



NATURA IMPACT REPORT

DRAFT VARIATION NO.2 TO THE

NAVAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2009-2015

MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

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ABBREVIATIONS

AA	Appropriate Assessment
DOEHLG	Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EU	European Union
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GSI	Geological Society of Ireland
LSEs	Likely Significant Effects
NHA	Natural Heritage Areas
NIR	Natura Impact Report
NIS	Natura Impact Statement
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
pNHA	Proposed Natural Heritage Areas
QI	Qualifying Interests
RPGs	Regional Planning Guidelines
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SCI	Special Conservation Interests
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
S.I. No.	Statutory Instrument Number
SPA	Special Protection Area
SUDS	Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems
SSCOs	Site Specific Conservation Objectives
WWTP	Waste Water Treatment Plant

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Legal Requirement for Habitats Directive Assessment

This Natura Impact Report (NIR) was prepared by Scott Cawley Ltd. for Meath County Council. It provides information on and assesses the potential for the proposed Variation No. 2 of the Navan Development Plan 2009-2015 to impact on ecological sites of European-scale importance. This is the draft version of the NIR and is published alongside the Draft Variation No. 2 of the Navan Development Plan 2009-2015 and serves as a documented record of the process of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the Variation throughout its preparation.

The responsibility for carrying out the Assessment lies with Meath County Council and this NIR facilitates the AA by the Council. The Council's AA decision at the Draft Variation Stage is also published alongside the Draft Variation No.2 to the Navan Development Plan 2009-2015.

The preparation of the Draft Variation No. 2 has regard to Article 6 of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) (hereafter referred to as the Habitats Directive). This is transposed in Ireland by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. 477) (hereafter referred to as the Habitats Regulations) and Part XAB of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the requirement for an assessment of proposed plans and projects likely to affect Natura 2000 sites (Annex 1.1).

Article 6(3) establishes the requirement to screen all plans and projects and to carry out a further assessment if required (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."

The subsequent paragraph allows proposed plans and projects to be approved in certain conditions.

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 has informed the Appropriate Assessment process for the Draft Variation No.2 to the Navan Development Plan 2009-2015.

1.2 Statement of Authority

The preparation of the Natura Impact Report was carried out by Paul Scott and Caroline Kelly of Scott Cawley Ltd. The results of the AA were integrated into the Draft Variation No. 2 of the Navan Development Plan 2009-2015 in Meath County Council (MCC) via the Plan making team.

Paul Scott is Director with Scott Cawley Ltd. Paul holds a first class honours degree in Environmental Biology from the University of Liverpool and a Masters in Pollution and Environmental Control at the University of Manchester. He is a Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) with the Society for the Environment (Soc Env) and a Full Member of the CIEEM. He is an experienced environmental scientist, specialising in impact assessment and ecology. He has experience in a wide variety of environmental assessment and management projects and also has acted as a member of environmental assessment Expert Panels. Paul has prepared guidance on Strategic Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment to UK and Irish central government and local authorities. Paul has prepared ecological guidance notes designed for planners and developers on behalf of the four Dublin local authorities. Paul has been involved in several Appropriate Assessments of complex projects and land-use plans including the Cherrywood SDZ, Ennis Local Area Plan, Meath County Development Plan, East Meath Local Area Plan and variations to the Meath, Dublin, Ennis and Kildare Development Plans. Paul developed a review package for Appropriate Assessment as part of the EPA STRIVE funded project Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment. He has lectured on EIA and Appropriate Assessment practice at University College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin and NUI Galway.

Caroline holds an honours degree in Environmental Biology from University College Dublin and a first class honours Masters in Ecological Assessment from University College Cork. Caroline's professional experience includes working with Wexford County Council where she was involved in a number of projects promoting environmental awareness and biodiversity, and more recently undertaking surveys and providing reports to inform both the Appropriate Assessment and Ecological Impact Assessment processes. Caroline has experience in habitat survey and assessment in a range of terrestrial, freshwater and coastal environments, surveys for protected species including bats, badger and otter as well as surveys for invasive species. Caroline has managed ecological assessments for a wide range of projects including tourism, industrial, residential and renewable energy developments. She has recently been involved in the Appropriate Assessment process of land use plans such as the Leixlip and Collinstown Local Area Plan 2017-2023 and regularly prepares information for Appropriate Assessment reports, either as lead or co-author, depending on the project or plan requirements. She

2 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

2.1 Formal Guidance

The AA process has taken account of guidance contained in the following documents:

- *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities*. (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 revision).
- *Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities*. Circular NPWS 1/10 and PSSP 2/10.
- *Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC* (European Commission Environment Directorate-General, 2001); hereafter referred to as the EC Article 6 Guidance Document. The guidance within this document provides a non-mandatory methodology for carrying out assessments required under Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive.
- *Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC* (EC Environment Directorate-General, 2000); hereafter referred to as MN2000. Note that a revised version of this Guidance is due for publication in 2016 and will be taken into account when appropriate.
- *Guidance Document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EEC. Clarification of the Concepts of Alternative Solutions, Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest, Compensatory Measures, Overall Coherence*. Opinion of the European Commission (European Commission, January 2007).
- *Guidelines for Good Practice Appropriate Assessment of Plans Under Article 6(3) Habitats Directive* (International Workshop on Assessment of Plans under the Habitats Directive, 2011);
- *Communication from the Commission on the precautionary principle*. European Commission (2000).

2.2 Sources of Information Used

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

- Online data available on European sites as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from www.npws.ie;
- Information on water quality in the area available from www.epa.ie;
- Information on soils, geology and hydrogeology in the area available from www.gsi.ie;
- Information on the status of EU protected habitats and species in Ireland (National Parks and Wildlife Service, 2013a and 2013b);
- Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019
- Meath County Development Plan 2017-2023- Natura Impact Report
- Draft County Meath Heritage Plan 2015-2020
- Draft County Meath Biodiversity Action Plan 2015-2020
- Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area (2010-2022)
- Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area (2010-2022)- Habitats Directive Assessment
- Retail Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2008-2016
- Draft Transport Strategy for The Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035- Appropriate Assessment
- Eastern River Basin Management Plans (2009-2015)- Appropriate Assessment Screening Report
- Trim Development Plan 2014-2020- Natura Impact Report
- Ashbourne Local Area Plan 2009-2015- Appropriate Assessment Screening

- Kells Development Plan 2013-2019- Natura Impact Report
- Drogheda Borough Council Development Plan 2011-2017- Appropriate Assessment Screening Report
- Southern Environs of Drogheda Local Area Plan 2009-2015- Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

2.3 Appropriate Assessment: Purpose and Process

Meath County Council is preparing Variation No. 2 to the adopted Navan Development Plan 2009-2015 (hereafter referred to as the “NDP”). The key purpose of this Variation to the Navan Development Plan is to align the Plan with the key tenets of the Economic Development Strategy for County Meath 2014 – 2022 as they relate to statutory land use planning. The Variation also seeks to align the Navan Development Plan with the provisions of the County Development Plan (as varied) and update the written text and maps accordingly.

Proposed land use plans and proposed variations must undergo a formal “test” or “screening” to ascertain whether they are likely to result in any significant adverse effects on specific sites designated for their nature conservation importance. These sites are those designated under the European Commission’s Natura 2000 network of sites (hereafter “European sites”¹). These sites are designated on the basis of the presence of certain habitats and species that are deemed to be of international importance. The sites are termed candidate Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) under the E.C. Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPA) under the E.C. Birds Directive. The Irish Government and local planning authorities have a legal obligation to protect these sites.

The process of assessing the Draft Variation was an iterative and step wise approach. The overall purpose of the process was to ensure that the Draft Variation, when implemented, does not result in adverse effects on the “integrity” of the European sites within the Natura 2000 network.

The first step was to look at the overall Variation in principle and to answer the questions: is it likely that the implementation of this Variation could result in likely significant effects (LSEs) on the European sites within the Natura 2000 network? It does not matter where these sites may be – impacts can occur across administrative boundaries. This step is known as “Screening”. In order to ensure that the Draft Variation complied fully with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and all relevant Irish transposing legislation, Scott Cawley Ltd, on behalf of Meath County Council carried out the screening of the Draft Variation to see if it would require an AA. The outcome of this Screening Stage was that it was determined² that due to the types of development that could arise as a result of implementing the Variation, that significant effects could not be ruled out and that the Variation would need further assessment during its preparation. Screening was undertaken in a very precautionary and strategic manner. The Screening Stage resulted in the production of a Screening Determination which is published on the Meath County Council website.

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

² Under Section 177U, Part XAB, 2000 Planning and Development Act, as amended.

The AA process then moved to full Appropriate Assessment as required under Section 177V, Part XAB, 2000 Planning and Development Act, as amended.

The AA involved analysing the relationship between the proposed elements of the Draft Variation (as it was being prepared) and the Conservation Objectives of the European sites. Where there was the potential for an adverse impact to occur, then the assessment team recommended changes to elements of the Draft Variation to avoid or mitigate the potential impact. These recommendations were integrated into the various elements of the Draft Variation so that the implementation of the Variation would not result in any adverse effects on European sites.

In accordance with best practice a hierarchy of mitigation was followed:

- Avoidance of impacts by removing policies/objectives, removal of land-use zonings or changes to zonings;
- Caveats/changes to policies/objectives and additional mitigation added to zoning descriptions to mitigate any potential adverse effects on integrity.

Meath County Council provided the Scott Cawley AA team with drafts during their process of preparing the Draft Variation. These drafts were reviewed and revised by the Council in an iterative process of assessment. The assessment methodology is described in more detail below. A summary of the results of this iterative review of the Draft Variation are provided in Section 3.4.

The Draft Variation is published for a period of public consultation as outlined below:

Draft Variation No. 2 to the Navan Development Plan 2009-2015		Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA)	
Commencement of public display and invitation of submissions on Draft Variation, Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report		15th March 2017	
Closing date for public submissions on Draft Variation		12th April 2017	
Chief Executives Report on Submissions received to Draft Variation, Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report (for Elected Members)		Not later than 8 weeks after commencement of display of variation	
Consideration of Chief Executive's Report by Elected Members (resolve to alter or make, amend or revoke Draft Variation, Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report)		Within 6 weeks of receipt of Chief Executive's Report	
		Determination of Requirement for SEA/AA in accordance with S.12 of the Planning & Development Act (within 2 weeks of resolution) ¹	
Public Display of Amendments to Draft Variation and consultation period		Public Display of Amendments to Environmental Reports and consultation period	
TBA		TBA	
Submission of Chief Executive's Report to Members on submissions on the proposed material alterations to the Draft Variation, Environmental Report Addendum and Natura Impact Report		TBA	

<p>Consideration of Chief Executives Report by Elected Members (resolve to make, amend or revoke Draft Variation, Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report)</p> <p>TBA</p>
<p>Note¹ – The Planning & Development Act 2010 allows for the Chief Executive to allocate an additional discretionary time period to allow for the carrying out of SEA/AA in respect of any proposed material alterations to the Draft Variation.</p>

Any submissions will be scrutinised by the AA team and the Council will be alerted as to any submissions that may have implications for European sites.

2.4 Overlap with the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Draft Variation

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Draft Variation was carried out concurrently with the AA. There were several areas of overlap and in accordance with good practice in terms of the following stages:

- Sharing of baseline data gathering and sharing, data on European sites and potential sensitivities and threats.
- Settlement zoning maps were scrutinized by the AA team for potential adverse effects on integrity of the European Sites in terms of their Conservation Objectives but also any other ecological impacts outside of the European site-scale were highlighted to the SEA team for them to address in the SEA process
- SEA team was able to highlight potential interactions between other environmental issues such as water quality and infrastructure and the sensitivities of European sites to the AA team.

2.5 Consultation Strategy

Whilst consultation is not an obligatory part of the Appropriate Assessment process, it provides important information on the state of the European sites and any specific concerns that key stakeholders may have. The Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs will be given the opportunity to comment on the Draft Variation and this NIR and any submission received after the period of public display will be taken into account during the subsequent stages in the preparation of the Variation.

2.6 How the AA process is applied within the Planning Hierarchy

The AA process takes place at several stages within the land use planning hierarchy. In the case of County Meath, the Navan Development Plan 2009-2015, and its associated Variations, must take cognisance of the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010-2022 and the Habitats Directive (Appropriate) Assessment³. The Meath County Development Plan 2017-2023 will provide a framework for AA of individual planning applications and objectives and policies in Local Area Plans and their Variations, such as this one, are ultimately overruled by those in the County Development Plan.

The Appropriate Assessment requirements of Part XAB of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 apply to all levels of the planning hierarchy. At each stage the nature

³ <http://emra.ie/dubh/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Greater-Dublin-Area-Regional-Planning-Guidelines-2010-2022-Volume-I.pdf>

of the assessment will match the level of the hierarchy. As actions pass from the County Plan-level to the local plan level and then to individual planning applications, the following aspects become expressed at a sharper and more detailed level:

- Geographic specificity (i.e. from non-specific actions in County Development Plans to actions proposed for identifiable land parcels. Note that the Settlement Plans present a detailed level of geographic specificity as shown by the zoning maps. Criteria such as size and scale, land take, distance to European sites and presence of linkages can sometimes be identified).
- Duration and timing of impacts (usually not known at the plan level).
- Raw materials required, wastes and energy generated (can be predicted in a generic sense at plan level but precise constituents and quantities usually only known at the project level).

