit and to enjoy its high quality public realm, its vibrant arts and culture and its bustling town centre and premier retailing services.*

The key principles for achieving the Vision are to:

- Require high quality and people friendly design.
- Continue to develop Gorey as a thriving and attractive town with a vibrant mix of uses.
- Continue to develop the town as a premier retail destination.
- Continue to improve the public realm so that the town is an attractive place to live, work and visit.
- Prioritise local economic and employment development.
- Continue to ensure that adequate provision is made for childcare, educational and recreational facilities.
- Improve the movement, connectivity and legibility within the plan area for users of all forms of transport, in particular pedestrians and cyclists.
- Require high quality accessible public open spaces and continue to provide a network of public open spaces at appropriate locations in the plan area.
- Protect natural, built and cultural heritage.
- Maximise the benefits of biodiversity and enhance the green infrastructure network in the area.

### 2.2 Relationship with other relevant Plans and Programmes

#### Introduction

The Plan sits within a hierarchy of land use forward planning strategic actions. The Plan must comply with relevant higher-level strategic actions and may, in turn, guide lower level strategic actions. The following sections identify a number of these strategic actions, further details of which are contained in the main Plan document.

The Plan is at the lower level of the hierarchy in the context of national, regional and county level plans. The preparation of the Local Area Plan has also been informed and influenced by various local government, national and international policy documents including (but not limited to) the following:

#### **International**

- Agenda 2000
- Local Agenda 21
- The European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP)
- Various EU Directives

#### **National**

- Infrastructure and Capital Investment 2012-16: Medium Term Exchequer Framework, 2011
- Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland, 1997
- National Spatial Strategy 2002 – 2020 (NSS)

- Ministerial Guidelines issued under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2011

***Regional***

- Regional Planning Guidelines for the South-East Region 2010-2022

***County***

- Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019

**Regional Planning Guidelines**

County Wexford, including Gorey Town and Environs, is subject to the Regional Planning Guidelines for the South-East Region 2010-2022 that provide a framework for the long-term strategic development of the South-East Region. The Guidelines do this through setting out goals, policies and objectives in relation to population targets, housing, infrastructure, economic development, environment, amenities, social infrastructure and community development, ensuring the successful implementation of the NSS at regional, county and local level.

**Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019**

The Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019 sets out the strategic planning and sustainable development of County Wexford over its lifetime and is consistent with the National Spatial Strategy and the Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs).

The South-East Region is divided into six smaller sub-areas. Gorey Town is located within Sub-Area 'North County Wexford'. The principal issues associated with this area are:

- Strong population growth-influence of the Greater Dublin Area is present.
- Strong physical links to Dublin and the Mid-East Regions.
- Demographic implications for the rest of the County and the Hub at Wexford Town.
- Tourism development to be facilitated.
- Urban sprawl to be controlled and monitored.
- Sensitive coastal landscapes.

The RPGs designate Gorey Town as a 'Larger Town'. The town has recently experienced high levels of population growth and the RPGs highlight that while the town will continue to be an attractive location for new residential development, care must be taken to ensure that the continued expansion of the town is more measured to ensure that community, social and retail development keep pace with recent rapid phases of mainly residential development.

**Environmental Protection Objectives**

The Local Area Plan is subject to a number of high-level environmental protection policies and objectives with which it must comply. 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 a good status.

## Section 3 The Environmental Baseline

### 3.1 Introduction

The environmental baseline of Gorey Town and its Environs is described in this section. This baseline together with the Strategic Environmental Objectives, which are identified in Section 3.13 of this document, is used in order to identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the 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.

The lack of a centralised data source that could make all environmental baseline data for the Plan area 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.

### 3.2 Likely Evolution of the Environment in the Absence of the Plan

The 2010-2016 Gorey Town and Environs Local Area Plan contains provisions that contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development within Gorey and its surrounding environs.

If the previous Plan was to have expired and was not replaced by the new Plan, this would have resulted in a deterioration of the town's planning and environmental protection framework. Although higher-level environmental protection objectives - such as those of the 2013-2019 County Development Plan and various EU Directives and transposing Irish Regulations – would still apply, the deterioration of this framework would mean that new development would be less coordinated and controlled. Such development would have the potential to result in an increase in the occurrence of adverse effects on all environmental components, especially those arising cumulatively. Cumulative effects occur as a result of the addition of many small impacts to create one larger, more significant, impact.

Such potential adverse effects could include:

- Loss of biodiversity with regard to European Sites/Annexed habitats and species;
- Loss of biodiversity with regard to ecological connectivity and stepping stones;
- Loss of biodiversity with regard to designated sites including Wildlife Sites and species listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife Act 1976;
- Spatially concentrated deterioration in human health;
- Adverse impacts on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource;
- Adverse impacts upon the status of water bodies arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology;
- Increase in the risk of flooding;
- Failure to provide adequate and appropriate wastewater treatment;
- Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water that is both wholesome and clean;
- Increases in waste levels;
- Failure to contribute towards sustainable transport and associated impacts;
- Effects on entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and other archaeological heritage;
- Effects on entries to the Records of Protected Structures and other architectural heritage; and
- Occurrence of adverse visual impacts.

### 3.3 Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna

#### European Sites

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) by the (former) Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government due to their conservation value for habitats and species of importance in the European Union.

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) have been selected for protection under the 1979 European Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) due to their conservation value for birds of importance in the European Union. SPAs, along with SACs, comprise Ireland's Natura 2000 network – part of an EU-wide network of protected areas established under the Habitats Directive.

There are no European Sites occurring inside the Plan boundary. There is one SPA and three cSACs located within a 15km radius of the plan area. These are shown on Table 3.2 and mapped on Figure 3.1.

**Table 3.1 European Sites within 15km of the Plan area**

European Sites		
Designation	Code	Site Name
cSAC	000781	Slaney River Valley SAC
cSAC	001742	Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC
cSAC	000700	Cahore Polders And Dunes SAC
SPA	004143	Cahore Marshes SPA

#### Proposed 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 (pNHA) were published on a non-statutory basis in 1995, but have not since been statutorily proposed or designated.

There are no NHAs occurring inside the Plan boundary or within 15km of the Plan area. There are 12 pNHAs within 15km of the Plan area, as listed on Table 3.2 and mapped on Figure 3.2. Most of these are situated downstream along the County's coastline. The closest pNHA is the Courtown Dunes and Glen pNHA that is located along the Owenavorrhagh River close to Courtown.

**Table 3.2 NHAs and pNHAs in the vicinity of the Plan area**

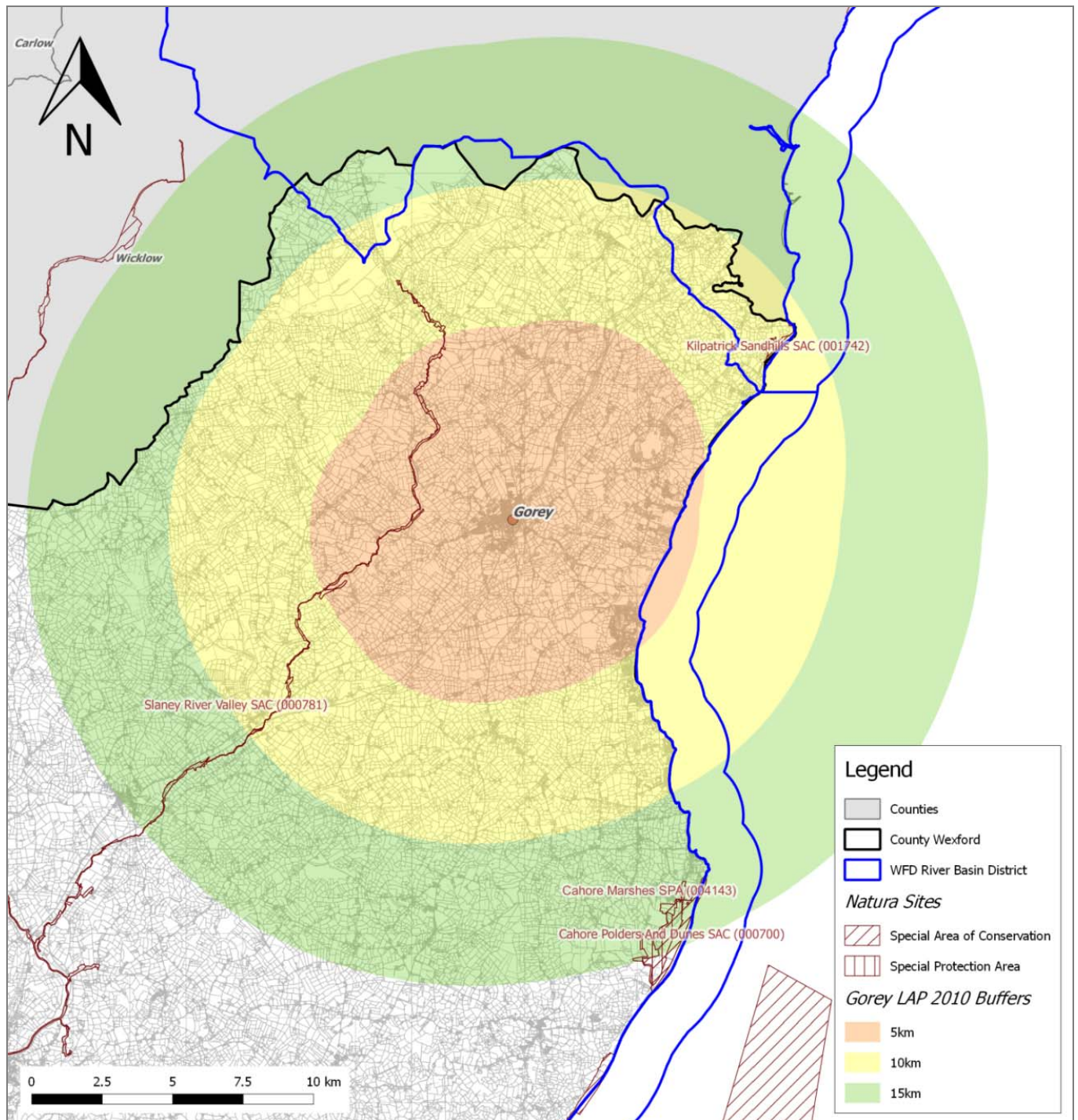
Proposed Natural Heritage Areas		
Designation	Code	Site Name
pNHA	000757	Courtown Dunes and Glen
	000745	Ballymoney Strand
pNHA	001745	Arklow Rock-Askintinny
pNHA	001742	Kilpatrick Sandhills
pNHA	001834	Kilgorman River Marsh
pNHA	001733	Ardamine Wood
pNHA	001737	Donaghmore Sandhills
pNHA	000700	Cahore Polders and Dunes
pNHA	001748	Avoca River Valley
pNHA	001931	Arklow Town Marsh
pNHA	000702	Leskinfere Church, Clogh
pNHA	001736	Cahore Point North Sandhills



