



Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

PROVISION OF INFORMATION REGARDING APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING

MEATH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2014-2022

PREPARED ON BEHALF OF MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

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Scott Cawley, College House, Rock Road, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.

www.scottcawley.com

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Proposed plans and projects must undergo a formal “test” or “screening” to see if they would have likely significant effects on specific sites designated for their nature conservation importance, under Section 177U (5), Part XAB of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010. These sites are those designated under the European Commission’s Natura 2000 network of sites (hereafter “European sites”¹). These sites are designated on the basis of the presence of certain habitats and species that are deemed to be of international importance.

The EC Habitats and Birds Directives are the framework for the designation of these sites. The EC Habitats Directive requires the “screening” of plans and projects under Article 6(3). If the screening process results in a judgement that likely significant effects may occur or cannot be ruled out, then a more detailed ‘appropriate assessment’ (AA) is required. Whilst the structure of this assessment process is not laid down in law, there are guidance documents that are used to provide an indication of how this assessment may be carried out.

In order to ensure that the Economic Development Strategy 2014-2022 complies fully with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and all relevant Irish transposing legislation (*Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2011*), Meath County Council appointed Scott Cawley Ltd. to carry out the screening of the Strategy to see if it required a full AA.

1.2 Aim of this Report

The aims of this report are:

- To identify any linkages between the sensitivities of the individual European sites and the implications of the Strategy, taking any protective policies within overarching plans such as the County Development Plan into account;
- To determine if the implementation of the Strategy could result in likely significant effects on the European sites in terms of impacts on their sensitivities.

¹ Natura 2000 sites are defined under the Habitats Directive (Article 3) as a European ecological network of special areas of conservation composed of sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II. The aim of the network is to aid the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats. In Ireland these sites are designed as *European sites* - defined under the Planning Acts and/or Birds and Habitats Regulations as (a) a candidate site of Community importance, (b) a site of Community importance, (c) a candidate special area of conservation, (d) a special area of conservation, (e) a candidate special protection area, or (f) a special protection area. They are commonly referred to in Ireland as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE STRATEGY

2.1 Overview

The Economic Development Strategy sets out the medium-term strategy for economic development within County Meath until 2022 and has been prepared in light of the recommendations set out within “Putting People First (2012) and the Local Government Reform Act of 2014. The Economic Development Strategy is also mindful of the wider regional context of economic and employment development in Meath and neighbouring local authority areas.

The Economic Development Strategy for County Meath sets evidence-based measures aimed at accelerating the economic transformation, revitalisation and sustainable development of County Meath from 2014-2022.

Key elements of the Economic Strategy include:

- Projections of the level of employment in County Meath to 2022 (going into the Economic Vision for Meath), using the 2011 situation as the benchmark, and carrying out sectoral projections of what can be achieved based on the inherent strengths of the local economy and specific sectoral opportunities (2011 is the latest available year for which full factual information is available on employment within and outside of County Meath);
- Assessment of spatial planning opportunities in the form of identified sites around the County and the fit of these locations in the context of the current Meath CDP 2013-2019 (as varied);
- Marketing Plan for Meath, which integrates the economic and spatial plans;
- Overall set of strategic recommendations for implementing the Economic Development Strategy and monitoring progress during the period 2014-2022.

The Screening process has therefore focussed on the potential for any likely significant effects to arise at the scale of the Strategy.

The majority of the Strategy lacks geographic specificity and certainty as to how the physical and biological environment may be affected as a result of its implementation. However in several places there are references to specific locations (e.g. Navan, Drogheda etc.) which permits more accurate judgements as to how these locations may be affected. In such cases the AA Screening process moved onto searching for any source-pathway-receptor relationships to determine if there were any likely significant effects on European sites.

2.2 Relationship between the Strategy and the County Development Plan (CDP).

The Strategy sits within the other strategic plans that influence economic development in Meath and therefore will be implemented alongside other policies and objectives contained therein. The current CDP and Corporate Plans have undergone Appropriate Assessment and were not deemed to result in adverse effects on European site integrity as a result of the protective/mitigatory policies that were integrated into the Plan.

The County Development Plan contains several maps that identify areas of ecological importance (national and European designated areas) and also lists of policies that protect

against adverse effects on these sites. It is therefore reasonable to assess the Strategy in the context of the current CDP and to assume that the protective policies will also apply.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Formal Guidance

The Screening stage has taken account of guidance contained in the following documents:

- *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities*. (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 revision).
- *Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities*. Circular NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10.
- *Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC* (European Commission Environment Directorate-General, 2001); hereafter referred to as the EC Article 6 Guidance Document. The guidance within this document provides a non-mandatory methodology for carrying out assessments required under Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive.
- *Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC* (EC Environment Directorate-General, 2000, updated April 2015); hereafter referred to as MN2000.
- *Guidance Document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC. Clarification of the Concepts of Alternative Solutions, Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest, Compensatory Measures, Overall Coherence*. Opinion of the European Commission (European Commission, January 2007).
- *Guidelines for Good Practice Appropriate Assessment of Plans Under Article 6(3) Habitats Directive* (International Workshop on Assessment of Plans under the Habitats Directive, 2011)

3.2 Sources of Information Used

Information relied upon included the following information sources, which included maps, ecological and water quality data:

- Ordnance Survey of Ireland mapping and aerial photography available from www.osi.ie;
- Online data available on European sites as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from www.npws.ie;
- Information on land-use zoning from the online mapping of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government <http://www.myplan.ie/en/index.html>;
- Information on water quality in the area available from www.epa.ie;
- Information on the Eastern River Basin District from www.wfdireland.ie;
- Information on soils, geology and hydrogeology in the area available from www.gsi.ie;
- Information on the status of EU protected habitats and species in Ireland (National Parks & Wildlife Service, 2013a & 2013b);
- Information on the conservation status of birds in Ireland (Colhoun & Cummins, 2013).

The following planning and policy documents were relevant to the Strategy, in particular with regard to the assessment of other plans and projects with potential for cumulative effects:

- *Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019* (as varied); and
- *Eastern River Basin District, River Basin Management Plan 2009 – 2015*.

