

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT

FOR THE DRAFT COUNTY MEATH NOISE ACTION PLAN 2019

for: Meath County Council

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Section 1 Introduction and Background

1.1 Introduction

This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report for the Draft County Meath Noise Action Plan 2019.

SEA is the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme, or variation to a plan or programme, before a decision is made to adopt it. The SEA Directive¹ requires, inter alia, that SEA is undertaken for certain plans and programmes. Screening is the process for deciding whether a particular plan, other than those for which SEA is mandatory, would be likely to have significant environmental effects, and would thus warrant SEA.

The purpose of this report is to inform whether or not to undertake SEA on Draft Noise Action Plan. This report should be read in conjunction with the documents cited within, including the Draft Noise Action Plan.

1.2 Context for SEA Screening Requirement

The SEA Directive [Article 3 (2)] requires that SEA is carried out for all plans and programmes:

- (a) which are prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, *transport*, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use and which set the framework for future development consent of projects that are subject to the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended, or
- (b) which, in view of the likely effect on sites, have been determined to require an assessment pursuant to Article 6 or 7 of Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC *i.e. the Directive requires that SEA is undertaken where Stage 2 AA is being undertaken on plans, programmes etc.*

The SEA Directive has been transposed into Irish law by a number of Regulations² and there is various case law³ that relates to SEA requirements.

The Environmental Protection Agency's Guidance Note for Noise Action Planning (2009), as amended in 2018, advises that SEA of a Draft Noise Action Plan may be deemed as necessary.

The Noise Action Plan for County Meath will contribute towards the already existing framework for future development consent of projects relating to transport that are subject to the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended. This framework includes existing legislation and plans relating to noise, land use and transport (including those identified under Section 1.4). As a result, SEA Screening must be undertaken on the Draft Noise Action Plan in order to establish whether the plan would be likely to result in significant effects on the environment and would necessitate full SEA.

¹ Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27th June 2001, on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment

² European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (Statutory Instrument Number (SI No. 435 of 2004), as amended by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 200 of 2011), and the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004), as amended by the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 201 of 2011).

³ Including ECJ judgement on a Belgian Government order regarding wind farm development [*ECLI:EU:C:2016:816, Judgement of the Court (Second Chamber), 27 October 2016, Patrice D'Oultremont and Others v Région wallonne*], suggesting that "plans and programmes" referred to by the SEA Directive relate to any measures which establish, by defining rules and procedures for scrutiny applicable to the sector concerned, a significant body of criteria and detailed rules for the grant of administrative consent of projects likely to have significant effects on the environment.

1.3 Background to the Noise Action Plan

The Noise Action Plan for County Meath has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations (S.I. No. 140 of 2006). These Regulations give effect to the European Union Environmental Noise Directive (END) 2002/49/EC, relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise.

County Meath covers an area of approximately 2,342 km². The recorded population in the 2016 census was 194,942. There were no agglomerations, major railways or airports identified for noise mapping within County Meath. Aircraft noise will be covered in the Fingal Noise Action Plan.

Within the boundaries of County Meath there are approximately 174 km of national roads (M1, M2, M3, M4, N2, N3 and N51) and 71 km of regional roads which qualify as major roads for noise mapping (R125, R155, R132, R147, R148, R149, R153, R160, R161 and R162).

There are four main population centres which fall within the areas covered by the strategic noise maps contained within the Noise Action Plan. These are Julianstown, Navan, Slane and Ratoath. There are also ribbon settlements along roads classified as major roads for the mapping. These are more common on regional roads. Larger developments such as motorways and national routes have fewer dwellings in the vicinity due to noise impact mitigation at the planning and route selection stages.

For the purpose of noise action planning and assessment of possible actions the following locations are considered noise sensitive: schools; hospitals; and nursing homes. Specific noise sensitive locations of these types were identified in Julianstown, Navan, Rathoath and Slane because of their proximity to major roads and within the coverage areas of the strategic noise maps. Other potentially noise sensitive such as places of worship and public parks also lie within these areas. While these locations will not be directly assessed for potential noise management actions, they will be considered in the wider strategy for the reduction of environmental noise exposure throughout the County.

1.4 Existing Requirements Already in Force

Existing requirements already in force that are taken into account by the screening exercise when considering cumulative effects and the degree of additionality that is provided for by the Noise Action Plan are identified in this section.

There are various measures already in force that provide for noise management. The Plan will further contribute towards these provisions.

At a European level these include:

- Regulation (EU) No 598/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 on the establishment of rules and procedures with regard to the introduction of noise-related operating restrictions at Union airports within a Balanced Approach and repealing Directive 2002/30/EC
- Directive 2000/14/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 May 2000 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the noise emission in the environment by equipment for use outdoors
- Directive 2013/53/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 November 2013 on recreational craft and personal watercraft and repealing Directive 94/25/EC Text with EEA relevance
- Directive 97/24/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 1997 on certain components and characteristics of two or three-wheel motor vehicles
- Regulation (EU) No 168/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 January 2013 on the approval and market surveillance of two- or three-wheel vehicles and quadricycles Text with EEA relevance

- Council Directive 92/97/EEC of 10 November 1992 amending Directive 70/157/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the permissible sound level and the exhaust system of motor vehicles
- Directive 2001/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 amending Council Directive 92/23/EEC relating to tyres for motor vehicles and their trailers and to their fitting

At a national and regional level these include:

- Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992;
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland 2014 "Good Practice Guidance for the Treatment of Noise during the Planning of National Road Schemes", which set out limits and mitigation measures for noise related to both the construction and traffic flow on new road schemes;
- IPPC/ Waste Licensing and associated Guidance Note for Noise: Licence Applications, NG4 Surveys and Assessments in relation to Scheduled Activities, containing suggested noise limits;
- Building Regulations 1997-2014 (Part E – Sound);
- Wind Energy Planning Guidelines and EPA (2011) "Wind Energy Planning Guidelines EPA published the "Guidance Note on Noise Assessment of Wind Turbine Operations at EPA Licensed Sites";
- Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments, 2007;
- Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas: Guidelines for Planning Authorities and accompanying Urban Design Manual: A best practice guide (DEHLG, 2009);
- The Roads Act 1993;
- Quarry and Ancillary Activities;
- National Planning Framework;
- Eastern and Midlands Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy; and
- Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035⁴.

At County level, the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019, which was subject to full SEA, contains various measures that contribute towards the management of noise and protection of human health. Policies and objectives are provided under a number of headings including:

- Childcare⁵
- Dublin Airport⁶
- Pollution Control - Noise⁷

⁴ The Transport Strategy for the GDA is informed by other plans relating to transport including Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020 (2009). The Strategy provides for sustainable mobility and includes various provisions that will facilitate avoidance and mitigation of potential effects relating to noise.

⁵ SOC POL 24 To permit childcare facilities of appropriate size and scale in rural locations adjacent to development clusters, community and educational facilities provided that they do not have a significant impact on the character or amenities of an area, particularly with regard to car parking, traffic generation and noise disturbance and subject to satisfying environmental standards and the needs of the community. Such facilities must generally:

- be required to locate within community/educational campuses, where purpose built childcare facilities are being provided;
- retain a significant residential element where proposed facilities relate to properties which have been designed and built as dwellings.

SOC POL 22 To permit childcare facilities in existing residential areas provided that they do not have a significant impact on the character or amenities of an area, particularly with regard to car parking, traffic generation and noise disturbance. Where proposed facilities relate to properties which have been designed and built as dwellings, and are surrounded by other houses, a significant residential element should be retained.

⁶ TRAN POL 1 To strictly control inappropriate development and require noise insulation where appropriate within the Outer Noise Zone, and actively resist new provision for residential development and other noise sensitive uses within the Inner Noise Zone, as shown on Map 11.1. Under no circumstances shall any dwelling be permitted within the predicted 69 dB LAeq 16 hours noise contour. Comprehensive noise insulation shall be required for any house permitted. Any planning application shall be accompanied by a noise assessment report produced by a specialist in noise assessment which shall specify all proposed noise mitigation measures together with a declaration of acceptance of the applicant with regard to the result of the noise assessment report.

TRAN POL 2 Restrict development which would give rise to conflicts with aircraft movements on environmental or safety grounds on lands in the vicinity of Dublin Airport and on the main flight paths serving Dublin Airport, and in particular restrict residential development in areas likely to be affected by levels of noise inappropriate to residential use.

⁷ PC POL 1 To seek to preserve and maintain air and noise quality in the county in accordance with good practice and relevant legislation.

PC OBJ 1 To update Noise Mapping in accordance with revised or updated thresholds for Noise Mapping.

- Home Based Economic Activity⁸
- Sports Facilities Development⁹
- Other Commercial Development¹⁰
- Petrol Service Stations¹¹
- Extractive Industry and Building Materials¹²
- Wind Energy¹³
- Development in Proximity to Approach Zones/Noise Zones of Airports and Airfields¹⁴

At a local level, Local Area Plans in force have been subject to SEA as relevant and are consistent with the County Development Plan provisions detailed above. These Plans contain more detailed provisions for the relevant areas.

The potential noise impact of development is managed through **the Planning and Licensing processes**, including through **Environmental Impact Assessments, Strategic Environmental Assessments** and application of relevant **Guidance relating to noise**.

⁸ In determining applications for developments involving working from home, Meath County Council will have regard to the following considerations: ...The effects on the amenities of adjoining occupiers, particularly in relation to hours of work, noise and general disturbance.

⁹ The ambient noise level in the area of the proposed development is already high and the noise likely to be produced by the new activity will not be dominant.

¹⁰Applications for industrial, office, warehousing and business park developments will be considered having regard to the following:-....

Lighting and noise impacts resulting from lighting and noise from sites should be minimised. A detailed study may be required prior to the commencement of development in sensitive locations (e.g. adjacent dwelling houses, nursing home etc.) to outline probable impacts and mitigation measures....

¹¹ Petrol service stations will not generally be permitted adjoining residential areas, unless it can be clearly demonstrated that no significant damage to residential amenities will occur by reason of factors such as noise, visual obtrusion, safety considerations or fumes and smells. Hours of operation will be limited in residential areas.