### **Ecological Networks and Connectivity**

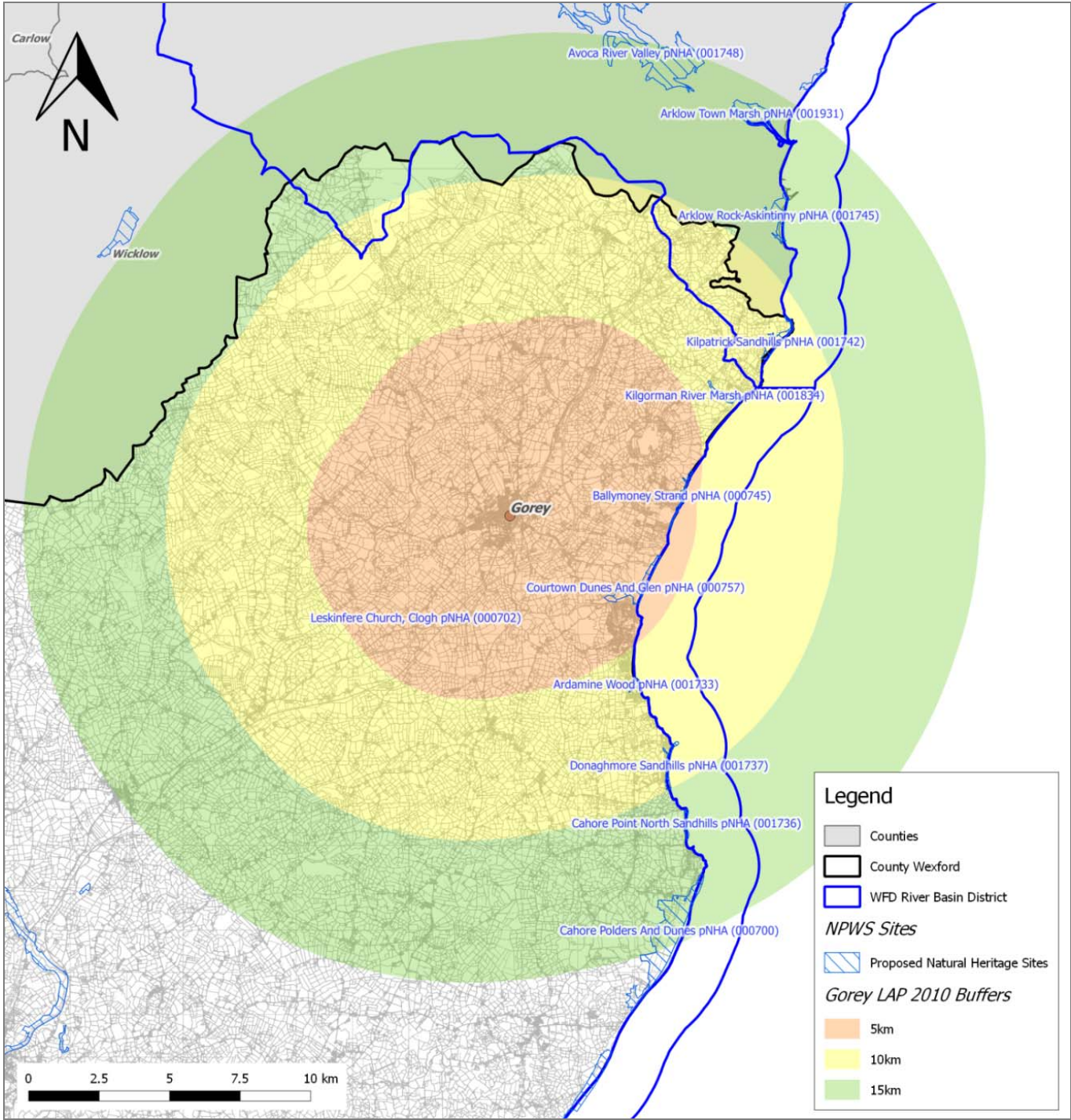
Ecological networks are important in connecting areas of local biodiversity with each other and with nearby designated sites so as to prevent islands of habitat from being isolated entities. They are composed of linear features, such as treelines, hedgerows and rivers/streams, which provide corridors or stepping-stones for wildlife species moving within their normal range. They are important for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of species of flora and fauna particularly for mammals, especially for bats and small birds and facilitate linkages both between and within designated ecological sites, the non-designated surrounding countryside and the town.

Important ecological networks comprise a variety of features including the Banogue and Ballyowen River corridors that traverse the Plan area, various open spaces, hedgerows and the wooded Ramsford Park in the north of the Plan area.



**Figure 3.1 cSACs and SPAs in the vicinity of the Plan area**

Source: NPWS (datasets downloaded February 2016)



**Figure 3.2 NHAs and pNHAs in the vicinity of the Plan area**  
Source: NPWS (datasets downloaded February 2016)

### 3.4 Population and Human Health

#### Population

In Census 2002, the population of Gorey Town and its Environs was 5,282 persons. This increased to 7,193 persons in Census 2006 - an increase of 1,911 persons or 36%. The recorded population in Census 2011 was 9,114 persons. This represented an increase of 1,921 persons or 27% since 2006.

#### 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.

### 3.5 Soil

Soil is the top layer of the earth's crust. It is formed by mineral particles, organic matter, water, air and living organisms. Soil can be considered as a non-renewable natural resource because it develops over very long timescales. It is 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.

The Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht are in the process of identifying important geological and geomorphological sites in Ireland for designation as NHAs. The sites are being selected under 16 different geological themes with a representative sample to be identified under each theme. A second tier of County Geological Sites are identified for inclusion in development plans in order to receive a measure of recognition and protection through the planning system. The closest County Geological Site in proximity to the Plan area is Ballymoney Strand to the north of Courtown, c. 5km away from the Plan area.

### 3.6 Water

#### Potential Pressures on Water Quality and the Water Framework Directive

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. Since 2000, Water Management in the EU has been directed by the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC (WFD). The WFD requires that all Member States implement the necessary measures to prevent deterioration of the status of all waters - surface, ground, estuarine and coastal - and protect, enhance and restore all waters with the aim of achieving "good status". All public bodies are required to coordinate their policies and operations so as to maintain the good status of water bodies that are currently unpolluted and improve polluted water bodies to a good status. 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 is on these river basin districts. Gorey Town and its Environs fall within the South Eastern River Basin District.



### Surface Water

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. 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. Good surface water chemical status means that concentrations of pollutants in the water body do not exceed the environmental limit values specified in the Directive.

The Banoge River is the principal river that flows through the Plan area and its main tributaries are the Ballyowen River and the Clonattin Upper River. The WFD status of the River Banoge is currently classified as being of *moderate status* upstream of the Regional Road R72 and *poor status* downstream of the Regional Road R72 (see Figure 3.3). The Ballyowen River that flows into the Banoge River upstream of the R72 bridge is identified as being of *moderate status*. The Clonattin Upper River that flows into the Banoge River downstream of the R72 bridge is identified as being of *poor status*.

The Banogue flows into the Owenavorrach River that is classified as being of *moderate status* both upstream and downstream of the town.

The Owenavorrach Estuary at Courtown is also classified as being of *moderate status* as are the coastal waters in this area.

### Groundwater

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

The status of the groundwater underlying the area of Gorey Town and Environs is identified as being of good status (see Figure 3.4), meeting the objectives of the WFD.

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

Aquifer vulnerability refers to the ease with which pollutants of various kinds can enter underground water. Figure 3.5 maps aquifer vulnerability for the Plan and surrounding area – much of the area is identified as being of high or moderate vulnerability. A number of areas in the Plan area are identified as having rock at or near the surface, and aquifer vulnerability surrounding these areas is identified as being of extreme vulnerability. Areas to the east of Gorey Town are of low vulnerability.

A regionally important aquifer- fissure bedrock occurs under much of the Plan area, particularly to the south and southeast. A locally important bedrock aquifer (Moderately Productive only in Local Zones) occurs to the north and northwest of the Plan area.

### Flooding

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has been undertaken alongside the preparation of the Plan. The requirement for SFRA is provided under the Flood Risk Management Guidelines. The Banoge River is the principal river that flows through the Plan area and its main tributaries are the Ballyowen River and the Clonattin Upper River. The OPW has identified two recurring flood events within the Plan area along the Banoge River at the Gorey Arklow Road railway bridge and at Gorey Garden City. The Council has implemented measures including the installation of piping systems and improved drainage systems that have assisted in alleviating the flooding issue. Areas at risk of flooding adjacent to these watercourses are mapped on Figure 3.6.

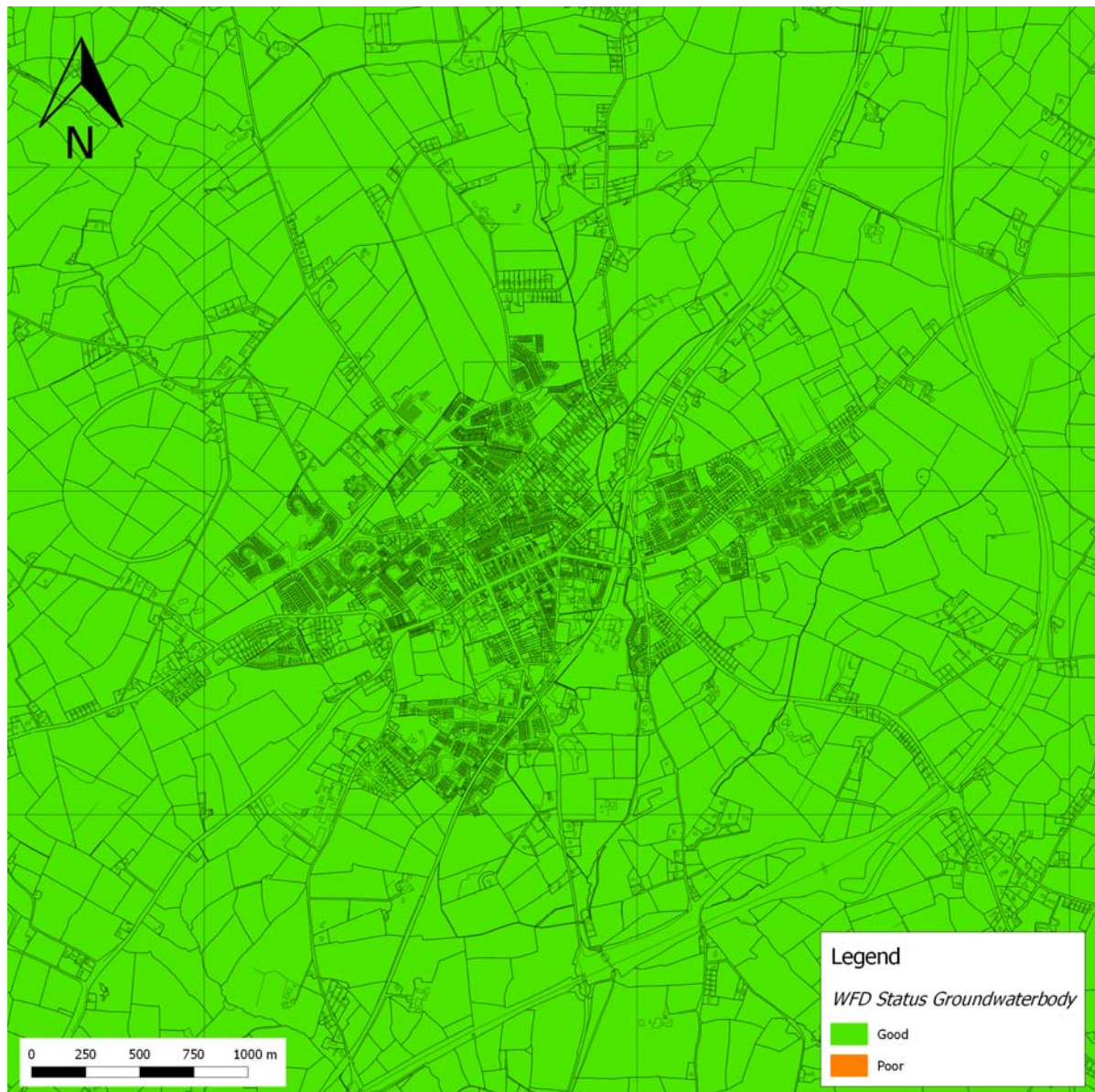
The preparation of the Plan, SEA and SFRA has taken place concurrently and the findings of the SFRA have informed both the Plan and the SEA. The SFRA has facilitated the integration of flood risk management considerations into the Plan.



