

TRIM DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2014 -2020

**Volume 4
SEA and AA**



comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council



comhairle bhaile atha thruim
trim town council

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ABBREVIATIONS

AA	Appropriate Assessment
CDP	County Development Plan
DAFM	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
DAHG	Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gealtacht
DCENR	Department of Communication, Energy and Natural Resources
DECLG	Department of Environment, Community and Local Government
EC	European Community
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EU	European Union
GIS	Geographic Information System
NHA, pNHA	Natural Heritage Area, proposed Natural Heritage Area
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
NSS	National Spatial Strategy
OTI	Objectives, Targets and Indicators
RMP	Recorded Monuments and Places
RPG	Regional Planning Guidelines
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SPA	Special Protection Area

This SEA Statement was prepared by RPS on behalf of Meath County Council and Trim Town Council.

1 INTRODUCTION

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a process for evaluating, at the earliest possible stage, the likely environmental effects of implementing a Plan or other strategic action in order to ensure environmental considerations are appropriately addressed in the decision-making process, both during their preparation and prior to adoption of a Plan.

The European Directive (2001/42/EC) on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (the SEA Directive) was transposed into national legislation by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435/2004), as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011 and the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 436/2004), as amended by S.I. 201 of 2011. The Trim Development Plan (2014 - 2020), falls under the remit of S.I. 436/2004 and S.I. 201/2011.

SEA legislation requires that the Plan-making authority make available a statement summarising how the SEA and consultations have been taken into account in the Plan (Section 13I of S.I. 436/2004). This statement is referred to as the SEA Statement and is the final stage of the SEA process. The SEA Statement should be read in conjunction with the Trim Development Plan 2014-2020. **Figure 1.1** shows the Trim Development Plan boundary.

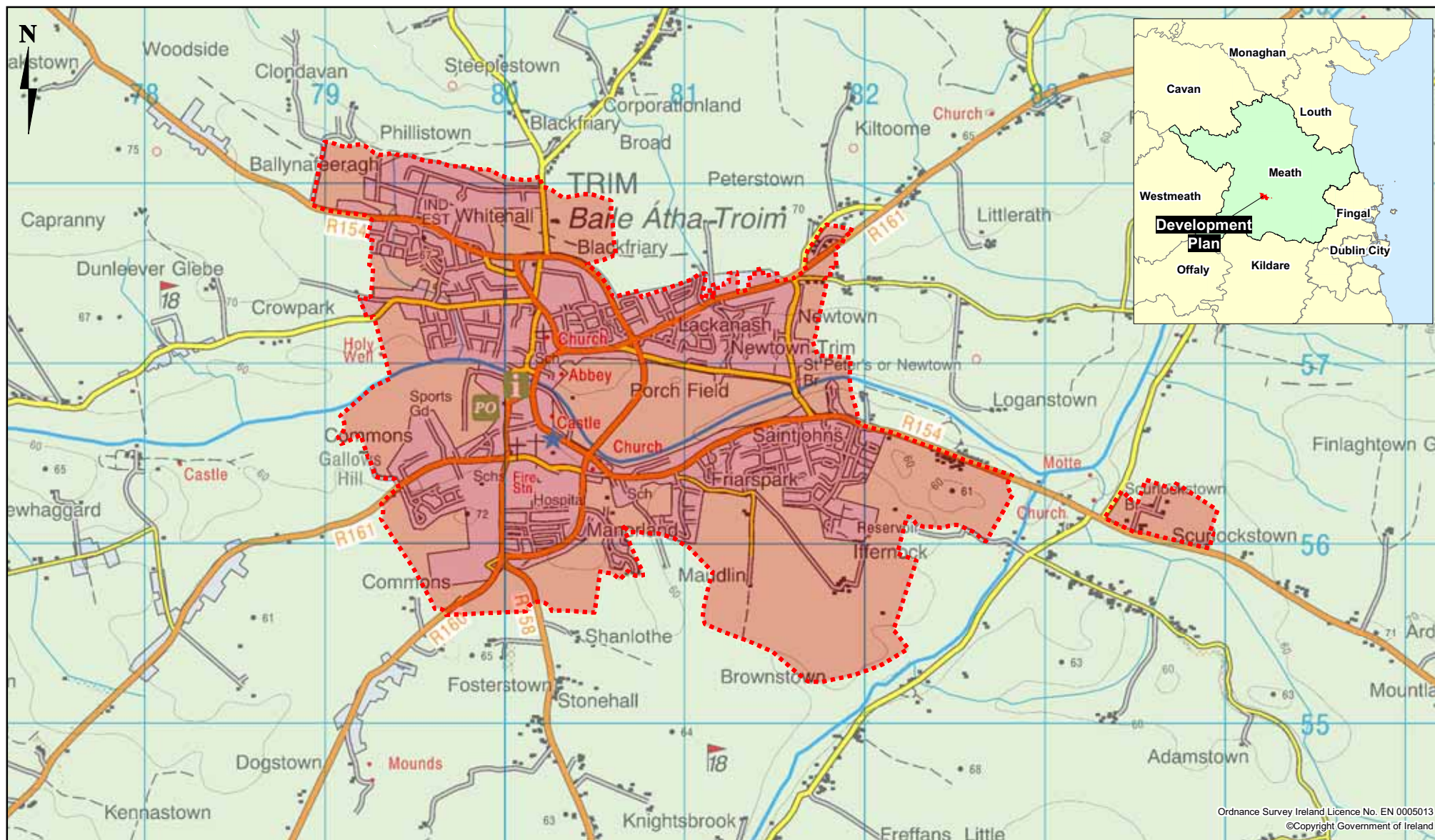
The Plan makers for the Trim Development Plan 2014-2020 are both Meath County Council and Trim Town Council.

The SEA process is comprised of four main steps and these have been followed for the SEA of Trim Development Plan (2014 - 2020) as outlined in **Table 1.1**. An illustration of the key steps in the SEA process is also shown in **Figure 1.2**.

Table 1.1: Steps Followed in the SEA Process for Trim Plan (2014 - 2020)

SEA Stage	Purpose	Status
Screening	Decision on whether or not an SEA required.	<p>The requirement to carry out SEA of the Trim Development Plan is mandatory in accordance with S.I. 436 of 2004 as amended by S.I. 201 of 2011:</p> <p>13B. Where—</p> <p>(a) <i>the population or the target population of the area of a planning authority is 10,000 persons or more, or</i></p> <p>(b) <i>where the planning authority determines under article 13A(3) or (5) that the implementation of a new development plan would be likely to have significant effects on the environment,</i></p> <p>(i) <i>the notice under section 11(1) of the Act shall, in addition to the requirements of section 11(2) of the Act, state that—</i></p> <p>(I) <i>the planning authority proposes to carry out an environmental assessment as part of the review of the existing development plan and the preparation of a new development plan, and</i></p> <p>(II) <i>for this purpose, the planning authority will prepare an environmental report of the likely significant effects on the environment of</i></p>

SEA Stage	Purpose	Status
		<p><i>implementing the new plan, and</i></p> <p><i>(ii) the provisions of articles 13C to 13J shall apply.</i></p> <p>As the population or the target population for the Trim Development Plan area is proposed to be in the order of >10,000 persons and the Plan is being prepared for a town, SEA in respect of this Development Plan is mandatory under Art 13 (B) (a) and (b).</p>
Scoping	Consultation with the defined statutory bodies on the scope and level of detail to be considered in the assessment.	Completed in June 2013
Environmental Assessment	Assessment of the likely significant impacts on the environment as a result of the Plan or Programme culminating in the production of an Environmental Report.	Completed in July/August 2013
Consultation	Consultation on the Plan/Programme and associated Environmental Report.	<p>12th November 2012 – 16th January 2013 – <i>Pre Draft Consultation Period.</i></p> <p>9th September 2013 – 18th November 2013 – <i>Draft Plan Consultation Period.</i></p> <p>27th January 2014 – 24th February 2014 – <i>Amendment Stage Consultation Period.</i></p>
SEA Statement	Identification of how environmental considerations and consultation have been integrated into the final Plan/Programme culminating in the production of an SEA Statement.	To be published with final adopted Plan.



Review of Trim Development Plan 2014-2020

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FIGURE 1.1 - TRIM DEVELOPMENT PLAN BOUNDARY



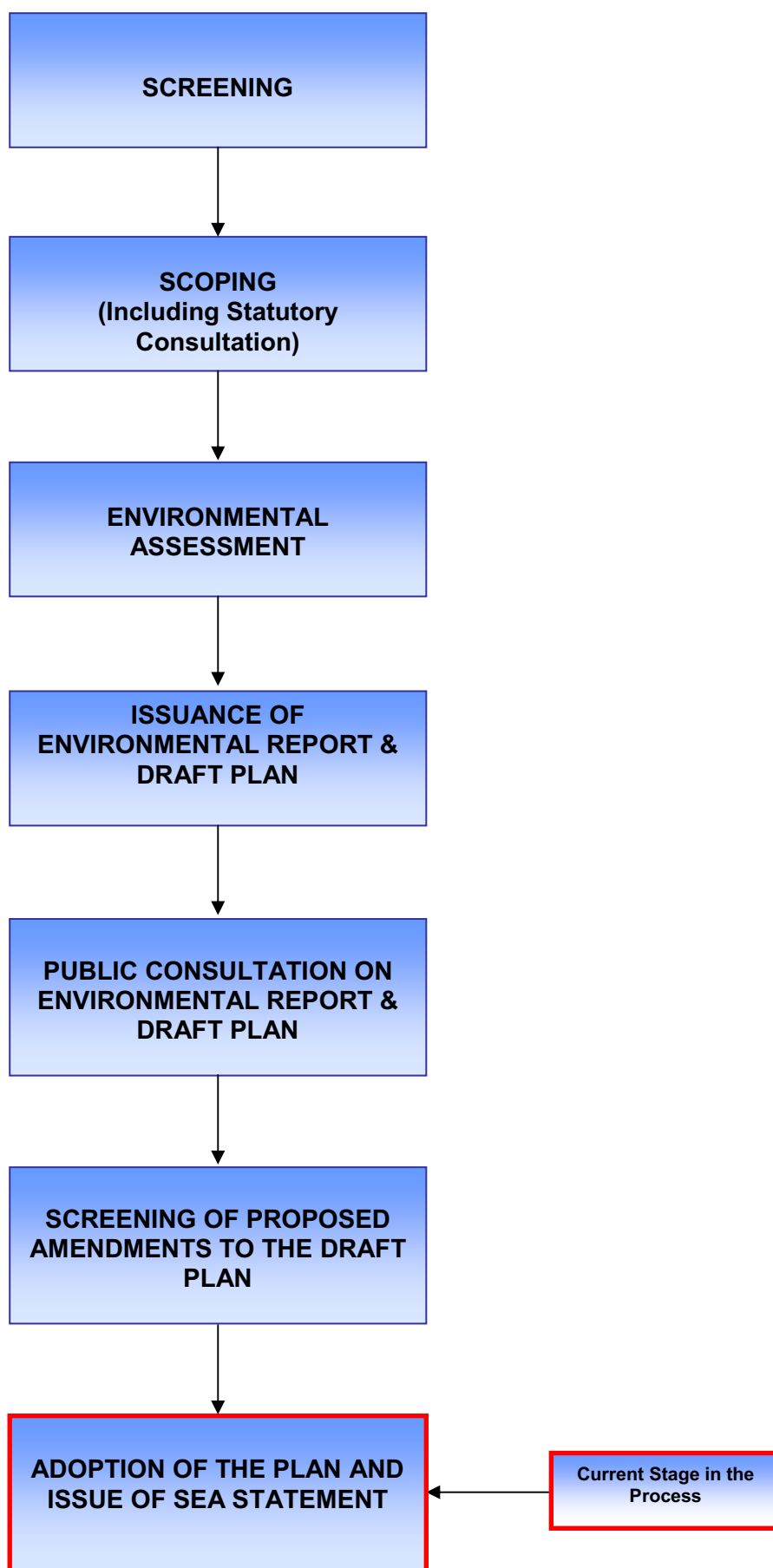


Figure 1.2: Overview of the SEA Process

1.1 CONTEXT OF THE SEA STATEMENT

The main purpose of the SEA Statement is to provide information on the decision-making process and to document how environmental considerations, the views of consultees and the recommendations of the Environmental Report have been taken into account in the adopted Development Plan. It illustrates how decisions were taken, making the process more transparent. This statement will be made available to the public to accompany the adopted Development Plan.

In accordance with section 13I of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations, 2004 (as amended), the Planning Authority is required to prepare a statement summarising the following: -

- a) *“how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan,*
- b) *how*
 - (i) *the environmental report pursuant to article 13C,*
 - (ii) *submissions and observations made to the planning authority in response to a notice under section 12(1) or (7) of the Act, and*
 - (iii) *any consultations under article 13F, have been taken into account during the preparation of the plan,*
- c) *the reasons for choosing the plan, as adopted, in light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with, and*
- d) *the measures decided upon to monitor, in accordance with article 13J, the significant environmental effects of implementation of the plan”.*

This SEA Statement summarises the above mentioned considerations and follows a similar format to that outlined above.

1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE PLAN

Meath County Council and Trim Town Council prepared the Trim Plan 2014 – 2020, to replace the existing Trim Development Plan 2008. The Plan was prepared under the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) to develop and improve in a sustainable manner the environmental, social, economic and cultural assets of Trim. The Trim Development Plan boundary is shown in **Figure 1.1**.

The Plan will provide the means by which the specific objectives and activities of all development will be coordinated, to ensure that they are implemented in a mutually integrated, consistent, sustainable and supportive manner. It will promote and encourage development, conserve and protect the environment and make the best possible use of resources.

The Environmental Assessment involved assessing the potential impacts of elements proposed in the Plan. This was done by first gathering and assessing all available baseline information on indicators described in the SEA Directive i.e. biodiversity, flora and fauna, population, water, soil, climate change, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape. It was considered necessary to combine some indicators in order to avoid unnecessary duplication.

The assessment process involved a series of telephone discussions and meetings attended by members of the RPS SEA/ AA team and the Meath County Council planning officers preparing the Plan. There was continued discussion and liaison between the project teams to check on and improve the updates to the Plan and also with regard to changing elements as the Plan evolved, any new impacts were identified and evaluated.

2 HOW ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS HAVE BEEN INTEGRATED

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The main aim of SEA is to improve the Trim Development Plan in terms of sustainability and its impact on the environment. This section outlines how the Plan evolved and at what stages the SEA influenced the Plan.

2.2 BASELINE DATA COLLECTION

From the outset, a key aspect of the SEA and AA has been the collection of relevant environmental baseline data for the area covered by the Trim Development Plan. This was achieved through consultation with and review of various existing databases and data sets available from Meath County Council and organisations such as the EPA, National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Geological Survey Ireland.

Collection of this information has allowed the identification of key environmental sensitivities, sensitive areas and pressure points within and surrounding Trim. GIS mapping has been used in the Environmental Report to illustrate the data, where possible, in order to allow easy visual recognition of pressures and sensitivities in and around Trim. Detailed consultation took place during the preparation and gathering of baseline data and GIS mapping preparation to inform the SEA and AA.

The key environmental issues identified as a result of review of the baseline environment are set out in **Table 2.1**. These environmental pressures have been used to inform the Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) used to assess the alternative scenarios for the development of the area and the Plan policies and objectives.

Table 2.1: Existing Environmental Pressures in Trim

Topic	Key Issues / Pressures
Core Strategy / Population	The population of Trim increased significantly by 24% between 2006 and 2011. Based on the core strategy for the town derived from the Greater Dublin Area Regional Planning Guidelines (GDRPGs) and the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 (MCDP), Trim has an allocation of 518 no. additional housing units to 2019. This equates to the requirement for 14.8 hectares of residentially zoned lands as part of the new TDP. Therefore based on the current TDP there is 96.9ha excess zoned residential land within the town. Furthermore, as of December 2011 there were 912 units permitted within the area that had not been built which will require consideration in terms of the growth and pattern of development for the town. The foregoing should be considered as part of the alternative development scenarios for the town. There is an objective in the recently adopted MCDP to ensure that the TDP consistent with the MCDP Core Strategy (CS OBJ 4 of Meath CDP), in line with current legislation. Future increases in population and housing numbers have potential implications for services; service provision needs to be reviewed and considered, along with various environmental aspects and flood risk.
Housing	The development of Trim as a Moderate Sustainable Growth Town will require facilitating the development of new sustainable residential neighbourhoods in a sequential manner. Trim has a very young resident population and facilities associated with this age cohort should be considered as part of the development strategy for the Plan area. Consideration should be given to the DoE's Guidelines on "Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas", effective integration of communities in terms of quality of life, amenity, convenience and safety need to ensure supporting community facilities are available. New neighbourhoods should also be connected, legible, attractive, well designed with a variety of adaptable dwelling types / sizes and densities, providing a sense of place and a high quality public realm.

Topic	Key Issues / Pressures
Economic Development	Trim has developed more as a commuter centre rather than an employment centre. A key issue to be tackled in Trim is the creation of a sustainable settlement in accordance with the GDRPGs and MCDP. Therefore there is a need to sustain jobs in the town, identify future employment sectors, opportunities and zone lands accordingly. Trim is part of the Navan Core Economic Area with Kells and is designated as a District Employment Centre in the MCDP.
Transport	Under the current TDP there is an objective to develop a distributor road (inner relief road) to relieve the town of traffic congestion and serve newer residential areas, linking many of the radial routes in Trim to reduce town centre through traffic. Part of this route would be developer driven and provided as part of Framework Plans. Consideration should be given to these routes in the context of land use zoning as part of the development strategy and associated alternative assessment of the Plan and SEA. Significant numbers of Trim's working population commute outside of the study area and experience a particularly long average commuter time. Detailed consideration will need to be given to integrated land use and transportation planning in the development strategy for the Plan.
Retail	Trim is a Level 3 Centre in the County Retail Hierarchy. Level 3 centres are town and/or district centres and sub-county town centres. The town experiences high convenience and comparison leakage to Dublin and Drogheda as it is under provided for in terms of convenience and comparison goods. It is proposed that Watergate Street, and other Opportunity Sites, will have to be brought forward if Trim is to significantly improve its retail offer; consideration should be given to this as part of the development strategy. There is an opportunity to expand the range of retail provision in Trim. However particular care will need to be taken to ensure that the design of any new retail developments is befitting as an expansion to this Heritage Town.
Landscape	Trim benefits from dramatic landscapes with attractive vistas (e.g., across the Porchfield towards Trim Castle and of Yellow Steeple). Detailed consideration in terms of protection of this resource is necessary when formulating a development strategy and policies for the Plan area.
Heritage	Trim is an important heritage town and is known for its castle, monuments, protected structures, ACA and heritage centres. Important heritage features such as Trim Castle should be protected. Consideration will need to be given to the protection of the intrinsic built and natural heritage of Trim as part of the proposed development Plan.
Conservation	The River Boyne and Blackwater which runs through the town is a Special Area of Conservation and a Special Protection Area. It will be important to maintain, and where possible enhance, the conservation value and objectives of these sites. Consideration of potential impacts resulting from the development strategy will need to be considered. The River Boyne is a recognised habitat area; the walkways along the river are also an asset for residents and visitors to the town. Combined with the network of hedgerows around Trim and green areas, they represent a valuable resource and their protection should be a priority.
Flooding	Trim is susceptible to flooding from the River Boyne and the Blackwater River. Consideration should be given to increased run off as a result of development and associated impacts downstream. The Plan will need to take account of flooding information from both the CFRAMS and the SFRA.

2.3 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE PLAN

The SEA process involved consultation and meetings with members of the SEA team and a number of specialists, including the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) team and Meath County Council who focussed on the significant environmental issues identified during the screening and scoping phases and assessment of baseline information for the area.

A system of Strategic Environmental Objectives was employed in the assessment of the Plan policies and objectives. Development of these has been the result of comments made at the scoping stage, discussions with the Plan team and with reference to the mapping produced for the baseline in the SEA.

The SEA reviewed each individual policy and objective contained in the Draft Trim Development Plan against the objectives (see **Table 2.2**), and associated assessment criteria developed for the SEA, as contained within the SEA Environmental Report.

Where a negative assessment was recorded, the SEA provided suggested amendments in the form of changes, additions or deletions to text as a result of the assessments.

Table 2.2: SEA Objectives

Objective 1 Biodiversity Flora and Fauna (BFF)	Protect and where appropriate, promote and support the enhancement and effective protection of biodiversity in the wider landscape and in particular protected areas and protected species.
Objective 2 Population (P)	Improve people's quality of life based on high-quality residential, working and recreational environments and on sustainable transport.
Objective 3 Water (W)	Improve water quality and the management of watercourses to comply with the standards of the Water Framework Directive and incorporate the objectives of the Floods Directive into sustainable planning and development.
Objective 4 Soil (S)	Protect and, where appropriate, enhance the function and quality of the soil resource in the lands within Trim Development Plan.
Objective 5 Climate (C)	Contribute to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.
Objective 6 Cultural Heritage (CH)	Protect and, where appropriate, enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of cultural, architectural and archaeological, heritage within Trim Development Plan.
Objective 7 Landscape (L)	Protect and, where appropriate, enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of landscapes in Trim Development Plan.
Objective 8 Material Assets (MA)	Make best use of existing infrastructure and promote the sustainable development of new infrastructure.

2.4 INFLUENCE OF SEA DURING PREPARATION OF THE DRAFT PLAN

2.4.1 Residential Development Strategy – Alternatives Assessment

Detailed consultation took place between the Plan, SEA, AA and SFRA teams in preparation of the Plan. All parties reviewed and discussed the Core Strategy to ensure its compliance with the hierarchy of plans. As part of this review, detailed discussions took place with respect to population projections and targets, zoning allocations and uses.

It is a mandatory objective of a development plan that sufficient lands are zoned for residential uses in accordance with the MCDP Core Strategy. On this basis, it was identified that there is a requirement for 14.8 ha of residentially zoned lands as part of the TDP 2014 – 2020 and at present based on the TDP 2008 – 2014 there is 96.9ha of excess lands zoned for residential use within the Plan area.

On this basis, all seventeen undeveloped zoned sites (as identified in the TDP 2014 – 2020) located within the Plan area have been assessed by the plan makers with a view to finding the most suitable residential sites. This assessment was undertaken based on a ranking system of each site based on distance to the town centre, public transport, schools, distance to Natura 2000 sites and whether the sites were infill development.

Sites were rated based on the above factors and ranked in order of preference for zoning to residential use as part of the development plan review process. Seven preferred sites were identified by the Plan makers based on rankings and potential yield. These sites are referenced as Site Q, Site O, Site D, Site P, Site C, Site N and part of Site B and are illustrated in the Plan. All sites were assessed in the SEA Environmental Report against each of the Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).

This assessment was reviewed by RPS from an environmental perspective to ensure that the alternatives assessment is comprehensive and addresses environmental factors as well as planning considerations.

2.4.2 Evolution of the Environment in the Absence of the Plan

It should also be noted that, despite any negative effects likely to stem from implementation of the Plan, there are many adverse impacts that are avoided by means of implementation of the development plan. In the absence of the implementation of the Plan, there is a strong likelihood that demographic change would exceed the capacities of Trim Town's infrastructure, or that land would be over-zoned for development in addition to this. The upshot of excessive development would have negative impacts on biodiversity, flora and fauna through these factors being overlooked for the purposes of development. In the absence of the Development Plan it could result in an unrestrained increase in traffic without the necessary transport infrastructure to cater for demand. There would be potential for negative effects on landscape and local cultural heritage if development is allowed to take place in a haphazard manner without implementation of the core strategy and proper planning and development principles. The town may have a tendency to sprawl; flooding and climatic problems could become much more frequent; land use designations would not provide for a balance between different types of development and the overall quality of life of Trim residents is likely to be reduced as a result. Therefore, in the absence of the Plan it is likely that the natural environment would eventually degrade. Through the suggested mitigation measures of the Plan, it is considered that any negative impacts arising from the Plan will be mitigated and outweighed by its positive long-term benefits.

2.4.3 Mitigation Measures Proposed

In advance of the preparation of the draft policies/ objectives the Trim Development Plan team was provided with a document from the SEA/ AA team which contained a number of relevant environmental policies for reference within the development of the draft policies/ objectives. **Table 2.3** provides a list of the policies that were recommended for inclusion in the Draft Plan as a result of this first phase of mitigation. These policies/ objectives mainly relate to specific general environmental concerns that should be included as policy within the Draft Plan from the outset as identified by environmental authorities on other SEAs, based on shortfalls identified under the baseline environment and based on requirements of relevant legislative and guidance requirements. The first column provides the recommended policies/ objectives from the SEA and AA team and the second column outlines if and where these policies/ objectives are included in the Draft Plan.

Table 2.3: Initial Mitigation Policies Measures Proposed on the Draft Plan

	General Overarching Policy/ Objectives	Address of Changes to Draft Plan
1.	The overarching policies and objectives of the Meath County Development Plan will equally apply to any development and any associated works, individually or in combination with other plans or projects within the Plan boundary.	Core Strategy POL 16 " <i>The overarching policies and objectives of the Meath County Development Plan will equally apply to any development and any associated works, individually or in combination with other plans or projects within the Plan boundary.</i> "
2.	The EU Directives for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) are the fundamental policy framework of environmental protection measures and legislation for the delivery of the policies within this document and full compliance with the EIA and SEA Directives shall be provided.	Section 1.10 Chapter 1 Introduction " <i>The Trim Development Plan is required to undergo Strategic Environmental Assessment in order to improve planning and environmental management of future development in the town.</i> "
3.	Ensure that all plans and projects in the County which	Included in HER OBJ 3 " <i>All plans and projects</i> "

	General Overarching Policy/ Objectives	Address of Changes to Draft Plan
	could, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site (or sites) will be subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening. [Recommend that this policy is included in the strategic policy section at the front of the Development Plan and again in relevant chapters throughout the Development Plan].	<i>which would be likely (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) to give rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites having regard to their conservation objectives, shall not be permitted on the basis of this Plan"</i> A number of individual policies and objectives also include specific requirement for AA.
	Biodiversity and Natural Heritage	
4.	Conserve, enhance and manage the County's natural heritage including its biodiversity, landscapes and geological heritage and promote understanding of and sustainable access to it.	HER POL 1 <i>"To protect and enhance the quality of the natural and built heritage of Trim, to safeguard it as a resource in its own right and ensure that future generations can understand and appreciate their heritage."</i>
5.	Protect the ecological integrity of proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Statutory Nature Reserves, Refuges for Fauna and Annex I habitats.	HER OBJ 2 <i>"To protect the ecological integrity of all natural heritage sites designated or proposed for designation under National and European legislation. This includes Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas."</i>
6.	Ensure that all plans and projects in the County which could, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site (or sites) will be subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening.	HER OBJ 3 (as above) and HER OBJ 6 <i>"Planning Authority will...Carry out screening to determine the potential for all proposed plans and projects authorised by the Councils to impact (directly or through indirect cumulative impact) on Natura 2000 sites."</i>
7.	To ensure that a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is produced once Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening has indicated likely significant effects on the integrity, defined by the structure and function, of any Natura 2000 sites.	Not mentioned specifically in the Draft Plan but would assume this objective would be respected given implementation requirement in respect of AA.
8.	To promote the maintenance and, as appropriate, the achievement of favourable conservation status of Natura 2000 sites and their associated habitats and species, in association with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).	HER OBJ 5 <i>"...pursuant to Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, and where possible, minimise the impact of new development on habitats of biodiversity value that are features of the town's ecological network"</i> . Also HER OBJ 8: <i>To co-operate with statutory authorities and others in support of measures taken to manage designated nature conservation sites and protected species in order to achieve their conservation objectives</i>
9.	To promote the protection of habitats which, by virtue of their linear and continuous structure (e.g. rivers and their banks) or their contribution as stepping stones (e.g. ponds or small woods), are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species and these should be mapped within the Plan area.	HER OBJ 5 <i>"It is an objective of the plan to protect, pursuant to Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, and where possible, minimise the impact of new development on habitats of biodiversity value that are features of the town's ecological network. These features include tree lines, groups of trees and veteran trees, old walls, parkland, hedgerows, intertidal areas, rivers, streams and wetlands important for the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species"</i> GI OBJ 1 <i>"To prepare a GI map illustrating habitat types and ecological networks which can be utilised in the assessment of planning applications to protect and enhance urban biodiversity."</i>
10.	To promote the approach of an Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment (IBIA) where suited as an efficient framework in order to streamline biodiversity consideration while assessing environmental impacts	Not included in Draft Plan. Detailed protected biodiversity policies and objectives included within Draft Plan.

	General Overarching Policy/ Objectives	Address of Changes to Draft Plan
	within the SEA, EIA and AA objectives, targets and indicators.	
11.	To support the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG), in the maintenance and, as appropriate, the achievement of favourable conservation status for the habitats and species to which the EU Habitats Directive applies.	HER OBJ 5 (as above) <i>HER OBJ 8 To co-operate with statutory authorities and others in support of measures taken to manage designated nature conservation sites and protected species in order to achieve their conservation objectives</i>
12.	To consult with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) when undertaking, approving and authorising development which is likely to affect plant, animal or bird species protected by law. In the event of a proposed development impacting on a site known or likely to be a breeding or resting site of species listed in Habitats Regulations a derogation licence, issued by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG) will be required in advance of a permission.	HER OBJ 5 (as above); HER OBJ 7 <i>"The Planning Authority will consult with the prescribed bodies and appropriate government agencies, when considering, undertaking or authorising developments or other activities which are likely to affect protected sites or species"</i> and HER OBJ 8 <i>"To co-operate with statutory authorities and others in support of measures taken to manage designated nature conservation sites and protected species in order to achieve their conservation objectives."</i>
13.	To ensure the implementation of the EU Freshwater Fish Directive and its transposition into Irish legislation in order to protect any fish and shellfish habitat in the Plan area.	INF POL 31 <i>"To protect water courses, banks and bankside vegetation from interference by inappropriate bridging, draining, culverting or other works which would be detrimental to fisheries, biodiversity and the qualifying interests of Natura 2000 sites."</i> INF POL 6 <i>"To support the implementation of the EU Freshwater Fish Directive and its transposition into Irish legislation in order to protect any fish and shellfish habitat in the Plan area"</i> . INF POL 7 <i>"All works that have potential to impact on fisheries are required to adhere to IFI Fisheries Protection Guidelines entitled 'Requirements for the Protection of Fisheries habitat during Construction and Development Works'."</i> INF POL 8 <i>"To protect the tributaries of the River Boyne around Trim such as the Maudlin and the Lackanash from urbanisation and malfunctioning sewer lines"</i> .
14.	To implement measures to control and manage alien / invasive species (e.g. Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed, Himalayan balsam, etc.) within the Plan area.	Section 4.2 which refers to The Natural Environment – Our Green Infrastructure, states that <i>'Biodiversity comes under threat through habitat destruction, invasive species, and pollution and over harvesting of natural resources.'</i> HER OBJ 9 <i>"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"</i> HER OBJ 10 <i>"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"</i> .

	General Overarching Policy/ Objectives	Address of Changes to Draft Plan
15.	Ensure that no development, including clearance and storage of materials, takes place within a minimum distance of 15m measured from each bank of any river, stream or watercourse in the Plan area.	IFI have requested a 5-10m minimum buffer zone along all watercourses as part of the Enniscorthy LAP AA which is very similar to Trim as the Slaney River Valley SAC runs through this town. Consistent with the CDP 2009-2015, WS POL 33: <i>"To consult with the Office of Public Works in relation to proposed developments in the vicinity of drainage channels and rivers for which the OPW are responsible, and the Council will retain a strip of 10m on either side of such channel where required, to facilitate access thereto"</i> .
16.	In the event of linear paths, cycleways, seating, lighting, loss of riparian zones, etc. being proposed along river corridors an Ecological Impact Assessment (and where necessary an Appropriate Assessment) including bat and otter surveys shall be conducted by specialists. The recommendations of the specialist studies shall be implemented. No lighting will be installed without prior consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and shall be in line with advances in knowledge into the impact of lighting on bats and other species and also to reflect advances in technology in the lighting industry.	GI OBJ 8 <i>"In the event of linear paths, cycleways, seating, lighting, loss of riparian zones, etc. being proposed along river corridors an Ecological Impact Assessment (and where necessary an Appropriate Assessment) including bat and otter surveys shall be conducted by specialists. The recommendations of the specialist studies shall be implemented. No lighting will be installed without prior consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and shall be in line with advances in knowledge into the impact of lighting on bats and other species and also to reflect advances in technology in the lighting industry."</i>
17.	To ensure the monitoring and control of EIA sub-threshold development within the Plan through the document <i>Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding sub-threshold development (DEHLG, 2003)</i> with specific reference to the requirement of Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening.	Chapter 2 Core Strategy POL 16 <i>"To ensure the monitoring and control of EIA sub-threshold development within the Plan through the document Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding sub-threshold development (DEHLG, 2003) with specific reference to the requirement of Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening."</i>
Cultural Heritage		
18.	To require an appropriate Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (taking into account cumulative impacts) for development that may have a potential to impact adversely on significant built heritage and cultural landscape features such as scenic views and routes within and adjoining the Plan area.	HER OBJ 14 <i>"To require an appropriate Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (taking into account cumulative impacts) for development that may have a potential to impact adversely on significant built heritage and cultural landscape features such as scenic views and routes within and adjoining the Plan area."</i>
19.	To ensure that the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage, governed by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG) is fully implemented into the County's Record of Protected Structures in order to produce a coherent archive at national and regional level.	HER POL 15 makes provisions for the protection of protected structures.
20.	To ensure that Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA) are dedicated and mapped in the Plan with regard to their extent and distinction and that appropriate protection measures are developed.	HER POL 11 – 15 <i>"To preserve the character of the following Architectural Conservation Areas in Trim"</i>
Water Supply and Management		
21.	To prepare a water conservation strategy which includes leakage reduction measures for the area and incentives for efficient water consumption while discouraging water	INF POL 3 <i>"To work with Irish Water to continue to implement the Water Conservation Programme, in order to conserve valuable"</i>

	General Overarching Policy/ Objectives	Address of Changes to Draft Plan
	waste.	resources by further reducing leakage” Section 10.2.2 sets out that “Countywide Water Conservation, through active leakage control, demand management and pressure management, has played and will continue to play a major role in helping to reduce the demand for potable water, thus improving the level of service to existing customers in the county through the existing watermains network. Significant progress has been made in Trim in recent years”
22.	To ensure the implementation of the EU Drinking Water Directive in order to achieve and improve appropriate water quality standards for the Plan for human consumption while conditioning development dependent on sufficient water supply.	Reference not included
23.	To ensure the implementation of the European Communities Drinking Water (No.2) Regulations 2007, S.I. No. 278 of 2007 and the EPA 2010 guidance on the <i>Implementation of the Regulations for Water Services Authorities for Public Water Supplies</i> . These regulations shall be applied for increased penalties in case of non-compliance and programmes to minimise water supply leakage shall be developed.	Specific reference not included. INF POL 9 “To ensure that adequate water supply and treatment facilities are in place prior to development approval.”
24.	To ensure the implementation of the EU Groundwater Directive and its transposition into Irish legislation in order to prevent significant effects on Groundwater Source Protection Zones and to develop and complement Groundwater Protection Schemes.	INF POL 10 “To protect existing and potential water resources in accordance with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended); • European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (as amended); • European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (as amended); • East River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 or any updated version of this document; • Groundwater Protection Scheme for County Meath; • Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2001 (as amended); • Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) and European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Waters) Regulations 2009 and 2010; • Any other protection plans for water supply sources or updates to the above regulations.” INF POL 11 “To ensure that development would not have an unacceptable impact on water quality and quantity, including surface water, ground water, designated source protection areas, river corridors and associated

	General Overarching Policy/ Objectives	Address of Changes to Draft Plan
		wetlands.” INF POL 12 “To ensure that all significant road projects/upgrades with surface water discharges to the Boyne River system and its tributaries, have petrol/oil interceptors installed to prevent hydrocarbon pollution of the river system.”
	To require that all development relating to water supply and waste water treatment are subject to Appropriate Assessment to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity, defined by the structure and function, of any Natura 2000 sites and that the requirements of Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive are met.	INF POL 5 “Any development proposed as a result of infrastructure policies will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment according to Article 6(3) of the E.C. Habitats Directive”
	Wastewater	
25.	To ensure the implementation of the EU Urban Waste Water Directive and its transposition into Irish legislation, namely the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2001 and 2004.	INF POL 24 “To ensure the implementation of the EU Urban Waste Water Directive and its transposition into Irish legislation, namely the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2001 and 2004.”
26.	To ensure the changeover from septic tanks to mains connections in all cases where this is feasible and that all new developments utilise and connect to the existing wastewater infrastructure. The provision of individual septic tanks and treatment plants in the Plan will be strongly discouraged to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution. Where such facilities are permitted, full compliance with the prevailing regulations and standards will be required, including the EPA 2009 Code of Practice: Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (p.e.≤ 10).	INF POL 25 “To encourage the changeover from septic tanks to mains connections in all cases where this is feasible and that all new developments utilise and connect to the existing wastewater infrastructure, where available. The provision of individual septic tanks and treatment plants in the Plan will be strongly discouraged to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution. Where such facilities are permitted, full compliance with the prevailing regulations and standards will be required, including the EPA 2009 Code of Practice: Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (p.e.≤ 10).”
27.	To promote assessment of the adequacy of the existing wastewater treatment facilities in terms of both capacity and performance as well as potential risk to human health and water quality.	INF POL 2 “To work with Irish Water to continue the development and upgrading of the waste water system serving Trim so as to ensure that a continued adequate treatment capacity is available for the sustainable development of Trim, as finances permit.”
28.	To carry out any waste water treatment plant upgrade in accordance with the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007, S.I. No. 684 of 2007 while developing a waste water leak detection programme.	INF POL 2 “To work with Irish Water to continue the development and upgrading of the waste water system serving Trim so as to ensure that a continued adequate treatment capacity is available for the sustainable development of Trim, as finances permit.” INF POL 26 “To ensure that adequate wastewater treatment facilities are in place prior to development approval.”
	Surface Water Drainage	
29.	To ensure the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive and its transpositions into Irish legislation.	Section 2.1 Introduction “The Core Strategy must provide a transparent evidence based rationale for the amount of land proposed to be zoned for residential and allied mixed use zoning in the development plan and associated compliance with relevant EU Directives (SEA, Habitats and Water Framework Directives).” INF POL 10 “To protect existing and potential water resources in accordance with the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended)”
30.	To implement the specific relevant objectives and	Section 2.2.3 of the Plan refers to the Eastern

	General Overarching Policy/ Objectives	Address of Changes to Draft Plan
	measures for individual water bodies set out in the Eastern River Basin Management Plan and associated Programme of Measures, where relevant.	River Basin District – River Basin Management Plan and acknowledges that <i>“The Plan includes a programme of measures and a river basin management strategy designed to achieve at least good status for all waters and to maintain a high status where it exists”</i> . However the draft Plan does not implement the specific relevant objectives and measures for individual water bodies set out in the Eastern River Basin Management Plan and associated Programme of Measures. INF POL 10 <i>“To protect existing and potential water resources in accordance with the East River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 or any updated version of this document;</i>
31.	To ensure the implementation of the surface water legislation <i>Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009</i> S.I. No 272 of 2009 and the EPA report <i>Water Quality in Ireland 2007-2009</i> in order to achieve general improvements of any water supplies in the Plan.	Surface water is referred to in terms of SUDS in Section 10.3 and INF POL 15 (see below), INF POL 14: <i>“To protect, maintain and improve the natural character of all watercourses, tributaries and streams within the Plan area”</i> and INF OBJ 1 <i>“To generally provide support for the funding of, and to improve and extend, surface water disposal infrastructure to serve the planned levels of growth, during the lifetime of this Plan, in order to facilitate development and subject to the availability of funding”</i> .
32.	To require that a Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) is applied to any development and that site specific solutions to surface water drainage systems are developed, which meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin Management Plans.	INF POL 15 <i>“To ensure that all new developments should incorporate Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) in accordance with the recommendations of the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study (GSDS) and sufficient storm water attenuation will be required for all such developments to ensure that the rate of run-off equates to predevelopment greenfield run off rates”</i>
Groundwater Protection		
33.	To ensure that planning applications have regard to any existing groundwater protection schemes and groundwater source protection zones and/or the likely impacts that the development may have on groundwater.	INF POL 13 <i>“To ensure that development would not have an unacceptable impact on water quality and quantity, including surface water, ground water, designated source protection areas, river corridors and associated wetlands, estuarine waters, coastal and transitional waters”</i> .
34.	To ensure the protection of the groundwater resources in and around the Plan and associated habitats and species.	INF POL 10 <i>“To protect existing and potential water resources in accordance with European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (as amended), and the groundwater Protection Scheme for County Meath”</i> INF POL 11 <i>“To ensure that development would not have an unacceptable impact on water quality and quantity, including surface water, ground water, designated source protection areas, river corridors and associated wetlands”</i> .
Flood Risk Management		

	General Overarching Policy/ Objectives	Address of Changes to Draft Plan
35.	To ensure the implementation of the EU Floods Directive and its transposition into Irish legislation in order to prevent, reduce and control flood risk in river basin areas due to increased domestic and economic development in flood risk zones and climate change effects.	The Directive is not mentioned in the draft Development Plan. However Section 10.5.1 Flood Risks and Zoning that <i>"Lands which have been de-zoned/rezoned include lands adjoining the river banks and lands adjoining streams which are tributaries of the River Boyne"</i>
36.	To implement the recommendations of the relevant Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) study and the mitigation measures and recommendations arising from the associated SEA and AA shall also be addressed and implemented.	INF POL 30 <i>"The Planning Authority will require a site specific flood risk assessment to be carried out for all development proposals falling within areas identified as being at risk of flooding in accordance with the Trim Strategic Flood Risk Assessment recommendations."</i>
37.	To implement the <i>Planning System and Flood Risk Management for Planning Authorities</i> (DoEHLG/OPW 2009) and the National Flood Hazard Mapping (OPW 2012) while referring to the relevant Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) for the Plan.	Key Aim 4 and INF POL 29 <i>"To have regard to the requirements of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG/OPW, 2009) in the assessment of development management proposals and in the preparation of any Framework Plans required during the period of this Plan"</i>
38.	To require that all proposed flood protection or alleviation works will be subject to Appropriate Assessment (AA) to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity, defined by the structure and function, of any Natura 2000 sites and that the requirements of Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive are met.	INF POL 30 <i>"The Planning Authority will require a site specific flood risk assessment to be carried out for all development proposals falling within areas identified as being at risk of flooding in accordance with the Trim Strategic Flood Risk Assessment recommendations."</i> and INF POL 31 <i>"To protect water courses, banks and bankside vegetation from interference by inappropriate bridging, draining, culverting or other works which would be detrimental to fisheries, biodiversity and the qualifying interests of Natura 2000 sites."</i> INF POL 33 <i>"To require that all proposed flood protection or alleviation works will be subject to Appropriate Assessment (AA) to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity, defined by the structure and function, of any Natura 2000 sites and that the requirements of Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive are met"</i>
39.	To ensure riparian buffer zones are created between all watercourses and any development, a minimum of 15m 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.	IFI have requested a 5-10m minimum buffer zone along all watercourses as part of the Enniscorthy LAP AA which is very similar to Trim as the Slane River Valley SAC runs through this town. INF POL 32 <i>"To consult with the Office of Public Works in relation to proposed developments in the vicinity of drainage channels and rivers for which the OPW are responsible, and the Council will, retain a strip of 10 metres on either side of such channel where required, to facilitate access thereto."</i>
Waste Management		
40.	To ensure the implementation of the EU Waste Framework Directive and its affiliated directives, namely the EU IPPC Directive, the Landfill Directive and the WEEE Directive.	Section 10.4 states that <i>"Developers are obliged under the Waste Management Act 1996 (as amended) to submit a construction and waste management plan prior to the commencement of any proposed construction activities."</i>
41.	Prevent and minimise the generation of waste in accordance with the Waste Management Plan for the Dublin Region while minimising waste to landfill and considering suitable alternatives.	INF POL 16 <i>"To implement the policies and objectives of the North East Waste Management Plan 2005-2010 or any replacement waste management plan for which ever Waste Region Meath forms part of under the re-configuration of the Waste"</i>

	General Overarching Policy/ Objectives	Address of Changes to Draft Plan
		<i>Regions as relevant to Trim”; INF POL 17 “To implement the policies and objectives of the North East Waste Management Plan 2005-2010 or any replacement waste management plan for the north east region as relevant to Trim” and INF POL 18 “To promote education and awareness on all issues associated with waste management, both at industry and community level. This will include the promotion of waste reduction by encouraging the minimization, re-use, recycling and recovery of waste within the town and environs.”</i>
	Energy and Communications	
42.	To implement an Energy Conservation Strategy and have regard to the <i>Wind Energy Planning Guidelines</i> (DEHLG 2006), the <i>National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012</i> (DEHLG 2007), the <i>National Renewable Energy Action Plan</i> (DCENR 2009), the <i>Strategic Plan 2010-2015</i> (SEAI 2010) and the <i>Strategy for Renewable Energy 2012-2020</i> (DCENR 2012).	<p>Section 9.5 states that Meath County Council has adopted a Climate Change Strategy and Energy Management Action Plan 2011-2012 (in line with National Climate Change Strategy).</p> <p>TE POL 11 “<i>To support the review and implementation of the actions of the Meath County Council Climate Change Strategy and Energy Management Action Plan 2011-2012 ‘Think Globally Act Locally’</i>”</p> <p>TE POL 13 “<i>To promote energy conservation and efficiency measures and facilitate innovative development proposals that maximise energy efficiency through siting, layout, design or which incorporate best practice in energy technologies, conservation and implementation of smart technology in accordance with national policy and guidelines</i>”</p> <p>Section 9.6.2 states that the Wind Energy Planning Guidelines (DEHLG 2006) will be taken into consideration when assessing planning applications for wind energy developments.</p>
43.	To implement the policies and objectives set out in the relevant MCDP in relation to renewable energy, energy efficiency and the promotion of technology for renewable energy generation within the Plan.	Chapter 9, Key aim 3 and TE POL 15 “ <i>To facilitate energy infrastructure provision, including the development of renewable energy sources at suitable locations, so as to provide for the further physical and economic development of Trim, in line with proper planning and sustainable development.</i> ”
	Noise Management	
44.	To ensure the implementation of the EU Environmental Noise Directive and its transposition into Irish legislation and to promote a Noise Action Plan for the Plan area.	INF OBJ 19 “ <i>To support the Noise Action Plan adopted by Meath County Council and Navan Town Council</i> ” Directive not mentioned.
	Transport	

	General Overarching Policy/ Objectives	Address of Changes to Draft Plan
45.	To have regard to the EU Ambient Air Quality Directive, the EU Ozone Directive, the EU guidance documents <i>Greening Transport</i> (EU 2008) and <i>A Sustainable Future for Transport</i> (EU 2009) and the National Transport Strategy <i>Smarter Travel: A Sustainable Transport Future</i> (DTTS 2009) to develop strategies which better reflect the real costs that transport volumes and emissions impose onto society, environment and economic efficiency.	TRAN POL 23 <i>"To have regard to the EU Ambient Air Quality Directive, the EU Ozone Directive, the EU guidance documents Greening Transport (EU 2008) and A Sustainable Future for Transport (EU 2009) and the National Transport Strategy Smarter Travel: A Sustainable Transport Future (DTTS 2009) to develop strategies which better reflect the real costs that transport volumes and emissions impose onto society, environment and economic efficiency"</i>
46.	To ensure that development is guided by an Integrated Traffic Management Plan and accompanied by a Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) to prevent any negative visual, land-use and character impact and to monitor CO ₂ and substances which are potentially harmful to humans and the environment.	TRAN POL 2 <i>"To require the submission of a Traffic and Transport Assessment (TTA) and Road Safety Audit as part of a development proposal, where expected traffic movements will have a material impact on the safety and free flow of traffic on a national or regional route. Developers should refer to the NRA's 'Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines' in the preparation of TTA's in this regard."</i> And TRAN POL 22 <i>"To require that robust Transport Assessments are carried out, by and at the expense of the developer, for significant planning applications in accordance with guidelines given in the 'Traffic Management Guidelines' and Meath County Development Plan 2013 - 2019. The Transport Assessment will be assessed by the Planning Authority and any additional works required as a result of the Transport Assessment shall be funded by the developer"</i> and TRAN OBJ 5 <i>"To provide, in co-operation with other agencies, bodies and developers/landowners, an integrated network of designated walking and cycling routes to provide safe, convenient and pleasant routes between the town's main residential areas, schools, the town centre and business park areas. The network will, wherever possible, be developed as a segregated, traffic free, sustainable transport facility incorporating best practice design and shall be integrated with the network of Green Infrastructure"</i>
47.	To promote maximum accessibility through routes of optimised connectivity and permeability for walking, cycling and public transport while establishing safe infrastructure for all vulnerable road users.	Chapter 8, Key aim 1 and TRAN POL 1 <i>"To promote land-use planning measures which aim for transportation efficiency, economic returns on transport investment, minimisation of environmental impacts and a general shift towards the use of public transportation"</i> , TRAN POL 5, <i>"To support, improve and enhance, where feasible, the existing public bus services and infrastructure serving Trim Town & Environs as specific in the Trim Local Transport Plan."</i> and TRAN POL 12 <i>"To co-operate with the National Transport Authority in the provision of sustainable transport measures in the existing developed areas in the town and in new or planned developments"</i>
	Economic Development	
48.	To ensure that any industry development will be subject to Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity, defined by the structure and function, of any Natura 2000 sites and that the requirements of Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive are met.	ECON POL 12 <i>"Any land development proposed as a result of Economic and Employment policies and objectives will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment."</i>
49.	To have regard to the EU Seveso III Directive for any industrial development in order to assess potential	PMA POL 1 <i>"To comply with the Seveso II Directive in reducing the risk and limiting the</i>

	General Overarching Policy/ Objectives	Address of Changes to Draft Plan
	impacts from emissions hazardous to humans and/or the environment within or near the Plan.	<i>potential consequences of major industrial accidents.”; PMA POL 2 “To permit new Seveso development only in low risk locations within acceptable distances from vulnerable residential, retail and commercial development.”; PMA POL 3 “To have regard to the advice of the Health & Safety Authority when proposals for new SEVESO sites are being considered or modifications to existing SEVESO sites are being considered” and PMA POL 4 “Attach to any grant of permission for new warehouse or similar industrial buildings, a condition to exclude use/storage of SEVESO substances (or require a separate permission for it)”</i>
50.	To require that all development proposals are subject to AA screening to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity, defined by the structure and function, of any Natura 2000 sites and that the requirements of Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive are met.	ECON POL 12 “Any land development proposed as a result of Economic and Employment policies and objectives will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment.”
51.	To promote compact development within urban settlements with reasonable accessibility to public amenities, with public services for energy, water and telecom management and with means of public transport or safe walking and cycling infrastructure while discouraging dispersed, isolated development outside urban settlements.	Core Strategy Policies 1 to 15 meet the requirements of this policy.
52.	To promote development of diverse and distinct land-use to promote urban regeneration and place- making of distinct character and spatial quality while maintaining reasonable zoning distribution between various land-use that is of non-compatible nature.	ECON POL 11 “To support the redevelopment and utilization of existing vacant units and/or underutilized sites within the business parks as a priority, with development on appropriately zoned greenfield sites secondary. A flexible approach is required when assessing planning applications for the change of use or redevelopment of existing vacant units in the Business Parks, whilst ensuring the vitality and viability of the town centre is retained”

Mitigation measures proposed as a result of the detailed assessment of policies and objectives of the Draft Plan are set out in **Table 2.4**. Mitigation measures are proposed in the form of new policies / objectives and / or amendments to the text of policies / objectives. The mitigation included in the assessment of policies and objectives does not refer to the general requirement for assessment of impacts on the environment but instead assumes requirements for environmental assessment in accordance with the normal development management process and EIA Directive as a given.

A detailed assessment of the Draft Plan policies/ objectives was undertaken at each stage of the process, including the following stages:

- The Manager's Draft Plan which was issued to the Elected Members;
- The Manger's Recommendations as contained within the Manager's Report on Notices of Motion; and
- The final amendments to the Draft Plan for display based on the Joint Area Meetings and consequent resolutions of respective Councils.

Column one of **Table 2.4** provides information on the policy or objective which is to be mitigated and Column two the measures to be applied. Column three sets out whether they were included in the Draft Plan. All proposed insertions and proposed amendments are highlighted in **Red** and deletions are identified by way of a ~~strikethrough~~ for ease of reference.

Table 2.4: Mitigation Measures Proposed as a Result of Assessment of Policies/Objectives

Policies/ Objectives	Comment/ Mitigation	Addressed in the Draft Plan
Retail		
<p>RET POL 7 To facilitate the identification, promotion and development of key town centre opportunity sites;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the revitalisation of vacant and derelict properties/shop units; Encourage infill development and the redevelopment of derelict and obsolete sites; Promotion of ongoing environmental improvements to the public realm; Prevent overdevelopment of particular non retail uses such as takeaways in core retail areas; Promotion of activities including festivals, events and street markets in each town. 	<p>Overall a positive policy, aiming to bring economic activity into the town in a balanced manner and one that will not disturb the natural or built environment. The policy will also very likely cause some disruption to S, W, L and B/FF as a result of any redevelopment or construction works associated with this policy. Recommend the following amendment:</p> <p>RET POL 7 <i>"To facilitate the identification, promotion and development of key town centre opportunity sites in a sustainable and sequential manner;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Promote the revitalisation of vacant and derelict properties/shop units;</i> <i>Encourage infill development and the redevelopment of derelict and obsolete sites;</i> <i>Promotion of ongoing environmental improvements to the public realm;</i> <i>Prevent overdevelopment of particular non retail uses such as takeaways in core retail areas</i> <i>Promotion of activities including festivals, events and street markets in each town".</i> 	Yes.
RET OBJ 1 To facilitate the re-location of the existing Texaco garage on Haggard St street to a more appropriate site zoned for such use.	<p>Potential negative effects depending on the re-location of use and also potential for site contamination. Recommendation as follows:</p> <p>RET OBJ 1 <i>"To facilitate the re-location and any decontamination of the existing Texaco garage on Haggard St street to a more appropriate site zoned for such use subject to planning and sustainable development principles."</i></p>	Yes.
Heritage, Tourism and Green Infrastructure		
<p>GI OBJ 5 To provide for the development of the Trim-Navan-Slane-Drogheda cycle/greenway along the River Boyne subject to obtaining necessary statutory planning consent, the carrying out of Appropriate Assessment, landowner co-operation and the securing of necessary funding.</p>	<p>Note – same as TRAN OBJ 7 below.</p> <p>Overall a positive policy likely to have benefits for C, P and MA. The River Boyne SAC and SPA runs through the Historical Core area of the town of Trim and therefore due consideration should be given to this important designated area.</p> <p>Recommend inclusion of requirement to carry out a routing study and any necessary environmental assessment in respect of this scheme also, text amendment recommended as follows:</p> <p>GI OBJ 5 <i>"To provide for the development of the Trim-Navan-Slane-Drogheda cycle/greenway along the River Boyne subject to carrying out a routing study and any necessary environmental assessments, obtaining necessary statutory planning consent, the carrying out of Appropriate Assessment, landowner co-operation and the securing of necessary funding"</i></p> <p>check numbering</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Yes.</p>
Tourism		
<p>TOUR POL 2 To improve the visitor experience to the town and to co-operate with all stakeholders and appropriate agencies in promoting tourism and securing tourist based enterprises and facilities in the town.</p>	<p>Overall positive Policy as has potential to increase employment and improve facilities in the area which would have a positive effect on P, CH and M. However it is possible that increased tourism and visitors will have negative impacts as result of increased vehicular traffic visting the town. Recommend the following:</p>	Yes.

Policies/ Objectives	Comment/ Mitigation	Addressed in the Draft Plan
	TOUR POL 2 <i>"To improve the visitor experience to the town and to co-operate with all stakeholders and appropriate agencies in promoting sustainable tourism and securing tourist based enterprises and facilities in the town"</i> .	
TOUR POL 4 To support the provision of facilities for theatre and the arts in Trim.	Potential impacts dependant on location of facilities. Recommend the following: TOUR POL 4 <i>"To support the provision of centrally located facilities for theatre and the arts in Trim"</i> .	Yes.
TOUR POL 5 To encourage and support the holding of a variety of festivals and events.	Potential impacts dependant on location of facilities. Recommend the following: TOUR POL 5 <i>"To encourage and support the holding of a variety of festivals and events at sustainable locations subject to proper planning principles"</i> .	Yes.
TOUR POL 7 To co-operate with Fáilte Ireland, Tourism Ireland, Meath Tourism, Louth County Council, Boyne Valley and any other relevant bodies in the implementation of the Boyne Valley Destination Development Strategy.	Boyne Valley Destination Development Strategy has not been screened with respect to SEA as part of this SEA process. Therefore recommend re-wording policy to 'support' rather than to 'implement' as follows: TOUR POL 7 <i>"To co-operate with Fáilte Ireland, Tourism Ireland, Meath Tourism, Louth County Council, Boyne Valley and any other relevant bodies in the implementation of to support the Boyne Valley Destination Development Strategy subject to implementation of sustainable planning and environmental principles"</i> .	Yes.
TOUR POL 8 To facilitate the development of high-quality tourist accommodation such as hotels, hostels, B&Bs / Guesthouses, etc. at suitable locations, subject to ensuring a high standard of architecture, the provision of adequate infrastructure and compliance with normal planning considerations.	Potential for environmental impacts, however will be subject to normal planning requirements which will identify and mitigate where relevant potential impacts. Recommend the following: TOUR POL 8 <i>"To facilitate the development of high-quality tourist accommodation such as hotels, hostels, B&Bs / Guesthouses, etc. at environmentally suitable locations, subject to ensuring a high standard of architecture, the provision of adequate infrastructure and compliance with normal planning considerations"</i> .	Yes.
TOUR POL 9 To consider the provision of caravan, camping and motor home sites at suitable locations. In all instances, the Planning Authorities will seek to ensure a high standard of layout, design and amenity in such proposals whilst safeguarding the landscape character in sensitive areas.	Potential for environmental impacts, therefore recommend the following insertion: TOUR POL 9 <i>"To consider the provision of caravan, camping and motor home sites at environmentally suitable locations. In all instances, the Planning Authorities will seek to ensure a high standard of layout, design and amenity in such proposals whilst safeguarding the landscape character in sensitive areas"</i> .	Yes.
TOUR POL 10 To promote the provision of a Folk Park in an appropriate location subject to adequate infrastructure and compliance with normal planning considerations.	Given that no particular location, scale or detail in respect of this folk park is provided it is difficult to assess this policy at SEA level. Recommend inclusion of requirement to undertake Environmental Assessment in respect of this proposal as follows: TOUR POL 10 <i>"To promote the provision of a Folk Park in an environmentally appropriate location subject to adequate infrastructure and compliance with normal planning considerations including requirement to undertake environmental assessment as appropriate"</i> .	Yes.

Policies/ Objectives	Comment/ Mitigation	Addressed in the Draft Plan
TOUR OBJ 1 To implement the recommendations of the Boyne Valley Drive Infrastructure Study, the Tourism Route Interpretation Plan for the Boyne Valley Drive and the Interpretative Plan for Boyne Valley Orientation Points as they apply to the town of Trim and its environs.	<p>The Boyne Valley Drive Infrastructure Study, the Tourism Route Interpretation Plans have not been screened with respect to SEA as part of this SEA process. Therefore recommend re-wording policy to 'support' rather than to 'implement' as follows:</p> <p>TOUR OBJ 1 "To implement support the recommendations of the Boyne Valley Drive Infrastructure Study, the Tourism Route Interpretation Plan for the Boyne Valley Drive and the Interpretative Plan for Boyne Valley Orientation Points as they apply to the town of Trim and its environs subject to implementation of sustainable planning and environmental principles".</p>	Yes.
Design and Public Realm		
DP OBJ 1 To develop a new civic space to function as a link, both visually and physically, between the existing town at Emmett Street, and the Town Centre Expansion Area. This would necessitate the demolition and removal of existing buildings from Emmet Street and redevelopment of possible medieval burgrave plots.	<p>Overall this should be viewed as a positive objective, providing access for residents and tourists to the town centre and creating a civic space and improving connectivity. Given its proximity to the River Boyne will need to ensure that any works that take place are mindful of potential impacts to the River and surrounding environment. Recommend updating Objective as follows:</p> <p>DP OBJ 1 "To develop a new civic space to function as a link, both visually and physically, between the existing town at Emmett Street, and the Town Centre Expansion Area in an environmentally sustainable manner. This would necessitate the demolition and removal of existing buildings from Emmet Street and redevelopment of possible medieval burgrave plots".</p>	Yes.
DP OBJ 4 To complete the environmental improvements to the 'Historic Core' of Trim Town including the selective removal of on street parking, widening of footpaths, provision of raised pedestrian crossings and the possible resurfacing of streets and paths in cobble, stone, paving or other suitable material in the following areas: Market Street, and Watergate Street, including the intersection of Emmett Street / Market Street / Watergate St.	<p>Overall this is a positive objective, providing for restoration and protection of CH and discouraging traffic from the town centre by removing parking. This can have a positive effect on the climate and air quality. Negative impacts are possible on S and W depending on the paving of the paths and streets. Recommend updating objective as follows:</p> <p>DP OBJ 4 "To complete the environmental improvements to the 'Historic Core' of Trim Town in an environmentally sustainable manner including the selective removal of on street parking, widening of footpaths, provision of raised pedestrian crossings and the possible resurfacing of streets and paths in cobble, stone, paving or other suitable material in the following areas: Market Street, and Watergate Street, including the intersection of Emmett Street / Market Street / Watergate St."</p>	Yes.
DP OBJ 5 To improve existing public spaces, underused public lands and street corners, and to create a network of small and medium sized public spaces, which include seating, landscaping, and artwork in appropriate locations preferably with a good southerly aspect, as follows: a) - River Boyne - to improve the quality	<p>Objective likely to have positive impacts on many of the SEOs through improved public amenities and open spaces. It will protect all designated SACs and SPAs thereby protecting B/FF to a degree. CH is also supported through improvement works surrounding important features.</p> <p>However potential negative impacts to B/FF are not to be ignored, namely arising through landscaping which can result in habitat destruction. However</p>	Yes.

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<p>of public space in the form of a linear park and in the Porchfield through the provision of seating areas, appropriate litter collection facilities and good quality walking paths to make the Porchfield and River Boyne the central recreational facility for Trim. To improve existing pathways west of Watergate bridge, having regard to the sensitive nature of the area as an SAC and SPA, and to create links with roadways in residential areas to provide a network of pedestrian and cycle routes.</p> <p>b) - Finnegan's Way – To designate a public open space adjacent to the southern side of the upstanding remains of the Medieval Town Wall to provide an appropriate setting, presentation and interpretation of this feature. The development of this public space is contingent on the replacement of the bus parking that serves Trim Castle at this location with a public and private transport hub and the provision of a dedicated bus parking bay/set down adjacent to the Castle.</p> <p>c) – to improve the environs of Trim Castle by encouraging the upgrading of the streetscape, facades, shopfronts and signage.</p>	<p>there is still potential for negative effects in respect of B/FF, W and S therefore recommend amending Objective as follows:</p> <p>DP OBJ 5 <i>“To improve existing public spaces, underused public lands and street corners, and to create a network of small and medium sized public spaces, which include seating, landscaping, and artwork in appropriate locations preferably with a good southerly aspect subject to Appropriate Assessment and Environmental Assessment, as required, as follows:</i></p> <p>.....</p>	
Community Facilities, Recreation and Open Space		
SOC POL 11 To encourage, support and facilitate the provision of services for the aged population. The Councils are committed to accommodating the needs of older people by the facilitation of nursing home developments in appropriate locations.	<p>Direct positive effects with respect to P are envisaged as it is proposed to facilitate necessary care services to serve the community. Potential for negative effects due to provision of new buildings. Recommend following amendment:</p> <p>SOC POL 11 <i>“To encourage, support and facilitate the provision of services for the aged population. The Councils are committed to accommodating the needs of older people by the facilitation of nursing home developments in appropriate locations subject to proper planning and sustainable development principles”.</i></p>	Yes.
SOC POL 25 To support the development and provisions of arts and cultural facilities in Trim.	<p>Overall a positive policy accommodating for culture and providing benefits for P. Some minor negative effects can be expected to S and C during the construction phase if new development is required therefore recommend following amendment:</p> <p>SOC POL 25 <i>“To support the development and provisions of centrally located arts and cultural facilities in Trim”.</i></p>	Yes.
Traffic & Transportation		
Key Aim 3 To improve facilities for bus usage in the town, and encourage the development of adequate park and ride facilities.	<p>This aim will encourage the use of public transport rather than personal vehicles and will therefore have positive effects on C. It is also beneficial to P and in terms of MA. However development of park and ride facilities has potential for negative effects if proposed on greenfield lands and due to construction works. Therefore recommend following amendment to Aim:</p> <p>Key aim 3 <i>“To improve facilities for bus usage in the town, and encourage the development of</i></p>	Yes.

Policies/ Objectives	Comment/ Mitigation	Addressed in the Draft Plan
	<i>adequate park and ride facilities at sustainable locations and subject to appropriate environmental assessment, where relevant</i> ”.	
TRAN POL 7 To develop a network of longer term car parking areas generally located outside the historic town centre which do not detract from the visual appearance of the town centre as specified in the Trim Local Transport Plan.	Reducing traffic into the town centre will facilitate pedestrian activity in the town, and also improve the quality of the air, positively affecting C, MA and P. However a negative impact on S and W can be anticipated in terms of the changes to land use and covering over of grasslands for parking facilities and associated environmental impacts. Recommend following amendment to this Policy: TRAN POL 7 “To develop a network of environmentally sustainable longer term car parking areas generally located outside the historic town centre which do not detract from the visual appearance of the town centre as specified in the Trim Local Transport Plan”	Yes.
TRAN POL 10 To implement a programme of road construction / improvement works and local measures to improve road safety closely integrated with existing and planned land uses.	The improvement of road infrastructures will have positive impacts on P, and MA, but there could be negative impacts on S, L, B/FF and C when land use and increased traffic are taken into account. Recommend following amendments: TRAN POL 10 “To implement a programme of road construction / improvement works in an environmentally sustainable manner and local measures to improve road safety closely integrated with existing and planned land uses”.	Yes.
TRAN POL 19 To review the continuing need for the distributor road network, and to reserve the corridors of and construct and complete such parts of the local distributor road network that are required	Positive impacts on P and C due to improvements in the road network, however potential for negative impacts in respect of B/FF, S, L, CH dependant on location and manner of construction. TRAN POL 19 “To review the continuing need for the distributor road network, and to reserve the corridors of and construct and complete such parts of the local distributor road network that are required in an environmentally sustainable manner ”.	Yes.
TRAN OBJ 4 To facilitate the provision of a bus park & ride facility to serve the town and Scurroughstown area in co-operation with the National Transport Authority and Bus Éireann.	Reducing traffic into the town centre will facilitate pedestrian activity in the town, and also improve the quality of the air, positively affecting C, MA and P. However a negative impact on S and P can be anticipated in terms of the changes to land use and covering over of grasslands for parking facilities, and the inconvenience of not being able to access the town centre. Recommend updating Objective as follows: TRAN OBJ 4 “To facilitate the provision of a bus park & ride facility at a sustainable location and subject to appropriate environmental assessment, where relevant in order to serve the town and Scurroughstown area in co-operation with the National Transport Authority and Bus Éireann”.	Yes.
TRAN OBJ 7 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 cooperation and the securing of the necessary funding.	Note – same as GI OBJ 5 above. Overall a positive policy likely to have benefits for C, P and MA. The River Boyne SAC and SPA runs through the Historical Core area of the town of Trim and therefore due consideration should be given to this important designated area. Recommend inclusion of requirement to carry out a routing study and any necessary environmental	Yes.

Policies/ Objectives	Comment/ Mitigation	Addressed in the Draft Plan
	<p>assessment in respect of this scheme also, text amendment recommended as follows:</p> <p>TRAN OBJ 7 “To provide for the development of the Trim-Navan-Slane-Drogheda cycle/greenway along the River Boyne subject to carrying out a routing study and any necessary environmental assessments, obtaining necessary statutory planning consent, the carrying out of Appropriate Assessment, landowner co-operation and the securing of necessary funding”.</p>	
<p>TRAN OBJ 8 To co-operate with the NRA, NTA and other Local Authorities in clarifying and finalising the route of the Leinster Outer Orbital Route (linking Drogheda, Navan, Trim and Naas) proposed in the “Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area” and the NTA’s draft Transport Strategy. This is particularly important in the vicinity of the proposed major junctions along the route in order to protect the identified corridor from development intrusion.</p>	<p>Potential for negative impacts, however this subject to a separate process as it is part of the NTA’s draft Transport Strategy. Recommend inclusion of following text:</p> <p>This proposed route will also need to undergo a detailed routing study, SEA and EIA as part of this assessment.</p>	Yes.
<p>TRAN OBJ 9 To support and facilitate the improvement of walking and cycling networks in Trim Town Centre and Environs as specified in the Trim Local Transport Plan.</p>	<p>The upgrade of pedestrian facilities, is likely to have positive effects in terms of P, C and M as will improve pedestrian environment and increase walking and cycling within the town. There is potential for some short term negative impacts on L, B/FF and S due to construction works associated with improvement works. However these would be temporary in nature and can be mitigated through implementation of normal construction management practices.</p> <p>Recommend inclusion of requirement to carry out a routing study and any necessary environmental assessment including Appropriate Assessment, text amendment recommended as follows:</p> <p>TRAN OBJ 9 “To support and facilitate the improvement of walking and cycling networks in Trim Town Centre and Environs as specified in the Trim Local Transport Plan subject to carrying out a routing study and any necessary environmental assessments, obtaining necessary statutory planning consent, the carrying out of Appropriate Assessment, landowner co-operation and the securing of necessary funding”.</p>	Yes.
<p>TRAN OBJ 10 To develop a network of new and existing roads, to allow the free flow of all general town traffic through Trim to alleviate unnecessary traffic congestion within Trim’s historic core as specified in the Trim Local Transport Plan.</p>	<p>Reducing traffic into the town centre will facilitate pedestrian activity in the town, and also improve the quality of the air, positively affecting C, MA and P. However a negative impact on S and P can be anticipated in terms of the changes to land use and covering over of grasslands for roads or parking facilities, and the inconvenience of not being able to access the town centre.</p> <p>Recommend inclusion of requirement to carry out all necessary environmental assessment including Appropriate Assessment, text amendment recommended as follows:</p> <p>TRAN OBJ 10 “To develop a network of new and existing roads, subject to all necessary environmental assessments, including</p>	Yes.

Policies/ Objectives	Comment/ Mitigation	Addressed in the Draft Plan
	Appropriate Assessment , to allow the free flow of all general town traffic through Trim to alleviate unnecessary traffic congestion within Trim's historic core as specified in the Trim Local Transport Plan".	
TRAN OBJ 12: Pending a review into the need for the distributor road network, the commencement of which would begin within one year of the adoption of the Plan, to preserve (and where indicated to construct) and secure from further development a corridor for the provision of distributor link roads which include the following routes: RT 1 Construction of the local distributor road link between the Dublin Road at Effernock and the Navan Road at the Motor Park, including a new bridge over the Boyne River. RT3 A local distributor road link connecting the Athboy Road to the local distributor road west of the Town Centre Expansion area, including a new bridge over the Boyne (long term objective). RT 4 Construction of the local distributor road link west of the Town Centre Expansion area connecting to the Kinnegad Road. This shall be provided in tandem with the development immediately to the east. No development shall be provided on the lands immediately to the east until such time as that this section of the distributor road is completed. This road should be funded by the development in the town centre expansion area. RT 5 Construction of the local distributor road link between the Kinnegad Road and the Longwood Road. This shall be provided as part of Framework Plan no. 1. RT 6 Construction of local distributor road link between the Longwood Road and the Summerhill Road. This shall be provided in tandem with the industrial lands immediately to the north. RT 7 Reservation of corridor for the local distributor road link between the Summerhill Road and the Dublin Road. (long term objective).	Potential for negative impacts with respect SEO's. Recommend the following amendments to this objective: TRAN OBJ 12 "Pending a review into the need for the distributor road network, the commencement of which would begin within one year of the adoption of the Plan, to preserve (and where indicated to construct subject to routing environmental assessment and appropriate assessment) and secure from further development a corridor for the provision of distributor link roads which include the following routes: RT1 Construction of the local distributor road link between the Dublin Road at Effernock and the Navan Road at the Motor Park, including a new bridge over the Boyne River subject to Appropriate Assessment and consultation and requirements of National Parks and Wildlife Services and Inland Fisheries Ireland. RT3 A local distributor road link connecting the Athboy Road to the local distributor road west of the Town Centre Expansion area, including a new bridge over the Boyne (long term objective) subject to Appropriate Assessment and consultation and requirements of National Parks and Wildlife Services and Inland Fisheries Ireland. [Recommend relocation of Route RT4 objective as this proposed distributor road will be located partly within the River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA and has potential to have significant effects on this Natura 2000 due to potential disturbance to protected bird species. There is potential for alternative access routes further south.] RT 4 Construction of the local distributor road link west of the Town Centre Expansion area connecting to the Kinnegad Road. This shall be provided in tandem with the development immediately to the east. No development shall be provided on the lands immediately to the east until such time as that this section of the distributor road is completed. This road should be funded by the development in the town centre expansion area. RT 5 Construction of the local distributor road link between the Kinnegad Road and the Longwood Road. This shall be provided as part of Framework Plan no. 1. RT 6 Construction of local distributor road link between the Longwood Road and the Summerhill Road. This shall be provided in tandem with the industrial lands immediately to the north.	Yes. Yes. Yes. RT4 (east-west) was relocated south and is considered acceptable.

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	<i>RT 7 Reservation of corridor for the local distributor road link between the Summerhill Road and the Dublin Road. (long term objective)".</i>	
TRAN OBJ 18: To carry out road/street improvement works along High St., Navangate St., Loman St., Watergate St., Whitehall, Mill St., Summerhill and Kinnegad Roads.	TRAN OBJ 18 <i>"To carry out road/street improvement works along High St., Navangate St., Loman St., Watergate St., Whitehall, Mill St., Summerhill and Kinnegad Roads in an environmentally sustainable manner".</i>	Yes.
Energy and Telecommunications		Yes.
Key Aim 3 To encourage and promote renewable energy by supporting the development of sustainable energy facilities where appropriate.	Overall a positive aim, which will bring benefits to C, MA and P. Negative impacts are only likely in the construction phase in the short term, and more long term on L depending on the type of installation. Recommend following amendment: <i>Key aim 3 "To encourage and promote renewable energy by supporting the development of sustainable energy facilities where appropriate in line with proper planning and sustainable development".</i>	Yes.
TE POL 15 To facilitate energy infrastructure provision, including the development of renewable energy sources at suitable locations, so as to provide for the further physical and economic development of Trim.	Overall a positive aim, which will bring benefits to C, MA and P. Negative impacts are only likely in the construction phase in the short term, and more long term on L depending on the type of installation. Recommend following amendment: <i>TE POL 15 "To facilitate energy infrastructure provision, including the development of renewable energy sources at suitable locations, so as to provide for the further physical and economic development of Trim in line with proper planning and sustainable development".</i>	Yes.
Trim Local Transport Plan – Appendix D		
Bus Services		
Improvements to the local bus infrastructure to serve Trim include the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To build upon the work carried out to improve bus facilities across the county, including Trim and to identify further requirements for the upgrade of existing bus stops which lack basic facilities such as timetable information, shelters and hard standings. Provision of a new bus park & ride facility to serve the town and wider area at Scurloghstown junction. Provision of a new Trim bound bus bay at Knightsbrook and upgrade of Dublin bound bus bays. Provision of additional stops on the R161 Trim Navan Road Consideration should also be given to how the 188 and the 111 services could be better synchronised to facilitate the 	An Improvement to the bus service is likely to increase the use of public transport in the town, and also improve the quality of the air, positively affecting C, MA and P. However slight potential negative impact on B/FF, S and P can be anticipated in terms of the changes to land use and covering over of grasslands for parking facilities. No specific location for the Scurloghstown Park and Ride facility is provided. Therefore recommend updating Point 2 of this Objective as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of a new bus park & ride facility to serve the town and wider area at Scurloghstown junction at a sustainable location and subject to appropriate environmental assessment, including Appropriate Assessment, where relevant in co-operation with the National Transport Authority and Bus Éireann. 	Yes.

Policies/ Objectives	Comment/ Mitigation	Addressed in the Draft Plan
interchange of passengers from within the town between routes e.g. Can services be amended to make it easier for those in Knightsbrook wanting to travel to Navan but not on the route, to catch the 111 into town to change buses for an onward journey using the 188 service.		
Town Centre Public Transport		
<p>It is an objective to support the development of a co-ordinated public transport service for Trim. It proposed that this would be implemented through the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a public and private transport hub, within the 'Town Centre Expansion Area'(Mark J on Map No. 5 in Appendix A), in close proximity to both the 'Historic Core', and to any new shopping centre and major long stay parking area, which incorporates local public bus interchange for 20 buses including tourist buses, commuter park and ride and cycle storage facilities, in tandem with development of Town Centre Expansion Area. 	<p>The development of a co-ordinated public transport service is likely to have positive effects on the town as it is likely to result in increased use of public transport, walking and cycling within the town centre. However the development of this transport hub has potential to have negative impacts on L due to the location of this facility so close to the historic town core. It also has potential to have negative impacts on B/FF, S and W as a result of development on this greenfield site. Recommend following amendments:</p> <p>It is an objective to support the development of a sustainable co-ordinated public transport service for Trim. It proposed that this would be implemented through the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a public and private transport hub, within the 'Town Centre Expansion Area'(Mark J on Map No. 5 in Appendix A), in close proximity to both the 'Historic Core', and to any new shopping centre and major long stay parking area, which incorporates local public bus interchange for 20 buses including tourist buses, commuter park and ride and cycle storage facilities, in tandem with development of Town Centre Expansion Area. This development will be subject to appropriate assessment, environmental assessment as appropriate and will include a detailed landscape plan to ensure this development is adequately screened. 	Yes.
Road Safety		
<p><u>Traffic Management Measures</u></p> <p>The following improvements are proposed as objectives of this plan</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To reconfigure the junctions where recurring accidents have occurred to make them more pedestrian friendly and to reduce the width of the carriageway to be crossed by pedestrians. To investigate realignment and road widening schemes to incorporate cycling and pedestrian facilities to current standards at the Boyne school and the Dublin Road. To investigate feasibility of a school bus facility for set down and collection of pupils on the ring road in the vicinity of local schools, including provision of a centralised school bus collection area off the 	<p>The development of traffic management measures is largely likely to have positive effects due to improvements to road safety. There is potential for some short term negative impacts on L, B/FF and S due to construction works associated with improvement works. However these would be temporary in nature and can be mitigated through implementation of normal construction management practices.</p> <p>In relation to point no. 6 recommend inclusion of following text:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade of pedestrian facilities at Newtown bridge subject to Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Assessment and consultation with NPWS and IFI. 	Yes.

Policies/ Objectives	Comment/ Mitigation	Addressed in the Draft Plan
<p>ring road.</p> <p>4. To investigate the feasibility of a short-term HGV ban for Patrick Street until the RT5 link is constructed.</p> <p>5. To provide and upgrade pedestrian crossings at locations where recurring accidents have occurred involving pedestrians and at locations where there is significant risk to pedestrian safety.</p> <p>6. Upgrade of pedestrian facilities at Newtown Bridge</p>		
<p>Walking & Cycling</p> <p>In relation to walking facilities, existing walking routes between the outer residential areas of the town and the town centre core business area and schools should be improved and formalised, as much as feasible. And the following walking and cycling objectives are to be included (refer to Map No. 2 in Appendix A):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade of existing pedestrian routes within the town to current standards and to accommodate cyclists and improve permeability. • Provide a pedestrian & cyclist access between Pinebrook on the Kildalkey road and Pine brook and Swiftcourt on the Athboy road • To upgrade the existing Linear park walk to current standards for pedestrian & cyclists and provide links with Avondale & Eldergrove • Provide a pedestrian bridge at Newtown bridge • Provide a footpath on the Newtown road • To upgrade the existing footpath to current standards on the Porchfield to facilitate cyclists. • Join the existing cycle network on the ring road to the Navan road. • Upgrade the existing one way cycle ways on the ring road to two way. • Provide a safe cycle network to current standards on the Dublin road from Knightsbrook to the Ring road to include the widening of a section of road at the Boyne school and connecting to the new upgraded network on the ring through the Maudlins cul de sac and Norman Pratt Park. • Upgrade the existing pedestrian crossing on the ring road to accommodate periodical heavy pedestrian use at school times • Provide a central School bus parking area 	<p>The upgrade of pedestrian facilities, reduction in HGV's and traffic calming measures are likely to all have positive effects in terms of P, C and M as these measures will improve pedestrian environment and increase walking and cycling within the town. There is potential for some short term negative impacts on L, B/FF and S due to construction works associated with improvement works. However these would be temporary in nature and can be mitigated through implementation of normal construction management practices.</p> <p>Potential for significant environmental effects as a result of construction of a new pedestrian bridge over the Boyne. Recommend the following amendment to this Objective and associated mapping:</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a pedestrian bridge at Newtown bridge subject to Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Assessment and consultation with NPWS and IFI. <p>.....</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

Policies/ Objectives	Comment/ Mitigation	Addressed in the Draft Plan
Town Centre Pedestrian & Walking		
<p>It is an objective of this plan to install a network of new formal pedestrian walkways, with appropriate materials, lighting and pedestrian crossings. The design and treatment of all pathways including any that traverse the line of the Medieval Town Wall shall be discussed in detail and agreed with the National Monuments Service of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, as pathways may impact on sub-surface archaeological remains. It may be necessary to omit pathways or redesign pathways at certain locations in the interests of the protection of the archaeological heritage. Implementation will be through the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian priority access way running to west of the Medieval Town Wall and Ditch, to the rear of Emmett Street. • Pedestrian pathway in the form of a new civic area, created by the demolition of up to three buildings which will provide a direct pedestrian connection between Market Street and the historic core of Trim and the Town Centre Expansion Area, in tandem with development of Town Centre Expansion Area • Investigate the possibility of providing pedestrian linkages along the River Boyne between Oldbridge to Watergate Bridge along the southern bank, with possible linkages through to Market Street, and from Oldbridge along the northern bank of the river, to the Boyne Walkway. • Investigate the possibility of providing pedestrian links giving access from High Street / Navan Gate Street to the Porchfield and Yellow Steeple, linking to Abbey Lane and to the path following the River Boyne. • Pedestrian link through Town Centre Expansion Area to GAA club. The pedestrian route is indicative only; if the opportunity arises elsewhere to develop a pedestrian link this will be investigated and assessed on its merits. There are other opportunities to develop pedestrian linkages other than those shown on Map 5 or referred to above. The Planning Authority will encourage the provision of additional linkages subject to these linkages not adversely impacting upon archaeological remains and the upstanding remains of the Town Wall in particular. 	<p>The upgrade of pedestrian linkages within the town centre is likely to have positive effects in terms of P, C and M as these measures will improve pedestrian environment and increase walking within the town. There is potential for negative impacts on L, B/FF and S, W and CH due to construction works associated with improvement works.</p> <p>Potential for significant environmental effects as a result of works. Recommend the following amendment to these actions:</p> <p>.....</p> <p>It may be necessary to omit pathways or redesign pathways at certain locations in the interests of the protection of the archaeological and natural heritage. Implementation will be through the following actions:</p> <p>.....</p> <p>[New Bullet point should be included as follows:]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All new walk and cycleways will be subject to Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Assessment as necessary, and consultation with NPWS and IFI. 	Yes.

Policies/ Objectives	Comment/ Mitigation	Addressed in the Draft Plan
The above works were to be carried out as part of Phase 1 of Town Centre Expansion Area, and to be achieved through redevelopment. All the above schemes should be included as objectives in this Plan.		
Town Centre Car Parking		
<p>The following medium to long term objectives were included in the Town Centre LAP (see Map No. 5 in Appendix A) and these should be retained in this Plan.</p> <p>To develop a network of longer term car parking areas generally located outside the historic town centre which do not detract from the visual appearance of the town centre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify a location for a car park to cater for recreational uses (Location G see Map 5) Identify an adequate central school bus parking area on the ring road at the location of the existing pedestrian crossing at the junction of Patrick Street and The Maudlins (Location H see Map 5) A multi-storey car park built in conjunction with any major shopping centre development (Location I see Map 5). Surface park and ride facilities in close proximity to any major bus stop. 	<p>The development of a car parking areas is a necessary requirement to meet the needs of the town. However new car park particularly next to Porchfield has potential to have negative impacts on L. All car parks have potential to have negative impacts on B/FF, S and W as a result of development on greenfield sites.</p> <p>There are 9 existing bus stops, and 4 proposed bus stops. Should a park and ride facility be required recommend inclusion of specific objective and location for same to ensure proper planning and sustainable development. Park and ride facility already proposed at J Map 5.</p> <p>To develop a network of longer term car parking areas generally located outside the historic town centre which do not detract from the visual appearance of the town centre and high amenity areas of the town, particularly the setting of the Castle and Porchfield:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify a location for a car park to cater for recreational uses (Location G see Map 5) subject to a detailed landscape and visual impact assessment to ensure that it will not impact on the Porchfield High Amenity area of the town. Identify an adequate central school bus parking area on the ring road at the location of the existing pedestrian crossing at the junction of Patrick Street and The Maudlins (Location H see Map 5) A multi-storey car park built in conjunction with any major shopping centre development (Location I see Map 5). Surface park and ride facilities in close proximity to any major bus stop. 	Yes.
Town Centre Roads		
<p><i>Policy</i> To manage the provision of road infrastructure and control traffic movement in order to facilitate local development whilst protecting the amenity, historic character and tourism value of Trim Town.</p> <p><i>Rationale</i> The proposed expansion of the centre of Trim through both in-fill development and new commercial development, the current restrictions on traffic movements across the River Boyne, (as a result of a narrow medieval street pattern) the projected population growth and the</p>	<p>Road improvements likely to have positive effects in terms of P and MA to ensure the working order of the town.</p> <p>The TLTP advises that need for the extensive distributor road network should be reviewed and should be reserved pending this review. Therefore in the absence of an up to date detailed review of the need and location of this route there are potential for negative effects in respect of B/FF, S, W, C and L.</p> <p>Recommend inclusion of following amendment to this Policy:</p> <p>.....</p>	Yes.

Policies/ Objectives	Comment/ Mitigation	Addressed in the Draft Plan
<p><i>growing importance of Trim as a tourist location are destined to have a continuing impact on volumes of vehicular traffic and patterns of circulation within Trim.</i></p> <p><i>Objectives/Actions (see Map No. 3 and Map No.5 in Appendix A)</i></p> <p><i>General Traffic Network</i></p> <p><i>Develop a network of new and existing roads, to allow the free flow of all general town traffic through Trim to alleviate unnecessary traffic congestion within Trim's historic core this is to be achieved through the following actions:</i></p> <p>A. <i>Complete the partially constructed link road from Castle Street to the southern part of 'Town Centre Expansion Area'. The junction of the new link road with Emmett Street shall be signalised and other signals on Emmett Street adjusted.</i></p> <p>B. <i>Improve the Junction of Jonathan Swift Road and Watergate Street in tandem with development of Town Centre Expansion Area as per current design standards including the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets</i></p> <p>C. <i>Construct a network of new roads within the 'Town Centre Expansion Area in tandem with development of Town Centre Expansion Area</i></p> <p>D. <i>Construct new road from Wellington Place to the 'Town Centre Expansion Area in tandem with development of Town Centre Expansion Area as per current design standards including the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets</i></p> <p>E. <i>Construct the south western section of the Trim Outer Distributor By-pass Route linking the Longwood Road to the Kinnegad Road. This may be preceded with the construction of a section of Road, to Distributor Road standard, from the Longwood Road Roundabout to serve adjoining residentially zoned lands. This road, which would be development driven, could be extended as far as the Kinnegad Road.</i></p> <p>F. <i>Construct the section of the Trim Outer Distributor By-pass Route</i></p>	<p>F. Construct the section of the Trim Outer Distributor By-pass Route from the Kinnegad Road heading north and east running parallel with the River Boyne to the Town Centre Expansion Area. This section of road would open up the remainder of the lands identified for town centre expansion.</p> <p>G. Carry out a review of the need and location of the Trim distributor road network including a detailed routing study including environmental assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening in advance of development of any section of this route.</p> <p>.....</p>	

Policies/ Objectives	Comment/ Mitigation	Addressed in the Draft Plan
<p><i>from the Kinnegad Road heading north and east running parallel with the River Boyne to the Town Centre Expansion Area . This section of road would open up the remainder of the lands identified for town centre expansion.</i></p> <p><i>Note: The proposed road layout, in the town centre area to the west of Emmet Street, is shown diagrammatic only on Map No. 5. Alterations to the indicative alignments may result due to engineering and the proper planning and development principles. The Local Authorities may exercise the use of compulsory acquisition powers to facilitate site assembly or to secure the realisation of road objectives in this Local Area Plan. All new roads to be constructed in conjunction with and driven by any major development of lands within the 'Town Centre Expansion Area'</i></p>		
New Road Schemes		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In relation to the Proposed Distributor Road Network including the Southern Bypass shown as conceptual schematics on the Zoning and Objectives Map No. 1 in the Trim Development Plan 2008 – 2014, the following objectives are proposed for this Transport Plan (and shown in Map No.3 Appendix A): RT1 - should be retained (final line can be considered as part of the overall review into the continuing need for the distributor road network); RT2 - should be removed on the understanding that the adjoining residentially zoned land will be removed as part of the exercise to incorporate the Core Strategy into the draft Trim Development Plan 2014 – 2020; RT3 – reserve corridor pending review of the need for the distributor road network; RT4 – reserve corridor and retain objective to construct the section of the local distributor road west of town centre expansion area south of the River Boyne, linking the town centre to the Kinnegad Road(in tandem with development) should be retained; RT5 - reserve corridor and retain objective to construct the local distributor link between the Kinnegad Road and the Longwood Road should be retained. This will assist with management of HGVs on the 	<p>The TLTP advises that need for the extensive distributor road network should be reviewed and should be reserved pending this review. Therefore in the absence of an up to date detailed review of the need and location of this route there are potential for negative effects in respect of B/FF, S, W, C and L.</p> <p>Recommend inclusion of following text within this Policy:</p> <p>It is proposed to carry out a review of the need and location of the Trim distributor road network including a detailed routing study including environmental assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening in advance of development of any section of this route.</p>	Yes.

Policies/ Objectives	Comment/ Mitigation	Addressed in the Draft Plan
<p>Kinnegad Road;</p> <p>RT6 – reserve corridor and retain the objective to construct the local distributor road between the Longwood Road and the Summerhill Road;</p> <p>RT7 - reserve corridor pending review of the need for the distributor road network, and;</p> <p>RT8 - should be removed on the basis that it essentially duplicates the link between the Navan Road and Dublin Road provided by RT1.</p>		
<p>INF POL 2 To implement a programme of road construction / improvement works and local measures to improve road safety closely integrated with existing and planned land uses.</p>	<p>The improvement of road infrastructures will have positive impacts on P, and MA, but there could be negative impacts on S, L, B/FF and C when land use and increased traffic are taken into account. Recommend following amendments:</p> <p>To implement a programme of road construction / improvement works in an environmentally sustainable manner and local measures to improve road safety closely integrated with existing and planned land uses.</p>	Yes.
<p>INF POL 12 To review the continuing need for the distributor road network, and to reserve the corridors of and construct and complete such parts of the local distributor road network that are required.</p>	<p>Positive impacts on P and C due to improvements in the road network, however potential for negative impacts in respect of B/FF, S, L, CH dependant on location and manner of construction.</p> <p>To review the continuing need for the distributor road network, and to reserve the corridors of and construct and complete such parts of the local distributor road network that are required in an environmentally sustainable manner.</p>	Yes.
<p>INF OBJ 1: Pending a review into the need for the distributor road network, the commencement of which would begin within one year of the adoption of the Plan, to preserve (and where indicated to construct) and secure from further development a corridor for the provision of distributor link roads which include the following routes:</p> <p>RT 1 Construction of the local distributor road link between the Dublin Road at Effernock and the Navan Road at the Motor Park, including a new bridge over the Boyne River.</p> <p>RT 3 A local distributor road link connecting the Athboy Road to the local distributor road west of the Town Centre Expansion area, including a new bridge over the Boyne (long term objective)</p> <p>RT 4 Construction of the local distributor road link west of the Town Centre Expansion area connecting to the Kinnegad Road. This shall be provided in tandem with the development immediately to the east. No development shall be provided on the lands immediately to the east until such time as that this section of the distributor road</p>	<p>Many of the distributor roads proposed on the draft Plan Zoning and Objectives on mapping are located outside the development Plan boundary and therefore question their relevance in respect of objectives of this Development Plan.</p> <p>Potential for negative impacts with respect SEO's. Recommend the following amendments to this objective:</p> <p>INF OBJ 1: "Pending a review into the need for the distributor road network, the commencement of which would begin within one year of the adoption of the Plan, to preserve (and where indicated to construct subject to routing environmental assessment and appropriate assessment) and secure from further development a corridor for the provision of distributor link roads which include the following routes:</p> <p>RT1 Construction of the local distributor road link between the Dublin Road at Effernock and the Navan Road at the Motor Park, including a new bridge over the Boyne River subject to Appropriate Assessment and consultation and requirements of National Parks and Wildlife Services and Inland Fisheries Ireland.</p> <p>RT3 A local distributor road link connecting the Athboy Road to the local distributor road west of the Town Centre Expansion area, including a new</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Yes.</p>

Policies/ Objectives	Comment/ Mitigation	Addressed in the Draft Plan
<p>is completed. This road should be funded by the development in the town centre expansion area.</p> <p>RT 5 Construction of the local distributor road link between the Kinnegad Road and the Longwood Road. This shall be provided as part of Framework Plan no. 4.</p> <p>RT 6 Construction of local distributor road link between the Longwood Road and the Summerhill Road. This shall be provided in tandem with the industrial lands immediately to the north.</p> <p>RT 7 Reservation of corridor for the local distributor road link between the Summerhill Road and the Dublin Road. (long term objective)</p>	<p><i>bridge over the Boyne (long term objective) subject to Appropriate Assessment and consultation and requirements of National Parks and Wildlife Services and Inland Fisheries Ireland.</i></p> <p><i>[Recommend relocation of Route RT4 mapped objective as this proposed distributor road will be located partly within the River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA and has potential to have significant effects on this Natura 2000 due to potential disturbance to protected bird species. There is potential for alternative access routes further south.]</i></p> <p><i>RT 4 Construction of the local distributor road link west of the Town Centre Expansion area connecting to the Kinnegad Road. This shall be provided in tandem with the development immediately to the east. No development shall be provided on the lands immediately to the east until such time as that this section of the distributor road is completed. This road should be funded by the development in the town centre expansion area.</i></p> <p><i>RT 5 Construction of the local distributor road link between the Kinnegad Road and the Longwood Road. This shall be provided as part of Framework Plan no. 4.</i></p> <p><i>RT 6 Construction of local distributor road link between the Longwood Road and the Summerhill Road. This shall be provided in tandem with the industrial lands immediately to the north.</i></p> <p><i>RT 7 Reservation of corridor for the local distributor road link between the Summerhill Road and the Dublin Road. (long term objective)".</i></p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Relocation of route southwards is considered satisfactory.</p>
<p>INF OBJ 8 To carry out road/street improvement works along High St., Navangate St., Loman St., Watergate St., Whitehall, Mill St., Summerhill and Kinnegad Roads.</p>	<p>The improvement of road infrastructures will have positive impacts on P, and MA, but there could be negative impacts on S, L, B/FF and C when land use and increased traffic are taken into account. Recommend following amendments:</p> <p>INF OBJ 8 "To carry out road/street improvement works along High St., Navangate St., Loman St., Watergate St., Whitehall, Mill St., Summerhill and Kinnegad Roads in an environmentally sustainable manner".</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Other issues</p>	<p>Recommend inclusion of a policy to ensure that all protective policies of the Trim Development Plan are also applied in respect of the Trim Local Transport Plan, as follows:</p> <p>It is a policy of this plan that all protective policies and objectives of the Trim Development Plan 2014 – 2020 equally apply to the Trim Local Transport Plan.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Other issues</p>	<p>Recommend inclusion of New Policy in the Transport Plan as follows:</p> <p>In the event of linear paths, cycleways, seating, lighting, loss of riparian zones, etc being proposed along river corridors an Ecological</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

Policies/ Objectives	Comment/ Mitigation	Addressed in the Draft Plan
	Impact Assessment (and where necessary an Appropriate Assessment) including bat and other surveys shall be conducted by specialists. The recommendations of the specialist studies shall be implemented. No lighting will be installed without prior consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and shall be in line with advances in knowledge into the impact of lighting on bats and other species and also to reflect advances in technology in the lighting industry.	
Other issues	Recommend inclusion of a policy in the plan to protect Natura 2000 sites and make provision for requirement to undertake Appropriate Assessment in respect of local transport objectives, policies, actions and aims as follows: All development proposed as a result of the Trim Local Transport Plan will be subject to Appropriate Assessment.	Yes.
Other comments		
Natura 2000 Sites on Mapping	Recommend inclusion of mapping of Natura 2000 sites should be provided within the development plan.	Yes provided on Development Plan Conservation Map No. 3.
Section 9.6.5 of the Draft Plan refers to Hydro Energy as follows: The Council encourages the use of hydro energy, where suitable, subject to appropriate assessment and environmental assessment as required and consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Section of the Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht and the Inland Fisheries Ireland.	Recommend that any reference to hydro energy be removed as it has significant potential to impact on the conservation objectives of the River Boyne SAC. For example, hydro energy will impact on the water regime of the river itself, which will result in indirect impacts to salmon and other water dependent habitats. By altering the water regime will effect water levels, flow rates, etc., which are particularly important for salmon, especially during spawning. Further, the construction of hydro energy infrastructure has significant potential to result in the pollution of the River Boyne itself. In addition, the additional noise associated with the running of hydro energy stations will result in increased disturbance impacts to the otter and the kingfisher (qualifying interest of the River Boyne SPA). Any proposals to install any form of a hydro energy project on the River Boyne, or any of its tributaries will require an Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Assessment and detailed consultation and approvals from both the NPWS and IFI.	This recommendation has not been incorporated into the Draft Plan but alteration to the wording was incorporated.

2.5 INFLUENCE OF AA ON THE DRAFT PLAN

The purpose of AA is to ensure that the Trim Development Plan does not contain any policies or objectives that could lead to negative impacts on the integrity of an EU designated site. The AA process was undertaken in parallel with the Plan making process and the SEA. The results of the AA Screening were published in consultation with the SEA Environmental Report and the Draft Plan.

An assessment of the Draft Plan was carried out in parallel with the SEA process. The AA process ensured that environmental considerations, specifically focused on Natura 2000 sites, were integrated into the Draft Plan as it was developed. Under the EU Habitats Directive, any plan or project not directly

connected with or necessary to the management of Natura 2000 sites, namely, Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Areas (SPA), but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subjected to an AA of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives.

The AA process identified that both the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and the River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA have the potential to be both directly and indirectly adversely affected by the implementation of the draft Trim Development Plan 2014-2020. On the basis of the findings of the Screening for Appropriate Assessment of Natura 2000 sites a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment and a Natura Impact Report (NIR) were undertaken.

The Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment concluded that Meath County Council and Trim Town Council's robust commitment to the protection of Natura 2000 sites as well as to protected species, as outlined in the Trim Development Plan 2014-2020, will be sufficient to prevent adverse impacts on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites both within and in the proximity of Trim. The full NIR report can be found in Appendix A of the SEA Environmental Report.

In addition, the amendments to the Draft Plan were screened for Appropriate Assessment and no mitigation measures were proposed.

3 CONSULTATION PROCESS

3.1 SCOPING

The first stage of consultation on the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Trim Development Plan 2014-2020 took place in June 2013 and related to the statutory SEA scoping stage of consultation. A Scoping Report outlining the scope and level of detail proposed for the SEA Environmental Report was issued to the five statutory environmental authorities as prescribed under the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (as amended) including:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA);
- Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG);
- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM);
- Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR); and
- Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG).

The following responses were received from three of the environmental authorities and are outlined **Table 3.1**. This table provides a summary of issues raised and details where issues were addressed within the environmental report or within the Plan. The detailed scoping stage environmental authority submissions are included within **Appendix A** of this report.

Table 3.1: Summary of Environmental Authorities Scoping Responses

Date Received	Name of Stakeholder	Comments	Where addressed (in Environmental Report or Plan)
05.07.13	Cian O'Mahony, EPA	In Section 1.3.6 <i>SEA Guidance</i> , the Meath County Development Plan should be taken into account in the 'Local Level' section. Should also reference the Landscape Character Assessment and Green Infrastructure Strategy of the Meath County Development Plan.	Section 1.5 of the Environmental Report outlines that the MCDP was reviewed as part of the review of plans, policies and programmes relevant to the Plan area. Section 5.10.2 of the ER outlines that the MCDP LCA was referred to as part of this ER. Section 9.4.4 of the ER refers to Heritage, Tourism and Green Infrastructure and specifically refers to the MCDP Green Infrastructure Strategy.
		The EPA identify that the Trim Public Water Supply is currently listed on the most recent published EPA Remedial Action List of Drinking Water Supplies (Q1 2013) due to elevated levels of THMs above the standard in the Drinking Water Regulations. The EPA note that it should be ensured that the recommendations of the EPA Audit of this plant are implemented to resolved the issues identified.	According to MCC Water Services Department funding has been secured from the DoECLG to undertake works to optimise the chlorination system at Trim WTP in order to address the THM risk and hence exit RAL. These works are just getting underway on site and will be complete by December 2013.
		Potential for cumulative impacts should be taken into account, especially when	Provisions for zoning in areas at risk of flooding are made in

		considering zoning/ dezoning/ rezoning/ phasing in relation to flooding and environmental sensitivities.	Section 10.5.2 of the Plan. Section 10.4 of the Environmental Report covers dezoning of lands in flood risk zones. Given that this matter has been addressed it is not considered to be a cumulative impact.
		A tiered approach to the assessment of alternatives could be considered, whereby after the preferred site has been selected, a series of lower level spatial alternatives relating to zoning are also assessed.	The Plan addresses alternatives through residential zoning. The methodology addresses core strategy provisions in the first instance and then makes provision of a ranking system identifying preferred sites based on distance to the town centre, local services, designated sites etc. This approach is considered to be robust.
		Amendments to the SEA Regulations should be integrated into the Plan and SEA process, including the regulations signed into Irish law in 2011, along with the DoECLG Circular (PSSP 6/2011).	Detailed in Section 3.2. Guidance of the Environmental Report.
		Consideration should be given to the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011.	Referred to in Section 2.3 which refers to 'Appropriate Assessment' within the Environmental Report.
16.07.13	Patricia O'Leary, DHAG	Recommend inclusion of a section in the plan covering natural heritage, inclusion of list and map of designated sites in the area and policies and objectives should be included in the plan to afford their protection.	Included within chapter 4 of the Plan which refers to Heritage, Tourism and Green Infrastructure and associated Green Infrastructure Map No. 4.
		Should have regard to relevant circular letters, legislation and National Biodiversity Plan, as well as the Biodiversity and Ramsar Conventions, Wildlife Acts and EC Regulations.	Referred to in Sections 2.3, 3.2 and appendix C of the ER.
		Special attention should be paid to wetlands and flood plains, protecting ground and surface water and specifically the protection of Natura 2000 sites. Roads or cycleways/footpaths that are built alongside waterways must undergo strict assessment so avoid unbalancing the ecosystem of the waterway, especially where it constitutes a SAC or SPA such as the River Boyne and River Blackwater. Any planned routes must be a suitable distance away from the water's edge.	Please refer to TRAN OBJ 7 and GI OBJ 5 of the Plan which make provision to ensure that cycle/greenways shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment. Also, consistent with the CDP 2009-2015, WS POL 33: "To consult with the Office of Public Works in relation to proposed developments in the vicinity of drainage channels and rivers for which the OPW are responsible, and the Council will retain a strip of 10m on either side of such channel where required, to facilitate access thereto".
		It is important that special measures be taken to avoid the introduction of invasive species during development.	Target of SEO 1 Biodiversity/Flora and Fauna of ER in Chapter 7 which refers to Strategic Environmental Objectives of the ER. Also

			included in HER ONJ 9 and HER OBJ 10 of the Plan.
		Recommends that Hedgerows are to be afforded consideration and protection due to their housing for many different wildlife species, including badgers, bats and birds. Hedgerows are to be maintained to the largest extent possible.	HER OBJ 5 of the Plan provides for the specific protection of hedgerows
		Recommend that the Biodiversity/Flora and Fauna SEO cover habitats and species both within and outside of designated sites. These should also be compatible with the River Basin Management Plan.	Covered in Chapter 7 which refers to Strategic Environmental Objectives of the ER.
		The Appropriate Assessment should examine the effects of policies, objectives and indicative maps or zonings, as well as cumulative impacts with other plans and projects within and outside of the Plan area.	As per Natura Impact Report provided in Appendix 2 of the ER.
19.07.13	Frances Dunne, DCENR	Note that the surface water status of the Lower Boyne at Trim is rated as 'moderate' and therefore shall be required to be restored to at least good status by the end of 2015 in accordance with the Surface Water Regulations.	Noted in section 5.6.2 of the ER. Following policy also included within Plan: INF POL 10 "To protect existing and potential water resources in accordance with the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended)"
		Concerned about the proposed Dowdstown WTP as it will place an unjustified strain on the already limited water supply in the River Boyne	Meath County Council Water Services Department have advised that following an extensive statutory process including an oral hearing, An Bord Pleanála has granted MCC an abstraction order to abstract 44,000 cu.m/d from the river Boyne at Dowdstown. As part of this process the issue of the ability of the Boyne to sustain such an abstraction, including during low flow conditions was closely examined and was not identified as a problem. Furthermore, MCC have advised that the existing abstraction from the Boyne at Trim would cease and would be replaced by the proposed new abstraction at Dowdstown and therefore this new abstraction would replace the existing abstraction.
		IFI welcome improvements planned for that Trim wastewater infrastructure	Noted.