In order to address this hierarchy of level of detail, the current AA of the Draft Variation has ensured that where the certain aspects are not predictable at the Variation level but may pose a risk to the European site when project details are known, that this is highlighted in the AA process and appropriate safeguards or capture mechanisms are proposed.

2.7 Assessment Criteria

The crux of the AA process is the assessment of a proposal against the Conservation Objectives for a European site. For many Conservation Objectives that have been given site-specificity, they are themselves broken down into a series of *attributes* and *targets* for each Qualifying interest.

To make the assessment process efficient and manageable without losing quality of analysis, the Conservation Objectives were distilled to three common themes that could then be used as assessment criteria as to assess each objective, policy and proposed settlement areas. Each of the three criteria was quite general in nature which allows an easier assessment but also resulted in a very light “trigger” for the potential for adverse effects on integrity of European Sites to be identified.

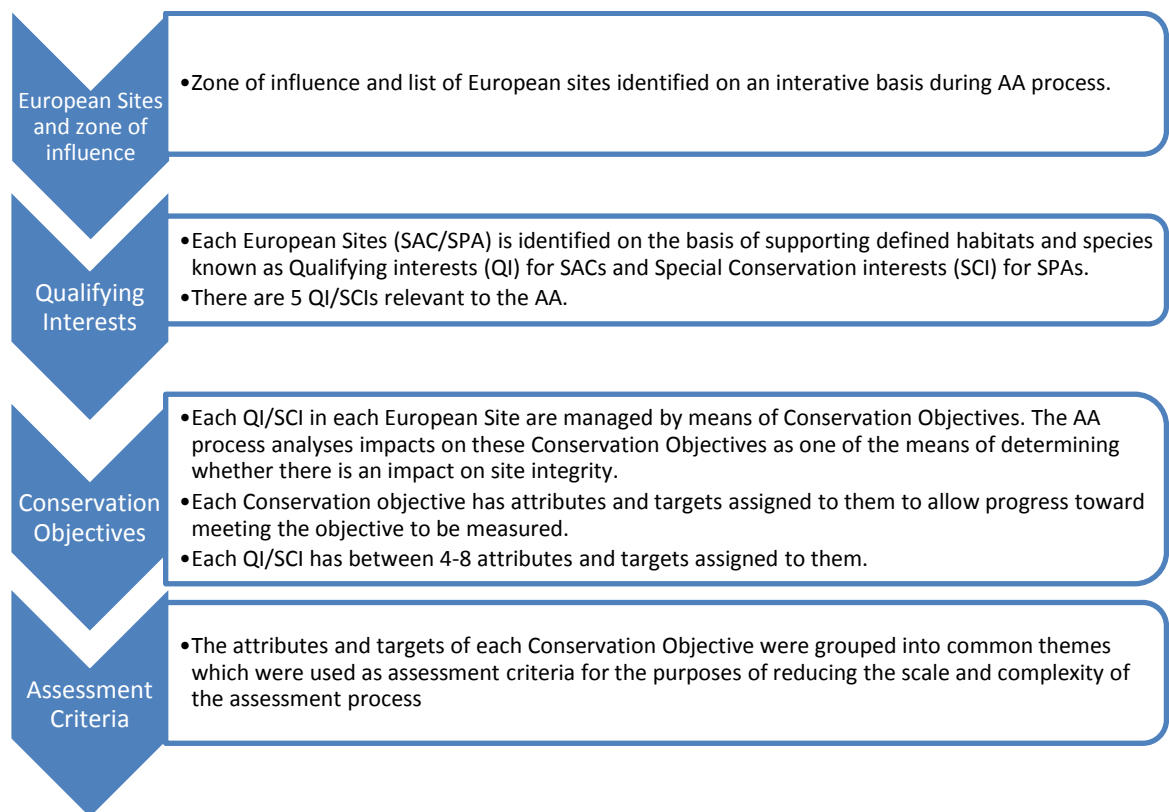


Figure 1: Preparation of Assessment Criteria

The common themes which have become the three assessment criteria for the analysis of the Draft Variation No.2 are described below:

1. **Are there hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality and changes in the underlying hydrological regime?** The River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC is designated for “Alkaline fens” and “Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) *”, as well as River lamprey, Salmon and Otter. These habitat types and species are dependent on having an available supply of freshwater. Therefore, any activities that could directly or indirectly affect water quality or supply, such as developments located adjacent to or within the SAC boundary, could potentially affect this European site. Activities that undermine this water supply could potentially have indirect adverse effects on European sites through habitat fragmentation, changes in species composition and habitat alterations.
2. **Will there be a risk of direct habitat loss, habitat degradation or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites?** For example, roads and other new development occurring on undeveloped lands within or in close proximity to European sites.
3. **Will there be a risk of direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species?** Even though most zoned lands are not directly within European sites they could affect it via indirect disturbance, e.g. river walkways, noise disturbance due to construction.

Table B1 in Appendix B identifies which Qualifying Interests, attributes and targets are covered by these assessment criteria.

2.8 How AA was applied to various components of the Draft Variation No. 2.

Draft Variation No.2 (written variation): The current Draft Variation has been analysed and this Draft NIR documents the output of the process which informs the overall AA of the Draft Variation. While the text document does provide geographic locations for the variations objectives, site-specific impacts could not be accurately predicted as it would depend on how the variation was applied in these locations (e.g. construction methods, drainage design etc.). In such cases, the text was revised to reinforce the need to carry out AA at lower, site-specific levels in the planning hierarchy. The AA team had already briefed the LAP authors on the need to avoid certain Objectives that could give rise to adverse effects on integrity of European Sites so in practice there were few Objectives that required revision.

Draft Variation Maps: Maps were reviewed to analyse any map-based proposals that had geographic specificity that could be assessed as posing adverse effects on integrity of European Sites. This analysis focused primarily on the presence of a hydrological connection to the River Boyne and River Blackwater given the nature of the European site of concern (River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC). The EPA's Online Envision Map Viewer and NPWS Online Map Viewer were used to identify watercourses in these areas which could potentially have hydrological connections to these two rivers. Each geographic location, for which the variation applied, was assessed to determine if the proposed variation would pose an adverse effect on site integrity in terms of the site's Conservation Objectives. The three assessment criteria listed in Section 3.7 above were applied to these locations. The adverse effects of implementing the proposed variation on the criteria (and hence on the Conservation Objectives) was then predicted based upon the scientific information available. Impacts arising during project construction and operation stages and impacts both direct and indirect were considered at this stage.

3 OVERVIEW OF THE DRAFT VARIATION NO. 2 TO THE NAVAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2009-2015

3.1 Overview of Draft Variation No. 2 Structure

The existing Navan Development Plan was adopted in November 2009 while Variation No. 1 to the Plan was made in May 2014. At present, Meath County Council have started preparing Variation No. 2 to the Navan Development Plan 2009-2015. On adoption, the Plan and its Variations will govern the overall development of Navan and its environs, subject to objectives in the Meath County Development Plan which will take precedence, should conflict between the two occur. The proposed Draft Variation will further develop an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of area.

3.2 Overview of Receiving Environment

The town of Navan is situated in the centre of County Meath, approximately 45km west of Dublin City Centre. The most recent census data available is that from the 2016 preliminary census of population results estimates that the combined Navan Town and Environs population is 28,399. Navan has a well-developed road and rail infrastructure and serves as a viable commuter town to Dublin. Another notable physical characteristic of the town is the presence of the River Boyne and River Blackwater, which flow directly through the town.

The town of Navan is served by the Farganstown Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Data collected for the most recent available Annual Environmental Report (EPA, 2013) for this WWTP indicates that the plant was operating above capacity in 2013. However, it should be noted that Meath County Council do not believe that such a sharp increase in loading (37,221 in 2012- 63,306 in 2013) is accurate and there were malfunctions at the plant during 2013 which may have resulted in inaccuracies in the loading calculations. Meath County Council are satisfied that the WWTP serving Navan is performing and operating within its licence capacity of 50,000 P.E. However, the same assessment does identify that the discharges from the WWTP may be impacting the receiving waters downstream. The River Boyne is the receiving water referred to and is "at risk of not achieving good status". According to the EPA's online Envision Map Viewer, the water quality of the River Boyne is currently regarded as "Moderate (Q3-4)" of the WWTP and also "Moderate (Q3-4)" downstream. The River Blackwater lies upstream of the discharge point while the River Boyne is located downstream.

The town of Navan is located within the Boyne catchment and the Boyne sub-catchment and its environs hold a variety of habitats which are dependant to some degree on having an available supply of freshwater. According to the EPA's online Map Viewer, Navan is the point of confluence of the River Boyne and river Blackwater. The River Blackwater flows from the east and joins the River Boyne in the town's centre. The River Boyne flows from the south-east, through the town centre and in a north-easterly direction before ultimately discharging to the Irish Sea, to the east of Drogheda. The waters of the River Blackwater are of "Moderate (Q3-4)" quality just upstream of its confluence with the River Boyne, as measured at the EPA's designated monitoring station "*100m downstream of the New Bypass Bridge*". The waters of the River Boyne are also of "Moderate (Q3-4)" quality both upstream and downstream of Navan as measured at monitoring stations at "*Kilcarn Old Bridge*" and "*downstream of Broadboyne Bridge*".

The water quality of the Boyne Estuary is of "*Intermediate*" quality, while the Boyne Estuary Plume Zone is currently regarded as "*Unpolluted*". As such, there have been no breaches of

the EPA's threshold values for nutrient enrichment, accelerated plant growth, or disturbance of the level of dissolved oxygen normally present under the EPA's "Trophic Status Assessment Scheme" classification (EPA, 2010) in the Boyne estuary plume Zone.

The subject lands are located within the "Trim" and "Wilkeinstown" groundwater bodies. According to the EPA Envision Map Viewer these groundwater bodies are described as 'productive fissured bedrock' and 'poorly productive bedrock' respectively. According to GSI Map Viewer, the level of vulnerability to groundwater contamination from human activities ranges from 'moderate' to 'extreme' and 'rock at or near the surface'. It is also described as a 'Locally Important Aquifer- Bedrock which is generally moderately productive'. The bedrock of the area is classified as 'Dinantian upper Impure Limestones'.

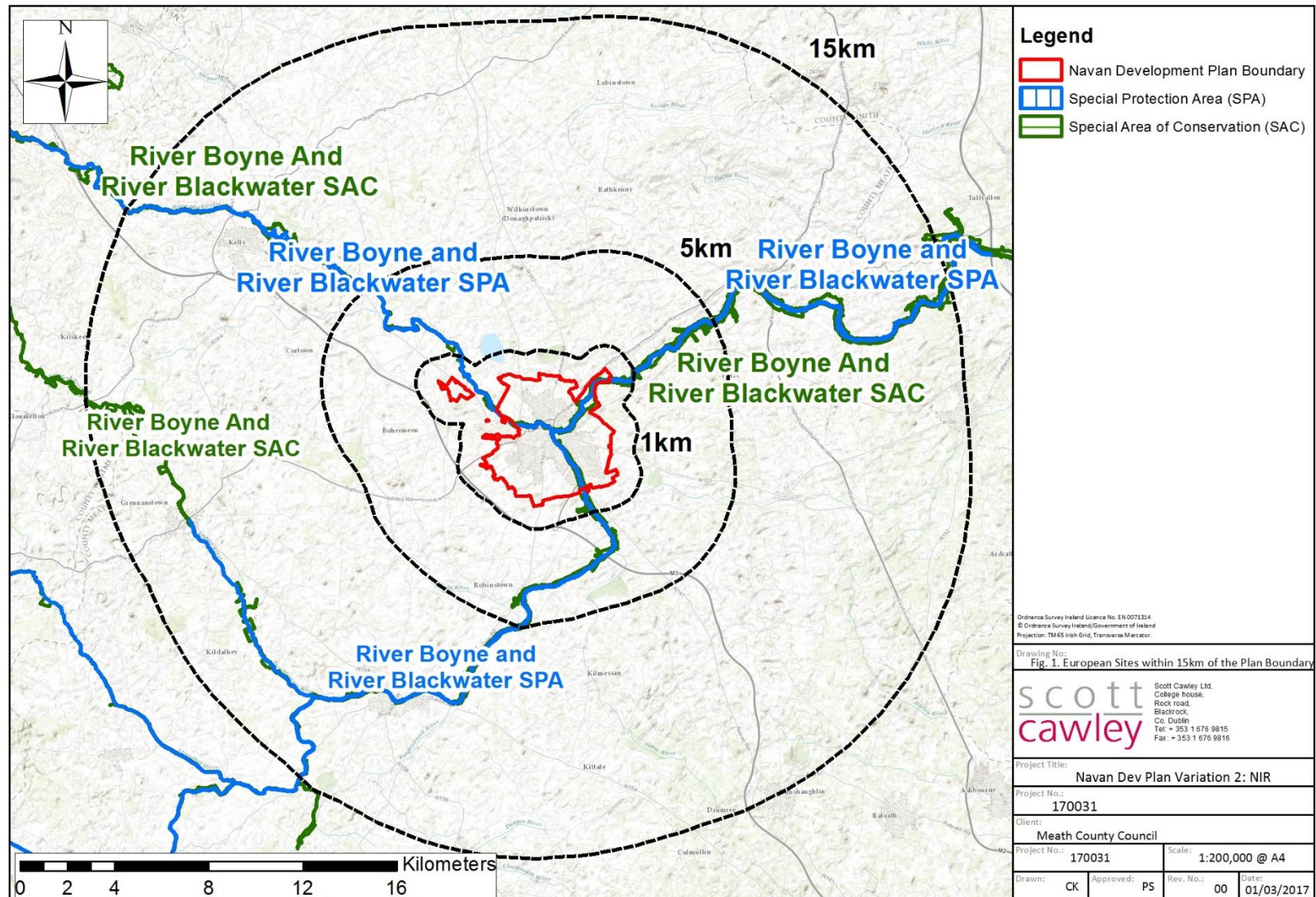
There is only one Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) which lies within the NDP's boundary; the River Boyne and Blackwater SAC. This site is designated due to the presence of the Annex I priority habitat Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91EO] as well as Alkaline fens [7230], the Annex II species Otter (*Lutra lutra*), River Lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*) and Salmon (*Salmo salar*).