**Figure 3.3 WFD Surface Water Status**

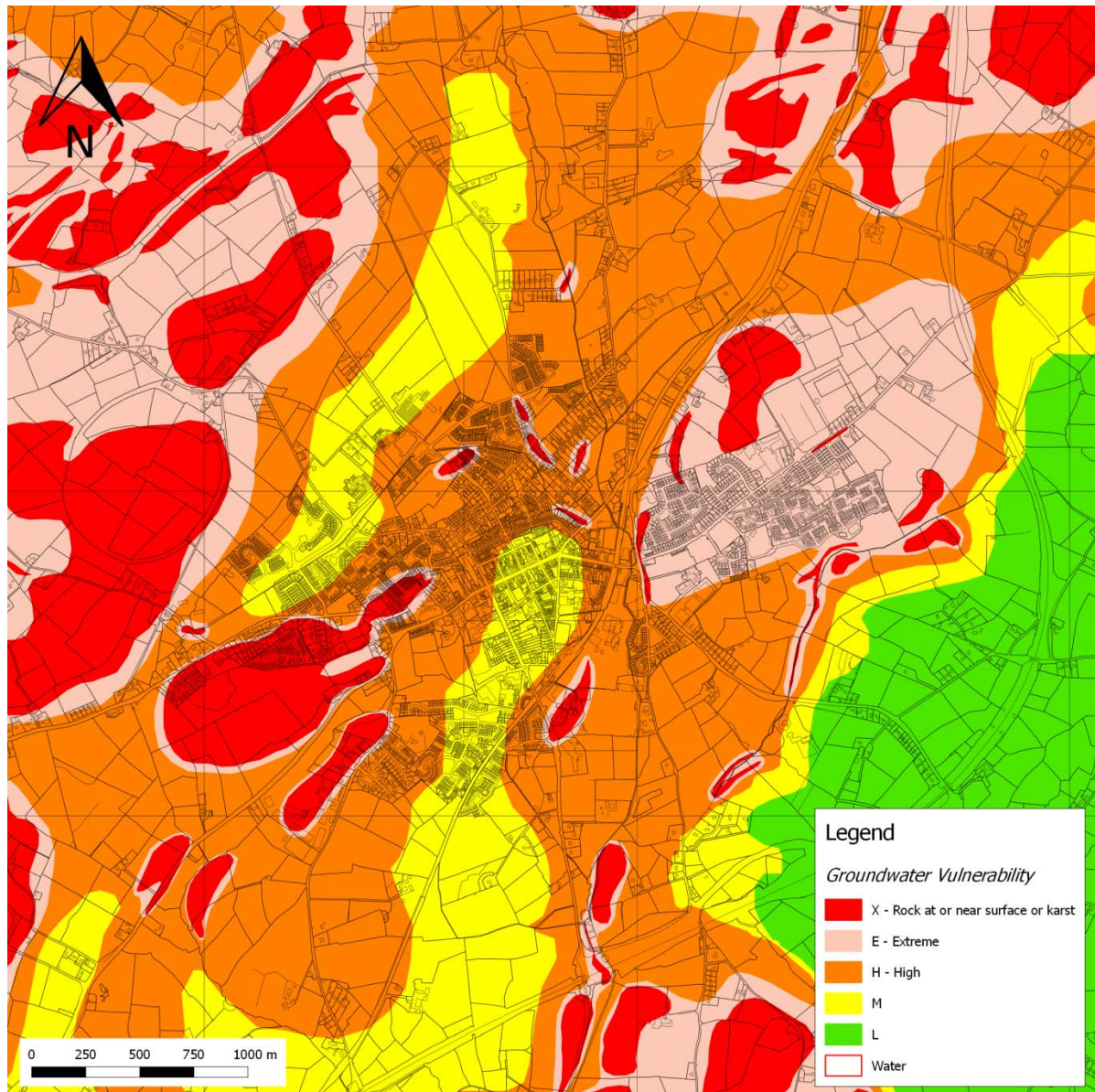
Source: EPA (2011; datasets downloaded February, 2014)





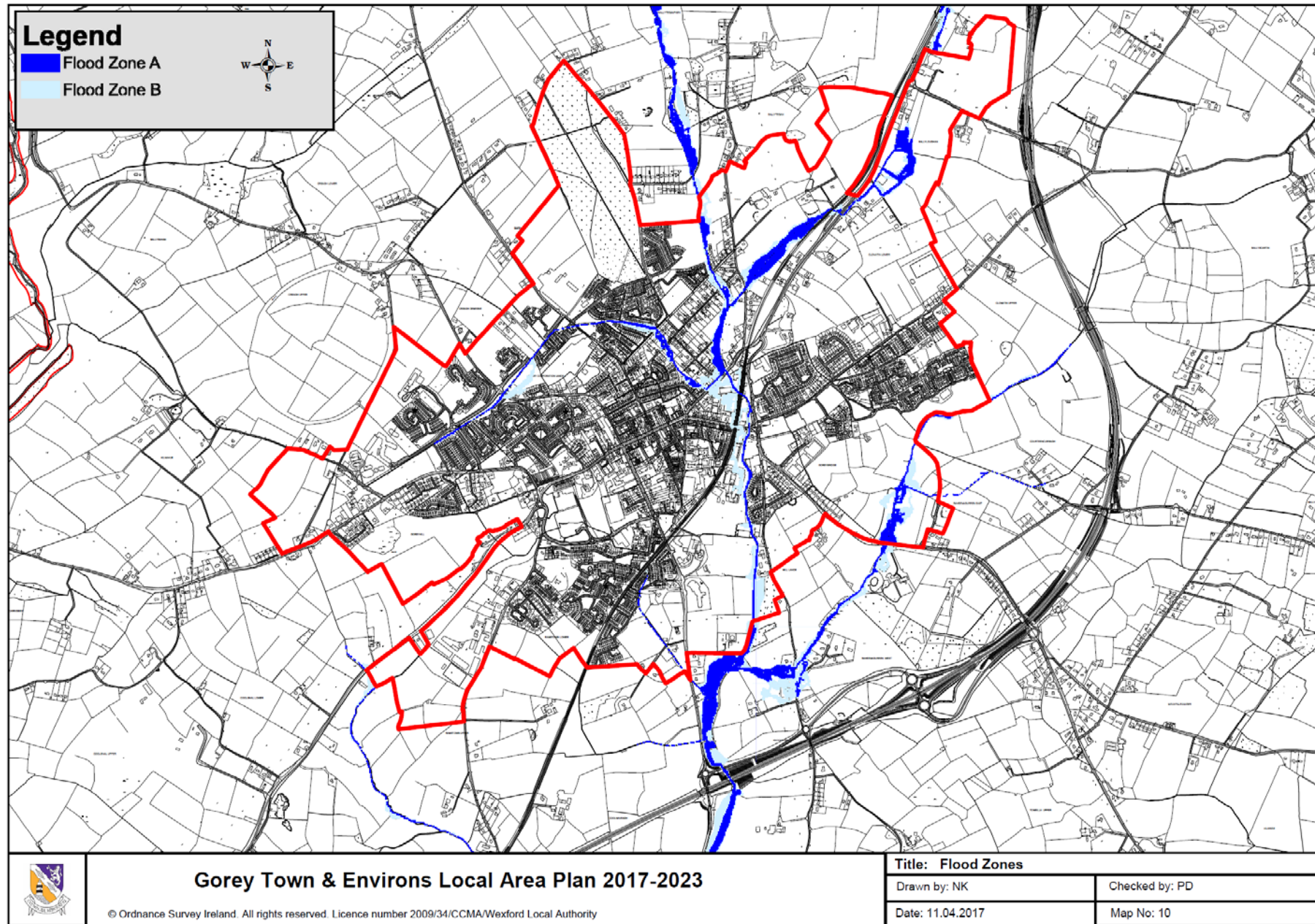
**Figure 3.4 WFD Ground Water Status**

Source: EPA (2011; datasets downloaded February, 2014)



**Figure 3.5 Aquifer Vulnerability**  
Source: GSI (2006)



**Figure 3.6 SFRA Flood Mapping**

Source: Gorey Town and Environs LAP 2017-2023 SFRA (2017)

### 3.7 Air and Climatic Factors

#### Ambient Air Quality

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

In order to comply with air quality standards 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).

Gorey Town and Environs is located within Zone D where air quality is currently identified as being “good”. The EPA’s (EPA, 2015) Air Quality in Ireland 2014 identifies that air quality in Ireland continues to be good, with no exceedances for the pollutants measured.

#### Noise - The Environmental Noise Directive

Noise is unwanted sound. The Environmental Noise Regulations (SI No. 140 of 2006) transpose into Irish law the EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise, which is commonly referred to as the Environmental Noise Directive or END. The END defines a common approach intended to avoid, prevent or reduce on a prioritised basis the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to exposure to environmental noise. The END 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. Limit values are left to each member state. At this point in time, Ireland does not have any statutory limit values.

#### Climatic Factors

The key issue involving the assessment of the effects of implementing the plan on climatic factors relates to greenhouse gas emissions arising from transport. It is noted that the Plan contains a number of actions that respond to potential threats to environmental components arising from a changing climate.

Flooding (see Section 3.6) is influenced by climatic factors and the implications of climate change with regard to flood risk in relevant locations have been considered by the SFRA that has been undertaken for the Plan. There are emerging objectives relating to climate adaptation and that there is likely to be future Guidance for climate change proofing of land use plan provisions as is flagged in the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (DECLG, 2012).

In 2009, Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions decreased across all sectors due to the effects of the economic downturn with a decline in total emissions of 7.9 per cent. In 2010, Ireland's emissions fell by a further 0.7 per cent. Ireland's emissions profile has changed considerably since 1990, with the contribution from transport more than doubling and the share from agriculture reducing since 1998.

Travel is a source of:

1. Noise;
2. Air emissions; and
3. Energy use (41.7% of Total Final Energy Consumption in Ireland in 2014 was taken up by transport, the largest take up of any sector)<sup>1</sup>.

Land-use planning contributes to what number and what extent of journeys occur. By addressing journey time through land use planning and providing more sustainable modes and levels of mobility, noise and other emissions to air and energy use can be minimised. Furthermore, by concentrating

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<sup>1</sup> Sustainable Energy Ireland (2014) *Energy in Ireland 1990 – 2014*

populations, greenfield development - and its associated impacts - can be minimised and the cost of service provision can be reduced.

Maximising sustainable mobility will also help Ireland meet its emission target for greenhouse gases under the 2020 EU Effort Sharing target that commits Ireland to reducing emissions from those sectors that are not covered by the Emissions Trading Scheme (e.g. transport, agriculture, residential) to 20% below 2005 levels.