		<p>Request the following matters to be taken into account in the environmental report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality • Surface water hydrology • Fish spawning and nursery areas • Passage of migratory fish • Areas of natural heritage importance • Biological diversity • Ecosystem structure and functioning • Sport and commercial fishing and angling • Amenity and recreational area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of these matters have been taken into consideration in the preparation of the Plan and ER as per references below: • Water quality (Section 5.6 of ER, SEO 3 Chapter 7 ER and INF POL 10 of the Plan) • Surface water hydrology INF POL 10, INF POL 15 of the Plan and section 5.6.2 of ER) • Fish spawning and nursery areas (INF POL 6, INF POL 31 of the Plan) • Passage of migratory fish (INF POL 6, INF POL 31 of the Plan) • Areas of natural heritage importance (Section 5.4.6 ER and HER OBJ 5) • Biological diversity (Appendix C of ER) • Ecosystem structure and functioning (Section 5.4 of ER and Chapter 4 of the Plan) • Sport and commercial fishing and angling (Chapters 6 and 7 of the Plan) • Amenity and recreational area (Chapters 4, 6 and 7 of the Plan and section 5.10 of ER)
		<p>Referal to consider the IFI publication "Requirements for the Protection of Fisheries habitat during Construction and Development Works".</p>	<p>INF POL 7 states that "All works that have potential to impact on fisheries are required to adhere to IFI Fisheries Protection Guidelines entitled 'Requirements for the Protection of Fisheries habitat during Construction and Development Works'.</p>
		<p>Recommend attention sin respect of the River Boyne and also to its tributaries such as the Maudlin and the Lackanash.</p>	<p>INF POL 8 aims To protect the tributaries of the River Boyne around Trim such as the Maudlin and the Lackanash from urbanisation and malfunctioning sewer lines".</p>

These submissions informed the environmental issues which were included in the subsequent SEA Environmental Report as well as the level of detail to which they were addressed.

3.2 THE PLAN AND SEA ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT PUBLIC CONSULTATION PHASE

The second period of consultation took place between 9th September 2013 and 18th November 2013. At this stage, the Draft Trim Development Plan (2014 - 2020) was placed on public display along with the SEA Environmental Report and associated Appropriate Assessment Screening Report. The Council received 59 no. submissions during this stage of the consultation process. Consultation responses included submissions from the environmental authorities, as contained in **Appendix B**, as well as the public, other stakeholders and statutory consultees.

All relevant environmental submissions made to the Draft Plan were reviewed by the SEA/ AA Team. A Manager's Report on the submissions/observations received during the public display period was prepared setting out the proposed amendment to the Draft Plan. Each of the proposed amendments to the Draft Plan contained within the Managers Report and final Amendments Report were screened by the SEA/AA Team. Significant impacts as a result of implementing the proposed amendments were identified as part of this SEA/AA Screening process and documented within a screening report which was placed on display with the proposed amendments.

The Proposed Amendments to the Draft Development Plan were put on public display between the 27th January 2014 and 24th February 2014. Copies of the material alterations were also sent to the statutory bodies including government departments.

Most of the submissions received related to specific aspects of the Draft Plan itself but there were some that did relate to the SEA Process. In relation to the Amendments Stage of the Trim Development Plan the following approach was undertaken.

- Proposed amendments involving additional text are shown in **Red**.
- Proposed amendments involving deletion of text are shown in **~~Green Strikethrough~~**.
- New Proposed amendments as part of this SEA Screening Process are shown in **Blue**.

The following Screening of amendments to the draft Plan are summarised in **Table 3.2**.

Table 3.2: SEA and AA Screening of Amendments

Ref.	Proposed Amendment	SEA / AA Screening Comments	SEA Recommendation accepted?
Chapter 1 Introduction			
Section 1.14 page 3 (Amendment 1.1)	<p>Insert new text at as follows:</p> <p>Once adopted, the Plan will remain valid for six years, unless it is varied or reviewed. In accordance with Section 15(1) of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2013, there is a duty on the Council to take such steps within its powers as may be necessary for securing the objectives of this Plan. While the achievement of many objectives will depend on the availability of finance from the State and other sources, the Councils will seek to implement the Plan in a proactive manner and will engage with all relevant stakeholders in this regard. Not more than two years after the making of the Plan, the Managers will have to submit a report to the Elected Members on the progress achieved in securing the objectives of the Plan.</p> <p>In tandem with the two year progress report, Meath Local Authorities will endeavour to undertake environmental monitoring based around the Strategic Environmental Objectives, Indicators and Targets set out in the Environmental Report. The scale and extent of monitoring reports will be commensurate to the available resources to prepare the reports.</p>	Amendment screened out as text change will have positive effects on the environment.	No change recommended
Chapter 2 Strategic Context and Core Strategy			
Section 2.2.8 page 7 (Amendment 2.1)	<p>Insert new section after section 2.2.8 as follows:</p> <p>2.2.9 Strategic Environmental Policy 1: Meath Local Authorities will endeavour to ensure that plans and projects in the County which could have a significant effect on environmentally designated sites promote compliance with the requirements of relevant EU Directives.</p>	Amendment screened out as text change will have positive effects on the environment.	No change recommended
Section 2.3.1. page 10 (Amendment	<p>Delete the following text:</p> <p>It is not considered that the Planning Authority will be positively disposed to stand alone retail outlets dominated by surface car</p>	Amendment proposed for clarification purposes and will help to improve the overall urban design and sustainable development of Trim in respect to retail	No change recommended

Ref.	Proposed Amendment	SEA / AA Screening Comments	SEA Recommendation accepted?
2.2)	<p>parking as such a format is not in keeping with the urban evolution of Trim. An urban design led solution will be insisted upon.</p> <p>And replace with the following text: Retail development shall be required to show compliance with the policies and objectives contained at section 6 of this plan relating to the public realm and development within the town centre expansion area. Stand alone retail outlets with large expanses of surface car parking will generally be discouraged as such a format is generally not in keeping with the urban evolution of Trim. Where such 'big box' situations arise, negative streetscape impacts can be avoided by wrapping the large floorplates with complementary street front units such as hairdressers, cafes, bookshops, and suchlike. This also has commercial advantages; the smaller traders feed off their adjacency to the anchor stores that, in turn, benefit from the streetscape activity that the specialist shops generate. In any event an urban design led solution will be insisted upon.</p> <p>It should be noted that the layout of blocks on map no 5. – 'Public Realm/Tourism' should be considered indicative only and is not prescriptive as to an acceptable form or layout.</p>	development. No significant impacts are likely as a result.	
Section 2.3.1. page 19 (Amendment 2.3)	<p>Amend text as follows:</p> <p>Core Strategy POL 12 On expiration of current committed (extant) planning permissions or those commitments which do not receive an extension of the appropriate period under Section 42 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 – 2013 located outside of the administrative area of Trim Town Council, it shall be deemed that such lands revert to agricultural use and are de-zoned from their previous residential land use zoning objective.</p> <p>and replaced with the following text:</p> <p>Core Strategy POL 12 In accordance with CS OBJ 6 of the County Development Plan, the order of priority for lands with a residential land use zoning objective includes all lands which have the benefit of an extant permission for multiple unit residential developments as part of the</p>	Amendment screened out as changes proposed ensure consistency with the County Development Plan Core Strategy.	No change recommended

Ref.	Proposed Amendment	SEA / AA Screening Comments	SEA Recommendation accepted?
	lands identified for release within the life of the County Development Plan. No extension of duration under section 42 of the Planning and Development Act 2000-13 permitted for multiple unit residential developments shall extend the life of a planning permission beyond the 6 year period of the relevant Meath County Development plan.		
Section 2.3.7. page 17 (Amendment 2.4)	<p>Add new text at end of 2.3.7 as follows:</p> <p>Framework plans are viewed as a tool to bring together stakeholders to deliver shared objectives and to guide new development which is underpinned by essential infrastructure in a phased and sustainable manner. Framework plans should include a written statement and supporting maps and other necessary documentation as deemed necessary by the Local Authority. The Framework plan is required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detail the nature and extent of development proposed and how proposed uses / development is consistent with any relevant policies and objectives for the site as set out in the Trim Development Plan and/or Meath County Development Plan. • Demonstrate how the development of the lands would integrate with surrounding buildings, land uses and vistas • Address issues such as urban design, permeability and public realm. • Transportation routes, transport modes and traffic management. • Amenities, facilities and services to support the proposed population e.g. community facilities, sport and recreation, education etc • Infrastructure facilities and services to support the proposed population including water supply and treatment, electricity, oil, gas, communications and any other supports as considered appropriate by the Local Authority. <p>FP1 relates to lands located to the west of Summerhill Road (formerly known locally as Pottertons Mart and sales yard). The lands are affected by land use zoning objective A2 which seeks to provide for new residential communities and ancillary community</p>	Text included for clarification purposes and to allow for proper planning and sustainable development of the FP1 lands. The proposed new roadways under FP1 are already included as an objective of the Plan (TRAN OBJ 12). No significant impacts likely as a result of this text inclusion.	No change recommended

Ref.	Proposed Amendment	SEA / AA Screening Comments	SEA Recommendation accepted?																								
	<p>facilities and further south by G1 Community Infrastructure. The northern part of the site is affected by land use zoning objective C1 Mixed use. While C1 lands are open to a range of commercial uses, it is envisaged the remaining part of FP1 lands (affected by the A2 and G1 land use zoning) could facilitate a number of ancillary uses such as employment generating uses, community facilities, local shopping facilities etc provided they are appropriate in scale and do not unduly interfere within the predominant residential land use. Uses which are not listed as permitted uses or open for consideration as per the A2 land use zoning objective, are deemed not to be permissible in principle and such uses will be considered on their merits.</p> <p>Development on the FP1 lands shall provide for inter alia, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) High quality designb) Development of a scale which is respectful and appropriate to the existing urban fabricc) Provision of a distributor road linking the Kinnegad Road to the Longwood Road. This may be preceded by the construction of a section of road, to distributor road standard, from the Longwood Road to serve adjoining residentially zoned lands. It is considered this road which should be developer driven, should extend as far as the Kinnegad Road.d) Residential development shall take place on FP1 lands in tandem with the completion of the aforementioned road infrastructure.																										
Section 2.3.5. page 16 (Amendment 2.5)	<p>Amend Table 5: Phasing Strategy for Residential Lands from</p> <table><tr><th>Site Name</th><th>Yield</th><th>Rank</th></tr><tr><td>Q</td><td>17</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>O (See note below)</td><td>15</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>D</td><td>68</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>89</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>C</td><td>140</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>11</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>B (in part)-5.52 ha with yield of 193.5 units</td><td>270</td><td>5</td></tr></table>	Site Name	Yield	Rank	Q	17	1	O (See note below)	15	2	D	68	2	P	89	3	C	140	3	N	11	4	B (in part)-5.52 ha with yield of 193.5 units	270	5	Rezoning of these lands is not in line with the development strategy for the Development Plan or the Core Strategy as it will result in an additional 64 new dwellings as outlined in Table 5 of the Draft Plan which is over and above the core strategy unit target. In accordance with the residential development strategy for the Development Plan, site H is however the next preferred lands to be zoned for residential development (after the remainder of Site B). It is also worth noting that Site D, which can accommodate 68 no. units also	SEA recommendation not accepted.
Site Name	Yield	Rank																									
Q	17	1																									
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Ref.	Proposed Amendment			SEA / AA Screening Comments	SEA Recommendation accepted?																																																									
	H	40	6	now has a residential objective for a folk park. Therefore, if these lands were to be developed as a folk park there may be some capacity to increase the amount of lands zoned for residential uses. These lands would be the next preferred lands to be zoned for residential uses after Site B.																																																										
	E	203	7	Remove Objective																																																										
	F	170	8	Remove Objective																																																										
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	Total			are four other preferable sites that should be zoned for residential development before this site because they are considered to be located either closer to the town centre, education and/or to transport links as per the development strategy for the Plan.																																																										
	<p>Note: While the permission on the town centre expansion lands has expired, these units were factored into the committed units allocated to Trim in the County Development Plan 2013-2019. Having regard to this, the yield from these lands (site 0) were excluded from the overall allocation of 518 units.</p> <p>Note: Phase 1 corresponds with the lifetime of the Development Plan.</p> <p>To</p> <table><tr><th>Site Name</th><th>Yield</th><th>Rank</th></tr><tr><td>Q</td><td>17</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>O (See note below)</td><td>15</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>D*</td><td>68</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>P</td><td>89</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>C</td><td>140</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>N</td><td>11</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>B (in part)-5.52 ha with yield of 193.5 units</td><td>270</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>H</td><td>40</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>203</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>F</td><td>170</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>G</td><td>24</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>A</td><td>153</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>M</td><td>741</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>I</td><td>40</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>K</td><td>24</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>J</td><td>85</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>L</td><td>1141</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>Note: While the permission on the town centre expansion lands has expired, these units were factored into the committed units allocated to Trim in the County Development Plan 2013-2019. Having regard to this, the yield from these lands (site 0) were excluded from the overall allocation of 518 units.</p> <p>Note: Phase 1 corresponds with the lifetime of the Development Plan.</p>			Site Name	Yield	Rank	Q	17	1	O (See note below)	15	2	D*	68	2	P	89	3	C	140	3	N	11	4	B (in part)-5.52 ha with yield of 193.5 units	270	5	H	40	6	E	203	7	F	170	8	G	24	8	A	153	9	M	741	10	I	40	11	K	24	12	J	85	12	L	1141	13	Total			<p>As part of the Environmental Report Alternatives Assessment of the draft Trim Development Plan Development Strategy, each of the 'preferred' residentially zoned sites were assessed against the SEO's of the ER in order to identify any additional significant effects on the environment. In accordance with this approach, the sites pertaining to this amendment (Site's H and G) of the Draft Plan Development Strategy) have been assessed against the SEOs of the ER to identify any significant effects on the environment.</p> <p>From an environmental perspective, with regard to sites H and G, the specific environmental impacts associated with these land use zonings is that there are preferred sites that could be developed closer to the town centre, education and/or transport in advance of these sites in accordance with the development strategy for the town. As a result it is likely that if these lands are developed for residential uses, residents will need to travel by car to avail of services which will result in increased emissions within the Plan area and is likely to result in an ad hoc approach to the development of the town.</p> <p>Site H Environmental Assessment</p>	
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	<p>*These lands include a specific objective to develop a folk park or similar cultural use which may affect the housing yield potential on this site.</p>	<div>Site H Environmental Assessment</div> <table><tr><th colspan="2">Site H Environmental Assessment</th></tr><tr><td>SEO 1</td><td>Located within 300m of River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA and SAC.</td></tr><tr><td>SEO 2</td><td>Site c.600m from a bus stop. It is located c. 1,250m from a primary school and c.750m from a secondary school. It is located over 1,300m from the town centre.</td></tr><tr><td>SEO 3</td><td>Site is located in proximity to an area of moderate water quality.</td></tr><tr><td>SEO 4</td><td>Site is largely greenfield in nature.</td></tr><tr><td>SEO 5</td><td>This site is not located within a flood zone. This site is not located in close proximity to the town centre (c.1,300m from the town centre).</td></tr><tr><td>SEO 6</td><td>No issues in relation to cultural heritage.</td></tr><tr><td>SEO 7</td><td>There are no trees to preserve or scenic views or prospects within or in the immediate vicinity of the site.</td></tr><tr><td>SEO 8</td><td>Site is serviced / serviceable in terms of water supply and waste water treatment.</td></tr></table> <div>Site G Environmental Assessment</div> <table><tr><th colspan="2">Site G Environmental Assessment</th></tr><tr><td>SEO 1</td><td>Located within 600m of River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA and SAC.</td></tr><tr><td>SEO 2</td><td>Site c.1,000m from a bus stop. It is located c. 1,250m from a primary school and c.750m from a secondary school. It is located over 1,200m from the town centre.</td></tr><tr><td>SEO 3</td><td>Site is located in proximity to an area of poor water quality.</td></tr><tr><td>SEO 4</td><td>Site is largely greenfield in nature.</td></tr></table>	Site H Environmental Assessment		SEO 1	Located within 300m of River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA and SAC.	SEO 2	Site c.600m from a bus stop. It is located c. 1,250m from a primary school and c.750m from a secondary school. It is located over 1,300m from the town centre.	SEO 3	Site is located in proximity to an area of moderate water quality.	SEO 4	Site is largely greenfield in nature.	SEO 5	This site is not located within a flood zone. This site is not located in close proximity to the town centre (c.1,300m from the town centre).	SEO 6	No issues in relation to cultural heritage.	SEO 7	There are no trees to preserve or scenic views or prospects within or in the immediate vicinity of the site.	SEO 8	Site is serviced / serviceable in terms of water supply and waste water treatment.	Site G Environmental Assessment		SEO 1	Located within 600m of River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA and SAC.	SEO 2	Site c.1,000m from a bus stop. It is located c. 1,250m from a primary school and c.750m from a secondary school. It is located over 1,200m from the town centre.	SEO 3	Site is located in proximity to an area of poor water quality.	SEO 4	Site is largely greenfield in nature.	
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Ref.	Proposed Amendment	SEA / AA Screening Comments		SEA Recommendation accepted?
		SEO 5	This site is not located within a flood zone. This site is not located in close proximity to the town centre (c.1,400m from the town centre).	
		SEO 6	No issues in relation to cultural heritage.	
		SEO 7	There are no trees to preserve or scenic views or prospects within or in the immediate vicinity of the site.	
		SEO 8	Site is serviced / serviceable in terms of water supply and waste water treatment.	
Chapter 3 Economy and Employment				
Section 3.3 page 17 (Amendment 3.1)	<p>Comment: Include specific objective 3 at the end of section 3.3. as follows:</p> <p>EMP OBJ 3: To protect, enhance and provide for uses of these lands for motor trade related uses and to facilitate the development of complimentary and/or compatible small and medium sized retail warehouse units, with associated motor trade, garden centres, D.I.Y. , electrical, furniture and homeware uses only. Retail warehousing where it is not related directly to the motor trade shall be facilitated only where it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results in the removal/relocation of non- compatible town centre uses, • No adverse impact on retailing in the town centre occurs, • Complies with the Retail Planning Guidelines in particular with sequential testing, • Complies with normal proper planning and sustainable development criteria. 	Proposed amendment generally accords with existing land uses and existing Trim Development Plan. No significant impacts likely as a result of inclusion of this objective in terms of SEA and AA.		No change recommended
Section 3.3.1 page 31 (Amendment 3.2)	<p>Amend text as follows:</p> <p>EC POL 1 To promote Trim as a District Employment Centre which accommodates sustainable, large scale industry and enterprise, to invest in the town and to support Trim's role in providing local employment whilst also being complimentary and linked to Navan as the primary economic growth centre in the county'</p>	Amendment screened out in terms of SEA and AA as text change will have positive effects on the environment.		No change recommended
Section 3.3.1 page 32	Amend text as follows:	Amendment screened out in terms of SEA and AA as text change will have positive effects on the		No change

Ref.	Proposed Amendment	SEA / AA Screening Comments	SEA Recommendation accepted?
(Amendment 3.3)	EC POL 12: Any land development proposed as a result of Economic and Employment policies and objectives will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment, EIA and FRA where relevant	environment.	recommended
Section 3.6 page 37 (Amendment 3.4)	Amend text as follows: DER POL 2: To identify and secure the redevelopment of obsolete areas, including areas of backland, derelict sites and incidental open areas and that such sites are developed in an environmentally sustainable manner.	Amendment screened out in terms of SEA and AA as text change will have positive effects on the environment.	No change recommended
Chapter 4 Heritage Tourism and Green Infrastructure			
Section 4.12.9 page 52 (Amendment 4.1)	Include new objective at section 4.12.9 of the Trim Plan as follows: TOUR OBJ 5: To work with the local community to explore the provision of a folk park or similar cultural use, subject to normal planning considerations and necessary environmental assessments. Together with bus parking facilities to serve tourist visitors, it will also be a requirement to provide suitable school bus set down and collections areas. The requirement for a school bus set down and collection area at this place will remain as an objective notwithstanding any other development which may or may not place on the subject lands.	Provision has been made in both TOUR POL 10 and proposed TOUR OBJ 5 to ensure that any proposed development takes place subject to normal planning considerations and necessary environmental assessments. No significant impacts likely as a result in terms of SEA and AA.	No change recommended
Section 4.12.9 page 52 (Amendment 4.2)	Insert new objective after TOUR OBJ 5 (see also amendment 4.1. of this report) as follows: TOUR OBJ 6: To facilitate the provision of a site to cater for caravan, camping and motor homes for tourist use* in an environmentally sustainable manner and in accordance with normal planning consideration and development plan criteria contained within the relevant Trim Town Development Plan. *Tourism use refers to individual touring/ holiday vehicles, caravans, tents and related accommodation being in situ on a temporary, short term, touring or seasonal basis and excluding the construction of any permanent holiday home accommodation.	Rezoning lands at this location for tourism uses would result in a disjointed land use zoning approach and would result in the need for tourists to travel outside of the town centre and south east of the Plan area and away from other tourism related uses and therefore there is potential for impacts in terms of increased use of private vehicles and associated emissions to and from these areas as a result of ad hoc planning. No impacts are likely with regard to Appropriate Assessment.	SEA and AA Recommendation not accepted.

Ref.	Proposed Amendment	SEA / AA Screening Comments	SEA Recommendation accepted?
Section 4.5.2 page 43 (Amendment 4.3)	Amend text as follows: GI OBJ1 To prepare a GI map within the lifetime of the Plan , illustrating habitat types and ecological networks which can be utilised in the assessment of planning applications to protect and enhance urban biodiversity.	Amendment screened out in terms of SEA and AA as text change will have positive effects on the environment.	No change recommended
Chapter 7 Community Facilities, Recreation and Open Space			
Section 7.8 page 73 (Amendment 7.1)	Insert new objective after Soc Pol 24 as follows: SOC OBJ 6: Identify a suitable site for a new burial ground in Trim and ensure any such site is developed in an environmentally sustainable manner and renumber subsequent Social Objectives 6-9 as 7-10 accordingly.	This objective should include the following text: 'at a sustainable location and subject to appropriate environmental assessment, where relevant' . No impacts are likely with regard to Appropriate Assessment.	Similar acceptable change made to Plan.
Chapter 8 Traffic and Transportation			
Section 8.8. page 79 (Amendment 8.1)	Insert new text as follows: TRAN POL 6: To cooperate with the NRA, NTA and other local authorities to provide the Leinster Outer Orbital Route, subject to appropriate environmental assessments including AA and EIA , as proposed in the Regional Planning Guidelines and the NTA's Draft Transport Strategy.	Amendment screened out in terms of SEA and AA as text change will have positive effects on the environment.	No change recommended
Section 8.8. page 79 (Amendment 8.2)	Insert new text as follows TRAN OBJ 9: To support and facilitate the improvement of walking and cycling networks in Trim Town Centre and environs as specified in the Trim Local Transport Plan and Draft Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan (or any final adopted Plan) subject to carrying out a routing study and any necessary environmental assessments, obtaining planning consent the carrying out of Appropriate Assessment, landowner co-operation and the securing of necessary funding.	Screened out as Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan has been subject to SEA. There is also provision within this objective to ensure that the improvement of walking and cycling networks will be subject to routing studies and any necessary environmental assessments, obtaining planning consent and the carrying out of Appropriate Assessment. Amendment screened out in terms of SEA and AA as a result.	No change recommended
Section 8.8. page 80	TRAN POL 19: To review the continuing need for the distributor road network, and to reserve (subject to route assessment and	Amendment screened out in terms of SEA and AA as text change will have positive effects on the environment.	No change recommended

Ref.	Proposed Amendment	SEA / AA Screening Comments	SEA Recommendation accepted?
(Amendment 8.3)	environmental assessment the corridors of, and construct and complete such parts of, the local distributor road network as are required in an environmentally sustainable manner		
Section 8.8, page 80 (Amendment 8.4)	Amend text as follows TRAN POL 23: To have regard take account of the relevant aspects of the EU Ambient Air Quality Directive, the EU Ozone Directive, the EU guidance documents <i>Greening Transport</i> (EU 2008) and <i>A Sustainable Future for Transport</i> (EU 2009) and the National Transport Strategy <i>Smarter Travel: A Sustainable Transport Future</i> (DTTS 2009) to develop strategies which better reflect the real costs that transport volumes and emissions impose onto society, environment and economic efficiency.	Amendment screened out in terms of SEA and AA as text change will have positive effects on the environment.	No change recommended
Section 8.8, page 80 (Amendment 8.5)	Amend text as follows TRANS OBJ 5: To seek to provide, in cooperation with other agencies, bodies and developers/landowners, an integrated network of walking and cycling routes within the lifetime of the Plan, subject to availability of resources to provide safe, convenient and pleasant routes between the town's main residential areas, schools, the town centre and business park areas. The network will, wherever possible, be developed as a segregated, traffic free, sustainable transport facility incorporating best practice design and shall be integrated with the network of Green Infrastructure.	Screened out in terms of SEA and AA as no likely significant impacts.	No change recommended
Section 8.8, page 81 (Amendment 8.6)	Insert new transport objective as follows TRANS OBJ 13: To provide a bus set down and collection area on lands on the western side of the Trim Town Ring Road (immediately adjoining and south of the fire station)	Provision has been made in both TOUR POL 10 and proposed TOUR OBJ 5 to ensure that any proposed development takes place subject to normal planning considerations and necessary environmental assessments. No significant impacts likely in terms of SEA and AA as a result as long as these policies and objectives relate to these lands also.	No change recommended
Chapter 9: Energy and Communications			
Section 9.6.5, page 85 (Amendment 8.6)	Delete the following text 9.6.5 Hydro-Energy The Council encourages the use of hydro-energy, where suitable,	Amendment screened out in terms of SEA and AA as text change will have positive effects on the environment, and is in line with original recommendations of the Environmental Report.	Change made to Plan.

Ref.	Proposed Amendment	SEA / AA Screening Comments	SEA Recommendation accepted?
9.1)	subject to appropriate assessment and environmental assessment as required and consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Section of the Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht and the Inland Fisheries Ireland.		
Chapter 10: Infrastructure			
Section 10.5.3 page 94-95 (Amendment 10.1)	<p>Insert new text as follows:</p> <p>INF POL 30: To have regard to the recommendations of the Eastern CFRAMS Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study and the designation of Trim as an Area for Further Assessment (AFA) in the Eastern CFRAM study when finalized and approved</p> <p>and renumber subsequent INFO Policies 30-33 at sections 10.5.3 and 10.5.4 accordingly i.e. 31 ,32, 33, 34.</p>	Amendment screened out in terms of SEA and AA as text change will have positive effects on the environment.	No change recommended
Amendments: Appendix 3 Maps			
Note: Please refer to Amendments document as placed on display 27th January to 24th February 2014 to view zoning changes on maps.			
Amendment 11.1 Zoning & Objectives Map	Explanation: Amend zoning and objectives map no.1: Change lands from land use zoning objective E2 General Enterprise and Employment to D1 – Tourism, with a specific objective to provide a caravan park).	<p>Rezoning lands at this location for tourism uses would result in a disjointed land use zoning approach and would result in the need for tourists to travel outside of the town centre and south east of the plan area and away from other tourism related uses and therefore there is potential for impacts in terms of increased use of private vehicles and associated emissions to and from these areas as a result of ad hoc planning.</p> <p>No impact with regard to Appropriate Assessment.</p>	SEA and AA Recommendation not accepted.
Amendment 11.2 Zoning & Objectives Map	Explanation: Amend zoning and objectives map no.1: Change lands from land use zoning objective F1 Open Space to A1 Existing Residential) and Amend Appendix 3. Green Infrastructure Map No 4 i.e. by removing green colour from map to be consistent with the land use zoning amendment proposed.	Please refer to Submission No. T2041 of the Manager's Report for background information. Given the infill nature of this site in a central location and that this rezoning would not have implications for the core strategy no significant impacts on the environment are considered likely as a result in terms of SEA and AA.	No change recommended

Ref.	Proposed Amendment	SEA / AA Screening Comments	SEA Recommendation accepted?
Amendment 11.3 Zoning & Objectives Map	Explanation: Amend zoning and objectives map no.1: Change lands from land use zoning objective F1 Open Space to A2 New Residential and Amend Appendix 3. Green Infrastructure Map No 4 i.e. by removing green colour from map to be consistent with the land use zoning amendment proposed.	Please see SEA and AA Screening comments in respect of Amendment 2.5 in relation to Site H of the development Strategy.	SEA and AA Recommendation not accepted.
Amendment 11.4 Zoning & Objectives Map	Explanation: Amend zoning and objectives map no.1: Change lands zoned as D1 Tourism to A2 New Residential	Please see SEA and AA Screening comments in respect of Amendment 2.5 in relation to Site G of the development Strategy.	SEA and AA Recommendation not accepted.
Amendment 11.5 Zoning & Objectives Map	Explanation: Amend zoning and objectives map no.1: Change lands zoned as A2 New Residential to G1 Community Infrastructure	Proposed amendment will ensure these lands are zoned in accordance with the existing land use on site. Amendment screened out in terms of SEA and AA as no significant impacts are likely as a result.	No change recommended
Amendment 11.6	Explanation: Include EMP OBJ 3 as a specific objective on zoning and objectives map no. 1	Proposed amendment generally accords with existing land uses and existing Trim Development Plan. No significant impacts likely in terms of SEA and AA as a result of inclusion of this objective.	No change recommended
Amendment 11.7	Explanation: Include TOUR OBJ 5 as a specific objective on zoning and objectives map no. 1	Provision has been made in both TOUR POL 10 and proposed TOUR OBJ 5 to ensure that any proposed development takes place subject to normal planning considerations and necessary environmental assessments. No significant impacts in terms of SEA and AA likely as a result as long as these policies and objectives relate to these lands also.	No change recommended
Amendment 11.8	Explanation: Insert new objective TOUR OBJ 6 as a specific objective on zoning and objectives map no. 1	See SEA and AA Screening in relation to Amendment 4.2. Rezoning lands at this location for tourism uses would result in a disjointed land use zoning approach and would result in the need for tourists to travel outside of the town centre and south east of the Plan area and away from other tourism related uses and therefore there is potential for impacts in terms of increased use of private vehicles and associated emissions to and from these areas as a result of ad hoc planning.	SEA and AA Recommendation not accepted.

Ref.	Proposed Amendment	SEA / AA Screening Comments	SEA Recommendation accepted?
		No impact with regard to Appropriate Assessment.	
Amendment 11.9	Explanation: Insert new transport objective TRANS OBJ 13 as a specific objective on zoning and objectives map no. 1	See SEA and AA Screening in relation to Amendment 8.6.. Provision has been made in both TOUR POL 10 and proposed TOUR OBJ 5 to ensure that any proposed development takes place subject to normal planning considerations and necessary environmental assessments. No significant impacts likely as a result as long as these policies and objectives relate to these lands also. No impact with regard to Appropriate Assessment.	No change recommended
Amendment 11.10 (Appendix 3. Core Strategy Map No 2)	Explanation: Amend labelling of zone from Future Residential Development to Future Residential/Cultural Development	Amendment made for clarification purposes in line with the Draft Plan. No significant effects in terms of SEA and AA likely as a result.	No change recommended
Amendment 11.11 (Appendix 3. Core Strategy Map No 2)	Explanation: Include tourism development.	See SEA and AA Screening in relation to Amendment 4.2 and 11.8. Rezoning lands at this location for tourism uses would result in a disjointed land use zoning approach and would result in the need for tourists to travel outside of the town centre and south east of the Plan area and away from other tourism related uses and therefore there is potential for impacts in terms of increased use of private vehicles and associated emissions to and from these areas as a result of ad hoc planning. No impact with regard to Appropriate Assessment.	SEA and AA Recommendation not accepted.
Environmental Report			
Amendment 12.1	Amend Section 6.6.2 of the Environmental report by adding: Our Sustainable Future – A Framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland (DECLG, 2012).	Amendment proposed for clarification purposes. No significant impacts in terms of SEA and AA likely as a result.	

3.3 SEA SCREENING OF AMENDMENTS ON DRAFT PLAN

The third period of consultation took place between the 27th January 2014 and 24th February 2014 on the Proposed Amendments to the Draft Trim Development Plan (2014-2020). The Council received 11 no. written submissions in respect of the Amendments which were summarised individually in the Managers Report. Consultation responses included submissions from the environmental authorities, as contained in **Appendix C**, as well as the public, other stakeholders and statutory consultees. The Managers Report included the SEA and AA Screening of the Amendments. **Table 3.3** provides the SEA and AA Screening of these Amendments.

Table 3.3: Summary of Managers Recommendations

No.	Managers Response	Manager's Recommendation	SEA/ AA Screening Outcome and Comments
T3001	<p>(a) The positive comments from the NRA are welcomed.</p> <p>(b) There is policy support within both the county development plan and draft Trim Plan for the LOR and to cooperate with various transport agencies to provide same.</p> <p>No additional lands are being zoned outside the existing Trim Town Plan boundary as part of the amendments to the Trim Development Plan. Until such time as a preferred route is identified for the LOR, the Local Authority will continue to plan for the sustainable growth of the town of Trim, consistent with existing national transport and planning policy and in liaison with relevant state agencies regarding transport planning issues, as necessary.</p>	(a) & (b) No change.	Amendment screened out in terms of SEA and AA as there are no changes proposed in relation to the Plan.
T3002	Noted	No change	Amendment screened out in terms of SEA and AA as there are no changes proposed in relation to the Plan.
T3003	<p>(a) The SEA will be updated accordingly as part of the iterative environmental assessment process.</p> <p>(b) The draft Trim development plan includes a series of policy provisions and objectives for tourism development, including reference to the Meath Tourism Strategic Plan 2011-13.</p> <p>(c) Current circulars have been noted.</p>	<p>(a) No change</p> <p>(b) No change</p> <p>(c) No change</p> <p>(d) No change</p>	It was noted in first stage of the Screening of Amendments (amendment 4.2 and amendment 11.8) that rezoning of lands at this location for tourism uses would result in a disjointed land use zoning approach and would result in the need for tourists to travel outside of the town centre. Potential for impacts in

No.	Managers Response	Manager's Recommendation	SEA/ AA Screening Outcome and Comments																																																
	(d) Agreed. These will be taken into account in the SEA statement		<p>terms of increased use of private vehicles and associated emissions was identified through the SEA process. No impacts in relation to Appropriate Assessment were previously identified.</p> <p>The Manager has not recommended any changes to the rezoning of lands and therefore the comments previously identified through SEA Screening remain unchanged.</p> <p>On adoption of the Development Plan an SEA Statement will be written and will include the information identified in point d) of the Managers Response.</p>																																																
T3004	<p>The submission relates to land, the northern portion of which was included within the Residential Evaluation as site B and the southern portion of which was not included in the residential evaluation as it is zoned G1 Community in the current Trim Plan 2008. The manager's response refers to each one individually in the interests of clarity.</p> <p>A) Only lands that were already zoned residential or mixed use and that could accommodate residential land use were included in the residential assessment as required by the Core Strategy set out in the County Development Plan. Consequently lands zoned G1 in the current 2008 Plan (including lands relating to the southern part of the submission site) were not included for consideration in the evaluation for residential lands. The totality of the lands the subject of the submission are zoned G1 in the 2008 Trim Plan, therefore from the outset the lands were not considered as part of the residential assessment and consequently were not required to be zoned residential. The draft plan set out the methodology rationale and identifies the sites that were subject to consideration for residential zoning (in the Residential Evaluation Maps Appendix A). It was clear from the outset, that the lands the subject of the submission were ineligible to be considered for residential zoning.</p>	<p>A) No change B) In order to provide clarity, it is recommended that an additional line is inserted into Table 5 specifying that the remainder of site B i.e. 2.2 ha has the zoning objective removed and an asterisk is inserted at the end of the table stating that the remainder of site B i.e. 2.2 ha is given an alternative zoning G1.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Site Name</th><th>Yield</th><th>Rank</th><th>Phase</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Q</td><td>17</td><td>1</td><td>1(2014-2020)</td></tr> <tr> <td>O (See note below)</td><td>15</td><td>2</td><td>1(2014-2020)</td></tr> <tr> <td>D*</td><td>68</td><td>2</td><td>1(2014-2020)</td></tr> <tr> <td>P</td><td>89</td><td>3</td><td>1(2014-2020)</td></tr> <tr> <td>C</td><td>140</td><td>3</td><td>1(2014-2020)</td></tr> <tr> <td>N</td><td>11</td><td>4</td><td>1(2014-2020)</td></tr> <tr> <td>B (in part)- 5.52 ha with yield of 193.5 units</td><td>270 193.5</td><td>5</td><td>1(2014-2020)</td></tr> <tr> <td>B (in part)- 2.2 ha **</td><td>76.5</td><td>5</td><td>Remove Objective</td></tr> <tr> <td>H</td><td>40</td><td>6</td><td>1(2014-2020)</td></tr> <tr> <td>E</td><td>203</td><td>7</td><td>Remove Objective</td></tr> <tr> <td>F</td><td>170</td><td>8</td><td>Remove</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Site Name	Yield	Rank	Phase	Q	17	1	1(2014-2020)	O (See note below)	15	2	1(2014-2020)	D*	68	2	1(2014-2020)	P	89	3	1(2014-2020)	C	140	3	1(2014-2020)	N	11	4	1(2014-2020)	B (in part)- 5.52 ha with yield of 193.5 units	270 193.5	5	1(2014-2020)	B (in part)- 2.2 ha **	76.5	5	Remove Objective	H	40	6	1(2014-2020)	E	203	7	Remove Objective	F	170	8	Remove	<p>There are no proposed amendments only a clarification change to Table 5 which has been screened out in relation to SEA and AA.</p>
Site Name	Yield	Rank	Phase																																																
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	<p>Due to a mapping error the lands were identified as A2 in the draft Plan zoning map that went on public display. The lands should have been zoned G1 as referred above. Following public consultation on the Draft Trim Development Plan a submission was received raising this issue and the Manager's Report recommended that the land use zoning objective change from A2 New Residential to G1 Community Infrastructure. The Manager's Report was considered by the elected members in a joint workshop where the Members were provided with a Map identifying the extent of the lands i.e. lands that were zoned G1 in the current 2008 Development Plan. The Manager's Recommendation was agreed by the Elected Members and Amendment 11.5 in the Zoning and Objectives Map contained within the proposed amendments on public display accurately reflects this.</p> <p>B) Table 5 within the draft plan sets out the phasing strategy for residential lands based on the residential evaluation. Site B totals 7.72 ha as illustrated in the Residential Evaluation maps contained within Appendix A (northern portion of submission site). An evidence based approach was applied which informed the Core Strategy, including an evaluation of the remaining available sites. This included land with residential/ mixed use and town centre/ commercial land use zoning objectives. Factors to determine the suitability of specific lands for residential development included proximity to town centre, availability of public transport, consideration of whether a site would be infill as opposed to extending the urban footprint, environmental constraints/ sensitivities and availability of community and social infrastructure. As a consequence of the assessment site B was ranked 5th, and in order to achieve the household allocation based on the County Development Plan only part of the site 5.52 ha was required with a yield of 193.5 units. The foregoing represents a valid planning rationale for the reduction in the extent of A2 lands within site B. In order to provide clarity, an additional line can be added to Table 5 specifying that the remainder of site B i.e. 2.2 ha has</p>	<table> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Objective</td></tr> <tr> <td>G</td><td>24</td><td>8</td><td>1(2014-2020)</td></tr> <tr> <td>A</td><td>153</td><td>9</td><td>Remove Objective</td></tr> <tr> <td>M</td><td>741</td><td>10</td><td>Remove Objective</td></tr> <tr> <td>I</td><td>40</td><td>11</td><td>Remove Objective</td></tr> <tr> <td>K</td><td>24</td><td>12</td><td>Remove Objective</td></tr> <tr> <td>J</td><td>85</td><td>12</td><td>Remove Objective</td></tr> <tr> <td>L</td><td>1141</td><td>13</td><td>Remove Objective</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>Note: While the permission on the town centre expansion lands has expired, these units were factored into the committed units allocated to Trim in the County Development Plan 2013-2019. Having regard to this, the yield from these lands (site 0) were excluded from the overall allocation of 518 units.</p> <p>Note: Phase 1 corresponds with the lifetime of the Development Plan.</p> <p>*These lands include a specific objective to develop a folk park or similar cultural use which may affect the housing yield potential on this site.</p> <p>** Remainder of site B 2.2 ha given alternative zoning G1 Community facilities.</p> <p>C, D, E) No change</p>				Objective	G	24	8	1(2014-2020)	A	153	9	Remove Objective	M	741	10	Remove Objective	I	40	11	Remove Objective	K	24	12	Remove Objective	J	85	12	Remove Objective	L	1141	13	Remove Objective	Total				
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No.	Managers Response	Manager's Recommendation	SEA/ AA Screening Outcome and Comments
	<p>the zoning objective removed and an asterix inserted at the end of the table stating that the remainder of site B i.e. 2.2 ha is given an alternative zoning G1. This 2.2 ha of land was identified as G1 community in the Draft Plan zoning map that went on display.</p> <p>C) The FP1 lands are subject of a Framework Plan which includes lands that have a range of land use zonings. The purpose of a Framework Plan is to bring together stakeholders to deliver shared objectives and to guide new development which is underpinned by essential infrastructure in a phased and sustainable manner. The different land use zonings all have a role to play in the successful development of the FP1 Framework Plan lands in accordance with the provisions of the Development Plan, including the provision of infrastructure.</p> <p>D) & E) The Residential Evaluation including associated maps and tables within the draft plan sets out the phasing strategy for residential lands based on the County Development Plan household allocation (Table 2.4) in the Core Strategy. It is noted that 50% headroom was provided for within the allocation. Based on this there is no requirement for the additional units referred to in the submission. The Trim Development Plan is consistent with the core strategy of the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019. A programme of monitoring is to be implemented to analyse the number of units permitted in comparison with the household allocations detailed in Table 2.4 in the County Plan. (CS OBJ9 – Variation no. 1)</p>		
T3005	<p>The lands the subject of the submission form the north eastern portion of the FP1 lands which was the subject of amendment 2.4. The submission site is a brownfield site containing a range of existing buildings and uses including the Castle Arch Hotel which is on the Record of Protected Structures. The remainder of the Framework Plan lands are primarily green field and undeveloped, therefore the lands the subject of the submission are distinct in character and urban fabric. The provision of infrastructure as specified in relation to FP1 in the amendment does not infringe upon or aim to serve the</p>	<p>Amend section 2.3.7 as follows: 'Framework plans are viewed as a tool to bring together stakeholders to deliver shared objectives and to guide new development which is underpinned by essential infrastructure in a phased and sustainable manner. Framework plans should include a written statement and supporting maps and other necessary documentation as deemed necessary by the Local Authority. The Framework plan is required to:</p>	<p>Amendment proposed in relation to removal of C1 lands and text amendment to section 2.3.7 are screened out in terms of SEA and AA as text changes will be positive in relation to the environment and development within the FP1 lands.</p>

No.	Managers Response	Manager's Recommendation	SEA/ AA Screening Outcome and Comments
	<p>submission lands as they already have existing access and infrastructure. It is also noted that the site is identified as a retail opportunity site in the draft Plan and County Retail Strategy. In this context it is considered that the inclusion of the submission lands within the FP1 boundary is not necessary for the future development of the lands in a sustainable manner.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detail the nature and extent of development proposed and how proposed uses / development is consistent with any relevant policies and objectives for the site as set out in the Trim Development Plan and/or Meath County Development Plan. • Demonstrate how the development of the lands would integrate with surrounding buildings, land uses and vistas • Address issues such as urban design, permeability and public realm. • Transportation routes, transport modes and traffic management. • Amenities, facilities and services to support the proposed population e.g. community facilities, sport and recreation, education etc • Infrastructure facilities and services to support the proposed population including water supply and treatment, electricity, oil, gas, communications and any other supports as considered appropriate by the Local Authority. <p>FP1 relates to lands located to the west of Summerhill Road (formerly known locally as Pottertons Mart and sales yard). The lands are affected by land use zoning objective A2 which seeks to provide for new residential communities and ancillary community facilities and further south by G1 Community Infrastructure. The northern part of the site is affected by land use zoning objective C1 Mixed use. While C1 lands are open to a range of commercial uses, It is envisaged the remaining part of FP1 lands (affected by the A2 and G1 land use zoning) could facilitate a number of ancillary uses such as employment generating uses,</p>	

No.	Managers Response	Manager's Recommendation	SEA/ AA Screening Outcome and Comments
		<p>community facilities, local shopping facilities etc provided they are appropriate in scale and do not unduly interfere within the predominant residential land use. Uses which are not listed as permitted uses or open for consideration as per the A2 land use zoning objective, are deemed not to be permissible in principle and such uses will be considered on their merits.</p> <p>Development on the FP1 lands shall provide for inter alia, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) High quality design b) Development of a scale which is respectful and appropriate to the existing urban fabric c) Provision of a distributor road linking the Kinnegad Road to the Longwood Road. This may be preceded by the construction of a section of road, to distributor road standard, from the Longwood Road to serve adjoining residentially zoned lands. It is considered this road which should be developer driven, should extend as far as the Kinnegad Road. d) Residential development shall take place on FP1 lands in tandem with the completion of the aforementioned road infrastructure. <p>Amend the FP1 boundary to remove the C1 lands on all subsequent maps.</p>	
T3006	<p>The members resolved to include the submission lands pertaining to proposed amendment 11.4 i.e. change of land use zoning from 'D1 Tourism' to 'A2 New Residential' at a Special meeting of Trim Town Council on 10th January 2014 and the Ordinary meeting of Meath County Council members on 13th January 2014.</p>	No change.	<p>As outlined in the SEA and AA Screening report on the first set of amendments it was stated that for "site G, in accordance with the residential development strategy for the Development Plan, there are four other preferable sites that should be zoned for residential development before this site because they are considered to be located either closer to the town centre, education and/or transport links as per the development strategy for the Plan".</p>

No.	Managers Response	Manager's Recommendation	SEA/ AA Screening Outcome and Comments
			<p>Therefore as stated in the previous SEA and AA Screening report "from an environmental perspective residents will need to travel by car to avail of services which will result in increased emissions within the Plan area and is likely to result in ad hoc approach to the development of the town".</p> <p>No impacts are likely with regard to this previous amendment for Appropriate Assessment.</p>
T3007	<p>(a) The comments in support of the amended wording to the draft plan are noted.</p> <p>(b) It is not within the remit of the Local Authority (nor the amendment stage of the Draft Development Plan review) to amend the scale and scope of Natura 2000 sites. Consideration for matters relating to Natura 2000 sites lies with the National Parks and Wildlife Service.</p>	<p>(a) No change</p> <p>(b) No change</p>	No changes have been proposed and therefore there are no issues in relation to SEA and AA. As stated by the Local Authority the boundary of Natura 2000 sites cannot be amended as it is not within their remit to do so.
T3008	The availability of data from Geological Survey of Ireland is noted. Meath County Council through the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 acknowledges the importance of maintaining the geological heritage value of nationally important geological sites. Further, NH POL 12 of the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 states, 'To have regard to the geological and geomorphological heritage values of County Geological Sites listed in Appendix 13 and avoid inappropriate development, through consultation with the Geological Survey of Ireland'. Appendix 13 lists the Geological Heritage Sites identified in Meath by GSI and Meath County Council.	No change	No changes have been proposed and therefore there are no issues in relation to SEA and AA.
T3009	Table 5 indicates that while Site D potentially has a residential housing yield of 68 housing units, a specific objective for cultural use on the site would affect this potential housing yield and may obviate same. An additional objective for bus parking at the subject lands may also impact on the ability to develop part of the site for residential use. Consequently a potential additional yield of 64 houses consequent of the inclusion of site H (40 housing units) and G (24 housing units) as part of the amendments would therefore not give rise to an increase	No change	In relation to sites G and H, it was outlined in the previous SEA and AA Amendments report (amendment 2.5)" that rezoning of the lands for sites G and H, would not be in line with the development strategy for the Development Plan or the core strategy as it will result in an additional 64 new dwellings as outlined in Table 5 of the Draft Plan which is over and above the core strategy unit target. It is also worth noting that Site D, which can

No.	Managers Response	Manager's Recommendation	SEA/ AA Screening Outcome and Comments
	<p>in the overall total housing yield from that set out originally within the Draft Trim Development Plan.</p> <p>In addition, it is the intention of Meath Local Authorities to carefully monitor the scale, rate and location of newly permitted developments and apply appropriate development management measures to ensure compliance with the core strategy including population targets for Trim town and coordinated development.</p> <p>In this regard the Planning Authority has put in place a monitoring programme with respect to of all objectives contained in the County Development Plan which includes the build out of zoned land (including zoned lands located within the Trim area).</p>		<p>accommodate 68 no. units also now has an objective for a folk park. Therefore, if these lands were to be developed as a folk park there may be some capacity to increase the amount of lands zoned for residential uses. These lands would be the next preferred lands to be zoned for residential uses after Site B.</p> <p>With regard to site G, in accordance with the residential development strategy for the Development Plan, there are four other preferable sites that should be zoned for residential development before this site because they are considered to be located either closer to the town centre, education and/or to transport links as per the development strategy for the Plan.</p> <p>As part of the Environmental Report Alternatives Assessment of the draft Trim Development Plan Development Strategy, each of the 'preferred' residentially zoned sites were assessed against the SEO's of the Environmental Report in order to identify any additional significant effects on the environment. In accordance with this approach, the sites pertaining to this amendment (Site's H and G) of the Draft Plan Development Strategy) have been assessed against the SEOs of the Environmental Report to identify any significant effects on the environment.</p> <p>From an environmental perspective, with regard to sites H and G, the specific environmental impacts associated with these land use zonings is that there are preferred sites that could be developed closer to the town centre, education and/or transport in advance of these sites in accordance with the development strategy for the town. As a result it is likely that if these lands are developed for</p>

No.	Managers Response	Manager's Recommendation	SEA/ AA Screening Outcome and Comments
			residential uses, residents will need to travel by car to avail of services which will result in increased emissions within the Plan area and is likely to result in an ad hoc approach to the development of the town. No impacts are likely with regard to these amendments with regard to Appropriate Assessment."
T3010	The current stage of the review process only relates to the amendments to the draft plan. The concerns raised by the IPI are noted. Meath Local Authorities are committed to improving water quality throughout the County in accordance with the provisions of the Water Framework Directive, River Basin Management Plans and local initiatives and works. The Council will continue to work with all relevant agencies to advance such commitments.	No change	No changes have been proposed and therefore there are no issues in relation to SEA and AA.
T3011	<p>(a) The positive comments regarding the evidence based approach are noted and welcomed.</p> <p>(b) The draft Trim Development Plan zoned the site the subject of the submission as D1 Tourism as the Residential Evaluation identified that the subject site would have the residential zoning objective removed (Site G in the Residential Evaluation).</p> <p>The members resolved to include the lands relating to <i>amendment 11.04 – Change of use of lands as D1 Tourism to A2 New Residential</i> at a Special meeting of Trim Town Council on 10th January 2014 and the Ordinary meeting of Meath County Council members on 13th January 2014.</p> <p>Table 5 indicates that while Site D potentially has a residential housing yield of 68 housing units, a specific objective for cultural use on the site would affect this potential housing yield and may obviate same. An additional objective for bus parking at the subject lands may also impact on the ability to develop part of the site for residential use. Consequently a potential additional yield of 64 houses consequent of the inclusion of site H (40 housing units) and G (24 housing units) as part of the</p>	<p>(a) No change (b) and (c) (d) No change</p>	<p>b) In relation to Amendment 11.4 as outlined in the SEA and AA Screening report on the first set of amendments it was stated that for "site G, in accordance with the residential development strategy for the Development Plan, there are four other preferable sites that should be zoned for residential development before this site because they are considered to be located either closer to the town centre, education and/ or transport links as per the development strategy for the Plan".</p> <p>Therefore as stated in the previous SEA and AA Screening report "from an environmental perspective residents will need to travel by car to avail of services which will result in increased emissions within the Plan area and is likely to result in ad hoc approach to the development of the town". No impacts are likely with regard to this previous amendment for Appropriate Assessment.</p> <p>c) In relation to Amendment 3.1 as outlined in the SEA and AA Screening report on the first set of amendments the change generally</p>

No.	Managers Response	Manager's Recommendation	SEA/ AA Screening Outcome and Comments
	<p>amendments would therefore not give rise to an increase in the overall total housing yield from that set out originally within the Draft Trim Development Plan.</p> <p>The Proposed Amendments were subject to SEA/AA Screening, this screening details the potential environmental impacts of the proposed amendment and concluded that 'From an environmental perspective, with regard to sites H and G, the specific environmental impacts associated with these land use zonings is that there are preferred sites that could be developed closer to the town centre, education and/or transport in advance of these sites in accordance with the development strategy for the town. As a result it is likely that if these lands are developed for residential uses, residents will need to travel by car to avail of services which will result in increased emissions within the plan area and it is likely to result in an ad hoc approach to the development of the town'.</p> <p>(c) EMP OBJ 3 (Amendment 3.1) is a site specific objective on lands on the Navan Road which are also the subject of a similar objective (ECON OBJ 4) in the current Trim Plan 2008. The site has developed to include a series of motor related activities and has previous permissions for electrical retail/wholesale. The purpose of the site specific objective is to protect, enhance and provide for uses of these lands for motor trade related uses and to facilitate the development of complimentary and/or compatible small and medium sized retail warehouse units, with associated motor trade, garden centres, D.I.Y., electrical, furniture and homeware uses only. Thus the type of development the objective is seeking to protect, provide and facilitate is primarily developments which would not be compatible with the town centre and are of a different character. The objective clearly sets out that Retail warehousing where it is not related directly to the motor trade shall only be facilitated under three specific criteria, • Results in the removal/relocation of non- compatible town centre uses, • No adverse impact on retailing in the town centre occurs,</p>		<p>accords with the existing land uses and existing Trim Development Plan. No significant impacts are likely as a result of inclusion of this objective in terms of SEA and AA.</p>

No.	Managers Response	Manager's Recommendation	SEA/ AA Screening Outcome and Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complies with the Retail Planning Guidelines in particular with sequential testing, Complies with normal proper planning and sustainable development criteria. <p>These criteria will be used when assessing planning applications and seeks to ensure that any future development will not adversely impact on the vitality and viability of the town centre.</p> <p>(d) Meath Local Authorities concur with the need to ensure monitoring. The Planning Authority has put in place a monitoring programme with respect to of all objectives contained in the County Development Plan which includes the build out of zoned land (including zoned lands located within the Trim area). In addition, it is a requirement of all Planning Authorities to submit an annual return of housing activity on residentially zoned lands within their administrative area to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government. This is the primary tool which is used to monitor the implementation of planning permission for multiple residential unit developments which is referred to in the submission received. This data base is updated at regular intervals by the Planning Authority.</p>		

No significant impacts as a result of implementing the final proposed amendments were identified and therefore no mitigation measures were proposed by the SEA/ AA team. The Trim Development Plan was adopted on the **7th April 2014** in accordance with the Manager's Recommendations with respect to submissions.

4 REASONS FOR CHOOSING THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Article 5 of the SEA Directive requires the environmental report to consider ‘reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme’ and the significant effects of the alternatives selected. Alternatives must be realistic and capable of implementation and should present a range of different approaches within the statutory and operational requirements of the Plan. It is noted that a “Do Nothing” option has not been explored, as this is not considered reasonable, given the legislative requirement to update the Plan.

The strategic alternatives detailed in Chapter 8, of the Environmental Report were considered for assessment as part of the SEA process for the Plan.

It is a mandatory objective of a development plan that sufficient lands are zoned for residential uses in accordance with the Meath County Development Plan Core Strategy. On this basis, it was identified that there is a requirement for 14.8 ha of residentially zoned lands as part of the Trim Development Plan (2014-2020) and at present based on the Trim Development Plan (2008-2014) there is 96.9ha of excess lands zoned for residential use within the Development Plan area.

On this basis, all seventeen undeveloped residentially zoned sites (as identified in the Plan 2014- 2020) located within the Plan area have been assessed by the plan makers with a view to finding the most suitable residential sites. This assessment was undertaken based on a ranking system of each site based on distance to the town centre, public transport, schools, distance to Natura 2000 sites and whether the sites were infill development.

Sites were rated based on the above factors and ranked in order of preference for zoning to residential use as part of the Development Plan review process. Seven preferred sites were identified by the Plan makers based on rankings and potential yield. These sites are referenced as Site Q, Site O, Site D, Site P, Site C, Site N and part of Site B and are illustrated in the Plan.

This assessment was reviewed by RPS from an environmental perspective to ensure that the alternatives assessment is comprehensive and addresses environmental factors as well as planning considerations. The preferred sites were assessed using the environmental criteria of the SEA Environmental Objectives as set out in Chapter 7 of the SEA Environmental Report. This assessment was undertaken to identify any potential negative environmental effects in relation to these sites that may not have been identified as part of the initial alternatives assessment ranking procedure. This assessment was used to inform the overall residential strategy for zoning of lands to serve the town.

Based on the environmental assessment of the seven sites, three factors were identified which had not been factored into the initial ranking assessment undertaken by the Plan makers including cultural heritage, landscape and visual, and servicing requirements.

Detailed discussions took place between the SEA Team and the Plan team in order to arrive at the residential development strategy within the Plan. Based on detailed review of the assessment process it was concluded that cultural heritage, landscape and visual factors should not be included within the ranking system due to the following reason;

- Given the significant heritage and landscape protection afforded to Trim, these factors are likely to be a constraint to the development of nearly all sites within and in the vicinity of the town core. Therefore it is unlikely that inclusion of these factors within the ranking system would not have any benefit. Instead it is recommended that detailed protective policies are included within the Plan to afford protection to cultural heritage. It is also recommended that detailed protective policies and associated mapping should be included within the Plan warranting protection of scenic views and prospects within the town.

Initially a deficiency was identified in the ranking of sites in respect of the omission of servicing of residentially zoned lands. However, as part of the assessment the Plan makers were able to confirm that all of the preferred seven sites were serviced in terms of water supply and waste water treatment on the public system or are easily serviceable. The Council also committed to including an objective within the Plan to create a map of serviced areas within the town during the lifetime of the Trim Development Plan.

It is concluded that the alternatives assessment is comprehensive and addresses environmental factors as well as planning considerations.

5 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

Cumulative effects are referred to in a number of SEA guidance documents and are defined in the EPA SEA Process Checklist (2011) as “*effects on the environment that result from incremental changes caused by the strategic action together with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. These effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over time or space*”. Therefore the combined effect of human activity can pose a serious threat on our environment. These effects can be insignificant individually but cumulatively over time and from a number of sources can result in the degradation of sensitive environmental resources.

The environment of Trim Town and its surrounding areas contains sensitive ecological areas, including the SPA and SAC of the River Boyne, and the related surface and groundwater systems. The Plan is generally consistent with the population targets and projections from higher level plans in the planning hierarchy including the Regional Planning Guidelines and the Meath County Development Plan. As a result, a core strategy has been formed which makes provision for projected targets at national, regional and local levels, which are not only in line with one another but also ensure a sustainable pattern of growth within the hierarchy.

It is clear from this assessment that this will result in increased pressure on land resources and existing services such as wastewater disposal and water supplies within these areas, as well as municipal waste management and other pressures associated with increased population including tourism and traffic. The Trim Development Plan will mainly adhere to the Core Strategy for Meath County, taking into account the environment and sustainability and making provisions for the protection of the environment through phased development and the provision of adequate services. Through the Managers Report and Amendments process the Councillors included two additional residential land parcels Site H (40 units) and Site G (24 units) which incurred an increase in the overall residential allocation.

Aside from the cumulative impacts of population growth, other compound effects were considered as part of the SEA. Of note are the possible cumulative effects of the improvement of the amenity of the town centre and in respect of transport development. Improvement works within the town centre are planned for several reasons, including increasing the attractiveness of Trim Town to tourists as well as local residents. Although this will concentrate the commercial centre and reduce vehicular travel of those commuting outside of the area, it has great potential to impact upon the River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA and SAC. In addition, the increase in the number of tourists visiting the area is likely to increase traffic within the Plan area also, thus the cumulative impacts of town centre development, especially when coupled with the growth of the resident population, could be quite considerable. It is for this reason that the Plan took these cumulative impacts into account when compiling policies to ensure sufficient provision of car and bus parking close to the town centre along with other protective policies to ensure the conservation status of the town centre.

6 MONITORING MEASURES

Article 10 of the SEA Directive (2001/42/EEC) requires Member States to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans *“in order, inter alia, to identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action”*. The primary purpose of monitoring is to cross-check significant environmental effects which arise during the implementation stage against those predicted during the plan preparation stage.

The Directive leaves considerable flexibility to Member States in deciding how monitoring shall be arranged, however it is generally agreed that a mixture of “quantitative and qualitative indicators” are required. The Directive recognises that the monitoring does not necessarily require new research activity and that existing sources of information can be used. In addition monitoring can be used to identify any information gaps and/or deficiencies that were identified as part of the SEA process. Furthermore, Government Guidelines state that monitoring should concentrate on the likely significant effects identified in the Environmental Report (former Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government 2004).

Monitoring will be based around the SEA Environmental Objectives, Indicators and Targets which are outlined in **Table 6.1**. The Indicators chosen are at a level which is relevant to the Plan and are collated and reported on by a variety of government agencies including the EPA, NPWS and Archaeological Survey.

The indicators that are used will show both positive and negative changes that would be attributable to the implementation of the Plan.

Monitoring proposals must concentrate on likely significant environmental effects, as identified in the Environmental Report, and the measures identified as necessary to prevent, reduce, or offset any significant adverse effects. The indicators/monitoring will act as an early warning sign so that appropriate remedial action is undertaken.

Responsibilities and Frequency of Reporting

The statutory Manager's Report on progress in achieving objectives of the Plan, takes place two years after the adoption of the Plan and *“shall include information in relation to the progress on, and the results of monitoring the significant environmental effects of implementation of the Plan”*. If an objective or policy is resulting in a significant adverse effect then a variation may be considered during the lifetime of the Plan. It is largely the responsibility of Meath County Council to undertake the monitoring and to interpret the monitoring data relevant to Trim Development Plan and to deal with unforeseen effect as a result of implementing the Trim Development Plan.

Table 6.1: Monitoring and Reporting Programme as Outlined in the SEA

Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Source/ Responsibility
Objective 1 Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna Protect and where appropriate, promote and support the enhancement and effective protection of biodiversity in the wider landscape and in particular protected areas and protected species.	No net loss of designated sites, species or habitats.	Reported/ Estimated levels of damage to designated sites/ species/ habitats as identified by GIS and AA	NPWS
	Increase in number of Appropriate Assessments being carried out.	No. of Appropriate Assessments Carried out.	MCC Planning/ Environment Department
	No loss of land actively managed for conservation.	Loss of land actively managed for conservation.	NPWS
	No net loss of green	Loss of green linkages/	MCC Environment

Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Source/ Responsibility
	linkages / ecological networks.	ecological networks identified through GIS and Habitat Mapping.	Department/ GIS
	Implementation of County Meath Biodiversity Plan	No. of actions/ objectives achieved in County Meath Biodiversity Plan.	MCC Environment Department
	Prevent further spread of alien/ invasive species.	Number of sites reported to contain alien/ invasive species.	NPWS MCC Environment Department
Objective 2 Population Improve people's quality of life based on high-quality residential, school, childcare, working and recreational environments and on sustainable transport	No increase in population above core strategy population targets	% change in population based on core strategy targets based on RPG figures.	CSO
	Appropriate mix of tenure types (including social housing) in all new developments.	% of private and social housing in new developments % mix of tenures based on housing strategy requirements.	MCC Planning and Housing Departments
	All significant planning applications for 15 + dwellings to be accompanied by a design statement.	% of significant planning applications granted for new residential developments that are accompanied by a design statement.	MCC Planning Department
Objective 3 Water Improve water quality and the management of watercourses to comply with the standards of the Water Framework Directive and incorporate the objectives of the Floods Directive into sustainable planning and development.	Implementation of the Programme of Measures identified under the ERBD River Basin Management Plan.	% increase and % decrease in waters achieving 'good' status as defined in the WFD.	EPA and MCC Environment Department
Objective 4 Soil Protect and, where appropriate, enhance the function and quality of the soil resource in the lands within Trim Development Plan.	Increase in any derelict buildings being redeveloped.	Number of derelict buildings being redeveloped based on commencement notices.	Commencement notices
Objective 5 Climate Change Contribute to mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.	All new development applications within areas at risk of flooding to submit a flood impact assessment.	Number of new development applications within areas at risk of flooding without flood impact assessment.	MCC Planning Department
	Increase access by households to sustainable forms of transport, including bus and rail services.	Passenger numbers. Funding allocated to improvement of walking and cycling facilities.	MCC Planning and Roads Department
Objective 6 Cultural Heritage Protect and, where appropriate, enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of cultural, architectural and archaeological, heritage within	No impact on the fabric or setting of monuments on the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) by development granted planning permission.	Number of monuments on the RMP, impacted by granted planning permissions.	The Archaeological Survey monitoring programme, Ireland

Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Source/ Responsibility
Trim Development Plan.	No impacts on the architectural heritage value or setting of protected structures by development granted planning permission.	Number of protected structures impacted by development granted planning permission.	Buildings at Risk Register, Heritage Council Ireland. MCC Planning Department
	No protected structures to be demolished because of long term neglect and dereliction.	Number of protected structures that have been demolished because of long term neglect and dereliction.	Buildings at Risk Register, Heritage Council Ireland. MCC Planning Department
Objective 7 Landscape Protect and, where appropriate, enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of landscapes in Trim Development Plan.	No negative alteration to protected views.	Number of visual impact assessments received as part of development proposals	MCC Planning Department
	Maintain and enhance landscape character in accordance with recommendations included in the Meath Landscape Character Assessment as part of MCDP 2013-2019.	No. of new developments granted planning permission within areas of high landscape value and within High Amenity Areas.	MCC Planning Department
	No planning permission granted within special qualities of landscapes that materially contravene the policies or objectives of the Plan.	Number of planning permissions granted which materially contravene the special qualities of landscapes.	MCC Planning Department
Objective 8 Material Assets Make best use of existing infrastructure and promote the sustainable development of new infrastructure.	Minimise the % of unaccounted for water. This refers to leakage from the system.	% unaccounted for water.	EPA
	Increase in planning permissions making provision for renewable energy and water conservation measures.	No of planning permissions making provision for renewable energy and water conservation measures.	MCC Planning Department
	Ensure adequate public wastewater and water supply is provided prior to construction of new development or is developed in parallel.	No. of developments granted planning permission without adequate public water supply and / or wastewater services in place.	EPA and MCC Environment Department
	Increase access to public transport from households.	Construction/ improvement of footpaths/ greenways/ cycle infrastructure.	MCC Roads Department

7 ADDENDUM TO ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

As per Amendment 12.1 of the Stage 1 Amendments Report as placed on display between 27th January 2014 until 24th February 2014 it is proposed to amend Section 6.6.2 of the Environmental report by adding reference to the following document:

Our Sustainable Future – A Framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland (DECLG, 2012).

APPENDIX A

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITY SUBMISSIONS

SCOPING STAGE



Ms Caroline Power
Administrative Officer
Forward Planning Section
Planning Department
Meath County Council
Abbey Road
Navan
Co. Meath

5th July 2013

Our Ref: SCP121101.2

Re: SEA Environmental Assessment for Trim Development Plan 2014-2020

Dear Ms Power,

I refer to and acknowledge your consultants correspondence on your behalf, dated 18th June 2013, in relation to the SEA Scoping Report for the Trim Development Plan 2014-2020, hereafter referred to as "the Plan".

You are referred to the Agency's previous submission on the SEA Scoping Issues Paper, dated the 16th January 2013, which should be taken into account at this time also.

Further to the above, a number of specific comments which should be taken into account are provided below.

Specific Comments to be considered

In *Section 1.3.6 - SEA Guidance*, consideration should be given to listing the Meath County Development Plan in the list of Plans under the *Local Level* subheading. In the preparation of the Meath County Development Plan, a Landscape Character Assessment and Green Infrastructure Strategy were carried out. There would be merits in including specific reference to these documents also, as relevant to the Plan area.

Consideration should be given to updating *Section 3.3 Current State of the Environment* and associated *Table 1 – Preliminary Baseline*, in relation to drinking water aspects, to reflect that the Trim Public Water Supply is currently listed on the most recent published EPA Remedial Action List of Drinking Water Supplies (Q1 2013). It is listed due to "*Elevated levels of THMs above the standard in the Drinking Water Regulations*". It should be ensured that the recommendations of the EPA Audit of this plant are implemented to resolve the issues identified.

In relation to *Scoping Question 3*, one of the significant relevant issues to be addressed / assessed by the SEA should be the proposals for zoning/re-zoning/de-zoning/phasing recommendations and how development proposals are appropriate to the identified environmental vulnerabilities / sensitivities. Potential for cumulative impacts should in particular be taken into account. In terms of flood risk, it should in particular be ensured that development of lands is appropriate to the risk of flooding identified and in line with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines (DEHLG, 2009).



In relation to *Scoping Question 4*, the list of potential significant effects as identified in the SEA Scoping Report is noted.

Scoping Question No. 5 relating to proposed method of assessment of reasonable alternatives could consider a 'tiered' approach to the consideration of alternatives. An overall strategy approach and associated alternatives could be considered initially to meet the population and core strategy objectives of the Regional Planning Guidelines and as allocated by the County Development Plan. Once a preferred alternative had been selected, a second series of lower level spatial alternatives relating to the zoning/phasing of various land uses which meet the overall goals of the preferred higher level strategy may provide a more robust methodology to selecting a preferred approach.

Existing international guidance on Alternatives preparation and assessment is available from the following link and may be a useful resource in the selection and assessment of reasonable alternatives. <http://www.levett-therivel.co.uk/options.pdf>

Further comment will be provided by the Agency upon receipt of the Environmental Report and the Draft Plan and associated documents during the next statutory consultation phase of the SEA Process.

Updated SEA Regulations / Circular

Your attention is brought to the new SEA Regulations, which should be referenced and integrated into the Plan and SEA process.

Two amending SEA Regulations were signed into Irish law on 3rd May 2011, amending the original SEA Regulations:

- European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011, (S.I. No. 200 of 2011), amending the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 435 of 2004), and
- Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011, (S.I. No. 201 of 2011), amending the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004).

You are also referred to the DoECLG Circular (PSSP 6/2011) issued on the 26th July 2011 to each County/City Manager, Director of Services and Town Clerk in relation to 'Further Transposition of the EU Directive 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)' which should also be referred to and integrated into the Plan.

European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011

You are also referred to the requirements of the recent European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011), which should be taken into account in implementing the Plan.

Environmental Authorities

You are reminded of the requirement, where appropriate under the SEA Regulations, and as amended by S.I. No. 201 of 2011, to give notice to the following:

- The Environmental Protection Agency



- The Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government
- Minister for Agriculture, Marine and Food, and the Minister for Communications Energy and Natural Resources, where it appears to the planning authority that the plan or programme, or modification of the plan or programme, might have significant effects on fisheries or the marine environment
- where it appears to the competent authority that the plan or programme, or amendment to a plan or programme, might have significant effects in relation to the architectural heritage or to nature conservation, the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs, and
- any adjoining planning authority whose area is continuous to the area of a planning authority which prepared a draft plan, proposed variation or local area plan.

You are further reminded that a copy of your decision regarding the determination should be made available for public inspection at your offices, local authority website and should also be notified to any Environmental Authorities already consulted.

Should you have any queries or require further information in relation to the above please contact the undersigned. I would be grateful if an acknowledgement of receipt of this submission could be sent electronically to the following address: sea@epa.ie.

Yours Sincerely,

Cian O'Mahony
Scientific Officer
SEA Section - Environmental Research Centre
Office of Environmental Assessment
Environmental Protection Agency
Regional Inspectorate
Inniscarra, County Cork



**An Roinn
Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta**
**Department of
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht**

Our ref: G Pre00214/2013 & FP2013/104

16 July 2013

Caroline Power
Planning Department
Meath County Council
Abbey Mall
Abbey Road
Navan
Co. Meath

Re: Review of Trim Town Plan, SEA scoping report

A Chara,

I refer to your notification in relation to the above-proposed development. Outlined below are the recommendations of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in relation to nature conservation.

Plan

It is recommended that the Plan should include a natural heritage section. All designated sites within the Plan area should be listed and mapped, including, if applicable, candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC), special Protection Areas (SPA), Natural Heritage Areas (NHA), proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA), Nature Reserves and Refuges for fauna. Details of these sites are available on www.npws.ie. Where SIs have recently been issued they may not yet be available on www.npws.ie but may be available on www.irishstatutebook.ie. For information on Geological and Geomorphological NHAs the Geological Survey of Ireland should be consulted. The Plan should take cognisance of boundary changes to sites made during the lifetime of the Plan and all such sites should be zoned appropriately and policies and objectives should be devised to ensure their protection. In compiling the proposed new Plan the Council should take cognisance of the relevant circular letters which have been circulated to Local Authorities which are available on our web site at <http://www.npws.ie/planning/appropriateassessment/>. With regard to legislation the Plan and SEA should take account of the Biodiversity Convention, the Ramsar Convention, the Birds and Habitats Directives, the Wildlife Acts of 1976 to 2010, and the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (SI No 94 of 1997) and its amendments.

The proposed Plan should recognise that protected species also occur outside designated sites and should take note of the National Biodiversity Plan and the need to protect the County's biodiversity. Article 10 of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) outlines the need to include linear features and stepping stones for biodiversity in land use plans. Such linear features include hedges, rivers, canals and roadside verges. Examples of stepping stones include marshes and woodlands. Alien invasive species such Japanese Knotweed and giant Hogweed can be damaging to local biodiversity and a policy is needed to protect against the accidental introduction of such species during development.

Hedgerows form important wildlife corridors and provide areas for birds to nest in and in addition badger setts may be present. If suitable trees are present bats may roost there and they use hedgerows as flight routes. Hedges also provide a habitat for woodland flora. Where a hedgerow forms a townland or other historical boundary it generally is an old hedgerow. Such hedges will contain more biodiversity than a younger hedge. Hedgerows should be maintained where possible. Where trees or hedges have to be removed there should be suitable planting of native species in mitigation. Where possible hedges and trees should not be removed during the nesting season (i.e. March 1st to August 31st). Birds' nests can only be intentionally destroyed under licence issued under the Wildlife Acts of 1976 and 2000. Bat roosts may be present in trees, buildings and bridges. Bat roosts can only be destroyed under licence under the Wildlife Acts and derogation under the Habitats Regulations and such a licence would only be given if suitable mitigation measures were implemented. It is important that the proposed Plan should recognise the importance of linear features such as hedgerows and waterways.

Wetland habitats such as rivers are an important source of biodiversity and contain species such as otters (*Lutra lutra*), Salmon in freshwater (*Salmo salar*), kingfishers (*Alcedo atthis*), crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) and Lamprey species, all protected under the Wildlife Acts of 1976 to 2010 and/or listed on the annexes of the EC Habitats Directive and Birds Directive. It is important that the proposed Plan should recognise the importance of wetland habitats and ensure that such sites are protected. In addition flood plains, if present, should be identified in the Plans and left undeveloped to allow for the protection of these valuable habitats and provide areas for flood water retention. The plan should take account of the guidelines for Planning Authorities entitled "The Planning System and Flood Risk Management" and published by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in November 2009. The proposed Plan should also protect both surface and ground water and care should be taken to ensure that any proposed abstractions or discharges do not negatively impact on Natura 2000 sites.

Negative impacts on biodiversity and designated sites, particularly in the mountains, by the coast and along rivers, can occur as a result of development such as walking routes, cycleways, seating, lighting, loss of riparian zone and mowing of riparian zone, and can lead to erosion and added disturbance by humans and dogs. Such developments along waterways for example could impact on species such as otters and bats which are strictly protected under the Habitats Directive and Kingfishers listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409 EEC). Care therefore needs to be taken to ensure any proposed walkways along rivers are located a suitable distance from the waters edge and, where such proposed developments may impact on a Natura 2000 site, screening for appropriate assessment would be required prior to such a development taking place.

SEA

It is recommended that the Biodiversity SEOs in the SEA cover habitats and species both within and outside of designated sites as below where applicable;

- Natura 2000 sites, i.e. Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated under the EC Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) and Special Protection Areas designated under the EC Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147 EC),
- Other designated sites, or sites proposed for designation, such as Natural Heritage Areas, Nature Reserves and Refuges for Fauna or Flora, designated under the Wildlife Acts of 1976 to 2010,
- Habitats listed on annex I of the Habitats Directive,

- Species listed on Annexes II and IV of the Habitats Directive,
- Habitats important for birds,
- Birds listed on Annex I of the EC Birds Directive,
- Species protected under the Wildlife Acts including protected flora,
- Habitats that can be considered to be corridors or stepping stones for the purpose of article 10 of the Habitats Directive,
- Red data book species,
- and biodiversity in general.

Examples of protected species include protected plants listed in SI 94 of 1999, mammals such as badgers (*Meles meles*) and the Irish Hare (*Lepus timidus hibernicus*), protected under the Wildlife Acts and listed on Appendix III of the Berne Convention, and bat species and otters, protected under the Wildlife Acts and listed on Annex IV of the Habitats Directive. All birds are protected under the Wildlife Acts and some, such as the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) and kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), are listed on annex I of the Birds Directive. With regard to the scope of baseline data for flora and fauna in the SEA, in addition to any County records, we advise consulting the data of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) at www.npws.ie and the data of the National Biodiversity Data Centre at <http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/>.

With regard to the SEOs for Water in the SEA it is important that the needs of protected species such as crayfish, salmon and lamprey species, which are listed on annex II of the Habitats Directive, are considered in relation to water quality. The SEOs and targets should be also compatible with the relevant River Basin Management Plans.

Regarding flood risk, flood plains should be left undeveloped to allow for the protection of these valuable habitats along the river corridors and provide areas for floodwater retention. Account should be taken of the guidelines for Planning Authorities entitled “The Planning System and Flood Risk Management” and published by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in November 2009. It is also important that ground and surface waters be protected from pollution and the Local Authority should ensure that adequate sewage treatment facilities are in place prior to any development proposed in the LAP. The Local Authority should also ensure that adequate water supplies are present prior to development and the impact of any proposed water abstraction schemes on the natural heritage should be fully assessed.

Appropriate Assessment

Please note that the draft Plan should be screened for appropriate assessment. The Departmental guidance document on Appropriate Assessment is available on the NPWS web site at <http://www.npws.ie/media/npws/publications/codesofpractice/AA%20Guidance%2010-12-09.pdf>. You are also referred to the EU Commission guidance entitled “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” which can be downloaded from http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/natura_2000_assess_en.pdf.

It is particularly important that the appropriate assessment procedure, commencing with stage 1 screening, should take place in consultation with the teams working on the draft Plan and SEA as each process can help inform the other to ensure that the objectives and policies in the draft Plan will have no significant effects on any Natura 2000 site. The appropriate assessment should examine the effects of policies, objectives and any indicative maps or zonings, as well as cumulative impacts with other plans and projects both within and outside of the Plan area. In order to carry out the appropriate assessment you will need to collect information about the relevant Natura 2000 sites including their conservation objectives. These may be available on our web site www.npws.ie or can be obtained by requesting them by completing the data request form on our website at <http://www.npws.ie/media/npws/publications/Data%20request%20form.doc>.

It is recommended that you consult with other relevant Local Authorities to determine if there are any projects or plans which, in combination with this proposed Plan, could impact on any Natura 2000 sites.

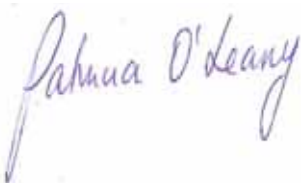
The acknowledgement to this letter or any further information should be forwarded to the following address:

The Manager,
Development Applications Unit,
Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht,
Newtown Road,
Wexford.

Alternatively, documentation associated with the above can be referred electronically to the DAU at the following address: manager.dau@ahg.gov.ie

Finally, the above observations and recommendations are based on the papers submitted to this Department on a pre-planning basis and are made without prejudice to any observations the Minister may make in the context of any consultation arising on foot of any development application referred to the Minister, by the planning authority, in his role as statutory consultee under the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

Is mise le meas



Patricia O'Leary
Development Applications Unit
Tel: (053) 911 7482

Subject: FW: SEA for Trim Development Plan (2014-2020)

From: CorporateSupport.Unit <CorporateSupport.Unit@dcenr.gov.ie>

Date: 19 July 2013 10:51:42 GMT+01:00

To: <emma.oliveira@rpsgroup.com>

Cc: Teresa O'Halloran <Teresa.O'Halloran@dcenr.gov.ie>, Pat Smyth <Pat.Smyth@dcenr.gov.ie>

Subject: SEA for Trim Development Plan (2014-2020)

Caroline Power
Planning Department
Meath County Council
Abbey Mall
Abbey Road
Navan
Co. Meath

Re: Trim Town Development Plan SEA Scoping Document

Dear Ms. Power,

I refer to an email of the 18th June 2013 in the above regard.

The Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources on behalf of Inland Fisheries Ireland have the following comments to make at this time;

'Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) is a Statutory Body established on the 1st July 2010 .Under section 7(1) of the Inland Fisheries Act 2010 (No. 10 of 2010) *the principal function of IFI is the protection, management and conservation of the inland fisheries resource.*

Under section 7(3) of the IFI Act it is stated that *without prejudice to subsection (1), IFI shall in the performance of its functions have regard to(g) the requirements of the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 (S.I. No. 94 of 1997) and the need for the sustainable development of the inland fisheries resource (including the conservation of fish and other species of fauna and flora habitats and the biodiversity of inland water ecosystems),(h) as far as possible, ensure that its activities are carried out so as to protect the national heritage (within the meaning of the Heritage Act 1995).*

Article 5 of the 2009 Surface Water Regulations requires that a public authority, in performance of its functions, shall not undertake those functions in a manner that knowingly causes or allows deterioration in the chemical or ecological status of a body of surface water. Also article 28(2) of the said Regulations states that a surface water body whose status is determined to be less than good shall be restored to at least good status not later than the end of 2015. The status of the Lowe Boyne at Trim is *moderate* and this has to be restored to *good* by 2015. As you know the Boyne is a cSAC with prominent stocks of Atlantic salmon, lamprey and Brown Trout.

Our main concern would be with regard to:

- **Water quality** -The substandard water quality of the Lower Boyne
- **Drinking Water** – IFI are concerned about the proposed Dowdstown WTP as it will place an unjustified strain of the already limited water supply in the River Boyne.
- **Wastewater** – IFI would welcome improvements planned for that Trim wastewater infrastructure.

In summary IFI would ask that NPWS would bear all of the below mentioned relevant aspects in mind in the preparation of your environmental report.

- Water quality
- Surface water hydrology
- Fish spawning and nursery areas
- Passage of migratory fish
- Areas of natural heritage importance
- Biological diversity
- Ecosystem structure and functioning
- Sport and commercial fishing and angling
- Amenity and recreational area

In reply to your scoping questions.

Question 1 – maybe you can consider the IFI publication *Requirements for the Protection of Fisheries habitat during Construction and Development Works* (attached).

Question 2 – As part of the conservation haeding, consireration such be given to also protecting the tributaries of the River Boyne around Trim such as the Maudlin and the Lackanash from urbanisation and malfunctioning sewer lines.

Question 3/4/5 – No further comment at this stage. We welcome your reference to invasive species.

IFI are available should you wish us to clarify further any of the above.'

Kind regards,

Frances Dunne,
Corporate Support Unit,
DCENR,
Phone 01 6783084.

Disclaimer:

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Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo (agus b'fhéidir sa chomhaid ceangailte leis) a d'fhéadfadh bheith priobháideach nó faoi rún. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na ndaoine sin amháin atá an t-eolas. Murab ionann tusa agus an té a bhfuil an teachtaireacht ceaptha dó bíodh a fhios agat nach gceadaítear nochtadh, cóipeáil, scaipeadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo. Más trí earráid a fuair tú an teachtaireacht leictreonach seo cuir, más é do thoil é, an té ar sheol an teachtaireacht ar an eolas láithreach. Deimhnítear leis seo freisin nár aims odh víreas sa phost seo tar éis a scanadh.

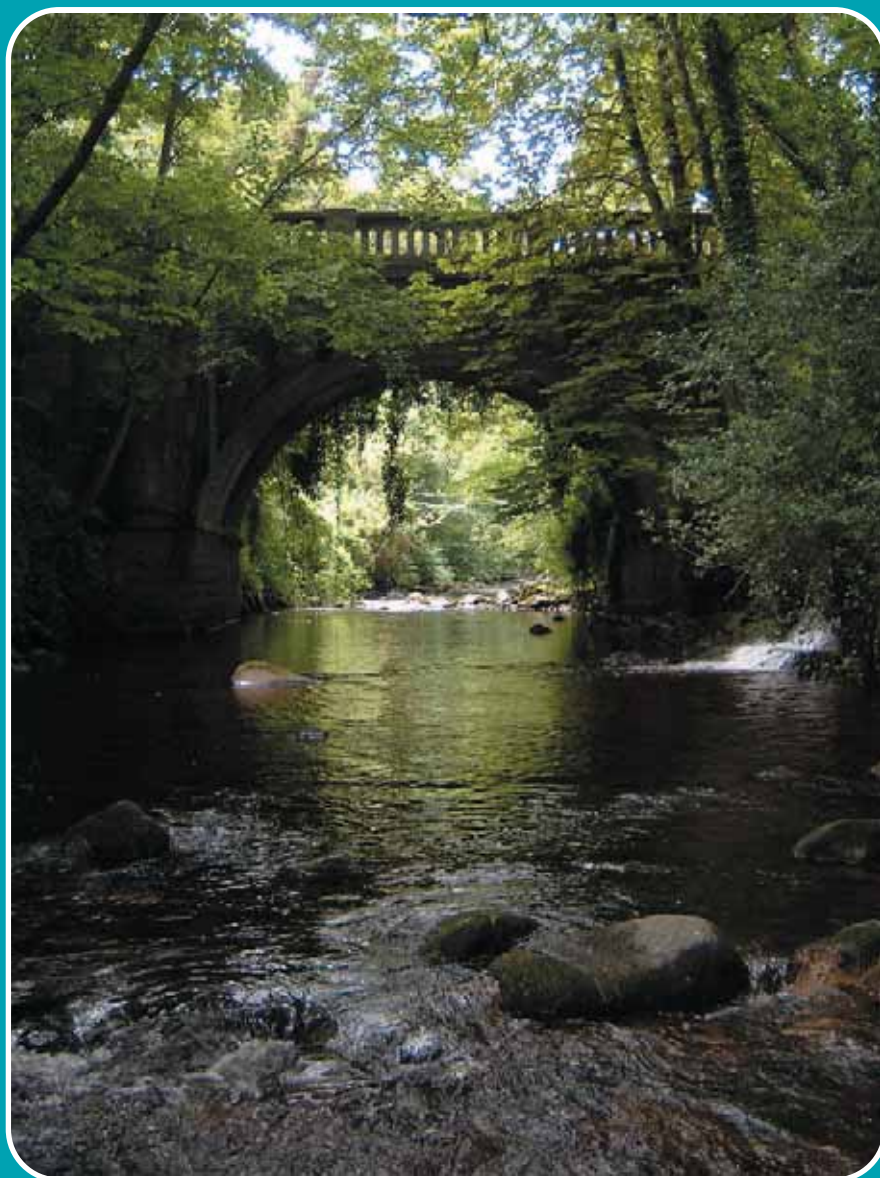
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Eastern Regional Fisheries Board
Bord Iascaigh Réigiúnach an Oirthir

FISHERIES



*Requirements for the Protection of Fisheries Habitat
during Construction and Development Works
at River Sites*

EASTERN REGIONAL FISHERIES BOARD

Fisheries Protection Guidelines

These Guidelines were written by Mr. Donal F. Murphy, BE FIEI MIFM,
with the assistance of staff of the Eastern Regional Fisheries Board

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Introduction

The Fisheries Board is charged under the Fisheries Acts with the responsibility to protect and conserve all freshwater fisheries within its area of jurisdiction.

Every river, stream, canal, lake, pond and reservoir within this area must be regarded as constituting and/or supporting a Fishery under the meaning of the Acts unless otherwise regarded by the Boards.

The fisheries resource is also protected under national and EU legislation. Some notes on the legal protection given to fishery habitats are contained in Appendix I.

While general and specific requirements for the conservation and protection of the fisheries habitat may be set out in the planning conditions under which a project is approved, many issues regarding the timing, management, organisation, and methods of execution of the works inevitably arise during the construction phase.

These Guidance Notes are aimed to identify the likely impact on fisheries habitat in the course of construction and development work, and to outline practical measures for the avoidance and mitigation of damage.

These guidelines should not be regarded as all-embracing. Each project must be assessed on a case by case basis. It is, therefore, essential to consult with the Board. It may also be necessary to seek professional expert advice.

All information contained in these guidelines were up to date at time of print.

Fish and Their Requirements

Fish need unpolluted water and abundant food in a habitat that provides spawning areas, shelter and freedom of movement. The bed and soil of a natural river and the associated aquatic and riparian vegetation combine to provide the food chain on which fish depend. A natural river channel is characterised by the morphological features which are vital for the life cycle of fish: gravel shoals or reed beds for spawning, pools and riffles where fish rest and feed, and turbulent reaches which enhance oxygenation.

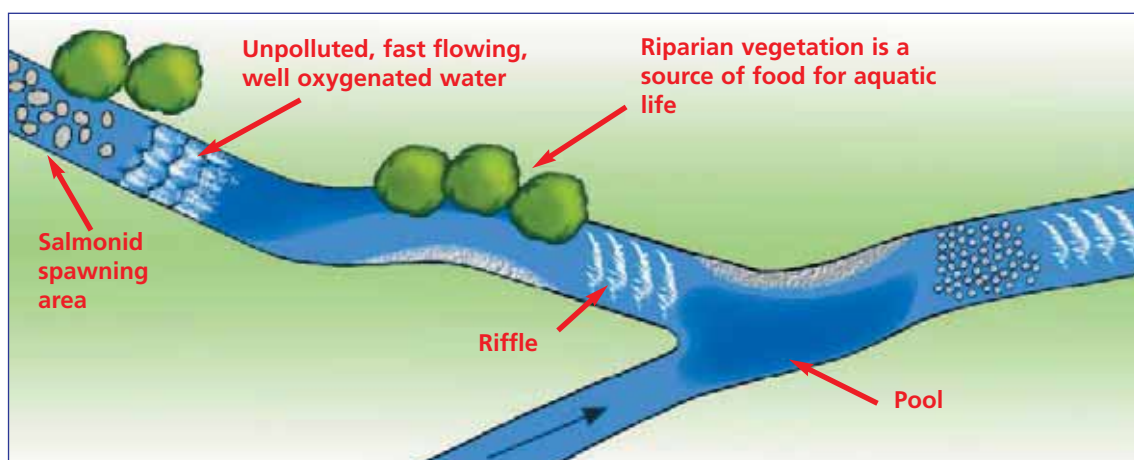


Fig. 1. Overview of River System

All elements of this natural environment must be protected. These guidance notes outline important practical measures to minimise the impact of construction and development works on fisheries habitat.

Potential Impacts on Fish and Fish Habitat from Roads and Watercourse Crossings

Barriers to fish passage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Blockages in watercourses – physical or hydraulic.
Water pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sedimentation – impacts include smothering fish eggs and causing mortalities in fish of all ages, reducing abundance of food and impeding movement of fish. ■ Cement, grout and concrete – toxic to fish. ■ Oil and fuels – direct impacts on fish, fish food and fish habitats.
Removal of bed material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Causes loss of instream vegetation and food. May destroy spawning or nursery habitats.
Disturbance of riparian vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Loss of shelter and cover, loss of food (plant debris and invertebrates).

Design Stage

Permanent river crossings

1. Bridges

Clear span bridging is the preferable option, causing no changes to bed and banks and no impact on fish migration. If piers are required keep them slim-line to minimise changes to the channel. Bed and bank work should be executed in natural materials.

Adequate clearance should be allowed under bridges for angler access and mammal passage, if required, particularly in the case of a motorway project.

2. Culverts

Culverts are likely to obstruct or delay upstream fish passage unless the depths and velocities of flow in them are within the swimming capabilities of the species to be catered for. Entry and exit conditions are also critical for ease of fish passage.

- Where possible, arch-type, “bottomless” units should be used so that the natural stream bed can be retained.
- The next best option is to use box culverts incorporating the design principles set out hereafter.
- The use of round/oval culverts should be limited to short runs and temporary crossing.

Design principles

1. Culvert should be as short as possible
2. Where the topography allows, they should be laid so as to remain backwatered in drought flow to a depth of not less than 500mm at the upstream invert, thereby providing a fishway over their full length.
3. In all cases, provisions must be made to ensure that the velocity of flow will be less than the swimming speed which can be comfortably maintained by the weakest upstream migrants.
4. Transition pools should be formed at each end to allow upstream migrants to enter and exit without stress or delay.
5. Culverts should be daylit over their full length: if necessary, light-ports should be provided at suitable intervals.
6. The use of trash screens should be avoided.

Fig. 2. Over-sized box culvert permanently backwatered



Design Options

1. To conform to the principles set out above, culverts always need to be oversized and, generally, laid below the river-bed grade level by about 500 mm.
2. Where the bed gradient is too steep for full backwatering, the best option for achieving low velocity and adequate fishway is to provide a fish-pass at the downstream end, as shown in Figure 3.

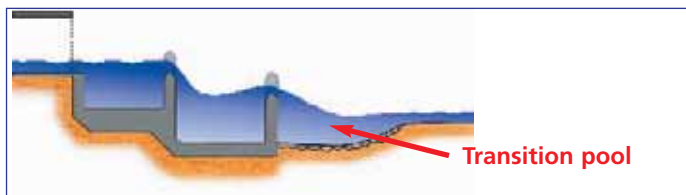


Fig. 3. Fish pass and transition pool at downstream end of culvert

3. Alternatively, the downstream water-level may be raised by providing one or more ponding weirs below the outfall. Such weirs should have fish notches to facilitate upstream movement. The pools formed by them should provide adequate resting and take-off conditions for fish.
4. In some cases it may be acceptable to use notched baffles to control the velocity and provide fishway in the culvert. As already recommended the culverts should be oversized to compensate for flood conditions.
5. More rarely, shaping and roughening of the invert may serve to provide flow conditions suitable for fish passage, especially during low flow. The objective is to create a low flow channel along the centre of the culvert.

Permanent River Diversions and/or Realignments

While permanent diversions are not encouraged, in limited circumstances they will be permitted. The new channel should display hydraulic and morphological characteristics fulfilling the requirements of fisheries habitats. Bed and bank work should be executed in natural materials.

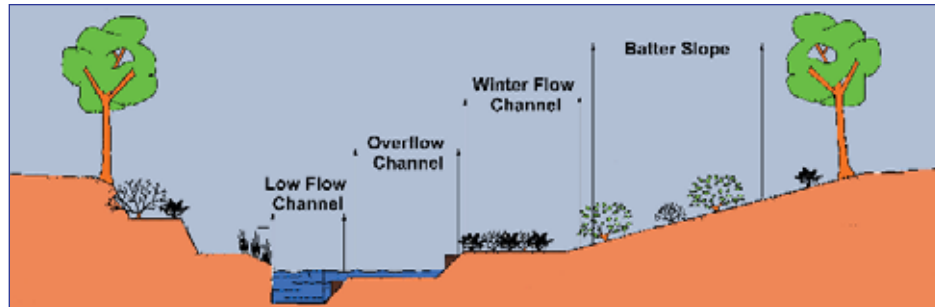


Fig. 4. Example of realignment design

Road run-off

All surface water collected from the road drainage should be treated in a sustainable manner to minimize the impact on water quality and prevent habitat degradation. Treatment should be designed with adequate storage capacity and in a manner to facilitate maintenance.

Construction Stage

Minimising impact: Site Layout and Organisation

The following measures are critical for preserving water quality and aquatic habitats.

1. Fuels, oils, greases and hydraulic fluids must be stored in bunded compounds well away from the watercourse. Refuelling of machinery, etc., should be carried out in bunded areas.
2. Runoff from machine service and concrete mixing areas must not enter the watercourse.
3. Stockpile areas for sands and gravel should be kept to minimum size, well away from the watercourse.
4. Runoff from the above should only be routed to the watercourse via suitably designed and sited settlement ponds/filter channels.
5. Settlement ponds should be inspected daily and maintained regularly.
6. Temporary crossings should be designed to the criteria laid down for permanent works.
7. Watercourse banks should be left intact if possible. If they have to be disturbed, all practicable measures should be taken to prevent soils from entering the watercourse.

Instream works

1. Instream works may only be carried out in accordance with the Board's general requirements set out below.
2. Preparatory works – such as constructing temporary crossings, forming cofferdams, creating diversions, - must be carried out in accordance with an approved Method Statement and under supervision by the Board's officers. Similar requirements apply during removal and reinstatement.
3. Instream machine works should be minimised, and any machines working in the watercourse must be protected against leakage or spillage of fuels, oils, greases and hydraulic fluids.
4. Instream earthworks must be executed so as to minimise the suspension of solids.
5. Construction works, especially ones involving the pouring of concrete, must be conducted in the dry.
6. When cofferdams are being kept dry by pumping, the discharge must be routed to an approved settlement facility before return to the river.
7. Every care must be taken to insure against spillage of concrete or leakage of cement grout within cofferdams.
8. Temporary diversions may be used to facilitate working in the dry, subject to permission by the Board. Advance notice must be given and a Method Statement must be furnished and approved. Such approval will be subject to the Board's officers being satisfied that the diversion channel can be so designed as to accommodate fish migration.
9. The diversion channel should be formed in the dry, and arrangements should be made for authorised personnel to remove all fish from the natural channel before the flow is diverted.

Summary of the Board's General Requirements:

- In salmonid catchments, all in-stream works should be carried out during the period May to September (see table on next page).
- In the event that these waters contain Lamprey it is necessary to contact National Parks and Wildlife Service for their requirements.
- No instream works shall be carried out without the written approval of the Board. A method statement must be agreed well in advance.
- The Board should be given sufficient notice before pre-approved in-stream works commence.
- If a section of watercourse is to be de-stocked work must be carried out by authorised personnel. If this work is to be carried out by Fishery Board staff, two to three weeks notice must be given and the cost will be recouped by the Board.
- There must be no discharge of suspended solids or any other deleterious matter to watercourses.
- Fish passage conditions must be maintained at all times.

MONTH	INSTREAM WORK	FISH LIFE CYCLE
January	Instream works not permitted	Some late spawning Incubation of eggs continues Kelts descending
February		Incubation of eggs continues Kelts descending Spring Salmon runs
March		Incubation of eggs continues and swim-up of young salmonids begins Spring Salmon runs Coarse fish spawning
April		Incubation ending Swim-up on-going Young salmonids dispersing Smolts migrating to sea Coarse fish spawning
May	Instream works permitted	Young salmonids migrating downstream into nursery areas Smolts migrating to sea Coarse fish spawning and fry dispersing
June		Young salmonids in nursery areas Adult Sea Trout returning to rivers Coarse fish spawning and fry feeding
July		Grilse and Set Trout moving upstream
August		Low river flows Sea Trout run tailing off
September		Low River flows
October	Instream works not permitted	Spawning run commences as flows increase
November		Spawning and incubation of eggs underway
December		Spawning and incubation of eggs continues

APPENDIX I

Some notes on the legal protection given to fishery habitats in legislation

- The enforcement authority for inland fisheries is the relevant Regional Fisheries Board and the legislation charges them with the protection of fisheries and the general enforcement of the Fisheries (Consolidation) Act 1959 (as amended).
- Since the Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1999 the Board was additionally required to have regard for the need for sustainable development. This includes:
 - the conservation of fish and other species of fauna and flora habitat.
 - biodiversity of inland fisheries and ecosystems.
 - to protection of national heritage within the meaning of the Heritage Act 1995.
- The Fisheries Act provides a wide range of measures to protect fish; however the protection of fishery habitat is limited to a number of sections of the Acts.
- Section 131 of the Fisheries (Consolidation) Act 1959 protects spawning salmon and trout and creates the offence that where any person during the annual close season:
 - *wilfully obstructs the passage of salmon or trout or the smolts or fry thereof.*
 - *or injures or disturbs any salmon or trout, or any spawn, fry or smolts thereof.*
 - *or injures or disturbs any spawning bed, bank shallow where such spawn of fry or smolts may be,..... commits an offence with a maximum penalty of 12 months in jail and 635 fi ne may be imposed.*
- Section 171 of the Fisheries (Consolidation) Act 1959 creates the offence of *throwing, emptying, permitting or causing to fall onto any waters deleterious matter*. *Deleterious matter* is defined as not only *as any substance that is liable to injure fish but is also liable to injure their spawning grounds or the food of any fish or to injure fish in their value as human food or to impair the usefulness of the bed and soil of any waters as spawning grounds or other capacity to produce the food of fish.*
- In addition to a maximum fine of €1,270 and six months imprisonment by the District Court, the full cost of the damage done and restoration is also chargeable against the offender – Section 10 of the Water Pollution Act 1977 (as amended by Section 7 of the Water Pollution Act 1990).
- Section 173 of the Fisheries Consolidation Act 1959 creates a number of offences which including that where any person:
 - *wilfully obstructs the passage of the smolts or fry of salmon, trout, or eels, or*
 - *injures or disturbs the spawn or fry of salmon, trout or eels, or*
 - *injures or disturbs any spawning bed, bank or shallow where the spawn or fry of salmon or trout or eels..... Commits an offence as well as a penalty of €635 there is an additional provision that any engine device used in the commission of the offence shall as a statutory consequence of conviction stand forfeit.*
- Fishery habitat protection has been further enhanced by other national and EU legislation including the provisions under the Freshwater Fish Directive and the Habitats Directive. The Planning and Development Act 2000 also affords an opportunity for the pro-active protection of fisheries and fisheries habitat.

Summary of Relevant Legislation

- The Fisheries (Consolidation) Act 1959 (as amended).
- The Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1999 (No. 35 of 1999).
- The Freshwater Fish Directive – *Council Directive on the quality of fresh waters needing protection or improvement in order to support fish life (78/659/EC)* as transposed into Irish law under the *E.C. (Quality of Salmonid Waters) Regulations 1988* (S.I. No. 293 of 1988).
- The Habitats Directive – *Council Directive on the conservation of the natural habitats of wild fauna and flora (92/43/EEC)* as transposed into Irish law under the *E. C. (Natural Habitats Regulations 1997* (S.I. No. 94 of 1997).
- The Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977 (as amended).
- The Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000 (No. 30 of 2000).

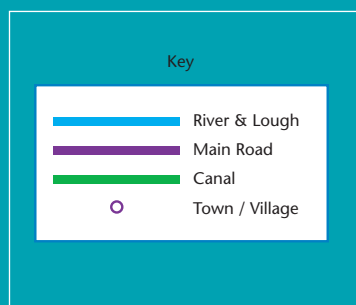
Note

Full text of the above legislation can be accessed at www.irlgov.ie

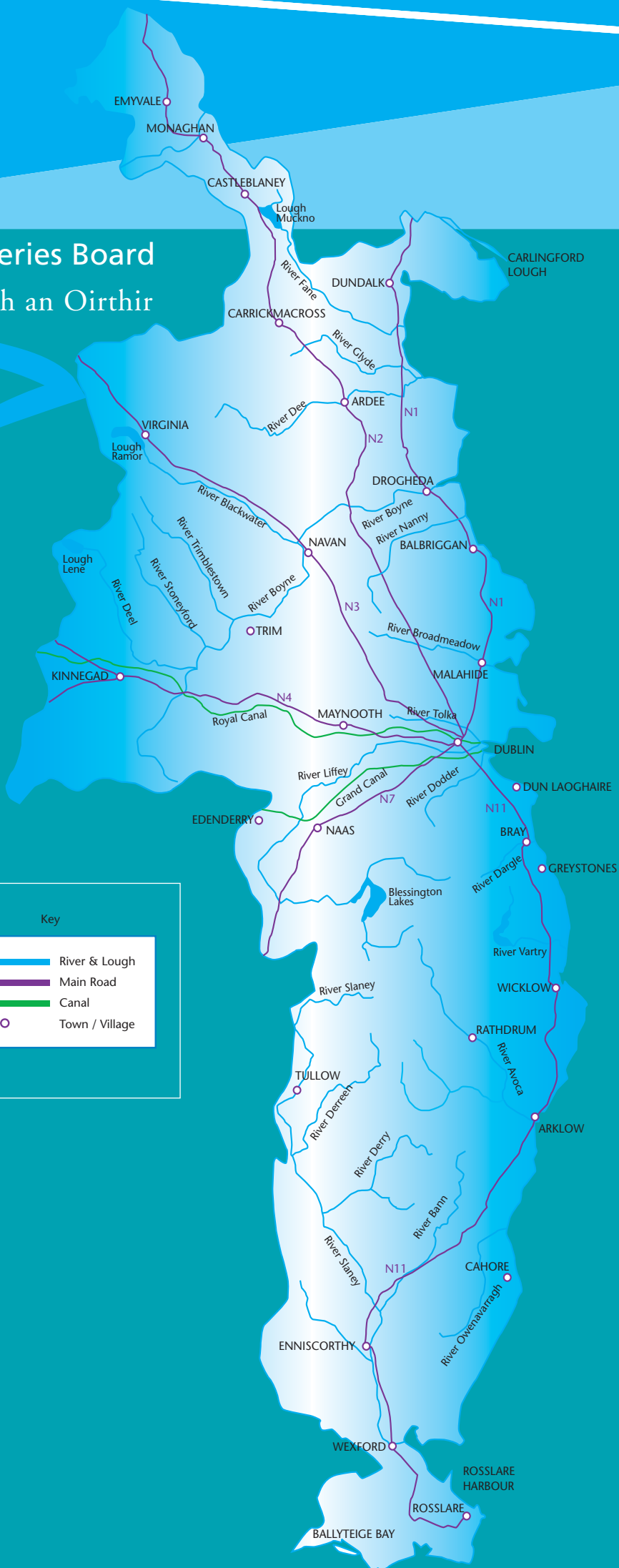


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Fisheries Ireland
Our Natural Heritage



APPENDIX B

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITY SUBMISSIONS

AT FIRST PUBLIC CONSULTATION OF THE PLAN



Ms Caroline Power
Administrative Officer
Planning Department
Meath County Council
Abbey Mall
Abbey Road
Navan
Co. Meath

15th November 2013

Our Ref: SCP121101.3

**Re. Draft Trim Development Plan 2014-2020 and Strategic Environmental Assessment
Environmental Report**

Dear Ms Power,

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) acknowledges your notice, dated 6th September 2013 regarding the above. Please find attached the Environmental Protection Agency's submission in relation to the Draft Trim Development Plan 2014-2020 and Environmental Report.