¹²It shall be required as a minimum that development proposals are framed such as to address in an authoritative manner issues such as:

....Impact on existing local communities with regard to but not limited to:

o Noise, vibration and subsidence;....

¹³ Measures should be taken to ensure a good acoustical design of turbines, in order to guarantee that there are no significant increases in ambient noise level in the nearby surroundings, which could affect private properties and wildlife, as well as the tranquility of the landscape.

¹⁴ Developments shall be restricted (and where appropriate, prohibited) in public safety zones and approach zones of airports and airfields, and in noise zones associated with airport flight operations as illustrated on map no. 11.1. In the assessment of such applications regard shall be had to the relevant policy documents and consultation shall take place with the relevant authorities.

1.5 Consultations

As part of the screening process, environmental authorities¹⁵ were notified that a submission or observation in relation to whether or not implementation of the Draft County Meath Noise Action Plan would be likely to have significant effects on the environment could be made to the Council (a period of four weeks was allowed for reply).

One submission was received from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that was considered in the finalisation of this report. The issues raised by the EPA and the responses to these issues are identified on Table 1.1 below.

Table 1.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives

Submission text	Response
<p>The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) acknowledges your notice, dated the 18th January 2019, regarding the SEA Screening of the Draft Meath Noise Action Plan 2018-2023 (the Plan) and notes its contents.</p> <p>We are one of the five environmental authorities specified in the SEA Regulations. Our role as an SEA environmental authority focuses on promoting full integration of the findings of the SEA into the plan and advocating that the key environmental challenges for Ireland are addressed. The EPA's functions as an SEA environmental authority do not include approving or enforcing SEAs or plans.</p> <p>As a priority, we focus our efforts on reviewing and commenting on key sector plans. For land use plans at county and local level, we provide a 'self-service approach' via our guidance document 'SEA of Land Use Plans – EPA Recommendations and Resources'. This document is updated regularly.</p> <p>Where we provide specific comments on plans and programmes, our comments will focus on the EPA's remit and areas of expertise (in particular water, air, climate change, waste, resource efficiency, noise, radon and the inter-relationships between these and other relevant topics e.g. biodiversity), as appropriate and relevant to the particular plan or programme.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>SEA Determination</p> <p>Meath County Council should determine whether the implementation of the proposed Plan would be likely to have significant effects on the environment. The criteria set out in Annex II of Directive 2001/ 42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (The SEA Directive) and in Schedule 1 of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I No. 435 of 2004). Meath County Council is obliged to take the relevant criteria set out in Schedule 1 into account in making its determination as to whether the Plan would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.</p>	<p>Noted. This report will inform Meath County Council's determination as to whether the implementation of the Plan would be likely to have significant effects on the environment. The criteria set out in Annex II of the SEA Directive and in Schedule 1 of the European Communities Regulations are taken into account in this report and will be taken into account in the Council's determination.</p>

¹⁵ The following environmental authorities were notified: the Environmental Protection Agency; the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment; and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Submission text	Response
<p>General Comments on the Plan</p> <p>The link between noise and health/wellbeing is now well recognised. According to the World Health Organisation “<i>Environmental noise leads to a disease burden that is second in magnitude only to that from air pollution, among environmental factors in Europe</i>”.</p> <p>In recognition that noise is now firmly on the national agenda, the National Planning Framework – Ireland 2040 (DHPLG, 2017) includes Policy Objective 65 to: “<i>Promote the pro-active management of noise where it is likely to have significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life and support the aims of the Environmental Noise Regulations through national planning guidance and Noise Action Plans</i>”.</p> <p>The Plan will play a key role in managing environmental noise by planned measures, such as land-use planning, systems engineering for traffic, traffic planning, abatement by sound-insulation measures, and control of noise sources.</p> <p>We welcome that the EPA Guidance Note for Noise Action Planning (EPA, 2009 and as amended in 2018) has been considered in preparing the Plan.</p>	Noted.
<p><i>Relationship with other plans and programmes</i></p> <p>The Plan should acknowledge and support the need for consistency between the Plan and with the relevant policies and objectives of the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midlands Region, under preparation.</p>	Text acknowledging this has been integrated into Section 9 of the Action Plan ¹⁶ .
<p>In finalising the Plan, there is merit in considering the national / regional transport initiatives that may arise from implementation of the National Planning Framework and Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midlands Region.</p>	Text has been integrated into Section 2.2 and 2.3 of the Action Plan considering this issue ¹⁷ .
<p><i>Implementing the Plan</i></p> <p>Upon adoption of the Plan, there is merit in amending the existing County Development Plan to incorporate and implement, where relevant, the latest version of the Plan and associated commitments. The requirements of the SEA Directive should be considered as part of this process.</p>	Any review or variation to the County Development Plan that takes into account the adopted Action Plan will be subject to SEA and AA screening (and full assessments if necessary) in compliance with relevant legislation.
<p>Future Modifications to the Draft Plan</p> <p>Where changes to the Plan are made prior to finalisation, or where modifications to the Plan are proposed following its adoption, these should be screened for potential for likely significant effects in accordance with the criteria as set out in SEA Regulations Schedule 1 (S.I. No. 435 of 2004).</p>	Where changes to the Plan are made prior to finalisation, or where modifications to the Plan are proposed following its adoption, these will be screened for potential for likely significant effects in accordance with the criteria as set out in SEA Regulations Schedule 1 (S.I. No. 435 of 2004).
<p>Appropriate Assessment</p> <p>The requirements of Article 6 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, the Habitats Directive should be taken into account. Appropriate Assessment, in accordance with the Directive is required for:</p> <p><i>“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (Natura 2000 sites) but likely to have significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment of its implications for the site in view of the sites conservation Objectives...”</i></p> <p>The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) should be consulted with regard to screening of the Plan for Appropriate Assessment. Where Appropriate Assessment is required, any findings or recommendations should be incorporated into the SEA and Plan, as appropriate.</p>	Noted.

¹⁶ This text integrated at Section 9 of the Action Plan is as follows: *All proposals for development/works under the Action Plan will be required to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of environmental and planning legislation and planning and licensing processes, including existing provisions of relevant land use plan(s) and policy documents such as the National Planning Framework, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midlands Region, the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 and Local Area Plans in force in the County.*

¹⁷ This text integrated at Section 2.2 and 2.3 of the Action Plan is as follows: *National and regional transport initiatives that may arise from implementation of the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midlands Region have the potential to result in, inter alia: adverse health effects that will need to be mitigated; and/or beneficial effects with regard to preserving environmental noise quality. Such issues will be considered during the implementation of the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, including as part of the environmental assessments, where required, for individual transport initiatives.*

Submission text	Response
<p>Environmental Authorities Under the SEA Regulations (S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011), notice should also be given to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government • Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, and the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, where it appears to the competent authority that the plan or programme, or modification of the plan or programme, might have significant effects on fisheries or the marine environment • where it appears to the competent authority that the plan or programme, or amendment to a plan or programme, might have significant effects in relation to the architectural or archaeological heritage or to nature conservation, the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht <p>A copy of your decision regarding the determination, including, as appropriate, the reasons for not requiring an environmental assessment, should be made available for public inspection at your offices, on your website and should also be notified to any Environmental Authorities already consulted.</p>	<p>Notice has also been given to relevant environmental authorities as part of the SEA screening process. These authorities will be notified again once a determination is made as to whether or not SEA is required.</p>

Section 2 SEA Screening

2.1 Introduction

The section examines whether the provisions of the Noise Action Plan would be likely to have significant environmental effects (and thus would warrant the undertaking of SEA).

This examination takes account of relevant criteria set out in Schedule 1 '*Criteria for determining whether a Plan or Programme (or Modification thereto) is likely to have significant effects on the Environment*' of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, as amended, (see Section 2.3).

2.2 SEA Screening Analysis

The analysis of the relevant parts of the Noise Action Plan is undertaken with reference to the main interactions with Strategic Environmental Objectives¹⁸ (SEOs). SEOs are taken from the most recent SEA undertaken relating to the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019¹⁹ and are detailed in full at Table 2.1. The range of interactions identified with symbols are detailed on Table 2.2.

Using the SEO codes (Table 2.1) and interaction symbols (Table 2.2), Table 2.3 examines whether each relevant part of the Noise Action Plan would be likely to have significant environmental effects (and thus would warrant the undertaking of SEA).

Table 2.3 is supplemented by Table 2.4 which identifies measures from land use plans in force in County Meath that all proposals under the Action Plan will be required to demonstrate compliance with.

Effects considered encompass the full range of effects²⁰.

The examination takes account relevant criteria set out in Schedule 1 '*Criteria for determining whether a Plan or Programme (or Modification thereto) is likely to have significant effects on the Environment*' of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, as amended (see Section 2.3).

¹⁸ Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are methodological measures developed from policies which generally govern environmental protection objectives established at international, Community or Member State level and are used as standards against which the provisions of the Draft Plan can be considered in order to help identify whether any provisions would be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

¹⁹ As included in the SEA Environmental Report (2014) for Variation No. 2 of Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019

²⁰ These include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.

