

# REPORT TO INFORM APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING

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**Report to Inform AA Screening of Material  
Amendments to the Draft Carrick-on-Suir &  
Environs Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031**

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**Prepared for:**

**Tipperary County Council**



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**Date:** February 2025

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## REPORT TO INFORM AA SCREENING

### REVISION CONTROL TABLE, CLIENT, KEYWORDS AND ABSTRACT

User is responsible for Checking the Revision Status of This Document

Rev. No.	Description of Changes	Prepared by:	Checked by:	Approved by:	Date:
1	Final	RD/NSC	RD	BG	25/02/2025

**Client:** Tipperary County Council

**Keywords:** Report to Inform AA Screening, Appropriate Assessment, AA, Local Area Plan, LAP, Tipperary County Council.

**Abstract:** Fehily Timoney and Company is pleased to submit this Report to Inform AA Screening of the Draft Carrick-on-Suir & Environs Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031 to Tipperary County Council.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Tipperary County Council (TCC) prepared the Draft Carrick-on-Suir & Environs Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031 (herein referred to as the 'Draft Plan' or 'Draft LAP').

The Draft LAP outlines the local spatial planning framework for Carrick-on-Suir and defines planning policies and objectives unique to the town. Planning policies will inform private and public sector local development proposals, and planning objectives represent the key local objectives of the Council to be achieved over the lifetime of the LAP.

The Draft LAP was published for public consultation. A Chief Executive Report for the Draft LAP was subsequently prepared. Proposed Material Amendments to the Draft LAP were set out in this document. This is the Report to Inform AA Screening for the Material Amendments to the Draft LAP.

### 1.2 Plan-making Process To Date

A draft version of the LAP was prepared. This document was accompanied by a Draft Natura Impact Report (NIR) which considered, evaluated and presented the environmental effects of the Draft LACAP on European sites and presented mitigation measures to avoid or minimise identified effects. This AA process was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive<sup>1</sup> and transposing national legislation.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was also undertaken on the Draft LAP in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Directive<sup>2</sup> and transposing national legislation. A Draft SEA Environmental Report which considered the effects of the Draft LAP on the environment was therefore prepared also. The Draft NIR suitably informed this report.

A period of consultation has been undertaken in relation to the Draft LAP, the Draft SEA Environmental Report and the Draft NIR. Statutory environmental authorities, interested stakeholders and members of the public were invited to make submissions in connection with the Draft LAP and the associated Draft SEA Environmental Report and Draft NIR.

All submissions made on this documentation have been reviewed by TCC. These submissions were taken into consideration. TCC have prepared a Chief Executive Report on the submissions received. This document details the submissions received, TCC responses to the submissions, and Proposed Material Amendments arising following consideration of the submissions.

An AA Screening Assessment has been completed for the Proposed Material Amendments. This report documents the assessment undertaken.

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<sup>1</sup> Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

<sup>2</sup> Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment



### 1.3 Purpose of the Assessment

AA Screening must be carried for the Proposed Material Amendments to the LAP. The purpose of this assessment is to identify whether the amendments will result in additional effects on European sites not previously considered and mitigated against in the AA process to date, and to inform whether or not a full AA is required for the amendments

This report should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

1. The Draft Carrick-on-Suir & Environs Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031.
2. The Draft NIR for the Draft Carrick-on-Suir & Environs Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031.
3. The Draft SEA Environmental Report for the Draft Carrick-on-Suir & Environs Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031.
4. The Chief Executive Report for the Draft Carrick-on-Suir & Environs Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031.
5. SEA Screening Report for the Proposed Material Amendments to the Draft Carrick-on-Suir & Environs Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031.

### 1.4 Legislative Context

Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The Directive requires that where a plan or project (or plan amendment in this instance) is likely to have a significant effect on a European Site, while not directly connected with or necessary to the nature conservation management of the site, it will be subject to 'Appropriate Assessment' to identify any implications for the European site in view of the site's Conservation Objectives. Specifically, Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states:

*"6(3) 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 site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public."*

These requirements are implemented in the Republic of Ireland by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

The competent authority must carry out a screening for appropriate assessment to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the proposed plan (or plan amendment in this instance), individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the European site. If it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed plan (plan amendment), individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site, an appropriate assessment of its implications for the European Site(s) in view of the Site's conservation objectives must be carried out.