Annex 1 of Directive 2001/42/EC (SEA Directive) and Schedule 2B of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004), the SEA Regulations, sets out the *"Information to be contained in an Environmental Report"*.

This submission is intended to promote

- full and transparent integration of environmental considerations in the Plan and,
- the integration of the Plan-making and SEA processes

Future Amendments to the Draft Plan

Where amendments to the Plan are proposed, these should be screened for likely significant effects in accordance with the criteria as set out in Schedule 2A of the SEA Regulations and should be subject to the same method of assessment applied in the "environmental assessment" of the Draft Plan.

SEA Statement – *"Information on the Decision"*

Following adoption of the Plan, an SEA Statement, should summarise the following:

- How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan;
- How the Environmental Report, submissions, observations and consultations have been taken into account during the preparation of the Plan;
- The reasons for choosing the Plan adopted in the light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and,
- The measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementation of the Plan.



A copy of the SEA Statement with the above information should be sent to any environmental authority consulted during the SEA process.

Should you have any queries or require further information in relation to the above please contact the undersigned.

I would be grateful if an acknowledgement of receipt of this submission could be sent electronically to the following address: sea@epa.ie.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tadhg O'Mahony', is positioned above a horizontal line.

Tadhg O'Mahony
Senior Scientific Officer
SEA Section
Office of Environmental Assessment
Environmental Protection Agency
Regional Inspectorate
Inniscarra, County Cork



Draft Trim development 2014-2020 and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report Environmental Protection Agency Comments 15th November 2013

The comments below relate to the integration of the environmental considerations and recommendations that have been set out in the Environmental Report, as well as the additional information highlighted by the EPA, within the Plan. Suggestions are put forward for consideration with a view to addressing the integration of a number of key environmental considerations within the Plan.

The EPA is a statutory Environmental Authority under the SEA Regulations. The EPA's role in SEA in relation to Land Use Plans focuses on promoting full integration of the findings of the Environmental Assessment into the Plan.

SECTION 1: DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The comments below relate to the Draft Trim Development Plan 2014-2020, hereafter referred to as "the Plan". Comments and suggestions in this Section are put forward for consideration and mainly relate to the key stages and outputs of the SEA Process.

It is noted that land has been zoned (14.8ha) to accommodate 518 new residential units by 2019 and an additional 912 units have been granted permission under the previous plan, but have not commenced to date. Consideration should be given to including policies and objectives in the Plan to promote, where relevant and appropriate, the completion of unfinished housing estates. Where relevant, consideration should be given to phasing the remaining zoned land for development over the lifetime of the plan. Clarification should also be provided on whether any lands with extant planning permission will be de-zoned/phased when the permission expires.

It is noted that the potential population associated with the 912 units already granted planning permission is not taken into account in the allocation of new lands to reach the 2020 population target for Trim. It should be ensured that this approach is in compliance with the population targets and core strategy approach set out in the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area.

The Plan should include an overarching objective requiring that all development will be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Habitats, Birds, EIA, Water Framework and Floods Directives.

Consideration should be given to reviewing the policies and objectives of the plan to combine where appropriate similar policies/objectives, e.g. TRANS POL 6 and TRANS OBJ 8 are similar to each other, as are INF POL 11 and INF POL 13.

Consideration should also be given to reviewing the Plan maps to ensure that the legends correctly reflect the information included, and the relevant zoning codes.

Chapter 1 – Introduction to the Trim Development Plan 2014-2020

The inclusion of text stating that the Plan consists of all 4 volumes (including the SEA and AA) is noted and acknowledged.

Consideration should be given to referring to the SEA environmental monitoring in Section 1.14 – *Monitoring Review and Implementation*. A commitment to implement the environmental monitoring programme should also be included in the Plan document.

Chapter 2 – Strategic Context and Core Strategy

It is noted and acknowledged that 96ha of residential lands have been de-zoned in the drafting of the Plan.

Consideration should be given to describing the scoring system used in Table 3 - *Evaluation of Residentially Zoned Lands*. It is unclear whether a high or low score indicates the most favourable sites for retention in the zoning strategy.

It should be clarified whether the housing densities applied to residentially zoned lands will be as per Table 4 – *Yield of Residential Lands* (densities varying between 10 – 35 units per hectare) or as per the average housing density (35 units/ha as stated in Section 2.3.4 – *Housing and Land Supply*). In the event that the average housing density (35 units/ha) is to be applied, consideration should be given to de-zoning/ rezoning, as appropriate, additional lands to ensure consistency with the Meath County Development Plan (CDP) core strategy and the Regional Planning Guidelines.

Chapter 3 – Economy and Employment

EC POL 1 should be amended as follows: “*To promote Trim as a District Employment Centre which accommodates **sustainable**, large scale industry and enterprise...*”

Consideration should be given to amending ECON POL 12 as follows: “*Any land development proposed as a result of Economic and Employment policies and objectives will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment, **EIA and FRA where relevant***”.

The retail opportunity sites identified in Section 3.4.1.2 – *Retail Opportunity Sites* should be highlighted on Map No. 1 – *Zoning and Objectives Map* (Volume 3). It should be clarified whether these sites have been assessed in terms of Flood Risk Assessment (FRA), Traffic and Transport Assessment, etc.

For DER POL 2 – “*to identify and secure the redevelopment of obsolete areas, including areas of backland, derelict sites and incidental open areas*”, it should be ensured that any potential opportunity sites are identified and assessed (including FRA) to ensure that opportunity sites are developed in an environmentally sustainable and appropriate manner.

Chapter 4 – Heritage, Tourism and Green Infrastructure

The inclusion of a number of policies and objectives for the protection of natural heritage, archaeological and architectural heritage, provision of green infrastructure, is acknowledged. Consideration should also be given to including policies/objectives for the protection of water quality and fisheries, and implementation of the relevant measures set out in the Eastern River Basin Management Plan.

Consideration should be given to amending objective GI OBJ 1 as follows: “*to prepare a GI map **within the lifetime of the Plan**, illustrating habitat types and ecological networks which can be utilised in the assessment of planning applications to protect and enhance urban biodiversity*”.



Consideration should also be given to preparing a local Heritage Plan for Trim within the lifetime of the Plan.

The inclusion of TOUR POL 10 – “*to promote the provision of a Folk Park in an environmentally appropriate location...*” is noted. It should be clarified whether an appropriate/opportunity site has been identified, assessed and zoned for the development of the Folk Park.

Chapter 8 – Traffic and Transport

TRANS POL 6 should be amended as follows: “*To cooperate with the NRA, NTA and other local authorities to provide the Leinster Outer Orbital Route, **subject to appropriate environmental assessments including AA and EIA**, as proposed in the Regional Planning Guidelines and the NTA’s Draft Transport Strategy.*”

It should be clarified whether TRANS POL 7 – “*to develop a network of environmentally sustainable longer term car parking areas...*” will be developed in conjunction with the provision of park and ride facilities.

Consideration should be given to amending TRANS POL 19 as follows: “*to review the continuing need for the distributor road network, and to reserve **(subject to route assessment and environmental assessment)** the corridors of, and construct and complete such parts of, the local distributor road network as are required in an environmentally sustainable manner.*”

TRANS POL 23 should be amended as follows: “*To ~~have regard to~~ **take fully into account the relevant aspects of** the EU Ambient Air Quality Directive, the EU Ozone Directive, the EU guidance documents...*”

TRANS OBJ 5 – “*to provide, in cooperation with other agencies, bodies and developers/landowners, an integrated network of walking and cycling routes...*” should include a commitment to achieve this objective within the lifetime of the Plan.

Chapter 10 - Infrastructure

Section 10.2.2 – *Water Supply* should refer to the Trim drinking water supply which is currently on the EPA’s Remedial Action List (RAL) due to elevated levels of THMs. A commitment to resolve drinking water issues prior to further development within the Plan area should be included in the Plan.

Chapter 10 should include a time bound policy/objective to protect (in consultation with the NPWS and OPW) the existing waste water treatment plant (WWTP) from risk of flooding . This is in the context of the location of the WWTP in Flood Zones A and B.

Section 10.5 – *Flood Risk* should also include a policy/objective promoting the installation of appropriate flood protection/ management measures in existing developments currently located in flood risk areas. These should be developed and carried out in consultation with the NPWS and OPW where relevant.

INF POL 29 should be amended as follows: “*To ~~have regard to~~ **fully implement** the requirements of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG/OPW, 2009)...*”

Section 10.5 – *Flood Risk* should include reference to the Eastern CFRAMS and the designation of Trim as an Area for Further Assessment (AFA) in the Eastern CFRAM study. A commitment to implement the recommendations and measures arising from the Eastern CFRAMS should be included in the Plan.

Volume 2 - Appendices

Clarification should be given regarding land use zoning type A5, which is included on the maps in Appendix A – *Evaluation of Residentially Zoned Lands* but does not appear in the description of zoning types in Section 2.4.6 – *Land Use Objectives*.

It is also noted that the legend for the maps in Appendix A includes a green outline to identify sites where land use zoning is proposed to be changed. Consideration should be given to amending the maps to clearly show the green outline, for clarity.

The maps in Appendix A show land parcels P and O are zoned as land use B2 – *Retail Warehouse Park* while Map No. 1 – *Zoning and Objectives Map* of Volume 3 – *Book of Maps* shows these lands being zoned as B1- *Commercial/Town or Village Centre*. Clarification should be given in this regard.

Volume 3 - Book of Maps

It is noted that the Natura 2000 sites overlap with zonings F1 – *Open Space* and H1 – *High Amenity*, both of which permit some types of development (craft shop, community facilities, cycleways, land and water based recreational activities). It should be ensured that developments in these land use types are not in conflict with the requirements of the Habitats, Water Framework and Floods Directives.

SECTION 2: ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The comments below relate to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Process and the Environmental Report. Comments and suggestions in this Section are put forward for consideration and mainly relate to the key stages and outputs of the SEA Process.

Chapter 1 - Non-Technical Summary

The inclusion of Table 1.2 – *Existing Environmental Pressures* provides a useful overview of the key issues in Trim and is welcomed. A section on Infrastructure, including issues with the drinking water supply, should also be included in the table.

Section 1.8 – *Development Plan Alternatives* describes how the 17 existing residentially zoned sites were assessed and ranked to decide which to de-zone. It should be clarified whether flood risk and other environmental criteria were taken into account in the ranking and de-zoning of the 17 sites. It should also be clarified whether there were other combinations of sites which were considered as alternatives to the 7 sites selected.

Chapter 3 – Methodology

Consideration should be given to linking Section 2.2 – *Strategic Environmental Assessment* with Table 3.1 – *Steps of the SEA Process* in order to avoid repetition.

Section 3.2 – *Guidance* should refer to the *Guidance on Integration Climate Change and Biodiversity in Strategic Environmental Assessment* (European Commission, 2013).

The inclusion of Table 3.2 – *Summary of Environmental Authorities Scoping Responses* is noted. In particular, the inclusion of the “*Where addressed (in ER or Draft Plan)*” column is welcomed and acknowledged.

The issues identified in Section 3.3.5 – *SEA Difficulties and Data Gaps* are noted. It should be clarified how these issues have been addressed in the Plan, e.g. does the Plan include objectives to collect data (habitat mapping and mapping of water/wastewater services) over the lifetime of the Plan?

Chapter 5 – Baseline Environment

This chapter should include additional maps of the baseline environment (e.g. soil types, roads, gas and electricity grid, broadband, etc.). The use of environmental sensitivity mapping should also be considered in order to highlight sensitive areas, and to inform the development and selection of alternatives.

It is noted that, for each environmental topic, an overview of the baseline is given, concluding with existing environmental pressures and problems. Consideration should be given to including key recommendations section for each environmental topic, referring to Table 11.1 – *Mitigation Measures – Initial Measures Proposed* where relevant.

Chapter 6 – Review of Relevant Policies, Plans and Programmes

Section 6.6.2 – *The Key Relevant Planning Policies* should refer to *Our Sustainable Future – A Framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland* (DECLG, 2012).

Chapter 7 – Development of Strategic Environmental Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Table 7.1 – *Strategic Environmental Objectives* could include provision of cycle/walkways and promotion these as a form of transport, in Objective 2 – *Population* or Objective 5 – *Climate Change*.

It should be ensured that each of the targets set out in Table 7.3 – *Strategic Environmental Objectives, Targets and Indicators* are clearly linked with relevant indicators. In addition, Irish Water may become a source of data in the future and should be included in the “*Source/Responsibility*” column.

Chapter 8 – Development Plan Alternatives

It is noted that the 17 land parcels zoned in the previous plan have been assessed to determine which land parcels are most suitable to bring forward in the new Plan. While the 17 land parcels have been assessed and ranked using 5 criteria (proximity to town centre, availability of public transport, infill site, proximity to Natura 2000 site and proximity to community services), it should be clarified whether each of the 17 land parcels were also assessed and ranked against the SEOs to identify the most environmentally sustainable combination of sites.

The assessment of the final 7 preferred sites (preferred alternative) against the SEOs, as set out in Tables 8.1 to 8.7, has highlighted that Site O borders the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC/SPA, is adjoining Flood Zone A and B, and is in an area of extreme groundwater vulnerability. Justification should be given for choosing this site for future development over other potential sites.

It should be clarified whether the FRA was used to inform the selection process.

It should be clarified whether other combinations of land parcels were considered and assessed as alternatives. Clarification should also be provided on alternative development options for the chosen land parcels, e.g. developing the lands in a phased manner versus no phasing, or developing using different density strategies.

Consideration should be given to including further detail on the recommendations of AA, particularly regarding sites adjacent to the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC/SPA, in Section 8.5 – *AA Screening of Alternatives*.

Chapter 10 – Cumulative Effects

Consideration should be given to discussing other plans and programmes relevant to the Plan area which may have cumulative effects in combination with the Trim Development Plan. Consideration should also be given to including further detail on the outcomes of the AA regarding cumulative effects assessment.

The recommendations of the SEA regarding cumulative effects should be clearly stated in Section 10.5 – *Conclusion*.

Chapter 11 - Mitigation Measures

The iterative nature of the SEA and Planning processes is clearly outlined and evidenced in this chapter and acknowledged. The description of the initial recommendations put forward early in the planning process, followed by the mitigation measures proposed through assessment of the Plan policies and objectives is also acknowledged.

It is noted that recommendation No. 2 of Table 11.1 – *Mitigation Measures – Initial Measures Proposed* has been partially incorporated into the Plan. An additional policy should be included in the Plan to ensure that all policies and objectives of the Plan are implemented in full compliance with the EIA Directive, as per recommendation No. 2.

Recommendation No. 15 “*Ensure that no development, including clearance and storage of materials, takes place within a minimum distance of 15m measured from each bank of any river, stream or watercourse in the Plan area*” has also been partially incorporated into the Plan, by ensuring that a 10m strip is retained on both banks of OPW managed river corridors. Consideration should be given to expanding this protection to allow for riparian buffer zones on all relevant watercourses within the Plan area.

It is noted that the SEA recommends that Section 9.6.5 – *Hydro Energy* of the Plan (“*The Council encourages the use of hydro energy...*”) be removed due to the potential for significant negative effects. It is also noted that this section of the Plan has not been removed. In the context of the potential for likely significant effects identified the recommendation to remove Section 9.6.5 should be reflected in the final adopted plan.

Chapter 12 – Monitoring Measures

It is noted that in Section 12.1 – *Introduction – Responsibilities and Frequency of Reporting*, there is a commitment to using the Manager’s Report to report on environmental monitoring every 2 years. This commitment to SEA related monitoring is noted and should be incorporated as a specific objective of the Plan.



Consideration should be given to identifying who is responsible within Meath County Council for collating and reporting environmental monitoring.

APPENDIX C

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITY SUBMISSIONS

AMENDMENT STAGE

T 3003

Colm McCoy

From: Cian O'Mahony [c.omahony@epa.ie]
Sent: 21 February 2014 14:54
To: Trim Development Plan
Subject: EPA Submission Re. Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Trim Development Plan 2014-2020
Attachments: SCP121101.3 EPA Submission Prop Mat Alts Trim DP 2014-20.pdf

Dear Ms Power,

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) acknowledges your notice, dated 24th January 2014, regarding the above and notes its contents.

SEA Determination

Your position with regard to the need for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Trim Development Plan 2014-2020, hereafter referred to as "*the Material Alterations*", is noted.

Specific Comments on the Proposed Material Alterations

The Agency acknowledges that many of the issues raised in our submission on the Draft Plan and associated SEA Environmental Report have been taken into account in the Material Alterations.

The Agency also notes that the SEA Screening of the Material Alterations has identified that the SEA recommendations in relation to the rezoning of lands to tourism purposes (Amendments 4.2 & 11.8) have not been taken on board. It should also be ensured that the recommendations of the SEA and AA are fully incorporated as appropriate in the context of ensuring sustainable tourism development within the plan area and minimising any potential adverse environmental effects. There would be merits in establishing an integrated tourism and land use strategy in order to ensure tourism zoned lands are situated at appropriate locations.

Updated Legislation/Circulars

Your attention is brought to the DoECLG Circulars (Circular PL 9 of 2013) '*Article 8 (Decision Making) of EU Directive 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as amended*' which should be taken into account.

SEA Statement – "*Information on the Decision*"

Following adoption of the Plan, an SEA Statement, should summarise the following:

- How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan;
- How the Environmental Report, submissions, observations and consultations have been taken into account during the preparation of the Plan;
- The reasons for choosing the Plan adopted in the light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and,
- The measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementation of the Plan.

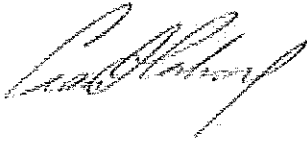
A copy of the SEA Statement with the above information should be sent to any environmental authority consulted during the SEA process.

Should you have any queries or require further information in relation to the above please contact the undersigned.

I would be grateful if an acknowledgement of receipt of this submission could be sent electronically to the following address: sea@epa.ie.

21/02/2014

Yours sincerely,



Cian O'Mahony
Scientific Officer
SEA Section
Office of Environmental Assessment
Environmental Protection Agency
Regional Inspectorate
Inniscarra, County Cork

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Planning Department
Meath County Council
Abbey Mall
Abbey Road
Navan
Co. Meath

21st February 2014

Our Ref: SCP121101.3

Re. Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Trim Development Plan 2014-2020

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Should you have any queries or require further information in relation to the above please contact the undersigned.

I would be grateful if an acknowledgement of receipt of this submission could be sent electronically to the following address: sea@epa.ie.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cian O'Mahony'.

Cian O'Mahony
Scientific Officer
SEA Section
Office of Environmental Assessment
Environmental Protection Agency
Regional Inspectorate
Inniscarra, County Cork



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This Environmental Report was prepared by RPS on behalf of Meath County Council.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AA	Appropriate Assessment
CFRAM	Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management
DAHG	Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
DCENR	Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
DECLG	Department of Environment, Community and Local Government
EC	European Community
EIA	Environment Impact Assessment
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ER	Environmental Report
ERBD	Eastern River Basin District
ERBMP	Eastern River Basin Management Plan
EU	European Union
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
IPPC	Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control
MCC	Meath County Council
MCDP	Meath County Development Plan
NHA	Natural Heritage Area
NIAH	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
OPW	Office of Public Works
P.E.	Population Equivalent
POM	Programme of Measures
P/P	Plan or Programme
RMP	Records of Monuments and Places
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SPA	Special Protection Area
TTC	Trim Town Council
TDP	Trim Development Plan
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WWTP	Waste Water Treatment Plants

GLOSSARY

Appropriate Assessment	An assessment of the effects of a plan or project on the Natura 2000 network. The Natura 2000 network comprises Special Protection Areas under the Birds Directive, Special Areas of Conservation under the Habitats Directive and Ramsar sites designated under the Ramsar Convention (collectively referred to as European sites). Also known as the Habitats Directive Assessment.
Aquifers:	A water bearing rock which readily transmits water to wells and springs.
Baseline environment:	A description of the present state of the environment of the P/P area.
Biodiversity:	Word commonly used for biological diversity and defined as assemblage of living organisms from all habitats including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part.
Birds Directive (79/409/EEC):	Council Directive of 2nd April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds.
Cumulative effects:	Effects on the environment that result from incremental changes caused by the strategic action together with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. These effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over time or space.
Designated authority:	An organisation that must be consulted in accordance with the SEA Regulations.
Diffuse sources (of pollution):	These are primarily associated with run-off and other discharges related to different land uses such as agriculture and forestry, from septic tanks associated with rural dwellings and from the land spreading of industrial, municipal and agricultural wastes.
Ecology:	The study of the relationship among organisms and between those organisms and their non-living environment.
Ecosystem:	A community of interdependent organisms together with the environment they inhabit and with which they interact, and which is distinct from adjacent communities and environments.
Environmental assessment:	The preparation of an environmental report, the carrying out of consultations, the taking into account of the environmental report and the results of the consultations in decision-making and the provision of information on the decision (in accordance with Articles 4 to 9 of the SEA Directive).
Environmental indicator:	An environmental indicator is a measure of an environmental variable over time, used to measure achievements of environmental objectives and targets.
Environmental objective:	Environmental objectives are broad, overarching principles which should specify a desired direction of environmental change.

Environmental receptors:	Include biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological) and landscape as listed in the SEA Directive. This list is not exhaustive, and can include other receptors which may arise for a particular P/P.
Environmental Report:	A document required by the SEA Directive as part of a strategic environmental assessment which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing a plan or programme.
Good status:	Is a general term meaning the status achieved by a surface water body when both the ecological status and its chemical status are at least good or, for groundwater, when both its quantitative status and chemical status are at least good.
Groundwater:	All water which is below the surface of the ground in the saturation zone and in direct contact with the ground or subsoil. This zone is commonly referred to as an aquifer which is a subsurface layer or layers of rock or other geological strata of sufficient porosity and permeability to allow a significant flow of groundwater or the abstraction of significant quantities of groundwater.
Greenhouse Gas:	Gaseous constituents of the atmosphere which absorb/trap infrared (thermal) radiation which is mainly emitted by the earth's surface and thereby influence the earth's temperature.
Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC):	Council Directive of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna.
Hierarchy of plans:	Both higher and lower level P/P relevant to the P/P being assessed.
Interrelationships:	Associations or linkages, related to environmental impact of the proposed P/P usually on environmental receptors.
Key environmental issues:	Those significant environmental issues, which are of particular relevance and significance within a P/P area and/or the zone of influence of that P/P. These issues should be identified during SEA Scoping process.
Material assets:	Critical infrastructure essential for the functioning of society such as: electricity generation and distribution, water supply, wastewater treatment, transportation etc.
Mitigation measures:	Measures to avoid/prevent, minimise/reduce, or as fully as possible, offset/compensate for any significant adverse effects on the environment, as a result of implementing a P/P.
Monitoring:	A continuing assessment of the environmental conditions at, and surrounding, the plan or programme. This determines if effects occur as predicted or if operations remain within acceptable limits, and if mitigation measures are as effective as predicted. The primary purpose of monitoring is to identify significant environmental effects which arise during the implementation stage against those predicted during the plan preparation stage.

Natural Heritage Area:	An area considered important for the habitats present or which holds species of plants and animals whose habitat needs protection.
Non-technical summary:	A summary of the findings of the ER, summarised under the headings listed in Annex 1 of the SEA Directive that can be readily understood by decision-makers and by the general public. It should accurately reflect the findings of the ER.
Plan or Programme:	<p>Including those co-financed by the European Community as well as any modifications to them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - which are subject to preparation and/or adoption by an authority at national, regional or local level or which are prepared by an authority for adoption, through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government, and - which are required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions.
Programme of Measure:	Defines in detail those actions which are required to achieve the environmental objectives of the Directive within a river basin district.
Quantitative status:	An expression of the degree to which a body of groundwater is affected by direct and indirect abstractions. If this complies with WFD requirements the status is good.
Reasonable alternatives:	Alternatives should take into account the objectives and geographical scope of the P/P. There can be different ways of fulfilling the P/P objectives, or of dealing with environmental problems. The alternatives should be realistic, capable of implementation and should fall within the legal and geographical competence of the authority concerned.
River Basin:	Means the area of land from which all surface water run-off flows, through a sequence of streams, rivers and lakes into the sea at a single river mouth, estuary or delta.
River Basin Districts:	Administrative areas for coordinated water management and are comprised of multiple river basins (or catchments), with cross-border basins (i.e. those covering the territory of more than one Member State) assigned to an international RBD.
Scoping:	The process of deciding the content and level of detail of an SEA, including the key environmental issues, likely significant environmental effects and alternatives which need to be considered, the assessment methods to be employed, and the structure and contents of the Environmental Report.
Screening:	The determination of whether implementation of a P/P would be likely to have significant environmental effects on the environment. It is the process of deciding whether a P/P requires an SEA.
SEA Directive:	Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment'.

SEA Statement:	A statement summarising; How environmental considerations have been integrated into the P/P; How the ER, the opinions of the public, and designated authorities, and the results of transboundary consultations have been taken into account; The reasons for choosing the P/P as adopted in the light of other reasonable alternatives.
Significant effects:	Effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.
Special Area of Conservation:	Site designated according to the Habitats Directive.
Special Protection Area:	An area designated under the European Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds.
Statutory authority:	The authority by which or on whose behalf the plan or programme is prepared.
Surface water:	Means inland waters, except groundwater, which are on the land surface (such as reservoirs, lakes, rivers, transitional waters, coastal waters and, under some circumstances, territorial waters) which occur within a river basin.
Water body:	A discrete and significant element of surface water such as a river, lake or reservoir, or a distinct volume of groundwater within an aquifer.
Water Framework Directive:	The WFD is European legislation that promotes a new approach to water management through river basin planning. The legislation addresses inland surface waters, estuarine waters, coastal waters and groundwater.

1 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

1.1 INTRODUCTION (CHAPTER 2)

This Environmental Report has been prepared in accordance with national and EU legislation as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Review of the Trim Development Plan (hereafter referred to as the Plan or draft Plan) 2014-2020. The Planning Authorities for the Trim Development Plan are both Meath County Council and Trim Town Council.

SEA is a systematic method of considering the likely significant environmental effects of a Plan or Programme by integrating environmental factors into the development of the Plan and related decision-making. The purpose of this Environmental Report is to: a) inform the development of the Review of the Trim Development Plan; b) identify describe and evaluate the likely significant environmental effects of the Plan and its reasonable alternatives; and c) provide an early opportunity for the statutory authorities and the public to offer views on this Environmental Report and the Plan through consultation.

1.2 METHODOLOGY (CHAPTER 3)

This Environmental Report contains the findings of the assessment of the likely significant effects on the environment resulting from implementation of the Plan. It reflects the requirements of the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment and also the transposed regulations in Ireland (S.I. 436/2004) as amended by S.I. 201/2011.

In addition, the Habitats Directive Article 6(3) requires that *“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the conservation of a site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives.”* In recognition of this, Appropriate Assessment (AA) for Natura 2000 sites of the Plan under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive has been carried out in parallel with the SEA process. The findings of the AA will be used to guide the development of policies and objectives considered as part of the SEA. The results of the assessment are included in a separate document, known as a Natura Impact Report, which is also available for public review.

Integration of the SEA and Plan was achieved through close involvement of relevant team members in all stages of the project, including SEA scoping, review of the existing environment and generation of policies and objectives. The SEA, AA and Plan teams participated in several meetings and telephone discussions in relation to development of alternatives and development of the assessment methodology. Based on the requirements of the legislation and guidance, the following information is provided in the Environmental Report.

Table 1.1: Requirement of SEA Directive and Relevant section of Environmental Report

Requirement of SEA Directive (Article 5 (1), Annex 1)	Section of Environmental Report
An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans or programmes.	Chapter 4: Description of the Plan
The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme.	Chapter 5: Baseline Environment
The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	Chapter 5: Baseline Environment

Requirement of SEA Directive (Article 5 (1), Annex 1)	Section of Environmental Report
Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to the Habitats Directive.	Chapter 5: Baseline Environment
The environmental protection objectives, established at international, European Union or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.	Chapter 6: Review of Relevant Policies, Plans and Programmes
The likely significant effects on the environment, including issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.	Chapter 9: Evaluation of Development Plan Policies and Objectives
The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme.	Chapter 11 and 12: Mitigation and Monitoring
An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.	Chapter 3: Methodology Chapter 7: Strategic Environmental Objectives, Targets and Indicators Chapter 8: Development Plan Alternatives
A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring of the significant environmental effects of implementation of the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme.	Chapter 11 and 12: Mitigation and Monitoring
A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	Chapter 1: Non-Technical Summary

1.3 DESCRIPTION OF THE REVIEW OF THE TRIM DEVELOPMENT PLAN (CHAPTER 4)

The Planning Authority is satisfied that the overall strategic approach to the planning of Trim, as outlined in the 2008 Development Plan remains robust. The fact that the Trim Development Plan area is serviced in relation to water and drainage infrastructure, unlike much of the zoned residential land in the southern part of the County, serves to increase its importance as a strategic land bank for the County in the medium-term.

The Strategic Aims for the Trim Development Plan 2014 – 2020 are as follows:

- To facilitate the growth of Trim as a Moderate Sustainable Growth Town in line with its status provided for in the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010.
- To build upon the Heritage Town status of Trim and to develop specific niche tourism products so as to create sustainable job growth in the tourism sector for the town.
- To strengthen the economy of the town, attracting new investment in employment, tourism, manufacturing, administration and healthcare uses.
- To strengthen the role of the town centre as a primarily retail area and the centre of the community.
- To secure investment in essential infrastructure.

1.4 THE BASELINE ENVIRONMENT (CHAPTER 5)

As this SEA deals with the Trim Development Plan, the baseline data is focussed within the boundary of the Plan. In order to identify the potential for cumulative impacts to occur, the immediate environs of Trim are also considered.

According to recent EPA publications (EPA, 2012), Ireland's natural environment, although under increasing pressure, generally remains of good quality and represents one of the country's most essential national assets. The fifth EPA *State of the Environment Report* (2012) identified four priority challenges for the environment, which if addressed successfully, should benefit the present and future quality of Ireland's environment. These comprise: Value and Protecting our Natural Environment; Building a Resource-Efficient, Low Carbon Economy; Implementing Environmental Legislation; and Putting the Environment at the Centre of Our Decision Making. All of these are relevant to the Development Plan. The existing environmental pressures in Trim are set out below.

Table 1.2: Existing Environmental Pressures

Topic	Key Issues / Pressures
Core Strategy / Population	The population of Trim increased significantly by 24% between 2006 and 2011. Based on the core strategy for the town derived from the Greater Dublin Area Regional Planning Guidelines (GDRPGs) and the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 (MCDP), Trim has an allocation of 518 no. additional housing units to 2019. This equates to the requirement for 14.8 hectares of residentially zoned lands as part of the new TDP. Therefore based on the current TDP there is 96.9ha excess zoned residential land within the town. Furthermore, as of December 2011 there were 912 units permitted within the area that had not been built which will require consideration in terms of the growth and pattern of development for the town. The foregoing should be considered as part of the alternative development scenarios for the town. There is an objective in the recently adopted MCDP to ensure that the TDP consistent with the MCDP Core Strategy (CS OBJ 4 of Meath CDP), in line with current legislation. Future increases in population and housing numbers have potential implications for services; service provision needs to be reviewed and considered, along with various environmental aspects and flood risk.
Housing	The development of Trim as a Moderate Sustainable Growth Town will require facilitating the development of new sustainable residential neighbourhoods in a sequential manner. Trim has a very young resident population and facilities associated with this age cohort should be considered as part of the development strategy for the plan area. Consideration should be given to the DoE's Guidelines on "Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas", effective integration of communities in terms of quality of life, amenity, convenience and safety need to ensure supporting community facilities are available. New neighbourhoods should also be connected, legible, attractive, well designed with a variety of adaptable dwelling types / sizes and densities, providing a sense of place and a high quality public realm.
Economic Development	Trim has developed more as a commuter centre rather than an employment centre. A key issue to be tackled in Trim is the creation of a sustainable settlement in accordance with the GDRPGs and MCDP. Therefore there is a need to sustain jobs in the town, identify future employment sectors, opportunities and zone lands accordingly. Trim is part of the Navan Core Economic Area with Kells and is designated as a District Employment Centre in the MCDP.
Transport	Under the current TDP there is an objective to develop a distributor road (inner relief road) to relieve the town of traffic congestion and serve newer residential areas, linking many of the radial routes in Trim to reduce town centre through traffic. Part of this route would be developer driven and provided as part of Framework Plans. Consideration should be given to these routes in the context of land use zoning as part of the development strategy and associated alternative assessment of the draft Plan and SEA. Significant numbers of Trim's working population commute outside of the study area and experience a particularly long average commuter time. Detailed consideration will need to be given to integrated land use and transportation planning in the development strategy for the plan.
Retail	Trim is a Level 3 Centre in the County Retail Hierarchy. Level 3 centres are town and/or district centres and sub-county town centres. The town experiences high convenience and comparison leakage to Dublin and Drogheda as it is under provided for in terms of convenience and comparison goods. It is proposed that Watergate Street, and other Opportunity Sites, will have to be brought forward if Trim is to significantly improve its retail offer; consideration should be given to this as part of the development strategy. There is an opportunity to expand the range of retail provision in Trim. However particular care will need to be taken to ensure that the design of any new retail developments is befitting as an expansion to this Heritage Town.
Landscape	Trim benefits from dramatic landscapes with attractive vistas (e.g., across the Porchfield towards

Topic	Key Issues / Pressures
	Trim Castle and of Yellow Steeple). Detailed consideration in terms of protection of this resource is necessary when formulating a development strategy and policies for the plan area.
Heritage	Trim is an important heritage town and is known for its castle, monuments, protected structures, ACA and heritage centres. Important heritage features such as Trim Castle should be protected. Consideration will need to be given to the protection of the intrinsic built and natural heritage of Trim as part of the proposed development plan.
Conservation	The River Boyne and Blackwater which runs through the town is a Special Area of Conservation and a Special Protection Area. It will be important to maintain, and where possible enhance, the conservation value and objectives of these sites. Consideration of potential impacts resulting from the development strategy will need to be considered. The River Boyne is a recognised habitat area; the walkways along the river are also an asset for residents and visitors to the town. Combined with the network of hedgerows around Trim and green areas, they represent a valuable resource and their protection should be a priority.
Flooding	Trim is susceptible to flooding from the River Boyne and the Blackwater River. Consideration should be given to increased run off as a result of development and associated impacts downstream. The draft Plan will need to take account of flooding information from both the CFRAMS and the SFRA.

In accordance with the SEA Directive, the interrelationship between the SEA environmental topics must be taken into account. The key interrelationships identified in this SEA are set out in **Table 1.3**. Of particular note are the primary relationships between water quality and biodiversity, flora and fauna. Flora and fauna, including protected species and habitats, rely directly on the aquatic environment as a habitat. Water and climate also have a key relationship. Global GHG emissions associated with transport, industry and other sources have the potential to negatively impact on climate change. This in turn can result in more frequent and more intense flooding and drought conditions affecting material assets, such as private residences and infrastructure, and biodiversity through changes in water quality and the hydrologic regime.

Table 1.3: Potential Inter-Relationships between SEA Topics

Soils	√							
Water	√	√						
Noise	√	X	X					
Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna	√	√	√	√				
Climatic Factors	√	√	√	X	√			
Material Assets	√	√	√	X	√	√		
Cultural Heritage	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	
Landscape	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
	Population	Soils	Water	Noise	Biodiversity Flora, Fauna	Climatic Factors	Material Assets	Cultural Heritage

√ = interrelationship anticipated

X = no interrelationship anticipated

The Plan is aimed at ensuring orderly and controlled development in Trim. In the absence of the Plan there may be pressure to increase population densities in an unsustainable manner with potential impacts on sensitive areas. In addition, without the provision of objectives that emphasise consolidation and redevelopment of sites, the uncontrolled spread of development into the countryside may continue, eroding further the agricultural land bank in the Trim environs.

The surface waters within the area covered by the Plan need to have their status improved as per the objectives of the WFD. While these improvements would be expected to occur as a result of the Eastern River Basin Management Plan (ERBMP), the Plan is the vehicle for implementation of many of the actions included in the RBMP Programme of Measures.

Increased amounts of private vehicle movements are a significant concern within Trim. The Plan includes provision for many sustainable transport options. Without the provision of protection for these transport corridors in the Plan, it is anticipated that development of these may be more difficult in the long term and the result would be: increased numbers of private vehicles using the roads; development of new roads to service a more dispersed population; and resulting noise impacts on residential and recreational amenity.

Another issue facing Trim in relation to climate change relates to the danger posed by high rainfall events, which can cause flooding and may occur, at least in part, as a result of increased amounts of global GHG emissions from transport. Local solutions to this international issue include reduction in unsustainable transport movements, which is highly encouraged under the proposed Development Plan. Further development in Trim has the potential to cumulatively impact upon the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage of the area.

1.5 REVIEW OF RELEVANT PLANS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES (CHAPTER 6)

A review of plans, policies and programmes relevant to the Plan was carried out. The review focussed primarily on National, European and International plans and programmes. The purpose of this review is to take into consideration the policy and legislative framework within which the Plan 2014-2020 is being developed. Consideration was given to the key statutory and non-statutory plans, programmes and policies relevant to the Plan in order to inform the SEA Strategic Environmental Objectives and Targets.

The findings of the review helped define the objectives for the SEA and informed the assessment of alternatives. Some of the key plans, programmes and policies include:

National Development Plan (2007-2013);

National Spatial Strategy (2002-2020);

Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area (2010-2022);

Meath County Development Plan (2013-2019)

The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC);

The EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC);

The Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC amended by Directive (98/15/EEC);

The EU Floods Directive (2007/60/EC);

Drinking Water Directive (80/778/EEC) as amended by Directive 98/83/EC);

The Eastern River Basin Management Plan; and

The National Biodiversity Plan (2011-2016).

1.6 SEA OBJECTIVES, TARGETS AND INDICATORS (CHAPTER 7)

There are essentially three types of Objectives considered as part of this SEA. The first relates to the *Objectives of the Trim Development Plan* (see **Chapter 4**). The second relates to wider Environmental Objectives, i.e. environmental protection objectives at a National, European and International level (see **Chapter 6**). Finally, there are the Strategic Environmental Objectives, which were devised to test the effects of the Trim Development Plan on the wider environment.

The **Strategic Environmental Objectives** reflect the existing environmental issues relevant to the Trim Development Plan. They are focussed on protecting and enhancing the natural and human environment and on minimising negative effects. The objectives were developed to be consistent with the environmental protection objectives established by International, European and National environmental policies, objectives and standards. The selected objectives for this SEA are listed in **Table 1.4**:

Table 1.4: Selected objectives for the SEA

Objective 1 Biodiversity Flora and Fauna (BFF)	Protect and where appropriate, promote and support the enhancement and effective protection of biodiversity in the wider landscape and in particular protected areas and protected species enhance biodiversity, particularly protected areas and protected species.
Objective 2 Population (P)	Improve people's quality of life based on high-quality residential, working and recreational environments and on sustainable transport.
Objective 3 Water (W)	Improve water quality and the management of watercourses to comply with the standards of the Water Framework Directive and incorporate the objectives of the Floods Directive into sustainable planning and development.
Objective 4 Soil (S)	Protect and, where appropriate, enhance the function and quality of the soil resource in the lands within Trim Development Plan.
Objective 5 Climate (C)	Contribute to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.
Objective 6 Cultural Heritage (CH)	Protect and, where appropriate, enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of cultural, architectural and archaeological, heritage within Trim Development Plan.
Objective 7 Landscape (L)	Protect and, where appropriate, enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of landscapes in Trim Development Plan.
Objective 8 Material Assets (MA)	Make best use of existing infrastructure and promote the sustainable development of new infrastructure.

The overall purpose of **Environmental Indicators** in the SEA process is to provide a way of measuring the environmental effect of implementing the Plan once it is adopted. Environmental Indicators are also used to track the progress in achieving the aspirational **Targets** set in the SEA as well as the Plan. The proposed Indicators have been selected bearing in mind the availability of data and the feasibility of making direct links between any changes in the environment and the implementation of the Plan.

Targets were considered over the duration of the scoping phase, baseline data collection and assessment in order to ensure relevance to the Strategic Environmental Objectives as well as the objectives of the Plan. In each case, any target that is set must be attributable to the implementation of the Plan. The targets and indicators associated with each SEA Objective are presented in **Chapter 7** of this report.

1.7 EVOLUTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PLAN

It should also be noted that, despite any negative effects likely to stem from implementation of the draft Plan, there are many adverse impacts that are avoided by means of implementation of the development plan. In the absence of the implementation of the draft plan, there is a strong likelihood that demographic change would exceed the capacities of Trim Town's infrastructure, or that land would be over-zoned for development in addition to this. The upshot of excessive development would have negative impacts on biodiversity, flora and fauna through these factors being overlooked for the purposes of development. In the absence of the development plan it could result in an unrestrained increase in traffic without the necessary transport infrastructure to cater for demand. There would be potential for negative effects on landscape and local cultural heritage if development is allowed to take place in a haphazard manner without implementation of the core strategy and proper planning and development principles. The town may have a tendency to sprawl; flooding and climatic problems could become much more frequent; land use designations would not provide for a balance between different types of development and the overall quality of life of Trim residents is likely to be reduced as a result. Therefore, in the absence of the draft Plan it is likely that the natural environment would eventually degrade. Through the suggested mitigation measures of the draft plan, it is considered that any negative impacts arising from the draft Plan will be mitigated and outweighed by its positive long-term benefits.

1.8 DEVELOPMENT PLAN ALTERNATIVES (CHAPTER 8)

Article 5 of the SEA Directive requires the environmental report to consider 'reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme' and the significant effects of the alternatives selected. Alternatives must be realistic and capable of implementation and should present a range of different approaches within the statutory and operational requirements of the Plan. It is noted that a "Do Nothing" option has not been explored, as this is not considered reasonable, given the legislative requirement to update the Plan.

The strategic alternatives assessment, further detailed in **Chapter 8**, were considered for assessment as part of the SEA process for the Plan.

It is a mandatory objective of a development plan that sufficient lands are zoned for residential uses in accordance with the MCDP Core Strategy. On this basis, it was identified that there is a requirement for 14.8 ha of residentially zoned lands as part of the TDP 2014 – 2020 and at present based on the TDP 2008 – 2014 there is 96.9ha of excess lands zoned for residential use within the plan area.

On this basis, all seventeen undeveloped residentially zoned sites (as identified in the TDP 2014 – 2020) located within the Plan area have been assessed by the plan makers with a view to finding the most suitable residential sites. This assessment was undertaken based on a ranking system of each site based on distance to the town centre, public transport, schools, distance to Natura 2000 sites and whether the sites were infill development.

Sites were rated based on the above factors and ranked in order of preference for zoning to residential use as part of the development plan review process. Seven preferred sites were identified by the Plan makers based on rankings and potential yield. These sites are referenced as Site Q, Site O, Site D, Site P, Site C, Site N and Site B and are illustrated in the draft Plan.

This assessment was reviewed by RPS from an environmental perspective to ensure that the alternatives assessment is comprehensive and addresses environmental factors as well as planning considerations. As part of this process each of the preferred sites have been assessed on the basis of environmental criteria of the SEA Environmental Objectives as set out in Chapter 7 of this ER in order to identify any potential negative environmental effects in relation to these sites. This assessment was undertaken to identify any potential issues in relation to these sites that may not have been identified as part of the initial alternatives assessment ranking procedure. This essentially is a thorough review

of the sites from an environmental perspective. This assessment was used to inform the overall residential strategy for zoning of lands to serve the town.

Based on the environmental assessment of the seven sites, three factors were identified which had not been factored into the initial ranking assessment undertaken by the Plan makers including cultural heritage; landscape and visual; and servicing requirements.

Detailed discussions took place between the SEA Team and the Plan team in order to arrive at the current residential development strategy within the draft Plan. Based on detailed review of the assessment process it was concluded that cultural heritage, landscape and visual factors should not be included within the ranking system for the following reasons:

Given the significant heritage and landscape protection afforded to Trim, these factors are likely to be a constraint to the development of nearly all sites within and in the vicinity of the town core. Therefore it is unlikely that inclusion of these factors within the ranking system would not have any benefit. Instead it is recommended that detailed protective policies are included within the plan to afford protection to cultural heritage. It is also recommended that detailed protective policies and associated mapping should be included within the Plan warranting protection of scenic views and prospects within the town.

Initially a deficiency was identified in the ranking of sites in respect of the omission of servicing of residentially zoned lands as a factor to be considered as part of this process. However, as part of this assessment the Plan makers were able to confirm that all of the preferred seven sites are serviced in terms of water supply and waste water treatment on the public system or are easily serviceable. The Council have also committed to including an objective within the draft Plan to create a map of serviced areas within the town during the lifetime of the Trim Development Plan.

It is concluded that the alternatives assessment as it stands is comprehensive and addresses environmental factors as well as planning considerations.

1.9 EVALUATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN, POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES (CHAPTER 9)

The purpose of this section of the Environmental Report is to evaluate as far as possible the environmental effects of the Plans policies and objectives and to set out measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as far as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment. The policies and objectives of the Plan have been assessed against the draft SEA environmental objectives for Biodiversity Flora and Fauna, Population, Water, Soils, Noise, Climate Change, Cultural Heritage (including Archaeology, Architecture and Cultural Heritage), Landscape and Material Assets (as set out in **Chapter 7**). The approach used for assessing the policies / objectives for the Plan was a baseline and objectives led assessment using assessment matrices in line with current best practice for SEA of land use plans in Ireland.

As part of the assessment, an initial review of draft policies and objectives was carried out. Suggestions on the language and content were made and included where possible in the development of the policies and objectives as they developed.

For the most part the policies and objectives contained within the draft Plan would result in positive direct and indirect impacts in all areas. The potential for negative impacts to issues such as biodiversity, population, soils, water and climate, cultural heritage and landscape, is limited to policies which would result in provision of additional development i.e. residential, commercial and accompanying infrastructure. Key issues raised in the assessment included:

- Provision of sustainable infrastructure including transport;

- Protection of biodiversity, while facilitating social, recreational and commercial development; and
- Protection of the landscape and scenic views; and
- Protection of the archaeological and architectural resources.

1.10 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS (CHAPTER 10)

Cumulative effects are referred to in a number of SEA guidance documents and are defined in the EPA SEA Process Checklist (2011) as “*effects on the environment that result from incremental changes caused by the strategic action together with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. These effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over time or space*”. Therefore the combined effect of human activity can pose a serious threat on our environment. These effects can be insignificant individually but cumulatively over time and from a number of sources can result in the degradation of sensitive environmental resources.

The environment of Trim Town and its surrounding areas contains sensitive ecological areas, including the SPA and SAC of the River Boyne, and the related surface and groundwater systems. The draft Plan is consistent with the population targets and projections from higher level plans in the planning hierarchy including the Regional Planning Guidelines and the Meath County Development Plan. As a result, a core strategy has been formed which makes provision for projected targets at national, regional and local levels, which are not only in line with one another but also ensure a sustainable pattern of growth within the hierarchy.

It is clear from this assessment that this will result in increased pressure on land resources and existing services such as wastewater disposal and water supplies within these areas, as well as municipal waste management and other pressures associated with increased population and also tourism, such as traffic. The Trim Development Plan will adhere to the Core Strategy for Meath County, taking into account the environment and sustainability and making provisions for the protection of the environment through phased development and the provision of adequate services.

Aside from the cumulative impacts of population growth, other compound effects were considered as part of the SEA. Of note are the possible cumulative effects of the improvement of the amenity of the town centre and in respect of transport development. Improvement works within the town centre are planned for several reasons, including increasing the attractiveness of Trim Town to tourists as well as local residents. Although this will concentrate the commercial centre and reduce vehicular travel of those commuting outside of the area, it has great potential to impact upon the River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA and SAC. In addition, the increase in the number of tourists visiting the area is likely to increase traffic within the plan area also, thus the cumulative impacts of town centre development, especially when coupled with the growth of the resident population, could be quite considerable. It is for this reason that the draft Plan took these cumulative impacts into account when compiling policies to ensure sufficient provision of car and bus parking close to the town centre along with other protective policies to ensure the conservation status of the town centre.

1.11 MITIGATION (CHAPTER 11) & MONITORING (CHAPTER 12)

Annex 1 (g) of the SEA Directive requires that the Environmental Report describe the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and/or offset as fully as possible any significant adverse effects on the environment from implementation of the Plan. **Table 11.1** of the environmental report outlines the specific general environmental concerns to be included as policy within the draft Plan from the outset. Further recommendations arising from the SEA process are outlined in **Table 11.2** of the environmental report and it includes the mitigation measures proposed and outlines whether they have been included within the draft Plan.

Article 10 of the SEA Directive requires that monitoring be carried out in order to identify at an early stage any unforeseen adverse effects due to implementation of the Plan, with the view to taking remedial action where adverse effects are identified through monitoring. Monitoring will be based around the Strategic Environmental Objectives, Indicators and Targets. The Strategic Objectives, Indicators and Targets for the various environmental topics are set out in **Table 12.1**. The indicators chosen will show changes that would be attributable to the implementation of the Plan and are at a level, which is relevant to the Plan and are collated and reported on by a variety of government agencies.

Monitoring proposals must concentrate on likely significant environmental effects, which have been identified in the Environmental Report and the measures identified as necessary to prevent, reduce, or offset any significant adverse effects. The indicators/monitoring will act as an early warning sign so that appropriate remedial action is undertaken. It should be noted that the monitoring programme has been designed to be flexible for the express purpose of allowing the use of alternate indicators should more relevant data sources become available during the implementation and monitoring of the Plan.

2 INTRODUCTION

This Environmental Report has been prepared in accordance with national and EU legislation as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Review of Trim Development Plan (2014-2020). The purpose of this Environmental Report is to: a) inform the development of the Plan; b) identify describe and evaluate the likely significant effects of the Development Plan and its reasonable alternatives; and c) provide an early opportunity for the statutory authorities and the public to offer views on the Development Plan and SEA Environmental Report, through consultation.

The Plan makers for the Trim Development Plan are both Meath County Council and Trim Town Council.

2.1 REVIEW OF TRIM DEVELOPMENT PLAN (2014-2020)

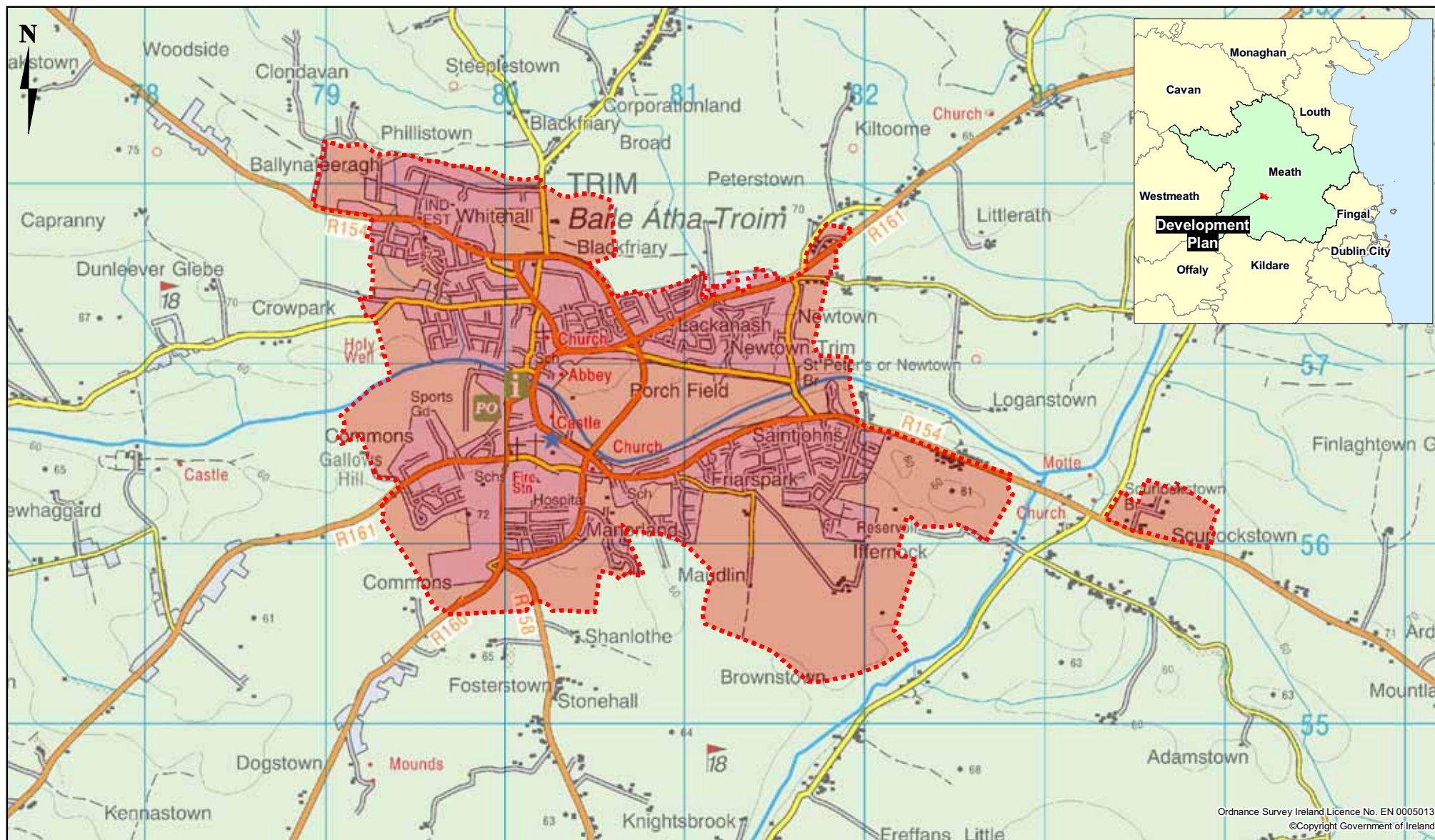
Meath County Council (MCC) and Trim Town Council (TTC) are currently preparing the Review of Trim Development Plan 2014-2020, hereafter referred to as the Development Plan or the Plan, to replace the existing Trim Development Plan 2008-2014. The Plan is being prepared under the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) to develop and improve in a sustainable manner the environmental, social, economic and cultural assets of Trim. The Trim Development Plan boundary is shown in **Figure 2.1**.

The Plan will provide the means by which the specific objectives and activities of the private and public sector will be coordinated, to ensure that they are implemented in a mutually integrated, consistent, sustainable and supportive manner. It will promote and encourage development, conserve and protect the environment and make the best possible use of resources.

2.2 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a process for evaluating, at the earliest appropriate stage, the environmental quality and consequences of Policy, Plan or Programme initiatives. The objective of the SEA process is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of specified plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. The purpose of SEA is to ensure that the environmental consequences of plans and programmes are assessed both during their preparation and prior to adoption. The SEA process also gives interested parties an opportunity to comment on the environmental impacts of the proposed plan or programme and to be kept informed during the decision making process.

The European Directive (2001/42/EC) on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (the SEA Directive) was transposed into national legislation by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435/2004), as amended by S.I. 200/2011 and the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 436/2004), as amended by S.I. 201/2011. The Trim Development Plan falls under the remit of S.I. 436/2004, as amended.



Review of Trim Development Plan 2014-2020

File Ref: MDE1138Mi0001F01

FIGURE 2.1 - TRIM DEVELOPMENT PLAN BOUNDARY



The SEA Directive requires that certain Plans and Programmes, prepared by statutory bodies, which are likely to have a significant impact on the environment, be subject to the SEA process. The SEA process is comprised of the following steps:

- Screening: Decision on whether or not an SEA is required;
- Scoping: Consultation with defined statutory consultees on the scope and level of detail to be considered in the assessment;
- Environmental Assessment: An assessment of the likely significant impacts on the environment as a result of the Plan or Programme, including reasonable alternatives;
- Publication of an Environmental Report;
- Consultation on the draft Plan/Programme and associated Environmental Report;
- Evaluation of the submissions and observations made on the draft Plan/Programme and Environmental Report; and
- Adoption of the Final Plan/Programme and issuance of an SEA Statement. The Statement identifies how environmental considerations and consultation have been integrated into the Final Plan/Programme.

Figure 2.2 shows the key steps required to complete the statutory SEA process in accordance with the relevant national legislation.

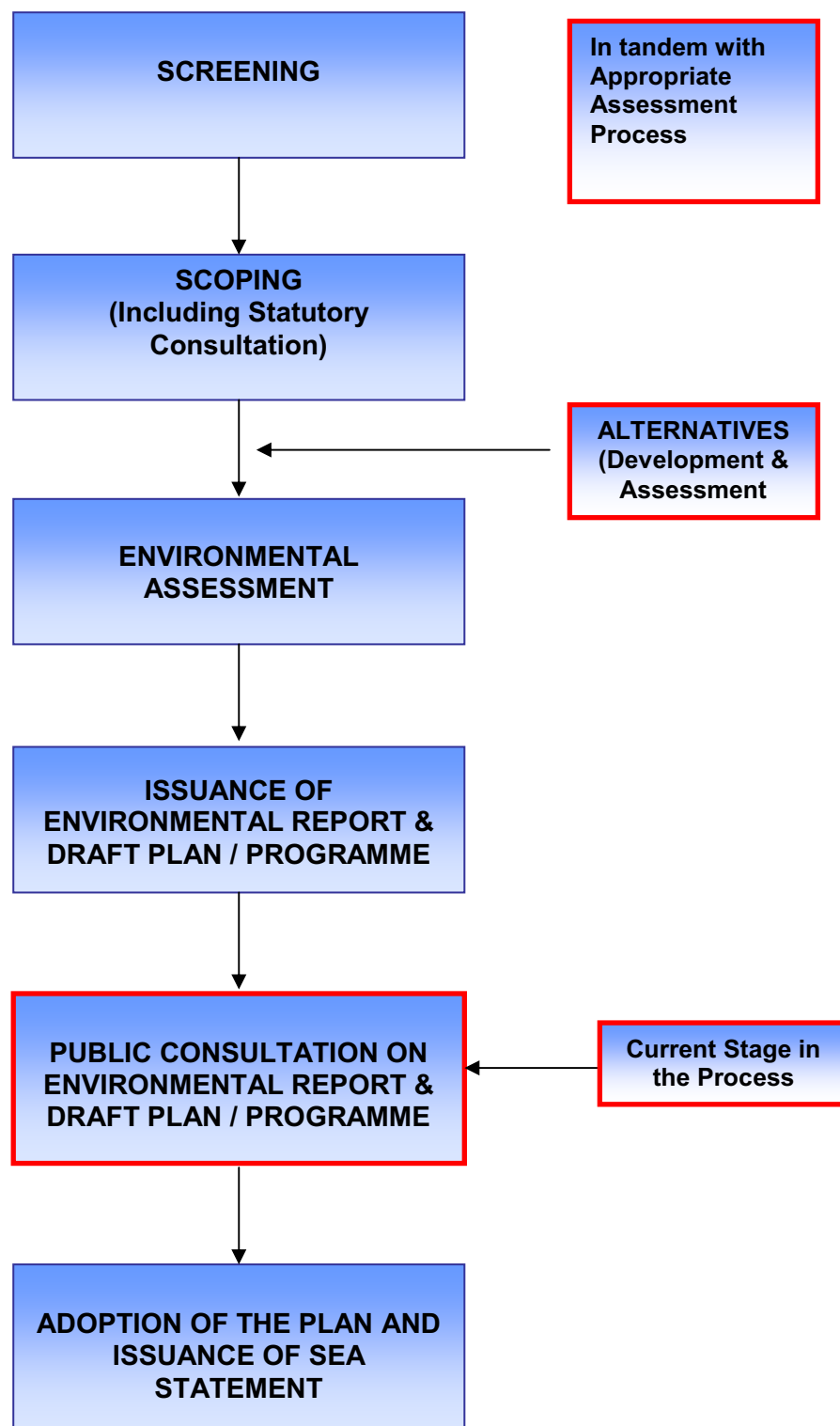


Figure 2.2: Overview of SEA Process

2.3 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

The Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, better known as “The Habitats Directive”, provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Articles 3 to 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of Community interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of sites known as Natura 2000. These are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (79/409/ECC).

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect Natura 2000 sites (Annex 1.1). Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment (AA):

Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [Natura 2000] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subjected to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.

The Habitats Directive is implemented in Ireland by the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations (SI 94/1997), which has been replaced by European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011). This Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011 consolidate the Natural Habitats Regulations 1997 to 2005 and the Birds and Natural Habitats (Control of Recreational Activities) Regulations 2010.

In recognition of this, an Appropriate Assessment of Natura 2000 sites potentially impacted by the Plan was carried out in parallel with the SEA process. The findings of the Natura Impact Statement are included in **Appendix A** of this document.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The SEA Directive requires that certain Plans and Programmes, which are likely to have a significant impact on the environment, be subject to the SEA process. As noted above, the SEA process is broadly comprised of the steps listed below.

Table 3.1: Steps of the SEA process

SEA Stage	Purpose	Status
Screening	Decision on whether or not an SEA required.	<p>The requirement to carry out SEA of the Trim Development Plan is mandatory in accordance with S.I. 436 of 2004 as amended by S.I. 201 of 2011:</p> <p>13B. Where—</p> <p>(a) the population or the target population of the area of a planning authority is 10,000 persons or more, or</p> <p>(b) where the planning authority determines under article 13A(3) or (5) that the implementation of a new development plan would be likely to have significant effects on the environment,</p> <p>(i) the notice under section 11(1) of the Act shall, in addition to the requirements of section 11(2) of the Act, state that—</p> <p>(I) the planning authority proposes to carry out an environmental assessment as part of the review of the existing development plan and the preparation of a new development plan, and</p> <p>(II) for this purpose, the planning authority will prepare an environmental report of the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the new plan, and</p> <p>(ii) the provisions of articles 13C to 13J shall apply.</p> <p>As the population or the target population for the Trim Development Plan area is proposed to be in the order of >10,000 persons and the Plan is being prepared for a town, SEA in respect of this Development Plan is mandatory under Art 13 (B) (a) and (b).</p>
Scoping	Consultation with the defined statutory bodies on the scope and level of detail to be considered in the assessment.	Completed in June 2013
Environmental Assessment	Assessment of the likely significant impacts on the environment as a result of the Plan or Programme culminating in the production of an Environmental Report.	Completed in July/August 2013
Consultation	Consultation on the Plan/Programme and associated Environmental Report.	Ongoing.
SEA Statement	Identification of how environmental considerations and consultation have been integrated into the final Plan/Programme culminating in the	To be published with final adopted Plan.

SEA Stage	Purpose	Status
	production of an SEA Statement.	

3.2 GUIDANCE

The following guidance / methodology documents have been referred to during the SEA process:

Article 8 (Decision Making) of EU Directive 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessment as amended, Circular Letter PL 9/2013 Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. Available at <http://www.environ.ie>

Further Transposition of EU Directive 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Circular Letter PSSP 6/2011 Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. Available at: <http://www.environ.ie>

Development of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Methodologies for Plans and Programmes in Ireland. Synthesis Report. 2003. Environmental Protection Agency. Available at: <http://www.epa.ie>

GISEA Manual, Current Practice And Potential On The Application Of Geographic Information Systems As A Support Tool In Strategic Environmental Assessment Of Irish Land Use Plans 2009 Environmental Protection Agency. Available at: <http://www.epa.ie>

Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC). Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment. Guidelines for Regional Planning Authorities. November 2004. Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Available at: <http://www.environ.ie>

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Climate Change: Guidance for Practitioners, May 2004, Environmental protection Agency. Available at <http://www.epa.ie>

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Checklist - Consultation Draft. January 2008 (updated 6th September 2011). Environmental Protection Agency. Available at: <http://www.epa.ie>

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Pack. (Updated in 18th April 2013). Environmental Protection Agency. Available at <http://www.epa.ie>

3.3 KEY DELIVERABLES IN STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

3.3.1 Scoping

Process

The objective of scoping is to identify key issues of concern that should be addressed in the environmental assessment of the Development Plan so that they can be considered in appropriate detail. Scoping also helps determine the boundaries of the assessment in terms of geographical extent and the time horizon for the assessment. **Figure 3.1** outlines the various elements that contribute to the scope of the SEA. Consultation was undertaken with the statutory consultees for SEA during the scoping process. In addition Public consultation was undertaken as part of the Plan process for the Review of the Trim Development Plan.

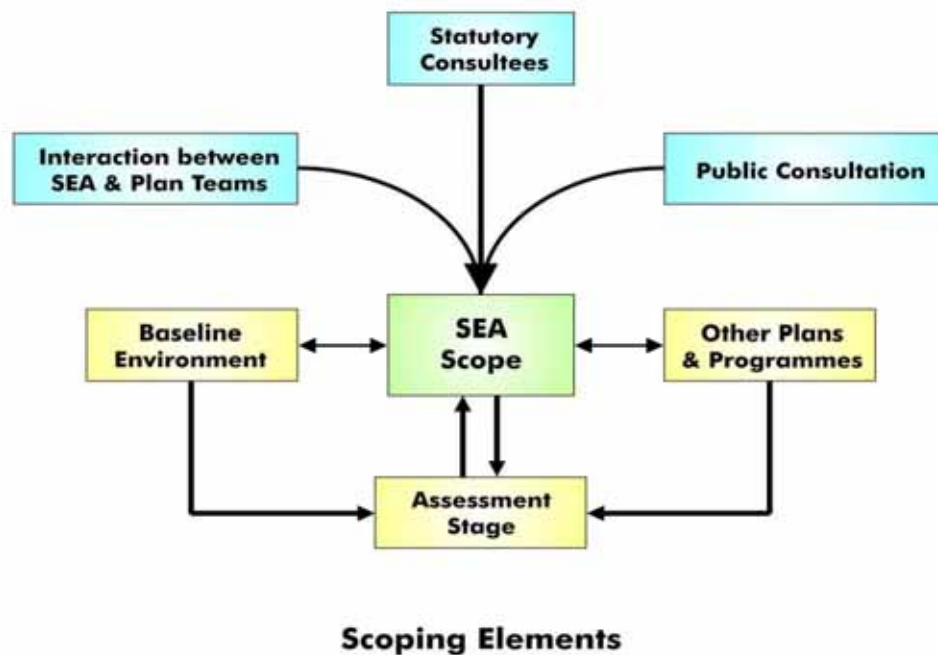


Figure 3.1: Overview of the Scoping Process

Consultation on Scope

Under Article 6 of the SEA Directive, the competent authority preparing the plan or programme is required to consult with specific “environmental authorities” (statutory consultees) on the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the Environmental Report.

The SEA amendment regulations (S.I. 201 of 2011) have made alterations regarding the scoping process. Previously under S.I. 436 of 2004 three statutory consultee environmental bodies were identified, those being the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (formerly Communications, Marine and Natural Resources). The amended regulations now list five environmental statutory consultees which are outlined in Article 13A (4) (a) of S.I. 201 of 2011, as follows;

- (i) *the Environmental Protection Agency*
- (ii) *the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government,*
- (iii) *where it appears to the planning authority that the plan or programme or modification of the plan or programme, might have significant effects on fisheries or the marine environment, the Minister for Agriculture, Marine and Food, and the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources,*
- (iv) *where it appears to the competent authority that the plan or programme or amendment to a plan or programme, might have significant effects in relation to the architectural or archaeological heritage or to nature conservation, the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs, and*
- (v) *any adjoining planning authority whose area is contiguous to the area of a planning authority which prepared a draft plan, proposed variation or local area plan.*

A Scoping Report was sent to the five environmental authorities on the 18th June 2013. The following responses were received from three of the environmental authorities and are outlined **Table 3.2** below. This table provides a summary of issues raised and details where issues were addressed within the

environmental report or within the draft Plan. Detailed responses are included within **Appendix B** of this report.

Table 3.2 Summary of Environmental Authorities Scoping Responses

Date Received	Name of Stakeholder	Comments	Where addressed (in ER or draft Plan)
05.07.13	Cian O'Mahony, EPA	In Section 1.3.6 <i>SEA Guidance</i> , the Meath County Development Plan should be taken into account in the 'Local Level' section. Should also reference the Landscape Character Assessment and Green Infrastructure Strategy of the Meath County Development Plan.	Section 1.5 of the Environmental Report outlines that the MCDP was reviewed as part of the review of plans, policies and programmes relevant to the Plan area. Section 5.10.2 of the ER outlines that the MCDP LCA was referred to as part of this ER. Section 9.4.4 of the ER refers to Heritage, Tourism and Green Infrastructure and specifically refers to the MCDP Green Infrastructure Strategy.
		The EPA identify that the Trim Public Water Supply is currently listed on the most recent published EPA Remedial Action List of Drinking Water Supplies (Q1 2013) due to elevated levels of THMs above the standard in the Drinking Water Regulations. The EPA note that it should be ensured that the recommendations of the EPA Audit of this plant are implemented to resolved the issues identified.	According to MCC Water Services Department funding has been secured from the DoECLG to undertake works to optimise the chlorination system at Trim WTP in order to address the THM risk and hence exit RAL. These works are just getting underway on site and will be complete by December 2013.
		Potential for cumulative impacts should be taken into account, especially when considering zoning/ de-zoning/ re-zoning/ phasing in relation to flooding and environmental sensitivities.	Provisions for zoning in areas at risk of flooding are made in Section 10.5.2 of the draft Plan. Section 10.4 of the Environmental Report covers de-zoning of lands in flood risk zones. Given that this matter has been addressed it is not considered to be a cumulative impact.
		A tiered approach to the assessment of alternatives could be considered, whereby after the preferred site has been selected, a series of lower level spatial alternatives relating to zoning are also assessed.	The draft plan addresses alternatives through residential zoning. The methodology addresses core strategy provisions in the first instance and then makes provision of a ranking system identifying preferred sites based on distance to the town centre, local services, designated sites etc. This approach is considered to be robust.
		Amendments to the SEA Regulations should be integrated into the Plan and SEA process, including the regulations signed into Irish law in 2011, along with the DoECLG Circular (PSSP 6/2011).	Detailed in Section 3.2. Guidance of the Environmental Report.
		Consideration should be given to the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011.	Referred to in Section 2.3 which refers to 'Appropriate Assessment' within the Environmental Report.

16.07.13	Patricia O'Leary, DHAG	Recommend inclusion of a section in the plan covering natural heritage, inclusion of list and map of designated sites in the area and policies and objectives should be included in the plan to afford their protection.	Included within chapter 4 of the draft Plan which refers to Heritage, Tourism and Green Infrastructure and associated Green Infrastructure Map No. 4.
		Should have regard to relevant circular letters, legislation and National Biodiversity Plan, as well as the Biodiversity and Ramsar Conventions, Wildlife Acts and EC Regulations.	Referred to in Sections 2.3, 3.2 and appendix C of the ER.
		Special attention should be paid to wetlands and flood plains, protecting ground and surface water and specifically the protection of Natura 2000 sites. Roads or cycleways/footpaths that are built alongside waterways must undergo strict assessment so avoid unbalancing the ecosystem of the waterway, especially where it constitutes a SAC or SPA such as the River Boyne and River Blackwater. Any planned routes must be a suitable distance away from the water's edge.	Please refer to TRAN OBJ 7 and GI OBJ 5 of the draft Plan which make provision to ensure that cycle/greenways shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment. Also, consistent with the CDP 2009-2015, WS POL 33: "To consult with the Office of Public Works in relation to proposed developments in the vicinity of drainage channels and rivers for which the OPW are responsible, and the Council will retain a strip of 10m on either side of such channel where required, to facilitate access thereto".
		It is important that special measures be taken to avoid the introduction of invasive species during development.	Target of SEO 1 Biodiversity/Flora and Fauna of ER in Chapter 7 which refers to Strategic Environmental Objectives of the ER. Also included in HER ONJ 9 and HER OBJ 10 of the draft Plan.
		Recommends that Hedgerows are to be afforded consideration and protection due to their housing for many different wildlife species, including badgers, bats and birds. Hedgerows are to be maintained to the largest extent possible.	HER OBJ 5 of the draft plan provides for the specific protection of hedgerows
		Recommend that the Biodiversity/Flora and Fauna SEO cover habitats and species both within and outside of designated sites. These should also be compatible with the River Basin Management Plan.	Covered in Chapter 7 which refers to Strategic Environmental Objectives of the ER.
		The Appropriate Assessment should examine the effects of policies, objectives and indicative maps or zonings, as well as cumulative impacts with other plans and projects within and outside of the Plan area.	As per Natura Impact Report provided in Appendix 2 of the ER.
19.07.13	Frances Dunne, DCENR	Note that the surface water status of the Lower Boyne at Trim is rated as 'moderate' and therefore shall be required to be restored to at least good status by the end of 2015 in accordance with the Surface Water Regulations.	Noted in section 5.6.2 of the ER. Following policy also included within draft Plan: INF POL 10 "To protect existing and potential water resources in accordance with the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended)"

		Concerned about the proposed Dowdstown WTP as it will place an unjustified strain of the already limited water supply in the River Boyne	Meath County Council Water Services Department have advised that following an extensive statutory process including an oral hearing, An Bord Pleanála has granted MCC an abstraction order to abstract 44,000 cu.m/d from the river Boyne at Dowdstown. As part of this process the issue of the ability of the Boyne to sustain such an abstraction, including during low flow conditions was closely examined and was not identified as a problem. Furthermore, MCC have advised that the existing abstraction from the Boyne at Trim would cease and would be replaced by the proposed new abstraction at Dowdstown and therefore this new abstraction would replace the existing abstraction.
		IFI welcome improvements planned for that Trim wastewater infrastructure	Noted.
		Request the following matters to be taken into account in the environmental report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality • Surface water hydrology • Fish spawning and nursery areas • Passage of migratory fish • Areas of natural heritage importance • Biological diversity • Ecosystem structure and functioning • Sport and commercial fishing and angling • Amenity and recreational area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of these matters have been taken into consideration in the preparation of the draft Plan and ER as per references below: • Water quality (Section 5.6 of ER, SEO 3 Chapter 7 ER and INF POL 10 of draft Plan) • Surface water hydrology INF POL 10, INF POL 15 of draft Plan and section 5.6.2 of ER) • Fish spawning and nursery areas (INF POL 6, INF POL 31 of draft Plan) • Passage of migratory fish (INF POL 6, INF POL 31 of draft Plan) • Areas of natural heritage importance (Section 5.4.6 ER and HER OBJ 5) • Biological diversity (Appendix C of ER) • Ecosystem structure and functioning (Section 5.4 of ER and Chapter 4 of draft Plan) • Sport and commercial fishing and angling (Chapters 6 and 7 of draft Plan) • Amenity and recreational area (Chapters 4, 6 and 7 of draft Plan and section 5.10 of ER)
		Referral to consider the IFI publication "Requirements for the Protection of Fisheries habitat during Construction and	INF POL 7 states that "All works that have potential to impact on fisheries are required to adhere

		Development Works”.	to IFI Fisheries Protection Guidelines entitled ‘Requirements for the Protection of Fisheries habitat during Construction and Development Works’.
		Recommend attention sin respect of the River Boyne and also to its tributaries such as the Maudlin and the Lackanash.	INF POL 8 aims To protect the tributaries of the River Boyne around Trim such as the Maudlin and the Lackanash from urbanisation and malfunctioning sewer lines”.

Defining the Scope

The following table outlines the scope for the Environmental Report.

Table 3.3: Defining the Scope of the Development Plan

Geographic Scope	The geographical extent of the Trim Development Plan area is provided in Figure 2.1 . Therefore, the geographical scope of the SEA will, in the main, be focussed on this area though geographical areas, which are contiguous with the boundary, may be considered depending on the impacts identified for each issue area. Chapter 10 of this report provides details on the potential cumulative impacts of key environmental receptors from a strategic planning perspective.
Temporal Scope	The Development Plan will cover the period from 2014 to 2020.
Level of Detail of the Plan	The plan is a sub-regional planning document informing development within Trim and it sits under the Meath County Development Plan.
Level of Detail of the Assessment	The assessment will be at a sub-regional level reflecting the position of the Trim Development Plan in the planning hierarchy.
Assessment Parameters	Cumulative/synergistic and secondary, permanent and temporary effects will be assessed along with direct and indirect impacts. Short, medium and long-term impacts will also be assessed.
Scoping of the SEA Topics	The following environmental topics, listed in the SEA Directive and associated regulations have been scoped in for the assessment of the Development Plan. These are: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna Landscape Climatic Factors Water </div> <div> Population Soil Material Assets Cultural, Architectural and Archaeological Heritage </div> </div>
SEA Topics Screened Out	The following environmental topics, listed in the SEA Directive and associated regulations have been scoped out for the assessment of the Trim Development Plan. These include Air, Human Health and Noise. These disciplines have been scoped out because they are dealt with elsewhere under other environmental topics as follows: Air – Climate Change Human Health – Population, Water and Material Assets Noise – Population and Material Assets

3.3.2 Environmental Report

Based on the legislation and guidance, the Environmental Report must include the information outlined in **Table 3.4**.

Table 3.4: Key Elements of the Environmental Report

Requirement of SEA Directive (Article 5 (1), Annex 1)	Section of Environmental Report
An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans or programmes.	Chapter 4: Description of the Development Plan
The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme.	Chapter 5: Baseline Environment
The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	Chapter 5: Baseline Environment
Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to the Birds Directive or the Habitats Directive.	Chapter 5: Baseline Environment
The environmental protection objectives, established at international, European Union or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.	Chapter 6: Review of Relevant Plans, Programmes and Policies
The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, fauna, flora, soil, water, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.	Chapter 9: Evaluation of Development Plan Policies and Objectives
An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.	Chapter 3: Methodology Chapter 7: Strategic Environmental Objectives, Targets and Indicators Chapter 8: Development Plan Alternatives
The likely significant cumulative effects on the environment as a result of implementing the Plan.	Chapter 11: Cumulative Effects
A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring of the significant environmental effects of implementation of the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme.	Chapter 12: Mitigation and Monitoring
A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	Chapter 1: Non-Technical Summary

3.3.3 SEA Statement

The SEA Statement for the Trim Development Plan will be compiled after the statutory consultation on the Plan and Environmental Report has been completed.

The main purpose of the SEA Statement will be to provide information on the decision-making process and to document how environmental considerations, i.e. the views of consultees and the recommendations of the Environmental Report, have been taken into account in the adopted Development Plan. The SEA Statement will illustrate how decisions were taken, making the process more transparent.

3.3.4 Appropriate Assessment

The Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora) obliges Member States to designate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) to protect and conserve habitats and species of importance in a European Union context. Articles 3 to 9 of this Directive provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of Community interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of sites known as Natura 2000.

Article 6 is one of the most important articles of the Habitats Directive in determining the relationship between conservation and site use. Article 6(3) requires that *“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the conservation of a site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives.”*

An Appropriate Assessment of the Development Plan was carried out in parallel with the SEA process, with the findings of the Natura Impact Assessment used to guide the development of the alternatives to be considered as part of the SEA.

3.3.5 SEA Difficulties and Data Gaps

- Corine landcover data for the year 2006 was the most up to date data available.
- No detailed water supply and waste water supply mapping available.
- No habitat mapping for the plan area.

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

4.1 BACKGROUND

The Trim Development Plan 2014 - 2020 once adopted, will replace the preceding Trim Development Plan adopted by both Trim Town Council & Meath County Council in 2008. Having regard to the development envelope of Trim Town & Environs comprising of the administrative boundaries of both Trim Town Council and Meath County Council, the new Plan has been prepared as a joint statutory planning document for both Local Authorities.

The purpose of this draft Trim Development Plan is:

- To promote the economic, social and cultural development of Trim and to give local communities the opportunity to participate in the planning process as it relates to their local area and their daily lives.
- To identify development demands likely to arise over the period 2014-2020.
- To provide a blueprint for the sustainable development of the Plan area so it can realise its full potential for the benefit of the residents of the town and the county.
- To provide a detailed framework for the management and regulation of development and use of land that will guide day to day planning decisions.
- To include proposals for the development and use of land and to zone lands for specific purposes which will provide guidance and information for developers and the public.
- To ensure the optimum utilisation of State and Local Authority resources.

4.2 OVERALL STRATEGY

Strategic Aims for Trim

1. To facilitate the growth of Trim as a Moderate Sustainable Growth Town in line with its status provided for in the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010.
2. To build upon the Heritage Town status of Trim and to develop specific niche tourism products so as to create sustainable job growth in the tourism sector for the town.
3. To strengthen the economy of the town, attracting new investment in employment, tourism, manufacturing, administration and healthcare uses.
4. To strengthen the role of the town centre as a primarily retail area and the centre of the community.
5. To secure investment in essential infrastructure.

4.3 CORE STRATEGY

The purpose of a Core Strategy is to provide a medium to longer term quantitatively based strategy for the spatial development of the town and in so doing to demonstrate that the development plan and development objectives contained therein are consistent with national and regional objectives set out in the National Spatial Strategy 2002 (NSS) and the Regional Planning Guidelines 2010 (RPGs).

The Core Strategy for Trim Town & Environs builds on the principles of the previous Trim Development Plan 2008 and the framework provided by the Meath County Development Plan 2013 – 2019, the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010 – 2022 and national policy and ministerial guidelines relevant to planning.

The Strategy outlined for Trim in the County Development Plan provides that the town should develop as a Moderate Sustainable Growth Town. Such towns should develop in:

- A self-sufficient manner.
- Have balanced growth, in tandem with employment opportunities and the availability of physical/social infrastructure.
- Not be based on long distance commuting.
- Recognising the importance of its Heritage Town status and the development of a tourism cluster in conjunction with the town of Kells.
- The targeted economic sectors for Trim being innovation in indigenous enterprise and business start-ups, tourism, manufacturing, administration and healthcare.

The Trim Development Plan 2014 – 2020 will seek to provide the building blocks for the implementation of this strategy at the local level and the framework is detailed in the policies and objectives contained within the individual chapters of the Plan.

The key goals of the Plan are to strengthen the economy of the town by attracting new investment in employment, services, retail and tourism uses in order to underpin the attractiveness of Trim Town & Environs as a place to live and work and thereby support an increase in the population of the town.

The Core Strategy presents the longer term (15-20 year) development strategy for the future development of Trim, which focuses on the following strategic objectives:

- (i) Enhancing the Historic Town Centre;
- (ii) Planning for Town Centre Expansion & Addressing Retail Leakage from the Town;
- (iii) Development of Trim as a Major Destination in the Boyne Valley;
- (iv) Development of Employment and Enterprise Areas;
- (v) Transportation Infrastructure and Development of Linkages; and
- (vi) Phasing Lands

4.4 FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT

The Councils in preparing their strategy for the management of flood risks, (prepared as an integral part of the Development Plan) have had regard to its obligations under Section 28 of the Planning & Development Acts in relation to Guidelines for Planning Authorities 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management' in November 2009. An assessment of flood risk in Trim Town & Environs has been formally taken into account in the preparation of the draft Plan. A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for the proposed Trim Development Plan area is included in Appendix H of the draft Plan which was prepared by JBA Consulting on behalf of Trim Town Council/Meath County Council.

The SFRA has also informed the assessments of this SEA.

5 BASELINE ENVIRONMENT

5.1 INTRODUCTION

This section of the Environmental Report examines the relevant significant issues of the current state of the environment within Trim and environs in relation to biodiversity, fauna, flora, population, soil, water, climatic factors, cultural heritage, landscape, material assets and the interrelationship between these factors. The baseline has been compiled using available datasets and indicators suggested during scoping. It has focused on mapping the relevant baseline information that relates to the policies and objectives contained within the Review of the Trim Development Plan.

5.2 CURRENT STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

According to EPA publications (EPA, 2008 and 2012), Ireland's natural environment, although under increasing pressure, generally remains of good quality and represents one of the country's most essential national assets. In the EPA's *2020 Vision – Protecting the Irish Environment* document it is noted that pressures on the environment have increased significantly. As Ireland's economy grew in the past ten years, these pressures accelerated at a rate which exceeds that observed in other EU countries.

The fifth EPA *State of the Environment Report* (2012) identified four priority challenges for the environment, which, if addressed successfully, should benefit the present and future quality of Ireland's environment. These comprise: Value and Protecting our Natural Environment; Building a Resource-Efficient, Low Carbon Economy; Implementing Environmental Legislation; and Putting the Environment at the Centre of Our Decision Making. These challenges are summarised below in **Table 5.1**.

Table 5.1: EPA State of the Environment Report (2012) Key Challenges

Challenges	Components	Relationship to draft Plan
Challenge 1: Value and Protecting our Natural Environment	A good environment is a critical component of high quality of life for future generations. Meeting the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) in protecting water resources in a changing climate. Maintaining clean air and healthy soil and protecting biodiversity and nature from further loss and damage.	The Plan needs to consider the objectives and precepts of other existing Policies, Plans and Programmes, such as the Habitats Directive, Birds Directive and Water Framework Directive, to ensure that the issues addressed by these are brought forward into the overall planning process. The Plan needs to ensure sufficient natural environment policies are included within the Plan.
Challenge 2: Building a Resource- Efficient, Low Carbon Economy	Need to overcome recent economic downturn. Increasing scarcity and costs of fuels and resources. Opportunity to ensure future development is based on highly efficient processes and improved resource efficiency through waste prevention to efficient and renewable energy and investment to become a resource-efficient competitive economy. Protection from future economic shocks. Requirement to meet international climate change agreements targets and 2020 targets on GHG emissions.	The Plan should: Promote climate change reduction measures, i.e. through waste reduction, renewable energy and sustainable practices. Take account of potential climate change impacts when developing policies and objectives to ensure that the Plan does not contribute to the impact of climate change. In addition the Plan should consider the impacts of climate change when applying land use zonings to areas that are vulnerable to these impacts e.g. flooding.
Challenge 3: Implementing	Compliance with International Obligations with respect to water quality, air quality, GHG	The Plan needs to consider the requirements of national and local

Challenges	Components	Relationship to draft Plan
Environmental Legislation	emissions and waste management. Role of the EPA and other regulators to ensure effective enforcement of environmental legislation at national and local levels. Prevent avoidable environmental damage, protect Ireland's reputation and green image, which is important to economic sectors, agri-food and tourism sectors.	level legislation in developing policies and objectives as well as EU and international obligations. Consideration with respect to enforcement should also be given in preparation of the Plan.
Challenge 4: Putting the Environment at the Centre of Our Decision Making	Achieving sustainable development and growth at national, regional and local levels. Need for clear leadership and co-ordinated efforts from Government and public bodies, business, industry and farmers and the public.	The Plan needs to ensure that there is buy in from all levels of society and that the environment is at the centre of decision making. Consideration of the objectives of other existing Policies, Plans and Programmes at a national, regional and local level will aid in addressing the challenge of reversing environmental degradation.

In *2020 Vision – Protecting the Irish Environment* (EPA, 2007) the EPA outlines six environmental goals which reflect on the main challenges identified in the State of the Environment reports as well as key issues at the global and EU level as reflected in the 6th Environmental Action Plan (EAP). These goals are:

- Limiting and adapting to climate change;
- Clean air;
- Protected waters;
- Protected soils and biodiversity;
- Sustainable use of natural resources; and
- Integration and enforcement.

These goals are identified as a means of realising the vision of protecting and improving Ireland's environment. Many of these goals are relevant to the Plan as this local level plan contains the policies and objectives to guide land use and development in the town.

5.3 POPULATION

Trim falls within two electoral divisions (EDs), Trim Urban and Trim Rural, as shown in **Figure 5.1**. However, for the purpose of this Plan, Trim Urban and the overall population for Trim and its Environs are used. The recorded population for these electoral areas in the 2002, 2006 and 2011 census of population are presented in the **Table 5.2**.

Trim has a population of 8,268 persons. The County Development Plan 2013-2019 has allocated 518 households to Trim over the lifetime of the draft Plan. When the average house size of 3 is applied, this gives a population of 9,822. In addition, there are 912 permitted units within the County Development Plan 2013-2019 which brings the target population for the draft Plan to be > 10,000 persons.

Table 5.2: Population for EDs within the draft Plan

Electoral Area	Census Population 2002	Census Population 2006	Percentage increase in population between 2002 and 2006	Census Population 2011	Percentage increase in population between 2006 and 2011
State	3,917,203	4,239,848	+ 8.2%	4,588,252	+8.2%
Trim Urban	1,447	1,170	-19.1%	1,269	+8.5%
Trim (including its Environs) – Total Study Area	4,405	6,870	+55.9%	8,268	+20.3%

Source: Census 2002, 2006 and 2011

The overall population growth of Trim is following an increasing trend. The census population figure recorded a significant increase of 55.9% in population between 2002 and 2006 and an increase of 20.3% between 2006 and 2011 which is significantly greater than the State average during the same periods.

In contrast, the population of Trim urban decreased by 19.1% between 2002 and 2006. However, there was an increase in population of 8.5% between 2006 and 2011. This increase is similar to that of the State's which seen its population rise by 8.2% for the same period.

Figure 5.1 displays population density both within the boundary of the Development Plan and within the surrounding area. It illustrates that the lowest population density occurs outside of Trim Urban electoral division and within the Trims Environs which partly falls within the draft Plan boundary.

5.3.1 Settlement

The MCDP 2013-2019 includes a settlement strategy which is consistent with the settlement strategy contained in the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010. According to the Strategic Issues Paper for the Trim Development Plan 2014-2020, a key element of the settlement strategy is the hierarchy of towns. The settlement strategy is significant as it influences the investment programmes of various sections of the Council, such as Water Services, Roads etc. Trim has been designated as a Moderate Sustainable Growth Town in the Settlement Hierarchy.

The MCDP and the Core Strategy for the town inherited from the GDA RPGs sets out that the draft Plan will provide for additional development of 518 residential units up to 2019. This means that there will be a requirement for 14.8 hectares of residentially zoned lands as part of the new Plan. There is a resultant 96.9ha in excess zoned residential land and a number of options will need to be reviewed as part of the development strategy for the plan area. Options including the prioritising/ phasing of development, alternative land use zoning objectives and/ or discontinuing the land use zoning will need to be considered to ensure that the draft Plan meets with the CDP Core Strategy.

5.3.2 Housing

The growth in population in Trim recorded in the 2011 Census was catered for by an increase in the quantity of house completions. However, there has been a significant reduction in house completions in recent years. The Strategic Issues Paper for the Trim Development Plan 2014-2020 outlined that, as of December 2011, there were 912 committed units within the area which had not been built and will need consideration in terms of the growth and pattern of development for the town as part of the Trim Development Plan review. The average household size has fallen in recent years from 3.47 in 1996 to 2.9 in 2011, this would suggest that there has been a reduction in household size due to increase in numbers of houses available on the market during that period. A range of house sizes will be required in order to accommodate various household sizes and meet the requirements of the population.

In addition to house size, future housing accommodation should be able to provide for all sectors of society, and include accommodation for groups such as elderly persons or those with a disability, be it physical or intellectual. Social and affordable housing has been traditionally provided by Meath Local Authorities; through the building of housing by MCC or the transfer of units from private housing schemes under the provisions of planning legislation. Recently, the voluntary housing sector has been involved in this area and includes: co-operative associations, community associations and voluntary housing associations.

The development of Trim as a Moderate Sustainable Growth Town will require facilitating the development of new sustainable residential neighbourhoods in a sequential manner. "Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas" is the document containing the guidelines which have been published by the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government to help in this regard. The Strategic Issues Paper for the Trim Development Plan 2014-2020 stipulates that new neighbourhoods should be connected, legible, attractive, well designed with a variety of adaptable dwelling types / sizes and densities which provide a sense of place and a high quality public realm. New residential dwellings provide the opportunity to minimise car based transport demand by providing a mix of appropriate uses at the right location.

5.3.3 Existing Environmental Pressures/ Problems

Lands zoned for residential uses within the TDP 2008 - 2014 are in excess of requirements based on the MCDP core strategy. Therefore a detailed review of land use zonings, particularly in relation to residential uses will be required to ensure that the draft Plan is consistent with the MCDP Core Strategy. The main pressure on this area is the potential for large scale development and the need to ensure that there is sufficient capacity in terms of infrastructure and services to cater for increased population and proposed development into the future.

Changes in land use density continue to present significant pressures for a variety of environmental aspects, and this in turn will potentially affect the local community. Most of the environmental pressures in Trim have come as an indirect result of development and population growth in the area. Further development within the draft Plan area will place increased pressure on existing infrastructure. In particular, adequate and appropriate wastewater treatment, water supply, surface and storm water drainage, transport, waste management, community services and amenities, etc. will need to be planned and phased to address any current problems or deficits and to reflect any changes in population. These infrastructure requirements were outlined in the 2008 - 2014 Trim Development Plan for the area and transport, water and waste water improvement measures have commenced. The revised Housing Strategy in the MCDP seeks to address issues such as housing affordability, future need and availability of zoned land for housing, provision of social and affordable housing mix which will be paramount in order to cater for the expected future population growth.

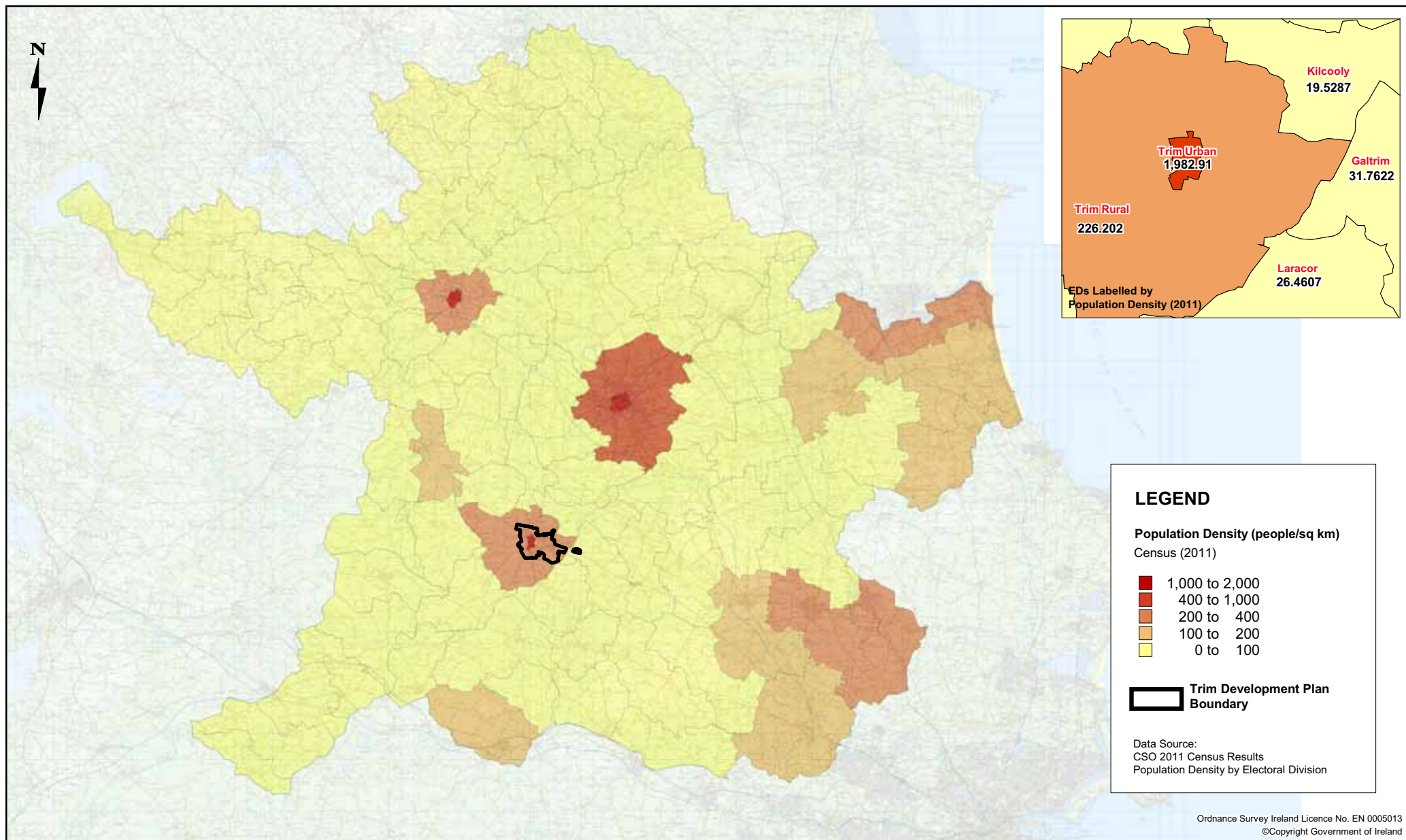


FIGURE 5.1 - POPULATION DENSITY OF TRIM AND ITS ENVIRONS

5.4 BIODIVERSITY, FLORA AND FAUNA

5.4.1 Introduction

“Biological diversity” refers to the variety of living things. In the same way as a rich diversity of cultures enhances the quality of our lives, so does a rich diversity of plants and animals. Biological diversity is known to be important to the proper functioning of the planet’s life support system. Therefore, conservation of biological diversity has become one of the keys aims of governments throughout the world.

Urban growth on the island of Ireland has been accelerating at a greater rate over recent years as increased development expands city and town limits into the countryside. Artificial land cover throughout Ireland remains relatively low; however, the constant encroachment on natural habitats undoubtedly has an impact on natural flora, fauna and biodiversity.

Within the draft Plan boundary there are habitats of high biodiversity and conservation value, including the River Boyne which has salmonid status. The River Boyne is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and a Special Protection Area (SPA). There is one proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA) outside of the draft Plan boundary, the Trim pNHA, and it is located approximately 350m east of the draft Plan boundary.

5.4.2 CORINE Land Cover Mapping

The draft Plan area consists mainly of discontinuous urban fabric, pastures and the road network. There are some construction sites in the east of the draft Plan as shown in **Figure 5.2**. Comparing the CORINE Land Cover Map of 2006 with that of 1990, it can be seen that there has been a significant increase in the amount of land used for discontinuous urban fabric and a significant decrease in the amount of land used as pastures since 1990. This indicates that development and population growth has taken place since 1990 within the draft Plan, especially east along the R161, R154 and areas north of Trim Town. Intensive agriculture is the main land use along the River Boyne SAC/ SPA, with large improved grassland fields and silage harvesting being carried out. In the more extensive agricultural areas, sheep grazing is carried out.

5.4.3 Designated Ecological Sites

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) have been selected for protection under the European Council Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (92/43/EEC) - referred to as the Habitats Directive. The Habitats Directive seeks to establish Natura 2000, a network of protected areas throughout the EU. It is the responsibility of each Member State to designate SACs to protect habitats and species, which, together with Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (79/409/EEC), form the Natura 2000 network. The integrity of a Natura 2000 site (referred to in Article 6.3 of the EU Habitats Directive) is determined based on the conservation status of the qualifying features of the SAC. The qualifying features for the designated sites have been obtained through a review of the Conservation Objectives available from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). There is one SAC and one SPA within the draft Plan boundary, the River Boyne and River Blackwater, as shown in **Figure 5.3**.

The Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000 provides the legal basis for the establishment of a national network of sites known as Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs). The aim of the NHA network is to conserve and protect nationally important plant and animal species and their habitats. They are also designated to conserve and protect nationally important landforms, geological or geomorphological features. Planning authorities are obliged by law to ensure that these sites are protected and conserved.

There are no pNHAs or NHAs within the draft Plan boundary area. There is however, one NHA and pNHA in the surrounding area as outlined in **Table 5.3**.

Table 5.3: Designated Ecological Sites within and surrounding the Development Plan

Designated Ecological Site	Site Code	Location	Approximate Distance from the draft Plan Boundary	Has been designated for the presence of the following
River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA	004232	Within the draft Plan boundary	-	Designated for the presence of a nationally important population of Kingfisher which is an Annex I species of the E.U. Birds Directive.
River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC	002299	Within the draft Plan boundary	-	This site has been designated as an SAC due to the presence of alkaline fen and alluvial woodlands, which are both found in Annex I of the Habitats Directive. It also contains the Annex II species Atlantic Salmon, Otter and River Lamprey.
Trim pNHA	001357	Outside of the draft Plan boundary	Approximately 350m east of the draft Plan boundary	This site is highly significant due to the presence of Strawberry Clover. It is one of only a few inland locations in Ireland where this coastal plant species can be found.
Jamestown Bog NHA	001324	Outside of the draft Plan boundary	Approximately 10km north-west of the draft Plan boundary, (not shown on Figure 5.3 due to scaling of the map)	Designated as an NHA because the site consists of a raised bog which is a rare habitat within the E.U. Its location is highly significant as it represents the north-eastern extreme of the geographic range of raised bogs in Ireland.

Source: National Parks and Wildlife Service, 2013 and Trim Development Plan 2008-2014

5.4.4 Appropriate Assessment

A Natura Impact Statement is included within **Appendix A** and it provides an assessment of the Natura 2000 sites within a 15km radius of the draft Plan area. An Appropriate Assessment is required for any Plan/ Programme that has the potential to have a significant impact on a Natura 2000 site. In the case of the Trim Development Plan an AA has been undertaken in parallel with the development of the draft Plan. It has identified that within this 15km radius of the draft Plan area there are only two Natura 2000 sites, as outlined in **Table 5.3**.

The potential impacts that could arise from implementation of the draft Plan have been examined to identify any potential impacts that could affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 network. The AA process has identified that both the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and the River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA have the potential to be both directly and indirectly adversely affected by the implementation of the draft Trim Development Plan 2014-2020. On the basis of the findings of the Screening for Appropriate Assessment of Natura 2000 sites a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment and a Natura Impact Report (NIR) were undertaken.

The Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment concluded that Meath County Council and Trim Town Council's robust commitment to the protection of Natura 2000 sites as well as to protected species, as outlined in the draft Trim Development Plan 2014-2020, will be sufficient to prevent adverse impacts on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites both within and in the proximity of Trim. The full NIR report can be found in Appendix A.

5.4.5 NPWS Rare and Protected Species Data

The NPWS Rare and Protected Species database was consulted for records of species of conservation importance. According to this database, the Plan area lies within the 10km Grid squares (hectads) N75 and N85. According to this database, there are records for two rare and protected species within the two grid squares. However, the NPWS dataset is known to be incomplete, particularly in respect of fish, bats and birds, and therefore the absence of records for a certain species does not necessarily mean that the species does not occur within the Development Plan area. The relevant hectads and the rare and protected species recorded within these squares are detailed in **Table 5.4**.

Table 5.4: NPWS Rare and Protected Species Records

Common Name	Scientific Name	Grid Square	Sample Location	Date Recorded
-	-	N75	-	-
Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	N85	Umberstown, Rathmolyon N8050	04/03/1992
Red Hemp Nettle	<i>Galeopsis angustifolia</i>		Kilmessan N8050	1896

Source: NPWS Rare and Protected Species database

5.4.6 Habitats

Article 10 of the Habitats Directive recognises the importance of ecological networks as corridors and stepping-stones for the movement of wildlife. Migration, movement and the long-term genetic health of species are assisted through creating linked networks for biodiversity purposes. The Directive requires that connectivity and areas of ecological value that lie outside of designated ecological sites be maintained. The Directive recognises the need for the management of these areas through land use planning and development policies. The networks are considered imperative in connecting areas of biodiversity to each other, thus avoiding the creation of isolated islands of habitat. These corridors are particularly important for mammals, small birds and bats.

This SEA has been informed by the County Meath Biodiversity Action Plan: 2008-2012, the County Meath Wetlands and Coastal Habitats Survey, the Survey of Rare / Threatened and Scarce Vascular Plants in County Meath 2006 and the EIS for the OPW Development (2006) submitted to MCC (Ref.s TT60024 and TA60508).

Wet woodland is found along the banks of the River Boyne which flows straight through the centre of the draft Plan area. This is dominated by Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) or Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and the ground flora is often 'grassy' in appearance with abundant remote sedge (*Carex remota*) and creeping bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*). The field layer also consists of bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), common marsh-bedstraw (*Galium palustre*), yellow pimpernel (*Lysimachia nemorum*) and lady-fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*).

The River Boyne SAC has Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), otter (*Lutra lutra*) and river lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*). It also includes animals which are listed on the Irish Red Data Book such as the pine marten (*Martes martes*), badger (*Meles meles*), Irish hare (*Lepus timidus hibernicus*) and common frog (*Rana temporaria*). In addition, the stoat (*Mustela ermine*) and red squirrel (*Squirrel vulgaris*) are also located within the River Boyne SAC.

There are a number of hedgerows in the rural part of Trim. They comprise of hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), and elder (*Sambucus nigra*) with ivy (*Hedera helix*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg) and travellers joy (*Clematis vitalba*). Animals which live within the hedgerows include the badger (*Meles meles*), hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*), bat (*Chiroptera*), brown rat (*Rattus norvegicus*), wood mouse (*Apodemus sylvaticus*), pygmy shrew (*Sorex minutus*) and fox

(*Vulpes vulpes*). The birds which are associated with hedgerows include the wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*), robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) and blackbird (*T. merula*). Other birds found in the area include the thrush (*Turdus philomelos*), starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), rook (*Corvus frugilegus*), magpie (*Pica pica*) and blue tit (*Parus caeruleus*). In addition, insects which are found in hedges include butterflies and moths. Hedgerows act as corridors for animals to move across the landscape.