Table 2.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives

Environmental Component	SEO Code	SEO
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	B1	Conserve and where possible enhance the diversity of designated and non-designated habitats and protected species avoiding irreversible losses
	B2	Promote measures to protect biodiversity by creating and improving habitats, where possible
	B3	Provide for protection of internationally and nationally designated sites, including Natura 2000 Sites (i.e. Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) & Special Protection Areas (SPAs)) and Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) & proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs).
	B4	Avoid damage by development to designated wildlife sites and protected species, and associated ecological corridors/ linkages
Population Human Health	P1	Improve people's quality of life based on high-quality residential, working and recreational environments and on sustainable travel patterns
	P2	Provide opportunities for sustainable public access to wildlife and wild places at appropriate locations
Human Health	H1	Minimise noise, vibration and emissions from traffic, industrial processes and extractive industry
Soil	S1	Maintain the quality of soils
	S2	Maximise the sustainable re-use of brownfield lands, and maximise and prioritise the use of the existing built environment rather than developing greenfield lands
	S3	Minimise the consumption of non-renewable sand, gravel and rock deposits
	S4	Minimise the amount of waste to landfill
Water	W1	Protect and enhance the status of aquatic ecosystems and, with regard to their water needs, terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands directly depending on the aquatic ecosystems
	W2	Promote sustainable water use based on a long-term protection of available water resources
	W3	Reduce progressively discharges of polluting substances to waters
	W4	Mitigate the effects of floods and droughts including vulnerability to climate change. (extreme weather, sea level rise, coastal erosion)
Air	A1	Reduce all forms of air pollution
	A2	Minimise emissions of greenhouse gases to contribute to a reduction and avoidance of human-induced global climate change
	A3	Reduce waste of energy, and maximise use of renewable energy sources
	A4	Assess, plan and manage adaptation to climate change impacts
	A5	Reduce the need to travel
Material Assets	MA1	Maximise use of the existing built environment
	MA2	Avoid flood risk and/or coastal erosion in selecting sites and zoning of lands for development
	MA3	Maintain water abstraction, run-off and recharge within carrying capacity (including future capacity) at environmentally sustainable levels.
	MA4	Maintain the quality of and access to assets such as aquifers, aggregates, ports, motorways, and all physical and social infrastructures.
Cultural Heritage	CH1	Promote the protection and conservation of the cultural, including architectural and archaeological, heritage
Landscape	L1	Conserve and enhance valued natural and historic landscapes and their character and features within them

Table 2.2 Main Interactions and associated Symbols

Symbol	Main Interactions Identified
+	Potential beneficial environmental effects are present already and would be further contributed towards.
-	Potentially adverse environmental effects are present already and would be mitigated by compliance with the requirements of environmental and planning legislation and planning and licensing processes, including existing provisions of relevant land use plan(s) ²¹ .
+/-	Potential environmental effects are present already and either: would be further contributed towards (beneficial); or are potentially adverse and would be mitigated so as not to be significant by compliance with the requirements of environmental and planning legislation and planning and licensing processes, including existing provisions of relevant land use plan(s) ²² .
0	No significant interaction.

²¹ Including the measures identified on Table 2.4.²² Including the measures identified on Table 2.4.

Table 2.3 Screening Analysis relevant parts of Noise Action Plan

No.	Relevant Parts of Noise Action Plan	Main Interactions (see Table 2.2) and SEO Codes (see Table 2.1)				SEA Screening Comments
		+	-	+/-	0	
1	<p>Noise Action Plan Policy Statement</p> <p>The Council will adopt a strategic approach to managing environmental noise pollution and will aim to assess and prioritise the limitation of environmental noise levels where they are potentially harmful and protect areas which are considered to be desirably quiet or which offer a sense of tranquillity. The Council will take cognisance of acoustical planning in the planning process to endeavour to ensure that future developments include provisions to protect the population from the harmful effects of environmental noise in the interests of residential amenity and public health.</p> <p>Mitigation and Protection Measures</p> <p>Meath County Council aims to avoid, prevent and reduce, where necessary, on a prioritised basis the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to long term exposure to environmental noise.</p> <p>It is proposed to achieve this by adopting a strategic approach to managing environmental noise through practices which promote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noise reduction at source Incorporation of noise targets into the planning process, and Detailed consideration of noise impact. 	P1 H1 A1 A2 A3 A4 A5		B1 B2 B3 B4 W1 W2 W3 W4 P2 S2 S1 S3 S4 MA1 MA2 MA3 MA4 CH1 L1	0	<p>The Noise Action Plan for County Meath will contribute towards the already existing framework for future development consent of projects relating to transport that are subject to the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended. As a result, SEA Screening must be undertaken on the Draft Noise Action Plan in order to establish whether the plan would be likely to result in significant effects on the environment and would necessitate full SEA.</p> <p>By both protecting the future noise climate and improving the existing noise climate, where necessary, the Noise Action Plan will contribute towards the protection of human health and sustainable development. This protection is already contributed towards by the detailed framework of existing legislation and plans relating to noise, land use and transport (including those identified under Section 1.4). The Noise Action Plan will be one relatively minor part of this extensive framework and provides for limited additionality with respect to existing provisions relating to noise avoidance and management. Potential beneficial environmental effects arising are present already and would be further contributed towards.</p> <p>Potentially adverse environmental effects arising from any development or works, such as those relating to noise abatement measures, alone or in combination with other plans or projects: are present already through the detailed framework of existing legislation, plans and processes relating to noise, land use and transport (including those identified under Section 1.4) and would be mitigated by compliance with the requirements of environmental and planning legislation and planning and licensing processes, including existing provisions of relevant land use plan(s)²³. The Noise Action Plan requires that all proposals for development/works under the Action Plan demonstrate compliance with these measures that already have effect. These provisions will mitigate any potential adverse environmental conflicts (such as those related to ecology, water, cultural heritage or the landscape) arising from any development or works (such as those related to noise abatement measures such as noise barriers or changing road surfaces).</p> <p>Considering the above, it is determined that these parts of the Noise Action Plan would not be likely to result in significant effects on the environment.</p>
2	<p>Processing Areas above Onset of Assessment Criteria</p> <p>It is proposed that areas indicated to be subject to environmental noise levels above the assessment threshold will be processed on a prioritised basis. Consideration will be given to land use and building type, the estimated number of people exposed and the levels of exposure. The extent of environmental noise exposure at these locations will be evaluated by field surveys. Where noise levels are confirmed to be unacceptably high the Council will implement appropriate measures to reduce the effects of noise exposure on a prioritised basis. Predictions for the future environmental noise situation of these areas must be taken into consideration when deciding on long term strategy.</p>	P1 H1 A1 A2 A3 A4 A5		B1 B2 B3 B4 W1 W2 W3 W4 P2 S2 S1 S3 S4 MA1 MA2 MA3 MA4 CH1 L1	0	<p>This measure relates to the processing of areas above the assessment threshold and implementation of appropriate measures to reduce the effects of noise exposure on a prioritised basis. It also relates to the taking into consideration of predictions for the future environmental noise situation of these areas when deciding on long term strategy. This would contribute towards the interactions described under <i>SEA Screening Comments</i> at No. 1 above. Considering all of the above, it is determined that this measure would not be likely to result in significant effects on the environment.</p>

²³ Including the measures identified on Table 2.4.

No.	Relevant Parts of Noise Action Plan	Main Interactions (see Table 2.2) and SEO Codes (see Table 2.1)				SEA Screening Comments
		+	-	+/-	0	
3	<p>Preservation of Areas Below the Protection Threshold</p> <p>Areas of favourably low environmental noise exposure will be examined if affected by any activity which could impact on the acoustic environment. By considering the noise impact of any future development at the early stages of the planning process it will be possible to minimize any adverse effects on the local soundscape and thereby provide protection for relatively quiet areas. The consideration of noise in the planning process is reflected in the County Meath Development Plan.</p>	P1 H1 A1 A2 A3 A4 A5		B1 B2 B3 B4 W1 W2 W3 W4 P2 S2 S1 S3 S4 MA1 MA2 MA3 MA4 CH1 L1		This measure relates to the examination of areas of favourably low environmental noise exposure. This consideration as part of the planning process would contribute towards the interactions described under <i>SEA Screening Comments</i> at No. 1 above. Considering all of the above, it is determined that this measure would not be likely to result in significant effects on the environment.
4	<p>Management of Areas Between the Thresholds</p> <p>Careful consideration of environmental noise pollution when planning for sustainable development will be a key factor in the ongoing management of the acoustic environment. Incorporation of environmental noise strategies into the planning and zoning processes will aid in the controlling of noise exposure during the ongoing development of industrial, social and residential facilities. The Council will aim to achieve continued improvement of policies and practice which promote favourable noise levels.</p>	P1 H1 A1 A2 A3 A4 A5		B1 B2 B3 B4 W1 W2 W3 W4 P2 S2 S1 S3 S4 MA1 MA2 MA3 MA4 CH1 L1		This measure relates to consideration of environmental noise pollution when planning for sustainable development, the incorporation of environmental noise strategies into planning and zoning processes and the continued improvement of policies and practice which promote favourable noise levels. This would contribute towards the interactions described under <i>SEA Screening Comments</i> at No. 1 above. Considering all of the above, it is determined that this measure would not be likely to result in significant effects on the environment.
5	<p>Confirming the Extent of Noise Impact</p> <p>Locations which have been identified as potential hotspots by strategic noise mapping and the decision support matrix will be subject to more detailed noise investigation. These locations will be processed on a prioritised basis. The results of the strategic noise mapping process will first be confirmed by means of field surveys. Validation and confirmation of the strategic noise mapping results will provide an indication of the extent of environmental noise impact and the need for possible mitigation actions. Where noise levels are confirmed to be above acceptable threshold values, appropriate measures will be taken to reduce the effects of noise exposure on a prioritised basis.</p>	P1 H1 A1 A2 A3 A4 A5		B1 B2 B3 B4 W1 W2 W3 W4 P2 S2 S1 S3 S4 MA1 MA2 MA3 MA4 CH1 L1		This measure relates to: more detailed noise investigation for locations that have been identified as potential hotspots by strategic noise mapping; and the taking of appropriate measures to reduce the effects of noise exposure on a prioritised basis, where noise levels are confirmed to be above acceptable threshold values. This would contribute towards the interactions described under <i>SEA Screening Comments</i> at No. 1 above. Considering all of the above, it is determined that this measure would not be likely to result in significant effects on the environment.
6	<p>Prioritisation of Noise Mitigation Measures</p> <p>The aim of the Environmental Noise Regulations and this Action Plan is to avoid, prevent or reduce the harmful effects of exposure to environmental noise pollution. This will be done most effectively by concentrating efforts where they will be of greatest benefit. Prioritisation of locations for noise reduction measures will take account of both the number of people likely to benefit from proposed actions and the potential noise reduction achievable. These factors will be assessed on an ongoing basis, taking account of the effects of planned future developments and any resulting material changes in the local noise situation. The selection of locations will also be supported by field surveys to assess actual noise levels. Selection of the most appropriate noise mitigation measures will also be influenced by a number of controlling issues. These include available budgets, potential noise reduction, suitability of measures and associated drawbacks such as visual impacts.</p>	P1 H1 A1 A2 A3 A4 A5		B1 B2 B3 B4 W1 W2 W3 W4 P2 S2 S1 S3 S4 MA1 MA2 MA3 MA4 CH1 L1		This part of the Plan describes how measures to avoid, prevent or reduce the harmful effects of exposure to environmental noise pollution will be prioritised in order to facilitate greatest benefit with respect to the number of people likely to benefit from proposed actions and the potential noise reduction achievable, taking into account controlling issues such as budgets, potential noise reduction, suitability of measures and associated drawbacks such as visual impacts. This prioritisation would contribute towards the interactions described under <i>SEA Screening Comments</i> at No. 1 above. Considering all of the above, it is determined that this measure would not be likely to result in significant effects on the environment.
7	<p>Review of Possible Mitigation Measures</p> <p>An effective overall environmental noise management plan will include several measures combined into a consolidated approach. The most effective measures which can be implemented by Local Authorities are those at the planning level, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic avoidance plans that combine walking, cycling and public transport, Speed reduction plans involving partial access zones, Traffic flow control, through diversion or smoothing, Reduction of speed limits, Mitigation of environmental noise hotspots by through traffic management, Road surface improvements and road maintenance, Specification of façade insulation requirements for planning permission, Promotion of electric vehicles through measures such as; installing infrastructure, 	P1 H1 A1 A2 A3 A4 A5		B1 B2 B3 B4 W1 W2 W3 W4 P2 S2 S1 S3 S4 MA1 MA2 MA3 MA4 CH1 L1		This measure relates to a number of effective noise control and management mitigation measures. The implementation of such measures would contribute towards the interactions described under <i>SEA Screening Comments</i> at No. 1 above. Considering all of the above, it is determined that this measure would not be likely to result in significant effects on the environment.