4 Description of European Sites

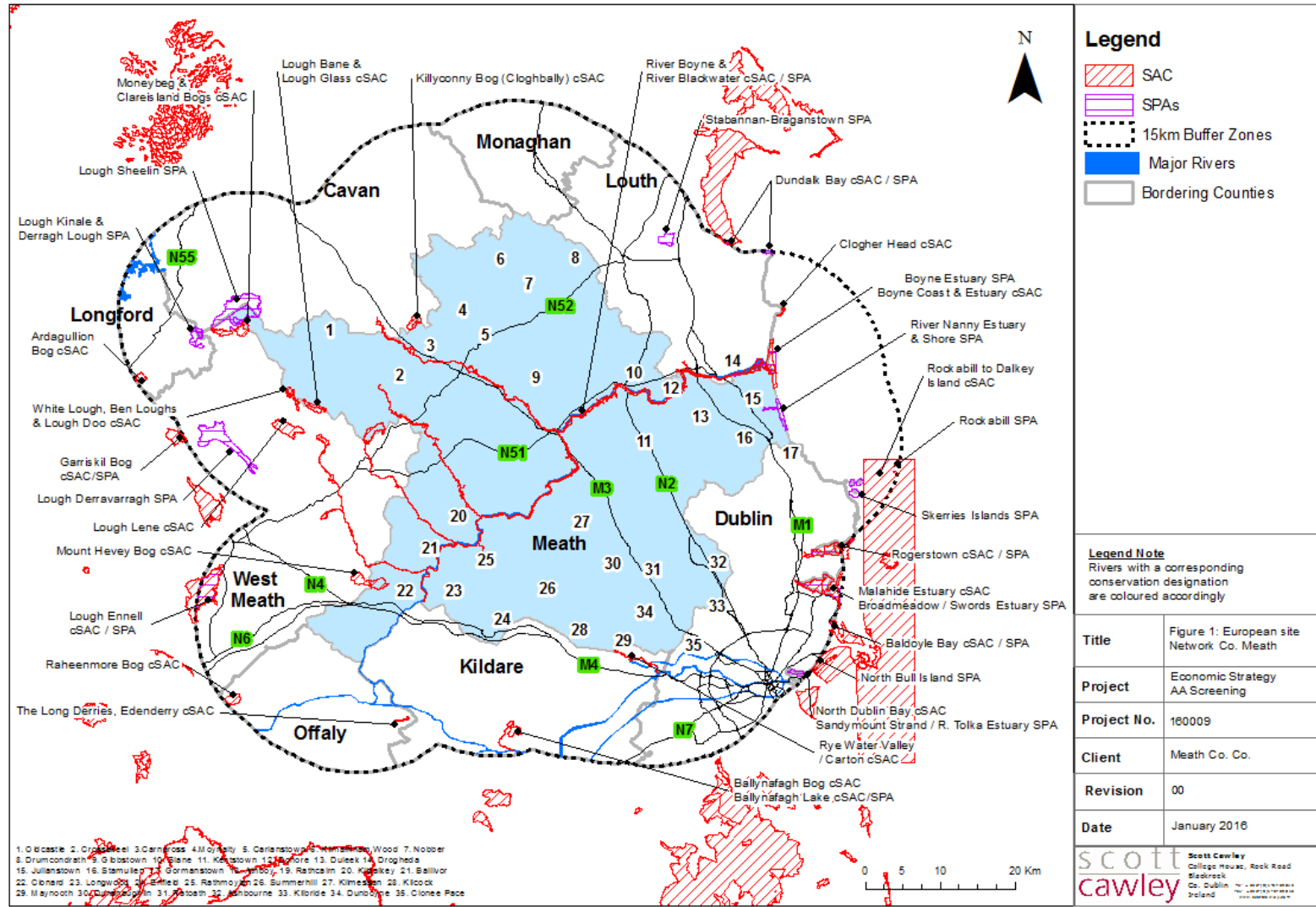
4.1 Identification of European sites

Table 1 below list those sites that would be regarded to be within the zone of influence of the Strategy. These are sites that are within, directly adjacent or linked to the Meath area by reasonable physical or ecological pathways so that changes in the Meath area would be capable of being perceived at these sites.

Spatial boundary data on the European site network was referenced against the boundaries presented on the NPWS website on 19th January 2016. All European sites which fall within 15km of the county boundary are listed in Table 1 below, and presented in Figure 1.

Table 1 European Sites	
Sites within County Meath	
Special Areas of Conservation	Special Protection Areas
Boyne Coast and Estuary	Boyne Estuary
River Boyne and River Blackwater	River Nanny Estuary and Shore
Rye Water Valley / Carton	Lough Sheelin
Mount Hevey Bog	River Boyne and River Blackwater
White Lough, Ben Loughs and Lough Doo	
Lough Bane and Lough Glass	
Killyconny Bog (Cloughbally)	
Monybeg and Clareisland Bogs	
Sites within 15km Buffer Zone	
Special Areas of Conservation	Special Protection Areas
Ardagullion Bog	Stabannan Braganstown
Garriskil Bog	North Bull Island
Lough Lene	South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary
Lough Ennell	Baldoyle Bay
Raheenmore Bog	Rogerstown Estuary
The Long Derries, Edenderry	Skerries Islands
Ballynafagh Bog	Malahide Estuary
Ballynafagh Lake	Dundalk Bay
North Dublin Bay	Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough
Baldoyle Bay	Garriskill Bog
Malahide Estuary	Lough Derraghvarragh
Rogerstown Estuary	Lough Ennell
Clogher Head	Rockabill
Dundalk Bay	
Rockabill to Dalkey Island	

Figure 1 European sites within 15km of County Meath



4.2 Reasons for Designation, Site Sensitivities and Threats

In order to identify those sites that could be potentially affected, it was necessary to describe the European site in the context of why it has been designated (i.e. its “Qualifying Interests” or “Special Conservation Interests”). The Qualifying Interests (QIs) and Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) were extracted from the NPWS website database (www.npws.ie) and Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland (NPWS, 2013a & 2013b).

The results of this desktop exercise are summarised in Table 2. This presents the full list of qualifying interests that are contained within European sites in Meath. The underpinning conditions that are required to maintain the ‘health’ of these features are listed in this table. Appendix A, Table 1A details each European site and its corresponding QI/SCI.

Table 2 QIs and SCIs in County Meath and the underpinning environmental conditions	
Qualifying Interests	Key environmental conditions supporting site integrity
Active raised bog	Surface water supply. Low nutrient, acidic conditions to support growth of <i>Sphagnum</i> spp. Restricted drainage at perimeter.
Alkaline fens	High water table. Ground surface water supply. Calcium-rich conditions.
Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>)	Riparian/lacustrine habitat prone to flooding
Annual vegetation of drift lines	Sandy substrate. Physical impact and nutrient supply from tidal flow.
Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>)	Sea level. Natural/artificial nest site availability. Undisturbed breeding sites. Regularity of extreme weather events. Marine prey availability (sand eel). Predation.
Atlantic Salmon <i>Salmo salar</i>	Riverine habitat. Water quality (Q4-5). Riverbed breeding gravels. Quality riparian vegetation. Unhindered migratory routes.
Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)	Frequency of tidal submergence
Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>)	Food availability (intertidal fauna/pasture). Flooding regime of coastal grasslands. Undisturbed coastal roosting sites close to feeding areas.
Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>)	Food availability (intertidal fauna/pasture/sewage). Coastal water quality.
Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>)	Food availability (intertidal fauna/pasture). Flooding regime of coastal grasslands. Undisturbed coastal roosting sites close to feeding areas.
Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>)	Marine prey availability. Wetland foraging area. Undisturbed roost site availability.
Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>)	Fish/crustacean/vegetation availability in shallow inshore/freshwaters. Undisturbed, ice-free marine/freshwater feeding grounds.
Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>)	Sea level. Natural/artificial nest site availability. Undisturbed breeding sites. Regularity of extreme weather events. Marine prey availability (sand eel).
Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>)	Food availability (aquatic flora and fauna). Undisturbed freshwater roosting sites close to feeding sites.
Curlew (<i>Numenius</i>)	Food availability (intertidal fauna/pasture). Flooding regime of coastal

Table 2 QIs and SCIs in County Meath and the underpinning environmental conditions	
Qualifying Interests	Key environmental conditions supporting site integrity
<i>arquata</i>)	grasslands. Undisturbed coastal roosting sites close to feeding areas.
Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration	Dessication from drainage. Low moss cover.
Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion	Peat cutting. Surface water supply.
Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>)	Food availability (intertidal fauna/pasture). Flooding regime of coastal grasslands. Undisturbed coastal roosting sites close to feeding areas.
Embryonic shifting dunes	Dune-building grasses <i>Elytrigia juncea</i> and <i>Leymus arenarius</i> . Supply of windblown sand
Estuaries	Supply of riverine freshwater. Unimpeded tidal flow. Shelter from open coasts. Diverse invertebrate communities.
European dry heaths	Free-draining nutrient poor acid soils. Grazing and burning.
Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)	Low wind, weakly saline conditions in shelter of <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> dunes. Grazing.
Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>)	Food availability (intertidal fauna/pasture). Flooding regime of coastal grasslands. Undisturbed coastal roosting sites close to feeding areas.
Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>)	Food availability (intertidal flora and fauna/pasture/cereal). Undisturbed coastal roosting sites close to feeding sites.
Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>)	Fish/crustacean/vegetation availability in shallow inshore/freshwaters. Undisturbed, ice-free marine/freshwater feeding grounds.
Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>)	Food availability (intertidal fauna/pasture). Flooding regime of coastal grasslands. Undisturbed coastal roosting sites close to feeding areas.
Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>)	Food availability (intertidal aquatic vegetation/ pasture/ crops). Undisturbed coastal roosting sites close to feeding sites. Grazing.
Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.	Calcium rich, shallow, low nutrient waters.
Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>)	Coastal water quality.
Humid dune slacks	High water maintained by groundwater and impermeable soils. Grazing. Salinity.
Kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>)	Marine/freshwater food availability. Undisturbed soft substrate riparian nest sites. Regularity of extreme weather. Water quality.
Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>)	Food availability (intertidal fauna/pasture). Flooding regime of coastal grasslands. Undisturbed coastal roosting sites close to feeding areas.
Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>)	Food availability (intertidal aquatic vegetation/ pasture/ crops). Undisturbed coastal roosting sites close to feeding sites. Grazing.
Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>)	Sea level. Natural/artificial nest site availability. Undisturbed breeding sites. Regularity of extreme weather events. Marine prey availability (sand eel).
Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>)	Sea level. Natural/artificial nest site availability. Undisturbed breeding sites. Regularity of extreme weather events. Marine prey availability (sand eel). Predation.
Marsh Fritillary <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>	Larval foodplant <i>Succisia pratensis</i> . Grassland sward structure. Water supply for damp conditions.
Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>)	Frequency of tidal submergence.