The Jamestown Bog NHA, a raised bog, is located approximately 10km north of the development plan boundary. It is a rare habitat of international value and is home to an exclusive community of species which have adapted to wet and acidic environments. Jamestown Bog contains species such as ling heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), cross-leaved heath (*Erica tetralix*), cotton grasses (*Eriophorum* spp.) and bog mosses (including *Sphagnum capillifolium*, *S. magellanicum*, *S. cuspidatum* and *S. papillosum*). In addition, bog asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*) and white beak-sedge (*Rhynchospora alba*) are commonly found. There is quite high lichen (*Cladonia* spp.) cover in parts of the high bog, and there are a number of young downy birch (*Betula pubescens*) plants scattered over the surface of the high bog.

Trim Town has urban habitats. It has numerous old stone walls and bridges which are significant habitats for bats and birds. A significant range of wildlife can be found in old graveyards if they have not been managed intensively. Foxes are often found in urban habitats as they look for food from dustbins.

Trim has a significant amount of pasture land. Pastures can be improved agricultural grassland which has very few species, rye-grasses (*Lolium* spp.) which can dominate the pasture and can also occur with clover (*Trifolium repens*) or other grasses such as meadow-grasses (*Poa* spp.), timothy (*Phleum pratense*), crested dog's-tail (*Cynosurus cristatus*) and yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*). Red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and creeping bent (*Agrostis solonifera*), wild oat (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and scutch grass (*Elymus repens*) are also present within the Plan boundary. There is a high abundance of tall growing broadleaf herbs which include nettle (*Urtica dioica*), rosebay willowherb (*Epilobium angustifolium*), creeping and spear thistle (*Cirsium arvense* and *C. vulgare*) particularly where the land has been reseeded but has poor drainage, ragwort and groundsel (*Senecio jacobaea* and *S. vulgaris*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) and broadleaf dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*). Lower growing broadleaf herbs include red clover (*Trifolium pratense*), white clover (*T. repens*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), dandelion (*Taraxacum* agg.), common mouse ear (*Cerastium fontanum*), Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*) and greater stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*). In addition, young goat willows (*Salix caprea*) have also been found within the improved agricultural grassland habitat.

A survey of Rare/ Threatened and Scarce Vascular Plants in County Meath was conducted in 2006 by BEC Consultants. The Boyne River valley was studied in detail. It reported that although there were two areas of suitable habitat for the two rare/threatened species, namely *Hordeum secalinum* and *Juncus compressus*, none were found to be present during the survey. The relevant habitats for these species are wet meadows and pastures. The results of the survey indicate that the management or ecology of the wet meadows which are located along the River Boyne have been altered in recent years.

5.4.7 Trees and Woodlands

Trim has a number of mature trees and groups of trees which are of high significance and compliment the built environment of the town, as shown in **Table 5.5** and **Figure 5.4**. Trees are a wildlife habitat, provide visual relief and are a significant visual amenity for the town.

Table 5.5: Trees Identified for Preservation in the Trim Development Plan 2014 - 2020

Map Symbol	Trees to be protected	Location / Setting
TP 1	Mature deciduous and coniferous trees	Eastern side of Catholic Church grounds
TP 2	Riverside Trees	Northern bank of the Boyne west of Watergate Bridge
TP 3	Mature Conifers	Grounds of Highfield House
TP 4	Deciduous Trees	Both side of road linking Newtown Bridge and the Dublin Road.
TP 5	Deciduous Trees	Convent Grounds, Emmet Street
TP 6	Mature Deciduous and coniferous trees	Grounds of Glebe House and Priory Estate.
TP 7	Mature Deciduous and coniferous trees	Grounds of Mornington House and Castle Arch Hotel
TP 8	Beech Tree	Beside Norbury Hall, Castle St.

Source: Trim Development Plan 2014-2020

5.4.8 Invasive Species

Invasive species are species that have been introduced into Ireland either deliberately or accidentally. They have a negative impact on habitats, wildlife and the economy. After habitat loss invasive species are the second biggest threat to biodiversity. The invasive species of Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed and the grey squirrel have been recorded in County Meath.

5.4.9 Aquatic Flora and Fauna

Rivers support and provide important ecological corridors for flora and fauna. The draft Plan area lies within the Eastern River Basin District (ERBD) through which the River Boyne flows. The River Boyne is important as it supports Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), otter (*Lutra lutra*) and lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*) and therefore has high local value. The River Boyne has a nationally important population of Kingfisher. Other species which are found at this location are the mute swan, teal, mallard, cormorant, grey heron, moorhen, snipe and the sand martin.

5.4.10 Existing Environmental Pressures / Problems

Trim has a high diversity of species and habitats. Most of the environmental pressures in Trim have come as an indirect result of development and population growth within the Plan area and its surrounding area. Existing pressures have led to losses of biodiversity through the construction of hard standing surfaces as a by-product of development. Agricultural practices are placing increasing pressure on biodiversity in particular the loss of existing hedgerows.

Within the draft Plan boundary there are habitats of high biodiversity and conservation value, including the River Boyne which has salmonid status. The River Boyne is a designated site as it is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and a Special Protection Area (SPA). There is also one proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA), the Trim pNHA which is located approximately 350m east of the Plan boundary.

Trim and its surrounding area is very rich in biodiversity. In accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive the draft Plan should recognise the importance of ecological networks as corridors and stepping-stones for the movement of wildlife. Therefore policies and objectives should be included within the plan to ensure connectivity of areas of ecological value that lie within and outside of designated ecological sites be maintained.

The planned development of the area is likely to have implications on biodiversity, flora and fauna of the area. Detailed policies requiring the protection of habitats and species will be required in the Plan

and it is recommended that mapping of protected areas should be provided within the draft Plan. A detailed natural heritage section should also be provided for in the development plan setting out protective policies for the plan area in line with legislation and best practice guidance documentation on the environment.

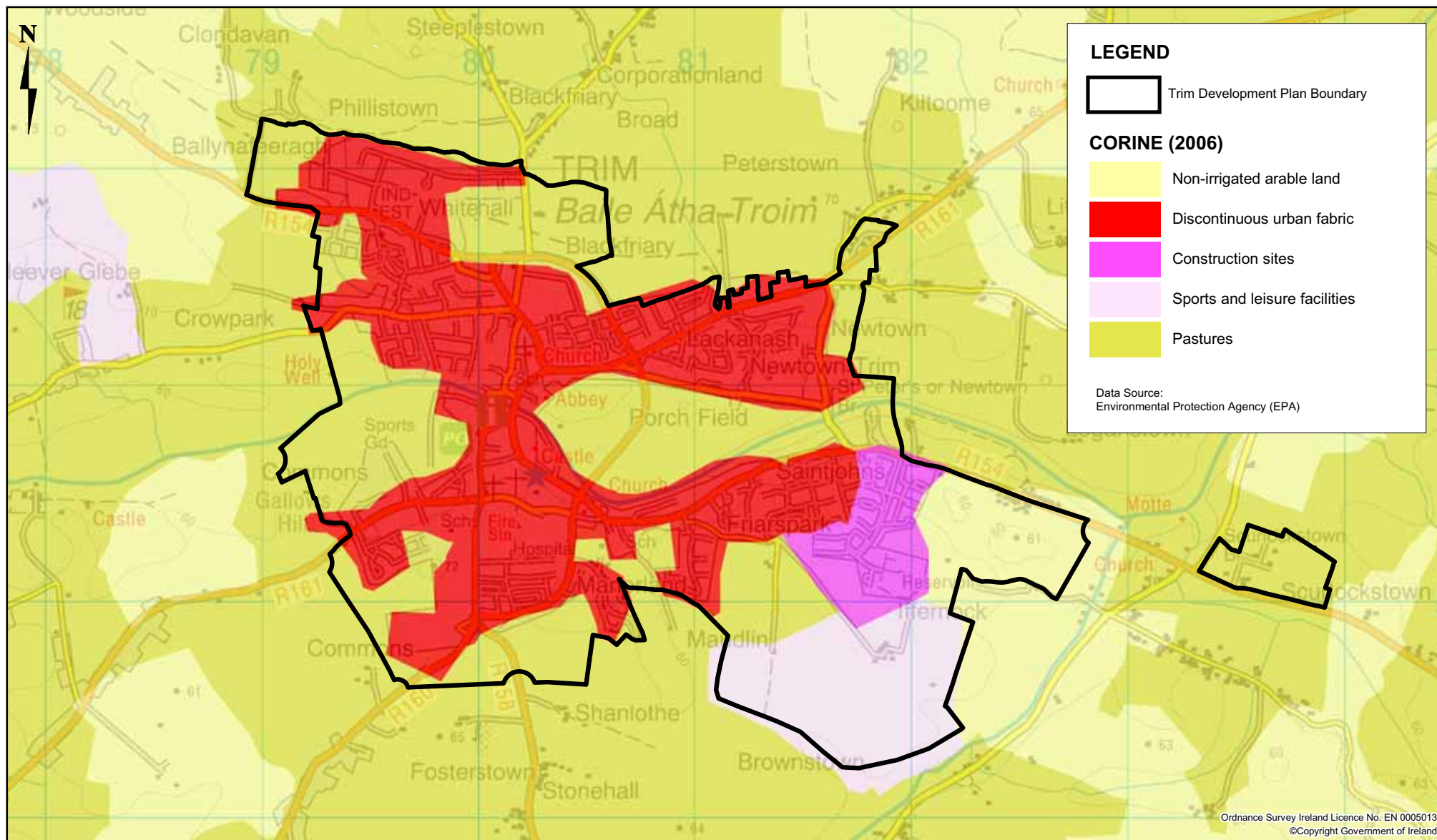


FIGURE 5.2 - CORINE LANDCOVER (2006)

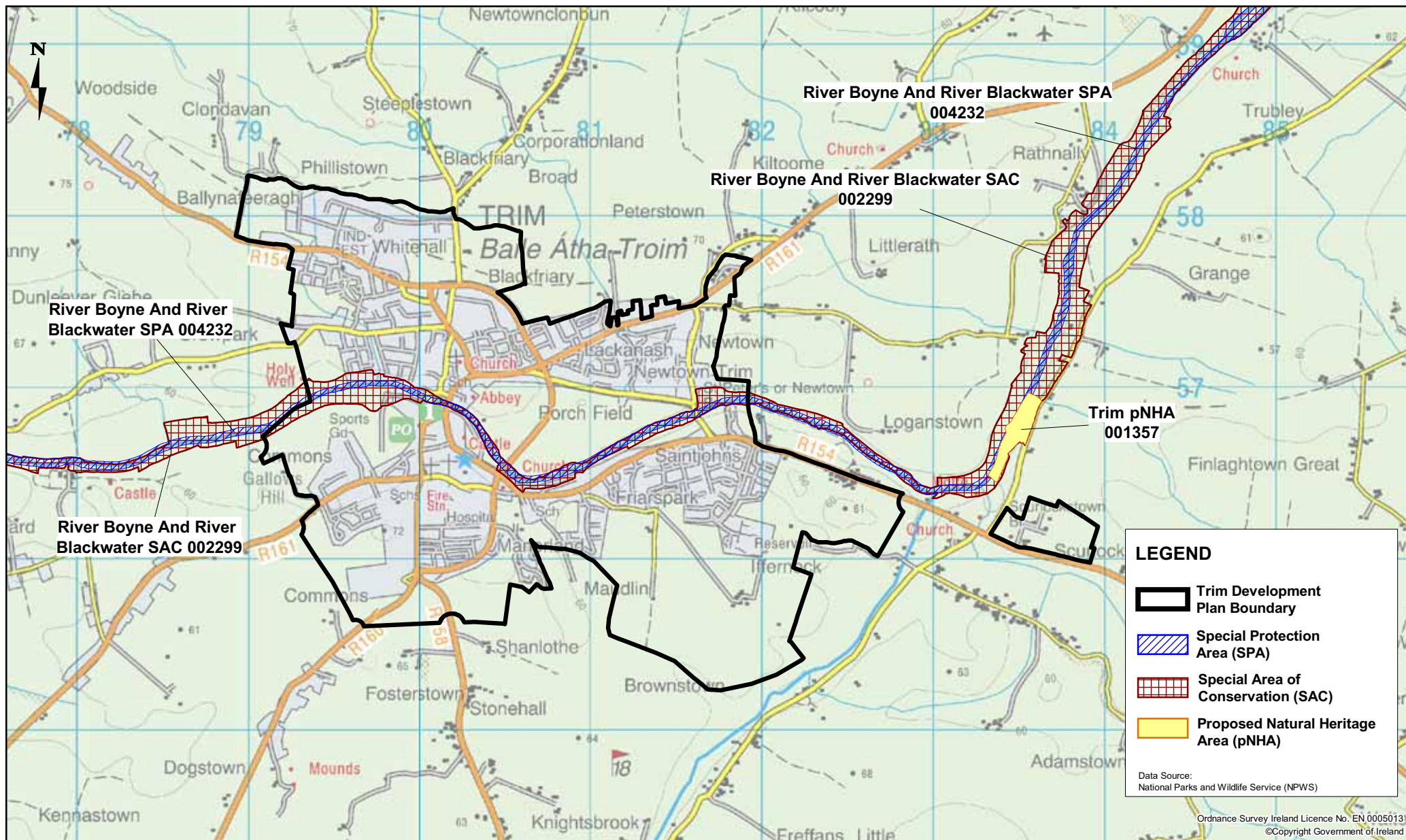


FIGURE 5.3 - DESIGNATED SITES

5.5 SOIL

5.5.1 Soil Types

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

Soils are offered protection through the proposed EC Directive 2004/35/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council for establishing a framework for the protection of soil and amending Directive 2004/35/EC. This Directive provides a common strategy for the protection and sustainable use of soil based on the principles of integration of soil concerns into other policies, preservation of soil functions within the context of sustainable use, prevention of threats to soil and migration of their effects, as well as restoration of degraded soils to a level of functionality consistent with the current and approved future use.

The draft Plan area is dominated by made ground in the centre of the Trim Town. There is a corridor of alluvium subsoil along the river bed which stretches from west to east of the Plan area. The banks of the River Boyne are predominately glaciofluvial sands and gravels, particularly in the east of the Plan area. This subsoil has a high permeability. The rural part of Trim is dominated by till derived chiefly from limestone. There are also pockets of alluvium north, south and east as well as some marsh southwest of the draft Plan.

5.5.2 Geology

The geology within the draft Plan area of Trim consists mainly of Dinantian Upper Impure Limestone. There is one large corridor of Namurian Undifferentiated north of the River Boyne, which stretches from the centre of Trim Town to the north east of the Plan. Trim is a place with a subtle but distinctive landscape formed over hundreds of millions of years by various geological processes. The bedrock foundation and the more recent history of geomorphological processes involving river channels and glaciers are what have created an underlying geological diversity. The Boyne valley is a pronounced gorge which cuts into Meath's landscape representing a modern fluvial system which occurs within pre-existing glacial channel. It is estimated that a depth to bedrock level of 3.6m to 15.2m below ground level (bgl) within the draft Plan boundary.

An audit of County Geological Sites in Meath was conducted by the Geological Survey of Ireland in 2007. It reported two sites of geological importance, including the Boyne Valley and the River Boyne, however these are not within the Plan area. Other sites of geological importance which are situated outside of the Plan boundary include Trim Esker (approximately 1 km south east of the Plan) and Bray Hill Quarry (approximately 2.5km south of the Plan).

There are no quarries within the Plan boundary. However, there are four quarries in close proximity to the development plan area and these include; Scurlockstown (QY117 & QY116) (directly adjacent to the east of the Plan boundary), Breemount (Qy 3) (approximately 2.5 km south of the Plan boundary) and Roristown (QY56) (approximately 3 km south west of the draft Plan boundary).

5.5.3 Existing Environmental Pressures / Problems

There is agricultural activity within and around the draft Plan area. As a result, the main value from soil comes from its ability to provide adequate nutrients and minerals for agricultural practices.

There is potential for soil erosion due mainly to surface erosion resulting from construction works, which has potential to impact on water quality and fisheries resources. In addition these knock on impacts to water quality can result in impacts to ground water resources and water supply.

5.6 WATER

5.6.1 River Basin Districts and Water Bodies

Since 2000, the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC (WFD) has directed water management in the EU. 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 at least Good Status by 2015. All public bodies, including Meath County Council, are also required to coordinate their policies and operations so as to achieve/ maintain 'good' status of water bodies, within their jurisdiction in line with the relevant River Basin Management Plan and Programme of Measures.

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 divided into these River Basin Districts. Trim is located in the Eastern River Basin District (ERBD).

The Local Authorities located in the ERBD have prepared a River Basin Management Plan (RBMP), which was adopted in 2010. The RBMP provides objectives for River Basin Districts in order to implement the requirements of the WFD.

5.6.2 Surface Water

The main river within the Plan area is the River Boyne, as shown in **Figure 5.5**. The water quality of the River Boyne is of Moderate Status with a Q value of Q3-4 under the WFD. The River Boyne flows through the centre of Trim from the west to the east and has a WFD Risk Score of 1a – which means it is at risk of not achieving good status. The River Boyne has been identified as a nutrient sensitive river within the ERBD River Management Plan 2009-2015.

Two streams flow into the River Boyne. The Whitehall Stream is located upstream of Trim and the Friarspark River is situated within the western part of Trim. These are not monitored by the EPA for water quality. The Friarspark River flows from the north to the east of the Plan area where it joins the River Boyne.

The surface waters within the plan area fall within the Boyne Lower Water Management Unit (WMU) (as defined in the ERBMP) and are of moderate Ecological Status. The ERBMP has included an extended deadline for achieving good Ecological Status within the Boyne Lower WMU to the year 2027. This extended deadline is being sought based on issues of technical feasibility with regards to achieving the 2015 deadline set in the WFD. The pressures which have been identified by the ERBD in the characterisation of the water bodies within and surrounding the Plan area include the following:

- Diffuse source pressures, such as shown in the EPA diffuse sources model; and
- Morphological pressures, including intensive land use and built structures.

5.6.3 Groundwater

The Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) rates aquifers based on their hydrogeological characteristics as well as on the value of the groundwater resource. Ireland's entire land surface is divided into aquifer categories. Trim aquifer is classified as a locally important aquifer with bedrock that is generally moderately productive. The GSI further rates aquifers according to their vulnerability to pollution. Aquifer vulnerability refers to the ease with which pollutants of various kinds can enter underground water. Large areas of the draft Plan area are rated as having high moderate vulnerability due to the presence of soils which are till derived mainly from limestone which only partially protects the underlying aquifer from pollution. Areas in the north of Trim and some pockets south of Trim have high vulnerability. The north of Trim also has a few small areas which fall into the category of extreme vulnerability. There are two areas of extreme vulnerability located in the centre of Trim, which could be rock found near the surface or these may be karst areas, see **Figure 5.6**.

Groundwater Protection Schemes are a county specific project to provide protection to groundwater aquifers by placing tighter controls on activities within all or part of the zone of contribution of the source. The status of the groundwater bodies underlying Trim, based on the chemical and quantitative status of the groundwater body, has been determined under the WFD as being of good status.

5.6.4 Flooding

Trim is located on the River Boyne which flows through the centre of the draft Plan area. The Whitehall Stream is located upstream of Trim and the Friarspark River is situated within the western part of Trim and flows from the north to the east of the Plan area where it joins the River Boyne.

According to the OPW flood database flooding is a recurring problem within the draft Plan area. Recurring flood events are reported for the River Boyne along the R154, R161, Navan Gate Street, Haggard Street and Watergate Street which could be a direct result of heavy rain, river flood and inadequate capacity of the foul sewer. Flood events have also been recorded for the River Boyne and include flooding at Trim Pitch and Putt in 2008, Trim Swimming Pool in 2005 and at the Ring Road in 1995.

The European Directive 2007/60/EC (Floods Directive) on the assessment and management of flood risks requires member states to carry out preliminary flood assessments in order to identify areas at risk. Trim is located in the Eastern Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (ECFRAM) and as part of this study ECFRAM will be required to produce flood maps; flood risk objectives; and Flood Risk Management Plans. A detailed Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has been completed as part of the Trim Development Plan review 2014 – 2020. Flood mapping has been prepared as part of the SFRA. **Figure 5.7** illustrates Flood Zones A (1:100) and Flood Zone B (1:1000) flood mapping for the plan area and its environs. The SFRA has informed the zoning of the plan area.

The DEHLG published '*The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities*' which will ensure that flood risk assessment and management is incorporated within the planning system. These guidelines have been considered as part of the SFRA completed for the Trim Development Plan review. Further information in relation to Flood Risk Assessment for the Development Plan has been outlined in **Chapter 4** of this ER.

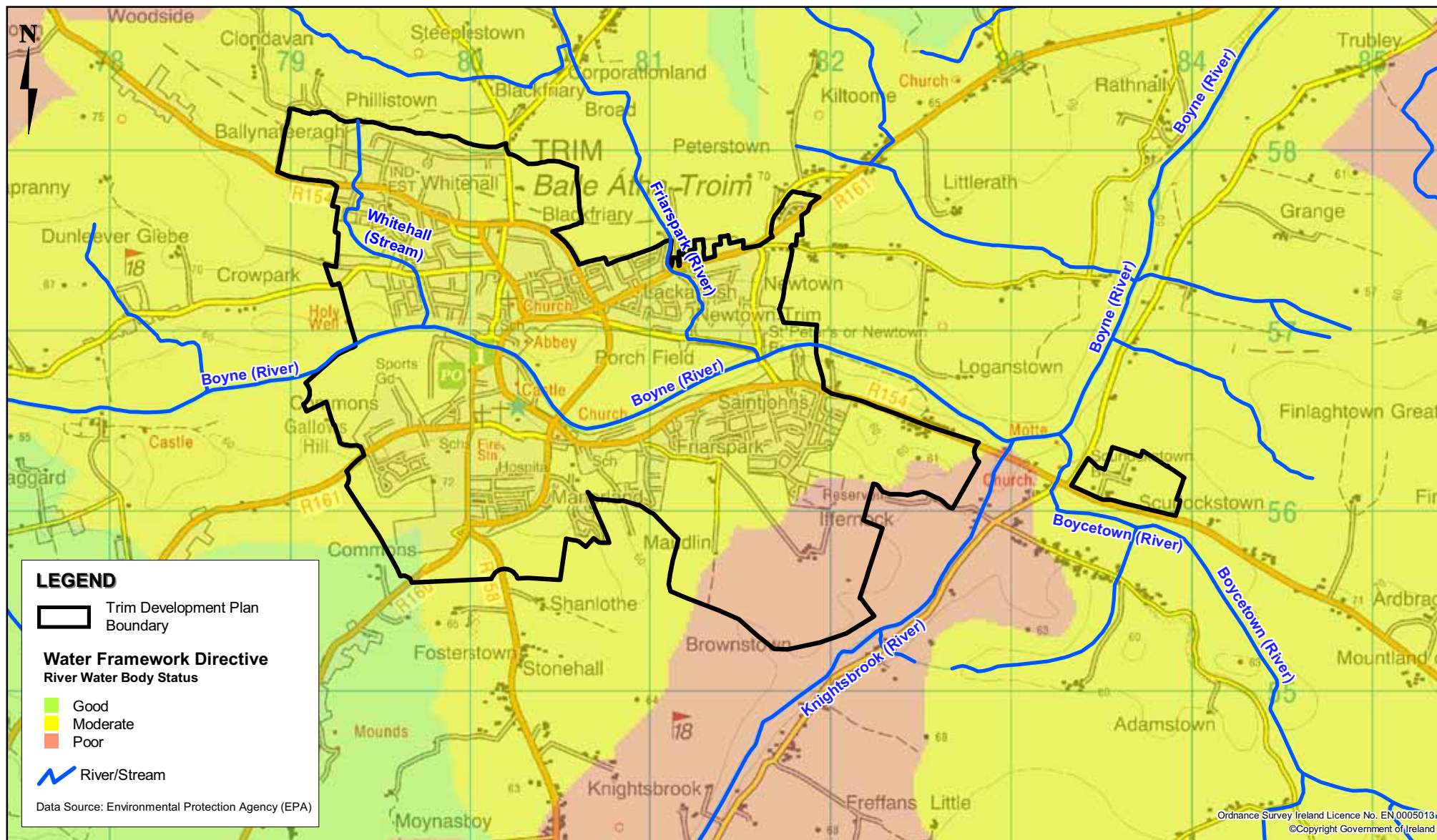
5.6.5 Existing Water Environmental Pressures / Problems

There are a number of sensitivities with regard to the status of surface and groundwater bodies within the draft Plan area.

The River Boyne flows through the centre of Trim from the west to the east and according to the WFD this river is at risk of not achieving good status. The River Boyne has been identified as a nutrient sensitive river within the ERBD River Management Plan 2009-2015. Therefore policies should be included in the plan to prevent further deterioration of this river.

Trim aquifer is classified as a locally important aquifer with bedrock that is generally moderately productive. There are two areas of extreme vulnerability to pollution located within the centre of Trim which should be afforded protection through inclusion of policies in the draft Plan to protect groundwater aquifers by placing tighter controls on activities within all or part of the zone of contribution of the source.

Changes in the occurrence of severe rainfall events as a result of climate change over the next 50 to 100 years would be likely to increase the frequency and severity of flooding events and inundation, which could result in damage and loss to houses and infrastructure. These risks could be further exacerbated by: urban development increasing the speed and volume of run-off; and changes to geomorphological processes such as sediment transport, siltation and erosion. Detailed consideration of all zonings should be reviewed as part of the draft Plan review and recommendations of the SFRA should be included within the draft Plan.



Review of Trim Development Plan 2014-2020

File Ref: MDE1138Mi0006F01

FIGURE 5.5 - SURFACE WATER



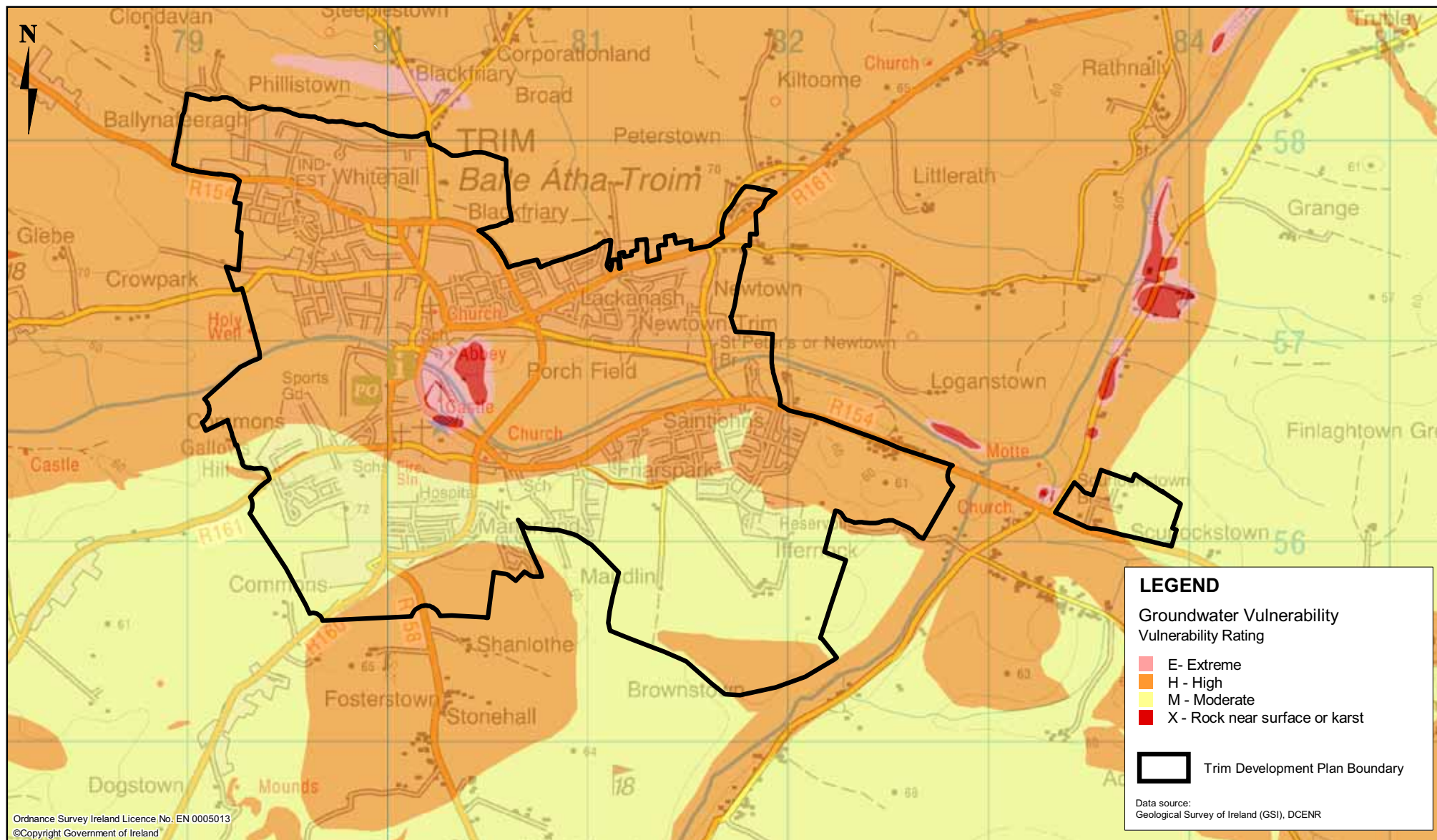


FIGURE 5.6 - GROUNDWATER VULNERABILITY

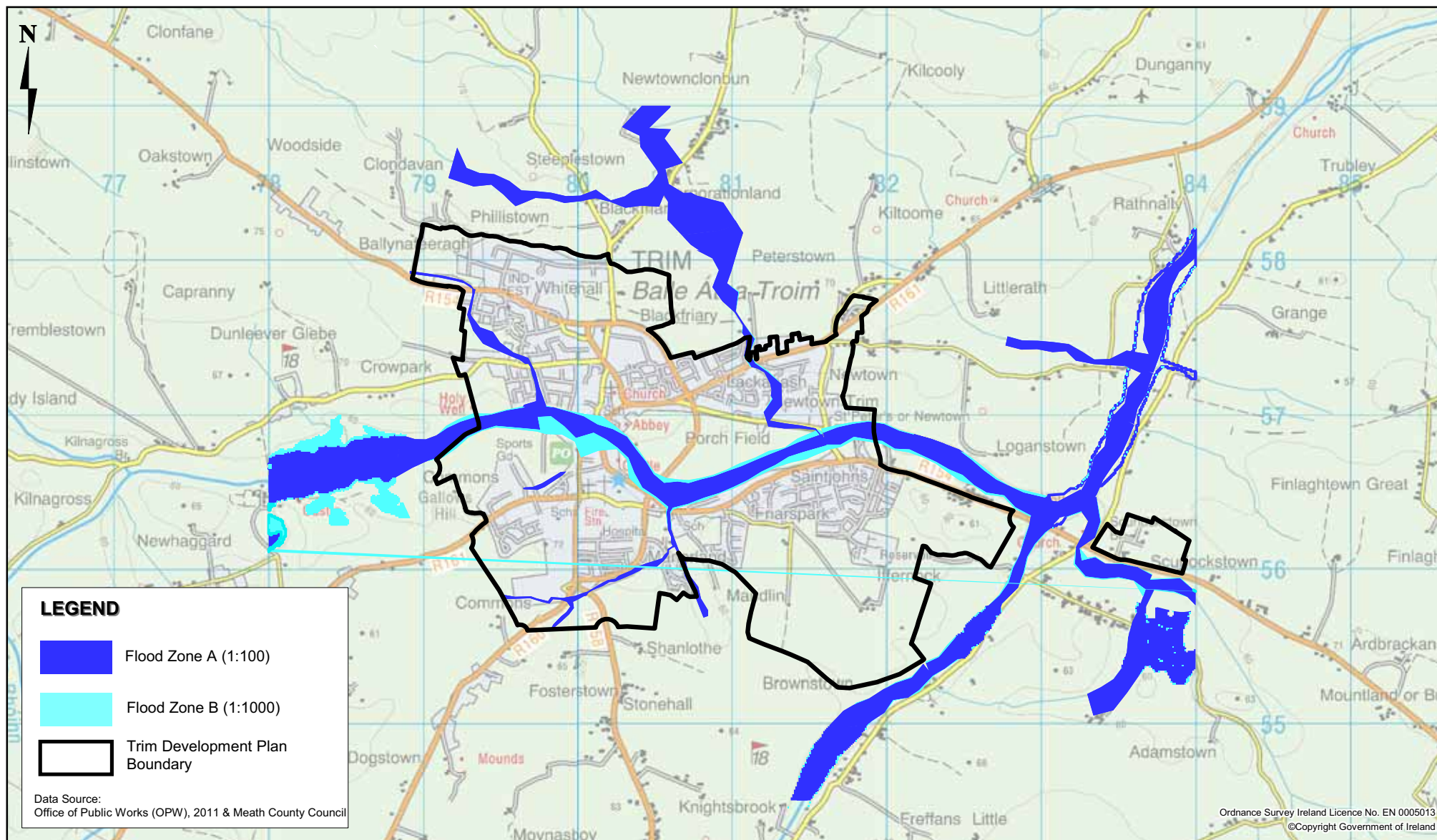


FIGURE 5.7 - FLOOD MAPPING

5.7 CLIMATIC FACTORS

5.7.1 Greenhouse Gases

The EPA published greenhouse gas emissions projections for the period 2011 to 2020. The figures show the projected trends for greenhouse gases and give a picture of Ireland's ability to meet EU and international targets with respect to greenhouse gas emissions. With regard to emissions in Ireland, transport and agriculture are projected to account for 75% of total non-ETS emissions by 2020. This illustrates the important role that both transport and agriculture will have to play in developing mitigation options for reducing emissions in Ireland and for meeting 2020 EU targets. Whilst agriculture is key to Ireland's economic growth, employing 150,000 people and producing annual exports of more than €7 billion, emissions from the sector are projected to increase by 7% between 2010 and 2020, under the assumption that the Food Harvest 2020 targets will be achieved in full.

5.7.2 Potential Effects of Changed Climate

The EPA's "Climate Change: Scenarios and Impacts for Ireland" (2003) report identifies where vulnerability to climate change exists in Ireland and what adjustments are likely in the operation of environmental systems in response to such changes.

As increased temperatures will lead to greater amounts of water vapour in the atmosphere and an accelerated global water cycle, it is reasonable to expect that river catchment areas will be exposed to a greater risk of flooding. Heavier winter rain and summer storms may cause more flash flooding, causing an increase in diffuse pollution loads to waters from soil run-off or the overflow from CSOs (combined sewer overflows) and raising demand for flood controls. Summer droughts are more likely and there may be a reduction in drinking water supplies.

River flooding tends to be more common during the wetter winter months when soils are near saturation. Many of the rivers draining upland areas have a rapid or 'flashy' response to rainfall enhanced by rising topography. Steep slopes and thin soils favour rapid flow pathways and water is rapidly transmitted to the channel network especially in urbanised catchments with extensive areas of impermeable surfaces. A critical impact of climate change will be the likely changes to habitats and the flow conditions in rivers and lakes.

It is now recognised that Plans will need to take account of issues arising from climate change in their future land use planning. The advancement of these plans has been taken into account for the purposes of this SEA. A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment was prepared in respect of the draft Plan review in order to fulfil the requirements of "The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities" (DoEHLG, 2009).

5.7.3 Existing Environmental Change and Climate Pressures and Problems

As previously noted, an issue facing Trim in relation to climate change is the danger posed by the potential for an increase in the frequency and severity of flooding events. Changes in the occurrence of severe rainfall events as a result of climate change could adversely impact upon the inhabitants of the draft Plan, its biodiversity and its economy. Solutions require the amelioration of potential flooding events as well as local measures as part of national efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Based on past events, there is potential for flooding within the Plan, particularly in proximity to the River Boyne. SUDs measures have been proposed as part of the Plan to ameliorate flooding issues.

Existing traffic and use of private vehicles results in the release of greenhouse gases which contribute to climate change. Due to the rural nature of the draft Plan area, existing usage is dominated by the motor vehicle and as there is a high existing population the usage is correspondingly high.

In response to Climate Change, the local authorities of Meath have produced 'The Meath Local Authorities Climate Change Strategy and Energy Management Action Plan 2011-2012'. In response the draft Plan should include actions to reduce its carbon footprint including policies in support of reducing the amount of energy being used, promotion of energy efficiency and increase the amount of renewable and low carbon energy.

5.8 MATERIAL ASSETS

5.8.1 Introduction

The material assets of Trim may be broken down into a number of relevant categories including: drinking water, wastewater, transport infrastructure, energy and communication infrastructure and waste management.

5.8.2 Drinking Water

Drinking water supplies for the draft Plan area are currently obtained from the River Boyne via abstraction. Water demand within the draft Plan area has increased over the last number of years and therefore the existing water treatment works was upgraded in 2007 to a design capacity of 5,500cu.m/day. The Trim Water Supply Scheme also serves Summerhill and Rathmolyon. The current average demand is approximately 3,500cu.m/day. In addition, the Trim Water Supply Scheme has been included in the Water Services Investment Programme Assessment of Needs 2007-2013 with the view to linking the Trim, Summerhill and Rathmolyon Water Supply Schemes to the proposed new water treatment plant located at Dowdstown, near Navan. Existing interim supplies will be decommissioned once the connection has been completed.

However, the IFI have raised concern in their Scoping Response submission to this Environmental Report, dated 19th July 2013, that the proposed Dowdstown Water Treatment Plant will place an unjustified strain on already limited water supply of the Boyne. Meath County Council Water Services Department have advised that following an extensive statutory process including an oral hearing, An Bord Pleanála has granted MCC an abstraction order to abstract 44,000 cu.m/d from the river Boyne at Dowdstown. As part of this process the issue of the ability of the Boyne to sustain such an abstraction, including during low flow conditions was closely examined and was not identified as a problem. Furthermore, MCC have advised that the existing abstraction from the Boyne at Trim would cease and would be replaced by the proposed new abstraction at Dowdstown and therefore this new abstraction would replace the existing abstraction.

According to MCC, Trim has adequate water supply to meet projected demands during the proposed plan period. The availability of the water resources of the River Boyne is vital to ensure that Trim can continue to develop in a sustainable manner.

5.8.3 Wastewater

The Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) (amended by Directive 98/15/EEC) aims to protect the environment from the adverse effects of wastewater discharges by ensuring that wastewater is appropriately treated before it is discharged to the environment. Such treatment is essential in order to meet the requirements of the WFD.

Trim Town Centre and the housing developments along the R154, R158 and R160 and R161 are connected to the main Trim sewerage system. This wastewater is pumped to and is treated at the Newtown wastewater treatment plant at Newtown, Trim. This plant was upgraded in 1998 and has a design capacity of 12,000 population equivalent (pe). The sewer network and the pumping station at

Newtown require improvements. This is included in the Water Services Investment Programme Assessment of Needs 2007-2013 which involves replacing the Newtown Pumping Station and upgrading/ rehabilitating the associated sewers and rising main.

5.8.4 Transportation

The existing main roads within the draft Plan area include; the R154 Athboy – Dublin Road, R158 Trim - Summerhill, R160 Trim - Longwood, R161 Navan – Kinnegad Road, as shown in **Figure 2.1**. The completion of the M3 motorway has made Trim more accessible to the wider Greater Dublin Area.

To facilitate the increased population and trip demand proposed within the draft Plan area, a more efficient use of the available street space must be made. This can only be achieved by increasing the use of sustainable modes of transport and by reducing the reliance on the private car, particularly at peak periods.

The main public transport services in Trim, are public bus services related to the demand for commuter trips towards Dublin and the Flexibus rural transport service which is Meath's Accessible Transport Project.

MCC recognises that cycling and walking are cost effective, non-polluting and highly flexible transportation modes that reduce congestion, foster improved health and are accessible to young people. Newly published government policy, 'Smarter Travel – A New Transport Policy for Ireland (2009-2020)' and the 'National Cycle Policy Framework (2009-2020)' have clearly placed an emphasis on walking and cycling as alternatives to vehicular transport. The proposed Plan has regard to the cycle policy framework document produced by the Department of Transport, which seeks to ensure that the urban road infrastructure and traffic management measures are designed to be cyclist friendly.

With the extent of population growth proposed for the draft Plan area as part of the MCDP Core Strategy, improvements to the road network will be essential. It was an objective of the Trim Development Plan 2008-2014 to construct an inner relief distributor road in order to relieve the town of traffic congestion and serve newer residential areas. This road has not been built, however it is a proposal of the MCDP 2013-2019 to develop the Summerhill Relief Road. This will act, once constructed, as an outer relief road which will alleviate traffic from Trim Town Centre.

As Trim is a 'Designated District' under the National Transport Authority's Draft Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2011-2030 a transport plan has been prepared and integrated into the draft Plan.

5.8.5 Noise

Noise can be a source of nuisance which affects the quality of life of residents, workers and visitors to an area and create an adverse effect on the amenities of that area. Urban areas generally experience a higher level of expected background noise than quieter rural areas.

Sources of noise in the urban environment include traffic noise from major roads, junctions or congested areas; rail lines and other transport facilities and routes such as airports; industrial areas (which can generate noise through their primary activities and also through secondary sources such as peak hour employee traffic) and temporary sources of noise such as construction activities at specific sites; and crowd and other noises at events such as sporting matches, concerts and festivals. In town centres, noise from speakers, entertainment venues and street entertainers are a source of noise.

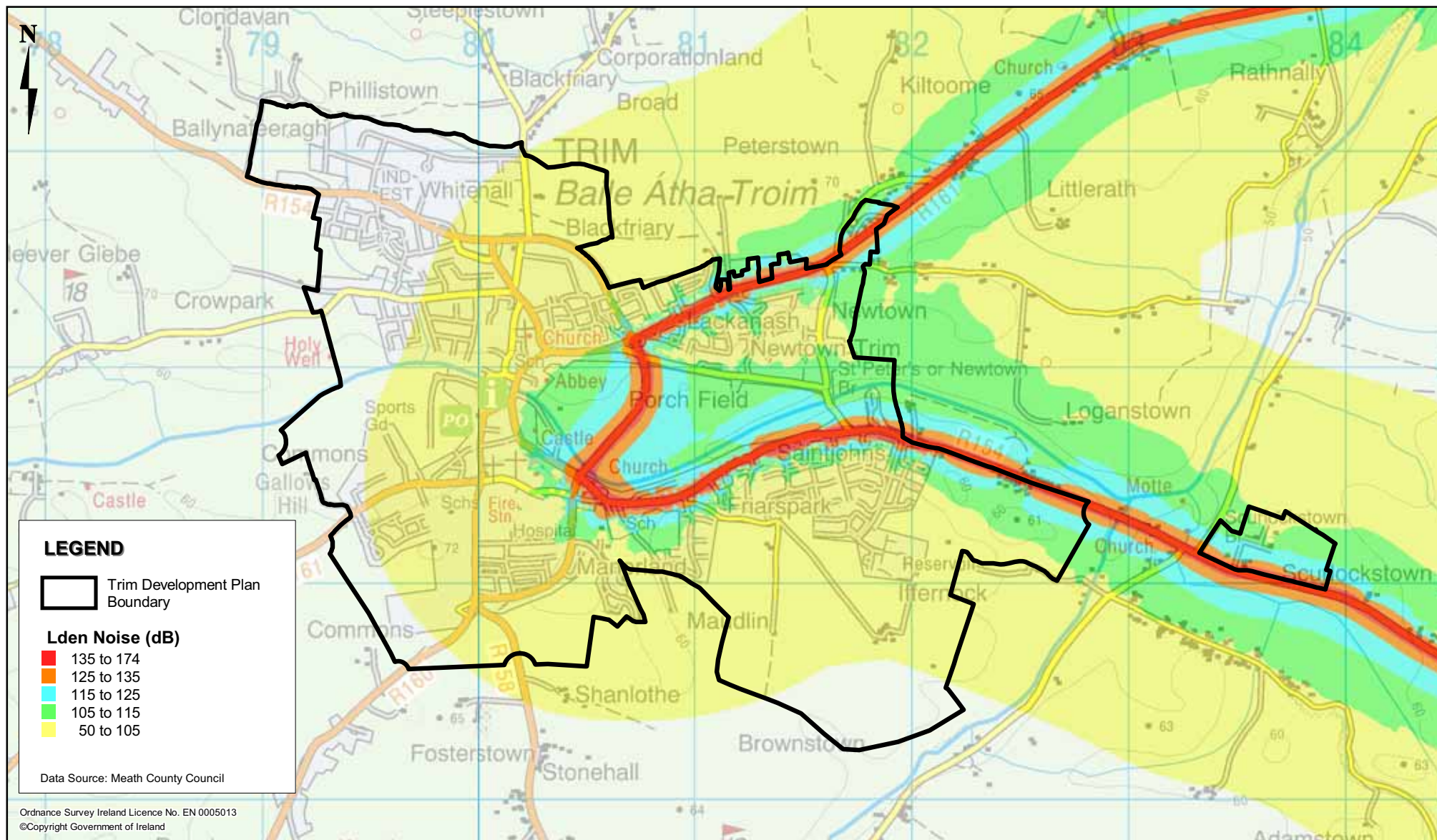


FIGURE 5.8 - NOISE MAPPING

The MCC and Navan Town Council Noise Action Plan reviews the results of strategic noise mapping and sets out an approach to the strategic management and control of environmental noise. The objectives are to avoid, prevent and reduce, where necessary, on a prioritised basis the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to long term exposure to environmental noise. This will be achieved by taking a strategic approach to managing environmental noise and following a balanced approach in the context of sustainable development.

The noise climate in the area is dominated by road traffic noise on the local and regional road networks such as the R154 and R161. The main noise source, the M3, lies to the north east of the Development Plan. In 2012 as part of the CDP SEA Environmental Report, a noise map was produced for the major roads within County Meath where the Lden was measured, see **Figure 5.8**.

Appropriate criteria for assessing road traffic noise are outlined in the NRA Guidelines for the Treatment of Noise and Vibration in National Road Schemes (2004). Although the surrounding road network is mostly of regional standard, in the absence of standards for acceptable levels of noise from regional roads, the use of the NRA guidance can be regarded as acceptable proxy guidance.

It can be seen from the results of surveying that levels of road traffic noise map as shown in **Figure 5.8** are, with the exception of a few locations, generally below the NRA design goal. This would indicate that whilst a relatively high volume of road traffic is present on certain routes, but the levels of road traffic noise is generally within acceptable levels. Whilst this data was taken a number of years ago, with the subsequent fall in the economy and the reduction in travel frequencies, this data would provide a good reflection of the current situation within the Development Plan area. The results of this noise mapping show that ambient noise levels in the area are mostly 50 to 105 dB Lden in areas situated away from roads. This would indicate levels typical of that found in semi-rural or suburban environments where no major road networks are present. However, the houses in the residential developments located directly adjacent to the roads R154 and R161 can experience noise levels within the ranges: 135 to 174 dB Lden for those closest to the road and 50-105 dB Lden for those furthest from the road. The noise levels at Boyne Community School are of particular concern. The noise mapping shows that the noise levels fall within the range of mainly 105 to 115 dB Lden.

5.8.6 Energy

The two main energy networks which serve Trim are electricity and gas. Electricity Supply Board (ESB) networks have plans for a new 110kV/MV substation to be constructed which will add to the network around Trim and increase development within the Plan area. The proposed North-South Interconnection Projects' the Future Meath 400 kV preferred corridor runs adjacent to the east of the Plan boundary. This second interconnector will increase the capacity and the reliability of the interconnection between the electricity networks of Ireland and Northern Ireland. The increase in interconnection capacity will assist in the further and increased connection of wind energy in both parts of the island. Bord Gáis extended their services into Trim in 2000. The closest GAS Transmission Pipeline to Trim is approximately 5km from the Plan boundary. The existing network has the capacity for connections and local distribution connections.

5.8.7 Telecommunications

Eircom have existing telecommunications within the Plan area, however, this service would need to be expanded to service future development. Satellite dishes and telecommunications apparatus, if located in a bad position, can be visually obtrusive and affect the character and appearance of historic buildings and townscapes. As a result, it is important in the interest of the townscape to ensure that future telecommunication and related development does not have a negative impact on the appearance or character of the town. The erection of domestic antennae and satellite dishes is restricted under the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001. Exemptions exist in particular circumstances.

High speed broadband is an important asset in order to attract inward investment into Ireland. A Metropolitan Area Network (MAN) Broadband system to serve Trim was commissioned in 2007. The Metropolitan Area Networks (MANs) allow telecommunication companies to provide low cost 'always on' high-speed access to the Internet. MAN's are fibre based and technology neutral resilient networks which will cater for additional future demand. The roll-out of 100Mbps broadband to all secondary schools has begun. The aim is to provide all secondary schools with 100Mbps broadband by 2014.

5.8.8 Waste Management

There are no landfills within the draft Plan boundary. There is a landfill beside the N2, near Kentstown (approximately 20km north east of the Plan). It is privately operated and has the capacity to operate for the next 20 years, accepting 88,000 tonnes per annum for disposal. This landfill accepts municipal and industrial waste. There is one recycling facility within the development plan boundary located at Manorlands on the Summerhill Road (R158). It processes household and commercial waste, collected by, and on behalf of, the local authority. It does not accept industrial hazardous waste. In addition, there are a number of bring banks located throughout the plan area.

TTC and MCC are responsible for implementing litter laws within the Plan area. Trim has a good record for keeping its town clean. The town has consistently achieved "Litter Free Status" in the Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) Litter League. It has also come first in the Tidy Towns Competition three times (1972, 1974 and 1984). The Planning Authorities believe litter greatly reduces the appeal of a town and discourages people returning. If needed, private businesses will place public litter bins outside of their premises, and any such litter bins will be in keeping with the character of the area by means of appropriate design and styling to be agreed with the relevant Planning Authority.

5.8.9 Existing Environmental Pressures / Problems

Long-term water supplies for Trim should be resolved through the connection of the Trim Water Supply Scheme to the proposed new water treatment plant located at Dowdstown, near Navan. This project aims to supply high quality drinking water to the Trim Development Plan area up to 2020 and beyond. MCC have advised that there is adequate drink water supply to cater for demand up to 2020 on this basis. These works are included in the Water Services Investment Programme Assessment of Needs 2007-2013 which are expected to be completed within the lifetime of the Plan. The Waste Water Treatment Plant at Newtown in Trim has the capacity to provide wastewater treatment for 12,000 P.E.

Provision should be made in the Trim Development Plan 2014 to ensure policy / objectives for the completion of upgrade works to the water supply and waste water treatment system is carried out in line with demand and no new development will be granted planning permission unless these services are in place.

There is a need to increase the use of existing public transport, and provide for sustainable transport systems including walking and cycling to accommodate existing and future growth of Trim which is a pressing priority. Increasing the amount of pedestrian and cyclist movements should be a central objective of the Plan.

Maintaining low levels are the main noise issues facing development of Trim. Existing traffic and use of private vehicles result in the release of greenhouse gases which contribute to climate change. Due to the rural nature of the draftPlan area, existing usage is dominated by the motor vehicle.

Increased population and associated traffic has potential to increase noise on the area. This can be mitigated through the provision of public transport links such as MCC's strategic public transport (TRAN SP 10) policy which includes "the provision of frequent local bus services". Also recommended is the inclusion of reference policy to ensure implementation of the MCC and Navan Town Council

Noise Action Plan. The MCDP 2013-2019 proposes to construct the Summerhill Relief Road which will alleviate local traffic volumes and associated noise which currently travels through the draft Plan area.

Due to the increased target population growth proposed during the lifetime of the plan there is a need to construct the planned new 110kV/MV substation to feed the new load as it develops. In addition, Eircom has existing telecommunications within the draft Plan area, however, this service would need to be expanded to service future development.

5.9 CULTURAL, ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

5.9.1 Introduction

Heritage, by definition, means inherited properties, inherited characteristics and anything transmitted by past ages and ancestors. Heritage features include physical buildings, structures and objects, complete or in part, which are still evident on the landscape by previous and indeed current generations. Trim has a rich and diverse architectural heritage, comprising a number of structures of historical and architectural importance. This heritage provides the town with a resource of tremendous social, educational, recreational and aesthetic value.

5.9.2 Archaeological Heritage

The archaeological heritage of Trim includes structures, groups of buildings, developed sites, recorded monuments as well as their contexts, and moveable objects, situated on land. Archaeological heritage is not confined to the archaeological sites within the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP). It includes any archaeological site that may not have been as yet recorded, as well as archaeology beneath the ground surface, and the context of any site.

Rivers have acted as focal points for both settlement and ritual activity through all periods of human settlement, this is borne out in the study area by the number of recorded archaeological sites close to the Boyne River e.g. a historic town (ME036-048) and a deserted settlement (ME036-049).

Under the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 2004 the archaeological heritage of Trim is protected. The record of monuments and places as outlined in **Figure 5.9** is an inventory of archaeological sites of significance. The draft Plan area has a significant amount of archaeological sites within its boundary and numerous sites in proximity to the Plan as identified in **Tables 5.6** and **5.7** respectively. Given the historical significance of Trim, there is potential for more finds as these lands have a high concentration of RMP sites.

Table 5.6: RMPs within the Development Plan Boundary

RMP No	Site Type	Location	Description
ME036-026	Enclosure	Within the draft Plan boundary	Small enclosure c.50m N-S, c50m E-W. Probably a small field.
ME036-027	Church	Within the draft Plan boundary	This site is denoted on the 1959 OS map as 'Graveyard'. It was built as a leper hospital in Trim. It was dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene. This is where the name Maudlin comes from. The hospital is referenced in 1335 but seems to have been abandoned and passed to the Franciscans who owned Mawdelyns field in 1540. The site was visited in 1984 with evidence of the church was found.
ME036-028	Sheep Gate	Within the draft Plan boundary	Town defences. This National Monument is in state care. It is probably a postern serving the Augustinian monastery. Although heavily restored, it is of

RMP No	Site Type	Location	Description
			considerable importance as it is the only surviving town wall gate. It is rectangular on plan with a central archway
ME036-048	Historic Town	Within the draft Plan boundary	The town is located on both sides of the River Boyne. Its name is derived from <i>Ath Truim</i> which means the ford of the alders. The town is likely to have been established at the beginning of the invasion of Meath. It is first referred to as a borough in the charter of Walter de Lacy that was issued at the beginning of the 13 th century.
ME036-048001	Bridge	Within the draft Plan boundary	There was only one bridge in Trim Town during the Middle Ages. This bridge was built in 1904 and is known as Watergate Bridge.
ME036-048002	Building	Within the draft Plan boundary	Talbot Castle is located on Abbey lane, on the north bank of the River Boyne. It is recorded on the 1 st edition of the OS map. It was built in 1415 by Sir John Talbot and had a sub-rectangular plaque on the north wall bearing the arms of Furnival and Talbot in relief. The building is commonly known as St. Mary's Abbey because it is situated close to the ruins of St. Mary's Abbey.
ME036-048003	Building	Within the draft Plan boundary	This building is called Nangle Castle. It is found on Abbey Lane behind the modern town wall on the north side of the River Boyne. Nangle Castle was recorded on the 1 st OS map. This National Monument is in state care.
ME036-048004	Castle-Anglo-Norman Masonry Castle	Within the draft Plan boundary	Trim Castle is found on the south bank of the River Boyne. It is the largest medieval castle in Ireland and encloses an area of more than three acres within its curtain wall. It has a central keep surrounded by a curtain wall with seven towers and two gates. There is also the remains of a hall in the northwest angle. The castle was built by Hugh de Lacy in 1173. This National Monument is in state care.
ME036-048005	Town Defences	Within the draft Plan boundary	-Enclosed on area of c. 49 acres and must date in part from thirteenth century when earliest murage grant was made in 1290. Ran from Castle across to Emmet Street where section survives. Turned N at back of properties on W side of Emmet Street to River Boyne where further sections survive. On N side of river ran from a point opposite Watergate up to Athboy gate. From there ran E c. 200m, just S of friary site and turned S, crossing Navan Street at Navan gate and continuing S to Sheep gate and river. Sections of wall survive S of Navan gate and around Sheep gate but difficult to know if they are original.
ME036-048012	Church	Within the draft Plan boundary	This is St. Patrick's Church and Graveyard. It is likely that it was constructed in pre-Norman times. In medieval times it was a chapel because the Augustinian priory was the parish church. Currently, it is the cathedral for the Church of Ireland diocese of Meath.
ME036-048013	Architectural fragment	Within the draft Plan boundary	There are more than sixty fragments of cut stone in the vicinity of St. Patrick's Church and Graveyard. Some are located beside the chancel and tower. There are more found under a 19 th century table tomb southwest of the church. They include window mullions, door jambs, capitals and gable fragments with the majority made of limestone. Two are found

RMP No	Site Type	Location	Description
			within the porch decorated with braches of ivy and acorn leaves.
ME036-048014	Grave slab	Within the draft Plan boundary	This grave slab is 13 th to 14 th century in date and is found within the grounds of St. Patrick's Church. Its maximum measurements are 0.42m long, 0.19m wide and 0.07m thick. It is within the ruined chancel and is a fragment of a coffin-shaped limestone slab with two chamfered edges and traces of fleur-de-lis cross. Its small size suggest that the grave slab may have been for a child.
ME036-048015	Grave slab	Within the draft Plan boundary	This grave slab is located within the grounds of St. Patrick's Church and Graveyard. It dates back to the 13 th -14 th century. It measures 0.69 in length, 2.16m in width and is 0.15m thick. It is a small, coffin-shaped limestone slab with an incised cross set in the porch. The terminals, knop and centre of the cross are made from circles.
ME036-048016	Grave slab	Within the draft Plan boundary	This monument is found within the grounds of St. Patrick's Church and Graveyard. It is set within the frame of the porch. It consists of red sandstone and dates back to 1425-1450. It is rectangular in shape and has a length of 1.91m is 0.52m wide.
ME036-048017	Wall Monument	Within the draft Plan boundary	These plaques are found within the grounds of St. Patrick's Church and Graveyard. The two monuments date back to the 15 th century. They are mounted on the left-hand side of the church porch and are rectangular in shape. They consist of fossiliferous limestone and each are divided into three rectangular sections showing an angel holding a large shield carved with a coat of arms. It is 0.35m high, 0.60m wide and 0.04m thick.
ME036-048018	Chest Tomb	Within the draft Plan boundary	This monument is found within the grounds of St. Patrick's Church and Graveyard. It is dedicated to John Greg and William Griffith (1629). The monument consists of fossiliferous limestone tomb in the ruined chancel with a marginal Gothic inscription in false relief. It is 1.85m high, 0.96m is width and 0.13m thick.
ME036-048019	Font	Within the draft Plan boundary	This is called 'Piscina-Font'. It is set into the nave of St. Patrick's Church. It is used as a font and has a side drainage hole and a round shallow basin with four rectangular side panels decorated with angels carrying shields. Traces of the original heraldic tinctures survive. The piscine is set on a moulded octagonal limestone capital which rests on a fluted sandstone column.
ME036-048020	Redundant Record	Within the draft Plan boundary	This record was formerly classed as 'Market Place' in the database. This class term is no longer in use by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland.
ME036-048021	Religious House	Within the draft Plan boundary	This is known locally as the Yellow Tower or Steeple. It is possible that this was built before the Normans arrived. Hugh de Lacy is its earliest recorded patron. This site was an important monastery during the Middle Ages where pilgrimage took place. In 1484, 1487 and 1491 parliament was held there. The monastery was dissolved in 1542. Only the square-shaped tower of the abbey still exists. This National Monument is in state care.
ME036-048022	Religious House –	Within the draft	This religious house is recorded on the 1 st edition OS map as 'Black Friary'. It was founded by Geoffrey de

RMP No	Site Type	Location	Description
	Dominican Friars	Plan boundary	Geneville in 1263. The church was burned in 1368. The monastery, an orchard, garden and cemetery covered four acres. There are no structural remains which are visible. The site is currently surrounded by houses. This National Monument is in state care.
ME036-048023	Architectural Fragment	Within the draft Plan boundary	There are six chunks of masonry on the site of the Black Friary. One has a rounded arch.
ME036-048024	Earthwork	Within the draft Plan boundary	The earthworks are found in the field of the Black Friary. This shows the layout of the monastery below the ground surface.
ME036-048025	Religious House	Within the draft Plan boundary	This first reference to this house is in 1318. The house was located on the south bank of the River Boyne. It was flooded in 1330 and the Dissolution documents suggest that it had a watermill nearby. It was converted into a courthouse in the 16 th century. No structural parts of the house exist today.
ME036-048026	Burial	Within the draft Plan boundary	Burials have been found at the site of the Franciscan Friary and an excavation of the court house was undertaken in 1997.
ME036-048027	Stone Head	Within the draft Plan boundary	There are two stone heads at the Boyne Cottages on a gable wall of the westernmost cottage. They are projecting and are now covered in brown pebble-dash.
ME036-048028	Excavation	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-048029	House-medieval	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-048030	Excavation	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-048031	Slipway	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-048032	Building	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-048033	Castle-Ringwork	Within the draft Plan boundary	Hugh de Lacy built a ditched earthwork at Trim in 1172 (Orpen 1911, 338). This may have been a ringwork castle rather than a motte. Excavation by P. D. Sweetman (PRIA 1978, 133-40, 185-8) revealed wide fosse with thirteenth-century material surrounding keep
ME036-048034	Excavation	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-048035	Building	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-048036	Excavation	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-048037	Excavation	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-048038	Excavation	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie

RMP No	Site Type	Location	Description
			www.archaeology.ie
ME036-048039	Excavation	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-048040	Building	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-048041	Ecclesiastical Enclosure	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-048042	Mill	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-048043	Building	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-048044	Excavation	Within the draft Plan boundary	Town defences, Trim Town walls. This National Monument is in state care. (Also refers to RMP No.'s MDE036-048058 and ME036-048059)
ME036-048045	Prison	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-048046	Building	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-048047	Excavation	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-048048	Excavation	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-048049	Kiln	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-048050	Excavation	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-048051	Graveyard	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-048052	Church	Within the draft Plan boundary	Remains of small rectangular structure excavated by P.D. Sweetman. Oriented E-W and pre-dating fosse and plinth of keep, it may have been a church.
ME036-048053	Road – Hollow-way	Within the draft Plan boundary	Porchfield Town gate and medieval roadway. This National Monument is in state care.
ME036-048054	Cultivation Ridges	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-048055	Excavation	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-048056	Excavation	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-048057	Stone Head	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-048060	Town Hall	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-048061	Armorial Plaque	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-048062	Tomb	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie

RMP No	Site Type	Location	Description
ME036-048063	Graveslab	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-048064	Graveslab	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-048065	Tomb	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-048066	Burial Ground	Within the draft Plan boundary	In October 1951 human remains were discovered by workmen engaged in laying sewerage pipes in Castle Street, Trim. The bones recovered were comprised of three skulls and various other remains representing numerous individuals. In the lowest burial level some fragments of charred wood, identified as oak, was found with the remains. There were no associated finds so the date is uncertain (Cahill and Sikora, 2011, vol 2, 403-5)
ME036-049	Settlement Deserted - Medieval	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-049001	Bridge	Within the draft Plan boundary	Five arches with breakwaters on W side, one of which is carried to parapet. Piers have base batter. Wicker centering on second arch from S bank.
ME036-049002	Cathedral	Within the draft Plan boundary	In 1202 Simon de Rochford transferred diocesan centre from Clonard to Newtown, Trim. Originally church consisted of nave, chancel and two transepts but today only shortened nave and chancel survive with pointed lancet windows of sandstone. Thirteenth-century effigy of bishop and double sedilia in chancel. S of cathedral are remains of priory buildings, including base of doorway to chapter house and S and W walls of refectory. To W of where cloister would have been is a tower house
ME036-049003	Religious House	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-049004	Tomb - Effigial	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-049005	Church	Within the draft Plan boundary	Undivided nave and chancel (L c. 19m, W c. 6.5m) with opposing doors towards W end. Only E and W walls survive to any height, former with large pointed window arch with no remains of tracery. Lucas Dillon tomb, sixteenth-century, within church.
ME036-049006	Architectural Fragment	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-049007	Tomb- Effigial	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-049008	Cross	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-049009	Holed Stone	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-049010	Tomb	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-049011	Religious House	Within the draft Plan boundary	Priory of St. John the Baptist, possibly founded by Bishop Simon de Rochford. Church, of which only E wall with three pointed lancet windows survives to any height, had one aisle with vaulted sacristy attached to N of chancel. N of church was building with four barrel-vaulted chambers on ground floor.

RMP No	Site Type	Location	Description
			Building only partly survives to second floor. W of church is tower house. Complex surrounded by bawn with towers at NE and SW angles.
ME036-049012	Castle-Tower House	Within the draft Plan boundary	Situated on W wall of bawn surrounding priory. Three-storey tower house, vaulted over ground floor with projecting stairs tower at NE corner and garderobe tower at SW. Fireplaces in W wall at first and second storeys and piece of machicolation survive on parapet of W wall.
ME036-049013	Castle-Tower House	Within the draft Plan boundary	Situated on W side of cloister of Newtown Abbey. Originally vaulted over ground floor which had an oven. Spiral stairs in NE projecting tower gave access to upper storeys, the second of which had fireplace in S wall.
ME036-049014	Graveyard	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-051	Ritual Site – Holy Well	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-053	Road	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-054	Burial	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-055	Burnt Spread	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-056	Excavation	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-059	Burnt Mound	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-060	Burnt Mound	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-061	Armorial Plaque	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-068	Graveslab	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-069	Graveslab	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-070	Enclosure	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-073	Ring-ditch	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-074	Enclosure	Within the draft Plan boundary	Monument description unavailable on www.archaeology.ie
ME036-075	Enclosure	Within the draft Plan boundary	An aerial photograph (GB89.E.20) shows cropmark of a circular enclosure defined by a fosse. A housing estate, built in the late 2000s, now occupies the site of this monument.
ME036-076	Cross- High Cross	Within the draft Plan boundary	Harbison (1997, 171-6) identified a fragment of a High cross built into the stonework of the church and subsequently removed to OPW headquarters in 1994 (ME019-112----). The interlace panel has been compared with that on crosses at Clonmacnoise and Kells suggesting a date of c. 950-1000 (Seaver M. & Brady C. 2011).

RMP No	Site Type	Location	Description
ME036-077	Burial Ground	Within the draft Plan boundary	In August 1967 human remains were uncovered during digging foundations at Emmet Street, Trim. These burials were uncovered in foundation trenches (D 0.45m). Several complete skeletons and portions of others were uncovered in situ. The orientation of the graves was not always evident. There was no evidence for any type of stone lining around the burials, and the individual grave-cuts do not seem to have been identifiable. All the remains were those of adults, two of whom appeared to be younger adults (Cahill & Sikora 2011, vol 2, 408-416).
ME037-011	Castle-Tower House	Within the draft Plan boundary	Described and illustrated by Wilde (1850, 104) as square tower with projecting circular towers which contained stairs. Grass covered stone mounds on site now.

Source: The National Monuments Service

Table 5.7: RMPs Outside Development Plan boundary

RMP No	Site Type	Location
ME036-008	Ringfort-Rath	Approximately 900m from the draft Plan boundary
ME036-009	Ringfort-Rath	Approximately 250m from the draft Plan boundary
ME036-009001	Standing Stone	Approximately 250m from the draft Plan boundary
ME036-010	Enclosure	Approximately 500m from the draft Plan boundary
ME036-011	Church	Approximately 250m from the draft Plan boundary
ME036-012	Field System	Approximately 220m from the draft Plan boundary
ME036-013	Field System	Approximately 1.3km from the draft Plan boundary
ME036-014	Field System	Approximately 1.4km from the draft Plan boundary
ME036-015	Church	Approximately 1.5km from the draft Plan boundary
ME036-017	Castle-Tower House	Approximately 800m from the draft Plan boundary
ME036-033	Ringfort-Rath	Approximately 400m from the draft Plan boundary
ME036-037	Barrow – Mound Barrow	Approximately 900m from the draft Plan boundary
ME036-038001	Souterrain	Approximately 1km from the draft Plan boundary
ME036-038002	Barrow –Mound Barrow	Approximately 1km from the Draft Plan boundary
ME036-039	Ringfort-Rath	Approximately 1.3km from the draft Plan boundary
ME036-050	Ritual Site- Holy Well	Directly adjacent to the draft Plan boundary
ME036-057001	Field System	Approximately 80m from the draft Plan boundary
ME036-057002	Enclosure	Approximately 80m from the draft Plan boundary
ME036-057003	Enclosure	Approximately 80m from the draft Plan boundary
ME036-057004	Enclosure	Directly adjacent to the draft Plan boundary
ME036-064	Enclosure	Approximately 230m from the draft Plan boundary
ME036-065	Barrow	Directly adjacent to the draft Plan boundary
ME036-066	Settlement Deserted - Medieval	Approximately 250m from the draft Plan boundary
ME036-071	Ring-ditch	Directly on the draft Plan boundary

RMP No	Site Type	Location
ME036-072	Ring-ditch	Directly adjacent to the draft Plan boundary
ME037-001	Church	Approximately 2.5km from the draft Plan boundary
ME037-009	Castle-motte	Approximately 200m from the draft Plan boundary
ME037-010	Church	Approximately 200m from the draft Plan boundary
ME037-012	Earthwork	Approximately 250m from the draft Plan boundary
ME037-037	Ring-ditch	Approximately 1.75km from the draft Plan boundary
ME037-038	Enclosure	Approximately 2.2km from the draft Plan boundary
ME037-040	Burial	Approximately 200m from the draft Plan boundary

Source: The National Monuments Service

Rivers are known to have historic settlements built around them. As Trim is a historic medieval town and has the significant River Boyne flowing through the centre of the Plan area, it is not surprising that there are a number of areas of archaeological potential found within the Plan area. There are two zones of archaeological potential within the Plan as identified by **Figure 5.9**.

The Trim Town Walls are a monument of high significance which is a protected structure and also lie within a zone of archaeological potential, see **Figure 5.9**. The 'Trim Town Walls- Conservation Plan' was produced in 2008 with the aim to identify the significance and to propose policies for the future protection and management of the Walls. The Trim Town Wall line is over two kilometres long and includes a 200 metre section of the Trim Castle wall. It encloses an area of about 23 hectares, configured in two roughly rectangular sections, of which the part north of the river is about twice the size of that to the south. The complete area is of similar size to the walled area of medieval Waterford. The curving street lines north of the River Boyne are unusual for a planned Anglo-Norman town. Previous boundaries of the Early Christian site may have been taken into account by the Anglo-Norman's during the design of Trim Town.

The fourteenth century bridge of Trim can be found within the Town Walls. However, only one of five gates, Sheep Gate, remains visible in the undeveloped Porchfield which stretch eastwards to Newtown Trim. The Athboy Gate (north), Navan Gate (east) and the Dublin Gate (south) no longer exist, although their names are still used in their locations. A part of Water Gate is visible in a whitewashed wall by the modern roadside. 'The Conservation Plan – Trim Town Walls' indicates that the Trim Walls were in existence in "January 1290 when Geoffrey de Geneville was given a seven-year grant to impose customs on goods coming into Trim in aid of enclosing the town *'for the greater security of Ireland'*".

5.9.3 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 historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest. The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) purpose is to protect and conserve the built heritage and it is the NIAH surveys that provides the basis for the recommendations to the planning authorities for the inclusion of particular structures in their Record of Protected Structures (RPS). For the Plan area these structures are shown in **Figure 5.10**.

The RPS has been compiled to protect the structures of the town that are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest. In relation to a protected structure, the meaning of the term 'structure' includes the interior of the structure, the land lying within the curtilage of the structure, and any other structures lying within that curtilage and their interiors, and all fixtures and features which form part of the interior or exterior of these structures. Where indicated in the RPS, protection may relate to specified features within the attendant grounds of

a structure, which would not otherwise be included. The specific RPS structures within and surrounding the Plan area are outlined in **Table 5.8**.

The Council may designate a place, area, group of structures or townscape, that is of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest, or that contributes to the appreciation of a protected structure, as an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA). There are two Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA's) within the draft Plan boundary. The first is the Trim Historical Core Area which was designated as an ACA in the Trim Development Plan 2002. It was extended in the 2008 Trim Development Plan and is proposed to be extended further to the south east as part of the Trim Development Plan 2014 – 2020. This ACA extends northwards from the R154, crossing the River Boyne at High Street and finishes at the R161. It includes a number of protected structures, namely the Trim Courthouse, the Town Hall, Watergate Bridge and Trim Castle.

The second ACA is the Trim Porchfield ACA. It extends from the Town Wall and the grounds of Trim Castle, along the River Boyne until it reaches just beyond the road which goes through Newtown and links the R154 to the R161. This ACA contains several protected structures among which are St John's Friary and Cathedral of St Peter and Paul.

Table 5.8: Record of Protected Structures within the Development Plan Boundary

ID	Structure Name	Street_Townland	Building Type	NIAH_Reg_No	Description
TT036-001	2 Kells Road	Blackfriary (2nd Division)	House	14328049	Semi-detached two-bay two-storey painted brick house c. 1910. Segmental-arched door openings with overlights, stone steps and chamfered brick door surrounds.
TT036-002	1 Kells Road	Blackfriary (2nd Division)	house	14328049	Semi-detached two-bay two-storey painted brick house c. 1910. Segmental-arched door openings with overlights, stone steps and chamfered brick door surrounds.
TT036-003	Post Box	Haggard Street / Athboy Road, Townparks North	Post Box	14328048	Wall mounted cast-iron post box, c. 1905 with ER Cast-iron post box, c. 1905, with ER VII insignia set in squared rubble limestone wall.
TT036-004	9 Haggard St	Haggard Street, Townparks North	House	14328050	Terraced two-bay two-storey brick house, built c.1910. Pitched artificial slate roof with brick chimneystacks. Moulded brick string course above openings at ground floor level
TT036-005	8 Haggard St	Haggard Street, Townparks North	House	14328050	Terraced two-bay two-storey brick house, built c.1910. Pitched artificial slate roof with brick chimneystacks. Moulded brick string course above openings at ground floor level
TT036-006	7 Haggard St	Haggard Street, Townparks North	House	14328050	Terraced two-bay two-storey brick house, built c.1910. Pitched artificial slate roof with brick chimneystacks. Moulded brick string course above openings at ground floor level
TT036-007	6 Haggard St	Haggard Street, Townparks North	House	14328050	Terraced two-bay two-storey brick house, built c.1910. Pitched artificial slate roof with brick chimneystacks. Moulded brick string course above openings at ground floor level
TT036-008	Glebe House	St. Loman Street, Townparks North	House	14328046	Detached three-bay three-storey over concealed basement former glebe, c. 1805. Range of built stone outbuildings to rear. Rubble stone boundary walls

ID	Structure Name	Street_Townland	Building Type	NIAH_Reg_No	Description
					with ashlar entrance piers.
TT036-009	5 Haggard St	Haggard Street, Townparks North	House	14328050	Terraced two-bay two-storey brick house, built c.1910. Pitched artificial slate roof with brick chimneystacks. Moulded brick string course above openings at ground floor level
TT036-010	4 Haggard St	Haggard Street, Townparks North	House	14328050	Terraced two-bay two-storey brick house, built c.1910. Pitched artificial slate roof with brick chimneystacks. Moulded brick string course above openings at ground floor level
TT036-011	St. Patrick's Cathedral	St. Loman Street, Townparks North	Church (C Of I)	14328047	Church of Ireland cathedral, rebuilt 1802, comprising of three-bay side elevations to nave. Renovated c. 1869, with 15th C crenellated tower adjoining it to the north. Site contains a number of recorded monuments – graveslabs and tombs.
TT036-012	Crowpark House	Sarsfield Avenue, Townparks North	House	14328045	Detached three-bay three-storey house, built c.1800. Rubble limestone boundary walls with rubble limestone gate piers and wrought-iron gate. Ranges of stone outbuildings to north and west. Eastern boundary is part of the Town Wall.
TT036-013	Brogans Guest House	High Street, Townparks North	Hotel	14328051	End of Terrace seven-bay two-storey former railway hotel c. 1850. Integral carriage arch gives access to stone outbuildings to rear.
TT036-014	No 3 Navan Gate	Navan Gate, Townparks North	Apartments	14328068	Semi-detached three-bay two-storey over concealed basement house, built c.1830. Exposed stone facade, with carriage arch.
TT036-015	No 2 Navan Gate	Navan Gate, Townparks North	House	14328067	End-of-terrace four-bay two-storey over concealed basement house, built c.1830. Exposed stone facade. Stone entrance steps.
TT036-016	No 4 Navan Gate	Navan Gate, Townparks North	House	14328069	Detached three-bay two-storey over basement house, built c.1835. Carriage arch to east. Cast-iron spear-headed railings on limestone plinths to front.
TT036-017	James Griffin	High Street, Townparks North	Public House	14328066	Terrace of three three-bay two-storey rendered buildings, c. 1860. Traditional timber pubfront to east end.
TT036-018	Trim Medical Centre	High Street, Townparks North	Medical Centre	14328052	Terraced three-bay two storey house c. 1830 Timber panelled door with overlight and carved stone doorcase. Timber two-over-two sash windows with stone sills and convex horns, some with original glass.
TT036-020	No 24 High St	High Street, Townparks North	House	14328065	End of terrace four-bay two-storey house c. 1830. Range of stone outbuildings to rear with pitched slate roofs, brick-arched openings and timber battened doors.
TT036-021	Ulster Bank	High Street, Townparks North	Bank/Financial Institution	14328064	End of terrace four-bay two-storey limestone bank building built 1863.
TT036-022	St. Patrick's National School	High Street, Townparks North	School Building	14328054	Detached gable-fronted Gothic Revival church c. 1860. Stone facade. Cast iron diamond

ID	Structure Name	Street_Townland	Building Type	NIAH_Reg_No	Description
					patterned windows. Limestone piers with cast-iron gate and railings to front.
TT036-023	No 30 High Street	High Street, Townparks North	House	14328059	Terraced three-bay two-storey building c. 1850, with concealed basement. Timber panelled door, with stone step and overlight. Timber single pane sash windows with ogee horns.
TT036-024	No 31 High Street	High Street, Townparks North	House	14328058	End-of-terrace three-bay two-storey house, built c.1800 with concealed basement. Ruled and lined rendered walls. Timber panelled door with overlight and stone steps.
TT036-025	No 2 High Street	High Street, Townparks North	House	14328055	End of terrace five-bay two-storey house c. 1800, with raised rendered quoins. Cast-iron window guards. Stone outbuildings to rear.
TT036-026	Nagle's Castle	Abbey Lane, Townparks North	Outbuilding	14328063	Remains of a fortified townhouse of the 15th century - now in use as an agricultural shed. National Monument
TT036-027	Dept Of Education	Mill Street, Townparks North	Office / Civil	14328041	End of terrace four-bay two-storey rendered house, c. 1840. Round-arched stone doorcase with carved flanking pilasters.
TT036-028	Yellow Tower Of St Mary's Abbey	Abbey Lane, Townparks North	Ruin		South and east walls of an eight-storey tower that was formerly part of an Augustian Priory. National Monument
TT036-029	Dept Of Education	Mill Street, Townparks North	Office / Civil	14328040	End of terrace five-bay two-storey house c. 1840. Stone facade with ashlar quoins. Modern extensions and stone boundary wall to rear.
TT036-030	Masonry Wall	Mill Lane, Townparks North	Wall	14328042	Limestone wall built in two distinct phases running from Mill Street to the River Boyne, constructed c.1850.
TT036-031	House Beside Talbot Castle	Abbey Lane, Townparks North	House	14328061	L-plan two-storey former outbuilding, built c. 1810, now in use as house. Square-headed openings with stone sills. Northern range has segmental-arched opening with stone steps
TT036-033	Talbot Castle	Abbey Lane, Townparks North	House	14328062	Detached two-storey over basement fortified manor house, built 1415, by Sir John Talbot, comprising two ranges and a tower. Rubble stone boundary walls with piers and cast-iron double gates. Recorded Monument ME036-048002
TT036-034	Bridge Hostel	Bridge Street, Townparks North	Hostel	14328038	Semi-detached three-bay two-storey house, c. 1800, with late nineteenth-century shopfront comprising a double sash window with rendered stallriser to ground floor.
TT036-035	Oldbridge	Bridge Street, Manorland (1st Division)	Bridge (Road)	14328037	Four-arch road bridge, built c.1730, with three medieval pointed-arches and one modern round-arch. Recorded Monument ME036-048001
TT036-036	Wellesley House	Market Street / Bridge St	Shop / Commercial	14328033	Five-bay three-storey former house, built c.1760, with central pedimented breakfront.
TT036-037	Xtravision	Market Street, Townparks South	Shop	14328076	Terraced three-bay three-storey house c. 1920. Modern timber shopfront, early 20thC door surround and overlight.

ID	Structure Name	Street_Townland	Building Type	NIAH_Reg_No	Description
TT036-038	Malone And Martin Solicitors	Market Street, Townparks South	Offices	14328075	End of terrace three-bay two-storey house c. 1920. Early 20thC door surround and overlight. Channelled cement rendered walls with rendered quoins and string course.
TT036-039	Trim Courthouse	Market Street / Bridge St,	Court House	14328034	Seven-bay two-storey court house, built c. 1810, with central pedimented three-bay breakfront. Incorporating fabric of later eighteenth-century building.
TT036-040	An Troman & Eco Home Solutions	Market Street, Townparks South	Shop/Restaurant	14328074	End-of-terrace five-bay two-storey house, built c.1840, now in use as commercial outlets. Segmental-arched door opening with panelled pilasters and petal fanlight.
TT036-041	4 Watergate St	Watergate Street, Townparks South	House	14328077	Terraced two-bay two-storey painted brick house c. 1910. Segmental-arched door openings with overlights, stone steps and chamfered brick door surrounds.
TT036-042	John Spicer	Market Street, Townparks South	Shop	14328073	Terraced five-bay three-storey house c. 1800. Early twentieth-century shopfront with central recessed door, timber fascia, mosaic inlaid threshold and display windows with fluted pilasters.
TT036-043	Sheep Gate	Porchfield, Blackfriary	Town Wall		Situated to the north side of the town wall, this is the only surviving town Gate. Formerly a two-storeyed limestone gate-house with a barrel-vaulted passage. Including length of town wall to either side in Porchfield. National Monument
TT036-044	3 Watergate St	Watergate Street, Townparks South	House	14328077	Terraced two-bay two-storey painted brick house c. 1910. Segmental-arched door openings with overlights, stone steps and chamfered brick door surrounds.
TT036-045	2 Watergate St	Watergate Street, Townparks South	House	14328077	Terraced two-bay two-storey painted brick house c. 1910. Segmental-arched door openings with overlights, stone steps and chamfered brick door surrounds.
TT036-046	1 Watergate St	Watergate Street, Townparks South	House	14328077	Terraced two-bay two-storey painted brick house c. 1910. Segmental-arched door openings with overlights, stone steps and chamfered brick door surrounds.
TT036-047	Bank Of Ireland,	Market Street, Townparks South	Bank/Financial Institution	14328032	End of terrace three-bay two-storey bank building by L.A. O'Donnell, built 1909 with gable-fronted bays. Red brick walls with carved and moulded brick and carved sandstone detailing.
TT036-048	Trim Credit Union	Market Street, Townparks South	Bank / Commercial Services	14328031	Terraced five-bay two-storey building, c. 1870 with projecting terminating bays. Early door surround with pediment
TT036-049	Town Hall	Castle Street, Manorland (1st Division)	Town Hall	14328035	Detached five-bay two-storey former market house, built c. 1850, with three-bay projecting central breakfront. Comprising of three-bay single-storey former market house,

ID	Structure Name	Street_Townland	Building Type	NIAH_Reg_No	Description
					remodelled and flanked by single-bay extensions, c.1925.
TT036-050	No 1 Castle Street	Castle Street, Manorland (1st Division)	House	14328036	Terraced two-bay two-storey houses, c. 1830 with cast iron diamond patterned windows, with gable fronted roofs at first floor, decorative bargeboards.
TT036-051	Four-Bay House	Emmet Street, Townparks South	House	14328026	Terraced four-bay two-storey house, c. 1860 Segmental-arched ope with panelled timber door, fanlight and stone step.
TT036-052	No 2 Castle Street	Castle Street, Manorland (1st Division)	House	14328036	Terraced two-bay two-storey houses, c. 1830 with cast iron diamond patterned windows, with gable fronted roofs at first floor, decorative bargeboards.
TT036-053	No 3 Castle Street	Castle Street, Manorland (1st Division)	House	14328036	Terraced two-bay two-storey houses, c. 1830 with cast iron diamond patterned windows, with gable fronted roofs at first floor, decorative bargeboards.
TT036-054	No 4 Castle Street	Castle Street, Manorland (1st Division)	House	14328036	Terraced two-bay two-storey houses, c. 1830 with cast iron diamond patterned windows, with gable fronted roofs at first floor, decorative bargeboards.
TT036-055	No 5 Castle Street	Castle Street, Manorland (1st Division)	House	14328036	Terraced two-bay two-storey houses, c. 1830 with cast iron diamond patterned windows, with gable fronted roofs at first floor, decorative bargeboards.
TT036-056	No 6 Castle Street	Castle Street, Manorland (1st Division)	House	14328036	Terraced two-bay two-storey houses, c. 1830 with cast iron diamond patterned windows, with gable fronted roofs at first floor, decorative bargeboards.
TT036-057	Trim Castle	Castle Street, Manorland (1st Division)	Castle		Built by Hugh de Lacy c.1170 on the site of an earlier Motte castle. The largest Norman castle in Ireland, the central keep is surrounded by a curtain wall, which encloses an area of 3 acres. National Monument
TT036-058	No 7 Castle Street	Castle Street, Manorland (1st Division)	House	14328036	Terraced two-bay two-storey houses, c. 1830 with cast iron diamond patterned windows, with gable fronted roofs at first floor, decorative bargeboards.
TT036-059	Four-Bay House	Emmet Street, Townparks South	House	14328025	End of terrace four-bay two-storey house, c. 1875. Carriage arch with timber battened door. Stone outbuilding with pitched slate roof to rear site.
TT036-060	No 8 Castle Street	Castle Street, Manorland (1st Division)	House	14328036	Terraced two-bay two-storey houses, c. 1830 with cast iron diamond patterned windows, with gable fronted roofs at first floor, decorative bargeboards.
TT036-061	No 9 Castle Street	Castle Street, Manorland (1st Division)	House	14328036	Terraced two-bay two-storey houses, c. 1830 with cast iron diamond patterned windows, with gable fronted roofs at first floor, decorative bargeboards.
TT036-062	No 10 Castle Street	Castle Street, Manorland (1st Division)	House	14328036	Terraced two-bay two-storey houses, c. 1830 with cast iron diamond patterned windows, with gable fronted roofs at first floor, decorative bargeboards.
TT036-063	Town Wall	Castle Street / Emmet Street	Fortifications		Medieval town wall. National Monument
TT036-064	Warehouses At Rear Of Kiely's	Emmet Street, Townparks South	Mill	14328027	L-plan multiple-bay three-storey former mill, built c.1850, now disused. Pitched corrugated-iron

ID	Structure Name	Street_Townland	Building Type	NIAH_Reg_No	Description
					roofs. Rubble limestone walls, with cast-iron tie-plates to west end of building. Limestone ashlar dressing to segmental-arched openings.
TT036-065	16 Emmet St	Emmet Street 16, Townparks South	House	14328028	Terraced three two-bay two-storey brick house, built c.1910. Moulded brick string course above openings at ground floor level. Segmental-arched window openings with stone sills.
TT036-066	17 Emmet St	Emmet Street 17, Townparks South	House	14328028	Terraced three two-bay two-storey brick house, built c.1910. Moulded brick string course above openings at ground floor level. Segmental-arched window openings with stone sills.
TT036-067	18 Emmet St	Emmet Street 18, Townparks South	House	14328028	Terraced three two-bay two-storey brick house, built c.1910. Moulded brick string course above openings at ground floor level. Segmental-arched window openings with stone sills.
TT036-068	19 Emmet St	Emmet Street, Townparks South	House	14328029	Detached three-bay three-storey house, c. 1800, round arched doorcase with spoked fanlight. Cast-iron railings and gate with foliate heads on a carved limestone plinth to the front.
TT036-069	Trim Garda Station	Castle Street, Manorland (1st Division)	Police Station	14328015	Detached five-bay two-storey Garda station, built 1948, with flanking single-storey additions. Pitched slate roof with rendered chimneys and cast-iron rainwater goods. Roughly dressed rubble stone boundary walls.
TT036-070	Lynchs	Emmet Street, Townparks South	Shop And House	14328021	Terraced three-bay two-storey house in use as shop and end-of-terrace three-bay two-storey house, built c.1870. Pitched tile roof with rendered chimney. Timber sash windows with ogee horns and stone sills. Raised timber lettering over entrance door.
TT036-071	Convent Of Mercy	Emmet Street, Townparks South	Convent	14328030	Seven-bay two-storey Gothic Revival convent, completed 1867, designed by William Caldbeck. Five-bay two-storey central block, flanked by gabled projecting three-storey terminating bays. The convent chapel with spire to the south. Walls and gates to site.
TT036-072	Cottage Beside Garda Station	Castle Street/ Dublin Road,	House	14328016	Detached five-bay single-storey house built c. 1890 with cast iron diamond pattern windows
TT036-073	Trim Gaol Walls	Castle Street, Manorland (1st Division)	Walls	14328014	Limestone former gaol walls, designed by John Hargraves and built in 1827, consisting of sneaked stonework, with rock-faced banding to central section.
TT036-074	St. Patrick's Church	Patrick Street, Manorland (1st Division)	Church (Rc)	14328011	Gothic Revival church by William Hague, completed 1902, Carved limestone piers with wrought-iron railings, gates and rubble limestone walls. Grotto to site.
TT036-075	Citizens Advice Bureau /	Patrick Street, Manorland (1st Division)	Office - Community Services	14328012	Detached three-bay two-storey former parochial house, built 1840, with full-height projecting

ID	Structure Name	Street_Townland	Building Type	NIAH_Reg_No	Description
	Former Parochial House				central entrance bay.
TT036-076	St Mary's Convent National School	Patrick Street, Townparks South	School	14328010	Detached eleven-bay, two-storey National School built 1924. Cement rendered boundary walls with cast-iron railings and gates.
TT036-077	Post Box	Patrick Street, Townparks South	Post Box	14328009	Wall-mounted cast-iron post box, c.1905 with ER VII insignia
TT036-078	Wellington Monument	Wellington Place, Commons (3rd Division)	Monument	14328006	Memorial, Corinthian columns with statue of Duke of Wellington, Designed by James Bell, built 1817
TT036-079	Scoil Na Gceard	Wellington Place, Commons (3rd Division)	Community School	14328007	Detached nine-bay two-storey technical school building, c.1935
TT036-080	Benchmarks	Summerhill Road, Commons (3rd Division)	Benchmarks	14328005	pair of trigonometrical markers on Wellington Court Hotel boundary walls
TT036-081	Wellington Court Hotel	Summerhill Road, Commons (3rd Division)	Walls	14328004	Coursed limestone boundary wall with gatehouses, and gates, c 1835. These substantial defensive walls formerly protected the Royal Irish Constabulary Barracks.
TT036-082	Wellington Court Hotel	Summerhill Road, Commons (3rd Division)	Hotel And Gate Lodges	14328003	Detached five-bay two-storey former barracks building, built c. 1835, Pair of two-bay single-storey former gate lodges, built c. 1835,
TT036-083	Lodge Beside Wellington Court Hotel	Summerhill Road, Commons (3rd Division)	House	14328002	Detached three-bay single-storey house, built c.1835. Roughly coursed limestone walls.
TT036-084	Mornington House	Summerhill Road, Charterschoolland	House	14328001	Detached three-bay two-storey house, built c. 1880. Hipped slate roof with carved eaves dentils and cement rendered chimneystacks
TT036-085	Glebe Wall	Townparks North	Boundary Wall		Rubble stone masonry wall, 2.7m high.
TT036-086	Trim Town Wall	Townparks North	Fortifications		Medieval town wall. National Monument
TT036-087	Five-bay, two-storey detached house,	Navangate Street Townparks North	house	14328070	Detached five-bay two-storey house, built c.1830. Pitched slate roof with stone built chimneystacks and terracotta ridge tiles. Timber three-over-three sash windows with no horns or convex horns, and wide timber sash boxes.
The Following Structures Are Included In The RPS of The Meath County Plan, But Are Located Within The Trim Development Plan Area.					
MH036-115	St. Joseph's Hospital	Patrick Street, Manorland (1st Division)	Hospital	14328013	Detached fifteen-bay two-storey former workhouse, built 1841 by George Wilkinson. The gable-fronted blocks have timber bargeboards and louvered lancet windows.
MH036-116	Black Friary	Haggard St (Rear Of), Blackfriary	Ruins		Former Dominican Friary, founded 1263, earthworks covering 4 acres on site includes double bank and masonry fragments. Recorded monument ME036-048
MH036-118	Highfield House B& B	New Dublin Road, Maudlin	Guest House	14328017	Detached five-bay two-storey former hospital and dispensary building, built c.1870, with gabled and projecting

ID	Structure Name	Street_Townland	Building Type	NIAH_Reg_No	Description
					terminating bays, with arcade to ground floor.
MH036-119	Maudlin Cemetery	Dublin Road, Commons (6th Division)	Graveyard		The site of the Leper Hospital of Mary Magdalene, and later a cemetery which was used as a burial ground for the poor who died in the workhouse. Recorded monument ME036-027 – church
MH036-120	Trim Community School	New Dublin Road, Friarspark (4th Division)	College	14328020	Detached five-bay two-storey Tudor Revival former school, by Frederick Darley, built 1849. Comprising of three-central bays flanked by gabled and projecting terminating bays.
MH036-121	Lackanash Cottage	Navan Gate Street, Lackanash	House	14328071	Detached four-bay two-storey house c. 1870 with canted bay to front. Decorative chimneys. Stone boundary wall and and piers
MH036-122	Maudlin Cottage	Dublin Road, Commons (6th Division)	House	14328019	Exterior only. Detached three-bay single-storey house, built c.1880, with gabled and glazed projecting entrance bay.
MH036-123	Larchfield	Navan Road, Blackfriary	House	14328072	Detached multiple-bay house c. 1955 comprising single-storey range to front two-storey range to rear with taller tower to east. Flat roof.
MH036-125	Echo Gate	Dublin Road, Commons (6th Division)	Gateway		Stone gate piers.
MH036-126	Newtown Abbey	Newtown	Ruin		Part of the 13th century abbey-complex that contained the Cathedral of Sts Peter and Paul that lay to the north. Recorded monument ME036-049003
MH036-127	Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul	Newtown	Ruin		A single aisled building of evenly coursed limestone with fragments of the Abbey buildings to the south. The Abbey complex was begun by Simon de Rochfort c. 1200. The cathedral was originally longer but was reduced in size c.1542. Recorded monument ME036-049002
MH036-128	Water pump	Newtown	Water Pump	14330001	Cast-iron water pump, c.1870, set on concrete base with banded shaft and fluted neck and spout. The fluted cap is surmounted by a decorative finial.
MH036-129	St. Peter's Bridge	Newtown Trim	Bridge (Road)		Five arched medieval bridge with breakwaters on west side. Wicker centering on second arch. Recorded monument ME036-049001
MH036-130	Railway Bridge	Peterstown / Kilttoome	Bridge (Railway)		Single arched Humpback stone bridge. Railway no longer exists.
MH036-131	St. John's Friary	Newtown Trim	Friary		Hospital Friary of St. John the Baptist, founded in the early 13th Century by Simon de Rochfort. Not a usual layout for priory with the church built on the south side of the complex. Recorded monument ME036-049011

Source: Meath County Council

5.9.4 Existing Environmental Pressures / Problems

The medieval town of Trim has exceptional cultural heritage features including RMPs, Protected Structures and Conservation areas which all require protection. Future development in Trim has the potential to cumulatively impact upon the heritage features of the area. Development which involves material alterations or additions to protected structures can detract from the special character of the structure and its settings, and have the potential to result in the loss of features of architectural or historical interest. Development on sites adjoining protected monuments, places or structures can also impact the setting of these cultural heritage items. Therefore policies order to protect these features should be included in the draft Trim Development Plan 2014 - 2020.

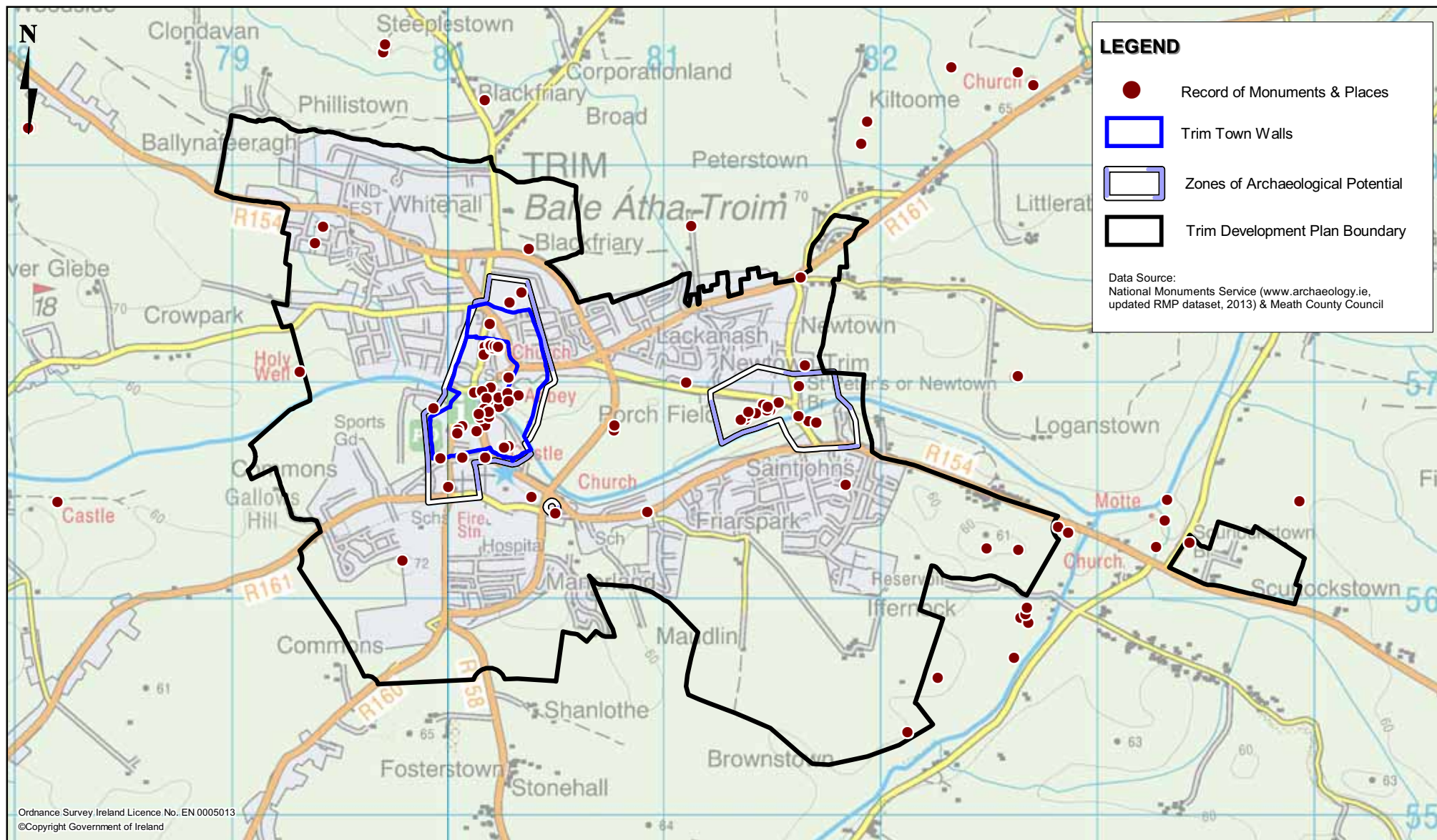


FIGURE 5.9 - ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

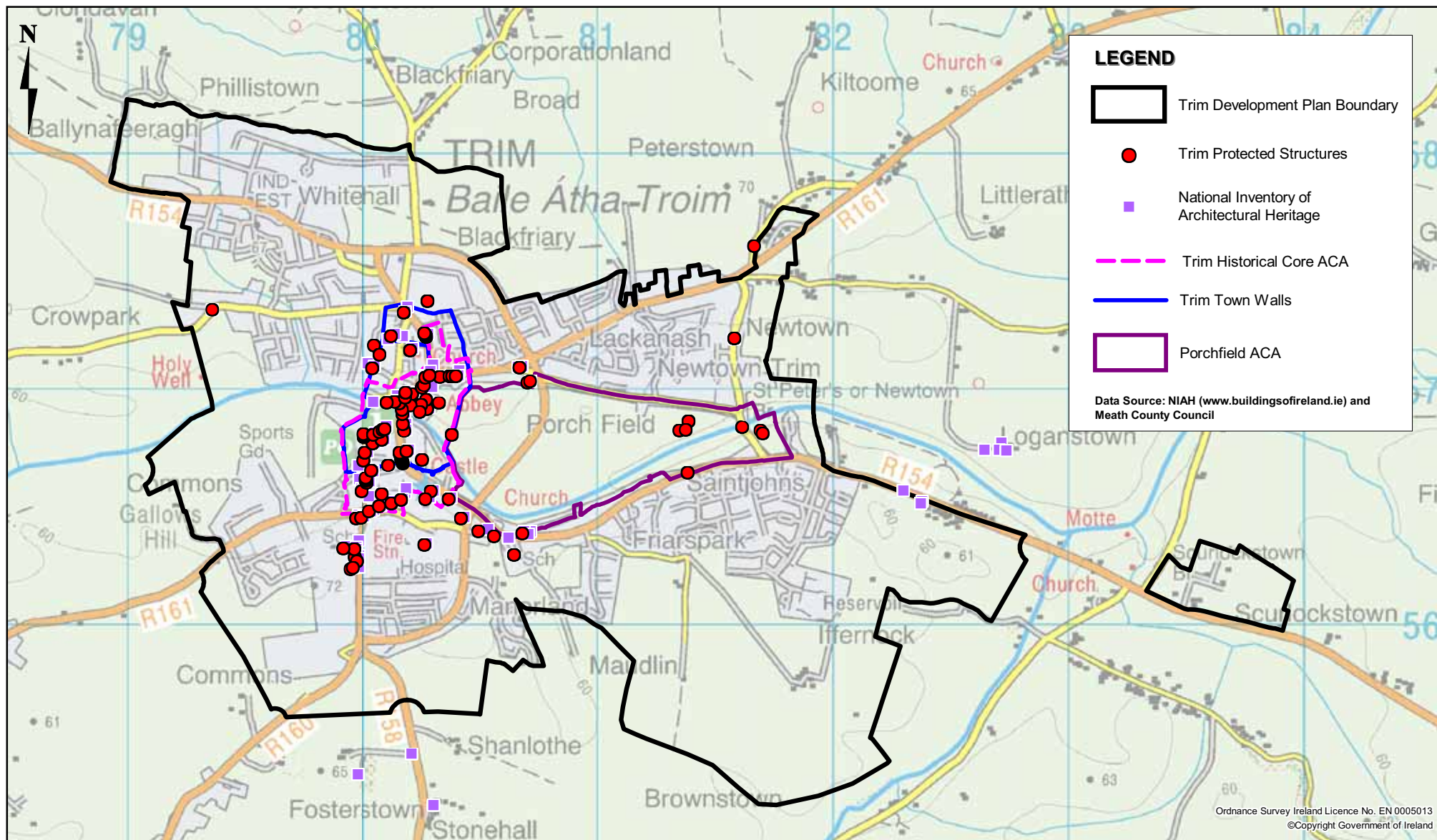


FIGURE 5.10 - ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

5.10 LANDSCAPE

5.10.1 Introduction

Landscapes are areas that are perceived by people and are made up of a number of layers including;

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

The draft Plan contains a number of sites, areas and vantage points from which views over local landmarks, lands and rivers may be obtained. In addition to scenic views, the Plan area contains a number of important prospects. These are areas/ zones of special/ high amenity value or interest, and prominent landscapes which are visible from the surrounding area.

5.10.2 Landscape Character

Trim falls within the Boyne Valley landscape Character Area. **Figure 5.11** outlines the indicative landscape characters for the lands within and surrounding the draft Plan. This classification was undertaken in 2007 as part of a Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) for the County. The assessment identified the character of the landscape based on land cover and landform and also addresses landscape values relating to historical, cultural, religious and other understandings of the landscape.

The findings of the LCA were used to generate a landscape sensitivity rating for areas within Meath and this landscape sensitivity is illustrated in **Figure 5.12**. This landscape sensitivity is a measure of the ability of the landscape to accommodate change or intervention without the implication of unacceptable effects to its character and values. The following classifications, shown in **Table 5.9** and **Figure 5.11** apply to the lands within and surrounding the draft Plan.