One Special Protection Area (SPA), areas designated for the conservation of a range of bird species, is located within the NDP's boundary; River Boyne and Blackwater SPA. This site is designated for the presence of Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), an Annex I bird species under the E.U. Birds Directive.

Figure 3 below shows the locations of European Sites within 15km of the Draft NDP and its associated Variations boundary. The rationale for referring to this distance is outlined in Section 3.3.

Spatial boundary data for the European site network used was the most up-to-date available, updated and accessed in January 2017. The only European sites deemed to be within the zone of influence of the Draft Variation and NDP are the River Boyne and Blackwater SAC and River Boyne and Blackwater SPA.

Figure 3. European sites within 15km of the Draft NDP boundary



In addition to examining European sites, it was deemed necessary to examine Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA). Although NHAs and pNHAs and other designated sites such as Nature Reserves, Wildfowl Sanctuaries and Ramsar sites do not form part of the European network, they often provide an important supporting role to the network, particularly when it comes to fauna species which often do not obey site boundaries. Two NHAs and eleven pNHAs are located within the zone of influence of the Draft Variation, as outlined in Figure 2. These national sites are listed in table X below

Table 3.2.1 Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) within the zone of influence of the NDP

Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas within the Zone of Influence of the NDP		
Site Code	Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs)	Distance from Draft Plan's Boundary
001324	Jamestown Bog NHA	c. 4.8km south-west
001580	Girley Bog NHA	c. 11.9km west
Site Code	proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs)	Distance from Draft Plan's Boundary
001357	Trim pNHA	c. 8.7km south-west
001579	Balrath Woods pNHA	c. 8.3km east
001593	Thomastown Bog pNHA	c. 11.9km east
001578	Duleek Commons pNHA	c. 14.3km east
001589	Rossnaree Riverbank pNHA	c. 11.5km north-east
000553	Crewbane Marsh pNHA	c. 10km north-east
001592	Boyne Woods pNHA	c. 2.4km north-east
001591	Slane Riverbank pNHA	c. 8.7km north-east
001861	Dowth Wetlands pNHA	c. 15km north-east
001862	Boyne River Islands pNHA	c. 15km north-east
001804	King William's Glen pNHA	c. 15km north-east

Legend

- Natural Heritage Area (NHA)
- proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA)
- Navan Development Plan Boundary

Fig. 2. National Sites within 5km of the Plan Boundary

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Project Title: Navan Dev Plan Variation 2: NIR

Project No.: 170031

Client: Meath County Council

Project No.: 170031 Scale: 1:100,000 @ A4

Drawn: CK Approved: PS Rev. No.: 00 Date: 01/03/2017

3.3 Zone of Influence of the Plan and its associated Variations

Current guidance on the zone of influence to be considered during the AA process states the following:

“A distance of 15km is currently recommended in the case of plans, and derives from UK guidance (Scott Wilson et al., 2006). For projects, the distance could be much less than 15km, and in some cases less than 100m, but this must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reference to the nature, size and location of the project, and the sensitivities of the ecological receptors, and the potential for in combination effects”.

In practice the designation of an immoveable reference distance is not deemed to be useful as Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests have different sensitivities. However, for the purpose of this specific NIR a distance of 15km was deemed to be sufficient to address all possible impacts from the Draft Variation No. 2.

4 ASSESSMENT OF THE DRAFT VARIATION NO.2 TO THE NAVAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2009-2015

4.1 Structure of the Draft Variation

The Draft Variation is comprised of the following amendments to the Navan Development Plan:

- To amend the text of the Navan Development Plan narrative, policies and objectives to bring these into line with the Meath Economic Development Strategy.
- To review the quantum and location of employment zoned land.
- To review the appropriateness of the Masterplan Objectives in the town as it pertains to their compatibility with employment generation
- To review the requirements surrounding the preparation of Framework Plans on employment zonings.
- Variation No.1 to the Navan Development Plan, included in the evaluation of residentially zoned lands Clonmagadden SDZ and allocated 500 residential units to same in Phase I. It is appropriate to indicate that the SDZ is a nationally designated site for residential development and operates independently of the provisions of the Navan Development Plan and as such the units allocated to the SDZ should not have been under consideration. Table 2A1 of the Plan acknowledges that the SDZ should not be included in the figure for residential zoned land, however at Table 2A2 and thereafter in the residential evaluation the lands are included. As part of this variation it is now proposed to correct this anomaly by omitting the SDZ from the evaluation resulting in a surplus of 500 residential units i.e. the units which were allocated to the SDZ in error⁴.
- The introduction of additional employment generating lands to the immediate east of MP12 (formerly FP2) lands at Farganstown, the introduction of which will stimulate growth at this key location in the town and will support the concept of a sustainable

⁴ The 500 residential units referred to in the Clonmagadden SCZ were not included in the County Development Plan 2013 calculations

live-work community with a suitable mix of land uses including employment, residential, community, educational and recreational lands. The provision of additional employment lands is consistent with Action 4 of the Economic Development Strategy to promote the hierarchy of economic centres with the objective of facilitating significant new enterprise employment in Meath. Furthermore, it is proposed to allocate 250 residential units (out of the identified surplus of 500 units from the Clonmagadden SDZ) to enable the delivery of key critical infrastructure in the form of LDR6 and to support the development of a sustainable live-work community. It is also envisaged that the referenced lands could accommodate the Boyne Valley Food Hub, which is an ambitious project to establish a key food innovation and research hub in the region with a focus on helping farmers and agricultural co-ops, startup food companies, existing small and mid-size food companies and retail and foodservice establishments.

- The release of additional residential lands (250 units from the identified surplus of 500 units as referenced above) at Nevinstown (MP3) in the context of delivering key infrastructure to assist in delivering the economic potential of the town. The new residential development would support the development of the Regional Hospital, assist in the delivery of key road infrastructure in the area and would support the concept of a sustainable live-work community in the north-western portion of town
- The introduction of additional employment lands at Liscarton Industrial Estate, in order to facilitate opportunities for suitable extension of the range of uses and businesses at that location and facilitate future expansion and scaling up of existing successful business enterprises in this Industrial estate.
- Introduce a 'spot objective' for the development of the industrially zoned lands to the north of MP4 lands located at Clonmagadden
- Amendments to the employment zoning objectives set in order to provide more flexibility in the provision of employment generating uses. This will ensure consistency with the County Development Plan zoning objectives.
- Amendments to the Development Management Standards set out within Chapter 8 of the Navan Development Plan.
- Amendments to the text of the Navan Development Plan to take cognisance of the Navan Public Realm Study. The Study sets out a range of interventions that will support and enhance the future of Navan as a vibrant and connected town, which will in turn contribute to providing an attractive setting for employment generation.
- Support the redevelopment of Pairc Tailteann.

These amendments are proposed in order to incorporate the recommendations of the Meath Economic Development Strategy and to align with the County Development Plan as varied. A number of Master Plan Areas and their Objectives have also been amended as follows:

- Master Plan 1 relates to lands to the east of the N51 and north of the R147 which are zoned for mixed use commercial activity.
- Master Plan 2 relates to lands to the north of the R147 which are zoned predominantly for mixed use commercial activity.

- Master Plan 6 relates to land adjoining the core retail area and identified as a secondary commercial quarter located to the north of the former rail line and will benefit from the influence of the proposed Navan central train station in the long term.
- Master Plan 7 relates to lands off the Athboy Road immediately south of the motorway interchange at Knockumber. The area is intended primarily for enterprise and employment uses and will accommodate the expansion of Mullaghboy Industrial Estate.
- Master Plan 9 relates to a rectangular block of land formed by the Trim Road, the former Navan-Dublin Rail Alignment and lands adjoining the Borallion Road. Development of these lands shall only proceed on the basis of an agreed overall Master Plan, the availability of water and waste water services associated infrastructure including the phased provision of these services and the provision of suitable access arrangements. This area is intended to provide an option for the Regional Hospital and ancillary healthcare uses.
- Master Plan 10 relates to the lands comprising of the existing Pairc Tailteann GAA stadium and ancillary grounds fronting Brews Hill and Commons Road. This area is intended to provide for a modern sports hub comprising of an upgraded Pairc Tailteann with associated and complimentary uses.
- Master Plan 11 This Master Plan relates to lands off the Rathaldron Road at Nevinstown which are subject to a G1, H1 and 'White Lands' zoning objective. This area is intended primarily for community facilities to provide for the Regional Hospital and ancillary healthcare uses.
- Master Plan 12 These lands are located to the east of Navan in the townlands of Athlumney, Alexander Reid, Bailis and Farganstown and Ballymacon and are zoned for a mix of uses, primarily residential, commercial and employment uses. Any development proposals shall accord with the Master Plan for this area. The Master Plan shall be updated to consider the additional lands now proposed to have an E1/E2 zoning objective as well as the reconfiguration of of the zoning objectives on the lands. The updated Master Plan shall promote the concept of a sustainable integrated "live work" community based planning model.
- Master Plan 13 relates to lands situated between the Trim Road and the Commons Road and are zoned for a mix of uses, primarily residential.

This AA has focused on the impact of development assuming that they have complied with the objectives set out in the Draft Variation.

If correctly prepared at the early stages of plan-preparation, the amendments outlined in the Variation should not only avoid posing any adverse effects on integrity of European Sites but should also provide protective objectives that express intentions to protect European sites from adverse effects. Therefore, some of the amendments may contain caveats or conditions that must be met to demonstrate compliance whilst others will be purely focused at protection of European sites.

4.2 Assessment Results

Table C1 in Appendix C lists all the amendments of the Draft Variation No. 2 and summarises the potential adverse effects on integrity of European Sites, prior to any mitigation/ amendments being proposed.

4.2.1 Proposed Amendments to the Draft Variation

A small number of amendments were revised as part of the AA process during their drafting to ensure that they adequately addressed the potential for adverse effects on the integrity of European Sites. In some cases, the implementation of the objective is open to interpretation at the project-level and the nature of the adverse effect arising is dependent on the methods involved in the development. Therefore, whilst it was not possible to rule out adverse effects on integrity of European Sites at the strategic-level, in such cases it would be reasonable to apply AA at the lower levels of planning so that the project could be designed taking into account the potential for such effects. In such cases it was assumed with a high level of confidence that mitigation measures could be applied when carrying out a project-level AA to address the adverse effects on integrity of European Sites. The proposed amendments are set out in Table 4.2.1 below.