The provisions of Article 6(3) do not apply where the proposed plan (plan amendment) or project is 'connected with or necessary to the management of the site'. In this case, the plan amendments are not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site.



## 1.5 Guidance

The assessment was conducted in accordance with the following guidance principally:

- Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites - Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Commission Notice (2021) Brussels, 28.9.2021 C (2021) 6913 final;
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin (2009, updated 2010);
- Commission Notice: Managing Natura 2000 sites. The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission (2018). Brussels, (2019/C 33/01). OJ C 33, 25.1.2019;
- OPR Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management, Office of the Planning Regulator (2021).

## 1.6 Assessment Process and Approach

The process of determining the likelihood of significant effects from a proposed plan or project (plan amendment in this case) on European sites is an iterative process centred around a Source-Pathway-Receptor (S-P-R) model. In order for an effect to be established, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the mechanism is sufficient to conclude that a potential effect is not of any relevance or significance.

- Source(s) – e.g., pollutant run-off, noise, removal of vegetation etc.;
- Pathway(s) – functional link, or ecological pathway e.g., groundwater connecting to nearby qualifying wetland habitats; and,
- Receptor(s) –the qualifying habitats and species of European sites and ecological resources supporting those habitats/species.

In the context of this report, a source is any identifiable element of the proposed amendments that is known to interact with the receiving environment. A receptor is the Qualifying Interests (QI)<sup>3</sup> for an SAC or Special Conservation Interests (SCI)<sup>4</sup> for an SPA or an ecological feature that is known to be utilised by the QI/SCI. In practice, the term Qualifying Interests also applies to SCIs (and is used in this document for simplicity). A pathway is any connection or link between the source and the receptor.

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<sup>3</sup> SACs are areas designated under the Habitats Directive to conserve habitats listed in Annex I of the Directive and plant and animal species listed in Annex II. Collectively these are referred to as the 'Qualifying Interests' or 'QIs' of the SAC.

<sup>4</sup> SPAs are sites classified under the Birds Directive to protect rare or vulnerable bird species listed in Annex I to the Directive as well as regularly occurring migratory species and wetlands. Wetland habitats that support internationally important populations of migratory birds may be coastal or inland. Collectively, these species and habitats are referred to as the 'Special Conservation Interests' of the SPA.



The European Commission Notice (2021) on the 'Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites – Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, states that in identifying European sites (Natural 2000 sites), which may be affected by a plan or project, the following should be identified:

- Any European sites geographically overlapping with any of the actions or aspects of the plan or project in any of its phases, or adjacent to them;
- Any European sites within the likely zone of influence of the plan or project. European sites located in the surroundings of the plan or project (or at some distance) that could still be indirectly affected by aspects of the plan project, including as regards the use of natural resources (e.g., water) and various types of waste, discharge or emissions of substances or energy;
- European sites whose connectivity or ecological continuity can be affected by the plan or project.

The potential for in-combination impacts with other plans and projects is also assessed having regard to the identified impacts of the proposed plan amendment along the ecological pathways identified to European sites.

The likelihood of significant effects on the European Sites within the Zol is examined having regard to the sensitivity of each European site with pathways for impacts associated with the proposed plan amendment on its own and in combination with other plans and projects.

Having regard to the European Commission Communication on the Precautionary Principle (European Commission, 2000) the:

*“absence of scientific evidence on the significant negative effect of an action cannot be used as justification for approval of this action. When applied to Article 6(3) procedure, the precautionary principle implies that the absence of a negative effect on Natura 2000 sites has to be demonstrated before a plan or project can be authorised. In other words, if there is a lack of certainty as to whether there will be any negative effects, then the plan or project cannot be approved.”*

Where significant effects are determined to be likely, or where there is uncertainty regarding the likelihood of significant effects, the plan (plan amendment) will be required under law to be subjected to Appropriate Assessment.

## 1.7 Assessment of Plan Amendments

The following has been considered when carrying out the AA Screening Assessment of Proposed Material Amendments to the Draft Plan.