Table 5.9: Landscape Sensitivity

Landscape Character Areas	Sensitivity
<p>Boyne Valley: The landscape is characterised by a steep river valley with areas of rolling lowland adjacent to the River Boyne. It stretches from Carbury, Co. Kildare, northeastwards, winding its way through the landscape to the sea at Drogheda. It is one of the most significant and highly valued landscapes in the county as it contains the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) World Heritage Site of Bru na Boinne. In addition, it contains the heritage towns of Trim and Slane.</p> <p>The skyline in Trim is dominated by Trim Castle and Talbot Castle. The River Boyne and the floodplain provide public open space and a picturesque setting for the town. The town centre is appealing where modern development has been successfully integrated into the historic built environment, particularly Trim Courthouse. Development is currently being carried out in the surrounding area of Trim, rather than within Trim's town centre. As the setting of Trim and Trim Castle within the landscape is very significant, any proposed residential development needs to be carefully planned in order to avoid eroding the character of the area.</p> <p>This LCA contains a quarry south-west of Slane.</p>	<p>The Boyne Valley has a highly sensitive landscape, see Figure 5.12. This is due to the fact that the River Boyne is an SAC and this LCA contains some of the most important heritage features within the country. As a result, the Boyne Valley has low potential capacity to accommodate large farm buildings, multi-house residential developments, one off houses, overhead cables, substations and communications masts, new transport routes, underground services, wind turbines and biomass and commercial forestry. There is a medium capacity to provide new visitor facilities and the conversion of existing buildings, estate houses, barns etc. to a different to a different use provided that the types of uses are suitable for the character of the buildings and surrounding landscapes.</p>

Landscape Character Areas	Sensitivity
<p>Central Lowlands: This can be described as a large lowland landscape area composed of rolling drumlins interspersed with numerous large estates and associated parkland. There are thick wooded hedgerows, with some conifer plantations, and shelterbelts of ash and larch, separate medium to large fields. A common feature of the landscape in the enclosed rural road corridors are deep roadside ditches and banked hedgerows.</p> <p>The landscape character of the Central Lowlands around settlements contains well-managed patchwork of small pastoral fields, dense hedgerows and small areas of broadleaved woodland. The landscape is mainly rolling pastureland although the landscape which surrounds Castlerickard has the greatest diversity in comparison to anywhere else in the lowlands. It consists of estate landscape, large conifer plantations and birch woodland around the Boyne river corridor.</p> <p>This LCA contains two quarries which are both former Areas of Scientific Interest (ASI). These are Painstown Quarry and Cruicerath Quarry.</p>	<p>The sensitivity of the Central Lowlands is moderate. It is due to this that this LCA has low potential capacity to provide for the development of wind farms.</p> <p>The LCA has the medium potential capacity to accommodate the development of medium-scale farms, multi-house residential developments, one-off houses, conversion of buildings to a different use, overhead cables, substations and communications masts, road infrastructure and upgrades, underground services, and biomass and forestry.</p> <p>There is a high potential capacity within the Central Lowlands LCA to provide for visitor facilities, even though there are no major attractions within this LCA.</p>
<p>Rathmoylan Lowlands: This LCA is located south of Trim and the Boyne Valley. The landscape can be described as rolling hills and lowland with a mix of pastoral and arable farms. Estate landscapes are very noticeable around Summerhill with large beech avenues and stonewalls. Towards the west the landscape is quite wooded, particularly at Rathmoylan. In addition, this landscape has a very distinctive enclosed small scale rolling drumlin landscape which is interspersed with copses. The built development is concentrated around Rathmoylan and Summerhill with detached dwellings scattered throughout the rural hinterland. There is a sand and gravel quarry to south of Rathmoylan.</p>	<p>The Rathmoylan Lowlands has a highly sensitive landscape. It is due to this that it has a low potential capacity to accommodate large farm buildings, multiple housing developments, overhead cables, substations and communications masts, new transport routes, underground services, wind turbine development and biomass and commercial forestry.</p> <p>This LCA has medium potential capacity to incorporate visitor facilities and to provide for one off housing.</p>
<p>Tara Skryne Hills: This LCA contains the extremely important Hill of Tara which is an area of raised upland located south of Navan. It is close to the M3 motorway national primary road which connects Navan to Dunshaughlin to the east of the Hill of Tara. The landscape consists of broad rolling hills which are separated by a mixture of well-managed small and large fields that are enclosed by thick thorn hedgerows and mature trees (ash, beech and oak).</p>	<p>The Tara Skryne Hills LCA is a highly sensitive landscape. As a result, the LCA has a low potential capacity for large-scale agricultural buildings, the accommodation of multiple housing, overhead cables, substations and communications masts, new transport routes and upgrading of existing routes, wind turbine development, biomass and commercial forestry.</p> <p>There is a medium potential capacity to provide small-scale visitor facilities such as way marked trails and to accommodate the conversion of existing buildings to another use or as part of a restoration.</p>
<p>West Navan Lowlands: This is a flat lowland farmland landscape interspersed with many large estate landscapes with associated parkland, located North of Trim and the Boyne Valley. The built development consists of scattered groups of detached dwellings and large estate houses in the hinterland with extensive ribbon development on the outskirts of Athboy and Dunderry.</p>	<p>The landscape has moderate sensitivity. There is a medium to low potential capacity to provide new transport infrastructure and underground services.</p> <p>This LCA has a medium potential capacity to accommodate large-scale farm buildings, overhead cables, substations and communication masts, wind farms or single turbines, biomass and forestry.</p> <p>There is a high potential capacity to incorporate visitor facilities with the provision that they are designed to fit within the existing landscape character and to accommodate the conversion of existing buildings</p>

Source: Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019, Appendix 7, Landscape Character Assessment

5.10.3 High Amenity Zones

According to the MCDP LCA there are a number of zones of high landscape value within the Plan area. These are areas which consist of landscapes of special value where inappropriate development would impact on the landscape setting negatively within the Plan area also known as High Amenity areas. These areas are also sensitive landscapes as development in these areas may affect directly or indirectly the quality of these areas.

There are three main High Amenity Zones within the Plan area. These include the land directly adjacent to the River Boyne which is located in the centre of Trim and includes the Boyne Walking route. The second high amenity area is Trim Castle which is located on the south bank of the River Boyne. The next high amenity area is the Porchfield which can be found on the north bank of the River Boyne opposite Trim Castle. These areas have the potential to provide a major amenity for both active and passive recreational uses.

5.10.4 Views to be Protected

The built and natural heritage of Trim provides the town with views and prospects of special value which the Councils will seek to protect. Important views to be protected are prominent landscapes or areas of special amenity value or interest which can be seen from the surrounding area. Within the Plan area, there are eleven views that warrant protection, as shown in **Figure 5.13**. The views to be protected include:

1. From Dublin Road at St Johns, toward the river valley, Trim Castle, Newtown Abbey and Newtown Bridge.
2. Newtown Bridge towards the river valley, Newtown Abbey and St. John's Friary
3. Trim Castle to the river valley, St. Mary's Abbey and Newtown Abbey.
4. Watergate Bridge towards the river valley to the west and towards the town centre to the east
5. Castle Street to Talbot Castle and St. Mary's Abbey.
6. Towards Trim Castle and the Porchfield from St. Mary's Abbey.
7. Westwards from Newtown Abbey to the Porchfield.
8. West and south-westwards from the ring road to St. Mary's Abbey and Trim Castle.
9. Eastwards from Oldbridge in High Street.
10. View of St. John's Friary from the adjoining Dublin Road.
11. Views of the Wellington Monument from Patrick St. Emmet St., and the Summerhill Road

5.10.5 Habitats and Landscape Features of Importance for Biodiversity

Most of our biodiversity occurs outside sites that are subject to legal protection under national or EU law. There are habitats and features that are of particular importance for biodiversity throughout the landscape. These include, but are not limited to, woodlands, hedgerows and other field boundary types such as stone walls, earthen embankments and ditches, rivers, streams and associated riparian zones. These elements should be protected and enhanced. It is also important to recognise that habitats and landscape features cannot be sustained in the long-term in isolation from one another. Networks of protected areas, ecological 'corridors' and ecological 'stepping stones' help to support the movement of species and to sustain the habitats, ecological processes and functions necessary to maintain biodiversity.

5.10.6 Existing Landscape Environmental Pressures / Problems

As the population in the Plan area increases, so too do residential and associated development. The Settlement Strategy for Trim will be critical in guiding the planning and design of urban development. High amenity zones as well as protected views and prospects will become increasingly important with regards to future planning and development within the Plan boundary and maintaining the natural beauty of this area. It is recommended that these features be mapped in the draft Plan. Consideration should be given to unprotected landscapes during planning and development as they provide habitats for a substantial amount of the biodiversity found within the Plan area. Any proposed development within the draft Plan area should ensure that landscape designations are afforded protection.

Consideration should be given to inclusion of mapping high amenity areas and protected views within the development plan area.

Figure 5.11: Landscape Character Areas

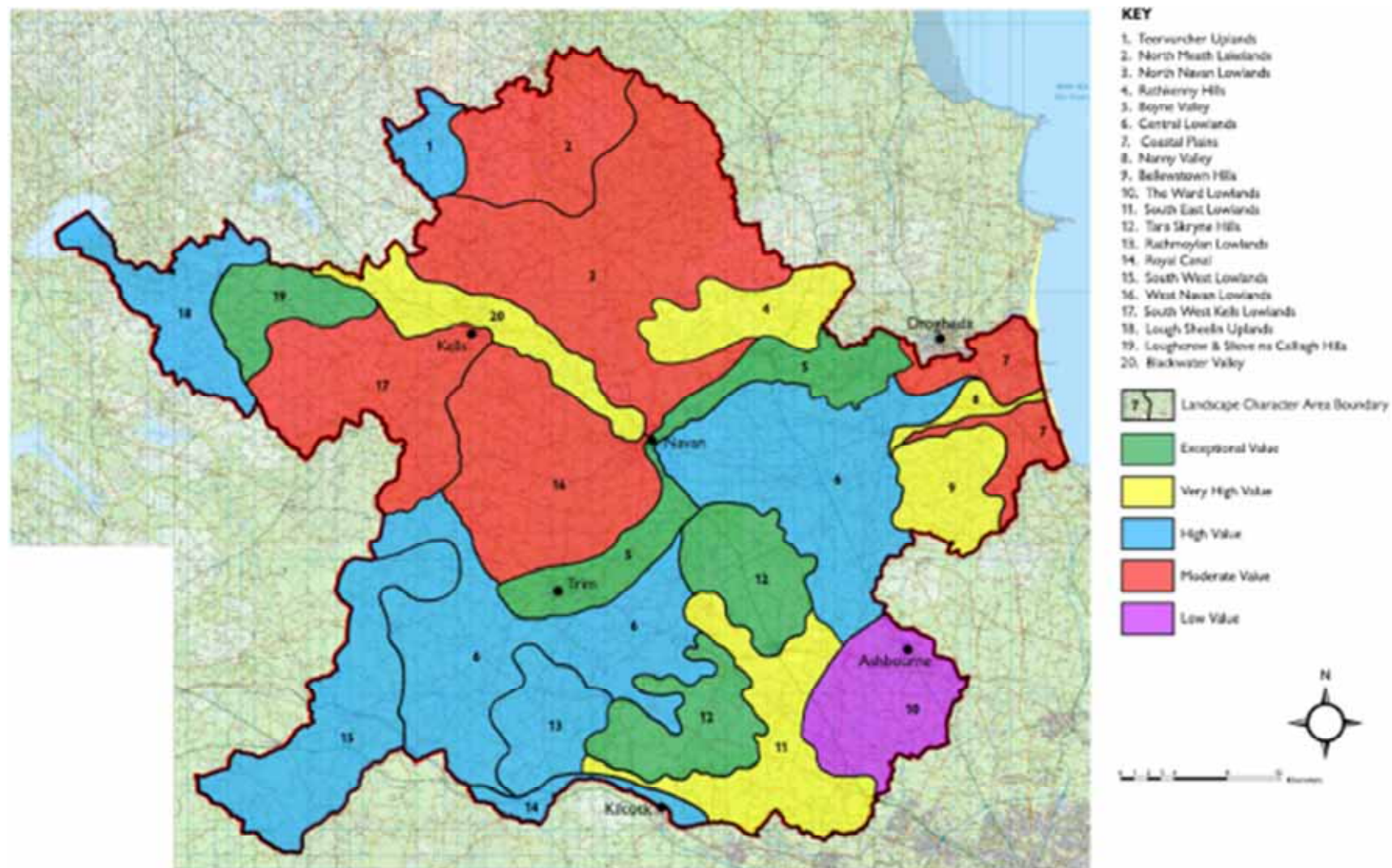
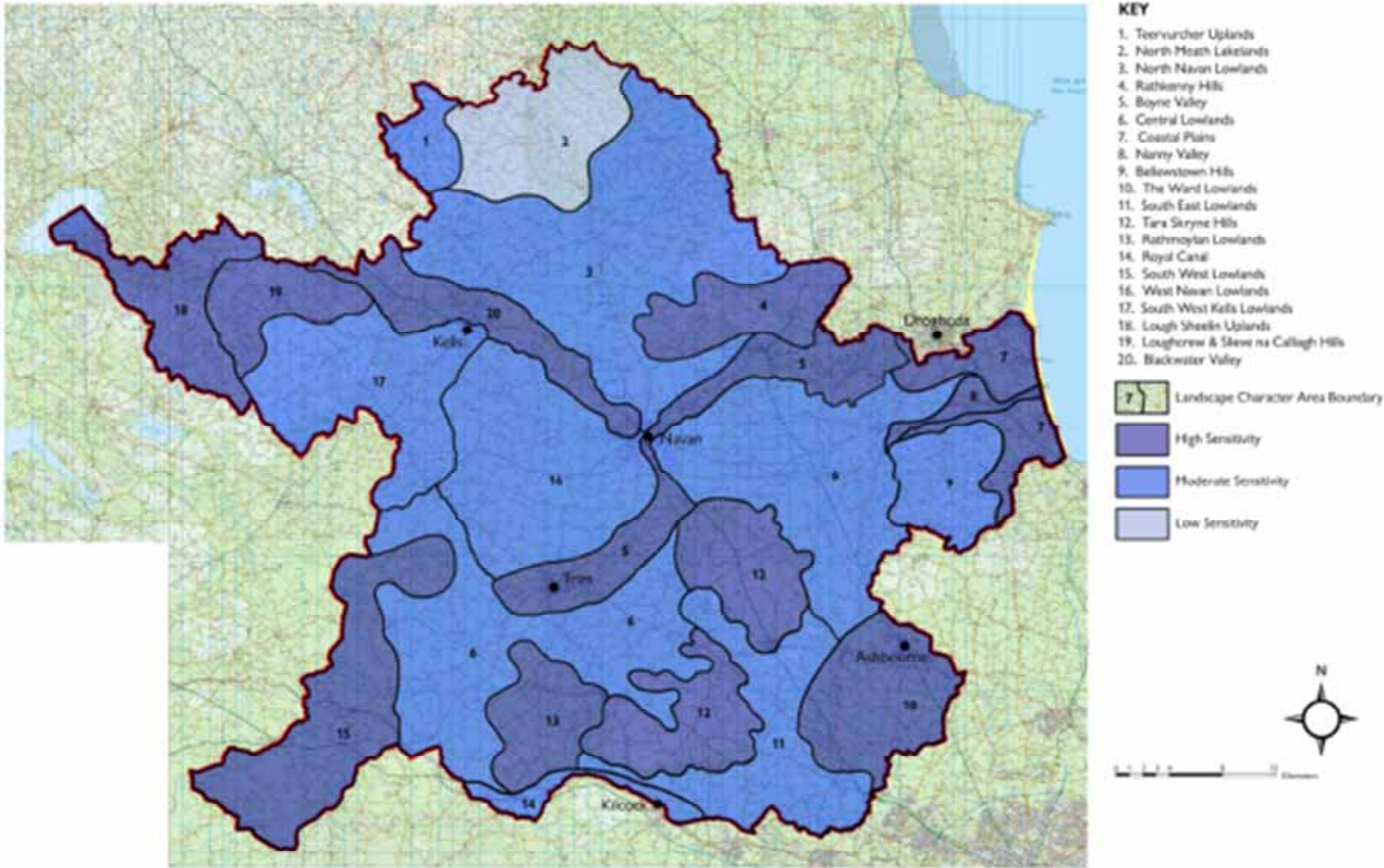


Figure 5.12: Landscape Sensitivities



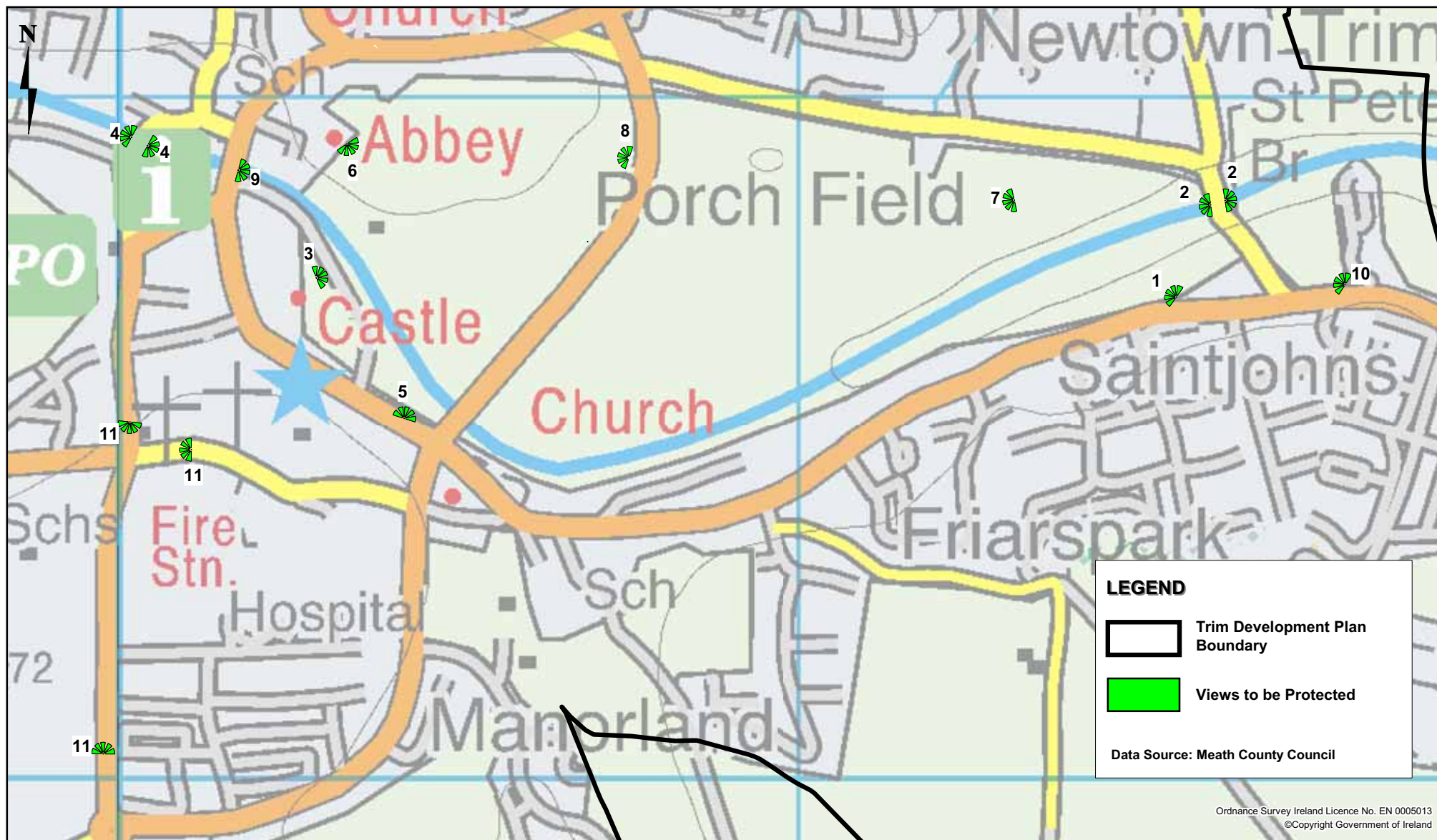


FIGURE 5.13 - VIEWS TO BE PROTECTED

5.11 INTER-RELATIONSHIPS

The interrelationship between the SEA environmental topics is an important consideration for environmental assessment. **Table 5.10** highlights the key interrelationships identified in this SEA.

Of particular note are the primary relationships between water quality and biodiversity, flora and fauna. Flora and fauna, including protected species and habitats, rely directly on the aquatic environment as a habitat. Water and climate also have a key relationship. Global GHG emissions associated with transport, industry and other sources have the potential to negatively impact on climate change. This in turn can result in more frequent and more intense flooding and drought conditions affecting material assets, such as private residences and infrastructure, and biodiversity through changes in water quality and the hydrologic regime. In carrying out the assessment, these important direct and indirect relationships have been taken into account fully to ensure a robust and complete assessment.

Table 5.10: Key Interrelationships between SEA Environmental Topics

Soils	√							
Water	√	√						
Noise	√	X	X					
Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna	√	√	√	√				
Climatic Factors	√	√	√	X	√			
Material Assets	√	√	√	X	√	√		
Cultural Heritage	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	
Landscape	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
	Population	Soils	Water	Noise	Biodiversity Flora, Fauna	Climatic Factors	Material Assets	Cultural Heritage

√ = interrelationship anticipated

X = no interrelationship anticipated

5.12 EVOLUTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PLAN

Population: In the absence of the Plan there may be pressure to increase population densities in an unsustainable manner with potential impacts on sensitive areas. There would remain a large amount of over-zoning if the Plan were not to be adopted.

Biodiversity, flora and fauna: There can be conflicts between recreation/ tourism and biodiversity. Without this draft Plan, strict controls in respect of biodiversity, flora and fauna on such development may not be in place and the balance between recreation and development may be one such conflict. Also, without the draft Plan, development will not be restricted or phased to mirror delivery of the appropriate infrastructure, such as drainage and wastewater, and this would also have negative impacts on biodiversity and water quality.

Soils: There could be increased pressure on green field lands as opposed to infill development in the absence of the draft Plan.

Water: Without the draft Plan, water quality in the plan area is likely to deteriorate due to unplanned development and lack of protection from policies.

Noise: With increased private car use, noise levels would increase significantly. Noise impacts must always be considered as it has a direct impact on human health.

Climate: An issue facing Trim in relation to climate change relates to the danger posed by flooding events, which may occur, at least in part, as a result of increased amounts of global GHG emissions from transport. High incidence rainfall events are occurring more frequently which cause local flooding. Without the draft Plan, no transport solution or land use planning would take place and flooding could become an issue in the area. No SFRA would have been prepared and lands would be zoned within the flood plain.

Material Assets: With an increased population within Trim there will be increased generation of waste. The policies within the draft Plan will facilitate, on a local level, the Meath waste management plan and the strategies to deal with collection, recycling and disposal of waste from householders and commercial businesses. Water supply demands would not be catered for with the population set to increase. This would lead to water shortages as the capacity of the current water sources is not sufficient to cope with an increase in population. As outlined above, without the draft Plan, no planned transport links would be provided resulting in unsustainable and unplanned development.

Cultural, Heritage and Landscape: Further development in Trim has the potential to cumulatively impact upon the cultural, heritage and landscape features in and surrounding the Plan area. Development without the draft Plan has the potential to change the landscapes of the area as well as negatively impact upon important cultural, archaeological and architectural sites which fall within and surrounding the draft Plan area.

6 REVIEW OF RELEVANT POLICIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

6.1 INTRODUCTION

The objective of the SEA Directive is “to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations in the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development”.

In order to meet the requirements of the Directive in this respect, the environmental assessment must,

...identify the environmental protection objectives, established at International, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.

The purpose of this review is to take into consideration the policy and legislative framework within which the Trim Development Plan 2014-2020 is being developed. Consideration has been given to the key statutory and non-statutory plans, programmes and policies relevant to the draft Plan in order to inform the SEA Strategic Environmental Objectives and Targets (discussed further in **Chapter 7**).

The following section provides an overview of the key relevant planning policies that are relevant and influence the Trim Development Plan. **Appendix C** provides details on all of the key legislation, plans and programmes considered most relevant to draft Plan.

6.2 THE KEY RELEVANT PLANNING POLICIES

The following is a summary of the key relevant policies, plans and programmes in relation to the Trim Development Plan.

6.2.1 Planning and Development Policies

National Development Plan (2007-2013)

The National Development Plan integrates strategic development frameworks for regional development, for rural communities, for all-island co-operation, and for protection of the environment with common economic and social goals. The National Development Plan together with the National Spatial Strategy and Regional Planning Guidelines must inform the development of Meath through its County Development Plan and associated Core Strategy, which in turn informs the Trim Development Plan.

National Spatial Strategy (2002-2020)

The National Spatial Strategy (NSS) is a 20 year planning framework to guide policies, programmes and investment in the interest of delivering balanced social, economic and physical development and population growth between the regions. The National Spatial Strategy together with the Regional Planning Guidelines must inform the development of Trim through the Meath County Development Plan and associated Core Strategy.

It must be noted that in February 2013 the Government announced that the National Spatial Strategy was to be abandoned. The Minister for the Environment stated that “it is scrapping the National Spatial Strategy because the resources have never been provided to create planned “gateways” and “hubs”. It is understood that a new policy will replace this strategy some time in 2014.

Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area (2010-2022)

These Guidelines combine two Regional Authority Areas, the Dublin Regional Authority and the Mid-East Regional Authority. The Regional Planning Guidelines (RPG's) work to implement the strategic planning framework set out in the National Spatial Strategy (NSS). As part of the planning framework, the Guidelines allocate housing and population targets for the individual counties based on national and regional population targets set by the NSS. The RPG's designate Trim along with Kells within the Navan Core Economic Area.

The RPGS identifies the potential for Trim to develop as part of a tourism cluster with Kells with improvement in the connectivity between both centres identified for investment. Both centres are to develop a strategy for niche tourism as an integral part of their overall development strategy e.g. culinary tourism, regional food hub, creative industries, etc. The protection of the intrinsic built and natural heritage of Trim and its promotion as a basis of tourism must be dominant in the development strategies adopted for these Heritage Towns.

Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy (2011-2030)

This strategy outlines a strategic transport plan for the GDA for the next 20 years. The role of the strategy is to establish the essential policies and measures required to support the GDA in meeting its full potential as are outlined in the Strategy visions and objectives.

Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study (2005)

The Study was commissioned to carry out a strategic analysis of the existing foul and surface water systems in the following local authority areas; Dublin City, Fingal, South Dublin, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and the adjacent catchments in Meath, Kildare and Wicklow. The main objective of the study is to identify policies, strategies and projects for a sustainable drainage system for the Greater Dublin Region.

Meath County Development Plan (2013-2019)

The aim of the County Development Plan 2013-2019 is to drive the present day evolution of the county and to establish a framework for the coordinated and sustainable economic, social, cultural and environmental development of County Meath.

The Core Strategy outlined in the County Development Plan reiterates the position of Trim as a Moderate Sustainable Growth Town in line with its current RPG status, in addition to it being identified as a 'District Employment Centre' in the hierarchy of economic centers in the County.

Moderate Sustainable Growth Towns should develop in a self-sufficient manner and levels of growth should be balanced to ensure that any increase in population will be in tandem with employment opportunities, capacity in physical and social infrastructure and will not be based on long distance commuting. Economic development and service provision will be an important factor in determining the appropriateness of new housing. These towns will need to provide a full range of services adequate to meet local needs, both within the town and in the surrounding rural catchment area, but not generate long distance travel patterns.

District Employment Centres are towns which provide employment needs of urban areas as well as large rural hinterlands. Sectors targeted for Trim include innovation in indigenous enterprise and business start-ups as well as tourism, manufacturing, administration & healthcare.

As Tourism is also a major force for development in Trim and Kells in line with the Regional Planning Guidelines each town is to develop a strategy for niche tourism as an integral part of their overall development strategy.

A Retail Strategy, Housing Strategy and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment were undertaken as part of the County Development Plan, all of which have informed the preparation of the draft Plan.

6.2.2 Environmental Plans and Policies

Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Birds (2009/147/EC) Directives

These directives seek to prevent and eliminate the causes of habitat loss and maintain and enhance current levels of biodiversity. The Habitats Directive requires Ireland and other EU member states to designate key habitats as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) while the Birds Directive protects bird species through designation of Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Together, these form the Natura 2000 network of sites. The draft Plan must protect designated sites and the habitats and species for which they have been designated (see also the Appropriate Assessment NIR for the Trim Development Plan). There is one SAC and SPA within the boundary of the draft Plan.

Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)

This Directive seeks to maintain and enhance the quality of all surface water and groundwater in the EU. The Directive is focussed at the River Basin District level to ensure that all potential pathways for pollution can be explored and measures to mitigate negative impacts can be better focussed. There are eight RBD on the island of Ireland and the draft Plan falls into one of them: the Eastern RBD. River Basin Management Plans and associated programmes of measures have been developed for the region and must be implemented. The draft Plan must have regard to these measures. The assessment of potential impacts on water quality needs to be considered in the context of the WFD and the River Basin Management Plan and Programme of Measures for the Eastern River Basin District which lays out the objectives for waters within Trim.

Surface Water Regulations (2009)

Aligned to the WFD is the Surface Water Regulations (S.I. 272 of 2009). These Regulations have significant implications across a range of existing legislation. They provide for the classification of surface water bodies by the EPA for the purposes of the Water Framework Directive which dictates that water bodies are required to achieve Good Status by 2015.

Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)

The Directive seeks to prevent and combat groundwater pollution in the EU. It contains key criteria for the assessment of the chemical status of groundwater, for identifying significant upward trends in groundwater pollution levels and for preventing and limiting indirect discharges of pollutants to groundwater.

Floods Directive (2007/60/EC) and Associated Eastern CFRAMS

Floods are a natural and inevitable part of life in Ireland. Floods pose a risk to human life and wellbeing, can cause extensive damage to property and have significant consequences for the environment. With the effects of climate change, it is likely that there will be more frequent and severe flooding events in the future. The EU has responded to this with the Floods Directive. This Directive sets a framework for proactive management of flooding and, like the WFD, will see measures being implemented through the development plan process. The first step in this is the development of Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Studies (CFRAMS) which are on-going through the OPW. These studies will identify areas susceptible to flooding and identify measures to reduce or eliminate flooding in key areas. The draft Plan falls within the Eastern CFRAM which commenced in June 2011 and will run until the end of 2015.

Urban Waste Water Directive (91/271/EEC), amended by Directive (98/15/EEC)

The primary objective is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of discharges of urban wastewater, by the provision of urban wastewater collecting systems (sewerage) and treatment plants for urban centres. The Directive also provides general rules for the sustainable disposal of sludge arising from wastewater treatment.

Drinking Water Directive (80/778/EEC) as amended by (Directive 98/83/EC)

The primary objective is to protect the health of the consumers in the European Union and to make sure drinking water is wholesome and clean. The (Drinking Water) (No. 2) Regulations 2007 (SI No. 278 of 2007) have the following aims:

- To provide for the creation of EPA and local authorities as supervisory authorities;
- To set obligations for water suppliers to provide wholesome and clean drinking water;
- To ensure protection of public health;
- To inform the public; and
- To monitor and carry out remedial action.

The draft Plan must have regard to ensuring adequate and clean water is available for all existing and planned development for the area.

Water Services Act (2007) and Water Services Investment Programme DEHLG (2010-2012)

The Water Services Act provides for provision of water services and gives effect to certain Acts adopted by the institutions of the European Communities. The Act identifies and prioritises national water infrastructure through the Water Services Investment Programme (WSIP). The WSIP has evolved from needs assessments received from the 34 Water Services Authorities in Ireland (which includes Trim). The programme presents a balanced national strategic programme of works designed to support the national socio-economic objectives established by government in the National Development Plan and related plans and policies.

Surface Water Regulations (2009)

These Regulations have significant implications across a range of existing legislation. They provide for the classification of surface water bodies by the EPA for the purposes of the Water Framework Directive which dictates that water bodies are required to achieve Good Status by 2015.

National Climate Change Strategy (2007-2012)

This strategy outlines how Ireland will meet its 2008-2012 Kyoto commitments and identifies what further policy measures are needed. It shows sector by sector how the Kyoto commitments, to reduce national GHG emissions are to be met by a range of existing and additional measures including limiting emissions and investment in energy efficiency and renewable resources.

Our Sustainable Future – A Framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland (2012)

Our Sustainable Future takes account of developments at international and EU level designed to deliver an effective transition to an innovative, low carbon and resource efficient future. It has followed the model used in the EU Sustainable Development Strategy, which focuses on identifying key gaps where progress has been limited since the 1997 National Sustainable Development Strategy and it aims to set out a range of measures to address the outstanding challenges. It sets out 70 measures that will ensure we improve our quality of life for current and future generations and sets out clear measures, responsibilities and timelines in an implementation plan. These include areas such as the sustainability of public finances and economic resilience, natural resources, agriculture, climate change, transport, public health, education, innovation and research, education, skills and training, and global poverty.

National Sustainable Development Strategy (1997) and Making Ireland's Development Sustainable (2002)

The aim for Ireland outlined in the Sustainable Development Strategy (1997) is *"to ensure that economy and society in Ireland can develop to their full potential within a well protected environment, without compromising the quality of that environment and with responsibility towards present and future generations and the wider international community"*. The subsequent report in 2002 "Making Ireland's Development Sustainable" was a five-year review of the original 1997 Strategy. The overall tenet of the Strategy is to balance economic growth with a continued commitment to promoting environmental quality.

National Biodiversity Plan (2011 – 2016)

In response to the requirements set out in Article 6 of the UN Convention of Biological Diversity 1992, a Biodiversity Plan was prepared by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands. This is the second National Biodiversity Plan and it builds upon the achievements of the previous Plan. The Plan seeks to ensure the full and effective integration of bio-diversity concerns in the development and implementation of other policies, legislation and programmes which is of critical importance if the conservation and sustainable use of bio-diversity is to be achieved.

National Heritage Plan (2002-2006)

The core objective is to protect and enhance Ireland's heritage. The Plan sets out archaeological policies and principles that should be applied by all bodies when undertaking a development. An aim of this National Plan is to enhance the role of Local Authorities in heritage protection and management.

7 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES, TARGETS AND INDICATORS

7.1 INTRODUCTION

SEA is carried out at a strategic level with a focus on readily available information (primarily desk-top assessment). It is therefore not possible for the baseline environment to be presented in as much detail as could be done for a project-level environmental impact assessment as often suitable baseline information does not exist at the regional or sub-regional level. Instead, SEA uses a system of *objectives*, *targets* and *indicators* to rationalise information for the purposes of assessment. This is the approach which has been taken for the draft Plan assessment in this case, however where possible baseline led assessment has also been undertaken to provide the most robust assessment possible.

In order to streamline the assessment process, this report has used broad themes, based on the environmental topics listed in the SEA Directive, to group large environmental data sets, e.g., cultural heritage and climate. Assigned to each of these themes is a high-level **Strategic Environmental Objective** that specifies a desired direction for change, e.g. reduce CO₂ emissions, against which the future impacts of the Plan can be measured. These high-level Strategic Environmental Objectives are then paired with specific **Targets**. The progress towards achieving these specific Targets is monitored using **Indicators**, which are measures of identified variables over time and form part of the monitoring programme proposed as part of this SEA.

7.1.1 Appropriate Assessment

As stated previously an AA was undertaken in conjunction with the SEA process. The AA specifically assessed the likely impacts that will arise from the Plan having been examined in the context of a number of factors that could potentially affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 network. The SEO for biodiversity, flora and fauna as outlined in **Table 7.1** has been developed with reference to the associated AA and in consultation with the AA ecologist.

7.2 DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES, TARGETS AND INDICATORS

7.2.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives

There are essentially three types of Objectives considered as part of this SEA. The first relates to the *Objectives of the Trim Development Plan* (see **Chapter 4**). The second relates to wider *Environmental Objectives*, i.e. environmental protection objectives at national and European level (see **Chapter 6**), and finally there are the *Strategic Environmental Objectives* (SEOs), which were devised to test the environmental effects of the draft Plan.

The Strategic Environmental Objectives reflect the existing environmental issues relevant to the draft Plan. They are focussed on protecting and enhancing the natural and human environment and on minimising negative effects. The Strategic Environmental Objectives were developed to be consistent with environmental protection objectives established by international, European and national environmental policies, objectives and standards.

The selected Strategic Environmental Objectives for this SEA are set out in **Table 7.1**. These Strategic Environmental Objectives are based on the current understanding of the key environmental issues identified as well as the indicative list of environmental protection objectives outlined in the document *Implementation of SEA Directive 2001/42/EC* (DoEHLG, 2004). Selection was also based on consultation with statutory consultees during the scoping stage and discussions between the SEA and Plan Team.

Included in **Table 7.1** are detailed assessment criteria, which represent the issues that will be considered during the assessment of whether the draft Plan, including the proposed alternatives, will contribute to meeting the Strategic Environmental Objectives.

Table 7.1: Strategic Environmental Objectives

Environmental Objective	Detailed Assessment Criteria* – To what extent will the draft Plan policies and objectives:	SEA Topics
Objective 1 Protect and where appropriate, promote and support the enhancement and effective protection of biodiversity in the wider landscape and in particular protected areas and protected species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide effective protection of international, national and local “protected areas”; • Provide effective protection of biodiversity in the wider landscape including species protected by law; • Contribute to Irish Biodiversity Action Plan objectives; • Support delivery of Meath’s Biodiversity Strategies and Meath Biodiversity Plan (2008-2012); and • Contribute towards protection of habitats from invasive species. 	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna (BFF)
Objective 2 Improve people’s quality of life based on high-quality residential, working and recreational environments and on sustainable transport.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet the core strategy of objectives in the Regional Planning Guidelines and the Meath County Development Plan. • Support the Meath and Navan Noise Action Plan; • Increase modal shift to public transport; • Co-ordination of land use and transportation; • Improve access to recreation opportunities; • Protect drinking water areas (including private abstractions); and • Contribute to the mitigation of flooding. 	Population (P)
Objective 3 Improve water quality and the management of watercourses to comply with the standards of the Water Framework Directive and incorporate the objectives of the Floods Directive into sustainable planning and development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve water quality in rivers where currently less than good status and maintain groundwater status; • Support the objectives of the Eastern River Basin Management Plan; • Promote sustainable drainage practices to improve water quality and flow and to enhance opportunities for biodiversity; • Reduce the impacts from point source pollution, diffuse source pollution and morphological alterations; • Ensure sustainable levels of abstraction from surface and groundwater; and • Continue to promote sustainable use of water and water conservation. 	Water (W)
Objective 4 Protect and, where appropriate, enhance the function and quality of the soil resource in the lands within Trim Development Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-use of underutilised lands in favour of development on Greenfield lands; and • Safeguard soil and geological quality, quantity and function. 	Soil (S)
Objective 5 Contribute to mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise emissions of greenhouse gases; • Reduce waste of energy and maximise use of renewable energy sources; • Ensure flood protection and management; • Encourage new housing to be energy efficient; and • Reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change. 	Climate Change (C)

Environmental Objective	Detailed Assessment Criteria* – To what extent will the draft Plan policies and objectives:	SEA Topics
<p>Objective 6</p> <p>Protect and, where appropriate, enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of cultural, architectural and archaeological, heritage within Trim Development Plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve protection for protected archaeological sites and monuments and their settings; • Improve protection for protected structures and conservation areas; • Encourage appropriate re-use of the historic building stock; • Support delivery of County Meath Heritage Plan; • Improve protection for areas of archaeological potential and for undiscovered archaeology; and • Enhance access to sites of heritage interest. 	<p>Cultural Heritage (CH)</p>
<p>Objective 7</p> <p>Protect and, where appropriate, enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of landscapes in Trim Development Plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and, where appropriate, enhance designated areas of high quality landscape; • Protect existing green infrastructure and encourage the delivery of additional green infrastructure where possible • Improve protection for landscapes of recognised quality; • Ensure that landscape character is considered in the development process; and • Maintain clear urban/rural distinctions. 	<p>Landscape (L)</p>
<p>Objective 8</p> <p>Make best use of existing infrastructure and promote the sustainable development of new infrastructure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase local employment opportunities i.e. adequate lands zoned for employment; • Improve efficiencies of transport, energy and communication infrastructure; • Ensure sufficient waste water treatment and water supply infrastructure to serve existing and new development; • Continue to provide water conservation measures; • Reduce the generation of waste and adopt a sustainable approach to waste management as outlined in the Waste Management Plan for the North East Region. 	<p>Material Assets (MA)</p>

*Detailed criteria are cited where appropriate and these will be used to ensure consistent application of the objectives. Note air quality and human health have been screened out as part of the scoping process. See Table 3.2.

7.2.2 Internal Compatibility of Strategic Environmental Objectives

The internal compatibility of the Strategic Environmental Objectives has been examined to identify potential areas of conflict in relation to each objective so that subsequent decisions can be well based. As shown in **Table 7.2** the eight objectives above are generally compatible. In some cases there is no obvious relationship between the objectives.

Table 7.2: Internal Compatibility of Strategic Environmental Objectives

Objective 1 BFF	Y							
Objective 2 P	Y/N	Y						
Objective 3 W	Y	Y	Y					
Objective 4 S	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Objective 5 C	Y	Y	Y	0	Y			
Objective 6 CH	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y	Y		
Objective 7 L	Y/N	Y	Y	Y	0	Y	Y	
Objective 8 MA	Y	Y	Y	Y/N	Y	Y/N	Y	Y
	Obj 1 BFF	Obj 2 P	Obj 3 W	Obj 4 S	Obj 5 C	Obj 6 CH	Obj 7 L	Obj 8 MA

Key: Y = Yes, compatible N = No, not compatible 0 = Neutral Y/N = May be compatible depending on how it is implemented

BFF: Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna; P: Population; S: Soil; W: Water; C: Climate Change; MA: Material Assets; CH: Cultural Heritage; L: Landscape

7.2.3 Strategic Environmental Indicators and Targets

The overall purpose of Environmental Indicators in the SEA is to provide a way of measuring the environmental effect of implementing the draft Plan. Environmental Indicators are also used to track the progress in achieving the Targets set in the SEA as well as the draft Plan itself. The proposed Indicators have been selected bearing in mind the availability of data and the feasibility of making direct links between any changes in the environment and the implementation of the draft Plan.

Targets were identified as part of the baseline data collection and assessment process, and throughout the consultation process, in order to meet the Strategic Environmental Objectives as well as the objectives of the draft Plan. In each case, any target that is set must be attributable to the implementation of the draft Plan. The targets and indicators associated with each SEA Objective are presented in **Table 7.3**.

Table 7.3: Strategic Environmental Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Source/ Responsibility
Objective 1 Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna Protect and where appropriate, promote and support the enhancement and effective protection of biodiversity in the wider landscape and in particular protected areas and protected species.	No net loss of designated sites, species or habitats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported/ Estimated levels of damage to designated sites/ species/ habitats as identified by GIS and AA. No. of Appropriate Assessments Carried out. Number of planning permissions with biodiversity conditions ensuring no net loss of green linkages / ecological networks. Loss of land actively managed for conservation. 	NPWS MCC Planning/ Environment Department

Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Source/ Responsibility
	No net loss of green linkages / ecological networks	Loss of green linkages/ ecological networks identified through GIS and Habitat Mapping.	MCC Environment Department/ GIS
	Implementation of County Meath Biodiversity Plan	No. of actions/ objectives achieved in County Meath Biodiversity Plan.	MCC Environment Department
	Prevent further spread of alien/ invasive species.	Number of sites reported to contain alien/ invasive species.	NPWS MCC Environment Department
Objective 2 Population Improve people's quality of life based on high-quality residential, school, childcare, working and recreational environments and on sustainable transport	No increase in population above core strategy population targets	% change in population based on core strategy targets based on RPG figures.	CSO
	Appropriate mix of tenure types (including social housing) in all new developments.	% of private and social housing in new developments % mix of tenures based on housing strategy requirements.	MCC Planning and Housing Departments
	All significant planning applications for 15 + dwellings to be accompanied by a design statement.	% of significant planning applications granted for new residential developments that are accompanied by a design statement.	MCC Planning Department
Objective 3 Water Improve water quality and the management of watercourses to comply with the standards of the Water Framework Directive and incorporate the objectives of the Floods Directive into sustainable planning and development.	Implementation of the Programme of Measures identified under the ERBD River Basin Management Plan.	% increase and % decrease in waters achieving 'good' status as defined in the WFD.	EPA and MCC Environment Department
Objective 4 Soil Protect and, where appropriate, enhance the function and quality of the soil resource in the lands within Trim Development Plan	Increase in any derelict buildings being redeveloped	Number of derelict buildings being redeveloped based on commencement notices	Commencement notices
Objective 5 Climate Change Contribute to mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.	All new development applications within areas at risk of flooding to submit a flood impact	Number of new development applications within areas at risk of flooding without flood impact assessment.	MCC Planning Department

Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Source/ Responsibility
	assessment.		
	Increase access by households to sustainable forms of transport, including bus and rail services.	Passenger numbers. Funding allocated to improvement of walking and cycling facilities.	MCC Planning and Roads Department
Objective 6 Cultural Heritage Protect and, where appropriate, enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of cultural, architectural and archaeological, heritage within Trim Development Plan.	No impact on the fabric or setting of monuments on the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) by development granted planning permission.	Number of monuments on the RMP, impacted by granted planning permissions.	The Archaeological Survey monitoring programme, Ireland
	No impacts on the architectural heritage value or setting of protected structures by development granted planning permission.	Number of protected structures impacted by development granted planning permission.	Buildings at Risk Register, Heritage Council Ireland. MCC Planning Department
	No protected structures to be demolished because of long term neglect and dereliction.	Number of protected structures that have been demolished because of long term neglect and dereliction.	Buildings at Risk Register, Heritage Council Ireland. MCC Planning Department
Objective 7 Landscape Protect and, where appropriate, enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of landscapes in Trim Development Plan.	No negative alteration to protected views.	Number of visual impact assessments received as part of development proposals	MCC Planning Department
	Maintain and enhance landscape character in accordance with recommendations included in the Meath Landscape Character Assessment as part of MCDP 2013-2019.	No. of new developments granted planning permission within areas of high landscape value and within High Amenity Areas.	MCC Planning Department
	No planning permission granted within special qualities of landscapes that materially contravene the policies or objectives of the Plan.	Number of planning permissions granted which materially contravene the special qualities of landscapes.	MCC Planning Department
Objective 8 Material Assets Make best use of existing infrastructure and promote the sustainable development of new infrastructure.	Minimise the % of unaccounted for water. This refers to leakage from the system.	% unaccounted for water	EPA
	Increase in planning permissions making provision for renewable energy and water conservation measures.	No of planning permissions making provision for renewable energy and water conservation measures.	MCC Planning Department
	Ensure adequate public wastewater and water supply is provided prior to construction of new development or is developed in parallel.	No. of developments granted planning permission without adequate public water supply and / or wastewater services in place.	EPA and MCC Environment Department

Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Source/ Responsibility
	Increase access to public transport from households.	Construction/ improvement of footpaths/ greenways/ cycle infrastructure	MCC Roads Department

8 DEVELOPMENT PLAN ALTERNATIVES

8.1 INTRODUCTION

The preparation of Plan policy and actions affecting a geographical area such as Trim Town and its immediate environs presents a significant opportunity to affect the way physical change and development occurs, where it happens and the character of that process. The SEA process seeks to document the development process where key decisions are reached, and consider the environmental impacts of the policy path chosen. The examination of alternative means of achieving the strategic objectives of the Plan, in the first place recognises the broad challenges before policy makers, as well as seeking the articulation of why the Plan prescribes one path over another.

The consideration of Plan alternatives is a real-world exercise that recognises that the Plan must work within an existing context of National and Regional Strategic Plans, climate change, and an Irish and European legislative framework that has sustainable development at its core. It is not an open-book exercise, where every conceivable option is examined. Therefore, in selecting realistic alternatives that could be evaluated, 'no development' or 'unconstrained development', were considered unreasonable alternatives, as they are unlikely to be delivered and would not reflect the statutory and operational requirements of the Plan.

This section sets out:

- The legislative context for the consideration of alternatives;
- The methodology for assessing and selecting the preferred alternatives; and
- Environmental Assessment of preferred sites.

8.2 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

The consideration of alternatives is a requirement of the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC). It states under Article 5(1) that;

Where an environmental assessment is required under Article 3(1), an environmental report shall be prepared in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated. The information to be given for this purpose is referred to in Annex I.

Annex 1 (h) of the Directive clarifies that the information to be provided on alternatives under Article 5(1), is *inter alia* an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.

Article 9 of the Directive requires that a statement shall be prepared providing information on the reasons for choosing the plan as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with.

Annex 1 (f) details the environmental topics to be considered in the evaluation of the alternatives, which is the same as that addressed in the assessment of the plan itself:

...biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.

Therefore, the Directive emphasises that the SEA process must consider alternatives that are 'reasonable', and take into account 'the objectives' of the plan, and 'the geographical scope of the plan'.

The term 'reasonable' is not defined in the legislation. Good practice points to the analysis of 'alternatives' as being a constructive and informative exercise for the policy makers, and that only 'possible' options for policy are examined. Plan scenarios that run counter to European environmental directives, the National Spatial Strategy (NSS), Ministerial Guidelines or Regional Planning Guidelines (RPG) would not be considered reasonable.

Alternatives are required to take into account the objectives of the Plan. The alternatives study therefore must operate within the strategic objectives, set out for the Plan, and provide an examination of alternative means of implementing the plan.

Section 3.14 of the DEHLG Guidelines notes that the higher the level of the Plan, the more strategic the options which are likely to be available.

The Directive does not prescribe at what stage consideration of alternatives should be undertaken, as it requires a rationale for choosing the Plan as adopted in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with. However, to present a useful input into the plan making process, all guidance points to alternatives assessing the implementation of the Plan at a strategic level, at the stage where the preferred strategy is being finalised. This is not to say that location specific policies should not be examined. But this must be placed within the context of the SEAs role to examine the strategic environmental implications of the direction of the plan at the appropriate policy level.

8.3 METHODOLOGY FOR SELECTING THE ALTERNATIVES

The SEA process seeks to document the Plan process where key decisions are reached, and consider the environmental impacts of the policy path chosen. The examination of alternative means of achieving the strategic objectives of a plan, in the first place recognises the broad challenges before policy makers, as well as seeking the articulation of why the Plan prescribes one path over another.

It is a mandatory objective of a development plan that sufficient lands are zoned for particular purposes. This is especially relevant in relation to the quantum and location of new residentially zoned lands. In this regard it is important to highlight that the 'Core Strategy' of the Trim Development Plan is required to comply with the requirements of the Core Strategy contained within the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 (MCDP).

The MCDP sets out that the draft Plan for Trim will provide for the additional development of 518 residential units up to 2019. This means that there will be a requirement for 14.8 hectares of residentially zoned lands as part of the new Trim Development Plan. There is a resultant 96.9ha in excess zoned residential land and a number of options will need to be looked at including the prioritising/ phasing of development, alternative land use zoning objectives and/ or discontinuing the land use zoning to ensure that the Plan meets with the MCDP Core Strategy.

As of December 2011 there were 912 committed units within the area that had not been built which have been allocated as existing residential development for the purposes of review of residentially zoned lands.

On this basis, seventeen undeveloped sites located within the Plan area have been identified by the Plan makers, Meath County Council and Trim Town Council, and have been assessed by the plan makers with a view to finding the most suitable sites for the preferred future development scenario to accommodate growth within the town from a planning perspective. The following factors have been used to determine the suitability of specific lands for residential development which constitute the proper planning and sustainable development of the town as part of the plan makers' assessment.

- Proximity to the Town Centre – maximise the utility of existing and proposed future infrastructure including public transport options;
- Availability of Public Transport - to maximise public transport investment, it is important that land use planning underpins its efficiency by sustainable transport patterns. This includes promoting higher densities within 500 metres walking distance of a bus stop and proximity to the Route 111 – Dublin to Trim and Athboy to Trim and Route 188 – Drogheda, Slane, Navan, Trim public transport corridors;
- Consideration as to whether a site could be considered an infill site as opposed to extending the urban footprint further from the town centre. Leapfrogging beyond other available sites will not be considered favourably.
- Environmental Constraints – proximity to and potential impact on the qualifying interests of the adjoining Natura 2000 sites; and
- Availability of community and social infrastructure facilities with particular regard to the proximity to schools (primary and secondary).

Sites were rated based on the above factors and ranked in order of preference for zoning to residential use as part of the development plan review process. Seven preferred sites were identified by the Plan makers based on rankings and potential yield. These sites are reference as Site Q, Site O, Site D, Site P, Site C, Site N and Site B and are illustrated within the draft Plan.

This assessment has been reviewed by RPS from an environmental perspective to ensure that the alternatives assessment is comprehensive and addresses environmental factors as well as planning considerations. As part of this process, each of the preferred sites was assessed on the basis of environmental criteria of the SEA Environmental Objectives as set out in **Chapter 7** of this ER in order to identify any potential negative environmental effects in relation to these sites. This assessment was undertaken to identify any potential issues in relation to these sites that may not have been identified as part of the initial alternatives assessment ranking procedure. This essentially is a thorough review of the sites from an environmental perspective. This assessment was used to inform the overall residential strategy for zoning of lands to serve the town. Conclusions and recommendations made in respect of this alternatives assessment are set out in section 8.4 below.

8.4 PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE SITES – ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The plan makers preferred seven alternative sites are assessed in **Tables 8.1 - 8.7**.

Table 8.1: Site Q Environmental Assessment

Site Q	
Environmental Assessment	
SEO 1	Site c.500m from River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA and SAC.
SEO 2	Site c600m from a bus stop and c500m from a secondary school. Noise levels are not significant at 50-105dB.
SEO 3	The site is located in proximity to an area of moderate water quality.
SEO 4	Site is located in pasture land, with the possibility that the site overlaps the discontinuous urban fabric.
SEO 5	Site not located close to an area prone to flooding.
SEO 6	The site is located within c200m of Trim Historical Core Area and the Trim Zone of Archaeological Potential. RMP 72 is located to the south west of the site. Site is located to the west of a number of RPS and NIAH structures.
SEO 7	There are tree(s) to be preserved on, Ref. TP8. There is also a view to be protected no. 11 located to the east of the site along the R158.

Site Q	
Environmental Assessment	
SEO 8	Site is serviced / serviceable in terms of water supply and waste water treatment.

Table 8.2: Site O Environmental Assessment

Site O	
Environmental Assessment	
SEO 1	Borders the River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA and SAC to the south.
SEO 2	Site within 400m of a bus stop and 500m of a secondary school. Noise levels are not significant at 50-105dB.
SEO 3	The site is predominantly located in proximity to an area of moderate water quality. Site adjoins River Boyne to its northern boundary.
SEO 4	Site is classed as discontinuous urban fabric with some pasture land.
SEO 5	Site adjoins River Boyne which is in Flood Zone A-B. The site is also located close to an area of extreme groundwater vulnerability.
SEO 6	The eastern part of the site is located within the Trim Historical Core Area, the Trim Town Walls and the Trim Zone of Archaeological Potential area. It is not located within the Porchfield Conversation Area. However the site is very close to a large number of RPS and NIAH to the east. RMP is located on eastern part of site.
SEO 7	There are tree(s) to be preserved on northern part of site under Ref. TP2. There are views to be protected located to the immediate east of the site along the river (No.'s 4 and 9).
SEO 8	Site is serviced / serviceable in terms of water supply and waste water treatment.

Table 8.3: Site D Environmental Assessment

Site D	
Environmental Assessment	
SEO 1	Located within 100m of River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA and SAC.
SEO 2	Site <400m from a bus stop and <500m from a secondary school. Noise levels in the northern section of this site are significant (up to 135-174dB _{Lden}) along R154.
SEO 3	Site is located in proximity to an area of moderate water quality.
SEO 4	Site is classed as discontinuous urban fabric and partly pasture land.
SEO 5	Part of the north eastern section of the site adjoins Flood Zones A and B.
SEO 6	The site is not located within the Trim Historical Core Area, or the Trim Town Walls. Site located immediately south of Porchfield Conservation Area and also a number of RPS and NIAH structures in this area. It is in the vicinity of TP3 and not far from View 5.
SEO 7	There are no trees to preserve or scenic views or prospects within or in the immediate vicinity of the site.
SEO 8	Site is serviced / serviceable in terms of water supply and waste water treatment.

Table 8.4: Site P Environmental Assessment

Site P	
Environmental Assessment	
SEO 1	Borders the River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA and SAC to the north of the site.
SEO 2	Site 400-600m from a bus stop and 500-750m from a secondary school. Noise levels are not significant in this area and is <50dB.
SEO 3	The site is predominantly located in proximity to an area of moderate water quality. Site is very close to the River Boyne and lies to the south of this river.
SEO 4	Site is predominantly located in pasture land.
SEO 5	Site located immediately to the south of Flood Zone A-B.
SEO 6	Site located within 200m of Trim Historical Core Area, Trim Town Walls and Trim Zone of Archaeological Potential. There are no RMPs or NIAH structures or RPSs located on this site or in the immediate vicinity thereof.
SEO 7	There are no Trees to be preserved or views and prospects on this site.
SEO 8	Site is serviced / serviceable in terms of water supply and waste water treatment.

Table 8.5: Site C Environmental Assessment

Site C	
Environmental Assessment	
SEO 1	Site over 700m from River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA and SAC.
SEO 2	Site c600m from a bus stop and c400m from a secondary school. Noise levels are not significant at a level of 50-105dB.
SEO 3	The site is predominantly located in proximity to an area of moderate water quality.
SEO 4	Site is predominantly located in pasture land.
SEO 5	Site located 200m from Flood Zones A and B to the south east of the site.
SEO 6	The site is located within c300m of Trim Historical Core Area and the Trim Zone of Archaeological Potential. There are no RMPs or NIAH structures on this site.
SEO 7	There are no trees for preservation on site. There is a view to be protected located to the south of the site in the Fosterstown area (View 11).
SEO 8	Site is serviced / serviceable in terms of water supply and waste water treatment.

Table 8.6: Site N Environmental Assessment

Site N	
Environmental Assessment	
SEO 1	Southern boundary c600m from River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA and SAC.
SEO 2	Located c200m from a bus stop and c1km from a secondary school. Noise levels are not significant at a level of 50-105dB.
SEO 3	The site is predominantly located in proximity to an area of moderate water quality.
SEO 4	Site is located in discontinuous urban fabric and pasture land.
SEO 5	Site is not subject to flooding.
SEO 6	The site located within 150m of the Trim Historical Core Area, and Trim Town Walls. No NIAH in immediate vicinity of the site. RPS 116 is in the vicinity of the site. Trim Zone of Archaeological Potential is within 50m of the site to the west and there are RMPs in the vicinity of the site to the northwest of the site.
SEO 7	No trees for preservation or views to be protected in the vicinity of the site.
SEO 8	Site is serviced / serviceable in terms of water supply and waste water treatment.

Table 8.7: Site B Environmental Assessment

Site B	
Environmental Assessment	
SEO 1	Site c.700m from River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA and SAC.
SEO 2	Site c600m from bus stop or secondary school. Noise levels are not significant, at a level of 50-105dB.
SEO 3	The site is predominantly located in proximity to an area of moderate water quality.
SEO 4	Site is predominantly part of the discontinuous urban fabric but lies close to pasture lands to the south and southwest.
SEO 5	Site located within 200m of an area susceptible to flooding to the south of the site.
SEO 6	No cultural heritage issues on site.
SEO 7	No protected trees are on site and no scenic views are likely to be compromised.
SEO 8	Site is serviced / serviceable in terms of water supply and waste water treatment.

8.5 AA SCREENING OF ALTERNATIVES

Appropriate Assessment (AA) has been undertaken which specifically addressed potential impacts on the Natura 2000 sites in proximity to the development plan area. Within a 15km radius of the draft Plan boundary there are fifteen Natura 2000 sites, however there are only two sites within the boundary of the development plan .

8.6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF ALTERNATIVES ASSESSMENT

This planning assessment has been reviewed by RPS from an environmental perspective to ensure that the alternatives assessment is comprehensive and addresses environmental factors as well as planning considerations. This essentially is a thorough review of the sites from an environmental perspective. This assessment was used to inform the overall residential strategy for zoning of lands to serve the town as outlined in the draft Plan.

On review of the ranking system employed by the draft Plan makers to determine the suitability of specific lands for residential development as part of the development plan process it is concluded that this system provides a comprehensive system to ensure the proper planning and sustainable development for the plan area. This ranking system is based on a similar system employed as part of the Core Strategy for the Meath County Development Plan (2013-2019).

As part of this process, each of the preferred sites was assessed on the basis of environmental criteria of the SEA Environmental Objectives as set out in **Chapter 7** of this ER in order to identify any potential negative environmental effects in relation to these sites. This assessment was undertaken to identify any potential issues in relation to these sites that may not have been identified as part of the initial alternatives assessment ranking procedure. Based on the environmental assessment of the seven sites, three factors which have not been factored into the initial ranking assessment undertaken by the Plan makers include:

- Cultural Heritage;
- Landscape and Visual; and
- Servicing requirements.

Based on detailed review of the assessment process it was concluded that cultural heritage, landscape and visual factors should not be included within the ranking system for the following reasons:

- Given the significant heritage and landscape protection afforded to Trim, these factors are likely to be a constraint to the development of nearly all sites within and in the vicinity of the town core. Therefore it is unlikely that inclusion of these factors within the ranking system would not have any benefit. Instead it is recommended that detailed protective policies are included within the plan to afford protection to cultural heritage. It is also recommended that detailed protective policies and associated mapping should be included within the draft Plan warranting protection of scenic views and prospects within the town.

Initially a deficiency was identified in the ranking of sites in respect of the omission of servicing of residentially zoned lands as a factor to be considered as part of this process. The Plan makers have advised that there are areas of constraint on certain sections of the sewer network within the town in their assessment. However this assessment confirms that all of the preferred seven sites are serviced or easily serviceable in terms of water supply and waste water treatment on the public system. The Council have also committed to including an objective within the draft Plan to create a map of serviced areas within the town during the lifetime of the draft Plan under INF OBJ 1.

Detailed discussions have taken place between the SEA Team and the Plan team in order to arrive at the current residential development strategy within the draft Plan. It is concluded that the alternatives assessment as it stands is comprehensive and addresses environmental factors as well as planning considerations.

9 EVALUATION OF PLAN POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES

9.1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this section of the Environmental Report is to evaluate as far as possible the potential environmental effects of the draft Plan policies and objectives and to set out measures to prevent, reduce and as far as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment. The compatibility of the policies and objectives of the Plan have been reviewed against the Strategic Environmental Objectives for biodiversity, flora and fauna, population, soil, water, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape (as set out in **Table 7.1**). The approach used for assessing the policies / objectives for the Plan is an objectives led approach using assessment matrices in line with current best practise for SEA of land use Plans in Ireland. Where feasible, baseline led assessment has also been used, to ensure as robust an assessment as possible.

9.2 POLICIES AND ACTIONS SCREENED OUT OF ASSESSMENT

In order to streamline the assessment process, all policies/ objectives within the draft Plan that have a positive effect on the environment were identified. These policies/ objectives were then 'Screened Out', of the assessment process as they clearly demonstrated that they were having a positive influence on the environment. The Assessment Matrices in **Appendix D** have included these policies/ objectives but they have been shaded in green for clarification as they are screened out of the assessment process.

Table 9.1 provides an overall summary of the policies/ objectives contained within the draft Plan and it categorises the policies/ objectives according to their impact on the environment. The policies/ objectives which have been screened out are identified within the 'Positive' column and shown in **GREEN**. There are some policies that were identified as being positive but were not screened out as it was felt that there could be uncertain elements which required further assessment therefore they were included within the full assessment process.

Table 9.1: Draft Plan Policy/ Objectives Impacts

	Positive Impacts (Screened Out)	Neutral / uncertain Impacts	Potential Negative Impacts	Potential Negative Impacts subject to mitigation
Core Strategy	Core Strategy Pol 1 - 10, 14 Strategic Aims 1-4 Strategic Aim 5 Core Strategy POL 11 - 13, 15-17			
Residential	Key Aims 1-2, 4 Key Aim 3, 5 HS POL 1-4, 8-12 HS POL 5-7 HS OBJ 1-3			
Economic Activity	Key Aims 1-5 ECON POL 2-5, 7-11 ECON OBJ 1 EMP OBJ 2 ECON POL 6, 12			ECON POL 1
Landscape Heritage Conservation	Key Aims 1-3 Key Aim 4 HER POL 1-15 HER OBJ 1-14 GI POL 1-5 GI OBJ 1-4, 6-8			GI OBJ 5
Urban Design: Built Form	Key Aims 1-4 DP POL 1-5			DP OBJ 1 DP OBJ 4-5

	Positive Impacts (Screened Out)	Neutral / uncertain Impacts	Potential Negative Impacts	Potential Negative Impacts subject to mitigation
	DP OBJ 2-3			
Movement/Transport	Key Aims 1-2 TRAN POL 1-4, 8, 11-18, 20-23 TRAN OBJ 2, 6, 11 INF OBJ 19 TRAN POL 5-6, 24 TRAN OBJ 13, 19	TRAN OBJ 8, 9, 12,	TRAN POL 9 TRAN OBJ 5, 10	Key Aim 3 TRAN POL 7 10, 19 TRAN OBJ 4, 7-10, 12, 14-18
Energy and Telecommunications	Key Aim 2 TE POL 1, 6-10 TE POL 2-5, 11-14, 17- 18, TE OBJ 1	Key Aim 1	Key Aim 4 TE POL 16, 19	Key Aim 3 TE POL 15, 1
Environmental infrastructure	Key Aims 1-4 INF POL 1-33 INF OBJ 1, 2			
Social and Community Development	Key Aims 1-4 SOC POL 1-4, 8-9, 12, 15-22, 24, 26 SOC OBJ 2, 5, 7, 9 SOC POL 6,	SOC POL 5, 7	SOC POL 10, 13-14, 23 SOC OBJ 3-4, 6	SOC POL 11, 25 SOC OBJ 1, 8
Retail and Neighbourhood Centre	Ret POL 1-2, 4-6, 8-9, 13-14 RET POL 3, 10-12, 15			RET OBJ 1 RET POL 7
Prevention of Major Accidents	PMA Pol 1-4			
Tourism	TOUR POL 1, 3, 7 TOUR OBJ 2 TOUR POL 11 TOUR OBJ 3 TOUR OBJ 4	TOUR POL 10	TOUR POL 6	TOUR POL 2, 4, 5, 8-9 TOUR OBJ 1
Land Use Zoning Designations	A1, F1, H1		A2, B1, B2	C1, D1, E2, G1
Development Management	Key Aims 1-2			
Trim Local Transport Plan	Plan Aims 1-4 Plan Aim 5 INF POL 4-11, 13-16 INF OBJ 2, 4, 9	INF POL 3	Provision Of Town Centre Roads INF POL 1 INF OBJ 7	Bus Services Road Safety Traffic Management Walking & Cycling Town Centre Walking & Cycling Town Centre Car Parking Improve General Traffic Network New Roads Scheme INF POL 2, 12 INF OBJ 1, 3, 5, 8, 10

9.3 IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

A pro-active approach has been taken in the methodology of this draft Plan through inclusion of a number of overall protective policies within the Plan in the first instance, these policies/ objectives are outlined in **Table 11.1**, within the mitigation chapter. It is intended that these policies/ objectives will protect against potential significant impacts as a result of implementation of the draft Plan.

The following section of the report provides a discussion of the main likely significant impacts (positive and negative, direct and indirect, cumulative and synergistic), which are anticipated from implementation of the policies/ objectives contained within the draft Plan. The draft Plan contains numerous policies/ objectives which have been assessed for environmental impacts. These are provided in a series of assessment matrices as detailed in **Appendix D** of this report. Assessments are also based on relevant associated text surrounding the relevant policies and actions in their relevant sections within the draft Plan. All policies which have been screened out are shaded in green.

The assessment matrices contain a comparison of each of the draft Plan policies/ objectives against each of the Strategic Environmental Objectives with an assessment rating assigned for the purposes of comparison. In this case, plus (+) indicates a potential positive impact, minus (-) indicates a potential negative impact, plus/minus (+/-) indicates that both positive and negative impacts are likely or that in the absence of further detail the impact is unclear, and a neutral or no impact is indicated by a zero (0). Combinations of these symbols are also possible, e.g.0/-, which indicates that impact may be neutral or negative depending on how the policy or objective is delivered.

It should be highlighted at the outset though that any proposed development has the potential to have negative effects, whether it's on biodiversity, flora and fauna, on water, soil or landscape. So for the purposes of this assessment it is taken as a given that there are adequate policies within the draft Plan to offset against standard development impacts and therefore negative impacts shall only be identified whereby there is insufficient policies in the plan to mitigate against such impacts and in these cases, mitigation will be proposed.

Where negative impacts have been identified mitigation measures have been devised where possible through inclusion of either new policies / objectives, or recommendations have been made to amend or include additional text within the policies / objectives. Comments with respect to the recommended mitigation measures identified as a result of this assessment are noted within the comments section of the matrices and the associated mitigation measures and / or changes are denoted in **RED** of ~~strike through~~ in respect of deletions within the policy column section within **Appendix D** of this report. All mitigation measures proposed as a result of this assessment are documented in **Chapter 11** of this environmental report.

9.4 OVERVIEW OF EVALUATION OF POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES

9.4.1 Primary Objectives of the draft Plan

The vision for draft Plan seeks an overall balance for the town between development and the natural and built environment. The overall tenet of the vision is expanded upon in the principle objectives for the draft Plan area. The vision for the draft Plan is in line with the Core Strategy of the CDP and subsequently this draft Plan and is likely to have an overall positive effect on the Plan area going forward.

9.4.2 Core Strategy

The Trim Development Plan Core Strategy sets out the overall desired outcome of the successful implementation of the Plan itself. The objectives are largely positive, aiming to improve the quality of life of the residents and make the town attractive to tourists. The core strategy outlines the general targets that the Plan should achieve if implemented successfully. This includes provisions for the sustainable growth of Trim in terms of economy and, and also of the supporting implementation of necessary infrastructure to provide for the needs of town in its role as a Moderate Sustainable Growth Town. It proposes a number of objectives including new residential developments, upgrading of facilities and services including schools, roads and green infrastructure, as well as the creation of new jobs in retail/commerce.

The core strategy for the town is based on the overall principle of balanced growth between residential and employment development within the town with a reduction in the town centre, reducing the need to commute outside the Plan area for employment and retailing needs. The core strategy aims to ensure that there are sufficient lands zoned for town centre development, employment, residential, tourism and other uses. The core strategy itself recognises the need to protect the natural and built heritage of Trim, given the wealth of protected structures, historical sites and monuments, the town walls, and of course the SAC and SPA designated sites. The core strategy aims to improve the quality of Trim Town to promote tourism and to ensure the sustainable and appropriate growth of Trim the area.

9.4.3 Economy, Employment and Retail

The draft Plan places strong emphasis on developing the local economy and providing a diverse range of jobs within Trim. It aims to promote Trim as a District Employment Centre which accommodates large scale industry and enterprise, to invest in the town and to support Trim's role in providing local employment. The Plan also takes into account the need to protect and enhance the special character of Trim Town centre and to provide for improved retailing, residential, commercial, office, cultural and touristic uses of the town centre. The emphasis on diversification of the uses of the town centre will provide several channels through which economic development can progress, allowing for both the tourist industry, its supporting commercial and retail facilities, and other economic activity to expand. This requires appropriate zoning of lands in the B1 Commercial / Town Centre uses, B2 Retail Warehousing and E2 for general enterprise and employment uses.

It provides the policies and objectives to guide the future development of enterprise and employment in Trim and ensures that there is sufficient suitable land zoned for employment and retail uses and maximise potential opportunities in the retail sector to address significant convenience and comparison retail leakage. Overall these policies are considered positive as which are considered they will reduce the need to travel outside the area for retail and employment uses.

Objectives for the development of commercial, industrial and enterprise and employment uses are anticipated to have a positive direct impact on population and material assets as these land uses will help to reinforce the town's designation as a Moderate Sustainable Growth Town under the Regional Planning Guidelines. The zoning of these lands provides an opportunity to increase employment in these areas and as a result to improve quality of life for those living in Trim Town and environs. Secondary positive impacts on population, climate, landscape and material assets as these objectives would be expected to discourage sprawl of these uses in an unregulated manner throughout the town.

As with all new developments within commercial, industrial, enterprise and employment zones have the potential for effects in combination (along with other developments planned for the town) and impacts on biodiversity, soil, water and landscape through pressure on wastewater systems, water supplies and through development of greenfield lands. However, any new developments on these lands would be subject to the normal development management process which is likely to offset any significant impacts associated with development of these lands.

9.4.4 Heritage, Tourism and Green Infrastructure

The policies relating to heritage and tourism in the draft Plan are inextricably linked. Trim's attraction as a tourist destination is largely dependent on its cultural heritage, which therefore must be afforded special attention. The draft Plan focuses on conservation and, where possible, enhancement of Trim's castle, town walls, monuments, and views. These are of value to Trim not only in terms of the potential for tourism that they represent, but are also the manifestations of a rich cultural history that in itself warrants protection.

The importance of green infrastructure is recognised in the draft Plan. The LAP maps describe the different green infrastructure identified in the town including relevant policies for its protection and enhancement. There are two Natura 2000 sites within the draft Plan area boundary, policies and

objectives requiring the protection of River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA are provided within the draft Plan area.

The policies for natural heritage for the draft Plan will generally be positive for biodiversity as it aims to protect and promote opportunities for enhancement of local biodiversity features throughout the draft Plan area. Specific policies to protect the status of Natura 2000 sites and their associated habitats and features are provided within the draft Plan which will have overall positive impacts with regard to biodiversity. Positive secondary impacts are also likely to occur in the areas of soil and water, as the protection, conservation and enhancement of biodiversity is expected to also result in protection of these resources due to the controls that would be placed on development during its implementation. Secondary impacts on landscape may also occur as a result of implementation of protective policies on the natural environment.

The policies for cultural, architectural and archaeological heritage will generally be positive particularly for cultural heritage and landscape through the recognition, protection and preservation of the cultural heritage (including archaeology and architecture) of Trim.

A series of local routes are identified for recreation and tourism use and to increase permeability within and around the town. Policies requiring the protection of existing open space and the high amenity areas are also provided for within the draft Plan.

The Meath County Development Plan contains a Green Infrastructure Strategy which has informed the draft Plan. The policies for green infrastructure within the draft Plan are aimed at protecting, improving and enhancing open spaces and a range of facilities providing for leisure and relaxation throughout the Town. These policies are expected to result in largely positive direct, and indirect impacts to population through the improvements to the quality of life. Indirect positive effects are also anticipated with respect to biodiversity and landscape as a result. Policies and objectives with respect to green infrastructure and open space will primarily result in direct positive impacts to population and landscape with potential indirect and / or secondary impacts with respect to biodiversity, soils and water.

9.4.5 Residential

The draft Plan has a comprehensive and inclusive vision for the development of housing provisions within the town of Trim. The overall objectives are to provide for housing needs of the community with the associated facilities, such as shops and public transport. The draft Plan does not overlook the needs of those with disabilities, the elderly and travellers and makes special provisions for appropriate housing for these demographics.

The draft Plan distinguishes between new and existing residential plans, promoting the protection of existing residential areas and ensuring that new development has access to appropriate amenity space so as to ensure that these areas are attractive places to live. Where new development is proposed, the design will be of the highest possible quality, and access to local amenities such as shops will be taken into account during the planning phase. Special consideration will be given to the need for affordable accommodation.

The development of lands for residential use will have an overall beneficial effect on population, climate change, landscape and material assets as residential development will be developed in a planned, phased and serviced manner in line with the alternatives assessment of the draft Plan. This would result in high quality living environments; it promotes sustainable transport, walking and cycling and will reduce potential effects on landscape from otherwise sprawling developments throughout the environs of the town.

As with all new developments on greenfield sites, there is potential for negative effects on biodiversity, water and soils. However it is anticipated that any potential mitigation measures would be offset or mitigated against through the normal development management process.

9.4.6 Design and Public Realm

The planned development of Trim will require the design of new buildings and designs for the restoration or improvement of existing buildings. Therefore it is crucial that this design be as controlled as possible so as to protect and preserve the character and setting of the historic core of Trim. The Plan will require that all new development, including work by public authorities, demonstrates high quality in architecture and urban design consistent with the guidelines in this plan, and make a positive contribution to the public realm, streetscape and amenities of Trim.

The Plan aims to improve the quality of public space in the form of a linear park, and the Porch-field through the provision of seating areas, appropriate litter collection facilities and good quality walking paths to make the Porch-field and River Boyne the central recreational facility for Trim. It will also improve existing pathways west of Watergate Bridge, having regard to the sensitive nature of the area as an SAC and SPA, and to create links with roadways in residential areas to provide a network of pedestrian and cycle routes. This will benefit positively the town of Trim, making it a more attractive and friendly urban environment which encourages a vibrant town centre atmosphere and improves facilities. Policies and objectives in relation to design and public realm are largely considered to have positive effects on the environment of the town.

9.4.7 Community Facilities, Recreation and Open Space

An integral part of the draft Plan is to ensure that all developments make adequate provision for community, recreational and amenity facilities that are located where they can best meet the needs of the entire community that the facility is intended to serve and to seek their provision concurrent with development. This and other related policies will aim to provide affordable, quality childcare and healthcare facilities, in convenient and appropriate locations, and assist in developing Trim as an Age Friendly Town. The development plan also includes provision of sufficient schooling.

The draft Plan aims to ensure that high quality open space is provided to serve the active and passive recreational needs of the population of Trim. Adequate lands are to be zoned for open and recreational spaces, and will be planned in such a manner so as to connect established amenity areas and not limiting access to the Porch-field area, whilst protecting all sites which require it under the Natura 2000 network. The draft Plan also designates public open space adjacent to the southern side of the upstanding remains of the Medieval Town Wall to provide an appropriate setting, presentation and interpretation of this feature. Policies and objectives in relation to community, recreation and open space are largely positive in the context of the development of the town.

9.4.8 Traffic and Transport

Many of the policies and objectives for Transport promote the use of sustainable forms of transport, such as walking, cycling and public transport networks, and as such will have positive benefits on the wider environment. This also has positive indirect and cumulative impacts in relation to climate as a result of the decrease in emissions associated with a reduction in use of private vehicles; positive impacts on population through reduced congestion, lower transport emissions and improved economic competitiveness; and positive impacts on material assets through provision of improved infrastructure for users of sustainable transport modes, e.g. public transport, cycling and walking.

In addition, promotion of sustainable travel with integrated land use and transportation policies should encourage the redevelopment of Trim rather than development on sites that are not currently serviced by public transport or cycle/walking networks, thus resulting in a positive direct impact on material assets.

There is potential for indirect negative effects with regard to the development of new road infrastructure with respect to biodiversity, water, soils and landscape in particular. Route selection and environmental assessment of road infrastructure will be important in terms of avoidance of impacts.

9.4.9 Energy and Communications

The adequacy of energy and communications infrastructure in the future development of the town is necessary to facilitate sustainable development. These key issues are addressed in various policies and objectives to provide servicing the predicted requirements for future development of the town over the plan period.

In addition, the Plan sets out its aims and objectives for improving the energy infrastructure and means of transmission. Long term, the Plan seeks to improve energy efficiency throughout Trim, by upgrading the facilities of existing buildings and ensuring that any new building designs follow best practice in energy efficiency. This will reduce waste and after an initial investment, reduce costs.

There are also provisions for the improvement and security of the gas and electricity supplies, and their associated networks, for the town. It will be a requirement that these be placed underground where possible. This will be consistent with the Meath County Council Climate Change Strategy and Energy Management Action Plan 2011-2012 'Think Globally Act Locally', and will positively affect the resident population and fulfil the energy and communications needs of future generations.

9.4.10 Infrastructure

The development and improvement of infrastructure in Trim is a recurring theme across many of the categorised objectives of the draft Plan. The planned improvements are to environmental, transport, communications, health/childcare, schooling, utilities and tourist infrastructure. The developments should bring direct benefits to the resident and visiting populations and improve the overall quality of life in Trim.

The adequacy of water, drainage and environmental services in the future development of the town is necessary to facilitate sustainable development. These key issues are addressed in various policies and objectives to provide for sufficient water, waste water and water drainage infrastructure to service the predicted requirements for future development of the town over the plan period. Relevant legislative requirements in relation to environmental requirements are also set out including policies and objectives relating to flood risk requirements.

The policies for public services relate to reliable and effective water, drainage, energy, waste management and communications infrastructure to service the existing and future development needs of the town, in an environmentally sustainable manner during the plan period.

The policies in relation to waste management will generally have positive direct and indirect impacts through the provision of recycling facilities throughout the plan area which benefits biodiversity, flora and fauna, population, soils, water, air quality and climate, cultural heritage, landscape, and material assets.

9.4.11 Land Use Zoning Objectives

The Trim Development Plan (2014-2020) provides a development framework to guide the development within the area for the next six years. As part of this development framework, one of the key principles to this approach as set out in the draft Plan is to achieve growth rates over the short to medium term through development of residential, employment, recreational, retail and educational facilities. The framework going forward is provided for in the land use zoning map in the draft Plan and associated land use zoning objectives, in **Table 9.2**, which have been assessed in relation to strategic environmental objectives for the subject of this report. The purpose of land use zoning is to indicate to property owners, and to the general public, the types of development that the Council considers most appropriate in each zone.

Table 9.2: Land Use Zonings

Zoning Objective	Description
A1 Existing Residential	To protect and enhance the amenity of developed residential communities.
A2 New Residential	To provide for new residential communities with ancillary community facilities, neighbourhood facilities and employment uses as considered appropriate for the status of the centre in the Settlement Hierarchy
B1 Commercial / Town or Village Centre	To protect, provide for and / or improve town and village centre facilities and uses.
B2 Retail Warehouse Park	To provide for the development of a retail warehouse park.
C1 Mixed Use	To provide for and facilitate mixed residential and business uses.
D1 Tourism	To provide for appropriate and sustainable visitor and tourist facilities and associated uses.
E2 General Enterprise & Employment	To provide for the creation of enterprise and facilitate opportunities for employment through industrial, manufacturing, distribution, warehousing and other general employment / enterprise uses in a good quality physical environment.
F1 Open Space	To provide for and improve open spaces for active and passive recreational amenities.
G1 Community Infrastructure	To provide for necessary community, social and educational facilities.
H1 High Amenity	To protect and improve areas of high amenity.

10 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

10.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter of the Environmental Report provides an outline of the potential cumulative effects on the environment as a result of implementing the Trim Development Plan (2014-2020).

Cumulative effects are referred to in a number of SEA guidance documents and are defined in the EPA SEA Process Checklist (2011) as “*effects on the environment that result from incremental changes caused by the strategic action together with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. These effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over time or space*”. Therefore the combined effect of human activity can pose a serious threat on our environment. These effects can be insignificant individually, but cumulatively over time and from a number of sources, can result in the degradation of sensitive environmental resources.

The 2004 Guidelines produced by the DEHLG outlines that the SEA process is in a good position to address cumulative effects for which the Environmental Impact Assessment process is not equipped to deal with. Due to the strategic nature of the SEA process a forum is provided in which cumulative effects can be addressed. The EPA is presently undertaking a study in relation to cumulative effects and it is anticipated that a *draft Cumulative Effects – Best Practice Guidance Document* will be available soon to SEA practitioners.

10.2 LEGISLATION

The consideration of cumulative effects is a requirement of the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC). It states under Article 5(1) that an Environmental Report shall be prepared and relevant criteria is provided in Annex I, which states that;

“The likely significant effect (these effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects) on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors”.

Under Article 3(5) of the SEA Directive the determination of likely significant effects is addressed and within this it is stated that Member States shall take into account the relevant criteria within Annex II. Under Annex II (2) it is stated that “characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to the cumulative nature of the effects”.

10.3 PLANNING

The National Spatial Strategy (NSS) sets out the national context for spatial planning with the overall aim of achieving a better balance of economic, social and physical development. This NSS together with the Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) must inform the development within the county of Meath. The RPGs are a means by which to implement the NSS by providing detailed policy and guidance. These RPGs provide a long term planning framework for the development of a region, thereby providing a strategic forum in which cumulative effects can be identified. The Planning and Development Act clarifies the key obligations required of Planning Authorities whilst envisaging close alignment between the NSS, the RPGs, Development Plans and Local Area Plans.

Meath lies within the geographical area of the RPGs for the Greater Dublin Area 2010-2022. In accordance with national and European legislation SEA was undertaken to assess the potential significant environmental impacts and effects of the RPGs. Environmental factors have been

integrated into the development of the RPGs and the related decision making process through the SEA process, thereby addressing cumulative effects within the broad context of the geographical areas of Trim, Meath, Westmeath and Dublin.

The framework for development within the county of Meath is outlined within the Meath CDP 2013-2019 which was prepared under the provisions of the Planning and Development Act. This document which sets out the strategy for proper planning and sustainable development of the County was also the subject of SEA and cumulative impacts with respect to the entire county of Meath were identified.

Under the Planning Act, Development Plans have the responsibility for presenting a strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of a specific area which for the purposes of this draft Plan is for the Trim Development Plan area. The draft Plan will set out a strategic framework for planning covering the period 2014-2020. There are a number of potential pressures on the environment from this draft Plan, including such issues as population increases, increased housing units and associated developments. The key environmental sensitivities affected by these potential **pressures** are addressed in the following section.

10.4 KEY ENVIRONMENTAL RECEPTORS

Trim resides within the Greater Dublin Water Supply Area and therefore cumulative pressures will be addressed in the context of planning for this region.

The River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA runs directly through Trim Town. Therefore any land zoning or development can have significant cumulative impacts on Natura 2000 sites, and other species requiring protection under the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. For this reason, a strict process of evaluation has been carried out in order to minimise and where possible avoid negative impacts to biodiversity, including wildlife habitats, and to flora and fauna directly. However, it must be noted that the flooding of the river Boyne can also subject the local natural environment to adverse effects. A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for County Meath was prepared by Meath County Council as part of the review of the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019. An area specific SFRA was also prepared as part of this Development Plan review to guide the future development of Trim, on the basis of which certain lands have been dezoned for development due to the high risk of flooding, to ensure that flooding is not exacerbated in the future as a result of poor land use zoning choices.

Some of the underlying objectives of the Plan are in direct conflict with one another, which can also create a situation where cumulative (negative) impacts are possible. With populations expected to increase and a growing need for land to be zoned for accommodation and amenities, there will be increased cumulative pressure on land, the natural environment, infrastructure and other associated services in the future. Indeed, water demand within the Plan area has increased over the last number of years and therefore the existing water treatment works had to be upgraded. We can expect further increases in demand with a growing resident population and the expected rise in tourism. With MCC being granted an abstraction order for 44,000 cu.m/d from the River Boyne at Dowdstown, we can expect increased cumulative impacts on the River Boyne, an SAC and SPA, in terms of water supply. Therefore monitoring and review of water supply to serve the growing population of these areas will be required.

Equally, the Trim Development Plan is very strongly focused on developing and improving amenities in the town centre, in order to boost the local economy, create jobs, encourage sustainable transport and make Trim Town centre a vibrant urban area. This is also in direct conflict with strategies of protection of the River Boyne SAC and SPA, given that the river runs directly through the town centre. Any development works, construction or restoration, are likely to have negative impacts on these protected areas, which are already sensitive and will also be compounded by the effects of an increased population, which largely equates to increased pressures on land and water supply, and a greater potential for pollution.

In the same vein, the Development Plan's aims for increasing the attractiveness to tourists of Trim Town by preserving and promoting its rich historical character and cultural heritage, runs contrary to its aims for protecting it. When coupled with an increased population, a greater number of tourists can increase cumulative pressures on water supply, waste water and municipal waste management, energy supply, and traffic. The infrastructure to support an increased population and more tourists will need to grow in parallel in a sustainable manner in order to avoid escalation of these cumulative impacts.

Aside from the cumulative impacts of population growth, other compound effects were considered as part of the SEA. Of note are the possible cumulative effects of the improvement of the amenity of the town centre and in respect of transport development. Improvement works within the town centre are planned for several reasons, including increasing the attractiveness of Trim Town to tourists as well as local residents. Although this will concentrate the commercial centre and reduce vehicular travel of those commuting outside of the area, it has great potential to impact upon the River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA and SAC. In addition, the increase in the number of tourists visiting the area is likely to increase traffic within the plan area also, thus the cumulative impacts of town centre development, especially when coupled with the growth of the resident population, could be quite considerable. It is for this reason that the draft Plan took these cumulative impacts into account when compiling policies to ensure sufficient provision of car and bus parking close to the town centre along with other protective policies to ensure the conservation status of the town centre.

10.5 CONCLUSION

The environment of Trim Town and its surrounding areas contains sensitive ecological areas, including the SPA and SAC of the River Boyne, and the related surface and groundwater systems. The draft Plan has inherited population targets and projections from higher level plans in the planning hierarchy including the Regional Planning Guidelines and the Meath County Development Plan. As a result, a core strategy has been formed which makes provision for projected targets at national, regional and local levels, which are not only in line with one another but also ensure a sustainable pattern of growth within the hierarchy.

It is clear from this assessment that this will result in increased pressure on land resources and existing services such as wastewater disposal and water supplies within these areas, as well as municipal waste management and other pressures associated with increased population and also tourism, such as traffic. The Trim Development Plan will adhere to the Core Strategy for Meath County, taking into account the environment and sustainability and making provisions for the protection of the environment through phased development and the provision of adequate services

11 MITIGATION MEASURES

11.1 INTRODUCTION

Annex 1 (g) of the SEA Directive requires that the Environmental Report describe the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and/or offset as fully as possible any significant adverse effects on the environment from implementation of the Plan. The key recommendations arising from the SEA are outlined in **Table 11.1** of this section of the Environmental Report.

11.2 HOW HAS THE SEA INFLUENCED THE DRAFT PLAN

Integration of the SEA and the draft Plan was achieved through involvement of the relevant team members at the key stages of the project, including SEA Scoping, review of the existing environment and generation of policies/ objectives. The SEA, AA and Plan teams participated in meetings, telephone and email discussions in relation to development of alternatives, gathering of baseline environment data and development of policy and text recommendations for inclusion in the draft Plan.

11.3 MITIGATION MEASURES

In advance of the SEA/ AA team receiving the draft policies/ objectives the Trim Development Plan team was provided with a document from the SEA/ AA team which contained a number of relevant environmental policies for reference within the development of the draft policies/ objectives. **Table 11.1** provides a list of the policies that were recommended for inclusion in the draft Plan as a result of this first phase of mitigation. These policies/ objectives mainly relate to specific general environmental concerns that should be included as policy within the draft Plan from the outset as identified by environmental authorities on other SEAs, based on shortfalls identified under the baseline environment Section 5 of this report and based on requirements of relevant legislative and guidance requirements. The first column provides the recommended policies/ objectives from the SEA and AA team and the second column outlines if these policies/ objectives are included in the draft Plan. All outstanding policies which have yet to be included in the plan are outlined in **Red Text**.

Table 11.1: Mitigation Measures – Initial Measures Proposed

	General Overarching Policy/ Objectives	Address of Changes to draft Plan
1.	The overarching policies and objectives of the Meath County Development Plan will equally apply to any development and any associated works, individually or in combination with other plans or projects within the Plan boundary.	Core Strategy POL 16 <i>"The overarching policies and objectives of the Meath County Development Plan will equally apply to any development and any associated works, individually or in combination with other plans or projects within the Plan boundary."</i>
2.	The EU Directives for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) are the fundamental policy framework of environmental protection measures and legislation for the delivery of the policies within this document and full compliance with the EIA and SEA Directives shall be provided.	Section 1.10 Chapter 1 Introduction <i>"The Trim Development Plan is required to undergo Strategic Environmental Assessment in order to improve planning and environmental management of future development in the town."</i>
3.	Ensure that all plans and projects in the County which could, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site (or sites) will be subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening. [Recommend that this policy is included in the strategic policy section at the front of the Development Plan and again in relevant chapters throughout the Development Plan].	Included in HER OBJ 3 <i>"All plans and projects which would be likely (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) to give rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites having regard to their conservation objectives, shall not be permitted on the basis of this Plan"</i> A number of individual policies and objectives also include specific requirement for AA.

	Biodiversity and Natural Heritage	
4.	Conserve, enhance and manage the County's natural heritage including its biodiversity, landscapes and geological heritage and promote understanding of and sustainable access to it.	HER POL 1 <i>"To protect and enhance the quality of the natural and built heritage of Trim, to safeguard it as a resource in its own right and ensure that future generations can understand and appreciate their heritage."</i>
5.	Protect the ecological integrity of proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Statutory Nature Reserves, Refuges for Fauna and Annex I habitats.	HER OBJ 2 <i>"To protect the ecological integrity of all natural heritage sites designated or proposed for designation under National and European legislation. This includes Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas."</i>
6.	Ensure that all plans and projects in the County which could, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site (or sites) will be subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening.	HER OBJ 3 (as above) and HER OBJ 6 <i>"Planning Authority will...Carry out screening to determine the potential for all proposed plans and projects authorised by the Councils to impact (directly or through indirect cumulative impact) on Natura 2000 sites."</i>
7.	To ensure that a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is produced once Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening has indicated likely significant effects on the integrity, defined by the structure and function, of any Natura 2000 sites.	Not mentioned specifically in the draft Plan but would assume this objective would be respected given implementation requirement in respect of AA.
8.	To promote the maintenance and, as appropriate, the achievement of favourable conservation status of Natura 2000 sites and their associated habitats and species, in association with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).	HER OBJ 5 <i>"...pursuant to Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, and where possible, minimise the impact of new development on habitats of biodiversity value that are features of the town's ecological network"</i> . Also HER OBJ 8: <i>To co-operate with statutory authorities and others in support of measures taken to manage designated nature conservation sites and protected species in order to achieve their conservation objectives</i>
9.	To promote the protection of habitats which, by virtue of their linear and continuous structure (e.g. rivers and their banks) or their contribution as stepping stones (e.g. ponds or small woods), are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species and these should be mapped within the Plan area.	HER OBJ 5 <i>"It is an objective of the plan to protect, pursuant to Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, and where possible, minimise the impact of new development on habitats of biodiversity value that are features of the town's ecological network. These features include tree lines, groups of trees and veteran trees, old walls, parkland, hedgerows, intertidal areas, rivers, streams and wetlands important for the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species"</i> GI OBJ 1 <i>"To prepare a GI map illustrating habitat types and ecological networks which can be utilised in the assessment of planning applications to protect and enhance urban biodiversity."</i>
10.	To promote the approach of an Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment (IBIA) where suited as an efficient framework in order to streamline biodiversity consideration while assessing environmental impacts within the SEA, EIA and AA objectives, targets and indicators.	Not included in draft Plan. Detailed protected biodiversity policies and objectives included within draft Plan.
11.	To support the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG), in the maintenance and, as appropriate, the achievement of favourable conservation status for the habitats and species to which the EU Habitats Directive applies.	HER OBJ 5 (as above) HER OBJ 8 <i>To co-operate with statutory authorities and others in support of measures taken to manage designated nature conservation sites and protected species in order to achieve their conservation objectives</i>

12.	To consult with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) when undertaking, approving and authorising development which is likely to affect plant, animal or bird species protected by law. In the event of a proposed development impacting on a site known or likely to be a breeding or resting site of species listed in Habitats Regulations a derogation licence, issued by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG) will be required in advance of a permission.	HER OBJ 5 (as above); HER OBJ 7 <i>"The Planning Authority will consult with the prescribed bodies and appropriate government agencies, when considering, undertaking or authorising developments or other activities which are likely to affect protected sites or species"</i> and HER OBJ 8 <i>"To co-operate with statutory authorities and others in support of measures taken to manage designated nature conservation sites and protected species in order to achieve their conservation objectives."</i>
13.	To ensure the implementation of the EU Freshwater Fish Directive and its transposition into Irish legislation in order to protect any fish and shellfish habitat in the Plan area.	<p>INF POL 31 <i>"To protect water courses, banks and bankside vegetation from interference by inappropriate bridging, draining, culverting or other works which would be detrimental to fisheries, biodiversity and the qualifying interests of Natura 2000 sites."</i></p> <p>INF POL 6 <i>"To support the implementation of the EU Freshwater Fish Directive and its transposition into Irish legislation in order to protect any fish and shellfish habitat in the Plan area"</i>.</p> <p>INF POL 7 <i>"All works that have potential to impact on fisheries are required to adhere to IFI Fisheries Protection Guidelines entitled 'Requirements for the Protection of Fisheries habitat during Construction and Development Works'."</i></p> <p>INF POL 8 <i>"To protect the tributaries of the River Boyne around Trim such as the Maudlin and the Lackanash from urbanisation and malfunctioning sewer lines"</i>.</p>
14.	To implement measures to control and manage alien / invasive species (e.g. Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed, Himalayan balsam, etc.) within the Plan area.	<p>Section 4.2 which refers to The Natural Environment – Our Green Infrastructure, states that <i>'Biodiversity comes under threat through habitat destruction, invasive species, and pollution and over harvesting of natural resources.'</i></p> <p>HER OBJ 9 <i>"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"</i></p> <p>HER OBJ 10 <i>"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"</i>.</p>

15.	Ensure that no development, including clearance and storage of materials, takes place within a minimum distance of 15m measured from each bank of any river, stream or watercourse in the Plan area.	IFI have requested a 5-10m minimum buffer zone along all watercourses as part of the Enniscorthy LAP AA which is very similar to Trim as the Slaney River Valley SAC runs through this town. Consistent with the CDP 2009-2015, WS POL 33: <i>"To consult with the Office of Public Works in relation to proposed developments in the vicinity of drainage channels and rivers for which the OPW are responsible, and the Council will retain a strip of 10m on either side of such channel where required, to facilitate access thereto"</i> .
16.	In the event of linear paths, cycleways, seating, lighting, loss of riparian zones, etc. being proposed along river corridors an Ecological Impact Assessment (and where necessary an Appropriate Assessment) including bat and otter surveys shall be conducted by specialists. The recommendations of the specialist studies shall be implemented. No lighting will be installed without prior consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and shall be in line with advances in knowledge into the impact of lighting on bats and other species and also to reflect advances in technology in the lighting industry.	GI OBJ 8 <i>"In the event of linear paths, cycleways, seating, lighting, loss of riparian zones, etc. being proposed along river corridors an Ecological Impact Assessment (and where necessary an Appropriate Assessment) including bat and otter surveys shall be conducted by specialists. The recommendations of the specialist studies shall be implemented. No lighting will be installed without prior consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and shall be in line with advances in knowledge into the impact of lighting on bats and other species and also to reflect advances in technology in the lighting industry."</i>
17.	To ensure the monitoring and control of EIA sub-threshold development within the Plan through the document <i>Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding sub-threshold development (DEHLG, 2003)</i> with specific reference to the requirement of Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening.	Chapter 2 Core Strategy POL 16 <i>"To ensure the monitoring and control of EIA sub-threshold development within the Plan through the document Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding sub-threshold development (DEHLG, 2003) with specific reference to the requirement of Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening."</i>
Cultural Heritage		
18.	To require an appropriate Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (taking into account cumulative impacts) for development that may have a potential to impact adversely on significant built heritage and cultural landscape features such as scenic views and routes within and adjoining the Plan area.	HER OBJ 14 <i>"To require an appropriate Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (taking into account cumulative impacts) for development that may have a potential to impact adversely on significant built heritage and cultural landscape features such as scenic views and routes within and adjoining the Plan area."</i>
19.	To ensure that the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage, governed by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG) is fully implemented into the County's Record of Protected Structures in order to produce a coherent archive at national and regional level.	HER POL 15 makes provisions for the protection of protected structures.
20.	To ensure that Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA) are dedicated and mapped in the Plan with regard to their extent and distinction and that appropriate protection measures are developed.	HER POL 11 – 15 <i>"To preserve the character of the following Architectural Conservation Areas in Trim"</i>

	Water Supply and Management	
21.	To prepare a water conservation strategy which includes leakage reduction measures for the area and incentives for efficient water consumption while discouraging water waste.	<p>INF POL 3 <i>"To work with Irish Water to continue to implement the Water Conservation Programme, in order to conserve valuable resources by further reducing leakage"</i></p> <p>Section 10.2.2 sets out that <i>"Countywide Water Conservation, through active leakage control, demand management and pressure management, has played and will continue to play a major role in helping to reduce the demand for potable water, thus improving the level of service to existing customers in the county through the existing watermains network. Significant progress has been made in Trim in recent years"</i></p>
22.	To ensure the implementation of the EU Drinking Water Directive in order to achieve and improve appropriate water quality standards for the Plan for human consumption while conditioning development dependent on sufficient water supply.	Reference not included
23.	To ensure the implementation of the European Communities Drinking Water (No.2) Regulations 2007, S.I. No. 278 of 2007 and the EPA 2010 guidance on the <i>Implementation of the Regulations for Water Services Authorities for Public Water Supplies</i> . These regulations shall be applied for increased penalties in case of non-compliance and programmes to minimise water supply leakage shall be developed.	<p>Specific reference not included.</p> <p>INF POL 9 <i>"To ensure that adequate water supply and treatment facilities are in place prior to development approval."</i></p>

24.	To ensure the implementation of the EU Groundwater Directive and its transposition into Irish legislation in order to prevent significant effects on Groundwater Source Protection Zones and to develop and complement Groundwater Protection Schemes.	<p>INF POL 10 <i>"To protect existing and potential water resources in accordance with:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended);</i> <i>• European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (as amended);</i> <i>• European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (as amended);</i> <i>• East River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 or any updated version of this document;</i> <i>• Groundwater Protection Scheme for County Meath;</i> <i>• Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2001 (as amended);</i> <i>• Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) and European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Waters) Regulations 2009 and 2010;</i> <i>• Any other protection plans for water supply sources or updates to the above regulations."</i> <p>INF POL 11 <i>"To ensure that development would not have an unacceptable impact on water quality and quantity, including surface water, ground water, designated source protection areas, river corridors and associated wetlands."</i></p> <p>INF POL 12 <i>"To ensure that all significant road projects/upgrades with surface water discharges to the Boyne River system and its tributaries, have petrol/oil interceptors installed to prevent hydrocarbon pollution of the river system."</i></p>
	To require that all development relating to water supply and waste water treatment are subject to Appropriate Assessment to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity, defined by the structure and function, of any Natura 2000 sites and that the requirements of Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive are met.	INF POL 5 <i>"Any development proposed as a result of infrastructure policies will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment according to Article 6(3) of the E.C. Habitats Directive"</i>
	Wastewater	
25.	To ensure the implementation of the EU Urban Waste Water Directive and its transposition into Irish legislation, namely the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2001 and 2004.	INF POL 24 <i>"To ensure the implementation of the EU Urban Waste Water Directive and its transposition into Irish legislation, namely the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2001 and 2004."</i>

26.	To ensure the changeover from septic tanks to mains connections in all cases where this is feasible and that all new developments utilise and connect to the existing wastewater infrastructure. The provision of individual septic tanks and treatment plants in the Plan will be strongly discouraged to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution. Where such facilities are permitted, full compliance with the prevailing regulations and standards will be required, including the EPA 2009 Code of Practice: Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (p.e.≤ 10).	INF POL 25 <i>"To encourage the changeover from septic tanks to mains connections in all cases where this is feasible and that all new developments utilise and connect to the existing wastewater infrastructure, where available. The provision of individual septic tanks and treatment plants in the Plan will be strongly discouraged to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution. Where such facilities are permitted, full compliance with the prevailing regulations and standards will be required, including the EPA 2009 Code of Practice: Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (p.e.≤ 10)."</i>
27.	To promote assessment of the adequacy of the existing wastewater treatment facilities in terms of both capacity and performance as well as potential risk to human health and water quality.	INF POL 2 <i>"To work with Irish Water to continue the development and upgrading of the waste water system serving Trim so as to ensure that a continued adequate treatment capacity is available for the sustainable development of Trim, as finances permit."</i>
28.	To carry out any waste water treatment plant upgrade in accordance with the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007, S.I. No. 684 of 2007 while developing a waste water leak detection programme.	INF POL 2 <i>"To work with Irish Water to continue the development and upgrading of the waste water system serving Trim so as to ensure that a continued adequate treatment capacity is available for the sustainable development of Trim, as finances permit."</i> INF POL 26 <i>"To ensure that adequate wastewater treatment facilities are in place prior to development approval."</i>
Surface Water Drainage		
29.	To ensure the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive and its transpositions into Irish legislation.	Section 2.1 Introduction <i>"The Core Strategy must provide a transparent evidence based rationale for the amount of land proposed to be zoned for residential and allied mixed use zoning in the development plan and associated compliance with relevant EU Directives (SEA, Habitats and Water Framework Directives)."</i> INF POL 10 <i>"To protect existing and potential water resources in accordance with the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended)"</i>
30.	To implement the specific relevant objectives and measures for individual water bodies set out in the Eastern River Basin Management Plan and associated Programme of Measures, where relevant.	Section 2.2.3 of the plan refers to the Eastern River Basin District – River Basin Management Plan and acknowledges that <i>"The Plan includes a programme of measures and a river basin management strategy designed to achieve at least good status for all waters and to maintain a high status where it exists"</i> . However the draft Plan does not implement the specific relevant objectives and measures for individual water bodies set out in the Eastern River Basin Management Plan and associated Programme of Measures. INF POL 10 <i>"To protect existing and potential water resources in accordance with the East River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 or any updated version of this document;"</i>

31.	To ensure the implementation of the surface water legislation <i>Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009</i> S.I. No 272 of 2009 and the EPA report <i>Water Quality in Ireland 2007-2009</i> in order to achieve general improvements of any water supplies in the Plan.	Surface water is referred to in terms of SUDS in Section 10.3 and INF POL 15 (see below), INF POL 14: “To protect, maintain and improve the natural character of all watercourses, tributaries and streams within the Plan area” and INF OBJ 1 “To generally provide support for the funding of, and to improve and extend, surface water disposal infrastructure to serve the planned levels of growth, during the lifetime of this Plan, in order to facilitate development and subject to the availability of funding”.
32.	To require that a Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) is applied to any development and that site specific solutions to surface water drainage systems are developed, which meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin Management Plans.	INF POL 15 “To ensure that all new developments should incorporate Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) in accordance with the recommendations of the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study (GSDSDS) and sufficient storm water attenuation will be required for all such developments to ensure that the rate of run-off equates to predevelopment greenfield run off rates”
Groundwater Protection		
33.	To ensure that planning applications have regard to any existing groundwater protection schemes and groundwater source protection zones and/or the likely impacts that the development may have on groundwater.	INF POL 13 “To ensure that development would not have an unacceptable impact on water quality and quantity, including surface water, ground water, designated source protection areas, river corridors and associated wetlands, estuarine waters, coastal and transitional waters”.
34.	To ensure the protection of the groundwater resources in and around the Plan and associated habitats and species.	INF POL 10 “To protect existing and potential water resources in accordance with European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (as amended), and the groundwater Protection Scheme for County Meath” INF POL 11 “To ensure that development would not have an unacceptable impact on water quality and quantity, including surface water, ground water, designated source protection areas, river corridors and associated wetlands”.
Flood Risk Management		
35.	To ensure the implementation of the EU Floods Directive and its transposition into Irish legislation in order to prevent, reduce and control flood risk in river basin areas due to increased domestic and economic development in flood risk zones and climate change effects.	The Directive is not mentioned in the draft Development Plan. However Section 10.5.1 Flood Risks and Zoning that “Lands which have been dezoned/rezoned include lands adjoining the river banks and lands adjoining streams which are tributaries of the River Boyne”
36.	To implement the recommendations of the relevant Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) study and the mitigation measures and recommendations arising from the associated SEA and AA shall also be addressed and implemented.	INF POL 30 “The Planning Authority will require a site specific flood risk assessment to be carried out for all development proposals falling within areas identified as being at risk of flooding in accordance with the Trim Strategic Flood Risk Assessment recommendations.”
37.	To implement the <i>Planning System and Flood Risk Management for Planning Authorities</i> (DoEHLG/OPW 2009) and the National Flood Hazard Mapping (OPW 2012) while referring to the relevant Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) for the Plan.	Key Aim 4 and INF POL 29 “To have regard to the requirements of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG/OPW, 2009) in the assessment of development management proposals and in the preparation of any Framework Plans required during the period of this Plan”

38.	To require that all proposed flood protection or alleviation works will be subject to Appropriate Assessment (AA) to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity, defined by the structure and function, of any Natura 2000 sites and that the requirements of Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive are met.	<p>INF POL 30 <i>"The Planning Authority will require a site specific flood risk assessment to be carried out for all development proposals falling within areas identified as being at risk of flooding in accordance with the Trim Strategic Flood Risk Assessment recommendations."</i> and INF POL 31 <i>"To protect water courses, banks and bankside vegetation from interference by inappropriate bridging, draining, culverting or other works which would be detrimental to fisheries, biodiversity and the qualifying interests of Natura 2000 sites."</i></p> <p>INF POL 33 <i>"To require that all proposed flood protection or alleviation works will be subject to Appropriate Assessment (AA) to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity, defined by the structure and function, of any Natura 2000 sites and that the requirements of Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive are met"</i></p>
39.	To ensure riparian buffer zones are created between all watercourses and any development, a minimum of 15m 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.	<p>IFI have requested a 5-10m minimum buffer zone along all watercourses as part of the Enniscorthy LAP AA which is very similar to Trim as the Slane River Valley SAC runs through this town.</p> <p>INF POL 32 <i>"To consult with the Office of Public Works in relation to proposed developments in the vicinity of drainage channels and rivers for which the OPW are responsible, and the Council will, retain a strip of 10 metres on either side of such channel where required, to facilitate access thereto."</i></p>
Waste Management		
40.	To ensure the implementation of the EU Waste Framework Directive and its affiliated directives, namely the EU IPPC Directive, the Landfill Directive and the WEEE Directive.	Section 10.4 states that <i>"Developers are obliged under the Waste Management Act 1996 (as amended) to submit a construction and waste management plan prior to the commencement of any proposed construction activities."</i>
41.	Prevent and minimise the generation of waste in accordance with the Waste Management Plan for the Dublin Region while minimising waste to landfill and considering suitable alternatives.	<p>INF POL 16 <i>"To implement the policies and objectives of the North East Waste Management Plan 2005-2010 or any replacement waste management plan for which ever Waste Region Meath forms part of under the re-configuration of the Waste Regions as relevant to Trim";</i> INF POL 17 <i>"To implement the policies and objectives of the North East Waste Management Plan 2005-2010 or any replacement waste management plan for the north east region as relevant to Trim"</i> and INF POL 18 <i>"To promote education and awareness on all issues associated with waste management, both at industry and community level. This will include the promotion of waste reduction by encouraging the minimization, re-use, recycling and recovery of waste within the town and environs."</i></p>

Energy and Communications		
42.	To implement an Energy Conservation Strategy and have regard to the <i>Wind Energy Planning Guidelines</i> (DEHLG 2006), the <i>National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012</i> (DEHLG 2007), the <i>National Renewable Energy Action Plan</i> (DCENR 2009), the <i>Strategic Plan 2010-2015</i> (SEAI 2010) and the <i>Strategy for Renewable Energy 2012-2020</i> (DCENR 2012).	<p>Section 9.5 states that Meath County Council has adopted a Climate Change Strategy and Energy Management Action Plan 2011-2012 (in line with National Climate Change Strategy).</p> <p>TE POL 11 “<i>To support the review and implementation of the actions of the Meath County Council Climate Change Strategy and Energy Management Action Plan 2011-2012 ‘Think Globally Act Locally’</i>”</p> <p>TE POL 13 “<i>To promote energy conservation and efficiency measures and facilitate innovative development proposals that maximise energy efficiency through siting, layout, design or which incorporate best practice in energy technologies, conservation and implementation of smart technology in accordance with national policy and guidelines</i>”</p> <p>Section 9.6.2 states that the Wind Energy Planning Guidelines (DEHLG 2006) will be taken into consideration when assessing planning applications for wind energy developments.</p>
43.	To implement the policies and objectives set out in the relevant MCDP in relation to renewable energy, energy efficiency and the promotion of technology for renewable energy generation within the Plan.	Chapter 9, Key aim 3 and TE POL 15 “ <i>To facilitate energy infrastructure provision, including the development of renewable energy sources at suitable locations, so as to provide for the further physical and economic development of Trim, in line with proper planning and sustainable development.</i> ”
Noise Management		
44.	To ensure the implementation of the EU Environmental Noise Directive and its transposition into Irish legislation and to promote a Noise Action Plan for the Plan area.	INF OBJ 19 “ <i>To support the Noise Action Plan adopted by Meath County Council and Navan Town Council</i> ” Directive not mentioned.
Transport		
45.	To have regard to the EU Ambient Air Quality Directive, the EU Ozone Directive, the EU guidance documents <i>Greening Transport</i> (EU 2008) and <i>A Sustainable Future for Transport</i> (EU 2009) and the National Transport Strategy <i>Smarter Travel: A Sustainable Transport Future</i> (DTTS 2009) to develop strategies which better reflect the real costs that transport volumes and emissions impose onto society, environment and economic efficiency.	TRAN POL 23 “ <i>To have regard to the EU Ambient Air Quality Directive, the EU Ozone Directive, the EU guidance documents Greening Transport (EU 2008) and A Sustainable Future for Transport (EU 2009) and the National Transport Strategy Smarter Travel: A Sustainable Transport Future (DTTS 2009) to develop strategies which better reflect the real costs that transport volumes and emissions impose onto society, environment and economic efficiency</i> ”

46.	To ensure that development is guided by an Integrated Traffic Management Plan and accompanied by a Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) to prevent any negative visual, land-use and character impact and to monitor CO ₂ and substances which are potentially harmful to humans and the environment.	TRAN POL 2 <i>"To require the submission of a Traffic and Transport Assessment (TTA) and Road Safety Audit as part of a development proposal, where expected traffic movements will have a material impact on the safety and free flow of traffic on a national or regional route. Developers should refer to the NRA's 'Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines' in the preparation of TTA's in this regard."</i> And TRAN POL 22 <i>"To require that robust Transport Assessments are carried out, by and at the expense of the developer, for significant planning applications in accordance with guidelines given in the 'Traffic Management Guidelines' and Meath County Development Plan 2013 - 2019. The Transport Assessment will be assessed by the Planning Authority and any additional works required as a result of the Transport Assessment shall be funded by the developer"</i> and TRAN OBJ 5 <i>"To provide, in co-operation with other agencies, bodies and developers/landowners, an integrated network of designated walking and cycling routes to provide safe, convenient and pleasant routes between the town's main residential areas, schools, the town centre and business park areas. The network will, wherever possible, be developed as a segregated, traffic free, sustainable transport facility incorporating best practice design and shall be integrated with the network of Green Infrastructure"</i>
47.	To promote maximum accessibility through routes of optimised connectivity and permeability for walking, cycling and public transport while establishing safe infrastructure for all vulnerable road users.	Chapter 8, Key aim 1 and TRAN POL 1 <i>"To promote land-use planning measures which aim for transportation efficiency, economic returns on transport investment, minimisation of environmental impacts and a general shift towards the use of public transportation"</i> , TRAN POL 5, <i>"To support, improve and enhance, where feasible, the existing public bus services and infrastructure serving Trim Town & Environs as specific in the Trim Local Transport Plan."</i> and TRAN POL 12 <i>"To co-operate with the National Transport Authority in the provision of sustainable transport measures in the existing developed areas in the town and in new or planned developments"</i>
Economic Development		
48.	To ensure that any industry development will be subject to Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity, defined by the structure and function, of any Natura 2000 sites and that the requirements of Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive are met.	ECON POL 12 <i>"Any land development proposed as a result of Economic and Employment policies and objectives will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment."</i>

49.	To have regard to the EU Seveso III Directive for any industrial development in order to assess potential impacts from emissions hazardous to humans and/or the environment within or near the Plan.	PMA POL 1 <i>"To comply with the Seveso II Directive in reducing the risk and limiting the potential consequences of major industrial accidents."</i> ; PMA POL 2 <i>"To permit new Seveso development only in low risk locations within acceptable distances from vulnerable residential, retail and commercial development."</i> ; PMA POL 3 <i>"To have regard to the advice of the Health & Safety Authority when proposals for new SEVESO sites are being considered or modifications to existing SEVESO sites are being considered"</i> and PMA POL 4 <i>"Attach to any grant of permission for new warehouse or similar industrial buildings, a condition to exclude use/storage of SEVESO substances (or require a separate permission for it)"</i>
50.	To require that all development proposals are subject to AA screening to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity, defined by the structure and function, of any Natura 2000 sites and that the requirements of Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive are met.	ECON POL 12 <i>"Any land development proposed as a result of Economic and Employment policies and objectives will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment."</i>
51.	To promote compact development within urban settlements with reasonable accessibility to public amenities, with public services for energy, water and telecom management and with means of public transport or safe walking and cycling infrastructure while discouraging dispersed, isolated development outside urban settlements.	Core Strategy Policies 1 to 15 meet the requirements of this policy.
52.	To promote development of diverse and distinct land-use to promote urban regeneration and place- making of distinct character and spatial quality while maintaining reasonable zoning distribution between various land-use that is of non-compatible nature.	ECON POL 11 <i>"To support the redevelopment and utilization of existing vacant units and/or underutilized sites within the business parks as a priority, with development on appropriately zoned greenfield sites secondary. A flexible approach is required when assessing planning applications for the change of use or redevelopment of existing vacant units in the Business Parks, whilst ensuring the vitality and viability of the town centre is retained"</i>

A detailed assessment of the draft Plan policies/ objectives was then undertaken and the proposed mitigation is presented in **Table 11.2**. Mitigation measures are proposed in the form of new policies/ objectives and/or amendments to the text of policies/ objectives. The mitigation included in the assessment of policies/ objectives does not refer to the general requirement for assessment of impacts on the environment but instead assumes requirements for environmental assessment in accordance with the normal development management process and EIA Directive as a given. Column one of **Table 11.2** provides information on the policy or objective which is to be mitigated and column two sets out the mitigation measures. All proposed insertions and proposed amendments are highlighted in **Red Bold** and deletions are identified by way of a ~~strike through~~ for ease of reference.

