

SEA STATEMENT

FOR

VARIATION No. 1 TO THE **CAVAN COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN** **2022-2028**

INCORPORATING THE CAVAN TOWN
LOCAL AREA PLAN 2022-2028

for: Cavan County Council



by: CAAS Ltd.



AUGUST 2026

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Section 1 Introduction

1.1 Introduction and Legislative Context

This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement for Variation No. 1 to the Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028.

SEA is a systematic process of predicting and evaluating the likely environmental effects of implementing a plan, or other strategic action, in order to ensure that these effects are appropriately addressed at the earliest appropriate stage of decision-making on a par with economic and social considerations.

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, referred to hereafter as the SEA Directive, introduced the requirement that SEA be carried out on plans and programmes which are prepared for a number of sectors, including land use. The SEA Directive has been transposed into Irish Law, including through the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 435 of 2004), as amended, and the European Union (Land Use Planning – Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2025 (SI No. 456 of 2025).

1.2 Content of the SEA Statement

Where SEA is undertaken, the Regulations require that a Statement is made available to the public and the competent environmental authorities after the making of the Variation.

This Statement is referred to as an SEA Statement.

The SEA Statement is required to include information summarising:

- a) how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Variation;
- b) how the following have been taken into account during the preparation of the Variation:
 - the environmental report,
 - submissions and observations made to the planning authority on the Variation and Environmental Report, and
 - any transboundary consultations with other European Union Member State (these are not relevant to this SEA).
- c) the reasons for choosing the Variation in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and
- d) the measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementing the Variation.

1.3 Implications of SEA for the Variation

SEA has been undertaken on the Variation and the findings of the SEA are expressed in an Environmental Report, the first published version of which accompanied the Proposed Variation on public display. The Environmental Report was updated in order to take account of changes to the original Proposed Variation that were made on foot of submissions and recommendations in the submissions.

Cavan County Council have been provided with the findings of SEA output during their consideration of the Variation and before the Variation was made.

Section 2 How Environmental Considerations were integrated into the Variation

2.1 Overview

Environmental considerations were presented to the Council for its consideration through:

1. Consultations;
2. Communication of environmental sensitivities throughout the SEA process;
3. Appropriate Assessment;
4. Strategic Flood Risk Assessment;
5. Consideration of alternatives;
6. Strategic work undertaken by the Council to ensure evidence-based planning;
7. Integration of environmental considerations into the existing County Development Plan; and
8. Integration of environmental considerations into the Variation.

All parts of the Variation-preparation process were informed by the SEA, AA and SFRA processes.

2.2 Consultations

As environmental authorities identified under the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations, as amended, the following authorities were sent SEA scoping notices indicating that submissions or observations in relation to the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the environmental report could be made: Environmental Protection Agency, Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Meath County Council, Westmeath County Council, Leitrim County Council, Longford County Council and Monaghan County Council.

Detail on submissions made on foot of the SEA scoping notice is provided under Section 3.2.

Detail is also provided on submissions that were made on the Proposed Variation and/or the SEA Environmental Report while they were on public display (see Section 3.3).

2.3 Communication of environmental sensitivities throughout the SEA process

Environmental considerations were integrated into the Variation before it was placed on public display. Individual sensitivities that were considered by the Planning Team preparing the Variation included the following:

- European Sites (Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas);
- Other Ecological Designations;
- Status of Surface and Ground Waters;
- Various entries to the Water Framework Directive's Register of Protected Areas;
- Groundwater Vulnerability;
- Water Services Capacity, Performance and Demand;
- Cultural heritage (archaeological and architectural) sensitivities; and
- Landscape Designations.

A number of these sensitivities are mapped on Figures 2.1 to 2.3.

2.4 Appropriate Assessment

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening has been undertaken alongside the Variation. The requirement for AA is provided under the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 1992/43/EEC). The Screening for AA for the Variation has concluded that the any likelihood for significant effect to any European site as a result of the Variation can be ruled out. The preparation of the Variation, SEA and Screening for AA has taken place concurrently and the findings of the Screening for AA have informed the SEA.

2.5 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has been undertaken as part of the preparation of the Variation. Requirements in relation to SFRA are provided under 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (Department of Environment and Office of Public Works, 2009) and associated Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government Circular PL2/2014. The SFRA has informed both the land use zoning and the written provisions of the Variation.

2.6 Consideration of Alternatives

Consideration of the environmental effects arising from a variety of different alternatives for the Variation (see Section 4) has contributed towards the protection and management of the environment.

2.7 Integration of environmental considerations into the existing County Development Plan

Various individual provisions relating to environmental protection and management have been integrated into the existing, already in force, Cavan County Development Plan.

Table 2.1 links key mitigation measure(s) to the likely significant effects of implementing the Variation, if unmitigated. The effects are consistent with those identified by the SEA for the Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028. The 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.

In addition, all lower-tier plans and projects arising from the varied Development Plan will be required to comply with relevant environmental legislation and assessment requirements, ensuring that any potential

adverse effects are avoided, reduced or mitigated as appropriate.

Both the planning and the assessment teams contributed towards the mitigation which was developed over multiple iterations and was informed by, inter alia, various communications through the SEA, AA and SFRA processes.

2.8 Integration of environmental considerations into the Variation

The land use zoning and objectives provided for by the Variation have taken into account environmental considerations, including those relating to ecology, cultural heritage, landscape/topography, infrastructural requirements and water. Zoning has been applied in a way that considers sustainable and compact growth, taking into account the various requirements set out in the higher-level Revised National Planning Framework, Northern and Western RSES and existing Cavan County Development Plan. Flood risk management and drainage provisions are already in force through the County Development Plan. In addition, land use zoning contained within the Variation has been informed by an iterative SFRA process, including both: the delineation of flood risk zones; and future climate scenario risk areas (mid-range as well as high-end). The detailed Variation preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input from the SFRA process facilitated zoning that helps to avoid inappropriate development being permitted in areas of elevated flood risk. Additional flood risk management provisions are provided as part of the Variation to ensure continued compliance with the Flood Risk Management Ministerial Guidelines.

Land Use Zoning takes account of the tiered approach required by the National Planning Framework and will contribute towards a co-ordination of zonings with existing and planned infrastructure and services.

In addition to the individual mitigation measures integrated into the text of the existing County Development Plan, mitigation

measures have also been integrated into the text of the Variation. These measures are identified alongside the existing County Development Plan measures on Table 2.1.

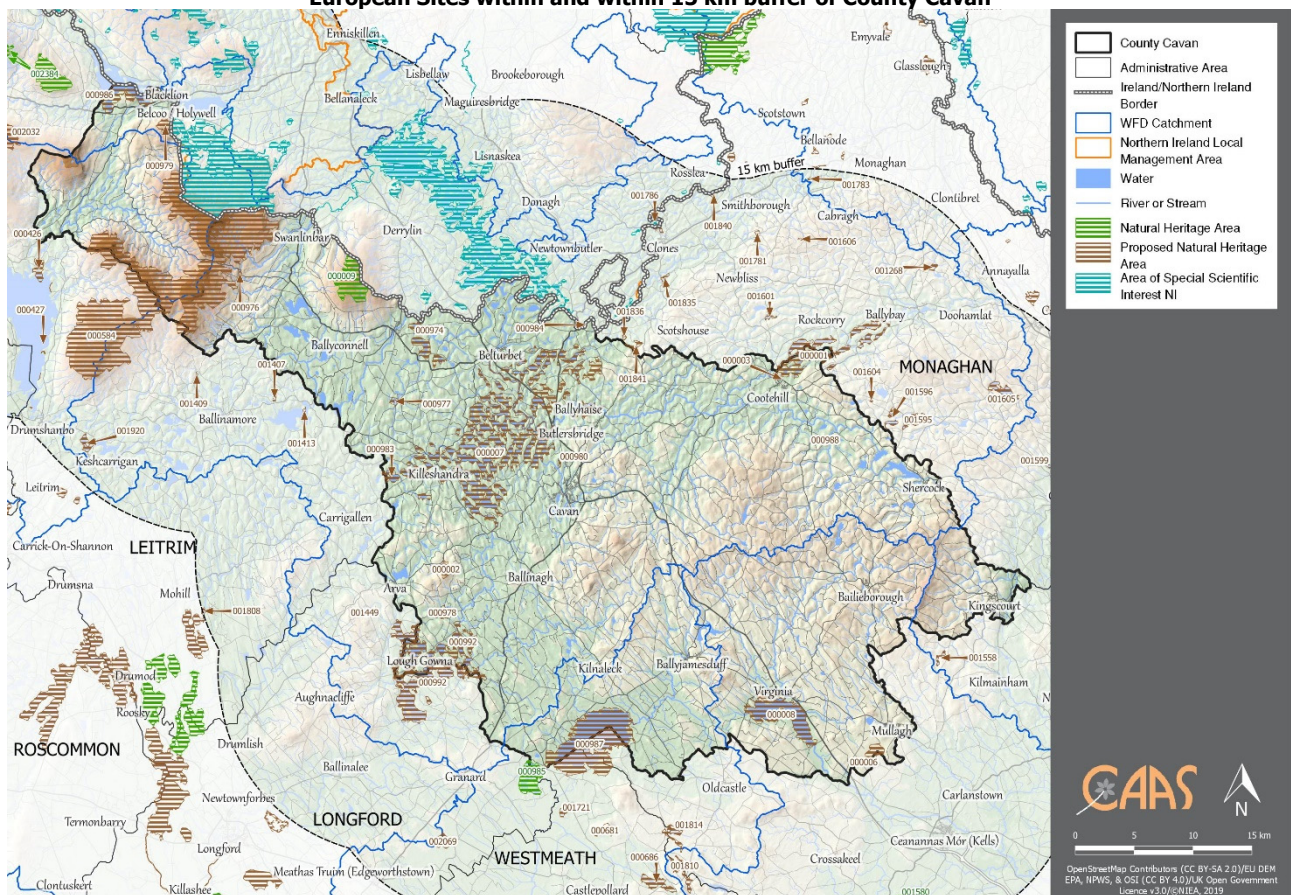
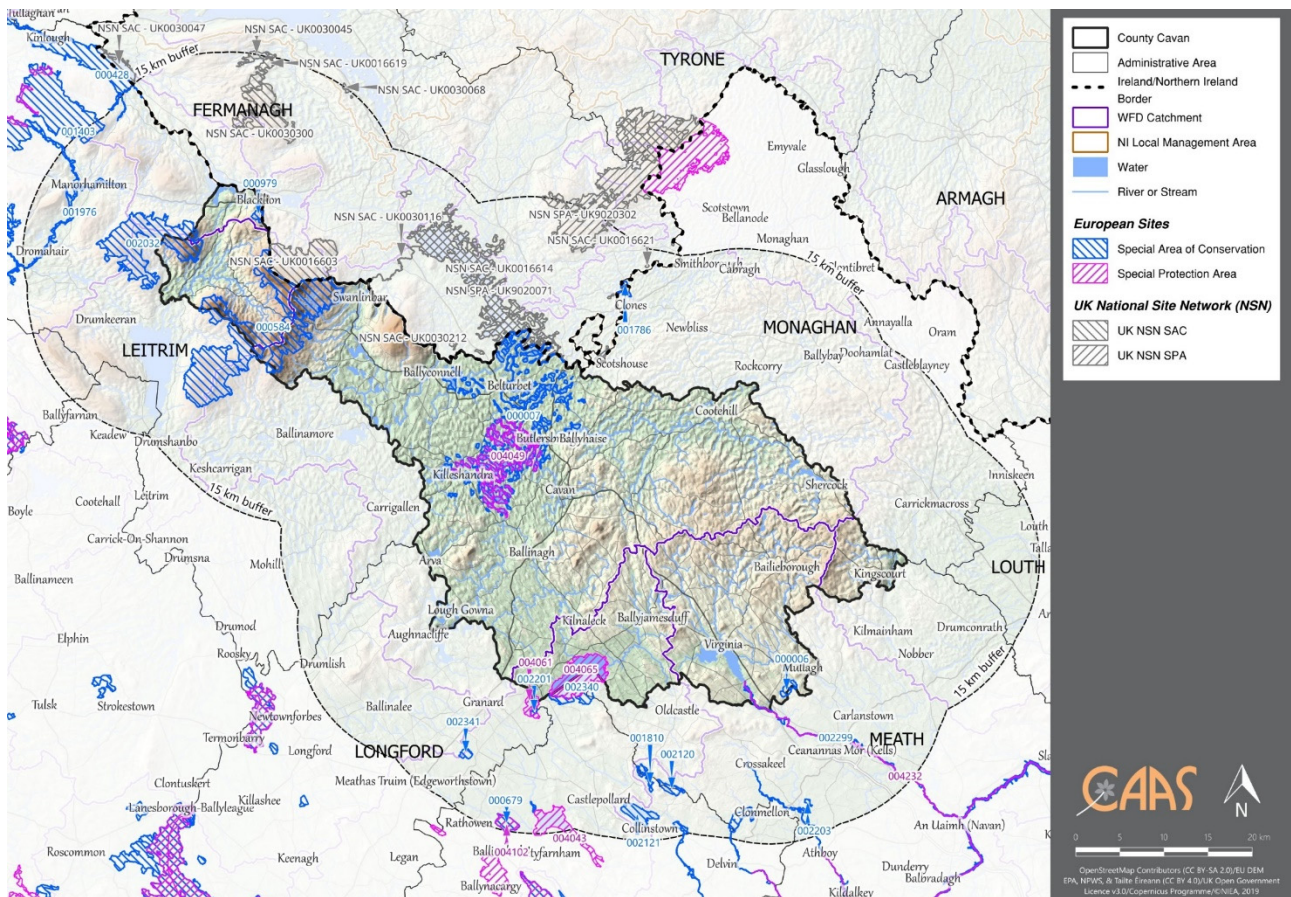


Figure 2.1 Selection of Individual Environmental Sensitivities taken into account (1 of 3)

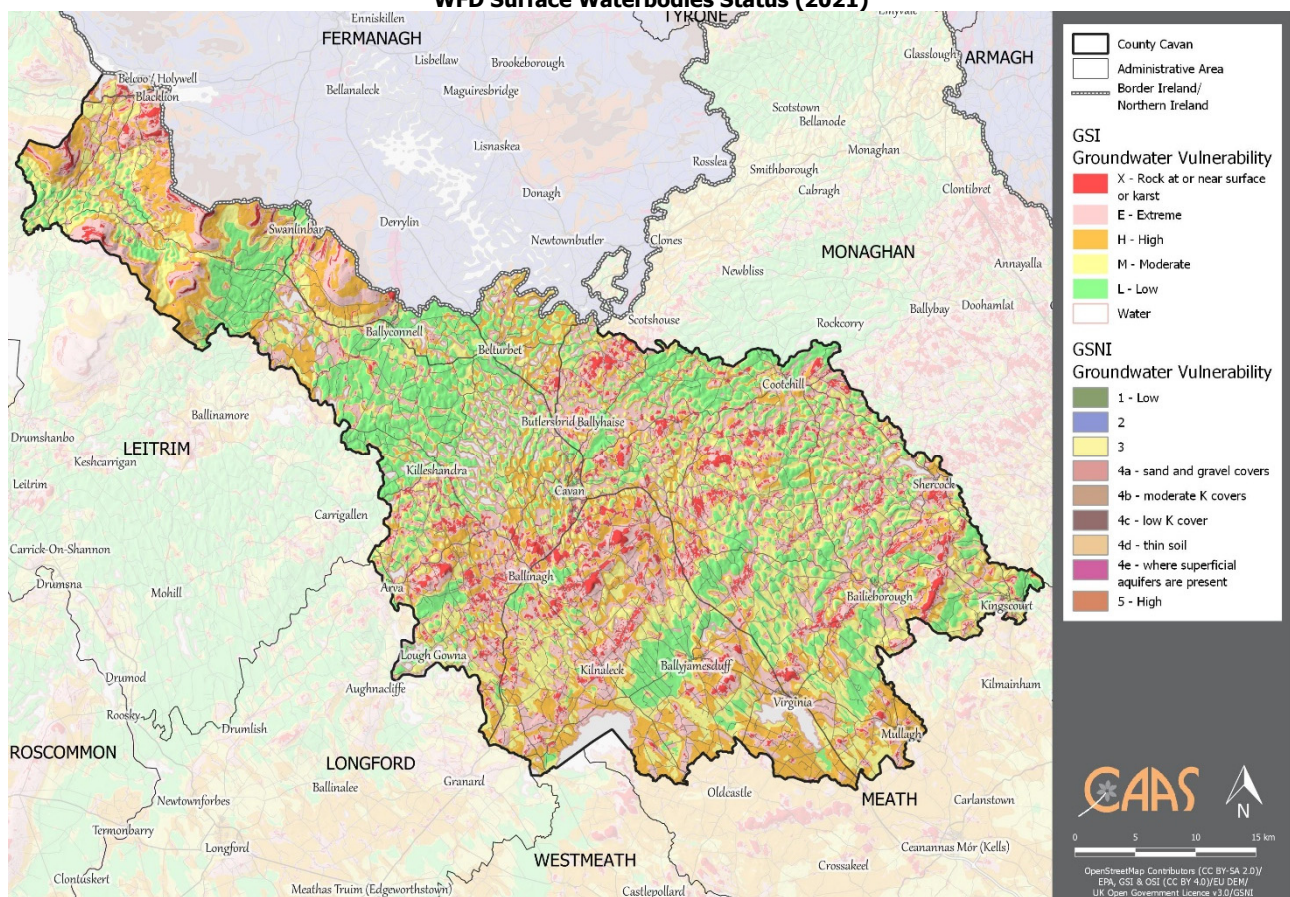
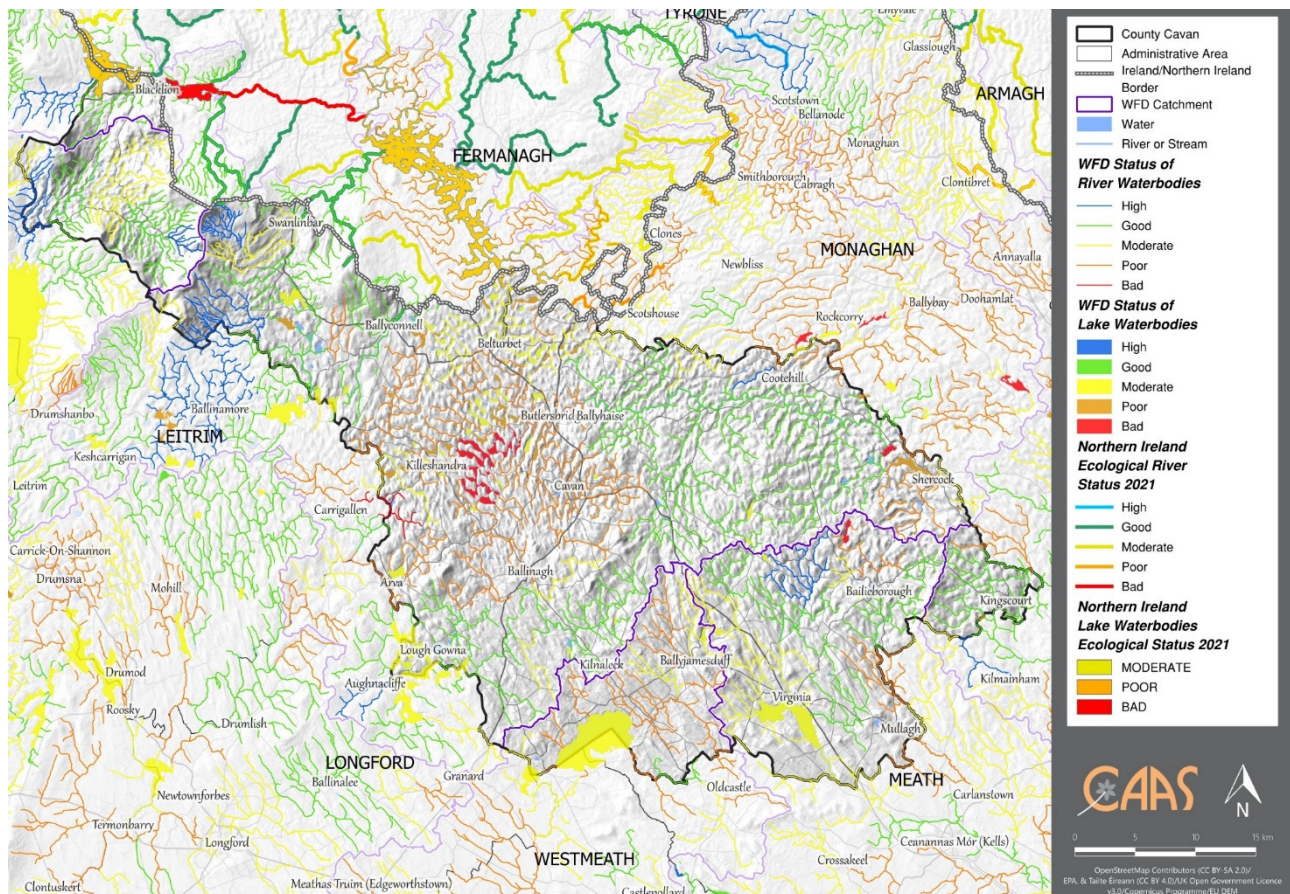


Figure 2.2 Selection of Individual Environmental Sensitivities taken into account (2 of 3)

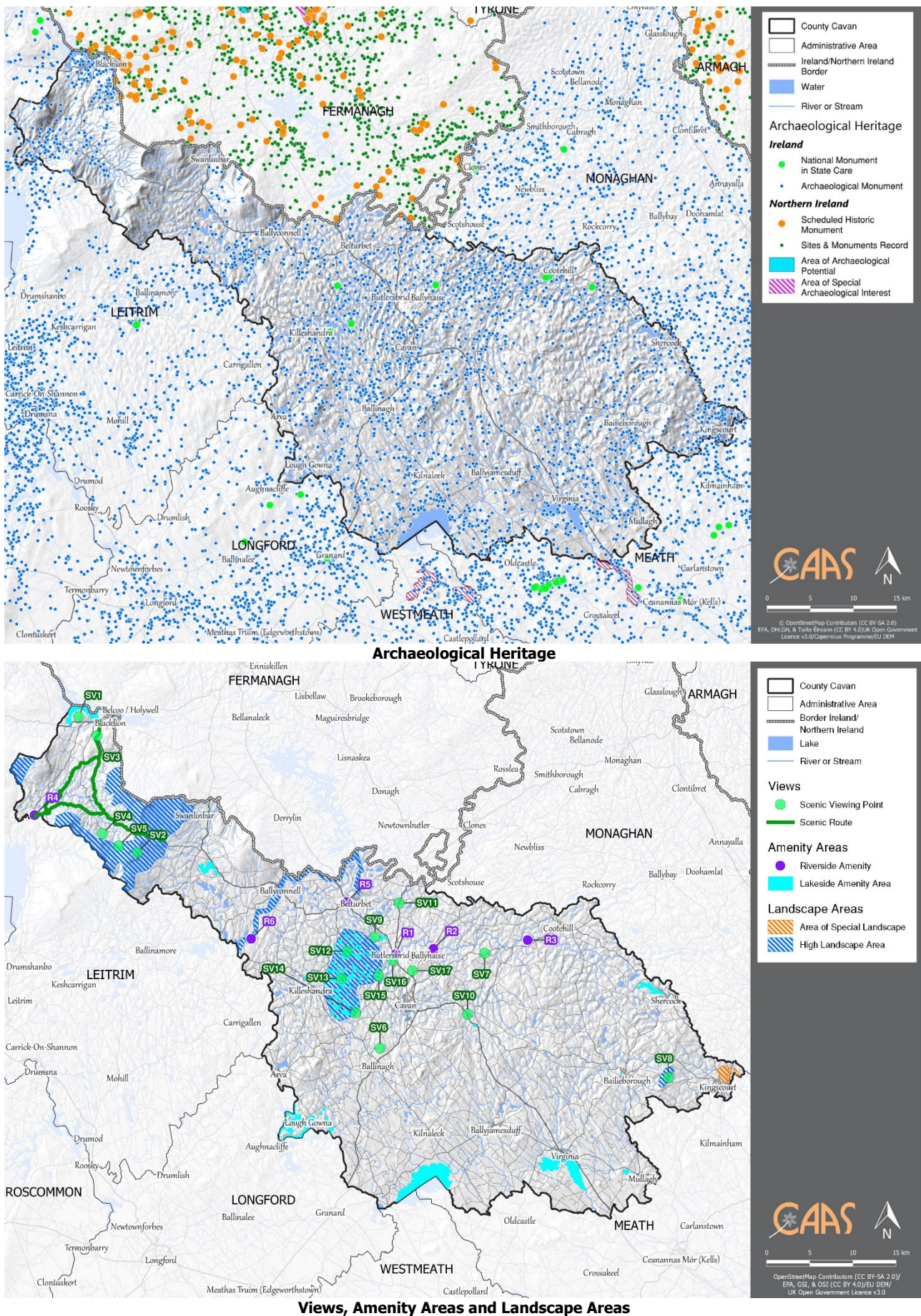


Figure 2.3 Selection of Individual Environmental Sensitivities taken into account (3 of 3)

Table 2.1 Integration of Environmental Considerations into the existing County Development Plan and the Variation

Topic	Potentially Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Significant Effect, if	Mitigation measures including:
Various	Various		Core Strategy - Ecosystems Services Approach and Natural Capital In preparing the Plan and developing policy objectives, the Council have followed these Ecosystem Services¹ Approach principles: - Consideration of natural systems - by using knowledge of interactions in nature and how ecosystems function. - Taking into account of the services that ecosystems provide - including those that underpin social and economic well-being, such as flood and climate regulation, resources for food, fibre or fuel, or for recreation, culture and quality of life. - Involving people - those who benefit from the ecosystem services and those managing them need to be involved in decisions that affect them. Public consultation has informed the preparation of the Plan which will be further refined before adoption, taking into account submissions/observations made on the Plan during public display. The Council shall promote an Ecosystem Services Approach, following the above principles, in its decision-making processes, including those relating to the preparation of statutory land use plans. In recognition of the need to manage natural capital², provisions have been integrated into the Plan that will contribute towards management of air quality, noise pollution, light pollution, water quality and integrated river basin management. United Nations Sustainability Goals Contribute, as practicable, towards achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which came into force in 2016. Various other Objectives GR 09 New roads and other transport infrastructure projects that are not already provided for by existing plans/programmes or are not already permitted, are subject to the undertaking of feasibility assessment, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environment Report and the objectives of the Plan relating to sustainable mobility. Where feasibility is established, a Corridor and Road Selection Process will be undertaken where appropriate, for relevant new road infrastructure in two stages: Stage1 – Router Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Sections; and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection. RCVM-05 All relevant development proposals shall include a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) with planning application documentation³. GE 08 Where undergrounding and/or overgrounding of cables is being pursued, proposals should demonstrate that environmental impacts including the following are minimise: - Habitat loss as a result of removal of field boundaries and hedgerows (right of way preparation) followed by topsoil stripping (to ensure machinery does not destroy soil structure and drainage properties). - Short to medium term impacts on the landscape where, for example, hedgerows are encountered; - Impacts on underground archaeology; - Impacts on soil structure and drainage; - Impacts on surface waters as a result of sedimentation and - Visual impacts.

¹ Ecosystems are multifunctional communities of living organisms interacting with each other and their environment. Ecosystems provide a series of services for human well-being (ecosystem services) either directly or indirectly contributing towards human wellbeing

² Renewable and non-renewable resources (e.g. plants, animals, air, water, soils, minerals)

³ Construction Environment Management Plans shall be prepared in advance of the construction of relevant projects and implemented throughout. Such plans shall incorporate relevant mitigation measures which have been integrated into the Plan and any lower tier Environmental Impact Statement or Appropriate Assessment. CEMPs typically provide details of intended construction practice for the proposed development, including:

- location of the sites and materials compound(s) including area(s) identified for the storage of construction refuse;
- location of areas for construction site offices and staff facilities;
- details of site security fencing and hoardings;
- details of on-site car parking facilities for site workers during the course of construction;
- details of the timing and routing of construction traffic to and from the construction site and associated directional signage;
- measures to obviate queuing of construction traffic on the adjoining road network;
- measures to prevent the spillage or deposit of clay, rubble or other debris;
- alternative arrangements to be put in place for pedestrians and vehicles in the case of the closure of any public right of way during the course of site development works;
- details of appropriate mitigation measures for noise, dust and vibration, and monitoring of such levels;
- containment of all construction-related fuel and oil within specially constructed bunds to ensure that fuel spillages are fully contained (such bunds shall be roofed to exclude rainwater);
- disposal of construction/demolition waste and details of how it is proposed to manage excavated soil, including compliance with 2006 Best Practice Guidelines on the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Projects, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government;
- a water and sediment management plan, providing for means to ensure that surface water runoff is controlled such that no silt or other pollutants enter local water courses or drains;
- details of a water quality monitoring and sampling plan;
- if peat is encountered - a peat storage, handling and reinstatement management plan;
- measures adopted during construction to prevent the spread of invasive species (such as Japanese Knotweed);
- appointment of an ecological clerk of works at site investigation, preparation and construction phases; and
- details of appropriate mitigation measures for lighting specifically designed to minimise impacts to biodiversity, including bats.

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Mitigation measures including:
Biodiversity and flora and fauna	Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure: • Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna; • Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and • Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats - and including: effects on Northern Ireland Priority Species and their habitats; and barriers to Northern Ireland Priority Species movement, including migratory fish species.	LP 01 Control lighting in urban, rural areas and sensitive areas in accordance with Euronats and Darksy Circular, in order to minimise impacts on residential amenity, habitats and species of importance. LP 03 Ornamental lighting of public buildings, bridges, monuments and public spaces must not fall beyond the area intended or directed skywards. Architecturally sensitive tones such as passive, warm coloured lights should be considered before blue or rich white lights and only used where necessary in accordance with Eurobats and Darksy Circular. Natural Heritage Development Objectives NH1 Conserve, protect and manage the County's natural heritage assets for future generations while encouraging appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of the amenity value for the present generation. NH2 Maximise the social, economic and environmental benefits that may be derived from the conservation and management of Cavan's Natural Heritage and green infrastructure. NH3 Support the implementation of relevant actions in the National Biodiversity Plan, the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and the National Peatlands Strategy. NH4 Implement, in partnership with Cavan County Heritage Forum, relevant stakeholders and the wider community, Cavan County Heritage and Biodiversity Plans and any revisions thereof. NH5 Integrate biodiversity consideration into all Cavan County Council activities through the County Biodiversity Action Plan process. NH6 Ensure the protection of species of flora and fauna afforded legal protection under Irish and European Legislation. NH7 Assess the impact on biodiversity of proposals for large developments, particularly those on greenfield sites, or in environmentally sensitive areas. Such developments must include measures for the enhancement and protection of biodiversity. NH8 Promote the conservation of biodiversity outside of designated areas, including features such as wetlands, woodlands, hedgerows and uplands. Development Objectives for Designated Sites NHDS1 Protect and conserve Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas. NHDS2 Ensure an Appropriate Assessment is carried out in respect of any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary for the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of a European Site(s), either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, in view of the site's conservation objectives. NHDS3 Ensure that any plan or project that could have an adverse impact on a NHA, pNHA, SAC, SPA (either by themselves or in combination with other plans and projects) or upon the conservation objectives of the site or would result in the deterioration of any habitat or any species reliant on that habitat will be subject to the requirements of Article 6(3) and Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive. NHDS4 Ensure an Appropriate Assessment (AA) in accordance with Article 6(3) and Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, and in accordance with the Department of the 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 likely to have significant effect on a Natura 2000 site(s), either individually or in combination. NHDS5 Require an ecological appraisal for development not directly connected with or necessary to the management of Natura Sites, or a proposed Natura Site and which are likely to have significant effects on that site either individually or cumulatively. NHDS6 Support the development of a Strategic Habitat Map for the Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark in consultation with National Parks and Wildlife Service and relevant stakeholders. NHDS7 Promote the maintenance and as appropriate, achievement of favourable conservation status of habitats and species and to improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network, by maintaining and where appropriate, developing features in the landscape which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora. NHDS8 Ensure that new development proposals affecting designated sites have regard to the sensitivities identified in the SEA Environmental Report prepared in respect of this plan. NHDS9 Have regard to the views of the National Parks and Wildlife Service in respect of proposed development where such development may have an impact on a designated National or European site or proposed site for designation. NHDS10 Consult with National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) in regard to any developments (those requiring planning permission and those not requiring planning permission) which the council proposes to carry out within pNHAs, NHAs, SACs, SPAs, SPAs and other important ecological sites. NHDS11 Maintain the conservation value of Council owned land within NHAs and pNHAs and promote the conservation value of Council owned land adjoining NHAs. NHDS12 Continue to undertake surveys and collect data that will assist Cavan County Council in building its knowledge base and meeting its obligations under Article 6 of the Habitat Directives. NHDS 13 Projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz there must be: (a) no alternative solution available, (b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and (c) adequate compensatory measures in place. NHDS 14 Contribute towards the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity where these form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors or stepping stones. Development Objectives for Non- Designated Sites NHND1 Support the protection of non-designated sites and acknowledge the need to protect non-designated habitats and landscapes and to conserve biological diversity. NHND2 Conserve the existing wide range of flora, fauna and wildlife habitats in the county through the preservation of ecological corridors and networks vital to the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species. To designate County Biodiversity Sites within the lifetime of this plan and to protect the ecological integrity of these sites. NHND3 Implement the actions of Cavan County Biodiversity Plan and any subsequent revisions in fulfilment of the requirements of the National Biodiversity Plan. NHND4 Continue habitat mapping of the county to enable planning for the future development in a sensitive and sustainable manner and this mapping to inform the development management policy.

SEA Statement for Variation No. 1 to the Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Mitigation measures including:
		NHND5 Require an Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) for any proposed development which may have a significant impact on rare, threatened and or protected species and non designated habitats of biodiversity value. Development Objectives for Invasive Species IN1 Support initiatives, which reduce the risk of invasions, help control and manage new and established invasive species, monitor impacts and raise public awareness. IN2 Encourage the use of native species in amenity planting and stocking and related community actions to reduce the introduction and spread of non-native species. IN3 Prevent the spread of invasive species within the plan area, including requiring landowners and developers to adhere to best practice guidance in relation to the control of invasive species. IN4 Ensure proposals for development do not lead to the spread or introduction of invasive species. If developments are proposed on sites where invasive species are or were previously present, the applicant will be required to submit a control and management programme for the particular invasive species as part of the planning process and to comply with the provisions of the European Communities Birds and Habitats Regulations 2011 (S.I 4777/2011) IN5 Support the National Parks and Wildlife Service's efforts to seek to control and manage the spread of non-native invasive species on land and water. Development Objectives for Wetlands WL 1 Development that would negatively impact upon any wetland including fragmentation or degradation will be resisted in the County. WL 2 Review and update the 2008 Wetlands Survey for County Cavan with a view to mapping the extent and condition of wetland sites in the county as a comprehensive GIS Layer. This review will also identify information gaps and inform future wetland policy. WL3 Where it is intended to fill or reclaim or carry out a development proposal on a wetland area, the minimum level of assessment on a site above 0.1ha shall be an ecological impact assessment and an Appropriate Assessment where necessary. WL4 Protect wetlands, floodplains and watercourses for biodiversity and flood protection value. WL5 Ensure land zonings carefully consider appropriate riparian setback distances that support high ecological status of water bodies, the conservation of biodiversity, healthy ecosystems and buffer zones from flood plains. WL6 Implement parts of the Planning and Development (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2011 and the European Communities (Amendment to Planning and Development) Regulations 2011 which require planning permission to be applied for where the area impacted exceeds 0.1 hectares or where such works may have a significant effect on the environment. Such planning applications would need to be supported by an Appropriate Assessment where necessary. Development Objectives for Woodlands, Trees, Hedgerows and Stonewalls WTHS1 Continue to co-operate with relevant stakeholders to improve public access to State forests for amenity purposes and consider development which will enhance the amenity provided by existing trees and woodlands. WTHS2 Promote awareness, understanding and best practice in the management of Cavan's woodland, tree, hedgerow and stone wall resource. WTHS3 Encourage the retention of mature trees and the use of tree surgery rather than felling where possible when undertaking, approving or authorising development. WTHS4 Protect Champion and Heritage Trees where identified on the Tree Register of Ireland and Heritage Tree Database, when undertaking, approving, or authorising development. WTHS5 Encourage the use of native species wherever possible in Cavan County Council's own landscaping work, and on Council property. WTHS6 Promote and encourage planting of native hedgerow species of local provenance. WTHS7 Encourage the retention of hedgerows and stonewalls and other distinctive boundary treatments in rural areas and prevent loss and fragmentation, where possible. Where removal of a hedgerow or stone wall is unavoidable, mitigation by provision of the same type of boundary will be required and where removal is proposed which may affect bat species it shall be subject to regime of protection under the EC (Birds and Habitats) Regulations, 2011, as amended. WTHS8 Carry out a review of the Cavan Hedgerow Survey undertaken in 2006 during the lifetime of this plan. Landscape Character/ Natural Heritage Climate Change Development Objectives LCC 01 Within the lifetime of the plan, undertake a survey and vector mapping exercise to identify exemplar wetlands, bogs, individual trees and/or stands of trees and/or woodlands throughout the county worthy of protection and preservation. LCC 02 Encourage the potential community woodlands areas in urban/urban fringe areas and the development of community woodlands throughout rural Cavan. LCC 03 Promote the use in public spaces of hot water, foam stream, flame weeding and/or concentrated vinegar in favour of glyphosate weedkillers. LCC 04 Prepare a Peatland Strategy that shall encourage the rewilding, restoration and protection of peat bogs after turf cutting and/or peat extraction has ceased. LCC 05 Support the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme 2017 – 2022. LCC06 Promote the roll-out of renewables and stringent protection and enhancement of carbon pools, such as forests, peatlands and permanent grasslands. LCC 07 Explore the opportunity of engaging the services of a full-time Ecologist on a shared basis amongst neighbouring Local Authorities. LCC 08 Install and promote the installation of bird, bat, and owl boxes, and bee bricks and insect hotels or equivalent, at all relevant locations and developments, where possible. LCC 09 Actively participate and seek to adopt recommendations originating out of the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) and Northern and Western Climate Action Region. LCC 10 Fracking and the industrial extraction of fossil fuels will not be encouraged within Cavan 's functional area. LCC 11 Develop a strategy to support an active native Tree Planting programme in the context of climate adaption. Various Other Objectives LW 04 Facilitate increased access to Cavan's waterways, from towns and villages where visitor services are located, with an emphasis on providing a strong visitor experience associated with the lakes and waterways and their heritage and amenity value, including trails, bird hides, and water sports facilities, subject to the protection of environmentally sensitive areas and the requirements of the Habitats Directive.

SEA Statement for Variation No. 1 to the Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028

Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Mitigation measures including:
		T 09 Ensure all tourism developments shall integrate climate change adaptation, the enhancement of nature and biodiversity measures into their activities, plans and proposals. CC 10 Support collaboration between local authorities and relevant stakeholders regarding integrated peatland management and support for rehabilitation and/or re-wetting of suitable peatland habitats, in particular the Geopark and Cuilcagh Carbon sequestration potential. Tourism Development Objectives T 01 Promote the development and strengthening of the overall value of Cavan as a tourist destination by encouraging the enhancement and development of sustainable and high-quality visitor attractions, activities and infrastructure, enabling an increase in the overall capacity and long-term development of the county's tourism industry, subject to appropriate siting and design criteria and the protection of environmentally sensitive areas. T 02 Engage and collaborate with key stakeholders, relevant agencies, sectoral representatives and local communities to develop the tourism sector in Cavan, to ensure that the economic potential of the tourism sector is secured for the local economy. T 03 Support the implementation of the County's Tourism Strategy in line with national and regional policy, tourism trends and identified challenges, in collaboration with Fáilte Ireland, Waterways Ireland, tourism businesses and communities and other supporting agencies. T 04 Continue to work closely with Fáilte Ireland to maximise the benefit of national and regional initiatives/plans/strategies for the county, with a particular emphasis on initiatives which will increase the economic benefit from tourism, support local business development and encourage new enterprise opportunities. T 05 Utilise the county's natural and heritage resources to foster the development of tourism as a viable sector of the economy in a sustainable manner which complements the scale, quality and unique features of the location and county. T 06 Protect and conserve the natural, built and cultural heritage features which add value to the visitor experience in Cavan and seek to restrict developments which would damage or detract from the quality of scenic areas and identified natural and cultural heritage assets. T 07 Support actions to increase access to state and semi-state lands such as National Parks, Forest Parks, Waterways, together with Monuments and Historic Properties, for recreation and tourism purposes, subject to the requirements of the Habitats Directive, National Monuments Act and other provisions and policies to protect and safeguard these resources and subject to the ability of local infrastructure to support the resulting increased tourism. LW 04 Facilitate increased access to Cavan's waterways, from towns and villages where visitor services are located, with an emphasis on providing a strong visitor experience associated with the lakes and waterways and their heritage and amenity value, including trails, bird hides, and water sports facilities, subject to the protection of environmentally sensitive areas and the requirements of the Habitats Directive. LW 05 Support the provision of infrastructure to enable increased tourism activity associated with Cavan's waterways, including boating, marina/berthing, kayaking, angling, blueways and harbour amenities while ensuring that such provision does not negatively impact on sensitive environments and subject to the requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directives. LW 07 Support the provision of walking and cycling links between lakes, rivers, bogs and nearby towns, villages and visitor attractions, provided such developments do not negatively impact on sensitive environments. GCW 09 Promote the principles of 'Leave no Trace' in all trail information panels, promotional materials and events and use all statutory procedures to deter negative environmental impact resulting from use of our trails and outdoor recreation amenities. TC 03 Support opportunities for increased tourism within limits of existing infrastructure and sensitive habitats. TC 07 Support, implement and require best-practice environmental management and climate proofing of tourism related developments and activities, such as accommodation, restaurants, activity providers, festivals and events and tourism enterprises, to include zero climate impact, energy efficiency, waste management, and recycling. HHAS 03 Support enhanced access to state, semi-state and private lands such as bogs, forests, waterways, together with National Monuments and Historic Properties, for recreation and tourism purposes. Access should be planned and managed in a sustainable manner that protects heritage, environmental sensitivities, ecological corridors, and the ability of local infrastructure to support increased tourism. T 10 Monitor and manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant effects, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Visitor/Habitat Management Plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.
Population and human health	• Potential adverse effects arising from flood events. • Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors.	Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors. Air Quality Development Objectives AQ 01 Promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development in accordance with the EU Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/50/EC) and ensure that all air emissions associated with new developments are within Environmental Quality Standards, as set out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 180 of 2011) (or any updated/superseding documents). Noise Development Objectives N 01 Support the implementation of the Noise Directive 2002/49/EC and all associated Environmental Noise Regulations 2006. N 02 Require all developments to be designed and operated in a manner that will minimise and contain noise levels having regard to relevant national guidelines and in the absence of national guidelines, to relevant international standards, where appropriate. Seek identification and implementation of noise mitigation measures, where warranted, for developments proposed in the vicinity of existing or proposed national roads. Human Health Development Objectives HH 01 Ensure new developments will not have significant adverse effects on the amenities of an area through pollution by noise, fumes, odours, dust, grit or vibration or cause pollution of air, water and or soil unless mitigation measures eliminate adverse environmental impacts or reduce them to an acceptable operating level. HH 02 Ensure the implementation of the specific guidance on radon prevention measures for new homes as contained within the existing Building Regulations (including any updated/superseding regulations that may be published within the lifetime of this Plan). Additional Mitigation included within Variation No. 1 – Noise • Cavan Town Map-Based Specific Objective 30: Development shall include proposals for noise mitigation measures and suitable separation distance from the national road.

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Mitigation measures including:
		- Belturbet Map-Based Specific Objective 8: Development shall include proposals for noise mitigation measures and suitable separation distance from the national road. - Virginia Map-Based Specific Objective 10: Development shall include proposals for noise mitigation measures and suitable separation distance from the proposed Virginia Bypass.
Soil	- Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands. - Potential for riverbank.	Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Water. Development Objectives for Geological Heritage GH1 Protect and enhance the County Geological Heritage Audit of Cavan GH2 Support the implementation of recommendations in the Geological Audit of Cavan GH3 Provide safe and sustainable access to geological sites where appropriate and subject to requirements of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive. GH4 Consult Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) when undertaking, authorising developments likely to impact on the County Geological Sites or involve significant ground excavations. GH5 Continue to promote the unique geological heritage of the Cuilcagh Lakelands Global Geopark (UNESCO Geopark). Individual notable sites within the Cuilcagh Lakelands Global Geopark include Cuilcagh Mountain and Mid-Cavan Drumlinised Ribbed Moraines. These sites should be valued for their scientific and educational value to the community. GH6 Have regard to the geological and geomorphological heritage values of County Cavan geological heritage sites and to avoid inappropriate development, through consultation with the Geological Survey of Ireland. Development Objectives for Marble Arch Caves, UNESCO Global Geopark GP1 Conserve and manage the geological resources of a discrete area to develop sustainable tourism, enterprise and community life. GP2 Build on the existing progress and achievements of the Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark in supporting the ten-year Development Plan 2020-2030. GP3 Support the development of geotourism and the recreational potential of Cavan Burren, the Shannon Pot, Killykeen, Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs, Cuilcagh and other Geopark sites through increased social use of the landscape, with attendant conservation, economic, social and community benefits within the region. GP4 Support the continuing development of strategic walking routes, trails and other countryside recreational opportunities within the Geopark such as the cross-border 'Smuggler's Route'. GP5 Continue to support the CANN cross-border environmental project restoring blanket bog habitat on Cuilcagh summit. GP6 Enhance the geodiversity, biodiversity and natural environments of the region including additional measures to conserve geosites and natural habitats where appropriate. GP7 Develop knowledge and understanding of geology, related Earth Sciences, endangered habitats and associated environmental issues through education and research programmes. GP8 Encourage enquiry through fieldwork and inspire scientific research through education and research programmes. GP9 Recognise the strategic location of Blacklion at the heart of the Geopark and other Geopark towns, villages and communities and seek to promote the development of appropriate ancillary facilities like interpretation, accommodation and social outlets. GP10 Support Swanlinbar and other Geopark towns, villages and communities as hubs for appropriate outdoor recreational activities. Waste Management Development Objectives WM 14 Treatment and/or management of any contaminated material shall comply as appropriate with the Waste Management Act 1996 (waste licence, waste facility permit), as amended, and under the EPA Act 1992 (Industrial Emissions licensing, in particular the First Schedule, Class 11 Waste), as amended. These measures will ensure that contaminated material will be managed in a manner that removes any risk to human health and ensures that the end use will be compatible with any risk.
Water	- Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology. - Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events.	Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil and Material Assets and various settlement specific measures provided for under Chapter 2 Settlement Strategy. Groundwater Development Objectives GW 01 Ensure that groundwater is protected by ensuring compliance with the following: - The appropriate control of development in areas of high groundwater vulnerability. - Implementation of the Programme of Measures as required in the River Basin Management Plans - Licensing of discharges of effluent to groundwater, having particular regard to the requirements of the EC Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations, 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) - Implementation of the EC (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations (S.I. No. 610 of 2010, which give effect to several EU Directives including in relation to protection of waters against pollution from agricultural sources ('the Nitrates Directive'), dangerous substances in water and protection of groundwater. GW 02 Protect ground water resources and abstraction points, and as ensures such sources and their zones of contribution are protected and safeguarded in the interests of common good and public health. GW 03 Support the implementation of the relevant recommendations and measures outlined in the relevant River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027, and associated Programme of Measures, or any such plan that may supersede same during the lifetime of the plan. Development proposals shall not have an unacceptable impact on water quality, the water environment, including surface waters, groundwater quality and quantity, river corridors and associated woodlands species and wetlands, in County Cavan and in any areas that are hydrologically or hydrogeologically linked, including areas in Northern Ireland. GW 04 Contribute towards, as appropriate, the protection of existing and potential water resources, and their use by humans and wildlife, including rivers, streams, wetlands, groundwater and associated habitat and species in accordance with the requirements and guidance in the EU Water Framework Directive 2000 (2000/60/EC). The European Union (Water policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (as amended), the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC and the European Communities Environmental Objectives (groundwater) Regulations 2010 (as amended) and other relevant EU Directives, including associated national legislation and policy guidance (including any superseding versions of same, to have cognisance of, where relevant, the EUs Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 and No. 36 which provide guidance on exceptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive). GW 05 In conjunction with Irish Water, have regard to the EPA 2019 publication 'Drinking Water Report for Public Water Supplies 2018 (and any subsequent update) in the establishment and maintenance of water sources in the County.

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Mitigation measures including:
		GW 06 Ensure that in assessing applications for development, that consideration is given to the impact on the quality of surface waters having regard to targets and measures set out in the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021, and any subsequent local or regional plans. GW 07 Discourage the over concentration of individual septic tanks and treatment plans to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution. GW 08 Support the preparation of Drinking Water Protection Plans and Source Protection Plans to protect sources of public water supply, in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. GW 09 Protect both ground and surface water resources including taking account of the impacts of climate change, and to support Irish Water in the development and implementation of Drinking Water Safety Plans and the National Water Resources Plan. GW 10 Promote water conservation and demand management measures among all water users and to support Irish Water in implementing water conservation measures such as leakage reduction and network improvements. GW 11 Promote measures to prevent siltation of water courses from developments including planting and clear felling of commercial forests. GW 12 Promote measures to prevent acidification of water courses. Water Development Objectives W 01 In conjunction with Irish Water, have regard to the EPA 2019 publication 'Drinking Water Report for Public Water Supplies 2018' (and any subsequent update) in the establishment and maintenance of water sources in the County. W 02 Ensure that in assessing applications for development, consideration is GIVEN to the impact on the quality of surface waters having regard to targets and measures set out in the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 and any subsequent local or regional plans. W 03 Ensure that development would not have an unacceptable impact on water quality and quantity including surface water, ground water, designated source protection areas, river corridors and associated wetlands. W 04 Support the preparation of Drinking Water Protection Plans and Source Protection Plans to protect sources of public water supply, in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. W 06 Support the development in the County of green infrastructure, river walkways (in accordance with the principles of Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment, A guideline Developed by Inland Fisheries) and access from amenities, residential areas and community services to the town centre Agri-Food Development Objectives AF 06 Support agricultural development as a contributory means of maintaining population and sustaining the rural economy, whilst maintaining and enhancing the standing of the rural environment through application of the EU Water Framework Directive and EU Habitats Directive. AF 09 Facilitate the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities, whereby natural waters and watercourses, wildlife habitats, conservation areas and areas of ecological importance and other environmental assets are protected from the threat of pollution, and where development does not impinge on the visual amenity of the countryside. Agricultural Buildings and Structures Development Objectives ABS 01 Facilitate the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities, whereby watercourses, habitats, areas of ecological importance and environmental assets are protected and development does not impinge on the visual amenity of the countryside. Forestry Development Objectives F 01 Encourage the development of a well-managed sustainable forestry sector, which is compatible with the protection of the environment including the avoidance of likely significant effects on European Sites (SACs and SPAs); and is planted, managed and harvested in accordance with the 'Forest Service Guidelines for Landscape, Forest Harvesting and Environmental, Archaeology, Biodiversity and Water Quality'. F 02 Promote forestry development of appropriate scale and character while ensuring that such development does not have a negative impact on the residential amenity or the countryside, (including public access/rights of way, traditional walking routes and recreational facilities), or cause pollution or degradation of wildlife habitats, natural waters or areas of ecological importance. Horticulture Development Objectives H 01 Encourage the development of environmentally sustainable horticultural practices, to ensure that development does not impinge on the visual amenity of the countryside and that watercourses, wildlife habitats and areas of ecological importance are protected from the threat of pollution. Water Quality and Groundwater Policy Objectives WQG 01 Support the implementation of the relevant recommendations and measures outlined in the relevant River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021, and associated Programme of Measures, or any such plan that may supersede same during the lifetime of the plan. Development proposals shall not have an unacceptable impact on the water environment, including surface waters, groundwater quality and quantity, river corridors and associated woodlands. WQG 02 Collaborate with Irish Water in contributing towards compliance with the S.I. No. 122/2014 - European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2014 and any regulations made thereunder. and compliance of water supplies with the parameters identified in these Regulations. WQG 03 Contribute towards, as appropriate, the protection of existing and potential water resources, and their use by humans and wildlife, including rivers, streams, wetlands, groundwater and associated habitat and species in accordance with the requirements and guidance in the EU Water Framework Directive 2000 (2000/60/EC). the European Union (Water policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (as amended), the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC and the European Communities Environmental Objectives (groundwater) Regulations 2010 (as amended) and other relevant EU Directives, including associated national legislation and policy guidance (including any superseding versions of same). WQG 04 In conjunction with Irish Water, have regard to the EPA 2020 'Drinking Water Quality in Public Supplies 2019' (and any subsequent update) in the establishment and maintenance of water sources in the County in the establishment and maintenance of water sources in the County. WQG 05 In conjunction with Irish Water, support recommendations made by the EPA arising from any failures to meet drinking water standards and any enlistment on the EPA's

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Mitigation measures including:
		Remedial Action List. WQG 06 Ensure that in assessing applications for development, that consideration is given to the impact on the quality of surface waters having regard to targets and measures set out in the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 and any subsequent local or regional plans. WQG 07 Ensure that development would not have an unacceptable impact on water quality and quantity including surface water, ground water, designated source protection areas, river corridors and associated wetlands. WQG 08 Discourage the over concentration of individual septic tanks and treatment plans to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution. WQG 09 Support the preparation of Drinking Water Protection Plans and Source Protection Plans to protect sources of public water supply, in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. Various Other Objectives IW1 Protect and enhance the natural heritage and landscape character of the County's Waterways and to maintain them free from inappropriate development and to provide for public access, where feasible, acknowledging the existence of contiguous Natura 2000 sites. IW2 Protect the biodiversity of rivers, streams and other water courses and maintain them in an open state and to discourage the culverting or realignment thereof. IW3 Consult with, as appropriate, the Inland Fisheries Ireland in relation to any development that could have a potential impact on the aquatic ecosystems and associated riparian habitats. IW4 Consult with Waterways Ireland and the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the DECLG and the Inland Waterways Association on the development proposals that may affect inland waterways, rivers, lakes, canals or watercourses. IW5 Ensure that the County's watercourses are retained for their biodiversity and flood protection values and conserve and enhance, where possible, the wildlife habitats of the county's rivers and riparian zones, lakes, canals and streams which occur outside of designated areas to provide for a network of habitats and biodiversity corridors throughout the county. CP12 Encourage the use of materials and engineering solutions that optimise natural surface water drainage as part of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) associated with large scale car parks. GED 02 Engage with all relevant government stakeholders, enterprise agencies and sectoral representatives in pursuing green approaches to economic development, and actively collaborate with key industry and educational bodies to promote Cavan based initiatives the economic sectors. RIC 21 Require the incorporation of Sustainable Drainage Schemes (SuDS) for all future developments with an identified need. LW 05 Support the provision of infrastructure to enable increased tourism activity associated with Cavan's waterways, including boating, marina/berthing, kayaking, angling, blueways and harbour amenities while ensuring that such provision does not negatively impact on sensitive environments and subject to the requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directives. NH8 Promote the conservation of biodiversity outside of designated areas, including features such as wetlands, woodlands, hedgerows and uplands. WL4 Protect wetlands, floodplains and watercourses for biodiversity and flood protection value. WLS Ensure land zonings carefully consider appropriate riparian setback distances that support high ecological status of water bodies, the conservation of biodiversity, healthy ecosystems and buffer zones from flood plains. Additional Mitigation included within Variation No. 1 – Flood Risk • Cavan Town Map-Based Specific Objective 31: Site identified as being at risk under future climate scenarios (see Appendix I of SRFA Addendum). Any new uses at this site will generally be limited to less vulnerable uses. This limitation shall take primacy over any other related land use zoning provision. Any proposals for development at this site shall demonstrate compliance with the Plan's flood risk management and drainage provisions. • Belturbet Map-Based Specific Objective 9 Site partially within Flood Zone B and has areas identified as being at risk under future climate scenarios (see Appendix I of the SFRA Addendum). Any new uses at this site will generally be limited to less vulnerable uses, while facilitating existing development uses that may require small scale development such as small extensions. This limitation shall take primacy over any other related land use zoning provision. Any proposals for development at this site shall demonstrate compliance with the Plan's flood risk management and drainage provisions. • Belturbet Map-Based Specific Objective 10 Site has areas identified as being at risk under future climate scenarios, (see Appendix I of the SFRA Addendum. Any new uses at this site will generally be limited to less vulnerable uses, while facilitating existing development uses that may require small scale development such as small extensions. This limitation shall take primacy over any other related land use zoning provision. Any proposals for development at this site shall demonstrate compliance with the Plan's flood risk management and drainage provisions.
Air and Climatic Factors	• Potential conflict between development under the Variation and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives. • Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality. • Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise	The Climate Mitigation Measures from the existing Plan encompass sectors including: • Buildings • Agriculture, Land Management and Forestry • Transport • Energy Production • Minerals • Resource Management Air Quality Development Objectives AQ 01 Promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development in accordance with the EU Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/50/EC) and ensure that all air emissions associated with new developments are within Environmental Quality Standards, as set out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 180 of 2011) (or any updated/superseding documents). Noise Development Objectives N 01 Support the implementation of the Noise Directive 2002/49/EC and all associated Environmental Noise Regulations 2006.

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Mitigation measures including:
	emissions and protection of sensitive receptors. Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management.	N 02 Require all developments to be designed and operated in a manner that will minimise and contain noise levels having regard to relevant national guidelines and in the absence of national guidelines, to relevant international standards, where appropriate. Seek identification and implementation of noise mitigation measures, where warranted, for developments proposed in the vicinity of existing or proposed national roads. Human Health Development Objectives HH 01 Ensure new developments will not have significant adverse effects on the amenities of an area through pollution by noise, fumes, odours, dust, grit or vibration or cause pollution of air, water and or soil unless mitigation measures eliminate adverse environmental impacts or reduce them to an acceptable operating level.
Material Assets	- Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). - Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). - Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). - Increases in waste levels. - Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure. - Interactions between agriculture and soil, water, biodiversity and human health - including phosphorous and nitrogen deposition as a result of agricultural activities and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter. - Risk of aggregate potential sterilisation.	Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Soil, Water, Air, various Land Use and Phasing provisions and various settlement specific measures provided for under Chapter 2 Settlement Strategy. LUR 09 Require all major developments to submit Traffic Impact Assessments and Mobility Management Plans. Groundwater Development Objectives GW 01 Ensure that groundwater is protected by ensuring compliance with the following: - The appropriate control of development in areas of high groundwater vulnerability. - Implementation of the Programme of Measures as required in the River Basin Management Plans - Licensing of discharges of effluent to groundwater, having particular regard to the requirements of the EC Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations, 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) - Implementation of the EC (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations (S.I. No. 610 OF 2010, which give effect to several EU Directives including in relation to protection of waters against pollution from agricultural sources ('the Nitrates Directive'), dangerous substances in water and protection of groundwater. GW 02 Protect ground water resources and abstraction points, and as ensures such sources and their zones of contribution are protected and safeguarded in the interests of common good and public health. GW 03 Support the implementation of the relevant recommendations and measures outlined in the relevant River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027, and associated Programme of Measures, or any such plan that may supersede same during the lifetime of the plan. Development proposals shall not have an unacceptable impact on water quality, the water environment, including surface waters, groundwater quality and quantity, river corridors and associated woodlands species and wetlands, in County Cavan and in any areas that are hydrologically or hydrogeologically linked, including areas in Northern Ireland. GW 04 Contribute towards, as appropriate, the protection of existing and potential water resources, and their use by humans and wildlife, including rivers, streams, wetlands, groundwater and associated habitat and species in accordance with the requirements and guidance in the EU Water Framework Directive 2000 (2000/60/EC). The European Union (Water policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (as amended), the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC and the European Communities Environmental Objectives (groundwater) Regulations 2010 (as amended) and other relevant EU Directives, including associated national legislation and policy guidance (including any superseding versions of same, to have cognisance of, where relevant, the EUs Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 and No. 36 which provide guidance on exceptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive). GW 05 In conjunction with Irish Water, have regard to the EPA 2019 publication 'Drinking Water Report for Public Water Supplies 2018 (and any subsequent update) in the establishment and maintenance of water sources in the County. GW 06 Ensure that in assessing applications for development, that consideration is given to the impact on the quality of surface waters having regard to targets and measures set out in the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021, and any subsequent local or regional plans. GW 07 Discourage the over concentration of individual septic tanks and treatment plans to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution. GW 08 Support the preparation of Drinking Water Protection Plans and Source Protection Plans to protect sources of public water supply, in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. GW 09 Protect both ground and surface water resources including taking account of the impacts of climate change, and to support Irish Water in the development and implementation of Drinking Water Safety Plans and the National Water Resources Plan. GW 10 Promote water conservation and demand management measures among all water users and to support Irish Water in implementing water conservation measures such as leakage reduction and network improvements. GW 11 Promote measures to prevent siltation of water courses from developments including planting and clear felling of commercial forests. GW 12 Promote measures to prevent acidification of water courses. Foul Drainage and Wastewater Development Objective FDW 01 Collaborate with Irish Water in contributing towards compliance with the relevant provisions of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Regulations 2001 and 2004 and the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007, as amended FDW 02 Ensure that development will only be permitted in instances where there is sufficient capacity for appropriate collection, treatment and disposal (in compliance with the Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plan) of wastewater. FDW 03 Liaise with and work in conjunction with Irish Water during the lifetime of the plan for the provision, extension and upgrading of wastewater collection and treatment systems in all towns and villages and Rural Community Nodes of the County, to serve existing populations and facilitate sustainable development of the County, in accordance with the requirements of the Settlement Strategy and associated Core Strategy. FDW 04 Support strategic wastewater treatment infrastructure investment and provide for the separation of foul and surface networks to accommodate future growth in the County FDW 05 Ensure new developments provide a separate foul and surface water drainage system and to incorporate sustainable urban drainage systems where appropriate in new development and the public realm. FDW 06 Incorporate the requirement for Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems where appropriate in local authority projects and private development sites.

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Mitigation measures including:
		FDW 07 Prohibit the discharge of additional surface water to combined (foul and surface water) sewers in order to maximise the capacity of existing collection for foul water. Support the Assessment of the need for upgrades of drainage systems, including separation of sewer and surface water required to reduce risk of capacity pressure on drainage systems. FDW 08 Ensure all new developments connect to the public wastewater infrastructure, where available, and to encourage existing developments that are in close proximity to a public sewer to connect to that sewer, subject to connection agreements with Irish Water. New developments connecting to Irish Water network shall be assessed through Irish Water's New Connection Process. FDW 09 Protect against development proposals, involving individual treatment systems, which would increase effluent loading within existing housing clusters located within areas of high groundwater vulnerability. FDW 10 Ensure that private wastewater treatment plants, where permitted, are operated in compliance with EPA's Code of Practice Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (PE. ≤10) (EPA 2009), or any updates thereafter. FDW 12 Incorporate considerations of the impact of climate change into proposals submitted under the OPW Minor Works Programme. FDW 13 Support appropriate options for the extraction of energy and other resources from sewerage sludge in the County. FDW 14 Support the servicing of rural villages (serviced sites) to provide an alternative to one-off housing in the countryside in line with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy. FDW 15 Support the development of group water supplies and public drinking water supplies throughout the county. FDW 16 Liaise with Irish Water with regard to the installation of a wastewater treatment facility in Miltown. FDW 17 Ensure new developments provide adequate storm water infrastructure in order to accommodate the planned levels of growth and ensure there is appropriate flood management measures implemented to protect property and infrastructure. FDW18 Support Irish Water in the promotion of effective management of trade discharges to sewers in order to maximise the capacity of existing sewer networks and minimise detrimental impacts on sewerage treatment works. Waste Management Development Objectives WM 01 Support the implementation of the Connacht-Ulster Region Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 and any updates made thereto. WM 02 Implement EU and national waste and related environmental policy, legislation, guidance and codes of practice to improve management of material resources and wastes. WM 03 Prioritise waste prevention through behavioural change activities to decouple economic growth and resource use. WM 04 Encourage the transition from a waste management economy to a green circular economy to enhance employment and increase the value recovery and recirculation of resources WM 05 Promote sustainable waste management treatment in keeping with the waste hierarchy and the move towards a circular economy and greater self sufficiency. WM 06 Encourage and support waste prevention, minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery as methods of managing waste. WM 07 Facilitate the transition from a waste management economy to a green circular economy to increase the value recovery and recirculation of resources. WM 08 Encourage and support the provision of 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. WM 09 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. WM 10 Ensure that the Council fulfils its duties under the Waste Management (certification of historic unlicensed waste disposal and recovery activity) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No. 524 of 2008) including those in relation to the identification and registration of closed landfills. WM 11 Encourage and promote technologies, for example anaerobic digestion, that will contribute positively and grow the Circular and Bio-economy to promote sustainable rural and urban economic development, as part of the overall aim of transitioning to a low carbon economy with reduced green house gases. WM 12 Ensure that the local authority is cognisant of targets under EU Circular Economy proposals, landfill capacity limitations and proper management of soil, stone and C&D materials WM 13 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. WM 14 Treatment and/or management of any contaminated material shall comply as appropriate with the Waste Management Act 1996 (waste licence, waste facility permit), as amended, and under the EPA Act 1992 (Industrial Emissions licensing, in particular the First Schedule, Class 11 Waste), as amended. These measures will ensure that contaminated material will be managed in a manner that removes any risk to human health and ensures that the end use will be compatible with any risk. Wastewater Treatment in Rural Areas Development Objectives WTR 01 Ensure proposals involving the installation of an on site wastewater treatment system are in accordance with the requirements of the 'EPA Code of Practice Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses,' (2009) or any subsequent Code of Practice which supersedes it. WTR 02 Ensure proposals shall be accompanied by a Site Characterisation Form which has been properly completed by a suitably qualified person. WTR 03 Proposals for significant extensions will be required to ensure that existing effluent treatment systems are adequate to cater for any additional loading that may result from the extension. WTR 04 Ensure that private wastewater treatment plants, where permitted, are operated in compliance with EPA's Code of Practice Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (PE. ≤10) (EPA 2009), as may be amended. WTR 05 Protect against development proposals, involving individual treatment systems, which would increase effluent loading within existing housing clusters located within areas of high groundwater vulnerability. Private Wells Development Objectives PW 01 Support householders, through advice and guidance, to ensure that private wells are to acceptable drinking water standards.

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Mitigation measures including:
		Environment, Water and Waste Water Climate Context and Development Objectives EWC 01 Require in accordance with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government's 'Best Practice Guidelines for the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Projects (2006), the submission of a Construction and Demolition Waste Management Plan (CDWMP) for any project in excess of: - aggregate floor area in excess of 1250 sq. m; - demolition or refurbishment of 100 m3 of Construction or Demolition waste; or - civil engineering projects in excess of 500 m3 of waste. Fisheries LW 02 Continue to engage with Inland Fisheries Ireland on the delivery of the National Strategy for Angling Development in Cavan LW 05 Support the provision of infrastructure to enable increased tourism activity associated with Cavan's waterways, including boating, marina/berthing, kayaking, angling, blueways and harbour amenities while ensuring that such provision does not negatively impact on sensitive environments and subject to the requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directives.
Cultural Heritage	• Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology⁴ and protected architecture⁵ arising from construction and operation activities.	BCHPO 01 Undertake to preserve, conserve, enhance and promote understanding of the cultural heritage of County Cavan by: - Making heritage more accessible to all citizens of Cavan - Promoting heritage learning and its value as an educational resource - Developing heritage-based tourism products by facilitating the development of infrastructure both hard and soft, heritage events and festivals - Supporting the development and implementation of Cavan Heritage Plan 2021-2026 (currently in development). Protected Structures Development Objectives RPS1 Protect, conserve and manage the built heritage of County Cavan and to encourage sensitive and sustainable development to ensure its preservation for future generations. RPS2 Review and update the Record of Protected Structures on an on-going basis. RPS3 Positively consider proposals to improve, alter, extend or change use of Protected Structures so as to render them viable for modern use, subject to suitably qualified Conservation Architects and / or other relevant experts, suitable design materials and construction methods. RPS4 Quality contemporary and innovative designs will be supported. These designs should not detract from the historic fabric of a Protected Structure. RPS5 Ensure all development works on or at the sites of Protected Structures, including site works necessary are carried out using best heritage practice for the protection and preservation of those aspects or features of the structures /site that render it worthy of protection. The form and structural integrity of Protected Structures should be retained as part of any redevelopment proposal and the relationship between the Protected Structure and any complex of adjoining buildings, designed landscape features, or designed views and vistas from to the structure should be considered. RPS6 Support the re-introduction of traditional features on Protected Structures where there is evidence that such features previously existed. RPS7 Applications for works to Protected Structures will be assessed in accordance with the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines 2011. Works should ensure that the special character and integrity of the Protected Structure is preserved. RPS8 Resist the demolition and inappropriate alteration of Protected Structures. RPS9 Support the rehabilitation, renovation and re-use of existing Protected Structures for their own economic benefit and that area in which they are located. RPS10 Proposals for large scale developments and infrastructure projects should consider the impacts on the architectural heritage and seek to avoid them. The extent, route, services and signage for such projects should be sited at a distance from Protected Structures, outside the boundaries of designed historic landscapes, and not interrupt specifically designed vistas. Where this is not possible the visual impact must be minimised through appropriate mitigation measures such as high-quality design and/or use of screen planting. RPS11 Carry out an audit of Protected Structures within the council's ownership and devise a management / maintenance plan for these structures. RPS12 Identify Protected Structures in council ownership that are under threat directly or indirectly through climate change. RPS13 Seek to integrate climate adaptation measures into future conservation and management plans for Protected Structures. RPS14 Support owners / occupiers of Protected Structures seeking to upgrade energy efficiency and climate resilience measures. Works to upgrade the environmental performance and the implementation of measures to address the impacts of climate change will be encouraged to ensure the sustainability of Protected Structures and buildings sited within an ACA. Such works should not adversely impact the special character of a structure. RPS15 Support schemes which encourage the conservation of Protected Structures e.g. Built Heritage Investment Scheme, Historic Structures Fund, Historic Towns Initiative. Architectural Conservation Areas Development Objectives ACA1 Ensure that all development proposals within the boundaries of the ACA will enhance rather than detract from the historic and architectural character and settings of the buildings within the ACA. Proposals within ACAs should be in accordance with Statement of Characters prepared for ACAs. ACA2 Avoid the removal of structures and distinctive elements (such as boundary treatments, street furniture, paving and landscaping) that positively contribute to the character of Architectural Conservation Areas.

⁴ Archaeological heritage encompasses designated and unknown archaeological heritage including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, underwater archaeology, entries to the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record and Northern Ireland Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest and Archaeological Potential. Also encompassed are intervisibility and interrelationships between archaeological heritage within the wider landscape, including cross-border intervisibility and interrelationships.

⁵ Architectural heritage encompasses that which is designated or included within the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH), NIAH Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Records of Protected Structures and Northern Ireland's Listed Buildings and Northern Ireland's Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes. Also encompassed are intervisibility and interrelationships between architectural heritage within the wider landscape, including cross-border intervisibility and interrelationships.

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Mitigation measures including:
		ACA3 Ensure that Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs), including any associated public realm area, are protected and ensure that any new development or alteration of a building within or adjoining an ACA positively enhances the character of the area and is appropriate in terms of plot size, proposed design, including: scale, mass, height, proportions, density, layout, materials, plot ratio and building lines. Planning permission will not normally be approved for developments that are not consistent with and complementary to the character of the ACA. ACA4 Support and promote best practice conservation in works to Protected Structures and buildings within ACAs and to encourage the use of tradespeople, professionals trained in the use of traditional skills, materials, and building techniques. ACA5 Protect and enhance the special character of the public domain of an ACA. Features of the public domain including traffic and parking infrastructure, signage, public utilities, street furniture, and street lighting must be appropriately designed to enhance and preserve the character of the ACA. ACA6 Encourage the rehabilitation and reuse of derelict and vacant sites within an ACA. Vernacular Buildings and Structures Development Objectives VA1 Encourage the retention, rehabilitation and reuse of older buildings that are not Protected Structures in recognition of their contribution both individually and collectively to the unique character, heritage and identity of local areas and the County. VA2 Seek the retention of original and early fabric of older buildings, including windows, doors, roof material, glazing and render or external finishes. The Planning Authority will encourage reinstatement of known original or early features where possible. VA3 Protect vernacular architecture, such as thatched cottages, farm buildings and old school-houses in County Cavan for the benefit of future generations. Historical Shop Fronts Development Objective HSF1 Seek the repair and retention of traditional timber and/or rendered shop fronts and pub fronts, including, where appropriate, those that may not be Protected Structures. Industrial Heritage Development Objectives IH1 Utilise the information provided within Cavan Industrial Heritage Survey when assessing development proposals for industrial heritage sites. IH2 Support the retention and appropriate repair/maintenance of historic bridges and other significant industrial heritage sites. IH3 Protect our industrial architecture and encourage appropriate new uses for vacant structures. Historic Gardens, Demesnes and Country Estates Development Objectives HG1 Utilise existing surveys to identify and evaluate the surviving historic designed landscapes in Cavan and promote the conservation of their essential character, both built and natural. HG2 Ensure that proposals for development within historic designed landscapes include an appraisal of the designed landscape, including an ecological assessment, prior to the initial design of any development, in order for this evaluation to inform the design which must be sensitive to and respect the built heritage elements and green space values of the site. Language Heritage Development Objectives LH1 Preserve historic place and street names and ensure that new street names reflect appropriate local historical or cultural features in the area. LH2 Encourage the naming of new residential developments in bi-lingual format. LH3 Ensure that the naming of mixed residential and mixed used schemes reflect local history, townlands, folklore and/or place names or cultural features. LH4 Support the use of the Irish language on shopfronts. Archaeological Heritage Development Objectives AH1 Protect and safeguard the county's archaeological resource and ensure the sympathetic enhancement of archaeological heritage. Applications will be referred to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage by the Planning Authority in its capacity of being charged with the implementation of the National Monuments Acts. AH2 Protect and enhance archaeological sites and monuments, their settings and zones of archaeological potential that are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places, in the ownership/guardianship of the State, or that are the subject of Preservation Orders or have been registered in the Register of Historic Monuments. Ensure the protection of sites which have been identified subsequent to the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places. AH3 Development adjacent to or near an archaeological site or monument should not interfere with the character of the site, or its setting. Proposed developments should be sited to ensure minimal impact on the site or monument. Development which has a negative impact on a site or monument will not be permitted. AH4 Seek to promote best practice for archaeological excavation ensuring that they are undertaken according to best practice as outlined by the National Monuments Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, The National Museum and the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland. AH5 Encourage the dissemination of findings from archaeological investigations and excavations through the publication of archaeological reports. AH6 Support the growth of cultural tourism within the county, including the potential for niche heritage-tourism products by facilitating the development of heritage events and infrastructure such as heritage trails, walkways and cycleways. AH7 Seek funding to prepare and implement a Conservation Management Plan for Clough Oughter Castle in consultation with the OPW and the National Monuments Service. AH8 Continue to support the development of sustainable heritage-based tourism initiatives in the UNESCO Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark subject to archaeological and ecological assessment. AH9 Facilitate appropriate guidance in relation to the protection of the archaeological heritage and implications of a proposed development. AH10 Promote public awareness of the rich archaeological heritage of the county. AH11 Secure the preservation of sites and features of historical and archaeological interest. The preservation in-situ of archaeological monuments and sites as a preferred option. AH12 Where archaeological sites or monuments have to be removed as a result of development, it is essential that they be preserved by record, through archaeological excavation and recording, which is to be undertaken by a suitably qualified professional archaeologist. AH13 Support the appropriate management and maintenance of the county's historical burial grounds, in accordance with conservation principles and best practice guidelines. In this regard, seek to continue to support the work of the Historic Graveyards Network.

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Mitigation measures including:
		AH14 Seek to co-operate with other agencies regarding the impact of climate change on our archaeological heritage. Built and Cultural Heritage Climate Development Objectives BCHC 01 Adopt the principles of conservation-led regeneration by applying the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Architectural Heritage Protection (2011). BCHC 02 Seek enrolment on all future Historic Towns Initiatives (HTI). BCHC 03 Notify owners of Protected Structures of the increased threat climate change presents, while reminding them of their continued and legal requirement to ensure the structure(s) do not become endangered through neglect, decay, damage or harm (Practical advice on basic methods of conservation should accompany the notice). BCHC 04 Require the proposed demolition of any structure or part thereof, as considered of merit by the Planning Authority, to be accompanied by a report from a registered / chartered professional within a related discipline justifying same, to the satisfaction of the planning authority. BCHC 05 Require the submission of a life-cycle cost report with all applications in excess of 500 sq. m, new build construction, unless deemed otherwise by the Planning Authority. BCHC 06 Require the submission of a cost benefit analysis by a chartered quantity surveyor justifying any demolition or refurbishment of 100 m3 of construction and demolition waste, or above, unless deemed otherwise by the Planning Authority. Development Objectives for County Heritage Sites CHS1 Restrict incompatible development in order to protect the amenity, scientific and historical values of these areas.
Landscape	Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape.	Also refer to measures under Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna and Cultural Heritage. Development Objectives for Landscape Character Areas LC1 Ensure the preservation of the unique landscape character type by having regard to the character, value and sensitivity of a landscape when determining a planning application. LC2 Ensure development reflects and reinforces the distinctiveness and sense of place of the landscape character areas. This should include the retention of important features or characteristics which contribute to their distinctiveness such as geology and landform, habitats, settlement patterns, historic and vernacular heritage. LC3 Resist development such as houses, forestry, masts, extractive operations, landfills, caravan parks and large agricultural /horticulture units which would interfere with the character of highly sensitive areas or with a view or prospect of special amenity value. LC4 Ensure that new development does not impinge in any significant way on the character, integrity and distinctiveness of highly sensitive areas and does not detract from the scenic value of the area such as visual harm, not in keeping elements of the landscape, causes loss or disturbance of the landscape elements contributing to the local distinctiveness, historic elements that contribute to landscape character and quality, vegetation which is characteristic of a particular landscape and visual conditions of a landscape. LC5 Ensure new development meets high standards of siting and design. LC6 Protect skylines and ridgelines from development LC7 Ensure necessary assessments including visual impact assessments are prepared prior to approving development in highly sensitive areas. LC8 Commence the preparation of a Landscape Character Assessment within 6 months of the adoption of the development plan. LCC 12 Support the aims of the National Peatlands Strategy and the implementation of the National Raised Bog SAC Management Plan 2017-2022 and Peatlands Climate Action Scheme. Development Objectives for Areas of High Landscape Value or Special Landscape Interest SLPA1 Maintain the scenic and recreation value of these areas by restricting all adverse uses and negative visual impacts. Development Objectives for Scenic Viewing Points SVP1 Restrict development that would obstruct views and to minimise visual intrusion by only permitting compatible uses. SVP2 Ensure the location, design and visual prominence of developments are examined, including possible effects on views from the public realm toward sensitive or vulnerable landscape features. Development Objectives for Scenic Routes SR1 Regulate development that would seriously obstruct and detract from views of high scenic value from designated Scenic Routes. SR2 Maintain and protect the natural landscapes visual character which is recognised to be of an exceptional high amenity value. Development Objectives for Forest Parks and Other Parks FP1 Regulate development within Forest Parks and other Parks to maximise recreational, amenity and community uses Development Objectives for Major Lakes and Lake Environs ML&LE1 Maintain major lake and lake environment amenity value within a landscape recreational and ecological context by restricting and regulating development that would prejudice use and enjoyment of the areas, give rise to adverse visual impacts or threaten habitats through disposal of effluents. ML&LE2 Maintain and protect shorelines of lakes and their immediate area adjoining including skyline development on surrounding hill crests. Development Objectives for Lakeside Amenity Areas LAA 1 Regulate development of adjoining lands to Lakeside Amenity Areas to ensure that public use is not prejudiced by incompatible use or adverse visual impact. Development Objectives for Riverside Amenity Areas RAA1 Regulate all development on lands adjoining Riverside Amenity Areas in order to maintain their amenity value. Development Objectives for Inland Waterways IW1 Protect and enhance the natural heritage and landscape character of the County's Waterways and to maintain them free from inappropriate development and to provide for public access, where feasible, acknowledging the existence of contiguous Natura 2000 sites. IW2 Protect the biodiversity of rivers, streams and other water courses and maintain them in an open state and to discourage the culverting or realignment thereof. IW3 Consult with, as appropriate, the Inland Fisheries Ireland in relation to any development that could have a potential impact on the aquatic ecosystems and associated riparian habitats.

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Topic	Potentially Significant Adverse Effect, if Unmitigated	Mitigation measures including:
		IW4 Consult with Waterways Ireland and the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the DECLG and the Inland Waterways Association on the development proposals that may affect inland waterways, rivers, lakes, canals or watercourses. IW5 Ensure that the County's watercourses are retained for their biodiversity and flood protection values and conserve and enhance, where possible, the wildlife habitats of the county's rivers and riparian zones, lakes, canals and streams which occur outside of designated areas to provide for a network of habitats and biodiversity corridors throughout the county. IW6 Support the development of blueways in County Cavan. Landscape Character/ Natural Heritage Climate Change Development Objectives LCC 01 Within the lifetime of the plan, undertake a survey and vector mapping exercise to identify exemplar wetlands, bogs, individual trees and/or stands of trees and/or woodlands throughout the county worthy of protection and preservation. LCC 02 Encourage the potential community woodlands areas in urban/urban fringe areas and the development of community woodlands throughout rural Cavan. LCC 03 Promote the use in public spaces of hot water, foam stream, flame weeding and/or concentrated vinegar in favour of glyphosate weedkillers. LCC 04 Prepare a Peatland Strategy that shall encourage the rewilding, restoration and protection of peat bogs after turf cutting and/or peat extraction has ceased. LCC 05 Support the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme 2017 – 2022. LCC06 Promote the roll-out of renewables and stringent protection and enhancement of carbon pools, such as forests, peatlands and permanent grasslands. LCC 07 Explore the opportunity of engaging the services of a full-time Ecologist on a shared basis amongst neighbouring Local Authorities. LCC 08 Install and promote the installation of bird, bat, and owl boxes, and bee bricks and insect hotels or equivalent, at all relevant locations and developments, where possible. LCC 09 Actively participate and seek to adopt recommendations originating out of the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) and Northern and Western Climate Action Region. LCC 10 Fracking and the industrial extraction of fossil fuels will not be encouraged within Cavan 's functional area. LCC 11 Develop a strategy to support an active native Tree Planting programme in the context of climate adaption.

Section 3 Environmental Report and Submissions/ Observations

3.1 Introduction

This section details how both the Environmental Report and submissions and observations made to Cavan County Council on the Environmental Report and SEA process have been taken into account during the preparation of the Variation and the SEA.

3.2 SEA Scoping Notices and Submissions

As part of the SEA scoping process for preparation of the Variation, environmental authorities⁶ were notified that a submission or observation in relation to the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the Environmental Report could be made to the Council.

Detailed submissions were received from the following:

- Environmental Protection Agency; and
- Department of Housing, Local Government and Housing.

Meath County Council responded identifying that it had no comment to make.

The issues raised in these submissions and how these issues have been taken into account during preparation of the Variation and the SEA are provided on Table 3.1 below. Taking into account the submissions environmental considerations were integrated into the Variation, including through the selection of Plan provisions identified on Table 2.1.

⁶ The following authorities were notified: Environmental Protection Agency, Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Meath County Council, Westmeath County Council, Leitrim County Council, Longford County Council and Monaghan County Council.

Table 3.1 Taking into account SEA Scoping Submissions

No.	Submission text	Response
1. Scoping Submission from the Environmental Protection Agency		
A	We acknowledge your notice, dated 20th April 2026, in relation to the Proposed Variation No. 1 of Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028 (the 'Variation'). In our role as an SEA environmental authority under the SEA Regulations, we focus on promoting the full and transparent integration of the findings of the Environmental Assessment into the Plan and advocating that the key environmental challenges for Ireland are addressed as relevant and appropriate to the plan. Our functions do not include approving or enforcing SEAs or plans.	Noted.
B	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 the guidance document ' <i>SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans – EPA Recommendations and Resources</i> '. This document is updated regularly and sets out our key recommendations for integrating environmental considerations into Local Authority land use Plans. We recommend that you take this guidance document into account in preparing the Variation and SEA.	The 'SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans – EPA Recommendations and Resources' document has been considered in the preparation of the SEA Scoping Report and will be kept on file for reference throughout the SEA process.
C	In preparing the Variation, Cavan County Council should also ensure that the Variation aligns with key relevant higher-level plans and programmes and is consistent with the relevant objectives and policy commitments of the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern & Western Region.	The SEA will seek to ensure that the Plan aligns with key relevant higher-level plans and programmes and is consistent with the relevant objectives and policy commitments of the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern & Western Region. Further comments made during the process will be taken into account as appropriate.
D	Assessment of Effects Consideration should be given to the potential for significant negative effects on population and human health, water quality (see Water Action Plan ¹) and flood risk, biodiversity, flora and fauna, landscape and soil. In addition, climatic factors should be considered with reference to the most up to date Climate Action Plan and relevant Flood Risk Management Plan. The availability and capacity of existing critical infrastructure including wastewater and water supply should be considered in the context of the likely population increase associated with the proposed housing target being accommodated.	The SEA will assess and document the full range of likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Variation on all relevant environmental components. The Water Action Plan, the Climate Action Plan, the relevant Flood Risk Management Plan, and the availability and capacity of existing critical infrastructure including wastewater and water supply in the context of the likely population increase associated with the proposed housing target being accommodated will all be considered.
E	Monitoring & Baseline Data Consideration should also be given to the Environmental Monitoring set out in Table 7.1 of the National Planning Framework's First Revision SEA Statement ² . This monitoring should be reflected, where relevant and appropriate, in the context of future, environmental monitoring and related reporting associated with the revised CDP implementation. The inclusion of information on environmental monitoring carried out for previous Plans in this area would also be useful. This should help inform the proposed monitoring programme. Additionally, this monitoring should inform an analysis for the baseline data included in the Environmental Report. The EPA may provide additional comments upon receipt of the SEA Environmental Report and Draft Plan/Variation at the next stage of the SEA process.	This monitoring information will be considered when undertaking future, environmental monitoring and related reporting associated with the revised Development Plan implementation.
F	The EPA may provide additional comments upon receipt of the SEA Environmental Report and Draft Plan/Variation at the next stage of the SEA process.	Further comments made during the process will be taken into account as appropriate.

No.	Submission text	Response
G	Available Guidance & Resources Our website contains various SEA resources and guidance, including: - SEA process guidance and checklists; - Inventory of spatial datasets relevant to SEA; - Topic and sector specific SEA guidance (including <i>SEA and Integration Guidance</i> (EPA, 2025), <i>Good practice note on Cumulative Effects Assessment</i> (EPA, 2020), <i>Developing and Assessing Alternatives in SEA</i> (EPA, 2015), and <i>Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment</i> (EPA, 2012)). You can access these guidance notes and other resources at: https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/assessment/strategic-environmental-assessment/sea-topic-and-sector-specific-guidance/ EPA SEA GIS Search and Reporting Webtool Our SEA WebGIS Tool has been updated recently and is now available at https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/SEA. It allows an indicative report on key aspects of the environment in a specific geographic area to be produced. It is intended to assist public authorities in SEA screening and scoping exercises. Catchments.ie Our https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/Water website provides a single point of access to water quality and catchment data from the National WFD monitoring programme. EPA AA GeoTool Our AA GeoTool application has been developed in partnership with the NPWS. It allows users to select a location, specify a search area and gather available information for each European Site within the area. It is also available through EPA https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/AAGeoTool. Ireland's State of the Environment Report 2024 In 2024, the EPA published the latest iteration of our 4-yearly State of the Environment Report. This report should be considered, and relevant aspects integrated as appropriate, in implementing the Plan outputs/ recommendations. It is available at: https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/assessment/state-of-environment-report/.	These resources and guidance have been considered in the preparation of the SEA Scoping Report and will be accessed, as relevant, for reference throughout the SEA process.
H	Transition to a low carbon climate resilient economy and society You should ensure that the Variation aligns with national commitments on climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as relevant sectoral, regional and local adaptation plans.	The SEA will seek to ensure that the Plan aligns with national commitments on climate change and adaptation, as well as relevant sectoral, regional and local adaptation plans.
I	Environmental Authorities Under the SEA Regulations, you should consult with: - Environmental Protection Agency; - Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage; - Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment; and, - Minister for Agriculture, Food, and the Marine. any adjoining planning authority whose area is contiguous to the area of a planning authority which prepared a draft plan, proposed variation or local area plan.	Notice has been given to relevant environmental authorities as part of the SEA scoping process.
J	If you have any queries or need further information in relation to this submission, please contact me directly. I would be grateful if you could send an email confirming receipt of this submission to: sea@epa.ie.	None.
2. Scoping Submission from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage		
A	Various general observations are made under the following headings: - Archaeology - Architectural - Ministerial Guidelines - Relevant Policies and Objectives in Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028 - Architectural Heritage Definitions - Protected Structure - Architectural Conservation Areas - National Inventory of the Architectural Heritage - Relevant Policies and Objectives - Nature Conservation	Archaeological, architectural and nature conservation related policy and legislation will be considered in the preparation of the Plan and in the undertaking of the associated assessments. Measures contributing towards the protection and management of archaeology, architecture and nature will be integrated into the SEA and the advice in the submission from the Department will be considered when identifying these measures.

3.3 Submissions on the Environmental Report for the Proposed Variation

Various submissions were made on the Proposed Variation and/or associated environmental assessment documents, including the SEA Environmental Report and AA/SFRA documents, while these documents were on public display.

Updates made to the Variation's SEA Environmental Report on foot of submissions included updating references to the "Water Services Strategic Plan 2050".

Some of the submissions related to the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and the integration of flood risk management considerations into the Variation. Various sites referenced in the submissions were confirmed to be within Flood Zone C.

Further information on how submissions were considered, refer to the Chief Executive's Report on submissions received on the Proposed Variation and associated documents is available at cavancoco.ie.

All parts of the Variation-preparation process were informed by the SEA, AA and SFRA processes. The mitigation integrated into the final, adopted Plan includes that identified at Table 2.1 of this report.

3.4 SEA documents including SEA Environmental Report

The Proposed Variation and accompanying documents (including SEA Environmental Report and AA and SFRA documents) were placed on public display, having integrated various recommendations arising from the SEA, AA and SFRA processes. Responses to submissions made during the public display of the Proposed Variation and associated SEA, AA and SFRA documents were integrated into a Chief Executive's Report and considered by Cavan County Council.

A number of non-material alterations were made to the original Proposed Variation that was placed out on public display.

On making the Variation, the Environmental Report that had been placed on public display alongside the Proposed Variation was updated to become a final Environmental Report that is consistent with the Variation as made, taking into account all changes that were made to the original Proposed Variation that was placed on public display.

Section 4 Summary of Alternatives considered

4.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive requires that reasonable alternatives (taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme, or variation to these) are identified, described and evaluated for their likely significant effects on the environment. Summaries of the alternatives for the Variation and their assessment are provided below.

4.2 Limitations in Available Alternatives

The alternatives available for the Variation are significantly limited by the provisions of higher-level planning objectives, including those of Ministerial Guidelines, the Revised National Planning Framework, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Region and the existing County Development Plan which set out various requirements for the content of the Variation.

Alternatives have already been identified and assessed as part of the preparation of the existing Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028 associated SEA.

Notwithstanding the above higher-level policy constraints and the limited scope of the Variation, alternatives to the land use zoning approach are identified and assessed.

4.3 Alternatives Description and Assessment Summary

Two alternatives (with associated components) for the approach to land use zoning for the Variation were identified and assessed:

Land Use Zoning Approach Alternative 1: "More Compact Development, More Transport Orientated, More Infrastructure-Led"

Under this Alternative, County Cavan would be facilitated in meeting the revised population targets, resulting in balanced, orderly development and implementation of the varied Core Strategy.

The approach under this alternative would allow for social and community, drinking water, waste water, electricity supply and transport related considerations to be integrated into the Plan as varied to the highest degree.

The infrastructure required to be in place to achieve the growth targets is generally already in place or planned under this alternative.

The development of the County's settlements would be more compact and sustainable under this scenario and would better support their longer-term viability. A higher number of residential units, in comparison with Alternative 2, would be expected to take place within the existing built-up footprints on brownfield, infill and under-utilised sites at appropriate densities, with a greater focus on use of consolidation and regeneration sites, with potential for wider regeneration benefits to central areas, including housing provision. Regeneration, reuse and redevelopment of more central and brownfield and infill lands and optimising the use of vacant, derelict, and underutilised sites and buildings would be more likely to be achieved. Giving a strong preference to lands that have both greater capacity to satisfy the principles of active travel and a more realistic opportunity of being developed over the lifetime of the Plan, would provide for the proper planning and sustainable development of the County as envisaged by the wider planning framework to a greater degree.

There would be greater potential for transport orientated development, including proximate development patterns linked by active travel infrastructure and public transport where available. Associated benefits and improvements to the public realm and appearance of the built environment, including liveability and quality of life improvements, would be more likely.

This Alternative would make the greatest contribution towards the protection and management of the environment by facilitating development of lands (including those within the existing envelopes of the county's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County's settlements and beyond. This Alternative would be considered the most effective out of both alternatives considered in the delivery of a sustainable, low carbon and climate resilient future for the County and its settlements.

The approach under Alternative 1 would benefit the protection of various environmental components. Although potentially adverse effects associated with land use development would exist, they would be mitigated to a significant degree. Less residual environmental effects would result.

Under this alternative there would be:

- More optimum use of land and resources, with positive role for addressing climate change, such as potential for reduced carbon heavy travel patterns.
- Greater potential for modal shift to sustainable travel such as walking, cycling and public transport, with resultant benefits for climate resilience.
- Use of already serviced lands within the existing envelopes of the county's settlements could lead to potential reduced costs for delivery of new supporting infrastructure.
- Creation of more liveable built environments, with greater accessibility to services and amenities for local communities.

Land Use Zoning Approach Alternative 2: "Less Compact Development, Less Transport Orientated, Less Infrastructure-Led"

Under this Alternative, County Cavan would be facilitated in meeting the revised population targets, resulting in balanced, orderly development and implementation of the varied Core Strategy.

The approach under this alternative would not allow for social and community, drinking water, waste water, electricity supply and transport related considerations to be integrated into the Plan as varied to the highest degree.

Additional significant infrastructure would be required to accommodate sporadic development, more than would be required for Alternative 1 'More Compact Development, More Transport Orientated, More Infrastructure-Led'.

The development of the County's settlements would be less compact and less sustainable under this scenario and would not optimally support their longer-term viability. A lower number of residential units, in comparison with Alternative 1, would be expected to take place within the existing built-up footprints on brownfield, infill and under-utilised sites at appropriate densities. Under this alternative there would be potential for greater proportion of housing to be delivered outside of the built-up areas, including on urban fringe and outer areas, creating unsustainable travel patterns with a greater reliance on the private car. Giving less of a preference to lands that have both greater capacity to satisfy the principles of active travel and a more realistic opportunity of being developed over the lifetime of the Plan, would provide for the proper planning and sustainable development of the County as envisaged by the wider planning framework to a lesser degree.

There would be greater potential for negative impacts on the vitality and viability of built-up areas, due to more sustained levels of vacancy and dereliction for existing buildings and brownfield lands. This alternative would be likely to result in a more dispersed pattern of low-density town/village centre development, that would be more difficult to serve with active travel infrastructure and public transport.

This Alternative would make less of a contribution towards the protection and management of the environment by facilitating development of lands (including those within the existing envelopes of the county's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services. Development of more sensitive, less well-served lands in the County's settlements would be provided for. This Alternative would be considered the least effective out of both Alternatives considered in the delivery of a sustainable, low carbon and climate resilient future for the County and its settlements.

The approach under Alternative 2 would benefit the protection of various environmental components to a lesser degree. Although potentially adverse effects associated with land use development would exist, they would be mitigated to in many cases; however, more residual environmental effects would result.

Under this alternative there would be:

- An increase in car dependency and associated carbon heavy travel patterns, which would undermine efforts aimed at securing climate resilience.
- Increased peripheral pattern of residential development with potential for self-contained and disconnected built environments.
- Reduced potential for modal shift to sustainable travel options such as walking, cycling and public transport.
- Potential for increased costs associated with the delivery on new supporting infrastructure (roads, footpaths etc.) in more peripheral areas.
- Increased costs for the delivery of necessary supporting infrastructure for a higher level of urban fringe and outer areas.

The selected land use zoning approach for the Variation is Alternative 1. This compact development approach performed more favourably across multiple Strategic Environmental Objectives, including those relating to climate, human health, material assets and landscape. This approach would facilitate County Cavan in meeting the revised population targets and would enable the rapid activation of available and housing delivery in the interests of providing housing for people.

4.4 Reasons for Choosing the Selected Alternatives in light of Other Reasonable Alternatives Considered

The selected alternative for the Variation that emerged from the planning/SEA process is indicated above.

This alternative has been integrated into the Variation that was placed on public display having regard to both:

1. The environmental effects which were identified by the SEA and are detailed above; and
2. Planning – including social and economic – effects that also were considered.

Section 5 Monitoring Measures

5.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive requires that the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programmes are monitored. This section details the measures which will be used in order to monitor the likely significant effects of implementing the Variation. Monitoring will be undertaken as part of reporting on the County Development Plan (to which the Variation is being made) monitoring programme.

Monitoring can both demonstrate the positive effects facilitated by the Variation and can enable, at an early stage, the identification of unforeseen adverse effects and the undertaking of appropriate remedial action. Monitoring will enable the early identification of any unforeseen adverse environmental effects arising from implementation of the Variation and will facilitate the timely undertaking of remedial action where required.

The occurrence of significant adverse environmental effects not predicted and mitigated by this assessment, which are directly attributable to the implementation of the Variation, would necessitate consideration of these effects in the context of the Variation and potential remediation action(s) and/or review of part(s) of the Variation.

5.2 Indicators and Targets

Monitoring is based around indicators which allow quantitative measures of trends and progress over time relating to the Strategic Environmental Objectives identified in the SEA Environmental Report and used in the evaluation. Each indicator to be monitored is accompanied by the target(s) which were identified with regard to the relevant strategic actions. The monitoring measures identified below as part of the Variation SEA are consistent with the measures that were identified by the Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028 SEA. This consistency across the hierarchy of land use plans will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of future monitoring.

Table 5.1 overleaf shows the indicators and targets which have been selected for monitoring the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Variation, if unmitigated. Monitoring is an ongoing process and the programme allows for flexibility and the further refinement of indicators and targets. The Monitoring Programme may be updated to deal with specific environmental issues – including unforeseen effects – as they arise.

5.3 Sources

The Variation forms part of the wider land use planning framework comprising a hierarchy of policies, plans, programmes, etc. This wider framework, including the National Planning Framework, Northern and Western RSES, and Cavan County Development Plan is subject to its own SEA (and associated monitoring) requirements. Individual projects will be subject to their own monitoring requirements as relevant.

In implementing the Monitoring Programme, the Council will take into account this hierarchy of planning and environmental monitoring.

Sources for indicators may include existing monitoring databases (including those maintained by planning authorities and national/regional government departments and agencies) and the output of lower-tier environmental assessment and decision making (including a review of project approvals granted and associated documents and the output of any EIA monitoring programmes).

Internal monitoring of the environmental effects of grants of permission in the Council would provide monitoring of certain indicators on a *grant of permission*⁷ basis. Where significant adverse effects as a result of the development to be permitted are identified,

⁷ The likely significant effects of development proposals on environmental sensitivities are further determined during the development management process. Documenting any identified effects as a result of a development to be permitted can help to fulfill monitoring requirements.

such effects could be identified, recorded and used to inform monitoring evaluation.

5.4 Reporting

Reporting will be undertaken as part of reporting on the County Development Plan monitoring programme.

A stand-alone Monitoring Report on the significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan as varied will be prepared in advance of the beginning of the review of the Development Plan. This report will address indicators consistent with those set out on Table 5.1.

The results of monitoring will directly inform future statutory reviews and variations of the County Development Plan, ensuring an adaptive and evidence-based approach to environmental management.

The Council is responsible for the ongoing review of indicators and targets, collating existing relevant monitored data, the preparation of monitoring evaluation report(s), the publication of these reports and, if necessary, the carrying out of remedial action.

Table 5.1 Indicators, Targets, Sources and Remedial Action

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Selected Indicators for Two-Year Progress Review Stage	Selected Targets for Two-Year Progress Review Stage	Selected Sources for Two-Year Progress Review Stage	Selected Remedial Actions for Two-Year Progress Review Stage ⁸
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	BFF	Condition of European sites	- Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions and as a minimum, to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species - Implement and review, as relevant, the County Cavan Heritage Plan 2017-2021 (and any superseding plan) - Confirmation of compliance with Plan provisions relating to the protection of European Sites and sustaining resources	- DHLGH report of the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive - as required by Article 17 of the Directive (every 6 years) (2019)⁹ - DHLGH National Birds Directive Monitoring Report for the under Article 12 (every 6 years) (2019)¹⁰ - Internal review of local land use plans. - Internal review of development management / grants of permission	Where condition of European sites is found to be deteriorating this will be investigated with the Regional Assembly and the DHLGH to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance.
		Number of spatial plans that have included ecosystem services content, mapping and policy to protect ecosystem services when their relevant plans are either revised or drafted	- Require all local level land use plans to include ecosystem services and green/blue infrastructure provisions and as a minimum, to have regard to the required targets in relation to the conservation of European sites, other nature conservation sites, ecological networks, and protected species - Implement and review, as relevant, the County Cavan Heritage Plan 2017-2021 (and any superseding plan)	Internal review of local land use plans.	Review internal systems
		SEAs and AAs as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc. under the Development Plan	Screen for and/or undertake SEA and AA as relevant for new Council policies, plans, programmes etc. under the Development Plan	Internal review of new Council policies, plans, programmes etc. under the Development Plan	Review internal systems
		Status of water bodies	Included under Water below	Included under Water below	Included under Water below
		Compliance of planning permissions with Plan measures providing for the protection of Biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Chapter 10 “Natural Heritage”	For planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that they comply with all Plan measures providing for the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna – see Chapter 10 “Natural Heritage”	Internal review of development management / of grants of permission	Review internal systems
Population and Human Health	PHH	Implementation of Plan measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Chapter 6 “Economic”	Progress in successfully implementing Plan measures relating to the promotion of economic growth as provided for by Chapter 6 “Economic”	Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives	Review internal systems
		Number of spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors resulting from development permitted under the Plan	No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan	- Review of published information from the Health Service Executive and EPA - Internal consultations with the Council’s Environment Department	Consultations with the Health Service Executive and EPA

⁸ Where remedial action is required, consultations with government agencies (e.g. DECC, DT, EPA, HSE, NPWS, Regional Assembly, Uisce Éireann) may be undertaken in order to confirm causes of any identified changes in the environment and in order to develop appropriate responses.

⁹ https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/NPWS_2019_Vol1_Summary_Article17.pdf

¹⁰ <https://www.npws.ie/maps-and-data/habitat-and-species-data/article-12-data> and <https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/biodiversity/state-of-nature-in-the-eu/article-12-national-summary-dashboards-archived/breeding-population-and-distribution-trends>

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Environmental Component	SEO Code	Selected Indicators for Two-Year Progress Review Stage	Selected Targets for Two-Year Progress Review Stage	Selected Sources for Two-Year Progress Review Stage	Selected Remedial Actions for Two-Year Progress Review Stage ⁸
		Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures	- Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures - Progress in successfully implementing Plan measures relating to active travel	- CSO data¹¹ - Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives	Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above previous CSO figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.
		Number of spatial plans that include specific green infrastructure mapping	Require all local level land use plans to include specific green infrastructure mapping	Internal review of local land use plans.	Review internal systems
Soil (and Land)	S	Proportion of population growth occurring on infill and brownfield lands compared to greenfield (also relevant to Material Assets)	- Contribute towards NPF target of maintaining built surface cover nationally to below the EU average of 4% - In accordance with National Policy Objectives 3c of the National Planning Framework, a minimum of 30% of the housing growth targeted in any settlement is to be delivered within the existing built-up footprint of the settlement - To map brownfield and infill land parcels across the County	- Compilation of greenfield and brownfield development for the DHLGH - Internal review of development management / grants of permission	Where the proportion of growth on infill and brownfield sites is not keeping pace with the targets set in the NPF and the RSES, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly to establish reasons and coordinate actions to address constraints to doing so.
		Instances where contaminated material generated from brownfield and infill must be disposed of	Dispose of contaminated material in compliance with EPA guidance and waste management requirements	Internal review of development management / grants of permission where contaminated material must be disposed of	Consultations with the EPA and Development Management
		Environmental assessments and AAs as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission	Screen for and undertake environmental assessments and AA as relevant for applications for brownfield and infill development prior to planning permission	Internal review of development management / grants of permission	Review internal systems
Water	W	Status of water bodies as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programme for the WFD	- Subject to exemptions provided for by Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive, not to cause deterioration in the status of any surface water or affect the ability of any surface water to achieve 'good status' - Implementation of the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan	EPA Monitoring Programme for WFD compliance	- Where water bodies are failing to meet at least good status this will be investigated with the DHLGH Water Section, the EPA Catchment Unit, the Regional Assembly and, as relevant, Uisce Éireann to establish if the pressures are related to Plan actions / activities. A tailored response will be developed in consultation with these stakeholders in such a circumstance. - Where planning applications are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the WWTP or failure of the WWTP to meet Emission Limit Values, the Council will consider whether it is necessary to coordinate a response with the Regional Assembly, EPA and Uisce Éireann to achieve the necessary capacity.
		Number of incompatible developments permitted within flood risk areas	Minimise developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk	Internal review of development management / grants of permission	Where planning applications are being permitted on flood zones, the Council will ensure that such grants are in compliance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines

¹¹ Survey data for the year 2022, published 2023

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Environmental Component	SEO Code	Selected Indicators for Two-Year Progress Review Stage	Selected Targets for Two-Year Progress Review Stage	Selected Sources for Two-Year Progress Review Stage	Selected Remedial Actions for Two-Year Progress Review Stage ⁸
					and include appropriate flood risk mitigation and management measures.
Material Assets	MA	- Programmed delivery of Uisce Éireann infrastructure for all key growth towns in line with Uisce Éireann Investment Plan and prioritisation programme to ensure sustainable growth can be accommodated - Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately and appropriately served with waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan	- All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately and appropriately served by waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan - Where individual on-site wastewater treatment systems are proposed, for planning permission to be only granted when applications demonstrate that the outfall from the individual on-site wastewater treatment system will not – in- combination with other septic tanks – contribute towards any surface or ground water body not meeting the objective of good status under the Water Framework Directive - Facilitate, as appropriate, Uisce Éireann in developing water and wastewater infrastructure - See also targets relating to greenfield and brownfield development of land under Soil	Internal review of development management / grants of permission	Where planning applications are rejected due to insufficient capacity in the WWTP or failure of the WWTP to meet Emission Limit Values, the Council will consider whether it is necessary to coordinate a response with the Regional Assembly, EPA and Uisce Éireann to achieve the necessary capacity.
		Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures	- Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures - Progress in successfully implementing Plan measures relating to active travel	- CSO data - Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives	Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above previous CSO figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.
Air	A	- Proportion of journeys made by car compared to previous levels - NO₂ (Nitrogen Dioxide), PM₁₀ (particulate matter with diameter of 10 microns or less) and O₃ (Ozone)	- Decrease in proportion of journeys made by car compared to previous levels - Improvement in Air Quality trends, particularly in relation to transport related emissions - Progress in successfully implementing Plan measures relating to sustainable mobility and travel	- CSO data - EPA Air Quality Monitoring - Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives	Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above previous CSO figures, Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response. See also entry under Population and human health above
Climatic Factors	C	Implementation of Plan measures relating to climate reduction targets	For review of progress on implementing Plan objectives to demonstrate successful implementation of measures relating to climate reduction targets	Internal review of development management / grants of permission	Review internal systems
		A competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy	Contribute towards transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050	Confirmation of progress in implementing of Cavan County Council's 2019 Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and 2024 Climate Action Plan	Where targets are not achieved, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly and the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office to establish reasons and develop solutions.
		Share of renewable energy in transport	Contribute towards the National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030 sectoral target for transport (RES-T) of 14%, by 2030 (this may be increased following a provisional European agreement on 30 March 2023 for a binding overall RES target of at least 42.5% by 2030)	- EPA Greenhouse Gas Emissions reporting - Internal review of implementation of Plan provisions relating to renewable energy in transport, including facilitating the development of	
		Greenhouse gas emissions	Contribute towards the target of aggregate		

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Environmental Component	SEO Code	Selected Indicators for Two-Year Progress Review Stage	Selected Targets for Two-Year Progress Review Stage	Selected Sources for Two-Year Progress Review Stage	Selected Remedial Actions for Two-Year Progress Review Stage ⁸
			reduction in carbon dioxide (CO ₂) emissions of at least 51% (compared to 1990 levels) by 2030 (helping to set Ireland on a path to reach net-zero emissions by 2050)	electricity charging and transmission infrastructure	
		Energy consumption, the uptake of renewable options and solid fuels for residential heating	To promote reduced energy consumption and support the uptake of renewable options and a move away from solid fuels for residential heating		
		Proportion of journeys made by car compared to previous levels	- Decrease in the proportion of journeys made by residents of the County using car compared to previous levels - Progress in successfully implementing Plan measures relating to sustainable mobility and travel	- CSO data - Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives	Where trends toward carbon reduction are not recorded, the Council will liaise with the Regional Assembly and the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office to establish reasons and develop solutions.
		Proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures	- Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling / walking to school and work above previous CSO figures - Progress in successfully implementing Plan measures relating to active travel	- CSO data¹² - Internal review of progress on implementing Plan objectives	Where proportion of population shows increase in private car use above previous CSO figures, the Council will coordinate with the Regional Assembly, the DHLGH, DECC and NTA to develop a tailored response.
Cultural Heritage	CH	Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, protected from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	Protect entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, and the context of these entries within the surrounding landscape where relevant, from adverse effects resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	Internal review of development management / grants of permission	Where monitoring reveals visitor or development pressure is causing negative effects on designated archaeological or architectural heritage, the Council will work with the Regional Assembly, Fáilte Ireland and the National Monuments Service and other stakeholders, as relevant, to address pressures through additional mitigation.
		Percentage of entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context protected from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan	Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan	Internal review of development management / grants of permission	
Landscape	L	Number of developments permitted that result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	No developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	Internal review of development management / grants of permission	Where monitoring reveals developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, the Council will re-examine Plan provisions and the effectiveness of their implementation

¹² Survey data for the year 2022, published 2023