- The likely significant effect on the environment of implementing the Draft Plan (as already assessed)
- The potential for likely significant effects on the environment due to the amendments.
- The mitigation measures defined in Section 5 of the Draft NIR for the Draft Plan.

The amendments are therefore considered in relation to the environmental assessment undertaken for the Draft Plan and environmental mitigation already defined and integrated into the Plan.





## 2. SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

### 2.1 Introduction to Screening

This section of the report examines if the Proposed Material Amendments are likely to have a significant effect upon European Sites, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans. The screening phase is progressed in the following stages. A series of questions are asked during the Screening Stage of the AA process in order to determine:

- Whether the amendments introduce any sources of environmental or ecological impact.
- Whether the amendments can be excluded from AA requirements because it is directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European Site.
- Whether the amendments will have a likely significant effect on a European Site, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, in view of the site's conservation objectives or if residual uncertainty exists regarding potential effects.

Plans are screened out based on one or a combination of the following criteria:

- Where it can be shown that there are no sources of environmental impact associated with a plan or project.
- Where there are no pathways such as hydrological links between a plan or project area, and relevant European sites
- Where a European site is located at a distance from the plan or project area such that effects are not foreseen;
- Where known threats or vulnerabilities at a European site cannot be linked to potential effects that may arise from a plan or project.

### 2.2 Potential Interactions of the Proposed Plan on the receiving environment

Having regard to the European Commission (2021) guidance document and the OPR (2021) practice note, the potential impacts of the Proposed Material Amendments on the receiving environment at source are assessed in Table 2-1 considering on the following criteria:

- Habitat destruction/fragmentation/deterioration;
- Surface water run-off carrying suspended silt and contaminants, into local watercourses;
- Changes to groundwater quality, yield and/or flow paths associated with the proposed project;
- Plan related activities (noise, vibration, lighting, human presence, structures, etc) leading to disturbance / displacement of species;
- Plan related activities leading to a reduction in species populations / density;
- Air pollution due to dust and other airborne emissions; and
- Disturbance and potential spread of invasive species.



An assessment as to whether any potential sources of impact associated with the amendment have the potential to result in likely significant effects on European sites, or whether additional mitigation and AA is required for the amendments, is also presented in Table 2-1.