### 3.8 Material Assets

#### Wastewater

The EPA's most recent report on wastewater treatment performance 'Urban Wastewater Treatment in 2015', EPA 2016, identifies that the Courtown Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)<sup>2</sup> met the effluent quality standards, however the Gorey WWTP<sup>3</sup> failed the mandatory BOD/COD quality standards set down under requirements of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive.<sup>4</sup>

Wastewater from Gorey is now pumped to the treatment plant at Courtown, and the old Gorey treatment plant has now been decommissioned. Existing buildings at Gorey are being converted to provide screening and storm water storage.

#### Drinking Water

Gorey Town and Environs is served by the Gorey Town Water Supply System, which is supplied by Water Treatment Plants at Creagh and Barnadown and smaller boreholes at Balykale and Coolishall. At present, the Gorey Town Water Supply System has limited headroom to meet future needs.

The Gorey Regional Water Supply Scheme is included in Irish Water's Capital Investment Programme. This scheme will include a new water treatment plant at Ballyminaun Hill and will bring into operation new wells. The scheme is scheduled to be completed approximately three and a half years from now. In order to facilitate orderly development and protection of the environment, it is essential that all drinking water infrastructure capacity to reach population and development targets is provided as required and in advance of development.

The Gorey Town Water Supply System is not listed on the EPA's most recent (Q4 of 2016) Remedial Action List (a list of public water supplies where remedial action is required to ensure compliance with drinking water standards).

### 3.9 Cultural Heritage

#### Archaeological Heritage

The archaeological heritage of Gorey Town and its Environs' 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, established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994, of sites and areas of archaeological significance, numbered and mapped. The RMP includes all known monuments and sites of archaeological importance dating to before 1700 AD, and some sites that date from after 1700 AD. Figure 3.6 shows the spatial distribution of entries to the RMP in Gorey Town and Environs.

<sup>2</sup> Courtown WWTP discharges to coastal water.

<sup>3</sup> Gorey WWTP was a smaller plant, providing secondary treatment with P removal, with a discharge to Banoge River. The plant was decommissioned in late 2016.

<sup>4</sup> The previous EPA report on wastewater treatment performance *Urban Wastewater Treatment in 2014* (EPA, 2015) identified that the Courtown and Gorey Wastewater Treatment Plants passed the water quality standards set down under requirements of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive.

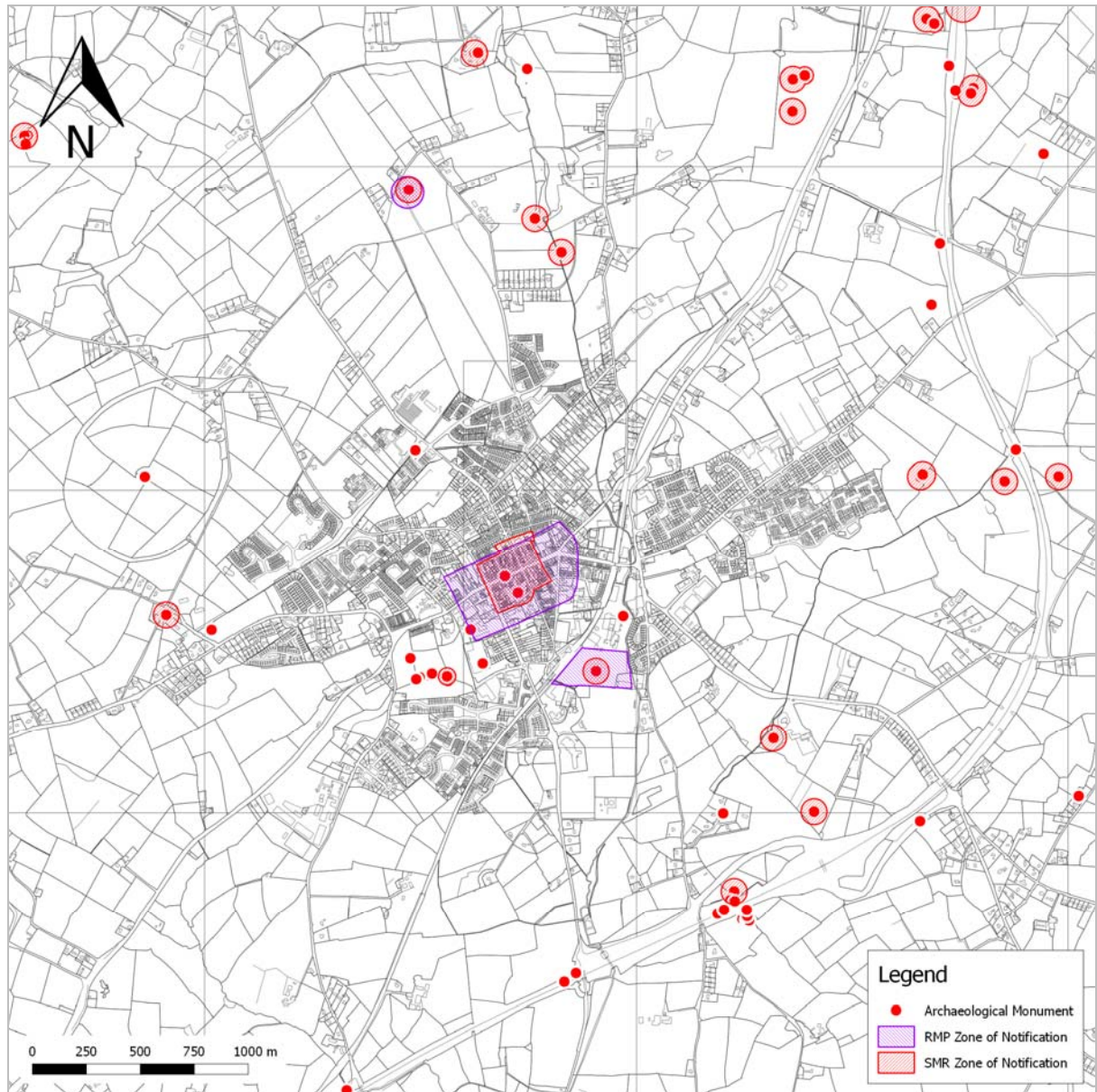
### **Architectural Heritage**

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

The Record of Protected Structures (RPS) is legislated for under the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2010. 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. Current entries to the RPS in Gorey Town and Environs are mapped on Figure 3.7.

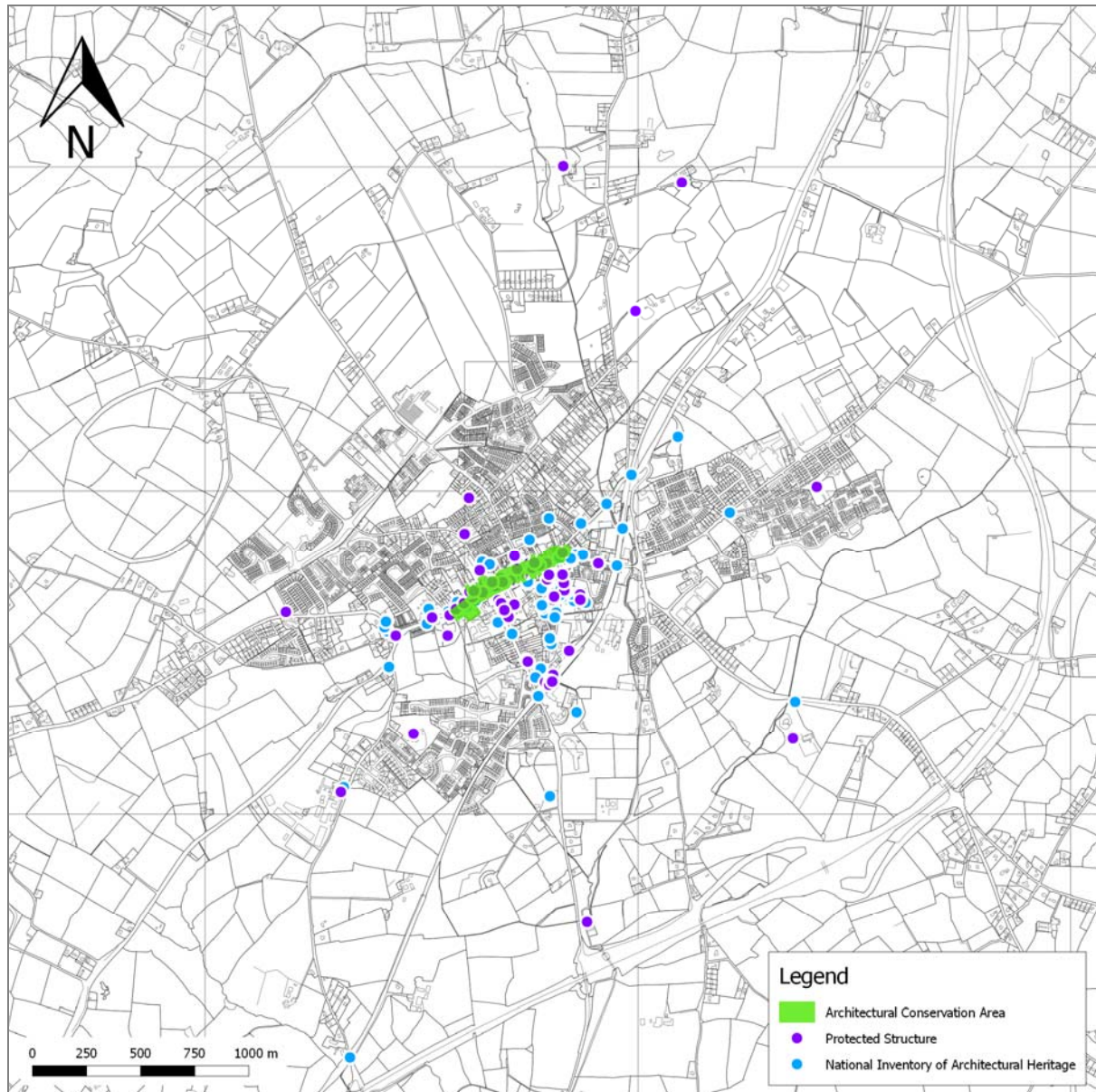
An Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) is a place, area, group of structures or townscape, which is of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or contributes to the appreciation of a Protected Structure. There are currently no ACAs in the Plan area, however: as Gorey has a distinctive town centre in terms of scale, composition of streetscape and buildings of different periods and styles, it is proposed to review the town during the preparation of the next County Development Plan 2019-2025 with a view to designating ACAs. It is intended to designate at least one part of the town centre as an ACA and an indication of this area is identified on Figure 3.8.





**Figure 3.7 Archaeological Heritage**

Source: Wexford County Council (2016)



**Figure 3.8 Architectural Heritage**

Source: Wexford County Council (2016)

### 3.10 Landscape

A Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) is a study of a given landscape to determine its 'character'. Landscape character is the combination of physical, as well as, perceived aspects of the landscape.

The Landscape Character Assessment undertaken for County Wexford identifies the Gorey Towns and Environs LAP as part of Landscape Character Area No. 2 "The Lowlands".

The Landscape Character Assessment identifies various areas within County Wexford that are of greater sensitivity to new development. Gorey Town and its Environs are not considered one of these landscapes. Ask Hill and Ballyminaun Hill, both to the east of the town are the closest Landscapes of Greater Sensitivity to the town.

The Plan area does not contain protected scenic views or routes.