Table 2 QIs and SCIs in County Meath and the underpinning environmental conditions	
Qualifying Interests	Key environmental conditions supporting site integrity
Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)	Moorland Prey availability. Undisturbed forested/moorland nest sites. Regularity of extreme weather. Water quality.
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Silt deposits in sheltered estuaries.
Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>	Prey availability. Water Quality. Riparian vegetation for breeding sites. Unhindered passage along waterways.
Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>)	Food availability (intertidal fauna/pasture). Flooding regime of coastal grasslands. Undisturbed coastal roosting sites close to feeding areas.
Perennial vegetation of stony banks	Cobble substrate. Tidal levels. Sediment supply from wind and waves.
Petalwort <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>	Lime-rich sandy habitat. Overgrazing. Fluctuating water table for damp conditions.
Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)	Calcium-rich, nutrient-poor groundwater/surface water supply.
Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>)	Food availability (intertidal flora and fauna/pasture/cereal). Undisturbed freshwater/coastal roosting sites close to feeding sites.
Pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>)	Fish/crustacean/vegetation availability in shallow inshore/freshwaters. Undisturbed, ice-free marine/freshwater feeding grounds.
Purple Sandpiper (<i>Calidris maritima</i>)	Food availability (intertidal fauna/pasture). Flooding regime of coastal grasslands. Undisturbed coastal roosting sites close to feeding areas.
Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>)	Fish/crustacean prey availability in shallow inshore waters. Undisturbed, ice-free marine/freshwater feeding grounds.
Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>)	Food availability (intertidal fauna/pasture). Flooding regime of coastal grasslands. Undisturbed coastal roosting sites close to feeding areas.
Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>)	Food availability (intertidal fauna/pasture). Flooding regime of coastal grasslands. Undisturbed coastal roosting sites close to feeding areas.
River Lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>	Riverine habitat. Water quality. Riverbed breeding gravels and silt nursery substrate. Unhindered migratory channels.
Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>)	Sea level. Natural/artificial nest site availability. Undisturbed breeding sites. Regularity of extreme weather events. Marine prey availability (sand eel). Predation.
Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand	Frequency of tidal submergence. Absence of erosion.
Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>)	Food availability (intertidal fauna/pasture). Flooding regime of coastal grasslands. Undisturbed coastal roosting sites close to feeding areas.
Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco Brometalia)(*important orchid sites)	Dry, shallow, calcium-rich nutrient-poor soils. Light grazing.
Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>)	Fish/crustacean/vegetation availability in shallow inshore/freshwaters. Undisturbed, ice-free marine/freshwater feeding grounds and roosting sites.
Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>)	Food availability (intertidal flora and fauna/pasture/cereal). Undisturbed coastal roosting sites close to feeding sites.
Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i>	Supply of wind-blown sand.

Table 2 QIs and SCIs in County Meath and the underpinning environmental conditions	
Qualifying Interests	Key environmental conditions supporting site integrity
(white dunes)	
Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>)	Food availability (intertidal fauna/pasture). Flooding regime of coastal grasslands. Undisturbed coastal roosting sites close to feeding areas.
Snipe (<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>)	Frequency of tidal submergence. Supply of mud sediment on seaward edge of saltmarsh.
Spartina swards (Spartinion maritimae)	Food availability (intertidal flora and fauna/pasture/cereal). Undisturbed freshwater/coastal roosting sites close to feeding sites.
Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>)	Food availability (intertidal flora and fauna/pasture/cereal). Undisturbed freshwater/coastal roosting sites close to feeding sites.
Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>)	Fish/crustacean/vegetation availability in shallow inshore/freshwaters. Undisturbed, ice-free marine/freshwater feeding grounds.
Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>)	Food availability (intertidal fauna/pasture). Flooding regime of coastal grasslands. Undisturbed coastal roosting sites close to feeding areas.
Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	Flat topography on coastal cliff bedrock. High pH influence of sands and seabird guano.
<i>Vertigo angustior</i>	Stable wetland water table. Emergent vegetation. Groundwater supply. Lime-rich conditions.
<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>	Stable wetland water table. Emergent vegetation. Groundwater supply. Lime-rich conditions.
White clawed Crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>	Well oxygenated lakes/rivers with high pH. Riparian/ lacustrine substrate of cobbles/submerged vegetation.
Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>)	Food availability (intertidal aquatic vegetation/ pasture/ crops). Undisturbed coastal roosting sites close to feeding sites. Grazing.

The key output of this stage was the identification of the types of likely significant effects that could affect the European sites. These can then be related to the consequences of implementing the Strategy to see if there was a risk of any likely significant effects.

The following generic threats were identified:

- Agricultural Intensification;
- Fertilisation;
- Grazing, (undergrazing /overgrazing);
- Restructuring agricultural land holdings;
- Forestry (afforestation/deforestation);
- Stock Feeding;
- Drainage/flooding;
- Offshore/onshore aquaculture;
- Pesticides, and;
- Peat Extraction.
- Golf Courses;
- Roads, motorways;
- Coastal protection works;
- Sewage outflows;
- Housing developments;
- Communications Networks;
- Quarries;
- Canalisation;
- Landfill land reclamation;
- Disposal of household waste;
- River Channel Maintenance, and;
- Invasive Alien Species.
- Walking, horse riding and non-motorised vehicles;
- Offshore motorised vehicles;
- Bait Digging, and;
- New Paths and Tracks.

These were generic threats and did not take account of specific sensitivities at each European site.

5 IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

This section documents the final stage of the screening process. It used the information collected on the sensitivity of the QIs/SCIs of each European site and describes any likely significant effects of implementation of the Strategy.

5.1 Protective Policies already in place in the County Development Plan

The Strategy sits under the CDP and therefore will be implemented alongside policies and objectives contained therein. The current CDP and subsequent variations have undergone AA and were not deemed to pose any likely significant effects on any European sites and/or no adverse impacts to European site integrity as a result of implementation of the plans either alone or in combination with other plans/project.

There are a number of policies and objectives within the CDP whose specific function is to protect the integrity of the European sites and the environmental conditions underpinning them. Table 3 below provides a summary of the policies and objectives contained within the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 (as varied) which act cumulatively to protect the individual European sites. This list does not cover all of the Policies and Objectives of a protective or mitigatory nature but identifies those that address specific sensitivities of the sites. The sites highlighted in green are those located within County Meath.

The wording of each policy/objective referenced in Table 3 below can be found in Appendix 1, Table 1B

Table 3. Protective Policies already in place in the CDP protecting individual European sites		
Site	Sensitivity/threat	Mitigation Policy/Objective
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)		
Boyne Coast and Estuary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality Changes in coastal geomorphology 	ED OBJ 2; ED POL 10; ED POL 11; ED POL 40; TRAN OBJ 2; TRAN OBJ 8; TRAN OBJ 9; TRAN POL 32; WS SO 7; WS SO 8; WS POL 11; WS OBJ 13; WS OBJ 15; EC POL 23; NH POL 5; NH OBJ 2; NH OBJ 3; RUR DEV SO 9
River Boyne and Blackwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groundwater changes near alkaline fens Direct and indirect impacts on alluvial forests Disturbance of otter holts Instream obstructions affecting fish passage 	ED OBJ 2; ED POL 40; TRAN OBJ 8; TRAN OBJ 9; TRAN POL 32; WS SO 7; WS SO 8; WS POL 2; WS POL 11; WS OBJ 8; WS OBJ 15; EC POL 23; NH POL 5; NH OBJ 2; RUR DEV SO 9; RD POL 18; RD POL 21; RD POL 52; RD POL 53
Rye Water Valley / Carton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groundwater changes near springs Water quality and changes to flood regime 	ED OBJ 2; TRAN OBJ 9; TRAN POL 32; WS SO 7; WS SO 8; WS POL 2; WS OBJ 15; NH POL 5; NH OBJ 2; RUR DEV SO