Table 4.2.1 Proposed Amendments to the Draft Variation

Variation Objective	Proposed Amendment
The introduction of additional employment generating lands to the immediate east of MP12 (formerly FP2) lands at Farganstown, the introduction of which will stimulate growth at this key location in the town and will support the concept of a sustainable live-work community with a suitable mix of land uses including employment, residential, community, educational and recreational lands. The provision of additional employment lands is consistent with Action 4 of the Economic Development Strategy to promote the hierarchy of economic centres with the objective of facilitating significant new enterprise employment in Meath. Furthermore, it is proposed to allocate 250 residential units (out of the identified surplus of 500 units from the Clonmagadden SDZ) to enable the delivery of key critical infrastructure in the form of LDR6 and to support the development of a sustainable live-work community. It is also envisaged that the referenced lands could accommodate the Boyne Valley Food Hub, which is an ambitious project to establish a key food innovation and research hub in the region with a focus on helping farmers and agricultural co-ops, startup food companies, existing small and mid-size food companies and retail and foodservice establishments.	<p>Include the additional wording to strengthen the commitment to protect European sites, in line with protective policies contained within both the County Development Plan 2013- 2019 and the Navan Development Plan 2009-2015:</p> <p>All future development within the MP12 lands will have to take full account of the sensitivities of the receiving environment. Proposals for development which would be likely to have a significant effect on European sites will only be approved if it can be ascertained, by means of an appropriate assessment, that the integrity of these sites will not be adversely affected.</p>
The release of additional residential lands (250 units from the identified surplus of 500 units as referenced above) at Nevinstown (MP3) in the context of delivering key infrastructure to assist in delivering the economic potential of the town. The new residential development would support the development of the Regional Hospital, assist in the delivery of key road infrastructure in the area and would support the concept of a	<p>Include the additional wording to strengthen the commitment to protect European sites, in line with protective policies contained within both the CDP and the NDP:</p> <p>Future development within the MP3 lands will have to take full account of the sensitivities of the receiving environment. Proposals for development which would be likely to have a significant effect on European sites will only be</p>

sustainable live-work community in the north-western portion of town.	approved if it can be ascertained, by means of an appropriate assessment, that the integrity of these sites will not be adversely affected.
The introduction of additional employment lands at Liscarton Industrial Estate, in order to facilitate opportunities for suitable extension of the range of uses and businesses at that location and facilitate future expansion and scaling up of existing successful business enterprises in this Industrial estate.	<p>Include the additional wording to strengthen the commitment to protect European sites, in line with protective policies contained within both the CDP and the NDP:</p> <p>Future development at Liscarton Industrial Estate will have to take full account of the sensitivities of the receiving environment. Proposals for development which would be likely to have a significant effect on European sites will only be approved if it can be ascertained, by means of an appropriate assessment, that the integrity of these sites will not be adversely affected.</p>
Master Plan Objectives (13 in total):	<p>Include the additional wording as a general “catch-all” clause for all Master Plan Areas:</p> <p>Development located in lands governed by a Masterplan will be subject to appropriate assessment and any other ecological assessments deemed necessary by the Council.</p>

The result of the revisions made to the Variation after the iterative assessment was that all of the elements in the Draft Variation are not regarded to give rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European Sites.

4.3 How the Mitigation Measures ensure the removal of risks of adverse effects on the integrity of European Sites.

This section discusses how the amendments set out in the Draft Variation have addressed the potential for adverse effects on European sites. It selects examples from Table C1 to demonstrate the approach that has been taken for certain impact types:

- 1. Proposed amendments which reinforce statutory requirements in the Draft Variation’s Objectives e.g.** The introduction of additional employment lands at Liscarton Industrial Estate, in order to facilitate opportunities for suitable extension of the range of uses and businesses at that location and facilitate future expansion and scaling up of existing successful business enterprises in this Industrial estate. **Future development at Liscarton Industrial Estate will have to take full account of the sensitivities of the receiving environment. Proposals for development which would be likely to have a significant effect on European sites will only be approved if it can be ascertained, by means of an appropriate assessment, that the integrity of these sites will not be adversely affected.**

While it is generally accepted that screening for AA is required at plan or project level, this requirement has been stated in some cases to reinforce its application at this level. Development applications that do not follow statutory requirements will not be permitted.

2. **Proposed amendments which place conditions and caveats on the Draft Variation's Objectives e.g.** Development located in lands governed by a Masterplan will be subject to appropriate assessment and any other ecological assessments deemed necessary by the Council.

This type of mitigation measure will only allow specific development to be considered if it can be shown to have considered specific aspects in the application documentation – usually in the provision of information to the local Authority to allow them to carry out AA Screening.

5 INTERACTION WITH OTHER PLANS

The E.C. Habitats Directive and the Irish Birds and Habitats Regulations 2011 require that the impacts on European sites be assessed from the plan or project in question and also in the presence of other plans and projects that could affect the same European sites.

The analyses carried out during the preparation of this NIR has identified that the plans that could act in combination with the Draft Variation No. 2, and the associated Navan Development Plan 2009-2015, have undergone an appropriate assessment themselves as it is assumed that if a Plan has been adopted following an AA then it should not be capable of posing adverse effects on integrity of European Sites.

The cumulative/in-combination impact assessment focused on the other Development Plans that had the highest potential to affect the same European sites that could be affected by the Draft Variation and the associated Navan Development Plan 2009-2015.

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

The RPGs have undergone an AA and it recommended specific conditions to protect European sites (Section 4.6 of HDA). These were incorporated into the RPGs where appropriate. No in-combination impacts with the Draft Variation are predicted as a result of implementation.

- **Retail Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2008-2016**

This Strategy does not seem to have undergone Appropriate Assessment. The Strategy sits under the Regional Planning guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area which was subject to AA, which placed emphasis on the protection of European sites. No in-combination impacts with the Draft Variation are predicted as a result of implementation.

- **Draft Transport Strategy for The Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035**

This Strategy has undergone an AA and mitigatory measures have been recommended and incorporated into the text. Mitigation measures include those specifically to protect biodiversity including European sites, protection of riparian zone and waterbodies and watercourses and soil protection and contamination. No in-combination impacts with the Draft Variation are predicted as a result of implementation.

- **Eastern River Basin Management Plans (2009-2015)**

This Plan underwent an AA. Safeguards (described as 'mitigation measures' in Appendix I of the AA Screening) are in place for each qualifying interest of the European sites. An example of a common safeguard is the creation of buffer strips around water bodies to prevent pollutant loss. No in-combination impacts with the Draft Variation are predicted as a result of implementation.

- **Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019**

The CDP has undergone an AA. It found that any provisions in the Plan which may have potentially led to adverse impacts on European site have been mitigated for by the inclusion of a number of policies and objectives, as well as the addition of a number of clauses, which specifically address the protection of European sites and reinforce statutory requirements to consider these in future plans and projects. Table A2 in Appendix A details these protective policies and objectives. No in-combination impacts with the Draft Variation are predicted as a result of implementation.

- **Draft County Meath Heritage Plan 2015-2020**

This Plan underwent an AA screening. The outcome of this screening was that the plan would have no significant adverse impact on Natura 2000 sites and that no further assessment was necessary. No in-combination impacts with the Draft Variation are predicted as a result of implementation.

- **Draft County Meath Biodiversity Action Plan 2015-2020**

This Plan underwent an AA screening. The conclusion of this screening was that the plan would have no significant adverse impact on Natura 2000 sites and that no further assessment was necessary. No in-combination impacts with the Draft Variation are predicted as a result of implementation.

- **Trim Development Plan 2014-2020**

This Plan was subject to an AA which concluded that it will not have a significant effect on European sites. No in-combination impacts with the Draft Variation are predicted as a result of implementation.

- **Ashbourne Local Area Plan 2009-2015**

This Plan and its amendments were subject to an AA Screening which concluded that it will not have a significant effect on European sites. No in-combination impacts with the Draft Variation are predicted as a result of implementation.

- **Kells Development Plan 2013-2019**

This Plan and its amendments were subject to an AA which concluded that it will not have a significant effect on European sites. No in-combination impacts with the Draft Variation are predicted as a result of implementation.

- **Drogheda Borough Council Development Plan 2011-2017**

This Plan was subject to an AA Screening which concluded that it will not have a significant effect on European sites. No in-combination impacts with the Draft Variation are predicted as a result of implementation.

- **Southern Environs of Drogheda Local Area Plan 2009-2015**

This Plan was subject to an AA Screening which concluded that it will not have a significant effect on European sites. No in-combination impacts with the Draft Variation are predicted as a result of implementation.

6 RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTING MITIGATION POLICIES

The responsibility for implementing the Navan Development Plan and its associated Variations lies solely with the Planning Authority through the Planning consent process. Applicants who intend to develop within the Navan Development Plan area are obliged to ensure that their application is consistent with the Objectives and requirements within the Plan. The statutory requirement for the Planning Authority to carry out AA Screening for all planning applications is not affected by any of the statements in this NIR. All applications must be tested for the potential for likely significant effects. However, such effects are not likely to occur if the Objectives in the Navan Development Plan, and its associated Variations, and the requirements are adhered to as outlined, where appropriate.

Applicants must provide information to allow the Planning Authority to screen the application and decide if full AA is required.

7 MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES

Whilst there is no legal requirement to monitor the outputs of the AA process, there is an obligation to monitor the implementation of the Navan Development Plan through the E.C. SEA Directive as implemented in Ireland. Contingency measures may have to be applied if there is evidence that Objectives cannot be implemented successfully. The *European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations 2008* will also apply in the event of any environmental damage to habitats and species both within and outside of the European sites.

8 HOW THE AA PROCESS IN SHAPING THE DRAFT VARIATION WILL PROTECT THE EUROPEAN SITES

This Natura Impact Report recorded the decisions that were taken during the preparation of the Draft Variation No. 2 to the Navan Development Plan 2009-2015. It determined that, assuming the successful implementation of the Objectives and Policies contained within the Plan itself there will be no adverse effects on integrity of European Sites in isolation or in combination with other Plans and Projects acting in the same area.

This NIR, along with any other relevant information will be use to inform the AA carried out by Meath County Council. The Council will issue an AA Determination which is the record of their decision and how it was informed by this NIR, which will be published alongside the Draft Variation.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A

Table A1 Protective Policies and Objectives contained within the Navan Development Plan 2009-2015 incorporating Draft Variation No. 2

Table A2 Protective Policies and Objectives contained within the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019

Appendix B

Table B1 Site Specific Conservation Objectives for Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests and how they are represented by the Assessment Criteria.

Appendix C

Table C1 Likely significant effects of Policies and Objectives contained within the Draft Variation No. 2

Appendix A 1: Table A1 Protective Policies and Objectives contained within the Navan Development Plan 2009-2015 incorporating Draft Variation No. 2

Navan Development Plan 2009-2015 incorporating Draft Variation No. 2 - Measures to Protect sites of European and National Importance			
Location (Chapter)	Ref	Nature	Policy/ Objective Text
Chapter 3: Settlement Strategy & Housing	Settlement Strategy OBJ 12	Objective	To ensure the protection of flora, fauna, quality landscapes and the promotion of biodiversity.
	Land Use Zoning OBJ 1	Objective	Any application for planning permission for new development, extension to existing development or intensification or change of use shall be assessed in terms of its potential impact on existing adjacent developments, existing land uses and/or the surrounding landscape. Where such development would have a significant adverse effect on the amenities of the area through pollution by noise, fumes, dust, grit or vibration, or cause pollution of air, water and/or soil, planning permission will not be forthcoming, prior to the proposal and introduction of mitigation measures agreed with the planning authority to eliminate negative environmental impacts or reduce them to an acceptable operating level.
	Residential POL 3	Policy	To ensure that all new residential developments incorporate a detailed landscape plan, which shall be an integral part of the implementation of the development. Maximum use should be made of the opportunities presented by existing landscape features (including tree groups, hedgerows and streams).
	RD POL 17	Policy	To ensure that new development is guided towards sites where acceptable wastewater treatment and disposal facilities can be provided, avoiding sites where it is inherently difficult to provide and maintain such facilities – sites prone to extremely high water tables and flooding or where groundwater is particularly vulnerable to contamination.
Chapter 4: Economic Development Strategy	RURAL ENT POL 2	Policy	To normally permit development proposals for the expansion of existing industrial or business enterprises in the countryside where the resultant development is of a size and scale which remains appropriate and which does not negatively impact on the character and amenity of the surrounding area; and the proposal demonstrates that it has taken into account traffic, public health, environmental and amenity considerations and is in accordance with the policies, requirements and guidance contained in this plan. In all instances, it should be demonstrated that the proposal would not generate traffic of a type and amount inappropriate for the character of the access roads or would require improvements which would affect the character of these roads.
	RURAL ENT POL 10	Policy	To ensure that extractive industries do not adversely affect the environment or adjoining existing land uses and are carried out in such a manner so as to minimise detracton from the visual quality of the landscape.
	RURAL ENT POL 11	Policy	To promote forestry development of an appropriate scale and character whilst ensuring that the development does not have a negative visual impact on the countryside or cause pollution or degradation to wildlife habitats, natural waters or areas of ecological significance.