No.	Relevant Parts of Noise Action Plan	Main Interactions (see Table 2.2) and SEO Codes (see Table 2.1)				SEA Screening Comments
		+	-	+/-	0	
	<p>reduced parking costs and designated parking and driving zones.</p> <p>At national level, noise exposure could be tackled by the introduction of more focused planning guidance or noise regulations. Environmental noise limit values could also be set for planned developments. At EU level the reduction of noise at source is controlled by limiting permissible tyre noise and vehicle noise emission levels, this is an ongoing policy of the European Commission. Additional noise control measures can be implemented on an acoustic basis and include noise screening and façade insulation.</p>					
8	<p>Assessing Reduction Effects of Potential Measures</p> <p>There are a number of recommended methods for assessing the effectiveness of noise management schemes, which include both monetary and personal metrics. A position paper published by the EU Working Group on Health and Socio-Economic Aspects recommended a figure of €25 per household per decibel per year. The value was based on a study conducted throughout several European cities and is a suggested value to be used by EU member states in the absence of more localised figures. This is the most suitable figure available for evaluating monetary benefits of noise mitigation measures.</p> <p>Noise reduction can also be assessed in personal and health terms. The EU Working Group on Noise Annoyance have suggested simple mathematical relationships for calculation of the percentage of people annoyed (%A) due to road traffic noise (see Appendix A of the Plan). Using these expressions and the calculated values of LDEN and LNIGHT, the benefits of any noise reduction measures can be estimated.</p> <p>These methods will be used to assess the suitability of any proposed measures in order to determine the likely benefit for the local population and also to perform cost-benefit analysis studies on planned projects.</p>	P1 H1 A1 A2 A3 A4 A5		B1 B2 B3 B4 W1 W2 W3 W4 P2 S2 S1 S3 S4 MA1 MA2 MA3 MA4 CH1 L1		This measure provides methods to assess the suitability of any proposed measures in order to determine the likely benefit for the local population and also to perform cost-benefit analysis studies on planned projects. The methods specified by this part of the Plan would contribute towards the interactions described under <i>SEA Screening Comments</i> at No. 1 above. Considering all of the above, it is determined that this measure would not be likely to result in significant effects on the environment.
9	<p>Proposed Approach to Noise Mitigation</p> <p>The Council will endeavour to manage exposure to environmental noise where necessary, using the most appropriate measures. These measures will aim to prevent, reduce or relocate noise in order to minimise the number of people affected by traffic noise emissions. The actions taken will be strategic in nature and represent a best practice approach to environmental noise mitigation and the limitation of exposure to environmental noise.</p> <p>The Council will manage environmental noise in built up areas, where necessary, on a prioritised basis by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic management Implementing traffic calming measures Designating 30km/hr zones in residential areas Encouraging more environmentally friendly forms of transport such as cycling or walking Encouraging the use of public transport Promoting the use of electric vehicles in both public and private fleets <p>The Council will consider using the Planning Process, where necessary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue to integrate the recommendations of Noise Action Plans into future Development Plans To integrate environmental noise planning guidelines into planning processes to ensure that new developments give cognisance to environmental noise exposure and 	P1 H1 A1 A2 A3 A4 A5		B1 B2 B3 B4 W1 W2 W3 W4 P2 S2 S1 S3 S4 MA1 MA2 MA3 MA4 CH1 L1		The approach to noise mitigation outlined would contribute towards the interactions described under <i>SEA Screening Comments</i> at No. 1 above. Considering all of the above, it is determined that this measure would not be likely to result in significant effects on the environment.

No.	Relevant Parts of Noise Action Plan	Main Interactions (see Table 2.2) and SEO Codes (see Table 2.1)				SEA Screening Comments
		+	-	+/-	0	
	<p>noise mitigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue to incorporate any suitable national guidance on the treatment of environmental noise into local policy To ensure that future developments are designed and constructed in such a way as to minimise noise disturbances due to environmental noise via the planning process. <p>These measures will be supported by consideration of environmental noise exposure when planned developments are likely to:</p> <p>Introduce People to Noise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where the locations of new housing, schools, hospitals or other noise sensitive locations are in the vicinity of major sources of environmental noise. <p>Introduce Noise to People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where a new or altered road or other major source of environmental noise would have a notable effect on the existing noise environment in the local area. <p>The Council will continue to have regard to protect the future environmental noise climate by early incorporation of noise action planning into the planning and operational stages of future developments.</p>					
10	<p>Programme of Works</p> <p>The Noise Action Plan covers a 5 year period, beginning in 2018. The following works are proposed within this time frame.</p> <p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review strategic noise maps to identify where priority action is required Confirm the extent of impact at appropriate locations Draw up shortlist of areas and noise sensitive locations for noise mitigation review Submit suitable candidate locations for Quiet Area status to the Minister for approval, after consultation with appropriate stakeholders <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify, at local level, priority areas for possible noise assessment and prioritised mitigation action, as predicted by strategic noise maps and decision support criteria Carry out cost benefit analyses for possible measures Evaluate the actual environmental noise levels at sensitive locations on a priority basis Recommend mitigation or protection actions at suitable locations, where necessary <p>Year 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set out data requirements for 2022 round of strategic noise mapping Commence implementation of approved measures based on recommendations <p>Year 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collate data required for 2022 round of noise mapping and deliver to appropriate noise mapping authority Continue with implementation of approved noise management actions Evaluate effectiveness of any measures which have been implemented <p>Year 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the impact of the Noise Action Plan and amend where appropriate Public consultation and publication of 2018 to 2023 Noise Action Plan Review of all progress against 2018 case 	P1 H1 A1 A2 A3 A4 A5		B1 B2 B3 B4 W1 W2 W3 W4 P2 S2 S1 S3 S4 MA1 MA2 MA3 MA4 CH1 L1		The programme outlined is consistent with the measures outlined under other parts of the Plan detailed above and would contribute towards the interactions described under <i>SEA Screening Comments</i> at No. 1 above. Considering all of the above, it is determined that the programme would not be likely to result in significant effects on the environment.

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No.	Relevant Parts of Noise Action Plan	Main Interactions (see Table 2.2) and SEO Codes (see Table 2.1)				SEA Screening Comments
		+	-	+/-	0	
11	<p>Evaluation, Review and Corrective Action Programmes</p> <p>The Council will review the effectiveness of noise action planning activities on an ongoing basis. If necessary, adjustments may be made to the schedule and nature of planned activities in order to better meet the goals of the action plan. Additionally, in 2023 the Council will carry out a review of the program of works implemented under this Action Plan. Progress and results will be evaluated using information gathered through local assessment of environmental noise exposure. The results of the most recent round of strategic noise mapping will also be used during the review process in order to compare overall levels of environmental noise exposure to the current, 2018 scenario.</p>	P1 H1 A1 A2 A3 A4 A5		B1 B2 B3 B4 W1 W2 W3 W4 P2 S2 S1 S3 S4 MA1 MA2 MA3 MA4 CH1 L1		This part of the Plan relates to the review of the effectiveness of noise action planning activities and provides for future adjustments. This further contributes towards the interactions described under <i>SEA Screening Comments</i> at No. 1 above. Considering all of the above, it is determined that the programme would not be likely to result in significant effects on the environment.
12	<p>Compliance with Requirements of Environmental and Planning Legislation and Planning and Licensing Processes</p> <p>All proposals for development/works under the Action Plan will be required to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of environmental and planning legislation and planning and licensing processes, including existing provisions of relevant land use plan(s) and policy documents such as the National Planning Framework, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midlands Region, the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 and Local Area Plans in force in the County.</p>	P1 H1 A1 A2 A3 A4 A5		B1 B2 B3 B4 W1 W2 W3 W4 P2 S2 S1 S3 S4 MA1 MA2 MA3 MA4 CH1 L1		This part of the Plan reflects the requirement that proposals for development/works under the Action Plan will be required to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of environmental and planning legislation and planning and licensing processes. This part further contributes towards the interactions described under <i>SEA Screening Comments</i> at No. 1 above. Considering all of the above, it is determined that the programme would not be likely to result in significant effects on the environment.