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Mount Hevey Bog	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water abstraction Peat cutting Afforestation Drainage 	ED OBJ 2; TRAN OBJ 9; WS SO 7; WS SO 8; WS POL 2; NH POL 5; NH OBJ 2; NH OBJ 4; RUR DEV SO 9; RD POL 18; RD POL 21
White Lough, Ben Loughs and Lough Doo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality Invasive species Water abstraction 	ED OBJ 2; TRAN OBJ 9; WS SO 7; WS SO 8; WS POL 11; WS OBJ 15; NH POL 5; NH OBJ 2; RUR DEV SO 9; RD POL 21
Lough Bane and Lough Glass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality Invasive species Water abstraction 	ED OBJ 2; TRAN OBJ 9; WS SO 7; WS SO 8; WS POL 11; WS OBJ 15; NH POL 5; NH OBJ 2; RUR DEV SO 9; RD POL 21
Killyconny Bog (Cloughbally)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water abstraction Peat cutting Afforestation Drainage 	ED OBJ 2; TRAN OBJ 9; WS SO 7; WS SO 8; WS POL 2; NH POL 5; NH OBJ 2; NH OBJ 4; RUR DEV SO 9; RD POL 18; RD POL 21
Monybeg and Clareisland Bogs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water abstraction Peat cutting Afforestation Drainage 	ED OBJ 2; TRAN OBJ 9; WS SO 7; WS SO 8; WS POL 2; NH POL 5; NH OBJ 2; NH OBJ 4; RUR DEV SO 9; RD POL 18; RD POL 21
Lough Lene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality Invasive species Water abstraction 	ED OBJ 2; WS SO 7; WS SO 8; WS POL 11; NH POL 5; NH OBJ 2; RUR DEV SO 9; RD POL 21
Baldoyle Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational activities 	ED OBJ 2; ED POL 9; NH POL 5; NH OBJ 2
Malahide Estuary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational activities 	ED OBJ 2; ED POL 9; NH POL 5; NH OBJ 2
Rogerstown Estuary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational activities 	ED OBJ 2; ED POL 9; NH POL 5; NH OBJ 2
Clogher Head cSAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational activities 	ED OBJ 2; ED POL 9; NH POL 5; NH OBJ 2; RUR DEV SO 9
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)		
Boyne Estuary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disturbance from recreation/development 	ED OBJ 2; ED POL 9; ED POL 40; TRAN OBJ 2; TRAN OBJ 8; TRAN OBJ 9; TRAN POL 32; WS SO 7; WS SO 8; WS POL 11; NH POL 5; NH OBJ 2; RUR DEV SO 9
River Nanny Estuary and Shore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disturbance from recreation/development Water quality. 	ED OBJ 2; ED POL 9; ED POL 40; TRAN OBJ 8; TRAN OBJ 9; TRAN POL 32; WS SO 7; WS SO 8; WS POL 11; WS OBJ 8; WS OBJ 13; WS OBJ 15; NH POL 5; NH OBJ 2; RUR DEV SO 9; RD POL 18; RD POL 21
Lough Sheelin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disturbance from recreation/development Water quality 	ED OBJ 2; TRAN OBJ 9; WS SO 7; WS SO 8; WS OBJ 8; NH POL 5; NH OBJ 2; RUR DEV SO 9; RD POL 18; RD POL 21
River Boyne and Blackwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disturbance from recreation/development 	ED OBJ 2; ED POL 40; ED OBJ 10; TRAN OBJ 2; TRAN OBJ 8;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality 	TRAN OBJ 9; TRAN POL 32; WS SO 7; WS SO 8; WS POL 11; WS OBJ 8; WS OBJ 15; NH POL 5; NH OBJ 2; RUR DEV SO 9; RD POL 18; RD POL 21; RD POL 52; RD POL 53
North Bull Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indirect effects on shared metapopulations². 	ED OBJ 2; ED POL 9; NH POL 5; NH OBJ 2
South Dublin Bay & River Tolka Estuary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indirect effects on shared metapopulations 	ED OBJ 2; ED POL 9; NH POL 5; NH OBJ 2
Baldoyle Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indirect effects on shared metapopulations 	ED OBJ 2; ED POL 9; NH POL 5; NH OBJ 2
Rogerstown Estuary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indirect effects on shared metapopulations 	ED OBJ 2; ED POL 9; NH POL 5; NH OBJ 23
Malahide Estuary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indirect effects on shared metapopulations 	ED OBJ 2; ED POL 9; NH POL 5; NH OBJ 2
Dundalk Bay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indirect effects on shared metapopulations 	ED OBJ 2; ED POL 9; NH POL 5
Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indirect effects on shared metapopulations 	ED OBJ 2; NH POL 5; RUR DEV SO 9
Garriskil Bog	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indirect effects on shared metapopulations 	ED OBJ 2; RUR DEV SO 9; RD POL 21
Lough Derraghvarragh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indirect effects on shared metapopulations 	ED OBJ 2; RUR DEV SO 9
Lough Ennell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indirect effects on shared metapopulations. Likely to be sharing populations with Lough Sheelin (within Meath). 	ED OBJ 2; RUR DEV SO 9

5.2 Assessment of the Economic Strategy text

The sections of the Strategy include:

- Introduction and Background;
- Economic Vision for County Meath;
- County Meath and Economic Profile;
- Why Meath is a great place to locate – what the Companies say;
- Strengths;
- Sectoral Opportunities;
- Aligning the Economic and Spatial Strategies;
- Marketing;
- Organisational Measures to Support Economic Development;
- Economic Action Plan to Deliver the Strategy;
- Implementation, Monitoring and Delivery.

The section of the Strategy on ‘Economic Action Plan to Deliver the Strategy’ which outlines the Economic Objectives and Actions of the Strategy is assessed in section 5.3 below. All other sections of the Strategy do not outline objectives or actions and are assessed below.

² Spatially-separated populations of the same species that may interact at some level.

5.2.1 Introduction and Background

This section does not include any proposals that themselves pose likely significant effects on European sites. It sets out the economic and planning context for the Strategy and how it was informed.

5.2.2 Economic Vision for County Meath

This section does not include any proposals that themselves pose likely significant effects on European sites. It sets out the principles of the economic vision for the County.

5.2.3 County Meath and Economic Profile

This section does not include any proposals that themselves pose likely significant effects on European sites. It is a statement of fact of the current economic profile of the County.

5.2.4 Why Meath is a great place to locate – what the Companies say

This section does not include any proposals that themselves pose likely significant effects on European sites. It provides soundbites from companies already established in the County highlighting the advantages of being based in the County.

5.2.5 Strengths

This section does not include any proposals that themselves pose likely significant effects on European sites. It is a statement of fact of the strengths in the County to build a sustainable economic future.

5.2.6 Sectoral Opportunities

This section does not include any proposals that themselves pose likely significant effects on European sites. It highlights the range of sectors that could be promoted in the County and outlines the national or county status for each sector, as well as outlining employment targets.

5.2.7 Aligning the Economic and Spatial Strategies

This section identifies certain settlements and areas where economic growth is envisaged. In isolation this has the potential to pose likely significant effects on European sites. However, none of the text represent sources of likely significant effects on European sites that are not addressed by the protective policies/objectives of the County Development Plan, See Table 3 above. When implemented in combination with the County Development Plan the overall result is neutral.

The following text is deemed to provide positive impacts on European sites, not necessarily in response to potential likely significant effects:

- **“Regulation**

Ensure necessary agreements and regulatory paper work are in place in advance of physical infrastructure developments such as planning permissions, licensing and relevant agency consents where appropriate.”

5.2.8 Marketing

This section does not include any proposals that themselves pose likely significant effects on European sites. It provides an outline of how the Economic Development Strategy for the County will be presented and marketed to target audiences.

5.2.9 Organisational Measures to Support Economic Development

This section does not include any proposals that themselves pose likely significant effects on European sites. It provides an outline of the organizational structures and plans in place to deliver the Strategy. It also outlines the *8 Point Plan for Economic Development* which is assessed through assessing the priority actions of same in Section 5.3.

5.2.10 Implementation, Monitoring and Delivery

This section does not include any proposals that themselves pose likely significant effects on European sites. It outlines how the success of the Strategy will be monitored as well as main risks envisaged in terms of the main barriers to achieving the vision of the strategy.