	AGRI POL 2	Policy	To facilitate the development of agriculture while ensuring that natural waters, wildlife habitats and conservation areas are protected from pollution
	AGRI POL 5	Policy	To resist proposals to remove woodland, boundary trees or hedgerow planting, where such planting is of benefit to the visual and ecological amenity of an area.
	TOU OBJ 7	Objective	To prepare a Tourism Strategy for Navan in conjunction with key tourism stakeholders to include Meath Tourism & Boyne Valley Tourism. The preparation of the Tourism Strategy shall be subject to the requirements of Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment.
Chapter 5: Architectural & Natural Heritage	HER POL 11	Policy	To protect, conserve and enhance the biodiversity and natural heritage of Navan including wildlife (flora & fauna), and particularly all Annex II species, habitats, geology, landscapes and/or landscape features of importance to wildlife or which play a key role in the conservation and management of natural resources such as rivers, streams, canals, lakes, and associated wetlands including reed-beds and swamps, ponds, springs, bogs, fens, trees, woodlands and scrub, hedgerows and other boundary types such as stone walls and ditches which occur outside of designated areas providing a network of habitats and corridors essential for wildlife to flourish.
	HER POL 14	Policy	To protect rivers and stream corridors and valleys by reserving land along their banks for ecological corridors and maintain them free from inappropriate development, and discourage culverting or realignment, unless done for environmental reasons, including flood prevention or flood abatement. The Planning Authority shall consult with Inland Fisheries Ireland and other statutory bodies as required by the planning regulations in respect of this and shall have regard to their comments in the making of any planning decision’.
	HER POL 15	Policy	To require that runoff from a developed area will not result in the deterioration of the quality of downstream watercourses or habitats.
	HER OBJ 8		Subject to the provisions of the Habitats and Birds Directives, to promote the sustainable usage of the River Boyne for amenity/recreational use and educational purposes.
	HER POL 16	Policy	To protect the River Boyne and River Blackwater cSAC and SPA in Navan and any additional sites that may be proposed for designation during the lifetime of this Plan and to ensure that development within the Navan Development Plan boundary will not give rise to negative impacts on the River Boyne and River Blackwater cSAC and SPA outside of the Plan area.
	HER POL 17	Policy	To have regard to the views and guidance of the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in respect of proposed development where there is a possibility that such development may have an impact on the River Boyne and River Blackwater candidate Special Area of Conservation or Special Protection Area.
	HER POL18	Policy	It is the policy of the Council to protect sites designated in National and European legislation, and in other relevant International Conventions, Agreements and Processes. This includes sites proposed to be designated or designated as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special Areas of Conservation under the Habitats Directive¹ (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora)

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special Protection Areas under the Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds) Both the Birds and Habitats Directives have been transposed in Irish law by Ministerial Regulation. The European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 are the most important of these because they provide for the protection measures and management regime that apply to SPAs and SACs. No projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on Natura 2000 sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects (Except as provided for in Section 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. there must be: a. no alternative solution available, b. imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and c. adequate compensatory measures in place.) Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Nature Reserves, and Refuges for Flora or Fauna under the Wildlife Act, 1976 as amended by Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000.
	HER POL 19	Policy	To prohibit any development that would be harmful or that would result in a significant deterioration of habitats and/or disturbance of species.
	HER POL 20	Policy	To ensure that development does not have a significant adverse impact, incapable of satisfactory mitigation, on plant, animal or bird species protected by law.
	HER POL 21	Policy	No projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on Natura 2000 sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects).
	HER POL 21A	Policy	To ensure compliance with the Wildlife Acts 1976-2010 with regard to the protection of species listed on Schedule 5 of the principal act.
	HER POL 22	Policy	To ensure that, where possible, proposals for development protect and enhance biodiversity by minimising adverse impacts on existing habitats, (whether designated or not,) and by including mitigation and/or compensation measures.
	HER POL 23	Policy	To establish ecological corridors within new development which permit the potential movement of wildlife and which include indigenous vegetation and which will link with existing biodiversity features and ecological networks
	HER POL 31	Policy	To have a presumption in favour of the retention of existing trees and their incorporation into any new development unless this can be shown to be impractical, and to protect, preserve and ensure effective management of trees and groups of trees considered to be of special amenity value and to prepare Tree Preservation Orders where considered appropriate.
Chapter 6: Social Strategy	SOC POL 23	Policy	To develop an integrated green structure for the town, linking open spaces along the riverbanks of the Boyne & Blackwater with the town centre and its environs and historical features, in such a manner so as not to significantly negatively impact on the cSAC or SPA either alone or in combination with other objectives in this or other plans

	SOC OBJ 7	Objective	To develop a system of linear parks and waterfront amenity areas with walkways and cycleways, subject to the availability of resources, along the Banks of the Boyne and Blackwater Rivers, in such a manner so as not to significantly negatively impact on the cSAC or SPA either alone or in combination with other objectives in this or other plans.
	SOC OBJ 8	Objective	To promote the provision of pedestrian and cycle links across rivers to ensure full accessibility, integration and usage of public open space in such a manner so as not to significantly negatively impact on the cSAC or SPA either alone or in combination with other objectives in this or other plans.
Chapter 7: Infrastructure	INF POL 36	Policy	To continue the development and upgrading of the water supply system so as to ensure that an adequate, sustainable and economic supply of piped water of suitable quality is available for domestic, commercial, industrial, fire safety and other uses for the sustainable development of the town in accordance with the settlement structure identified in this Plan and as finances permit. All proposals for the development of an upgrade of the water supply will be screened for Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and, where significant impacts are identified, a Natura Impact Statement will be prepared.
	INF POL 43	Policy	To maintain, improve and enhance the status of waters by implementing the measures set out in the Eastern River Basin Management Plans and associated Programme of Measures in co-operation with Irish Water and major stakeholders for the protection of ground and surface waters as part of the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive
	INF POL 44	Policy	To protect surface water and groundwater resources and their associated habitats and species including fisheries and in particular Annex II listed species.
	INF OBJ 41	Objective	To assist Irish Water in implementing the in effect Water Services Investment Programme. All developments included in the Water Services Investment Programme will be subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, where this has not previously been carried out. Where significant impacts are identified, a Natura Impact Statement will be prepared.
	INF OBJ 45	Objective	To prepare plans for increasing the capacity of the Navan Waste Water Treatment Plant to cater for the growth in demand from the residential, commercial and industrial sectors over the lifetime of the plan in conjunction with Irish Water. All proposals for the development of an upgrade of the Navan Waste Water Treatment Plant will be subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive and, where significant impacts are identified, a Natura Impact Statement will be prepared.
	INF POL 54	Policy	To consult, where necessary, with Inland Fisheries Ireland, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and other relevant agencies in the construction of flood alleviation measures in Navan.
	INF POL 56	Policy	Where relevant, the Councils shall adopt appropriate buffer zones to protect features of European, national, regional, county and local importance, including rivers and streams, from development proposals both in terms of visual and ecological impacts.
	INF OBJ 50	Objective	To design flood relief measures to ensure appropriate protection for alluvial woodland (i.e. a qualifying interest) along the Boyne.

	INF OBJ 51	Objective	To design flood relief measures to protect the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites and to avoid indirect impacts of conflict with other qualifying interests or Natura 2000 sites.
	INF OBJ 52	Objective	To promote positive flood relief measures that can enhance habitats in the Boyne floodplain such as swales, constructed wetland basins etc.
	INF OBJ 53	Objective	To seek to ensure that construction works are designed so as not to result in surface water runoff into cSAC or SPAs either directly or indirectly via a watercourse
	INF OBJ 54	Objective	In determining the detailed design and final alignment of the Local Distributor Roads (LDR 3 and 4 refer), a Justification Test shall be applied if alignments being assessed interact with Flood Zone A and / or B. A detailed Flood Risk Assessment will be required to manage the risk and to demonstrate there will be no impact on adjacent lands. The detailed design of this route shall also be subject to as Appropriate Assessment pursuant to the Habitats Directive
	INF OBJ 56	Objective	To ensure that existing wetland habitats are adequately protected, managed and where appropriate enhanced where flood protection/management measures are necessary.
	INF POL 61	Policy	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.

Appendix A2: Table A2 Protective Policies and Objectives contained within the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019

Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 - Measures to Protect sites of European and National Importance			
Location (Chapter)	Ref	Nature	Policy/ Objective Text
Chapter 4: Economic Development Strategy	ED POL 12	Policy	To ensure any port related development proposals are subject to full environmental assessment including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment, as required.
	ED POL 18	Policy	To recognise and develop the full potential of biomass for energy production and manufacturing including the export of green electricity to the national grid. The Development Plan acknowledges that such enterprises are more readily accommodated in rural areas due to the extent of lands required to ensure security of supply of raw materials and that proximity to the medium to high voltage national electricity transmission network for green electricity exportation is a key locational consideration for development proposers. All proposals for biomass energy production and manufacturing will require screening to determine if a full Appropriate Assessment of the likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites, is required.
	ED POL 20	Policy	To normally permit development proposals for the expansion of existing authorised industrial or business enterprises in the countryside where the resultant development does not negatively impact on the character and amenity of the surrounding area. In all instances, it should be demonstrated that the proposal would not generate traffic of a type and amount inappropriate for the standard of the access roads. This policy shall not apply to the National Road Network.
	ED POL 32	Policy	To protect and conserve those natural, built and cultural heritage features that form the basis of the county's tourism attraction and to seek to restrict development which would be detrimental to scenic and identified natural and cultural heritage assets.
	ED POL 43	Policy	To support developments which will enable and encourage countryside recreation and an increased appreciation of the natural environment, through facilitating the development of community walks, off road trails / rural trail developments, parks and other outdoor amenities and recreational infrastructure. All proposals will require screening to determine if a full Appropriate Assessment of the likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites, is required.
	ED POL 45	Policy	To encourage and support sensitive development which provides for the appreciation, interpretation, upgrade and provision of access to natural habitats, scenic vistas and heritage features for the benefit of rural tourism subject to normal planning and nature conservation considerations.
	ED POL 48	Policy	To ensure that land use policies take account of the need to maintain appropriate distances between future major accident hazard establishments and residential areas, areas of substantial public use and of particular natural sensitivity or interest.
Chapter 5: Social Strategy	SOC POL 38	Policy	To protect the integrity of Natura 2000 sites during the identification of suitable sites for recreation, in particular in terms of their design and use.

Chapter 6: Transportation	TRAN OBJ 2	Objective	To facilitate and encourage the upgrading of existing railway stations, and protect as required lands required for the upgrading of existing railway lines or stations or the provision of new railway stations throughout the County. Any such proposals for developments in Bettystown and south of Drogheda, will have to ensure that there are no adverse effects on the integrity of SPAs.
	TRAN OBJ 8	Objective	<p>To promote and explore the development of the following linkages within the lifetime of the Development Plan subject to the appropriate environmental assessments, including Appropriate Assessment of the likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites in accordance with Article 6(3) of the EC Habitats Directive;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) To explore the feasibility of developing former disused transportation corridors for cycle / greenways. (ii) To provide the development of a cycle / greenway on the disused Navan – Kingscourt rail line in conjunction with Cavan County Council subject to the completion of a feasibility study obtaining the necessary statutory planning consent, landowner co-operation and the securing of the necessary funding. (iii) 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. (iv) To develop a system of cycle / greenways, subject to the availability of resources, along the banks of the Boyne and Blackwater Rivers, in such a manner so as not to significantly negatively impact on the conservation status of the Natura 2000 site either alone or in combination with other objectives in this or other plans. (v) To explore the development of the following cycle/greenway options as part of the Dublin Galway cycle network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) along the Royal Canal located within the administrative area of Meath County Council in consultation with relevant agencies or b) along the former N4 (R148) located within the administrative area of Meath County Council in consultation with relevant agencies or c) Combinations of the above.
	TRAN OBJ 9	Objective	To encourage pedestrian access to certain areas of Natura 2000 sites for their appreciation and in a manner so as not to impact negatively on the sites' integrity or long term conservation status.
	TRAN POL 32	Policy	To ensure that all road plans and project proposals in the County which could, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site, undergo an Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6 (3) of the EC Habitats Directive.
Chapter 7: Water, Drainage & Environmental Services	WS SO 7	Objective	To undertake Appropriate Assessment of the likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites in accordance with Article 6(3) of the EC Habitats Directive for proposals for the abstraction of water from Natura 2000 sites.
	WS POL 19	Policy	To protect groundwater resources having regard to the County Meath Groundwater Protection Plan.
	WS POL 25	Policy	To protect, maintain and improve the natural character of the watercourses and rivers in the county Meath.

	WS POL 26	Policy	To seek the continued improvement of water quality, bathing facilities and other recreational opportunities in the coastal, estuarine and surface waters in the County.
	WS POL 34	Policy	To consult, where necessary, with Inland Fisheries Ireland, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and other relevant agencies in the construction of flood alleviation measures in County Meath.
	WS OBJ 12	Objective	To design flood relief measures to ensure appropriate protection for alluvial woodland (i.e. a qualifying interest) along the Boyne.
	WS OBJ 13	Objective	To design flood relief measures to protect the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites and to avoid indirect impacts of conflict with other qualifying interests or Natura 2000 sites.
	WS OBJ 14	Objective	To promote positive flood relief measures that can enhance habitats in the Boyne floodplain such as swales, constructed wetland basins etc.
	WS OBJ 15	Objective	To seek to ensure that construction works are designed so as not to result in surface water runoff into cSAC or SPAs either directly or indirectly via a watercourse.
	PC POL 2	Policy	To ensure that public lighting schemes are designed so that they contribute to the character of the area, minimise visual intrusion and do not have an adverse impact on the character or habitats of the natural environment.
Chapter 8: Energy and Communications	EC POL 3	Policy	To encourage the production of energy from renewable sources, such as from biomass, waste material, solar, wave, hydro, geothermal and wind energy, subject to normal proper planning considerations, including in particular, the potential impact on areas of environmental or landscape sensitivity and Natura 2000 sites.
	EC POL 18	Policy	To generally avoid 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.
	EC OBJ 1	Objective	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 a full Appropriate Assessment.
Chapter 9: Cultural and Natural Assets	CSA SP 2	Policy	To ensure that features of Meath's natural heritage and green infrastructure that provide ecosystem services are protected; that biodiversity is conserved and where possible enhanced, and; that the character of landscapes are maintained and enriched, and that tourist and recreational uses are facilitated in a sensitive manner.
	NH POL 1	Policy	To protect, conserve, and seek to enhance the County's biodiversity
	NH POL 2	Policy	To promote measures to protect biodiversity in the development management process by creating and improving habitats, where possible.
	NH POL 5	Policy	To permit development on or adjacent to designated Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, National Heritage Area or those proposed to be designated over the period of the plan, only where an assessment carried out to the satisfaction of the Meath County Council, in consultation with National Parks and Wildlife Service, indicates that it will have no significant adverse effect on the integrity of the site.