**Table 2-1: Evaluation of Potential Sources of Impact from the Plan Amendments**

Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
Policy 2.1	Amend Policy 2.1 as follows: Require the retrofitting of existing structures on brownfield sites, unless it is demonstrated that retrofitting is unfeasible, or redevelopment of the site would provide positive carbon impact through the re-design, construction and use stages of a new building, compared with retrofitting - having due regard to the need to conserve protected structures, <b>archaeological monuments</b> , historic fabric generally, and protected species of biodiversity value.	This amendment clarifies the intended meaning of the policy. It does not materially change the policy.  The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.
Policy 3.6	Amend Policy 3.6 as follows: Support new development which enhances the setting of Carrick-on-Suir town centre, including its architectural, <b>archaeological</b> and historical heritage and character, and facilitates compact growth, high quality urban design, connectivity and active travel as opportunities arise.	This amendment clarifies the intended meaning of the policy. It does not materially change the policy.  The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
Objective 3H	Add Objective to Section 3.7 as follows: <b>Objective 3H</b> Encourage and facilitate the reuse and regeneration of derelict buildings in the town centre for retail, commercial, residential, and other mixed uses and other strategic purposes, including car parking, and where necessary through appropriate legislative mechanisms /instruments and / or by supporting the progression and delivery of projects funded by the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund and other appropriate funds.	This objective clarifies approaches to be used to promote regeneration. The environmental effects of policies/objectives supporting regeneration (e.g. 3.1, 3.2, 3.5, 3B, 3D) have been thoroughly assessed and mitigated against under the AA already.  The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.
Objective 3G	Amend Objective 3G in Section 3.7 as follows:  Identify suitable locations for car, campervan and coach parking to support businesses and grow tourism within the town, including on lands close to the Primary Care Centre and Ormond Castle with access off the existing road network.	This amendment clarifies the intended meaning and scope of the objective. It does not materially change the objective.  The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	Also, to examine the possibility of adapting existing car parks to provide for coach parking bays - having due regard to the Sustainable Transport Plan and safety, along with the needs of businesses and traders in the town.				
Objective 4F	Amend Objective 4F as follows: Work with project partners, including the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage, Fáilte Ireland and the OPW to develop the Ormond Castle Quarter, new visitor accommodation, cultural activities and events to support the tourism industry in the town. Any works to Ormond Castle shall be subject to Ministerial Consent under Section 14 of the National Monuments Act 1930 (and Amendments).	This amendment clarifies project partners and the intended meaning of the objective (i.e. the carrying out of cultural activities, including events). It clarifies the legal requirement for works to Ormond Castle to be subject to Ministerial Consent under Section 14 of the National Monuments Act 1930 (and Amendments). The aim, focus, and scope of the objective has not materially changes.  The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
Objective 4H	Amend Objective 4H as follows: Support <b>and facilitate</b> the development of a greenway connection between the Suir Blueway Tipperary and the Waterford Greenway, <b>including improved or additional cycle and pedestrian links over the River Suir.</b>	<p>This amendment clarifies the intended meaning of the objective. A variety of policies/objectives already considered and assessed support the development of active travel infrastructure and a crossing at the River Suir (e.g., 6.6, 7.2). A strong level of mitigatory policy has been integrated into the Plan to ensure the protection of the River Suir, including the River Suir Special Area of Conservation.</p> <p>The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.</p>	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
Objective 4K	Add Objective 4K <b>Objective 4K</b> Increase the tourist accommodation capacity of Carrick-on-Suir by supporting and facilitating the development of a diversity of tourist accommodation, and particularly hotel accommodation in the town centre.	<p>This objective clarifies the approach toward promoting tourism accommodation in the town. Policy 9-1 of the LAP already supports such tourism development, including accommodation. The effects of policy supportive of tourism development/accommodation, and associated tourism activity that may result in the town, have been fully assessed and mitigated against already under the AA for the Draft Plan and the higher-order CDP) (See Objective 4G and CDP Policies 9-2, 9.-3). A robust framework for sustainable tourism development has been established in the Plan</p> <p>The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.</p>	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
Objective 4L	Amend Objective 4L as follows: Build synergies between Carrick-on-Suir and the tourism assets of the Munster Vales, the Butler Trail, <b>Thoroughbred County</b> and Irelands Ancient East and promote and expand physical and cultural tourism linkages with neighbouring areas and towns including the 'Irish Walled Town Network'.	This is a minor edit that clarifies the scope of objective and the name of the Irish Walled Town Network.  The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.
Policy 5.2	Amend Policy 5.2 as follows: Require the preparation of a masterplan for the landbank of 'New Residential' zoned land on the northern side of the Coolnamuck Road. A masterplan must:  1) <b>provide</b> for a co-ordinated and phased approach to delivery and sequencing of residential development, public open space, playground / play spaces, road access, active travel and permeability;	The amendment includes minor wording changes and clarifies the intended meaning of the Policy. It does not materially change the policy/  The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.





Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	<p>2) <b>provide</b> an evidence-based assessment to demonstrate that there is adequate capacity in the existing road network to accommodate transport impact from further proposed development OR the phased delivery of required transport infrastructure delivery; and</p> <p>Any identified transport upgrade requirements are to be provided as part of the proposed development, in accordance with the phasing plan for the lands. The masterplan must be informed and guided by all relevant environmental considerations, including the need the manage and mitigate (where necessary) the potential effects development in this area may have on the Lower River Suir SAC.</p>				