5.3 Assessment of Economic Objectives and Action Plan

Table 1C (Appendix 1) presents the results of the screening assessment of each Objective and supporting Priority Action stated in the Strategy. It was important to consider the potential effect of the Priority Actions in isolation and also assuming that all Priority Actions are implemented alongside the Policies and Objectives outlined in the CDP. The protective policies of the CDP listed in Table 3 provided above, and the existing legislation requiring project-level AA screening are deemed to provide enough of a safeguard to prevent any implementation scenario having likely significant effects on the European sites. They effectively provide opportunities whereby the impacts are captured at other levels of consent.

5.4 In-combination effects

All elements of the Strategy have individually been analysed and determined to not pose any likely significant effects on European sites. Assuming the environmental protection measures within the existing CDP (as varied), are followed, adhered to and implemented, it is predicted that the Strategy will not give rise to in-combination effects.

6 SCREENING CONCLUSIONS

Following an analysis of the Strategy and potential relationships with European sites, it was concluded that there would be no likelihood of significant effects on any European sites, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This was informed by the collection of data on the European sites and identification of the condition, sensitivities and threats to the integrity of the site.

Therefore it is our professional opinion that there is no requirement to carry out further stages of Appropriate Assessment on the Strategy.

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Appendix 1

Note: Green highlight denotes those European sites located within County Meath

Table 1A European sites within 15km of County Meath and corresponding Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests		
Site name	Site Number	Qualifying Interests (*denotes priority habitat)
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)		
Boyne Coast and Estuary	001957	<p>Detailed Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (31/10/2012)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estuaries [1130] • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] • Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310] • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] • Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] • Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ('white dunes') [2120] • *Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes') [2130]
River Boyne and River Blackwater	002299	<p>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (13/02/2015)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alkaline fens [7230] • Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0] <p>Annex II Species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atlantic Salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> [1106] • River Lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> [1099] • Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> [1355]
Rye Water Valley / Carton	001398	<p>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (13/02/2015)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220] <p>Annex II Species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail <i>Vertigo angustior</i> [1014] • Desmoulin's Whorl Snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> [1016]
Mount Hevey Bog	002342	<p>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (13/02/2015)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats:</p>

Table 1A European sites within 15km of County Meath and corresponding Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests		
Site name	Site Number	Qualifying Interests (*denotes priority habitat)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Active raised bogs [7110] • Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] • Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]
White Lough, Ben Loughs and Lough Doo	001810	<p>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (13/02/2015)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. [3140] <p>Annex II Species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White clawed Crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> [1092]
Lough Bane and Lough Glass	002120	<p>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (13/02/2015)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. [3140] <p>Annex II Species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White clawed Crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> [1092]
Killyconny Bog (Cloughbally)	000006	<p>Detailed Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (02/11/2015)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Active raised bog [7110] • Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]
Monybeg and Clareisland Bogs	002340	<p>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (02/11/2015)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Active raised bog [7110] • Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] • Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]
Ardagullion Bog	002341	<p>Detailed Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (06/11/2015)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Active raised bog [7110] • Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] • Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]

Table 1A European sites within 15km of County Meath and corresponding Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests		
Site name	Site Number	Qualifying Interests (*denotes priority habitat)
Garriskil Bog	000679	<p>Detailed Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (02/11/2015)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Active raised bog [7110] • Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] • Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]
Lough Lene	002121	<p>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (13/02/2015)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp. [3140] <p>Annex II Species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White clawed Crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> [1092]
Lough Ennell	000685	<p>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (13/02/2015)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alkaline fens [7230]
Raheenmore Bog	000582	<p>Detailed Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (02/11/2015)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Active raised bog [7110] • Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] • Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]
The Long Derries, Edenderry	000925	<p>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (13/02/2015)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco Brometalia)(*important orchid sites) [6210]
Ballynafagh Bog	000391	<p>Detailed Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (10/11/2015)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Active raised bog [7110] • Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] • Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]

Table 1A European sites within 15km of County Meath and corresponding Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests		
Site name	Site Number	Qualifying Interests (*denotes priority habitat)
Ballynafagh Lake	001387	<p>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (13/02/2015)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alkaline fens [7230] <p>Annex II Species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marsh Fritillary <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> [1065] • Desmoulin's Whorl Snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> [1016]
North Dublin Bay	000206	<p>Detailed Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (06/11/2013)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] • Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] • Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] • Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] • Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] • Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] • Humid dune slacks [2190] <p>Annex II Species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> (Petalwort) [1395]
Baldoyle Bay	000199	<p>Detailed Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (19/11/2012)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] • Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] • Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]

Table 1A European sites within 15km of County Meath and corresponding Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests		
Site name	Site Number	Qualifying Interests (*denotes priority habitat)
Malahide Estuary	000205	<p>Detailed Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (27/05/2013)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] • Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] • Spartina swards (<i>Spartinion maritimae</i>) [1320] • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] • Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] • Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]
Rogerstown Estuary	000208	<p>Detailed Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (14/08/2013)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estuaries [1130] • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] • Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] • Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] • Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]
Clogher Head	001459	<p>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (13/02/2015)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European dry heaths [4030] • Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230]
Dundalk Bay	000455	<p>Detailed Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (19/07/2011)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estuaries [1130] • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] • Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310] • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] • Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]

Table 1A European sites within 15km of County Meath and corresponding Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests		
Site name	Site Number	Qualifying Interests (*denotes priority habitat)
Rockabill to Dalkey Island	003000	<p>Detailed Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (07/05/2013)</p> <p>Annex I Habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reefs [1170] <p>Annex II Species :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (Harbour Porpoise) [1351]
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)		
Boyne Estuary	004080	<p>Detailed Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (26/02/2013)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) • Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) • Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) • Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) • Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) • Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) • Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) • Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) • Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) • Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) • Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) • Wetlands
River Nanny Estuary and Shore	004158	<p>Detailed Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (21/09/2012)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) • Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) • Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) • Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) • Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) • Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) • Wetlands

Table 1A European sites within 15km of County Meath and corresponding Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests		
Site name	Site Number	Qualifying Interests (*denotes priority habitat)
Lough Sheelin	004065	<p>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (13/02/2015)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) • Pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>) • Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) • Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) • Wetlands
River Boyne and Blackwater	004232	<p>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (13/02/2015)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>)
Stabannan Braganstown	004091	<p>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (13/02/2015)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>)
North Bull Island	004006	<p>Detailed Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (09/03/2015)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] • Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] • Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] • Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] • Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] • Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] • Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] • Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] • Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] • Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] • Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] • Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] • Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] • Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] • Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] • Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169]

Table 1A European sites within 15km of County Meath and corresponding Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests		
Site name	Site Number	Qualifying Interests (*denotes priority habitat)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] • Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]
South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary	004024	<p>Detailed Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (09/03/2015)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] • Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] • Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] • Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] • Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] • Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] • Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] • Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] • Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] • Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179]

Table 1A European sites within 15km of County Meath and corresponding Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests		
Site name	Site Number	Qualifying Interests (*denotes priority habitat)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] • Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] • Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] • Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]
Baldoyle Bay	004016	<p>Detailed Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (27/02/2013)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] • Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] • Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] • Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] • Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] • Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] • Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]
Rogerstown Estuary	004015	<p>Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (20/05/2013)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) [A043] • Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) [A046] • Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] • Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] • Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] • Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] • Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] • Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] • Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] • Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]

Table 1A European sites within 15km of County Meath and corresponding Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests		
Site name	Site Number	Qualifying Interests (*denotes priority habitat)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] • Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]
Skerries Islands	004122	<p>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (13/02/2015)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) • Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) • Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) • Purple Sandpiper (<i>Calidris maritima</i>) • Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) • Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>)
Malahide Estuary	004025	<p>Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (16/08/2013)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) • Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) • Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) • Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) • Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) • Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) • Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) • Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) • Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) • Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) • Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>) • Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) • Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) • Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) • Wetlands

Table 1A European sites within 15km of County Meath and corresponding Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests		
Site name	Site Number	Qualifying Interests (*denotes priority habitat)
Dundalk Bay	[004026]	<p>Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (19/07/2011)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) • Greylag Goose (<i>Anser anser</i>) • Light-bellied Brent Goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>) • Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) • Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) • Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) • Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) • Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) • Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) • Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) • Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) • Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) • Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) • Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) • Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) • Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) • Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) • Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) • Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) • Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) • Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) • Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) • Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) • Wetlands & Waterbirds
Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough	004061	<p>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (13/02/2015)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>) • Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) • Wetlands
Garriskill Bog	004102	<p>Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (13/02/2015)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>)