	NH POL 6	Policy	To have regard to the views and guidance of the National Parks and Wildlife Service in respect of proposed development where there is a possibility that such development may have an impact on a designated European or National site or a site proposed for such designation.
	NH POL 7	Policy	To undertake appropriate surveys and collect data to provide an evidence-base to assist Meath County Council in meeting its obligations under Article 6 of the Habitats Directives, subject to available resources.
	NH OBJ 2	Objective	To ensure an Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) and Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, and in accordance with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities, 2009 and relevant EPA and European Commission guidance documents, is carried out in respect of any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site(s), either individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, in view of the site's conservation objectives.
	NH OBJ 3	Objective	To protect and conserve the conservation value of candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, National Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas as identified by the Minister for the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and any other sites that may be proposed for designation during the lifetime of this Plan.
	GI POL 2	Policy	To protect existing green infrastructure within the County and to provide additional green infrastructure, where possible.
	GI POL 3	Policy	To require that all Land Use Plans protect, manage and provide where possible green infrastructure in an integrated and coherent manner.
	GI OBJ 3	Objective	To encourage, pursuant to Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, the management of features of the landscape, such as traditional field boundaries, important for the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.
	NH POL 8	Policy	To seek to ensure that development does not have a significant adverse impact, incapable of satisfactory avoidance or mitigation, on plant, animal or bird species protected by law.
	NH POL 9	Policy	To consult with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, and take account of any licensing requirements, when undertaking, approving or authorising development which is likely to affect plant, animal or bird species protected by law.
	NH POL 11	Policy	To seek to ensure that peatland areas which are designated (or proposed for designation) as NHAs, SACs or SPAs are conserved for their ecological, archaeological, cultural and educational significance.
	NH OBJ 4	Objective	To work in partnership with relevant stakeholders on a suitable peatland site(s) to demonstrate best practice in sustainable peatland conservation, management and restoration techniques and to promote their heritage and educational value subject to Ecological Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening as appropriate.
	NH POL 13	Policy	To encourage the retention of hedgerows and other distinctive boundary treatments in rural areas and prevent loss and fragmentation, where possible. Where removal of a hedgerow, stone wall or other distinctive boundary treatment is unavoidable, mitigation by provision of the same type of boundary will be required.

	NH POL 16	Policy	To seek to maintain the natural heritage and amenity of the county by promoting the preservation and enhancement of native and semi-natural woodlands, groups of trees and individual trees.
	NH POL 21	Policy	To protect the recreational, educational and amenity potential of navigational and non-navigational waterways within the County, towpaths and adjacent wetlands.
	NH POL 22	Policy	To have regard to the character, visual, recreational, environmental and amenity value of the coast and provisions for public access in assessing proposals for development.
	NH POL 23	Policy	To work to protect beaches and coastal areas from the driving of motor vehicles in the interest of environmental integrity, quality of amenity and in the interest of public safety.
	NH POL 24	Policy	To ensure that the County's natural coastal defenses, such as beaches, sand dunes, coastal wetlands and estuaries are not compromised by inappropriate works or development.
	NH OBJ 10	Objective	To undertake conservation works in accordance with best practice on the coastal dune systems subject to ecological impact assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening as appropriate.
	NH POL 26	Policy	To require that development proposal, on both designated and undesignated sites, enhance and appropriately integrate with the natural environment, respecting and complementing the habitats, biodiversity, landscape and natural heritage of the area.
Chapter 10: Rural Development	RUR DEV SO 9	Objective	To ensure that plans and projects associated with rural development will be subject to an Appropriate Assessment Screening and those plans or projects which could, either individually or in-combination with other plans and projects, have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site (or sites) undergo a full Appropriate Assessment.
	RD POL 16	Policy	To promote forestry development of appropriate scale and character whilst ensuring that the development does not have a negative visual impact on the countryside or cause pollution or degradation to wildlife habitats, natural waters or areas of ecological importance.
	RD POL 18	Policy	To promote the avoidance of deforestation or commercial afforestation within Natura 2000 sites unless directly relating to the management of the site for its qualifying interests.
	RD POL 21	Policy	To ensure that projects associated with the extractive industry carry out screening for Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the E.C. Habitats Directive, where required.
	RD POL 27	Policy	To ensure that development for aggregates / mineral extraction, processing and associated processes does not significantly impact in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Existing & Proposed Special Areas of Conservation (SACs); ii. Special Protection Areas (SPAs); iii. Natural Heritage Areas and Proposed Natural Heritage Areas; iv. Other areas of importance for the conservation of flora and fauna; v. Areas of significant archaeological potential; vi. In the vicinity of a recorded monument, and; vii. Sensitive landscapes. viii. World Heritage Sites.

	RD POL 52	Policy	To ensure wastewater treatment plants discharging into the Boyne catchment or to coastal Natura 2000 sites are suitably maintained and upgraded in advance of any additional loadings beyond their capacity in order to protect water quality, as required.
	RD POL 53	Policy	To promote good practice with regard to the siting and design of septic tanks and the maintenance of existing tanks. A high level of scrutiny will be placed on applications within 2km of watercourses in the Boyne catchment. Proposals in this area shall not have an adverse impact on local water quality that could affect the qualifying interests of the cSAC and SPA.

Appendix B: Analysis of Likely Significant Effects on Conservation Objectives

Table B1 Site specific conservation objectives of the Qualifying Interests of European Sites within the zone of Influence of the Draft Variation and analysis of likely significant effects

1099 River Lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*)

To restore the favourable conservation condition of River Lamprey in the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets (taken from Slaney River Valley SAC Conservation Objectives):

Attribute	Measure	Target	Criteria ⁵		
			1	2	3
Distribution: extent of anadromy	Percentage of river accessible	No decline.		✓	✓
Population structure of juveniles	Number of age/size groups	At least three age/size groups of river/brook lamprey present			✓
Juvenile density in fine sediment	Juveniles/m ²	Mean catchment juvenile density of brook/river lamprey at least 2/m ²			✓
Extent and distribution of spawning habitat	m ² and occurrence	No decline in extent and distribution of spawning beds		✓	✓
Availability of juvenile habitat	Number of positive sites in 2 nd order channels (and greater), downstream of spawning areas	More than 50% of sample sites positive		✓	✓

1106 Salmon (*Salmon salar*)

To restore the favourable conservation condition of Salmon in the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets (taken from the Lower River Shannon SAC Conservation Objectives):

⁵ The assessment criteria are as follows: 1. Hydrological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts to surface and ground water quality; 2. Direct habitat loss of European sites or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites; 3. Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species.

Attribute	Measure	Target	Criteria		
			1	2	3
Distribution: extent of anadromy	Percentage of river accessible	100% of river channels down to second order accessible from estuary		✓	✓
Adult spawning fish	Number	Conservation Limit (CL) for each system consistently exceeded			✓
Salmon fry abundance	Number of fry/5 minutes electrofishing	No significant decline			✓
Out-migrating smolt abundance	Number	No significant decline			✓
Number and distribution of redds	Number and occurrence	No decline in number and distribution of spawning redds due to anthropogenic causes		✓	✓
Water quality	EPA Q value	At least Q4 at all sites sampled by the EPA	✓		
1355 Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)					
To restore the favourable conservation condition of Otter in the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets (taken from Slaney Rover Valley SAC Conservation Objectives):					
Attribute	Measure	Target	Criteria		
			1	2	3
Distribution	Percentage positive survey sites	No significant decline			✓
Extent of terrestrial habitat	Hectares	No significant decline		✓	✓
Extent of marine habitat	Hectares	No significant decline		✓	✓

Extent of freshwater (river) habitat	Kilometers	No significant decline		✓	✓
Extent of freshwater (lake/lagoon) habitat	Hectares	No significant decline		✓	✓
Couching sites and holts	Number	No significant decline			✓
Fish biomass available	Kilograms	No significant decline			✓
Barriers to connectivity	Number	No significant increase			✓
7230 Alkaline fens					
To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Alkaline fens in The River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets (taken from Galway Bay Complex SAC Conservation Objectives):					
Attribute	Measure	Target	Criteria		
			1	2	3
Habitat area	Hectares	Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes.		✓	✓
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, subject to natural processes.		✓	✓
Hydrological regime	Flow rates, meters	Appropriate natural hydrological regime necessary to support the natural structure and functioning of the habitat	✓		✓
Water quality: nutrients	Water chemistry measures	Appropriate water quality to support the natural structure and functioning of the habitat.	✓		✓
Vegetation composition: typical species	Presence	Maintain vegetation cover of typical species including brown mosses and vascular plants		✓	✓
Vegetation composition: trees and shrubs	Percentage	Cover of scattered native trees and shrubs less than 10%		✓	✓

Physical structure: disturbed bare ground	Percentage	Cover of disturbed bare ground less than 10%. Where tufa is present, disturbed bare ground less than 1%.		✓	✓
Physical structure: drainage	Percentage	Areas showing signs of drainage as a result of drainage ditches or heavy trampling less than 10%		✓	✓
91E0 Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)* (denotes priority habitat)					
To restore the favourable conservation condition of Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion) in the Slaney River Valley SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets (taken from Slaney River Valley SAC Conservation Objectives):					
Attribute	Measure	Target	Criteria		
			1	2	3
Woodland structure: veteran trees	Number per hectare	No decline		✓	✓
Woodland structure: indicators of local distinctiveness	Occurrence	No decline		✓	✓
Vegetative composition: typical species	Percentage	No decline. Native tree cover not less than 95%.		✓	✓
Vegetation composition: typical species	Occurrence	A variety of typical native species present, depending on woodland		✓	✓
A229 Kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>)					
To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of Kingfisher on the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC. Note no specific Conservation Objectives have been drafted for Kingfisher in Ireland yet.					
Attribute	Measure	Target	Criteria		
			1	2	3
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Appendix C

Table C1 Likely significant effects of Objectives contained within the Draft Variation No.2 to the NDP 2009-2015

Objective	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
<i>To amend the text of the Navan Development Plan narrative, policies and objectives to bring these into line with the Meath Economic Development Strategy.</i>	No	No	No
<i>To review the quantum and location of employment zoned land.</i>	<p>Yes, potential impacts to River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC due to possible hydrological connection between possible drainage ditches on lands to the immediate east of MP12 and local rivers and streams, such as the Ferganstown and Ballymacon River and the Alexander Reid stream. A possible connection also exists between additional zoned lands at Liscarton industrial estate and the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC/SPA which lies just 224m to the NE.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in the County Development Plan under NH OBJ 2, NH POL 5, NH OBJ 3, WS OBJ 15, WS POL 26 and ED POL</p>	<p>Potential for loss of hedgerow habitats which would act as ecological networks to woodland habitats located along the River Boyne and River Blackwater. This loss could be caused as a result of proposed industrial development in these areas.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in the County Development Plan under NH OBJ 2, NH POL 26, NH POL 21, NH POL 16, NH POL 13, GI POL 2, GO OBJ 3, NH POL 5 and CSA SP 2. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in habitat loss the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC through the implementation of this aspect of the Draft</p>	<p>Yes, potential for ex-situ disturbance to habitats and species associated with the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC/SPA through construction works and increased human presence during operation.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in NH POL 5, NH POL 6, NH OBJ 2, NH POL 8, NH POL 9 and WS OBJ 15. Therefore, taking this mitigating policy into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in disturbance on the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC through the implementation of this aspect of the Draft Variation No. 2. In addition, policies and objectives set out in the</p>

Objective	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
	20. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology in the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC through the implementation of this aspect of the Draft Variation No. 2. In addition, policies and objectives set out in the Navan Development Plan and its Variations also provide mitigation to this effect, e.g. RURAL ENT POL 2, HER POL 11, HER POL 14, HER POL 15, HER POL 16, HER POL 17, HER POL 18, HER POL 19, HER POL 20, HER POL 21, HER POL 22, INF POL 43, INF POL 44, INF OBJ 53.	Variation No. 2. In addition, policies and objectives set out in the Navan Development Plan and its Variations also provide mitigation to this effect, e.g. AGRI POL 5, HER POL 11, HER POL 19, HER POL 23, HER POL 31.	Navan Development Plan and its Variations also provide mitigation to this effect, e.g. HER POL 11, HER POL 18, HER POL 19, HER POL 20, HER POL 21, HER POL 21A, HER POL 22, INF POL 44.
<i>To review the appropriateness of the Masterplan Objectives in the town as it pertains to their compatibility with employment generation</i>	No	No	No
<i>To review the requirements surrounding the preparation of Framework Plans on employment zonings.</i>	No	No	No