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
Objective 5H	Seek the development of additional recreational and amenity spaces <b>and associated car parking</b> in Carrickbeg and <b>on lands between Ormond Castle and adjacent to the River Suir</b> , having due regard to environmental constraints and sensitivities in this area.	<p>This amendment clarifies the scope of the amendment. Carrickbeg is situated adjacent to the River Suir. The effects of recreation development and associated ancillary development (and other forms of the development) occurring adjacent to the River Suir have been fully assessed and mitigated against under the AA already. Environmental mitigation has been integrated into the plan to ensure the appropriate protection of the River Suir, including the River Suir SAC (e.g., 5H, 7.1, 7.5 etc.)</p> <p>The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.</p>	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
Objective 5J	Add Objective 5J to Section 5.6 as follows: <b>Seek to provide appropriate amenity spaces or playgrounds in the Clairin and Green Hill Village areas.</b>	The development of new amenity spaces or playground at these locations is unlikely to introduce any likely, significant effects, given the minor extent and scale of this development and the location of such development within residential estates. Such development will take place on low value amenity grassland.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.
6.9	Amend Policy 6.9 of the Draft LAP as follows: Policy 6.8 Safeguard the N24 and require new development proposals on or affecting national roads within the Plan area to have regard to national, regional and local policies and guidelines as set out in Section 6.5, <b>and Policy 12 – 4 of the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022-2028.</b>	This amendment clarifies higher-order policy in the County Development Plan that must be considered when assessing development proposal effects on the N24.  The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
Objective 6G	Amend Objective 6G of the Draft LAP as follows: Seek opportunities to improve permeability in existing developed areas in accordance with NTA's Permeability Best Practice Guide, and where the opportunity exists, require that new development incorporates pedestrian and cycle routes to increase permeability for walking and cycling within the neighbourhoods identified in Figure 8 and the wider area, and as outlined in Map 1 within Appendix 2 of this Plan.	This amendment clarifies the scope of the objective. It does change the scope of objective, however.  The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.
Objective 6K	Add the following: <b>Objective 6K: Investigate the feasibility of delivery a new vehicular street to the south of the Ormond Castle linking the Pill Road to the Town Centre.</b>	This objectives supports the carrying out of a feasibility study. Such a study will not have any environmental implications, in and off itself.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
Policy 7.13	Amend Section 7.3 to add Policy 7.13 as follows: <b>Seek to Preserve and protect trees and tree groupings as identified in Section 7.1.4 that are considered significant landscape features within the Plan area.</b>	This Policy supports tree protection in the Plan area in accordance with higher-order plans and policy. It does not have the potential to result in any negative likely significant effects on the environment or European sites. The principle of protecting trees of amenity value and woodland has already been established under Policy 7.3.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.
Objective 7G	Amend Section 7.3 to add Objective 7G as follows: <b>Review and update as appropriate the Record of Protected Structures for Carrick-on-Suir, and amalgamate the RPS for Carrick-on-Suir into the Record of Protected Structures for the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022-2028.</b>	This objective supports updating the Record of Protected Structures for Carrick-on-Suir. This will not have any environmental implications, in and off itself.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
Objective 8E	Amend Objective 8E as follows: Support and work in co-operation with the Office of Public Works in the design, development, implementation and delivery of upgrades to the Suir River/ Carrick-on-Suir Flood Relief Scheme.	This amendment clarifies the intention of the objective. It does not materially change the aim and scope of the objective. The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.
Policy 8.2	Amend Policy 8.2, as follows: Support the sustainable and efficient use of existing capacity in water service; permit new connections to the Carrick-on-Suir public water and waste water supply; and safeguard the integrity of the water supply and waste water network. Where local network upgrades are required, to ensure that capacity is provided to individual sites in accordance with the Uisce Éireann Connections Charging Policy and Uisce Éireann's Connections and Developer Service process.	This amendment clarifies the need to secure water and wastewater connections from Uisce Éireann. This will not have any environmental implications, in and off itself.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	New connection applications to the public water and wastewater infrastructure should be submitted directly to Uisce Éireann.				
Policy 8.4(d)	Amend Policy 8.4(d), as follows: Require the submission of site-specific Flood Risk Assessments for developments undertaken within Flood Zones A & B and on lands subject to the mid-range future scenario floods extents, as published by the Office of Public Works. These Flood Risk Assessments shall consider climate change impacts and adaptation measures including details of structural and non-structural flood risk management measures, such as those relating to floor levels, internal layout, flood-resistant construction, flood-resilient construction, emergency response planning and access and egress during flood events. The minimum design level requirements for fluvial flooding set out in Table 6.4 of the accompanying SFRA shall be employed.	This amendment clarifies the need to ensure adherence to the minimum design level requirements for fluvial flooding set out in Table 6.4.  The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	The Flood Risk Assessments shall apply the precautionary approach recommended in the Guidelines and shall be informed by the advice on the expected impacts of climate change and the allowances to be provided for future flood risk management provided in the OPW's (2019) Flood Risk Management Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan and the guidance on potential future scenarios contained therein.				
Appendix 3: Regeneration Sites	<p>Addition of the following planning criteria to Site 1, Goldcrop; Site 2, Tirlan; Site 3, North Quay Site/ Strand Lane; and Site 5 North Quay / Strand Land.</p> <p><b>The capacity of the site should be maximised, and residential development of the site should accord with the residential densities set out in Section 3.3.3 of the 'Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements – Guidelines for Planning Authorities.</b></p>	These additions support maximizing capacity at each of these development sites. The effects of compact growth and maximal regeneration at these sites have already been fully assessed and mitigated against under the AA. A variety of mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Plan to ensure such development does not have adverse effects on the environment or European sites (e.g., 3E).	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.





Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
		The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.			
Appendix 7: Town Centre First Plan	To include the Carrick-on-Suir Town Centre First Plan in its entirety, as indicated in the Draft Plan. The TCF Plan is appended to this document as Appendix A as a separate attachment in full.	The environmental effects of policies/objectives supporting regeneration (e.g. 3.1, 3.2, 3.5, 3B, 3D) have been thoroughly assessed and mitigated against under the AA already. The Town Centre First Plan is an extension to these policies/objectives, but it does not introduce any additional potential sources of environmental impact, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA already.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.
Appendix 10: SFRA – Section 6.7	Amend Section 6.7, as follows: It is noted that updates to the above documents and / or new published documents during the lifetime of the SFRA are to be implemented as part of Development Management where appropriate.	This amendment serves to reference the SuDS principles that are to be followed as part of any future development within Carrick-on-Suir.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	The following sections outline SuDS principles that are to be followed as part of any future development within Carrick-on-Suir. Regional SuDS (i.e. catchment-wide rather than site-specific) could be considered through a Rainwater Management Plan for the settlement in line with the DHLGH guidance listed above which requires settlements / urban areas to undertake RMPs within a specified timeline.	<p>It clarifies the possibility of using of regional SuDS (as per DHLGH guidance)</p> <p>The environmental effects of flood risk policy have been fully assessed under the AA already (see Policy 8.4).</p> <p>The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.</p>			
Appendix 10: SFRA – Section 2.6	<p>Amend Section 2.6, by adding a note following Table 2.3 as follows:</p> <p>Note on Land Use Zoning Objectives and Matrix per Tipperary County Council: The limitation described in this note applies to a relatively small number of instances where Flood Risk Zones A and B overlap with certain Land Use Zoning objectives.</p>	<p>This amendment consists of the addition of a note clarifying the primacy of flood risk zones.</p> <p>The environmental effects of flood risk policy have been fully assessed under the AA already (see Policy 8.4).</p> <p>The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.</p>	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	Uses under all Land Use Zoning Objectives (apart from where the Justification Test outlined in the Flood Risk Management Plan has been passed) shall be limited to water compatible uses in Flood Zone A, and less vulnerable or water compatible uses in Flood Zone B (as per the Flood Risk Management Guidelines), and detailed site-specific Flood Risk Assessment will be required in these areas. This limitation shall take primacy over any other provision relating to these land use zoning objectives.				
Appendix 10: SFRA – Justification Tests	The Justification tests in Appendix F of the SFRA to be updated. See amended justification tests appended to this document as Appendix B.	This amendment proposes updating the justification tests in the SFRA. The environmental effects of the adoption of flood risk policy have been fully assessed under the AA already (see Policy 8.4).	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
		<p>The policy is centered around requiring development proposals to comply with the principles and requirements contained within Planning System and Flood Risk Assessment Guidelines and has the potential to create positive effects.</p> <p>The amendment will not introduce any likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA.</p>			
Land Use Zoning Map	Amend the zoning on the site of the new Gaelscoil development from 'Urban Core' to 'Community Services and Infrastructure'.	This amendment assigns an appropriate zoning objective for the new Gaelscoil development. It will not have any significant land use implications.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
		This amendment does not have the potential to result in the introduction of any additional, material sources of environmental impact, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA already.			
	Amend the zoning at a location in Carrickbeg on the R680 Waterford Road, to change the zoning objective of a parcel of land to the south East of the site. Zoning objective changes from New Residential to Town Environs	This amendment constitutes a minor zoning change. The principle of significant development taking place at this location has been established and assessed in the AA already. It does not have the potential to result in the introduction of any additional, material sources of environmental impact, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA already.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