Table 2.4 Requirements of relevant land use plans

Environmental Component ²⁴	Mitigation Measures, including
Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna	<p>Please also refer to the relevant measures under the environmental components of Water, Material Assets, Air and Climatic Factors and Landscape.</p> <p>Measures from the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019</p> <p>NH POL 1 To protect, conserve, and seek to enhance the County's biodiversity.</p> <p>NH POL 2 To promote measures to protect biodiversity in the development management process by creating and improving habitats, where possible.</p> <p>NH POL 3 To raise public awareness and understanding of the county's natural heritage and biodiversity.</p> <p>NH POL 4 To promote increased public participation in biodiversity conservation by supporting and encouraging community-led initiatives.</p> <p>NH OBJ 1 To implement, in partnership with the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, relevant stakeholders and the community, the objectives and actions of Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016; Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan that relate to the remit and functions of Meath County Council and the County Meath Biodiversity Plan and any revisions thereof.</p> <p>NH POL 5 To permit development on or adjacent to designated Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, National Heritage Area or those proposed to be designated over the period of the plan, only where an assessment carried out to the satisfaction of the Meath County Council, in consultation with National Parks and Wildlife Service, indicates that it will have no significant adverse effect on the integrity of the site.</p> <p>NH POL 6 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.</p> <p>NH POL 7 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.</p> <p>NH OBJ 2 To ensure an Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) and Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, and in accordance with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities, 2009 and relevant EPA and European Commission guidance documents, is carried out in respect of any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site(s), either individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, in view of the site's conservation objectives.</p> <p>NH OBJ 3 To protect and conserve the conservation value of candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, National Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas as identified by the Minister for the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and any other sites that may be proposed for designation during the lifetime of this Plan.</p> <p>GI POL 1 To recognise the economic, social, environmental and physical value of Green Infrastructure.</p> <p>GI POL 2 To protect existing green infrastructure within the County and to provide additional green infrastructure, where possible.</p> <p>GI POL 3 To require that all Land Use Plans protect, manage and provide where possible green infrastructure in an integrated and coherent manner.</p> <p>GI OBJ 1 To develop and support the implementation of a Green Infrastructure Strategy for County Meath.</p> <p>GI OBJ 2 To identify sites of local biodiversity value in County Meath over the lifetime of the plan.</p> <p>GI OBJ 3 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.</p> <p>NH POL 8 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.</p> <p>NH POL 9 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.</p> <p>NH POL 10 To promote best practice in the control of invasive species in the carrying out of development.</p> <p>NH POL 11 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.</p> <p>NH OBJ 4 To work in partnership with relevant stakeholders on a suitable peatland site(s) to demonstrate best practice in sustainable peatland conservation, management and restoration techniques and to promote their heritage and educational value subject to Ecological Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening as appropriate.</p> <p>NH POL 13 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.</p> <p>NH POL 14 To promote and encourage planting of native hedgerow species of local provenance.</p> <p>NH POL 15 To recognise the archaeological importance of townland boundaries including hedgerows and promote their protection and retention.</p> <p>NH POL 16 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.</p> <p>NH POL 17 To encourage the use of native species wherever possible in Meath County Council's own landscaping work, and on Council property.</p> <p>NH POL 18 To encourage the retention of mature trees and the use of tree surgery rather than felling where possible when undertaking, approving or authorising development.</p> <p>NH POL 19 To protect Champion and Heritage Trees identified on the Tree Register of Ireland and Heritage Tree Database when undertaking, approving, or authorising development.</p> <p>NH OBJ 5 To promote awareness, understanding and best practice in the management of Meath's woodland, tree and hedgerow resource.</p> <p>NH OBJ 6 To continue to work in partnership with stakeholders to develop and enhance Balrath Wood and other appropriate woodlands, where feasible, as an Outdoor Classroom and its facilities under the auspices of the NeighbourWood Scheme.</p> <p>NH OBJ 7 To co-operate with stakeholders in promoting greater public access and recreational use of state and private owned forests.</p> <p>NH POL 23 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.</p> <p>NH OBJ 9 To maintain the beaches along the coast to a high standard and develop their recreational potential as a seaside amenity in co-operation with the relevant agencies, in order to bring them to a Blue Flag standard.</p> <p>NH OBJ 10 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.</p> <p>NH POL 25 To support the development of Integrated Coastal Zone Management initiatives in Meath in partnership with the local community, environmental groups, user organisations and statutory authorities.</p> <p>NH POL 26 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,</p>

²⁴ Measures are arrayed by environmental component and measures generally benefit multiple environmental components i.e. a measure providing for the protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna could beneficially impact upon the minimisation of flood risk and the protection of human health, for example

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Environmental Component ²⁴	Mitigation Measures, including
	<p>landscape and natural heritage of the area. PC POL 2 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.</p>
Population and Human Health	<p>Please also refer to the relevant measures under the environmental components of Soil, Water, Material Assets and Air and Climatic Factors.</p> <p>Measures from the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 WM OBJ 18 To seek to ensure in cooperation with relevant authorities that waste management facilities are appropriately managed and monitored according to best practice to maximise efficiencies and to protect human health and the natural environment. ED POL 21 To permit development proposals for industrial or business enterprises in the countryside where generally the following criteria are met: (i) the proposed use has locational requirements that can more readily be accommodated in a rural location than an urban setting and this has been demonstrated to the satisfaction of Meath County Council; (ii) the development will enhance the strength of the local rural economy; (iii) 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; (iv) the proposal demonstrates that it has taken into account traffic, public health, environmental and amenity considerations; (v) the proposal is in accordance with the policies, requirements and guidance contained in this plan; (vi) it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of Meath County Council 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. This policy shall not apply to the National Road Network. ED POL 46 To comply with the Seveso II Directive in reducing the risk and limiting the potential consequences of major industrial accidents. ED POL 47 To permit new Seveso development only in low risk locations within acceptable distances from vulnerable residential, retail and commercial development. ED POL 48 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. ED POL 49 To have regard to the advice of the Health & Safety Authority when proposals for new SEVESO sites are being considered or modifications to existing Seveso sites are being considered. ED POL 50 To have regard to the advice of the Health & Safety Authority when proposals for development within the consultation zone of a SEVESO site are being considered. WS POL 17 To ensure that all new developments have access to or are provided with satisfactory drainage systems in the interests of public health and to avoid the pollution of ground and surface waters.</p>
Soil	<p>Please also refer to the relevant measures under the environmental component of Population and Human Health, Water, Material Assets and Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna.</p> <p>Measures from the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 NH POL 12 To have regard to the geological and geomorphological heritage values of County Geological Sites listed in Appendix 13 and avoid inappropriate development, through consultation with the Geological Survey of Ireland.</p>
Water	<p>Please also refer to the relevant measures under the environmental components of Population and Human Health, Soil, Material Assets and Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna.</p> <p>Measures from the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 WS SOBJ 9 To promote compliance with environmental standards and objectives established— (i) for bodies of surface water, by the European Communities (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009; (ii) for groundwater, by the European Communities (Groundwater) Regulations 2010; which standards and objectives are included in river basin management plans. WS POL 19 To protect groundwater resources having regard to the County Meath Groundwater Protection Plan. WS POL 20 To ensure through the implementation of the River Basin Management Plans and their associated programmes of measures, and any other associated legislation, the protection and improvement of all drinking water, surface water and ground waters throughout the county. WS POL 21 To work, in co-operation with relevant organisations and major stakeholders to ensure a co-ordinated approach to the protection and improvement of the county's water resources. WS POL 22 To continue efforts to improve water quality under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977, as amended and by implementing the measures outlined under the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) and complying with the requirements of the Surface Water Legislation Environment Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 and other relevant regulations. WS POL 23 To promote public awareness of water quality issues and the measures required to protect both surface water and ground water bodies. WS POL 24 To manage groundwater resources particularly having regard to the abstraction and recharge rates of ground-waterbodies. WS POL 25 To protect, maintain and improve the natural character of the watercourses and rivers in the county Meath. WS POL 26 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 27 To ensure that proposed septic tanks and proprietary treatment systems, or other waste water treatment and storage systems, and associated percolation areas where required as part of a development, comply with the recommendations of the Environmental Protection Agency and that they are employed only where site conditions are appropriate. WS POL 28 In the assessment of planning applications for developments within the contributing catchment of the Balbriggan/Skerries Shellfish Waters regard shall be had to the Shellfish Pollution Reduction Plans where appropriate. WS OBJ 10 To develop groundwater protection schemes in line with the recommendations contained within the DoEHLG /GSI/ EPA publication 'Groundwater Protection Schemes, 1999' or any revised or replacement publication. WS POL 29 To have regard to the "Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities" (DoEHLG/OPW, 2009) through the use of the sequential approach and application of the Justification Tests for Development Management and Development Plans, during the period of this Plan. WS POL 30 To have regard to the findings and recommendations of the current Strategic Flood Risk Assessment prepared as part of the County Development Plan review. See Appendix 6. WS POL 31 To ensure that all developments have regard to the surface water management policies in the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study (GSDSDS). Compliance with the recommendations contained in Technical Guidance Document, Volume 2, Chapter 4 of the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study shall be required in all instances. WS POL 32 To ensure that a flood risk assessment is carried out for any development proposal, where flood risk may be an issue in accordance with the "Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities" (DoECLG/OPW, 2009). This assessment shall be appropriate to the scale and nature of risk to the potential development. WS POL 33 To consult with the Office of Public Works in relation to proposed developments in the vicinity of drainage channels and rivers for which the OPW are responsible, and the Council will, retain a strip of 10</p>