Table 1A European sites within 15km of County Meath and corresponding Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests		
Site name	Site Number	Qualifying Interests (*denotes priority habitat)
Lough Derraghvarragh	004043	Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (13/02/2015) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) • Pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>) • Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) • Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) • Wetlands
Lough Ennell	004044	Conservation Objectives Generic Version 4.0 (13/02/2015) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>) • Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) • Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) • Wetland
Rockabill	004014	Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (08/05/2013) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) • Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) • Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) • Purple Sandpiper (<i>Calidris maritima</i>)

Table 1B Protective Policies and Objectives from the Meath County Development Plan	
Reference Number	Policy/Objective
ED OBJ 2	<p>To incorporate a review of the appropriateness of the nature, location and quantum of industrial and employment generating land use in individual Development Plans and Local Area Plans and in the preparation of development and zoning objectives for towns and villages that are to be included in the County Development Plan. This review shall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) occur in tandem with the assessment of residentially zoned lands required pursuant to the Core Strategy (CS OBJ 2 & 3 refer); (ii) apply the land use zoning objectives contained in the Core Strategy of this County Development Plan to the individual Town Development Plan, Local Area Plan or individual objective maps to be included in the County Development Plan as relating to industrial and employment generating uses (land use zoning objectives E1, E2 and E3 refer from the Core strategy); (iii) critically assess the nature, quantum and location of lands identified for industrial and employment generating use in Dunboyne/ Clonee/ Pace, Kells and Gormonston/ Stamullen. In the case of Dunboyne/Clonee/Pace, the integrated land use and transportation study identified as a high level development objective in Section 4.1.4 will be required to be completed in advance of this exercise being carried out. As part of this integrated land use and transportation study, Meath County Council will consult and agree the future location and appropriate scale of development, particularly in the knowledge intensive, science based and people intensive employment sectors with statutory stakeholders including the NTA, NRA and Iarnród Éireann; (iv) review of the zoning objectives for Maynooth Environs and Kilbride in the preparation of zoning maps for the centres for inclusion in the County Development Plan. <p>The outcome of this review may necessitate variations to individual development plans and amendments to local area plans arising therefrom. It is noted that such variations or amendments may be subject to an Appropriate Assessment of the likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites due to the proximity of urban centres to Natura 2000 sites.</p>
ED OBJ 10	To support Meath Tourism and other relevant bodies to identify, develop and implement a common brand of signage in the county.
ED POL 9	To facilitate the sustainable development of a new deep water port in East Meath.
ED POL 10	Pending the outcome of the pre feasibility assessment and the establishment of the requisite planning framework (following Strategic Environmental Assessment / Appropriate Assessment, as required, in relation to ED POL 9) which may include the seeking of a designation of lands as a Strategic Development Zone, to facilitate associated landside activities to support the proposed deep water port, maximizing the economic benefits to nearby communities and minimizing any negative impacts of landside activities on such communities or the environment and heritage of the area.
ED POL 11	To ensure any port related development proposals are subject to full environmental assessment including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment, as required.
ED POL 40	To support developments which will enable and encourage countryside recreation and an increased appreciation of the natural environment, through facilitating the development of community walks, off road trails / rural trail developments, parks and other outdoor amenities and recreational infrastructure. All proposals will require screening to determine if a full Appropriate Assessment of the likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites is required.
TRAN OBJ 2	To facilitate and encourage the upgrading of existing railway stations, and protect as required lands needed for the upgrading of existing railway lines or stations or the provision of new railway stations throughout the County. Any such proposals for developments in Bettystown and south of Drogheda, will have to ensure that there are no adverse effects on the integrity of SPAs.

Table 1B Protective Policies and Objectives from the Meath County Development Plan	
Reference Number	Policy/Objective
TRAN OBJ 8	<p>To promote and explore the development of the following linkages within the lifetime of the Development Plan subject to the appropriate environmental assessments, including Appropriate Assessment of the likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites in accordance with Article 6(3) of the EC Habitats Directive;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (v) To explore the feasibility of developing former disused transportation corridors for cycle / greenways. (vi) To provide the development of a cycle / greenway on the disused Navan – Kingscourt rail line in conjunction with Cavan County Council subject to the completion of a feasibility study obtaining the necessary statutory planning consent, landowner co-operation and the securing of the necessary funding. (vii) To provide for the development of the Trim – Navan – Slane – Drogheda cycle / greenway along the River Boyne subject to obtaining the necessary statutory planning consent, the carrying out of Appropriate Assessment, landowner co-operation and the securing of the necessary funding. (viii) To develop a system of cycle / greenways, subject to the availability of resources, along the banks of the Boyne and Blackwater Rivers, in such a manner so as not to significantly negatively impact on the conservation status of the Natura 2000 site either alone or in combination with other objectives in this or other plans. (ix) To explore the development of the following cycle/greenway options as part of the Dublin Galway cycle network a) along the Royal Canal located within the administrative area of Meath County Council in consultation with relevant agencies or b) along the former N4 (R148) located within the administrative area of Meath County Council in consultation with relevant agencies or c) Combinations of the above.
TRAN OBJ 9	To encourage pedestrian access to certain areas of Natura 2000 sites for their appreciation and in a manner so as not to impact negatively on the sites' integrity or long term conservation status.
TRAN POL 32	To ensure that all road plans and project proposals in the County which could, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site, undergo an Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6 (3) of the EC Habitats Directive
WS SO 7	To undertake Appropriate Assessment of the likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites in accordance with Article 6(3) of the EC Habitats Directive for proposals for the abstraction of water from Natura 2000 sites.
WS SO 8	To ensure that in so far as is reasonably practicable, waste water treatment plants are operated in compliance with their Waste Water Discharge Licenses / Certificates of Authorisation, in order to protect water quality.
WS POL 2	To protect and develop, in a sustainable manner, the existing groundwater sources and aquifers in the county and to control development in a manner consistent with the proper management of these resources.
WS POL 11	To develop additional treatment capacity at existing plants where required to facilitate planned sustainable growth.
WS OBJ 8	To generally require new developments to provide for the separation of foul and surface water drainage networks within the application site.
WS OBJ 13	To design flood relief measures to protect the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites and to avoid indirect impacts of conflict with other qualifying interests or Natura 2000 sites.
WS OBJ 15	To seek to ensure that construction works are designed so as not to result in surface water runoff into cSAC or SPAs either directly or indirectly via a watercourse.
EC POL 23	To ensure that development proposals which include the growing of biocrops within the Eastern River Basin District in County Meath and the coastal strip consider the potential for spreads or hybridisation of native flora.
NH POL 5	To permit development on or adjacent to designated Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, National Heritage Area or those proposed to be designated over the period of the plan, only where an assessment carried out to the satisfaction of the Meath County

Table 1B Protective Policies and Objectives from the Meath County Development Plan	
Reference Number	Policy/Objective
	Council, in consultation with National Parks and Wildlife Service, indicates that it will have no significant adverse effect on the integrity of the site.
NH OBJ 2	To ensure an Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) and Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, and in accordance with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities, 2009 and relevant EPA and European Commission guidance documents, is carried out in respect of any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site(s), either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, in view of the site’s conservation objectives.
NH OBJ 3	To protect and conserve the conservation value of candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, National Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas as identified by the Minister for the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and any other sites that may be proposed for designation during the lifetime of this Plan.
NH OBJ 4	To work in partnership with relevant stakeholders on a suitable peatland site(s) to demonstrate best practice in sustainable peatland conservation, management and restoration techniques and to promote their heritage and educational value subject to Ecological Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening as appropriate.
RUR DEV SO 9	To ensure that plans and projects associated with rural development will be subject to an Appropriate Assessment Screening and those plans or projects which could, either individually or in-combination with other plans and projects, have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site (or sites) undergo a full Appropriate Assessment.
RD POL 18	To promote the avoidance of deforestation or commercial afforestation within Natura 2000 sites unless directly relating to the management of the site for its qualifying interests.
RD POL 21	To ensure that projects associated with the extractive industry carry out screening for Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the E.C. Habitats Directive, where required.
RD POL 52	To ensure wastewater treatment plants discharging into the Boyne catchment or to coastal Natura 2000 sites are suitably maintained and upgraded in advance of any additional loadings beyond their capacity in order to protect water quality, as required.
RD POL 53	To promote good practice with regard to the siting and design of septic tanks and the maintenance of existing tanks. A high level of scrutiny will be placed on applications within 2km of watercourses in the Boyne catchment. Proposals in this area shall not have an adverse impact on local water quality that could affect the qualifying interests of the cSAC and SPA