Policy / Objective / Section Reference	Draft Plan Amendment	Potential Sources of Impact	Likely Significant Effects on European Sites (with mitigation measures already integrated into the Draft Plan considered)?	Additional Mitigation Required?	Screening Conclusion
	Amend the zoning of land at the park to the South East of Dillon Bridge from 'Community Services and Infrastructure' to 'Open Space and Recreation'.	This amendment is minor in nature and does not have the potential to result in the introduction of any additional, material sources of environmental impact, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA already. It will minimize the extent of development taking place at this location.	No.	No.	No requirement for AA.



## 2.3 Summary of the Assessment

The Proposed Material Amendments are minor in nature. Many of the amendments serve to clarify the intended meaning of policies/objectives. The changes made are consistent and harmonious with, and align with the intended effect of, existing Draft Plan Strategic Vision and Aims, inter-related policies and objectives that sit within the Draft Plan, and Strategic Environment Objectives (SEOs defined for the Draft Plan, including the following SEOs:

- B2: Ensure compliance with Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to protection of European Sites and Annexed habitats and species.
- B3: Support Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the management of features of the landscape which - by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function as stepping stones (designated or not) - are of major importance for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal, and genetic exchange of wild species.
- B4: Avoid or minimise significant impacts on semi-natural habitats, species, environmental features, or other sustaining resources in designated national sites, non-designated locally important sites, and sites proposed for designation; and to comply with the Wildlife Acts 1976-2012 with regard to listed species.

The amendments do not have the potential to introduce any additional, material sources of environmental impact, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA already, such as:

- Land take;
- Resource Requirements (Drinking Water Abstraction Etc.);
- Emissions (Disposal to Land, Water or Air);
- Excavation Requirements;
- Transportation Requirements;
- Construction, Operation, Decommissioning.

The amendments do not have the potential to introduce any additional, material sources of environmental impact, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA already, which could result in or contribute to the following types of likely significant effects on a European site:

- Reduction of habitat area, habitat degradation or fragmentation
- Disturbance to species, reduction in species population and density
- Changes in ecological functions and/or features that are essential for the ecological requirements of habitats and species (e.g. water quality and quantity)
- Interference with key relationships that define the structure and function of the site.

The amendments will not result in any sources of negative environmental impact that may combine with environmental effects occurring due to other plans or projects to create an 'in-combination' likely significant effects on a European site.



The OPR (2021) AA Screening practice note states that a Zone of Influence must be established on a case-by-case basis using the Source-Pathway-Receptor model. In this instance, the amendments do not have the potential to introduce any additional, material sources of environmental impact, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA already. The amendment will not create any impact or zone of influence as such.





### 3. CONCLUSION

This report presents an examination of whether the Proposed Material Amendments to the LAP are likely to have a significant effect on a European site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) and is based on best available scientific knowledge. This report has been prepared to inform the competent authority in completing their statutory obligations in relation to Appropriate Assessment, as required by Article 6(3) under Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive).

It is concluded in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of conservation objectives, that the amendments to the Draft Carrick-on-Suir & Environs Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031, individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, would not be likely to have any significant effect on European sites.

The principal reasons for this are as follows:

- The amendments are either clerical in nature or only intended to clarify the intended meaning of land use policies and objectives previously defined in the Draft LAP, which were considered, assessed and mitigated against under the AA of the Draft LAP.
- The amendments will not introduce any new likely, significant effects on European sites, not previously considered and mitigated against under the AA of the Draft LAP.



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