Environmental Component ²⁴	Mitigation Measures, including
	<p>metres on either side of such channel where required, to facilitate access thereto.</p> <p>WS POL 34 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.</p> <p>WS POL 35 To ensure that flood risk management is incorporated into the preparation of Local Area Plans and Town Development Plans in accordance with 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management - Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009)'</p> <p>WS POL 36 To have regard to the recommendations of the Fingal East Meath Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study, the Eastern, North West and Neagh Bann Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study when finalised and approved</p> <p>WS OBJ 11 To undertake a review of the 'Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for County Meath' following the publication of the flood mapping which is being produced as part of the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Studies.</p> <p>WS OBJ 12 To design flood relief measures to ensure appropriate protection for alluvial woodland (i.e. a qualifying interest) along the Boyne.</p> <p>WS OBJ 13 To design flood relief measures to protect the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites and to avoid indirect impacts of conflict with other qualifying interests or Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>WS OBJ 14 To promote positive flood relief measures that can enhance habitats in the Boyne floodplain such as swales, constructed wetland basins etc.</p> <p>WS OBJ 15 To seek to ensure that construction works are designed so as not to result in surface water runoff into cSAC or SPAs either directly or indirectly via a watercourse.</p> <p>WS OBJ 16 To incorporate and promote the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems within County Council Developments and other infrastructural projects as required in the Greater Dublin Regional Code of Practice for Drainage Works.</p> <p>WS OBJ 17 To require the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems in accordance with the Greater Dublin Regional Code of Practice for Drainage Works for new developments (including extensions).</p> <p>WS OBJ 18 To ensure that all new developments comply with Section 3.12 of the Greater Dublin Regional Code of Practice for Drainage Works V6 which sets out the requirements for new developments to allow for Climate Change.</p> <p>NH POL 24 To ensure that the County's natural coastal defences, such as beaches, sand dunes, coastal wetlands and estuaries are not compromised by inappropriate works or development.</p>
Material Assets	<p>Please also refer to the relevant measures under the environmental component of Water.</p> <p>Measures from the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019</p> <p>WS SO 1 To advance the water supply and wastewater collection and treatment infrastructural requirements of the County by reviewing the Assessment of Water Services Needs, as required and implement the Water Services Investment Programme, the Rural Water Programme and the Water Conservation Programme.</p> <p>WS SO 2 To improve and extend the County's water supply and wastewater collection and treatment infrastructure to serve the planned levels of growth, during the lifetime of this plan, in order to facilitate development.</p> <p>WS SO 3 To secure the provision of water, wastewater treatment and waste management initiatives to accommodate the future sustainable economic and residential growth of the County in accordance with the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy and in consultation with statutory agencies and adjoining Local Authorities.</p> <p>WS SO 4 To upgrade existing water and wastewater facilities, where deficient, in order to meet the Drinking Water Regulations, the Urban Wastewater Directives/Regulations, the discharge license regulations and the EU Water Framework Directive, or any future amendment thereof.</p> <p>WS SO 5 To develop a Water Services Strategic Plan under Section 36 of the Water Services Act 2007, to ensure that adequate provision of drinking water and wastewater treatment is made to meet existing and future planned development needs in the County.</p> <p>WS SO 6 To support the development of an agreed protocol and/or other arrangements between local authorities in the Greater Dublin Area to ensure the optimum allocation of sanitary and other services for priority investments.</p> <p>WS SO 7 To undertake Appropriate Assessment of the likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites in accordance with Article 6(3) of the EC Habitats Directive for proposals for the abstraction of water from Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>WS SO 8 To ensure that in so far as is reasonably practicable, waste water treatment plants are operated in compliance with their Waste Water Discharge Licenses / Certificates of Authorisation, in order to protect water quality.</p> <p>WS POL 1 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 use in accordance with the settlement, economic and core strategies identified in this Plan and as finances permit.</p> <p>WS POL 2 To protect and develop, in a sustainable manner, the existing groundwater sources and aquifers in the county and to control development in a manner consistent with the proper management of these resources.</p> <p>WS POL 3 To promote public awareness and involvement in water conservation measures by households, businesses and industries.</p> <p>WS POL 4 To continue and further develop the Water Conservation Programme, in order to conserve valuable resources by reducing wastage.</p> <p>WS POL 5 To co-operate with the DoECLG, Louth County Council and Drogheda Borough Council in implementing the key findings and recommendations of the 'East Meath, South Louth & Drogheda Water Improvement Scheme Report (July 2009)', for a water supply scheme to meet the anticipated water requirements to serve this area.</p> <p>WS POL 6 To utilise the existing water supply in an efficient and fair manner and in the best interests of the proper planning and sustainable development of the County.</p> <p>WS POL 7 To ensure that in the case of all developments where public mains are available or likely to be available, the development will be required to connect into them.</p> <p>WS POL 8 To co-operate and advise in the provision of group-water schemes in the County.</p> <p>WS POL 9 To seek to secure water resources for County Meath from any project supplying water to the Greater Dublin Area from the River Shannon or any other water source.</p> <p>WS OBJ 1 To reduce Meath County Council's dependence on the water services infrastructure of adjoining Local Authorities to cater for the projected development needs of Drogheda and Environs, East Meath and the South East urban centres.</p> <p>WS OBJ 2 To implement the Water Services Investment Programme 2010 - 2013 and all subsequent Water Services Investment Programmes.</p> <p>WS OBJ 3 To continue the upgrading and rehabilitation of water main networks and to implement Phases 2 to 5 of the Meath Countywide Water Conservation Project – Meath Countywide Watermains Rehabilitation Strategy.</p> <p>WS OBJ 4 To continue the commitment to water conservation and reduction of leakage and wastage from the water supply systems to the lowest available level with an objective of reducing waste and leakage to less than 30% unaccounted for water during the life of this Plan in the interest of achieving efficiency and sustainability.</p> <p>WS OBJ 5 To apply water pricing in accordance with water pricing policies as adopted.</p> <p>WS OBJ 6 To implement the measures under the Rural Water Programme so as to improve the quality, reliability and efficiency of water supplies for rural dwellers.</p> <p>WS OBJ 7 Meath County Council will seek enhanced capacity to service the East of the County and the Drogheda Environs in conjunction with Fingal and Louth County Councils, Drogheda Borough Council and the</p>

Environmental Component ²⁴	Mitigation Measures, including
	<p>Department of Environment, Community and Local Government including where necessary the exploration of alternative options.</p> <p>WS POL 10 To facilitate the provision of an adequate wastewater collection and treatment systems to all towns and villages in the County to serve existing and planned future populations in accordance with the Settlement and Core Strategies identified in this Plan, the Water Framework Directive 2000, the Water Services Investment Programme and as finances permit, thus improving the quality of Meath's surface, ground, transitional and coastal waters;</p> <p>WS POL 11 To develop additional treatment capacity at existing plants where required to facilitate planned sustainable growth.</p> <p>WS POL 12 To consider proposals in line with the Interim and Permanent Water Services Arrangements outlined in this Development Plan for centres lacking in adequate treatment facilities and where the provision of such a facility/system does not affect the quality status of the receiving water as required under the Water Framework Directive. Such temporary provision will generally only be considered in locations which accord with the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area as outlined in the settlement, economic and core strategies of this Development Plan.</p> <p>WS POL 13 To co-operate with the DoECLG, adjoining authorities and other statutory agencies to continue the sustainable development and improvement of the wastewater treatment systems throughout the County to meet the anticipated drainage requirements of the County and to achieve ongoing compliance with the requirements of discharge licenses and certificates of authorisation as granted by the EPA.</p> <p>WS POL 14 To implement the policies developed for the Greater Dublin Area by the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study and to ensure that all developments will have regard to the policies as expressed in the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study.</p> <p>WS POL 15 To co-operate with adjoining Planning Authorities to increase services capacity where necessary, particularly in relation to the Drogheda Wastewater Treatment and Kilcock/Maynooth Wastewater scheme (i.e. lower Liffey valley sewerage scheme) to service settlements in North-East Meath and the Meath environs of Kilcock and Maynooth. To also jointly investigate proposals for the further upgrade/extension of the treatments plants to provide for a long-term solution for wastewater treatment in the north east region.</p> <p>WS POL 16 To utilise the capacity allocated to East Meath from the Drogheda Wastewater Treatment Plant in an efficient and fair manner and in the best interests of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.</p> <p>WS POL 17 To ensure that all new developments have access to or are provided with satisfactory drainage systems in the interests of public health and to avoid the pollution of ground and surface waters.</p> <p>WS POL 18 To provide for the separation of foul and surface water drainage networks and to upgrade the drainage network so as to reduce foul sewer discharges for treatment by identification and removal of surface water misconnection and infiltration.</p> <p>WS OBJ 8 To generally require new developments to provide for the separation of foul and surface water drainage networks within the application site.</p> <p>WS OBJ 9 To seek to implement pilot projects within the lifetime of the Development Plan, to develop an Inflow/Infiltration/Exfiltration Reduction Procedure to reduce inflow, infiltration and exfiltration flows to economic levels in the most cost-effective manner and to develop a systematic programme of rehabilitation works across the County.</p> <p>WM POL 1 To adopt the provisions of the waste management hierarchy and implement policy in relation to the county's requirements under the current or any subsequent waste management plan. All prospective developments in the county will be expected to take account of the provisions of the regional waste management plan and adhere to the requirements of the Plan. Account shall also be taken of the proximity principle and the inter regional movement of waste as provided for under appropriate Minister Directives from time to time.</p> <p>WM POL 2 To promote and encourage the education and awareness on all issues associated with waste management, at household, industry and community level. This will include the promotion of waste reduction by encouraging the minimisation, re-use, recycling and recovery of waste within the county.</p> <p>WM POL 3 To seek the provision of quality cost effective waste infrastructure and services, which reflect and meet the needs of the community.</p> <p>WM POL 4 To seek in the Council's dealings with private companies that all waste shall be undertaken in compliance with the requirement of the EPA and relevant waste management legislation and policy.</p> <p>WM POL 5 To require the provision of bring banks, bottle banks or other appropriate recycling facilities as part of the overall development in the case of new or extended shopping centre developments and commercial neighbourhood centres, educational, sports, recreational facilities and managed residential developments.</p> <p>WM POL 6 To encourage the development of waste infrastructure and associated developments in appropriate locations, as deemed necessary in accordance with the requirements of the Regional Waste Management Plan.</p> <p>WM POL 7 To encourage the recycling of construction and demolition waste and the reuse of aggregate and other materials in future construction projects.</p> <p>WM POL 8 To promote and facilitate communities to become involved in environmental awareness activities and community-based recycling initiatives or environmental management initiatives that will lead to local sustainable waste management practices.</p> <p>WM POL 9 To encourage and support the expansion and improvement of the green bin (biodegradable waste) service in order to increase the quantity and quality of materials collected for recycling</p> <p>WM POL 10 To encourage and support the provision of a separate collection of waste in accordance with the requirements of the Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009, the Waste Framework Directive Regulations, 2011 and other relevant legislation to meet the requirements of the Regional Waste Management Plan</p> <p>WM POL 11 To ensure that hazardous waste is addressed through an integrated approach of prevention, collection, and recycling and encourage the development of industry led producer responsibility schemes for key waste streams</p> <p>WM POL 12 In examining and assessing the identification, release and development of zoned lands, Meath County Council shall have regard to the recommendations of the Fingal East Meath Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study and the approved Eastern, West and Neagh Bann Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study.</p> <p>WM OBJ 1 To facilitate the provision of appropriate waste recovery and disposal facilities in accordance with the principles set out in the appropriate Waste Management Plan applicable from time to time made in accordance with the Waste Management Act 1996.</p> <p>WM OBJ 2 To continue to expand environmental awareness initiatives designed to create increased public awareness of waste prevention minimisation, reuse and resource efficiency. This should be encouraged at all sectors of society.</p> <p>WM OBJ 3 To identify suitable sites for additional recycling centres and bring bank facilities to cater for the projected increase in waste for recycling over the timescale of this Development Plan and subject to appropriate funding, seek the provision of appropriate infrastructure through the public or private sector.</p> <p>WM OBJ 4 To update the Sludge Management Plan for County Meath and seek to implement the recommendations of that plan.</p> <p>WM OBJ 5 To continue to tackle littering through the continued implementation and updating of Meath County Councils anti-litter plan.</p> <p>WM OBJ 6 To seek the effective engagement of local communities in Meath to promote their role in recycling waste and tackling the problems of illegal dumping within the County through liaison with the Environmental Awareness Officer.</p> <p>WM OBJ 7 To promote the implementation of Waste Management Activities in accordance with 'Best Practice' and national policy.</p> <p>WM OBJ 8 To facilitate the implementation of national legislation and national and regional waste management policy.</p> <p>WM OBJ 9 To encourage community/voluntary groups to establish additional waste services or facilities (e.g. small scale facilities for recycling, reuse/repair) in their area and assist them to develop a strategy to provide</p>