Objective	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
<i>Variation No.1 to the Navan Development Plan, included in the evaluation of residentially zoned lands Clonmagadden SDZ and allocated 500 residential units to same in Phase I. It is appropriate to indicate that the SDZ is a nationally designated site for residential development and operates independently of the provisions of the Navan Development Plan and as such the units allocated to the SDZ should not have been under consideration. Table 2A1 of the Plan acknowledges that the SDZ should not be included in the figure for residential zoned land, however at Table 2A2 and thereafter in the residential evaluation the lands are included. As part of this variation it is now proposed to correct this anomaly by omitting the SDZ from the evaluation resulting in a surplus of 500 residential units i.e. the units which were allocated to the SDZ in error⁶.</i>	No	No	No

⁶ The 500 residential units referred to in the Clonmagadden SCZ were not included in the County Development Plan 2013 calculations

Objective	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
<p><i>The introduction of additional employment generating lands to the immediate east of MP12 (formerly FP2) lands at Ferganstown, the introduction of which will stimulate growth at this key location in the town and will support the concept of a sustainable live-work community with a suitable mix of land uses including employment, residential, community, educational and recreational lands. The provision of additional employment lands is consistent with Action 4 of the Economic Development Strategy to promote the hierarchy of economic centres with the objective of facilitating significant new enterprise employment in Meath. Furthermore, it is proposed to allocate 250 residential units (out of the identified surplus of 500 units from the Clonmagadden SDZ) to enable the delivery of key critical infrastructure in the form of LDR6 and to support the development of a sustainable live-work community. It is also envisaged that the referenced lands could accommodate the Boyne Valley Food Hub, which is an ambitious project to establish a key food innovation and research hub in the</i></p>	<p>Yes, potential impacts to River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC due to possible hydrological connection between possible drainage ditches on lands to the immediate east of MP12 and local rivers and streams, streams such as the Ferganstown and Ballymacon River and the Alexander Reid stream. Mitigatory wording⁷ is required to ensure that development on these lands will only take place if it can be ascertained, by means of an appropriate assessment, that the integrity of European sites will not be affected.</p> <p>It should also be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in the County Development Plan under NH OBJ 2, NH POL 5, NH OBJ 3, WS OBJ 15, and WS POL 26. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account</p>	<p>Yes, potential for loss of hedgerow habitats which would act as ecological networks to woodland habitats located along the River Boyne and River Blackwater. This loss could be caused as a result of proposed industrial development in these areas. Mitigatory wording⁷ is required to ensure that development on these lands will only take place if it can be ascertained, by means of an appropriate assessment, that the integrity of European sites will not be affected.</p> <p>It should also be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in the County Development Plan under NH OBJ 2, NH POL 26, NH POL 21, NH POL 16, NH POL 13, GI POL 2, GO OBJ 3, NH POL 5 and CSA SP 2. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in</p>	<p>Yes, potential for ex-situ disturbance to habitats and species associated with the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC/SPA through construction works and increased human presence during operation. Mitigatory wording⁷ is required to ensure that development on these lands will only take place if it can be ascertained, by means of an appropriate assessment, that the integrity of European sites will not be affected.</p> <p>It should also be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in NH POL 5, NH POL 6, NH OBJ 2, NH POL 8, NH POL 9 and WS OBJ 15. Therefore, taking this mitigating policy into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in disturbance on the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC through the</p>

⁷ Mitigation has been proposed in the form of additional wording to strengthen the commitment for Appropriate Assessment to be undertaken for these projects. This proposed mitigation is outlined in Section 4.2.1 of the main report.

Objective	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
<i>region with a focus on helping farmers and agricultural co-ops, startup food companies, existing small and mid-size food companies and retail and foodservice establishments.</i>	there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC through the implementation of this aspect of the Draft Variation No. 2. In addition, policies and objectives set out in the Navan Development Plan and its Variations also provide mitigation to this effect, e.g. RURAL ENT POL 2, HER POL 11, HER POL 14, HER POL 15, HER POL 16, HER POL 17, HER POL 18, HER POL 19, HER POL 20, HER POL 21, HER POL 22, INF POL 43, INF POL 44, INF OBJ 53.	habitat loss the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC through the implementation of this aspect of the Draft Variation No. 2. In addition, policies and objectives set out in the Navan Development Plan and its Variations also provide mitigation to this effect, e.g. AGRI POL 5, HER POL 11, HER POL 19, HER POL 23, HER POL 31.	implementation of this aspect of the Draft Variation No. 2. In addition, policies and objectives set out in the Navan Development Plan and its Variations also provide mitigation to this effect, e.g. HER POL 11, HER POL 18, HER POL 19, HER POL 20, HER POL 21, HER POL 21A, HER POL 22, INF POL 44.
<i>The release of additional residential lands (250 units from the identified surplus of 500 units as referenced above) at Nevinstown (MP3) in the context of delivering key infrastructure to assist in delivering the economic potential of the town. The new residential development would support the development of the Regional Hospital, assist in the delivery of key road infrastructure in the area and would support the concept of a sustainable live-work community in the north-western portion of town</i>	No	Yes, potential for loss of hedgerow habitats which would act as ecological networks to woodland habitats located along the River Boyne and River Blackwater. This loss could be a result of proposed residential development in these areas. Mitigatory wording ⁷ is required to ensure that development on these lands will only take place if it can be ascertained, by means of an appropriate assessment, that the integrity	No

Objective	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
		<p>of European sites will not be affected.</p> <p>It should also be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in the County Development Plan under NH OBJ 2, NH POL 26, NH POL 21, NH POL 16, NH POL 13, GI POL 2, GO OBJ 3, NH POL 5 and CSA SP 2. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in habitat loss the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC through the implementation of this aspect of the Draft Variation No. 2. In addition, policies and objectives set out in the Navan Development Plan and its Variations also provide mitigation to this effect, e.g. AGRI POL 5, HER POL 11, HER POL 19, HER POL 23, HER POL 31.</p>	

Objective	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
<p><i>The introduction of additional employment lands at Liscarton Industrial Estate, in order to facilitate opportunities for suitable extension of the range of uses and businesses at that location and facilitate future expansion and scaling up of existing successful business enterprises in this Industrial estate.</i></p>	<p>Yes, potential impacts to River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC due to possible hydrological connection between possible drainage ditches on additional zoned lands at Liscarton industrial estate and the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC/SPA which lies just 224m to the NE. Mitigatory wording⁷ is required to ensure that development on these lands will only take place if it can be ascertained, by means of an appropriate assessment, that the integrity of European sites will not be affected.</p> <p>It should also be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in the County Development Plan under NH OBJ 2, NH POL 5 NH OBJ 3, WS OBJ 15, WS POL 26 and ED POL 20. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in hydrology the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC through the</p>	<p>Potential for loss of hedgerow habitats which would act as ecological networks to woodland habitats located along the River Boyne and River Blackwater. This loss could be caused as a result of proposed industrial development in these areas. Mitigatory wording⁷ is required to ensure that development on these lands will only take place if it can be ascertained, by means of an appropriate assessment, that the integrity of European sites will not be affected.</p> <p>It should also be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in the County Development Plan under NH OBJ 2, NH POL 26, NH POL 21, NH POL 16, NH POL 13, GI POL 2, GO OBJ 3, NH POL 5 and CSA SP 2. Therefore, taking these mitigating policies into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in habitat loss the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC through the implementation of</p>	<p>Yes, potential for ex-situ disturbance to habitats and species associated with the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC/SPA through construction works and increased human presence during operation. Mitigatory wording⁷ is required to ensure that development on these lands will only take place if it can be ascertained, by means of an appropriate assessment, that the integrity of European sites will not be affected.</p> <p>It should also be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in NH POL 5, NH POL 6, NH OBJ 2, NH POL 8, NH POL 9 and WS OBJ 15. Therefore, taking this mitigating policy into account there are no adverse impacts through changes in disturbance on the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC through the implementation of this aspect of the Draft Variation No. 2. In addition, policies and objectives set out in the</p>

Objective	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
	implementation of this aspect of the Draft Variation No. 2. In addition, policies and objectives set out in the Navan Development Plan and its Variations also provide mitigation to this effect, e.g. RURAL ENT POL 2, HER POL 11, HER POL 14, HER POL 15, HER POL 16, HER POL 17, HER POL 18, HER POL 19, HER POL 20, HER POL 21, HER POL 22, INF POL 43, INF POL 44, INF OBJ 53.	this aspect of the Draft Variation No. 2. In addition, policies and objectives set out in the Navan Development Plan and its Variations also provide mitigation to this effect, e.g. AGRI POL 5, HER POL 11, HER POL 19, HER POL 23, HER POL 31.	Navan Development Plan and its Variations also provide mitigation to this effect, e.g. HER POL 11, HER POL 18, HER POL 19, HER POL 20, HER POL 21, HER POL 21A, HER POL 22, INF POL 44.
<i>Introduce a 'spot objective' for the development of the industrially zoned lands to the north of MP4 lands located at Clonmagaddan.</i>	No	No	No
<i>Amendments to the employment zoning objectives set in order to provide more flexibility in the provision of employment generating uses. This will ensure consistency with the County Development Plan zoning objectives.</i>	No	No	No
<i>Amendments to the Development Management Standards set out within Chapter 8 of the Navan Development Plan.</i>	No	No	No

Objective	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
<i>Amendments to the text of the Navan Development Plan to take cognisance of the Navan Public Realm Study. The Study sets out a range of interventions that will support and enhance the future of Navan as a vibrant and connected town, which will in turn contribute to providing an attractive setting for employment generation.</i>	No	No	No
<i>Support the redevelopment of Pairc Tailteann</i>	No	No	Yes, potential for ex-situ disturbance to species associated with the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC/SPA through construction works. Mitigatory wording ⁷ is required to ensure that development on these lands will only take place if it can be ascertained, by means of an appropriate assessment, that the integrity of European sites will not be affected. It should also be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in NH POL 5, NH POL 6, NH OBJ 2, NH POL 8, NH POL 9 and WS OBJ 15. Therefore, taking this mitigating policy into account there are no adverse impacts

Objective	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
			through changes in disturbance on the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC through the implementation of this aspect of the Draft Variation No. 2. In addition, policies and objectives set out in the Navan Development Plan and its Variations also provide mitigation to this effect, e.g. HER POL 11, HER POL 18, HER POL 19, HER POL 20, HER POL 21, HER POL 21A, HER POL 22, INF POL 44.
MASTERPLAN AREAS - the zoned area of Navan contains a number of large land banks. In order to ensure an integrated approach to the development of these, they have been designated as requiring a master plan. Areas identified as requiring new or updated master plan to be prepared are as follows:			
Master Plan 1 (formerly Action Area Plan 1 prepared in 2008): Lands east of the N51 and north of the R147 which are zoned for mixed use commercial activity.	Yes, the River Blackwater runs through the centre of these lands. Construction in such close proximity to the river could result in contaminated discharges to this watercourse. Mitigatory wording ⁷ is required to ensure that development on these lands will only take place if it can be ascertained, by means of an appropriate assessment, that the integrity	Yes, part of this zoned area lies within the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC boundary. Without mitigating wording this objective has the potential to result in adverse impacts on European sites/species. Mitigatory wording ⁷ is required to ensure that development on these lands will only take place if it can be ascertained, by means of an appropriate	Yes, proposals to provide amenity walkways and landscaping along the river have the potential to affect designated species such as Otter and Kingfisher. Mitigatory wording ⁷ is required to ensure that development on these lands will only take place if it can be ascertained, by means of an appropriate assessment, that

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	<p>of European sites will not be affected.</p> <p>It should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in the County Development Plan under WS OBJ 15, WS POL 26, NH POL 5, NH OBJ 3 and NH OBJ 2. In addition, policies and objectives set out in the Navan Development Plan and its Variations also provide mitigation to this effect, e.g. HER POL 14, HER POL 15, HER POL 16, HER POL 18, HER POL 21, INF POL 44, INF OBJ 53 and INF POL 61.</p>	<p>assessment, that the integrity of European sites will not be affected.</p> <p>It should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in the County Development Plan under NH POL 5, NH OBJ 2 and NH OBJ 3. In addition, policies and objectives set out in the Navan Development Plan and its Variations also provide mitigation to this effect, e.g. HER POL 21, HER POL 18, HER POL 16, HER POL 14, Her POL 11 and INF POL 61.</p>	<p>the integrity of European sites will not be affected.</p> <p>It should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in the County Development Plan under NH POL 5, ED POL 43, SOC POL 38, TRAN OBJ 8, TRAN OBJ 9, NH OBJ 2, NH OBJ 3, NH POL 8, NH POL 9. In addition, policies and objectives set out in the Navan Development Plan and its Variations also provide mitigation to this effect, e.g. HER POL 16, HER POL 21, HER POL 18, HER POL 20, HER POL 19, SOC OBJ 7, SOC OBJ 8 and INF POL 61.</p>
Master Plan 2 (formerly Action Area Plan 2 prepared in 2008): Lands north of the R147 which are zoned predominantly for mixed use commercial activity.	<p>Yes, the River Blackwater runs along the northern boundary of these lands. Construction in such close proximity to the river could result in contaminated discharges to this watercourse. Mitigatory wording⁷ is required to ensure that development on these lands will only take place if it can be ascertained, by means of an appropriate</p>	<p>Yes, part of this zoned area lies within the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC boundary. Without mitigating wording this objective has the potential to result in adverse impacts on European sites/species. Mitigatory wording⁷ is required to ensure that development on these lands will only take place if it can be ascertained, by</p>	<p>Yes, proposals to provide amenity walkways and landscaping along the river have the potential to affect designated species such as Otter and Kingfisher. Mitigatory wording⁷ is required to ensure that development on these lands will only take place if it can be ascertained, by means of an</p>