### 3.11 Overlay of Environmental Sensitivities

In order to identify where most sensitivities within Gorey Town and its Environs occur, a number of the environmental sensitivities described above were weighted and mapped overlapping each other. Figure 3.8 provides an overlay of environmental sensitivities for the town and its environs.

It is emphasised that the occurrence of environmental sensitivities does not preclude development; rather it flags at a strategic level that the mitigation measures - which have already been integrated into the Plan - will need to be complied with in order to ensure that the implementation of the Plan contributes towards environmental protection.

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). Only low and moderate levels of vulnerability occur within and adjacent to the Plan area. 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.

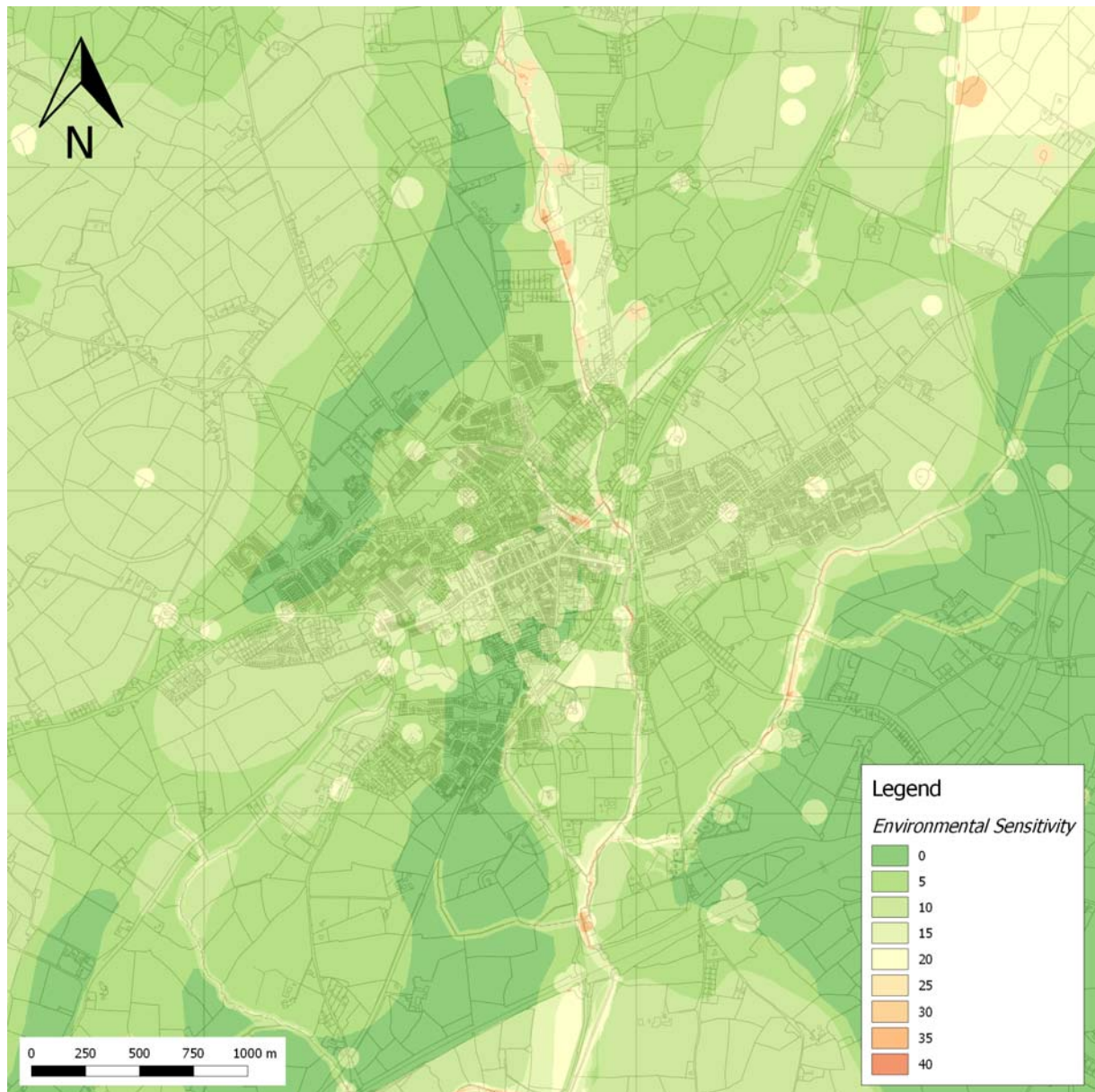
A weighting system applied through Geographical Information System (GIS) software was used in order to calculate the vulnerability of all areas in the town. Environmental considerations are given equal weight as follows, with a slight differentiation is made in certain layers:

- Cultural heritage (entries to the Record of Protected Structures, entries to the National Inventory of Archaeological Heritage and Archaeological Monuments - 10 points);
- Landscape greater sensitivity (10 points);
- Sensitive landcover categories (broad-leaved forests - 10 points);
- Surface and groundwaters with poor (5 points) status;
- Aquifers which are highly (5 points) or extremely (10 points) vulnerable to pollution;
- Flood Zones A (10 points) and B (5 points) from the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment; and
- WFD Register of Protected Areas for 'Groundwater in Salmonid Regs' (10 points).

The overlay of environmental sensitivities for Gorey Town and Environs and the surrounding area is provided at Figure 3.9. The overlay clearly shows the robustness of the environment in Gorey. The majority of areas are shown to be of a low vulnerability.

The most sensitive areas within Gorey Town and its Environs can be found along the River Banogue, particularly to the north of the town where flood risk areas have been identified. Other sensitive areas include cultural heritage and associated buffers applied by the overlay mapping exercise.





**Figure 3.9 Overlay of Environmental Sensitivities**  
Source: CAAS (2016)

### **3.12 Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment**

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening and a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) have both been undertaken alongside the preparation 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 and OPW, 2009).

The AA Screening concluded that the Plan will not affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 network, consequently further stages of AA were not required. The SFRA has facilitated the integration of flood risk management considerations into the Plan.

The preparation of the Plan, SEA, AA and SFRA has taken place concurrently and the findings of the AA and SFRA have informed both the Plan and the SEA. All recommendations made by the AA and SEA were integrated into the Plan.

### **3.13 Strategic Environmental Objectives**

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 potential adverse impacts may occur. SEOs are distinct from the objectives of the Plan and are developed from international and national policies that 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 Plan area.

**Table 3.3 Strategic Environmental Objectives**

<b>SEO Code</b>	<b>SEO</b>
<b>B1</b>	To ensure compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to the protection of Natura 2000 Sites/Annexed habitats and species <sup>5</sup>
<b>B2</b>	To ensure compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the management of features of the landscape which - by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function act as stepping stones - are of significant importance for wild fauna and flora and/or essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species
<b>B3</b>	To avoid significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites <sup>6</sup> and to ensure compliance with the Wildlife Acts 1976-2010 with regard to the protection of species listed on Schedule 5 of the principal Act
<b>PHH1</b>	To protect populations and human health from exposure to incompatible landuses
<b>S1</b>	To avoid damage to the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource
<b>W1</b>	To maintain and improve, where possible, the quality and status of surface waters
<b>W2</b>	To prevent pollution and contamination of ground water
<b>W3</b>	To comply as appropriate with the provisions of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines
<b>M1</b>	To serve new development with adequate and appropriate wastewater treatment
<b>M2</b>	To serve new development with adequate drinking water that is both wholesome and clean
<b>M3</b>	To reduce waste volumes, minimise waste to landfill and increase recycling and reuse
<b>C1</b>	To reduce travel related emissions to air and to encourage modal change from car to more sustainable forms of transport
<b>CH1</b>	To protect archaeological heritage including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and/or their context
<b>CH2</b>	To protect architectural heritage including entries to the Record of Protected Structures and their context
<b>L1</b>	To avoid significant adverse impacts on the landscape

<sup>5</sup> 'Annexed habitats and species' refer to those listed under Annex I, II & IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.

<sup>6</sup> The Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended defines a 'wildlife site', which includes proposed Natural Heritage Areas.

## Section 4 Alternative Development Strategies

### 4.1 Description of Alternative Development Strategies

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.

The description of the environmental baseline (both maps and text) and Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are used in the evaluation of alternative development strategies.

Wexford County Council in preparing the Local Area Plan considered the four alternative development strategies for Gorey Town and its Environs detailed below:

#### **Alternative A**

##### **Concentric development ignoring the barrier provided by the rail line**

Alternative A (see Figure 4.1) provides a crude sequential development of the town, ignoring the barrier provided by the rail line. Ignoring this barrier would increase journey times (with associated effects on sustainable mobility). Development would be pushed out along the approach roads of the town putting pressure on the outer motorway which acts like a ring road to facilitate radial movement due to lack of internal linkages.

This alternative facilitates a high amount of edge development, which by nature reduces the walkability of the town and environs, as new development is concentrated a distance out of the town.

#### **Alternative B**

##### **Skewed concentric development with consolidation of town centre**

Alternative B (see Figure 4.2) recognises the barrier provided by the rail line and would allow for development in all directions from existing development, on either side of the rail line.

This alternative also makes additional efforts to intensify uses within the existing town centre, through increased density redevelopment of sites within proximity to public transport nodes.

This skewed concentric model would facilitate the delivery of some inner link roads, however: the barrier provided by the rail line would limit the long-term balanced growth of the town.

#### **Alternative B1**

##### **Skewed concentric development with consolidation of town centre and strategic reserve to secure long-term linkages**

Alternative B1 (see Figure 4.3) is a variation of Alternative B that secures important linkages to address the severance that the railway line provides. By securing these linkages, Alternative B1 would facilitate a long-term sustainable development and growth of the town.

#### **Alternative C**

##### **Development right up to motorway**

Alternative C (see Figure 4.4) allows for a mirrored type development of the town and environs, with the eastern side developing at a more rapid rate, right out to the M11 Motorway and walkability significantly reduced due to an extended town centre.

This alternative would result in short trip traffic on the Motorway.

This alternative would require major infrastructural investment in new linkages to cater for the movement of cars. The unbalanced development would have a negative effect of the west side of the Town.