A detailed assessment of the draft plan policies/ objectives was undertaken at each stage of the process, including the following stages:

- The Manager's Draft Plan which was issued to the Elected Members;
- The Manger's Recommendations as contained within the Manager's Report on Notices of Motion; and
- The final amendments to the Draft Plan for display based on the Joint Area Meetings.

Table 11.2: Further Mitigation Measures

Policies/ Objectives	Comment/ Mitigation	Addressed in the Plan
Retail		
<p>RET POL 7 To facilitate the identification, promotion and development of key town centre opportunity sites;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the revitalisation of vacant and derelict properties/shop units; Encourage infill development and the redevelopment of derelict and obsolete sites; Promotion of ongoing environmental improvements to the public realm; Prevent overdevelopment of particular non retail uses such as takeaways in core retail areas; Promotion of activities including festivals, events and street markets in each town. 	<p>Overall a positive policy, aiming to bring economic activity into the town in a balanced manner and one that will not disturb the natural or built environment. The policy will also very likely cause some disruption to S, W, L and B/FF as a result of any redevelopment or construction works associated with this policy. Recommend the following amendment:</p> <p>RET POL 7 “To facilitate the identification, promotion and development of key town centre opportunity sites in a sustainable and sequential manner;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the revitalisation of vacant and derelict properties/shop units; Encourage infill development and the redevelopment of derelict and obsolete sites; Promotion of ongoing environmental improvements to the public realm; Prevent overdevelopment of particular non retail uses such as takeaways in core retail areas Promotion of activities including festivals, events and street markets in each town”. 	Yes.
RET OBJ 1 To facilitate the re-location of the existing Texaco garage on Haggard St street to a more appropriate site zoned for such use.	<p>Potential negative effects depending on the re-location of use and also potential for site contamination. Recommendation as follows:</p> <p>RET OBJ 1 “To facilitate the re-location and any decontamination of the existing Texaco garage on Haggard St street to a more appropriate site zoned for such use subject to planning and sustainable development principles.”</p>	Yes.
Heritage, Tourism and Green Infrastructure		
<p>GI OBJ 5 To provide for the development of the Trim-Navan-Slane-Drogheda cycle/greenway along the River Boyne subject to obtaining necessary statutory planning consent, the carrying out of Appropriate Assessment, landowner co-operation and the securing of necessary funding.</p>	<p>Note – same as TRAN OBJ 7 below.</p> <p>Overall a positive policy likely to have benefits for C, P and MA. The River Boyne SAC and SPA runs through the Historical Core area of the town of Trim and therefore due consideration should be given to this important designated area.</p> <p>Recommend inclusion of requirement to carry out a routing study and any necessary environmental assessment in respect of this scheme also, text amendment recommended as follows:</p> <p>GI OBJ 5 “To provide for the development of the Trim-Navan-Slane-Drogheda cycle/greenway along the River Boyne subject to carrying out a routing study and any necessary environmental assessments, obtaining necessary statutory planning consent, the carrying out of Appropriate Assessment, landowner co-operation and the securing of necessary funding”</p> <p>check numbering</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Yes.</p>
Tourism		
<p>TOUR POL 2 To improve the visitor experience to the town and to co-operate with all stakeholders and appropriate agencies in promoting tourism and securing tourist based enterprises and facilities in the town.</p>	<p>Overall positive Policy as has potential to increase employment and improve facilities in the area which would have a positive effect on P, CH and M.</p> <p>However it is possible that increased tourism and visitors will have negative impacts as result of increased vehicular traffic vising the town.</p>	Yes.

	<p>Recommend the following:</p> <p>TOUR POL 2 <i>"To improve the visitor experience to the town and to co-operate with all stakeholders and appropriate agencies in promoting sustainable tourism and securing tourist based enterprises and facilities in the town"</i>.</p>	
TOUR POL 4 To support the provision of facilities for theatre and the arts in Trim.	<p>Potential impacts dependant on location of facilities. Recommend the following:</p> <p>TOUR POL 4 <i>"To support the provision of centrally located facilities for theatre and the arts in Trim"</i>.</p>	Yes.
TOUR POL 5 To encourage and support the holding of a variety of festivals and events.	<p>Potential impacts dependant on location of facilities. Recommend the following:</p> <p>TOUR POL 5 <i>"To encourage and support the holding of a variety of festivals and events at sustainable locations subject to proper planning principles"</i>.</p>	Yes.
TOUR POL 7 To co-operate with Fáilte Ireland, Tourism Ireland, Meath Tourism, Louth County Council, Boyne Valley and any other relevant bodies in the implementation of the Boyne Valley Destination Development Strategy.	<p>Boyne Valley Destination Development Strategy has not been screened with respect to SEA as part of this SEA process. Therefore recommend re-wording policy to 'support' rather than to 'implement' as follows:</p> <p>TOUR POL 7 <i>"To co-operate with Fáilte Ireland, Tourism Ireland, Meath Tourism, Louth County Council, Boyne Valley and any other relevant bodies in the implementation of to support the Boyne Valley Destination Development Strategy subject to implementation of sustainable planning and environmental principles"</i>.</p>	Yes.
TOUR POL 8 To facilitate the development of high-quality tourist accommodation such as hotels, hostels, B&Bs / Guesthouses, etc. at suitable locations, subject to ensuring a high standard of architecture, the provision of adequate infrastructure and compliance with normal planning considerations.	<p>Potential for environmental impacts, however will be subject to normal planning requirements which will identify and mitigate where relevant potential impacts. Recommend the following:</p> <p>TOUR POL 8 <i>"To facilitate the development of high-quality tourist accommodation such as hotels, hostels, B&Bs / Guesthouses, etc. at environmentally suitable locations, subject to ensuring a high standard of architecture, the provision of adequate infrastructure and compliance with normal planning considerations"</i>.</p>	Yes.
TOUR POL 9 To consider the provision of caravan, camping and motor home sites at suitable locations. In all instances, the Planning Authorities will seek to ensure a high standard of layout, design and amenity in such proposals whilst safeguarding the landscape character in sensitive areas.	<p>Potential for environmental impacts, therefore recommend the following insertion:</p> <p>TOUR POL 9 <i>"To consider the provision of caravan, camping and motor home sites at environmentally suitable locations. In all instances, the Planning Authorities will seek to ensure a high standard of layout, design and amenity in such proposals whilst safeguarding the landscape character in sensitive areas"</i>.</p>	Yes.
TOUR POL 10 To promote the provision of a Folk Park in an appropriate location subject to adequate infrastructure and compliance with normal planning considerations.	<p>Given that no particular location, scale or detail in respect of this folk park is provided it is difficult to assess this policy at SEA level. Recommend inclusion of requirement to undertake Environmental Assessment in respect of this proposal as follows:</p> <p>TOUR POL 10 <i>"To promote the provision of a Folk Park in an environmentally appropriate location subject to adequate infrastructure and compliance with normal planning considerations including requirement to undertake environmental"</i></p>	Yes.

	assessment as appropriate”.	
TOUR OBJ 1 To implement the recommendations of the Boyne Valley Drive Infrastructure Study, the Tourism Route Interpretation Plan for the Boyne Valley Drive and the Interpretative Plan for Boyne Valley Orientation Points as they apply to the town of Trim and its environs.	<p>The Boyne Valley Drive Infrastructure Study, the Tourism Route Interpretation Plans have not been screened with respect to SEA as part of this SEA process. Therefore recommend re-wording policy to ‘support’ rather than to ‘implement’ as follows:</p> <p>TOUR OBJ 1 “To implement— support the recommendations of the Boyne Valley Drive Infrastructure Study, the Tourism Route Interpretation Plan for the Boyne Valley Drive and the Interpretative Plan for Boyne Valley Orientation Points as they apply to the town of Trim and its environs subject to implementation of sustainable planning and environmental principles”.</p>	Yes.
Design and Public Realm		
DP OBJ 1 To develop a new civic space to function as a link, both visually and physically, between the existing town at Emmett Street, and the Town Centre Expansion Area. This would necessitate the demolition and removal of existing buildings from Emmet Street and redevelopment of possible medieval burgage plots.	<p>Overall this should be viewed as a positive objective, providing access for residents and tourists to the town centre and creating a civic space and improving connectivity. Given its proximity to the River Boyne will need to ensure that any works that take place are mindful of potential impacts to the River and surrounding environment. Recommend updating Objective as follows:</p> <p>DP OBJ 1 “<i>To develop a new civic space to function as a link, both visually and physically, between the existing town at Emmett Street, and the Town Centre Expansion Area</i> in an environmentally sustainable manner. This would necessitate the demolition and removal of existing buildings from Emmet Street and redevelopment of possible medieval burgage plots”.</p>	Yes.
DP OBJ 4 To complete the environmental improvements to the ‘Historic Core’ of Trim Town including the selective removal of on street parking, widening of footpaths, provision of raised pedestrian crossings and the possible resurfacing of streets and paths in cobble, stone, paving or other suitable material in the following areas: Market Street, and Watergate Street, including the intersection of Emmett Street / Market Street / Watergate St.	<p>Overall this is a positive objective, providing for restoration and protection of CH and discouraging traffic from the town centre by removing parking. This can have a positive effect on the climate and air quality. Negative impacts are possible on S and W depending on the paving of the paths and streets. Recommend updating objective as follows:</p> <p>DP OBJ 4 “<i>To complete the environmental improvements to the ‘Historic Core’ of Trim Town</i> in an environmentally sustainable manner including the selective removal of on street parking, widening of footpaths, provision of raised pedestrian crossings and the possible resurfacing of streets and paths in cobble, stone, paving or other suitable material in the following areas: Market Street, and Watergate Street, including the intersection of Emmett Street / Market Street / Watergate St.”</p>	Yes.
DP OBJ 5 To improve existing public spaces, underused public lands and street corners, and to create a network of small and medium sized public spaces, which include seating, landscaping, and artwork in appropriate locations preferably with a good southerly aspect, as follows:	<p>Objective likely to have positive impacts on many of the SEOs through improved public amenities and open spaces. It will protect all designated SACs and SPAs thereby protecting B/FF to a degree. CH is also supported through improvement works surrounding important features.</p> <p>However potential negative impacts to B/FF are</p>	Yes.

<p>a) - River Boyne - to improve the quality of public space in the form of a linear park and in the Porchfield through the provision of seating areas, appropriate litter collection facilities and good quality walking paths to make the Porchfield and River Boyne the central recreational facility for Trim. To improve existing pathways west of Watergate bridge, having regard to the sensitive nature of the area as an SAC and SPA, and to create links with roadways in residential areas to provide a network of pedestrian and cycle routes.</p> <p>b) - Finnegan's Way – To designate a public open space adjacent to the southern side of the upstanding remains of the Medieval Town Wall to provide an appropriate setting, presentation and interpretation of this feature. The development of this public space is contingent on the replacement of the bus parking that serves Trim Castle at this location with a public and private transport hub and the provision of a dedicated bus parking bay/set down adjacent to the Castle.</p> <p>c) – to improve the environs of Trim Castle by encouraging the upgrading of the streetscape, facades, shopfronts and signage.</p>	<p>not to be ignored, namely arising through landscaping which can result in habitat destruction. However there is still potential for negative effects in respect of B/FF, W and S therefore recommend amending Objective as follows:</p> <p>DP OBJ 5 “<i>To improve existing public spaces, underused public lands and street corners, and to create a network of small and medium sized public spaces, which include seating, landscaping, and artwork in appropriate locations preferably with a good southerly aspect</i> subject to Appropriate Assessment and Environmental Assessment, as required, as follows:</p> <p>.....</p>	
<p>Community Facilities, Recreation and Open Space</p>		
<p>SOC POL 11 To encourage, support and facilitate the provision of services for the aged population. The Councils are committed to accommodating the needs of older people by the facilitation of nursing home developments in appropriate locations.</p>	<p>Direct positive effects with respect to P are envisaged as it is proposed to facilitate necessary care services to serve the community. Potential for negative effects due to provision of new buildings. Recommend following amendment: SOC POL 11 “<i>To encourage, support and facilitate the provision of services for the aged population. The Councils are committed to accommodating the needs of older people by the facilitation of nursing home developments in appropriate locations</i> subject to proper planning and sustainable development principles”.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>SOC POL 25 To support the development and provisions of arts and cultural facilities in Trim.</p>	<p>Overall a positive policy accommodating for culture and providing benefits for P. Some minor negative effects can be expected to S and C during the construction phase if new development is required therefore recommend following amendment: SOC POL 25 “<i>To support the development and provisions of</i> centrally located <i>arts and cultural facilities in Trim</i>”.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Traffic & Transportation</p>		
<p>Key Aim 3 To improve facilities for bus usage in the town, and encourage the development of adequate park and ride facilities.</p>	<p>This aim will encourage the use of public transport rather than personal vehicles and will therefore have positive effects on C. It is also beneficial to P and in terms of MA. However development of park and ride facilities has potential for negative effects if proposed on greenfield lands and due to construction works. Therefore recommend following amendment to Aim: Key aim 3 “<i>To improve facilities for bus usage in</i></p>	<p>Yes.</p>

	<i>the town, and encourage the development of adequate park and ride facilities at sustainable locations and subject to appropriate environmental assessment, where relevant</i> ".	
TRAN POL 7 To develop a network of longer term car parking areas generally located outside the historic town centre which do not detract from the visual appearance of the town centre as specified in the Trim Local Transport Plan.	Reducing traffic into the town centre will facilitate pedestrian activity in the town, and also improve the quality of the air, positively affecting C, MA and P. However a negative impact on S and W can be anticipated in terms of the changes to land use and covering over of grasslands for parking facilities and associated environmental impacts. Recommend following amendment to this Policy: TRAN POL 7 <i>"To develop a network of environmentally sustainable longer term car parking areas generally located outside the historic town centre which do not detract from the visual appearance of the town centre as specified in the Trim Local Transport Plan"</i>	Yes.
TRAN POL 10 To implement a programme of road construction / improvement works and local measures to improve road safety closely integrated with existing and planned land uses.	The improvement of road infrastructures will have positive impacts on P, and MA, but there could be negative impacts on S, L, B/FF and C when land use and increased traffic are taken into account. Recommend following amendments: TRAN POL 10 <i>"To implement a programme of road construction / improvement works in an environmentally sustainable manner and local measures to improve road safety closely integrated with existing and planned land uses"</i> .	Yes.
TRAN POL 19 To review the continuing need for the distributor road network, and to reserve the corridors of and construct and complete such parts of the local distributor road network that are required	Positive impacts on P and C due to improvements in the road network, however potential for negative impacts in respect of B/FF, S, L, CH dependant on location and manner of construction. TRAN POL 19 <i>"To review the continuing need for the distributor road network, and to reserve the corridors of and construct and complete such parts of the local distributor road network that are required in an environmentally sustainable manner"</i> .	Yes.
TRAN OBJ 4 To facilitate the provision of a bus park & ride facility to serve the town and Scurroughstown area in co-operation with the National Transport Authority and Bus Éireann.	Reducing traffic into the town centre will facilitate pedestrian activity in the town, and also improve the quality of the air, positively affecting C, MA and P. However a negative impact on S and P can be anticipated in terms of the changes to land use and covering over of grasslands for parking facilities, and the inconvenience of not being able to access the town centre. Recommend updating Objective as follows: TRAN OBJ 4 <i>"To facilitate the provision of a bus park & ride facility at a sustainable location and subject to appropriate environmental assessment, where relevant in order to serve the town and Scurroughstown area in co-operation with the National Transport Authority and Bus Éireann"</i> .	Yes.
TRAN OBJ 7 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 cooperation and the securing of the necessary funding.	Note – same as GI OBJ 5 above. Overall a positive policy likely to have benefits for C, P and MA. The River Boyne SAC and SPA runs through the Historical Core area of the town of Trim and therefore due consideration should be given to this important designated area. Recommend inclusion of requirement to carry out a routing study and any necessary environmental	Yes.

	assessment in respect of this scheme also, text amendment recommended as follows: TRAN OBJ 7 <i>“To provide for the development of the Trim-Navan-Slane-Drogheda cycle/greenway along the River Boyne subject to carrying out a routing study and any necessary environmental assessments, obtaining necessary statutory planning consent, the carrying out of Appropriate Assessment, landowner co-operation and the securing of necessary funding”.</i>	
TRAN OBJ 8 To co-operate with the NRA, NTA and other Local Authorities in clarifying and finalising the route of the Leinster Outer Orbital Route (linking Drogheda, Navan, Trim and Naas) proposed in the “Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area” and the NTA’s draft Transport Strategy. This is particularly important in the vicinity of the proposed major junctions along the route in order to protect the identified corridor from development intrusion.	Potential for negative impacts, however this subject to a separate process as it is part of the NTA’s draft Transport Strategy. Recommend inclusion of following text: This proposed route will also need to undergo a detailed routing study, SEA and EIA as part of this assessment.	Yes.
TRAN OBJ 9 To support and facilitate the improvement of walking and cycling networks in Trim Town Centre and Environs as specified in the Trim Local Transport Plan.	The upgrade of pedestrian facilities, is likely to have positive effects in terms of P, C and M as will improve pedestrian environment and increase walking and cycling within the town. There is potential for some short term negative impacts on L, B/FF and S due to construction works associated with improvement works. However these would be temporary in nature and can be mitigated through implementation of normal construction management practices. Recommend inclusion of requirement to carry out a routing study and any necessary environmental assessment including Appropriate Assessment, text amendment recommended as follows: TRAN OBJ 9 <i>“To support and facilitate the improvement of walking and cycling networks in Trim Town Centre and Environs as specified in the Trim Local Transport Plan subject to carrying out a routing study and any necessary environmental assessments, obtaining necessary statutory planning consent, the carrying out of Appropriate Assessment, landowner co-operation and the securing of necessary funding”.</i>	Yes.
TRAN OBJ 10 To develop a network of new and existing roads, to allow the free flow of all general town traffic through Trim to alleviate unnecessary traffic congestion within Trim’s historic core as specified in the Trim Local Transport Plan.	Reducing traffic into the town centre will facilitate pedestrian activity in the town, and also improve the quality of the air, positively affecting C, MA and P. However a negative impact on S and P can be anticipated in terms of the changes to land use and covering over of grasslands for roads or parking facilities, and the inconvenience of not being able to access the town centre. Recommend inclusion of requirement to carry out all necessary environmental assessment including Appropriate Assessment, text amendment recommended as follows: TRAN OBJ 10 <i>“To develop a network of new and existing roads, subject to all necessary environmental assessments, including Appropriate Assessment, to allow the free flow</i>	Yes.

	<i>of all general town traffic through Trim to alleviate unnecessary traffic congestion within Trim's historic core as specified in the Trim Local Transport Plan".</i>	
<p>TRAN OBJ 12: Pending a review into the need for the distributor road network, the commencement of which would begin within one year of the adoption of the Plan, to preserve (and where indicated to construct) and secure from further development a corridor for the provision of distributor link roads which include the following routes:</p> <p>RT 1 Construction of the local distributor road link between the Dublin Road at Effernock and the Navan Road at the Motor Park, including a new bridge over the Boyne River.</p> <p>RT3 A local distributor road link connecting the Athboy Road to the local distributor road west of the Town Centre Expansion area, including a new bridge over the Boyne (long term objective).</p> <p>RT 4 Construction of the local distributor road link west of the Town Centre Expansion area connecting to the Kinnegad Road. This shall be provided in tandem with the development immediately to the east. No development shall be provided on the lands immediately to the east until such time as that this section of the distributor road is completed. This road should be funded by the development in the town centre expansion area.</p> <p>RT 5 Construction of the local distributor road link between the Kinnegad Road and the Longwood Road. This shall be provided as part of Framework Plan no. 1.</p> <p>RT 6 Construction of local distributor road link between the Longwood Road and the Summerhill Road. This shall be provided in tandem with the industrial lands immediately to the north.</p> <p>RT 7 Reservation of corridor for the local distributor road link between the Summerhill Road and the Dublin Road. (long term objective).</p>	<p>Potential for negative impacts with respect SEO's. Recommend the following amendments to this objective:</p> <p>TRAN OBJ 12 "<i>Pending a review into the need for the distributor road network, the commencement of which would begin within one year of the adoption of the Plan, to preserve (and where indicated to construct subject to routing environmental assessment and appropriate assessment) and secure from further development a corridor for the provision of distributor link roads which include the following routes:</i></p> <p><i>RT1 Construction of the local distributor road link between the Dublin Road at Effernock and the Navan Road at the Motor Park, including a new bridge over the Boyne River subject to Appropriate Assessment and consultation and requirements of National Parks and Wildlife Services and Inland Fisheries Ireland.</i></p> <p><i>RT3 A local distributor road link connecting the Athboy Road to the local distributor road west of the Town Centre Expansion area, including a new bridge over the Boyne (long term objective) subject to Appropriate Assessment and consultation and requirements of National Parks and Wildlife Services and Inland Fisheries Ireland.</i></p> <p><i>[Recommend relocation of Route RT4 objective as this proposed distributor road will be located partly within the River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA and has potential to have significant effects on this Natura 2000 due to potential disturbance to protected bird species. There is potential for alternative access routes further south.]</i></p> <p><i>RT 4 Construction of the local distributor road link west of the Town Centre Expansion area connecting to the Kinnegad Road. This shall be provided in tandem with the development immediately to the east. No development shall be provided on the lands immediately to the east until such time as that this section of the distributor road is completed. This road should be funded by the development in the town centre expansion area.</i></p> <p><i>RT 5 Construction of the local distributor road link between the Kinnegad Road and the Longwood Road. This shall be provided as part of Framework Plan no. 1.</i></p> <p><i>RT 6 Construction of local distributor road link between the Longwood Road and the Summerhill Road. This shall be provided in tandem with the industrial lands immediately to the north.</i></p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>RT4 (east-west) was relocated south and is considered acceptable.</p>

	<i>RT 7 Reservation of corridor for the local distributor road link between the Summerhill Road and the Dublin Road. (long term objective)".</i>	
TRAN OBJ 18: To carry out road/street improvement works along High St., Navangate St., Loman St., Watergate St., Whitehall, Mill St., Summerhill and Kinnegad Roads.	TRAN OBJ 18 <i>"To carry out road/street improvement works along High St., Navangate St., Loman St., Watergate St., Whitehall, Mill St., Summerhill and Kinnegad Roads in an environmentally sustainable manner".</i>	Yes.
Energy and Telecommunications		Yes.
Key Aim 3 To encourage and promote renewable energy by supporting the development of sustainable energy facilities where appropriate.	Overall a positive aim, which will bring benefits to C, MA and P. Negative impacts are only likely in the construction phase in the short term, and more long term on L depending on the type of installation. Recommend following amendment: Key aim 3 <i>"To encourage and promote renewable energy by supporting the development of sustainable energy facilities where appropriate in line with proper planning and sustainable development".</i>	Yes.
TE POL 15 To facilitate energy infrastructure provision, including the development of renewable energy sources at suitable locations, so as to provide for the further physical and economic development of Trim.	Overall a positive aim, which will bring benefits to C, MA and P. Negative impacts are only likely in the construction phase in the short term, and more long term on L depending on the type of installation. Recommend following amendment: TE POL 15 <i>"To facilitate energy infrastructure provision, including the development of renewable energy sources at suitable locations, so as to provide for the further physical and economic development of Trim in line with proper planning and sustainable development".</i>	Yes.
Trim Local Transport Plan – Appendix D		
Bus Services		
Improvements to the local bus infrastructure to serve Trim include the following: 1. To build upon the work carried out to improve bus facilities across the county, including Trim and to identify further requirements for the upgrade of existing bus stops which lack basic facilities such as timetable information, shelters and hard standings. 2. Provision of a new bus park & ride facility to serve the town and wider area at Scurloghstown junction. 3. Provision of a new Trim bound bus bay at Knightsbrook and upgrade of Dublin bound bus bays. Provision of additional stops on the R161 Trim Navan Road 4. Consideration should also be given to how the 188 and the 111 services could be better synchronised to facilitate the interchange of passengers from within the town between routes e.g. Can services be amended	An Improvement to the bus service is likely to increase the use of public transport in the town, and also improve the quality of the air, positively affecting C, MA and P. However slight potential negative impact on B/FF, S and P can be anticipated in terms of the changes to land use and covering over of grasslands for parking facilities. No specific location for the Scurloghstown Park and Ride facility is provided. Therefore recommend updating Point 2 of this Objective as follows: 2. Provision of a new bus park & ride facility to serve the town and wider area at Scurloghstown junction at a sustainable location and subject to appropriate environmental assessment, including Appropriate Assessment, where relevant in co-operation with the National Transport Authority and Bus Éireann.	Yes.

to make it easier for those in Knightsbrook wanting to travel to Navan but not on the route, to catch the 111 into town to change buses for an onward journey using the 188 service.		
Town Centre Public Transport		
<p>It is an objective to support the development of a co-ordinated public transport service for Trim. It proposed that this would be implemented through the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a public and private transport hub, within the 'Town Centre Expansion Area'(Mark J on Map No. 5 in Appendix A), in close proximity to both the 'Historic Core', and to any new shopping centre and major long stay parking area, which incorporates local public bus interchange for 20 buses including tourist buses, commuter park and ride and cycle storage facilities, in tandem with development of Town Centre Expansion Area. 	<p>The development of a co-ordinated public transport service is likely to have positive effects on the town as it is likely to result in increased use of public transport, walking and cycling within the town centre. However the development of this transport hub has potential to have negative impacts on L due to the location of this facility so close to the historic town core. It also has potential to have negative impacts on B/FF, S and W as a result of development on this greenfield site. Recommend following amendments:</p> <p>It is an objective to support the development of a sustainable co-ordinated public transport service for Trim. It proposed that this would be implemented through the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a public and private transport hub, within the 'Town Centre Expansion Area'(Mark J on Map No. 5 in Appendix A), in close proximity to both the 'Historic Core', and to any new shopping centre and major long stay parking area, which incorporates local public bus interchange for 20 buses including tourist buses, commuter park and ride and cycle storage facilities, in tandem with development of Town Centre Expansion Area. This development will be subject to appropriate assessment, environmental assessment as appropriate and will include a detailed landscape plan to ensure this development is adequately screened. 	Yes.
Road Safety		
<u>Traffic Management Measures</u>		
<p>The following improvements are proposed as objectives of this plan</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To reconfigure the junctions where recurring accidents have occurred to make them more pedestrian friendly and to reduce the width of the carriageway to be crossed by pedestrians. To investigate realignment and road widening schemes to incorporate cycling and pedestrian facilities to current standards at the Boyne school and the Dublin Road. To investigate feasibility of a school bus facility for set down and collection of pupils on the ring road in the vicinity of local schools, including provision of a centralised school bus collection area off the ring road. To investigate the feasibility of a short-term HGV ban for Patrick Street until the RT5 link is constructed. 	<p>The development of traffic management measures is largely likely to have positive effects due to improvements to road safety. There is potential for some short term negative impacts on L, B/FF and S due to construction works associated with improvement works. However these would be temporary in nature and can be mitigated through implementation of normal construction management practices.</p> <p>In relation to point no. 6 recommend inclusion of following text:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade of pedestrian facilities at Newtown bridge subject to Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Assessment and consultation with NPWS and IFI. 	Yes.

<p>5. To provide and upgrade pedestrian crossings at locations where recurring accidents have occurred involving pedestrians and at locations where there is significant risk to pedestrian safety.</p> <p>6. Upgrade of pedestrian facilities at Newtown Bridge</p>		
Walking & Cycling		
<p>In relation to walking facilities, existing walking routes between the outer residential areas of the town and the town centre core business area and schools should be improved and formalised, as much as feasible. And the following walking and cycling objectives are to be included (refer to Map No. 2 in Appendix A):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade of existing pedestrian routes within the town to current standards and to accommodate cyclists and improve permeability. • Provide a pedestrian & cyclist access between Pinebrook on the Kildalkey road and Pine brook and Swiftcourt on the Athboy road • To upgrade the existing Linear park walk to current standards for pedestrian & cyclists and provide links with Avondale & Eldergrove • Provide a pedestrian bridge at Newtown bridge • Provide a footpath on the Newtown road • To upgrade the existing footpath to current standards on the Porchfield to facilitate cyclists. • Join the existing cycle network on the ring road to the Navan road. • Upgrade the existing one way cycle ways on the ring road to two way. • Provide a safe cycle network to current standards on the Dublin road from Knightsbrook to the Ring road to include the widening of a section of road at the Boyne school and connecting to the new upgraded network on the ring through the Maudlins cul de sac and Norman Pratt Park. • Upgrade the existing pedestrian crossing on the ring road to accommodate periodical heavy pedestrian use at school times • Provide a central School bus parking area 	<p>The upgrade of pedestrian facilities, reduction in HGV's and traffic calming measures are likely to all have positive effects in terms of P, C and M as these measures will improve pedestrian environment and increase walking and cycling within the town. There is potential for some short term negative impacts on L, B/FF and S due to construction works associated with improvement works. However these would be temporary in nature and can be mitigated through implementation of normal construction management practices.</p> <p>Potential for significant environmental effects as a result of construction of a new pedestrian bridge over the Boyne. Recommend the following amendment to this Objective and associated mapping:</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a pedestrian bridge at Newtown bridge subject to Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Assessment and consultation with NPWS and IFI. <p>.....</p>	Yes.
Town Centre Pedestrian & Walking		
<p>It is an objective of this plan to install a network of new formal pedestrian walkways, with appropriate materials, lighting and pedestrian crossings. The design and treatment of all pathways</p>	<p>The upgrade of pedestrian linkages within the town centre is likely to have positive effects in terms of P, C and M as these measures will improve pedestrian environment and increase walking within the town. There is potential for</p>	Yes.

<p>including any that traverse the line of the Medieval Town Wall shall be discussed in detail and agreed with the National Monuments Service of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, as pathways may impact on sub-surface archaeological remains. It may be necessary to omit pathways or redesign pathways at certain locations in the interests of the protection of the archaeological heritage. Implementation will be through the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian priority access way running to west of the Medieval Town Wall and Ditch, to the rear of Emmett Street. • Pedestrian pathway in the form of a new civic area, created by the demolition of up to three buildings which will provide a direct pedestrian connection between Market Street and the historic core of Trim and the Town Centre Expansion Area, in tandem with development of Town Centre Expansion Area • Investigate the possibility of providing pedestrian linkages along the River Boyne between Oldbridge to Watergate Bridge along the southern bank, with possible linkages through to Market Street, and from Oldbridge along the northern bank of the river, to the Boyne Walkway. • Investigate the possibility of providing pedestrian links giving access from High Street / Navan Gate Street to the Porchfield and Yellow Steeple, linking to Abbey Lane and to the path following the River Boyne. • Pedestrian link through Town Centre Expansion Area to GAA club. The pedestrian route is indicative only; if the opportunity arises elsewhere to develop a pedestrian link this will be investigated and assessed on its merits. There are other opportunities to develop pedestrian linkages other than those shown on Map 5 or referred to above. The Planning Authority will encourage the provision of additional linkages subject to these linkages not adversely impacting upon archaeological remains and the upstanding remains of the Town Wall in particular. <p>The above works were to be carried out as part of Phase 1 of Town Centre Expansion Area, and to be achieved through redevelopment. All the above schemes should be included as objectives in this Plan.</p>	<p>negative impacts on L, B/FF and S, W and CH due to construction works associated with improvement works.</p> <p>Potential for significant environmental effects as a result of works. Recommend the following amendment to these actions:</p> <p>.....</p> <p>It may be necessary to omit pathways or redesign pathways at certain locations in the interests of the protection of the archaeological and natural heritage. Implementation will be through the following actions:</p> <p>.....</p> <p>[New Bullet point should be included as follows:]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All new walk and cycleways will be subject to Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Assessment as necessary, and consultation with NPWS and IFI. 	
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Town Centre Car Parking		
<p>The following medium to long term objectives were included in the Town Centre LAP (see Map No. 5 in Appendix A) and these should be retained in this Plan.</p> <p>To develop a network of longer term car parking areas generally located outside the historic town centre which do not detract from the visual appearance of the town centre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify a location for a car park to cater for recreational uses (Location G see Map 5) • Identify an adequate central school bus parking area on the ring road at the location of the existing pedestrian crossing at the junction of Patrick Street and The Maudlins (Location H see Map 5) • A multi-storey car park built in conjunction with any major shopping centre development (Location I see Map 5). • Surface park and ride facilities in close proximity to any major bus stop. 	<p>The development of a car parking areas is a necessary requirement to meet the needs of the town. However new car park particularly next to Porchfield has potential to have negative impacts on L. All car parks have potential to have negative impacts on B/FF, S and W as a result of development on greenfield sites.</p> <p>There are 9 existing bus stops, and 4 proposed bus stops. Should a park and ride facility be required recommend inclusion of specific objective and location for same to ensure proper planning and sustainable development. Park and ride facility already proposed at J Map 5.</p> <p>To develop a network of longer term car parking areas generally located outside the historic town centre which do not detract from the visual appearance of the town centre and high amenity areas of the town, particularly the setting of the Castle and Porchfield:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify a location for a car park to cater for recreational uses (Location G see Map 5) subject to a detailed landscape and visual impact assessment to ensure that it will not impact on the Porchfield High Amenity area of the town. • Identify an adequate central school bus parking area on the ring road at the location of the existing pedestrian crossing at the junction of Patrick Street and The Maudlins (Location H see Map 5) • A multi-storey car park built in conjunction with any major shopping centre development (Location I see Map 5). • Surface park and ride facilities in close proximity to any major bus stop. 	Yes.
Town Centre Roads		
<p><i>Policy</i> To manage the provision of road infrastructure and control traffic movement in order to facilitate local development whilst protecting the amenity, historic character and tourism value of Trim Town.</p> <p><i>Rationale</i> The proposed expansion of the centre of Trim through both in-fill development and new commercial development, the current restrictions on traffic movements across the River Boyne, (as a result of a narrow medieval street pattern) the projected population growth and the growing importance of Trim as a tourist location are destined to have a continuing impact on volumes of vehicular traffic and patterns of circulation within Trim.</p> <p><i>Objectives/Actions (see Map No. 3 and Map No.5 in Appendix A)</i></p> <p><i>General Traffic Network</i></p>	<p>Road improvements likely to have positive effects in terms of P and MA to ensure the working order of the town.</p> <p>The TLTP advises that need for the extensive distributor road network should be reviewed and should be reserved pending this review. Therefore in the absence of an up to date detailed review of the need and location of this route there are potential for negative effects in respect of B/FF, S, W, C and L.</p> <p>Recommend inclusion of following amendment to this Policy:</p> <p>.....</p> <p>F. Construct the section of the Trim Outer Distributor By-pass Route from the Kinnegad Road heading north and east running parallel with the River Boyne to the Town Centre Expansion Area. This section of road would open up the remainder of the lands identified for town centre expansion.</p> <p>G. Carry out a review of the need and location</p>	Yes.

<p><i>Develop a network of new and existing roads, to allow the free flow of all general town traffic through Trim to alleviate unnecessary traffic congestion within Trim's historic core this is to be achieved through the following actions:</i></p> <p>A. <i>Complete the partially constructed link road from Castle Street to the southern part of 'Town Centre Expansion Area'. The junction of the new link road with Emmett Street shall be signalised and other signals on Emmett Street adjusted.</i></p> <p>B. <i>Improve the Junction of Jonathan Swift Road and Watergate Street in tandem with development of Town Centre Expansion Area as per current design standards including the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets</i></p> <p>C. <i>Construct a network of new roads within the 'Town Centre Expansion Area in tandem with development of Town Centre Expansion Area</i></p> <p>D. <i>Construct new road from Wellington Place to the 'Town Centre Expansion Area in tandem with development of Town Centre Expansion Area as per current design standards including the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets</i></p> <p>E. <i>Construct the south western section of the Trim Outer Distributor By-pass Route linking the Longwood Road to the Kinnegad Road. This may be preceded with the construction of a section of Road, to Distributor Road standard, from the Longwood Road Roundabout to serve adjoining residentially zoned lands. This road, which would be development driven, could be extended as far as the Kinnegad Road.</i></p> <p>F. <i>Construct the section of the Trim Outer Distributor By-pass Route from the Kinnegad Road heading north and east running parallel with the River Boyne to the Town Centre Expansion Area . This section of road would open up the remainder of the lands identified for town centre expansion.</i></p> <p><i>Note: The proposed road layout, in the town centre area to the west of Emmet Street, is shown diagrammatic only on</i></p>	<p>of the Trim distributor road network including a detailed routing study including environmental assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening in advance of development of any section of this route.</p> <p>.....</p>	
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<p><i>Map No. 5. Alterations to the indicative alignments may result due to engineering and the proper planning and development principles. The Local Authorities may exercise the use of compulsory acquisition powers to facilitate site assembly or to secure the realisation of road objectives in this Local Area Plan. All new roads to be constructed in conjunction with and driven by any major development of lands within the 'Town Centre Expansion Area'</i></p>		
<p>New Road Schemes</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In relation to the Proposed Distributor Road Network including the Southern Bypass shown as conceptual schematics on the Zoning and Objectives Map No. 1 in the Trim Development Plan 2008 – 2014, the following objectives are proposed for this Transport Plan (and shown in Map No.3 Appendix A): RT1 - should be retained (final line can be considered as part of the overall review into the continuing need for the distributor road network); RT2 - should be removed on the understanding that the adjoining residentially zoned land will be removed as part of the exercise to incorporate the Core Strategy into the draft Trim Development Plan 2014 – 2020; RT3 – reserve corridor pending review of the need for the distributor road network; RT4 – reserve corridor and retain objective to construct the section of the local distributor road west of town centre expansion area south of the River Boyne, linking the town centre to the Kinnegad Road(in tandem with development) should be retained; RT5 - reserve corridor and retain objective to construct the local distributor link between the Kinnegad Road and the Longwood Road should be retained. This will assist with management of HGVs on the Kinnegad Road; RT6 – reserve corridor and retain the objective to construct the local distributor road between the Longwood Road and the Summerhill Road; RT7 - reserve corridor pending review of the need for the distributor road network, and; RT8 - should be removed on the basis that it essentially duplicates the link between the Navan Road and Dublin Road provided by 	<p>The TLTP advises that need for the extensive distributor road network should be reviewed and should be reserved pending this review. Therefore in the absence of an up to date detailed review of the need and location of this route there are potential for negative effects in respect of B/FF, S, W, C and L.</p> <p>Recommend inclusion of following text within this Policy:</p> <p>It is proposed to carry out a review of the need and location of the Trim distributor road network including a detailed routing study including environmental assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening in advance of development of any section of this route.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

RT1.		
INF POL 2 To implement a programme of road construction / improvement works and local measures to improve road safety closely integrated with existing and planned land uses.	<p>The improvement of road infrastructures will have positive impacts on P, and MA, but there could be negative impacts on S, L, B/FF and C when land use and increased traffic are taken into account. Recommend following amendments:</p> <p>To implement a programme of road construction / improvement works in an environmentally sustainable manner and local measures to improve road safety closely integrated with existing and planned land uses.</p>	Yes.
INF POL 12 To review the continuing need for the distributor road network, and to reserve the corridors of and construct and complete such parts of the local distributor road network that are required.	<p>Positive impacts on P and C due to improvements in the road network, however potential for negative impacts in respect of B/FF, S, L, CH dependant on location and manner of construction.</p> <p>To review the continuing need for the distributor road network, and to reserve the corridors of and construct and complete such parts of the local distributor road network that are required in an environmentally sustainable manner.</p>	Yes.
<p>INF OBJ 1: Pending a review into the need for the distributor road network, the commencement of which would begin within one year of the adoption of the Plan, to preserve (and where indicated to construct) and secure from further development a corridor for the provision of distributor link roads which include the following routes:</p> <p>RT 1 Construction of the local distributor road link between the Dublin Road at Effernock and the Navan Road at the Motor Park, including a new bridge over the Boyne River.</p> <p>RT 3 A local distributor road link connecting the Athboy Road to the local distributor road west of the Town Centre Expansion area, including a new bridge over the Boyne (long term objective)</p> <p>RT 4 Construction of the local distributor road link west of the Town Centre Expansion area connecting to the Kinnegad Road. This shall be provided in tandem with the development immediately to the east. No development shall be provided on the lands immediately to the east until such time as that this section of the distributor road is completed. This road should be funded by the development in the town centre expansion area.</p> <p>RT 5 Construction of the local distributor road link between the Kinnegad Road and the Longwood Road. This shall be provided as part of Framework Plan no. 4.</p> <p>RT 6 Construction of local distributor road link between the Longwood Road and the Summerhill Road. This shall be provided in tandem with the industrial lands</p>	<p>Many of the distributor roads proposed on the draft Plan Zoning and Objectives on mapping are located outside the development plan boundary and therefore question their relevance in respect of objectives of this Development Plan.</p> <p>Potential for negative impacts with respect SEO's. Recommend the following amendments to this objective:</p> <p>INF OBJ 1: <i>"Pending a review into the need for the distributor road network, the commencement of which would begin within one year of the adoption of the Plan, to preserve (and where indicated to construct subject to routing environmental assessment and appropriate assessment) and secure from further development a corridor for the provision of distributor link roads which include the following routes:</i></p> <p><i>RT1 Construction of the local distributor road link between the Dublin Road at Effernock and the Navan Road at the Motor Park, including a new bridge over the Boyne River subject to Appropriate Assessment and consultation and requirements of National Parks and Wildlife Services and Inland Fisheries Ireland.</i></p> <p><i>RT3 A local distributor road link connecting the Athboy Road to the local distributor road west of the Town Centre Expansion area, including a new bridge over the Boyne (long term objective) subject to Appropriate Assessment and consultation and requirements of National Parks and Wildlife Services and Inland Fisheries Ireland.</i></p> <p><i>[Recommend relocation of Route RT4 mapped objective as this proposed distributor road will be located partly within the River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA and has potential to have significant effects on this Natura 2000 due to potential disturbance to protected bird species. There is potential for alternative access routes further south.]</i></p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>Relocation of route southwards is considered satisfactory.</p>

<p>immediately to the north.</p> <p>RT 7 Reservation of corridor for the local distributor road link between the Summerhill Road and the Dublin Road. (long term objective)</p>	<p><i>RT 4 Construction of the local distributor road link west of the Town Centre Expansion area connecting to the Kinnegad Road. This shall be provided in tandem with the development immediately to the east. No development shall be provided on the lands immediately to the east until such time as that this section of the distributor road is completed. This road should be funded by the development in the town centre expansion area.</i></p> <p><i>RT 5 Construction of the local distributor road link between the Kinnegad Road and the Longwood Road. This shall be provided as part of Framework Plan no. 4.</i></p> <p><i>RT 6 Construction of local distributor road link between the Longwood Road and the Summerhill Road. This shall be provided in tandem with the industrial lands immediately to the north.</i></p> <p><i>RT 7 Reservation of corridor for the local distributor road link between the Summerhill Road and the Dublin Road. (long term objective)".</i></p>	
<p>INF OBJ 8 To carry out road/street improvement works along High St., Navangate St., Loman St., Watergate St., Whitehall, Mill St., Summerhill and Kinnegad Roads.</p>	<p>The improvement of road infrastructures will have positive impacts on P, and MA, but there could be negative impacts on S, L, B/FF and C when land use and increased traffic are taken into account. Recommend following amendments:</p> <p>INF OBJ 8 "To carry out road/street improvement works along High St., Navangate St., Loman St., Watergate St., Whitehall, Mill St., Summerhill and Kinnegad Roads in an environmentally sustainable manner".</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Other issues</p>	<p>Recommend inclusion of a policy to ensure that all protective policies of the Trim Development Plan are also applied in respect of the Trim Local Transport Plan, as follows:</p> <p>It is a policy of this plan that all protective policies and objectives of the Trim Development Plan 2014 – 2020 equally apply to the Trim Local Transport Plan.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Other issues</p>	<p>Recommend inclusion of New Policy in the Transport Plan as follows:</p> <p>In the event of linear paths, cycleways, seating, lighting, loss of riparian zones, etc being proposed along river corridors an Ecological Impact Assessment (and where necessary an Appropriate Assessment) including bat and otter surveys shall be conducted by specialists. The recommendations of the specialist studies shall be implemented. No lighting will be installed without prior consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and shall be in line with advances in knowledge into the impact of lighting on bats and other species and also to reflect advances in technology in the lighting industry.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Other issues</p>	<p>Recommend inclusion of a policy in the plan to protect Natura 2000 sites and make provision for requirement to undertake Appropriate Assessment</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

	in respect of local transport objectives, policies, actions and aims as follows: All development proposed as a result of the Trim Local Transport Plan will be subject to Appropriate Assessment.	
Other comments		
Natura 2000 Sites on Mapping	Recommend inclusion of mapping of Natura 2000 sites should be provided within the development plan.	Yes provided on Development Plan Conservation Map No. 3.
Section 9.6.5 of the draft Plan refers to Hydro Energy as follows: The Council encourages the use of hydro energy, where suitable, subject to appropriate assessment and environmental assessment as required and consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Section of the Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht and the Inland Fisheries Ireland.	Recommend that any reference to hydro energy be removed as it has significant potential to impact on the conservation objectives of the River Boyne SAC. For example, hydro energy will impact on the water regime of the river itself, which will result in indirect impacts to salmon and other water dependent habitats. By altering the water regime will effect water levels, flow rates, etc., which are particularly important for salmon, especially during spawning. Further, the construction of hydro energy infrastructure has significant potential to result in the pollution of the River Boyne itself. In addition, the additional noise associated with the running of hydro energy stations will result in increased disturbance impacts to the otter and the kingfisher (qualifying interest of the River Boyne SPA). Any proposals to install any form of a hydro energy project on the River Boyne, or any of its tributaries will require an Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Assessment and detailed consultation and approvals from both the NPWS and IFI.	This recommendation has not been incorporated into the draft Plan but alteration to the wording was incorporated.

12 MONITORING MEASURES

12.1 INTRODUCTION

Article 10 of the SEA Directive (2001/42/EEC) requires Member States to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans *“in order, inter alia, to identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action”*. The primary purpose of monitoring is to cross-check significant environmental effects which arise during the implementation stage against those predicted during the plan preparation stage.

The Directive leaves considerable flexibility to Member States in deciding how monitoring shall be arranged; however, it is generally agreed that a mixture of “quantitative and qualitative indicators are required. The Directive recognises that the monitoring does not necessarily require new research activity and that existing sources of information can be used. In addition, monitoring can be used to identify any information gaps and deficiencies that were identified as part of the SEA process. Furthermore, Government Guidelines state that monitoring should concentrate on the likely significant effects identified in the Environmental Report (DoEHLG, 2004).

Monitoring will be based around the Strategic Environmental Objectives, Indicators and Targets set out in Section 7 of this Environmental Report. The Strategic Environmental Objectives, Indicators and Targets for the various environmental topics are set out in **Table 12.1**. The indicators that are used will show both positive and negative changes that would be attributable to the implementation of the draft Plan. The indicators chosen are at a level, which is relevant to the draft Plan and are collated on and reported on by a variety of government agencies including the EPA, NPWS and OPW.

Monitoring proposals must concentrate on likely significant environmental effects, as identified in the Environmental Report, and the measures identified as necessary to prevent, reduce, or offset any significant adverse effects. The indicators/monitoring will act as an early warning sign so that appropriate remedial action is undertaken.

Responsibilities and Frequency of Reporting

The statutory Manager’s Report on progress in achieving objectives of the Plan, takes place two years after the adoption of the Plan and *“shall include information in relation to the progress on, and the results of monitoring the significant environmental effects of implementation of the Plan”*. If an objective or policy is resulting in a significant adverse effect then a variation may be considered during the lifetime of the Plan. It is largely the responsibility of Meath County Council to undertake the monitoring and to interpret the monitoring data relevant to Trim Development Plan and to deal with unforeseen effect as a result of implementing the Trim Development Plan.

Table 12.1: Monitoring and Reporting Programme

Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Source/ Responsibility
Objective 1 Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna Protect and where appropriate, promote and support the enhancement and effective protection of biodiversity in the wider landscape and in particular protected areas and protected species.	No net loss of designated sites, species or habitats.	Reported/ Estimated levels of damage to designated sites/ species/ habitats as identified by GIS and AA	NPWS
	Increase in number of Appropriate Assessments being carried out.	No. of Appropriate Assessments Carried out.	MCC Planning/ Environment Department
	No loss of land actively managed for conservation.	Loss of land actively managed for conservation.	NPWS
	No net loss of green linkages / ecological	Loss of green linkages/ ecological networks identified	MCC Environment Department/ GIS

Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Source/ Responsibility
	networks.	through GIS and Habitat Mapping.	
	Implementation of County Meath Biodiversity Plan	No. of actions/ objectives achieved in County Meath Biodiversity Plan.	MCC Environment Department
	Prevent further spread of alien/ invasive species.	Number of sites reported to contain alien/ invasive species.	NPWS MCC Environment Department
Objective 2 Population Improve people's quality of life based on high-quality residential, school, childcare, working and recreational environments and on sustainable transport	No increase in population above core strategy population targets	% change in population based on core strategy targets based on RPG figures.	CSO
	Appropriate mix of tenure types (including social housing) in all new developments.	% of private and social housing in new developments % mix of tenures based on housing strategy requirements.	MCC Planning and Housing Departments
	All significant planning applications for 15 + dwellings to be accompanied by a design statement.	% of significant planning applications granted for new residential developments that are accompanied by a design statement.	MCC Planning Department
Objective 3 Water Improve water quality and the management of watercourses to comply with the standards of the Water Framework Directive and incorporate the objectives of the Floods Directive into sustainable planning and development.	Implementation of the Programme of Measures identified under the ERBD River Basin Management Plan.	% increase and % decrease in waters achieving 'good' status as defined in the WFD.	EPA and MCC Environment Department
Objective 4 Soil Protect and, where appropriate, enhance the function and quality of the soil resource in the lands within Trim Development Plan.	Increase in any derelict buildings being redeveloped.	Number of derelict buildings being redeveloped based on commencement notices.	Commencement notices
Objective 5 Climate Change Contribute to mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.	All new development applications within areas at risk of flooding to submit a flood impact assessment.	Number of new development applications within areas at risk of flooding without flood impact assessment.	MCC Planning Department
	Increase access by households to sustainable forms of transport, including bus and rail services.	Passenger numbers. Funding allocated to improvement of walking and cycling facilities.	MCC Planning and Roads Department
Objective 6 Cultural Heritage Protect and, where appropriate, enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of cultural, architectural and archaeological, heritage within	No impact on the fabric or setting of monuments on the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) by development granted planning permission.	Number of monuments on the RMP, impacted by granted planning permissions.	The Archaeological Survey monitoring programme, Ireland
	No impacts on the	Number of protected	Buildings at Risk

Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Source/ Responsibility
Trim Development Plan.	architectural heritage value or setting of protected structures by development granted planning permission.	structures impacted by development granted planning permission.	Register, Heritage Council Ireland. MCC Planning Department
	No protected structures to be demolished because of long term neglect and dereliction.	Number of protected structures that have been demolished because of long term neglect and dereliction.	Buildings at Risk Register, Heritage Council Ireland. MCC Planning Department
Objective 7 Landscape Protect and, where appropriate, enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of landscapes in Trim Development Plan.	No negative alteration to protected views.	Number of visual impact assessments received as part of development proposals	MCC Planning Department
	Maintain and enhance landscape character in accordance with recommendations included in the Meath Landscape Character Assessment as part of MCDP 2013-2019.	No. of new developments granted planning permission within areas of high landscape value and within High Amenity Areas.	MCC Planning Department
	No planning permission granted within special qualities of landscapes that materially contravene the policies or objectives of the Plan.	Number of planning permissions granted which materially contravene the special qualities of landscapes.	MCC Planning Department
Objective 8 Material Assets Make best use of existing infrastructure and promote the sustainable development of new infrastructure.	Minimise the % of unaccounted for water. This refers to leakage from the system.	% unaccounted for water.	EPA
	Increase in planning permissions making provision for renewable energy and water conservation measures.	No of planning permissions making provision for renewable energy and water conservation measures.	MCC Planning Department
	Ensure adequate public wastewater and water supply is provided prior to construction of new development or is developed in parallel.	No. of developments granted planning permission without adequate public water supply and / or wastewater services in place.	EPA and MCC Environment Department
	Increase access to public transport from households.	Construction/ improvement of footpaths/ greenways/ cycle infrastructure.	MCC Roads Department

Appendix A

Natura Impact Report

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1 INTRODUCTION

This Natura Impact Report (NIR) contains a record of the Appropriate Assessment, undertaken by RPS on behalf of Meath County Council and Trim Town Council, in respect of the draft Trim Development Plan 2014-2020. This report is in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora; the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended); and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477/2011).

1.1 BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

The Core Strategy for Trim Development Plan 2014-2020 builds on the principles of the previous Trim Development Plan 2008 and the framework provided by the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019. The Strategy outlined for Trim in the County Development Plan provides that the town should develop as a Moderate Sustainable Growth Town. The draft Trim Development Plan 2014-2020 will seek to provide the building blocks for the implementation of this strategy at the local level and the framework is detailed in the policies and objectives contained within the Plan.

An important aspect of the development of the Trim Development Plan is how the Plan may impact on European Sites designated for nature conservation, i.e. Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA). Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, better known as “The Habitats Directive”, provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Articles 3 to 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of Community interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of sites known as Natura 2000. These are SACs designated under the Habitats Directive and SPAs designated under the Birds Directive (Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (79/409/ECC) as codified by Directive 2009/147/EC).

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect Natura 2000 sites (Annex 1.1). Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment (AA):

*Article 6(3): “Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [Natura 2000] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subjected to an **appropriate assessment** of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.”*

Article 6(4): “If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, Member States shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted. Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to the beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest.”

This Natura Impact Report provides a record of the Appropriate Assessment process for the draft Trim Development Plan 2014-2020.

1.2 STAGES OF THE APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Both EU and national guidance exists in relation to Member States fulfilling their requirements under the EU Habitats Directive, with particular reference to Article 6(3) and 6(4) of that Directive. The methodology followed in relation to this NIR has had regard to the following guidance:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. <http://www.npws.ie>
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, referred to as MN2000, European Commission 2000; <http://ec.europa.eu>
- 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, referred to as the "EC Article 6 Guidance Document (EC2000); <http://ec.europa.eu>
- 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 commission. <http://ec.europa.eu>

In complying with the obligations under Article 6(3) and following the EC2000 and MN2000 Guidelines, this NIR has been broadly structured in a stage by stage approach as follows:

1) Stage 1 – Screening stage

- Description of the draft Plan;
- Identification of Natura 2000 sites potentially affected;
- Identification and description of individual and cumulative impacts likely to result from the draft Plan; and
- Assessment of the significance of the impacts identified on site integrity. Exclusion of sites where it can be objectively concluded that there will be no significant effects.

2) Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment

- Description of the Natura 2000 sites that will be considered further in the AA;
- Description of significant impacts on the conservation feature of these sites likely to occur from the Plan;
- Mitigation Measures; and
- Conclusions.

The Habitats Directive promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures. In the first instance, the Plan should aim to avoid any negative impacts on European sites by identifying possible impacts early in the plan-making, and writing the plan in order to avoid such impacts. Following that, mitigation measures should be applied, if necessary, during the AA process to the point

where no adverse impacts on the site(s) remain. If the Plan is still likely to result in adverse effects, and no further practicable mitigation is possible, then it is rejected. If no alternative solutions are identified and the Plan is required for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI test) under Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, then compensation measures are required for any remaining adverse effect. Such measures must be agreed with the Commission.

1.3 DATA SOURCES

Sources of information that were used to collect data on the Natura 2000 network of sites relied upon are listed below:

- Ordnance Survey of Ireland mapping and aerial photography available from www.osi.ie (accessed on dates in July 2013);
- Online data available on Natura 2000 sites as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from www.npws.ie;
 - Natura 2000 network Data Form
 - Online database of rare, threatened and protected species
 - Publicly accessible biodiversity datasets
- Information on water quality in the area available from www.epa.ie;
- Information on the River Basin Districts from www.wfdireland.ie;
- Information on soils, geology, and hydrology in the area available from www.gsi.ie;
- *Status of EU Protected Habitats in Ireland*. (National Parks & Wildlife Service, 2008);
- *The Status of Birds in Ireland: An analysis of Conservation Concern 2008-2013* (Lyans *et al.* 2007);
- Relevant Development Plans and Local Area Plans in neighbouring areas; and
- Natura Impact Report – Appropriate Assessment of the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019.

1.4 CONSULTATION

Consultation was undertaken with the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gealtacht, and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources on behalf of Inland Fisheries Ireland through the SEA Scoping Document.

The Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gealtacht raised issues/concerns in relation to alien invasive species, the importance of linear features such as hedgerows and waterways, the protection of both surface waters and groundwaters, issues relating to linear pathways and cycleways, and adequate sewage treatment facilities, in their scoping response. All issues/concerns raised by the Department have been addressed in the draft Plan.

The Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources on behalf of Inland Fisheries Ireland raised issues/concerns in relation to water quality, drinking water and wastewater. They also requested consideration be given to the IFI publication *Requirements for the Protection of Fisheries habitats during Construction and Development Works* and that consideration should also be given to the protection of the tributaries of the River Boyne. All issues/concerns raised by the Department have been addressed in the draft Plan.

2 SCREENING

2.1 DESCRIPTION OF DRAFT PLAN

The draft Trim Development Plan 2014 – 2020, will once adopted, replace the preceding Trim Development Plan adopted by both Trim Town Council & Meath County Council in 2008. Having regard to the development envelope of Trim which comprises of the administrative boundaries of both Trim Town Council and Meath County Council, the draft Plan has been prepared as a joint statutory planning document for both Local Authorities.

The purpose of this draft Trim Development Plan is:

- To promote the economic, social and cultural development of Trim and to give local communities the opportunity to participate in the planning process as it relates to their local area and their daily lives;
- To identify development demands likely to arise over the period 2014-2020;
- To provide a blueprint for the sustainable development of the plan area so it can realise its full potential for the benefit of the residents of the town and the county;
- To provide a detailed framework for the management and regulation of development and use of land that will guide day to day planning decisions;
- To include proposals for the development and use of land and to zone lands for specific purposes which will provide guidance and information for developers and the public; and
- To ensure the optimum utilisation of State and Local Authority resources.

2.1.1 Core Strategy

The Core Strategy for the Trim Development Plan 2014-2020 builds on the principles of the previous Trim Development Plan 2008 and the framework provided by the Meath County Development Plan 2013 – 2019, the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010–2022 and national policy and ministerial guidelines relevant to planning.

The Strategy outlined for Trim in the County Development Plan provides that the town should develop as a Moderate Sustainable Growth Town.

The Trim Development Plan 2014–2020 will seek to provide the building blocks for the implementation of this strategy at the local level and the framework is detailed in the policies and objectives contained within the individual chapters of the Plan.

The key goals of the draft Plan are to strengthen the economy of the town by attracting new investment in employment, services, retail and tourism uses in order to underpin the attractiveness of Trim as a place to live and work, and thereby support an increase in the population of the town.

Development Strategy

The development strategy envisaged for Trim includes for consolidated growth rates over the short to medium term, achieving a critical mass which will support competitiveness, sustainability and create opportunities for local economic development. This growth pattern can also generate economies of scale to justify strategic investment into the town achieving sustainable levels of development through the provision of a range of residential, employment, recreational, cultural, retail and educational facilities appropriate for a town of its size.

The strategy seeks to build on and promote the town's unique heritage, such that Trim can realise its full potential as a heritage town and major tourism destination within the Boyne Valley. In combination with this, by enhancing and promoting a distinctive cultural and retail experience unique to Trim, increased levels of footfall can boost its vibrancy and vitality along with the associated economic benefits. Central to this will be the creation of strong, pedestrian friendly environment. The draft Plan promotes policies and objectives in a coordinated manner to achieve this goal. Key objectives include, the strategic extension of the town centre into the town centre extension area, consolidating the commercial core of the town, improving and promoting key routes that provide good and safe connectivity within and around the town, protecting and enhancing the town's unique architectural and archaeological heritage and promoting the development of a unique cultural and retailing experience within the town.

Population and Housing

The overall population of Trim Town has increased steadily between the period 2002 and 2011. The most recent census information indicates that the current population of the town & environs is 8,268 persons which is an increase of 24.2% since the 2006 census results.

The draft Trim Development Plan has been allocated 518 household units to be developed over its lifespan, which equates to a residential land requirement of 14.8 ha.

There is currently 111.7ha of land zoned in the Trim Development Plan 2008-2014 which allows for residential development. Given that the Core Strategy of the Meath County Development Plan 2013 – 2019 allocates the Trim Development Plan area an additional 518 households over the period of this Plan, it is evident that there is a significant overhang of residential zoned lands in the town. As part of the Core Strategy of this draft Trim Development Plan, it is a requirement to reduce the quantity of residential zoned land in the town and in line with the County Core Strategy in terms of land supply.

Economy and Employment

It is an aim of Trim Town Council and Meath County Council to promote sustainable economic development in Trim. This means that the Planning Authorities will facilitate land uses to nurture economic enterprise and allow it to function and expand as may be necessary, in such form and pattern that is sustainable in environmental, social and economic terms. Meath County Council and Trim Town Council work to promote County Meath as a potential location for economic development and liaise with other relevant organisations to achieve this.

Trim as a Moderate Sustainable Growth town should develop in a self sufficient manner and levels of growth should be balanced to ensure that any increase in population will be in tandem with employment opportunities, capacity in physical and social infrastructure and will not be based on long distance commuting.

Trim has a relatively compact town centre with the main shopping area concentrated around Market Street, Emmet Street, Castle Street and Bridge Street. The vacancy rate is relatively low at 10.76%, which indicates a healthy town centre.

Arising from the County Retail Strategy Trim is under provided for in terms of national and international convenience and comparison retailers. At present Lidl, Super Valu and Spar are the primary convenience retailers in the town. Kilkenny Shop is the only national comparison retailer in Trim Town Centre. As a sub-county Town, a certain level of representation of national and international multiples would be expected.

A large area to the west of Emmet Street and Watergate Street has been identified as a suitable location to accommodate the expansion of the town centre. The lack of connectivity between the OPW offices and the adjoining town centre expansion lands, and the core retail area of Trim town centre is highlighted as an issue in the Retail Strategy.

2.1.2 Existing Environment of the Draft Trim Development Plan Area

Water Quality

The main river within the Plan area is the River Boyne, which is designated a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and a Special Protection Area (SPA). The water quality of the River Boyne is of Moderate Status with a Q value of Q3-4 under the Water Framework Directive (WFD). The River Boyne flows through the centre of Trim from the west to the east and has a WFD Risk Score of 1a – which means it is at risk of not achieving good status. The River Boyne has been identified as a nutrient sensitive river within the Eastern River Basin District River Management Plan 2009-2015.

Two tributaries of the River Boyne flow through the draft Plan area. The Whitehall Stream is located upstream of Trim and the Friars park River is situated within the western part of Trim. These are not monitored by the EPA for water quality. The Friars park River flows from the north to the east of the draft Plan area where it joins the River Boyne. This River is not monitored by the EPA for its water quality status.

The surface waters within the plan area fall within the Boyne Lower Water Management Unit (WMU) (as defined in the Eastern River Basin Management Plan (ERBMP)) and are of moderate Ecological Status. The ERBMP has included an extended deadline for achieving good Ecological Status within the Boyne Lower WMU for the year 2027. This extended deadline is being sought based on issues of technical feasibility with regards to achieving the 2015 deadline set in the WFD. The pressures which have been identified by the ERBD in the characterisation of the water bodies within and surrounding the Plan area include the following:

- Diffuse source pressures, such as shown in the EPA diffuse sources model; and
- Morphological pressures, including intensive land use and built structures.

Water supply

Drinking water supplies for the Plan area are currently obtained from the River Boyne via abstraction. Water demand within the Plan area has increased over the last number of years and therefore the existing water treatment works was upgraded in 2007 to a design capacity of 5,500cu.m/day. The Trim Water Supply Scheme also serves Summerhill and Rathmolyon. The current average demand is approximately 3,500cu.m/day. In addition, the Trim Water Supply Scheme has been included in the Water Services Investment Programme Assessment of Needs 2007-2013 with the view to linking the Trim, Summerhill and Rathmolyon Water Supply Schemes to the proposed new water treatment plant located at Dowdstown, near Navan. Existing interim supplies will be decommissioned once the connection has been completed.

However, Inland Fisheries Ireland have raised concern in their Scoping Response submission to this Environmental Report, dated 19th July 2013, that the proposed Dowdstown Water Treatment Plant will place an unjustified strain on already unlimited water supply of the River Boyne. Meath County Council

Water Services Department have advised that following an extensive statutory process including an oral hearing, An Bord Pleanála has granted Meath County Council an abstraction order to abstract 44,000 cu.m/d from the River Boyne at Dowdstown. As part of this process the issue of the ability of the Boyne to sustain such an abstraction, including during low flow conditions was closely examined and was not identified as a problem. Furthermore, Meath County Council have advised that the existing abstraction from the River Boyne at Trim would cease and would be replaced by the proposed new abstraction at Dowdstown and therefore this new abstraction would replace the existing abstraction.

According to Meath County Council, Trim has adequate water supply to meet projected demands during the proposed plan period. The availability of the water resources of the River Boyne is vital to ensure that Trim can continue to develop in a sustainable manner.

Wastewater Facilities

The Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) (amended by Directive 98/15/EEC) aims to protect the environment from the adverse effects of wastewater discharges by ensuring that wastewater is appropriately treated before it is discharged to the environment. Such treatment is essential in order to meet the requirements of the WFD.

Trim Town Centre and the housing developments along the R154, R158 and R160 and R161 are connected to the main Trim sewerage system. This wastewater is pumped to and is treated at the Newtown Wastewater Treatment Plant at Newtown, Trim. This plant was upgraded in 1998 and has a design capacity of 12,000 population equivalent (pe). The sewer network and the pumping station at Newtown require improvements. This is included in the Water Services Investment Programme Assessment of Needs 2007-2013 which involves replacing the Newtown Pumping Station and upgrading/ rehabilitating the associated sewers and rising main.

Storm Water Management

Trim is located on the River Boyne which flows through the centre of the Plan area. The Whitehall Stream is located upstream of Trim and the Friarspark River is situated within the western part of Trim and flows from the north to the east of the Plan area where it joins the River Boyne.

According to the OPW flood database flooding is a re-occurring problem within the plan area. Recurring flood events are reported for the River Boyne along the R154, R161, Navan Gate Street, Haggard Street and Watergate Street which could be a direct result of heavy rain, river flood and inadequate capacity of the foul sewer. Flood events have also been recorded for the River Boyne and include flooding at Trim Pitch and Putt in 2008, Trim Swimming Pool in 2005 and at Ring Road in 1995.

The European Directive 2007/60/EC (Floods Directive) on the assessment and management of flood risks requires member states to carry out preliminary flood assessments in order to identify areas at risk. Trim is located in the Eastern Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (ECFRAM) and as part of this study ECFRAM will be required to produce flood maps; flood risk objectives; and Flood Risk Management Plans. A detailed Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has been completed as part of the Trim Development Plan review, which has informed the zoning of the plan area.

The DEHLG published *'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities'* ensure that flood risk assessment and management is incorporated within the planning system. These guidelines have been considered as part of the SFRA completed for the Trim Development Plan review.

2.2 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURA 2000 SITES

This section of the screening process describes the Natura 2000 sites within a 15km radius of the draft Plan boundary. A 15km buffer zone has been chosen as a precautionary measure, to ensure that all potentially affected Natura 2000 sites are included in the screening process. This is in line with, *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities*, produced by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Table 2.1 lists the SACs and **Table 2.2** lists the SPAs that are within 15km of the draft Plan boundary, and **Figure 2.1** shows their locations in relation to the draft Trim Development Plan 2014-2020.

The integrity of a Natura 2000 site (referred to in Article 6.3 of the EU Habitats Directive) is determined based on the conservation status of the qualifying features of the SAC or SPA. The qualifying features for each site have been obtained through a review of the Conservation Objectives available from the NPWS, www.npws.ie.

Table 2.1: SACs within 15km of the Draft Trim Development Plan 2014-2020

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Habitats	Qualifying Species	Documented Threats*
002299	River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC	Alkaline Fens [7230]; and 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].	River lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) [1099]; Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106]; and Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) [1355].	Main threats to the ecological interests of this site are further drainage schemes and water pollution.

*Information based on the Natura 2000 Standard Data Forms (in July 2013) on the NPWS website <http://www.npws.ie/protectedsites/>.

Table 2.2: SPAs within 15km of the Draft Trim Development Plan 2014-2020

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Feature Annex I species	Documented Threats*
004232	River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation conditions of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA: Kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>) [A004].	No threats or pressures identified in the Natura 2000 Standard Data Forms.

*Information based on the Natura 2000 Standard Data Forms (in July 2013) on the NPWS website <http://www.npws.ie/protectedsites/>.

2.3 IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The following potential impacts on Natura 2000 Sites owing to the implementation of the draft Plan have been identified.

2.3.1 Documented Threats to the Natura 2000 Sites and to their Qualifying Features

Documented threats to Habitats Directive Annex I habitats and Annex II species in Ireland are presented in the 'Backing documents' and 'Form' for each habitat and species which are available at: <http://www.npws.ie/en/PublicationsLiterature/HabitatsDirectivereport07/>. Gathering information on the documented perceived threats to the qualifying features of the sites (and therefore to the Conservation Objectives of the sites and the integrity of the sites) is an important prerequisite for assessing what are the 'likely significant effects' on the sites resulting from the Plan.

Similar threats will apply to many of the SPAs that often correspond geographically to the SACs. Generally speaking, the threats to the Annex I habitats and Annex II species of the SAC will also apply to the Annex I bird species and bird populations in general that are the qualifying features of the SPAs.

Table 2.1 presents details of those threats, identified by NPWS, which apply to the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and are included in this assessment. No such threats are perceived for the River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA, however, water pollution would impact on the habitat and food resources of the Kingfisher, and therefore must be considered.

2.3.2 Direct loss of Habitats

The construction of new residential and other developments to cater for an increasing population within Trim has the potential to result in the direct loss of habitats, which may impact on the species listed as Qualifying Interests of the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA. This would likely constitute a significant negative effect.

There are no habitats listed as Qualifying Interest of the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC (i.e. Alkaline Fen and Alluvial Forests) within the Development Plan boundary.

As can be seen on the Land Use Zoning in the draft Plan (Map No. 1), one zoning – B1 Commercial/Town Centre Use - is located partly within the boundaries of the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA. The SAC skirts the north west edge of this zoning and south of the River Boyne. This conflict occurs on an area of land which has been developed as a local roadway which bounds the town centre expansion area and provides local access to the new OPW Headquarters building. These lands have already been developed to an extent and there are no habitats listed as Qualifying Interest of the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC present. The local road separates the SAC from this small portion of the SAC which is within the B1 zoning.

There are also a number of Land Use Zonings (see Map No. 1 of the draft Plan) in close proximity to the SAC and SPA where the potential for indirect impacts could occur. Further, there are a number of indicative proposed distributor routes which cross both the SAC and SPA.

Further, as identified on the Public Realm / Tourism Map in the draft Plan (Map No. 5) there are a number of New/Upgraded pedestrian and cycling routes within or in close proximity to the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA. The upgrading of existing routes and the development of new routes could result in direct habitat removal and indirectly render existing habitats utilized by Annexed species unusable, due to the increased human accessibility and activity.

The loss of habitats though direct removal or indirectly due to improper Land Use Zoning have the potential to impact on the qualifying features of the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA.

2.3.3 Reduction in Water Quality

The construction of new residential and other developments to cater for an increasing population within Trim has the potential to result in a reduction in the water quality of the River Boyne through an increase in the waste water discharged into the river. A reduction in water quality could have a negative impact on protected species within the SAC, such as lamprey and Atlantic salmon, or the food resources of the Kingfisher within the SPA.

Trim Town Centre and the housing developments along the R154, R158 and R160 and R161 are connected to the main Trim sewerage system. This wastewater is pumped to and is treated at the Newtown wastewater treatment plant in Trim. This has been upgraded to cater for a population equivalent (P.E.) of 12,700. The sewer network and the pumping station at Newtown require improvements. This is included in the Water Services Investment Programme Assessment of Needs 2007-2013 which involves replacing the Newtown Pumping Station and upgrading/ rehabilitating the associated sewers and rising main. Where these works are completed there will be adequate capacity to cater for the Development Plans projected growth in the short term.

The main river within the Plan area is the River Boyne, which is designated a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and a Special Protection Area (SPA). The water quality of the River Boyne is of Moderate Status with a Q value of Q3-4 under the Water Framework Directive (WFD). The River Boyne flows through the centre of Trim from the west to the east and has a WFD Risk Score of 1a – which means it is at risk of not achieving good status. The River Boyne has been identified as a nutrient sensitive river within the Eastern River Basin District River Management Plan 2009-2015.

Additional hard surfaces also create the potential for an increase in surface water run-off into the river, with its related negative impact on water quality.

Any construction activities have the potential to release suspended solids and chemical pollutants into watercourses, which could impact negatively on water quality.

Any reduction in water quality in the River Boyne or its tributaries has the potential to impact on the qualifying features of the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA.

2.3.4 Damage / Degradation of Habitats and Disturbance to Species

The construction of new residential and other developments to cater for an increasing population within Trim has the potential to result in the degradation of habitats listed as Qualifying Interests of the Natura 2000 sites, in addition to the disturbance to species, which may also be Qualifying Interests, e.g. otter and kingfisher.

As identified on the Public Realm / Tourism Map in the draft Plan (Map No. 5) there are a number of New/Upgraded pedestrian and cycling routes within or in close proximity to the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA. The upgrading of existing routes and the development of new routes could result in direct habitat removal/degradation, and indirectly render existing habitats utilized by Annexed species unusable, due to the increased human activity and disturbance.

An increase in human population and associated infrastructure can lead to negative effects on habitats and species due to potential increases in public visitations to the Natura 2000 sites and an increase in recreational pressures.

In accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, habitats of conservation concern, particularly designated sites, are linked to the surrounding landscape by natural and manmade features, such as water courses (rivers, streams, canals and drainage ditches), hedgerows, treelines, roads and railways. Therefore, areas of conservation concern must not be considered in isolation, their linkages and buffer zones must also be protected to ensure the continued migration of species and genetic diversity throughout the entire area. The Whitehall Stream is located upstream of Trim and the Friarspark River is situated within the western part of Trim, and which discharge to the River Boyne within the draft Plan boundary. These two watercourses as such act as Ecological Corridors to the River Boyne and the conservation features of this SAC and SPA. Any impacts to water quality in the Whitehall Stream or Friarspark River as a result of the draft Plan are unlikely to impact on the water quality of the River Boyne. Further, the Annexed species for which the River Boyne is designated are also likely to utilise these two watercourses.

Further, Article 12 of the Habitats Directive is aimed at the establishment and implementation of a strict protection regime for animal species listed in Annex IV(a) of the Directive within the whole territory of Member States, i.e. in locations outside protected areas as well as inside their boundaries. The otter is listed on both Annex II and IV, and therefore requires protection. Otter are known to be widespread and common throughout the River Boyne catchment. Disturbance of protected Annexed species can result from the increased human activity levels associated with the draft Plan.

The damage / degradation of habitats and the disturbance of species has the potential to impact on the qualifying features of the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA.

2.3.5 Reduction in Water Flows

The construction of new residential and other developments to cater for an increasing population within Trim has the potential to result in an increase in the water abstracted from the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA. The resultant reduction in water levels and flow rates has the potential to impact negatively on the habitats and species for which the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA is designated. Migratory species such as Atlantic salmon and lamprey may face barriers to passage caused by low water levels, while water-dependant habitats may face desiccation if water levels are not sufficient to maintain them.

Inland Fisheries Ireland have specifically raised concerns about the proposed Dowdstown Water Treatment Plant, which is downstream of Trim and outside of the draft Trim Development Plan, as it will place a strain on the already limited water supply in the River Boyne. Meath County Council Water Services Department have advised that following an extensive statutory process including an oral hearing, An Bord Pleanála has granted Meath County Council an abstraction order to abstract 44,000 cu.m/d from the River Boyne at Dowdstown. As part of this process the issue of the ability of the Boyne to sustain such an abstraction, including during low flow conditions was closely examined and was not identified as a problem. Furthermore, Meath County Council have advised that the existing abstraction from the River Boyne at Trim would cease and would be replaced by the proposed new abstraction at Dowdstown and therefore this new abstraction would replace the existing abstraction.

2.3.6 Spread of Alien Invasive Species

Construction works related to the construction of new residential and other developments for an increasing population within Trim has the potential to result in the spread of alien invasive species (both flora and fauna) into Natura 2000 sites. This has the potential to impact negatively on the habitats and species for which Natura 2000 sites have been designated.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service raised the issue of alien invasive species in response to the Scoping Document and requested that a policy is needed to protect against the accidental introduction of such species during development as invasive species will impact on the qualifying features of the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA.

Table 2.3: Likely Affect on Natura 2000 Sites

Site Name	Reduction of Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Habitat or Species Fragmentation	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Key Indicators of Conservation Value (Water Quality Etc.)
River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC	Potential to impact	Potential to impact	Potential to impact	Potential to impact	Potential to impact
River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA	Potential to impact	Potential to impact	Potential to impact	Potential to impact	Potential to impact

2.3.7 Cumulative and In Combination Impacts

This step aims to identify at this early stage any possible significant in-combination or cumulative effects/impacts of the proposed draft Plan with other such Plans and projects on the Natura 2000 network. Other Plans and projects specific to the relevant Natura 2000 sites are the following:

- Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010-2022;
- Eastern River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015;
- Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019;
- Navan Development Plan 2009-2015;
- Draft Kells Development Plan 2013-2019;
- Athboy Local Area Plan 2009-2015;
- Carlanstown Local Area Plan 2009-2015;
- Carnaross Local Area Plan 2009-2015;
- Ballivor Local Area Plan 2009-2015;
- Moynalty Local Area Plan 2009-2015;
- Slane Local Area Plan 2009-2015;
- Water Services Investment Programme;
- IPPC Programme;
- Local Authority Discharge;
- Groundwater Pollution Reduction Programmes;
- Surface Water Pollution Reduction Programmes;
- Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study; and
- Catchment Flood Risk Management Plans.

The Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010-2022 provides the framework within which regional development plans are to be prepared. Section 7 of this document (Green Infrastructure, Heritage & Environment) sets a policy (GIR 21) "Plans and projects that have the potential to negatively impact on Natura 2000 sites will be subject to a Habitats Directive Assessment (HDA) according to Article 6 of the habitats directive and in accordance with best practice and guidance". Further, there is a policy (GIR 16) that "Local Authorities incorporate the objectives from the River Basin Management Plans in their jurisdiction into the plan making process so that the

implications of development on water quality is a key driver in identification of suitable locations for new development". In addition, there is also a policy (GIR 17) that "Development Management objectives and guidance places strong emphasis on the need for Sustainable Drainage Systems and water management to reduce both flood risk, overflows and the washing of pollutants from surface areas into receiving waters and to support ecological processes".

The Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 and Local Area Plans identified all include numerous policies and objectives aimed at protecting the natural environment, including Natura 2000 sites. Explicit reference to Appropriate Assessment Screening for plans and projects are made in these plans, and the plans themselves have been subject to Appropriate Assessment, with findings of no significant adverse effects.

No other pathway has been identified by which any of the Plans and Programmes identified could have a significant 'in combination' effect on any of the Natura 2000 sites identified. In fact, the in combination effect of the water related Plans and Programmes would have positive effects on water quality resulting in positive indirect impacts on the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA.

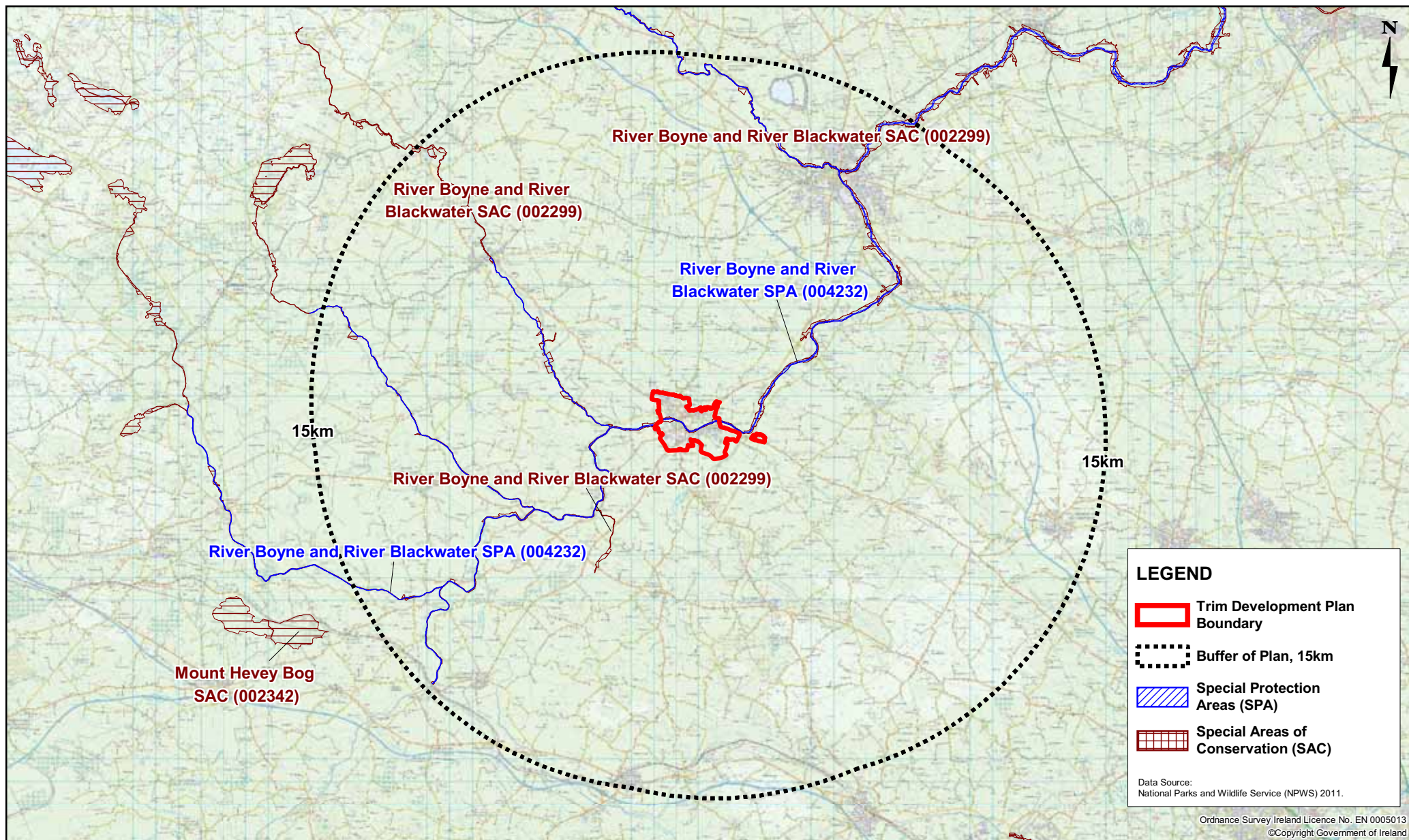


FIGURE 2.1 - PROTECTED AREAS, NATURA 2000

2.4 SCREENING CONCLUSION

The likely impacts that will arise from the draft Trim Development Plan alone and in combination with other plans and programmes have been examined in the context of a number of factors that could potentially affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 network. Only two Natura 2000 sites occur within the 15km radius of the draft Plan area and both of these occur within the boundaries of the draft Plan area.

This Screening process has identified that both the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and the River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA have the potential to be both directly and indirectly adversely affected by the implementation of the draft Trim Development Plan 2014-2020, **and these were brought forward for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.**

3 STAGE 2 – APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

3.1 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

The assessment of impacts on the Natura 2000 network of sites was undertaken by the following tasks:

1. Establishing site specific issues so that the impact evaluation is correctly informed.
 - This was primarily achieved through research of desktop information and consultation with NPWS and IFI.
2. Issuing a Policy/Objectives Guidance Note for Meath County Council to pro-actively inform the preparation of the Policies and Objectives.
 - This Note contained a summary of the Screening Exercise and recommendations of Policies / Objectives to promote and avoid during the preparation of the draft Development Plan (Appendix A).
3. Iterative Review of draft Chapters of the draft Trim Development Plan to allow the amendment of Policies and Objectives and supporting text. By doing so, potential impacts were avoided or mitigated through the addition of additional Objectives.

The process of Appropriate Assessment will continue as required throughout the review period of the Plan. It will be necessary to screen and potentially analyse any amendments to Policies and Objectives as a result of the subsequent stages in Plan-preparation and to make recommendations of these amendments may lead to likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites.

3.2 SITE SPECIFIC ISSUES AT NATURA 2000 SITES

As previously identified in Section 2.3, the potential adverse effects impacting on the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA from the implementation of the draft Trim Development Plan are as follows:

- The loss of habitats through direct removal due to new infrastructure and developments or indirectly due to improper Land Use Zoning the construction of;
- Reduction in water quality through increased wastewater discharges, surface water run-offs, construction impacts, etc.;
- Damage / degradation of habitats utilised by Annexed species such as the otter, bats, salmon, lamprey and kingfisher by bank side works; or their disturbance through increased human accessibility along proposed walkways / cycle ways, etc.;
- Reduction of water flows through increased abstractions from the River Boyne to service the increased population levels and needs; and
- Spread of alien invasive species through the construction of new infrastructure and developments within and adjacent to Trim.

3.3 CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

A Natura 2000 site's Conservation Objectives are defined by the NPWS and are, "intended to ensure that the relevant Annex I habitats and Annex II species present on a site are maintained in a favourable condition" (DEHLG, 2010). The DEHLG guidelines state that, "The Conservation Objectives derive from the qualifying interests, the Natura 2000 standard data form, and the management plan for the site, with summary information also available in the site synopsis." Whilst the Natura 2000 standard data forms and site synopses do present details of the qualifying features of Natura 2000 sites, and list the generic threats to those features, they do not define the Conservation Objectives of the site. Whilst management plans have been produced for some of Ireland's Natura 2000 sites, no Management Plan for any of the Natura 2000 sites discussed in this report is yet published (July 2013) on the NPWS website:

<http://www.npws.ie/en/PublicationsLiterature/ConservationManagementPlans/FullCPs/>.

In the absence of management plans, the National Parks and Wildlife Service have produced generic conservation objectives for the relevant Natura 2000 Sites.

Generic Conservation Objectives for the River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA are as follows:

- To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interest for this SPA:
 - Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) [A004]

For the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC, generic Conservation Objectives are as follows:

- To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:
 - River lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*) [1099];
 - Salmon (*Salmo salar*) [1106];
 - Otter (*Lutra lutra*) [1355];
 - Alkaline Fens [7230]; and
 - Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0].

The favourable conservation status of a species can be described as being achieved when: population data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself, and the natural range of the species is neither being reduced or likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Favourable conservation status of a habitat can be described as being achieved when: its natural range, and area it covers within that range, is stable or increasing, and the ecological factors that are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable as defined below.

3.4 LIKELY EFFECTS OF THE DRAFT PLAN ON NATURA 2000 SITES

A Policy / Objective Guidance Note (see **Appendix A**) was prepared at the commencement of the preparation of the draft Trim Development Plan to help those preparing the draft Plan to avoiding adverse impacts on Natura 2000 Sites. Avoidance of impacts during the early stages of the drafting Policies and Objectives is regarded to be the most efficient approach to protecting the Natura 2000 network.

The Guidance Note provided proactive advice to the Council that would allow impacts on Natura 2000 sites to be avoided. Where avoidance was not possible then potential adverse impacts were mitigated through addition/deletion of text, addition of caveats and/or addition of further protective Policies / Objectives.

Meath County Council prepared and revised several versions of each chapter of the draft Trim Development Plan. Those were reviewed by the SEA and AA teams, who provided feedback on the Policies, Objectives and supporting text. After each review recommendations were forwarded to the Council to allow them to consider the proposed change. The output was the final version of each draft Chapter of the draft Plan that contained amended policies and mitigation measures specifically designed to address potential impacts on Natura 2000 Sites.

A detailed assessment of the draft plan policies/ objectives was undertaken at each stage of the process, including the following stages:

- The Manager's Draft Plan which was issued to the Elected Members;
- The Manger's Recommendations as contained within the Manager's Report on Notices of Motion; and
- The final amendments to the Draft Plan for display based on the Joint Area Meetings.

Following the initial review of all proposed Policies and Objectives within the draft Trim Development Plan, it was determined that the majority of the Policies and Objectives did not pose any likely significant effect on the Natura 2000 Sites, and therefore, were not subject to further scrutiny in the AA process. **Table 3.1** only lists the Policies and Objectives that **did** pose a risk of adverse effects and hence required mitigation.

Table 3.1 also presents the key changes (in **bold**) that were made to the policies and objectives as a result of the AA of the initial drafts of the chapters of the draft Trim Development Plan. It shows how specific Policies and Objectives in the draft Trim Development Plan were deemed to pose likely significant effects to Natura 2000 Sites. It shows how these Polices and Objectives were then amended to avoid, reduce or minimise the potential adverse effects. These are the key mitigation measures that were included in the draft Plan.

Table 3.1: Aspects of the draft Trim Development Plan and how they were Mitigated as a result of the Appropriate Assessment process.