Objective	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
	<p>assessment, that the integrity of European sites will not be affected.</p> <p>It should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in the County Development Plan under WS OBJ 15, WS POL 26, NH POL 5, NH OBJ 3 and NH OBJ 2. In addition, policies and objectives set out in the Navan Development Plan and its Variations also provide mitigation to this effect, e.g. HER POL 14, HER POL 15, HER POL 16, HER POL 18, HER POL 21, INF POL 44, INF OBJ 53 and INF POL 61.</p>	<p>means of an appropriate assessment, that the integrity of European sites will not be affected.</p> <p>It should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in the County Development Plan under NH POL 5, NH OBJ 2 and NH OBJ 3. In addition, policies and objectives set out in the Navan Development Plan and its Variations also provide mitigation to this effect, e.g. HER POL 21, HER POL 18, HER POL 16, HER POL 14, Her POL 11 and INF POL 61.</p>	<p>appropriate assessment, that the integrity of European sites will not be affected.</p> <p>It should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in the County Development Plan under NH POL 5, ED POL 43, SOC POL 38, TRAN OBJ 8, TRAN OBJ 9, NH OBJ 2, NH OBJ 3, NH POL 8, NH POL 9. In addition, policies and objectives set out in the Navan Development Plan and its Variations also provide mitigation to this effect, e.g. HER POL 16, HER POL 21, HER POL 18, HER POL 20, HER POL 19, SOC OBJ 7, SOC OBJ 8 and INF POL 61.</p>
Master Plan 9: Lands comprising of the existing Pairc Tailteann GAA Stadium with frontage onto Brews Hill and Commons Road	<p>Yes, potential for adverse impacts on the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC/SPA through the potential release of construction related discharges into the surface water system. Mitigatory wording⁷ referring to the requirement for an AA to be completed for this work is needed. Mitigatory wording is</p>	<p>Yes, without mitigating wording this objective has the potential to result in adverse impacts on European sites/species. Mitigatory wording⁷ is required to ensure that development on these lands will only take place if it can be ascertained, by means of an appropriate assessment, that the integrity</p>	<p>Yes, without mitigating wording this objective has the potential to result in adverse impacts on European sites/species. Mitigatory wording⁷ is required to ensure that development on these lands will only take place if it can be ascertained, by means of an appropriate assessment,</p>

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	<p>required to ensure that development on these lands will only take place if it can be ascertained, by means of an appropriate assessment, that the integrity of European sites will not be affected.</p> <p>It should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in the County Development Plan under WS OBJ 15, WS POL 26, NH OBJ 3 and NH OBJ 2. In addition, policies and objectives set out in the Navan Development Plan and its Variations also provide mitigation to this effect, e.g. HER POL 14, HER POL 15, HER POL 16, HER POL 18, HER POL 21, INF POL 44, INF OBJ 53 and INF POL 61.</p>	<p>of European sites will not be affected.</p> <p>It should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in the County Development Plan under NH OBJ 2, NH OBJ 3, GI POL 2 and GI OBJ 3. In addition, policies and objectives set out in the Navan Development Plan and its Variations also provide mitigation to this effect, e.g. HER POL 21, Her POL 18, HER POL 11.</p>	<p>that the integrity of European sites will not be affected.</p> <p>It should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in the County Development Plan under NH POL 8, NH POL 9, NH OBJ 2 and NH OBJ 3. In addition, policies and objectives set out in the Navan Development Plan and its Variations also provide mitigation to this effect, e.g. HER POL 16, HER POL 21, HER POL 18, HER POL 20, HER POL 19, and INF POL 61.</p>
Master Plan 10: <i>Lands at the Trim Road which are zoned as White Lands (Strategic Land Reserve)</i>	<p>Yes, potential for adverse impacts on the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC/SPA through the potential release of construction related discharges into the surface water system. Closest point to River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC/SPA is c. 550m. However, a tributary of the River Boyne, the Balreask</p>	<p>Yes, without mitigating wording⁷ this objective has the potential to result in adverse impacts on European sites/species and their supporting ecological networks (hedgerows and agricultural lands).</p>	<p>Yes, without mitigating wording⁷ this objective has the potential to result in adverse impacts on European sites/species.</p> <p>It should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in the County Development Plan under NH</p>

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	<p>Old Stream lies just c. 178m to the east of the lands. Mitigatory wording⁷ referring to the requirement for an AA to be completed for this work is needed.</p> <p>It should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in the County Development Plan under WS OBJ 15, WS POL 26, NH POL 5, NH OBJ 3 and NH OBJ 2. In addition, policies and objectives set out in the Navan Development Plan and its Variations also provide mitigation to this effect, e.g. HER POL 14, HER POL 15, HER POL 16, HER POL 18, HER POL 21, INF POL 44, INF OBJ 53 and INF POL 61.</p>	<p>It should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in the County Development Plan under NH OBJ 2, NH OBJ 3, GI POL 2, NH POL 13, NH POL 16 and GI OBJ 3. In addition, policies and objectives set out in the Navan Development Plan and its Variations also provide mitigation to this effect, e.g. HER POL 21, Her POL 18, HER POL 11, AGRI POL 5, and HER POL 31.</p>	<p>POL 8, NH POL 9, NH OBJ 2 and NH OBJ 3. In addition, policies and objectives set out in the Navan Development Plan and its Variations also provide mitigation to this effect, e.g. HER POL 16, HER POL 21, HER POL 18, HER POL 20, HER POL 19, and INF POL 61.</p>
<p>Master Plan 11: (Formerly FP1) This area relates to lands off the Rathaldron Road at Nevinstown which are identified for community, high natural beauty and 'White Lands' land use zoning objectives. This area is intended primarily for community facilities to provide for the proposed new Regional Hospital and ancillary healthcare uses.</p>	<p>Yes, potential for adverse impacts on the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC/SPA through the potential transfer of construction related discharges to this SAC/SPA via drainage ditches which may be present on site. The extent to these lands is formed by the</p>	<p>Yes, without mitigating wording⁷ this objective has the potential to result in adverse impacts on European sites/species and their supporting ecological networks (hedgerows, stream and agricultural lands).</p>	<p>Yes, without mitigating wording⁷ this objective has the potential to result in adverse impacts on European sites/species through increased disturbance during construction and operation.</p>

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	<p>River Blackwater to the south of the site. i.e. the River forms the southern boundary. Also, the Windtown Stream, a tributary of the River Blackwater, runs north-south through the eastern part of these lands. Mitigatory wording⁷ referring to the requirement for an AA to be completed for this work is needed.</p> <p>It should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in the County Development Plan under WS OBJ 15, WS POL 26, NH POL 5, NH OBJ 3 and NH OBJ 2. In addition, policies and objectives set out in the Navan Development Plan and its Variations also provide mitigation to this effect, e.g. HER POL 14, HER POL 15, HER POL 16, HER POL 18, HER POL 21, INF POL 44, INF OBJ 53 and INF POL 61.</p>	<p>It should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in the County Development Plan under NH OBJ 2, WS OBJ 15, WS POL 26, NH OBJ 3, GI POL 2, NH POL 13, NH POL 16 and GI OBJ 3. In addition, policies and objectives set out in the Navan Development Plan and its Variations also provide mitigation to this effect, e.g. HER POL 21, Her POL 18, HER POL 11, AGRI POL 5, HER POL 31, HER POL 14, INF POL 44 and INF POL 61.</p>	<p>It should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in the County Development Plan under NH POL 8, NH POL 9, NH OBJ 2 and NH OBJ 3. In addition, policies and objectives set out in the Navan Development Plan and its Variations also provide mitigation to this effect, e.g. HER POL 16, HER POL 21, HER POL 18, HER POL 20, HER POL 19, and INF POL 61.</p>
Master Plan 12: (Formerly FP2) <i>These lands are located to the east of Navan in the townlands of Athlumney, Alexander Reid, Bailis and Farganstown and Ballymacon and are zoned for a mix of uses, primarily residential, commercial and employment uses.</i>	Yes, potential for adverse impacts on the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC/SPA through the potential transfer of construction related	Yes, without mitigating wording ⁷ this objective has the potential to result in adverse impacts on European sites/species and their	Yes, without mitigating wording ⁷ this objective has the potential to result in adverse impacts on European sites/species through

Objective	Hydrological/hydrogeological linkages to European sites and potential for impacts arising to and from surface and ground water quality	Direct habitat loss or loss of ecological networks supporting European sites	Direct or indirect disturbance to European site habitats and/or species
	<p>discharges to this SAC/SPA via drainage ditches which may be present on site. The closest point of these lands to the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC/SPA is c. 155m. Mitigatory wording⁷ referring to the requirement for an AA to be completed for this work is needed.</p> <p>It should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in the County Development Plan under WS OBJ 15, WS POL 26, NH POL 5, NH OBJ 3 and NH OBJ 2. In addition, policies and objectives set out in the Navan Development Plan and its Variations also provide mitigation to this effect, e.g. HER POL 14, HER POL 15, HER POL 16, HER POL 18, HER POL 21, INF POL 44, INF OBJ 53 and INF POL 61.</p>	<p>supporting ecological networks (hedgerows).</p> <p>It should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in the County Development Plan under NH OBJ 2, NH OBJ 3, GI POL 2, NH POL 13, NH POL 16 and GI OBJ 3. In addition, policies and objectives set out in the Navan Development Plan and its Variations also provide mitigation to this effect, e.g. HER POL 21, Her POL 18, HER POL 11, AGRI POL 5, and HER POL 31.</p>	<p>increased disturbance during construction and operation.</p> <p>It should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in the County Development Plan under NH POL 8, NH POL 9, NH OBJ 2 and NH OBJ 3. In addition, policies and objectives set out in the Navan Development Plan and its Variations also provide mitigation to this effect, e.g. HER POL 16, HER POL 21, HER POL 18, HER POL 20, HER POL 19, and INF POL 61.</p>
Master Plan 13: (Formerly FP3) these lands are situated between the Trim Road and the Commons Road and are zoned for a mix of uses, primarily residential.	<p>These lands are situated c. 1.8km west of the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC/SPA. However, the Robinrath Stream flows through these lands and</p>	<p>Yes, without mitigating wording⁷ this objective has the potential to result in adverse impacts on European sites/species and their</p>	<p>Yes, without mitigating wording⁷ this objective has the potential to result in adverse impacts on European sites/species through</p>

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	<p>is a tributary of the River Boyne. Therefore, without adequate mitigation there is a potential for this watercourse to transfer construction related discharges to the River Boyne, potentially resulting in a significant adverse impact on this SAC/SPA. Mitigatory wording⁷ referring to the requirement for an AA to be completed for this work is needed.</p> <p>It should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in the County Development Plan under WS OBJ 15, WS POL 26, NH POL 5, NH OBJ 3 and NH OBJ 2. In addition, policies and objectives set out in the Navan Development Plan and its Variations also provide mitigation to this effect, e.g. HER POL 14, HER POL 15, HER POL 16, HER POL 18, HER POL 21, INF POL 44, INF OBJ 53 and INF POL 61.</p>	<p>supporting ecological networks (Robinrath Stream and hedgerows).</p> <p>It should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in the County Development Plan under NH OBJ 2, WS OBJ 15, WS POL 26, NH OBJ 3, GI POL 2, NH POL 13, NH POL 16 and GI OBJ 3. In addition, policies and objectives set out in the Navan Development Plan and its Variations also provide mitigation to this effect, e.g. HER POL 21, Her POL 18, HER POL 11, AGRI POL 5, HER POL 31, HER POL 14, INF POL 44 and INF POL 61.</p>	<p>increased disturbance during construction and operation.</p> <p>It should be noted that mitigation to this effect is provided in the County Development Plan under NH POL 8, NH POL 9, NH OBJ 2 and NH OBJ 3. In addition, policies and objectives set out in the Navan Development Plan and its Variations also provide mitigation to this effect, e.g. HER POL 16, HER POL 21, HER POL 18, HER POL 20, HER POL 19, and INF POL 61.</p>