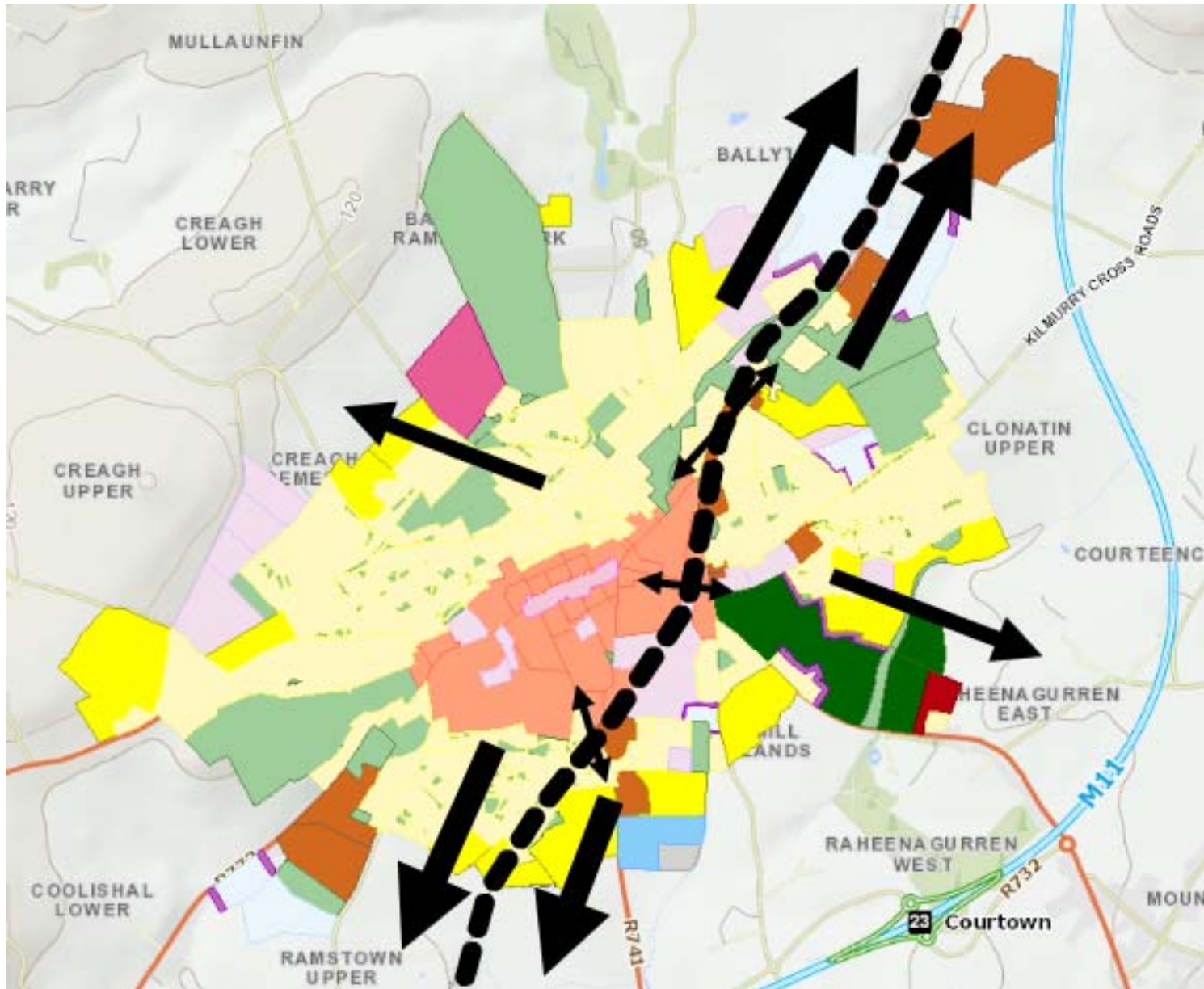


Figure 4.1 Alternative A: Concentric development ignoring the barrier provided by the rail line

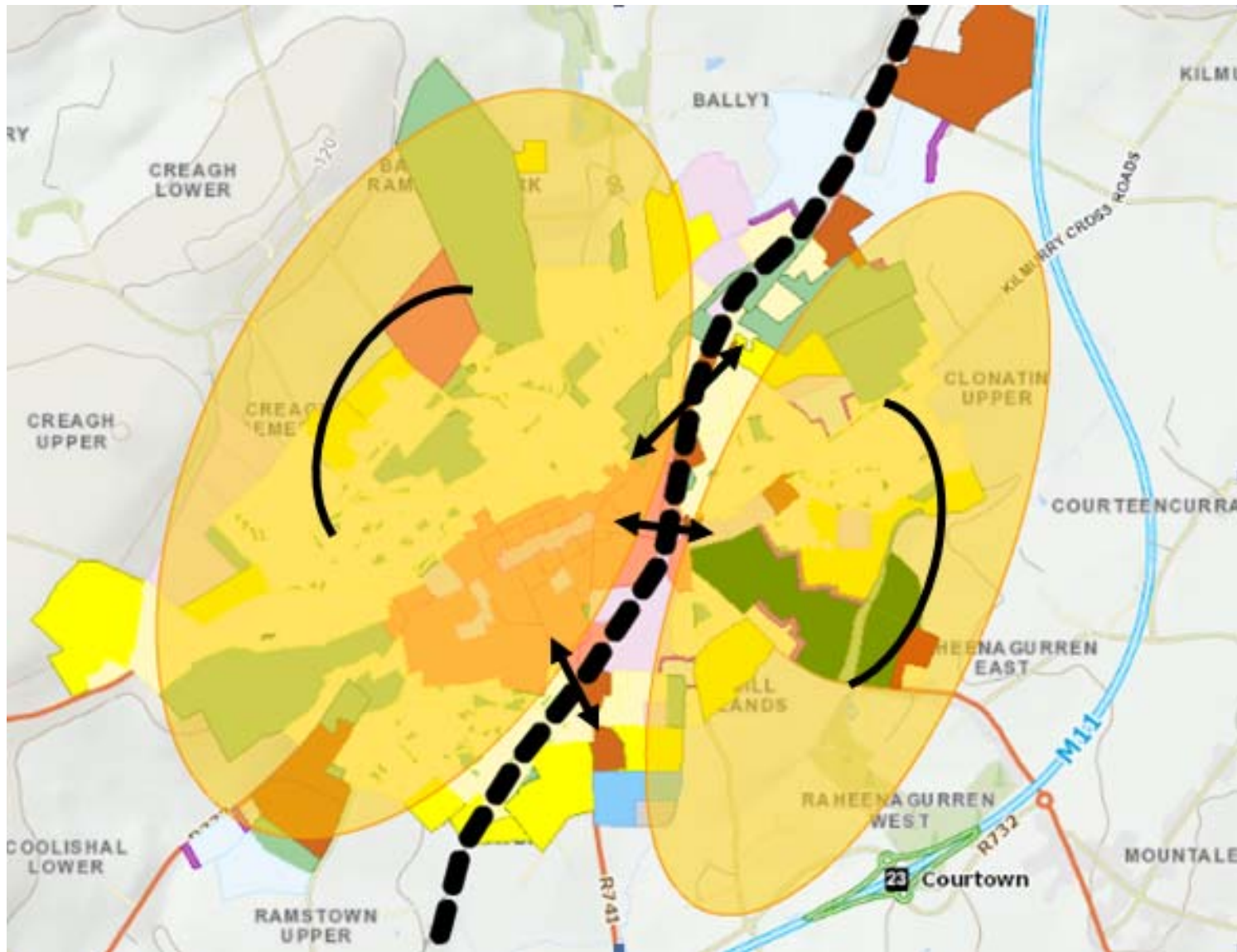


Figure 4.2 Alternative B: Skewed concentric development



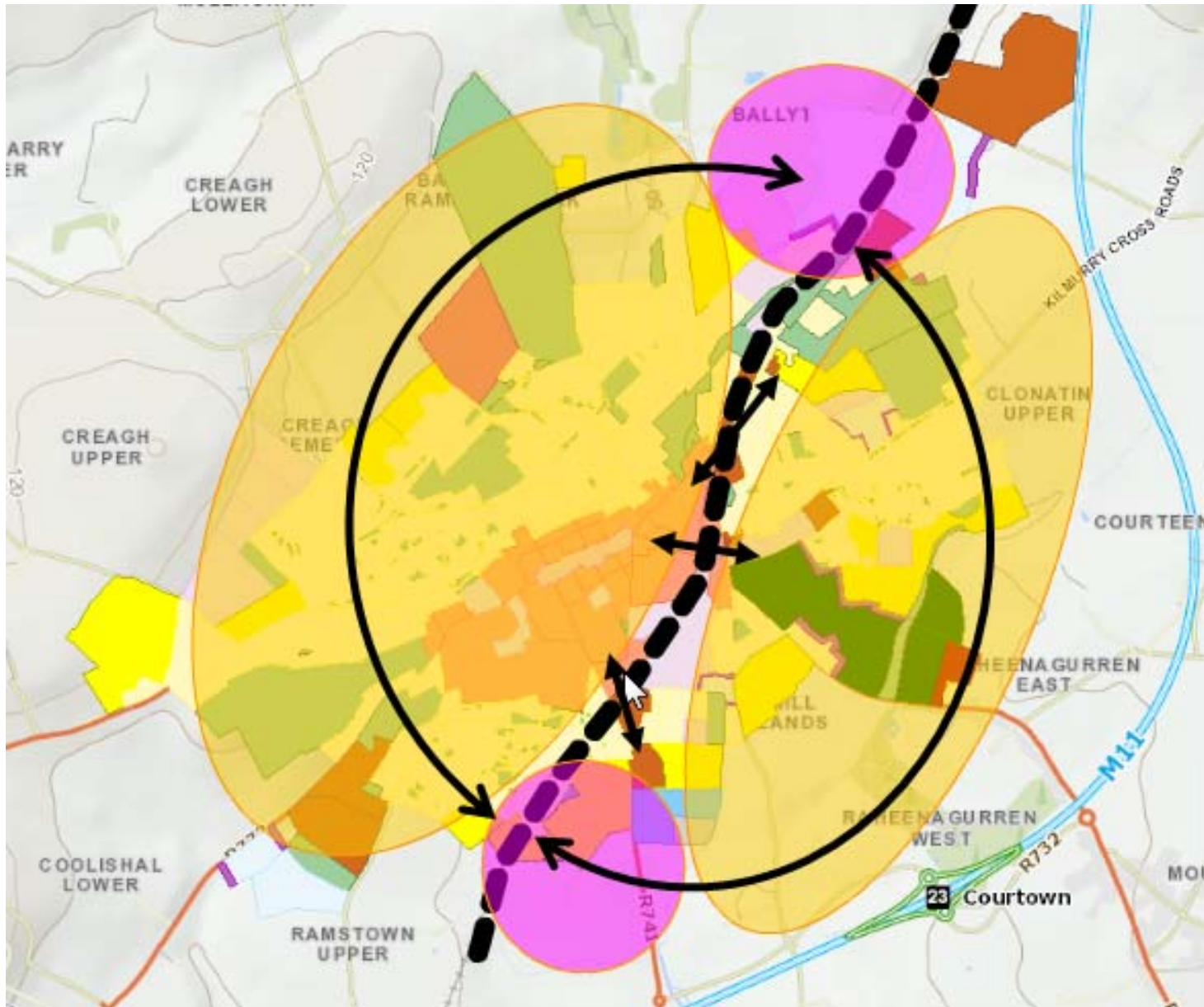
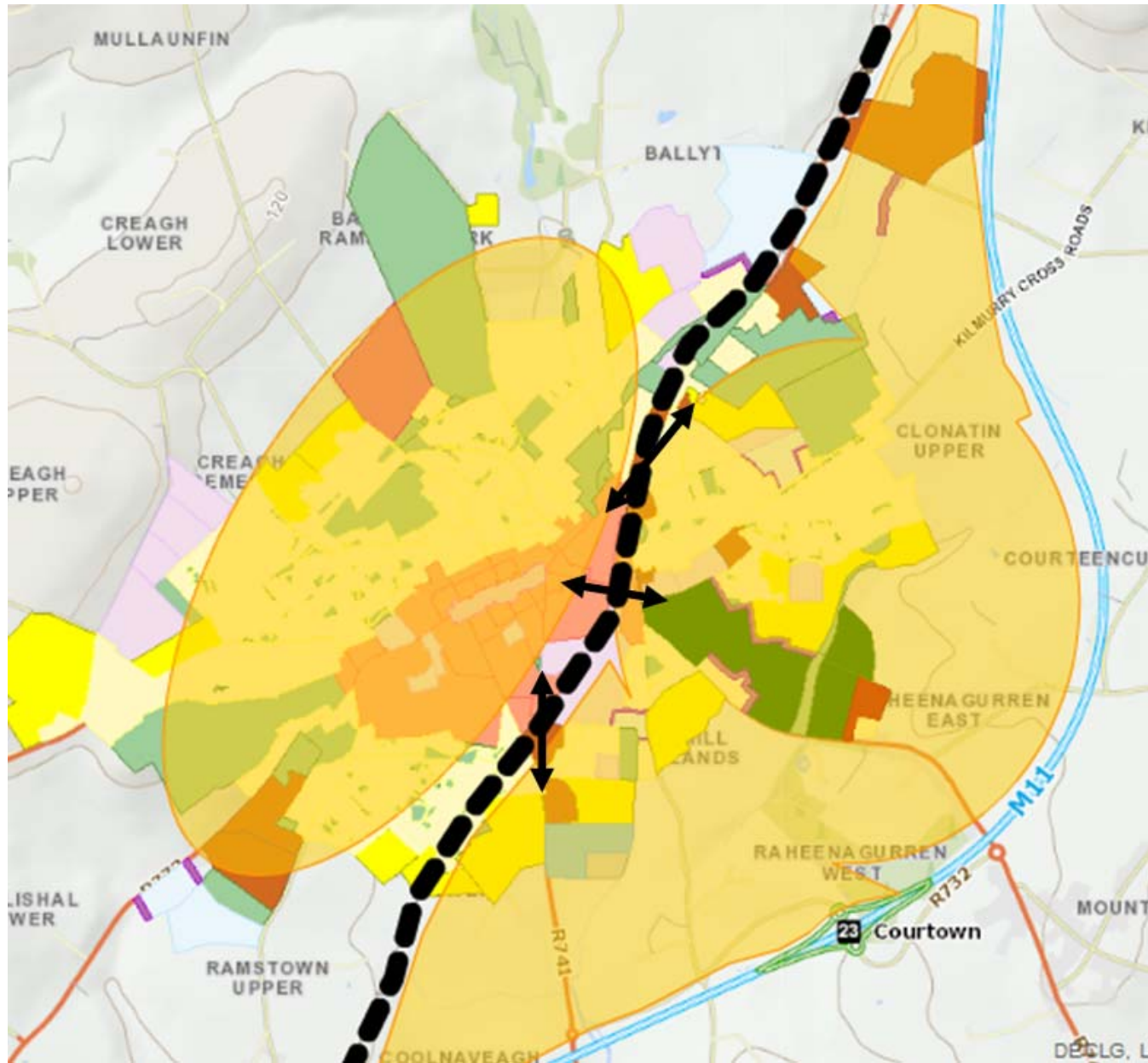