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Environmental Component ²⁴	Mitigation Measures, including
	<p>such facilities for and with the members of their community.</p> <p>WM OBJ 10 To support the continued expansion of Bring Bank networks to a target density of 1 bank per 500 households. Innovative methods of siting and collection will be supported. Existing and future bring banks should be standardised where appropriate and meet minimum service standards. Existing facilities may be upgraded to accept additional materials.</p> <p>WM OBJ 11 To ensure that household waste recycling is adequately addressed in all proposed new residential developments, by taking this into account during the Planning Application process.</p> <p>WM OBJ 12 To support the acceptance of commercial waste on a fee paying basis at existing Recycling Centres where practical.</p> <p>WM OBJ 13 To support the development of facilities to cater for commercial waste not provided for in the kerbside collection system such as WEEE, C&D type waste and hazardous materials in accordance with the requirements of the North East Waste Management Plan.</p> <p>WM OBJ 14 To support developments necessary to manage food waste in accordance with the requirements of the Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations and the Regional Waste Management Plan. WM OBJ 15 To support the acceptance of WEEE at all Recycling Centres for household waste.</p> <p>WM OBJ 16 To support the development of infrastructural requirements necessary to meet the objectives and targets Meath's Sludge Management Plan having regard to the relevant siting guidelines.</p> <p>WM OBJ 17 To require developers to prepare construction and demolition waste management plans for new construction projects over certain thresholds which shall meet the relevant recycling/recovery targets for such waste in accordance with the national legislation and national and regional waste management policy.</p> <p>WM OBJ 18 To seek to ensure in cooperation with relevant authorities that waste management facilities are appropriately managed and monitored according to best practice to maximise efficiencies and to protect human health and the natural environment.</p> <p>WM OBJ 19 To provide for the development of a Recycling Centre in the South East Meath Area, subject to appropriate funding.</p> <p>WM OBJ 20 To co-operate with the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, the Environmental Protection Agency and other relevant stakeholders in implementing proposals which discourage illegal or improper disposal of waste and promote the diversion of recyclable items from the waste streams including 'bottle return and refund' schemes.</p>
<p>Air and Climatic Factors/ Sustainable mobility and associated effects</p>	<p>Please also refer to the various Plan provisions that contribute towards sustainable mobility and the relevant measures under the environmental component of Water (flooding measures) and Population and Human Health.</p> <p>Measures from the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019</p> <p>POL 1 To seek to preserve and maintain air and noise quality in the county in accordance with good practice and relevant legislation.</p> <p>Core Principle 11 To integrate climate change considerations into the policies and objectives of Meath County Council and its key stakeholders.</p> <p>TRAN SO 2 To promote the development of sustainable settlement and transportation strategies in urban and rural areas which include measures to — (i) reduce energy demand in response to the likelihood of increases in energy and other costs due to long-term decline in non-renewable resources; (ii) reduce anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, and; (iii) address the necessity of adaptation to climate change; in particular, having regard to location, layout and design of new development.</p> <p>WS OBJ 18 To ensure that all new developments comply with Section 3.12 of the Greater Dublin Regional Code of Practice for Drainage Works V6 which sets out the requirements for new developments to allow for Climate Change.</p> <p>EC POL 4 To support the National Climate Change Strategy and, in general, to facilitate measures which seek to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.</p> <p>EC OBJ 2 To support the review and implementation of the actions of the Meath County Council Climate Change Strategy and Energy Management Action Plan 2011-2012, 'Think Globally Act Locally'.</p>
<p>Cultural Heritage</p>	<p>Measures from the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019</p> <p>CH POL 1 To work in partnership with the relevant agencies/organisations and the public to promote, understand, conserve and sustainably manage the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne.</p> <p>CH POL 2 To consider individual housing within the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne, as shown on Map No. 9.1, only for those involved locally in full time agriculture, and who do not own land outside of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne and subject to compliance with all other relevant provisions contained in this Development Plan.</p> <p>CH POL 3 To require that all development within the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne shall be subject to the Development Assessment Criteria set out in Volume 1, Chapter 9, Section 9.6.7, and elsewhere in the Development Plan.</p> <p>CH POL 4 To refer all planning applications within the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne to the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for comment. These comments will be considered in the making of decisions on all such planning applications.</p> <p>CH OBJ 1 To protect and enhance the Outstanding Universal Value of the cultural landscape in the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne in accordance with the relevant guidelines and national legislation, so that its integrity, authenticity and significance is not adversely affected by cumulative inappropriate change and development, and to enhance views within and adjacent to the site.</p> <p>CH OBJ 2 To protect the ridgelines which frame views within and from the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne from inappropriate or visually intrusive development. CH OBJ 3 To encourage and facilitate pre-planning consultation with applicants regarding the siting and design of developments affecting the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne, and the scope of any necessary impact assessments.</p> <p>CH OBJ 4 To encourage the retention, conservation, and appropriate re-use of vernacular and traditional buildings within the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne in preference to either their replacement, or the construction of new buildings on green field sites.</p> <p>CH OBJ 5 To utilise available LiDAR imagery data and viewshed analysis derived from it as a tool to guide and inform development management of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne.</p> <p>CH OBJ 6 To develop a World Heritage Site page in the meath.ie website to disseminate information and provide initial planning guidance for those living and working in and around the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Brú na Bóinne</p> <p>CH POL 5 To recognise and respect potential World Heritage Sites in Meath on the UNESCO Tentative List – Ireland-2010 and support their nomination to World Heritage status.</p> <p>CH POL 6 To promote awareness of, and access to, the archaeological inheritance of County Meath.</p> <p>CH POL 7 To ensure that development in the immediate vicinity of a recorded monument is sensitively sited and designed so that it does not significantly detract from the monument. Where upstanding remains exist, a visual impact assessment may be required.</p> <p>CH POL 8 To retain surviving medieval plots and street patterns in the villages and towns of Meath, where practicable, and in the course of development to record evidence of ancient boundaries, layouts, etc.</p> <p>CH POL 9 To inform and seek guidance from the National Museum of Ireland if an unrecorded archaeological object is discovered, or the National Monuments Service of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in the case of the discovery of an unrecorded archaeological site, in accordance with National Monuments legislation.</p> <p>CH OBJ 7 To protect archaeological sites and monuments, underwater archaeology, and archaeological objects, which are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places, and to seek their preservation in situ (or at a minimum, preservation by record) through the planning process.</p> <p>CH OBJ 8 To seek to protect important archaeological landscapes from inappropriate development.</p>