Chapter / Appendix	Section / Policy / Objective in draft Plan	Potential Likely Significant Impact and recommendation identified by AA Team	Mitigation Measure incorporated into the draft Plan
Chapter 4 – Heritage, Tourism and Green Infrastructure	Section 4.2 - which refers to The Natural Environment – Our Green Infrastructure, states that <i>'Biodiversity comes under threat through habitat destruction, invasive species, and pollution and over harvesting of natural resources.'</i>	<p>Invasive species have significant potential to impact on the qualifying features of SACs and SPAS. Invasive species are identified in the draft Plan but no policies to protect against invasive species are included. Recommend inclusion of objectives on invasive species in the draft Plan.</p> <p>This has also been requested by the NPWS in their scoping submission dated 16th July 2013.</p>	<p><u>Insertion of new objectives:</u></p> <p>HER OBJ 9: 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>HER OBJ 10: 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>
Chapter 4 – Heritage, Tourism and Green Infrastructure	Section 4.5.2 – which refers the Green Infrastructure Strategy for Trim	<p>Green infrastructure developments along river banks or in close proximity to watercourses have the potential to impact on the ecological integrity of the watercourse, both during the construction phase and the operational phase of the proposed development through the direct loss/degradation of habitats, reduction in water quality and disturbance of species. Given the significance of the River Boyne and its tributaries, it is recommended that objectives on linear paths, cycleways, etc. are included to ensure that the ecological integrity of the River Boyne is protected.</p> <p>Furthermore, it has been</p>	<p><u>Insertion of new objective:</u></p> <p>GI OBJ 8: In the event of linear paths, cycleways, seating, lighting, loss of riparian zones, etc being proposed along river corridors an Ecological Impact Assessment (and where necessary an Appropriate Assessment) including bat and otter surveys shall be conducted by specialists. The recommendations of the specialist studies shall be implemented. No lighting will be installed without prior consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and shall be in line with advances in knowledge into the impact of lighting on bats and other species and also to reflect advances in technology in the lighting industry.</p>

Chapter / Appendix	Section / Policy / Objective in draft Plan	Potential Likely Significant Impact and recommendation identified by AA Team	Mitigation Measure incorporated into the draft Plan
		requested by the NPWS in their submission dated 16 th July 2013 - <i>"Any linear paths, cycleways, seating, lighting, loss of riparian zones, etc, along rivers need to have ecological assessments undertaken"</i>	
Chapter 4 – Heritage, Tourism and Green Infrastructure	Section 4.12.9 – which refers the Tourism Strategy for Trim	The section promotes tourism within Trim which includes the development of a Folk Park. Such a development has potential to affect the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA if not development in an appropriate location.	<u>Alteration to wording of TOUR POL 10:</u> TOUR POL 10 - To promote the provision of a Folk Park in an environmentally appropriate location subject to adequate infrastructure and compliance with normal planning considerations including requirement to undertake environmental assessment as appropriate.
Chapter 6 – Design and Public Realm	Section 6.7 – Town Centre Expansion Area refers to the River Boyne and improving the quality of public space in the form of a linear park and in the Porch Fields.	Town Centre expansion and improving the quality of public space along river banks or in close proximity to watercourses have the potential to impact on the ecological integrity of the watercourse, both during the construction phase and the operational phase of the proposed development through the direct loss/degradation of habitats, reduction in water quality and disturbance of species. Given the significance of the River Boyne and its tributaries, recommend the insertion of addition text into Objective DP OBJ 5 to ensure that the ecological integrity of the River Boyne is protected.	<u>Alteration to wording of DP OBJ 5:</u> DP OBJ 5 - To improve existing public spaces, underused public lands and street corners, and to create a network of small and medium sized public spaces, which include seating, landscaping, and artwork in appropriate locations preferably with a good southerly aspect subject to Appropriate Assessment and Environmental Assessment, as required.
Chapter 8 - Transport	Transport Policies and Objectives	The upgrade of pedestrian facilities, is likely to have significant potential to impact on the qualifying features of the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA both during the construction phase and	<u>Alteration to wording of TRAN OBJ 9:</u> TRAN OBJ 9: To support and facilitate the improvement of walking and cycling networks in Trim Town Centre and Environs as specified in

Chapter / Appendix	Section / Policy / Objective in draft Plan	Potential Likely Significant Impact and recommendation identified by AA Team	Mitigation Measure incorporated into the draft Plan
		the operational phase of such a development through the direct loss/degradation of habitats, reduction in water quality and disturbance of species. It is recommended that the insertion of addition text into Objective TRAN OBJ 9 be included to ensure that the ecological integrity of the River Boyne is protected.	the Trim Local Transport Plan subject to carrying out a routing study and any necessary environmental assessments, obtaining necessary statutory planning consent, the carrying out of Appropriate Assessment, landowner co-operation and the securing of necessary funding.
Chapter 8 - Transport	Transport Policies and Objectives	Developing a network of new and existing roads in the town potential to significantly impact on the qualifying features of the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA both during the construction phase and the operational phase of such a development through the direct loss/degradation of habitats, reduction in water quality and disturbance of species. Recommend the insertion of addition text into Objective TRAN OBJ 10 to ensure that the ecological integrity of the River Boyne is protected.	<u>Alteration to wording of TRAN OBJ 10:</u> <u>TRAN OBJ 10:</u> To develop a network of new and existing roads, subject to all necessary environmental assessments, including Appropriate Assessment , to allow the free flow of all general town traffic through Trim to alleviate unnecessary traffic congestion within Trim's historic core as specified in the Trim Local Transport Plan.
Chapter 8 - Transport	Transport Policies and Objectives	The distributor road network proposed for Trim will be subjected to review into the need for such a road network. However, two of the currently proposed distributor roads show indicative routes which cross the River Boyne. Such road developments have significant potential to impact on the qualifying features of the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA both during the construction phase and the operational phase of such a development through the direct loss/degradation of habitats, reduction in water quality and disturbance of species.	<u>Alteration to wording of TRAN OBJ 12:</u> <u>TRAN OBJ 12:</u> Pending a review into the need for the distributor road network, the commencement of which would begin within one year of the adoption of the Plan, to preserve (and where indicated to construct subject to routing environmental assessment and appropriate assessment) and secure from further development a corridor for the provision of distributor link roads which include the following routes: <u>RT 1</u> Construction of the local distributor road link between the Dublin

Chapter / Appendix	Section / Policy / Objective in draft Plan	Potential Likely Significant Impact and recommendation identified by AA Team	Mitigation Measure incorporated into the draft Plan
		Recommend the insertion of addition text into Objective TRAN OBJ 12 to ensure that the ecological integrity of the River Boyne is protected.	<p>Road at Effernock and the Navan Road at the Motor Park, including a new bridge over the Boyne River subject to Appropriate Assessment and consultation and requirements of National Parks and Wildlife Services and Inland Fisheries Ireland.</p> <p><u>RT3</u> A local distributor road link connecting the Athboy Road to the local distributor road west of the Town Centre Expansion area, including a new bridge over the Boyne (long term objective) subject to Appropriate Assessment and consultation and requirements of National Parks and Wildlife Services and Inland Fisheries Ireland.</p> <p>Recommended relocation of Route RT4 mapped objective as this proposed distributor road will be located partly within the River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA and has potential to have significant effects on this Natura 2000 due to potential disturbance to protected bird species. This recommendation has been incorporated into the draft Plan and Route RT4 was moved further south to avoid the SAC and SPA.</p>
Chapter 9 Energy & Telecommunications	<p>Section 9.6.5 of the draft Plan refers to Hydro Energy as follows:</p> <p>The Council encourages the use of hydro energy, where suitable, subject to appropriate assessment and environmental assessment as required and consultation with the</p>	Hydro energy has significant potential to impact on the conservation objectives of the River Boyne SAC. For example, hydro energy will impact on the water regime of the river itself, which will result in indirect impacts to salmon and other water dependent habitats. By altering the	<p><u>Recommend that any reference to hydro energy be removed as it has significant potential to impact on the conservation objectives of the River Boyne SAC.</u></p> <p><u>This recommendation has not been</u></p>

Chapter / Appendix	Section / Policy / Objective in draft Plan	Potential Likely Significant Impact and recommendation identified by AA Team	Mitigation Measure incorporated into the draft Plan
	National Parks and Wildlife Section of the Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht and the Inland Fisheries Ireland.	water regime will effect water levels, flow rates, etc., which are particularly important for salmon, especially during spawning. Further, the construction of hydro energy infrastructure has significant potential to result in the pollution of the River Boyne itself. In addition, the additional noise associated with the running of hydro energy stations will result in increased disturbance impacts to the otter and the kingfisher (qualifying interest of the River Boyne SPA).	<p><u>incorporated into the draft Plan but alteration to the wording was incorporated.</u></p> <p><u>Any proposals to install any form of a hydro energy project on the River Boyne, or any of its tributaries will require an Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Assessment and detailed consultation and approvals from both the NPWS and IFI.</u></p>
Chapter 10 - Infrastructure	Section 10.2.4 – which refers to the planning investment in infrastructure in Trim during the life time of the draft Plan.	Major capital investment works within Trim in relation to water, wastewater and road works have the potential to significantly impact on the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA through the direct loss/degradation of habitats, reduction in water quality, reduction in water flows and disturbance of species. Recommend inclusion of new infrastructure policies in the draft Plan.	<p><u>Insertion of new policies:</u></p> <p><u>INF POL 6:</u> To support the implementation of the EU Freshwater Fish Directive and its transposition into Irish legislation in order to protect any fish and shellfish habitat in the Plan area.</p> <p><u>INF POL 7:</u> All works that have potential to impact on fisheries are required to adhere to IFI Fisheries Protection Guidelines entitled 'Requirements for the Protection of Fisheries habitat during Construction and Development Works'.</p> <p><u>INF POL 8:</u> To protect the tributaries of the River Boyne around Trim such as the Maudlin and the Lackanash from urbanisation and malfunctioning sewer lines.</p> <p><u>INF POL 9:</u> To ensure that adequate water supply and treatment facilities are in place prior to development approval.</p> <p><u>INF POL 10:</u> To protect existing and potential water resources in accordance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Water Framework

Chapter / Appendix	Section / Policy / Objective in draft Plan	Potential Likely Significant Impact and recommendation identified by AA Team	Mitigation Measure incorporated into the draft Plan
			<p>Directive (2000/60/EC) and the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (as amended); European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (as amended); East River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 or any updated version of this document; Groundwater Protection Scheme for County Meath; Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2001 (as amended); Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) and European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Waters) Regulations 2009 and 2010; Any other protection plans for water supply sources or updates to the above regulations. <p><u>INF POL 11:</u> To ensure that development would not have an unacceptable impact on water quality and quantity, including surface water, ground water, designated source protection areas, river corridors and associated wetlands.</p> <p><u>INF POL 12:</u> To ensure that all significant road</p>

Chapter / Appendix	Section / Policy / Objective in draft Plan	Potential Likely Significant Impact and recommendation identified by AA Team	Mitigation Measure incorporated into the draft Plan
			<p>projects/upgrades with surface water discharges to the Boyne River system and its tributaries, have petrol/oil interceptors installed to prevent hydrocarbon pollution of the river system.</p> <p><u>INF POL 13:</u> To ensure that development would not have an unacceptable impact on water quality and quantity, including surface water, ground water, designated source protection areas, river corridors and associated wetlands, estuarine waters, coastal and transitional waters.</p>
Chapter 10 - Infrastructure	Section 10.4 – which refers waste and the generation and disposal of waste	Wastewater in particular has significant potential to impact on the qualifying features of the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA. Pollution is a recognised and documented threat to the conservation objectives of this SAC. Recommend inclusion of new infrastructure policies in the draft Plan.	<p><u>Insertion of new policies:</u></p> <p><u>INF POL 24:</u> To ensure the implementation of the EU Urban Waste Water Directive and its transposition into Irish legislation, namely the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2001 and 2004</p> <p><u>INF POL 25:</u> To encourage the changeover from septic tanks to mains connections in all cases where this is feasible and that all new developments utilise and connect to the existing wastewater infrastructure, where available. The provision of individual septic tanks and treatment plants in the Plan will be strongly discouraged to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution. Where such facilities are permitted, full compliance with the prevailing regulations and standards will be required, including the EPA 2009 <i>Code of Practice: Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses</i> (p.e.≤ 10).</p> <p><u>INF POL 26:</u> To ensure that adequate wastewater</p>

Chapter / Appendix	Section / Policy / Objective in draft Plan	Potential Likely Significant Impact and recommendation identified by AA Team	Mitigation Measure incorporated into the draft Plan
			treatment facilities are in place prior to development approval.
Chapter 10 - Infrastructure	Section 10.5.5 – which refers to protecting biodiversity in areas at risk of flooding	Flood protection and alleviation works have the significant potential to impact on the qualify features of the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA through the direct loss/degradation of habitats, reduction in water quality, reduction and alteration to water flows and disturbance of species. Recommend inclusion of new infrastructure policies in the draft Plan.	<p><u>Insertion of new policies:</u></p> <p>INF POL 32: To consult with the Office of Public Works in relation to proposed developments in the vicinity of drainage channels and rivers for which the OPW are responsible, and the Council will, retain a strip of 10 metres on either side of such channel where required, to facilitate access thereto.</p> <p>INF POL 33: To require that all proposed flood protection or alleviation works will be subject to Appropriate Assessment (AA) to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity, defined by the structure and function, of any Natura 2000 sites and that the requirements of Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive are met</p>
Trim Local Transport Plan – Appendix D	<p>Bus Services –</p> <p>Improvements to the local bus infrastructure to serve Trim include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To build upon the work carried out to improve bus facilities across the county, including Trim and to identify further requirements for the upgrade of existing bus stops which lack basic facilities such as timetable information, shelters and hard standings. 2. Provision of a new bus park & ride facility to serve the town and wider area at Scurloghstown junction. 3. Provision of a new Trim bound bus bay at Knightsbrook and upgrade of Dublin bound bus bays. <p>Provision of additional stops on the R161 Trim</p>	No specific location for the Scurloghstown Park and Ride facility is provided which may impact on the qualifying features of the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA. Therefore recommend updating Point 2 of this Objective to ensure the necessary environmental elements, including the River Boyne are protected.	<p><u>Alteration to wording of Point 2 of Objective:</u></p> <p>2. Provision of a new bus park & ride facility to serve the town and wider area at Scurloghstown junction at a sustainable location and subject to appropriate environmental assessment, including Appropriate Assessment, where relevant in co-operation with the National Transport Authority and Bus Éireann.</p>

Chapter / Appendix	Section / Policy / Objective in draft Plan	Potential Likely Significant Impact and recommendation identified by AA Team	Mitigation Measure incorporated into the draft Plan
	<p>Navan Road</p> <p>4. Consideration should also be given to how the 188 and the 111 services could be better synchronised to facilitate the interchange of passengers from within the town between routes e.g. Can services be amended to make it easier for those in Knightsbrook wanting to travel to Navan but not on the route, to catch the 111 into town to change buses for an onward journey using the 188 service.</p>		
Trim Local Transport Plan – Appendix D	<p>Town Centre Public Transport –</p> <p>It is an objective to support the development of a co-ordinated public transport service for Trim. It proposed that this would be implemented through the following actions:</p> <p>Develop a public and private transport hub, within the 'Town Centre Expansion Area'(Mark J on Map No. 5 in Appendix A), in close proximity to both the 'Historic Core', and to any new shopping centre and major long stay parking area, which incorporates local public bus interchange for 20 buses including tourist buses, commuter park and ride and cycle storage facilities, in tandem with development of Town Centre Expansion Area.</p>	<p>The development of this transport hub has potential to have negative impacts as a result of development on this greenfield site, which may impact on the qualifying features of the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA. Recommend following amendments.</p>	<p><u>Alteration to wording of Objective:</u></p> <p>It is an objective to support the development of a sustainable coordinated public transport service for Trim. It proposed that this would be implemented through the following actions:</p> <p>Develop a public and private transport hub, within the 'Town Centre Expansion Area'(Mark J on Map No. 5 in Appendix A), in close proximity to both the 'Historic Core', and to any new shopping centre and major long stay parking area, which incorporates local public bus interchange for 20 buses including tourist buses, commuter park and ride and cycle storage facilities, in tandem with development of Town Centre Expansion Area. This development will be subject to Appropriate Assessment, environmental assessment as appropriate and will include a detailed</p>

Chapter / Appendix	Section / Policy / Objective in draft Plan	Potential Likely Significant Impact and recommendation identified by AA Team	Mitigation Measure incorporated into the draft Plan
			landscape plan to ensure this development is adequately screened.
Trim Local Transport Plan – Appendix D	<p>Road Safety – Traffic Management Measures</p> <p>The following improvements are proposed as objectives of this plan</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To reconfigure the junctions where recurring accidents have occurred to make them more pedestrian friendly and to reduce the width of the carriageway to be crossed by pedestrians. 2. To investigate realignment and road widening schemes to incorporate cycling and pedestrian facilities to current standards at the Boyne school and the Dublin Road. 3. To investigate feasibility of a school bus facility for set down and collection of pupils on the ring road in the vicinity of local schools, including provision of a centralised school bus collection area off the ring road. 4. To investigate the feasibility of a short-term HGV ban for Patrick Street until the RT5 link is constructed. 5. To provide and upgrade pedestrian crossings at locations where recurring accidents have occurred involving pedestrians and at locations where there is significant risk to pedestrian safety. 6. Upgrade of pedestrian facilities at Newtown Bridge 	<p>The upgrade of pedestrian facilities at Newtown bridge has potential to significantly impact on the qualifying features of the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA both during the construction phase and the operational phase of such a development through the direct loss/degradation of habitats, reduction in water quality and disturbance of species. Recommend the insertion of addition text into Point 6.</p>	<p><u>Alteration to wording of Point 6 of Objective:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade of pedestrian facilities at Newtown bridge subject to Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Assessment and consultation with NPWS and IFI.

Chapter / Appendix	Section / Policy / Objective in draft Plan	Potential Likely Significant Impact and recommendation identified by AA Team	Mitigation Measure incorporated into the draft Plan
Trim Local Transport Plan – Appendix D	<p>Walking and Cycling – In relation to walking facilities, existing walking routes between the outer residential areas of the town and the town centre core business area and schools should be improved and formalised, as much as feasible. And the following walking and cycling objectives are to be included (refer to Map No. 2 in Appendix A):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade of existing pedestrian routes within the town to current standards and to accommodate cyclists and improve permeability. • Provide a pedestrian & cyclist access between Pinebrook on the Kildalkey road and Pine brook and Swiftcourt on the Athboy road • To upgrade the existing Linear park walk to current standards for pedestrian & cyclists and provide links with Avondale & Eldergrove • Provide a pedestrian bridge at Newtown bridge • Provide a footpath on the Newtown road • To upgrade the existing footpath to current standards on the Porche field to facilitate cyclists. • Join the existing cycle network on the ring road to the Navan road. • Upgrade the existing one way cycle ways on the ring road to two way. • Provide a safe cycle network to current standards on the Dublin road from 	<p>The upgrade of pedestrian facilities, is likely to have significant potential to impact on the qualifying features of the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA both during the construction phase and the operational phase of such a development through the direct loss/degradation of habitats, reduction in water quality and disturbance of species. Recommend the insertion of addition text into this Objective.</p>	<p><u>Alteration to wording of Objective:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a pedestrian bridge at Newtown bridge subject to Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Assessment and consultation with NPWS and IFI.

Chapter / Appendix	Section / Policy / Objective in draft Plan	Potential Likely Significant Impact and recommendation identified by AA Team	Mitigation Measure incorporated into the draft Plan
	<p>Knightsbrook to the Ring road to include the widening of a section of road at the Boyne school and connecting to the new upgraded network on the ring through the Maudlins cul de sac and Norman Pratt Park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade the existing pedestrian crossing on the ring road to accommodate periodical heavy pedestrian use at school times • Provide a central School bus parking area 		
Trim Local Transport Plan – Appendix D	<p>Town Centre Pedestrian & Walking– It is an objective of this plan to install a network of new formal pedestrian walkways, with appropriate materials, lighting and pedestrian crossings. The design and treatment of all pathways including any that traverse the line of the Medieval Town Wall shall be discussed in detail and agreed with the National Monuments Service of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, as pathways may impact on sub-surface archaeological remains. It may be necessary to omit pathways or redesign pathways at certain locations in the interests of the protection of the archaeological heritage. Implementation will be through the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian priority access way running to west of the Medieval Town Wall and Ditch, to the rear of Emmett Street. • Pedestrian pathway in 	<p>The upgrade of pedestrian facilities, is likely to have significant potential to impact on the qualifying features of the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA both during the construction phase and the operational phase of such a development through the direct loss/degradation of habitats, reduction in water quality and disturbance of species. Recommend the insertion of addition text into this Objective.</p>	<p><u>Alteration to wording of Objective:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All new walk and cycleways will be subject to Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Assessment as necessary, and consultation with NPWS and IFI.

Chapter / Appendix	Section / Policy / Objective in draft Plan	Potential Likely Significant Impact and recommendation identified by AA Team	Mitigation Measure incorporated into the draft Plan
	<p>the form of a new civic area, created by the demolition of up to three buildings which will provide a direct pedestrian connection between Market Street and the historic core of Trim and the Town Centre Expansion Area, in tandem with development of Town Centre Expansion Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the possibility of providing pedestrian linkages along the River Boyne between Oldbridge to Watergate Bridge, along the southern bank, with possible linkages through to Market Street, and from Oldbridge along the northern bank of the river, to the Boyne Walkway. Investigate the possibility of providing pedestrian links giving access from High Street / Navan Gate Street to the Porch Field and Yellow Steeple, linking to Abbey Lane and to the path following the River Boyne. Pedestrian link through Town Centre Expansion Area to GAA club. The pedestrian route is indicative only; if the opportunity arises elsewhere to develop a pedestrian link this will be investigated and assessed on its merits. There are other opportunities to develop pedestrian linkages other than those shown on Map 5 or referred to above. The Planning Authority will encourage the provision of additional linkages subject to these linkages not adversely impacting 		

Chapter / Appendix	Section / Policy / Objective in draft Plan	Potential Likely Significant Impact and recommendation identified by AA Team	Mitigation Measure incorporated into the draft Plan
	<p>upon archaeological remains and the upstanding remains of the Town Wall in particular.</p> <p>The above works were to be carried out as part of Phase 1 of Town Centre Expansion Area, and to be achieved through redevelopment. All the above schemes should be included as objectives in this Plan.</p>		
Trim Local Transport Plan – Appendix D	<p>Town Centre Roads – Policy <i>To manage the provision of road infrastructure and control traffic movement in order to facilitate local development whilst protecting the amenity, historic character and tourism value of Trim Town.</i></p> <p>Rationale <i>The proposed expansion of the centre of Trim through both in-fill development and new commercial development, the current restrictions on traffic movements across the River Boyne, (as a result of a narrow medieval street pattern) the projected population growth and the growing importance of Trim as a tourist location are destined to have a continuing impact on volumes of vehicular traffic and patterns of circulation within Trim.</i></p> <p>Objectives/Actions (see Map No. 3 and Map No.5 in Appendix A)</p> <p>General Traffic Network</p> <p><i>Develop a network of new and existing roads, to allow the free flow of all general town traffic through Trim to alleviate unnecessary traffic congestion within Trim's</i></p>	<p>The distributor road network proposed for Trim will be subjected to review into the need for such a road network. However, two of the currently proposed distributor roads show indicative routes which cross the River Boyne. Such road developments have significant potential to impact on the qualifying features of the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA both during the construction phase and the operational phase of such a development through the direct loss/degradation of habitats, reduction in water quality and disturbance of species. Recommend the insertion of addition text into Objective.</p>	<p><u>Alteration to wording of Objective:</u></p> <p>G. Carry out a review of the need and location of the Trim distributor road network including a detailed routing study including environmental assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening in advance of development of any section of this route.</p>

Chapter / Appendix	Section / Policy / Objective in draft Plan	Potential Likely Significant Impact and recommendation identified by AA Team	Mitigation Measure incorporated into the draft Plan
	<p><i>historic core this is to be achieved through the following actions:.</i></p> <p>A. <i>Complete the partially constructed link road from Castle Street to the southern part of 'Town Centre Expansion Area'. The junction of the new link road with Emmett Street shall be signalised and other signals on Emmett Street adjusted.</i></p> <p>B. <i>Improve the Junction of Jonathan Swift Road and Watergate Street in tandem with development of Town Centre Expansion Area as per current design standards including the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets</i></p> <p>C. <i>Construct a network of new roads within the 'Town Centre Expansion Area in tandem with development of Town Centre Expansion Area</i></p> <p>D. <i>Construct new road from Wellington Place to the 'Town Centre Expansion Area in tandem with development of Town Centre Expansion Area as per current design standards including the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets</i></p> <p>E. <i>Construct the south western section of the Trim Outer Distributor By-pass Route linking the Longwood Road to</i></p>		

Chapter / Appendix	Section / Policy / Objective in draft Plan	Potential Likely Significant Impact and recommendation identified by AA Team	Mitigation Measure incorporated into the draft Plan
	<p><i>the Kinnegad Road. This may be preceded with the construction of a section of Road, to Distributor Road standard, from the Longwood Road Roundabout to serve adjoining residentially zoned lands. This road, which would be development driven, could be extended as far as the Kinnegad Road.</i></p> <p><i>F. Construct the section of the Trim Outer Distributor Bypass Route from the Kinnegad Road heading north and east running parallel with the River Boyne to the Town Centre Expansion Area . This section of road would open up the remainder of the lands identified for town centre expansion.</i></p> <p><i>Note: The proposed road layout, in the town centre area to the west of Emmet Street, is shown diagrammatic only on Map No. 5. Alterations to the indicative alignments may result due to engineering and the proper planning and development principles. The Local Authorities may exercise the use of compulsory acquisition powers to facilitate site assembly or to secure the realisation of road objectives in this Local Area Plan. All new roads to be constructed in conjunction with and driven by any major development of lands within the 'Town Centre Expansion Area'</i></p>		

Chapter / Appendix	Section / Policy / Objective in draft Plan	Potential Likely Significant Impact and recommendation identified by AA Team	Mitigation Measure incorporated into the draft Plan
Trim Local Transport Plan – Appendix D	<p>New Road Schemes –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In relation to the Proposed Distributor Road Network including the Southern Bypass shown as conceptual schematics on the Zoning and Objectives Map No. 1 in the Trim Development Plan 2008 – 2014, the following objectives are proposed for this Transport Plan (and shown in Map No.3 Appendix A): <p>RT1 - should be retained (final line can be considered as part of the overall review into the continuing need for the distributor road network);</p> <p>RT2 - should be removed on the understanding that the adjoining residentially zoned land will be removed as part of the exercise to incorporate the Core Strategy into the draft Trim Development Plan 2014 – 2020;</p> <p>RT3 – reserve corridor pending review of the need for the distributor road network;</p> <p>RT4 – reserve corridor and retain objective to construct the section of the local distributor road west of town centre expansion area south of the</p>	<p>The distributor road network proposed for Trim will be subjected to review into the need for such a road network. However, two of the currently proposed distributor roads show indicative routes which cross the River Boyne. Such road developments have significant potential to impact on the qualifying features of the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA both during the construction phase and the operational phase of such a development through the direct loss/degradation of habitats, reduction in water quality and disturbance of species. Recommend the insertion of addition text into Objective.</p>	<p><u>Alteration to wording of Objective:</u></p> <p>It is proposed to carry out a review of the need and location of the Trim distributor road network including a detailed routing study including environmental assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening in advance of development of any section of this route.</p>

Chapter / Appendix	Section / Policy / Objective in draft Plan	Potential Likely Significant Impact and recommendation identified by AA Team	Mitigation Measure incorporated into the draft Plan
	<p>River Boyne, linking the town centre to the Kinnegad Road(in tandem with development) should be retained;</p> <p>RT5 - reserve corridor and retain objective to construct the local distributor link between the Kinnegad Road and the Longwood Road should be retained. This will assist with management of HGVs on the Kinnegad Road;</p> <p>RT6 – reserve corridor and retain the objective to construct the local distributor road between the Longwood Road and the Summerhill Road;</p> <p>RT7 - reserve corridor pending review of the need for the distributor road network, and;</p> <p>RT8 - should be removed on the basis that it essentially duplicates the link between the Navan Road and Dublin Road provided by RT1.</p>		
Trim Local Transport Plan – Appendix D	<p>New Road Schemes –</p> <p>INF OBJ 1 Pending a review into the need for the distributor road network, the commencement of which would begin within one year of the adoption of the Plan, to preserve (and where indicated to construct) and secure from further development a corridor for the provision of distributor link roads which include the following routes:</p> <p>RT 1 Construction of the local distributor road link between the Dublin Road at</p>	<p>The distributor road network proposed for Trim will be subjected to review into the need for such a road network. However, two of the currently proposed distributor roads show indicative routes which cross the River Boyne. Such road developments have significant potential to impact on the qualifying features of the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA both during the construction phase and the operational phase of such a development</p>	<p><u>Alteration to wording of Objective:</u></p> <p>TRAN OBJ 12: Pending a review into the need for the distributor road network, the commencement of which would begin within one year of the adoption of the Plan, to preserve (and where indicated to construct subject to routing environmental assessment and appropriate assessment) and secure from further development a corridor for the provision of distributor link roads</p>

Chapter / Appendix	Section / Policy / Objective in draft Plan	Potential Likely Significant Impact and recommendation identified by AA Team	Mitigation Measure incorporated into the draft Plan
	<p>Effernock and the Navan Road at the Motor Park, including a new bridge over the Boyne River.</p> <p>RT 3 A local distributor road link connecting the Athboy Road to the local distributor road west of the Town Centre Expansion area, including a new bridge over the Boyne (long term objective)</p> <p>RT 4 Construction of the local distributor road link west of the Town Centre Expansion area connecting to the Kinnegad Road. This shall be provided in tandem with the development immediately to the east. No development shall be provided on the lands immediately to the east until such time as that this section of the distributor road is completed. This road should be funded by the development in the town centre expansion area.</p> <p>RT 5 Construction of the local distributor road link between the Kinnegad Road and the Longwood Road. This shall be provided as part of Framework Plan no. 4.</p> <p>RT 6 Construction of local distributor road link between the Longwood Road and the Summerhill Road. This shall be provided in tandem</p>	<p>through the direct loss/degradation of habitats, reduction in water quality and disturbance of species. Recommend the insertion of addition text into Objective.</p>	<p>which include the following routes:</p> <p>RT1 Construction of the local distributor road link between the Dublin Road at Effernock and the Navan Road at the Motor Park, including a new bridge over the Boyne River subject to Appropriate Assessment and consultation and requirements of National Parks and Wildlife Services and Inland Fisheries Ireland.</p> <p>RT3 A local distributor road link connecting the Athboy Road to the local distributor road west of the Town Centre Expansion area, including a new bridge over the Boyne (long term objective) subject to Appropriate Assessment and consultation and requirements of National Parks and Wildlife Services and Inland Fisheries Ireland.</p> <p>Recommended relocation of Route RT4 mapped objective as this proposed distributor road will be located partly within the River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA and has potential to have significant effects on this Natura 2000 due to potential disturbance to protected bird species. This recommendation has been incorporated into the draft Plan and Route RT4 was moved further south to avoid the SAC and SPA.</p>

Chapter / Appendix	Section / Policy / Objective in draft Plan	Potential Likely Significant Impact and recommendation identified by AA Team	Mitigation Measure incorporated into the draft Plan
	with the industrial lands immediately to the north. RT 7 Reservation of corridor for the local distributor road link between the Summerhill Road and the Dublin Road. (long term objective)		

3.5 SUMMARY OF POLICES PROTECTING THE RIVER BOYNE AND RIVER BLACKWATER SAC AND SPA

The AA process involved the analysis of the proposed Policies and Objectives and where necessary, the inclusion of mitigation measures to ensure that the implementation of the draft Plan does not result in adverse impacts on Natura 2000 sites. In doing so several policies whose specific function was to project the integrity of the sites and the environmental conditions underpinning them. These were previously identified in **Table 3.1**.

Table 3.2 lists additional Policies and Objectives which were first recognised and included in the initial draft of the Trim Development Plan, which in addition to those listed in **Table 3.1**, add further protection to the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA.

Table 3.2: Additional Policies and Objectives to Protect Natura 2000 Sites

Core Strategy	
Policy number	Policy
Core Strategy POL 17	To ensure the monitoring and control of EIA sub-threshold development within the Plan through the document Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding sub-threshold development (DEHLG, 2003) with specific reference to the requirement of Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening.
Economy and Employment	
ECON POL 12	Any land development proposed as a result of Economic and Employment policies and objectives will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment.
Retail and	
RET POL 15	Any land development proposed as a result of Economic and Retail policies and objectives will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment.
Heritage, Tourism and Green Infrastructure	
HER POL 4	To require that mature tree/groups of mature trees and mature hedgerows identified in table 3 above are retained and protected in development management proposals, where these are not formally subject to Tree Protection Preservation Orders.
HER POL 7	a) To protect (in-situ where practicable or as a minimum, preservation by record) all monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places (including those newly discovered). b) To seek to protect, where practicable, the setting of and access to

	<p>sites, in securing such protection the Councils will have regard to advice and recommendations of the Department of the Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p> <p>c) To require archaeological assessment where it is considered a development could have an effect on a recorded monument, zone of archaeological potential or as yet undefined element of archaeological heritage or their setting.</p> <p>d) Where remnants of burgage plots do remain intact, development proposals on such plots should reflect this character within the design and layout of proposals. In order to promote the renewal of such areas, design guidance will be provided, if necessary, for such sites at pre-planning stage.</p>
HER OBJ 2	To protect the ecological integrity of all natural heritage sites designated or proposed for designation under National and European legislation. This includes Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas.
HER OBJ 3	All plans and projects which would be likely (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) to give rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites having regard to their conservation objectives, shall not be permitted on the basis of this Plan unless imperative reasons of overriding public interest can be established and there are no feasible alternative solutions.
HER OBJ 4	It is an objective of the plan to provide protection to all legally protected plant and animal species.
HER OBJ 5	It is an objective of the plan to protect, pursuant to Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, and where possible, minimise the impact of new development on habitats of biodiversity value that are features of the town's ecological network. These features include tree lines, groups of trees and veteran trees, old walls, parkland, hedgerows, intertidal areas, rivers, streams and wetlands important for the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.
HER OBJ 6	<p>In association with HER OBJ 2 - 5, the respective Planning Authority will;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carry out screening to determine the potential for all proposed plans and projects authorised by the Councils to impact (directly or through indirect cumulative impact) on Natura 2000 sites. <p>To require that sufficient information is provided to carry out appropriate level of ecological/environmental assessment for all proposed plans and projects to ensure the implementation of the policies set out above.</p>
HER OBJ 7	The Planning Authority will consult with the prescribed bodies and appropriate government agencies, when considering, undertaking or authorising developments or other activities which are likely to affect protected sites or species.
HER OBJ 8	To co-operate with statutory authorities and others in support of measures taken to manage designated nature conservation sites and protected species in order to achieve their conservation objectives.
GI OBJ 3	Promote opportunities to increase the biodiversity value of the Porch Fields by working with relevant stakeholders and community groups.
Tourism	
TOUR POL 11	Any land development proposed as a result of Tourism policies, particularly in relation to development adjacent to the River Boyne will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment.
Housing	
HS POL 12	Development proposed as a result of Housing policies will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment.

Community Facilities, Recreation and Open Space	
SOC POL 12	Any land development proposed as a result of Social policies will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment.
SOC OBJ 5	To develop river corridors as natural amenity corridors, connecting the different parts of the town and linking up with established amenity areas whilst ensuring that the qualifying interests of the Natura 2000 sites are protected
Traffic and Transport	
TRAN OBJ 6	Any proposed new cycle paths in the vicinity of the River Boyne will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment according to Article 6(3) of the E.C. Habitats Directive.
TRAN OBJ 7	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 cooperation and the securing of the necessary funding.
Energy and Communications	
TE POL 5	To generally avoid, where practicable, the location of overhead lines in Natura 2000 sites unless it can be proven that they will not affect the integrity of the site in view of its conservation objectives i.e. by carrying out an appropriate assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the E.C. Habitats Directive.
TE OBJ 1	To ensure that all plans and projects associated with the generation or supply of energy or telecommunication networks 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 Appropriate Assessment.
Infrastructure	
INF POL 5	Any development proposed as a result of infrastructure policies will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment according to Article 6(3) of the E.C. Habitats Directive.
INF POL 22	Any waste infrastructure proposed will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment according to Article 6(3) of the E.C. Habitats Directive.
INF POL 31	To protect water courses, banks and bankside vegetation from interference by inappropriate bridging, draining, culverting or other works which would be detrimental to fisheries, biodiversity and the qualifying interests of Natura 2000 sites.

3.6 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION

It is considered that Meath County Council and Trim Town Councils robust commitment to the protection of Natura 2000 sites as well as to protected species, as outlined in the draft Trim Development Plan 2014-2020, will be sufficient to prevent adverse impacts on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites both within and in the proximity to Trim. This conclusion is based on the Appropriate Assessment of the draft Plan, which was carried out throughout its development and considered the implications of implementation of the draft Plan, both on its own and in combination with other plans and projects, on the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 sites considered. This conclusion is also based on the mitigation measures which have been incorporated into the draft Plan as a result of the Appropriate Assessment process.

As previously identified in **Section 3.1**, the process of Appropriate Assessment will continue as required throughout the review period of the Plan. It will be necessary to screen and potentially analyse any amendments to Policies and Objectives as a result of the subsequent stages in Plan-preparation and to make recommendations if these amendments may lead to likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites.

3.7 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT ADDENDUM

The proposed material alterations made following the public consultation periods have been screened for Appropriate Assessment under the EU Habitats Directive. The proposed material alterations will not result in additional impacts to those already identified in the Natura Impact Report.

Therefore the Natura Impact Report determines that assuming the successful implementation of the Policies and Objectives, there will be no significant negative impact on the Natura 2000 network by the adopted Plan.

Appendix A - Environmental Policies & Objectives

Policies and Objectives

Table 1 presents a list of Policies and Objectives which were recommended during the initial preparation of the draft Trim Development Plan to pro-actively inform the preparation of the Policies and Objectives within the draft Plan. These Policies and Objectives promote the avoidance of potential impacts on the Natura 2000 network.

Table 1: Environmental Policies and Objectives

POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES	
General Overarching Policy/ Objectives	
The overarching policies and objectives of the Meath County Development Plan will equally apply to any development and any associated works, individually or in combination with other plans or projects within the Plan boundary.	
The EU Directives for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) are the fundamental policy framework of environmental protection measures and legislation for the delivery of the policies within this document and full compliance with the EIA and SEA Directives shall be provided.	
Ensure that all plans and projects in the County which could, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site (or sites) will be subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening. [Recommend that this policy is included in the strategic policy section at the front of the Development Plan and again in relevant chapters throughout the Development Plan].	
Biodiversity and Natural Heritage	
Conserve, enhance and manage the County's natural heritage including its biodiversity, landscapes and geological heritage and promote understanding of and sustainable access to it.	
Protect the ecological integrity of proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Statutory Nature Reserves, Refuges for Fauna and Annex I habitats.	
Ensure that all plans and projects in the County which could, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site (or sites) will be subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening.	
To ensure that a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is produced once Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening has indicated likely significant effects on the integrity, defined by the structure and function, of any Natura 2000 sites.	
To promote the maintenance and, as appropriate, the achievement of favourable conservation status of Natura 2000 sites and their associated habitats and species, in association with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).	
To promote the protection of habitats which, by virtue of their linear and continuous structure (e.g. rivers and their banks) or their contribution as stepping stones (e.g. ponds or small woods), are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species and these should be mapped within the Plan area.	

POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES

To promote the approach of an Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment (IBIA) where suited as an efficient framework in order to streamline biodiversity consideration while assessing environmental impacts within the SEA, EIA and AA objectives, targets and indicators.

To support the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG), in the maintenance and, as appropriate, the achievement of favourable conservation status for the habitats and species to which the EU Habitats Directive applies.

To consult with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) when undertaking, approving and authorising development which is likely to affect plant, animal or bird species protected by law. In the event of a proposed development impacting on a site known or likely to be a breeding or resting site of species listed in Habitats Regulations a derogation licence, issued by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG) will be required in advance of a permission.

To ensure the implementation of the EU Freshwater Fish Directive and its transposition into Irish legislation in order to protect any fish and shellfish habitat in the Plan area.

To implement measures to control and manage alien / invasive species (e.g. Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed, Himalayan balsam, etc.) and noxious weeds (e.g. ragwort, thistle, dock, etc.) within the Plan area.

Ensure that no development, including clearance and storage of materials, takes place within a minimum distance of 15m measured from each bank of any river, stream or watercourse in the Plan area.

In the event of lighting being proposed along river or canal corridors an Ecological Impact Assessment (and where necessary an Appropriate Assessment) including bat and otter surveys shall be conducted by specialists. The recommendations of the specialist studies shall be implemented. No lighting will be installed without prior consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and shall be in line with advances in knowledge into the impact of lighting on bats and other species and also to reflect advances in technology in the lighting industry.

To ensure the monitoring and control of EIA sub-threshold development within the Plan through the document *Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding sub-threshold development (DEHLG, 2003)* with specific reference to the requirement of Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening.

Cultural Heritage

To require an appropriate Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (taking into account cumulative impacts) for development that may have a potential to impact adversely on significant built heritage and cultural landscape features such as scenic views and routes within and adjoining the Plan area.

To ensure that the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage, governed by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG) is fully implemented into the County's Record of Protected Structures in order to produce a coherent archive at national and regional level.

To ensure that Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA) are dedicated and mapped in the Plan with regard to their extent and distinction and that appropriate protection measures are developed.

Water Supply and Management

To prepare a water conservation strategy which includes leakage reduction measures for the area and incentives for efficient water consumption while discouraging water waste.

POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES

To ensure the implementation of the EU Drinking Water Directive in order to achieve and improve appropriate water quality standards for the Plan for human consumption while conditioning development dependent on sufficient water supply.

To ensure the implementation of the European Communities Drinking Water (No.2) Regulations 2007, S.I. No. 278 of 2007 and the EPA 2010 guidance on the *Implementation of the Regulations for Water Services Authorities for Public Water Supplies*. These regulations shall be applied for increased penalties in case of non-compliance and programmes to minimise water supply leakage shall be developed.

To ensure the implementation of the EU Groundwater Directive and its transposition into Irish legislation in order to prevent significant effects on Groundwater Source Protection Zones and to develop and complement Groundwater Protection Schemes.

To require that all development relating to water supply and waste water treatment are subject to Appropriate Assessment to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity, defined by the structure and function, of any Natura 2000 sites and that the requirements of Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive are met.

Wastewater

To ensure the implementation of the EU Urban Waste Water Directive and its transposition into Irish legislation, namely the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2001 and 2004.

To ensure the changeover from septic tanks to mains connections in all cases where this is feasible and that all new developments utilise and connect to the existing wastewater infrastructure. The provision of individual septic tanks and treatment plants in the Plan will be strongly discouraged to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution. Where such facilities are permitted, full compliance with the prevailing regulations and standards will be required, including the EPA 2009 *Code of Practice: Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses* (p.e.≤ 10).

To promote assessment of the adequacy of the existing wastewater treatment facilities in terms of both capacity and performance as well as potential risk to human health and water quality.

To promote the appropriate use of Integrated Constructed Wetlands (ICW) within the Plan where appropriate, this follows the guidance provided by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG).

To carry out any waste water treatment plant upgrade in accordance with the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007, S.I. No. 684 of 2007 while developing a waste water leak detection programme.

To ensure the implementation of the EU Bathing Water Directive and that development does not adversely compromise the recreational and environmental amenity of designated and proposed Blue Flag Beaches and water bodies designated for recreational use.

Surface Water Drainage

To ensure the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive and its transpositions into Irish legislation.

To implement the specific relevant objectives and measures for individual water bodies set out in the Eastern River Basin Management Plan and associated Programme of Measures, where relevant.

POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES

To ensure the implementation of the surface water legislation *Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009* S.I. No 272 of 2009 and the EPA report *Water Quality in Ireland 2007-2009* in order to achieve general improvements of any water supplies in the Plan.

To require that a Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) is applied to any development and that site specific solutions to surface water drainage systems are developed, which meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin Management Plans.

Groundwater Protection

To ensure that planning applications have regard to any existing groundwater protection schemes and groundwater source protection zones and/or the likely impacts that the development may have on groundwater.

To ensure the protection of the groundwater resources in and around the Plan and associated habitats and species.

Coastal Protection

To ensure the implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive and its transposition into Irish legislation, the Foreshore and Dumping at Sea (Amendment) Act 2009, the Harbours Act 2000 and the Fisheries (Amendment) Act 2003 in particular.

To have regard to the EU guidance document *The Implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directive in Estuaries and Coastal Zones (EU 2011)* when assessing development in or near coastal areas which is likely to have significant effects on the integrity, defined by the structure and function, of any designated sites, coastal and marine fauna, flora and amenities.

Flood Risk Management

To ensure the implementation of the EU Floods Directive and its transposition into Irish legislation in order to prevent, reduce and control flood risk in river basin and coastal areas due to increased domestic and economic development in flood risk zones and climate change effects.

To implement the recommendations of the relevant Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) study and the mitigation measures and recommendations arising from the associated SEA and AA shall also be addressed and implemented.

To implement the *Planning System and Flood Risk Management for Planning Authorities* (DoEHLG/OPW 2009) and the National Flood Hazard Mapping (OPW 2012) while referring to the relevant Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) for the Plan.

To require that all proposed flood protection or alleviation works will be subject to Appropriate Assessment (AA) to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity, defined by the structure and function, of any Natura 2000 sites and that the requirements of Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive are met.

To ensure riparian buffer zones are created between all watercourses and any development, a minimum of 15m 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.

Waste Management

To ensure the implementation of the EU Waste Framework Directive and its affiliated directives, namely the EU IPPC Directive, the Landfill Directive and the WEEE Directive.

POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES

Prevent and minimise the generation of waste in accordance with the Waste Management Plan for the Dublin Region while minimising waste to landfill and considering suitable alternatives.

Energy and Communications

To implement an Energy Conservation Strategy and have regard to the *Wind Energy Planning Guidelines* (DEHLG 2006), the *National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012* (DEHLG 2007), the *National Renewable Energy Action Plan* (DCENR 2009), the *Strategic Plan 2010-2015* (SEAI 2010) and the *Strategy for Renewable Energy 2012-2020* (DCENR 2012).

To implement the policies and objectives set out in the relevant DLR County Development Plan in relation to renewable energy, energy efficiency and the promotion of technology for renewable energy generation within the Plan.

Noise Management

To ensure the implementation of the EU Environmental Noise Directive and its transposition into Irish legislation and to promote a Noise Action Plan for the Plan area.

Transport

To have regard to the EU Ambient Air Quality Directive, the EU Ozone Directive, the EU guidance documents *Greening Transport* (EU 2008) and *A Sustainable Future for Transport* (EU 2009) and the National Transport Strategy *Smarter Travel: A Sustainable Transport Future* (DTTS 2009) to develop strategies which better reflect the real costs that transport volumes and emissions impose onto society, environment and economic efficiency.

To ensure that development is guided by an Integrated Traffic Management Plan and accompanied by a Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) to prevent any negative visual, land-use and character impact and to monitor CO₂ and substances which are potentially harmful to humans and the environment.

To promote maximum accessibility through routes of optimised connectivity and permeability for walking, cycling and public transport while establishing safe infrastructure for all vulnerable road users.

Economic Development

To ensure that any industry development will be subject to Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity, defined by the structure and function, of any Natura 2000 sites and that the requirements of Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive are met.

To have regard to the EU Seveso III Directive for any industrial development in order to assess potential impacts from emissions hazardous to humans and/or the environment within or near the Plan.

To require that all development proposals are subject to AA screening to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity, defined by the structure and function, of any Natura 2000 sites and that the requirements of Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive are met.

To promote compact development within urban settlements with reasonable accessibility to public amenities, with public services for energy, water and telecom management and with means of public transport or safe walking and cycling infrastructure while discouraging dispersed, isolated development outside urban settlements.

To promote development of diverse and distinct land-use to promote urban regeneration and place-making of distinct character and spatial quality while maintaining reasonable zoning distribution between various land-use that is of non-compatible nature.

Appendix B

Scoping Responses



Ms Caroline Power
Administrative Officer
Forward Planning Section
Planning Department
Meath County Council
Abbey Road
Navan
Co. Meath

5th July 2013

Our Ref: SCP121101.2

Re: SEA Environmental Assessment for Trim Development Plan 2014-2020

Dear Ms Power,

I refer to and acknowledge your consultants correspondence on your behalf, dated 18th June 2013, in relation to the SEA Scoping Report for the Trim Development Plan 2014-2020, hereafter referred to as "the Plan".

You are referred to the Agency's previous submission on the SEA Scoping Issues Paper, dated the 16th January 2013, which should be taken into account at this time also.

Further to the above, a number of specific comments which should be taken into account are provided below.

Specific Comments to be considered

In *Section 1.3.6 - SEA Guidance*, consideration should be given to listing the Meath County Development Plan in the list of Plans under the *Local Level* subheading. In the preparation of the Meath County Development Plan, a Landscape Character Assessment and Green Infrastructure Strategy were carried out. There would be merits in including specific reference to these documents also, as relevant to the Plan area.

Consideration should be given to updating *Section 3.3 Current State of the Environment* and associated *Table 1 – Preliminary Baseline*, in relation to drinking water aspects, to reflect that the Trim Public Water Supply is currently listed on the most recent published EPA Remedial Action List of Drinking Water Supplies (Q1 2013). It is listed due to "*Elevated levels of THMs above the standard in the Drinking Water Regulations*". It should be ensured that the recommendations of the EPA Audit of this plant are implemented to resolve the issues identified.

In relation to *Scoping Question 3*, one of the significant relevant issues to be addressed / assessed by the SEA should be the proposals for zoning/re-zoning/de-zoning/phasing recommendations and how development proposals are appropriate to the identified environmental vulnerabilities / sensitivities. Potential for cumulative impacts should in particular be taken into account. In terms of flood risk, it should in particular be ensured that development of lands is appropriate to the risk of flooding identified and in line with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines (DEHLG, 2009).



In relation to *Scoping Question 4*, the list of potential significant effects as identified in the SEA Scoping Report is noted.

Scoping Question No. 5 relating to proposed method of assessment of reasonable alternatives could consider a 'tiered' approach to the consideration of alternatives. An overall strategy approach and associated alternatives could be considered initially to meet the population and core strategy objectives of the Regional Planning Guidelines and as allocated by the County Development Plan. Once a preferred alternative had been selected, a second series of lower level spatial alternatives relating to the zoning/phasing of various land uses which meet the overall goals of the preferred higher level strategy may provide a more robust methodology to selecting a preferred approach.

Existing international guidance on Alternatives preparation and assessment is available from the following link and may be a useful resource in the selection and assessment of reasonable alternatives. <http://www.levett-therivel.co.uk/options.pdf>

Further comment will be provided by the Agency upon receipt of the Environmental Report and the Draft Plan and associated documents during the next statutory consultation phase of the SEA Process.

Updated SEA Regulations / Circular

Your attention is brought to the new SEA Regulations, which should be referenced and integrated into the Plan and SEA process.

Two amending SEA Regulations were signed into Irish law on 3rd May 2011, amending the original SEA Regulations:

- European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011, (S.I. No. 200 of 2011), amending the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 435 of 2004), and
- Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011, (S.I. No. 201 of 2011), amending the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004).

You are also referred to the DoECLG Circular (PSSP 6/2011) issued on the 26th July 2011 to each County/City Manager, Director of Services and Town Clerk in relation to 'Further Transposition of the EU Directive 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)' which should also be referred to and integrated into the Plan.

European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011

You are also referred to the requirements of the recent European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011), which should be taken into account in implementing the Plan.

Environmental Authorities

You are reminded of the requirement, where appropriate under the SEA Regulations, and as amended by S.I. No. 201 of 2011, to give notice to the following:

- The Environmental Protection Agency



- The Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government
- Minister for Agriculture, Marine and Food, and the Minister for Communications Energy and Natural Resources, where it appears to the planning authority that the plan or programme, or modification of the plan or programme, might have significant effects on fisheries or the marine environment
- where it appears to the competent authority that the plan or programme, or amendment to a plan or programme, might have significant effects in relation to the architectural heritage or to nature conservation, the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs, and
- any adjoining planning authority whose area is continuous to the area of a planning authority which prepared a draft plan, proposed variation or local area plan.

You are further reminded that a copy of your decision regarding the determination should be made available for public inspection at your offices, local authority website and should also be notified to any Environmental Authorities already consulted.

Should you have any queries or require further information in relation to the above please contact the undersigned. I would be grateful if an acknowledgement of receipt of this submission could be sent electronically to the following address: sea@epa.ie.

Yours Sincerely,

Cian O'Mahony
Scientific Officer
SEA Section - Environmental Research Centre
Office of Environmental Assessment
Environmental Protection Agency
Regional Inspectorate
Inniscarra, County Cork



**An Roinn
Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta**
**Department of
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht**

Our ref: G Pre00214/2013 & FP2013/104

16 July 2013

Caroline Power
Planning Department
Meath County Council
Abbey Mall
Abbey Road
Navan
Co. Meath

Re: Review of Trim Town Plan, SEA scoping report

A Chara,

I refer to your notification in relation to the above-proposed development. Outlined below are the recommendations of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in relation to nature conservation.

Plan

It is recommended that the Plan should include a natural heritage section. All designated sites within the Plan area should be listed and mapped, including, if applicable, candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC), special Protection Areas (SPA), Natural Heritage Areas (NHA), proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA), Nature Reserves and Refuges for fauna. Details of these sites are available on www.npws.ie. Where SIs have recently been issued they may not yet be available on www.npws.ie but may be available on www.irishstatutebook.ie. For information on Geological and Geomorphological NHAs the Geological Survey of Ireland should be consulted. The Plan should take cognisance of boundary changes to sites made during the lifetime of the Plan and all such sites should be zoned appropriately and policies and objectives should be devised to ensure their protection. In compiling the proposed new Plan the Council should take cognisance of the relevant circular letters which have been circulated to Local Authorities which are available on our web site at <http://www.npws.ie/planning/appropriateassessment/>. With regard to legislation the Plan and SEA should take account of the Biodiversity Convention, the Ramsar Convention, the Birds and Habitats Directives, the Wildlife Acts of 1976 to 2010, and the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (SI No 94 of 1997) and its amendments.

The proposed Plan should recognise that protected species also occur outside designated sites and should take note of the National Biodiversity Plan and the need to protect the County's biodiversity. Article 10 of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) outlines the need to include linear features and stepping stones for biodiversity in land use plans. Such linear features include hedges, rivers, canals and roadside verges. Examples of stepping stones include marshes and woodlands. Alien invasive species such Japanese Knotweed and giant Hogweed can be damaging to local biodiversity and a policy is needed to protect against the accidental introduction of such species during development.

Hedgerows form important wildlife corridors and provide areas for birds to nest in and in addition badger setts may be present. If suitable trees are present bats may roost there and they use hedgerows as flight routes. Hedges also provide a habitat for woodland flora. Where a hedgerow forms a townland or other historical boundary it generally is an old hedgerow. Such hedges will contain more biodiversity than a younger hedge. Hedgerows should be maintained where possible. Where trees or hedges have to be removed there should be suitable planting of native species in mitigation. Where possible hedges and trees should not be removed during the nesting season (i.e. March 1st to August 31st). Birds' nests can only be intentionally destroyed under licence issued under the Wildlife Acts of 1976 and 2000. Bat roosts may be present in trees, buildings and bridges. Bat roosts can only be destroyed under licence under the Wildlife Acts and derogation under the Habitats Regulations and such a licence would only be given if suitable mitigation measures were implemented. It is important that the proposed Plan should recognise the importance of linear features such as hedgerows and waterways.

Wetland habitats such as rivers are an important source of biodiversity and contain species such as otters (*Lutra lutra*), Salmon in freshwater (*Salmo salar*), kingfishers (*Alcedo atthis*), crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) and Lamprey species, all protected under the Wildlife Acts of 1976 to 2010 and/or listed on the annexes of the EC Habitats Directive and Birds Directive. It is important that the proposed Plan should recognise the importance of wetland habitats and ensure that such sites are protected. In addition flood plains, if present, should be identified in the Plans and left undeveloped to allow for the protection of these valuable habitats and provide areas for flood water retention. The plan should take account of the guidelines for Planning Authorities entitled "The Planning System and Flood Risk Management" and published by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in November 2009. The proposed Plan should also protect both surface and ground water and care should be taken to ensure that any proposed abstractions or discharges do not negatively impact on Natura 2000 sites.

Negative impacts on biodiversity and designated sites, particularly in the mountains, by the coast and along rivers, can occur as a result of development such as walking routes, cycleways, seating, lighting, loss of riparian zone and mowing of riparian zone, and can lead to erosion and added disturbance by humans and dogs. Such developments along waterways for example could impact on species such as otters and bats which are strictly protected under the Habitats Directive and Kingfishers listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409 EEC). Care therefore needs to be taken to ensure any proposed walkways along rivers are located a suitable distance from the waters edge and, where such proposed developments may impact on a Natura 2000 site, screening for appropriate assessment would be required prior to such a development taking place.

SEA

It is recommended that the Biodiversity SEOs in the SEA cover habitats and species both within and outside of designated sites as below where applicable;

- Natura 2000 sites, i.e. Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated under the EC Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) and Special Protection Areas designated under the EC Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147 EC),
- Other designated sites, or sites proposed for designation, such as Natural Heritage Areas, Nature Reserves and Refuges for Fauna or Flora, designated under the Wildlife Acts of 1976 to 2010,
- Habitats listed on annex I of the Habitats Directive,

- Species listed on Annexes II and IV of the Habitats Directive,
- Habitats important for birds,
- Birds listed on Annex I of the EC Birds Directive,
- Species protected under the Wildlife Acts including protected flora,
- Habitats that can be considered to be corridors or stepping stones for the purpose of article 10 of the Habitats Directive,
- Red data book species,
- and biodiversity in general.

Examples of protected species include protected plants listed in SI 94 of 1999, mammals such as badgers (*Meles meles*) and the Irish Hare (*Lepus timidus hibernicus*), protected under the Wildlife Acts and listed on Appendix III of the Berne Convention, and bat species and otters, protected under the Wildlife Acts and listed on Annex IV of the Habitats Directive. All birds are protected under the Wildlife Acts and some, such as the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) and kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), are listed on annex I of the Birds Directive. With regard to the scope of baseline data for flora and fauna in the SEA, in addition to any County records, we advise consulting the data of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) at www.npws.ie and the data of the National Biodiversity Data Centre at <http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/>.

With regard to the SEOs for Water in the SEA it is important that the needs of protected species such as crayfish, salmon and lamprey species, which are listed on annex II of the Habitats Directive, are considered in relation to water quality. The SEOs and targets should be also compatible with the relevant River Basin Management Plans.

Regarding flood risk, flood plains should be left undeveloped to allow for the protection of these valuable habitats along the river corridors and provide areas for floodwater retention. Account should be taken of the guidelines for Planning Authorities entitled “The Planning System and Flood Risk Management” and published by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in November 2009. It is also important that ground and surface waters be protected from pollution and the Local Authority should ensure that adequate sewage treatment facilities are in place prior to any development proposed in the LAP. The Local Authority should also ensure that adequate water supplies are present prior to development and the impact of any proposed water abstraction schemes on the natural heritage should be fully assessed.

Appropriate Assessment

Please note that the draft Plan should be screened for appropriate assessment. The Departmental guidance document on Appropriate Assessment is available on the NPWS web site at <http://www.npws.ie/media/npws/publications/codesofpractice/AA%20Guidance%2010-12-09.pdf>. You are also referred to the EU Commission guidance entitled “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” which can be downloaded from http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/natura_2000_assess_e n.pdf.

It is particularly important that the appropriate assessment procedure, commencing with stage 1 screening, should take place in consultation with the teams working on the draft Plan and SEA as each process can help inform the other to ensure that the objectives and policies in the draft Plan will have no significant effects on any Natura 2000 site. The appropriate assessment should examine the effects of policies, objectives and any indicative maps or zonings, as well as cumulative impacts with other plans and projects both within and outside of the Plan area. In order to carry out the appropriate assessment you will need to collect information about the relevant Natura 2000 sites including their conservation objectives. These may be available on our web site www.npws.ie or can be obtained by requesting them by completing the data request form on our website at <http://www.npws.ie/media/npws/publications/Data%20request%20form.doc>.

It is recommended that you consult with other relevant Local Authorities to determine if there are any projects or plans which, in combination with this proposed Plan, could impact on any Natura 2000 sites.

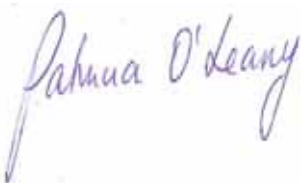
The acknowledgement to this letter or any further information should be forwarded to the following address:

The Manager,
Development Applications Unit,
Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht,
Newtown Road,
Wexford.

Alternatively, documentation associated with the above can be referred electronically to the DAU at the following address: manager.dau@ahg.gov.ie

Finally, the above observations and recommendations are based on the papers submitted to this Department on a pre-planning basis and are made without prejudice to any observations the Minister may make in the context of any consultation arising on foot of any development application referred to the Minister, by the planning authority, in his role as statutory consultee under the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

Is mise le meas



Patricia O'Leary
Development Applications Unit
Tel: (053) 911 7482

Subject: FW: SEA for Trim Development Plan (2014-2020)

From: CorporateSupport.Unit <CorporateSupport.Unit@dcenr.gov.ie>

Date: 19 July 2013 10:51:42 GMT+01:00

To: <emma.oliveira@rpsgroup.com>

Cc: Teresa O'Halloran <Teresa.O'Halloran@dcenr.gov.ie>, Pat Smyth <Pat.Smyth@dcenr.gov.ie>

Subject: SEA for Trim Development Plan (2014-2020)

Caroline Power
Planning Department
Meath County Council
Abbey Mall
Abbey Road
Navan
Co. Meath

Re: Trim Town Development Plan SEA Scoping Document

Dear Ms. Power,

I refer to an email of the 18th June 2013 in the above regard.

The Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources on behalf of Inland Fisheries Ireland have the following comments to make at this time;

'Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) is a Statutory Body established on the 1st July 2010 .Under section 7(1) of the Inland Fisheries Act 2010 (No. 10 of 2010) *the principal function of IFI is the protection, management and conservation of the inland fisheries resource.*

Under section 7(3) of the IFI Act it is stated that *without prejudice to subsection (1), IFI shall in the performance of its functions have regard to(g) the requirements of the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 (S.I. No. 94 of 1997) and the need for the sustainable development of the inland fisheries resource (including the conservation of fish and other species of fauna and flora habitats and the biodiversity of inland water ecosystems),(h) as far as possible, ensure that its activities are carried out so as to protect the national heritage (within the meaning of the Heritage Act 1995).*

Article 5 of the 2009 Surface Water Regulations requires that a public authority, in performance of its functions, shall not undertake those functions in a manner that knowingly causes or allows deterioration in the chemical or ecological status of a body of surface water. Also article 28(2) of the said Regulations states that a surface water body whose status is determined to be less than good shall be restored to at least good status not later than the end of 2015. The status of the Lowe Boyne at Trim is *moderate* and this has to be restored to *good* by 2015. As you know the Boyne is a cSAC with prominent stocks of Atlantic salmon, lamprey and Brown Trout.

Our main concern would be with regard to:

- **Water quality** -The substandard water quality of the Lower Boyne
- **Drinking Water** – IFI are concerned about the proposed Dowdstown WTP as it will place an unjustified strain of the already limited water supply in the River Boyne.
- **Wastewater** – IFI would welcome improvements planned for that Trim wastewater infrastructure.

In summary IFI would ask that NPWS would bear all of the below mentioned relevant aspects in mind in the preparation of your environmental report.

- Water quality
- Surface water hydrology
- Fish spawning and nursery areas
- Passage of migratory fish
- Areas of natural heritage importance
- Biological diversity
- Ecosystem structure and functioning
- Sport and commercial fishing and angling
- Amenity and recreational area

In reply to your scoping questions.

Question 1 – maybe you can consider the IFI publication *Requirements for the Protection of Fisheries habitat during Construction and Development Works* (attached).

Question 2 – As part of the conservation haeding, consireration such be given to also protecting the tributaries of the River Boyne around Trim such as the Maudlin and the Lackanash from urbanisation and malfunctioning sewer lines.

Question 3/4/5 – No further comment at this stage. We welcome your reference to invasive species.

IFI are available should you wish us to clarify further any of the above.'

Kind regards,

Frances Dunne,
Corporate Support Unit,
DCENR,
Phone 01 6783084.

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Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo (agus b'fhéidir sa chomhaid ceangailte leis) a d'fhéadfadh bheith priobháideach nó faoi rún. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na ndaoine sin amháin atá an t-eolas. Murab ionann tusa agus an té a bhfuil an teachtaireacht ceaptha dó bíodh a fhios agat nach gceadaítear nochtadh, cóipeáil, scaipeadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo. Más trí earráid a fuair tú an teachtaireacht leictreonach seo cuir, más é do thoil é, an té ar sheol an teachtaireacht ar an eolas láithreach. Deimhnítear leis seo freisin nár aims odh víreas sa phost seo tar éis a scanadh.

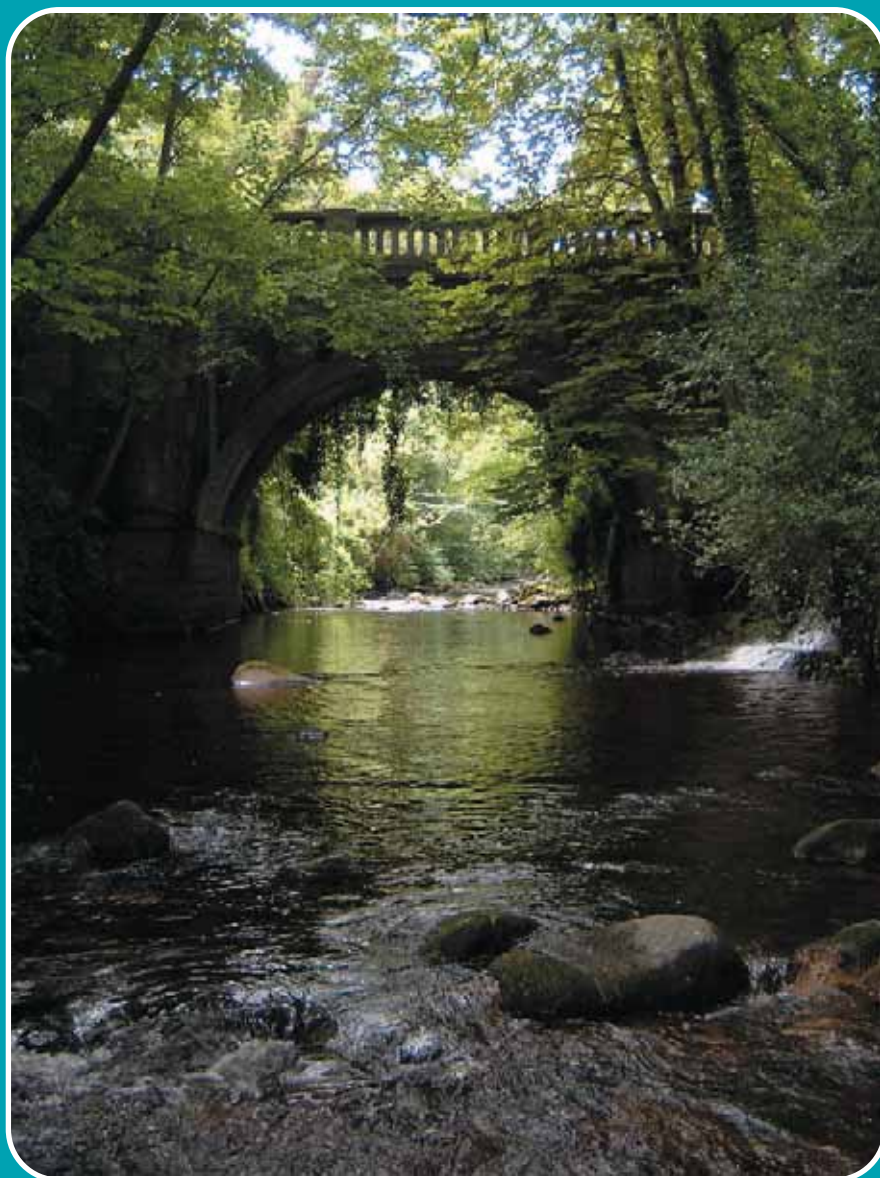
The Department is supporting The Gathering Ireland 2013. Go to www.thegatheringireland.com and Be Part of it!

Tá an Roinn ag tacú le The Gathering Ireland 2013. Téigh chuig www.thegatheringireland.com agus Bí Mar Chuid De!



Eastern Regional Fisheries Board
Bord Iascaigh Réigiúnach an Oirthir

FISHERIES



*Requirements for the Protection of Fisheries Habitat
during Construction and Development Works
at River Sites*

EASTERN REGIONAL FISHERIES BOARD

Fisheries Protection Guidelines

These Guidelines were written by Mr. Donal F. Murphy, BE FIEI MIFM,
with the assistance of staff of the Eastern Regional Fisheries Board

© THE EASTERN REGIONAL FISHERIES BOARD

15A Main Street • Blackrock • Co. Dublin

Phone 01-2787022 • Fax 01-2787025 • info@fishingireland.net

www.fishingireland.net

Introduction

The Fisheries Board is charged under the Fisheries Acts with the responsibility to protect and conserve all freshwater fisheries within its area of jurisdiction.

Every river, stream, canal, lake, pond and reservoir within this area must be regarded as constituting and/or supporting a Fishery under the meaning of the Acts unless otherwise regarded by the Boards.

The fisheries resource is also protected under national and EU legislation. Some notes on the legal protection given to fishery habitats are contained in Appendix I.

While general and specific requirements for the conservation and protection of the fisheries habitat may be set out in the planning conditions under which a project is approved, many issues regarding the timing, management, organisation, and methods of execution of the works inevitably arise during the construction phase.

These Guidance Notes are aimed to identify the likely impact on fisheries habitat in the course of construction and development work, and to outline practical measures for the avoidance and mitigation of damage.

These guidelines should not be regarded as all-embracing. Each project must be assessed on a case by case basis. It is, therefore, essential to consult with the Board. It may also be necessary to seek professional expert advice.

All information contained in these guidelines were up to date at time of print.

Fish and Their Requirements

Fish need unpolluted water and abundant food in a habitat that provides spawning areas, shelter and freedom of movement. The bed and soil of a natural river and the associated aquatic and riparian vegetation combine to provide the food chain on which fish depend. A natural river channel is characterised by the morphological features which are vital for the life cycle of fish: gravel shoals or reed beds for spawning, pools and riffles where fish rest and feed, and turbulent reaches which enhance oxygenation.

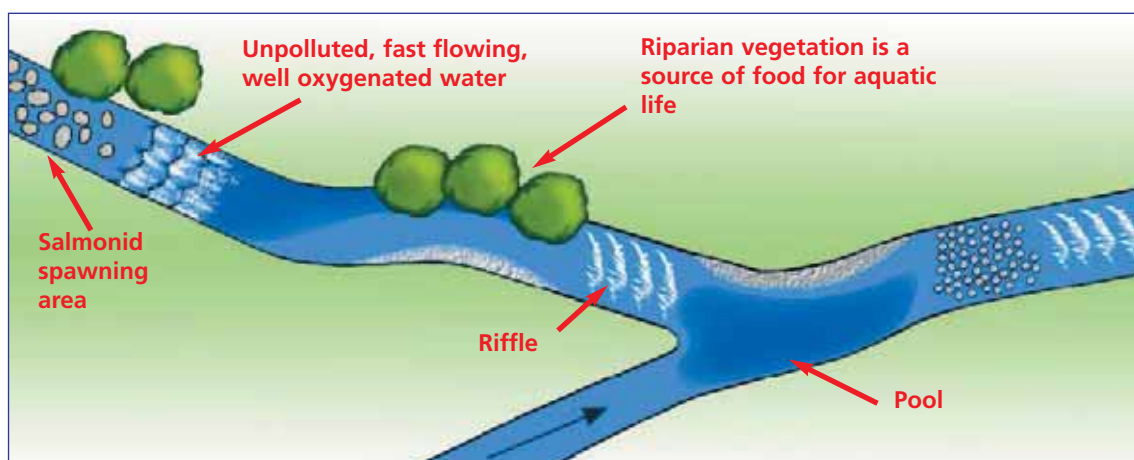


Fig. 1. Overview of River System

All elements of this natural environment must be protected. These guidance notes outline important practical measures to minimise the impact of construction and development works on fisheries habitat.

Potential Impacts on Fish and Fish Habitat from Roads and Watercourse Crossings

Barriers to fish passage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Blockages in watercourses – physical or hydraulic.
Water pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sedimentation – impacts include smothering fish eggs and causing mortalities in fish of all ages, reducing abundance of food and impeding movement of fish. ■ Cement, grout and concrete – toxic to fish. ■ Oil and fuels – direct impacts on fish, fish food and fish habitats.
Removal of bed material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Causes loss of instream vegetation and food. May destroy spawning or nursery habitats.
Disturbance of riparian vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Loss of shelter and cover, loss of food (plant debris and invertebrates).

Design Stage

Permanent river crossings

1. Bridges

Clear span bridging is the preferable option, causing no changes to bed and banks and no impact on fish migration. If piers are required keep them slim-line to minimise changes to the channel. Bed and bank work should be executed in natural materials.

Adequate clearance should be allowed under bridges for angler access and mammal passage, if required, particularly in the case of a motorway project.

2. Culverts

Culverts are likely to obstruct or delay upstream fish passage unless the depths and velocities of flow in them are within the swimming capabilities of the species to be catered for. Entry and exit conditions are also critical for ease of fish passage.

- Where possible, arch-type, “bottomless” units should be used so that the natural stream bed can be retained.
- The next best option is to use box culverts incorporating the design principles set out hereafter.
- The use of round/oval culverts should be limited to short runs and temporary crossing.

Design principles

1. Culvert should be as short as possible
2. Where the topography allows, they should be laid so as to remain backwatered in drought flow to a depth of not less than 500mm at the upstream invert, thereby providing a fishway over their full length.
3. In all cases, provisions must be made to ensure that the velocity of flow will be less than the swimming speed which can be comfortably maintained by the weakest upstream migrants.
4. Transition pools should be formed at each end to allow upstream migrants to enter and exit without stress or delay.
5. Culverts should be daylit over their full length: if necessary, light-ports should be provided at suitable intervals.
6. The use of trash screens should be avoided.

Fig. 2. Over-sized box culvert permanently backwatered



Design Options

1. To conform to the principles set out above, culverts always need to be oversized and, generally, laid below the river-bed grade level by about 500 mm.
2. Where the bed gradient is too steep for full backwatering, the best option for achieving low velocity and adequate fishway is to provide a fish-pass at the downstream end, as shown in Figure 3.

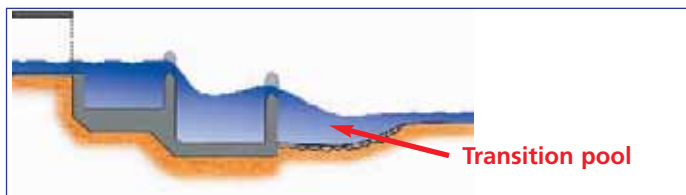


Fig. 3. Fish pass and transition pool at downstream end of culvert

3. Alternatively, the downstream water-level may be raised by providing one or more ponding weirs below the outfall. Such weirs should have fish notches to facilitate upstream movement. The pools formed by them should provide adequate resting and take-off conditions for fish.
4. In some cases it may be acceptable to use notched baffles to control the velocity and provide fishway in the culvert. As already recommended the culverts should be oversized to compensate for flood conditions.
5. More rarely, shaping and roughening of the invert may serve to provide flow conditions suitable for fish passage, especially during low flow. The objective is to create a low flow channel along the centre of the culvert.

Permanent River Diversions and/or Realignments

While permanent diversions are not encouraged, in limited circumstances they will be permitted. The new channel should display hydraulic and morphological characteristics fulfilling the requirements of fisheries habitats. Bed and bank work should be executed in natural materials.

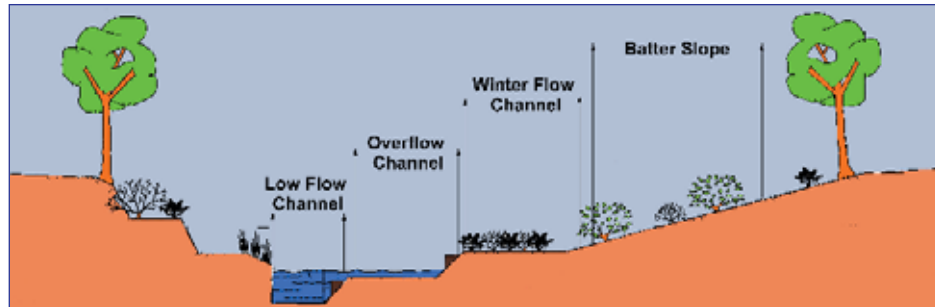


Fig. 4. Example of realignment design

Road run-off

All surface water collected from the road drainage should be treated in a sustainable manner to minimize the impact on water quality and prevent habitat degradation. Treatment should be designed with adequate storage capacity and in a manner to facilitate maintenance.

Construction Stage

Minimising impact: Site Layout and Organisation

The following measures are critical for preserving water quality and aquatic habitats.

1. Fuels, oils, greases and hydraulic fluids must be stored in bunded compounds well away from the watercourse. Refuelling of machinery, etc., should be carried out in bunded areas.
2. Runoff from machine service and concrete mixing areas must not enter the watercourse.
3. Stockpile areas for sands and gravel should be kept to minimum size, well away from the watercourse.
4. Runoff from the above should only be routed to the watercourse via suitably designed and sited settlement ponds/filter channels.
5. Settlement ponds should be inspected daily and maintained regularly.
6. Temporary crossings should be designed to the criteria laid down for permanent works.
7. Watercourse banks should be left intact if possible. If they have to be disturbed, all practicable measures should be taken to prevent soils from entering the watercourse.

Instream works

1. Instream works may only be carried out in accordance with the Board's general requirements set out below.
2. Preparatory works – such as constructing temporary crossings, forming cofferdams, creating diversions, - must be carried out in accordance with an approved Method Statement and under supervision by the Board's officers. Similar requirements apply during removal and reinstatement.
3. Instream machine works should be minimised, and any machines working in the watercourse must be protected against leakage or spillage of fuels, oils, greases and hydraulic fluids.
4. Instream earthworks must be executed so as to minimise the suspension of solids.
5. Construction works, especially ones involving the pouring of concrete, must be conducted in the dry.
6. When cofferdams are being kept dry by pumping, the discharge must be routed to an approved settlement facility before return to the river.
7. Every care must be taken to insure against spillage of concrete or leakage of cement grout within cofferdams.
8. Temporary diversions may be used to facilitate working in the dry, subject to permission by the Board. Advance notice must be given and a Method Statement must be furnished and approved. Such approval will be subject to the Board's officers being satisfied that the diversion channel can be so designed as to accommodate fish migration.
9. The diversion channel should be formed in the dry, and arrangements should be made for authorised personnel to remove all fish from the natural channel before the flow is diverted.

Summary of the Board's General Requirements:

- In salmonid catchments, all in-stream works should be carried out during the period May to September (see table on next page).
- In the event that these waters contain Lamprey it is necessary to contact National Parks and Wildlife Service for their requirements.
- No instream works shall be carried out without the written approval of the Board. A method statement must be agreed well in advance.
- The Board should be given sufficient notice before pre-approved in-stream works commence.
- If a section of watercourse is to be de-stocked work must be carried out by authorised personnel. If this work is to be carried out by Fishery Board staff, two to three weeks notice must be given and the cost will be recouped by the Board.
- There must be no discharge of suspended solids or any other deleterious matter to watercourses.
- Fish passage conditions must be maintained at all times.

MONTH	INSTREAM WORK	FISH LIFE CYCLE
January	Instream works not permitted	Some late spawning Incubation of eggs continues Kelts descending
February		Incubation of eggs continues Kelts descending Spring Salmon runs
March		Incubation of eggs continues and swim-up of young salmonids begins Spring Salmon runs Coarse fish spawning
April		Incubation ending Swim-up on-going Young salmonids dispersing Smolts migrating to sea Coarse fish spawning
May	Instream works permitted	Young salmonids migrating downstream into nursery areas Smolts migrating to sea Coarse fish spawning and fry dispersing
June		Young salmonids in nursery areas Adult Sea Trout returning to rivers Coarse fish spawning and fry feeding
July		Grilse and Set Trout moving upstream
August		Low river flows Sea Trout run tailing off
September		Low River flows
October	Instream works not permitted	Spawning run commences as flows increase
November		Spawning and incubation of eggs underway
December		Spawning and incubation of eggs continues

APPENDIX I

Some notes on the legal protection given to fishery habitats in legislation

- The enforcement authority for inland fisheries is the relevant Regional Fisheries Board and the legislation charges them with the protection of fisheries and the general enforcement of the Fisheries (Consolidation) Act 1959 (as amended).
- Since the Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1999 the Board was additionally required to have regard for the need for sustainable development. This includes:
 - the conservation of fish and other species of fauna and flora habitat.
 - biodiversity of inland fisheries and ecosystems.
 - to protection of national heritage within the meaning of the Heritage Act 1995.
- The Fisheries Act provides a wide range of measures to protect fish; however the protection of fishery habitat is limited to a number of sections of the Acts.
- Section 131 of the Fisheries (Consolidation) Act 1959 protects spawning salmon and trout and creates the offence that where any person during the annual close season:
 - *wilfully obstructs the passage of salmon or trout or the smolts or fry thereof.*
 - *or injures or disturbs any salmon or trout, or any spawn, fry or smolts thereof.*
 - *or injures or disturbs any spawning bed, bank shallow where such spawn of fry or smolts may be,.....* commits an offence with a maximum penalty of 12 months in jail and 635 fi ne may be imposed.
- Section 171 of the Fisheries (Consolidation) Act 1959 creates the offence of *throwing, emptying, permitting or causing to fall onto any waters deleterious matter*. *Deleterious matter* is defined as not only *as any substance* that *is liable* to injure fish but is also *liable* to injure their *spawning grounds or the food of any fish or to injure fish in their value as human food or to impair the usefulness of the bed and soil of any waters as spawning grounds or other capacity to produce the food of fish*.
- In addition to a maximum fine of €1,270 and six months imprisonment by the District Court, the full cost of the damage done and restoration is also chargeable against the offender – Section 10 of the Water Pollution Act 1977 (as amended by Section 7 of the Water Pollution Act 1990).
- Section 173 of the Fisheries Consolidation Act 1959 creates a number of offences which including that where any person:
 - *wilfully obstructs the passage of the smolts or fry of salmon, trout, or eels, or*
 - *injures or disturbs the spawn or fry of salmon, trout or eels, or*
 - *injures or disturbs any spawning bed, bank or shallow where the spawn or fry of salmon or trout or eels.....* Commits an offence as well as a penalty of €635 there is an additional provision *that any engine device used in the commission of the offence shall as a statutory consequence of conviction stand forfeit*.
- Fishery habitat protection has been further enhanced by other national and EU legislation including the provisions under the Freshwater Fish Directive and the Habitats Directive. The Planning and Development Act 2000 also affords an opportunity for the pro-active protection of fisheries and fisheries habitat.

Summary of Relevant Legislation

- The Fisheries (Consolidation) Act 1959 (as amended).
- The Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1999 (No. 35 of 1999).
- The Freshwater Fish Directive – *Council Directive on the quality of fresh waters needing protection or improvement in order to support fish life (78/659/EC)* as transposed into Irish law under the *E.C. (Quality of Salmonid Waters) Regulations 1988* (S.I. No. 293 of 1988).
- The Habitats Directive – *Council Directive on the conservation of the natural habitats of wild fauna and flora (92/43/EEC)* as transposed into Irish law under the *E. C. (Natural Habitats Regulations 1997* (S.I. No. 94 of 1997).
- The Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977 (as amended).
- The Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000 (No. 30 of 2000).

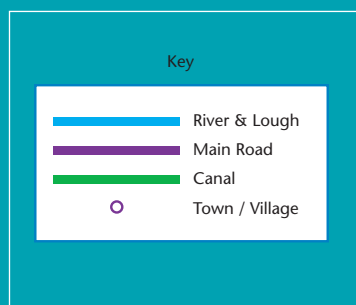
Note

Full text of the above legislation can be accessed at www.irlgov.ie

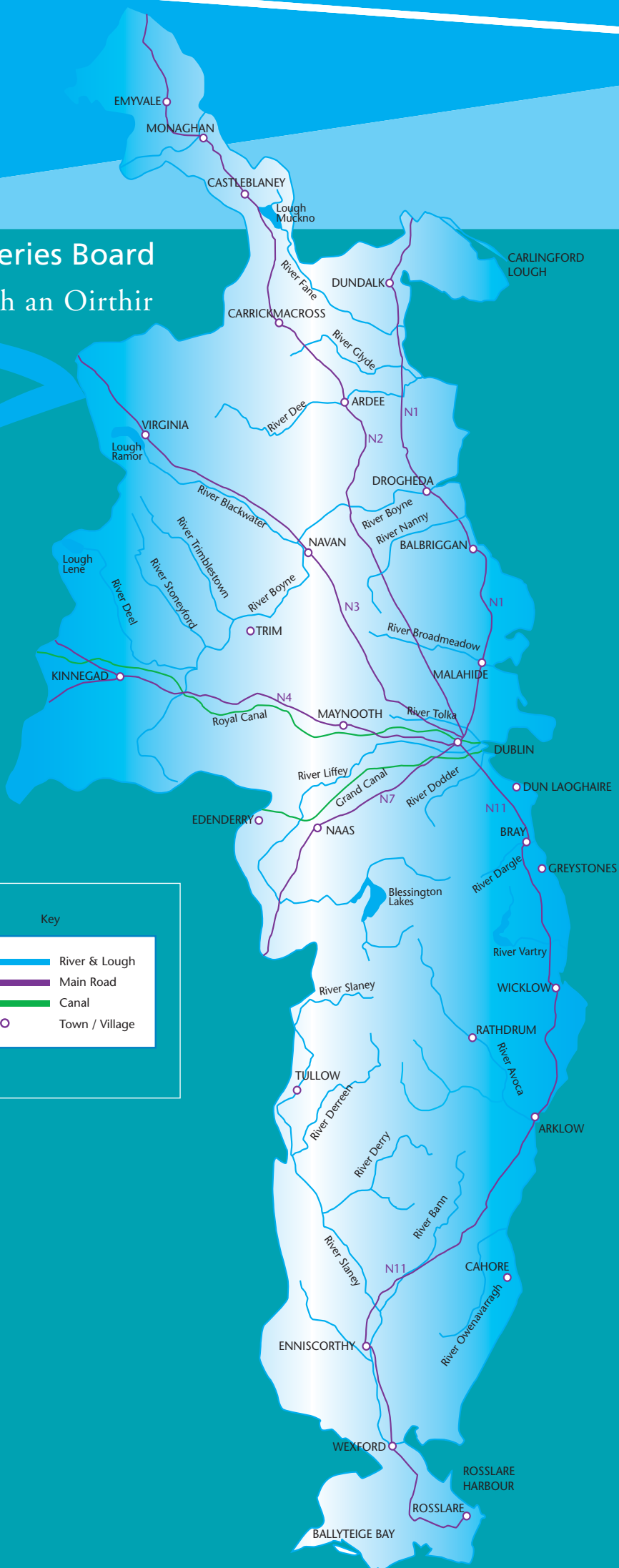


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Fisheries Ireland
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Appendix C

Relevant Plans, Programmes and Policies

International Level Plans, Policies and Programmes

Topic	Title
Biodiversity	UN Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)
Climate Change	UN Kyoto Protocol The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Kyoto Protocol, 1997
Cultural Heritage	The World Heritage Convention United Nations Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (Paris 1972)
Human Health/Air	World Health Organisation (WHO) Air Quality Guidelines (1999) and Guidelines for Europe (1987)

European Level Plans, Policies and Programmes

Topic	Title
Noise	The Environmental Noise Directive (END) (2002/49/EC)
Biodiversity	The EU Biodiversity Strategy Communication on a European Community Biodiversity Strategy [Com (98) 42]
	The EU Habitats Directive Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna (92/43/EEC)
	The EU Birds Directive Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (79/409/EEC)
	Freshwater Fisheries Directive (78/659/EEC)
Cultural Heritage	Convention for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe (revised) (Valletta 1992)
	Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1985)

Topic	Title
Sustainable Development	The Gothenburg Strategy (2001) Communication from the Commission on “a Sustainable Europe for a Better World”
	The Sixth Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community 2002- 2012
	The SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)
	The EIA Directive (85/337/EEC) as amended by Directive 97/11/EC
	Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) 2005.
Water	The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)
	EU Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)
	Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC)
	The Groundwater Directive (1980/68/EC) and Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)
	The Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) as amended by Directive (98/15/EEC)
	Drinking Water Directive (80/778/EEC) as amended by Directive 98/83/EC
Waste	The Landfill Directive (99/31/EC)

National Level Plans, Policies and Programmes

Topic	Title
Biodiversity	National Biodiversity Plan 2011-2016
	The Wildlife Act 1976 and the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000
	Flora Protection Order 1999
	European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, S.I. 94/1997, as amended S.I. 233/1998, S.I. 378/2005 and European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011)

Topic	Title
	Quality of Salmonid Waters Regulations 1988 (S.I. 293 of 1988)
Climate	National Climate Change Strategy (2000) and National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012
	Department of Transport, 2003: 'Statement of Strategy: 2003-2005'
Heritage	National Heritage Plan 2002 - 2006
	The National Monuments Acts (1930 to 2004)
	The Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999
	Architectural Heritage Protection – Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2004
	Government Policy on Architecture 2009-2015
	National Policy on Town Defences 2008
Planning	Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)
	National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020
	National Development Plan 2007-2013 Transforming Ireland - A Better Quality of Life for All.
	Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)

Topic	Title
	Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006
	The Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas Guidelines 2008
	Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities, 2005
	The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009
	Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009
	Implementation of Regional Planning Guidelines Best Practice Guidance 2010
Sustainable Development	Our Sustainable Future – A Framework for Sustainable Development in Ireland 2012
	Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland, 1997
	Making Ireland's Development Sustainable – 2002
	National Sustainable Development Policy
	National Climate Change Strategy 2007 – 2012
	Housing Policy Framework: Building Sustainable Communities, 2005

Topic	Title
	Towards Sustainable Communities; Guidelines on Local Agenda 21, 2001
Transport	Transport 21
	Greater Dublin Area Draft Transport Strategy 2011-2030
Water	Arterial Drainage Acts, 1945 and 1995
	European Communities (Drinking Water) (No. 2) Regulations 2007 (SI No. 278 of 2007)
	Water Services Act 2007
	Water Pollution Acts 1977-1990
	European Communities (Waste Water Treatment) Prevention of Odours and Noise) Regulations 2005 (SI No. 787 of 2005)
	Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007 (SI No. 684 of 2007)
	Surface Water Regulations 2009
	Water Services Investment Programme
Waste	The Waste Management Act 1996 and amendments

Topic	Title
	Changing our Ways (1998)
	Delivering Change – Recycling and Preventing Waste (2002)

Regional and County Level Plans, Policies and Programmes

Topic	Title
Transport	A Platform for Change Strategy 2000-2016
	Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy 2011-2030
Climate	Meath Local Authorities Climate Change Strategy and Energy Management Action Plan 2011-2012
Cultural Heritage	Heritage Plan 2013-2018
	Conservation Plan Trim Town Walls
Biodiversity	Biodiversity Plan 2009-2013
Water and Wastewater	Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study

Topic	Title
	Water Supply Project – Dublin Region
Planning	Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010-2022
	Retail Planning Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2008-2016
	Meath County Development Board Strategy
	Relevant Local Area Plans

Appendix D

Matrix Assessment of Policies/ Objectives

Trim Development Plan Environmental Report Appendix D									
Policies/ Objectives	B/FF	P	W	S	C	CH	L	MA	Comment/ Mitigation
Core Strategy									
Strategic aim 1 To facilitate the growth of Trim as a Moderate Sustainable Growth Town in line with its status provided for in the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010.	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	Overall positive objective, likely to facilitate long term and high quality development, with positive impacts across most SEOs.
Strategic aim 2 To build upon the Heritage Town status of Trim and to develop specific niche tourism products so as to create sustainable job growth in the tourism sector for the town.	0	+	0	0	+/-	+	0	+	Overall positive, if increased touristic activity may result in increased employment and less commuting. Positive effects likely on CH. Possible increase in traffic due to increased tourism.
Strategic Aim 3 To strengthen the economy of the town, attracting new investment in employment tourism, manufacturing, administration and healthcare uses.	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	Likely to increase the quality of life of the residents through diversification and investment.
Strategic aim 4 To strengthen the role of the town centre as a primarily retail area and the centre of the community	0	+	0	0	+	0	+	+	The focus on the town centre will likely reduce the use of personal cars and will prevent out of town retail and landscape impacts elsewhere.
Strategic aim 5 To secure investment in essential infrastructure									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
Core Strategy POL 1 To prioritise the sustainable development of Trim as a Moderate Sustainable Growth Town within the Navan Core Economic Area.	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	Likely to have positive effects on Population.
Core Strategy POL 2 To facilitate the development of new housing in accordance with the targets set out in the Regional Planning Guidelines and the County Settlement Hierarchy in the County Development Plan.	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	Likely to improve the quality of life for existing and new residents.
Core Strategy POL 3 To consolidate and develop a sustainable town and avoid further sprawl.	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	This policy will improve transport within the town, reducing negative impacts on the climate and making life easier for residents.
Core Strategy POL 4 To provide for the future well being of residents and workers of Trim by facilitating economic development and the growth of employment opportunities in all sectors in accordance with the principles of sustainable development.	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	Positive effects in terms of P due to increased employment. Indirect positive effects likely in respect of C and MA due to increased employment and reduction in commuting as a result.
Core Strategy POL 5 To address commuting patterns by building up the local economy to a more sustainable level.	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	Addressing the issue of commuting is likely to imply improved infrastructure have a positive impact on climate.
Core Strategy POL 6 To support, protect, reinforce and extend the role of the town centre as the central retailing and service area of Trim through the intensification, consolidation and appropriate expansion of the town centre.	0	+	0	0	+	0	+	+	Overall a very positive objective as intensification and consolidation of the town centre is likely to reduce need for expansion of the town centre considerably.
Core Strategy POL 7 To facilitate the provision of broad ranging uses and to continue to enhance and develop the urban fabric of the town centre.	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	Diversifying the town centre could provide employment opportunities for the local population and help the town centre to prosper.
Core Strategy POL 8 To promote and facilitate the	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	This policy will ensure the planned development of the town in a

B: Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna; P: Population; S: Soil; W: Water; C: Climate Change; CH: Cultural Heritage; L: Landscape MA: Material Assets.

Trim Development Plan Environmental Report Appendix D									
Policies/ Objectives	B/FF	P	W	S	C	CH	L	MA	Comment/ Mitigation
development of sustainable communities through land use planning, by providing for land uses capable of accommodating employment, community, leisure, recreational and cultural facilities, accessible to and meeting the needs of all individuals and local community groups, in tandem with the delivery of residential and physical infrastructure to create quality environments in which to live.									sustainable manner. The delivery of residential and physical infrastructure in tandem will ensure that there is sufficient waste water, water supply and road infrastructure to serve development. Overall likely to have positive effects on P, MA and C.
Core Strategy POL 9 To ensure that developments are accessible to meet the needs of all individuals and local community groups.	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	This strategy will provide benefits for P and MA.
Core Strategy POL 10 To seek the delivery of physical and community infrastructure in conjunction with high quality residential developments to create quality living environments.	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	+	Overall a positive strategy aiming to provide positive improvements to the quality of life of the residents.
Core Strategy POL 11 To apply the phasing of new residential development as per the phasing strategy set in Table 5 and the land use zoning objectives map whereby residential development, other than infill, brownfield or as part of a mixed use / commercial development (the latter within B1 or C1 lands only) shall only be permitted within the lifetime of the Trim Development Plan 2014-2020.									The planned development of the town is likely to have overall positive impacts on all SEOs. Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
Core Strategy POL 12 On expiration of current committed (extant) planning permissions or those commitments which do not receive an extension of the appropriate period under Section 42 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 – 2011 located outside of the administrative area of Trim Town Council, it shall be deemed that such lands revert to agricultural use and are de-zoned from their previous residential land use zoning objective.									The planned development of the town is likely to have overall positive impacts on all SEOs. Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
Core Strategy POL 13 To require that planning applications for 15 residential units or more submit a 'Phasing and Implementation Statement' to ensure compliance with the 'Development Objectives of the Trim Development Plan 2014 – 2020'.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
Core Strategy POL 14 To promote development of brownfield / infill sites approximating 0.5 hectares or less by excluding such sites from the requirement to comply with the phasing strategy throughout the Development Plan Area.	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	Positive due to infill and brownfield promotion.
Core Strategy POL 15 Any development proposed as a result of these core strategies will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).

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Trim Development Plan Environmental Report Appendix D										
Policies/ Objectives	B/FF	P	W	S	C	CH	L	MA	Comment/ Mitigation	
Core Strategy POL 16 The overarching policies and objectives of the Meath County Development Plan will equally apply to any development and any associated works, individually or in combination with other plans or projects within the Plan boundary.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
Core Strategy POL 17 To ensure the monitoring and control of EIA sub-threshold development within the Plan through the document Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding sub-threshold development (DEHLG, 2003) with specific reference to the requirement of Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
Development Management										
Key Aim 1: To ensure a high quality and standard of design for all new and extended developments in the town & environs.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
Key Aim 2: To provide for sustainable residential communities along with providing for and maintaining a satisfactory community and business environment.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
Economy and Employment										
Key Aim 1. To maximise the number of local job opportunities created over the life of the Development Plan befitting the Moderate Sustainable Growth Town of Trim.	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	This aim will see an increase in employment and an improvement in the local economy.	
Key Aim 2. To reduce the dependence on commuting for access to suitable job opportunities for the growing resident population.	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	This aim should see the creation of local sustainable jobs reducing the need for commuting and also improve public transport infrastructure, both of which positively impact C.	
Key Aim 3. To strengthen and protect the role of the town centre as the primary retail area and centre of the local community.	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	Overall a positive aim, which will have indirect positive effects on P, L and CH by reducing construction and development outside the built up areas. It may have positive impacts on C given that travel for retail will be reduced.	
Key Aim 4. To address the significant retail expenditure leakage from the town by providing the means to strengthen the range and quality of its retail offer in line with its status as a Level 3 Retail Centre.	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	As above.	
Key Aim 5. To maximise the economic opportunities arising from the synergies which can be developed between the heritage, tourism and retail sectors of Trim	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	+	Overall positive aim, that will increase access to CH and improve MA through increased job opportunities, thereby positively impacting on P.	
EC POL 1 To promote Trim as a District Employment Centre	0	+	0	0	+/-	0	0	+	Accommodation of large scale industry has the potential to directly	

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Trim Development Plan Environmental Report Appendix D									
Policies/ Objectives	B/FF	P	W	S	C	CH	L	MA	Comment/ Mitigation
which accommodates large scale industry and enterprise, to invest in the town and to support Trim's role in providing local employment whilst also being complimentary and linked to Navan as the primary economic growth centre in the county.									impact P in a positive manner through providing employment. Potential for both positive and negative impacts to C due to increased emissions from industry and reduced emissions from reduction in need to commute. Potential negative impacts relating to the construction necessary for this can be mitigated against.
EC POL 2 To promote sustainable economic development in Trim Town & Environs through the promotion of identified economic growth areas which provide employment opportunities locally and reduce the volume of long distance commuting.	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	This policy will have direct positive effects on P and C through reduction of traffic and creation of jobs.
EC POL 3 To facilitate the provision of adequate land for employment uses having regard to need, spatial planning considerations, infrastructural, environmental and transportation requirements (of customers, suppliers and employees) and compatibility of adjoining uses.	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	This policy will have direct positive effects on P and C through reduction of traffic and creation of jobs.
EC POL 4 To take a targeted and differentiated approach to encouraging investment in and supporting industrial and commercial development in the areas of indigenous industry and small and medium enterprises.	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	Investment is likely to have direct positive impacts on P.
EC POL 5 To support the delivery of a high quality built environment to enhance the attractiveness of Trim Town & Environs for commercial activity.	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	Positive impacts on P. Positive indirect impacts on L and CH due to enhanced built attractiveness of area and high quality built environment.
EC POL 6 To promote the timely delivery of infrastructure required to serve economic development including sustainable water supply, waste water treatment and waste management infrastructure; telecommunications and broadband infrastructure.									Screened out as will have positive effects on SEO's.
ECON POL 7 To protect and enhance the special character of Trim town centre and to provide for and improved retailing, residential, commercial, office, cultural, tourism and other appropriate uses in the town centre.	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	Overall the effect of this policy is positive,
ECON POL 8 To promote and facilitate synergy between heritage, retail and tourism developments that enhances the economic profile of Trim town.	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	This policy is likely to positively affect P through provisions for tourism and economic growth. Synergy between heritage, retail and tourism will result in multi-trips and reduction in car usage.
ECON POL 9 To apply a flexible approach to the assessment of entrepreneurial start up business and small scale industrial and employment generating activities, where it can be demonstrated that the proposed use would have minimal impact on adjoining uses, primarily residential property.	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	This policy will likely benefit the local community through providing employment opportunities.
ECON POL 10 To facilitate the relocation of unsuitable land	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	This policy has the potential to ease congestion in the town centre

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uses from the town centre to more accessible locations on appropriately zoned lands. A flexible approach shall be taken when assessing planning applications for the relocation of the incompatible uses from the town centre to appropriately zoned lands.									and is in line with ECON POL 7 and Strategic aim 4. Also allows for proper planning and sustainable development.
ECON POL 11 To support the redevelopment and utilization of existing vacant units and/or underutilized sites within the business parks as a priority, with development on appropriately zoned greenfield sites secondary. A flexible approach is required when assessing planning applications for the change of use or redevelopment of existing vacant units in the Business Parks, whilst ensuring the vitality and viability of the town centre is retained.	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	Overall the potential for a positive impact through promotion of sequential approach to utilisation of vacant or underutilised sites before greenfield development.
ECON POL 12 Any land development proposed as a result of Economic and Employment policies and objectives will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
ECON OBJ 1 To seek to ensure that sufficient land is available to cater for the development of retail, commercial, industrial and enterprise uses in Trim.	0	+	0	0	+	0	+	+	This objective supports planned development within the town.
EMP OBJ 2 To support the economic development of Trim by facilitating and working with the Meath Economic Forum and Meath County Council in the preparation of the Meath Economic Development Strategy.	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	Economic development is likely to have direct positive impacts on MA and P
Retail									
RET POL 1 To maximise potential and opportunities in the retail sector to address significant convenience and comparison retail leakage while ensuring that proposed developments are in accordance with the "Guidelines for Planning Authorities- Retail Planning" (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, April 2012), the Meath County Retail Strategy 2012 and in particular that the primacy of the town centre as the primary location for retail development is protected and enhanced.	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	Overall positive in respect of P, MA and C given that travel for retail will be reduced and will result in further employment in the area.
RET POL 2 To support the development of the core retail area and reinforce the role and function of the core retail area.	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	Overall positive effects.
RET POL 3 To adhere to the provisions of the sequential approach in the consideration of retail applications located outside of core retail areas.									Overall positive effects as a result of implementation of sequential approach as brownfield and central site will be developed in advance of more peripheral greenfield sites.
RET POL 4 To have regard to the policies and objectives of the Retail Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2008-2016 in	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	Overall positive effects.

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considering planning applications.									
RET POL 5 To implement the policies and objectives of the Meath County Retail Strategy.	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	Overall positive effects.
RET POL 6 To create a vibrant and commercially successful retail sector for the town of Trim and its hinterland.	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	Overall positive aim, and likely to have positive effects on P, C and M due to promotion and support of vibrant town centre. Indirect Positive effects likely with respect to CH and L due to promotion of centrally located town centre.
RET POL 7 To facilitate the identification, promotion and development of key town centre opportunity sites; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the revitalisation of vacant and derelict properties/shop units; Encourage infill development and the redevelopment of derelict and obsolete sites; Promotion of ongoing environmental improvements to the public realm; Prevent overdevelopment of particular non retail uses such as takeaways in core retail areas; Promotion of activities including festivals, events and street markets in each town. 	-/+	+	-/+	-/+	+	+	-/+	+	Overall a positive policy, aiming to bring economic activity into the town in a balanced manner and one that will not disturb the natural or built environment. The policy will also very likely cause some disruption to S, W, L and B/FF as a result of any redevelopment or construction works associated with this policy. Recommend the following amendment: RET POL 7 To facilitate the identification, promotion and development of key town centre opportunity sites in a sustainable and sequential manner ; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the revitalisation of vacant and derelict properties/shop units; Encourage infill development and the redevelopment of derelict and obsolete sites; Promotion of ongoing environmental improvements to the public realm; Prevent overdevelopment of particular non retail uses such as takeaways in core retail areas Promotion of activities including festivals, events and street markets in each town.
RET POL 8 To encourage the development of the retail and service role of Trim as a self-sustaining Moderate Sustainable Growth Town in accordance with the policies contained in the County Development Plan and the County Retail Strategy.	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	This aim will see an increase in employment and an improvement in the local economy.
RET POL 9 To encourage and work with landowners, retailers and developers to realise the potential of existing vacant premises and identified "Opportunity Sites" in the town centre and edge of centre locations for retail and other town centre uses.	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	Overall positive effects.
RET POL 10 To assess all planning applications for large retail developments in accordance with the criteria set out in the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 and the Retail Planning Guidelines 2012.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
RET POL 11 "Living over the shop" or other commercial use									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to

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shall be encouraged in the town centre to enhance its overall vibrancy.									Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
RET POL 12 To encourage the development and re-use of vacant and derelict properties or alternatively measures to improve their visual appearance.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
RET POL 13 To promote and encourage the delivery of the major enhancement and expansion of retail floor space and town centre functions in Trim to the west of Emmet Street, in order to sustain its competitiveness and importance as a 'Level 3 Centre' in the Greater Dublin Area.	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	Positive effects on P, C and MA as it will re-invigorate the town centre and reduce leakage and travel outside this centre.
RET POL 14 To encourage and support the enhancement of the retail offer of Trim while respecting the heritage value of the town.	0	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	Positive effects on P, C and MA as it will re-invigorate the town centre and reduce leakage and travel outside this centre. Also positive indirect effects on CH and L.
RET POL 15 Any land development proposed as a result of Economic and Retail policies and objectives will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
RET OBJ 1 To facilitate the re-location of the existing Texaco garage on Haggard St street to a more appropriate site zoned for such use.	-/+	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	+	Potential negative effects depending on the re-location of use and also potential for site contamination. Recommendation as follows: RET OBJ 1 To facilitate the re-location and any decontamination of the existing Texaco garage on Haggard St street to a more appropriate site zoned for such use subject to planning and sustainable development principles .
Prevention of Major Accidents									
PMA POL 1 To comply with the Seveso II Directive in reducing the risk and limiting the potential consequences of major industrial accidents.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
PMA POL2 To permit new Seveso development only in low risk locations within acceptable distances from vulnerable residential, retail and commercial development.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
PMA POL 3 To have regard to the advice of the Health & Safety Authority when proposals for new SEVESO sites are being considered or modifications to existing SEVESO sites are being considered.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
PMA POL 4 Attach to any grant of permission for new warehouse or similar industrial buildings, a condition to exclude use/storage of SEVESO substances (or require a separate permission for it).									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
Heritage, Tourism and Green Infrastructure									
Key aim 1 Protect and enhance the built and natural heritage resources of the town and its environs.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).

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Key aim 2 Ensure that the overall environmental impact of present and future development is sustainable and appropriate to the capacity of the receiving environment.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
Key aim 3 Protect existing green infrastructure and to provide additional green infrastructure									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
Key aim 4 Promote and encourage the development of Trim as a tourism destination in a sensitive and sustainable manner.	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	This aim is like to encompass many measures of protection in respect of tourism development.	
HER POL 1 To protect and enhance the quality of the natural and built heritage of Trim, to safeguard it as a resource in its own right and ensure that future generations can understand and appreciate their heritage.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
HER POL 2 To interpret and promote the natural and built heritage, and cultural significance of Trim, and its potential in the development of tourism and to enhance the image of Trim as a place in which to live, visit and invest.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
HER POL 3 To enhance the general level of tree cover in the town, and ensure that development proposals do not compromise important trees. To include an appropriate level of new tree planting and where appropriate to make use of tree preservation orders to protect important trees or groups of trees which may be at risk.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
HER POL 4 To require that mature tree/groups of mature trees and mature hedgerows identified in table 3 above, and in the Green Infrastructure Strategy map are retained and protected in development management proposals, where these are not formally subject to Tree Protection Preservation Orders,									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
HER POL 5 To require that when undertaking, approving or authorising development that sufficient information is provided to enable an assessment of impacts on woodlands, trees, and hedgerows									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
HER POL 6 To require that trees, hedgerows and other features which demarcate townland boundaries are preserved and incorporated into the design of developments.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
HER POL 7 a) To protect (in-situ where practicable or as a minimum, preservation by record) all monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places (including those newly discovered). b) To seek to protect, where practicable, the setting of and access to sites, in securing such protection the Councils will have regard to advice and recommendations of the Department									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	

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of the Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. c) To require archaeological assessment where it is considered a development could have an effect on a recorded monument, zone of archaeological potential or as yet undefined element of archaeological heritage or their setting. d) Where remnants of burgage plots do remain intact, development proposals on such plots should reflect this character within the design and layout of proposals. In order to promote the renewal of such areas, design guidance will be provided, if necessary, for such sites at pre-planning stage.									
HER POL 8 To protect the integrity and setting of the Trim town wall defences including all walls (whether ancient or on the line of ancient walls), gates, towers, earthen banks and fosses (ditches), bastions, outworks and other features.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
HER POL 9 To encourage the enhancement of the setting of town defences and the improvement of signage and public utilities structures, etc. where these affect the visual amenity of the defences.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
HER POL 10 To protect, conserve, and enhance the architectural heritage of Trim and to ensure that new development makes a positive contribution to the historic character of the town.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
HER POL 11 To preserve the character of the following Architectural Conservation Areas in Trim: (a) Historic Core ACA; (b) Porch Field ACA									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
HER POL 12 To support and encourage the refurbishment of buildings within the ACA's in accordance with good conservation practice.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
HER POL 13 To retain where practical any structure which contributes in a positive manner to the character of the ACA.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
HER POL 14 Within the Architectural Conservation Areas, the Councils will have regard to the following: (a) The impact of the proposed development on the character and appearance of the Architectural Conservation Area in terms of the height, and massing of built forms, and the compatibility of design, materials, colour and finishes. (b) The impact of proposed development on the character and integrity of the area and the approaches thereto, and will promote compatible uses within compatible forms of									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).

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infill development; (c) The need to retain important architectural and townscape elements such as shop fronts, sash windows, gutters and downpipes, decorative plasterwork, etc.									
HER POL 15 (a) Demolition of a protected structure shall only be permitted in exceptional circumstances. (b) To resist removal or modification of features of architectural importance; (c) To resist interventions that would negatively affect the character of a structure, either externally or internally. (d) To resist development that would adversely affect the setting of a protected structure.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
HER OBJ 1 To implement the County Heritage Plan and the County Biodiversity Action Plan, and any revisions thereof, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders and the community									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
HER OBJ 2 To protect the ecological integrity of all natural heritage sites designated or proposed for designation under National and European legislation. This includes Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
HER OBJ 3 All plans and projects which would be likely (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) to give rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites having regard to their conservation objectives, shall not be permitted on the basis of this Plan unless imperative reasons of overriding public interest can be established and there are no feasible alternative solutions.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
HER OBJ 4 It is an objective of the plan to provide protection to all legally protected plant and animal species.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
HER OBJ 5 It is an objective of the plan to protect, pursuant to Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, and where possible, minimise the impact of new development on habitats of biodiversity value that are features of the town's ecological network. These features include tree lines, groups of trees and veteran trees, old walls, parkland, hedgerows, intertidal areas, rivers, streams and wetlands important for the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).