Table 1C: Assessment of likely significant effects of objectives and priority actions		
Priority Action	Likely significant Effects on European sites	Reference to Protective Policies
Objective 1: Internal Engagement: Create and promote a culture that supports sustainable economic development practices within Meath County Council		
Provision of a well-resourced research economic and enterprise office for Meath County Council to develop in house expertise to support the Council (corporate goals), the Planning and Enterprise SPC and to promote best practices for job creation initiatives.	No linkage between action and European sites either directly or indirectly. No likelihood of significant effects.	N/A
Embed an Economic Development ethos and culture into all Departments of Meath County Council and ensure all staff and elected members are aware of the role of Local Authorities as a lead agent at local level to create jobs.	No linkage between action and European sites either directly or indirectly. No likelihood of significant effects.	N/A
Objective 2: External Engagement: Engage and work with State Agencies, Regional Agencies, Higher Education Institutions and Local Enterprise Agencies to stimulate and grow economic development in Meath.		
Promote and market Meath as a location of choice for economic development and increase proactive engagement between Meath County Council and key players.	No linkage between action and European sites either directly or indirectly. No likelihood of significant effects.	N/A
Aid and support the collaborative working of all education and training providers with relevant stakeholders and local employers to develop and deliver targeted responses to skills and employment needs and to determine the feasibility of establishing Third Level outreach facilities.	No linkage between action and European sites either directly or indirectly. No likelihood of significant effects.	N/A
Build upon the status of Kells as part of EU designated regional aid area and explore available funding streams to support enterprise within Meath.	No linkage between action and European sites either directly or indirectly. No likelihood of significant effects.	N/A
Identify and provide appropriate training and business supports to local people and businesses.	No linkage between action and European sites either directly or indirectly. No likelihood of significant effects.	N/A
Sister City Projects – work in partnership focusing on	No linkage between action and European sites either	N/A

Table 1C: Assessment of likely significant effects of objectives and priority actions		
Priority Action	Likely significant Effects on European sites	Reference to Protective Policies
sharing and learning best practices to boost economic development.	directly or indirectly. No likelihood of significant effects.	
Meath County Council to participate in, and where appropriate, work in partnership to host relevant national/ international investment promotion events, seminars, conferences, etc.	No linkage between action and European sites either directly or indirectly. No likelihood of significant effects.	N/A
Meath County Council to make the necessary resources available to assist any party (public and private) bringing forward a development proposal for the proposed Regional Hospital for the North East in Navan.	In isolation promotion of development could pose likely significant effects on European sites via surface water run-off, increased foul water arisings and increased recreation as a result in increase in number of people in an area. However, likely significant effects are not envisaged when implemented in combination with the requirements of the CDP and the legal requirement for project-level AA Screening.	Economic Development: ED OBJ 10; ED POL 40. Transportation: TRAN OBJ8; TRAN OBJ 9; TRAN POL 32. Water, Drainage & Environmental Services: WS SO 7; WS SO 8; WS POL 2; WS POL 11; WS OBJ 8; WS OBJ 15. Cultural and Natural Assets: NH POL 5; NH OBJ 2 and NH OBJ 3.
Develop the Boyne Valley as a recognised 'must go to' destination in national and international tourism.	In isolation promotion of development could pose likely significant effects on European sites via surface water run-off, increased foul water arisings and increased recreational disturbance. However, likely significant effects are not envisaged when implemented in combination with the requirements of the CDP and the legal requirement for project-level AA Screening.	Economic Development: ED OBJ 10; ED POL 40. Transportation: TRAN OBJ8; TRAN OBJ 9; TRAN POL 32. Water, Drainage & Environmental Services: WS SO 7; WS SO 8; WS POL 2; WS POL 11; WS OBJ 8; WS OBJ 15. Cultural and Natural Assets: NH POL 5; NH OBJ 2; NH OBJ 3; NH OBJ 4. Rural Development: REV DEV SO 9; RD POL 52, RD POL 53.
Objective 3: External Engagement: Collaborate with wealth creators and business innovators who have the capacity to assist in job creation and entrepreneurship.		
Develop and implement best practise to serve wealth creators/ businesses and enterprises (all sizes & sectors, indigenous and foreign owned).	No linkage between action and European sites either directly or indirectly. No likelihood of significant effects.	N/A
Promote the use of energy hubs/energy efficient business processes, practices and buildings.	No linkage between action and European sites either directly or indirectly. No likelihood of significant effects.	N/A
Facilitate the coordination of all Chambers of Commerce in Meath to create one overall representative body.	No linkage between action and European sites either directly or indirectly. No likelihood of significant effects.	N/A

Table 1C: Assessment of likely significant effects of objectives and priority actions		
Priority Action	Likely significant Effects on European sites	Reference to Protective Policies
Review the provisions of the CERDA reports and examine the potential for a pilot CEDRA REDZ in Meath (rural economic development zones) or similar concepts to enhance the capacity of local economic development at sub county and town level.	In isolation, promotion of development could pose likely significant effects on European sites via surface water run-off, increased foul water arisings and increased recreation as a result in increase in number of people in an area. However, likely significant effects are not envisaged when implemented in combination with the requirements of the CDP and the legal requirement for project-level AA Screening.	Economic Development: ED OBJ 2; ED OBJ 10; ED POL 40. Transportation: TRAN OBJ 8; TRAN OBJ 9; TRAN POL 32. Water, Drainage & Environmental Services: WS SO 7; WS SO 8; WS POL 2; WS POL 11; WS OBJ 8; WS OBJ 15. Cultural and Natural Assets: NH POL 5; NH OBJ 2 and NH OBJ 3. Rural Development: REV DEV SO 9; RD POL 21; RD POL 52, RD POL 53.
Consider the establishment of a BIDS (business improvement district scheme) in Navan.	No linkage between action and European sites either directly or indirectly. No likelihood of significant effects.	N/A
Ensure Meath remains a cost competitive location to do business, work, live and visit.	No linkage between action and European sites either directly or indirectly. No likelihood of significant effects.	N/A
Support the Tourism Trade to attract increased business and generate additional bed-nights.	In isolation, promotion of an increase in tourism could pose likely significant effects on European sites via construction, surface water run-off, increased foul water arisings and increased recreational disturbance as a result in increase in number of people in an area. However, likely significant effects are not envisaged when implemented in combination with the requirements of the CDP and the legal requirement for project-level AA Screening.	Economic Development: ED OBJ 2; ED OBJ 10; ED POL 40. Transportation: TRAN OBJ8; TRAN OBJ 9; TRAN POL 32. Water, Drainage & Environmental Services: WS SO 7; WS SO 8; WS POL 2; WS POL 11; WS OBJ 8; WS OBJ 15. Cultural and Natural Assets: NH POL 5; NH OBJ 2; NH OBJ 3; NH OBJ 4. Rural Development: REV DEV SO 9; RD POL 52, RD POL 53.
Support initiatives which enhance the quality of life through support for the arts, sport and recreation and heritage potential of the county.	In isolation, promotion of sport and recreation could pose likely significant effects on European sites via construction, surface water run-off, increased foul water arisings and increased recreational disturbance as a result in increase in number of people in an area. However, likely significant effects are not envisaged when implemented in combination with the requirements of the CDP and the legal requirement for	Economic Development: ED OBJ 2; ED OBJ 10; ED POL 40. Transportation: TRAN OBJ8; TRAN OBJ 9; TRAN POL 32. Water, Drainage & Environmental Services: WS SO 7; WS SO 8; WS POL 2; WS POL 11; WS OBJ 8; WS OBJ 15. Cultural and Natural Assets: NH POL 5; NH OBJ 2; NH OBJ 3; NH OBJ 4. Rural Development: REV DEV SO 9; RD POL 52, RD POL