Environmental Component ²⁴	Mitigation Measures, including
	<p>CH OBJ 9 To make the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) available to the public in the Planning Office and maintain a link on the Meath website to the on-line edition at www.archaeology.ie.</p> <p>CH OBJ 10 To establish in-house training programmes for Council staff carrying out repair and maintenance works to historic structures, subject to the availability of resources.</p> <p>CH OBJ 11 To encourage and promote the appropriate management and maintenance of the County's archaeological heritage, including historical burial grounds, in accordance with conservation principles and best practice guidelines.</p> <p>CH OBJ 12 To consider the establishment of a National Monuments Advisory Committee for Meath, subject to available resources.</p> <p>CH POL 10 To conserve and protect the architectural heritage of Meath.</p> <p>CH POL 11 To require that all planning applications relating to Protected Structures contain the appropriate accompanying documentation in accordance with the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011) or any variation thereof, to enable the proper assessment of the proposed works.</p> <p>CH POL 12 To encourage the retention, sympathetic reuse and rehabilitation of Protected Structures. In certain cases, land use zoning restrictions may be relaxed in order to secure the conservation of the protected structure.</p> <p>CH POL 13 To encourage the retention of original windows, doors, renders, roof coverings and other significant features of historic buildings.</p> <p>CH POL 14 To continue to develop the Council's advisory/educational role with regard to heritage matters and to promote awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the architectural heritage of Meath.</p> <p>CH POL 15 To encourage, where appropriate, the adaptive re-use of existing buildings and sites in a manner compatible with their character and significance</p> <p>CH OBJ 13 To protect all structures (or, where appropriate, parts of structures) within the county which are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest and which are included in the Record of Protected Structures (See Appendix 8).</p> <p>CH OBJ 14 To review and update the Record of Protected Structures when new information becomes available and to make additions and deletions as appropriate.</p> <p>CH OBJ 15 To identify and retain good examples of historic street furniture e.g. cast-iron post boxes, water pumps, signage, street lighting and kerbing.</p> <p>CH OBJ 16 To make available and distribute detailed guidance notes and provide advice on architectural heritage to the public, developers, public bodies, groups and associations.</p> <p>CH POL 16 To protect the industrial heritage of Meath, including the Royal Canal and Boyne Navigation, historic bridges, roadside features and street furniture.</p> <p>CH OBJ 17 To work with stakeholders to progress the phased restoration, maintenance and re-use for amenity purposes of the Boyne Navigation, towpath and associated structures within Meath.</p> <p>CH OBJ 18 To work with stakeholders to promote the maintenance and re-use for amenity purposes of the Royal Canal and associated structures within Meath.</p> <p>CH OBJ 19 To carry out phase two of the Industrial Heritage Survey, which will comprise a more detailed site inventory and assessment of surviving structures and sites.</p> <p>CH POL 17 To identify places of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest and where appropriate to define them as Architectural Conservation Areas.</p> <p>CH POL 18 To require that all development proposals within an ACA should be appropriate to the character of the area, inclusive of its general scale and materials, and are appropriately sited and sensitively designed having regard to the advice given in the Statements of Character for each area.</p> <p>CH OBJ 20 To prohibit the demolition of a structure that positively contributes to the character of an ACA, except in exceptional circumstances. Meath County Council will require such applications to be accompanied by a measured and photographic survey, condition report and architectural heritage assessment of the structure. Where permission for demolition is granted within an ACA, an assessment of the impact of the replacement building on the character of the ACA will be required.</p> <p>CH OBJ 21 To ensure that any new development within or contiguous to an ACA is sympathetic to the character of the area and that the design is appropriate in terms of scale, height, plot density, layout, materials and finishes.</p> <p>CH POL 20 a) To encourage the retention, sympathetic maintenance, and appropriate re-use of the vernacular heritage of Meath, in both the towns and rural areas of the County, including the retention of the original fabric, such as windows, renders, shop fronts, gates, yards, boundary walls and other significant features where possible; b) To discourage the replacement of good quality vernacular buildings or features with modern structures or features; c) To ensure that new build adjoining, and extensions to, vernacular buildings are of an appropriate design and do not detract from the building's character or that of its setting.</p>
Landscape /Amenities	<p>Measures from the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019</p> <p>CH POL19 To encourage the protection, promotion and enhancement of heritage gardens and parks in the county and support public awareness, enjoyment of and access to these sites.</p> <p>CH OBJ 22 To discourage development that would lead to a loss of, or cause damage to, the character, the principal components of, or the setting of historic parks, gardens and demesnes of heritage significance.</p> <p>CH OBJ 23 To require that proposals for development in and adjoining designated landscapes and demesnes include an appraisal of the landscape, designed views and vistas, and an assessment of significant trees or groups of trees, as appropriate. The appraisal shall ensure that development proposals respect and are consistent with the historic landscape and its protection. Any development within such areas shall comply with the policies and objectives of 'Architectural Heritage Protection, Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2011), as appropriate.</p> <p>LC POL 1 To support and implement the provisions of the National Landscape Strategy</p> <p>LC SP 1 To protect the landscape character, quality, and local distinctiveness of County Meath in accordance with relevant government policy and guidelines and the recommendations included in Meath Landscape Character Assessment (2007) in Appendix 7.</p> <p>LC POL 2 To require that any necessary assessments, including landscape and visual impact assessments, are provided when undertaking, authorising, or approving development.</p> <p>LC OBJ 1 To seek to ensure the preservation of the uniqueness of all landscape character types, and to maintain the visual integrity of areas of exceptional value and high sensitivity.</p> <p>LC OBJ 2 To assess development proposals having regard to the recommendations contained in the Meath Landscape Character Assessment 2007.</p> <p>LC OBJ 3 To work in partnership with key stakeholders to promote County Meath as a centre for cultural heritage education and learning.</p> <p>LC OBJ 4 To complete the pilot study on Historic Landscape Characterisation and utilise the results to complement and contribute to Landscape Character Assessment (LCA)</p> <p>LC OBJ 5 To preserve the views and prospects and the amenity of places and features of natural beauty or interest listed in Appendix 12 and shown on Map 9.5.1 from development that would interfere with the character and visual amenity of the landscape</p> <p>LC POL 3 To protect the archaeological heritage, rural character, setting and amenity of the Tara landscape and Loughcrew and Slieve na Calliagh Hills.</p> <p>LC OBJ 6 To progress the designation, in a timely fashion, of a Landscape Conservation Area, pursuant to Section 204 of the Planning & Development Acts, 2000 - 2012, for the Tara Skryne Landscape.</p> <p>LC OBJ 7 To explore, over the life of the plan, the designation of a Landscape Conservation Area, pursuant to Section 204 of the Planning & Development Acts, 2000 - 2012, in respect of Loughcrew and Slieve na Calliagh Hills.</p> <p>LC OBJ 8 To develop and support the implementation of an agreed and innovative Landscape Action Plan for the Tara Skryne Landscape.</p> <p>LC OBJ 9 To work in partnership with the Consultative Group on the day-to-day management of the Hill of Tara and to prepare a Conservation Plan for the State Owned Lands at the Hill of Tara.</p>

2.3 Schedule 1

PART 1

1. *The characteristics of the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, having regard, in particular, to: the degree to which the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources*

The Noise Action Plan for County Meath will contribute towards the already existing framework for future development consent of projects relating to transport that are subject to the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended. The Plan will be one relatively minor part of this extensive framework and provides for limited additionality with respect to existing provisions relating to noise avoidance and management.

The Noise Action Plan requires that all proposals for development/works under the Action Plan demonstrate compliance with the requirements of environmental and planning legislation and planning and licensing processes, including existing provisions of relevant land use plan(s) and policy documents such as the National Planning Framework, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midlands Region, the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 and Local Area Plans in force in the County.

Taking the examination of the various parts of the Plan provided under Section 2.2 into account, arising from the degree to which the Plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, the Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

2. *The characteristics of the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, having regard, in particular, to: the degree to which the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, influences other plans including those in a hierarchy*

The Noise Action Plan requires that all proposals for development/works under the Action Plan demonstrate compliance with the requirements of environmental and planning legislation and planning and licensing processes, including existing provisions of relevant land use plan(s) and policy documents such as the National Planning Framework, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midlands Region, the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 and Local Area Plans in force in the County.

Taking the above and the examination of the Plan provided under Section 2.2 into account, arising from the degree to which the Plan influences other plans, the Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

3. *The characteristics of the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, having regard, in particular, to: the relevance of the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development*

By both protecting the future noise climate and improving the existing noise climate, where necessary, the Noise Action Plan will contribute towards the protection of human health and sustainable development. This protection is already contributed towards by the detailed framework of existing legislation and plans relating to noise, land use and transport (including those identified under Section 1.4). The Noise Action Plan will be one relatively minor part of this extensive framework and provides for limited additionality with respect to existing provisions relating to noise avoidance and management. Potential beneficial environmental effects arising are present already and would be further contributed towards.

Taking the above and the examination of the Plan provided under Section 2.2 into account, arising from the degree to which the Plan is relevant for the integration of environmental

considerations with a view to promoting sustainable development, the Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

4. *The characteristics of the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, having regard, in particular, to: environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme*

Environmental problems arise where there is a conflict between current environmental conditions and legislative targets. Through its provisions relating to protecting the future noise climate and improving the existing noise climate, the Plan contributes towards ensuring that environmental conditions do not get worse.

Taking the above and the examination of the Plan provided under Section 2.2 into account, arising from environmental problems relevant to the Plan, the Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

5. *The characteristics of the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, having regard, in particular, to: the relevance of the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection)*

The Noise Action Plan for County Meath has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations (S.I. No. 140 of 2006). These Regulations give effect to the European Union Environmental Noise Directive (END) 2002/49/EC, relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise.

Taking the above and the examination of the Plan provided under Section 2.2 into account, arising from the relevance of the Plan for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment, the Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

PART 2

1. *Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects*

The Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 1 Part 1 above and the examination of the various parts of the Plan provided under Section 2.2).

2. *Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the cumulative nature of the effects*

The Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 1 Part 1 above and the examination of the various parts of the Plan provided under Section 2.2).

3. *Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the transboundary nature of the effects*

The Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 1 Part 1 above and the examination of the various parts of the Plan provided under Section 2.2).

4. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)

The Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 1 Part 1 above and the examination of the various parts of the Plan provided under Section 2.2).

5. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)

The Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 1 Part 1 above and the examination of the various parts of the Plan provided under Section 2.2).

6. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:

a) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;

The Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 1 Part 1 above and the examination of the various parts of the Plan provided under Section 2.2).

b) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values, and;

The Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 1 Part 1 above and the examination of the various parts of the Plan provided under Section 2.2).

c) intensive land-use.

The Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 1 Part 1 above and the examination of the various parts of the Plan provided under Section 2.2).

7. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, European Union or international protection status

The Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 1 Part 1 above and the examination of the various parts of the Plan provided under Section 2.2).

Section 3 Conclusion

The Noise Action Plan for County Meath will contribute towards the already existing framework for future development consent of projects relating to transport that are subject to the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended. As a result, SEA Screening must be undertaken on the Draft Noise Action Plan in order to establish whether the Plan would be likely to result in significant effects on the environment and would necessitate full SEA.

This SEA Screening Report has examined the parts of the Draft Plan, including against relevant criteria set out in Schedule 1 *'Criteria for determining whether a Plan or Programme (or Modification thereto) is likely to have significant effects on the Environment'* of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, as amended.

The conclusion that arises from the SEA screening analysis detailed in this report is that the Draft Noise Action Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.