Figure 4.3 Alternative B1: Skewed concentric development with strategic reserve to secure long-term linkages



**Figure 4.4 Alternative C: Development right up to motorway**

## 4.2 Comparative Evaluation of All Alternative Development Strategies

### 4.2.1 Significant Positive Effects Common to all Alternatives

The Gorey town and environs area contains relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and designations and has capacity in transport and wastewater services. By providing for growth and development in this area, each of the four alternative development strategies would be likely to contribute towards a reduced need to develop more sensitive towns and rural and coastal areas elsewhere in the County and wider region. This would be likely to result in significant positive environmental effects on the following environmental components:

- Biodiversity and flora and fauna
- Population and human health
- Soil (especially soil on greenfield lands)
- Water (status of rivers and groundwater and flooding)
- Material Assets (provision of adequate and appropriate wastewater and drinking water services and waste management)
- Sustainable mobility and associated effects (energy usage and emissions to air including noise and greenhouse gases)
- Cultural Heritage (architectural and archaeological heritage)
- Landscape

### 4.2.1 Potentially Significant Adverse Effects Common to all Alternatives

A number of potentially significant adverse environmental effects are common to all alternatives and are described on Table 4.1. For the Plan, these effects will be mitigated by measures that have been integrated into the Plan.

**Table 4.1 Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects common to all alternatives**

Environmental Component	Likely Significant Effect, if unmitigated
Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure: loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including Natura 2000 Sites/Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna</li> <li>○ Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects.</li> <li>○ Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species.</li> </ul>
Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Potential interactions if effects upon environmental vectors such as water and air are not mitigated</li> </ul>
Soil (especially soil on greenfield lands)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Damage to the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource.</li> </ul>
Water (including the Banoge River, its tributaries and underlying groundwater)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adverse impacts upon the status of water bodies arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.</li> <li>○ Increase in the risk of flooding.</li> </ul>
Material Assets (it is the function of Irish Water to provide for water services needs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Failure to provide adequate and appropriate wastewater treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>○ Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water that is both wholesome and clean (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts)</li> <li>○ Increases in waste levels</li> </ul>
Air and Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Emissions to air including greenhouse gas emissions and other emissions.</li> </ul>
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities.</li> </ul>
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of the landscape.</li> </ul>

## 4.2.2 Other Specific Effects for Alternatives

Wexford County Council in preparing the Local Area Plan considered the four alternative development strategies for Gorey Town and its Environs detailed below:

### **Alternative A**

#### **Concentric development ignoring the barrier provided by the rail line**

Alternative A would result in a significant amount of conflict with efforts to improve sustainable mobility.

Ignoring the barrier presented by the rail line would increase journey times and would contribute towards increases in levels of unsustainable mobility and associated effects (energy usage and emissions to air including noise and greenhouse gases). This barrier would limit the long-term balanced growth of the town thereby limiting maximisation of those positive effects detailed under Section 4.2.1 above.

This alternative facilitates a high amount of edge development and does not provide for a consolidated, compact urban form. This edge development would have the potential to result in higher levels of environmental conflicts with brownfield development not maximised and unnecessary greenfield development occurring on the fringes of the town and environs.

Greenfield development has a greater potential to result in higher levels of direct effects as a result of developing semi-natural lands – such effects include loss of ecology (including non-designated ecology and ecological corridors and stepping stones), visual impacts, the sealing of greenfield soils and threats to the status of waters (which has the potential to interact with aquatic ecology and human health). Greenfield development is less likely to facilitate sustainable mobility. Greenfield development is also less likely to facilitate the enhancement of cultural (archaeological and architectural) heritage and its context in urban areas.

By providing for development that does not take account of the rail barrier and by pushing development out along the approach roads of the town, this alternative would result in pressure on the outer motorway that acts like a ring road to facilitate radial movement due to lack of internal linkages (this would be contrary to the policies contained in the National Planning Roads Guidance documents). This would further contribute towards unsustainable mobility with walkability of the town reduced and development increasingly dispersed.

### **Alternative B**

#### **Skewed concentric development with consolidation of town centre**

Alternative B would contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility by recognising the barrier provided by the rail line and making efforts to intensify uses within the existing town centre.

Intensifying uses, by providing for increased density redevelopment of sites within proximity to public transport nodes, and delivering some inner link roads would contribute towards a more consolidated and compact town with associated benefits with respect to sustainable mobility, energy usage and emissions to air including noise and greenhouse gases.

Associated with a consolidated and compact town is lower levels of greenfield development and higher levels of brownfield development. This would have the potential to result in decreased levels of environmental conflicts. Regeneration of town centre sites would have the potential to contribute towards the protection of cultural heritage.

Brownfield development has a greater potential to result in lower levels of direct effects as a result of reducing the need to develop semi-natural greenfield lands – such effects include loss of ecology (including non-designated ecology and ecological corridors and stepping stones), visual impacts, the sealing of greenfield soils and threats to the status of waters



(which has the potential to interact with aquatic ecology and human health). Brownfield development is more likely to facilitate both sustainable mobility and enhancement of cultural (archaeological and architectural) heritage and its context in urban areas. Brownfield development is also more likely to conflict, if unmitigated, with concentrations of cultural heritage – as these often occur in urban areas.

The barrier provided by the rail line would limit the long-term balanced growth of the town thereby limiting maximisation of those positive effects detailed under Section 4.2.1 above. These effects include improvements in sustainable mobility and associated effects (energy usage and emissions to air including noise and greenhouse gases) that could be achieved within the town.

### **Alternative B1**

#### **Skewed concentric development with consolidation of town centre and strategic reserve to secure long-term linkages**

Alternative B1 is a variation of Alternative B that secures important linkages to address the severance that the railway line provides. By securing these linkages, Alternative B1 would facilitate a long-term sustainable development and growth of the town and a maximisation of those positive effects detailed under Section 4.2.1 above. These effects include improvements in sustainable mobility and associated effects (energy usage and emissions to air including noise and greenhouse gases) that could be achieved within the town.

### **Alternative C**

#### **Development right up to motorway**

Alternative C would result in a significant amount of conflict with efforts to improve sustainable mobility.

Allowing for a mirrored type development of the town and environs as transected by the railway line, the eastern side of the town would develop at a more rapid rate, right out to the M11 Motorway. This extended area would increase journey times, reduce walkability and contribute towards increases in levels of unsustainable mobility and associated effects (energy usage and emissions to air including noise and greenhouse gases). The barrier provided by the rail line would limit the long-term balanced growth of the town thereby limiting maximisation of those positive effects detailed under Section 4.2.1 above.

This alternative would result in short trip traffic on the Motorway (this would be contrary to the policies contained in the National Planning Roads Guidance documents). This would further contribute towards unsustainable mobility with walkability of the town reduced and development increasingly dispersed. Major infrastructural investment in new linkages would be required to cater for the movement of cars.

This alternative would have the potential to result in higher levels of environmental conflicts as unnecessary greenfield development on the fringes of the town and environs would occur and brownfield development not maximised would not be maximised. Greenfield development has a greater potential to result in higher levels of direct effects as a result of developing semi-natural lands – such effects include loss of ecology (including non-designated ecology and ecological corridors and stepping stones), visual impacts, the sealing of greenfield soils and threats to the status of waters (which has the potential to interact with aquatic ecology and human health). Greenfield development is less likely to facilitate sustainable mobility. Greenfield development is also less likely to facilitate the enhancement of cultural (archaeological and architectural) heritage and its context in urban areas.

### 4.2.3 Summary Evaluation Against SEOs

Table 4.2 below provides a comparative evaluation of the environmental effects of alternative development strategies against Strategic Environmental Objectives (see Section 3.13). This is supported by the narrative above.

**Table 4.2 Comparative Evaluation of Alternative Development Strategies**

Alternative Development Strategy	Likely to <u>Improve</u> status of SEOs to a <u>greater</u> degree	Likely to <u>Improve</u> status of SEOs to an <u>intermediate</u> degree	Likely to <u>Improve</u> status of SEOs to a <u>lesser</u> degree	<u>Least Potential Conflict</u> with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated to greater degree, significant adverse effects <u>less likely</u>	<u>More Potential Conflict</u> with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated to an intermediate degree, significant adverse effects <u>more likely</u>	<u>Most Potential Conflict</u> with status of SEOs - likely to be mitigated to lesser degree, significant adverse effects <u>more likely</u>
Alternative Development Strategy A			✓			✓
Alternative Development Strategy B		✓			✓	
Alternative Development Strategy B1	✓			✓		
Alternative Development Strategy C			✓			✓

### 4.3 The Selected Alternative for the Plan

The Alternative Development Strategy for the Plan that emerged from the planning/SEA process is Alternative Development Strategy B1.

This strategy has been developed by the Planning Team and adopted as the Plan by the Council having regard to both:

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

The Land Use Zoning map from the Plan that evolved from and which is consistent with Alternative Development Strategy B1 is shown on Figure 4.5 overleaf.