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HER OBJ 6 In association with HER OBJ 2 - 5, the respective Planning Authority will; - Carry out screening to determine the potential for all proposed plans and projects authorised by the Councils to impact (directly or through indirect cumulative impact) on Natura 2000 sites. To require that sufficient information is provided to carry out appropriate level of ecological/environmental assessment for all proposed plans and projects to ensure the implementation of the policies set out above.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
HER OBJ 7 The Planning Authority will consult with the prescribed bodies and appropriate government agencies, when considering, undertaking or authorising developments or other activities which are likely to affect protected sites or species.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
HER OBJ 8 To co-operate with statutory authorities and others in support of measures taken to manage designated nature conservation sites and protected species in order to achieve their conservation objectives.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
HER OBJ 9: 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.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
HER OBJ 10: 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.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
HER OBJ 11: To promote archaeological heritage as a resource for educational and tourism purposes and to increase public awareness of Trim's archaeological heritage.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
HER OBJ 12 To protect the site of the medieval town wall alignment from new development through the implementation of a buffer zone which will be assessed on a site by site basis. Design guidance will be provided, if necessary, for such sites at pre-planning stage.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
HER OBJ 13: The following views shall be protected as illustrated on Map 3 in this Plan. 1: From Dublin Road at St Johns, toward the river valley, Trim Castle, Newtown Abbey and Newtown Bridge.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	

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2: Newtown Bridge towards the river valley, Newtown Abbey and St. John's Friary 3: Trim Castle to the river valley, St. Mary's Abbey and Newtown Abbey. 4: Watergate Bridge towards the river valley to the west and towards the town centre to the east 5: Castle Street to Talbot Castle and St. Mary's Abbey. 6: Towards Trim Castle and the Porch field from St. Mary's Abbey. 7: Westwards from Newtown Abbey to the Porch field. 8: West and south-westwards from the ring road to St. Mary's Abbey and Trim Castle. 9: Eastwards from Oldbridge in High Street. 10: View of St. John's Friary from the adjoining Dublin Road. 11: Views of the Wellington Monument from Patrick St. Emmet St., and the Summerhill Road.										
HER OBJ 14: To require an appropriate Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (taking into account cumulative impacts) for development that may have a potential to impact adversely on significant built heritage and cultural landscape features such as scenic views and routes within and adjoining the Plan area.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
GI POL 1 To create a high-quality, well-connected and sustainable natural environment of green spaces and watercourse that are rich in biodiversity									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
GI POL 2 To seek a net gain in green infrastructure by protecting existing green infrastructure assets within the town and environs and providing additional infrastructure, where possible.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
GI POL 3 To require all new development to contribute positively to the protection and enhancement of existing green infrastructure and the delivery of new green infrastructure, as appropriate.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
GI POL 4: To require all proposals for major developments in Trim to submit a green infrastructure plan as an integral part of the planning application detailing how any green infrastructure proposed as part of the development such as open spaces, hedgerows, tree lines shall contribute positively to the development and protection of Green Infrastructure assets									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
GI POL 5: To require that the creation of SuDS features be									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to	

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designed and integrated into the development with consideration to their drainage, recreation, biodiversity and amenity value.									Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
GI OBJ 1 To prepare a GI map illustrating habitat types and ecological networks which can be utilised in the assessment of planning applications to protect and enhance urban biodiversity.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
GI OBJ 2 Improve connectivity for people through the provision of an integrated network of open spaces, pocket parks, linear parks and green routes throughout Plan area consistent with the Policies, Objectives and Guidelines in Chapter 6: Design and Public Realm.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
GI OBJ 3 Promote opportunities to increase the biodiversity value of the Porch Fields by working with relevant stakeholders and community groups.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
GI OBJ 4 To continue to work in partnership with the Irish Archaeology Field School and relevant stakeholders, to develop a plan for the phased conservation of the Black Friary to include well-designed interpretation, access and open space that defines the context and setting of the monument (including sub-surface archaeology).									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
GI OBJ 5 To provide for the development of the Trim-Navan-Slane-Drogheda cycle/greenway along the River Boyne subject to obtaining necessary statutory planning consent, the carrying out of Appropriate Assessment, landowner co-operation and the securing of necessary funding.	0/-	+	0/-	0/-	+	0	-/+	+	<p>Note – same as Tran OBJ 7 below.</p> <p>Overall a positive policy likely to have benefits for C, P and MA. The River Boyne SAC and SPA runs through the Historical Core area of the town of Trim and therefore due consideration should be given to this important designated area.</p> <p>Recommend inclusion of requirement to carry out a routing study and any necessary environmental assessment in respect of this scheme also, text amendment recommended as follows:</p> <p>GI OBJ 5 To provide for the development of the Trim-Navan-Slane-Drogheda cycle/greenway along the River Boyne subject to carrying out a routing study and any necessary environmental assessments, obtaining necessary statutory planning consent, the carrying out of Appropriate Assessment, landowner co-operation and the securing of necessary funding.</p>	
GI OBJ 6 To increase urban tree cover by actively promoting the planting of trees and shrub species (linked to DP OBJ 4).									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
GI OBJ 7 To raise public awareness and understanding of Trim's natural heritage and green infrastructure.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
GI OBJ 8 In the event of linear paths, cycleways, seating,									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to	

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lighting, loss of riparian zones, etc being proposed along river corridors an Ecological Impact Assessment (and where necessary an Appropriate Assessment) including bat and otter surveys shall be conducted by specialists. The recommendations of the specialist studies shall be implemented. No lighting will be installed without prior consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and shall be in line with advances in knowledge into the impact of lighting on bats and other species and also to reflect advances in technology in the lighting industry.									Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
Tourism									
TOUR POL 1 To support the development of Trim as a significant tourism centre in the county	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	Overall positive Policy as has potential to increase employment and improve facilities in the area which would have a positive effect on P, CH and M.
TOUR POL 2 To improve the visitor experience to the town and to co-operate with all stakeholders and appropriate agencies in promoting tourism and securing tourist based enterprises and facilities in the town.	0	+	0	0	0/-	+	0	+	Overall positive Policy as has potential to increase employment and improve facilities in the area which would have a positive effect on P, CH and M. However it is possible that increased tourism and visitors will have negative impacts as result of increased vehicular traffic vising the town. Recommend the following: TOUR POL 2 To improve the visitor experience to the town and to co-operate with all stakeholders and appropriate agencies in promoting sustainable tourism and securing tourist based enterprises and facilities in the town.
TOUR POL 3 To develop the sustainable tourism potential of Trim through targeted initiatives remedying identified infrastructure and interpretation deficiencies.	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	Overall positive Policy as has potential to increase employment and improve facilities in the area which would have a positive effect on P, CH and M.
TOUR POL 4 To support the provision of facilities for theatre and the arts in Trim.	0/-	+	0/-	0/-	0	+	0	+	Potential impacts dependant on location of facilities. Recommend the following: TOUR POL 4 To support the provision of centrally located facilities for theatre and the arts in Trim.
TOUR POL 5 To encourage and support the holding of a variety of festivals and events.	0	+	0/-	0/-	0/-	+	0	+	Potential impacts dependant on location of facilities. Recommend the following: TOUR POL 5 To encourage and support the holding of a variety of festivals and events at sustainable locations subject to proper planning principles.
TOUR POL 6 To ensure that new tourism facilities, including accommodation and other facilities, are provided where they can best support the provision of services and the general	0/-	+	0/-	0/-	0/-	+	0	+	Generally positive, but as with all development potential for negative effects due to construction works and possible greenfield development.

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economic vitality of the town.										
TOUR POL 7 To co-operate with Fáilte Ireland, Tourism Ireland, Meath Tourism, Louth County Council, Boyne Valley and any other relevant bodies in the implementation of the Boyne Valley Destination Development Strategy.	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	<p>Boyne Valley Destination Development Strategy has not been screened with respect to SEA as part of this SEA process. Therefore recommend re-wording policy to 'support' rather than to 'implement' as follows:</p> <p>TOUR POL 7 To co-operate with Fáilte Ireland, Tourism Ireland, Meath Tourism, Louth County Council, Boyne Valley and any other relevant bodies in the implementation of to support the Boyne Valley Destination Development Strategy subject to implementation of sustainable planning and environmental principles.</p>	
TOUR POL 8 To facilitate the development of high-quality tourist accommodation such as hotels, hostels, B&Bs / Guesthouses, etc. at suitable locations, subject to ensuring a high standard of architecture, the provision of adequate infrastructure and compliance with normal planning considerations.	0/-	+	0/-	0/-	+	0	-/0	+	<p>Potential for environmental impacts, however will be subject to normal planning requirements which will identify and mitigate where relevant potential impacts. Recommend the following:</p> <p>TOUR POL 8 To facilitate the development of high-quality tourist accommodation such as hotels, hostels, B&Bs / Guesthouses, etc. at environmentally suitable locations, subject to ensuring a high standard of architecture, the provision of adequate infrastructure and compliance with normal planning considerations.</p>	
TOUR POL 9 To consider the provision of caravan, camping and motor home sites at suitable locations. In all instances, the Planning Authorities will seek to ensure a high standard of layout, design and amenity in such proposals whilst safeguarding the landscape character in sensitive areas.	0/-	+	0/-	0/-	0/-	0	-/0	0	<p>Potential for environmental impacts, therefore recommend the following insertion:</p> <p>TOUR POL 9 To consider the provision of caravan, camping and motor home sites at environmentally suitable locations. In all instances, the Planning Authorities will seek to ensure a high standard of layout, design and amenity in such proposals whilst safeguarding the landscape character in sensitive areas.</p>	
TOUR POL 10 To promote the provision of a Folk Park in an appropriate location subject to adequate infrastructure and compliance with normal planning considerations.	0/-	0/-	0/-	0/-	0/-	-/0	-/0	0/-	<p>Given that no particular location, scale or detail in respect of this folk park is provided it is difficult to assess this policy at SEA level. Recommend inclusion of requirement to undertake Environmental Assessment in respect of this proposal as follows:</p> <p>TOUR POL 10 To promote the provision of a Folk Park in an environmentally appropriate location subject to adequate infrastructure and compliance with normal planning considerations including requirement to undertake environmental assessment as appropriate.</p>	
TOUR POL 11 Any land development proposed as a result of Tourism policies, particularly in relation to development									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	

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adjacent to the River Boyne will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment.									
TOUR OBJ 1 To implement the recommendations of the Boyne Valley Drive Infrastructure Study, the Tourism Route Interpretation Plan for the Boyne Valley Drive and the Interpretative Plan for Boyne Valley Orientation Points as they apply to the town of Trim and its environs	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	<p>The Boyne Valley Drive Infrastructure Study, the Tourism Route Interpretation Plans have not been screened with respect to SEA as part of this SEA process. Therefore recommend re-wording policy to 'support' rather than to 'implement' as follows:</p> <p>TOUR OBJ 1 To implement support the recommendations of the Boyne Valley Drive Infrastructure Study, the Tourism Route Interpretation Plan for the Boyne Valley Drive and the Interpretative Plan for Boyne Valley Orientation Points as they apply to the town of Trim and its environs subject to implementation of sustainable planning and environmental principles.</p>
TOUR OBJ 2 To identify an appropriate design and style of high quality street furniture consistent with the character of Trim and to utilise this throughout the historic areas of the town.	0	+	0/-	0	0	+	+	+	Overall a positive objective which will enhance the historic areas of the town without causing any serious negative impacts.
TOUR OBJ 3 To build on existing, and establish new strategic partnerships to develop and promote cultural heritage learning experiences and initiatives in Trim in particular through the Black Friary Community Archaeology Project									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
TOUR OBJ 4: To work with Fáilte Ireland and other relevant stakeholders to develop a unique market branding for the promotion of tourism in Trim.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
Housing									
Key Aim 1 Promote the development of mixed use sustainable communities with supporting community facilities, public realm and residential amenities which cater for range of housing needs and tenures.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to sustainable communities.
Key Aim 2 Seek to provide for the housing needs of all persons, thereby promoting equality, social inclusion and counteracting undue segregation between persons of different social backgrounds.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to social inclusion within the plan area.
Key Aim 3 Promote the consolidation of the existing built up areas by facilitating high quality appropriate infill development.	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	Positive due to promotion of infill and consolidation.
Key Aim 4 Protect the amenities of existing residential areas and ensure new development has access to appropriate amenity space so as to ensure that these areas are attractive places to live.									Screened Out as will have positive effects on local community.

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Key Aim 5 Promote residential uses on upper floors of buildings within the town centre.	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	This aim will provide central accommodation which reduces the need for transportation to the town centre. Likely to have indirect positive effects on S, W and BFF.	
HS POL 1 To encourage and foster the creation of attractive mixed use sustainable communities which contain a variety of housing types and tenures with supporting community facilities, public realm and residential amenities.									Screened Out as will generally have positive effects on SEOs.	
HS POL 2 To require a high standard of design in all new residential schemes that are built in a style and scale that is appropriate to the landscape setting.									Screened Out as will generally have positive effects on SEOs.	
HS POL 3 To promote residential developments which; a) Support public transport, walking and cycling b) Provide for well designed neighbourhoods of high architectural quality with dwelling sizes and layouts which provide good quality liveable homes, c) Ensure that open space, health and recreation needs are met.									Screened Out as will generally have positive effects on SEOs.	
HS POL 4 To promote social inclusion taking into account the needs of older people and people with disabilities in the design of new residential developments.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect of social inclusion (SEOs).	
HS POL 5 To permit the suitable extension of an existing dwelling to accommodate older people or people with a disability in the family home, subject to normal planning requirements.	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	This policy will remove unnecessary obstacles to improving one's home, which can directly improve the quality of life of residents.	
HS POL 6 To ensure that all new housing is designed in a way that is adaptable and flexible to the changing needs of the homeowner, with regard to the Lifetime Homes guidance contained in Section 5.2 of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government 'Quality Housing for Sustainable Communities – Best Practice Guidelines for Delivering Homes for Sustaining Communities, (2007)'. .	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	As above.	
HS POL 7 To require as part of all new residential and commercial developments, and in existing developments, where appropriate, provision to be made for facilities including local/neighbourhood shops, childcare facilities, schools and recreational facilities and to seek their provision concurrent with development.	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	This will have direct positive effects on P and C because essential facilities such as childcare and shops will be within shorter distances from residences, thereby reducing the need for transport.	
HS POL 8 To ensure that new developments are permeable for walking and cycling and that parking or servicing arrangements do not compromise walking or cycling.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	

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Policies/ Objectives	B/FF	P	W	S	C	CH	L	MA	Comment/ Mitigation	
HS POL 9 To require that developers comply with Part V of the Planning & Development Acts, 2000-2011, through the following options or by a combination thereof at the discretion of Trim Town Council/Meath County Council: (a) Financial contributions (as provided for under section 96(3)(vi) of the Planning & Development Act. (b) Direct provision of the housing units on completion as determined in accordance with the strategy, integrated as part of the overall development of a site. (c) The transfer of a portion of the site or the disposal of a number of fully or partially serviced sites within the subject site to the Council to provide the appropriate number of units thereon in satisfaction of the requirements of the Housing Strategy or the transfer to the Planning Authority of the ownership of any other land within the functional area of Trim Town Council/Meath County Council.									Screened out as will have positive effects in respect to SEOs (compliant with existing rules and guidelines on environmental protection and planning)	
HS POL 10 To provide and facilitate the provision of accommodation to meet the needs of older people and to encourage the provision of a range of housing options for older people in central, convenient and easily accessible locations and to integrate such housing with mainstream housing where possible.									This policy will have direct positive effects on the quality of life of the elderly residents. Screened Out.	
HS POL 11 To provide and facilitate the provision of accommodation to meet the needs of those with disabilities through the provision and/or adaptation of appropriate accommodation.									This policy will have direct positive effects on the quality of life of those needing provisions for disabilities. Screened Out.	
HS POL 12 Development proposed as a result of Housing policies will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
HS OBJ 1 To require that developers comply with the Meath County Housing Strategy 2013-2019.									The County housing Strategy is likely to provide for positive effects on SEOs	
HS OBJ 2 It is an objective, on lands zoned for residential use or lands zoned for a mixture of residential/housing and other uses, to require 16% of all new residential developments, to be reserved for social and affordable housing in accordance with the principles, policies and programmes for action set out in the Housing Strategy. This figure may be modified in line with any revision of the Housing Strategy carried out during the period of this Development Plan.									Essential requirement. Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
HS OBJ 3 To provide appropriate accommodation for									Essential requirement. Screened Out as will have positive	

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Travellers through the implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013 and any subsequent Programme adopted during the life of this Development Plan.									effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
Design and Public Realm									
Key Aim 1 To promote quality in architecture and design so that Trim can enjoy the highest quality built environment, not only for landmark buildings and spaces, but more importantly in the design quality of general development in the town.									Screened Out as will have positive effects with respect to urban design.
Key Aim 2 To protect and preserve the character of and setting of the historic core of the medieval town and its streetscape.									Screened Out as will have positive effects with respect to urban design.
Key Aim 3 To ensure that future development respects, and positively contributes to the quality, character, form and scale of Trim									Screened Out as will have positive effects with respect to urban design.
Key Aim 4 To develop well designed and safe public spaces, which increase the amenity, attractiveness and functionality of Trim as a place to live, work and visit.									Screened Out as will have positive effects with respect to urban design.
DP POL 1 To require that all new development, including work by public authorities, will demonstrate high quality in architecture and urban design consistent with the guidelines in this plan, and make a positive contribution to the public realm, streetscape and amenities of Trim.									Screened Out as will have positive effects with respect to urban design.
DP POL 2 To discourage visual clutter in the public realm by the removal of wirescape, where possible, and the rationalisation of signage and street fittings.									Screened Out as will have positive effects with respect to urban design.
DP POL 3 To require that new buildings, shopfronts, or façade alterations, shall have a traditional design in terms of height, scale, form, roof pitch (between 35 & 45 degrees) detailing and materials in the Market Street and the Castle entrance environs.									Screened Out as will have positive effects with respect to urban design.
DP POL 4 Where contemporary designs are proposed fronting onto historic streetscapes they shall be required to reference traditional architectural form, height, scale, roof pitch, and materials.									Screened Out as will have positive effects with respect to urban design.
DP POL 5 To require that any future retail developments in the Town Centre Expansion area shall be compliant with the 'Retail Design Manual - A Good Practice Guide 2012'.									Screened Out as will have positive effects with respect to urban design.
DP OBJ 1 To develop a new civic space to function as a link, both visually and physically, between the existing town at Emmett Street, and the Town Centre Expansion Area. This would necessitate the demolition and removal of existing	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	+	+	+	+	Overall this should be viewed as a positive objective, providing access for residents and tourists to the town centre and creating a civic space and improving connectivity. Given its proximity to the River Boyne will need to ensure that any works that take place are

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buildings from Emmet Street and redevelopment of possible medieval burgrave plots.									mindful of potential impacts to the River and surrounding environment. Recommend updating Objective as follows: DP OBJ 1 To develop a new civic space to function as a link, both visually and physically, between the existing town at Emmett Street, and the Town Centre Expansion Area in an environmentally sustainable manner . This would necessitate the demolition and removal of existing buildings from Emmet Street and redevelopment of possible medieval burgrave plots.
DP OBJ 2 To reserve an area of land, up to 15.0 metres deep, free of development along the western boundary of the medieval town wall from Trim Hardware to the Watergate, in order to protect and preserve the contextual significance of the medieval town defences, and to facilitate the development of this space as a linear public park, allowing for the appropriate conservation and interpretation of the town defences.									Screened Out as will have positive effects with respect to urban design.
DP OBJ 3 To prepare detailed design guidelines for shop fronts, building facades and signage.									Screened Out as will have positive effects with respect to urban design.
DP OBJ 4 To complete the environmental improvements to the 'Historic Core' of Trim Town including the selective removal of on street parking, widening of footpaths, provision of raised pedestrian crossings and the possible resurfacing of streets and paths in cobble, stone, paving or other suitable material in the following areas: Market Street, and Watergate Street, including the intersection of Emmett Street / Market Street / Watergate St.	0/+	+	+/-	0	+	+	+	+	Overall this is a positive objective, providing for restoration and protection of CH and discouraging traffic from the town centre by removing parking. This can have a positive effect on the climate and air quality. Negative impacts are possible on S and W depending on the paving of the paths and streets. Recommend updating objective as follows: DP OBJ 4 To complete the environmental improvements to the 'Historic Core' of Trim Town in an environmentally sustainable manner including the selective removal of on street parking, widening of footpaths, provision of raised pedestrian crossings and the possible resurfacing of streets and paths in cobble, stone, paving or other suitable material in the following areas: Market Street, and Watergate Street, including the intersection of Emmett Street / Market Street / Watergate St.
DP OBJ 5 To improve existing public spaces, underused public lands and street corners, and to create a network of small and medium sized public spaces, which include seating, landscaping, and artwork in appropriate locations preferably with a good southerly aspect, as follows: a) - River Boyne - to improve the quality of public space in the form of a linear park and in the Porch Fields through the provision of seating areas, appropriate litter collection facilities	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	0/+	+	+	+	Objective likely to have positive impacts on many of the SEOs through improved public amenities and open spaces. It will protect all designated SACs and SPAs thereby protecting B/FF to a degree. CH is also supported through improvement works surrounding important features. However potential negative impacts to B/FF are not to be ignored, namely arising through landscaping which can result in habitat destruction. However there is still potential for negative effects in

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<p>and good quality walking paths to make the Porch Fields and River Boyne the central recreational facility for Trim. To improve existing pathways west of Watergate bridge, having regard to the sensitive nature of the area as an SAC and SPA, and to create links with roadways in residential areas to provide a network of pedestrian and cycle routes.</p> <p>b) - Finnegan's Way – To designate a public open space adjacent to the southern side of the upstanding remains of the Medieval Town Wall to provide an appropriate setting, presentation and interpretation of this feature. The development of this public space is contingent on the replacement of the bus parking that serves Trim Castle at this location with a public and private transport hub and the provision of a dedicated bus parking bay/set down adjacent to the Castle.</p> <p>c) – to improve the environs of Trim Castle by encouraging the upgrading of the streetscape, facades, shopfronts and signage.</p>									<p>respect of B/FF, W and S therefore recommend amending Objective as follows:</p> <p>DP OBJ 5 To improve existing public spaces, underused public lands and street corners, and to create a network of small and medium sized public spaces, which include seating, landscaping, and artwork in appropriate locations preferably with a good southerly aspect subject to Appropriate Assessment and Environmental Assessment, as required, as follows:</p> <p>.....</p>
Community Facilities, Recreation and Open Space									
Key Aim1. To create sustainable neighbourhoods by pursuing a policy of appropriately locating services with regard to the needs of the town's community.	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
Key Aim 2. To seek to ensure the efficient and timely delivery of community and social facilities commensurate with the needs of the resident population and to assist in the delivery of such facilities.	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
Key Aim 3. To ensure that new developments meet requirements for the provision of community infrastructure.	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
Key Aim 4. To implement policies with regard to the provision of childcare, educational and healthcare facilities.	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
SOC POL 1 To encourage and support the work of community groups in Trim.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
SOC POL 2 To ensure that all developments make adequate provision for community, recreational and amenity facilities that are located where they can best meet the needs of the entire community that the facility is intended to serve and to seek their provision concurrent with development.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
SOC POL 3 To encourage, promote and facilitate the provision of quality affordable childcare facilities in accordance with									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).

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national policy and relevant guidelines.									
SOC POL 4 To permit childcare facilities in existing residential areas provided that they do not have a significant impact on the character or amenities of an area, particularly with regard to car parking, traffic generation and noise disturbances. Where proposed facilities relate to properties which have been designed and built as dwellings, and are surrounded by other houses, a significant residential element should be retained.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
<p>SOC POL 5 To require the provision of childcare facilities of an appropriate type and scale in suitable locations within Trim. In particular, the development of childcare facilities at the following locations will normally be required and supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas of concentrated employment and business parks • Neighbourhood centres • Large retail developments and retail warehouse parks • In schools or major educational facilities • Adjacent to public transport nodes, and within new and existing residential developments. 	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	+	<p>Direct positive effects with respect to P are envisaged as it is proposed to facilitate necessary childcare services to serve the community. This policy will have indirect positive effects on C and M due to location in accessible central locations.</p> <p>Given that no specific locations with respect to services are outlined in this policy, impacts with respect to B, W, S, CH and L are unknown. Consideration will be given to any potential negative environmental impacts through the normal development management process.</p>
SOC POL 6 To monitor and assess in conjunction with the Meath County Childcare Committee, the continuing needs of children and related facilities and review progress on the provision of same, during the period of this development plan.	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	Direct positive effects with respect to P are envisaged as it is proposed to facilitate necessary childcare services to serve the community.
SOC POL 7 Planning permissions for childcare facilities should, where appropriate, include a condition that allows for the flexible expansion of childcare numbers at the facility commensurate to its size.	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	+	0	0	+	Direct positive effects with respect to P are envisaged as it is proposed to facilitate necessary childcare services to serve the community. However where construction and extension are necessary there is potential for minor negative impacts associated with this.
SOC POL 8 To embrace the Age Friendly initiative and assist in developing Trim as an Age Friendly Town having regard to the Meath Age Friendly Strategy.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
SOC POL 9 To co-operate with the Health Service Executive and other relevant agencies in the provision of appropriate health care facilities to serve Trim.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
SOC POL 10 To encourage the integration of healthcare facilities with new and existing communities and to discourage proposals that would cause unnecessary isolation or other access difficulties, particularly from the disabled, the elderly and children. The preferred location for healthcare facilities is within or adjoining the town centre.	0/-	+	+/-	+/-	+	0	0	+	Overall this is a positive policy providing healthcare services to the community and therefore benefiting P and MA. However some potential negative impacts to B/FF, S and during construction.

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Policies/ Objectives	B/FF	P	W	S	C	CH	L	MA	Comment/ Mitigation	
SOC POL 11 To encourage, support and facilitate the provision of services for the aged population. The Councils are committed to accommodating the needs of older people by the facilitation of nursing home developments in appropriate locations.	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	+	Direct positive effects with respect to P are envisaged as it is proposed to facilitate necessary care services to serve the community. Potential for negative effects due to provision of new buildings. Recommend following amendment: SOC POL 11 To encourage, support and facilitate the provision of services for the aged population. The Councils are committed to accommodating the needs of older people by the facilitation of nursing home developments in appropriate locations subject to proper planning and sustainable development principles.	
SOC POL 12 Any land development proposed as a result of Social policies will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
SOC POL 13 To ensure that adequate lands are zoned and serviced to meet the educational requirements of Trim. The Councils continue to support the concept of multi campus educational facilities	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	+	This promotes the planned growth of the town and provides for it with improved educational facilities. Likely benefits will be to P and MA. Significant development areas have potential to have negative effects particularly in greenfield areas.	
SOC POL 14 To continue to work closely with the Department of Education & Skills to • identify existing and future educational requirements, and • identify and reserve suitable sites for educational purposes, if required, for future school provision in order to ensure that the necessary increased capacity in school provision is provided in a timely manner and as an integral part of the development of an area.	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	+	This promotes the planned growth of the town and provides for it with improved educational facilities. Likely benefits will be to P and MA. Significant development areas have potential to have negative effects particularly in greenfield areas.	
SOC POL 15 In identifying new sites for educational needs, regard shall be had to the Guidelines on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas as they relate to education provision and the Joint Code of Practice on Provision of Schools and the Planning System (August 2008).									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
SOC POL 16 To encourage and support development opportunities to open up new and existing educational facilities to wider community use, subject to normal proper planning and sustainable development considerations.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
SOC POL 17 To ensure that high quality open space is provided to serve the active and passive recreational needs of the population of Trim.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
SOC POL 18 To support and encourage local sports and community groups in the provision and development of outdoor and indoor community facilities.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
SOC POL 19 To maintain free from development, lands that									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to	

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are subject of a deed of dedication or identified in a planning permission as open space to ensure the availability of community and recreational facilities for the residents of the area.									Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
SOC POL 20 To protect and improve existing recreational facilities and public open space, for which the Councils have responsibility, and to protect such areas from development or change of use, and to improve linkages between such facilities and new development.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
SOC POL 21 To seek opportunities to improve the quality and capacity of existing recreation and amenity facilities, through initiatives with both the public and private sector (sports governing bodies, local community partnerships and private development proposals) and where appropriate, the Councils will use their powers under Section 48 of the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2013 (as amended) to require development levies to achieve the enhancement of these facilities and the provision of new facilities.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
SOC POL 22 To recognise the important role that the library service plays in the community and to facilitate the library service in enhancing its service delivery to the public, subject to the principles of proper planning and sustainable development.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
SOC POL 23 To facilitate the provision of new (non-denominational) burial grounds to cater for the needs of Trim and surrounding areas.	+/-	+	-	0	0/-	+	+/-	0	Overall a positive policy accommodating all religions and providing benefits for P. Some minor negative effects can be expected to S and C due to greenfield development.	
SOC POL 24 To protect the cultural heritage of historical burial grounds within Meath and encourage their management and maintenance in accordance with conservation principles.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
SOC POL 25 To support the development and provisions of arts and cultural facilities in Trim.	+/-	+	-	0	0/-	+	+/-	0	Overall a positive policy accommodating for culture and providing benefits for P. Some minor negative effects can be expected to S and C during the construction phase if new development is required therefore recommend following amendment: SOC POL 25 To support the development and provisions of centrally located arts and cultural facilities in Trim.	
SOC POL 26 To liaise with the County Arts Officer on any development proposal that is likely to have a significant impact on the Arts in Trim.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
SOC OBJ 1 To ensure that provision is made for such community facilities as the Councils deem appropriate, and with particular attention to youth at risk, and to assist in the	+/-	+	-	0	0/-	+	+/-	0	See SOC POL 25	

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provision of community and resource centres by identification and reservation of suitable sites including land banks within Local Authority ownership.										
SOC OBJ 2 To utilise the Council's powers under the Development Contribution Scheme to fund investment in community facilities, which will form a basis for the improvement of existing facilities and the funding of new community facilities.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
SOC OBJ 3 To zone sufficient lands at appropriate locations to cater for the needs of primary and post primary schools and educational facilities in Trim.	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	+	This promotes the planned growth of the town and provides for it with improved educational facilities. Likely benefits will be to P and MA. Significant development areas have potential to have negative effects particularly in greenfield areas.	
SOC OBJ 4 To facilitate the Department of Education and Science on the provision of a multi school campus, (Providing for a primary school and a Gaelscoil primary school) by making provision for such a site off the Dublin Road.	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	+	This promotes the planned growth of the town and provides for it with improved educational facilities. Likely benefits will be to P and MA. Significant development areas have potential to have negative effects particularly in greenfield areas.	
SOC OBJ 5 To develop river corridors as natural amenity corridors, connecting the different parts of the town and linking up with established amenity areas whilst ensuring that the qualifying interests of the Natura 2000 sites are protected.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
SOC OBJ 6 To continue to provide a modern and effective fire service for Trim and to facilitate the accommodation of fire service facilities in locations that allow ease of access and safe functioning with respect of the road network.	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	+	This promotes the planned growth of the town and provides for it with improved fire safety provisions. Likely benefits will be to P and MA. Site development has potential to have negative effects particularly in greenfield areas.	
SOC OBJ 7 To facilitate the expansion of the Fire Service as the needs arise subject to proper planning and development.									Screened out as likely to comply with principles of sustainable development	
SOC OBJ 8 To support / facilitate the development of a community centre / arts centre in conjunction with local agencies and community groups.	+/-	+	-	0	0/-	+	+/-	0	See SOC POL 25	
SOC OBJ 9 To preserve and protect for the common good, existing public rights of way which give access to lands at the Porchfields. Please refer to Map no. 9.4.14 of the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
Traffic & Transportation										
Key Aim 1 To promote the concept of modal change to more sustainable forms of public and private transport in the town such as walking and cycling									Screened out as will have positive effects with respect to C and P.	
Key Aim 2 To enhance the town centre experience for locals and visitors alike whereby traffic which does not require access to the medieval town centre area is discouraged from doing so.									Screened out as will have positive effects with respect to C, CH and P.	

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Key Aim 3 To improve facilities for bus usage in the town, and encourage the development of adequate park and ride facilities.	-/+	+	-/+	-/+	+	0	-/+	+	This aim will encourage the use of public transport rather than personal vehicles and will therefore have positive effects on C. It is also beneficial to P and in terms of MA. However development of park and ride facilities has potential for negative effects if proposed on greenfield lands and due to construction works. Therefore recommend following amendment to Aim: Key aim 3 To improve facilities for bus usage in the town, and encourage the development of adequate park and ride facilities at sustainable locations and subject to appropriate environmental assessment, where relevant.
TRAN POL 1 To promote land-use planning measures which aim for transportation efficiency, economic returns on transport investment, minimisation of environmental impacts and a general shift towards the use of public transportation.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
TRAN POL 2 To require the submission of a Traffic and Transport Assessment (TTA) and Road Safety Audit as part of a development proposal, where expected traffic movements will have a material impact on the safety and free flow of traffic on a national or regional route. Developers should refer to the NRA's "Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines" in the preparation of TTA's in this regard.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
TRAN POL 3 To require the preparation of a Mobility/Workplace Travel Plan with planning applications for proposed trip intensive developments including retail and business/industrial proposals. Workplace Travel Plans will be required if an existing or proposed development has the potential to employ over 100 persons. A Workplace Travel Statement may also be required at the discretion of the Planning Authority for developments which employ less than 100 persons.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
TRAN POL 4 To ensure that in the design of new development adjoining or near National Roads, account is taken of the need to include measures that will serve to protect the development from the adverse effects of traffic noise for the design-life of the development.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
TRAN POL 5 To support, improve and enhance, where feasible, the existing public bus services and infrastructure serving Trim Town & Environs as specific in the Trim Local Transport Plan.	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	Improved public transport facilities will positively impact on C, MA and P through reducing traffic and making bus services more attractive to road users.
TRAN POL 6 To co-operate with the NRA, NTA and other	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	Improved public transport facilities will positively impact on C, MA

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Local Authorities to provide the Leinster Outer Orbital Route as proposed in the Regional Planning Guidelines and the NTA's draft Transport Strategy.									and P through reducing traffic and making bus services more attractive to road users.
TRAN POL 7 To develop a network of longer term car parking areas generally located outside the historic town centre which do not detract from the visual appearance of the town centre as specified in the Trim Local Transport Plan.	0/-	+/-	0/-	0/-	0/+	0	0/-	+	Reducing traffic into the town centre will facilitate pedestrian activity in the town, and also improve the quality of the air, positively affecting C, MA and P. However a negative impact on S and W can be anticipated in terms of the changes to land use and covering over of grasslands for parking facilities and associated environmental impacts. Recommend following amendment to this Policy: TRAN POL 7 To develop a network of environmentally sustainable longer term car parking areas generally located outside the historic town centre which do not detract from the visual appearance of the town centre as specified in the Trim Local Transport Plan.
TRAN POL 8 To manage the provision of road infrastructure and control traffic movement in order to facilitate local development whilst protecting the amenity, historic character and tourism value of Trim Town.									Screened out because all anticipated effects would be positive
TRAN POL 9 To support major road improvements by reserving the corridors of any such proposed routes free of developments, which would interfere with the provision of such proposals.	-/0	+	0/-	0	0/-	0	0	+	The improvement of road infrastructures will have positive impacts on P, and MA, but there could be negative impacts on B/FF, S and C when land use and increased traffic are taken into account.
TRAN POL 10 To implement a programme of road construction / improvement works and local measures to improve road safety closely integrated with existing and planned land uses.	0/-	+	0/-	0/-	0/-	0	0/-	+	The improvement of road infrastructures will have positive impacts on P, and MA, but there could be negative impacts on S, L, B/FF and C when land use and increased traffic are taken into account. Recommend following amendments: TRAN POL 10 To implement a programme of road construction / improvement works in an environmentally sustainable manner and local measures to improve road safety closely integrated with existing and planned land uses.
TRAN POL 11 To regulate, control and improve signage throughout the town.									Screened out because all anticipated effects would be positive
TRAN POL 12 To co-operate with the National Transport Authority in the provision of sustainable transport measures in the existing developed areas in the town and in new or planned developments.									Screened out because all anticipated effects would be positive
TRAN POL 13 To provide for the future transportation needs of									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to

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Policies/ Objectives	B/FF	P	W	S	C	CH	L	MA	Comment/ Mitigation	
Trim and environs in a sustainable manner.									Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
TRAN POL 14 To integrate land use planning and transportation planning.									Screened out because all anticipated effects would be positive	
TRAN POL 15 To consolidate development in areas which are served by public transport and a good road network.									Screened out because all anticipated effects would be positive	
TRAN POL 16 To reduce the need to travel, especially by car, by requiring compact development with mixed uses which includes for public transport facilities and other more sustainable means of transport.									Screened out because all anticipated effects would be positive due to sustainable measures proposed with respect to transport.	
TRAN POL 17 To concentrate developments which generate large numbers of trips, such as offices, shops and labour intensive employment along the appropriate existing and proposed transportation corridors best able to meet the demand.									Screened out because all anticipated effects would be positive due to sustainable measures proposed with respect to transport.	
TRAN POL 18 To locate development that generates large numbers of heavy goods vehicle movements close to major roads.									Screened out because all anticipated effects would be positive due to sustainable measures proposed with respect to transport.	
TRAN POL 19 To review the continuing need for the distributor road network, and to reserve the corridors of and construct and complete such parts of the local distributor road network that are required	-/0	+	-/0	0	-/+	0/-	0/-	+/-	Positive impacts on P and C due to improvements in the road network, however potential for negative impacts in respect of B/FF, S, L, CH dependant on location and manner of construction. TRAN POL 19 To review the continuing need for the distributor road network, and to reserve the corridors of and construct and complete such parts of the local distributor road network that are required in an environmentally sustainable manner.	
TRAN POL 20 To have regard to a clear road hierarchy, which takes account of the function of each road and seeks to keep the mixing of national, regional and local traffic to the minimum possible.									Screened out because all anticipated effects would be positive due to sustainable measures proposed with respect to transport.	
TRAN POL 21 To provide additional road capacity, subject to a review of the need for the distributor road network, consideration of sustainable transport alternatives and other environmental, flood risk management and conservation considerations, in order to reduce the volume of through traffic from the central streets of the town.									Screened out because all anticipated effects would be positive due to sustainable measures proposed with respect to transport.	
TRAN POL 22 To require that robust Transport Assessments are carried out, by and at the expense of the developer, for significant planning applications in accordance with guidelines given in the 'Traffic Management Guidelines' and Meath County Development Plan 2013 - 2019. The Transport Assessment will be assessed by the Planning Authority and									Screened out because all anticipated effects would be positive due to sustainable measures proposed with respect to transport.	

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any additional works required as a result of the Transport Assessment shall be funded by the developer.									
TRAN POL 23: To have regard to the EU Ambient Air Quality Directive, the EU Ozone Directive, the EU guidance documents Greening Transport (EU 2008) and A Sustainable Future for Transport (EU 2009) and the National Transport Strategy Smarter Travel: A Sustainable Transport Future (DTTS 2009) to develop strategies which better reflect the real costs that transport volumes and emissions impose onto society, environment and economic efficiency.									Screened out because all anticipated effects would be positive due to sustainable measures proposed with respect to transport.
TRAN POL 24: Review pedestrian safety at and in the vicinity of existing schools in the town with a view to implementing a programme for upgrading such facilities subject to necessary funding and all necessary statutory and public safety requirements being satisfied.	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	The improvement of pedestrian safety will have positive impacts on P, C and MA as it will result in increased walking to school.
TRAN OBJ 1 To implement the sustainable transport measures set out in the Trim Local Transport Plan subject to finances.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Detailed assessment of plan set out below.
TRAN OBJ 2 To reduce the levels of Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) traffic accessing the town centre area by diverting HGV via Doolistown using adequate signage onto the R156 and R160 towards the Trim Ring Road as specified in the Trim Local Transport Plan.									Screened out because all anticipated effects would be positive due to sustainable measures proposed with respect to transport.
TRAN OBJ 3 To implement the specific Traffic Management measures for the town centre as specified in the Trim Local Transport Plan.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Transport Plan assessed below.
TRAN OBJ 4 To facilitate the provision of a bus park & ride facility to serve the town and Scurroughstown area in co-operation with the National Transport Authority and Bus Éireann.	0/-	+/-	0/-	0/-	0/+	0	0/-	+	Reducing traffic into the town centre will facilitate pedestrian activity in the town, and also improve the quality of the air, positively affecting C, MA and P. However a negative impact on S and P can be anticipated in terms of the changes to land use and covering over of grasslands for parking facilities, and the inconvenience of not being able to access the town centre. Recommend updating Objective as follows: TRAN OBJ 4 To facilitate the provision of a bus park & ride facility at a sustainable location and subject to appropriate environmental assessment, where relevant in order to serve the town and Scurroughstown area in co-operation with the National Transport Authority and Bus Éireann.
TRAN OBJ 5 To provide, in co-operation with other agencies, bodies and developers/landowners, an integrated network of designated walking and cycling routes to provide safe,	0/-	+	0/-	0	+	0	0	+	This objective will have positive impacts for P, C and MA by providing and building on existing green infrastructure, reducing traffic and thereby indirectly improving the quality of the air. Some

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convenient and pleasant routes between the town's main residential areas, schools, the town centre and business park areas. The network will, wherever possible, be developed as a segregated, traffic free, sustainable transport facility incorporating best practice design and shall be integrated with the network of Green Infrastructure.									short term negative impacts are to be anticipated in the development/construction phases.	
TRAN OBJ 6 Any proposed new cycle paths in the vicinity of the River Boyne will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment according to Article 6(3) of the E.C. Habitats Directive.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
TRAN OBJ 7 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 cooperation and the securing of the necessary funding.	0/-	+	0/-	0/-	+	0	-/+	+	Note – same as GI OBJ 5 above. Overall a positive policy likely to have benefits for C, P and MA. The River Boyne SAC and SPA runs through the Historical Core area of the town of Trim and therefore due consideration should be given to this important designated area. Recommend inclusion of requirement to carry out a routing study and any necessary environmental assessment in respect of this scheme also, text amendment recommended as follows: TRAN OBJ 7 To provide for the development of the Trim-Navan-Slane-Drogheda cycle/greenway along the River Boyne subject to carrying out a routing study and any necessary environmental assessments , obtaining necessary statutory planning consent, the carrying out of Appropriate Assessment, landowner co-operation and the securing of necessary funding.	
TRAN OBJ 8 To co-operate with the NRA, NTA and other Local Authorities in clarifying and finalising the route of the Leinster Outer Orbital Route (linking Drogheda, Navan, Trim and Naas) proposed in the "Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area" and the NTA's draft Transport Strategy. This is particularly important in the vicinity of the proposed major junctions along the route in order to protect the identified corridor from development intrusion.	-/+	-/+	-/+	-/+	-/+	-/+	-/+	-/+	Potential for negative impacts, however this subject to a separate process as it is part of the NTA's draft Transport Strategy. Recommend inclusion of following text: This proposed route will also need to undergo a detailed routing study, SEA and EIA as part of this assessment.	
TRAN OBJ 9 To support and facilitate the improvement of walking and cycling networks in Trim Town Centre and Environs as specified in the Trim Local Transport Plan.	-/0	+	-/0	-/0	+/-	0	-/0	+	The upgrade of pedestrian facilities, is likely to have positive effects in terms of P, C and M as will improve pedestrian environment and increase walking and cycling within the town. There is potential for some short term negative impacts on L, B/FF and S due to construction works associated with improvement works. However these would be temporary in nature and can be mitigated through implementation of normal construction management practices.	

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Policies/ Objectives	B/FF	P	W	S	C	CH	L	MA	Comment/ Mitigation
									<p>Recommend inclusion of requirement to carry out a routing study and any necessary environmental assessment including Appropriate Assessment, text amendment recommended as follows:</p> <p>TRAN OBJ 9 To support and facilitate the improvement of walking and cycling networks in Trim Town Centre and Environs as specified in the Trim Local Transport Plan subject to carrying out a routing study and any necessary environmental assessments, obtaining necessary statutory planning consent, the carrying out of Appropriate Assessment, landowner co-operation and the securing of necessary funding.</p>
TRAN OBJ 10 To develop a network of new and existing roads, to allow the free flow of all general town traffic through Trim to alleviate unnecessary traffic congestion within Trim's historic core as specified in the Trim Local Transport Plan.	0/-	+/-	0/-	0	0/+	0	0/-	+	<p>Reducing traffic into the town centre will facilitate pedestrian activity in the town, and also improve the quality of the air, positively affecting C, MA and P. However a negative impact on S and P can be anticipated in terms of the changes to land use and covering over of grasslands for roads or parking facilities, and the inconvenience of not being able to access the town centre.</p> <p>Recommend inclusion of requirement to carry out all necessary environmental assessment including Appropriate Assessment, text amendment recommended as follows: TRAN OBJ 10 To develop a network of new and existing roads, subject to all necessary environmental assessments, including Appropriate Assessment, to allow the free flow of all general town traffic through Trim to alleviate unnecessary traffic congestion within Trim's historic core as specified in the Trim Local Transport Plan.</p>
TRAN OBJ 11 To protect the historic core of Trim and its medieval street pattern through the reduction of non essential traffic movements, the implementation of traffic calming measures, and prevention of further street widening, straightening or unnecessary breaches, within the line of medieval wall as specified in the Trim Local Transport Plan.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
TRAN OBJ 12: Pending a review into the need for the distributor road network, the commencement of which would begin within one year of the adoption of the Plan, to preserve (and where indicated to construct) and secure from further development a corridor for the provision of distributor link roads which include the following routes:	-/0	-/+	-/0	-/0	-/0	-/0	-/0	-/+	<p>NOTE: Many of the distributor roads proposed on the TDP Zoning and Objectives Maps are located outside the development plan boundary and therefore question their relevance in respect of objectives of this Development Plan.</p> <p>Potential for negative impacts with respect SEO's. Recommend the</p>

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Policies/ Objectives	B/FF	P	W	S	C	CH	L	MA	Comment/ Mitigation
<p>RT 1 Construction of the local distributor road link between the Dublin Road at Effernock and the Navan Road at the Motor Park, including a new bridge over the Boyne River.</p> <p>RT3 A local distributor road link connecting the Athboy Road to the local distributor road west of the Town Centre Expansion area, including a new bridge over the Boyne (long term objective).</p> <p>RT 4 Construction of the local distributor road link west of the Town Centre Expansion area connecting to the Kinnegad Road. This shall be provided in tandem with the development immediately to the east. No development shall be provided on the lands immediately to the east until such time as that this section of the distributor road is completed. This road should be funded by the development in the town centre expansion area.</p> <p>RT 5 Construction of the local distributor road link between the Kinnegad Road and the Longwood Road. This shall be provided as part of Framework Plan no. 1.</p> <p>RT 6 Construction of local distributor road link between the Longwood Road and the Summerhill Road. This shall be provided in tandem with the industrial lands immediately to the north.</p> <p>RT 7 Reservation of corridor for the local distributor road link between the Summerhill Road and the Dublin Road. (long term objective).</p>									<p>following amendments to this objective:</p> <p>TRAN OBJ 12: Pending a review into the need for the distributor road network, the commencement of which would begin within one year of the adoption of the Plan, to preserve (and where indicated to construct subject to routing environmental assessment and appropriate assessment) and secure from further development a corridor for the provision of distributor link roads which include the following routes:</p> <p>RT1 Construction of the local distributor road link between the Dublin Road at Effernock and the Navan Road at the Motor Park, including a new bridge over the Boyne River subject to Appropriate Assessment and consultation and requirements of National Parks and Wildlife Services and Inland Fisheries Ireland.</p> <p>RT3 A local distributor road link connecting the Athboy Road to the local distributor road west of the Town Centre Expansion area, including a new bridge over the Boyne (long term objective) subject to Appropriate Assessment and consultation and requirements of National Parks and Wildlife Services and Inland Fisheries Ireland.</p> <p>[Recommend relocation of Route RT4 objective as this proposed distributor road will be located partly within the River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA and has potential to have significant effects on this Natura 2000 due to potential disturbance to protected bird species. There is potential for alternative access routes further south.]</p> <p>RT 4 Construction of the local distributor road link west of the Town Centre Expansion area connecting to the Kinnegad Road. This shall be provided in tandem with the development immediately to the east. No development shall be provided on the lands immediately to the east until such time as that this section of the distributor road is completed. This road should be funded by the development in the town centre expansion area.</p> <p>RT 5 Construction of the local distributor road link between the</p>

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Policies/ Objectives	B/FF	P	W	S	C	CH	L	MA	Comment/ Mitigation	
									<p>Kinnegad Road and the Longwood Road. This shall be provided as part of Framework Plan no. 1.</p> <p>RT 6 Construction of local distributor road link between the Longwood Road and the Summerhill Road. This shall be provided in tandem with the industrial lands immediately to the north.</p> <p>RT 7 Reservation of corridor for the local distributor road link between the Summerhill Road and the Dublin Road. (long term objective).</p>	
TRAN OBJ 13 To examine roads and streets and to devise a phased program for the improvement of those of poor quality. Such improvements may incorporate realignment, paving works, new parking arrangements, street lighting and street furniture installation.	0/-	+/-	0/-	0	0/+	0	0/-	+	Proposed works are minor in nature and are likely to have temporary impacts only during construction works. Will improve the quality of roads and streets long term.	
TRAN OBJ 14 Completion of a new link road connecting Castle Street through Emmett Street to an area north of St. Patrick's Park.	0/-	+/-	0/-	0/-	+/-	0/-	0/-	+/-	<p>Road improvements likely to have positive effects in terms of P and MA to ensure the working order of the town. Potential for negative effects in respect of B/FF, S, W and L with respect to construction of roads.</p> <p>Mitigation in respect of these roads is provided above.</p>	
TRAN OBJ 15 To complete the new access road serving the town centre expansion area and the OPW offices. This shall open up the town centre expansion area, and run parallel to the river and link up with the distributor road RT4.	0/-	+	0/-	0/-	0	0	0	+	Construction works have potential to have minor negative effects but will be mitigated through normal construction management practices..	
TRAN OBJ 16 To construct the grid of streets in the town centre expansion area as shown indicatively on Map No. 1 Zoning and Objectives Map. This shall include the area enclosed by St. Patrick's Park, St. Loman's Park and the rear of Emmet Street (western side).	0/-	+	0/-	0/-	0	0	0	+	Construction works have potential to have minor negative effects. All proposed roads will be subject to Appropriate Assessment requirements as per Tran POL 10 (as amended).	
TRAN OBJ 17 Construction of a new access road to facilitate access to the G1 zoned lands to the east of the Boyne Community School off the Dublin Road.	0/-	+	0/-	0/-	0/-	0	0	+	The construction of a new road will provide access to the G1 zoned lands relating to community infrastructure. This will have positive impacts on P and MA, but the construction period could see a temporary negative effect on B/FF, S, W and C.	
TRAN OBJ 18: To carry out road/street improvement works along High St., Navangate St., Loman St., Watergate St., Whitehall, Mill St., Summerhill and Kinnegad Roads.	-0	+	-0	-0	+/-	0	-0	+	Improvement works are likely to have positive effects due to improvements to road safety. There is potential for some short term negative impacts on L, B/FF and S due to construction works associated with improvement works. However these would be temporary in nature and can be mitigated through implementation of	

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Policies/ Objectives	B/FF	P	W	S	C	CH	L	MA	Comment/ Mitigation
									normal construction management practices. TRAN OBJ 18: To carry out road/street improvement works along High St., Navangate St., Loman St., Watergate St., Whitehall, Mill St., Summerhill and Kinnegad Roads in an environmentally sustainable manner.
TRAN OBJ 19 To erect signage at the junction of the R156 and the R161 south west of Trim to direct HGV traffic onto the R156, and from there onto the R160 towards Trim ring road.	0	+	0	0	+	0	+	+	This measure will make sure that HGV are diverted and do not have to pass through the town centre, and that can have a positive effect on P and C.
INF OBJ 19: To support the Noise Action Plan adopted by Meath County Council and Navan Town Council									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
Energy and Telecommunications									
Key Aim 1 To facilitate the development of a modern, cost effective, high quality communications system.	+/-	+	0/-	0/-	0	0	0/-	+	Overall, this aim will invest in the long term improvement of the communications facilities in the town. This aim will have positive direct impacts on P and MA. There may be short term negative impacts to B/FF, S, W and C during construction, and longer term on L.
Key Aim 2 To promote energy efficiency through appropriate land use, siting, design and buildings standards.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
Key Aim 3 To encourage and promote renewable energy by supporting the development of sustainable energy facilities where appropriate.	0/-	+	0/-	0/-	+	0	0/-	+	Overall a positive aim, which will bring benefits to C, MA and P. Negative impacts are only likely in the construction phase in the short term, and more long term on L depending on the type of installation. Recommend following amendment: Key aim 3 To encourage and promote renewable energy by supporting the development of sustainable energy facilities where appropriate in line with proper planning and sustainable development.
Key Aim 4 To support the expansion and reinforcement of the gas and energy networks serving Trim.	0/-	+	0/-	0/-	-	0	0/-	+	The positive outcomes of this aim are the increased security of energy supply for P and development of MA. However it is generally considered that the development of gasworks has negative short and long term effects on C.
TE POL 1 To maximise the potential of the ICT sector, such infrastructure shall be provided for, including that open access fibre connections are included; that carrier neutral ducting is installed during significant public infrastructure works such as roads, water and sewerage and that all ductings are recorded and mapped, to maximise utilisation of existing services.	+/-	+	0/-	0/-	0	0	0/-	+	Overall, this aim will invest in the long term improvement of the communications facilities in the town. This aim will have positive direct impacts on P and MA. There may be short term negative impacts to B/FF, S, W and C during construction, and longer term on L.

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TE POL 2 To seek to provide a framework for sustainable development through the provision of quality telecommunications infrastructure and energy use efficiency and encourage the facilitation of an increase in the use of renewable energy in buildings.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
TE POL 3 To ensure that communications infrastructure follows best practice with regard to siting and design, particularly to ensure the protection of all important recognised views and prospects.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
TE POL 4 To have regard to the following in considering proposals for the development of telecommunication masts, antennae and ancillary equipment: - The visual impact of the proposed equipment on the natural, built and historic environment. - The removal or modification of features of architectural/archaeological importance. - The impact any such development may have on protected structures or their setting. - The potential for co-location of equipment on existing masts. - The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government "Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures, Guidelines for Planning Authorities, July 1996" and Circular Letter PL 07/12 which shall take precedence, and subsequent revisions or expanded guidelines as may be relevant.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
TE POL 5 To generally avoid, where practicable, the location of overhead lines in Natura 2000 sites unless it can be proven that they will not affect the integrity of the site in view of its conservation objectives i.e. by carrying out an appropriate assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the E.C. Habitats Directive.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
TE POL 6 To require that all planning applications for significant new development provide for the delivery of broadband infrastructure in tandem with each phase of development.	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	Overall a positive policy which will supply broadband to all.
TE POL 7 To normally require, save in exceptional circumstances, that the location of communications services such as telephone, broadband and cable TV be placed underground, where possible.	0/-	+	0/-	0/-	0	0	+	+	This policy will move cables out of sight improving the visual aspects of the town and making them safer and more protected. It will also have positive effects on P and MA. There is a chance that some temporary negative effects will be had on B/FF, S and W during construction.

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Policies/ Objectives	B/FF	P	W	S	C	CH	L	MA	Comment/ Mitigation
TE POL 8 To secure the expansion of high quality broadband and telecommunication infrastructure within the town and its environs, in the interests of promoting economic growth and competitiveness.	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	Overall, this aim will invest in the long term improvement of the communications facilities in the town. This aim will have positive direct impacts on P and MA.
TE POL 9: To encourage the re-location of existing antennae and structures where possible into industrial areas due to Trim's status as a Heritage Town.	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	Positive in terms of P, CH and L.
TE POL 10: To require the use of a communal satellite system for apartment developments.	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	Positive in terms of P, CH and L.
TE POL 11 To support the review and implementation of the actions of the Meath County Council Climate Change Strategy and Energy Management Action Plan 2011-2012 'Think Globally Act Locally'.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
TE POL 12 To support the National Climate Change Strategy and, in general, to facilitate measures which seek to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
TE POL 13 To promote energy conservation and efficiency measures and facilitate innovative development proposals that maximise energy efficiency through siting, layout, design or which incorporate best practice in energy technologies, conservation and implementation of smart technology in accordance with national policy and guidelines.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
TE POL 14 To seek to improve the energy efficiency of the town's existing building stock and to promote energy efficiency and conservation in the design and development of all new buildings in Trim.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
TE POL 15 To facilitate energy infrastructure provision, including the development of renewable energy sources at suitable locations, so as to provide for the further physical and economic development of Trim.	0/-	+	0/-	0/-	+	0	0/-	+	Overall a positive aim, which will bring benefits to C, MA and P. Negative impacts are only likely in the construction phase in the short term, and more long term on L depending on the type of installation. Recommend following amendment: TE POL 15 To facilitate energy infrastructure provision, including the development of renewable energy sources at suitable locations, so as to provide for the further physical and economic development of Trim in line with proper planning and sustainable development.
TE POL 16 To support and facilitate the development of enhanced electricity and gas supplies, and associated networks, to serve the existing and future needs of Trim.	0/-	+	0/-	0/-	-	0	0/-	+	See Key aim 4
TE POL 17: To co-operate and liaise with statutory and other energy providers in relation to power generation in order to									Screened out as all anticipated effects will be positive

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Policies/ Objectives	B/FF	P	W	S	C	CH	L	MA	Comment/ Mitigation
ensure adequate power capacity for the existing and future needs of Trim.									
TE POL 18 To ensure that energy transmission infrastructure follows best practice with regard to siting and design, particularly to ensure the protection of all important recognised views and prospects.									Screened out as all anticipated effects will be positive
TE POL 19 To normally require, save in exceptional circumstances, that the location of local energy services such as electricity be placed underground, where possible.	0/-	+	0/-	0/-	0/-	0	+	+	Removing electrical cables from sight is positive for L and is also considered safer from the point of view of P. The negative impacts are likely to be in the short term in the construction phase and can also be minimised.
TE OBJ 1 To ensure that all plans and projects associated with the generation or supply of energy or telecommunication networks 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 Appropriate Assessment.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
Infrastructure									
Key Aim 1 Seek the upgrade of the existing trim sewer network to cater for the town's anticipated growth levels.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
Key Aim 2 Seek to ensure that adequate water supply is available to serve the growing needs of the town.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
Key Aim 3 Ensure that all waste discharges are adequately treated.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
Key Aim 4 Ensure that all new development complies with the requirements of 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009'.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
INF POL 1 To work with Irish Water to continue the development and upgrading of the water supply system serving Trim, so as to ensure that a continued adequate, sustainable and economic supply of piped water of suitable quality is available for the sustainable development of Trim, as finances permit.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
INF POL 2 To work with Irish Water to continue the development and upgrading of the waste water system serving Trim so as to ensure that a continued adequate treatment									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).

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capacity is available for the sustainable development of Trim, as finances permit.										
INF POL 3 To work with Irish Water to continue to implement the Water Conservation Programme, in order to conserve valuable resources by further reducing leakage.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
INF POL 4 To work with Irish Water to continue to utilise the existing water supply in an efficient and fair manner and in the best interests of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
INF POL 5 Any development proposed as a result of infrastructure policies will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment according to Article 6(3) of the E.C. Habitats Directive.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
INF POL 6: To support the implementation of the EU Freshwater Fish Directive and its transposition into Irish legislation in order to protect any fish and shellfish habitat in the Plan area.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
INF POL 7: All works that have potential to impact on fisheries are required to adhere to IFI Fisheries Protection Guidelines entitled 'Requirements for the Protection of Fisheries habitat during Construction and Development Works'.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
INF POL 8: To protect the tributaries of the River Boyne around Trim such as the Maudlin and the Lackanash from urbanisation and malfunctioning sewer lines.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
INF POL 9: To ensure that adequate water supply and treatment facilities are in place prior to development approval.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
INF POL 10: To protect existing and potential water resources in accordance with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended); European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (as amended); European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (as amended); East River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 or any 									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> updated version of this document; Groundwater Protection Scheme for County Meath; Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2001 (as amended); Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) and European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Waters) Regulations 2009 and 2010; Any other protection plans for water supply sources or updates to the above regulations. 										
INF POL 11: To ensure that development would not have an unacceptable impact on water quality and quantity, including surface water, ground water, designated source protection areas, river corridors and associated wetlands.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
INF POL 12: To ensure that all significant road projects/upgrades with surface water discharges to the Boyne River system and its tributaries, have petrol/oil interceptors installed to prevent hydrocarbon pollution of the river system.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
INF POL 13: To ensure that development would not have an unacceptable impact on water quality and quantity, including surface water, ground water, designated source protection areas, river corridors and associated wetlands, estuarine waters, coastal and transitional waters.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
INF POL 14: To protect, maintain and improve the natural character of all watercourses, tributaries and streams within the Plan area.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
INF POL 15: To ensure that all new developments should incorporate Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) in accordance with the recommendations of the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study (GSDSDS) and sufficient storm water attenuation will be required for all such developments to ensure that the rate of run-off equates to predevelopment greenfield run off rates.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
INF POL 16: To implement the policies and objectives of the North East Waste Management Plan 2005-2010 or any replacement waste management plan for which ever Waste Region Meath forms part of under the re-configuration of the Waste Regions as relevant to Trim.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
INF POL 17: To implement the policies and objectives of the North East Waste Management Plan 2005-2010 or any replacement waste management plan for the north east region									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	

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as relevant to Trim.										
INF POL 18: To promote education and awareness on all issues associated with waste management, both at industry and community level. This will include the promotion of waste reduction by encouraging the minimization, re-use, recycling and recovery of waste within the town and environs.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
INF POL 19: To encourage the development of waste infrastructure and associated developments in appropriate locations, as deemed necessary in accordance with the requirements of the Regional Waste Management Plan as relevant to Trim.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
INF POL 20: To facilitate the provision of appropriate waste recovery and disposal facilities in accordance with the principles set out in the appropriate Waste Management Plan applicable from the time made in accordance with the Waste Management Act 1996.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
INF POL 21: To require developers to prepare construction and demolition waste management plans for new construction projects over certain thresholds and such plans shall meet the relevant recycling/recovery targets for such waste in accordance with the national legislation and national and regional waste management policy.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
INF POL 22: Any waste infrastructure proposed will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment according to Article 6(3) of the E.C. Habitats Directive.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
INF POL 23: To ensure that developments include adequate space for domestic and commercial recyclable waste storage both within and outside buildings; and ensure that larger development proposals and master plans incorporate bring banks to facilitate sustainable development and optimal rates of recycling.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
INF POL 24: To ensure the implementation of the EU Urban Waste Water Directive and its transposition into Irish legislation, namely the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2001 and 2004.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
INF POL 25: To encourage the changeover from septic tanks to mains connections in all cases where this is feasible and that all new developments utilise and connect to the existing wastewater infrastructure, where available. The provision of individual septic tanks and treatment plants in the Plan will be									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	

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strongly discouraged to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution. Where such facilities are permitted, full compliance with the prevailing regulations and standards will be required, including the EPA 2009 <i>Code of Practice: Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses</i> (p.e.≤ 10).										
INF POL 26: To ensure that adequate wastewater treatment facilities are in place prior to development approval.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
INF POL 27: Where practicable, and particularly in areas of new development, floor levels shall be a minimum of 300mm above adjacent roads and hard standing areas to reduce the consequences of any localised flooding.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
INF POL 28: To ensure that adequate measures are put in place to deal with residual risks, proposals shall demonstrate the use of flood-resistant construction measures that are aimed at preventing water from entering a building and that mitigate the damage floodwater causes to buildings. Alternatively, designs for flood resilient construction may be adopted where it can be demonstrated that entry of floodwater into buildings is preferable to limit damage caused by floodwater and allow relatively quick recovery.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
INF POL 29: To have regard to the requirements of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG/OPW, 2009) in the assessment of development management proposals and in the preparation of any Framework Plans required during the period of this Plan.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
INF POL 30: The Planning Authority will require a site specific flood risk assessment to be carried out for all development proposals falling within areas identified as being at risk of flooding in accordance with the Trim Strategic Flood Risk Assessment recommendations.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
INF POL 31: To protect water courses, banks and bankside vegetation from interference by inappropriate bridging, draining, culverting or other works which would be detrimental to fisheries, biodiversity and the qualifying interests of Natura 2000 sites.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
INF POL 32: To consult with the Office of Public Works in relation to proposed developments in the vicinity of drainage									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to	

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channels and rivers for which the OPW are responsible, and the Council will retain a strip of 10 metres on either side of such channel where required, to facilitate access thereto.									Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
INF POL 33: To require that all proposed flood protection or alleviation works will be subject to Appropriate Assessment (AA) to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity, defined by the structure and function, of any Natura 2000 sites and that the requirements of Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive are met.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
INF OBJ 1 To endeavour to prepare a map of serviced areas within Trim town during the lifetime of the Trim Development Plan, subject to the availability of the necessary resources.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
INF OBJ 2 To generally provide support for the funding of, and to improve and extend, surface water disposal infrastructure to serve the planned levels of growth, during the lifetime of this Plan, in order to facilitate development and subject to the availability of funding.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
Land Use Zoning Designations									
A1 Existing Residential To protect and enhance the amenity of developed residential communities.	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	Limited potential for negative environmental impacts as lands are already developed. Potential for positive impacts on P and L due to preservation and enhancement of these areas.
A2 New Residential To provide for new residential communities with ancillary community facilities, neighbourhood facilities and employment uses as considered appropriate for the status of the centre in the Settlement Hierarchy.	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	+	0	0/-	+	<p>A detailed assessment with respect to residential zonings has been undertaken as part of the alternatives assessment of the draft Plan. Lands zoned for residential development are in accordance with the core strategy and developments are required to be supported by a number of protective policies within the draft plan.</p> <p>The selected New residential site are based on sound planning principles by choosing sites located closest to schools, public transport and services. This will result in high quality living environments; it promotes sustainable transport, walking and cycling and will reduce potential effects on landscape from otherwise sprawling developments throughout the environs of the town.</p> <p>The development of residentially zoned lands has the potential to have cumulative effects (along with other development proposals for the town) on B/FF, W and S through pressure on wastewater systems and water supplies and impact on soils through</p>

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									development of greenfield lands. However, integration of this policy with the provision of other protective policies within the plan would be expected to reduce direct negative impacts on environmental receptors, such as water quality, resulting from pressure on these. Any new residential development would also be subject to conform to the development management requirements of this Plan.	
B1 Commercial / Town or Village Centre To protect, provide for and / or improve town and village centre facilities and uses.	-	+	+/-	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	+	<p>The Plan identifies Trim town centre as the focal point for retail, office and service provision while identifying the need to re-invigorate the centre through attracting in other appropriate and value added uses. Public Realm and traffic management improvements together with enhancements and increases in the provision of amenity, recreation, leisure and cultural space will ensure that the urban centre of Trim can be in a position to capture its status as Level Three retail centre (see Retail Key aim 4).</p> <p>Town centre zoning is largely inherited from previous development planning of the town.</p> <p>Part of the B1 Commercial / Town Centre zoning is located partly within the boundary of the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC. This zoning skirts the north west edge of this zoning and south of the River Boyne. This conflict occurs on an area of land which has been developed as a local roadway which bounds the town centre expansion area and provides local access to the new OPW Headquarters building. Therefore these lands have already been developed and are zoned accordingly. Other B1 zoned lands located within the town centre along the River Boyne bound the SPA and SAC. However, given the established nature of the town centre along this river corridor, this zoning is largely established. Any proposed development that has potential to impact on the SAC and SPA will be subject to appropriate assessment in accordance with HER OBJ 6.</p> <p>The development of these lands is likely to have a positive effect with respect to P, C, L, CH and MA due to consolidation of the town centre and facilitation of centrally located services and associated indirect positive impacts on the town centre. Potential to have negative effects on B/FF, W and S through development of lands. However, integration of this policy with the provision of other protective policies within the plan would be expected to reduce direct negative impacts on environmental receptors, such as water</p>	

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Policies/ Objectives	B/FF	P	W	S	C	CH	L	MA	Comment/ Mitigation
									quality, resulting from pressure on these. Any new development would also be subject to conform to the development management requirements of this Plan and the Meath CDP 2013. A SFRA and justification test was also prepared in respect of part of the town expansion area site which supports this zoning.
B2 Retail Warehouse Park To provide for the development of a retail warehouse park.	0/-	+	0/-	0/-	0/-	0	0	+	There is one site identified for a Retail Warehouse Park within the town, this is located in a highly accessible location to the east of the town on the R154. There is also a requirement to submit a masterplan as part of this zoning which will allow for a comprehensively planned park. Potential for general negative impacts on environmental receptors through land use change and construction however will be subject to the normal development process and therefore any impacts should be sufficiently mitigated. Potential for negative impacts in terms of C due to use of private vehicles to access such locations, however this is the nature of such development.
C1 Mixed Use To provide for and facilitate mixed residential and business uses.	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	+	There is a number of strategically located mixed use sites planned on the periphery of the town centre (B1 zoning). These sites promote a mix of uses which by their nature lend themselves to a range of services and therefore reduction in the need to travel outside of these locations. Development of these lands is likely to have a positive effect with respect to P, C, L, CH and MA due to central locations and sustainable means of transport and reduction in the need for out of centre development. Potential to have negative effects on B/FF, W and S through normal development and construction of lands. However, integration of this policy with the provision of other protective policies within the plan would be expected to reduce direct negative impacts on environmental receptors, such as soils, resulting from pressure on these.
D1 Tourism To provide for appropriate and sustainable visitor and tourist facilities and associated uses.	0	+	0/-	0/-	0/-	0	0	+	Tourism has been identified as one of the most important draw factors within the town given the significant heritage and amenity status of this area. This D1 land use zoning has been identified at Knightsbrook Hotel to provide for a tourism type use(s) such as accommodation and entertainment in support of the towns critical tourism and heritage role which is critical to the overall development strategy of the town. This zoning is generally positive, aiming to improve tourist facilities and increase attraction to the town. However some negative environmental impacts are likely with an increased number of visitors to the town, especially if these access the town by car. Other environmental receptors may be adversely affected through

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									construction works associated with this particular zoning, however would be subject to the normal development management process.
E2 General Enterprise & Employment To provide for the creation of enterprise and facilitate opportunities for employment through industrial, manufacturing, distribution, warehousing and other general employment / enterprise uses in a good quality physical environment.	0/-	+	0/-	0/-	+/-	0	0/-	+/-	E2 zones provide for small to medium scale enterprise and manufacturing uses allowing for the full range of industrial processes to take place within a well-designed and attractive setting. Given the town's role as a Moderate Sustainable Growth town and requirement to promote economic development and employment within the town, adequate lands are required to cater for such enterprise and employment uses. This employment and enterprise use is provided for within a number of strategically located and accessible sites on main approach roads to the town located to the north, northeast, south and east of the town, these include the Oaktree and Scurlockstown Business Parks, and the Motor Park off the Navan Road. There are a significant number of vacant units, many of which are to let or for sale within Oaktree and Scurlockstown Business Parks. On this basis Policy Econ Pol 11 requires a sequential approach to be taken in respect of this zoning. Overall this zoning will improve the quality of life of the residents by providing improved employment opportunities and therefore bringing economic activity into the town. It also promotes these uses in a good quality physical environment ensuring sustainable growth and the protection or of the environment. As with all development, there is potential for negative effects in respect of S, W, B/FF and C particularly in greenfield sites such as these.
F1 Open Space To provide for and improve open spaces for active and passive recreational amenities.	0/+	+	0/+	0/+	+/0	+	+	+	This is a very important zoning to ensure the protection of open space, recreation and amenity areas. Overall this will have many positive effects on the SEOs. In terms of the environmental receptors, very little negative impact is possible due to the protection of these lands from development, reducing the impact on B/FF, S, W and C related to construction works and land use change. It will also impact positively on the human environment, providing recreational space and therefore positive impacts on MA, C and P.
G1 Community Infrastructure: To provide for necessary community, social and educational facilities.	0/-	+	0/-	0/-	0/-	0	+/-	+	Community infrastructure is an all-embracing term that should be taken to include buildings and other facilities, which provide community, educational, social, health, childcare, cultural, religious, recreation and leisure facilities that serve the needs of the public. Adequate lands have been zoned throughout the town to cater for this use on strategic and accessible locations. This policy is likely to have positive impacts on P and MA through

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									provision of the necessary infrastructure such as schools and other community buildings. Negative impacts on B/FF, S, W and C are associated with the construction phase of this aim, and would most likely be short term in nature and can be dealt with through the development management process.
H1 High Amenity: To protect and improve areas of high amenity.	0/+	+	0/+	0/+	+/0	+	+	+	<p>This is a very important zoning and is similar to F1 Zoning Objective to protect lands for Open Space. However this zoning is more stringent in nature and minimal development is permissible or open to consideration within this zone. This zoning objective is extremely important in protecting areas of high amenity within the town including the setting of Trim Castle, Porch Field and the River Boyne.</p> <p>Overall this will have many positive effects on the SEOs. In terms of the environmental receptors, very little negative impact is possible due to the protection of these lands from development, reducing the impact on B/FF, S, W and C related to construction works and land use change. It will also impact positively on the human environment, providing recreational space and therefore positive impacts on MA, C and P.</p>
Trim Local Transport Plan – Appendix D									
Transport Plan Aim 1: To promote sustainable transport and make travel safer by ensuring that pedestrians and cyclists are afforded higher priority than motorised vehicles.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
Transport Plan Aim 2: To develop integrated transport and to promote public transport, walking, cycling and other sustainable forms of transport.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
Transport Plan Aim 3: To maintain and operate efficient transport networks.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
Transport Plan Aim 4: To create a transport system that is accessible to all.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).
Transport Plan Aim 5: To provide a transport system that supports the economy,.	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	Positive effects likely due to improvement in respect of public transport.
Transport Plan Aim 6: To complement and enhance the built and natural environment.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).

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Bus Services									
<p>Improvements to the local bus infrastructure to serve Trim include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To build upon the work carried out to improve bus facilities across the county, including Trim and to identify further requirements for the upgrade of existing bus stops which lack basic facilities such as timetable information, shelters and hard standings. Provision of a new bus park & ride facility to serve the town and wider area at Scurloghstown junction. Provision of a new Trim bound bus bay at Knightsbrook and upgrade of Dublin bound bus bays. Provision of additional stops on the R161 Trim Navan Road Consideration should also be given to how the 188 and the 111 services could be better synchronised to facilitate the interchange of passengers from within the town between routes e.g. Can services be amended to make it easier for those in Knightsbrook wanting to travel to Navan but not on the route, to catch the 111 into town to change buses for an onward journey using the 188 service. 	0/-	+/-	0/-	0	+	0	0	+	<p>An Improvement to the bus service is likely to increase the use of public transport in the town, and also improve the quality of the air, positively affecting C, MA and P. However slight potential negative impact on B/FF, S and P can be anticipated in terms of the changes to land use and covering over of grasslands for parking facilities. No specific location for the Scurloghstown Park and Ride facility is provided. Therefore recommend updating Point 2 of this Objective as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of a new bus park & ride facility to serve the town and wider area at Scurloghstown junction at a sustainable location and subject to appropriate environmental assessment, including Appropriate Assessment,, where relevant in co-operation with the National Transport Authority and Bus Eireann.
Town Centre Public Transport									
<p>It is an objective to support the development of a co-ordinated public transport service for Trim. It proposed that this would be implemented through the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a public and private transport hub, within the 'Town Centre Expansion Area'(Mark J on Map No. 5 in Appendix A), in close proximity to both the 'Historic Core', and to any new shopping centre and major long stay parking area, which incorporates local public bus interchange for 20 buses including tourist buses, commuter park and ride and cycle storage facilities, in tandem with development of Town Centre Expansion Area. 	-/0	+	-/0	-/0	+/-	0	-/0	+/-	<p>The development of a co-ordinated public transport service is likely to have positive effects on the town as it is likely to result in increased use of public transport, walking and cycling within the town centre. However the development of this transport hub has potential to have negative impacts on L due to the location of this facility so close to the historic town core. It also has potential to have negative impacts on B/FF, S and W as a result of development on this greenfield site. Recommend following amendments:</p> <p>It is an objective to support the development of a sustainable co-ordinated public transport service for Trim. It proposed that this would be implemented through the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a public and private transport hub, within the 'Town Centre Expansion Area'(Mark J on Map No. 5 in Appendix A), in close proximity to both the 'Historic Core', and to any new shopping centre and major long stay parking area, which

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Policies/ Objectives	B/FF	P	W	S	C	CH	L	MA	Comment/ Mitigation
									incorporates local public bus interchange for 20 buses including tourist buses, commuter park and ride and cycle storage facilities, in tandem with development of Town Centre Expansion Area. This development will be subject to appropriate assessment, environmental assessment as appropriate and will include a detailed landscape plan to ensure this development is adequately screened.
Road Safety									
Traffic Management Measures	-/0	+	-/0	-/0	+/-	0	-/0	+	
<p>The following improvements are proposed as objectives of this plan</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To reconfigure the junctions where recurring accidents have occurred to make them more pedestrian friendly and to reduce the width of the carriageway to be crossed by pedestrians. 2. To investigate realignment and road widening schemes to incorporate cycling and pedestrian facilities to current standards at the Boyne school and the Dublin Road. 3. To investigate feasibility of a school bus facility for set down and collection of pupils on the ring road in the vicinity of local schools, including provision of a centralised school bus collection area off the ring road. 4. To investigate the feasibility of a short-term HGV ban for Patrick Street until the RT5 link is constructed. 5. To provide and upgrade pedestrian crossings at locations where recurring accidents have occurred involving pedestrians and at locations where there is significant risk to pedestrian safety. 6. Upgrade of pedestrian facilities at Newtown Bridge 									<p>The development of traffic management measures is largely likely to have positive effects due to improvements to road safety. There is potential for some short term negative impacts on L, B/FF and S due to construction works associated with improvement works. However these would be temporary in nature and can be mitigated through implementation of normal construction management practices.</p> <p>In relation to point no. 6 recommend inclusion of following text:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade of pedestrian facilities at Newtown bridge subject to Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Assessment and consultation with NPWS and IFI.
Walking & Cycling									
<p>This plan proposes the following schemes to improve walking and cycling in Trim:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian facilities/ junction upgrades in the town centre (see also sections 3.4.1 & 3.4.2); • Upgrade pedestrian/cycle facilities on ring road; • Traffic calming/ HGV management in town centre; • Pedestrian/ cycle improvements to roundabout on Castle 	-/0	+	-/0	-/0	+/-	0	-/0	+	<p>The upgrade of pedestrian facilities, reduction in HGV's and traffic calming measures are likely to all have positive effects in terms of P, C and M as these measures will improve pedestrian environment and increase walking and cycling within the town. There is potential for some short term negative impacts on L, B/FF and S due to construction works associated with improvement works. However these would be temporary in nature and can be mitigated through implementation of normal construction management</p>

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Policies/ Objectives	B/FF	P	W	S	C	CH	L	MA	Comment/ Mitigation
<p>Street;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade of pedestrian facilities on the main arterial roads into the town including the Dublin and Navan Roads; and Pedestrian permeability schemes. 									practices.
<p>In relation to walking facilities, existing walking routes between the outer residential areas of the town and the town centre core business area and schools should be improved and formalised, as much as feasible. And the following walking and cycling objectives are to be included (refer to Map No. 2 in Appendix A):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade of existing pedestrian routes within the town to current standards and to accommodate cyclists and improve permeability. Provide a pedestrian & cyclist access between Pinebrook on the Kildalkey road and Pine brook and Swiftcourt on the Athboy road To upgrade the existing Linear park walk to current standards for pedestrian & cyclists and provide links with Avondale & Eldergrove Provide a pedestrian bridge at Newtown bridge Provide a footpath on the Newtown road To upgrade the existing footpath to current standards on the Porchfield to facilitate cyclists. Join the existing cycle network on the ring road to the Navan road. Upgrade the existing one way cycle ways on the ring road to two way. Provide a safe cycle network to current standards on the Dublin road from Knightsbrook to the Ring road to include the widening of a section of road at the Boyne school and connecting to the new upgraded network on the ring through the Maudlins cul de sac and Norman Pratt Park. Upgrade the existing pedestrian crossing on the ring road to accommodate periodical heavy pedestrian use at school times Provide a central School bus parking area 	-/0	+	-/0	-/0	+/-	0	-/0	+	<p>The upgrade of pedestrian facilities, reduction in HGV's and traffic calming measures are likely to all have positive effects in terms of P, C and M as these measures will improve pedestrian environment and increase walking and cycling within the town. There is potential for some short term negative impacts on L, B/FF and S due to construction works associated with improvement works. However these would be temporary in nature and can be mitigated through implementation of normal construction management practices.</p> <p>Potential for significant environmental effects as a result of construction of a new pedestrian bridge over the Boyne. Recommend the following amendment to this Objective and associated mapping:</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a pedestrian bridge at Newtown bridge subject to Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Assessment and consultation with NPWS and IFI. <p>.....</p>

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Town Centre Pedestrian & Walking									
<p>It is an objective of this plan to install a network of new formal pedestrian walkways, with appropriate materials, lighting and pedestrian crossings. The design and treatment of all pathways including any that traverse the line of the Medieval Town Wall shall be discussed in detail and agreed with the National Monuments Service of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, as pathways may impact on sub-surface archaeological remains. It may be necessary to omit pathways or redesign pathways at certain locations in the interests of the protection of the archaeological heritage. Implementation will be through the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian priority access way running to west of the Medieval Town Wall and Ditch, to the rear of Emmett Street. • Pedestrian pathway in the form of a new civic area, created by the demolition of up to three buildings which will provide a direct pedestrian connection between Market Street and the historic core of Trim and the Town Centre Expansion Area, in tandem with development of Town Centre Expansion Area • Investigate the possibility of providing pedestrian linkages along the River Boyne between Oldbridge to Watergate Bridge, along the southern bank, with possible linkages through to Market Street, and from Oldbridge along the northern bank of the river, to the Boyne Walkway. • Investigate the possibility of providing pedestrian links giving access from High Street / Navan Gate Street to the Porch Field and Yellow Steeple, linking to Abbey Lane and to the path following the River Boyne. • Pedestrian link through Town Centre Expansion Area to GAA club. The pedestrian route is indicative only; if the opportunity arises elsewhere to develop a pedestrian link this will be investigated and assessed on its merits. There are other opportunities to develop pedestrian linkages other than those shown on Map 5 or referred to above. The Planning Authority will encourage the provision of additional linkages subject to these linkages not adversely impacting upon archaeological remains and the upstanding 	-/0	+	-/0	-/0	+/-	0	-/0	+	<p>The upgrade of pedestrian linkages within the town centre is likely to have positive effects in terms of P, C and M as these measures will improve pedestrian environment and increase walking within the town. There is potential for negative impacts on L, B/FF and S, W and CH due to construction works associated with improvement works.</p> <p>Potential for significant environmental effects as a result of works. Recommend the following amendment to these actions:</p> <p>.....</p> <p>It may be necessary to omit pathways or redesign pathways at certain locations in the interests of the protection of the archaeological and natural heritage. Implementation will be through the following actions:</p> <p>.....</p> <p>[New Bullet point should be included as follows:]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All new walk and cycleways will be subject to Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Assessment as necessary, and consultation with NPWS and IFI.

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remains of the Town Wall in particular.									
The above works were to be carried out as part of Phase 1 of Town Centre Expansion Area, and to be achieved through redevelopment. All the above schemes should be included as objectives in this Plan.									
Town Centre Car Parking									
<p>The following medium to long term objectives were included in the Town Centre LAP (see Map No. 5 in Appendix A) and these should be retained in this Plan.</p> <p>To develop a network of longer term car parking areas generally located outside the historic town centre which do not detract from the visual appearance of the town centre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify a location for a car park to cater for recreational uses (Location G see Map 5) Identify an adequate central school bus parking area on the ring road at the location of the existing pedestrian crossing at the junction of Patrick Street and The Maudlins (Location H see Map 5) A multi-storey car park built in conjunction with any major shopping centre development (Location I see Map 5). Surface park and ride facilities in close proximity to any major bus stop. 	-/0	+	-/0	-/0	+/-	0	-/0	+/-	<p>The development of a car parking areas is a necessary requirement to meet the needs of the town. However new car park particularly next to Porch Field has potential to have negative impacts on L. All car parks have potential to have negative impacts on B/FF, S and W as a result of development on greenfield sites.</p> <p>There are 9 existing bus stops, and 4 proposed bus stops. Should a park and ride facility be required recommend inclusion of specific objective and location for same to ensure proper planning and sustainable development. Park and ride facility already proposed at J Map 5.</p> <p>To develop a network of longer term car parking areas generally located outside the historic town centre which do not detract from the visual appearance of the town centre and high amenity areas of the town, particularly the setting of the Castle and Porch Field:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify a location for a car park to cater for recreational uses (Location G see Map 5) subject to a detailed landscape and visual impact assessment to ensure that it will not impact on the Porch Field High Amenity area of the town. Identify an adequate central school bus parking area on the ring road at the location of the existing pedestrian crossing at the junction of Patrick Street and The Maudlins (Location H see Map 5) A multi-storey car park built in conjunction with any major shopping centre development (Location I see Map 5). Surface park and ride facilities in close proximity to any major bus stop.

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Town Centre Roads									
<p>Policy <i>To manage the provision of road infrastructure and control traffic movement in order to facilitate local development whilst protecting the amenity, historic character and tourism value of Trim Town.</i></p> <p>Rationale <i>The proposed expansion of the centre of Trim through both in-fill development and new commercial development, the current restrictions on traffic movements across the River Boyne, (as a result of a narrow medieval street pattern) the projected population growth and the growing importance of Trim as a tourist location are destined to have a continuing impact on volumes of vehicular traffic and patterns of circulation within Trim.</i></p> <p>Objectives/Actions (see Map No. 3 and Map No.5 in Appendix A)</p> <p>General Traffic Network</p> <p><i>Develop a network of new and existing roads, to allow the free flow of all general town traffic through Trim to alleviate unnecessary traffic congestion within Trim's historic core this is to be achieved through the following actions:.</i></p> <p>A. <i>Complete the partially constructed link road from Castle Street to the southern part of 'Town Centre Expansion Area'. The junction of the new link road with Emmett Street shall be signalised and other signals on Emmett Street adjusted.</i></p> <p>B. <i>Improve the Junction of Jonathan Swift Road and Watergate Street in tandem with development of Town Centre Expansion Area as per current design standards including the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets</i></p> <p>C. <i>Construct a network of new roads within the 'Town Centre Expansion Area in tandem with development of</i></p>	0/-	+/-	0/-	0/-	+/-	0/-	0/-	+/-	<p>Road improvements likely to have positive effects in terms of P and MA to ensure the working order of the town.</p> <p>The TLTP advises that need for the extensive distributor road network should be reviewed and should be reserved pending this review. Therefore in the absence of an up to date detailed review of the need and location of this route there are potential for negative effects in respect of B/FF, S, W, C and L.</p> <p>Recommend inclusion of following amendment to this Policy:</p> <p>.....</p> <p>F. Construct the section of the Trim Outer Distributor Bypass Route from the Kinnegad Road heading north and east running parallel with the River Boyne to the Town Centre Expansion Area . This section of road would open up the remainder of the lands identified for town centre expansion.</p> <p>G. Carry out a review of the need and location of the Trim distributor road network including a detailed routing study including environmental assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening in advance of development of any section of this route.</p> <p>.....</p>

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<p><i>Town Centre Expansion Area</i></p> <p>D. Construct new road from Wellington Place to the 'Town Centre Expansion Area in tandem with development of Town Centre Expansion Area as per current design standards including the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets</p> <p>E. Construct the south western section of the Trim Outer Distributor By-pass Route linking the Longwood Road to the Kinnegad Road. This may be preceded with the construction of a section of Road, to Distributor Road standard, from the Longwood Road Roundabout to serve adjoining residentially zoned lands. This road, which would be development driven, could be extended as far as the Kinnegad Road.</p> <p>F. Construct the section of the Trim Outer Distributor By-pass Route from the Kinnegad Road heading north and east running parallel with the River Boyne to the Town Centre Expansion Area . This section of road would open up the remainder of the lands identified for town centre expansion.</p> <p><i>Note: The proposed road layout, in the town centre area to the west of Emmet Street, is shown diagrammatic only on Map No. 5. Alterations to the indicative alignments may result due to engineering and the proper planning and development principles. The Local Authorities may exercise the use of compulsory acquisition powers to facilitate site assembly or to secure the realisation of road objectives in this Local Area Plan. All new roads to be constructed in conjunction with and driven by any major development of lands within the 'Town Centre Expansion Area'</i></p>									
<p><i>Local Traffic Zone</i></p> <p><i>It is an objective of this plan to protect the historic core of Trim and its medieval street pattern through the reduction of non essential traffic movements, the implementation of traffic</i></p>	-/0	+	-/0	-/0	+	+	-/+	+	Likely to have positive effects in terms of P, C and M as these measures will protect the historic core and give priority to pedestrian environment. There is potential for minor short term negative impacts on B/FF and S, W due to construction works associated with resurfacing works which are likely to be mitigated through

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<p>calming measures, and prevention of further street widening, straightening or unnecessary breaches, within the line of medieval wall. This is to be achieved through the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop and implement a programme of further traffic calming and environmental improvements works in the historic core of Trim over the life of the plan. Pedestrian prioritisation access road running to west of the Medieval Town Wall and Ditch, to the rear of Emmett Street. Utilise the line of the town wall as a modern fortress within which traffic will be reduced over time and implement environmental works to enhance all streets within the ancient town centre. Investigate the possibility of resurfacing the streets. Appropriate materials (cobble, stone or paving for example) to be used if any street resurfacing takes place. Any plans for resurfacing would include a programme of archaeological mitigation whereby the surviving subsurface medieval street surfaces and property frontages can be identified and recorded and appropriate mitigation can be put in place in agreement with the National Monuments section of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht). 									implementation of normal construction management practices.
New Road Schemes									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In relation to the LOR, the position in the County Development Plan 2013 – 2019 and the NTA's draft Transport Strategy 2013 should be reflected. 	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In relation to the Proposed Distributor Road Network including the Southern Bypass shown as conceptual schematics on the Zoning and Objectives Map No. 1 in the Trim Development Plan 2008 – 2014, the following objectives are proposed for this Transport Plan (and shown in Map No.3 Appendix A): RT1 - should be retained (final line can be considered as part of the overall review into the continuing need for 	0/-	+/-	0/-	0/-	+/-	0/-	0/-	+/-	<p>The TLTP advises that need for the extensive distributor road network should be reviewed and should be reserved pending this review. Therefore in the absence of an up to date detailed review of the need and location of this route there are potential for negative effects in respect of B/FF, S, W, C and L.</p> <p>Recommend inclusion of following text within this Policy:</p>

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Policies/ Objectives	B/FF	P	W	S	C	CH	L	MA	Comment/ Mitigation
<p>the distributor road network);</p> <p>RT2 - should be removed on the understanding that the adjoining residentially zoned land will be removed as part of the exercise to incorporate the Core Strategy into the draft Trim Development Plan 2014 – 2020;</p> <p>RT3 – reserve corridor pending review of the need for the distributor road network;</p> <p>RT4 – reserve corridor and retain objective to construct the section of the local distributor road west of town centre expansion area south of the River Boyne, linking the town centre to the Kinnegad Road(in tandem with development) should be retained;</p> <p>RT5 -reserve corridor and retain objective to construct the local distributor link between the Kinnegad Road and the Longwood Road should be retained. This will assist with management of HGVs on the Kinnegad Road;</p> <p>RT6 – reserve corridor and retain the objective to construct the local distributor road between the Longwood Road and the Summerhill Road;</p> <p>RT7 -reserve corridor pending review of the need for the distributor road network, and;</p> <p>RT8 -should be removed on the basis that it essentially duplicates the link between the Navan Road and Dublin Road provided by RT1.</p>									<p>It is proposed to carry out a review of the need and location of the Trim distributor road network including a detailed routing study including environmental assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening in advance of development of any section of this route.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of internal roads linking the existing town centre to the town centre expansion area as described in section 4.1.6 above(and on Map No. 3 in Appendix A) including, <i>inter alia</i>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the completion of a new link road connecting Castle Street through Emmett Street to an area north of St. Patrick's Park; ii. the construction of the proposed grid of streets in the town centre expansion area, and; iii. the completion of road serving the town centre expansion area and the OPW offices connecting with Watergate Street linking up with the distributor road network. Construction of a new access road to facilitate access to the G1 zoned lands to the east of the Boyne Community School 	0/-	+/-	0/-	0/-	+/-	0/-	0/-	+/-	<p>Road improvements likely to have positive effects in terms of P and MA to ensure the working order of the town. Potential for negative effects in respect of B/FF, S, W and L with respect to construction of roads.</p> <p>Mitigation in respect of these roads is provided above.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvements to junctions where the existing radial routes intersect the existing and proposed local distributor road network, where appropriate. These junctions will be designed to recognised design standards (including the NRA's DMRB and the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) 2013) in a manner that does not hinder the capacity of the local distributor roads. 	-/0	+	-/0	-/0	+/-	0	-/0	+	Improvement works are likely to have positive effects due to improvements to road safety. There is potential for some short term negative impacts on L, B/FF and S due to construction works associated with improvement works. However these would be temporary in nature and can be mitigated through implementation of normal construction management practices.	
The construction of new and improved roads will also be designed to DMURS standards, where appropriate, and be accompanied by the reallocation of road space on the existing road network, to pedestrians, cyclists and /or public transport users.	-/0	+	-/0	-/0	+/-	0	-/0	+	There is potential for negative impacts on L, B/FF and S due to construction works associated with road works. However construction works would be temporary in nature and can be mitigated through implementation of normal construction management practices. Greenfield development impacts are long term.	
INF POL 1 To support major road improvements by reserving the corridors of any such proposed routes free of developments, which would interfere with the provision of such proposals.	-/0	+	0/-	0	0/-	0	0	+	The improvement of road infrastructures will have positive impacts on P, and MA, but there could be negative impacts on B/FF, S and C when land use and increased traffic are taken into account.	
INF POL 2 To implement a programme of road construction / improvement works and local measures to improve road safety closely integrated with existing and planned land uses.	0/-	+	0/-	0	0/-	0	0/-	+	<p>The improvement of road infrastructures will have positive impacts on P, and MA, but there could be negative impacts on S, L, B/FF and C when land use and increased traffic are taken into account. Recommend following amendments:</p> <p>To implement a programme of road construction / improvement works in an environmentally sustainable manner and local measures to improve road safety closely integrated with existing and planned land uses.</p>	
INF POL 3 To co-operate with the NRA, NTA and other local authorities to provide the Leinster Orbital Route as proposed in the Regional Planning Guidelines and the NTA's draft Transport Strategy 2030.	-/+	-/+	-/+	-/+	-/+	-/+	-/+	-/+	Potential for negative impacts, however this subject to a separate process as it is part of the NTA's draft Transport Strategy.	
INF POL 4 To regulate, control and improve signage throughout the town.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
INF POL 5 To co-operate with the National Transport Authority in the provision of sustainable transport measures in the existing developed areas in the town and in new or planned developments.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
INF POL 6 To provide for the future transportation needs of									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to	

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Trim and environs in a sustainable manner.									Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
INF POL 7 To integrate land use planning and transportation planning.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
INF POL 8 To consolidate development in areas which are served by public transport and a good road network.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
INF POL 9 To reduce the need to travel, especially by car, by requiring compact development with mixed uses which includes for public transport facilities and other more sustainable means of transport.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
INF POL 10 To concentrate developments which generate large numbers of trips, such as offices, shops and labour intensive employment along the appropriate existing and proposed transportation corridors best able to meet the demand.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
INF POL 11 To locate development that generates large numbers of heavy goods vehicle movements close to major roads.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
INF POL 12 To review the continuing need for the distributor road network, and to reserve the corridors of and construct and complete such parts of the local distributor road network that are required.	-/0	+	-/0	0	-/+	0/-	0/-	+/-	Positive impacts on P and C due to improvements in the road network, however potential for negative impacts in respect of B/FF, S, L, CH dependant on location and manner of construction. To review the continuing need for the distributor road network, and to reserve the corridors of and construct and complete such parts of the local distributor road network that are required in an environmentally sustainable manner.	
INF POL 13 To have regard to a clear road hierarchy, which takes account of the function of each road and seeks to keep the mixing of national, regional and local traffic to the minimum possible.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
INF POL 14 To provide additional road capacity, subject to a review of the need for the distributor road network, consideration of sustainable transport alternatives and other environmental and conservation considerations, in order to reduce the volume of through traffic from the central streets of the town.									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	
INF POL 16 To require that robust Transport Assessments are carried out, by and at the expense of the developer, for significant planning applications in accordance with guidelines given in the 'Traffic Management Guidelines' and Meath County Development Plan 2013 - 2019. The Transport Assessment will be assessed by the Planning Authority and									Screened Out as will have positive effects in respect to Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).	

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any additional works required as a result of the Transport Assessment shall be funded by the developer.									
INF OBJ 1 Pending a review into the need for the distributor road network, the commencement of which would begin within one year of the adoption of the Plan, to preserve (and where indicated to construct) and secure from further development a corridor for the provision of distributor link roads which include the following routes: RT 1 Construction of the local distributor road link between the Dublin Road at Effernock and the Navan Road at the Motor Park, including a new bridge over the Boyne River. RT 3 A local distributor road link connecting the Athboy Road to the local distributor road west of the Town Centre Expansion area, including a new bridge over the Boyne (long term objective) RT 4 Construction of the local distributor road link west of the Town Centre Expansion area connecting to the Kinnegad Road. This shall be provided in tandem with the development immediately to the east. No development shall be provided on the lands immediately to the east until such time as that this section of the distributor road is completed. This road should be funded by the development in the town centre expansion area. RT 5 Construction of the local distributor road link between the Kinnegad Road and the Longwood Road. This shall be provided as part of Framework Plan no. 4. RT 6 Construction of local distributor road link between the Longwood Road and the Summerhill Road. This shall be provided in tandem with the industrial lands immediately to the north. RT 7 Reservation of corridor for the local distributor road link between the Summerhill Road and the Dublin Road. (long term objective)	-/0	-/+	-/0	-/0	-/0	-/0	-/0	-/+	<p>Many of the distributor roads proposed on the TDP Zoning and Objectives on mapping are located outside the development plan boundary and therefore question their relevance in respect of objectives of this Development Plan.</p> <p>Potential for negative impacts with respect SEO's. Recommend the following amendments to this objective: INF OBJ 1: Pending a review into the need for the distributor road network, the commencement of which would begin within one year of the adoption of the Plan, to preserve (and where indicated to construct subject to routing environmental assessment and appropriate assessment) and secure from further development a corridor for the provision of distributor link roads which include the following routes:</p> <p>RT1 Construction of the local distributor road link between the Dublin Road at Effernock and the Navan Road at the Motor Park, including a new bridge over the Boyne River subject to Appropriate Assessment and consultation and requirements of National Parks and Wildlife Services and Inland Fisheries Ireland.</p> <p>RT3 A local distributor road link connecting the Athboy Road to the local distributor road west of the Town Centre Expansion area, including a new bridge over the Boyne (long term objective) subject to Appropriate Assessment and consultation and requirements of National Parks and Wildlife Services and Inland Fisheries Ireland.</p> <p>[Recommend relocation of Route RT4 mapped objective as this proposed distributor road will be located partly within the River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA and has potential to have significant effects on this Natura 2000 due to potential disturbance to protected bird species. There is potential for alternative access routes further south.]</p> <p>RT 4 Construction of the local distributor road link west of the Town Centre Expansion area connecting to the Kinnegad Road. This shall be provided in tandem with the development immediately</p>

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									to the east. No development shall be provided on the lands immediately to the east until such time as that this section of the distributor road is completed. This road should be funded by the development in the town centre expansion area. RT 5 Construction of the local distributor road link between the Kinnegad Road and the Longwood Road. This shall be provided as part of Framework Plan no. 4. RT 6 Construction of local distributor road link between the Longwood Road and the Summerhill Road. This shall be provided in tandem with the industrial lands immediately to the north. RT 7 Reservation of corridor for the local distributor road link between the Summerhill Road and the Dublin Road. (long term objective).
INF OBJ 2 To examine roads and streets and to devise a phased program for the improvement of those of poor quality. Such improvements may incorporate realignment, paving works, new parking arrangements, street lighting and street furniture installation.	0/-	+/-	0/-	0	0/+	0	0/-	+	Proposed works are minor in nature and are likely to have temporary impacts only during construction works. Will improve the quality of roads and streets long term.
INF OBJ 3 Completion of a new link road connecting Castle Street through Emmett Street to an area north of St. Patrick's Park .	0/-	+/-	0/-	0/-	+/-	0/-	0/-	+/-	Road improvements likely to have positive effects in terms of P and MA to ensure the working order of the town. Potential for negative effects in respect of B/FF, S, W and L with respect to construction of roads. Mitigation in respect of these roads is provided above.
INF OBJ 4 To complete the new access road serving the town centre expansion area and the OPW offices. This shall open up the town centre expansion area, and run parallel to the river and link up with the distributor road RT4.	0/-	+	0/-	0/-	0	0	0	+	Construction works have potential to have minor negative effects Recommend removal of reference to distributor RT4 as per TRAN OBJ 7 above, as follows: TRAN OBJ 15 To complete the new access road serving the town centre expansion area and the OPW offices. This shall open up the town centre expansion area, and run parallel to the river and link up with the distributor road RT4.
INF OBJ 5 To construct the grid of streets in the town centre expansion area as shown indicatively Map No. 1 Zoning and Objectives . This shall include the area enclosed by St. Patrick's Park, St. Loman's Park and the rear of Emmet Street (western side).	0/-	+	0/-	0/-	0	0	0	+	Construction works have potential to have minor negative effects. All proposed roads will be subject to Appropriate Assessment requirements as per TRAN POL 10 (as amended).
INF OBJ 7 Construction of a new access road to facilitate B: Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna; P: Population; S: Soil; W: Water; C: Climate Change; CH: Cultural Heritage; L: Landscape MA: Material Assets.	0/-	+	0/-	0/-	0/-	0	0	+	The construction of a new road will provide access to the G1 zoned

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Policies/ Objectives	B/FF	P	W	S	C	CH	L	MA	Comment/ Mitigation	
access to the G1 zoned lands to the east of the Boyne Community School off the Dublin Road.									lands relating to community infrastructure. This will have positive impacts on P and MA, but the construction period could see a temporary negative effect on B/FF, S, W and C.	
INF OBJ 8 To carry out road/street improvement works along High St., Navangate St., Loman St., Watergate St., Whitehall, Mill St., Summerhill and Kinnegad Roads.	0/-	+	0/-	0	0/-	0	0/-	+	<p>The improvement of road infrastructures will have positive impacts on P, and MA, but there could be negative impacts on S, L, B/FF and C when land use and increased traffic are taken into account. Recommend following amendments:</p> <p>INF OBJ 8 To carry out road/street improvement works along High St., Navangate St., Loman St., Watergate St., Whitehall, Mill St., Summerhill and Kinnegad Roads in an environmentally sustainable manner.</p>	
INF OBJ 9 To facilitate the development of the Leinster Orbital Route in line with national, regional and local policy in co-operation with the NRA, NTA and other local authorities.	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	Improved public transport facilities will positively impact on C, MA and P through reducing traffic and making bus services more attractive to road users.	
INF OBJ 10 To erect signage at the junction of the R156 and the R161 south west of Trim to direct HGV traffic onto the R156, and from there onto the R160 towards Trim ring road.	0	+	0	0	+	0	+	+	This measure will make sure that HGV are diverted and do not have to pass through the town centre, and that can have a positive effect on P and C.	
Other Issues									<p>Recommend inclusion of a policy to ensure that all protective policies of the Trim Development Plan are also applied in respect of the Trim Local Transport Plan, as follows:</p> <p>It is a policy of this plan that all protective policies and objectives of the Trim Development Plan 2014 – 2020 equally apply to the Trim Local Transport Plan.</p>	
Other Issues									<p>Recommend inclusion of New Policy in the Transport Plan as follows:</p> <p>In the event of linear paths, cycleways, seating, lighting, loss of riparian zones, etc. being proposed along river corridors an Ecological Impact Assessment (and where necessary an Appropriate Assessment) including bat and otter surveys shall be conducted by specialists. The recommendations of the specialist studies shall be implemented. No lighting will be installed without prior consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and shall be in line with advances in knowledge into the impact of lighting on bats and other species and also to reflect advances in technology in the lighting industry.</p>	
Other Issues									Recommend inclusion of a policy in the plan to protect Natura 2000	

B: Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna; P: Population; S: Soil; W: Water; C: Climate Change; CH: Cultural Heritage;
L: Landscape MA: Material Assets.

Trim Development Plan Environmental Report Appendix D										
Policies/ Objectives	B/FF	P	W	S	C	CH	L	MA	Comment/ Mitigation	
									sites and make provision for requirement to undertake Appropriate Assessment in respect of local transport objectives, policies, actions and aims as follows: All development proposed as a result of the Trim Local Transport Plan will be subject to Appropriate Assessment.	
Other comments										
Natura 2000 Sites on Mapping									Recommend inclusion of mapping of Natura 2000 sites should be provided within the development plan.	
Section 9.6.5 of the draft Plan refers to Hydro Energy as follows: The Council encourages the use of hydro energy, where suitable, subject to appropriate assessment and environmental assessment as required and consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Section of the Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht and the Inland Fisheries Ireland.	-	+/-	-	0/-	-/+	0	+/-	-/+	Recommend that any reference to hydro energy be removed as it has significant potential to impact on the conservation objectives of the River Boyne SAC. For example, hydro energy will impact on the water regime of the river itself, which will result in indirect impacts to salmon and other water dependent habitats. By altering the water regime will effect water levels, flow rates, etc., which are particularly important for salmon, especially during spawning. Further, the construction of hydro energy infrastructure has significant potential to result in the pollution of the River Boyne itself. In addition, the additional noise associated with the running of hydro energy stations will result in increased disturbance impacts to the otter and the kingfisher (qualifying interest of the River Boyne SPA). Any proposals to install any form of a hydro energy project on the River Boyne, or any of its tributaries will require an Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Assessment and detailed consultation and approvals from both the NPWS and IFI.	

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