Table 1C: Assessment of likely significant effects of objectives and priority actions		
Priority Action	Likely significant Effects on European sites	Reference to Protective Policies
	project-level AA Screening.	53.
Objective 4: Spatial Implementation: Promote our towns and strategic employment sites as the economic drivers for employment in Meath while acknowledging the role of the rural economy.		
Promote the hierarchy of economic centres and targeted sectors in Meath with the objective of facilitating significant new enterprise development in Meath.	In isolation, promotion of development could pose likely significant effects on European sites via surface water run-off, increased foul water arisings and increased recreation as a result in increase in number of people in an area. However, likely significant effects are not envisaged when implemented in combination with the requirements of the CDP and the legal requirement for project-level AA Screening.	Economic Development: ED OBJ 2; ED OBJ 10; ED POL 40. Transportation: TRAN OBJ8; TRAN OBJ 9; TRAN POL 32. Water, Drainage & Environmental Services: WS SO 7; WS SO 8; WS POL 2; WS POL 11; WS OBJ 8; WS OBJ 15. Cultural and Natural Assets: NH POL 5; NH OBJ 2 and NH OBJ 3.
Examine pilot strategic sites to advance in Navan, Ashbourne, Drogheda, Kells and Dunboyne including targeted sectors and cluster opportunities. Develop and implement best practise to advance same.	In isolation, promotion of development could pose likely significant effects on European sites via surface water run-off, increased foul water arisings and increased recreation as a result in increase in number of people in an area. However, likely significant effects are not envisaged when implemented in combination with the requirements of the CDP and the legal requirement for project-level AA Screening.	Economic Development: ED OBJ 2; ED OBJ 10; ED POL 40. Transportation: TRAN OBJ8; TRAN OBJ 9; TRAN POL 32. Water, Drainage & Environmental Services: WS SO 7; WS SO 8; WS POL 2; WS POL 11; WS OBJ 8; WS OBJ 15. Cultural and Natural Assets: NH POL 5; NH OBJ 2 and NH OBJ 3.
Promote other workspaces for indigenous and/or rural enterprise development.	No linkage between action and European sites either directly or indirectly. No likelihood of significant effects.	N/A
Objective 5: Spatial Implementation: Identify and support investment in infrastructure and services that enable and deliver economic development.		
Conduct an assessment of all available infrastructure and services (matrix) on all identified sites with employment potential, with investment priority to strategic employment zones.	No linkage between action and European sites either directly or indirectly. No likelihood of significant effects.	N/A
Develop and operate best practise procedures to enter into public private partnerships.	No linkage between action and European sites either directly or indirectly. No likelihood of significant effects.	N/A
To encourage the further co-ordinated and focused	In isolation, development and extension of	Water, Drainage & Environmental Services: WS POL 2

Table 1C: Assessment of likely significant effects of objectives and priority actions		
Priority Action	Likely significant Effects on European sites	Reference to Protective Policies
development and extension of telecommunications infrastructure including broadband connectivity in the county as a means of improving economic competitiveness and quality of life.	telecommunications infrastructure could pose likely significant effects on European sites via direct habitat loss, disturbance, surface water run-off during construction or collision risk (if above ground masts/over-head lines are used). However, likely significant effects are not envisaged when implemented in combination with the requirements of the CDP and the legal requirement for project-level AA Screening.	and WS OBJ 15. Cultural and Natural Assets: NH POL 5; NH OBJ 2 and NH OBJ 3. Rural Development: REV DEV SO 9.
Enhance and promote the role of Town Centres to better facilitate economic development.	No linkage between action and European sites either directly or indirectly. No likelihood of significant effects.	N/A
Advance property solutions – Advance suitable sites and purpose built buildings for FDI & indigenous businesses and ensure that developments meet market needs with high quality infrastructure and utility provision.	In isolation, promotion of development could pose likely significant effects on European sites via surface water run-off, increased foul water arisings and increased recreation as a result in increase in number of people in an area. However, likely significant effects are not envisaged when implemented in combination with the requirements of the CDP and the legal requirement for project-level AA Screening.	Economic Development: ED OBJ 10; ED POL 40. Transportation: TRAN OBJ8; TRAN OBJ 9; TRAN POL 32. Water, Drainage & Environmental Services: WS SO 7; WS SO 8; WS POL 2; WS POL 11; WS OBJ 8; WS OBJ 15. Cultural and Natural Assets: NH POL 5; NH OBJ 2 and NH OBJ 3. Rural Development: REV DEV SO 9; RD POL 52, RD POL 53.
Objective 6: Fiscal Incentives: Examine financial incentives designed to aid the delivery of the employment generation.		
Meath County Council to consider the possibility and where appropriate introduce financial incentives designed to aid the delivery of the employment generation in specific locations/sites.	No linkage between action and European sites either directly or indirectly. No likelihood of significant effects.	N/A
Objective 7: Marketing: Develop a marketing plan and initiatives aimed at promoting the economic strategy.		
Develop and implement an integrated marketing strategy for the County (Publish promotional material for key strategic sites beginning with the IDA in Navan and Drogheda).	No linkage between action and European sites either directly or indirectly. No likelihood of significant effects.	N/A
Publish the Economic Strategy in a user friendly format incorporating the key components of background	No linkage between action and European sites either directly or indirectly. No likelihood of significant	N/A

Table 1C: Assessment of likely significant effects of objectives and priority actions		
Priority Action	Likely significant Effects on European sites	Reference to Protective Policies
documents.	effects.	
To raise the profile of the Boyne Valley destination amongst tour operators, tour guides, tourism agencies and the travel trade.	In isolation, promotion of tourism could pose likely significant effects on European sites via increased recreational disturbance and indirect effects arising from increased surface water run-off and increased foul water. However, likely significant effects are not envisaged when implemented in combination with the requirements of the CDP and the legal requirement for project-level AA Screening.	Economic Development: ED OBJ 10; ED POL 40. Transportation: TRAN OBJ8; TRAN OBJ 9; TRAN POL 32. Water, Drainage & Environmental Services: WS SO 7; WS SO 8; WS POL 2; WS POL 11; WS OBJ 8; WS OBJ 15. Cultural and Natural Assets: NH POL 5; NH OBJ 2; NH OBJ 3; NH OBJ 4. Rural Development: REV DEV SO 9; RD POL 52, RD POL 53.
To raise awareness of Meath and the Boyne Valley as 'a must see' destination amongst holidaymakers.	In isolation, promotion of tourism could pose likely significant effects on European sites via increased recreational disturbance and indirect effects arising from increased surface water run-off and increased foul water. However, likely significant effects are not envisaged when implemented in combination with the requirements of the CDP and the legal requirement for project-level AA Screening.	Economic Development: ED OBJ 10; ED POL 40. Transportation: TRAN OBJ8; TRAN OBJ 9; TRAN POL 32. Water, Drainage & Environmental Services: WS SO 7; WS SO 8; WS POL 2; WS POL 11; WS OBJ 8; WS OBJ 15. Cultural and Natural Assets: NH POL 5; NH OBJ 2; NH OBJ 3; NH OBJ 4. Rural Development: REV DEV SO 9; RD POL 52, RD POL 53.
Objective 8: Review and Monitoring: Review and monitor progress and trends in jobs.		
FDI -Narrow the gap against Meath relative to the State in regard to the proportion of all employment accounted for by FDI firms (recalling that the gap against Meath was 2.9% versus 7.9% in 2011).	No linkage between action and European sites either directly or indirectly. No likelihood of significant effects.	N/A
Indigenous Enterprise Development (Reverse the downward trend in ratio of self-employed income per head in Meath versus the State) Maintain or widen the gap in favour of Meath relative to the country as a whole in respect of the proportion of all employment accounted for by agency-assisted Irish-owned enterprises (Meath 12% versus State 8% in 2011)	No linkage between action and European sites either directly or indirectly. No likelihood of significant effects.	N/A
Entrepreneurship.	No linkage between action and European sites either directly or indirectly. No likelihood of significant effects.	N/A

Table 1C: Assessment of likely significant effects of objectives and priority actions		
Priority Action	Likely significant Effects on European sites	Reference to Protective Policies
Tourism	No linkage between action and European sites either directly or indirectly. No likelihood of significant effects.	N/A
Meath Labour Market	No linkage between action and European sites either directly or indirectly. No likelihood of significant effects.	N/A