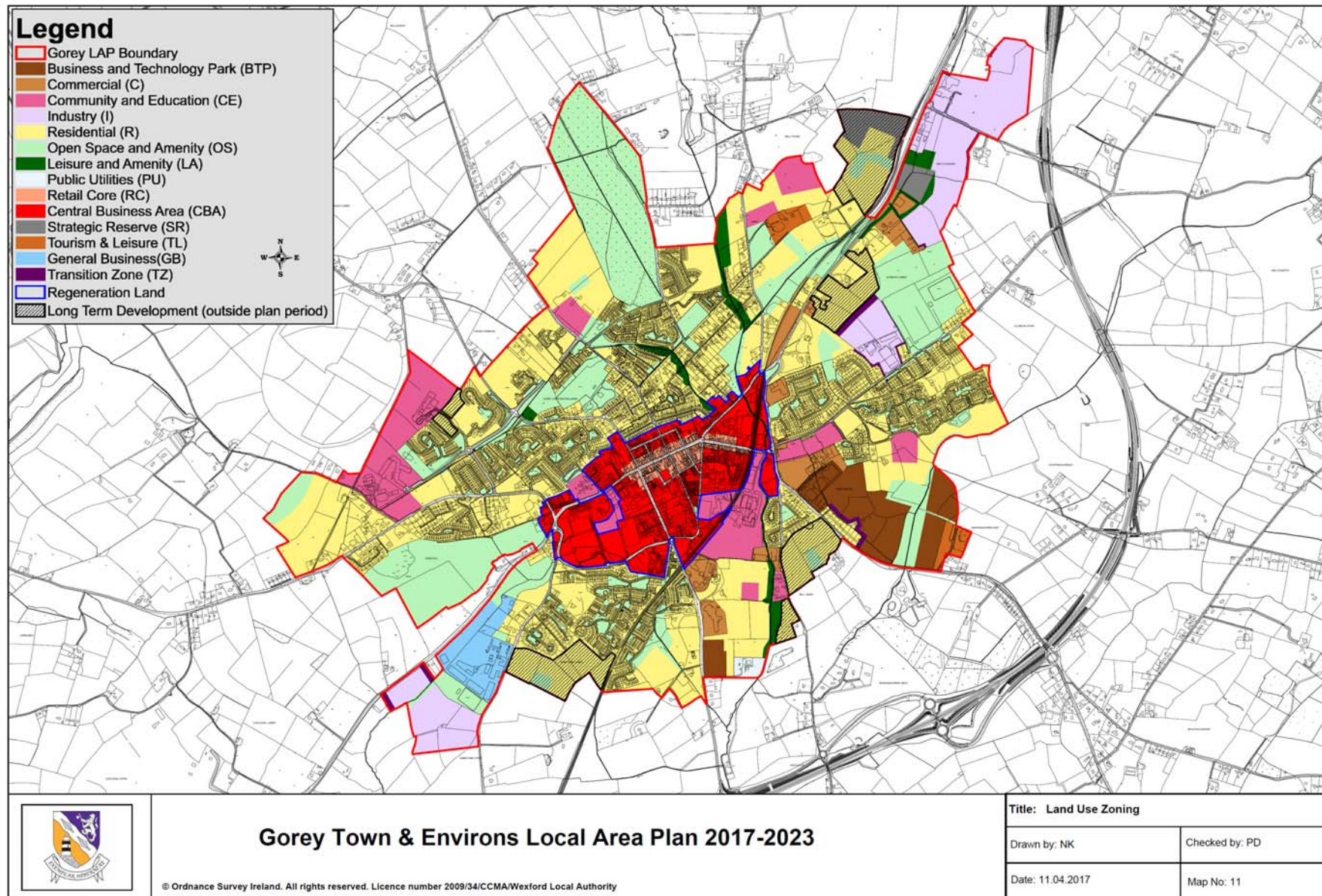


Figure 4.5 Land Use Zoning Map from the LAP

## Section 5 Evaluation of Plan Provisions

### 5.1 Summary of Findings

- The Council have integrated recommendations arising from the SEA, Appropriate Assessment Screening and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment processes into the Plan (see Section 9 for details of these measures), facilitating compliance of the Plan with various European and National legislation and Guidelines relating to the protection of the environment and the achievement of sustainable development;
- Some Plan provisions would be likely to result in significant positive effects upon all of the environmental components (biodiversity, fauna, flora, population, human health, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape); and
- Some Plan provisions would have the potential to result in significant negative environmental effects (these are described below) however, these effects will be mitigated by the mitigation measures that have been integrated into the Plan.

### 5.2 Potential Adverse Effects and their Determination

Environmental impacts which occur, if any, will be determined by the nature and extent of multiple or individual projects and site-specific environmental factors. The potentially significant adverse environmental effects arising from implementation of the Plan are detailed on Table 4.1.

### 5.3 Residual Adverse Effects

Residual adverse effects likely to occur - considering the extent of detail provided by the Plan and assuming that all mitigation measures are complied with by development - are identified for each of the environmental components on Table 5.1 below.

**Table 5.1 Residual Adverse Effects**

Environmental Component	Residual Adverse Effects
Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of an extent of non-protected habitats and species arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces.</li> <li>• Losses or damage to ecology (these would comply with relevant legislation).</li> </ul>
Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential interactions with residual effects on environmental vectors. This has been mitigated by provisions that have been integrated into the Plan, including those relating to sustainable mobility and infrastructural provision.</li> </ul>
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces.</li> </ul>
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased loadings as a result of development to comply with River Basin Management Plans.</li> <li>• Flood related risks remain due to uncertainty with regard to extreme weather events.</li> </ul>
Air and Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An extent of travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air. This has been mitigated by provisions that have been integrated into the Plan, including those relating to sustainable mobility.</li> </ul>
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residual wastes to be disposed of in line with higher level waste management policies.</li> </ul>
Architectural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential alteration to the context and setting of architectural heritage however, these will occur in compliance with legislation.</li> </ul>
Archaeological Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential alteration to the context and setting of archaeological heritage however, this will occur in compliance with legislation.</li> <li>• Potential loss of unknown archaeology however, this loss will be mitigated by measures integrated into the Plan.</li> </ul>
Landscape Designations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None. The Plan contributes towards the protection of the landscape. The Town and Environ's landscape will change overtime as a result of natural changes in vegetation cover combined with new developments.</li> </ul>

## Section 6 Mitigation and Monitoring Measures

### 6.1 Mitigation

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

Mitigation was achieved through the:

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

As detailed in the LAP, new applications for development must comply with the various provisions and development management standards included in the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019 (or subsequent County Development Plan), including those relating to sustainable development and environmental protection and management.

Consequently, Table 6.1 links the potential significant effects of implementing the Plan, if unmitigated, to both LAP and County Development Plan provisions that will ensure the mitigation of potentially adverse environmental effects arising from implementation of the LAP.

### 6.2 Monitoring

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

Monitoring can enable, at an early stage, the identification of unforeseen adverse effects and the undertaking of appropriate remedial action.

Monitoring is based around indicators that allow quantitative measures of trends and progress over time relating to the Strategic Environmental Objectives (see Section 3.13).

Table 6.1 provides 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 6.1 SEA Summary Table: Likely Significant Effects, Mitigation Measures and Indicators for Monitoring**

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	CDP Measures References, where not included in LAP	LAP Measures References	Indicators
<b>Biodiversity and flora and fauna</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure: loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including Natura 2000 Sites/Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna</li> <li>Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects.</li> <li>Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species.</li> </ul>	Also see measures under soil, water and material assets below.	Objective AA01, Objective NH01, Objective NH02, Objective NH03 and Objective NH04	<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 without remediation resulting from development provided for by the Plan</p> <p>B3i: Number of significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites resulting from development provided for by the Plan</p> <p>B3ii: Number of significant impacts on the protection of species listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife Act 1976</p>
<b>Population and human health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential interactions if effects upon environmental vectors such as water and air are not mitigated</li> </ul>	Also see measures under environmental vectors soil, water and air below.	Objective ED15, Objective ED19, Objective WS06 and Objective COMAH02	PHH1: Occurrence (any) of a spatially concentrated deterioration in human health arising from environmental factors resulting from development provided for by the Plan, as identified by the Health Service Executive and Environmental Protection Agency
<b>Soil</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Damage to the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource.</li> </ul>	Objective HL01 and Objective HL02	Objective EM02	S1: Soil extent and hydraulic connectivity
<b>Water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adverse impacts upon the status of water bodies arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.</li> <li>Increase in the risk of flooding</li> </ul>	Also see measures under soil above and material assets below.	Objective ED21, Objective WS01, Objective WW01, Objective WW02, Objective WW04, Objective WW05, Objective WW06, Objective ED21, Objective TM14, Objective WS01, Objective WQ01, Objective WQ04, Objective RS13, Objective RS24 and Objective CF12	<p>W1: 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)</p> <p>W2: Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC</p> <p>W3: Number of incompatible developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk</p>



## Appendix II: Non-Technical Summary

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	CDP Measures References, where not included in LAP	LAP Measures References	Indicators
<b>Air and Climatic Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emissions to air including greenhouse gas emissions and other emissions.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">Also see measure under human health above</p> <p>Objective GI01, Objective GI02, Objective GI03, Objective GI04, Objective GI05, Objective GI06, Objective GI07, Objective CC01, Objective CC02, Objective CC03, Objective CC04, Objective CC05, Objective CC06, Objective CC08, Objective CC09 and Objective AQ01</p>	<p>Various Plan provisions relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improvement of the public realm;</li> <li>Development of the town centre;</li> <li>Improved permeability;</li> <li>Implementation of the Neighbourhood Framework Plan for the Town Centre;</li> <li>Implementation of Urban Design Guidelines;</li> <li>Reuse and regeneration of derelict land and buildings; and</li> <li>Development and regeneration of areas that are in need of regeneration</li> </ul> <p>Objective AM01, Objective AM02, Objective AM03, Objective AM04 and Objective EM01</p>	C1: Percentage of population travelling to work, school or college by public transport or non-mechanical means
<b>Material Assets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Failure to provide adequate and appropriate wastewater treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water that is both wholesome and clean (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts)</li> <li>Increases in waste levels</li> </ul>	Objective WW02, Objective WS02, Objective WM09, Objective WM10, Objective WM01, Objective WM02, Objective WM03, Objective WM04, Objective WM05, Objective WM06, Objective WM07, Objective WM08, Objective WM11 and Objective WM12	Objective WW01, Objective WW02, Objective WW03 and Objective WW04	<p>M1: Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately and appropriately served with wastewater treatment over the lifetime of the Plan</p> <p>M2: 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 as a result of implementing the Plan</p>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities.</li> </ul>		Objective AH01, Objective AH02, Objective AH03, Objective AH04, Objective AH05, Objective ACA02, Objective ACA03, Objective ARH01 and Objective ARH02	<p>CH1: Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places - and the context these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant - protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan</p> <p>CH2: Percentage of entries to the Record of Protected Structures and their context protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan</p>
<b>Landscape</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of the landscape.</li> </ul>		Various urban design guidelines including those relating to character, coherence, connectivity and permeability, continuity and enclosure, scale, landscape, adaptability, diversity, building style and materials and urban blocks.	L1: Number of complaints received from statutory consultees regarding avoidable impacts on the landscape resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan