

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council



**Strategic Environmental
Assessment
Final Environmental Report of
Athenry Local Area Plan 2012 – 2018**

July 2012

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ENVIRONMENTAL & HERITAGE CONSULTANTS
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This report has been prepared by Minogue and Associates with all reasonable skill, care and diligence. Information reported herein is based on the interpretation of data collected and has been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid.

This report is prepared for Galway County Council and we accept no responsibility to third parties to whom this report, or any part thereof, is made known. Any such party relies on the report at their own risk

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1 Chapter One: Environmental Report

1.1 Introduction

Galway County Council is currently preparing a Local Area Plan (LAP) for Athenry 2012-2018. This Local Area Plan (LAP) is a land use plan and overall strategy for the development of Athenry over the period 2012-2018. The successful implementation of the Plan will have a positive impact on Athenry ensuring that it develops in a sustainable manner, and will also complement the implementation of the Galway County Development Plan 2009-2015. ***The Athenry LAP was adopted on 25th June 2012 by Galway County Council and this is the Final SEA ER. It is accompanied by the SEA Statement and a Habitats Directive Assessment. New text in the Final SEA ER is shown in bold and italic font, and is accompanied by a footnote where additional text was inserted following the consultation processes. All SEA Maps have been updated to reflect the new LAP boundary as adopted.***

1.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and this Environmental Report

SEA is a key process that promotes sustainable development and highlights significant environmental issues within the planning regime. The purpose of SEA is to formally and systematically evaluate the likely significant effects of implementing a plan or programme, in this instance the Draft LAP. SEA is an iterative process and has informed and influenced the preparation of the Draft LAP for Athenry.

This Environmental Report forms part of the SEA on the Draft LAP. The purpose of this Environmental Report is to identify, describe, and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the proposed Draft LAP and should be read in conjunction with the Draft LAP itself.

This Environmental Report is not the SEA, rather it documents the SEA process and is the key consultation document in the SEA process and facilitates interested parties to comment on the environmental issues associated with the Draft LAP.

Schedule 2B of S.I. 436 of 2004 details the information to be contained in an Environmental Report. The following section lists the information required and details where this information is contained in this Environmental Report.

(a) an outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan and relationship with other relevant plans; Chapter One Introduction and Chapter Two Methodology outlines contents and main objectives, and how they were developed; Chapter Three details the relationship with other relevant plans.

(b) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan; Chapter Four Baseline Environment provides this information.

(c) the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected; Chapter Four Baseline Environment provides this information.

(d) any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to the Birds Directive or Habitats Directive; Chapter Four Baseline Environment provides this information.

(e) the environmental protection objectives, established at international, European Union or national level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation; Chapter Five: SEA Objectives provides this information.

(f) the likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors; Chapter Seven, Significant Effects on the Environment provides this information.

(g) the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan; Chapter Eight, Mitigation Measures provides this information.

(h) an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information; Chapter Six, Alternatives Considered provides this information and difficulties encountered are listed at the end of Chapter Four, Baseline Environment.

(i) a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring of the significant environmental effects of implementation of the plan; Chapter Nine, Monitoring provides this information.

(j) a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings. This is provided in a separate document to this Environmental Report but is also available.

1.3 Athenry LAP Area

Athenry – Baile Átha an Ríogh (a fording point on the River Clarin), is located in County Galway, in the province of Connaught on the western seaboard of Ireland. The town is strategically located 22km east of Galway Gateway within the Eastern Strategic Corridor and is accessible by rail and motorway networks.

Athenry is sited on the River Clarin and is renowned for the historic fabric of the town centre and is one of the most significant walled towns in Ireland. A number of important heritage features remain in the town including Athenry Castle, the historic walls, market cross, the ruins of St Mary's Collegiate Church and the Dominican Priory. In terms of the wider landscape, the River Clarin flows in a southerly direction through the town, providing a diverse 'ecological corridor' and drains into a designated site – the Galway Bay Complex cSAC (Site Code: IE0000268) and NHA (Site Code 0000268) at Clarinbridge (located outside of the LAP Boundary and within the 15km zone).

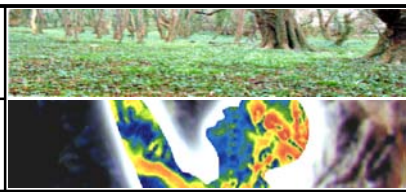
Figure 1a shows the geographical location of Athenry and presents the functional area of the town, water resources and transport routes.



DATE: 26/7/2012	SCALE: 1:200,000
REF:	SIZE: A4
DRAWN: MFC	APPROVED: RM

FIGURE 1a: LOCATION

Galway County Council Atherry Local Area Plan SEA



minogue & associates
 Tuamgraney, County Clare
 T: 061 640667
 ERA-MAPTEC
 40 Lwr. O'Connell St.
 Dublin 1 www.era.ie

1.4 Background to LAP of Athenry.

This draft LAP has been prepared by Galway County Council (GCC) to provide a statutory framework for the future growth, development and improvement of Athenry that is consistent with the policies and objectives contained in *the Galway County Development Plan (GCDP) 2009-2015* including its *Core Strategy/Settlement Strategy* and which addresses the needs and requirements of the local community, service providers and other stakeholders. The purpose of the Local Area Plan is to guide future development within the town of Athenry, in a sustainable and equitable manner and to inform members of the public, the local community, stakeholders, developers and the Planning Authority regarding policies and objectives for the development of the town, including provisions in relation to land use management, community facilities and amenities, transport and infrastructure, urban design, heritage and the environment.

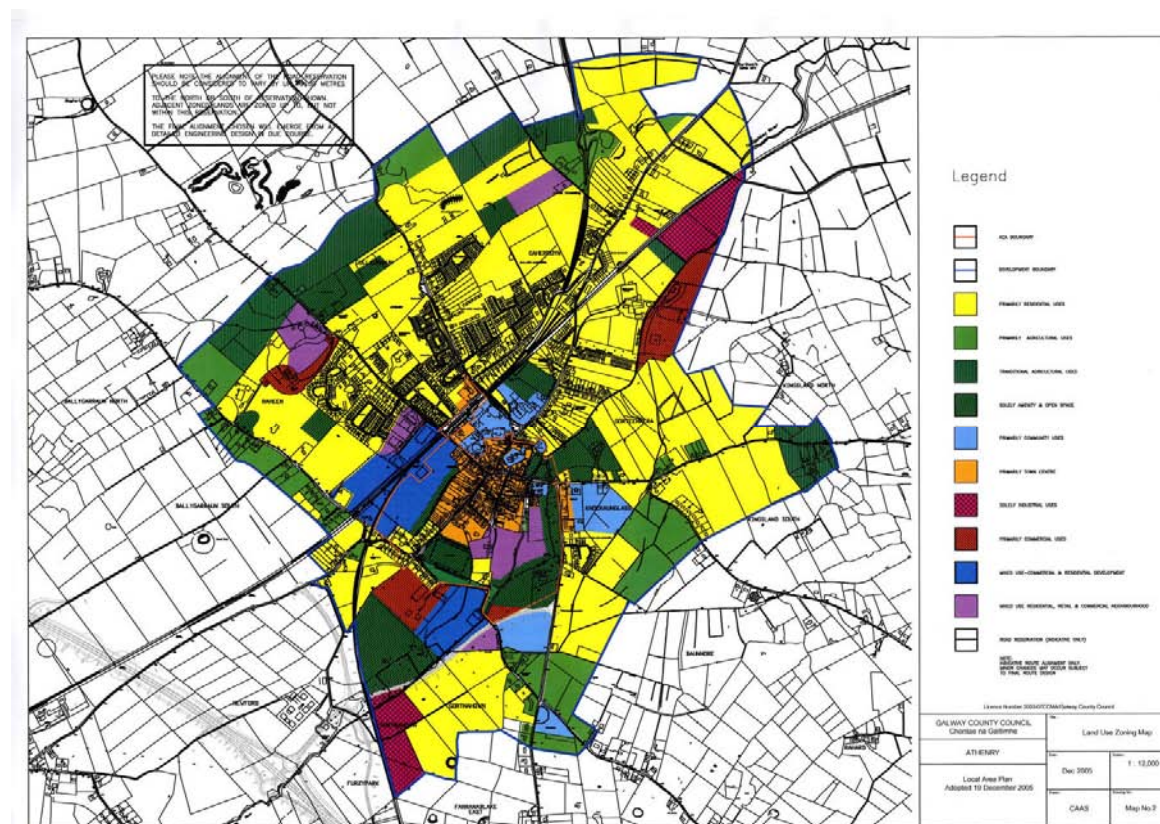
The Plan period is 6 years, from date of adoption by the Council, unless the timeframe is extended by resolution in accordance with Section 12 (d) to (f) of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010. The Plan area for Athenry is comprised of the town and its immediate environs. The Plan area is considered to provide an appropriate development envelope for the anticipated growth of Athenry for the Plan period.

The preparation of the Local Area Plan has also included a public consultation process, which involved the publication of a Background Issues Paper to obtain the views of the local community and other stakeholders and the issues raised during this process have been addressed, as appropriate, within this Local Area Plan.

The SEA and Habitats Directive Assessment (HDA) have informed the LAP through an ongoing iterative process that incorporated environmental considerations and sensitivities throughout the strategy development. The SEA and HDA is being undertaken in line with the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 to 2011 (as amended) and the European Union (Natural Habitats) Regulations 94 of 1999, as amended SI 233/1998 and SI 378/2005.

Figure 1b shows the landuse zonings from the current Athenry LAP 2005 – 2011.

Figure 1b: Landuse zonings in Current Athenry LAP 2005-2011.



1.5 Structure of this Environmental Report

The remainder of this Environmental Report is structured as follows:

- Chapter Two: Methodology
- Chapter Three: Relationship to other policies and plans
- Chapter Four: Environmental Baseline
- Chapter Five: Environmental Protection Objectives
- Chapter Six: Alternatives Considered
- Chapter Seven: Likely Significant Effects on the Environment
- Chapter Eight: Mitigation Measures
- Chapter Nine: Monitoring
- Glossary of Terms
- Annex A: Detailed Evaluation of Draft Policies and Land use Zonings
- Annex B: EPA SEA Process Checklist
- Annex C: 1st and 2nd Material Amendments Assessment against SEOs**

2 Chapter Two: Methodology

2.1 Introduction

The methodology used to carry out the SEA of the LAP reflects the requirements of the SEA regulations and available guidance on undertaking an SEA in Ireland, including:

- SEA Methodologies for Plans and Programmes in Ireland – Synthesis Report Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 2003,
- Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment – Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities- published by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government 2004.
- Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI 436 and S.I 435 of 2004)
- Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment)(Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 201 of 2011), and
- Planning and Development (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (S.I No 200 of 2011), and
- SEA Process Checklist Consultation Draft 2008. EPA 2008.

This chapter presents the methodology in more detail.

2.2 Screening for SEA

The SEA Directive is implemented through the above regulations. The recently introduced regulations have lowered the thresholds whereby SEA becomes mandatory for LAPS. Article 14 (b) of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment)(Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 201 of 2011), state that SEA is mandatory for Local Area Plans where a population or target population is over 5,000; where the area covered by the plan is greater than 50 square kilometres, or where the local area plan is being prepared for a town and its wider environs. The preliminary Census 2011 data shows that the Athenry Electoral District is 4,834 persons. In addition, the County Core Strategy indicates that Athenry has been assigned a population target of 1,122 persons for 2016; this would increase the population to over 5000 persons, therefore the draft Athenry LAP 2012 – 2018 is required to undergo a full SEA.

2.3 Consultation

Pre-Draft Consultation with External Stakeholders

A Background Issues Paper was prepared in May 2011 with the aim to promote discussion and consultation on issues affecting the sustainable development of Athenry. A notice was published on 30th May providing information on the preparation of the LAP and requesting

submissions until 1st July. The following table provides information on submissions received over this time period.

Table 2a: Pre draft submissions on Athenry LAP.

Submission	Environmental Issue	Addressed in SEA
Tadhg Costello	Consider support for use of vernacular features such as slate roofs or sash windows when renovating houses	Cultural Heritage - architecture
NRA, St Martin's House Waterloo Road, Dublin 4	Have regard to provisions of Spatial Planning and National Roads (Draft) Guidelines Also reference to Retail Planning Guidelines and Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines The identification of Athenry as a goods transportation hub would be best addressed within the context of the LAP. Careful consideration to zoning close to national road network Seek to minimise local trip generation (in cars) by encouraging integrated development Recommends traffic and transport assessments be carried out for individual planning applications but this is not a substitute for overall transport assessment of areas where consideration is being given to land use and transportation Traffic and Transport Assessment and Road Safety Audits recommended for planning applications Noise Regulations (S.I. 140 of 2006) Signage policy	Material Assets – transport and in combination impacts
Fiona Maguire	Provision of wastewater infrastructure for the town	Water and Material Assets
Irish Rural Housing/One Off Ireland Campaign	Detailed submission providing information on environmental impacts associated with urban generated one off rural housing. The purpose of the submission is to bring attention to the issues associated with the proliferation of urban-generated one-off rural housing. LAPs are essential components of the settlement planning hierarchy and have a key role to play in regulating development outside of their immediate settlement boundaries.	Impact of housing policies will be assessed through SEA and HDA process
Coffey Construction, Athenry, Co Galway (lands at Caherroyn)	Request to consider retaining current zoning of 'residential' to lands at Caherroyn	This zoning will be assessed through the SEA and HDA process.
Coffey Construction, Athenry, Co Galway (lands at Ballydavid)	Request to consider retaining current zoning of light industrial/commercial on part of lands at Ballydavid	This zoning will be assessed through the SEA and HDA process.
Dublin Airport	No comments	n/a

Authority, (No Comments)		
<p>The West Regional Authority, 1st Floor, Woodquay Court, Woodquay, Galway</p>	<p>Regional Planning Guidelines identify Athenry as Key Town. Alignment of Core Strategy and Regional Planning guidelines Population target for Athenry and residential zonings – current oversupply DoECLG Circular PSSP6/2010 prioritizing/phasing of residential lands and consideration of alternative objectives Consider existing vacant housing units and live planning permissions – availability of services such as water, wastewater, pedestrian, cycling and transport access</p> <p>Athenry Sewerage Scheme included on Water Services Investment Programme 2010 -2012 SEA and AA should examine likely impact of implementing the LAP on the Natura 2000 network and other environmental receptors</p>	<p>Policies will be referenced in Chapter Three of SEA ER</p> <p>Zoning of lands will be assessed through SEA and HDA process</p> <p>SEA and HDA will assess the likely impacts of implementing the LAP</p>
<p>Mary Hickey 1 Caislean Rí Athenry, Co Galway</p>	<p>Provision of wastewater infrastructure for Athenry</p>	<p>Water and material assets</p>
<p>Yvonne Nolan, DAU, Dept of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Newtown Rd Wexford</p>	<p>Requirements of HDA Importance of ecological networks and key habitats and species Annex I and Annex II species and habitats. Annex IV species and breeding sites Stepping stones and ecological corridors Provide objectives to conserve and protect the above New LAP will require AA screening and screening will suffice only if there are no risks of having significant effects on Natura 2000 sites Likely impacts on Natura 2000 sites and 15km screening distance is recommended Information on plan level mitigation Recommended that HDA is presented as a completed report not a draft. NIS or Screening report should conclude with clear statement SEA ER Biodiversity, flora and fauna should be undertaken by/in conjunction with qualified ecologist and integrated with AA Scope of SEA should include: All sites with nature conservation designations Available information on habitats and habitat indicator mapping Available information on rare and protected species and their habitats All watercourse, surface water bodies and associated wetlands including floodplains and flood risk areas</p>	<p>All of the points raised will be addressed in the SEA ER, particularly in the biodiversity and water resources sections.</p> <p>AA screening/ NIS will address issues raised in relation to the process and data given.</p> <p>SEA and HDA processes will be integrated</p>

	<p>Other sites of high biodiversity value Local biodiversity areas Ecological networks. Corridors and stepping stones</p> <p>Generally no lands should be targeted for development without basic information on ecological sensitivities of lands in question including a habitat map Environmental Protection Objectives should be integrated with other directives such as Habitats Directive, Birds Directive, National Biodiversity Plan etc. Strategic Environmental Objectives should be included for all nature conservation sites, protected species, stepping stones and ecological corridors</p>	
<p>Department of Education & Skills Portlaoise Road, Tullamore Co Offaly</p>	<p>Information provided on calculating primary and post primary provision in an area Reference to site suitability and guidelines on same Existing schools should be capable of catering for increase in pupil numbers Site will be required for Gaelscoil in Athenry Prudent to reserve a post primary school site of 10-12 acres</p>	<p>Zonings will be assessed through SEA and HDA process and educational provision described in Population and human health section of SEA.</p>

2.4 SEA Scoping and Consultation

Following the screening process, a scoping exercise was undertaken by Minogue and Associates. This established the scope and extent of the Environmental Report and facilitated consultation with the designated statutory consultees. To date one submission was received on the scope of the SEA, this was received from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a statutory consultee and the environmental issues raised through this scoping process are presented below in *Table 2b*.

2.4.1 Environmental Issues raised during the scoping process

The table below presents the key environmental issues arising from the Scoping Process. It also shows where and how this issue has been addressed in the draft LAP, the SEA ER and/or the HDA. The EPA made the only submission within the stated timeframe.

Table 2b: Environmental Issues raised during the scoping process

Consultee	Issues raised	Response
EPA	<p>Consideration should be given to ensuring that the following key environmental aspects, in particular are taken into account in the SEA and Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood Risk 	<p>All these issues will be described and assessed in the SEA ER in Chapters Four, Seven and Eight.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wastewater Treatment Capacity / Adequacy • Ground Water Vulnerability • Bad / Poor Status Surface Water Quality • Protection of areas of significant landscape character • Protection of biodiversity. 	
	The inclusion of suggested alternative development scenarios at scoping stage is noted; however it should be ensured that each scenario is reasonable and realistic. In this context, Scenario 1 should be amended to ensure the implementation of the Core Strategy required upon adoption of the Regional Planning Guidelines.	Accepted and Scenario 1 will be amended accordingly
	It should also be ensured that the preferred development scenario is not selected at scoping stage and that each alternative development scenario is assessed against the SEO's in the SEA Environmental Report	Accepted, Chapter Six Consideration of Alternatives will assess each development scenario against the SEOs.
	Your attention is brought to the new SEA Regulations, which should be referenced and integrated into the Plan and SEA process.	Accepted, and these new regulations are included and influence this SEA ER.
	You are also referred to the recent DoECLG Circular (PSSP 6/2011) issued on the 26 th July 2011 to each County/City Manager, Director of Services and Town Clerk in relation to ' <i>Further Transposition of the EU Directive 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)</i> ' which should also be referred to and integrated into the Plan.	Accepted, and this recent Circular is included and influence this SEA ER.
	You are also referred to the requirements of the recent European Communities (Birds	Accepted, and these regulations are referenced and taken into account.

	<p>and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011), which should be taken into account in implementing the Plan. These Regulations consolidate the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 to 2005 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Control of Recreational Activities) Regulations 2010, as well as addressing transposition failures identified in the CJEU judgements</p>	
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2.4.2 Public Submissions on the Draft Athenry LAP, SEA and NIR.

The draft LAP, SEA ER and Natura Impact Screening Report were put on public display in December 2011. A total of 28 submissions were received during the statutory consultation period. The 28 submissions include submissions from statutory bodies, service providers, the general public and other stakeholders. A Manager’s Report was prepared which summarised the issues raised in each of the written submissions received, together with the Manager’s opinion on the issues raised and recommendations in relation to the proposed local area plan, whilst taking account of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, the statutory obligations of any local authority in the area, and any relevant policies or objectives for the time being of the Government or of any Minister of the Government. Environmental considerations were integrated into the Manager’s Opinions through the SEA and HDA processes.

A number of material amendments were proposed by the Elected Members on the 23rd April 2012. These amendments arose following the review of the Manager’s Report on submissions received during the public display period of the Draft Athenry Local Area Plan 2012-2018.

The SEA and HDA assessed these material amendments and the SEA Screening Report of same can be found in Annex C of this SEA ER. Following a second display period on the material amendments, a second SEA Screening Report was prepared on the submissions relating to these material amendments and this is also presented in Annex C of this SEA ER.

The Athenry LAP was then adopted on the June 2012 Meeting of Galway County Council.

2.5 Baseline Data

Baseline data is essential to establish the current state of the environment and helps to identify, evaluate, and monitor the effects of a plan. Baseline data was collected from current sources for each environmental parameter identified in the SEA Regulations. A Geographic Information System (GIS) was established to map environmental opportunities and constraints associated with this study.

These are detailed below:

2.5.1 Environmental Issues collated and analysed using GIS.

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna: All current natural heritage designations provided under European and national legislation were incorporated into the GIS. These include cSpecial Areas of Conservation (cSAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), and Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs).

The following additional habitat data from Galway County Council was also inputted to the GIS:

- National Parks and Nature Reserves
- Ramsar Sites and Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sub-Catchments
- Limestone Pavement in County Galway, based on available GIS data
- Ecological Network in County Galway, as identified in GCDP 2009-2015
- IPCC database on non designated peatland habitats (source: Irish Peatland Conservation Council)

A HDA is being carried out in tandem with this SEA to address potential impacts on Natura 2000 sites (cSACs and SPAs).

Water (surface, ground, estuarine); River water quality data, drinking water (surface, groundwater abstraction points and public drinking water remedial lists) in and within a 5km catchment of the functional area of Athenry were mapped. In addition, as the River Clarin drains into the Galway Bay Complex (SAC Site Code 000268), this was also mapped, and any other Natura 2000 water related sites within 15km of the functional area of Athenry.

Groundwater vulnerability within 5km of the LAP boundary and River Catchment data were mapped using data from the EPA. Water Framework Directive Protected Areas were also mapped. EPA data on bathing water, and estuarine and coastal water quality in addition to shellfish waters were also integrated to the GIS.

Soil and Geology: Bedrock geology and drift /quaternary geology data was incorporated into the GIS. Proposed Geological NHAs were mapped for sites within and 5km from the LAP boundary.

Landscape: Landscape policies and designations in the County Galway Development Plan 2009 to 2015 were incorporated into the GIS. These include landscape designations and classifications such as special or unique landscapes. In addition, the County Galway Landscape Character Assessment was integrated to the GIS. Where pertinent, neighbouring counties designations such as scenic routes, or areas of primary amenity were also integrated, this data covered the counties of Clare, Offaly, Mayo, Roscommon and Offaly (upto a 50km buffer from Galway County boundaries).

Cultural Heritage (architectural and archaeological heritage): All sites in the recorded sites and monument record were mapped, and all sites within 5km of the LAP boundary were mapped. All Architectural Conservation Areas within 5km of the strategic and acceptable in principle areas were mapped. Protected structures from the current CDP were mapped for 5km also. The extant town walls of Athenry were also mapped.

Population: Preliminary data from the 2011 Census was mapped and 2006 Census data on socio economic profile was mapped.

Human health: no direct information was mapped for human health.

Air: Any sites with Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control licenses were mapped within the area. The air quality zones relevant for 5km around the LAP boundary were also mapped.

Climatic factors: no climatic data was mapped.

Material assets: key transport routes were mapped. Wastewater treatment plants and flood risk zones were mapped.

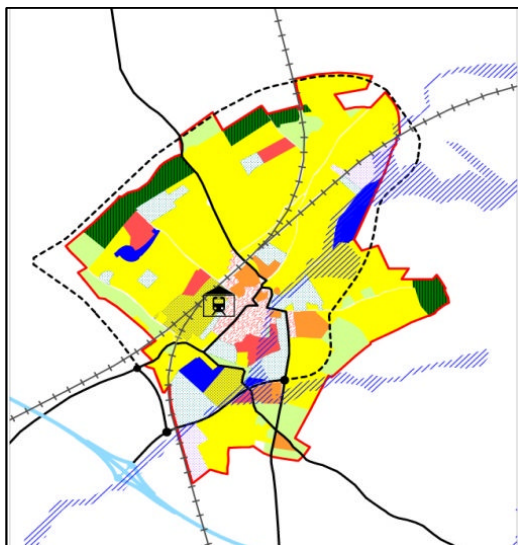
Environmental Sensitivity Mapping.

A preliminary modeling was undertaken of key datasets and environmental resources in Athenry to help identify potential cumulative impacts with reference to areas identified as potentially more sensitive to development activities. This modeling although basic has helped to identify areas of the town that demonstrate greater overall environmental sensitivity

2.6 Consideration of Alternatives

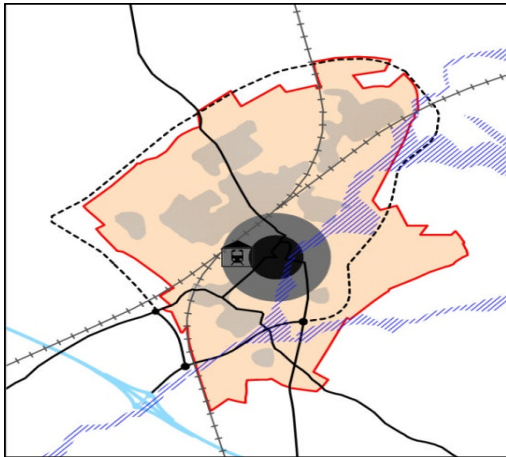
A number of alternative scenarios were considered in preparing the Athenry LAP and these are briefly discussed below. *Chapter Six, Consideration of Alternatives* presents this information in more detail.

Development Option 1 –Continuation of the Existing Plan 2005- 2011: This option would



see a continuation of the expansion of Athenry as per the previous Plan (2005-2011) with continued pressure in a number of areas, particularly in relation to undeveloped residential lands at peripheral/un-serviced locations.

This development option does not consider recent changes in national legislation/guidelines and EU Directives. In particular this option would conflict with the West Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022 and with the County Development Plan 2009-2015. Given the current level of undeveloped residential zoning available (123.76Ha), this option would not comply with the County Core Strategy residential land allocation of 32.36Ha for Athenry and would result in the Plan being inconsistent with both the Regional Planning Guidelines and with the County Development Plan.



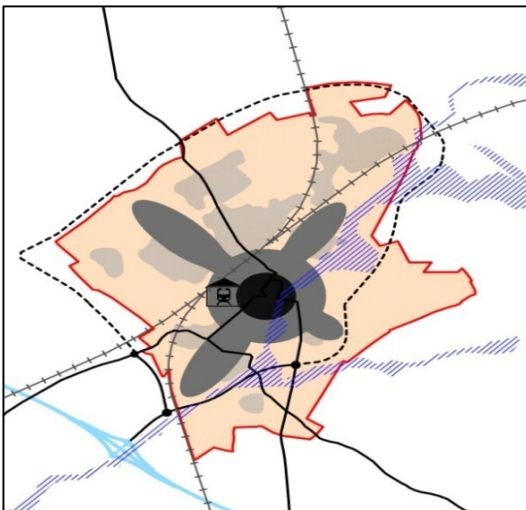
Development Option 2 – Consolidation of Existing Urban Structure:

This option would seek to retain the existing town centre/ urban fabric and restrict all future residential development not contained within proposed Residential (Phase 1) zoning areas. The objective would be to permit development only at locations closest to the existing town centre and rail station.

No new zonings would be proposed and existing uses may not be consistent with the existing zoning objectives and Plan matrix, in particular industrial use on lands identified as a potential location for an integrated transportation hub. In addition this

approach would see increased pressure for development within the medieval historic town core with a potential consequential loss of views and historic fabric.

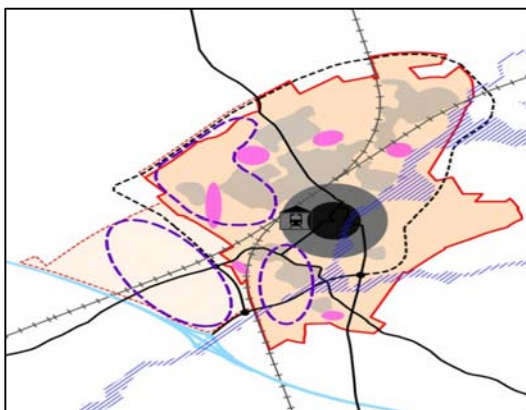
Development Option 3 – Sequential Development:



This option would promote development from the town centre outwards in order to ensure that higher order facilities and higher density development are located on the most central lands. The town centre focus remains.

Under this scenario all lands may not come forward for development in a sequential manner, while other serviced and non sequential lands may but under this option may not be considered during the lifetime of the Plan. Problems of land assembly pose a threat to town centre retail development. Frequently sites are held in multiple ownerships which may delay/hinder development proposals. In addition significant development potential within new zoning objectives particularly the new Business and Technology Park (BT) located on the western

periphery of the Plan boundary (as amended) would be restricted and dependant on town centre expansion and service provision.



Development Option 4 – Managed Phased Development:

This option would seek the consolidation and expansion of the town centre via changes to existing zoning objectives specifically regarding changes of Town Centre zoning to Town Centre/Commercial (C1) and Commercial/Mixed Use (C2) zoning objectives. These changes provide for a managed/phased approach for town centre development while retaining/enhancing the existing medieval fabric of the historic core of Athenry and providing flexibility for future proposals.

Undeveloped Residential Lands are also to be phased for development:

Residential Phase 1 – phased for residential development within the lifetime of the Plan (32.17Ha);

Residential Phase 2 – generally, not developable during the lifetime of this Plan (91.59 Ha approximately).

This development option would promote a managed and co-ordinated approach on a case by case basis to town centre & residential type developments from the centre outwards, based on infrastructure /service provision but in a more flexible manner than Option 3. This scenario would also encourage managed and co-ordinated development within other proposed zoning objectives particularly Business & Technology (BT) zoning to the west.

2.7 Environmental Assessment of the Athenry Local Area Plan

The likely significant effects on the environment are described in this Environmental Report and measures are identified to avoid, reduce or mitigate any significant effects of the Strategy. A framework of objectives has been developed to assess the potential impacts of the actions and policies proposed in the Strategy. The results of this process are summarized in a table called an evaluation matrix. This matrix sets out the environmental objectives, with indicators and columns for undertaking the appraisal of potential impacts on each parameter listed in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI 436 and S.I 435 of 2004) The potential effects within the assessment were categorized, as per the Guidelines, into the following broad environmental impacts:

- _ Positive impact
- _ Indirectly positive impact
- _ Neutral impact
- _ Negative impact
- _ Indirectly negative impact
- _ Uncertain nature of impact.

In addition, the temporal aspect of each impact is considered under the following:

- Short term effects
- Medium term effects
- Long term effects
- Permanent effects
- Temporary effects
- Secondary effects
- Cumulative effects
- Synergistic effects
- Positive effects
- Negative effects

The Impact table is accompanied by more detailed and explanatory text that discusses the level of significance, temporal and type of impacts identified. This is presented in *Chapter Seven, Likely Significant Environmental Effects of the LAP*.

2.7.1 Technical Difficulties Encountered

A considerable amount of data was utilised in preparing this Environmental Report. However, there are a number of areas where data is not available and therefore recommendations arise to find out this type of information at project level. Key technical difficulties encountered include:

- Additional habitat information for certain parts of County Galway are not yet available, all other available ecological data has been incorporated
- Information on certain bird movements`
- Corine landcover information. The 2000 dataset had to be used although a more recent Corine survey was undertaken in 2006, however this is not yet publicly available.
- Detailed information on health problems and issues in the county is not available

3 Chapter Three: Relationships to Key Plans, Policies and Programmes.

3.1 Introduction

The Draft Athenry LAP is situated within a hierarchy of international, national, regional, and county level policy guidelines. In addition, there is an overarching legislative framework which provides the statutory basis for designations and objectives. This chapter of the Environmental Report reviews the consistency of the Draft LAP within this policy and regulatory framework.

Table 3a below sets out the main plans, policies, programmes and directives identified and gives a brief summary of their main objectives.

Table 3a: International Policy and Regulatory Context

EU LEVEL	
Direction/ Plan/ Programme	Summary of Objectives
EU Sixth Environmental Action Programme (1998)	<p>The Environment Action Programme takes a broad look at the challenges of environmental policy and provides a strategic framework for the Commission's environmental policy up to 2012. It identifies four environmental areas for priority actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Climate Change <input type="checkbox"/> Nature and Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Environment and Health and Quality of Life <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Resources and Waste <p>It calls for the development of Seven Thematic Strategies relevant to the various environmental areas. These strategies constitute the framework for action at EU level in each of the concerned priorities. It also establishes strategic approaches to meet the environmental goals and sets objectives and priority actions on international issues.</p>
Kyoto Protocol	<p>This international agreement is linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and sets binding targets of 37 industrialized countries and the European Community. The National Climate Change Strategy sets out how Ireland is participating in this process.</p>
Directive 2009/28/EC	<p>On the promotion of use of energy from renewable sources established the basis for the achievement of the EU's 20% renewable energy target by 2020. Under the terms of the Directive, each member state is set a binding renewable energy target across heat, transport and electricity sectors. Ireland overall target is to achieve 20% of energy from renewable sources by 2020.</p>

Biodiversity	
European Biodiversity Strategy (1998)	The strategy aims to anticipate, prevent and attack the causes of significant reduction or loss of biodiversity at the source.
UN Convention of Biological Diversity 1992 ratified 1996	objectives of this Convention were to conserve biological species, genetic resources, habitats and ecosystems; to ensure the sustainable use of biological materials; and to guarantee the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from genetic resources.
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention 1971)	An intergovernmental treaty, which provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. Each Member State must recognise and preserve internationally important wetlands. Ireland has designated 45 wetlands for inclusion in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance, the majority of which are owned by the State.
EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC	A scheme of protection of particular animals and plant species, as well as a selection of habitat. It provides for a network of protected sites known as Natura 2000. Specific protections for the sites, will limit the extent and nature of development, which may have a detrimental effect on the flora or fauna identified therein. Protects over 1000 animals and plant species and over 200 'habitat types' which are of European importance It is transposed into Irish law by The European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. 94 of 1997).
Birds Directive (79/409/EEC)	Provides a common framework for the conservation of naturally occurring species of wild birds and their habitats throughout the EU as listed under the Directive's Annex 1. The most suitable areas for these species are classified as Special Protection Areas (SPA). Ireland is obliged to "take appropriate steps to avoid pollution or deterioration of habitats or any disturbances affecting the birds".
EU Freshwater Fish Directive 1978	The aim of the Directive is to protect fish life from pollution discharge into waters and lays out water sampling and monitoring procedures and definitions. The EU Freshwater Fish Directive (78/659/EEC) was ratified by Ireland with S.I. 293 of 1988, and aims to protect those fresh water bodies identified by Member States as waters suitable for sustaining fish populations. The Directive will be repealed in 2013 by the EU Water Framework Directive.
UN Convention of Biological Diversity 1992	The purpose of this Convention is to conserve biological species, genetic resources, habitats and ecosystems, to ensure the sustainable use of biological materials, and to guarantee a sustainable sharing of benefits derived from genetic resources. In April 2002, the Parties to the Convention committed themselves to achieve, by 2010, a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at global, regional and national levels.
OSPAR Convention 1992	To encourage international cooperation to protect the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic. It is required to take steps to prevent and eliminate marine pollution and to protect the maritime area, thereby safeguarding human health and conserving marine ecosystems. Where practicable, damaged marine areas are to be restored. Both the precautionary principle and polluter pays principle are to apply. All possible steps are to be taken to prevent and eliminate pollution from

	land-based sources, with joint assessments of the quality of the marine environment being undertaken by party states.
Water	
E.U. Water Framework Directive 2000 Council Directive 2000/60/EC was adopted in 2000	Aimed at improving the water environment, requiring member governments to take a holistic approach to managing their waters. Member states must aim to achieve good status in all waters by 2015 and must ensure that status does not deteriorate in any waters.
Floods Directive 2007/60/EC	The EU Floods Directive on the assessment and management of flood risks entered into force on November 2007. This Directive now requires Member States to assess if all water courses and coast lines are at risk from flooding, to map the flood extent and assets and humans at risk in these areas and to take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce this flood risk. With this Directive also reinforces the rights of the public to access this information and to have a say in the planning process.
Groundwater Directive 80/68/EEC	Developed in response to Article 17 of the Water Framework Directive. It requires Member States to apply a system of investigation and authorization to waste disposal and other activities in order to ensure that groundwater is not polluted by dangerous substances.
Surface Water Directive 75/440/EEC	The Directive aims to protect public health by ensuring that surface water abstracted for use as drinking water reaches certain quality standards before it is supplied to the public. The Directive lays down nonbinding 'guide' values and binding 'imperative' values and requires Member States to monitor the quality of surface waters from which drinking water is abstracted and to take measures to ensure that it complies with the minimum quality standards. This Directive has been integrated into the proposed Water Framework Directive.
Quality of Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC)	The objective is to protect the health of the consumers of the EU and to make sure the water is wholesome and clean. It sets quality standards for drinking water quality at tap. Obliges Member States to monitor drinking water quality and provide consumer with adequate and up-to-date information on their drinking water quality.
Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) Licensing	A system of Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) licensing came into effect in Ireland on 12th July 2004. The primary aims of IPPC licensing are to prevent or reduce emissions to air, water and land, to reduce waste and to use energy efficiently. The IPPC system replaces Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) as the licensing regime applicable to certain industrial activities in Ireland.
Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC) S.I. 155 of 1992, S.I. 230 of 1996	Directive 76/160/EEC concerns the quality of bathing water, with the exception of water intended for therapeutic purposes and water used in swimming pools. It lays down the minimum quality criteria to be met for bathing waters.
Natural and Cultural Heritage	
UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage	It covers not only monuments, groups of buildings and sites which have outstanding universal value but also natural sites of major importance. Parties are required to identify these locations and to ensure that they are protected and conserved for future generations.
European Convention on the	Ratified by Ireland in 1997 and as such we are legally bound by

Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, 1992 (Revised) (the 'Valletta Convention')	it. The aim of the Convention is to 'protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study'. It requires that appropriate consideration be given to archaeological issues at all stages of the planning and development process.
Granada Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe 1985	This was ratified by Ireland in 1985 and establishes common principles and strategy, which have informed Part IV of the 2000 Planning and Development Act 2000-2004.
Landscape	
European Landscape Convention 2000	Ratified by Ireland in 2002, it requires a commitment to introducing policies to effect landscape protection and management. The underlying purpose of the Convention is to encourage public authorities to adopt policies and measures at local, regional, national and international level to protect and manage landscapes throughout Europe. It requires the landscape dimension to feature in a country's spatial planning and environmental policies and for landscape quality objectives to be developed.
EU Directive 2002/49/EC(the noise directive transposed into Environmental Noise regulations 2006 S.I. 140 of	The directive requires that action is taken under each member state with a view to preventing or reducing environmental noise where necessary and particularly where exposure levels can induce harmful effects on human health and to preserving environmental acoustic quality where it is identified as being of good quality.
Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)	Aimed at protecting the environment from the adverse effects of urban wastewater discharges and discharges from certain industrial sectors. The Directive is transposed into Irish law mainly by the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2001 (S.I. No. 254 of 2001).
Waste	
The Waste Framework Directive 75/442/EEC (and amending legislation) 15th July 1975	This Directive outlines the overall structure for an effective waste management regime within the EU. It mandates that EU States publish waste management plans. It requires system of permits and registrations to be put in place to authorise all waste management infrastructure, as well as setting down the basic requirements that need to be satisfied for these statutory authorisations to be issued. EU Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) 1991 and Landfill Directive relate to this.
Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC)	Besides setting EU-wide standards for landfill design and operation, the Council Directive on Landfill mandates a series of targets to cause a substantial reduction of the land filling of biodegradable municipal waste by EU countries. Using the amount of waste landfilled by each EU state in 1995 as a baseline, it requires that biodegradable waste passing to landfill sites is reduced progressively to 35% of the 1995 level over a period of some 15 years. A national strategy is required to be published by each EU Member State on how this is to be achieved.
Dangerous Substances	
COMAH (Seveso II) Directive – European Communities (Control of Major Accident Hazards involving Dangerous	The Seveso II Directive, sometimes referred to as COMAH, stipulates certain requirements for storage of relatively large quantities of substances classified as dangerous.

Substances) Regulations, 2000.	
EU Major Accident (Seveso II) Directive (96/82/EC) 1996	This Directive aims to prevent major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances. Hazardous sites are identified that may pose a threat and development should be limited in the vicinity of such sites. The control of establishments for the purposes of reducing the risk, or limiting the consequences, of a major accident is a mandatory objective of a Development Plan.
Dangerous Substances Directive 76/464/EEC (S.I. 258 of 1998, S.I. 12 of 2001)	Dangerous Substances Directive 76/464/EEC creates a legislative framework for dealing with water pollution caused by an extensive list of dangerous substances. Member States are required to adopt pollution-reduction programmes that involve binding water quality objectives and a system of authorisations for discharges.
SEA	
Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	It develops from the ESPOO Convention by requiring Parties to evaluate the environmental and health related consequences of their official draft plans and programmes using Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). It was signed by Ireland in 2003.
SEA – Directive 2001/42/EC Assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the Environment.	This Directive requires plan-makers to carry out an assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme before the plan or programme is adopted. There are two statutory instruments which transposed the SEA Directive into Irish Law: -European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, S.I. No. 435 of 2004 - Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004, S.I. No. 436 of 2004.
EIA	
ESPOO Convention	The Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in an international Trans boundary Context is also known as ESPOO (EIA) Convention. It requires Parties/ states to put in place appropriate and effective measures to prevent, reduce and control significant adverse trans boundary environmental impacts from proposed industrial and other activities. Systems is to ensure that specified projects which may cause significant adverse trans boundary impacts are subject to environmental impact assessment (EIA) prior to any formal approval being granted on their commencement.
Environmental Impact Assessment Directive 85/337/EEC (as amended by Directive 97/11/EC)	It requires Member States to carry out environmental impact assessments (EIA) on certain public and private projects, before they are authorized, where it is believed that the projects are likely to have a significant impact on the environment.

National Context

The policies and proposals contained in the Draft LAP are further influenced by the objectives of relevant National policies, plans and guidelines. **Table 3b** identifies these at National level and gives a brief summary of their main objectives.

Table 3b: National Regulatory and Policy Context

National Level	
Plan/ Programme/ Guidelines	Summary of Objectives
Sustainable Development	
Our Sustainable Future: A framework for sustainable development of Ireland (2012)	This strategy outlines the framework for sustainable development of Ireland.
Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997)	This Strategy recognises the need for good spatial planning and the inclusion of sustainability goals in urban and built environment policies.
Making Ireland Sustainable: Sustainable Development 2002	This reviews progress in Ireland since the Earth Summit in Rio. It outlines priorities for sustainable development action over the following decade.
Health Impact Assessment Guidance, Institute of Public Health, 2009	Seeks to inform and enhance the decision making process in favour of health and health equity. It provides a detailed methodology for completing HIA on plans, programmes or policies, in order to maximise positive health impacts and minimise potential negative impacts of a proposal.
Spatial Development	
National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020	A 20-year national planning framework to achieve more balanced social, economic and physical development across Ireland. The strategic guidance document is based in concentrating development to key areas across the country. The NSS supports economic growth and diversification across the west, including economies based on sustainable use of natural resources such as scenic landscapes for tourism, fisheries and marine based aquaculture, forestry and renewable energy.
National Development Plan (NDP) (2007-2013)	A €184 million infrastructure investment plan to build a prosperous country for Ireland's population. The funding is to provide for economic and social infrastructure, employment and human resources, productive sector as well as the peace programme.
The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)	Under the Planning Acts, each Local Authority has a responsibility to determine policy in its area through the making of a Development Plan and for applying that policy, through planning control, in deciding on planning applications and enforcing planning.
Development Management Guidelines (DoEHLG)	These guidelines are of relevance to all types of planning applications, as well as applicants and their advisers, on the operation of the planning process. They are also intended to promote best practices within planning authorities. They include the Spatial Planning and National Roads (Draft) Guidelines and the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines.
Climate Change and Energy	
National Climate Change Strategy 2007 -2012	The purpose is to limit growth in greenhouse gas emissions. This strategy sets out how to achieve the targets from the Kyoto Protocol and identify areas where further research and develop is needed to meet out 2020 commitment. Measures include increasing renewable energy production and using

	energy more efficiently.
Delivering a sustainable energy future for Ireland – the Energy Policy Framework 2007 -2020	This sets out energy policy for Ireland and states the commitment to increasing renewable energy
Building Ireland’s Smart Economy	Sets out the strategic approach to building a smart economy including renewable energy production
National Renewable Energy Action Plan	This sets out measures on how Ireland will meet the 20% renewable energy target for 2020
Wind Energy Development Guidelines - Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG, 2006)	The guidelines intend to ensure a consistency of approach throughout the country in the identification of suitable locations for wind energy development and the treatment of planning applications for wind energy developments. There are no wind energy locations identified in Athenry LAP
The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009	Aims to integrate flood risk management into the planning process
Noise	
Noise Regulations 1994	These regulations, relating to the 1992 EPA Act, simplify and strengthen the procedures for dealing with noise nuisance, and give Local Authorities power to take action when they consider that it is necessary to do so in order to prevent or limit noise.
Air Quality	
Air Pollution Act 1987	This Act defines air pollution and enables Local Authorities to require measures to be taken to prevent or limit pollution
Communications	
Guidelines on Telecommunication Antennas and Support Structures, 1996	The Guidelines are intended to assist planning authorities in balancing the need for the comprehensive national provision of telecommunications services against local environmental and public health-related concerns.
Waste	
Changing Our Ways (1998)	Sets out a national policy framework for the adoption and implementation by local authorities of their waste management plans. It reiterates the targets for the progressive reduction of the use of landfill for biodegradable municipal waste which are set down in the EU Landfill Directive, but adds further national targets such as for the reclamation of construction and demolition waste.
National Strategy for Biodegradable Waste, 2006	An aim is to set out how the three progressive landfill diversion targets of the Directive are to have effect. It states that a major increase in recycling and biological treatment capacity is necessary in order to facilitate the EU requirement for the diversion of biodegradable municipal waste away from landfill.
Biodiversity	
National Biodiversity Plan (2002)	It aims to secure the conservation, including where possible the enhancement and sustainable use, of biological diversity in Ireland and to contribute to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity globally. Ireland is committed to meeting the EU target to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010.
National Heritage Plan (2002)	The National Heritage Plan 2002 sets out a vision for the management of the National Heritage and its aim is to “ <i>ensure the protection of our Heritage and to promote its enjoyment by</i>

	<i>all</i> . A key objective of the National Heritage Plan is to promote the role that local communities play in protecting and enhancing Local Heritage. This is achieved through the preparation and adoption of Local Heritage Plans by the Local Authority.
Biodiversity Action Plan, EPA, 2010	The EPA's Biodiversity Action Plan presents an explicit action plan for the implementation of its role in the protection of biodiversity. The Plan covers a range of activities in the areas of monitoring, research, assessment and reporting, environmental regulation, climate change and management and communications. The Plan outlines a wide range of significant actions, which will be undertaken by the EPA in relation to the protection of Ireland's biodiversity.
Second National Biodiversity Plan 2011 Actions for Biodiversity 2011 -2016	This recently launched plan has been developed in line with the EU and International Biodiversity strategies and policies. The measures Ireland will take are presented as 102 actions under a series of 7 Strategic Objectives. Some of the actions within the plan are continuing elements of existing work and many are requirements under existing EU Directives. The objectives cover the conservation of biodiversity in the wider countryside and in the marine environment, both within and outside protected areas; the mainstreaming of biodiversity across the decision making process in the State; the strengthening of the knowledge base on biodiversity; increasing public awareness and participation; and Ireland's contribution to international biodiversity issues, including North South co-ordination on issues of common interest.
European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011)	These Regulations consolidate the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 to 2005 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Control of Recreational Activities) Regulations 2010, as well as addressing transposition failures identified in the CJEU judgements.
Water	
Water Services Act 2007	Focuses on management of water 'in the pipe' as opposed to river water quality etc
Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts, 1977 and 1990	This Act and associated regulations set out quality standards for Phosphorus in surface waters, particularly rivers and lakes and makes other provisions for the protection of watercourses.
Water Quality (Dangerous Substances) Regulations 2001.	These Regulations give effect to the Dangerous Substances Directive 76/464/EC and the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC. They prescribe water quality standards and aim to ensure that, in relation to a substance present, where the existing condition of a water body does not meet a specific standard there shall be no further reduction in the condition of the water body.
Water Services Investment Programme 2007-2014	As part of the programme the Council has identified the resources needed to upgrade the City's existing water main infrastructure to ensure issues such as leakage and reduced pressure are addressed as a priority.
The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009	These guidelines are aimed at ensuring a more consistent, rigorous and systematic approach to fully incorporate flood risk assessment and management into the planning system.
Western River Basin District Management Plan and Shannon	Sets out assessment and measures to ensure compliance with Water Framework Directive by 2015. County Galway includes

International River Basin District	two areas, West, which is west of Lough Corrib and Shannon which is in the east of the County.
Cultural Heritage	
Architectural Heritage Protection 2004-Guideines for Planning Authorities	These guidelines provide relevant guidance in the context of Part IV of the Planning and Development Act 2000.
Framework and Principles for the protection of the archaeological heritage 1999	Sets out archaeological policies and principles that should be applied by all bodies when undertaking or authorizing development.
Landscape	
Landscape and Landscape Assessment Guidelines 2000	A Landscape Character Assessment allows for a proactive approach to landscape management. It aids the development management process as it gives indicators of development types which would be suited to certain locations using certain design criteria and consequently the character of the landscape remains intact.
Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland, Guidance for Planning authorities 2009	These guidelines give advice relating to the implementation of Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive in relation to plans and projects.
Strategic Environmental Assessment	
Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations 2004-2011as amended.	The Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI 436 2004) Article 13K (1) states that:
DoECLG Circular (PSSP 6/2011) 26th July 2011 'Further Transposition of the EU Directive 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).	Provides additional guidance and direction in relation to SEA and highlights key elements of recent regulations.

Regional Context

The policies and proposals contained in the Draft LAP are further influenced by the objectives of relevant regional policies, plans and guidelines. *Table 3c* identifies and gives a brief summary of their main objectives.

Table 3c Regional Plans and Programmes

Regional Planning	
Regional Planning Guidelines for the West Region 2010 to 2022	These guidelines set out a framework for the long term strategic development of counties Galway, Mayo and Roscommon. These guideline set out the strategic vision, economic development, settlement strategy, infrastructure, environment and amenity, social infrastructure and community development for the West Region.
Western River Basin District Management Plan 2009 -2015	And associated programme of measures. This aims to protect all waters within the district and improve waters and achieve sustainable water use. Water management unit action plans are developed for smaller geographical areas within this river basin district.

Replacement Waste Management Plan for the Connaught Region 2006-2011	A regional approach to integrated waste management based on the waste hierarchy established by the EU Framework Directive on Waste. Targets to be achieved by 2013 relate to 48% recycling, 33% energy recovery and 19% residual waste disposal. It covers Galway City, Counties Galway, Leitrim, Mayo, Roscommon and Sligo
County Galway Development Plan 2009-2015	This six year plan guides the development and core strategy for County Galway over a six year period. It includes the recent variation on the Core Strategy, a wind energy strategy and policies and objectives for economic development and tourism, housing provision, infrastructure (roads and transportation), infrastructure (water, waste, energy and communications), cultural, social and community development, heritage, landscape and environmental management, agriculture, mariculture and silviculture, development management standards and guidelines.
County Galway Development Strategy 2012	A Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development "Working Together Shaping Our Future" 2002- 2012. This Strategy includes eight strategic themes. The County Strategy was reviewed in 2009. Five Strategic Priorities with 45 Priority Actions were agreed for 2009-2012.
County Galway Heritage Plan 2009 - 2014	A five year plan setting out objectives and actions for a wide range of heritage themes including biodiversity, landscape, archaeology,
Athenry Town Walls Conservation and Management Plan	A conservation and management plan for the town walls the includes statements of significance and works/actions to enhance and promote these walls.
County Galway Biodiversity Action Plan 2008-2013	Establishing vision, aims, objectives and actions to enhance and support biodiversity in the County.
Development Plans for Neighbouring Local Authorities	
The following plans set out the development and core strategy for the respective functional areas over a six year period:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Galway City Development Plan 2011-2017 • Mayo County Council 2008 -2014 • Roscommon County Council 2008 - 2014 • Clare County Council 2011- 2017 • Offaly County Council 2009 - 2015 • North Tipperary County Council 2010-2016 	

4 Chapter Four Environmental Baseline

4.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the principal environmental parameters that are of relevance to both the functional area of Athenry and its environs. This SEA of the draft Athenry LAP includes a description of the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment, the existing environmental problems, environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be significantly affected, and the likely evolution without implementation of the LAP. This section aims to describe the environmental context within which the LAP will operate and the constraints and targets that this context imposes on the LAP. Finally, any significant gaps in the baseline data are identified and alternative data sources identified. The purpose of this section is to provide enough environmental baseline data to:

1. Support the identification of environmental problems;
2. Support the process of assessing the environmental effects;
3. Provide a baseline against which future monitoring data can be compared.

The following sections provide information on the environmental parameters below:

- Biodiversity – Flora and Fauna;
- Water – surface, ground, estuarine, coastal
- Soil and Geology
- Population and Human Health
- Landscape.
- Cultural Heritage – archaeology and architectural resources
- Air Quality and Climatic factors
- Material assets
- Interrelationship between these parameters

Whilst all environmental parameters are described, certain parameters are identified as being of greater significance and may be subject to greater impacts associated with the implementation of the Athenry LAP. In addition, certain parameters and key elements of same were identified in predraft and scoping submissions of meriting particular scrutiny; therefore the focus on this chapter reflects these comments.

In particular the following areas¹ are described in some detail:

1. Protection of biodiversity
2. Wastewater Treatment Capacity/Adequacy
3. Ground Water Vulnerability
4. Bad/Poor Status Surface Water Quality
5. Protection of areas of significant landscape character
6. Cultural heritage including architecture and archaeology

¹ Please see Table 2a and 2b for further information on these environmental parameters and identification of consultee who proposed same.

4.2.1 Defining the descriptive areas and zones of influence

The Draft LAP through zoning and policy will aim to support the sustainable development of Athenry over a six year period. Therefore, the baseline data is principally focused on the functional area of Athenry and its immediate environs. However, the zone of influence of the draft LAP depends on the environmental parameter described and are detailed within each relevant section. For example, water quality impacts could extend beyond the town boundary for some distance, whilst visual impacts may be identified for areas beyond the County Boundaries; conversely impacts on individual archaeological sites may be site specific. Information, where relevant, is included from neighboring counties including Galway City, Roscommon, Offaly, Clare, North Tipperary and Mayo. Considering the location of Athenry, it is considered unlikely that many parameters would impact on neighbouring counties, however information will be included subject to the parameter under discussion. The boundary area of Athenry as covered by the draft LAP is 582.6 Ha.

4.2 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna.

County Galway supports a range of habitats and species. Athenry is located on the River Clarin, which is not designated itself but drains into the Galway Bay Complex (site number 000238). Consultation with the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht has advised on the scope of the SEA to include the following

- All sites with nature conservation designations
- Available information on habitats and habitat indicator mapping
- Ecological networks. Corridors and stepping stones
- Available information on rare and protected species and their habitats
- All watercourse, surface water bodies and associated wetlands including floodplains and flood risk areas
- Other sites of high biodiversity value
- Local biodiversity areas

This forms the structure of this section.

4.2.1 Natura 2000 Sites

Reflecting the diversity of habitats and species present within the County, there are a significant number of sites designated at international, national and county level. The Habitats Directive Assessment assesses in more detail potential impacts of this draft LAP on Natura 2000 sites (Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas under the EU Habitats Directive). The following table identifies Natura 2000 sites within 5km and 15km of the draft LAP functional area. This is also shown in Figure 4.a

Table 4a: Natura 2000 sites within 5km and 15km of Athenry.

SACs within 5Km	Summary
None	
SACs within 15km	
0002352 Monivea Bog	This is the closest Natura 2000 site to Athenry and is located to the north east of the town. Monivea Bog is situated approximately 5 km north-east of Athenry, Co. Galway. It is located in the townlands of Corrantarmud, Newcastle, Glenaslat and Lenamor. To the east lies the Killaclogher River and to the north a large coniferous plantation. It is located in an area of Karstic limestone. The site is a candidate Special Area of Conservation selected for active raised bog, degraded raised bog

	<p>and <i>Rhynchosporion</i>, habitats that are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Monivea Bog is a site of considerable conservation significance comprising as it does a raised bog, a rare habitat in the E.U. and one that is becoming increasingly scarce and under threat in Ireland. The site supports a diversity of raised bog microhabitats including hummock/hollow complexes, pools, flushes, soak system and open water. Active raised bog is listed as a priority habitat on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. Priority status is given to habitats and species that are threatened throughout the E.U. Ireland has a high proportion of the E.U. resource of this habitat type (over 60%) and so has a special responsibility for its conservation at an international level.</p>
000297 Lough Corrib	<p>Lough Corrib is situated to the north of Galway city and is the second largest lake in Ireland with an area of approximately 18,240 ha (the entire site is 20,556 ha). The lake can be divided into two parts: a relatively shallow basin, underlain by Carboniferous limestone, in the south and a larger, deeper basin, underlain by more acidic granite, schists, shales and sandstones, to the north. The surrounding lands are mostly pastoral farmland, to the south and east, and bog and heath, to the west and north. Rivers, mainly to the east of the site are included within the cSAC as they are important for Atlantic Salmon. These rivers include the Clare, Grange, Abbert, Sinking, Dalgan and Black to the east, as well as the Cong, Bealanabrack, Failmore, Cornamona, Drimneen and Owenriff to the west. In addition to the rivers and lake basin, adjoining areas of conservation interest, including raised bog, woodland, grassland and limestone pavement, have been incorporated into the site.</p> <p>This site is of major conservation importance and includes 14 habitats listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. Six of these are priority habitats - petrifying springs, <i>Cladium</i> fen, active raised bog, limestone pavement, bog woodland and orchid-rich calcareous grassland. The other annexed habitats present include hard water lakes, lowland oligotrophic lakes, floating river vegetation, alkaline fens, degraded raised bogs, <i>Rhynchosporion</i> vegetation, <i>Molinia</i> meadows and old Oak woodlands. Species present on the site that are listed on Annex II of this directive are Sea Lamprey, Brook Lamprey, Atlantic Salmon, White-clawed Crayfish, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Otter, Lesser Horseshoe Bat, Slender Naiad and the moss <i>Drepanocladus vernicosus</i>.</p> <p>This site is located 6km to the north east of Athenry</p>
000304 Lough Rea	<p>Lough Rea is a hard water lake, a habitat listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. It is situated directly south of the town of Loughrea, Co. Galway. The lake is 2.5 km at its longest axis. The underlying geology of the area is of Carboniferous limestone and water transparency is very high. The lake, which is fed by springs and by a stream, reaches a maximum depth of 15 m.</p> <p>Some species of stonewort (a type of alga) characteristic of calcareous waters have been recorded in Lough Rea, including <i>Chara curta</i> and <i>C. contraria</i>. The Red Data Book species <i>C. tomentosa</i> has also been found here. Other aquatic plants present include Slender-leaved Pondweed (<i>Potamogeton filiformis</i>), Lesser Pondweed (<i>P. pusillus</i>), Fennel Pondweed (<i>P. pectinatus</i>), Spiked Water-milfoil (<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>), Least Bur-reed (<i>Sparganium minimum</i>), Amphibious Bistort (<i>Polygonum amphibium</i>) and the alga <i>Chaetomorpha incrassaton</i>. On the sheltered western and south-eastern shores of the lake some areas of reedswamp, wet grassland and wet woodland are included in the site.</p> <p>Lough Rea is of considerable ornithological interest. Internationally important numbers of Shoveler overwinter at the site (max. 467, 1995/96) and nationally important numbers of Tufted Duck (max. 406, 1995/96) and Coot (max. 1256, 1996/97) have also been reported. A further 10 species of waterfowl reach regionally or locally important numbers. Brown Trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>) are present in the lake This site is located 6km to the south east of the town.</p>

000322 Rahasane Turlough	<p>This site is located to the south west and Rahasane Turlough is of major ecological significance as one of only two large turloughs which still function naturally. It is the most important turlough for birdlife in the country. It also supports two rare species listed in The Irish Red Data Book. Fen Violet (<i>Viola persicifolia</i>), and Northern Yellow-cress (<i>Rorippa islandica</i>), which is listed in The Irish Red Data Book.</p> <p>Turloughs are a rare habitat type and are given priority status under Annex I of the European Habitats Directive</p>
000242 Castletaylor Complex	<p>Castletaylor Complex. This site is situated approximately 4 km south-east of Kilcolgan and lies in a gently undulating limestone topography. Although relatively small in area, the site contains a diverse range of habitats, including five EU Habitats Directive Annex I habitats - turloughs, limestone pavement, orchid-rich calcareous grassland, alpine heath and juniper scrub. The first three of these are listed as priority habitats under the Directive.</p> <p>This site is located approximately 11km southwest of Athenry.</p>
000606 Lough Fingall Complex	<p>This site is situated immediately south-east of Ballindeereen and within 2-3 km of Galway Bay. It is within the stretch of flat low-lying bare limestones known as the Ardrahan limestones, which extend from the foot of the Burren hills northwards towards Craughwell.</p> <p>The site comprises a complex of habitats, the dominant being turloughs and limestone pavement, both of which are priority Annex I habitats on the EU Habitats Directive. The turloughs are oligotrophic (nutrient-poor) and calcareous in character. Their catchments areas are relatively small and water tends to remain in them for considerable periods of time. The surface waters usually occupy distinct separate basins in most years but during extreme floods these can be linked together as one large expanse of open water. Taken together these turloughs represent one of the largest expanses of oligotrophic turlough vegetation in the country.</p> <p>Ballinderreen turlough occupies a flat limestone pavement basin and supports extensive areas of Black Bog-rush (<i>Schoenus nigricans</i>) and Sedge (<i>Carex</i> spp.) fen vegetation. Marl ponds occur in the lower lying parts, with Shoreweed (<i>Littorella uniflora</i>), Bulbous Rush (<i>Juncus bulbosus</i>), Manystalked Spike-rush (<i>Eleocharis multicaulis</i>), Alternate Water-milfoil (<i>Myriophyllum alternifolium</i>) and a little Horned Pondweed (<i>Zannichellia palustris</i>) and Stonewort (<i>Chara hispida</i> var. <i>major</i>).</p> <p>Rare plants found at this turlough include Fen Violet (<i>Viola persicifolia</i>), a Red Data Book species, Water Germander (<i>Teucrium scordium</i>) and Marsh Fern (<i>Thelypteris palustris</i>). A smaller area to the south-east of Ballinderreen, Frenchpark turlough, contains a Black Bog-rush/Purple Moor-grass (<i>Molinia caerulea</i>) stand with patches of Saw Sedge (<i>Cladium mariscus</i>) within it. Cuilidooish turlough is of linear shape with a high central section. It has level limestone pavement forming its eastern side and is aligned and lies parallel with Lough Fingall, which is effectively also a turlough.</p> <p>There is much Buckthorn (<i>Rhamnus catharticus</i>) scrub here and at the northern end of the main lake. Carraghadoo turlough has a shallow basin without standing water in summer and with less peat. Creeping Willow (<i>Salix repens</i>) and Common Sedge (<i>Carex nigra</i>) are the main species here.</p> <p>The shores of Tullaghnafrankagh Lough flood during winter and have a similar if slightly more eutrophic (nutrient-rich) vegetation. Alder Buckthorn (<i>Frangula alnus</i>), a Red Data Book species, grows on sloping limestone pavement close to the limit of winter flooding in several places.</p> <p>This site is located 12.5 km to the south west of Athenry.</p>
0002244 Ardrahan Grassland	<p>This site lies immediately west and north of Ardrahan in south Co. Galway. It is dominated by a large flat limestone area with a mosaic of calcareous habitats including limestone pavement, alpine heath, Juniper scrub and species rich dry grasslands. In contrast, the south west of the site consists of a small marl lake and</p>

	<p>adjoining fens and marshes with Juniper heath frequent on the higher ground. Soils associated with limestone pavement are generally thin rendzina, deeper pockets are more mineral rich and support limestone grassland and scrub in places.</p> <p>The site contains a good example of limestone pavement, a priority habitat listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive, a small though excellent example of the Annex I habitat alpine heath, along with one other Annex I habitat, Juniper scrub. Of particular note is the abundance of Bearberry (<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>) and Juniper (<i>Juniperus communis</i>) in association with a typical Burren flora including such species as Mountain Aven (<i>Dryas octopetala</i>), Spring Gentian (<i>Gentiana verna</i>) and various orchid species including Fly Orchid (<i>Ophrys insectifera</i>). The southern and western part of the area is of significant interest due to the low intensity of management in the area.</p> <p>This site is located 13.5 km to the south west of Athenry.</p>
001285 Kiltiernan Turlough	<p>Kiltiernan Turlough is a simple, linear depression running south-westwards from the main Galway-Limerick road. It has a flattish basin which lies approximately 2 m below road level and includes about eight further depressions which are joined in times of high water. The site includes a low ridge on the south-eastern side. Towards the west the topography becomes flatter and the basin breaks into separate hollows.</p> <p>The site comprises a relatively dry turlough with a limited, though regular, flood in winter. The vegetation is predominantly of species-poor grassland dominated by White Clover (<i>Trifolium repens</i>), Silverweed (<i>Potentilla anserina</i>) and Creeping Bent (<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>), with some areas of species-rich grassland found in the western half. Beside the road, the rocky outcrops support limestone grassland with narrow fringes of scrub along each side. The scrub is predominantly of Blackthorn (<i>Prunus spinosa</i>), but some Buckthorn (<i>Rhamnus catharticus</i>) and Alder Buckthorn (<i>Frangula alnus</i>), a rare Red Data Book species, also occur. This site is located approximately 13km to the south west of the town.</p>
000268 Galway Bay Complex	<p>This site is located 8.3km to the south west of Athenry.</p> <p>This large coastal site is of immense conservation importance, with many habitats listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive, four of which have priority status (lagoon, <i>Cladium</i> fen, turlough and orchid-rich calcareous grassland). The examples of shallow bays, reefs, lagoons and salt marshes are amongst the best in the country.</p> <p>The site supports an important Common Seal colony and a breeding Otter population, both species that are listed on Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive, and six regular Annex I EU Birds Directive species. The site also has four Red Data Book plant species, plus a host of rare or scarce marine and lagoonal animal and plant species.</p>
SPAs within 5km	Summary
None	
SPAs within 15km	Summary
004134 Lough Rea	<p>The site is also a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for the following species: Shoveler and Coot. The E.U. Birds Directive pays particular attention to wetlands and, as these form part of this SPA, the site and its associated waterbirds are of special conservation interest for Wetland & Waterbirds.</p>
004168 Sliabh Aughty	<p>The site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for Hen Harrier and Merlin.</p> <p>The SPA is a stronghold for Hen Harriers and supports the second largest concentration in the country. A survey in 2005 resulted in 24 confirmed and 3 possible breeding pairs, which represents over 17% of the national total. A somewhat lower count of between 15 and 23 pairs in the 1998-</p>

	<p>2000 period is considered to reflect poorer coverage then. The mix of forestry and open areas provides optimum habitat conditions for this rare bird, which is listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive. This site is located to the southeast of the town</p>
004089 Lough Rahasane Turlough	<p>Rahasane, is designated both SAC and SPA and is considered to be the most important turlough in the country for wintering waterfowl. It is a traditional site for Greenland White-fronted Goose, and supports a population of national importance (218 individuals) - all figures are average peaks for the period 1995/96-1999/00. It also has nationally important populations of Whooper Swan (141), Wigeon (3,630), Pintail (21), Golden Plover (6,626), Lapwing (2,220) and Black-tailed Godwit (435). The Shoveler population (29) is very close to the threshold for national importance. The site has the largest inland population of Dunlin (864) in the country, and also supports Mute Swan (76), Teal (367), Tufted Duck (32), Curlew (197), Redshank (149), Mallard (124), Black-headed Gull (280) and Grey Heron (31). As at all turlough sites, numbers of birds present can vary considerably owing to fluctuations in water levels. The site has long been known as an important waterfowl site and has been monitored annually in recent years.</p>
004031 Inner Galway Bay	<p>Galway Bay is one of the most important ornithological sites in the western region. It supports an excellent diversity of wintering wetland birds, with divers, grebes, cormorants, dabbling duck, sea duck and waders all well represented. There are internationally important wintering populations of Great Northern Diver (83) and Brent Goose (676), and nationally important populations of an additional sixteen species, i.e. Black-throated Diver (25), Cormorant (266), Mute Swan (150), Wigeon (1,157), Teal (690), Shoveler (88), Red-breasted Merganser (249), Ringed Plover (335), Golden Plover (2,030), Lapwing (3,969), Dunlin (2,149), Bar-tailed Godwit (447), Curlew (697), Redshank (505), Greenshank (20) and Turnstone (182) – all figures are average peaks for the 5 seasons 1995/96-1999/00. Of note is that the populations of Red-breasted Merganser and Ringed Plover represent 6.7% and 3.3% of the respective national totals. Black-throated Diver is a scarce species in Ireland and the Galway Bay population is the most regular in the country. Other species which occur in notable numbers include Little Grebe (35), Grey Heron (102), Longtailed Duck (19) and Scaup (40). The bay is an important wintering site for gulls, especially Black-headed Gull (1,815), Common Gull (1,011) and Herring Gull (216).</p> <p>In addition, the following species also use the site: Red-throated Diver (13), Great Crested Grebe (16), Mallard (200), Shelduck (139), Common Scoter (79), Oystercatcher (575), Grey Plover (60), Black-tailed Godwit (45) and Great Blackbacked Gull (124). The site provides both feeding and roost sites for most of the species, though some birds also commute to areas outside of the site. This site is located 10km to the southwest of Athenry</p>
004142 Cregganna Marsh	<p>Cregganna Marsh is situated about 3 km south of Oranmore, to the west of the Galway – Ennis road. The predominant habitats on the site are lowland wet grassland and improved grassland, but areas of limestone pavement and other exposed rock, Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>) scrub, freshwater marsh, drainage ditches and dry grassland are also represented.</p> <p>The site is of major conservation importance as a feeding site for a nationally important flock of Greenland White-fronted Geese. The birds using this site form part of the Rahasane flock (5 year mean of winter maximum, 1995/96 to 1999/00 of 166 individuals). Greenland White-fronted Goose is a species that is listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive. This site is located 9.7km to the southwest of Athenry.</p>

The Galway Bay Complex SAC and the Inner Galway Bay SPA (to be referred to as the Galway Bay Natura 2000 Sites) represent the only Natura 2000 Sites that can potentially be influenced or impacted by the Athenry LAP.

It is noted that the water supply for the Athenry Plan area is derived from Lough Corrib.

However a recent Habitats Directive Assessment of the Tuam Local Area Plan concluded that the Tuam Regional Water Supply Scheme which supplies Athenry is operating a sustainable water abstraction yields and future abstractions will not negatively affect the Lough Corrib SAC.

4.2.2 Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs)

The basic designation for wildlife is the Natural Heritage Area (NHA). This is an area considered important for the habitats present or which holds species of plants and animals whose habitat needs protection. NHAs within the county represent a significant biodiversity resource and again, the range of habitats and species found in these sites vary considerably. Table 4.b below describes the NHAs located within 5km and 15km of Athenry. Figure 4b shows NHAs designations and proposed NHAs, there are no nature reserves within a 5km buffer of Athenry. Please note that these synopses are based in many cases on old survey data and may not accurately reflect the status of the site at the current time (source: NPWS).

Table 4b: Natural Heritage Areas and Proposed Natural Heritage Areas within 5km of Athenry.

NHAs within 5Km	Summary
None	
pNHAs within 15km	
Monivea Bog (000311)	This is the closest NHA to Athenry and is located to the north east of the town. It is also a Natura 2000 site, and the description is provided in Table 4a.
Tiaquin Bog(001709)	This bog is also located to the north east of the townTiaquin Bog is situated approximately 10km north-east of Athenry. The site is located east of Monivea village, with the Killaclogher River flowing just west of the site boundary. The underlying geology of the site consists of carboniferous limestone. In 1971 the An Foras Forbartha Galway County Report provided the following description for the site. Tiaquin Bog is an excellent example of a raised bog, included in a Game Reserve. The bog is bordered by some Downy Birch (<i>Betula pubescens</i>) wood, which adds to its value because of the change in plant communities from bog through to woodland. No information on the present condition of the habitats occurring in this site is available. However, turf cutting by "sausage machine" is presently damaging the site as well as the planting of coniferous trees.
Loughrea	Also designated a SAC, Loughrea is located to the southeast of the 15km buffer area for Athenry
Lough Fingall Complex	This site is located close to Castletaylor and Kiltiernan Turlough to the southwest of Athenry, and is also designated a SAC.
Castletaylor Turlough	This is also designated a SAC and is located approximately 11km from Athenry. A description is provided in the preceding table
Kiltiernan Turlough	This site is also designated a SAC. A description is provided in the preceding table
Kiltullagh Turlough	This site is located to the west of Athenry and neighbours the Lough Lurgeen Bog/Glenamaddy Turlough NHA, and is possibly itself a turlough.

	<p>The three lakes together provide a good habitat for waterfowl. At Kiltullagh counts (from 1984/85 – 86/87) for waterfowl are – Mute Swan (20), Whooper Swan (12), Wigeon (346), Teal (59), Mallard (196), Tufted Duck (152), Ringed Plover (6), Golden Plover (303), Lapwing (86) and Curlew (59). Golden Plover and Whooper Swan are species listed in Annex I of E.U. Birds Directive.</p> <p>With its close association with the Lough Lurgeen Bog/Glenamaddy Turlough NHA, and its importance for waterfowl, this site is of scientific importance and should be preserved. Threats are from drainage and eutrophication from farming practices. It is likely that there is very species-rich grassland on eskers running down into the turlough.</p>
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4.2.3 Habitats, Habitat Indicator Mapping and Ecological Networks.

Figure 4c shows the Corine land use classification for Athenry and environs. As this shows, the principal land use in the area surrounding the town is pasture, with occasional patches of agricultural land, and peat and forestry.

The various habitats in the County form part of an “ecological network” that facilitates the movement of species between areas and ensures the effective functioning and survival of the diverse range of habitats and species in the County. Ecological networks provide a spatial, network-based approach to the conservation of biodiversity, which differs from the site-based approach of environmental designations, by using ‘corridors’ or ‘stepping stones’ that support species migration, dispersal and daily movements between the ‘core areas’ and thereby contribute to a more integrated and functional ecological system. Ecological networks are supported at EU level through the *European Spatial Development Perspective* and *Natura 2000* and underpin the *Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy* (PEBLDS), which has been ratified by Ireland. Research has been carried out into a National Ecological Network for Ireland as part of the preparation of the *National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020* in a report entitled the *Preliminary Study of the Needs Associated with a National Ecological Network 2001*. This study proposes the classification of open space areas according to their ecological functioning or ‘naturalness’ ranging from Class 1 (predominantly natural areas of high biodiversity) to Class 5 (low biodiversity areas such as continuous urban fabric). These classifications have been used to identify the major elements of an ecological network for the County.

Figure 4d shows the ecological network classification for Athenry and environs. As this map shows all the area is classified as either class 3 or 4. This classification is based on the Corine 2000 land data and class three refers to transitional woodland scrub and class 4 as complex cultivation pattern. In terms of ecological significance, 1 ranks the highest and 5 (continuous urban fabric) as the lowest value.

More generally, for an area surrounded by rural hinterland such as Athenry, the pasture, hedgerows and River Clarin all offer ecological connectivity. Hedgerows are a familiar landscape feature in the countryside of the County, as well as providing food and shelter for insects, birds and other animals, hedgerows also act as important corridors. Typically, older, denser hedges support a greater abundance and diversity of wildlife.

As traditional species-rich grasslands decline, grassy roadside verges and other marginal grasslands act as important habitats and ecological networks for many species of wild flowers and the invertebrates they support. Because of a management regime which is generally of low-

intensity, many grassy verges growing along roads contain a great variety of wild flowers. In addition, man made structures such as stone walls, bridges and buildings can also be very important for wildlife and provide feeding, hibernating and roosting sites for many species of invertebrates, birds and bats. A diversity of mosses, lichens and other plants are often found on old stone built structures. The raised bogs located about 6km to the north east of the town are of ecological importance and support a range of habitats and specific communities; additionally, the turloughs located to the southeast of the town, the closest being Rahassane, 7km southwest are of international significance and support a diverse range of plant and animal species and Annex I habitats.

Another very important ecological feature is the Eiscir Riada, located on the southeastern and northern fringe of Athenry. This is a natural system of mounds consisting of gravel and rocks which are believed to have been deposited approximately 10,000 years ago, when the ice sheets retreated in Ireland. Frequently support improved grassland, there are also a range of associated habitats identified on eskers including species rich calcareous grassland and semi natural scrub².

4.2.4 Watercourses, surface water bodies and associated wetlands including floodplains and flood risk areas

River Water Quality as it enters and drains from Athenry is a cause of concern. The Graigabbey River which is a tributary of the River Clarin is classified as Bad as it drains in to the town from the northeast and is classified as poor as it runs southwesterly from the town boundary. Its overall status is Bad, as is its overall ecological status. The areas immediately around Athenry are further classified as poor in this report. Figure 4e presents the data from the River Basin Management Plan 2009 -2015.

The management objective is to restore the surface water quality to 'good' by 2021 and it is currently classified as 1a 'At risk' (for not meeting the 2015 Water Framework Directive Objective of Good Status Water Quality). The associated report identifies both point and diffuse source pollutants to the water course, principally around insufficient wastewater treatment plant, Section 4s (licenses to discharge sewage/effluent) and point sources such as nutrient input from agricultural sources. As this river is hydrologically connected to the Galway Bay SAC via the River Clarin, water quality generally is of concern in this area. Figure 4f shows Freshwater Natura 2000 sites within 5 and 15km buffer of Athenry.

4.2.5 Lakes, Wetlands and Floodplains

Loughrea is the closest classified lake (at around 14km distance) and this is classified as Good, with a Q value of 4.

Wetlands including peat bogs and turloughs occur within a 15km buffer of the town and are of significant ecological importance. Monivea and Tiaquin Bog, located to the north east of the town represent the closest raised bog area and are already summarised in Table 4b. They are examples of active raised bog and have evidence of turf cutting, and burning which pose a threat to the viability of the bog habitat.

In addition to the designated sites already described, there are a number of peatlands identified by the Irish Peatland Conservation Council (IPPC). These include the following:

² Study to establish extent, location of eskers and associated habitats in County Westmeath. 2006 Mary Turbidity and Associates Westmeath Co Co.

Attymon Bog, located to the north east of Athenry, and is the only such bog within a 5km buffer of Athenry.

Other sites identified by the IPPC within a 15km of the town include:

- Tiaquin – this is now a pNHA, and is a raised bog located to the north east of Athenry
- Cloonoo, East and West – located to the southeast of Athenry
- Pollnagaragh Pools- located to the south of Athenry
- Creganna Marsh – located south west and very close to the Galway Bay SAC complex, this site supports Ireland's third largest wintering flock of Greenland White-fronted Geese, after the Wexford Slobs and Shannon Callows flocks. The 200-strong flock moves back and forth between Creganna and Rahasane near Craughwell³. This is designated as a SPA also.
- Cloon Bog –located to the west of Athenry

Turloughs are of international significance and Rahassane Turlough, located approximately 7km south west of Athenry is the most important turlough nationally for wintering wildfowl populations and nesting waters in summer. It supports a number of plants listed on the Irish Red Data book, and is one of few turlough systems remaining in the country to function naturally. It is hydrologically connected to the Dunkellin River which traverses the turloughs. Such turloughs are particularly sensitive to eutrophication.

4.2.6 Key Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna Problems.

For the Athenry area and environs, the overall water quality status is of significant concern and land use zonings will have to be carefully considered to avoid generating greater impacts on surface water quality. Poor water quality interferes with all ecosystems so good water quality is paramount. Pollution due to excessive nutrients causes decreases in fish populations (such as Salmon species which are particularly sensitive). Effluent enters water bodies from point and diffuse pollution sources such as storm outflows, sewage discharges, engineering works, forestry, agriculture and industrial discharges. This results in eutrophication (over-enrichment) and habitat destruction. The turloughs located to the south west are especially sensitive to eutrophication.

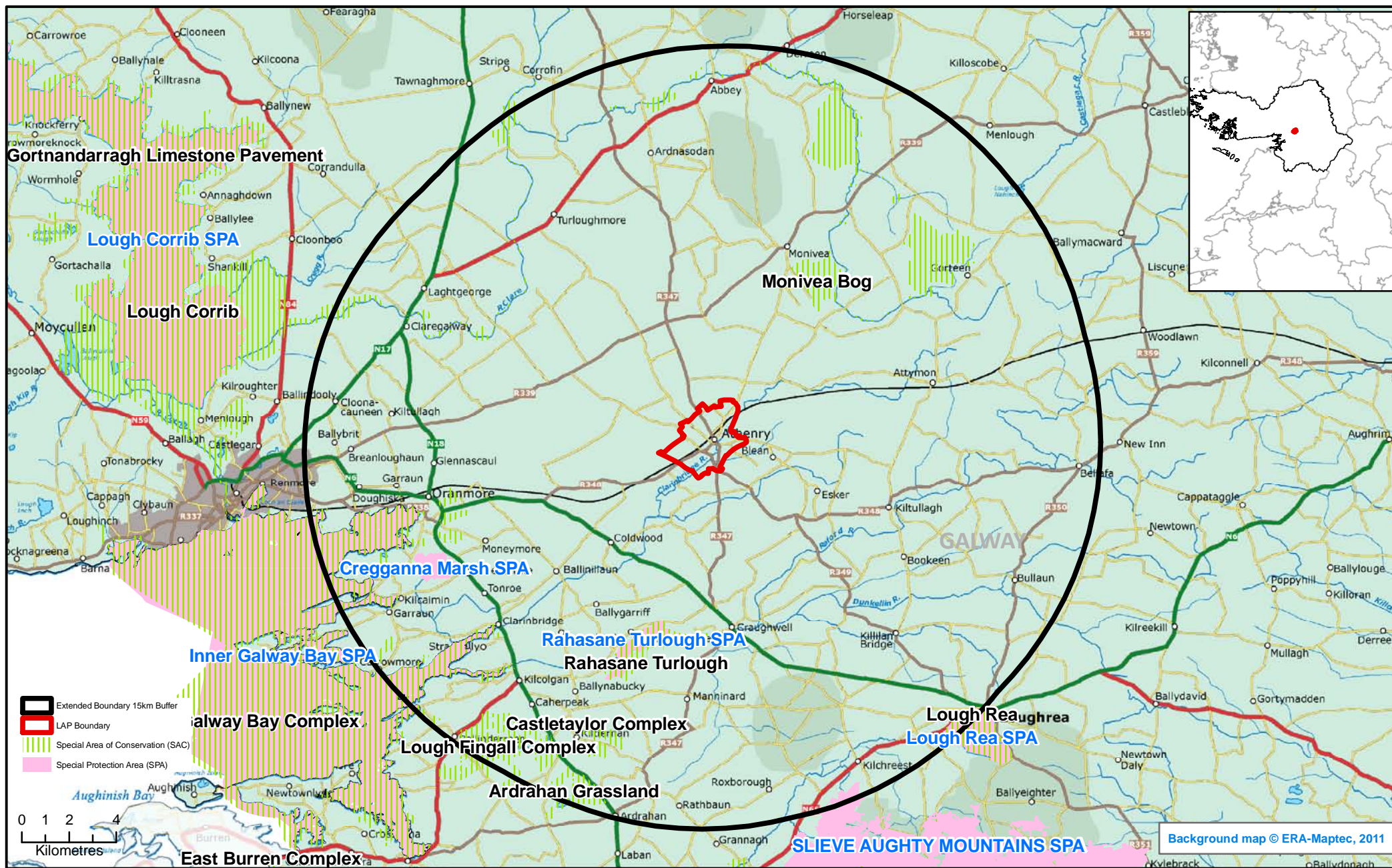
Other pressures include loss of habitat through development on greenfield sites and localised adverse impacts on ecological networks through loss or damage to linear features such as hedgerows, riparian vegetation or stone walls.

Habitat fragmentation can also arise due to infrastructural developments including road projects. Recreational pressure may arise with associated disturbance to certain species.

4.2.7 Evolution of biodiversity, flora and fauna in the absence of the LAP

In the absence of a LAP there would be no framework directing developments to appropriate locations in and around Athenry and planning applications would be assessed on an individual basis with flora and fauna, habitats and ecological connectivity protected under a number of higher level policies and objectives. Development proposals would be assessed in a piecemeal manner and cumulative impacts in particular would not be captured adequately. Furthermore, the wastewater capacity issue and the overall poor quality of water within the Athenry area

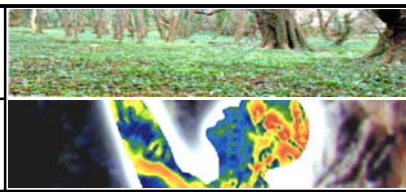
³ Source: Birdwatch Ireland



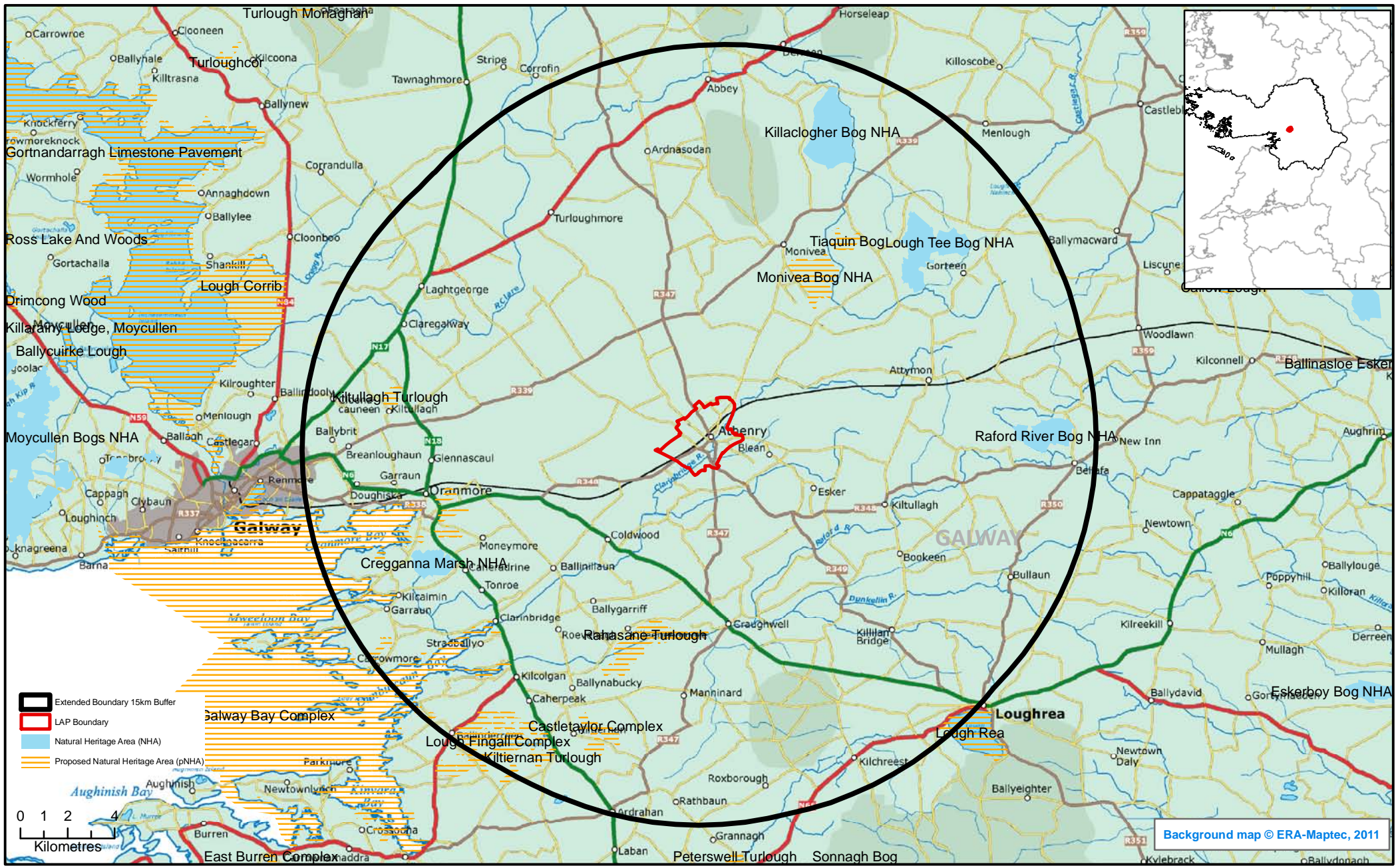
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FIGURE 4a: NATURA 2000 SITES

Galway County Council Atherny Local Area Plan SEA



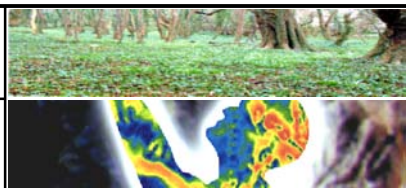
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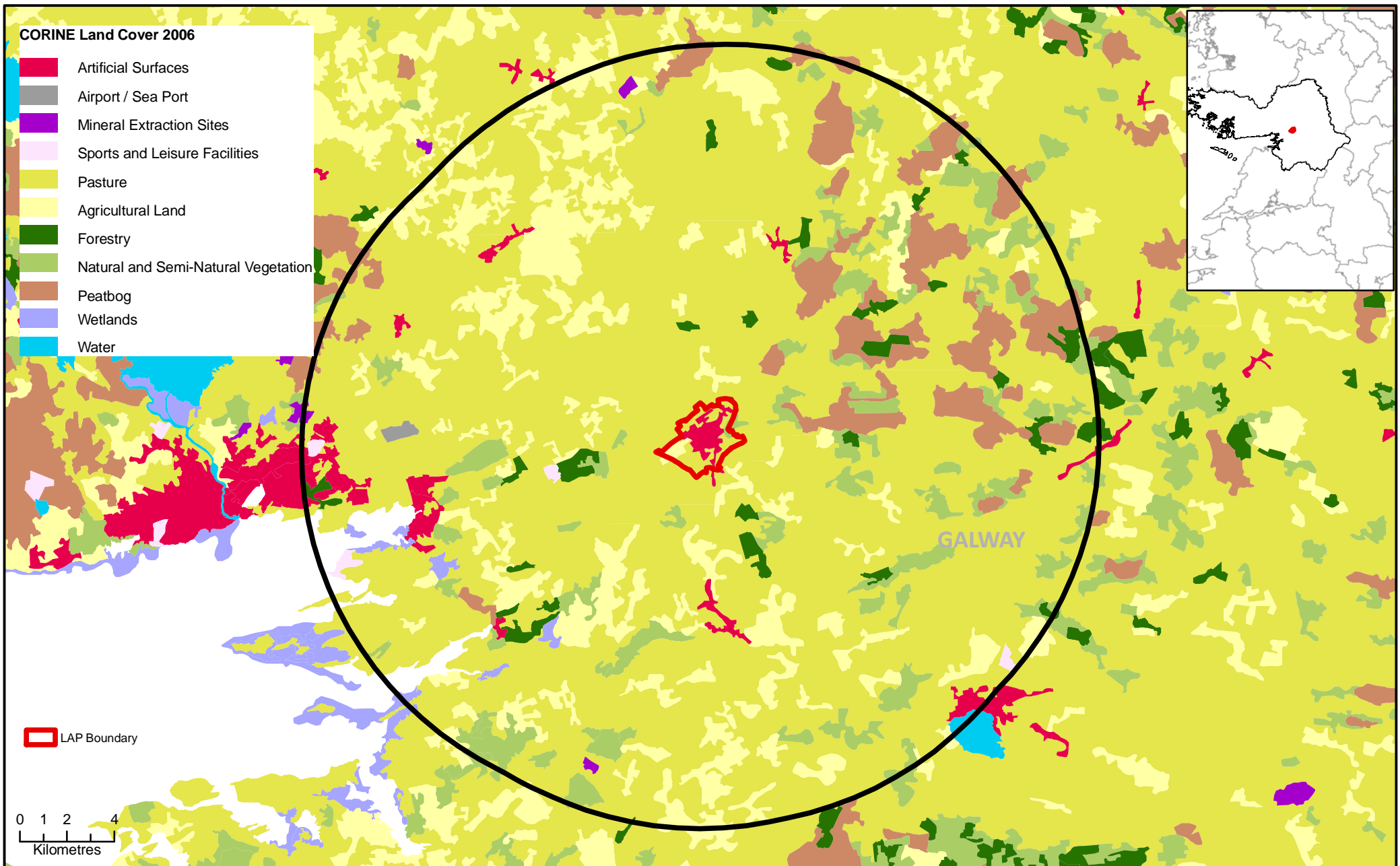
FIGURE 4b: NHAs AND PROPOSED NHAs

Galway County Council Atherry Local Area Plan SEA



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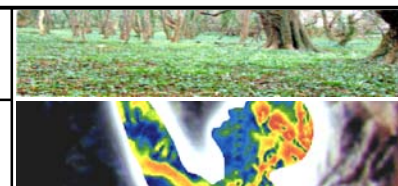
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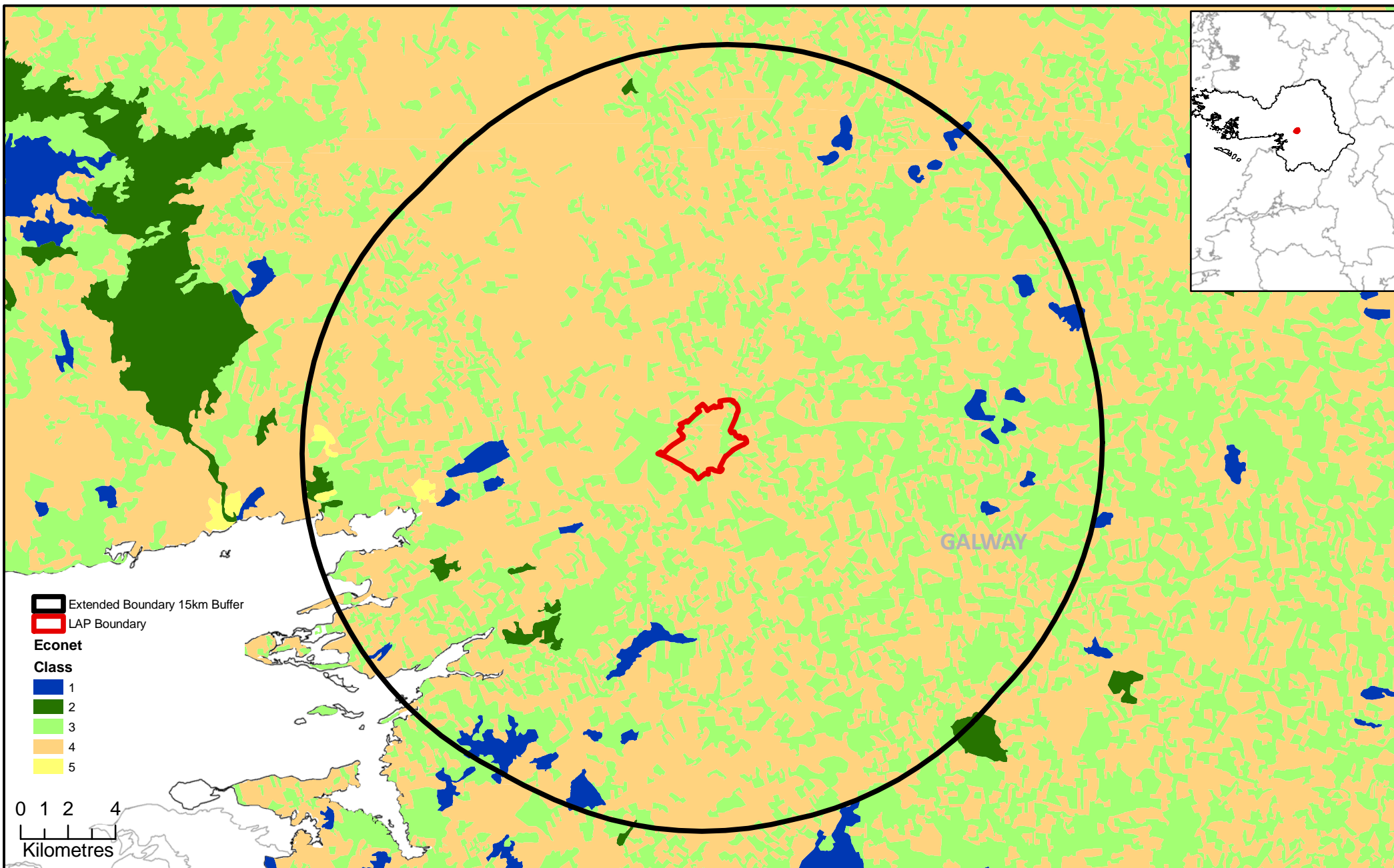
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FIGURE 4c: CORINE LANDUSE

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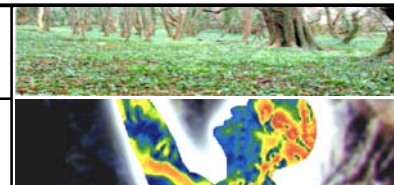
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FIGURE 4d: ECOLOGICAL NETWORK

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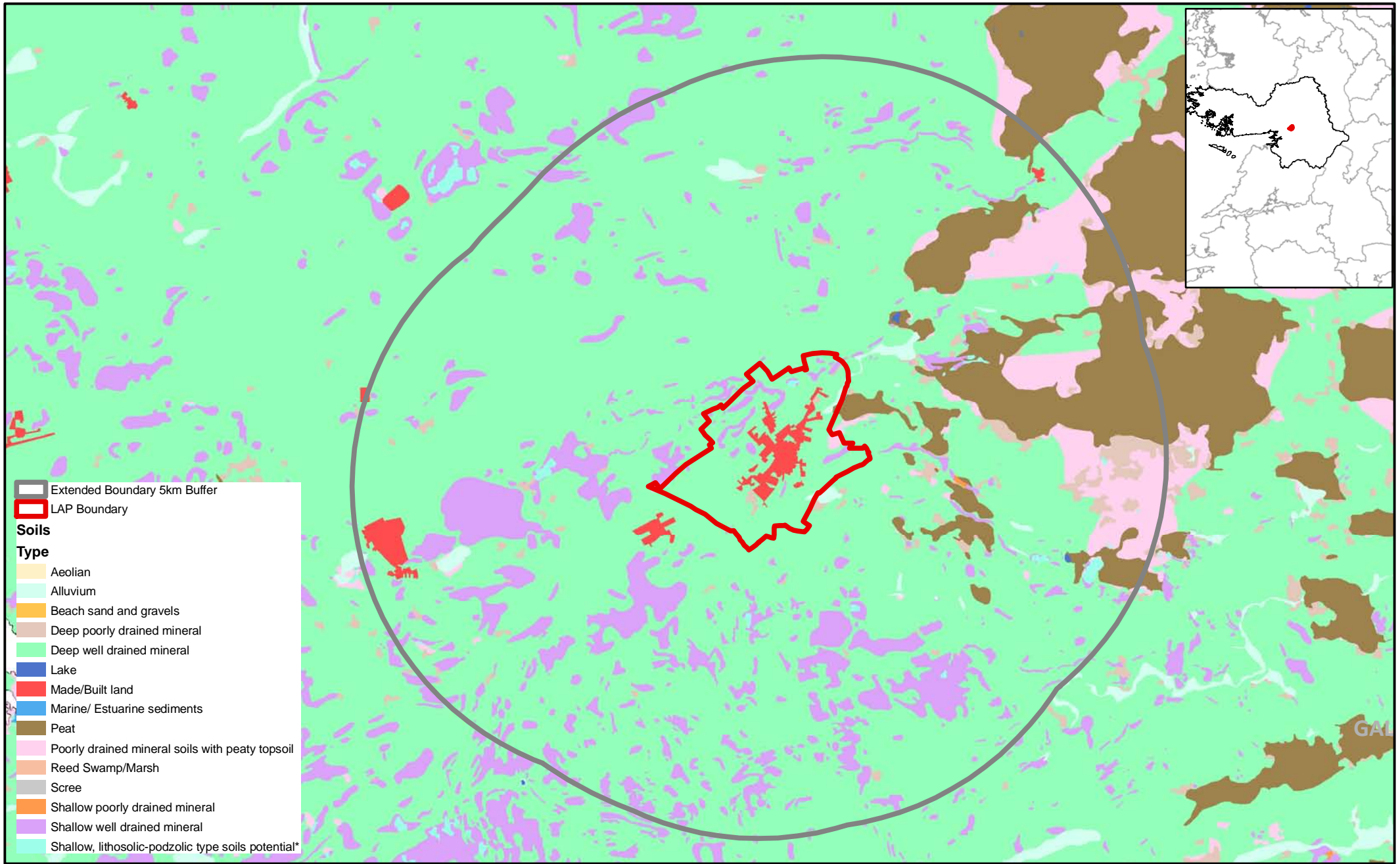
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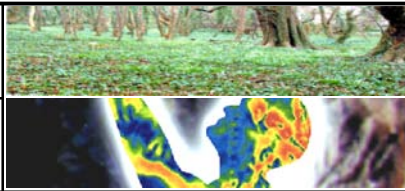
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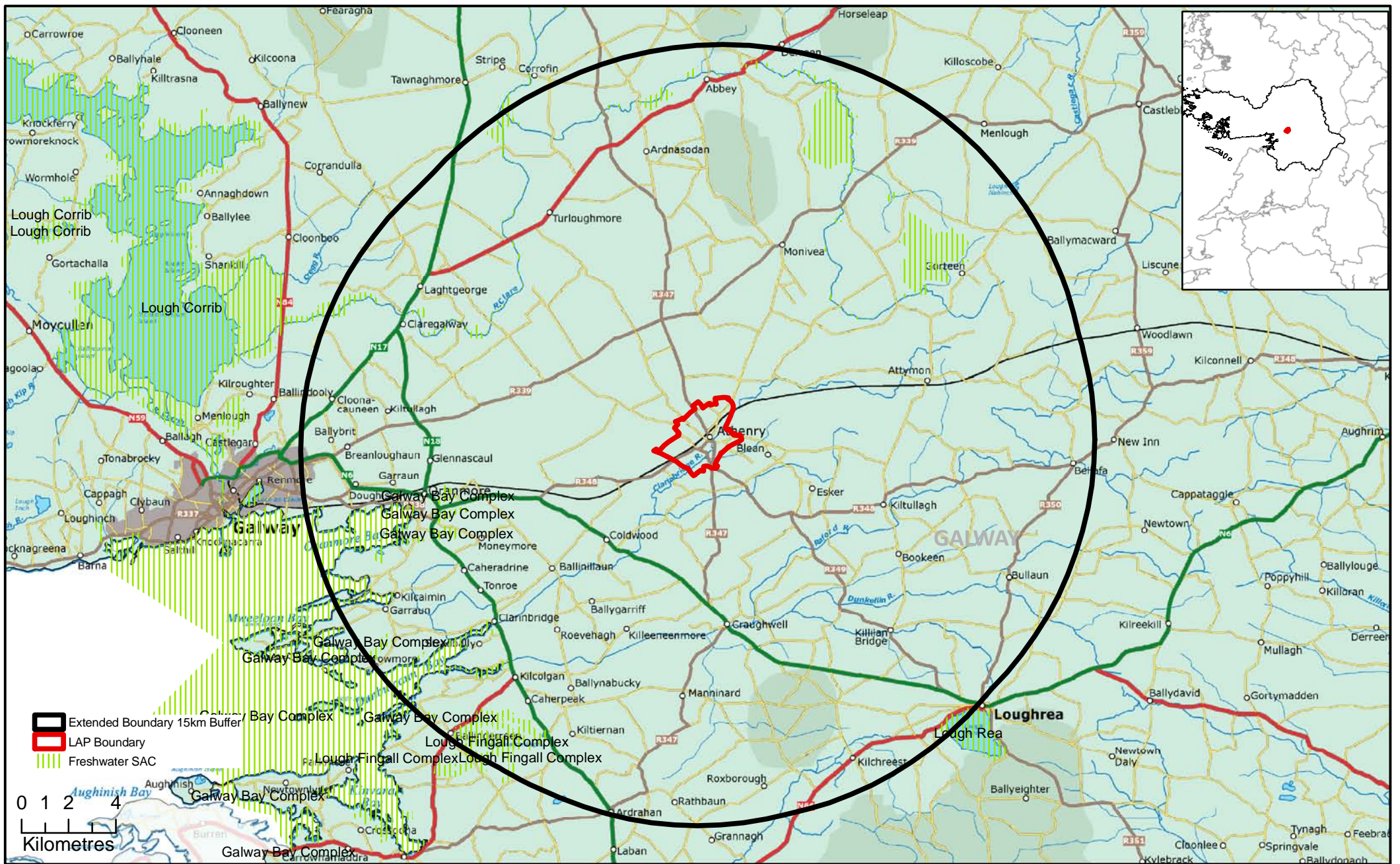
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FIGURE 4j: SOILS

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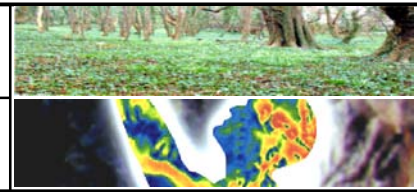
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FIGURE 4f: FRESHWATER HABITATS

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merits close scrutiny and strategic planning of land uses in order to avoid increasing pressures on this resource.

4.3. Water Resources

As the previous section demonstrates, water quality has a clear interaction and impact with other key environmental parameters and its protection and enhancement is of particular importance. In the instance of Athenry, water quality overall is classified as bad, so the LAP must address this issue through enhancing the overall quality of surface water through **sustainable** land use zonings, policies and **appropriate mitigation measures**¹.

4.3.1 Surface Waters

Athenry is located within the Clarin Kilcolgan Water Management Unit Action Plan and comes under the Western River Basin District. The Graigabbey River which runs through Athenry, is a tributary of the River Clarin and is classified as Bad in the town centre. It is classified as poor as it runs south westerly from the town boundary. Its overall status is Bad, as is its overall ecological status. Figure 4g shows the most recent water quality data for the Kilcornan River and the River Clarin. It is also considered to be at risk of not meeting the Water Framework Directive Target of 'good' status by 2015.

There are four Section 4 Local Authority Licensed Discharges in the vicinity of Athenry, one EPA licensed facility and one Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Athenry sewerage Scheme is on the current Water Services Investment Programme under 'Contracts to Start' and is with the Department for approval. There is no spare capacity at present within the system - the current loading is estimated to be 5,617 P. E. and includes for residential, commercial, industrial and institutional loading. A design P.E of 9,000 has been prepared under Stage1 of the WWTP upgrade (expected operational date 2014) and a design P.E. of 16,000 under Stage 2 (estimated for 2021). Network upgrade and extensions are also proposed.

In addition to the point source of nutrients from the WWTP, there are other diffuse sources including agricultural run and septic tanks.

The following text is taken from the WMU Action Plan and presents the most recent data available on surface waters within this catchment management unit.

Box 4a: Water Management Unit Clarin Kilcolgan

The principal rivers within the Clarin/Kilcolgan WMU are the Clarinbridge river which flows into Dunbulcaun Bay at Clarinbridge, its upper tributaries include the Graigabbey, Cloonkeen and Eiscir rivers, and the Kilcolgan river, which flows into Dunbulcaun Bay at Kilcolgan. The most recent EPA status classifications for these rivers indicates that only 8% of all river channel length is classed as Good with no river lengths at high status. Some 7% of river length is classed as Moderate with 66% Poor and 19% at Bad status

CLARINBRIDGE RIVER: *In the upper part of the Clarinbridge river system the Cloonkeen river is classed as Good (based on biological assessment). The Cloonkeen river joins the Graigabbey near Graigabbey bridge in the townland of the same name. The Graigabbey river is part of the main channel of the Clarinbridge and flows through Athenry. It is classed as Bad*

¹ This text was amended following a submission by the EPA.

status (biological assessment). Further south the river is joined by the Eiscir river flowing in from the east near Willmount bridge forming the section of river known as the Lavally river. This tributary river is classed as Poor status (based on extrapolated land use impact). The main Lavally river channel is classed as Poor (indicated by biological assessment). Below the section known as the Lavally the main Clarinbridge river is also classed as Poor status (biological assessment).

A significant deterioration in water quality was noted downstream of Athenry and this influences the river quality further downstream. The river has been known to dry up at some locations for part of the summer each year which makes it difficult to assess from the purely biological point of view and the assessment is based primarily on non-insect species and the dominance of Asellus and tubificid worms and leeches in the faunal community.

KILCOLGAN – The Kilcolgan river drains most of the WMU area and is comprised of a network of tributary rivers. In its upper reaches the Raford river is classed as Poor (based on fish monitoring data) to where it is joined by the inflowing Ballymabilla which is classed as Moderate. The Q value at station 0300 on the Ballymabilla has improved to Good status (biological monitoring) in the most recent survey, however the water body is classified as Poor (based on available fish monitoring). Below the confluence the river is known as the Dooyertha river and remains at Poor status to Raford bridge (biological assessment). Below this bridge the river is also known as the Clogheravaun river for a short section before becoming the Craughwell river at Craughwell and subsequently the Dunkellin and Kilcolgan river before entering the sea. All these main sections of the river are classed as Poor status (based on their biological assessment). Above Craughwell the river is also joined by the Toberdooney (also known as the Craughwell river) which is classed as Moderate status (biological assessment). The upper tributaries of this branch of the river known as the Carra stream are classed as Bad status (on the basis of poor fish stock assessment). A further main tributary the St. Clearans river which flows from Lough Rea joins the Craughwell river near Cahirkinmonwee. The status of St. Clearan's river is Good from Lough Rea to the Raruddy East townland area (based on physico chemical assessment) and thereafter is classed as Poor on the basis of fish stock assessment.

BALLYNAMANAGH This is a small river flowing directly into Dunbulcaun Bay from the north shore. The river length is classed as Poor status (extrapolated from land use impact from a similar monitored water body).

LOUGH REA This lake has been classed at Good status by the EPA and the Bathing water at Loughrea is satisfactory also.

In terms of drinking (potable) water, supplies for Athenry are currently taken from the Tuam Regional Water Supply Scheme and are considered sufficient.

4.3.2 Groundwater

Groundwater is a further significant resource and refers to water stored underground in saturated rock, sand, gravel, and soil. Surface and groundwater functions are closely related and form part of the hydrological cycle. The protection of groundwater from land uses is a critical consideration and groundwater vulnerability is becoming an important management tool. The entire island of Ireland has been designated as a Protected Area for Groundwater under the WFD. Groundwater is important as a drinking water supply as well as the supply to surface waters across the Region. Aquifers are exposed in our surface lakes and rivers. Most

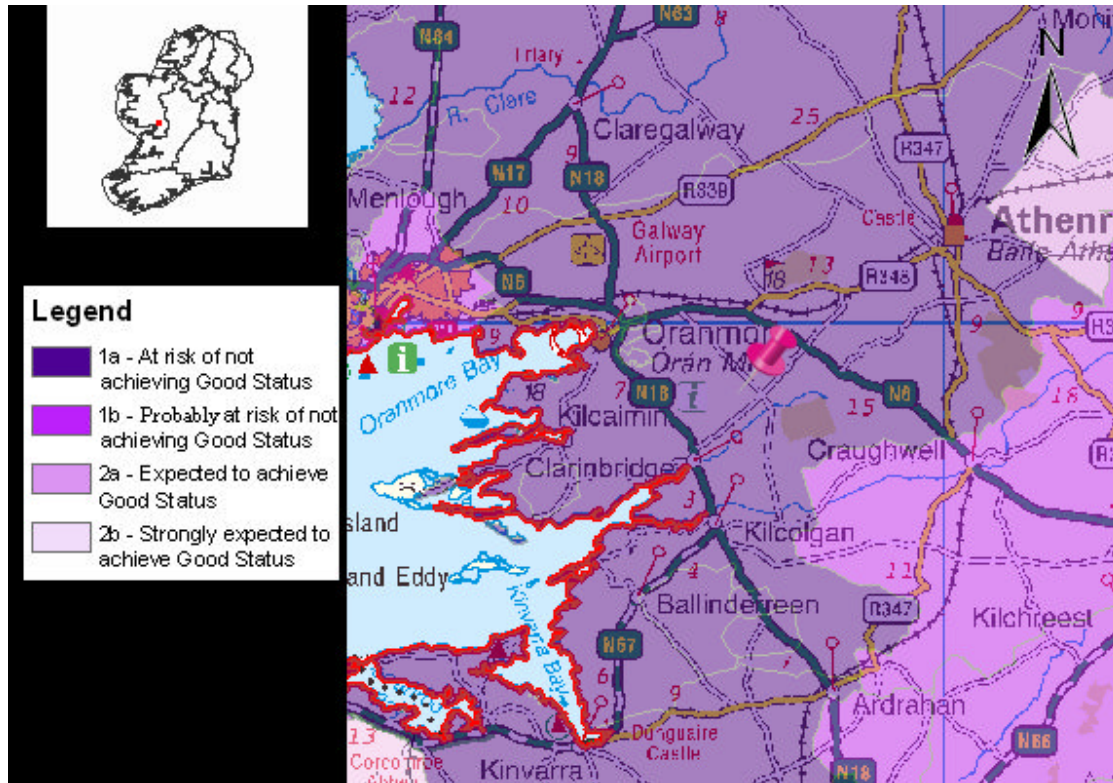
groundwater originates from the surface but it permeates through the ground to supply (or 'recharge') wells or boreholes. Groundwater is exposed to higher concentrations of pollutants that are retained in the layers of rock and soil (Todd, 1980). The exposure to pollutants lasts much longer as groundwater moves at a slower pace through the aquifer. The quality of our drinking water supply, fisheries and terrestrial based habitats is intrinsically linked with groundwater quality. The Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) aquifer categories are based on their vulnerability to pollution, i.e. the ease at which it can enter the subsurface layers. Aquifers described with 'good development potential' are more sensitive to pollution than aquifers with 'poor development potential'. Similarly aquifers of 'high or extreme vulnerability' are more sensitive to pollution.

Figure 4h shows groundwater vulnerability zones and the current surface and groundwater abstraction sites within Athenry and a 5km buffer from the towns functional area. In addition to ecological functions, surface and groundwater water continues to be a significant resource for residential and agricultural uses notably abstraction. Seven such groundwater abstraction sites are identified within the 5km buffer for Athenry.

Groundwater that readily and quickly receives water (and contaminants) from the land surface is considered to be more vulnerable than groundwater that receives water (and contaminants) more slowly and in lower quantities. The classification of extreme or high vulnerability means that the groundwater in these areas is very vulnerable to contamination due to hydrogeological and soil factors.

In County Galway, the most productive 'regionally important aquifers' and those most 'vulnerable' to pollution are situated beneath much of the area to the east of Lough Corrib, areas surrounding Lough Corrib and the Aran Islands. As Figure 4h shows, Athenry is located over a Regionally Important Aquifer, and the surrounding area is either classified as regionally or locally important.

The WFD identifies much of the groundwater in and to the west, south and north of Athenry as being of poor status, whilst the groundwater to the east of the town is classified as good status. Correspondingly, in terms of being at risk of failing to achieve the 2015 Good Status required under the WFD, the same areas are identified as being 'probably at risk of not achieving good status' and strongly expected to achieve good status. This is shown in Figure 4i below.



4.3.3 Estuarine

A number of areas are already designated as Shellfish Waters in County Galway. This means The European Communities (Quality of Shellfish Waters) Regulations 2006 give legal protection to a number of shellfish waters areas and place an onus on public authorities in Ireland to ensure that the water quality in those areas is protected. The Shellfish Waters Directive is designed to put in place concrete measures to protect waters, including shellfish waters, against pollution and to safeguard certain shellfish populations from various harmful consequences, resulting from the discharge of pollutant substances into the sea. The Directive applies to the aquatic habitat of bivalve and gastropod molluscs only; it does not include crustaceans such as lobsters, crabs and crayfish. The closest area to Athenry is Kilkieran Bay over 15km in distance **whilst the Clarinbridge-Kinvara Shellfish Waters Pollution Reduction Programme and associated Characterisation Report is available for those waters some distance from Athenry².**

4.3.4 Coastal

The EPA data from 2009 identifies 11 bathing water areas in County Galway, of which 10 are located along the coast. 9 of these are identified as compliant with EU Guide and Mandatory Values and are of 'Good quality'. Tra na Forbacha on southern Galway coast is identified as 'Sufficient' quality, compliant with EU Mandatory values only. Clifden on the western coast is identified as poor water quality – non compliant with EU Mandatory values. A further two bathing waters are located in Galway City, at Salthill and Silverstrand.

² This text was inserted following a submission by the EPA.

4.3.5 Key Environmental Problems for Water

The principal environmental problems associated with water in the Athenry area and environs are those associated with wastewater inputs and diffuse sources largely associated with agricultural activities and septic tanks or un-sewered properties. Phosphorus contributes to the pressures on groundwater south of Athenry and nutrient sensitive turloughs. Nitrates are not a significant concern to groundwater bodies in County Galway, however phosphorus which is dependent on soil type, subsoil type, aquifer type and aquifer vulnerability (i.e. how much phosphorus that the soil can absorb before it becomes saturated and excess is washed away etc.) is an issue of concern. The SEA ER of the WRBD Management Plan identifies the following environmental pressures on surface and groundwater quality:

Wastewater and Industrial Discharges

Inadequately treated effluents and spills or leakage from sewerage networks can lead to unacceptable levels of pollutants in receiving waters. These pollutants can damage water quality and downstream uses (for example bathing waters, shellfish waters or waters supporting sensitive species). In the Western District, estimates indicate that municipal and industrial discharges produce over 16% of the yearly phosphorus load and 3.5% of the nitrogen load. There have been cases of rivers and coastal areas (such as Galway City) that have been seriously polluted by this type of discharge and in response facility improvements are being put in place in many urban areas.

Landfills, Mines, Quarries and Contaminated Sites

Waste disposal sites (including old un-lined landfills), quarries, mines, gasworks sites and industrial lands produce lesser discharges to waters than wastewater plants and industries; however, subsurface residues or waste may continue to threaten groundwater and surface waters.

Two main water quality problems relating to agriculture have been identified; these are enrichment of water by nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen) and organic pollution from animal slurry/manure and silage effluent. A third, pesticides, is covered under dangerous substances. Agriculture is the principal land use activity in the eastern part of the Western District, with 67% of land used for this purpose. Estimates of nutrient input into waters in the Western District indicate that agriculture produces over 45% of the yearly phosphorus load and 80% of the nitrogen load but this is spread in a diffuse manner over the entire basin.

Wastewater from Unsewered Properties

In rural areas many houses and businesses are not connected to public systems that collect, treat and dispose of wastewater, and they rely mainly on on-site systems (conventional septic tanks or proprietary systems) via soil percolation areas, which if not designed, installed or operated properly can result in water pollution. Two of the four counties with the highest percentage of one-off housing in Ireland are in the WRBD; Galway (52%) and Roscommon (43%). In addition, the ever increasing number of holiday homes being constructed in the coastal counties (Galway, Mayo, Sligo and Clare) and their associated septic tanks pose a potential problem to the District's waters. As many properties are spread over wide areas, provision of public sewerage systems, especially ahead of new development, is very difficult and often very costly.

Discharge of Dangerous Substances

Some dangerous substances can be toxic to aquatic plants and animals. They can persist in waters and sediments, and slowly build up in the bodies of aquatic organisms, poisoning them and causing problems higher up the food chain or interfering with natural breeding processes.

Physical Modifications

Physical modifications can impact waterways by directly affecting habitats, or by indirectly changing natural processes through altering plant and animal communities, by reducing their variety or numbers. Land drainage, overgrazing, de-forestation and cattle access can have an indirect effect, changing how much and how fast water drains off the land, resulting in an increased risk of property flooding. There have been a number of large-scale schemes in the Western District involving physical modifications. Stretches of the drained river systems need to be dredged from time to time removing silt build-up to reduce flooding risk and ensure that the system is navigable. In addition, widespread development on the floodplains in the basin and in particular the potential effects on water quality and flooding behaviour as a result of the physical modifications to flood plains are of concern. Localised drainage by landowners can also lead to local flood problems.

Climate Change

The impact of climate change is difficult to predict, however there is the potential for heavier winter rainstorms to cause more flash flooding, resulting in an increase in diffuse pollution loads from soil runoff and increasing demand for flood controls. Summer droughts are considered likely and recent reports have indicated that the effects of climate change in Ireland will have serious consequences for water resources, resulting in a potential 40% reduction in drinking water supplies. Also, temperature changes may give invasive alien species a competitive advantage.

Local Issues

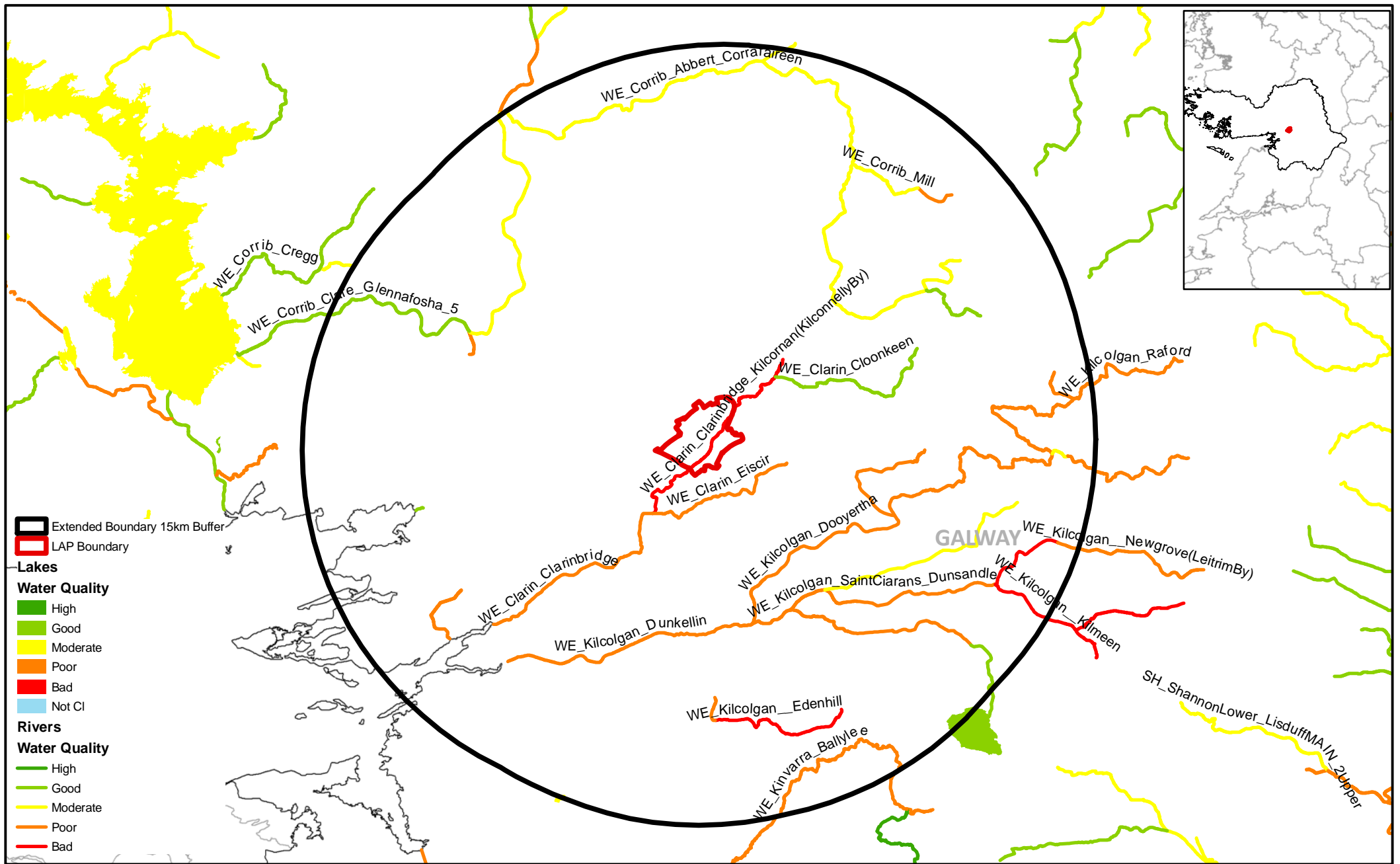
Excessive nutrients in natural waters can lead to the growth of algae and weeds. This enrichment of water is called eutrophication and it is recognised as a major threat to the quality of Irish waters. Algal blooms and weeds can disrupt the normal functioning of an ecosystem, causing a variety of problems. They reduce the value of the affected waters for fishing, swimming and boating and can also interfere with the treatment of drinking water.



Alien Species - Three particular species of concern in the RBD are the Zebra Mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*), Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) and Curly Leaf Pondweed (*Lagarosiphon*).

Insufficient water and wastewater treatment (see also section on Population and human health)

4.3.6 Evolution of water in the absence of the LAP

If development was to occur without being accompanied by the appropriate waste water infrastructure then it is likely that a number of water bodies would fail to meet WFD commitments in the short or medium term. Also, the extent and severity of adverse impacts with regard to biodiversity and flora and fauna, groundwater and human health as a result of poor water quality would be likely to increase.



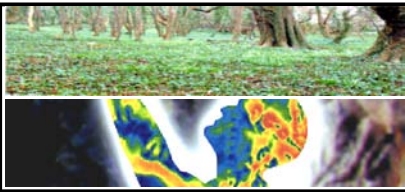
 Extended Boundary 15km Buffer
 LAP Boundary

Lakes
Water Quality
 High
 Good
 Moderate
 Poor
 Bad
 Not Cl

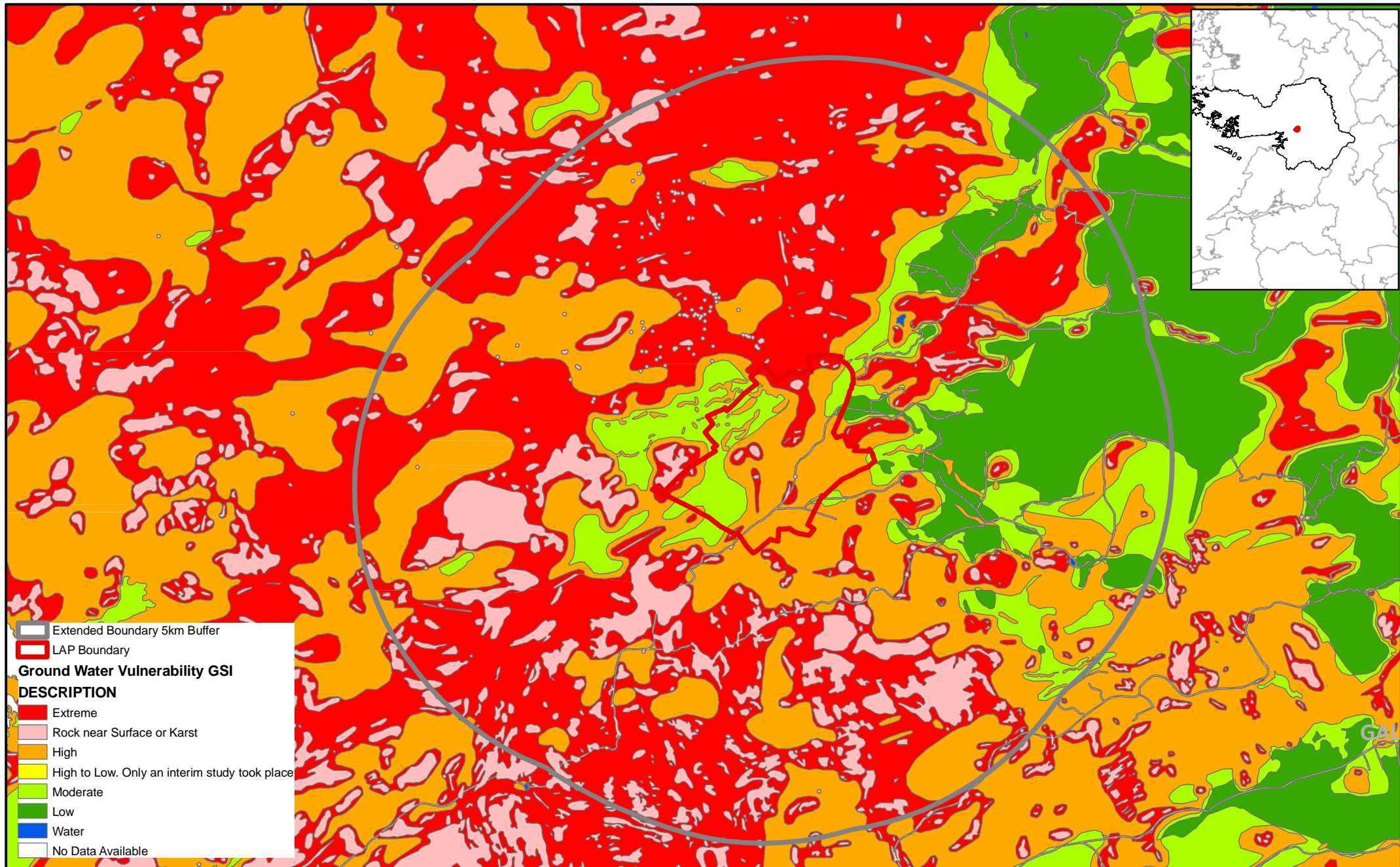
Rivers
Water Quality
 High
 Good
 Moderate
 Poor
 Bad

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FIGURE 4g: WATER QUALITY
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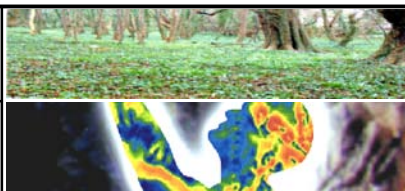
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FIGURE 4h: GROUNDWATER VULNERABILITY (GSI)

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4.4 Soil and Geology

Soil can be considered as a non-renewable natural resource because it develops over very long timescales. It is an extremely complex, variable and living medium and performs many vital functions including: food and other biomass production, storage, filtration and transformation of many substances including water, carbon, and nitrogen. Soil has a role as a habitat and gene pool, serves as a platform for human activities, landscape and heritage and acts as a provider of raw materials. Such functions of soil are worthy of protection because of their socio-economic as well as environmental importance. Soils in any area are the result of the interaction of various factors, such as parent material, climate, vegetation and human action.

Although the EU has produced a Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection, the proposed Framework Directive for Soils has not been established in law and has not yet been transposed into national legislation. Article 5 of the proposed Directive states that, for the purposes of preserving the various functions of soil; sealing, the development of artificial surfaces on top of soil resources, should be limited. The proposed Directive suggests that this may be achieved through rehabilitating brownfield sites, thus reducing the depletion of greenfield sites. The proposed Directive also states soil should be used in a sustainable manner which preserves its capacity to deliver ecological, economic and social services, while maintaining its functions so that future generations can meet their needs.

Figure 4j shows the soil map for the area around Oranmore (with 15km buffer shown). The principal soil type is deep well drained mineral, interspersed with pockets of more shallow well drained mineral soil. To the east of Oranmore, there is an increase in poorly drained peats, surrounded by poorly drained mineral soils with peaty topsoil.

4.4.1 Bedrock Geology

The basic rock formation of County Galway varies between the eastern and western half of the County. The bedrock geology of the County to the east of Lough Corrib consists of limestone which was laid in the carboniferous period, around 280 to 345 million years ago. Figure 4k shows the limestone bedrock types around Oranmore (again with a 5km buffer).

The Irish Geological Heritage (IGH) Programme (Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)) aims to identify, document, protect and conserve geological heritage in Ireland, promoting its value with the landowners and the public. These sites are still being assessed, however some may be proposed for designation as Natural Heritage Areas. Whilst none are located within the immediate area of Oranmore, there are a number of sites within the 5km buffer. These include limestone pavement also designated as Special Areas of Conservation, and other sites including Asbian carbonate mound, black marble brachiopod fossils and lower carboniferous sites.

4.4.2 Key Environmental Problems for Soil and Geology

Soil erosion can occur with construction activities, agricultural activities and forestry operations, extractive industries, forestry practices, industrial and commercial and road projects and other major infrastructural projects. Surface soil erosion (loose soil) impacts on water quality and fishery resources; similarly development on peat bogs can result in landslides or siltation of watercourses. For an area such as Oranmore, underlain by limestone, percolation of pollutants through soil to the groundwater is a potential environmental problem and there may

be issues around hydrocarbon run off entering the groundwater. Pollution and contamination of soil can occur if not serviced by appropriate waste water infrastructure and excess nutrients on land from agricultural activities (where soil becomes saturated) results in run-off to surface water, eutrophication and poor quality drinking water supplies .

The EPA¹ has identified the main pressures on soil resources nationally to be:

- intensive agriculture and organic waste disposal
- Forestry
- Industry
- Peat extraction and
- urbanisation and infrastructure development.

Such activities can contribute to soil degradation including loss of organic matter, declining soil fertility, loss of soil stability, soil compaction, contamination, loss of biodiversity and loss of soil to buildings and infrastructure. Because of the complex interrelationship between water, air and soil, declining soil quality can contribute to negative or declining water or air quality and function.

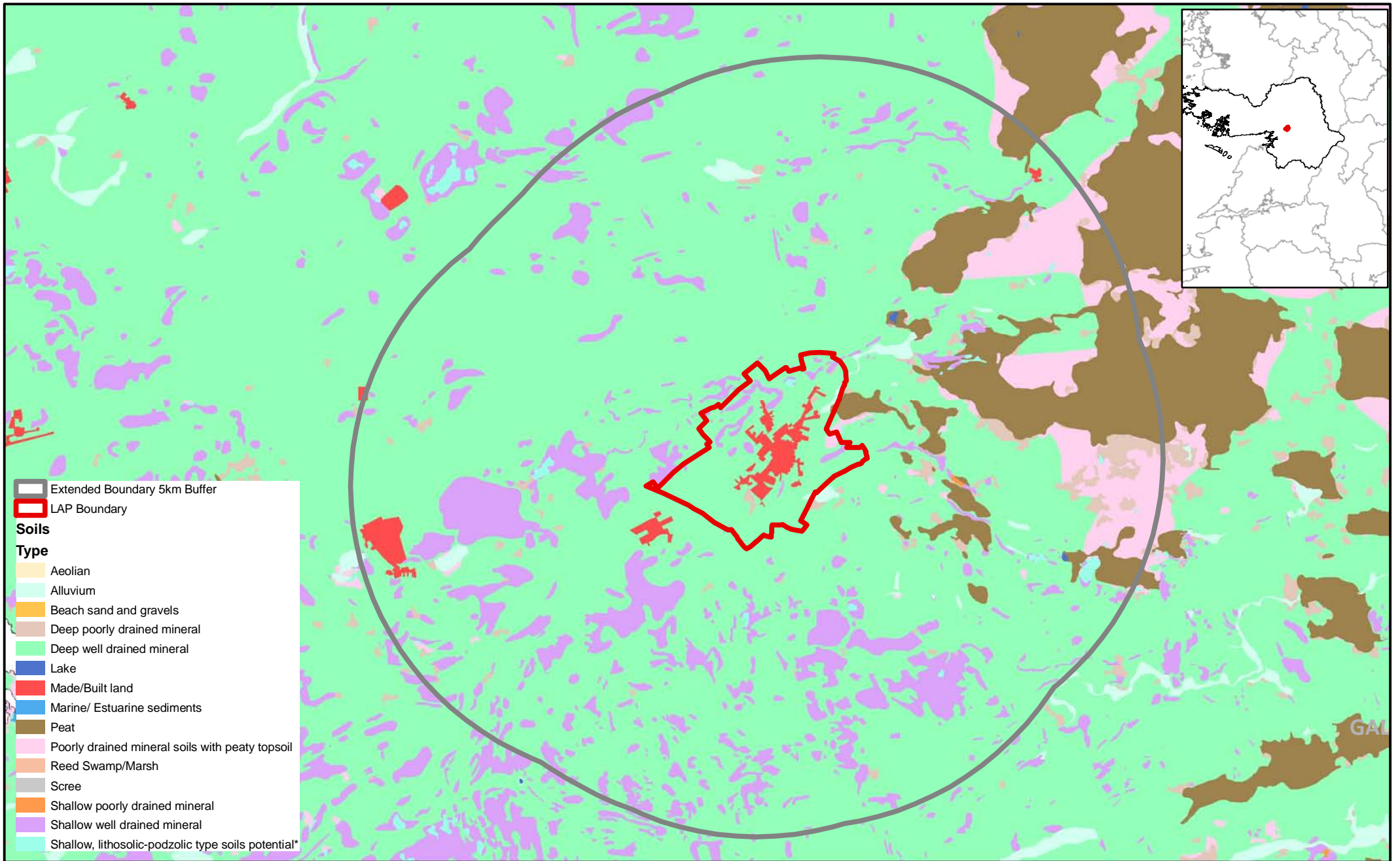
Extraction of sand, gravel or rock in an area ultimately leads to the total removal of a resource within a given area and can lead to localized environmental problems

The identification of geological NHAs and County sites of interest will assist in the development appropriate management regimes for these sites, either through avoidance or mitigation measures.

4.4.3 Evolution of soil and geology in the absence of the LAP

The currently proposed Soil Directive suggests encouraging the rehabilitation of brownfield sites, thus reducing the depletion of greenfield sites. However, in the absence of a LAP there would be no framework for the direction of growth towards brownfield sites in Oranmore, where such direction is appropriate. As a result greenfield development would be likely to occur on an increased basis and would result in the building upon and thereby sealing off of the non-renewable subsoil and soil resources. In the absence of policies regarding water management and land use objectives, adequate protection would not be given to groundwater protection and associated impacts on soil quality.

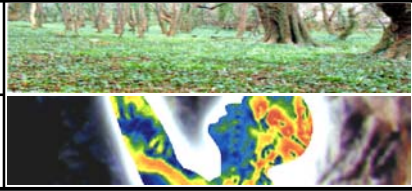
¹ EPA discussion document "Towards setting environmental quality objectives for soil: developing a soil protection strategy, 2002.



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FIGURE 4j: SOILS

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4.5 Population and Human Health

The County of Galway is predominately rural in nature with around only 15% of the population of County Galway living in towns with a population greater than 1,500¹. Athenry has been subject to significant population growth with preliminary information on the Census 2011 indicating that the Athenry Electoral District grew by 19.6% between 2006 -2011.

Table 4c below shows the breakdown of this data.

Table 4c: Athenry Population Data

Population Athenry DED	2006	2011
Total Persons	4,042	4,834
Males		2358
Females		2476
Actual change in population 2006 -2011, 792.		

Latest Unemployment data is shown on the Live Register Figures. Athenry is partly included within the Loughrea area which has the following breakdown of unemployment figures for the wider area.

Table 4d: Live Register data

Total on Live Register	Male	Female
2314	1385	929
Under 25	Over 25	
382	932	

Some demographics highlighted in the 2005 Poverty Profile prepared by Galway County Council confirm the emergence of two different types of rural societies and economies².

- There is a considerably higher rate of age dependency in rural areas.
- The more peripheral areas have the highest rates of unemployment, with a number of DEDs having a high unemployment rate clustered around An Ceathrú Rua, Rosmuc and Carna and further to the west of the County.
- The County has a slightly lower percentage of the 'Higher and Lower Professional' classes than nationally or in Galway City.
- The highest numbers of those in the combined professional social classes are to be found in the DED's closest to Galway City, West to Oughterard, east as far as Athenry, southeast as far as Loughrea and south to Kinvara.

Athenry has been identified as a '**Key Town**' within the Core Strategy/Settlement Strategy of the Galway County Development Plan 2009-2015.

4.5.2 Human Health

Human health can be determined by social, environmental and economic factors, among others. Human health may be impacted upon in a variety of ways and by a number of environmental receptors such as water, biodiversity, climate, air and major accidents, etc.

¹ SEA ER of West Regional Planning Guidelines

² Economic Development Strategy 2007 to 2013 Galway County Council

The exposure to contaminants or pollutants can have serious implications for human health in the West Region. Potential impacts on population and human health include inadequate water and wastewater and waste infrastructure, contamination of soils, excessive noise, flooding and poor air quality in areas where there are large volumes of traffic. Radon is a radio-active gas which causes lung cancer, Athenry is located within a high radon area with more than 20% of the homes in the 4 x 10km grid square estimated to be above the reference level for Radon. Section 3.6 of the LAP provides specific policies in relation to Radon.

4.5.3 Key Environmental Problems for Population and Human health

The following is a summary of existing environmental pressures within the wider West Region:

- Air pollution due to areas of heavy traffic along main routes and intersections, extractive industry, waste management facilities, IPPC licensed industries, coal burning fire stations
- Population growth and infrastructure capacity constraints results in waste infrastructure incapable of meeting demand, shortages of water supply and poor quality water serving urban and rural areas
- There are pressures on drinking water quality; contamination in public and private water supplies means that water supplies in the Region are not 'safe and secure'
- Increases in population can impact on biodiversity, water quality, landscape and cultural heritage and which would impact on human health
- Waste generation, old landfills and illegal dumping can impact on human health and biodiversity. Flooding due to heavy rainfall may impact on human health, on structures and the safety
- of water supply

4.5.4 Evolution of Populations and Human health in the absence of the LAP

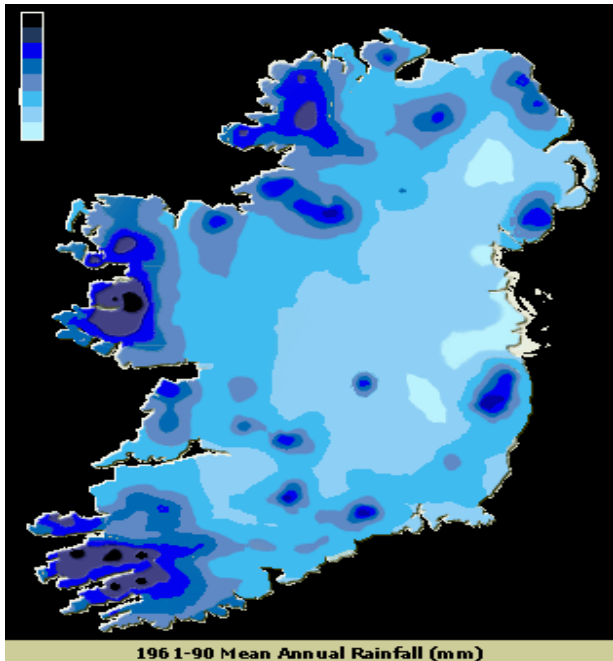
The County Development Plan Core Strategy, has identified a target population of up to 1,122 persons for Athenry up to 2016 with 32.36 hectares required to accommodate residential units over the new Plan period (there is an excess of 99HA of undeveloped zoned residential land currently within the development Plan boundary). Given the significant growth patterns in Athenry over the last two Census periods, ensuring appropriate, sustainable settlement patterns including the provision of the necessary planning framework to accommodate educational, community, leisure and recreational facilities to satisfactorily match the level of population growth is a key issue planning for the future of Athenry. In the absence of a LAP there would be no framework directing developments to appropriate locations and this would have the potential to result in adverse impacts upon environmental components which could negatively affect human health.

4.6 Air Quality and Climate

4.6.1 Climate

Ireland has an abundance of rainfall with low evapotranspiration, high humidity, mild winters (4.5°C) and cool summers (15.5°C) (IFA, 2004). The following map of the country from Met Éireann indicates the high levels of rainfall that the wider West Region receives annually.

Average Rainfall in Ireland (Source: Met Éireann, 2009)



A recent publication from the EPA (2009) 'Climate Change – Refining the Impacts for Ireland' outlines predictions in relation to Irish climate and conditions to the end of this century. Climate change refers to changes in climatic conditions whether through natural variations or as a result of anthropogenic influences.

It is expected that temperature in Ireland will rise, with drier summers, wetter winters and more variable precipitation patterns and temperature in the coming years. It is explained that the changes likely to be experienced are due to the increasing amounts of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere which are continually rising.

It is estimated that global temperature change by 2100 will be 1.8 – 4°C. Mean annual temperatures in Ireland rose by 0.7°C over the past century. It is expected that mean temperatures will rise by 1.4 – 1.8°C by 2050 and by over 2°C by 2100.

Summer and autumn temperatures will warm more

quickly than winter and spring. Winter rainfall is projected to increase by 10% by 2050 and 11-17% by 2080. Reductions in summer rainfall of 12-17% by 2050 and 20-28% by 2080 are expected and there will be a likelihood of longer heat waves, fewer days of frost, longer rainfall events in winter and more intense downpours in summer, and increased likelihood of summer drought (EPA, 2009).

All developments, agriculture, energy generation, industry and commercial activity and waste generation contribute emissions to air and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; however the emission of pollutants from vehicles is one of the main threats to air quality in Ireland and contributes significantly to the increase of green house gases. Under the Kyoto Protocol Ireland agreed to a target of limiting its greenhouse gas emissions to 13% above 1990 levels by the first commitment period 2008 – 2012 as part of its contribution to the overall EU target.

The 'National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012' builds on the Government's commitment to sustainable development as outlined in 'Towards 2016' and the 'National Development Plan 2007-2013' and is one of a number of inter-related Government initiatives that will address energy and climate change issues. It sets targets in relation to: energy supply; transport; residential; industry, commercial and services; agriculture, land-use and forestry; waste; public sector; cross sectoral; adaptation to climate change; and implementation, reporting and review.

The National Climate Change Strategy states that 'Local authorities can have a significant influence over emissions in their local areas, both directly in relation to reducing emissions through their own energy use and procurement activities, in raising awareness and stimulating action in local communities, and indirectly through the exercise of their housing,

planning and other statutory functions’.

4.6.2 Air Quality Standards

Air quality standards are based on:

- EPA Act 1992 (Ambient Air Quality Assessment and Management) Regulations 1999,
- Air Quality Standards Regulations 2002,
- Ozone Regulations 2004 (DoEHLG, 2004) which correspond to EC Directives which came into effect in 2005; and
- Arsenic, Cadmium, Mercury, Nickel and Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons in Ambient Air Regulations 2009 which transposed European Directive 2004/107/EC into Irish law.

Air quality analysis is based on measurements of particulate matter, ozone, NO_x, SO₂, lead, CO and benzene (EPA, 2007). The ‘Clean Air for Europe Directive 2008/50/EC’ replaces the ‘Air Framework Directive’ and first three daughter directives. The following emissions/pollutants have implications for both human health and the environment:

The following information is sourced from EPA (2008) *Air Quality in Ireland 2007 – Key Indicators of Ambient Air Quality*.

□ **Sulphur Dioxide** (SO₂) is formed when fuel (mainly coal and oil) containing sulphur is burned at power plants and homes etc. Depending on concentrations, the gas can have health implications for asthmatics, can aggravate existing cardiovascular disease, respiratory illness and alter the lungs’ defences. Sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides are the major precursors to acidic deposition (acid rain), which is associated with the acidification of soils, lakes and streams and the accelerated corrosion of buildings and

□ **Oxides of Nitrogen** (NO_x) include two pollutants nitric oxide (NO) and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). Power-generation plants and motor vehicles are the principal sources through high temperature combustion. It contributes to the formation of acid rain and is also a recognised ozone precursor. Short term exposure to NO₂ is associated with reduced lung function and airway responsiveness and increased reactivity to natural allergens. Long term exposure is associated with increased risk of respiratory infection in children (EPA, 2007, p. 4).

□ **Particulate Matter**³⁵ (PM₁₀) is derived from the combustion of solid fuels and road traffic, in particular emissions from diesel engines. Other particulates include dust from roads, industrial emissions and natural substances such as windblown sea salt. The matter is very small and can penetrate deep into the respiratory tract and increase the risk, frequency and severity of respiratory and cardiopulmonary disorders (EPA, 2007, p. 6).

□ **Black Smoke** consists of fine particles suspended in air which mainly arise from the incomplete burning of fossil fuels, such as coal, oil and peat, in domestic, industrial or transport sectors. Open fires in dwelling houses are a major source of the smoke. The particulates affect the respiratory system and remain there for long periods of time (EPA, 2007, p. 8).

□ **Airborne Lead** (Pb) levels have dramatically reduced since the introduction of lead-free petrol. Excessive exposure to lead may cause neurological impairments, cause damage to

the nervous system of fetuses and young children. It may be a factor in high blood pressure and heart disease; and it can also be deposited on the leaves of plants,

presenting a hazard, through ingestion, to grazing animals and subsequently humans.

□ Road traffic is the major source of **Benzene** (C₆H₆) in Ireland. Benzene is emitted from burning coal and oil, petrol services stations, motor-vehicle exhaust and cigarette smoke. Acute (short-term) inhalation exposure may cause drowsiness, dizziness, headaches, as well as eye, skin and respiratory tract irritation and, at high levels, unconsciousness. Chronic (long-term) inhalation has caused various disorders in the blood and is also a carcinogen (EPA, 2007, p.12).

□ **Carbon Monoxide** (CO) is a colourless and odourless gas, formed when carbon in fuel is not burned completely. It is a component of motor-vehicle exhaust, which accounts for most of the CO emissions nationwide and concentrations are generally higher in areas with 'Studies have found that populations who live in areas with polluted air, containing high levels of combustion-derived nanoparticles (fine particulate matter), are more likely to suffer from respiratory and cardiovascular diseases' heavy traffic congestion. It reduces oxygen delivery to the body's organs and tissue and is a serious health threat to sufferers of cardiovascular disease. It can be poisonous and result in visual impairment, reduced work capacity, reduced manual dexterity; poor learning ability and difficulty in performing complex tasks are all associated with exposure to elevated CO levels (EPA, 2007, p.14).

□ **Ground-level Ozone** is a secondary pollutant formed from the interaction of NO_x, CO and various volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the presence of sunlight. It is present in air masses and is transported from Atlantic and European regions. It occurs naturally in the stratosphere and provides a protective layer high above the Earth which filters dangerous UV radiation. Higher concentrations of ozone in the air have adverse implications for human health with potential to affect the respiratory system, crops and other vegetation (EPA, 2007, p.16).

□ An EPA (2007) Report 'Dioxin Levels in the Irish Environment: Fifth Assessment (Summer 2007) Based on Levels in Cow's Milk' indicates that **dioxin levels** are below EU limits. Dioxins are of toxicological significance and are sourced from accidental fires, burning of household waste, cement kilns, copper production, forest fires, incineration, production of steel, traffic etc.

EPA Air Quality Zones

The Air Framework Directive 96/62/EC (CEC, 1996) requires that member states divide their territory into zones for the assessment and management of air quality. There are four zones identified in Ireland. 'Zone A' relates to Dublin and 'Zone B' relates to Cork. Galway City is located in 'Zone C' (one of the 15 biggest towns with population greater than 15,000) and the majority of the 'Zone D' (remainder of country, includes Athenry and environs).

The air quality for Zone D (July, 2009) is classified as 'Good' (Mace Head, near Carna, Co. Galway). While ozone target values are currently being achieved, long term objectives for this parameter are not being achieved due to weather fluctuations and fluctuations of ozone being transported across the Atlantic (Source38: EPA 2009).

While air quality is generally of good quality in Zone C and D, localized areas of pollution are likely to occur throughout the County, especially in areas of traffic congestion, along national routes intersections and where demolition and construction is taking place.

4.6.3 Key Environmental Problems for Air Quality and climate

There may be localised air pollution from roads and industrial processes which impact on health and quality of life. Transport patterns especially commuter patterns cumulatively impact on air quality with the production of greenhouse gas emissions from traffic. Poor development design results in loss of energy from buildings and energy consumption is higher where there is poor insulation. Climate change has the potential to impact habitats and impact on species distribution. The loss of biodiversity will impact on human health. It will also impact on water resources.

4.6.4 Evolution of Air Quality and Climate in the absence of the LAP

The Draft LAPs set out a settlement and land use strategy for Athenry and is allied to the County Galway CDP 2009-2015. The LAP consequently can aid the implementation of objectives of the National Climate Change Strategy and various Directives in relation to energy efficiency, settlement patterns and traffic generation, waste generation etc. In the absence of the LAP, there is little strategic direction or policy to facilitate alternative transport modes, or energy efficiency measures for the area around Athenry.

4.7 Cultural Heritage, Archaeology and Built Heritage

As one of the most important walled towns in the Country, Athenry supports a rich and diverse cultural heritage.

4.7.1 Archaeological Heritage

County Galway contains significant cultural heritage resources. Built heritage ranges from national monuments to ringforts, stone circles, towerhouses, gates and bridges. There are a range of categories under the National Monuments Acts 1934 to 2004. These are:

- National monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister or a
- Local Authority or national monuments which are subject to a preservation order;
- Historic monuments or archaeological areas recorded in the Register of Historic Monuments; or
- Monuments or places recorded in the Record of Monuments and Places.

The Town Walls were built in the 14th century and have been fundamental in maintaining the plan of the town. Indeed it is the combination of the Town Walls and the medieval streetscape within the walled circuit that gives Athenry a strong and distinctive identity. Allied to this are the other surviving legacies of the medieval period in the town – the Castle, Priory, Collegiate Church and Market Square with Cross – which further add to the rich heritage of the town. The following table presents the 77 sites on the Sites and Monuments Record for the functional area of Athenry and Figure 4k shows the location of these.

Table 4e: Sites and Monuments Record for Athenry

Type of Monument	Number
Armorial Plaque (17th century)	1
Bridge	2
Burial Ground	1
Church	1
Church (19th century)	1
Church (medieval)	1
Cist	1
Country House	2
Cross	2
Cross-Slab(high medieval)	1
Designed Landscape Feature	1
Dovecote	1
Enclosure	3
Enclosure possible	1
Graveslab (17th century)	23
Graveslab (high medieval)	9
Graveslab high medieval, possible	1
Graveyard	2
Market Cross	1
Memorial Stone (Present Location) (18th century)	1
Mill - Corn	1
Mound	1
Quarry	4
Redundant Record	27
Religious House - Dominican Friars	1
Ringfort - Rath possible	1
Ringfort - Unclassified	1
Ringfort - Unclassified possible	1
Road - Road/Trackway	2
Stone Head (late medieval)	1
Tomb	1
Tomb (high medieval)	1
Tomb (late medieval)	1
Town Defences	1
Well	2

4.7.2 Architectural Heritage

The Planning and Development Act (2000) allows for the listing of important structures in County Development Plans in order to provide protection to these structures which must be of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest. Details of protected structures are entered by the authority in its Record of Protected Structures, which is part of the Development Plan. Figure 4I shows protected structures within 5km of the town's functional area. There are a wealth of protected structures located within the

Athenry Plan area, some of which are of international importance – Athenry Town Walls, Athenry Castle.

Finally, legislation is provided for Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA). Figure 4m shows the ACAs in the County. ACAs may be used to protect the following:

- a) Groups of structures of distinctiveness or visual richness or historical importance;
- b) The setting and exterior appearance of structures that are of special interest, but the interiors of which do not merit protection;
- c) The setting of a Protected Structure where this is more extensive than its curtilage;
- d) Designed landscapes where these contain groups of structures as in, for example, urban parks, the former demesnes of country houses and groupings of archaeological or industrial remains;
- e) Groups of structures which form dispersed but unified entities but which are not within the attendant grounds of a single dominant Protected Structure.

The centre of Athenry is designated as an ACA and this covers an area of 45.2 hectares.

~~Significant works~~ **Works materially affecting the character of**³ to a protected structure or to the exterior of a building/structure within an ACA require planning permission. Buildings of local significance which retain traditional features also contribute to the local distinctiveness and identity. Athenry has a rich archaeological heritage, with the entire medieval core being a Zone of Archaeological Potential, with 25 individual sites included in this zone. In addition, some monuments and part of the walls are designated as National monuments. Many sites and structures are afforded dual protection under the National Monuments (Amendment) Acts and the Planning Legislation.

4.7.3 Key Environmental Problems

Archeology

The archaeological and architectural heritage of the area is afforded protection through legislation. However, the cultural heritage of the town can still be impacted upon through development. Development on sites or land adjacent to protected sites can impact upon the context, if not mitigated. Previously unknown archaeology can be damaged as a result of development.

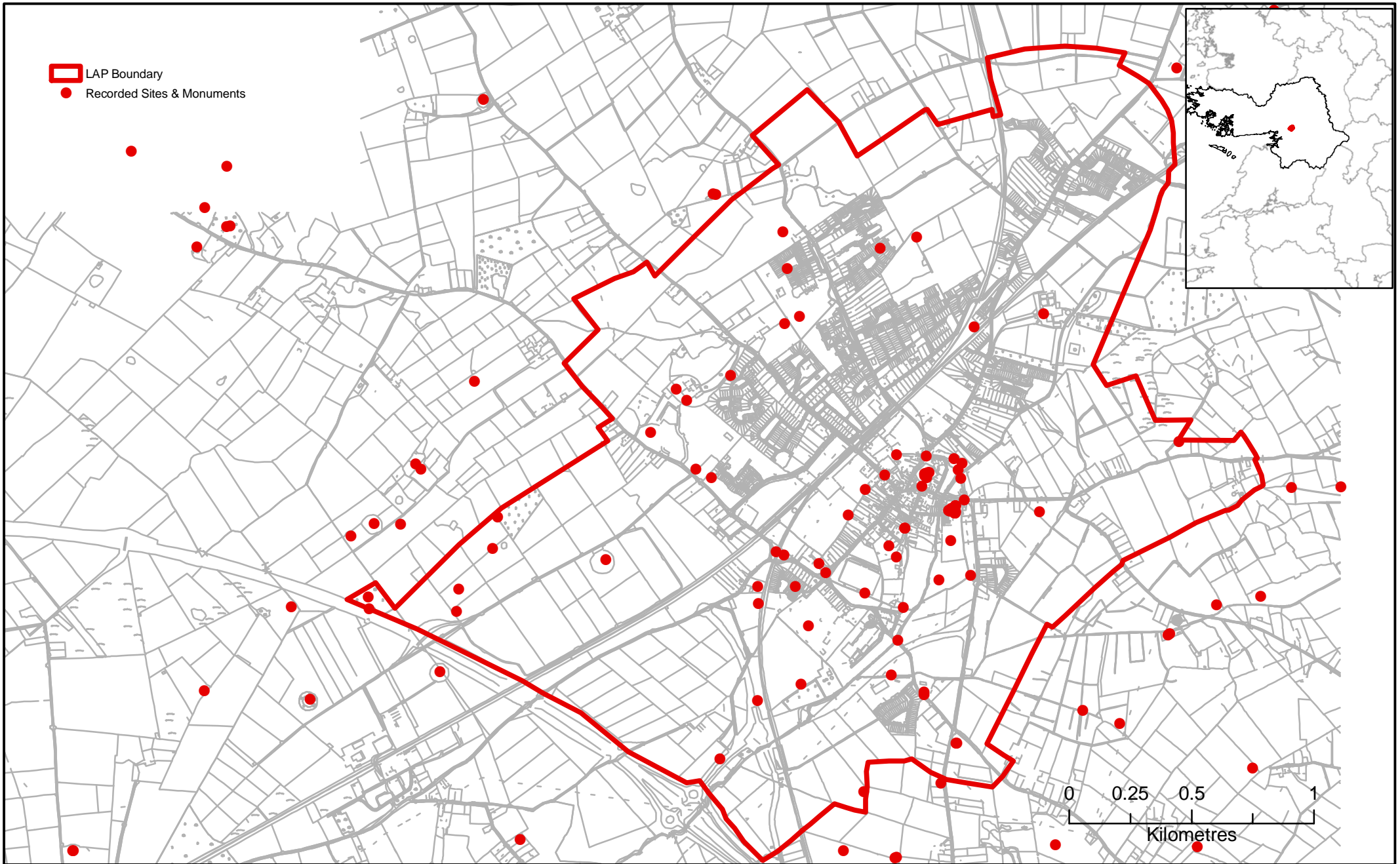
Architectural Heritage

The setting of ACAs and protected structures is another consideration and insensitive or inappropriate developments that negatively impact on these resources may be another potential threat.

4.7.4 Evolution of Cultural Heritage in the absence of the LAP

In the absence of a LAP, development would have no guidance as to where to be directed and planning applications would continue to be assessed on an individual basis with cultural heritage protected under a number of strategic actions relating to archaeological and architectural protection. Cultural heritage would be impacted upon by the nature of permitted applications.

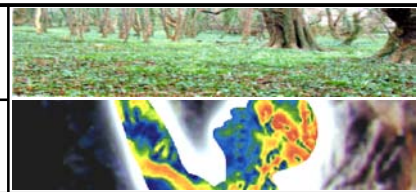
³ This text was inserted following a submission by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.



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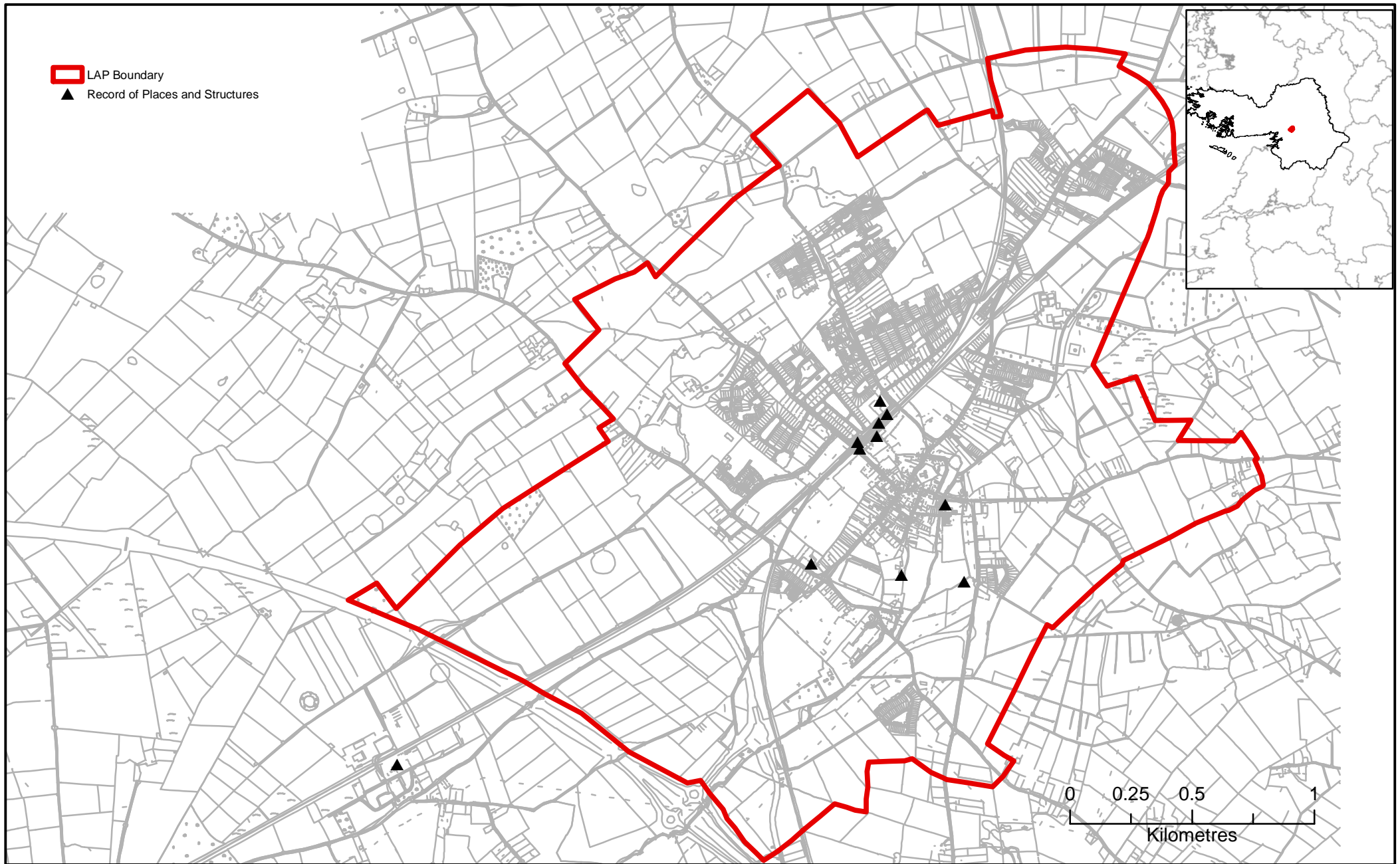
FIGURE 4k: SITES AND MONUMENTS

Galway County Council Athenry Local Area Plan SEA



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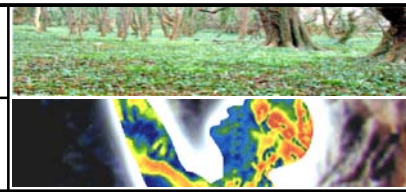
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FIGURE 4I: PROTECTED STRUCTURES

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4.8 Landscape

Landscapes are areas which are perceived by people and are made up of a number of layers: landform, which results from geological and geomorphological history; landcover, which includes vegetation, water, human settlements, and; human values, which are a result of historical, cultural, religious and other understandings and interactions with landform and landcover

Galway County Council's (2003) Landscape Character Assessment classifies landscapes in Galway according to their sensitivity, their ability to accommodate change or intervention without suffering unacceptable effects to character and values. The most sensitive landscapes are 'Class 5 - Unique', 'Class 4- Special' and 'Class 3- High' while landscapes of lesser sensitivity are 'Class 2- Moderate' and 'Class 1- Low'. Figure 4m shows the Landscape Character Areas, designated views and viewsheds from the LCA; whilst Figure 4n shows the landscape sensitivity for Athenry and environs.

The Landscape Character Assessment for Athenry situates the town in Landscape Character Area Number Area 3-East central Galway (Athenry, Ballinasloe to Portumna). The landscape character is described thus:

The landscape is flat, coarse grassland, occasional clumps of coniferous forestry between 1-3 km² in size, fields defined principally by stone walls. There are no areas of particular scenic value although the stone walls are quite distinct.

East central Galway (Athenry, Ballinasloe to Portumna) Landscape sensitivity principally class 1-low with areas of class 2- moderate.

Advice for this LCA in terms of design and planning are as follows:

- The landscape is flat therefore height restrictions should apply to built development to avoid long distant visual intrusion.
- Development is prohibited in the areas (primarily bogs) that carry a nature designation. Development in the class 1 area should be either set close to existing medium sized blocks of forestry or screened by either new commercial forestry or mixed deciduous woodland, both of which are present in this area.
- Due to the rural nature of the area scattered development which cannot be screened by forestry should be of natural stone or rendered finish of a colour that is sympathetic to the colours of the landscape. Stonewalls are a distinct element of the character of this area and should be constructed to match traditional style around new development.

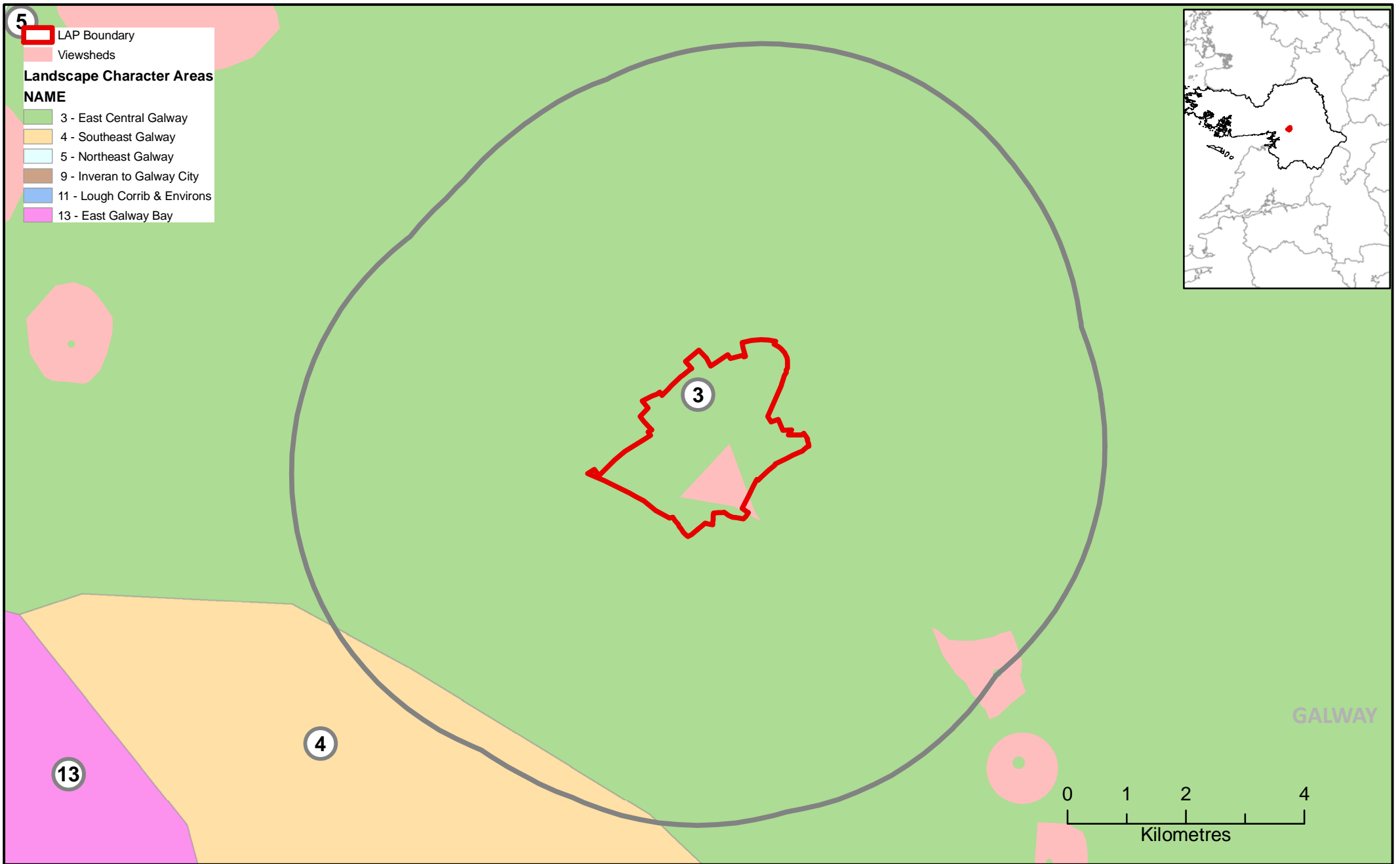
4.8.1 Key Environmental Problems for Landscape

Potential issues with regard to the landscape in Athenry include developments which do not reflect local landscape character, and the relationship of the medieval core of the town with the surrounding area. Ribbon development and uncoordinated expansion of the urban fringe could also result in declining landscape quality.

In addition, the largely flat and lowlying nature of the landscape in this area increases overall visual sensitivity to large developments such as infrastructural projects.

4.8.2 Evolution of Landscape in the absence of the LAP

In the absence of a LAP there would be no framework directing developments to appropriate locations in and around Athenry. In addition, the policies around cultural heritage, landuse and urban design in the new LAP contribute to an overall enhancement and stronger protection of the landscape resources around Athenry.



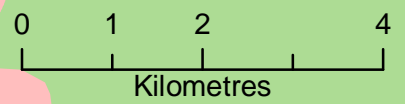
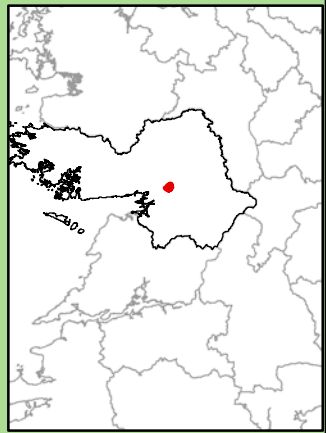
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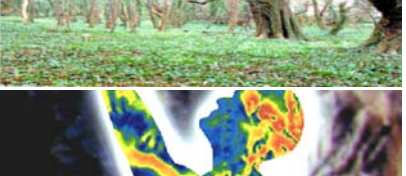
- LAP Boundary
- Viewsheds

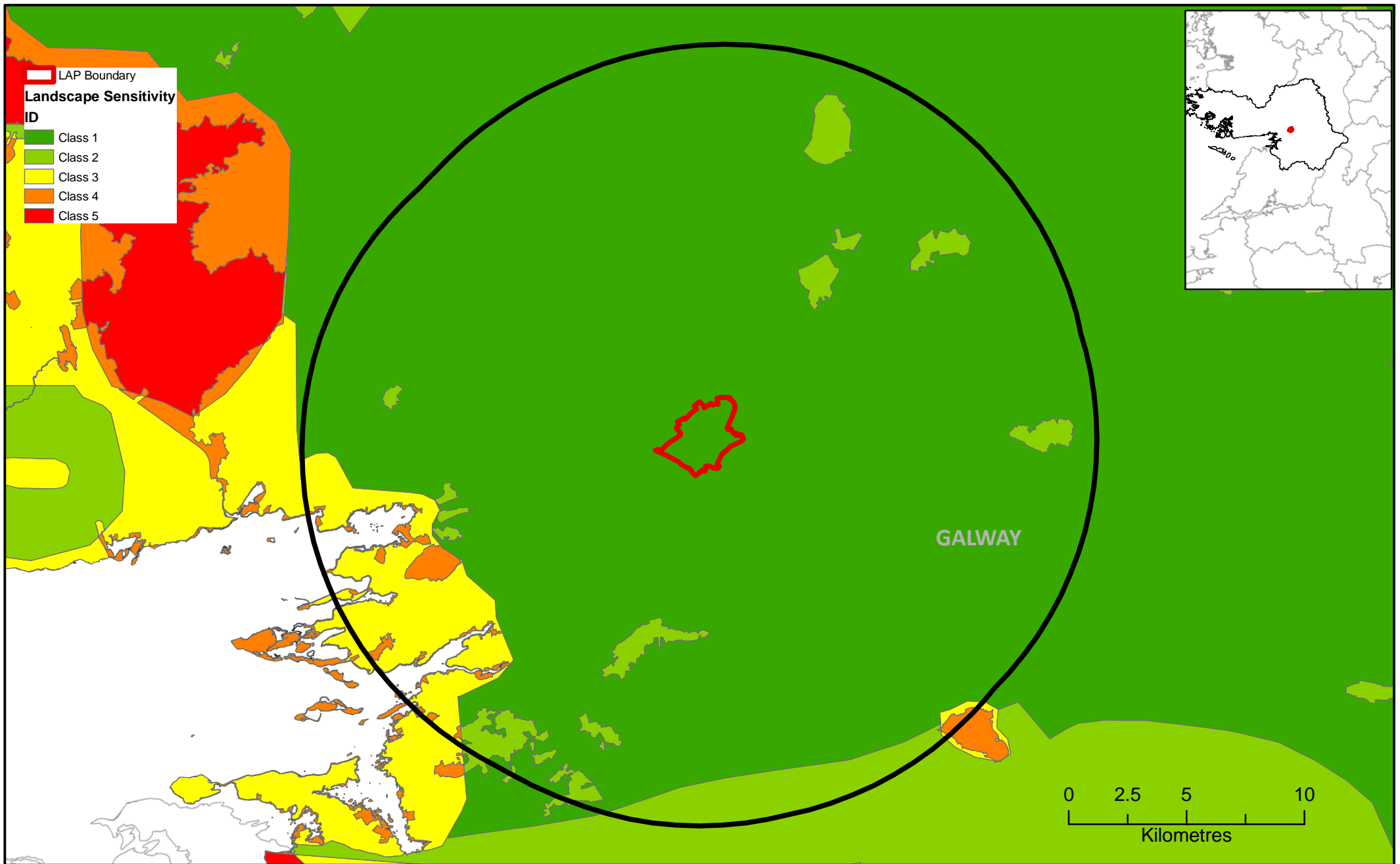
Landscape Character Areas

NAME

- 3 - East Central Galway
- 4 - Southeast Galway
- 5 - Northeast Galway
- 9 - Inveran to Galway City
- 11 - Lough Corrib & Environs
- 13 - East Galway Bay



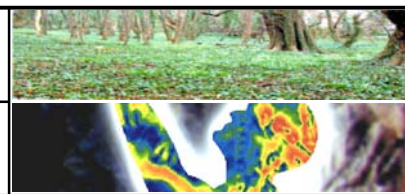
<i>DATE: 26/7/2012</i>	<i>SCALE: 1:80,000</i>	FIGURE 4m LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND VIEWSHEDS		minogue & associates Tuamgraney, County Clare T: 061 640667 ERA-MAPTEC 40 Lwr. O'Connell St. Dublin 1 www.era.ie
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FIGURE 4n LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY

Galway County Council Athenry Local Area Plan SEA



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4.9 Material Assets

4.9.1 Flooding

In accordance with the Floods Directive 2007/60/EU, the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Office of Public Works (OPW) published *The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities* (November 2009). As part of the preparation of the Draft Regional Planning Guidelines 2010 – 2022, a Regional Flood Risk Appraisal was prepared in order to:

- Identify strategic flood risk and spatial planning issues for the area covered by the RPGs;
- Set out a policy framework for development plans and local area plans of planning authorities to address the flood risk issues arising at a regional level; and
- Outline, with due consideration of the national flood risk assessment and management planning programme, any further requirements for flood risk assessments and/or studies.

The Regional Flood Risk Appraisal sets out a policy framework for development plans, local area plans by 'signposting' provisional risk areas in the larger urban centres of the West Region (those identified with population targets) and which are identified in current work on Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) by the OPW. This flags the need for preparing 'Strategic Flood Risk Assessments' at local authority level and will require closer analysis and appropriate planning policy at a lower level in the plan-making process.

There are a number of historical flood events in the Athenry LAP Area. The Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment prepared by the OPW for the area has been supplemented by additional Flood Risk assessment by consultants on behalf of Galway County Council and a verification exercise was carried out with Local Area Engineering staff on recent /recorded flood events to produce a Draft Flood Risk Management Map for the LAP Area. Figure 4o show this latest information on flood risk.

4.9.2 Integrated Pollution Prevention Control (IPPC) Licensed Facilities, Waste Licensed Facilities and Seveso II Sites

Such facilities are licensed by the EPA who require emission standards (air, water, land, waste, energy) to be achieved and ensure that there will not be a significant adverse impact on the environment. There are 11 IPPC Licensed facilities in County Galway; one is located in Athenry, Byrne Mech Ltd (engineering and sheet metal components).

Other licenses include those issued by the Local Authority under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act, 1977 and Amendment Act 1990. Section 4 relates to licenses for control point source discharges and section 16 refers to the control and discharge to sewer that might in turn discharge to waters. There are four Section 4 Local Authority Licensed Discharges in the vicinity of Athenry, one EPA licensed facility and one Wastewater Treatment Plant.

4.9.3 Water Services Potable and Wastewater

As part of its supervisory role under the Regulations, the EPA prepares a list of public water supplies where remedial action or management action is required to ensure compliance with the requirements of these Regulations into the future. This list is called the "Remedial Action List for

Public Drinking Water Supplies" (RAL). County Galway originally had 34 supplies on this list, and it is now reduced to 32. The water supply for Athenry comes from the Tuam Regional Water Scheme which is undergoing a significant upgrade and capital investment programme. Water for these scheme will continue to be extracted from Lough Corrib to the Luimnagh Water Treatment Plant, where the treatment process produces high quality potable water to the highest modern standards in accordance with national EU and legislation. The treatment process uses clarification followed by filtration, disinfection, pH correction and UV treatment.

The Athenry sewerage Scheme is on the current Water Services Investment Programme under 'Contracts to Start' and is with the Department for approval. There is no spare capacity at present within the system - the current loading is estimated to be 5,617 P. E. and includes for residential, commercial, industrial and institutional loading. A design P.E of 9,000 has been prepared under Stage1 of the WWTP upgrade (expected operational date 2014) and a design P.E. of 16,000 under Stage 2 (estimated for 2021). Network upgrade and extensions are also proposed.

4.9.4Transport

Road

A High Quality Dual carriageway/motorway between Dublin and Galway (N6) is now operational. Further improvements to the N17 north to Sligo and the N18 south to Limerick are progressing.

The Galway City Outer Bypass has received planning permission for part of the route, whilst the final decision is before the European Commission in relation to the HDA.

The existing N6 runs from Galway City in the west to Kinnegad, County Westmeath in the east, where it joins the existing N4 and continues along this route to Dublin City. The overall length of the existing N6 is 154 kilometres. The section covered by this Scheme is 21.4 kilometres in length and forms an outer bypass for Galway City. The Scheme, partly in Galway County and partly in Galway City, extends from the R336 Regional Road west of Galway City and links up with the proposed N6 Galway to Ballinasloe Scheme east of the city.

Rail

Galway City has up to 7 trains daily to/from Dublin. It is proposed to increase the frequency of the service to Dublin. There is also an early morning and late evening commuter service between Athlone and Galway. The Rail link between Ennis and Limerick is now operational. Athenry is served by the Galway-Dublin Route and the station is close to the town centre.

4.9.10 Waste Management

The Connacht Region Waste Management Replacement Plan has been developed by the local authorities of Galway City and County, Leitrim, Mayo, Roscommon and Sligo and covers the period from 2005 to 2010. The 2001 Plan adopted a regional approach to integrated waste management based on the waste hierarchy established in the EU Framework Directive on Waste and set the following targets for 2013 for municipal waste in the Region:

Recycling 48%

Energy Recovery 33%

Residual Waste Disposal 19%

Progress in Plan Implementation

Significant progress has been made towards the regional municipal recycling target by reaching a municipal recycling rate of 29% in 2004. This can be attributed to the expansion of segregated collection of dry recyclables, the provision of additional bring banks and the increased network of recycling centres. The achievements in waste prevention, minimisation and recycling have improved since the appointment of Environmental Awareness Officers by the local authorities.

4.9.11 Key Environmental Problems for Material Assets

Potential issues with regard to the material assets in Athenry include the capacity of the town wastewater treatment and its impact on water quality. Additionally this has implications on any future developments, especially provision of residential developments.

The management of waste and promoting better waste management both in developments and altering people's behavior around waste management and recycling also remains an ongoing issues.

Flooding is not historically an issue for Athenry and the application of relevant guidelines and use of improved modeling for flood risk should ensure that this remains the case.

Athenry has good public transport links particularly via its railway system; the provision of the relief road should assist in addressing traffic densities and localized air quality within the town core.

4.9.12 Evolution of Material Assets in the absence of the LAP

In the absence of a LAP there would be no framework directing developments to appropriate locations in and around Athenry. In particular the need for wastewater treatment capacity to be properly managed and controlled would be much weaker as the new plan makes much stronger recommendations in relation to this.

4.10 Environmental Sensitivity Mapping¹

Sensitivity mapping is a means of assessing the overall vulnerability of an area using many different indicators and key critical data sets. For the present analysis human health, natural habitats and built heritage are the key items which could be affected by planning decisions. For this reason the following data sets were chosen for the sensitivity analysis.

- 1. Water abstraction points (200m buffer)***
- 2. Ground water vulnerability***
- 3. Water courses/water bodies***
- 4. Natural habitats protected sites (SAC, SPA, NHA)***
- 5. Built heritage and geology sites SMR, RPS and Geological Heritage Sites (20m buffer)***
- 6. Architectural Conservation Area***
- 7. Viewsheds***
- 8. Water Courses (50m buffer)***

¹ This text was moved from Chapter Seven Discussion of Impacts to this Chapter Four Baseline Environment, following a recommendation by the EPA

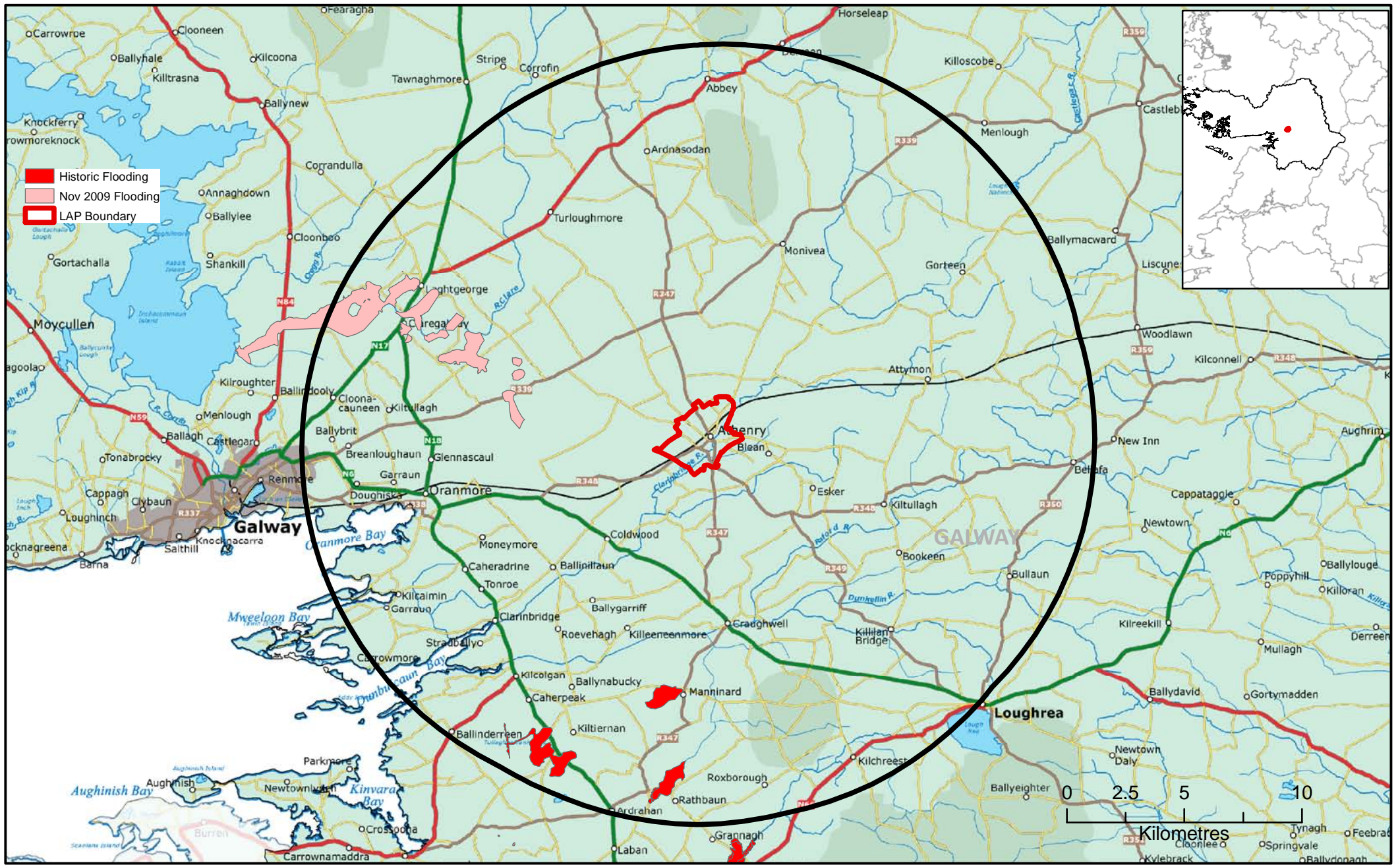
9. (8 types of data in total)

There are two ways of combining these data to produce a sensitivity map. The first involves accumulating the evidence for presence or absence of each of the data types at all points on the map. This is termed sums of evidence. The method is usually applied using thresholds of sensitivity for each data type. For example Ground Water Vulnerability may be coded as present if high to extreme and not present if below high (low, moderate etc). Point source data are treated by applying a suitable buffer around the points. The problems with this approach are the needs to decide upon suitable thresholds for each data type the sharp nature of boundaries between present and absent gives poor gradations in the sensitivity analysis at data boundaries. A second approach, applied here, is to calculate relative sensitivities (in the range 0.1) for each data set and then sum these sensitivities to get an overall sensitivity. For point source (SMR, RPS, Geology) and line (rivers) data the relative sensitivities of each data set was proportional to the inverse of the distance from the point to the buffer (that is higher sensitivity closer to the point). For area/polygon data then the relative sensitivity for each polygon with the data set was proportional to the data value (thus for ground water vulnerability 0 = low, 0.5 = moderate and 1.0 = extreme, and so on). The resultant sum of the sensitivities is divided by the number of data types (8 in this case) to get an overall sensitivity score in the range 0.1 (where 0 is low sensitivity and 1 is extreme sensitivity – in practice a total score of 1 would only occur rarely where all the individual data set sensitivity values are at a maximum at the same location).

Figure 4p shows the resulting sensitivity map and landuse zonings. Please note this map now shows the revised LAP boundary following the adoption of the plan.

7.10.1 Discussion of environmental sensitivities

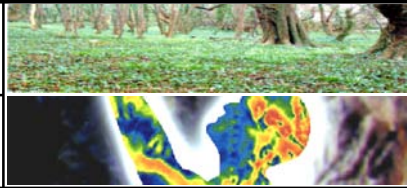
As Figure 4p shows, the areas identified as greatest sensitivity are found within the town centre utilising the methodology outlined above. The River Clarin and the medieval town centre are identified as being of greatest sensitivity. Hence this can help both evaluation of zonings and guide particular policy responses to same. In addition, this modeling may be useful as part of the review process of the LAP and facilitate monitoring of policies over the lifetime of the LAP.



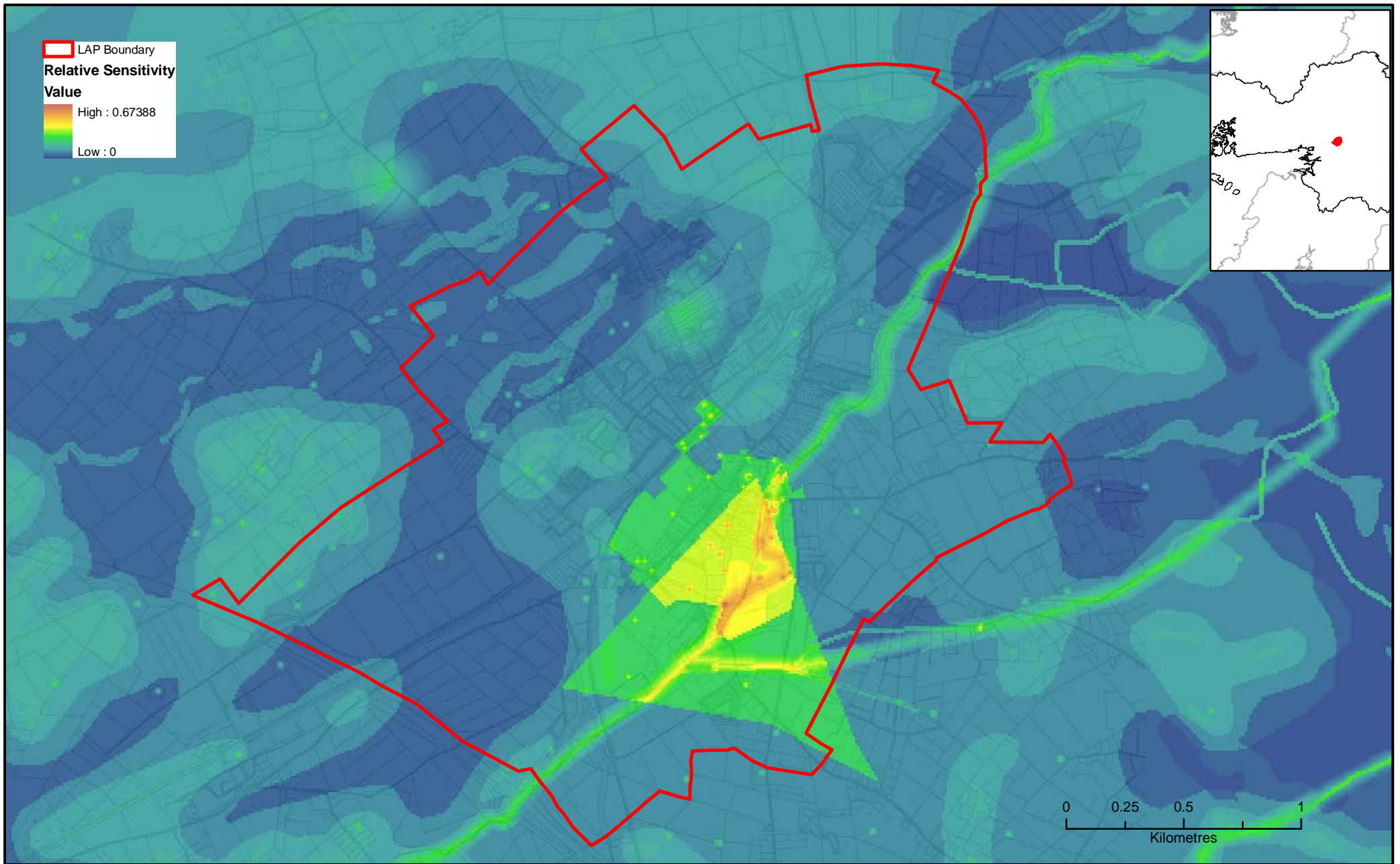
DATE: 26/7/2012	SCALE: 1:200,000
REF:	SIZE: A4
DRAWN: MFC	APPROVED: RM


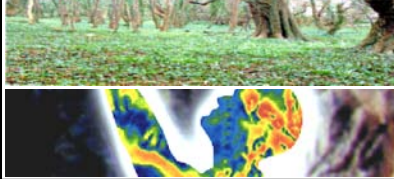
FIGURE 4o HISTORICAL FLOODING

Galway County Council Athery Local Area Plan SEA



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DATE: 18/7/2012	SCALE: 1:20,000	FIGURE 4p Environmental Sensitivity Map	 Tuamgraney, County Clare T: 061 640667 ERA-MAPTEC 40 Lwr. O'Connell St. Dublin 1 www.era.ie
REF:	SIZE: A4		
DRAWN: MFC	APPROVED: RM	Galway County Council Athenry Local Area Plan SEA	

5 Chapter Five Environmental Protection Objectives

5.1 Introduction

This overall aim of the SEA is to facilitate environmental protection and to allow the integration of environmental considerations into the development of the Draft LAP. To that end, the SEA process assesses the Draft LAP as it evolves in terms of its environmental impacts, positive, negative, neutral, cumulative and synergistic and also in terms of duration ie: short, medium, long term, temporary, permanent, and secondary effects. This process highlights how improvements can be integrated into the Draft LAP of Athenry to increase its environmental performance and maintain environmental resources.

A series of environmental objectives are presented in this chapter and are developed into a monitoring programme in the form of targets and indicators which are presented in more detail in *Chapter Nine Monitoring Programme*.

5.2 Environmental Protection Objectives

Establishing environmental objectives is a key element of SEA as it allows the assessment of the Strategy as it is implemented over time. The development of such objectives has been undertaken with regard for international, national, regional policies, the SEA guidelines and consultation.

SEA Objectives are different to objectives detailed in the Draft LAP, however, they are used to assess the development strategies of the LAP and allow its evaluation and identification of where conflicts may occur. This forms the basis of the environmental assessment of the Draft LAP, which is presented in *Chapter Seven*.

Table 5 Environmental Protection Objectives for each environmental topic.

SEA Parameter	Biodiversity
	Bio1 – Protect, conserve and avoid loss of the diversity and range of habitats, species and wildlife corridors.
	Bio2 - Protect designated sites including Natura 2000 sites (SACs & SPAs) under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. Conserve and protect, or maintain and restore Natura 2000 sites and the Natura 2000 Network
	Bio3 - Conserve and protect other sites with nature conservation sites (NHAs,pNHAs, National Parks, Nature Reserves, Wildfowl Sanctuaries).
	Bio 4 – <i>Promote the protection of</i> habitats (terrestrial and aquatic) from invasive species.
	Bio 5 – Protect the inland aquatic environment.
	Bio 6 – Meet the requirements of the WFD and the RBMP
	Water
	Wat 1 – Protect and enhance the status of aquatic ecosystems and, with regard to their water needs, terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands directly depending on the aquatic ecosystem (quality, level, flow).
	Wat 2 - Maintain or improve the quality of surface water (including estuarine) to status objectives as set out in the Water Framework Directive (WFD), SRBM &POMS.
	Wat 3 – Prevent pollution and contamination of ground water by adhering to aquifer protection plans.
	Soils and Geology

	Soil 1 – Give preference to the use of derelict, disused and infill sites, rather than Greenfield sites.
	Soil 2 – Protect, improve and maintain the quality of soils.
	Soil 3 - Conserve, protect and avoid loss of diversity and integrity of designated habitats, geological features, species or their sustaining resources in designated ecological sites.
	Population and Human Health
	Pop 1 – Protect, enhance and improve people’s quality of life based on high quality residential, community, working and recreational environments and on sustainable travel patterns.
	Pop 2 - To protect human health from risks or nuisances arising from exposure to incompatible land uses/developments
	Cultural Heritage
	CH1 – Protect and conserve the cultural heritage including the built environment and settings; archaeological (recorded and recorded monuments), architectural (Protected Structures, Architectural Conservation Areas, vernacular buildings, materials and urban fabric) and manmade landscape features (e.g. field walls, footpaths, gate piers etc.).
	CH2 – Conserve historic fabric of urban and rural settlements particularly the town walled network
	CH3 – To ensure the restoration and re-use of existing uninhabited and derelict structures where possible opposed to demolition and new build (to promote sustainability and reduce landfill).
	Landscape
	Land 1 – Protect designated landscapes and scenic views, routes and landscape features of local value
	Land 2 – Conserve and protect cultural landscapes including archaeological and architectural
	Land 3 - Minimise visual impacts through appropriate design, assessment and siting
	Air Quality and Climate
	AQ1 – Seek to avoid all forms of air pollution and maintain/improve ambient air quality.
	AQ2 – Minimise emissions of greenhouse gases through energy efficiency and promotion of renewable energy
	Material Assets
Flood Risk	MAT1 - Reduce risk of flooding through avoidance of development in flood plains or in areas at risk of flooding
Water Services	MAT2 - To ensure that drinking water supplies are free of contamination
	MAT3 - Improve efficiency in distribution of potable water to the population.
	MAT4 - Ensure that all zoned lands are <i>sufficiently serviced in advance to ensure appropriate treatment of wastewater prior to discharge</i> ¹ .
Waste	MAT5 – Implement the waste pyramid and encourage reuse/recycling of material wherever possible.
Energy	MAT6 - Reduce waste of energy, promote use of renewable energy sources and support energy conservation initiatives
Transport	MAT7 – Maximise sustainable modes of transport and provide for ease of movement for all road users and to promote development patterns that protect and enhance road safety

¹ Bio 4 and Mat 4 were amended in order to better reflect policies and objectives in the Final LAP. It was considered that these revised objectives are more appropriate to the execution of functions by Galway County Council and still be realistic and achievable over the lifetime of the LAP.

6 Consideration of Alternatives

6.1 Introduction

This section describes the alternatives considered in the development of the Draft LAP. The consideration of alternatives and the evaluation of their likely environmental impacts is a key function of the SEA process. Each alternative was assessed against the Environmental Protection Objectives and are presented in *Table 6a*.

Table 6a: Evaluation of Alternatives

Alternative Considered	No likely interaction with EPOs	Likely to improve status of EPOs	Probable conflict with EPOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with EPOs – likely to be mitigated	Uncertain interactions with EPOs	Neutral Impacts with EPOs
<p>Option 1 – Development Option 1 –Continuation of the Existing Plan 2005-2011: This option would see a continuation of the expansion of Athenry as per the previous Plan (2005-2011) with continued pressure in a number of areas, particularly in relation to undeveloped residential lands at peripheral/un-serviced locations.</p>			B1, B2, B5, B6,W1,W2,S1, P1, P2,CH1, L1, MA1, MA2, MA4	B3,B4,W4,S2, S3, CH2, L2, L3, C1, C2, MA3, Ma5, MA6, MA7		P3, P4
<p>This development option does not consider recent changes in national legislation/guidelines and EU Directives. In particular this option would conflict with the West Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022 and with the County Development Plan 2009-2015. Given the current level of undeveloped residential zoning available (123.76Ha²), this option would not comply with the County Core Strategy residential land allocation of 32.36Ha for Athenry and would result in the Plan being inconsistent with both the Regional Planning Guidelines and with the County Development Plan.</p> <p>In particular, this scenario could result in a number of interrelated or cumulative environmental impacts including groundwater pollution arising from poorly serviced lands and inadequate wastewater treatment.</p>						
Alternative Considered	No likely interaction with EPOs	Likely to improve status of EPOs	Probable conflict with EPOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with EPOs – likely to be mitigated	Uncertain interactions with EPOs	Neutral Impacts with EPOs
<p>Option 2 – Development Option 2 – Consolidation of Existing Urban Structure: This option would seek to retain the existing town centre/ urban fabric and restrict all future residential development not contained within</p>		S1,CH3, MA7	MA3	B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6, W2, W3, L3, C2, MA5,	W1, S2, P1, P2, CH1, CH2, L1,L2, C1,MA1, MA2, MA4, MA6	S3, P3, P4

² These figures are the final amounts as adopted in the Final LAP of Athenry.

proposed Residential (Phase 1) zoning areas. The objective would be to permit development only at locations closest to the existing town centre and rail station.						
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No new zonings would be proposed and existing uses may not be consistent with the existing zoning objectives, in particular industrial use on lands identified as a potential location for an integrated transportation hub. In addition this approach would see increased pressure for development within the medieval historic town core with a potential consequential loss of views and historic fabric. This option would be unlikely to facilitate infrastructure improvements within town centre development such as water improvements infrastructure. In addition, this option may essentially freeze the town centre and work against promoting a vibrant intensive urban center with supporting services.

Alternative Considered	No likely interaction with EPOs	Likely to improve status of EPOs	Probable conflict with EPOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with EPOs – likely to be mitigated	Uncertain interactions with EPOs	Neutral Impacts with EPOs
Development Option 3 – Sequential Development: This option would promote development from the town centre outwards in order to ensure that higher order facilities and higher density development are located on the most central lands. The town centre focus remains.		S1,	P1	B4, B5, B6,W1, W2, W3, P2, CH1, CH2, L3, C2, MA 5, MA6, MA7	CH3, L1, L2, C1, MA1, MA2, MA3, ,A4,	B1, B2, B3,S2, S3, P3, P4

Under this scenario all lands may not come forward for development in a sequential manner, while other serviced and non sequential lands may but under this option may not be considered during the lifetime of the Plan. Problems of land assembly pose a threat to town centre retail development. Frequently sites are held in multiple ownerships and which may delay/hinder development proposals. In addition significant development potential within new zoning objectives particularly the new Business/ Technology Park located on the western periphery of the Plan boundary (as amended) would be restricted and dependant on town centre expansion and service provision. The viability and sustainability of the town may not be promoted or afforded adequate protection in this Scenario
In turn revenue and projects to help maintain and enhance the town centre may be lost and development proposed is likely to be piecemeal

Alternative Considered	No likely interaction with EPOs	Likely to improve status of EPOs	Probable conflict with EPOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with EPOs – likely to be mitigated	Uncertain interaction with EPOs	Neutral Impacts with EPOs
Development Option 4 – Managed Phased Development: This		Pop 1, Pop 2 Ch1,		Bio 1,2,3,4,5 Wat1 - 3, Soil 1-3, Land 1 -3,		

<p>option would seek the consolidation and expansion of the town centre via changes to existing zoning objectives specifically regarding changes of Town Centre zoning to Town Centre/Commercial (C1) and Commercial/Mixed Use (C2) zoning objectives. These changes provide for a managed/phased approach for town centre development while retaining/enhancing the existing medieval fabric of the historic core of Athenry and providing flexibility for future proposals.</p> <p>Undeveloped Residential Lands are also to be phased for development: Residential Phase 1 – phased for residential development within the lifetime of the Plan (32.17Ha); Residential Phase 2 – generally, not developable during the lifetime of this Plan (91.59Ha approximately).</p>		CH2, Ch3		C2, MA 1,-7		
<p>This development option would promote a managed and co-ordinated approach on a case by case basis to town centre & residential type developments from the centre outwards, based on infrastructure /service provision but in a more flexible manner than Option 3. This scenario would also encourage managed and co-ordinated development within other proposed zoning objectives particularly Business & Technology (BT) zoning to the west.</p> <p>The phased approach is critical in order to help address water quality concerns for Athenry and environs and strategically manage the protection of existing environmental resources whilst facilitating a vibrant town centre that also takes advantage of Athenry’s strategic road and rail position. This approach is evaluated to be the most sustainable for the long term development of Athenry.</p>						

7 Chapter Seven: Likely Significant Effects of the Athenry LAP

7.1 Introduction

The purpose of this section of the Environmental Report is to predict and evaluate as far as possible the environmental effects of this Draft LAP for Athenry.

SEA is an iterative process and the new policies developed for the Draft LAP have taken consideration of environmental issues raised during the scoping process. These issues have been incorporated into draft policies and the principal purpose of this chapter is to discuss the evaluation of these policies. The discussion of likely impacts is grouped around each environmental parameter listed in the SEA Regulations. The individual evaluation of each policy and landuse zoning across the draft LAP is presented in Annex A Detailed Evaluation of policies, objectives and zonings (*undertaken in December 2011*). The identification of impacts through the evaluation matrix and discussion of significant impacts detailed below, in turn informs the development of mitigation measures presented in Chapter Eight, Mitigation Measures.

7.2.1 Overview

Chapter Two: Strategic Vision and Development Strategy

The vision that underpins the draft LAP has been evaluated against all the SEOs and are generally evaluated as having a positive impact on achieving the strategic environmental objectives detailed in Chapter Five. This is due to the goals referencing sustainable development, quality of life, self-sufficiency and social inclusion and Habitats Directive Assessment. Objective DS6- Residential Development Phasing presents some issues in relation to wastewater treatment capacity in the town and the phasing of developments. Due to the current bad status of surface water and at risk status of groundwater in and around Athenry, provision of improved wastewater infrastructure is essential in order to facilitate phased residential development for the town.

7.2.2 Significant Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna Impacts

The draft LAP was found to have generally positive impacts for the biodiversity, flora and fauna of the town. The promotion of a compact, sustainable town with support for brownfield development, the policies pertaining to Natura 2000 and NHA and open spaces strengthens the protection of biodiversity resources.

However, considering the water quality issues associated with the River Clarin and the groundwater status of the area around Athenry, objective LU 13 Residential Densities has the potential to generate negative impacts on biodiversity through declining water quality and cumulative impacts associated with same. Additionally, Objective LU8 Open Spaces/Recreation and Amenity merits careful scrutiny in relation to potential disturbance impacts on species, loss of open space and habitat fragmentation and loss of soil a non renewable resource.

Policy contained within the plan to increase accessibility generally, including pedestrian and cycling access, to rivers and areas of natural recreation could have the potential to impact adversely on biodiversity resources through disturbance and fragmentation unless mitigation is

provided for. This is particularly important in relation to the River Clarin and the associated habitats and species that the river supports.

Finally, policies to support large infrastructural projects could have the potential to generate adverse impacts on biodiversity, with key potential impacts relating to disturbance, disruption, fragmentation and loss of habitats. However, the Athenry Relief has been approved and is partially constructed at this stage. For many of the remaining policies, development management provides sufficient mitigation measures to ensure significant impacts on biodiversity are avoided. See **Table 7a** below for a summary of potential impacts of the draft LAP on Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna.

Table 7a Biodiversity Impacts

LAP Section	Biodiversity Impacts
Two: Strategic Vision and Development Strategy	Largely positive impacts associated with reference to national and regional guidelines and plans. Specific reference to Core Strategy and Development Management Guidelines of County development Plan offer considerable protection of biodiversity through development control.
Section 3.1 Land Use Management	Most policies have positive to neutral impacts on biodiversity associated with intensification of uses in town centre; many impacts are associated with new development and development control standards are adequate to address these. Concern is raised in relation to Residential Densities and capacity of Wastewater Treatment in town centre with negative medium to long term impacts identified for biodiversity and supporting resources if development is permitted in the absence of sufficient wastewater treatment.
Section 3.2 Residential Development	Potential adverse impacts on biodiversity are associated with new housing development if it results in Greenfield development or loss of habitats. However, focus on higher densities and reference to guidelines generates neutral to positive impacts in relation to biodiversity for most policies. Critical issue remains in relation to impacts on biodiversity and water quality and need to meet requirements of Water Framework Directive
Section 3.3 Social and Community Development	Again impacts on biodiversity would arise in relation to provision of new facilities on greenfield sites but focus on concentrating such activities within town centre or close to residential areas assists in reducing potential impacts, many such impacts would also be mitigated through the planning regime. Positive impacts are identified for biodiversity SEOs for Objective CF 4 Open Spaces
Section 3.4 Economic Development	Potential adverse impacts relate to new developments and require mitigation at site level. However, focus on concentrating retail activities in town centre will likely have positive impacts on biodiversity due to reuse of brownfield sites, and opportunity for public transport and more sustainable transport options thus reducing need for additional road infrastructure. Overall positive medium to long term impacts particularly in relation to population and focus on service provision and concentrating economic activities in defined areas.

<p>Section 3.5 Transportation Infrastructure</p>	<p>Large infrastructural development can impact adversely due to loss of habitat, and potential impacts on water quality and wildlife corridors. Such impacts may be permanent. The Athenry Relief Road has been designed, approved and partially constructed.</p> <p>Several other policies are considered to have impacts that can be mitigated through development control including Policy T11 Sustainable Transport, Walking and Cycling , Objective TI 4 Walking and Objective TI5 Cycling and Objective TI7 Walking and Cycling Strategy. Additionally there may be positive indirect impacts on biodiversity arising from modal shift in transport within the town arising from the implementation of these policies.</p> <p>Impacts associated with cycling and walking provision have potential to impact adversely on biodiversity if located close to sensitive habitats but these are likely to be mitigated.</p>
<p>Section 3.6 Utility and Environmental Infrastructure</p>	<p>Commitments associated with Policy UI 1 Water Supply, Wastewater and Surface Water Infrastructure and Objective UI6 Western River Basin District Management Plan and Protection of Waters will strengthen protection of biodiversity through improving water quality and wastewater treatment.</p>
<p>Section 3.7 Urban Design and Placemaking</p>	<p>Many impacts identified in relation to these policies are neutral or likely to be addressed through development control. Many do not relate directly to biodiversity resources as the focus is largely on town centre and residential design.</p>
<p>Section 3.8 Built Heritage and Cultural Heritage</p>	<p>Many impacts identified in relation to these policies are neutral or likely to be addressed through development control. Many do not relate directly to biodiversity resources as the focus is largely on town centre and residential design.</p>
<p>Section 3.9 Natural Heritage and Biodiversity.</p>	<p>Overall positive medium to long term impacts on biodiversity relating to commitments to protection of designated sites, ecological corridors and stepping stones (Objective NH 5 Biodiversity and Ecological Networks and Objective NH2 Protected Habitats and Species).</p>

7.2.3 Significant Water Impacts

The draft LAP promotes intensification of town centre, population growth in line with the Core Strategy of the County Galway CDP 2009-2015, economic growth and various landuse zonings. These could impact potentially on water quality. Water quality both surface and groundwater, is a significant issue for Athenry, with the classification of the River Clarin as it flows through the town centre being 'bad' and the groundwater being identified under the WFD Action Plan as being at risk of not meeting the WFD good status by 2021. Allied with this, the current wastewater treatment plant is at capacity and although on the list for capital works, has not yet been approved by central government. The assimilative capacity of the River Clarin and the groundwater resources around Athenry are very limited, and indeed the current ecological condition of the River negates against achieving some of the other policies proposed in the draft LAP. Therefore, close scrutiny has to be given to the implementation of proposed zonings and policies over the lifetime of the LAP. Until the treatment of wastewater can meet the various standards, a precautionary approach is required to avoid adding more pollutants to the surface and groundwater sources of Athenry.

Potable water is currently supplied from the Tuam Scheme and is not considered to be at risk in terms of drinking supply. Nonetheless, conservation measures and increasing water efficiency are appropriate measures to consider in the LAP.

More positive impacts are associated with indirect policies including wildlife corridors, open space provision and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems. The recognition of the WFD and its roles and responsibilities currently act as a key driver toward positive impacts for water quality and water management generally.

Table 7b Water Impacts

LAP Section	Water Impacts
Two: Strategic Vision and Development Strategy	As per the biodiversity impacts, water quality and addressing wastewater capacity is the most significant issue and impact arising from these policies. Whilst Objective DS 3 Natura 2000 Network and Habitats Directive Assessment references EU legislation including Habitats Directive and DS4 Development Management Standards and Guidelines in the Galway County Development Plan 2009-2015 which strengthens overall protection of water resources.
Section 3.1 Land Use Management	Phasing of Residential development and requirement to upgrade wastewater treatment capacity in Objective LU13 Residential Densities are identified as generating significant impacts on water quality if WWTP is not upgraded.
Section 3.2 Residential Development	Potential adverse impacts on water resources are associated with new housing development if it results in Greenfield development or loss of habitats. Population increases both within the functional area and neighbouring areas may increase pressure on drinking water and wastewater infrastructure/capacity remains area of concern. See Policy RD 1-Residential Development and RD 2-Phased Development on Residential Zoned Lands. Mitigation measures are recommended for these policies to strengthen water quality protection.
Section 3.3 Social and Community Development	Largely neutral or unlikely to interact with water resources; provision of new facilities, construction activities and increased demand for potable water and wastewater treatment are identified as potential adverse impacts in relation to new facilities but are likely to be mitigated through development management and control at site level.
Section 3.4 Economic Development	Provision of new facilities, construction activities and increased demand for potable water and wastewater treatment are identified as potential adverse impacts in relation to new facilities but are likely to be mitigated through development management and control at site level.
Section 3.5 Transportation Infrastructure	Infrastructural development can impact adversely due to potential impacts on water quality, disruption of water hydrology, increased surface run off and complex interactions between impacts on soil and biodiversity. Such impacts may be medium to permanent. Some uncertain impacts are identified as location and level of infrastructural provision is not yet available (eg Policy TI 2 Roads, Street and Parking).
Section 3.6 Utility and	Overall positive impacts associated with water quality

Environmental Infrastructure	monitoring, requirements of the WFD, wastewater provision, flood risk management (Policy UI1 Water Supply, Wastewater and Surface Water Infrastructure, and Policy UI 2 Water Quality and Policy UI 4 Flood Risk Management and Assessment and supporting objectives for same).
Section 3.7 Urban Design and Placemaking	Largely neutral for many policies as they are principally concerned with design and sense of place. Impacts associated with new developments are addressed adequately through development management and control. Objective UD 4 Green Network and the Landscape identifies positive impacts on water quality and resources.
Section 3.8 Built Heritage and Cultural Heritage	Largely neutral impacts on water resources
Section 3.9 Natural Heritage and Biodiversity	Overall positive impacts on water resources relating to policies, objectives such as Objective NH6 Water Resources and Objective NH7 Environmental Management Buffer.

7.2.4 Significant Soil and Geology Impacts

The intensification of the town centre, promotion of reusing existing building stock, waste management and amenity and green corridors all offer positive impacts associated with the soil and geology objectives. Soil quality and function may be enhanced through particular measures associated with water quality and landuse and achieving the Water Framework Directive Objectives. Potential adverse impacts arise if new development occurs on Greenfield sites or major infrastructural developments occur close to the agricultural areas of the functional or environs. Site specific mitigation measures are required relating to construction activities associated with new developments.

Table 7c Soil and Geology Impacts

LAP Section	Soil and Geology Impacts
Two: Strategic Vision and Development Strategy	Significant positive impacts associated with sustainable development of Athenry, focus of quality of life and environmental resources.
Section 3.1 Land Use Management	Largely neutral to impacts that can be mitigated are identified for land use, depending on the type and location of development proposed. Should a new EU Soil Directive be adopted, this will have positive implications for soil management.
Section 3.2 Residential Development	Potential adverse impacts on soil and geology are associated with new housing development if it results in Greenfield development. Careful consideration of wastewater provision and new infrastructure to service housing will be required to avoid permanent impacts on the groundwater which is identified as being at risk of not achieving good status by 2021.
Section 3.3 Social and Community Development	Again, impacts on soil and geology may arise in relation to provision of new facilities but focus on concentrating such activities within town centre/residential areas assists in reducing potential impacts, many such impacts would be mitigated through the planning regime.
Section 3.4 Economic Development	Potential adverse impacts relate to new developments and require mitigation at site level. However, focus on concentrating retail activities in town centre will likely have positive impacts on soil and geology due to reuse of brownfield sites, and opportunity for public transport and more sustainable transport options thus reducing

	<p>need for additional road infrastructure.</p> <p>Overall positive impacts relating to intensification of town centre and reuse of existing buildings.</p> <p>Potential adverse impacts identified pertain to new developments and mitigation is required through adherence to development management guidelines.</p>
Section 3.5 Transportation Infrastructure	<p>Principal impacts are associated at site level relating to transport and can be mitigated through development control and management guidelines. Greenfield development for infrastructure generates permanent negative impacts. However, flood risk management and protection and enhancement of open space and corridors can also indirectly impact positively on soil function and integrity.</p>
Section 3.6 Utility and Environmental Infrastructure	<p>Objective UI 7 Groundwater and Aquifer will result in positive impacts on groundwater quality and function.</p> <p>Maintaining ecological status of waterbodies will impact indirectly on soil function and protection which is positive.</p> <p>Waste management policies can also impact positive on soil through reduction of materials to landfill and recycling of construction and demolition waste</p>
Section 3.7 Urban Design and Placemaking	<p>Largely neutral impacts associated with these policies. Objective UD 4 Green Network and the Landscape is identified as generating positive impacts on soil resources.</p>
Section 3.9 Built Heritage and Cultural Heritage	<p>Largely neutral to positive impacts on soil and geology, though reuse and promotion of using existing buildings enhances soil and geology resources by avoiding new development and resource use.</p>
Section 3.9 Natural Heritage and Biodiversity	<p>Overall positive impacts on soil and geology objectives particularly relating to wildlife corridors, and green networks and enhancement of River Clarin with environmental buffer zone.</p> <p>Impacts are complex between soil function and biodiversity but several policies such as Objective NH5 Biodiversity and Ecological Networks and Objective NH6 Water Resources should enhance the soil and geological objectives through enhanced management and protection of resources. There are a number of supporting objectives associated with natural heritage and biodiversity within Section 3.9.</p>

7.2.5 Population and Human Health

The policies of the draft LAP are found to likely improve the status of the SEO's on population and human health. The draft LAP promotes the development of a quality, sustainable, permeable and distinctive town with policies relating to integrated landuse and transport, environmental protection and energy efficiency balanced with economic vitality.

The wastewater capacity is acknowledged as a significant constraint, poor water quality in surface waters and groundwater present a human health risk. It is acknowledged that there is over zoning of lands in the functional area and fewer lands are required in order to achieve the target population in the Core Strategy.

The draft plan emphasizes the need to integrate landuse and transportation and sets out a strategy for mixed-use, thriving economic and residential environment underpinned by

recreational and community infrastructure provided in a timely fashion, in accessible locations and connected to, or within easy reach of, good public transport networks.

Furthermore, draft policies facilitate and encourage economic growth and renewal, to strengthen the town of Athenry and take advantage of its strategic location on the main road and rail network. The promotion of sustainable development by balancing complex sets of environmental, social and economic goals in planning decisions can only prove to be positive for population and human health. Certain transport policies encourage a modal shift from private vehicular to other forms of transport. Accompanying this is positive impacts associated with improved air quality, reduced emissions and transport modal shifts

In general policies are likely to improve the status of the SEO's on human health. Maximising the use of central urban areas contributes to the conservation and protection of the natural environment for the enjoyment and protection of all. Provision of green corridors, if taken up, will help in public transport provision, economic development strategy and provision of recreational and amenity areas contributing to the health and well-being of the population of Athenry.

Table 7d Population and Human Health Impacts

LAP Section	Population and Human Health Impacts
Two: Strategic Vision and Development Strategy	Significant positive impacts associated with sustainable development of Athenry with a focus of on promoting high quality built and natural environment, social inclusion and quality of life for those residents.
Section 3.1 Land Use Management	Largely positive impacts associated with various land use objectives ranging from housing to enterprise. Potential significant impacts on water quality and associated human health risks if residential development occurs in advance of upgrading of WWTP. Objective LU4 Industrial (I) was identified as meriting additional mitigation measures to avoid environmental and water quality impacts.
Section 3.2 Residential Development	Generally, positive impacts associated with these policies however certain policies and objectives such as Policy RD 1 Residential Development, Policy RD 2 Phased Residential Development on Objective RD1 Phased Development on Residential Zoned Lands have been identified as meriting additional mitigation measures to strengthen protection and enhancement of water quality and wastewater treatment.
Section 3.3 Social and Community Development	Again, positive permanent impacts for population in relation to housing provision for all sectors of society. Encouraging the establishment of sustainable residential communities, facilitating special needs of socially excluded groups including traveler accommodation. Additionally, provision of community facilities in town centre or within established residential areas promotes accessible facilities.
Section 3.4 Economic Development	Overall positive impacts associated with these policies, particularly for SEO Pop 1. Potential conflict with Pop 2 (human health and hazards/nuisances arising from incompatible land uses) in relation to residential development phasing and WWTP.
Section 3.5 Transportation Infrastructure	Overall, positive permanent impacts associated with public transport policies, walking and cycling provision and smart travel initiatives. In addition mobility management policies have positive permanent impacts on population and health. The

	provision of adequate infrastructure to support the needs of an expanding population is considered essential. Objective T1 13 Transport Network Improvements was recommended for mitigation to enhance environmental protection..
Section 3.6 Utility and Environmental Infrastructure	Long term positive human health impacts are identified in relation to water services, waste management, energy efficiency of homes and commitments regarding Wastewater Treatment and general protection of water resources. In turn, these impact positively on the general population of Athenry. Please see Table 7b Water Impacts for outline of such policies and objectives.
Section 3.7 Urban Design and Placemaking	Overall long term positive impacts identified for population and human health through these policies by improving urban fabric, consolidating and enhancing sense of place in this distinctive and historic town. For example Objective UD 6 Views and Prospects and Objective UD 7 Design Statements.
Section 3.8 Built Heritage and Cultural Heritage	Largely positive impacts associated with these policies in particular the review of ACAs and promotion of cultural heritage. Long term positive impacts associated with supporting and enhancing these resources.
Section 3.9 Natural Heritage and Biodiversity	In particular, positive impacts associated with walks, protection of water resources and River Clarin enhancement (Objective NH6 Water Resources and Objective NH 5 Biodiversity and Ecological Networks, Objective NH7 Environmental Management Buffer).

7.2.6 Significant Cultural Heritage Impacts

Overall the impacts of the draft LAP are positive in relation to cultural heritage due to the recognition of the value of Athenry's heritage and the range of cultural heritage features including morphology, built heritage, the walled town and more intangible cultural heritage such as linguistic heritage.

The recognition that Athenry's cultural heritage has a key role to play in tourism promotion also creates positive impacts for the cultural heritage of the town. Objective ED5 Tourism Development supports the appropriate development of tourism within Athenry; this policy is identified as generating positive impacts relating to cultural heritage, landscape and population.

Potential cultural heritage impacts arise once more in relation to transport and landuse, though should any large infrastructural projects be proposed, they will be subject to project level assessment and therefore are not considered significant at strategic level.

Archaeology

Overall, impacts on archaeology are positive in light of a number of specific policies addressing range of archaeological resources. Potential negative impacts may arise on new developments or infrastructural developments but generally these can be mitigated through the planning process.

Architecture

Architectural heritage impacts can be associated with negative long term impacts on the setting of protected structures or construction damage to protected structures such as gate entrances, or bridges. The built heritage of Athenry is of national significance so a range of polices in both

Section 3.7 Urban Design and Place making, and 3.8 Built Heritage and Cultural Heritage generate positive impacts.

Table 7e Cultural Heritage Impacts

LAP Section	Cultural Heritage Impacts
Two: Strategic Vision and Development Strategy	Generally positive impacts associated with sustainable development of town, focus of quality of life and environmental resources.
Section 3.1 Land Use Management	Objective LU 1 Town Centre/Commercial (C1) generates positive impacts on cultural heritage via promotion of active town centre with intensification of uses. Objective LU3 Residential is identified as another positive objective. Other policies principally identified as meriting mitigation through site level/project level development control and national /regional guidelines.
Section 3.2 Residential Development	Most policies have impacts associated with development management at site level. Policy RD 1 Residential Development and Policy RD 2 Phased Development on Residential Zoned Lands and its associated objectives generates positive impacts. Objective RD 7 Compatible Development and Objective RD 8 Other Residential Development further promotes the town centre.
Section 3.3 Social and Community Development	Generally, neutral impacts associated with these policies; however site level impacts for new developments will be captured by individual assessments. Objective CF 4 Open Spaces with its focus on retaining medieval character of town is identified as a long term positive impact.
Section 3.4 Economic Development	Impacts identified range from likely to be mitigated if new development occurs to uncertain impacts. The consolidation of the town centre for services again supports reuse of brownfield sites and averts Greenfield site development which is a positive impact. See for example Policy ED1 Economic Development, and associated objectives including the following: Objective ED 4 Retail Development and Objective ED 5 Tourism Development.
Section 3.5 Transportation Infrastructure	Large infrastructural developments associated with road schemes or transport infrastructure may impact negatively on the setting of built heritage or provide excavation opportunities for archaeological resources. Again, such impacts are likely to be mitigated through the planning process and project assessments for example in Section 3.9 NH 4 Impact Assessment. The provision of cycling and walking facilities provide for positive indirect impacts through greater access, enjoyment and participation of

	cultural heritage and facilities.
Section 3.6 Utility and Environmental Infrastructure	There is a wide range of policies and objectives in the LAP to address flood risk assessment and management these include the following: Policy UI 4 Flood Risk Management and Assessment and associated Objective UI 12 Flood Zones and Appropriate Land Uses, Objective UI 13 Water Bodies and Watercourses and Objective UI14 Flooding and Surface Water.
Section 3.7 Urban Design and Place making	All of these policies are identified as creating positive impacts and enhancing the cultural heritage SEOs.
Section 3.8 Built Heritage and Cultural Heritage	Overall, positive long term impacts associated with these policies in particular the ACA Appraisal and Management Plan (Objective HC 7 Architectural Conservation Area Appraisal and Conservation Management Plan and Objective HC 10 Conservation Management Plan for the Town Walls).
Section 3.9 Natural Heritage and Biodiversity	Largely neutral impacts however, Objective NH 8 Trees, Parkland/Woodland and Hedgerows contribute to overall setting of town and townscape so is identified as positive impacts on cultural heritage. Objective NH4 Impact Assessment highlights all the potential assessment requirements at project level.

7.2.6 Significant Landscape Impacts

Overall some positive impacts are associated with new policies that promote key landscape resources, identify key viewpoints and settings and promote landscape character and built environment The focus on design statements for certain developments and high quality urban realm provides further positive impacts for the city’s landscape resources.

Table 7f Landscape Impacts

LAP Section	Landscape Impacts
Two: Strategic Vision and Development Strategy	Significant positive impacts associated with sustainable development of Athenry, focus of quality of life and environmental resources.
Section 3.1 Land Use Management	Largely positive impacts associated with reference to national and regional guidelines and plans.
Section 3.2 Residential Development	Potential adverse impacts on landscape resources are associated with new housing development if it results in Greenfield development. Reference to guidelines will result in positive landscape impacts associated with appropriate landscaping and planting regimes for new developments. Objective RD 2 Quality Housing Environments highlights good quality design, permeability, connectivity, accessibility and relevant guidelines so should promote and reflect local landscape character.

	Otherwise, largely neutral impacts in relation to housing policies and landscape.
Section 3.3 Social and Community Development	Again potential adverse impacts arise in relation to provision of new facilities, but overall neutral impacts identified for landscape.
Section 3.4 Economic Development	Objective ED 2 Business and Technology Park Development includes a mitigation measure regarding design and master planning. ED6 Quality Working Environments are identified as generating positive impacts for landscape in relation to high quality landscape design and screening. For other policies the impacts were identified as subject to mitigation through development control.
Section 3.5 Transportation Infrastructure	Large infrastructural development can impact adversely due to changes in landscape character and views. However, policies and objectives in Section 3.8 Built Heritage and Cultural Heritage such as Objective HC7 Architectural Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan and Section 3.9 Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Objective NH 4 Impact Assessment should address landscape impacts.
Section 3.6 Utility and Environmental Infrastructure	Longer term indirect positive impacts on landscape quality can arise due to other environmental services including water quality and wastewater management.
Section 3.7 Urban Design and Placemaking	All policies and objectives proposed are identified as generating long term positive impacts on the landscape and streetscapes of Athenry.
Section 3.8 Built Heritage and Cultural Heritage	Generally positive impacts on landscape resources with focus on landscape character, wildlife corridors and networks. Overall, positive impacts associated with built heritage policies also in creating a sense of place. For example Objective HC 6 Vernacular Architecture.
Section 3.9 Natural Heritage and Biodiversity	Positive impacts identified for these policies and objectives especially Policy NH1 Natural Heritage, Landscape and the Environment, Objective NH 4 Impact Assessment and NH10 Visual Impact Assessment

7.2.7 Air and Climatic Impacts

Overall the draft LAP policies will have significant beneficial impacts on air. Athenry does not suffer from poor air quality generally although there may be localised issues arising from transport. Energy related carbon dioxide emissions indicate that the transport sector is the single greatest contributor to energy related carbon dioxide emissions. There will be significant benefits relating to air quality and climatic factors due to the development of a number of specific policies addressing these issues. Some short-term impacts on climatic factors will occur (particularly in relation to the emissions of greenhouse gases and use of energy) as a result of increased development and construction however these are considered to be short-term impacts and can generally be mitigated against.

Again, positive impacts are identified for Air Quality and climate associated with policies such as enhanced transport policies and promoting alternative transport methods. The policy focus on energy efficiency and buildings is also identified as being positive for air quality and climate SEOs.

Table7g Air Quality and Climate Impacts

LAP Section	Air Quality and Climate
Two: Strategic Vision and Development Strategy	Generally positive impacts associated with sustainable development of town, focus of quality of life and environmental resources.
Section 3.1 Land Use Management	Objectives LU 1 Town Centre Development by promoting town centre accessibility should enhance pedestrian access and mobility around the town. This will have indirect positive impacts if it results in modal shift in transport patterns around the town centre. LU11 Flood Risk Areas and Land Use Zones also aims to address impacts such as increased flood risk and increased precipitation arising from climate change.
Section 3.2 Residential Development	Largely neutral or unlikely to interact impacts were identified for housing although increased housing densities can indirectly assist in public transport provision and reduction in greenhouse gases. Policy RD 1 references the Smart Travel “A Sustainable Transport Future 2009 – 2020” and National Cycle Policy Framework 2009 – 2022 which should reduce car dependency with associated air quality benefits.
Section 3.3 Social and Community Development	Largely neutral impacts associated with these policies.
Section 3.4 Economic Development	Impacts identified as being likely to be mitigated through existing development management guidelines. LU4 Industrial (I) was recommended for mitigation to address potential environmental and water quality impacts and raise the requirement for transport impact assessment.
Section 3.5 Transportation Infrastructure	Overall, positive permanent impacts for air quality associated with public transport policies, and encouraging modal shift to more sustainable transport options. Objectives TI1 Integrated Transport and Landuse, to T17 Walking and Cycling Strategy, T19 Mobility Management Plan in particular.
Section 3.6 Utilities and Environmental Infrastructure	Long term positive air quality impacts are identified in relation to Objectives UI7, 8 and 9. A large number of policies and objectives address flood risk and climate change including Policy UI4 Flood Risk Management and Assessment, Objective UI13 Waterbodies and Watercourses, Objective UI14 Flooding and Surface Water and DM guideline UI1 Flood Zones and Appropriate Landuses.
Section 3.7 Urban Design and Placemaking	Objective UD4 Green Network and Landscape has positive long term impacts on air quality through provision of Green Network and Landscape. Other policies have neutral, uncertain impacts or are addressed through development management mitigation.
Section 3.8 Built heritage and cultural heritage	Largely neutral, however by promoting the town center, and reuse of existing structures, this has an indirect positive impact on air quality and climate by reducing need for new development and associated greenhouse gas emissions.
Section 3.9 Natural Heritage and	Long term positive impacts associated with increased open space,

Biodiversity.	and recreational provision. In turn, indirect positive impacts are associated with high quality biodiversity functions and air quality. Indirect impact of increasing green space in the and around Athenry and carbon sinks is also identified. See for example Objective NH5 Biodiversity and Ecological Network and Objective NH7 Environmental Management Buffer
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7.2.8 Material assets – flooding, water services, waste management and transport

Several transport policies create positive impacts as they support more sustainable transport options with cumulative positive impacts relating to human health, biodiversity and air quality. Policies of particular relevance include.

Wastewater treatment is at full capacity for Athenry and the status of the surface water (River Clarin) and groundwater vulnerability is the most significant environmental challenge for the LAP. This issue also interacts across a broad range of other policies including residential, economic and land use objectives. In that context, Policy UI 1 is identified as meriting additional mitigation measures as it is not strong enough in its current phrasing to clearly avoid negative impacts on already polluted waters in the area.

Waste management is very site specific and is difficult to assess at strategic level. Careful storage and treatment of excavated soils can mean their reinstatement post construction which contributes to a neutral impact. Identifying locations for Bring Banks (Objective UI 15 Bring Banks Facility) and Waste Management Plans at application stage (Objective UI 14 Waste Prevention, Reduction and Recycling) also create positive impacts for some of the Material Assets SEO.

The SFRA was not available during the initial plan preparation, however it became available prior to the second display period and a number of rezonings took place in light of the SFRA data. The approach was to zone undeveloped lands identified as Flood Risk A or B as Open Space/Recreation and Amenity.

In addition to the rezonings, a range of other policies, objectives and development management guidelines were included in the Final Plan. These include:

- Objective LU11 Flood Risk Areas and Land Use Zones
- Policy UI4 and Objective UI11 Flood Risk Management and Assessment, and
- Objective UI12 Flood Zones and Appropriate Land Uses.

DM Guideline UI1 Flood Zones and Appropriate Land Uses is another additional development management guideline in the Final LAP.

The LAP refers to *The Planning System and Flood Risk Management, Guidelines to Planning Authorities 2009* and the range of Policies, Objectives, Development Management Guideline as outlined above supports implementation of these guidelines. These provide for additional identification of flood risk and mitigation measures of same; therefore this increases overall flood risk management in the city area. Flood risk management is further enhanced through Objectives UI 11 to UI14.

Table 7h Material Assets

LAP Section	Material Assets
Two: Strategic Vision and Development Strategy	Positive impacts associated with sustainable development of town, focus of quality of life and environmental resources.
Section 3.1 Land Use Management	Impacts for material assets vary according to land use objective and type of material assets. Policy RD 2 Phased Development on Residential Zoned Lands. Phasing is identified as having impacts unlikely to be mitigated unless the WWTP is upgraded prior to phased residential development. SEOs for drinking water, waste management and energy efficiency are identified as being mitigated through existing development management guidelines for Policy LU1 Town centre
Section 3.2 Residential Development	Overall, the promotion of higher densities can have positive impacts in relation to transport, for other material assets the impacts are generally associated with project level mitigation. Largely neutral or unlikely to interact impacts were identified for housing although increased housing densities can indirectly assist in public transport provision and reduction in greenhouse gases. Objective LU13 Residential Densities was identified as generating environmental impacts and a mitigation measure was proposed
Section 3.3 Social and Community Development	Most impacts for material assets in this section are identified as likely to conflict with SEOs but mitigated. In this instance many of the potential impacts and mitigation are more suitable for assessment at project or site level Again, for most of these policies the impacts are unlikely to interact with the material assets SEOs, with the exemption of some positive long term impacts associated with the support of services in the town centre.
Section 3.4 Economic Development	Most impacts for material assets in this section are identified as likely to conflict with SEOs but mitigated, In this instances, many of the potential impacts and mitigation are more suitable for assessment at project or site level. For example a range of other policies and objectives will apply to ensure these impacts are addressed for example Objective DS 3 Natura 2000 Network and Habitats Directive Assessment and Objective NH1 Network and Habitats Directive Assessment and NH10 Impact Assessment.
Section 3.5 Transportation Infrastructure	Transport: a number of policies are identified as having a long term positive impact on the transport SEO by promoting a modal change to more sustainable forms of transport via smart travel, better public transport provision, walking and cycling facilities. See for example Objective TI 1 Integrated Transport and Land Use, Objective TI 3 Public Transport, Objective TI9 Mobility Management Plans.
Section 3.6 Utility and Environmental Infrastructure	Wastewater: As detailed previous Policy UI 1 – Water Supply, Wastewater and Surface Water Infrastructure merits additional mitigation measures. Objective UI 1 Water Supply and Water Conservation, Objective

	<p>UI2 Wastewater Disposal, and Objective UI 3 Wastewater Treatment Plant Buffer.</p> <p>Flooding: The application of the flood management guidelines in Policy UI 4 Flood Risk Management and Assessment and supporting objectives detailed above should result in enhancing SEO Mat 1.</p> <p>Energy: Impacts are uncertain or neutral for most policies or objectives but Objective UI 18 Energy Conservation and Efficiency, and Objective UI 19 Renewable Energy are identified as positive for Mat 6.</p> <p>Waste: Policy UI 5 Waste Management, and Objective UI 14 Waste Prevention, Reduction, Recycling and Objective UI 15 Bring Bank Facility are identified as positive for Mat 5;</p>
Section 3.7 Urban Design and Placemaking	<p>These policies are largely identified as having neutral or uncertain impacts across the Material Assets SEOs.</p> <p>Objective UD 4 Green Network and Landscape is identified as positive for Mat 7. Objective UD 6 Views and Prospects relates to protection of town walls</p>
Section 3.8 Built Heritage and Cultural Heritage	<p>Largely neutral impacts identified.</p>
Section 3.9 Natural Heritage and Biodiversity	<p>Indirect positive impacts on flood risk management may arise due to creation of wildlife corridors; the linking of recreational space to provide alternative transport modes will also offer positive impacts for sustainable transport provision if a modal shift results.</p> <p>Objective NH 4 Impact Assessment is identified as generating positive impacts on material assets due to application of relevant assessment procedure across a range of parameters.</p>

7.2.9 Key impacts due to changes in land use zonings in LAP

A number of Zoning Objectives from the previous LAP have been changed to reflect existing/proposed uses. Many rezonings reflect development activity over the past number of years, so for example a number of zonings now relate to constructed residential dwellings in the functional area and these are zoned as Residential Phase I. In terms of zoning objectives, the principal changes are for the following:

Objective LU1 – Town Centre/Commercial (C1)

Promote the development of the Town Centre as an intensive, high quality, well-landscaped, human-scaled and accessible environment with an appropriate mix of uses, including residential, commercial, service, tourism, enterprise, public and community uses as appropriate, that provide a range of retail services, facilities and amenities to the local community and visitors to the town. The town centre and associated main streets will remain the primary focus for retail and service activity in the town

Objective LU2 – Commercial and Mixed Use (C2)

Promote the development of commercial and complementary mixed uses on suitable lands that can provide focal points for the provision of services to surrounding neighbourhoods/areas and opportunities for commercial enterprises, retail developments and employment creation and which do not undermine the vitality and viability of the town centre.

Objective LU11 – Flood Risk Areas and Land Use Zones Ensure that any proposed development that may be compatible with the land use zoning objectives/matrix but which includes a use that is not appropriate to the Flood Zone (as indicated on **Maps 3A/3B – Indicative Flood Risk Management Areas**) and/or that may be vulnerable to flooding is subject to flood risk assessment, in accordance with *The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009* and the policies and objectives of this Plan.

DM Guideline LU2 – Land Use Zoning Matrix

The land use zoning matrix indicates the types of land uses that are Permitted in Principle (P), Open for Consideration (O) and Not Normally Permitted (N), for the land use zones designated in Section 3.1.2 above. Whilst the matrix does not provide an exhaustive list of potential uses, the uses listed in the matrix should be considered by applicants to provide a clear indication of the overall acceptability of a particular land use within a specific zoning category. Where a use is proposed that is not listed in the matrix, development proposals will be assessed on their individual merits in accordance with the general guidance provided by the matrix and having regard to the nature of existing and proposed uses, to the general policies and zoning objective/s for the area in the Local Area Plan and to the principles of proper planning and sustainable development. Where there is no perceived conflict between existing and proposed uses, favourable consideration will be given to the proposed development, subject to all other normal requirements and to the principles of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

The evaluation of these new zonings identified some positive impacts associated with LU1 in particular; these include positive impacts for population and human health SEOs, Soil (reuse of sites, infill etc), air quality and climate associated with enhancing pedestrian access and a compact town centre, and Material Assets around sustainable transport patterns. For most other SEOs, the evaluation identified impacts for most parameters that can be addressed through existing development management and control.

The most significant proposed zoning is the new designation and zoning for an area southeast of the functional area. This greenfield area is proposed for zoning for a Business/Enterprise and Technology Park. The area is currently traversed by the railway line and is a greenfield site, currently under pasture and agricultural land (Corine 2000). Clearly development of this site would have impacts around soil, geology and water associated with greenfield development. However these impacts would be adequately addressed through development control. In addition, by taken advantage of Athenry’s location and its designation as a ‘key town’ in the Core Strategy, there would be positive impacts associated with population and human health for this zoning.

Protection and improvement of water quality in and around Athenry remains a critical environmental consideration. Through the HDA process, potential impacts are identified for land use zonings along the River Clarin. Therefore a mitigation measure is proposed to establish an environmental management zone along the river with a buffer of 10m to protect the river from any additional impacts such as run off or damage to the riparian vegetation.

Flood Risk

The SFRA was not available during the initial plan preparation, however it became available prior to the second display period and a number of rezonings took place in light of the SFRA

data. The approach was to zone undeveloped lands identified as Flood Risk A or B as Open Space/Recreation and Amenity.

The majority of areas identified as Flood Zone A or B under the SFRA for County Galway are zoned Open Space within the plan area, thus avoiding incompatible uses and directing inappropriate development away from these zones. Developments will be assessed in accordance with the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines (2009) and site specific flood risk assessment and development management justification test in accordance with the above guidelines (or any superceding document).

Finally, *Table 7i* identifies the key interrelationships of the environmental parameters. Although all such parameters may be considered interrelated and may impact on each other at some level, the purpose of this table is to show the significant relationships only.

Table 7i: Key Interrelationships of environmental parameters

Topic	Biodiversity	Water	Soil	Landscape	Cul'l Heritage	Population	Human health	Air	Climatic factors	Material Assets
Biodiversity		√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√
Water	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Soil	√	√		√		√	√	√	√	√
Landscape	√				√	√		√	√	√
Cultural Heritage				√		√		√	√	√
Population				√	√		√	√	√	√
Human health	√	√	√			√		√	√	√
Air	√					√	√		√	√
Climatic Factors	√		√		√	√	√	√		√
Material Assets	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	

8 Chapter Eight, Mitigation Measures

8.1 Introduction

This chapter outlines the mitigation measures that will prevent, reduce, and offset as much as possible any significant adverse effects on the environment of the county resulting from the implementation of the Draft LAP. Section (g) of Schedule 2B of the SEA Regulations requires *'The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the Plan'*

Mitigation involves ameliorating significant negative effects. Where the environmental assessment identifies significant adverse effects, consideration is given in the first instance to preventing such impacts or where this is not possible, to lessening or offsetting those effects. Mitigation measures can be generally divided into those that:

- Avoid effects;
- Reduce the magnitude or extent, probability and/or severity of effect;
- Repair effects after they have occurred;
- Compensate for effects, by balancing out negative impacts with positive ones.

In addition, many impacts will be more adequately identified and mitigated at project and EIA level.

Objective DS4 Development Management Standards and Guidelines, and DS7 Flood Risk Management and Assessment refers to the full application of all guidelines in the County Development Plan 2009 -2015. In turn, the CDP presents a substantial number of mitigation measures under a range of themes therefore the mitigation measures proposed below take cognisance of these measures but add or strengthen them where significant potential impacts have been identified.

In addition, many impacts will be more adequately identified and mitigated at project and EIA level. In general terms, all proposals for development will be required to have due regard to environmental considerations outlined in this Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report. Proposals for development which are deemed contrary to the environmental objectives and policies contained within the Plan will not normally be permitted, and if permitted, not without the appropriate site and development specific mitigation measures.

There are also a number of overarching policies and objectives that are provided in the LAP and these will ensure that any project level applications are assessed against these policies and objectives. The principal ones are as follows:

Objective DS3: Natura 2000 Network and Habitats Directive Assessment

Objective DS4: Development Management Standards and Guidelines

Policy RD1: Residential Development

Objective TI1: Integrated Land Use and Transport

Policy UI4: Flood Risk Management and Objective UI11: Flood Risk Management and Assessment

Objective UI6- Western River Basin District Management Plan and Protection of Waters

Policy NH1: Natural Heritage, Landscape and Environment

Objective NH1: Natura 2000 Network and Habitats Directive Assessment

Objective NH3: Natural Heritage Areas

Objective NH4: Impact Assessment

Objective NH10: Visual Impact Assessment

There are also a small number of policies that are identified as potentially generating significant adverse impacts on the environment, and suggested rewording of these policies is put forward for consideration and recommended for adoption.

The mitigation measures detailed in the following section will assist in the development management process. Such mitigation measures could be useful to potential applicants as they provide guidance on the key environmental issues to be addressed.

As a number of policies, objectives and land use zonings were altered through the LAP process, some additional mitigation measures are now included in the Final LAP. Further detail on these can be found in the SEA Screening Reports in Annex C of this ER and in the SEA Statement which accompanies this Final SEA ER.

8.2 Mitigation Measures – Suggested Rewording of Existing Draft Policies

Table 8a proposes a number of changes to the draft policies in order to strengthen protection of environmental resources. These have been informed by both the SEA and the HDA process. The following section then identifies some additional mitigation measures under each environmental parameter.

It is recommended that all legislation, policies and guidelines outlined in both the draft Athenry Lap, and this Environmental Report are adhered to. In addition, future legislation, policies and guidelines should also be fully integrated into the Draft Plan and Environmental Report.

Table 8a proposes a number of changes to the draft policies in order to strengthen protection of environmental resources. These have been informed by both the SEA and the HDA process. The following section then identifies some additional mitigation measures under each environmental parameter. ***Mitigation measures as proposed by the SEA and included in the Final LAP are shown in bold and italic font below.***

Table 8a: Key Mitigation Measures for Policies/Objectives in the LAP

Mitigation Measure as proposed	Final LAP 25.6.2012
<p>Objective DS6 – Residential Development Phasing <i>Wastewater treatment capacity will be carefully monitored and development will only be permitted where there is capacity and/or where adequate services can be made available.</i></p>	<p>Objective DS6– Residential Development Phasing Direct residential development into appropriately zoned and serviced areas that support a phased development framework as set out in Map X – Land Use Zoning Objectives.</p> <p>Direct residential development into appropriately zoned and serviced areas in accordance with the phased development framework as set out in S.3.1, S.3.2 and as outlined within Maps 1A/1B – Land Use Zoning Framework. <i>Wastewater treatment capacity will be carefully monitored and development will only be permitted where there is capacity and/or where adequate services can be made available.</i></p>

<p>Objective LU8 – Open Spaces/Amenity & Recreation (OS) <i>... can be demonstrated by Galway County Council that these uses are no longer required by the community.</i></p>	<p>Objective LU8 – Open Spaces/Amenity & Recreation (OS) Promote the development of open spaces and recreational activities in accordance with best practice on suitable lands with adequate access to the local community and retain existing open space and recreational facilities unless it <i>can be demonstrated by Galway County Council that these uses are no longer required by the community.</i></p>
<p>Objective LU13 – Residential Densities Additional text: <i>Wastewater Treatment capacity will be carefully monitored and development will only be permitted where there is capacity and/or adequate services can be made available.</i></p>	<p>Objective LU13 – Residential Densities Promote a range of residential densities within the Plan Area appropriate to the prevailing development pattern, supporting infrastructure, urban character and heritage resources in accordance with the guidance in the <i>Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas Guidelines 2009</i> (or as updated within the lifetime of this LAP). Higher residential densities should be encouraged at locations where it is appropriate to the existing context and density of the Plan Area, for example around the town centre and within convenient walking distance of public transport facilities, and where it will not unduly impact on built or natural heritage. <i>Wastewater Treatment capacity will be carefully monitored and development will only be permitted where there is capacity and/or adequate services can be made available.</i></p>
<p>Policy RD1 – Residential Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Water Framework Directive and The Planning System and Flood Risk Management, Guidelines to Planning Authorities 2009</i> 	<p>Policy RD1 – Residential Development It is the policy of the Council to support the creation of sustainable communities and high quality residential areas at appropriate locations with a range of housing options and adequate support services, facilities and amenities, having regard to the guidance contained in the following policy documents or updated versions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Galway County Council and Ballinasloe Town Council Housing Strategy 2009-2015; • Sustainable Residential Developments in Urban Areas: Guidelines for Planning Authorities, 2009; • Urban Design Manual: A Best Practice Guide – A Companion Document to the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas, 2009; • Galway Clustered Housing Guidelines, where appropriate, in the assessment of any proposals of new multiple unit housing developments within the Athenry LAP area; • Galway County Council Traveller Accommodation Programme. • Smart Travel “A Sustainable Transport Future 2009 – 2020” including the National Cycle Policy Framework 2009 – 2022 and any other related national policy documents. • <i>Water Framework Directive and The Planning System and Flood Risk Management, Guidelines to Planning Authorities 2009</i>

<p>Policy RD2 – Phased Development on Residential Zoned Lands. <i>subject to meeting wastewater capacity requirements.</i></p>	<p>Policy RD2 – Phased Development on Residential Zoned Lands It is the policy of Galway County Council to encourage managed, orderly and phased residential development in accordance with the Preferred Development Strategy and the land use management and zoning provisions set out in this Local Area Plan. This shall include a positive presumption in favour of the managed development of suitably serviced Residential (Phase 1) lands in order to align the LAP with the Core Strategy/Settlement Strategy in the current Galway County Development Plan, subject to compliance with the policies and objectives in this LAP and the principles of proper planning and sustainable development. There will be a general presumption against residential development on lands zoned Residential (Phase 2) within the lifetime of the LAP, subject to the exceptions provided for under Objective RD1 and subject to meeting wastewater capacity requirements.</p>
<p>Objective TI 13 –Transportation Network Improvements <i>Where possible, there will be minimal hedgerow/stone wall removal and beneficial landscaping and planting to maintain wildlife corridors.</i></p>	<p>Objective TI 13 – Transportation Network Improvements Facilitate the timely delivery of any improvements of the existing transportation network, including the completion of the Athenry Relief Road and the implementation of traffic management measures subject to normal planning and environmental considerations. Where possible, there will be minimal hedgerow/stone wall removal and beneficial landscaping and planting to maintain wildlife corridors.</p>
<p>Policy UI 1 – Water Supply, Wastewater And Surface Water Infrastructure <i>The Council will support any works to achieve an improvement in overall surface water quality and help meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive Water Management Unit Action Plan</i></p>	<p>Policy UI 1 – Water Supply, Wastewater and Surface Water Infrastructure It is the policy of Galway County Council to support the provision and maintenance of adequate wastewater disposal, water supply and surface water drainage infrastructure, in accordance with EU Directives, to service the development of Athenry. This will include adequate capacity for public wastewater and storm-water sewers as appropriate, an adequate quantity and quality of water supply and the promotion of Sustainable Drainage System approaches and techniques within the town. Continue to improve and upgrade water supply within the Plan Area and implement as appropriate the relevant recommendations set out in <i>The Provision and Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland – A Report for the Years 2008-2009</i> (Office of Environment Enforcement – EPA, 2011). The Council will support any works to achieve an improvement in overall surface water quality and help meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive Water Management Unit Action Plan.</p>
<p>Objective UI2 – Wastewater Disposal <i>Any developments will be required to adhere to the relevant EPA Code of Practice and will be subject to monitoring in order to assess impacts on water quality.</i></p>	<p>Objective UI 2 – Wastewater Disposal New developments shall only be permitted where it can be clearly demonstrated that they can be serviced and that there is adequate capacity in the wastewater disposal infrastructure in accordance with applicable requirements and standards, including urban wastewater treatment disposal standards, in order to protect the River Clarin, the Galway Bay Complex and its qualifying interests. Any developments for single dwellings will be required to adhere to the EPA Code of Practice and will be subject to monitoring in order to assess impacts on water quality. Continue to support the delivery of the Galway Main</p>

	Drainage scheme in relation to the Athenry Local Area Plan area. <i>Any development will be required to adhere to the relevant EPA Code of Practice and will be subject to monitoring in order to assess impacts on water quality.</i>
SEA recommended a specific radon policy or objective:	Objective UI 10 – Radon Galway County Council in its statutory role under the Building Control Act will have regard to the specific guidance on radon prevention measures for new homes as contained within the Building Regulations.
The NIR also recommended a buffer for the River Clarin and this recommendation resulted in a new Objective NH 7 – Environmental Management Buffer	Objective NH7 – Environmental Management Buffer Protect and seek to improve the water quality in the River Clarin. Limit development within the environmental management buffer so as to protect the qualifying interests of the Galway Bay SAC and Inner Galway Bay SPA which are linked directly to the Athenry Local Area Plan area via the River Clarin. Seek to ensure that a minimum setback of 10 metres is maintained on either side of the River Clarin, save for exceptional circumstances where it can be reasonably demonstrated that this setback is not feasible. Refer to the <i>Specific Objectives Maps (2A/2B)</i> .

Table 8b: Summary able EPOs and Mitigation Measures³

<i>Strategic Environmental Objective</i>	<i>Principal Mitigation Measure</i>
<i>Biodiversity</i>	
<i>Bio 1: Protect, conserve and avoid loss of the diversity and range of habitats, species and wildlife corridors.</i>	<i>New Environmental Management Zoning and 10m buffer around River Clarin. See Landuse zoning map and Objective NH7 Environmental Management Buffer and NH1 Natura 2000 Network and Habitats Directive Assessment.</i>
<i>Bio 2: Protect designated sites including Natura 2000 (SACs and SPAs) under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. Conserve and protect, or maintain and restore Natura 2000 sites and the Natura 2000 network.</i>	<i>Principally addressed through Objectives DS3 and NH1 Natura 2000 Network and Habitats Directive Assessment and a range of interrelated and supporting policies and objectives.</i>
<i>Bio 4: Promote the protection of habitats (terrestrial and aquatic) from invasive species.</i>	<i>Objective NH9 Control of Invasive and Alien Invasive Species.</i>
<i>Bio 5: Protect the inland aquatic environment.</i>	<i>Water Supply, Wastewater and Surface Water Policies and Objectives, including</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Policy UI1 Water Supply, Wastewater and Surface Water Infrastructure</i> <i>• Objective UI2 Wastewater Disposal</i> <i>• Objective UI4 Surface Water Drainage and Sustainable Drainage Systems</i> <i>• Objective UI5 Maintenance and Improvement of</i>

³ This Table was inserted following a recommendation by the EPA.

	<p>Water Services Infrastructure.</p> <p><i>In addition, a defined buffer zone of 100m around the Wastewater Treatment Plant was a refinement from the previous LAP 2005 -2011</i></p> <p>Drainage</p>
Water	
Wat 1: Protect and enhance the status of aquatic ecosystems and with regard to their water needs, terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands directly depending on the aquatic ecosystem (quality, level, flow .	Policy UI 2 Water Quality and Objective UI 6 Western River Basin District Management Plan and Protection of Waters.
Wat 2: Maintain or improve the quality of surface water (including estuarine) to status objectives as set out in the Water Framework Directive, WRBM and POMS.	Policy UI 2 Water Quality and Objective UI 6 Western River Basin District Management Plan and Protection of Waters
Wat 3: Prevent pollution and contamination of groundwater by adhering to aquifer protection plans.	Objective UI 7 Groundwater and Aquifer and Objective UI 6 Western River Basin District Management Plan and Protection of Waters
Geology and Soil	
Soil 1: Encourage the use of derelict, disused and infill sites rather than Greenfield sites where appropriate.	Objective HC 5 Demolition and Objective HC 6 Vernacular Architecture Policy DS1 Development Strategy.
Soil 2: Protect, improve and maintain the quality of soils.	Objective NH5 Biodiversity and Ecological Networks.
Soil 3: Conserve, protect and avoid loss of diversity and integrity of designated habitats, geological features, species or their sustaining resources in designated ecological sites.	Principally addressed through Objectives DS3 and NH1 Natura 2000 Network and Habitats Directive Assessment. Also Objective NH3 Natural Heritage Areas and Proposed Natural Heritage Areas and Objective NH5 Biodiversity and Ecological Networks.
Population and human health	
Pop 1: Protect, enhance and improve people's quality of life based on high quality residential, community, working and recreational environments and on sustainable travel patterns.	Policy DS1 Development Strategy and alignment of Land use zonings with Core Strategy requirements and current statutory provisions across a range of topics including social inclusion and sustainable transport.
Pop 2: To protect human health from risks or nuisances arising from exposure to incompatible land uses/developments.	Objective UI 9 Air Purification and UI10 Radon. In addition, Objective LU3 Residential and a range of flood risk management policies, objectives and zonings.
Cultural heritage	
Cult 1: Protect and enhance the cultural heritage including the built environment and settings; archaeological (recorded and recorded monuments), architectural (protected structures, architectural conservation areas, vernacular buildings, materials and urban fabric) and manmade landscape features (e.g.: field walls, footpaths, gate piers etc.).	Policy HC1 Built Heritage and Objective HC1 Architectural Heritage and a number of supporting objectives.
CH2 Conserve historic fabric of urban and rural settlements particularly the town walled network.	Objective HC3 Architectural Conservation Area and HC10 Conservation Management Plan for the Town Walls.

CH3 To ensure the restoration and reuse of existing uninhabited and derelict structures where possible, as opposed to demolition and new build.	Objective HC 5 Demolition and Objective HC 6 Vernacular Architecture Policy DS1 Development Strategy.
Landscape	
Land 1: Protect designated landscapes and scenic views, routes and landscape features of local value.	Objective UD6 Views and Prospects Policy NH1 Natural Heritage, Landscape and Environment Objective NH8 Trees, Parkland/Woodland and Hedgerows
Land 2: Conserve and protect cultural landscapes including archaeological and architectural landscapes.	Policy HC1 Built Heritage and Policy HC 2 Cultural Heritage and supporting objectives.
Land 3: Minimise visual impacts through appropriate design, assessment and siting.	Objective NH10 Visual Impact Assessment
Air Quality and Climate	
AQ1 Seek to avoid air pollution and maintain/improve ambient air quality.	Objective UI 9 Air Purification Policy UI3 Climate Change and Air Quality and Objective UI8 Climate Change and Air Quality
AQ 2: Minimise emissions of greenhouse gases through energy efficiency and promotion of renewable energy.	Policy UI6 Energy and Communications
Topic and SEA Objective Material Assets	
Mat 1: Reduce risk of flooding through avoidance of development in flood plains or in areas at risk of flooding and manage the risk of flooding.	The SFRA was not available during the initial plan preparation, however it became available prior to the second display period and a number of rezonings took place in light of the SFRA data. The approach was to zone undeveloped lands identified as Flood Risk A or B as Open Space/Recreation and Amenity. In addition to the rezonings, a range of other policies, objectives and development management guidelines were included in the Final Plan. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective LU11 Flood Risk Areas and Land Use Zones • Policy UI4 and Objective UI11 Flood Risk Management and Assessment, and • Objective UI12 Flood Zones and Appropriate Land Uses. DM Guideline UI1 Flood Zones and Appropriate Land Uses is another additional development management guideline in the Final LAP.
Mat 2: Ensure that drinking water supplies are free from contamination.	Water Supply, Wastewater and Surface Water Policies and Objectives, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy UI1 Water Supply, Wastewater and Surface Water Infrastructure • Objective UI2 Wastewater Disposal

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective UI4 Surface Water Drainage and Sustainable Drainage Systems • Objective UI5 Maintenance and Improvement of Water Services Infrastructure.
Mat 3 Improve efficiency in distribution of potable water to population.	Objective UI5 Maintenance and Improvement of Water Services Infrastructure.
Mat 4 Ensure that all zoned lands are sufficiently serviced in advance to ensure appropriate treatment of wastewater prior to discharge.	Water Supply, Wastewater and Surface Water Policies and Objectives, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy UI1 Water Supply, Wastewater and Surface Water Infrastructure • Objective UI2 Wastewater Disposal • Objective UI4 Surface Water Drainage and Sustainable Drainage Systems • Objective DS5 Service Led Development
Mat 5 Implement the waste pyramid and encourage reuse/recycling of material wherever possible.	Policy UI 5 Waste Management and Objective UI 14 Waste Prevention, Reduction and Recycling and Objective UI 15 Bring Bank Facility.
Mat 6 Reduce waste of energy, promote use of renewable energy sources and support energy conservation initiatives.	Policy UI6 Energy and Communications Objective UI18 Energy Conservation and Efficiency and Objective UI 19 Renewable Energy
Mat 7: Maximise sustainable modes of transport and provide for ease of movement for all road users and to promote development patterns that protect and enhance road safety.	Policy DS1 Development Strategy Policy TI1 Sustainable Transport, Walking and Cycling plus a suite of supporting objectives within this section.

9 Chapter Nine, Monitoring

9.1 Introduction

It is proposed, in accordance with the Directive, to base monitoring on a series of indicators which measure changes in the environment, especially changes which are critical in terms of environmental quality, for example water or air pollution levels. Monitoring will focus on the aspects of the environment that are likely to be significantly impacted upon by the implementation of the Draft LAP. The targets and indicators are derived from the Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEO) discussed in Chapter Five. The target underpins the objective whilst the indicators are used to track the progress of the objective and targets in terms of monitoring of impacts.

The monitoring programme will consist of an assessment of the relevant indicators and targets against the data relating to each environmental component. Similarly, monitoring will be carried out frequently to ensure that any changes to the environment can be identified.

9.1.1 Frequency of Monitoring and Reporting

It is proposed that the SEA monitoring reporting should go parallel with the reviewing of the draft LAP. However, in some cases as data becomes available, the Planning Authority may prepare an additional SEA Monitoring Report. In particular, should new data or the following occur, additional monitoring will be required:

- Significant unauthorised development (either large scale or cumulative small scale)
- Illegal waste activity
- Water pollution incidents (not resulting from oil spills).

In turn this list below is subject to review to reflect new data. Should the monitoring regime identify significant impacts (such as impacts on designated sites) early on in the LAP implementation, this should trigger a review of the Draft LAP and monitoring regime. In addition, the identification of positive impacts from monitoring should also be reported as this will assist in determining successful environmental policies.

It is recommended that data arising from planning applications, particularly in terms of environmental constraints mapping and Environmental Impact Statements be integrated into the GIS and monitoring system. This will assist in assessing cumulative impacts also, in particular ecology and water quality.

Finally, it is recommended that the monitoring report be made available to the public upon its completion. It is recommended that this data be shared with neighbouring local authorities to assist in monitoring cross county effects should they arise.

Table 9a: Monitoring Table

Topic and SEA Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data sources	Responsible Body
Biodiversity				
Bio 1: Protect, conserve and avoid loss of the diversity and range of habitats, species and wildlife corridors.	Habitat Loss.	No net habitat loss .	NPWS/ Galway County Council(GCC)	NPWS/GCC
Bio 2: Protect designated sites including Natura 2000 (SACs and SPAs) under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. Conserve and protect, or maintain and restore Natura 2000 sites and the Natura 2000 network.	Habitat loss.	Total area of designated sites (Natura 2000 and pNHA's) Total area of Conservation Areas.	NPWS/GCC	NPWS/GCC
Bio 4: Promote the protection of habitats (terrestrial and aquatic) from invasive species.	Spread of invasive species.	Survey and monitor extent and distribution of invasive species.	NPWS/GCC	NPWS/GCC
Bio 5: Protect the inland aquatic environment.	Biotic Quality Rating (Q Values) and Risk assessment.	Improve Q value status for River Clarin and associated tributaries. Aim to achieve Q4 value in line with Water Framework requirements by 2021. No reductions in Q values in relevant watercourses.	EPA/NPWS/ GCC	EPA/NPWS/GC C

Water	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources	Responsible Body
Wat 1: Protect and enhance the status of aquatic ecosystems and with regard to their water needs, terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands directly depending on the aquatic ecosystem (quality, level, flow) .	Biotic Quality Rating (Q Values) and Risk assessment	Improve Q value status for River Clarin and associated tributaries. Aim to achieve Q4 value in line with Water Framework requirements by 2021. No reductions in Q values in relevant watercourses.	EPA/ GCC/ WRBD	WRBD/EPA/GCC
Wat 2: Maintain or improve the quality of surface water (including estuarine) to status objectives as set out in the Water Framework Directive, WRBM and POMS.	Biotic Quality Rating (Q Values) and Risk assessment.	No severe pollution incident Upgrade of WWTP.	EPA/ GCC/WRBD	EPA/GCC/WRBD
Wat 3: Prevent pollution and contamination of groundwater by adhering to aquifer protection plans.	Risk Assessment	No change or improvement in groundwater quality associated with development.	EPA / WRBD	GCC/WRBD
Geology and Soil				
Soil 1: Encourage the use of derelict, disused and infill sites rather than Greenfield sites where appropriate.	Number of developments granted for brownfield sites (or area)	Infill developments on brownfield sites over lifetime of the plan.	GCC	GCC
Soil 2: Protect, improve and maintain the quality of soils.	Specific soil management plans large developments as part of construction management plans.	No recorded soil contamination incidents No invasive species due to poor soil management or topsoil	EPA and GCC	GCC

Soil 3: Conserve, protect and avoid loss of diversity and integrity of designated habitats, geological features, species or their sustaining resources in designated ecological sites.	Impacts to designated geological sites and their sustaining resources.	No impacts on such sites associated with the implementation of the LAP.	GCC/GSI/NPWS	GCC./GSI/NPWS
Population and human health	Indicators	Targets	Data sources	Responsible Authority
Pop 1: Protect, enhance and improve people's quality of life based on high quality residential, community, working and recreational environments and on sustainable travel patterns.	Drinking Water Sources to comply with the European Communities (Drinking Water) (No.2) Regulations, 2007 and European Communities (Quality of Surface Water Intended for the Abstraction of Drinking Water) Regulations, 1989 All water bodies to achieve good status, or maintain high status, by 2021 as required by the EU Framework Directive (WFD) 2000/60/EC Increase population and average net densities in new residential / mixed-use schemes. While also promoting	Status of drinking water and drinking water sources Ecological status of water bodies Average density of new residential development Average of densities in new developments Live register figures Implementation of Social Inclusion measures as proposed in National Anti-Poverty Strategy Census data / Population figures Education	GCC/Health Service Executive/EPA GCC and Health Service Executive	GCC HSE EPA GCC/HSE

	<p>employment opportunities and the development of the Athenry in line with Core Strategy Reduce social exclusion.</p> <p>Increase participation and accessibility of education to all levels of society.</p>	<p>participation rates</p> <p>Crime rates</p>		
Pop 2: To protect human health from risks or nuisances arising from exposure to incompatible land uses/developments.	Number of complaints relating to noise, odour, water quality and visual issues.	Promote compatible land use where possible.	GCC/ HSA	GCC/HSA
Cultural heritage				
Cult 1: Protect and enhance the cultural heritage including the built environment and settings; archaeological (recorded and recorded monuments), architectural (protected structures, architectural conservation areas, vernacular buildings, materials and urban fabric) and manmade landscape features (e.g.: field walls, footpaths, gate piers etc.).	<p>Percentage of Protected Structures 'at risk'</p> <p>Number of Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs)</p> <p>Number of archaeological sites investigated.</p>	Ensure that the cultural heritage of the town is maintained and protected from damage and deterioration.	GCC/DAHG	GCC/DAHG
CH2 Conserve historic fabric of urban and rural settlements particularly the town walled network.	Percentage of Protected Structures 'at risk'.	Ensure that the cultural heritage of the town is maintained and protected from damage and deterioration.	GCC/Irish Walled Town Network (ITWN)	GCC/ITWN

CH3 To ensure the restoration and reuse of existing uninhabited and derelict structures where possible, as opposed to demolition and new build.	Number of buildings restored over lifetime of the plan.	To ensure a positive increase in such development over lifetime of LAP.	GCC	GCC
Landscape	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources	Responsible Authority
Land 1: Protect designated landscapes and scenic views, routes and landscape features of local value.	Developments impacting on scenic views and routes.	Promote, enhance landscape character through policy implementation.	GCC	GCC
Land 2: Conserve and protect cultural landscapes including archaeological and architectural landscapes.	Number of developments requiring landscape impact assessment.	Maintain cultural landscapes associated with Athenry.	GCC	GCC
Land 3: Minimise visual impacts through appropriate design, assessment and siting.	Number of developments requiring a visual impact assessment.	Minimal negative visual impacts from new developments.	GCC	GCC
Air Quality and Climate	Indicators	Targets	Data sources	Responsible Body
AQ1 Seek to avoid air pollution and maintain/improve ambient air quality.	Maintenance of air quality standards and values.	No decline in overall air quality.	GCC/EPA	GCC/EPA
AQ 2: Minimise emissions of greenhouse gases through energy efficiency and promotion of renewable energy.	Average energy consumption of new residential housing stock Tonnes of CO2 /capita/year.	Decrease Greenhouse gas emissions in line with 2020 commitments.	EPA, GCC, SEAI	GCC/EPA/SEAI
Topic and SEA Objective Material Assets	Indicators	Targets	Data sources	Responsible Body
Mat 1: Reduce risk of flooding through avoidance of	Number of planning permissions	Compliance with the Floods Directive and	GCC/OPW	GCC

development in flood plains or in areas at risk of flooding and manage the risk of flooding.	compliant with the Floods Directive and OPW / DoEHLG's 'Flood Risk Management in the Planning Process' standards Number of planning permissions incorporating flood risk assessment and conditions requiring appropriate flood resilient measures for new developments Number of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and flood defence features required in new planning applications.	with OPW / DoEHLG 'Flood Risk Management in the Planning Process' standards Flood Risk Assessment be carried out for all new Developments within flood risk zones Identify Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (and features which are identified as having a flood defence function) in all new developments.		
Mat 2: Ensure that drinking water supplies are free from contamination.	% compliance in potable water quality monitoring % compliance in wastewater discharges from municipal treatment.	100% compliance with water quality monitoring.	GCC /EPA	GCC
Mat 3 Improve efficiency in distribution of potable water to population.	% wastage of potable water through poor infrastructure.	% of potable water lost due to leaks.	GCC	GCC
Mat 4 Ensure that all zoned lands are sufficiently serviced in advance to ensure appropriate treatment of wastewater prior to discharge.	% compliance in wastewater discharges from municipal treatment.	Improved % compliance.	GCC	GCC
Mat 5 Implement the waste pyramid and	% of waste recycled	% recycling from regional	GCC	GCC

encourage reuse/recycling of material wherever possible.	Tonne of waste per capita per year Tonnes of (methane producing) organic waste diverted from landfill Landfill gas capture rates.	waste strategy.		
Mat 6 Reduce waste of energy, promote use of renewable energy sources and support energy conservation initiatives.	Average energy consumption of new residential housing stock Tonnes of CO2 /capita/year.	Decrease Greenhouse gas emissions in line with 2020 commitments.	EPA, GCC, SEAI	GCC
Mat 7: Maximise sustainable modes of transport and provide for ease of movement for all road users and to promote development patterns that protect and enhance road safety.	% change in modal split.	Extension and improvement of the cycling and walking network.	GCC	GCC

9.4 Conclusion

The Athenry LAP sets out an overall strategy, policies and objectives for the period 2012 to 2018 which seeks to provide for the long term planning and overall benefit of the town. Policies, objectives and land use zonings were assessed in terms of the impacts on the environment and mitigation measures proposed through rewording of the policies/objectives or rezoning where necessary. The mitigation measures proposed for the policies/objectives through the SEA and HDA process have been incorporated into the Final LAP.

The SEA and HDA has been undertaken in line with the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 to 2011 (as amended) and the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. Subject to the full and proper implementation of the mitigation measures and adherence to policies, objectives and landuse zonings contained in the Athenry LAP 2012 to 2018, including appropriate site level investigations, it is considered that significant adverse impacts on the environment will be avoided.

Annex A: Detailed Assessment of draft Policies, Objectives and Land use zonings in the Draft Athenry Local Area Plan

The following criteria have been used in the Assessment Matrix:

No likely interaction with EPOs	X	Potential conflict with EPOs – likely to be mitigated	↕
Likely to improve status of EPOs	↑	Uncertain interactions with EPOs	?
Probable conflict with EPOs – unlikely to be mitigated	↓	Neutral Impacts with EPOs	-

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
Key Vision: Athenry will be a sustainable, self- sufficient, vibrant and socially inclusive key town, which protects and enhances its attractive medieval character while becoming an innovative growth centre within the Strategic Economic Corridor, supporting an educated workforce, providing a range of services/amenities and with a high quality of life for the local community. This will be delivered through a managed and phased development strategy on appropriately zoned and serviced lands in a manner that is balanced and sustainable for Athenry and the environs that it serves.		All SEOs				
Chapter Two		All SEOs				
Policy DS1 – Policy DS1 – Development Strategy It is the overarching policy of the Council to support and facilitate the sustainable development of Athenry in line with the preferred Development Strategy Option 4 – Managed Phased Development which allows Athenry to develop in a manner that maintains and enhances the quality of life of local communities, promotes opportunities		All SEOs				

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
for economic development, sustainable transport options and social integration, protects the cultural, built and natural heritage and environment and complies with relevant statutory requirements.						
Objective DS1 – Managed and Phased Development Support the managed and phased development of the Plan Area in a co-ordinated manner focussing on the consolidation and continued vitality and viability of the town centre, the protection and enhancement of the existing built heritage assets and landscape setting, character and unique identity of Athenry		All SEOs				
Objective DS2 – Consistency with the Core Strategy In the event that the zoned land allocations under the Core Strategy in Galway County Development Plan are amended for the Plan Area, the Council will ensure that developments permitted within the Plan Area are consistent with the revised zoned land allocations in the Core Strategy and associated provisions in the Galway County development Plan.		All SEOs				
Objective DS3 – Natura 2000 Network and Habitats Directive Assessment Protect Natura 2000 sites, including Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation, in accordance with the requirements in the EU <i>Habitats Directive 1992</i> (92/43/EEC), EU <i>Birds Directive 1979</i> (79/409/EEC), the <i>European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997</i> (S.I. No 94 of 1997), the <i>Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010</i> , the <i>European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011</i> (S.I. No. 477 of 2011) (and any subsequent amendments or updated legislation) and having due regard to the guidance in the <i>Appropriate Assessment Guidelines 2010</i> (and any subsequent or updated guidance). A plan or project (e.g. proposed development) within the Plan Area will only be authorised after the competent authority (Galway County Council) has ascertained, based on scientific knowledge and a Habitats Directive Assessment where necessary, that:		Bio1-2		Bio 3-6 W1-3	All other SEOs Uncertain as type of development or location uncertain	

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
1. The plan or project will not give rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of any Natura 2000 site (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects); or 2. The plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 site but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature. In this case, it will be a requirement to undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000.						
Objective DS4 – Development Management Standards and Guidelines The general development management standards and guidelines set out under the current Galway County Development Plan, or any subsequent variation/review, shall apply as appropriate in the Plan Area. In addition, the specific development management guidelines set out in Section 3 of this plan shall also be applied, as appropriate, to development proposals in the Plan Area.				All SEOS		
Objective DS5 – Service Led Development Development under the Plan shall be preceded by sufficient capacity in the public waste water treatment plant and appropriate extensions in the existing public wastewater infrastructure.			Bio5, Bio6 Wat1 -3,Pop2, CH3,Mat 4	Bio1-B3 Soil2 Pop1, P4 CH1, Land1 Mat 1-3, 5,6,7	Soil1	Soil3, CH2
Objective DS6 – Residential Development Phasing Direct residential development into appropriately zoned and serviced areas in accordance with the phased development framework as set out in S.3.1, S.3.2 and as outlined within Maps 1A/1B – Land Use Zoning Framework. Wastewater treatment capacity will be carefully monitored and development will only be permitted where there is capacity and/or adequate services can be made available.			Bio5, Bio6 Wat1 -3,Pop2, CH3,Mat 4	Bio1-B3 Soil2 Pop1, P4 CH1, Land1 Mat 1-3, 5,6,7		
3 Development Policies, Objectives and Guidelines						
Policy LU1 – Land Use Management It is the policy of Galway County Council to provide a land		Pop 1-2 Soil1		Bio4-6 Water 1-3	Mat3 Mat 4	Bio 1-3 Soil2-3

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
use zoning framework for the Plan Area to direct the type, density and location of development in a manner that contributes to the consolidation of the town centre, that allows for the orderly and sequential development of the town, that protects and enhances the existing landscape setting, character and unique identity of the town and that complies with the statutory requirements in the <i>Planning and Development Act 2000</i> (as amended). The land use zoning framework is supported by a residential phasing framework to ensure compliance with the Core Strategy and to promote the orderly and sequential development of the town.		CH3 AQC1 AQ2 Mat7		CH1-2 Land 1-3 Mat 2 Mat 5 Mat 6		Pop3-4 Mat1
Objective LU1 – Town Centre/Commercial (C1) Promote the development of the Town Centre as an intensive, high quality, well-landscaped, human-scaled and accessible environment with an appropriate mix of uses, including residential, commercial, service, tourism, enterprise, public and community uses as appropriate, that provide a range of retail services, facilities and amenities to the local community and visitors to the town. The town centre and associated main streets will remain the primary focus for retail and service activity in the town.		Pop1 AQ2 Mat 4 Mat 6	B6	Bio 1, 2,3, 4,5 Soil 2, 3 Pop2, Land 1-3 Mat1, 2, 3,5	Wat 1, Wat 2, Wat 3 Soil1 AQ1 Mat7	Pop 3, Pop4, CH1, 2,3
Objective LU2 – Commercial and Mixed Use (C2) Promote the development of commercial and complementary mixed uses on suitable lands that can provide focal points for the provision of services to surrounding neighbourhoods/areas and opportunities for commercial enterprises, retail developments and employment creation and which do not undermine the vitality and viability of the town centre				All other SEOs		
Objective LU3 – Residential (R) Promote the development of suitable, serviced lands to provide for high quality, well laid out and well landscaped sustainable residential communities with an appropriate mix of housing types and densities together with complementary land uses such as community facilities, local services and public transport facilities to serve the residential population of the area. Protect existing residential amenities and facilitate new infill		Pop 1 Mat7		All other SEOs		

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
<p>development and the development of complementary/compatible land uses on residential zoned land, in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.</p> <p>A phasing scheme will apply to residential uses on Residential (R) zoned lands, as set out under Objective RD1 in Section 3.2.2.</p>						
<p>Objective LU4 – Industrial (I) Promote the development of industrial and industrial-related uses, including manufacturing, processing of materials, warehousing and distribution, on suitable lands with adequate services and facilities and a high level of access to the major road network and public transport facilities. Adequate edge treatments and/or screening will be required to ensure high quality interfaces with public spaces and any adjoining residential areas or other sensitive land uses, as appropriate.</p>				All SEOs		
<p>Objective LU5 – Business & Enterprise (BE) Promote the development of business and enterprise uses, light industry/warehousing and the facilitation of enterprise park/office park type uses, incubation/start-up units and Small, Medium Enterprises, on suitable lands with adequate services and facilities and with a high level of access to the major road/rail networks and to public transport facilities.</p>				All SEOs		
<p>Objective LU6 – Business & Technology Park (BT) Promote the development of high value business and technology uses to reinforce Athenry’s role as a growth centre for large innovative companies in sectors including, science and technology based industry in life sciences, bio-pharma, the IT sector, internationally traded services and Research & Development. This zoning shall also provide for office park developments, storage facilities and logistics that are ancillary to the primary uses outlined above. Appropriate training facilities such as Third Level Outreach facilities may also be considered. The development of inappropriate or non-complementary uses, and which would be more appropriately located on lands zoned as</p>				All SEOs		

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
Industry, Business and Enterprise and Town Centre/Commercial, Commercial/Mixed Use will not normally be permitted within this zoning.						
Objective LU7 – Community Facilities (CF) Promote the development of community facilities on suitable lands with a high level of access to the local community, including educational, community, civic, public, and institutional and other complementary uses as appropriate.		Pop 1, Pop 2, Mat 7		All other SEOs		
Objective LU8 – Open Spaces/Recreation & Amenity (OS) Promote the development of open spaces and recreational activities in accordance with best practice and on suitable lands with adequate access to the local community and retain existing open space and recreational facilities unless it can be demonstrated by Galway County Council that these uses are no longer required by the community. Ensure that any flood risk areas within the OS zone are appropriately managed to avoid, reduce and/or mitigate the risk of flooding.		Pop 1, Pop 2, Mat 7		All other SEOs		
Objective LU9 Agriculture Protect the rural character of the area from inappropriate development and provide for agricultural and appropriate non-urban uses.		Pop 1, Pop 2, Land 1, 2,3		All other SEOs		
Objective LU10 – Other(Strategic Reserve) No use or specific controls are assigned to this zoning objective other than to facilitate the delivery of essential road infrastructure. <i>Please note: This zoning is no longer present in the Final LAP. It has been replaced mainly with Transport Infrastructure (TI).</i>					All SEOs	
Objective LU11 – Town Centre/Commercial (C1) Promote higher density development within the town centre, particularly adjacent to public transport facilities where such development is compatible with heritage and cultural objectives.		Pop 1, Pop2 Mat 7		All other SEOs		
Objective LU12 – Residential Densities		Pop 1, Pop		All other SEOs		

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
<p>Promote a range of residential densities within the Plan Area appropriate to the prevailing development pattern, supporting infrastructure, urban character and heritage resources in accordance with the guidance in the <i>Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas Guidelines 2009</i> (or as updated within the lifetime of this LAP). Higher residential densities should be encouraged at locations where it is appropriate to the existing context and density of the Plan Area, for example around the town centre and within convenient walking distance of public transport facilities, and where it will not unduly impact on built or natural heritage. Wastewater Treatment capacity will be carefully monitored and development will only be permitted where there is capacity and/or adequate services can be made available.</p>		2, Land 3				
<p>Policy RD1 – Residential Development It is the policy of Galway County Council to support the creation of sustainable communities and high quality residential areas at appropriate locations with a range of housing options and adequate support services, facilities and amenities, having regard to the guidance contained in the following policy documents or any updated versions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Joint Galway County Council and Ballinasloe Town Council Housing Strategy 2009-2015.</i> • <i>Sustainable Residential Developments in Urban Areas: Guidelines for Planning Authorities, 2009</i> and the accompanying guidance document <i>Urban Design Manual: A Best Practice Guide – A Companion Document to the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas, 2009.</i> • <i>Galway Clustered Housing Guidelines</i>, where appropriate, in the assessment of any proposals for new multiple unit housing developments within the Plan Area. • <i>Galway County Council Traveller Accommodation</i> 		Pop 1	Wat 2	All other SEOs		

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
<p><i>Programme.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Smart Travel “A Sustainable Transport Future 2009 – 2020”, including the National Cycle Policy Framework 2009-2022, and any other related national policy documents.</i> • <i>Water Framework Directive and the Planning System and Flood Risk Management, Guidelines to Planning Authorities 2009.</i> 						
<p>Policy RD2 – Phased Development on Residential Zoned Lands</p> <p>It is the policy of Galway County Council to encourage managed, orderly and phased residential development in accordance with the Preferred Development Strategy and the land use management and zoning provisions set out in this Local Area Plan. This shall include a positive presumption in favour of the managed development of suitably serviced Residential (Phase 1) lands in order to align the LAP with the Core Strategy/Settlement Strategy in the current Galway County Development Plan, subject to compliance with the policies and objectives in this LAP and the principles of proper planning and sustainable development. There will be a general presumption against residential development on lands zoned Residential (Phase 2) within the lifetime of the LAP, subject to the exceptions provided for under Objective RD1 and subject to meeting wastewater capacity requirements.</p>			Wat 2, Wat 4		All other SEOS	
<p>Objective RD1- Phased Residential Development</p> <p>Support the development of lands designated as Residential (Phase 1) within the lifetime of the LAP and reserve the lands designated as Residential (Phase 2) for the longer term growth needs of the town. Residential (Phase 2) lands are generally not developable within the lifetime of this Plan, with the exception of the following developments, which may be considered by the Planning Authority within the lifetime of this LAP subject to a suitable case being made for the proposal:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Single house developments for family members on family owned lands. 2. Non-residential developments that are appropriate to 			Wat 2, Wat 4	All other SEOs		

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
<p>the site context, any existing residential amenity and the existing pattern of development in the area.</p> <p>3. Where it is apparent that Residential (Phase 1) lands cannot or will not be developed within the Plan period, residential development may be considered in a phased manner on some Residential (Phase 2) lands.</p> <p>The above exceptions will be subject to compliance with the Core Strategy in the current Galway County Development Plan, the policies and objectives in this LAP, conforms to EPA standards and guidelines (e.g. EPA Code of Practice: Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (p.e ≤10). Planning will only be permitted where they do not prejudice the future use of the lands for the longer term growth needs of the town.</p>						
<p>Objective RD2 – Quality Housing Environments Encourage the development of sustainable residential communities through the promotion of innovative, high quality building design and appropriate layouts, that prioritise walking, cycling and public transport options and provide for a high level of permeability, accessibility and connectivity to the existing built environment, services and facilities. In this regard, future residential development proposals will be in accordance with the principles set out in the DoEHLG document ‘<i>Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas 2009</i>’ and its companion document ‘<i>Urban Design Manual: A Best Practice Guide for Planning Authorities 2009</i>’, or any updated version of these documents published during the lifetime of this Plan.</p>		<p>Pop 1 Pop 2 Land 3 Mat 7</p>		<p>All other SEOs</p>		
<p>Objective RD3 – Housing Options Require that a suitable variety and mix of dwelling types and sizes are provided in developments to meet different needs, having regard to demographics and social changes, social inclusion, life time changes, smaller household sizes, lower formation age, immigration etc.</p>		<p>Pop 1</p>		<p>All other SEOs</p>		
<p>Objective RD4 Open Space in Residential Areas Ensure the provision of adequate areas of high quality, safe and overlooked open space within residential developments and support the provision of play and recreational areas (e.g. playgrounds/multipurpose courts)</p>		<p>Pop 1, Pop2 Land 3</p>		<p>All other SEOs</p>		<p>Bio 2, Bio 3, Water 1, Wat 2, Wat 3 Soil 3 CH1</p>

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
in all new large residential developments.						
Objective RD5 – Social and Affordable Housing Require that 20% of all new eligible residential sites are set aside for the development of new social and affordable units, unless addressed through suitable alternative arrangements by agreement with the Planning Authority, in accordance with the Council's Housing Strategy 2009-2015 and Part V of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended.		Pop 1				All other SEOs
Objective RD6 – Traveller Accommodation Provide adequate accommodations facilities for the traveller community in accordance with the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013 or any updated version of this document.		Pop 1		All other SEOs	Wat 1, Wat 2	
Objective RD7 – Compatible Development Facilitate the development of appropriate, compatible uses within residential areas, subject to ensuring that adequate Residential zoned lands are retained and can be developed for residential uses to meet the growth needs of the town within the Plan period. Non-compatible uses include those uses that may generate large amounts of traffic, emissions, pollution, noise, odour, etc., or uses that can impact negatively on residential amenity.		Pop 1, Pop 2 AQ 1			All other SEOs	
Objective RD8 – Other Residential Development There shall be a general presumption in favour of the development of nursing homes and retirement facilities and community/day care centres on residential zoned lands or adjacent to the established town centre or as suitable re-use for protected structures or other buildings (e.g. institutional or educational buildings) that would have a limited re-development potential given their size and architectural character, subject to normal planning, access and servicing requirements		Pop 1 Pop 2 CH1 CH3		All other SEOs		
Section 3.2 Social and Community Development Policy SI 1 – Social Inclusion and Universal Access It is the policy of Galway County Council to support the principles of social inclusion and universal access, to		Pop 1 Pop 2				All other SEOs

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
ensure that all individuals have access to goods, services and buildings in order to assist them to participate in and contribute to social and cultural life within Athenry.						
Objective SI 1 – Social Inclusion Support the implementation of the provisions of the Galway County Council Social Inclusion Action Plan 2010 and Social Inclusion Work Programme 2011 and any subsequent updates to these documents		Pop 1				All other SEOs
Objective SI 2 – Universal Access Ensure that housing developments, community facilities, public spaces, public roads, public footpaths and transport services give due consideration to the needs of disabled or mobility impaired people and the requirements of the <i>Disability Act 2005</i> and the Council's <i>Disability Action Plan 2007-2015</i> and the <i>Traffic Management Guidelines 2003</i> (and any subsequent reviews/updates to these documents).		Pop 1				All other SEOs
Policy CF1 – Community Facilities and Amenities It is the policy of the Council to support the provision of an adequate level and distribution of community facilities and amenities in the Plan Area that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets the needs of the local community as they arise and resources permit. • Are located in appropriate, accessible locations to serve the residential population in the Plan Area; • Are clustered or linked together wherever facilities and amenities are complementary and it is practicable to do so, to allow for shared and multi-purpose use of facilities. Community facilities and amenities projects will be facilitated in appropriate locations following an assessment of each proposal and subject to co-operation and consultation, as appropriate, with the local community and other relevant stakeholders, including the Department of Education, and available resources		Pop 1 Pop 2		All other SEOs		
Objective CF1 – Lands for Community/Recreation & Amenity Facilities.		Pop 1, Pop 2				All other SEOs

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
Ensure that there are adequate lands zoned and services to cater for the establishment, improvement or expansion of educational, community, recreation and amenity facilities within the Plan boundary						
Objective CF2 – Educational Facilities Support the provision of adequate educational facilities for the local community including primary, post primary, third level outreach programmes, R&D facilities, and including other training facilities in order to meet the needs of the widest range of residents within Athenry and its environs. The Council are positively disposed towards new school facilities and have identified a range of general suitable areas for new school provision. Their indicative locations are illustrated within the <i>Specific Objectives Maps (2A/2B)</i> .		Pop 1		All other SEOs		
Objective CF3 - Childcare Facilities. Facilitate and promote the development of childcare facilities in suitable locations and in accordance with national policy and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government 'Childcare Facilities-Guidelines for Planning Authorities' or any updated/amended version of this document.		Pop 1		All other SEOs		
Objective CF4 - Open Spaces Facilitate the development of open spaces and civic spaces at suitable locations within the Plan Area and protect existing open spaces from inappropriate development, so as to maintain their attractiveness and role in enhancing the residential and overall medieval character of Athenry. Refer to the <i>Specific Objectives Maps (2A/2B)</i> .		Pop 1 Pop 2 Soil 2 CH1 CH2 Land1 Land 2 Land 3				All other SEOs
Objective CF5 – Sports, Play and Recreation Facilities Support the provision of new sports, play and recreational facilities to service the needs of the local community and require the provision of play/recreation facilities in new large residential developments, and facilitate the development of same in other appropriate locations in the town, including supporting public/community initiatives to provide same.		Pop 1, Pop 2		All other SEOs		B1, B2, B3
Objective CF6 – Existing Community, Recreation and		Pop 1		All other SEOs		

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
Amenity Facilities Retain existing community and recreation and amenity facilities and lands zoned for such uses, and prevent their change of use or redevelopment, unless it can be clearly demonstrated that the facility/lands are no longer required and that the new use or development contributes to the overall community needs and recreation and amenity needs of the Athenry area.						
3.4 Economic Development Policies						
Policy ED1 – Economic Development It is the policy of the Council to support economic development and employment creation in Athenry through the identification of appropriately located and adequately serviced lands for business and enterprise, business and technology, retail, industrial, commercial and tourism developments, the promotion of investment in transportation and other support infrastructure and the creation of a high quality environment to encourage economic investment. The promotion of economic development and employment creation will be appropriately guided to ensure the protection of residential amenities, built and natural heritage, landscape/ townscape/streetscape character and the vitality and viability of the town centre.		<i>Pop1</i>		<i>All other SEOs</i>		
Objective ED1 – Employment & Economic Development Support the Economic Development Strategy of the West Regional Authority Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022 and the economic development and tourism policies and objectives as set out in the current County Development Plan.		<i>Pop 1 Ch1</i>		<i>All other SEOs</i>		
Objective ED2 – Business & Technology Park Development Promote and encourage the establishment of Business and Technology activities, which can be developed in a campus style park, on Business and Technology zoned lands in tandem with the delivery of essential infrastructural requirements and continue to co-operate with the relevant		<i>Pop 1</i>		<i>All other SEOs</i>		

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
stakeholders/other agencies for the timely delivery of same.						
Objective ED3 – Business/Enterprise & Industrial Development Facilitate and encourage the establishment of industry/business/enterprise which are considered compatible with surrounding uses on suitably zoned sites. Where such uses are developed adjacent to residential areas and community facilities, buffer zones shall be provided as well as adequate screening in the form of planting, landscaping as appropriate.		Pop 1 Land 3		All other SEOs		
Objective ED4 – Retail Development Support the development of appropriate types, scales and patterns of retail development in suitable locations within the town, that support the vitality and viability of the existing town centre and associated main streets, that are easily accessible particularly in terms of public transport, that protect investment in strategic roads and infrastructure and that contribute to the creation of a high quality retail environment, in accordance with the <i>Draft Retail Planning Guidelines 2011</i> (and any subsequent review or update), including the application of a ‘ <i>sequential approach</i> ’ to retail development. The town centre (C1) zoning shall remain the primary focus for the location of new retail development and on Commercial/Mixed Use (C2) zoning where appropriate.		Pop 1 Mat 7		All other SEOs		
Objective ED5 – Tourism Development Encourage and assist the development of the tourism potential within Athenry in a manner that respects the architectural and archaeological and cultural significance of the town and its environs		Pop 1 CH1 CH2 Land1 Land 2		All other SEOs		
Objective ED6 – Quality Working Environments Encourage the provision of high quality designs (including variations in design and scale), layout, boundary treatment and arrival views of development within Industrial (I), Business and Enterprise (BE) Business and Technology (BT) and Commercial/Mixed Use (C2) zones in order to positively contribute to the character and visual amenity of the area.		Pop 1 Land 3		All other SEOs		
Objective ED7 - Non Conforming Use				All SEOs		

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
Where existing uses do not conform with the land use zoning objectives or with the matrix of the Plan, the Planning Authority shall facilitate their relocation to more sustainable and appropriately zoned lands.						
3.5 Transportation Infrastructure Policy TI 1 – Sustainable Transport, Walking and Cycling It is the policy of the Council to promote the use of public transport, walking and cycling as safe, convenient and environmentally sustainable alternatives to private transport and to implement the key goals, policy guidance and relevant actions set out in the Department of Transport’s policy document <i>Smarter Travel: A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009-2020</i> (and any subsequent amendments or updates) and including any Smart Travel Plan(s) as adopted by Galway County Council.		<i>Pop 1</i> <i>Pop 2</i> <i>AQ 1</i> <i>AQ2</i> <i>Mat 7</i>		<i>All other SEOs</i>		
Objective TI 1– Integrated Land Use and Transport Ensure that land use planning is integrated with transportation planning and reduce the need to travel, particularly by private transport, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting the consolidation of development; • Encouraging intensification and mixed use development along public transport corridors and at public transport hubs and nodes; • Prioritising walking, cycling and public transport within new development proposals, as appropriate; • Ensuring that land use and zoning are fully integrated with the provision and development of a comprehensive, sustainable, efficient, high quality transportation network that accommodates the movement needs of residents, businesses and visitors 		<i>Pop 1</i> <i>Pop 2</i> <i>Mat 3</i> <i>AQ 1</i> <i>AQ2</i> <i>Mat 6</i> <i>Mat 7</i>		<i>All other SEOs</i>		
Objective TI 2 – Sustainable Transportation Facilitating sustainable transportation options including public transportation, rail freight, electric vehicle rentals, car clubs, public bike schemes as appropriate.		<i>Pop 1</i> <i>Pop 2</i> <i>Mat 3</i> <i>AQ 1</i> <i>AQ2</i> <i>Mat 6</i>		<i>All other SEOs</i>		

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
<p>Objective TI 3 – Public Transport Promote Athenry as an integrated transportation location which supports the provision of improved and enhanced public transport services and facilities, including rail, bus services, the Rural Transport Initiative, park and ride facilities and all associated ancillary requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the provision of an integrated public transportation facility/hub (with all the required ancillary services) which is located in proximity to the railway station in consultation with public transport providers and local landowners. • Seek to provide enhanced public access between the Railway Station and its existing parking facilities. • Support the provision of parking facilities in proximity to public transportation nodes to facilitate sustainable patterns of commuting to/from Athenry. <p>Refer to the Specific Objectives Maps (2A/2B)</p>		<p>Mat 7 Pop 1 Pop 2 Mat 3 AQ 1 AQ2 Mat 6 Mat 7</p>		<p>All other SEOs</p>		
<p>Objective TI 3 – Public Transport Promote Athenry as an integrated transportation location which supports the provision of improved and enhanced public transport services and facilities, including rail, bus services, the Rural Transport Initiative, park and ride facilities and all associated ancillary requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the provision of an integrated public transportation facility/hub (with all the required ancillary services) which is located in proximity to the railway station in consultation with public transport providers and local landowners. • Seek to provide enhanced public access between the Railway Station and its existing parking facilities. • Support the provision of parking facilities in proximity to public transportation nodes to facilitate sustainable patterns of commuting to/from Athenry. <p>Refer to the Specific Objectives Maps (2A/2B)</p>		<p>Pop 1 Pop 2 Mat 3 AQ 1 AQ2 Mat 6 Mat 7</p>		<p>All other SEOs</p>		

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
<p>Objective TI 4 – Walking Facilitate the improvement of the pedestrian environment and network so that it is safe and accessible to all, through the provision of the necessary infrastructure such as footpaths, lighting, pedestrian crossings etc. New development shall promote and prioritise walking, shall be permeable, adequately linked and connected to neighbouring areas, the town centre, recreational, educational, residential and employment destinations and shall adhere to the principles contained within the national policy document <i>Smart Travel A Sustainable Transport Future 2009-2020</i>, or as updated or with any associated guidance document</p>		<p>Pop 1 Pop 2 Mat 3 AQ 1 AQ2 Mat 6 Mat 7</p>		All other SEOs		
<p>Objective TI 5 – Cycling Facilitate the improvement of the cycling environment/network so that it is safe and accessible, through the provision of the necessary infrastructure, such as surface treatment, junction treatment, cycle track(s), cycle lane(s), lighting, road crossings etc. New development shall promote and prioritise cycling, shall be permeable, adequately linked and connected to neighbouring areas, the town centre, recreational, educational, residential and employment destinations and shall adhere to the principles contained within the national policy document <i>Smart Travel A Sustainable Transport Future 2009-2020</i>, and the National Cycle Policy Framework document or updated/amended guidance documents</p>		<p>Pop 1 Pop 2 Mat 3 AQ 1 AQ2 Mat 6 Mat 7</p>		All other SEOs		
<p>Objective TI6 – Bicycle Parking Seek to provide adequate levels of bicycle parking throughout the Plan Area, in accordance with the standards as set out in the current County Development Plan, or as varied/updated, and ensure that new private developments provide safe, secure and sheltered bicycle parking facilities.</p>		<p>Pop 1 Pop 2 Mat 3 AQ 1 AQ2 Mat 6 Mat 7</p>				All other SEOs
<p>Objective TI 7 Walking & Cycling Strategy Support the preparation of a County Walking & Cycling Strategy and the implementation of any specified objectives</p>		<p>Pop 1 Pop 2 Mat 3</p>				All other SEOs

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
for the town of Athenry and its environs, as resources permit.		AQ 1 AQ2 Mat 6 Mat 7				
Objective TI 8– Pedestrian Crossings Facilitate the provision of pedestrian crossings adjacent to schools and at other appropriate locations within the Plan Area, as required, and specifically a pedestrian/cycle crossing from Athenry Rail Station and its existing parking facilities. Refer to the <i>Specific Objectives Maps (2A/2B)</i> .		Pop 1 Pop 2 Mat 3 AQ 1 AQ2 Mat 6 Mat 7				
Objective TI 9 – Mobility Management Plans Require Mobility Management Plans for all medium to large scale residential, commercial, mixed use or business/enterprise/industrial developments as appropriate		Pop 1 Pop 2				All other SEOs
Objective TI 10 – Charging Points for Electric Vehicles Facilitate the provision and delivery of recharging points for electric powered vehicles within public car parks and at other appropriate locations in Athenry for domestic, transition and end of journey type travel.		Pop 1, Pop 2, AQ1, AQ2, Mat 7				All other SEOs
Policy TI 2 – Roads, Streets and Parking It is the policy of Galway County Council to ensure that the road and street network is safe and convenient, that it has adequate capacity to accommodate motorised traffic and non-motorised movements, that it has a high environmental quality with appropriate adjacent development and built form, particularly in the case of urban streets and streetscapes, and that adequate parking facilities are provided to serve the needs of the town. This policy and its associated objectives will be guided by relevant national policy, including the <i>Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines</i> , the <i>Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas Guidelines</i> and accompanying <i>Urban Design Manual</i> , the <i>Traffic Management Guidelines</i> , the <i>Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines</i> and any forthcoming guidelines in relation to street design and cycling facilities.		Pop 1 Pop 2 Mat 7 L2 L3 Mat 7		All other SEOs		
Policy TI 3 – County Development Plan Policies, Objectives & Development Management Standards.				All SEOs		

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
New developments including developments proposed onto and in proximity to National and Class II Controlled roads shall be assessed, as appropriate, in relation to details including the provision of a safe means of access/egress, provision of sightlines, car and bicycle parking, loading bay provision, building setbacks from routes/roads etc., in accordance with the policies, objectives and Development Management Standards set out in the current County Development Plan or any varied or updated version.						
Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
Objective TI 11 – National Road/Motorway Network Protect the national road/motorway network and safeguard the efficiency, safety, capacity and strategic investment in the M6 motorway. Proposals for large scale developments will be required, where appropriate, to submit Traffic and Transport Assessments to assess the impact of the proposed development and associated traffic movements on the efficiency, safety and capacity of the national road/motorway network.		<i>Mat 7</i>		<i>All other SEOs</i>		
Objective TI 12 – Transport Network Improvements Facilitate any improvements of the existing transportation network and the implementation of traffic management measures subject to normal planning and environmental considerations. Where possible, there will be minimal hedgerow/stone wall removal and beneficial landscaping and planting to maintain wildlife corridors.		<i>Pop 1, Pop2, Mat 7, Bio 1, Land 1</i>		<i>All other SEOs</i>		
Objective TI 13 – Road Safety Audits, Traffic Impact Assessment Require all proposed new commercial, industrial and retail developments and residential development greater than 4 units, or where significant changes are proposed to existing commercial, industrial or larger retail developments, to submit Road Safety Audits and Traffic Impact Assessments as part of their planning application documentation		<i>Pop 1, Pop2, Mat 7</i>		<i>All other SEOs</i>		

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
Objective TI 14 – Schools Promote and facilitate greater ease of traffic movement and safe routes to schools in partnership with local schools and ensure that schools have a safe drop off/collection facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles and adequate and appropriately located staff parking		Mat 7 Pop 1		All other SEOs		
Objective TI 15 – Noise All new proposed development, within 300m of roadways with traffic volumes greater than 8220AADT, major railways which have more than 60,000 passengers per year, shall include a noise assessment and mitigation measures if necessary with the planning application documentation		Pop1, Pop2		All other SEOs		
Objective TI 16 – Road Schemes/Road Improvements Support the development of road schemes/improvements including road bridges and road/rail crossings in and around the Plan Area as shown on the Specific Objectives Maps (2A/2B)		Pop 1		All other SEOs		
Objective TI 17 - M6 Ballinasloe to Galway Motorway: Protect from future development the route of the M6 Ballinasloe to Galway Motorway which is located within the area covered by the Athenry LAP. In this regard the following shall apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A building setback of 90m minimum shall be required on each side of the route edge for the M6 Ballinasloe to Galway route in areas where a speed limit greater than 50kph applies. Refer to the Specific Objectives Maps (2A/2B).				All SEOs		
Objective TI 18 Athenry Relief Road/ Relief Streets Scheme: (So named for the purpose of this Plan) Protect from future development the Athenry Relief Roads/Relief Streets scheme, which are located within the area covered by the Athenry LAP. In this regard the following shall apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A building set back of 25m minimum shall be required on each side of the route edge for the Relief Roads/Relief Streets in areas where a speed limit greater than 50kph applies No minimum specified building set back shall be required						All other SEOs This has been designed and granted approval through Part 8 Planning process and is partially constructed.

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
on the Relief Road/Relief Streets in areas of 50kph or less, in order to allow for a more flexible, context sensitive approach that will enable the development of urban streetscapes at appropriate locations. A 3m wide cycleway/pedestrian way shall be provided as part of the provision of the Athenry Relief Road.						
Objective TI 19 – New Road and over- bridge Provide a new road and over-bridge from the M6 link road to the Cashla Road, as provided for in the proposed Athenry Relief Road. Refer to the Specific Objectives Maps 2a/2b regarding the location.						<i>All other SEOs This has been designed and granted approval through Part 8 Planning process and is partially constructed</i>
Objective TI 20 – Amenity Cycleway/Pathway Reserve an amenity cycleway/pathway from the new Business and Technology Park (BT) zoning objective, along the Cashla Road, IDA ring road to the Railway Station as indicated on the Specific Objectives Maps (2A/2B) . Support the development of other pedestrian and cycling linkages where appropriate within the Plan area.		<i>Pop 1 Pop 1 Mat 7 AQ 1 AQ2</i>		<i>All other SEOs</i>		
Objective TI 21 – Urban Street Network and Approach Routes Support the treatment of the route network within the built areas of the town as urban streets that accommodate the needs of pedestrians, that facilitate cyclists wherever possible and that support public and private transport movements, stopping and parking, as appropriate. Where appropriate, new developments will be required to facilitate the extension of the urban street network and/or the provision of improved connectivity and permeability, particularly for pedestrians and cyclists		<i>Pop 1 Pop 1 Mat 7 AQ 1 AQ2</i>		<i>All other SEOs</i>		
Objective TI 22 – Bridges over railway lines Improve the bridges over the railway lines by making better provision for pedestrian access in an environmentally sensitive manner. Refer to the Specific Objectives Maps		<i>Pop 1 Pop 1 Mat 7 AQ 1</i>		<i>All other SEOs</i>		

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
(2A/2B).		AQ2				
Objective TI 23– Parking Facilities It is an objective of the Council to provide long stay parking facilities at Backlawn & Knockaunglass. Ensure that adequate parking facilities are provided in suitable locations within the Plan Area to serve the needs of Athenry in accordance with applicable standards and guidelines. Refer to the Specifics Objectives Map re locations. Refer to Specific Objectives Map 2A and 2B regarding locations.		Pop 1		All other SEOs		
Objective TI 24 – Walkways Provide a walkway along the River Clarin, where possible. Continue to provide a walkway around the Town Walls. Refer to the Specific Objectives Map (2A and 2B) .		Pop 1 Pop 2 AQ 1 AQ2 Mat 7		All other SEOs		
3.6 Utility and Environmental Infrastructure Policies Policy UI 1 – Water Supply, Wastewater And Surface Water Infrastructure It is the policy of Galway County Council to support the provision and maintenance of adequate wastewater disposal, water supply and surface water drainage infrastructure, in accordance with EU Directives, to service the development of Athenry. This will include adequate capacity for public wastewater and storm-water sewers as appropriate, an adequate quantity and quality of water supply and the promotion of Sustainable Drainage System approaches and techniques within the town. Continue to improve and upgrade water supply within the Plan Area and implement as appropriate the relevant recommendations set out in The Provision and Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland – A Report for the Years 2008-2009 (Office of Environment Enforcement – EPA, 2011). The Council will support any works to achieve an improvement in overall surface water quality and help meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive Water Management Unit Action Plan		Pop 1, Pop 2 Mat 4 B5		Bio 1-4,6 Wat 1-3 Mat 1, 2, 3 Land 3 Soil 2 Mat 5,6 ,		Ch1-3 Land 1-2 Soil1, 3 Mat 7

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
<p>Objective UI 1 – Water Supply & Water Conservation. Ensure that new developments are adequately serviced with a suitable quantity and quality of drinking water supply, promote water conservation to reduce the overall level of water loss in the public supply and require that new domestic developments provide for water supply metering.</p>		Mat 2, Mat 3		All other SEOs		
<p>Objective UI 2 – Wastewater Disposal New developments shall only be permitted where it can be clearly demonstrated that they can be serviced and that there is adequate capacity in the wastewater disposal infrastructure in accordance with applicable requirements and standards, including urban wastewater treatment disposal standards, in order to protect the River Clarin, the Galway Bay Complex and its qualifying interests. Any developments for single dwellings will be required to adhere to the EPA Code of Practice and will be subject to monitoring in order to assess impacts on water.</p> <p>Continue to support the delivery of the Galway Main Drainage scheme in relation to the Athenry Local Area Plan Area.</p>		Pop 1, 2 Mat 2, 3,4 Land 3 Mat 1		Bio 1-6 Wat 1-3 Soil 2, 3 Land 1,2		Soil 1 CH1,2,3 AQ 1,2 Mat 5,6
<p>Objective UI 3 Wastewater Treatment Plant Buffer Provide and protect a 100m buffer around the wastewater treatment plant (Public Utilities Zoning Objective) site and protect buffer zones around any other treatment plant in the town as appropriate. Refer to the Specific Objectives Maps (2A/2B).</p>		Bio 5,B6 Wat 1,3 Pop1 Pop 2 Mat 2				All other SEOs
<p>Objective UI 4 – Surface Water Drainage Maintain, and enhance as appropriate, the existing surface water drainage system throughout the Plan Area and ensure that new developments are adequately serviced with surface water drainage infrastructure and promote the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems in all new developments.</p>						

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
<p>Policy UI 2 – Water Quality It is the policy of Galway County Council to protect and improve water quality, in conjunction with other agencies and stakeholders in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive (2006/60/EC) and to support the implementation of the Western River Basin District Management Plan and consider both when considering new development proposals.</p>		<p>Pop 1, Pop 2 Mat 4 B5</p> <p>Bio 1-4,6 Wat 1-3 Mat 1, 2, 3 Land 3 Soil 2 Mat 5,6</p>				
<p>Objective UI 5 – Western River Basin District Management Plan and Protection of Waters Support the implementation of the relevant recommendations and measures as outlined in the Western River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 or any other plan that may supersede same during the lifetime of this Local Area Plan. Development shall only be permitted where it can be clearly demonstrated that the proposal would not have an unacceptable impact on the water environment, including surface water, groundwater quality and quantity, river corridors and associated wetlands. Galway County Council is statutorily obliged to prevent any further deterioration in the quality status of the waters in Athenry (Clarín River and the Clare River Drainage Area) and to ensure good quality status by 2021.</p>		<p>Wat 1, 2,3 Bio 5, 6 Pop 1, 2 Mat 1, 2, 3, 4</p>				<p>Ch 1-3 Land 1,2 ,3 AQ1,2 Mat 5,6</p>
<p>Objective UI 6 – Groundwater & Aquifer Support the protection of groundwater resources and dependent wildlife/habitats in accordance with the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC and the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations, 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) or any updates. Protect the regionally important aquifer that under lays the Plan area from risk of environmental pollution and have regard to any groundwater protection schemes and groundwater source protection zones where data has been made available by the Geological Survey of Ireland.</p>		<p>Pop 1, 2 Mat 2, 3,4 Land 3 Mat 1 Wat4 Wat 1 Bio5,6 Soil 1</p>		<p>Bio 1,23 Soil 2</p>		<p>Ch 1-3 Land 1-3 AQ 1-2</p>

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
<p>Policy UI 3 – Climate Change & Air Quality It is the policy of Galway County Council to support and promote, in conjunction with other agencies, local, national and international initiatives for limiting emissions of greenhouse gases and encouraging the development of renewable energy sources in accordance with The ‘National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012’ (or any superseding document)</p>		AQ1 AQ2 Mat 7,6 Bio 1-6 Pop1,2			All other SEOs	
<p>Objective UI 7 – Climate Change & Air Quality Continue to implement Galway County Council’s <i>Energy Action Plan</i> regarding energy efficiency and conservation in existing and future buildings, in energy use and procurement activities and in raising awareness and stimulating action within local communities. Promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development throughout the Plan Area by seeking to protect and maintain the regulatory standards contained with the EPA’s <i>Air Quality in Ireland 2009 Key Indicators of Ambient Air Quality</i> (Environmental Protection Agency 2010 or any superseding document)</p>		AQ1, 2 Mat 7 Mat 6 Pop 1,2 Bio 1-6			All other SEOs	
<p>Objective UI 8 – Air Purification Encourage landscaping and deciduous tree planting in an environmentally sensitive manner within the Plan Area as a means of air purification, the filtering of suspended particles and the improvement of Athenry’s micro- climate.</p>		AQ1,2 Mat 6,7 Bio 1-6 Pop 1,2			All other SEOs	

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
<p>Objective UI 9 – Radon Galway County Council in its statutory role under the <i>Building Control Act 2007</i> will have regard to the specific guidance on radon prevention measures for new homes as contained within the Building Regulations.</p>		Pop 1, 2				All other SEOs
<p>Policy UI 4 –Flooding Galway County Council in co-operation with the OPW shall support the implementation of the EU Flood Risk Directive (2007/60/EC) and shall have due regard to the Catchment Flood Risk Management Plan (CFRAM) and the recommendations and outputs arising from same which relate to or impact the Plan area</p>		Pop 1 Pop 2 Mat 1,2 B5 B6 Wat 1 Wat 4				Bio 1, 2,3,4 Soil 1,2, 3 CH1, 2, 3 Land 1-3 AQ1,2 Mat 3,4,5,6,7
<p>Objective UI 10– Flood Risk Management Implement the provisions of the DoEHLG/OPW publication 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management: Guidelines for Planning Authorities' 2009 or any superseding document in relation to flooding and flood risk management and facilitate flood management measures, as appropriate.</p>		Wat 1, 2,3 Bio 5, 6 Pop 1, 2 Mat 1, 2,				Bio 1, 2, 3,4 All other SEOs

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
<p>Objective UI 11 – Flood Risk Assessment It is an objective of the Galway County Council to protect areas prone to flooding from inappropriate development and to ensure that new development does not result in an increased risk of flooding within the site, on other lands, in low lying areas and in areas adjacent to rivers/streams. In this regard, development proposals, in areas where there is a potential risk of flooding or which could give rise to a risk of flooding elsewhere, shall be required to carry out a detailed flood risk assessment in accordance with the provisions of the DoEHLG's <i>The Planning System and Flood Risk Management, Guidelines to Planning Authorities 2009</i>, or any superseding document</p>		<p>Wat 1, 2,3 Bio 5, 6 Pop 1, 2 Mat 1, 2</p>				<p>All other SEOS</p>
<p>Objective UI 12 – Flood Plains Protect rivers, streams and undeveloped riparian strips near rivers, streams and natural floodplains in the Plan Area allowing a 10 metre environmental management buffer on each side of the River Clarin and its tributaries, where appropriate, and prevent culverting or realignment, where possible. Refer to <i>the Specific Objectives Maps (2A/2B)</i>.</p>		<p>Bio 1 -6 Wat 1,2 Soil 2,3 Land 1 AQ1, Mat 1</p>		<p>Wat 3</p>		<p>Soil1 Ch 1,2,3 Land 2,3 AQ2 Mat 2-7</p>
<p>Objective UI 13 - Flooding & Surface Water This Local Area Plan takes due consideration of the national guidelines issued by the DoEHLG entitled 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management: Guidelines for Planning Authorities' 2009. A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment has been carried out for County Galway and the relevant flood risk issues for the Athenry area have been considered. Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in developments can contribute to surface water retention and help reduce and prevent flooding. Proposals for SuDS shall be in accordance with the recommendations as contained within the EPA document entitled '<i>Guidance on Authorisation of Discharges to Groundwater 2011</i>' (or any updated version</p>		<p>Bio 1 -6 Wat 1,2 Soil 2,3 Land 1 AQ1, Mat 1</p>		<p>Wate 3</p>		<p>Soil1 Ch 1,2,3 Land 2,3 AQ2 Mat 2-7</p>

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
of this document).						
Policy UI 5 – Waste Management It is the policy of Galway County Council to support waste reduction and sustainable waste management through prevention, reduction and recycling..		Pop 1 Pop 2 Mat 5 Soil 1				All other SEOs
Objective UI 14 – Waste Prevention, Reduction & Recycling Promote the prevention, reduction and recycling of waste in new developments. Applicants will be required to submit proposals demonstrating how this is to be achieved with planning applications.		Mat 5				All other SEOs
Objective UI 15 – Bring Bank Facility Facilitate the installation of bring banks at suitable locations within the Plan Area.		Pop 1, Mat 5				All other SEOs
Policy UI 16– Energy and Communications It is the policy of the Council to support the provision of adequate energy and communications infrastructure to service developments, including gas, electricity, broadband and telephone services. In particular, the Council supports the increased use of renewable energy and the aims of sustainable energy use and conservation in building design and construction		AQ 1, 2 Mat 2 Pop1				All other SEOs
Objective UI 16 – Broadband & Telecommunications Facilities the provision of adequate telecommunication infrastructure within the Plan Area, including telephone and broadband service, to the requirements of the relevant service providers and in accordance with the principles of proper planning and sustainable development		Pop 1, Pop 2			All other SEOs	
Objective UI 17 – Electricity Supply Facilitate the provision of an adequate supply of electricity and gas to developments in the Plan Area, to the requirements of the relevant service provider. Promote Athenry as a Phase 1 Town that has been approved by the Commission for Energy Regulation for		Pop 1, Pop 2			All other SEOs Uncertain due to infrastructural requirements not yet designed or planned	

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
connection to the gas network subject to making the connection viable.						
Objective UI 18 – Energy Conservation & Efficiency New buildings should be sustainable in their siting, orientation, design and construction. Passive solar design techniques, high energy efficiency, low impact construction methods and the use of local /sustainable building materials and/or recycled aggregates shall be encouraged to ensure that new developments minimise their environmental impacts and long term costs.		Pop 1, 2 Land 1, 2,3 AQ 1,2 Mat 6		All other SEOs		
Objective UI 19 Renewable Energy Promote and facilitate the development of renewable sources of energy and associated infrastructure within the LAP area and encourage the integration of micro-renewable energy sources into the design and construction of new developments as appropriate.		Pop 1, 2 Land 1, 2,3 AQ 1,2 Mat 6		All other SEOs		
Policy UD1 – Urban Design and Place-making It is the policy of Galway County Council to promote the use of sustainable urban design principles and approaches that will help to create high quality built and natural environments appropriate to the context and landscape setting of the town, having regard to the guidance contained in the <i>Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas Guidelines 2009</i> and the accompanying <i>Urban Design Manual 2009</i> (or any updated version). This will focus on the development of a high quality, well landscaped and appropriately scaled built environment with a strong civic and commercial core, responsive building frontages, appropriate building forms, heights, designs and materials and high quality civic, community, recreational and amenity facilities. The creation of a high quality natural environment will also be supported through the protection of the landscape sensitivities, views and prospects in the town and the promotion of the development of a green network and high quality landscaping.		Pop 1, 2 Land 1, 2,3 Ch1 Bio 1		All other SEOs		
Objective UD1 – High Quality, Sensitive Design Ensure that new developments are responsive to their site context and in keeping with the character, amenity,		Pop 1, 2 Ch1,2, 3 Land 1-3		All other SEOs		

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
heritage, environment and landscape of the area. New development proposals will be required to complement the existing character of the town centre/area in terms of scale, height, massing, building line, urban grain and definition and through high quality design proposals for buildings/structures/shop fronts, the use of high quality, appropriate materials and the provision of appropriate signage, lighting, landscaping proposals and other such details.						
Objective UD2 – Public Spaces and Streets Promote the development of high quality public spaces consisting of streets, squares, parks and amenities connected by a network of pedestrian and cycling routes. Public spaces should have a high standard of design and street furniture that will create a coherent character for the area. This would include appropriately designed and located park benches, bus shelters, cycle storage facilities, refuse bins, signage, street sculpture, etc. but should avoid the over-proliferation of different elements and/or cluttering of public spaces.		<i>Pop 1, 2 Ch1,2, 3 Land 1-3 Mat 7</i>			<i>All other SEOs</i>	
Objective UD3– Spatial Definition and Animation Ensure that new developments are designed to provide spatial definition and animation to public spaces and streets through the use of appropriate building lines and built forms, responsive building frontages and passive surveillance and high quality streetscapes and/or landscaping edges to enclose and address public spaces. Perimeter block typologies provide a useful approach in generating good spatial definition, adequate enclosure and a high quality public realm and the creation of focal points, such as landmark buildings and gateways, also help to improve spatial definition and legibility and will be encouraged in appropriate locations		<i>Pop 1, 2 Ch1,2, 3 Land 1-3</i>		<i>All other SEOs</i>		
Objective UD4 – Green Network and the Landscape Support the development of a network of amenities, open spaces and natural areas that support biodiversity, that incorporate existing landscape features such as local rivers, streams, trees, stone walls and hedgerows, that provide pedestrian and cycling linkages and active and passive		<i>Pop 1, 2 Bio 1, Wat 1, Soil 1 Land 1,3 AQ1, 2 Mat 7</i>				<i>All other SEOs</i>

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
recreation opportunities, that help to structure and provide relief from the built environment and that can provide areas for surface water attenuation and flood risk management.		<i>Mat 1</i>				
<p>Objective UD6 – Views and Prospects Protect all views and prospects of significance, particularly those of the Town Walls (including views of the North-West Tower and wall walk, views of the North Gate and Castle, views of the South-East Tower to the Dominican Priory and to the Castle in the background, views of the highest and longest surviving length of the Town Walls and view through the west gateway), St. Mary’s Collegiate Church, the Dominican Priory. Prohibit development which will block or interfere with a significant view or prospect. Where it is considered that a development may impact on views and prospects, to have regard to the significance of any such impact and any appropriate mitigation measures that should be incorporated.</p> <p>Refer to the <i>Specific Objectives Maps (2A/2B)</i> and to the <i>‘Athenry Town Walls Conservation Management Plan’ (S 5.5 Key Views p. 48)</i>.</p>		<i>Land 1, 2, 3</i>				<i>All other SEOs</i>
<p>Objective UD7 – Design Statements Require design statements with all large scale or sensitively located development proposals, such as in close proximity to an ACA, protected structure, natural heritage designation, significant public amenity, elevated position or visually vulnerable area, and in the case of any other development proposals where this is considered necessary by the planning authority. Design statements should include a site appraisal examining the location, context, landscape/townscape setting, accessibility, features and characteristics of the development site, which should be used to inform the selection of appropriate development forms and design responses and the incorporation and provision of any important landscape features in the layout and design of the development. Design statements should be succinct documents that include both text and supporting graphics demonstrating how the site context and</p>		<i>Ch 1-3 Pop 1,2 Land 1-3</i>		<i>All other SEOs</i>		

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
characteristics and design principles, policies and objectives have been addressed in the design and layout of the development proposal.						
3.8. Built Heritage and Cultural Heritage						
Policy HC1 – Built Heritage It is the policy of Galway County Council to support the protection and conservation of the architectural and archaeological heritage in the Plan Area, in particular by implementing the relevant legislative provisions of the <i>Planning and Development Act 2000</i> (as amended) and the <i>National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994</i> , and to have regard to the policy/guidance contained within the <i>Government Policy on Architecture 2009 – 2015</i> , <i>Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines 2004</i> , and the <i>Archaeology and Development: Guidelines for Good Practice for Developers</i> (or any updated/superseding documents).		Ch 1-3 Pop 1,2 Land 1-3				All other SEOs
Policy HC2 – Cultural Heritage It is the policy of Galway County Council to generally support high quality developments that relate to local heritage and to acknowledge the local cultural heritage of Athenry by ensuring that new development respects and is responsive to same.		CH 1-3 Pop 1, 2				All other SEOS
Objective HC 1 – Architectural Heritage Ensure the protection and conservation of architectural heritage in the Plan Area, in particular by implementing the legislative provisions of the <i>Planning and Development Act 2000</i> (as amended) in relation to architectural heritage and the policy guidance contained in the <i>Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines 2004</i> (or any superseding document		CH 1-3 Pop 1, 2 Land 1, 2, 3				All other SEOs
Objective HC 2– Protected Structures Ensure the protection of structures included and proposed for inclusion in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) that are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest, together with the integrity of their character and setting.		CH 1-3 Pop 1, 2 Land 1, 2, 3				All other SEOs

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
<p>Objective HC 3 – Architectural Conservation Area Protect, conserve and enhance the essential character of the Architectural Conservation Area, through the appropriate management and control of the design, location and layout of new development, alterations or extensions to existing structures, and/or modifications to the setting of the structure and the character of the Architectural Conservation Area. Refer to the Land Use Zoning Framework Maps 1A/1B and to the Specific Objectives Maps 2A/2B.</p>		<p>CH 1-3 Pop 1, 2 Land 1, 2, 3</p>				<p>All other SEOs</p>
<p>Objective HC 4 – Development Relating to Protected Structures and ACA's Ensure that any development, modifications, alterations, or extensions affecting a protected structure, or a structure adjoining a protected structure or structure within or adjacent to an ACA is sited and designed appropriately and is not detrimental to the character of the protected structure, to its setting or the character of the ACA. Any works/development carried out to a protected structure shall be in accordance with best conservation practice and use sustainable and appropriate materials. Works/development within the ACA shall ensure the conservation of traditional features and building elements which contribute to the character of the area. New proposals shall have appropriate regard to scale, plot, form, mass, design, materials, and colours and function.</p>		<p>CH 1-3 Pop 1, 2 Land 1, 2, 3</p>				<p>All other SEOs</p>
<p>Objective HC 5 – Demolition. Prohibit development proposals, either in whole or in part, for the demolition of protected structures or structures within an Architectural Conservation Area, save in exceptional circumstances.</p>		<p>CH 1-3 Pop 1, 2 Land 1, 2, 3</p>				<p>All other SEOs</p>
<p>Objective HC 6 – Vernacular Architecture. Recognise the importance that vernacular architecture contributes to the character of Athenry and encourage, the protection, retention, appreciation and appropriate revitalisation and use of vernacular heritage including structures of local interest in the town and resist the demolition of same.</p>		<p>CH 1-3 Pop 1, 2 Land 1, 2, 3</p>				<p>All other SEOs</p>

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
<p>Objective HC 7 Architectural Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan. Prepare and publish an ACA Appraisal and Management Plan for Athenry over the lifetime of the Plan, to preserve, protect and enhance the character of this area, including the public realm and implement any recommendations arising from same.</p>		CH 1-3 Pop 1, 2 Land 1, 2, 3				All other SEOs
<p>Objective HC 8– Archaeological Heritage Ensure the protection and sympathetic enhancement of archaeological heritage in the Plan Area, in particular by implementing the relevant provisions of the <i>Planning and Development 2000</i> (as amended), the <i>National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994</i>, National Policy on Town Defences.</p>		CH 1-3 Pop 1, 2 Land 1, 2, 3				All other SEOs
<p>Objective HC 9– Monuments and Places Ensure the protection and sympathetic enhancement of the monuments and places included and proposed for inclusion in the Record of Monuments and Places as well as any monument designated as a National Monument including the Athenry town walls, together with the integrity of their character and setting, by implementing the relevant provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994. Ensure that all planning applications for development within or in close proximity (30m) of the Zone of Archaeological Potential as defined in Maps 1A/1B, 2A/2B and within 30m of other recorded monuments (RMPs) and in close proximity of any national monuments including the historic walls, shall take account of the archaeological heritage of the area and the need for archaeological assessments and possible mitigation measures.</p>		CH 1-3 Pop 1, 2 Land 1, 2, 3				All other SEOs
<p>Objective HC 10 – Conservation Plan for Town Walls Continue to implement the Conservation and Management Plan for the town walls and flanking towers including the preparation of a detailed programme of conservation and repair works, and the implementation of that programme in line with good conservation practice.</p>		CH 1-3 Pop 1, 2 Land 1, 2, 3				All other SEOs
<p>Objective HC11 – Local Place Names Protect local place names as an important part of the</p>		Ch 1 Pop 1			All other SEOs	

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
cultural heritage and unique character of the Plan Area, and support the use of appropriate names for new developments that reflect the character/heritage of the area and that contribute to the local distinctiveness of the village. New developments will be required to consult with Coiste Logainmneacha Chontae na Gaillimhe , Galway County Council 'Placename Committee', and to identify an appropriate name for new developments that reflect the local character and heritage of the area.		Land 1				
Objective HC12 - Athenry Heritage Town Promote and support Athenry as a 'Heritage Town' and a member town of the Irish Walled Town Network of Ireland in a sustainable manner in co-operation with other agencies and companies in order to assist local tourism and the local economy		Ch 1, 2, 3 Pop 1 Land 1, 2				All other SEOs
3.9 Natural Heritage and Biodiversity						
Policy NH1 – Natural Heritage, Landscape and Environment It is the policy of the Galway County Council, to support the conservation and enhancement of the natural heritage and biodiversity within the Plan Area, to ensure the protection of the integrity of Natura 2000 sites, Natural Heritage Areas, proposed Natural Heritage Areas and an ecological network within the Plan Area. In conserving the natural heritage, Galway County Council will have regard to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016 Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan', • the 'Biodiversity Action Plan for County Galway 2008-2013' • and the 'Biodiversity Guidelines' produced by Galway County Council, (or any updated version of these documents). Promote the development of an ecological network within the Plan Area, which supports ecological connectivity and functioning, creates opportunities for active and passive recreation and provides visual relief from the built environment.		Bio1,2, 3,4,5,6 Pop 1,2 Wat 1,2,3 Soil 2,3				All other SEOs
Objective NH1 – Natura 2000 Sites		Bio1, 2				All other SEOs

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
<p>Protect Natura 2000 sites, including Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation, in accordance with the requirements in the EU <i>Habitats Directive 1992</i> (92/43/EEC), EU <i>Birds Directive 1979</i> (79/409/EEC), the <i>European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997</i> (S.I. No 94 of 1997), the <i>Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010</i>, the <i>European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011</i> (S.I. No. 477 of 2011) (and any subsequent amendments or updated legislation) and having due regard to the guidance in the <i>Appropriate Assessment Guidelines 2010</i> (and any subsequent or updated guidance).</p> <p>A plan or project (e.g. proposed development) within the Plan Area will only be authorised after the competent authority (Galway County Council) has ascertained, based on scientific knowledge and a Habitats Directive Assessment where necessary, that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The plan or project will not give rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of any Natura 2000 site (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects); or 2. The plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 site but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature. In this case, it will be a requirement to undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000. 						
<p>Objective NH2 – Protected Habitats and Species Support the protection of protected habitats and species listed in the annexes to the EU <i>Habitats Directive 1992</i> (92/43/EEC) and the <i>Birds Directive 1979</i> (79/409/EEC), and in particular bats and their roosts</p>		Bio 1,2,3				All other SEOs
<p>Objective NH3 – Natural Heritage Areas and Proposed Natural Heritage Areas Protect Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas in accordance with the requirements of the</p>		Bio 1,3,4,5 Soil3		All other SEOs		

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
<i>Wildlife Act 1976, the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000 and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). Where a proposed development within the Plan Area may give rise to likely significant effects on any Natural Heritage Area or proposed Natural Heritage Area an Ecological Impact Assessment may be required.</i>						
Objective NH4 – Impact Assessment Planning applications for proposed developments within the Plan Area that may give rise to likely significant effects on the environment may need to be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment or an Ecological Impact Assessment.		<i>Bio 1, 2,3,5, Wat 1,2, Soil2, 3 Pop 1, Pop2 Land 1, 3 Mat 1</i>				<i>All other SEOs</i>
Objective NH5 – Biodiversity & Ecological Networks Support the protection of biodiversity and ecological connectivity within the Plan Area including woodlands, trees, hedgerows, rivers, streams, natural springs, wetlands, stone walls, other landscape features such as Esker Riada, where these form part of the ecological network. Seek to retain and/or incorporate these natural features into developments, in order to avoid ecological fragmentation and maintain ecological corridors. Refer to the Specific Objectives Maps (2A/2B) .		<i>1,2, Soil2, 3 Pop 1, Pop2 Land 1, 3 Mat 1</i>				<i>All other SEOs</i>
Objective NH6 – Water Resources Protect all water resources in the Plan Area, including the River Clarin, its tributaries, other streams, springs, surface waters, and groundwater quality, in accordance with the requirements and guidance in the EU <i>Water Framework Directive 2000 (2000/60/EC)</i> , the <i>European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended)</i> and the <i>Western River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 (including any superseding versions of same)</i> . Support the application and implementation of a catchment planning and management approach to development and conservation, including the implementation of Sustainable Drainage System techniques for new development in the Plan Area	<i>Ch 1-3</i>	<i>Bio 1,2,3,4,5,6 Wat 1,2,3 Soil 1, 2 Pop 1, 2 Land 1 Mat 1,2,3</i>				<i>All other SEOs</i>
Objective NH7 – Environmental Management Buffer Protect and seek to improve the water quality in the River Clarin. Limit development within the environmental		<i>Bio 1, 4,5 Wat 1, 2 Pop 1, 2</i>				<i>All other SEOs</i>

Key Policies	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
<p>management buffer so as to protect the qualifying interests of the Galway Bay SAC and Inner Galway Bay SPA which are linked directly to the Athenry Local Area Plan area via the River Clarin. Seek to ensure that a minimum setback of 10 metres is maintained on either side of the River Clarin, save for exceptional circumstances where it can be reasonably demonstrated that this setback is not feasible. Refer to the Specific Objectives Maps (2A/2B).</p>		Land 1				
<p>Objective NH8 – Trees, Parkland/Woodland and Hedgerows Protect important tree clusters and hedgerow in the Plan Area and ensure that development proposals take cognisance of significant trees/tree stands. Seek to retain natural boundaries including stonewall, hedgerow and tree boundaries, where possible. Refer to the Specific Objectives Maps (2A/2B)</p>		Bio 1, 4,5 Wat 1, 2 Pop 1, 2 Land 1				All other SEOs

Table B: Assessment of land use zonings.

The following table assesses the land use zonings proposed for the draft Athenry LAP as per the Draft Plan published in December 2011.

The LAP has been grouped into 6 areas, defined by the current road network (shown in blue lines) and the zonings are assessed in each one. Please note the Zone of Archaeological Potential (brown line), the boundary of the Architectural Conservation Areas (blue line, previously shown as a black serrated line in Draft Plan December 2011) and 100m buffer around the Wastewater Treatment Plant (green) are shown also on this Figure. Please read this map in conjunction with the Draft Land Use Maps produced as part of the Draft LAP in December 2011. Figure Annex A shows these areas overlaid with the proposed zonings and is presented at the end of this Annex.

The following criteria have been used in the Assessment Matrix:

No likely interaction with EPOs	X	Potential conflict with EPOs – likely to be mitigated	↕
Likely to improve status of EPOs	↑	Uncertain interactions with EPOs	?
Probable conflict with EPOs – unlikely to be mitigated	↓	Neutral Impacts with EPOs	-

Table B: Assessment of Draft Land Use Zonings as per December 2011.

Area	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
Area 1: M6 to L3103 southwest plan area						

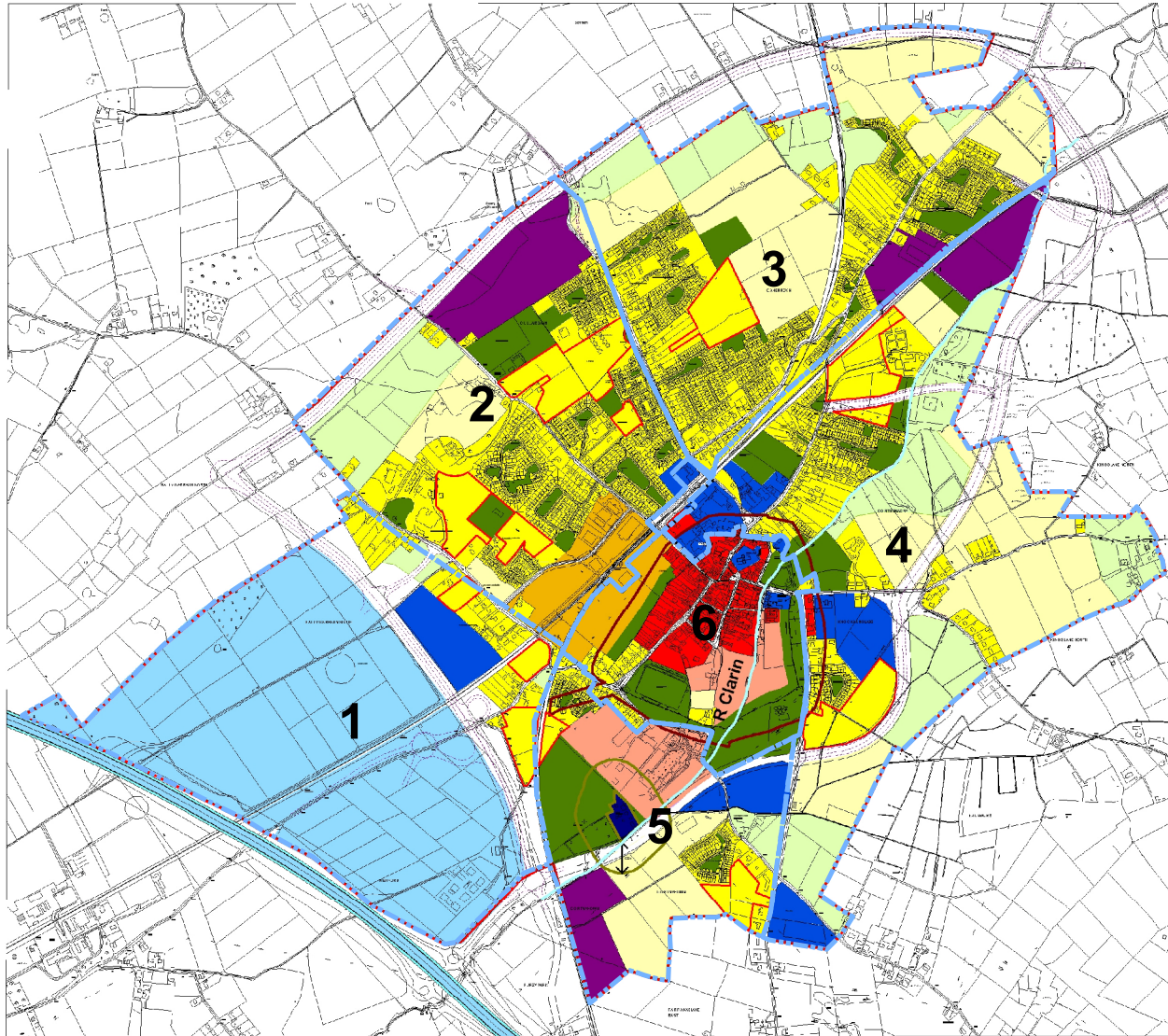
Area	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
Business and Technology		Pop 1, 2		All other EPOs		
Community Facilities		Pop 1, 2 Mat 7		All other EPOs		
Residential Phase 1		Pop 1, 2, AQ2		All other EPOs		
Residential Phase 2				All EPOs		
Strategic Reserve		Pop1, 2, Mat 7 AQ 1,2		All other EPOs		
Agriculture		Bio 1-6, Wat 1-3 Soil 2,3, Pop 1,2 AQ2,Mat 1				All other EPOs
Existing Developed Residential(existing) Note: all EPOs are identified as likely to be mitigated as infill sites remain within the existing residential zoning so there may be some limited infill residential development within the areas over the lifetime of the plan.				All EPOs		
Area 2 Between L3101 and R437 western plan area.						
Strategic Reserve Area		Pop1, 2, Mat 7 AQ 1,2		All other EPOs		
Agriculture		Bio 1-6, Wat 1-3 Soil 2,3, Pop 1,2 AQ2,Mat 1				All other EPOs
Residential Phase 1		Pop 1, 2, AQ2		All other EPOs		
Residential Phase 2				All EPOs		
Existing Developed Residential Note: all EPOs are identified as likely to be mitigated as infill sites remain within the existing residential zoning so there may be				All EPOs		

Area	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
some limited infill residential development within the areas over the lifetime of the plan.						
Open Space/ Recreation and Amenity		Bio 1-6, Wat 1-3 Soil 2,3, Pop 1,2 Aq2,Mat 1		All other EPOs		
Industrial		Pop 1, Pop 2		All other EPOs		
Community Facilities		Pop 1, 2 Mat 7		All other EPOs		
Business and Enterprise		Pop 1, Pop 2		All other EPOs		
Area 3 Between R437 and Caherroyan Road northern plan areas						
Agriculture		Bio 1-6, Wat 1-3 Soil 2,3, Pop 1,2 Aq2,Mat 1				All other EPOs
Open Space/Recreation and Amenity		Bio 1-6, Wat 1-3 Soil 2,3, Pop 1,2 Aq2,Mat 1		All other EPOs		
Existing Development Residential Note: all EPOs are identified as likely to be mitigated as infill sites remain within the existing residential zoning so there may be some limited infill residential development within the areas over the lifetime of the plan.				All EPOS		
Residential Phase 1		Pop 1, 2, AQ2		All other EPOS		
Residential Phase 2		Pop 1, 2, AQ2, Mat 7		All other EPOs		
Industrial		Pop 1, 2		All other EPOs		
Strategic Reserve Area		Pop1, 2, Mat 7		All other EPOs		

Area	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
		AQ 1,2				
Area 4 Between Caherroyan Road and R348 eastern plan areas						
Strategic Reserve Area		Pop1, 2, Mat 7 AQ 1,2		All other EPOs		
Agriculture		Bio 1-6, Wat 1-3 Soil 2,3, Pop 1,2 Aq2,Mat 1				All other EPOs
Open Space/Recreation and Amenity		Bio 1-6, Wat 1-3 Soil 2,3, Pop 1,2 Aq2,Mat 1		All other EPOs		
Existing Developed Residential Note: all EPOs are identified as likely to be mitigated as infill sites remain within the existing residential zoning so there may be some limited infill residential development within the areas over the lifetime of the plan.				All EPOS		
Residential Phase 1		Pop 1, 2, AQ2		All other EPOS		
Residential Phase 2				All EPOS		
Business and Enterprise		Pop 1,2		All other EPOs		
Town Centre- Commercial (C1)		Pop 1,2 Mat 7, AQ 2		All other EPOs		
Community Facilities		Pop 1, 2, AQ2, Mat 7		All other EPOs		

Area	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
Area 5 South of Zone of Archaeological Potential, southern part of plan area						
Commercial –Mixed Use (C2)		Pop 1, Pop 2		All other EPOs		
Open Space		Bio 1-6, Wat 1-3 Soil 2,3, Pop 1,2 Aq2,Mat 1		All other EPOs		
Agriculture		Bio 1-6, Wat 1-3 Soil 2,3, Pop 1,2				Soil 1, Ch1, 2 Land 1-3, AQ1 Mat 2,3,4,5,6,7
Residential Phase 1		Pop1, 2		All other EPOs		
Residential Phase 2				All EPOs		
Existing Developed Residential Note: all EPOs are identified as likely to be mitigated as infill sites remain within the existing residential zoning so there may be some limited infill residential development within the areas over the lifetime of the plan.				All EPOs		
Community Facilities		Pop 1, 2, AQ2, Mat 7		All other EPOs		
Industrial		Pop 1, 2		All other EPOs		
Public Utilities (this relates to the existing wastewater treatment plant)		Pop 1, 2		All other EPOs		
Strategic Reserve		Pop1, 2, Mat 7 AQ 1,2		All other EPOs		
Area 6 Principally area of Zone of Archaeological Potential Town		Pop 1, 2 Mat 7, AQ2		All other EPOs		

Area	X	↑	↓	↕	?	-
Centre						
Town Centre - Commercial(C1)		Pop 1,2 Mat 7, AQ 2		All other EPOs		
Commercial- Mixed Use (C2)		Pop 1, Pop 2		All other EPOs		
Community Facilities		Pop 1, 2, AQ2, Mat 7		All other EPOs		
Business and Enterprise		Pop 1,2		All other EPOs		
Open Space		Bio 1-6, Wat 1-3 Soil 2,3, Pop 1,2 Aq2,Mat 1		All other EPOs		
Existing Developed Residential Note: all EPOs are identified as likely to be mitigated as infill sites remain within the existing residential zoning so there may be some limited infill residential development within the areas over the lifetime of the plan.				All EPOS		
Residential Phase 2				All EPOs		



- Proposed Plan Boundary
- R - Residential
- R - Residential (Phase 1)
- R - Residential (Phase 2)
- C1 - Town Centre / Commercial
- C2 - Commercial / Mixed Use
- BE - Business and Enterprise
- BT - Business and Technology
- I - Industrial
- CF - Community Facilities
- OS - Open Space / Recreation & Amenity
- A - Agriculture
- PU - Public Utilities
- Buffer Zone
- Other - Strategic Reserve

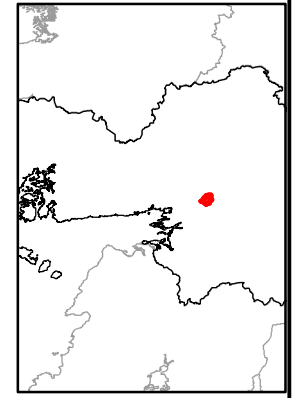
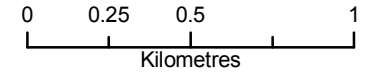
- [ZAPS] - Zone of Archaeological Potential
- [ACA] - Architectural Conservation Area
- M6 Motorway
- Proposed Athery Relief Road / Relief Streets
- River Clarin

NOTE: See also Specific Objectives Map 2A/2B

DRAFT



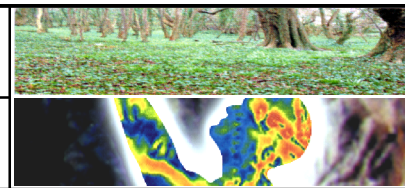
ATHERY LAP 2012-2018



DATE: 18/7/2012	SCALE: 1:20,000
REF:	SIZE: A4
DRAWN: MFC	APPROVED: RM

ANNEX A: Zoning Assessment

Galway County Council Athery Local Area Plan SEA



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ANNEX B: EPA CHECKLIST

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT AND NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Note: This section provides an overview of the compliance of the ER with the requirements of the SEA Directive and the SEA Regulations. Where non-compliance has been highlighted in previous sections of the SEA Process Checklist, actions taken to resolve non-compliance should be highlighted in the 'Comment' section.

Minimum Requirements Question		Yes, No, Comment	Statutory Basis
11.1	Does the ER contain all of the aspects listed in Annex 1 of the SEA Directive and Schedule 2 and 2B of S.I. 435 and 436 of 2004 (as amended) ?	Yes	SEA Directive Article 5 Annex 1 S.I. Nos 435 & 436 of 2004
11.2	Does the ER include a non-technical summary?	Yes	SEA Directive Article 5 Annex I (j) S.I. Nos 435 & 436 of 2004
11.3	Does the non-technical summary clearly summarise the following:	Yes	SEA Directive Article 5 Annex I (j) S.I. Nos 435 & 436 of 2004
	Y/N	Comment	
a) Contents and main objectives of the draft P/P	Y	Yes, chapter one and detailed in Annex A	
b) Current state of the environment and evolution	Y	Chapter Four	
c) Environmental characteristics of area significantly affected	Y	Chapter Four	
d) Existing environmental problems	Y	Chapter Four	
e) Environmental protection objectives	Y	Chapter Five	
f) Significant effects on the environment	Y	Chapter Seven	
g) Mitigation measures	Y	Chapter Eight	
h) Alternatives	Y	Chapter Six	

i) Monitoring	Y	Chapter Nine
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Additional Recommended Tasks

	Question	Yes, No.	Comment
11.4	Has a description been provided in the ER of the screening process and subsequent determination?	Yes	Chapter Two discusses screening
11.5	Have the responses to the scoping exercises been included in the ER? Has an explanation been given as to how these responses were considered?	Yes	Chapter Two
11.6	Is the Non-Technical summary concise and easy to understand?	Yes	DoEHLG Guidelines S.4.41
11.7	Has a description of the outcome of all consultations (including transboundary) been documented in the ER?		Scoping Consultation described in Chapter Two
11.8	Have relevant references, glossary of terms and scaled maps (with source identified) been included?	Yes	mainly in Chapter Four and Glossary at end of report

SEA Screening Report of proposed material alterations to draft Athenry LAP 2012 - 2018

Prepared for Galway County Council

Minogue and Associates May 2012

Addendum Screening Report on proposed Material Amendments to the draft Athenry Local Area Plan 2012 -2018.

1.1 Introduction

In accordance with Section 20(d) of the Planning and Development Acts, 2000-2006, notice is hereby given that Galway County Council are proposing amendments to the Draft Athenry Local Area Plan 2012-2018. These amendments have arisen following the review of the Manager's Report on submissions received during the public display period of the Draft Athenry Local Area Plan 2012-2018 by the Elected Members of the Council on 23rd April 2012.

The purpose of this report is to consider whether the material amendments to the Local Area Plan will have any likely significant environmental effects, and as such, would therefore require the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The SEA process is the formal systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme before a decision is made to adopt the plan or programme. The key indicator that will determine if an SEA is required is if they are likely to have significant environmental effects on the environment or not. Screening is the technique applied to determine whether a particular Plan would be likely to have significant environmental effects, and would thus warrant a SEA.

In accordance with Section 14A of the Planning & Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004, the Draft Athenry Local Area Plan was 'screened' for environmental impacts in April 2012. This screening report is included as an addendum to the SEA Environmental Report.

The proposed material amendments to the Draft Local Area Plan are outlined in Section 2.1 presented in the order they appear in the Local Area Plan and should be read in conjunction with the Draft Athenry Local Area Plan 2012-2018. The likely significant environmental effects or potential impacts of all amendments are screened and assessed in Sections 2.1.2 and 2.1.3. Please also refer to the Material Amendments Map to locate the proposed rezonings.

This screening report concludes that providing a number of additional mitigation measures are adhered to, these material amendments will not result in significant impacts on the environment, therefore the amendments to the Draft Athenry Local Area Plan 2012-2018 would not warrant a full SEA.

Additional text as proposed shown in **bold and italic** font; text proposed for deletion is shown in ~~strikethrough~~ font and where additional mitigation measures are recommended, these are shown in the SEA column in **Blue Font**.

The second table in this report assesses the environmental implications of the rezonings for Athenry in light of the proposed material amendments put forward by Elected Members at the Galway county Council Meeting of 23rd April.

2.1 Criteria for Determining the Likely Significance of Environmental Effects

Table 2A: Characteristics of the Plan

Ref. No.	Submission	Recommended for insertion	SEA Comment
No. 20	Dept. of Environment, Community & Local Government	<p>1. Additional text in Section 3.2.1 regarding residential phased zoning.</p> <p><i>Residential lands have generally been phased in a sequential manner and Phase 1 residential lands have been identified based on a number of criteria, including access to existing and planned services, pedestrian connectivity to the town centre, etc. Priority has been given to infill sites and logical extensions to the existing residential fabric of the town. This approach will also inform any decision where Phase 2 lands are to develop ahead of Phase 1 lands.</i></p> <p>2. Section 3.4.2 Objective ED 2 Business and Technology Park Development. Amend as follows:</p> <p>Promote and encourage the establishment of Business and Technology activities, which can be developed in a campus style park, on Business and Technology zoned lands in tandem with the delivery of essential infrastructural requirements and continue to co-operate with the relevant stakeholders/other agencies for the timely delivery of same. <i>The development of these lands will be in accordance with Sections 2.4 and 2.5 of the County Development Plan 2009-2015. The Council shall also require an overarching Master Plan to integrate with transport and mobility plans and may require Design Statements/Development Briefs for all large scale or sensitively located development proposals within BT zoned lands.</i></p>	<p>1. SEA agrees that clarification on rationale used to determine Phase 1 lands is stated. .</p> <p>2. The new text reflects the SEA recommendation contained in SEA Screening Report 1st March 2012. Positive impacts on a number of EPOs due to new text regarding SEA and HDA</p> <p>3. This reflects the NIR</p>

	<p><i>The overarching Master Plan for this zoning will be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and EU Habitats Directive Assessment (HDA).</i></p> <p>3. Insert in Section 3.4.2 Amend text within Objective ED4 –Retail Development:</p> <p>Support the development of appropriate types, scales and patterns of retail development in suitable locations within the town and <i>with high quality designs</i> that, support the vitality and viability of the existing town centre and associated main streets, that are easily accessible particularly in terms of public transport, that protect investment in strategic roads and infrastructure and that contribute to the creation of a high quality retail environment, in accordance with <i>the Retail Planning Guidelines 2005</i> and the <i>Draft Retail Planning Guidelines 2011</i> (and any subsequent review or update), <i>and will require Retail Impact Assessments</i>, including details of the application of a <i>„sequential approach’ and Design Statements, where appropriate, for retail development in accordance with the Retail Planning Guidelines and Development Management (DM) Guidelines ED1 and ED2 as contained within this Plan.</i></p> <p>4. Insert new subsection 3.4.3 Development Management Guidelines and include two new development management guidelines.</p> <p><i>DM Guideline ED1 – Retail Impact Assessments</i> <i>Retail Impact Assessments will be required with planning applications for large retail developments (such as shopping centres or large food/grocery chain stores), mixed use developments with a large retail component, developments that may have a significant effect on the vitality and viability of the town centre or as otherwise considered appropriate by the Planning Authority. Retail Impact Assessments will be in accordance with the Retail Planning Guidelines, including details of the sequential test .</i></p> <p>And <i>DM Guideline ED2 – Design Statements</i></p> <p><i>Design Statements may be required with planning applications for major r</i></p>	<p>recommendation of 1st March 2012. Positive impacts on landscape and population and human health in particular..</p> <p>4. Positive impacts on human health and population; other impacts may be mitigated through development management and control.</p>
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		<p>retail proposals that are located within a sensitive area or as otherwise considered appropriate by the Planning Authority. Design Statements should address the issues raised in Section 6.4 of the Draft Retail Planning Guidelines 2011 (and any updated/superseding document), including an appraisal of the character of the area adjoining the site and proposals for high quality design that integrates successfully with the context. Design Statements should also take account of the design and layout guidance set out in the forthcoming Best Practice Design Manual.</p>	
No 22	Dept. of Arts Heritage & Gaeltacht	<p>1.Amend as follows: Section 3.8.2 Objective HC4 – Development/Works relating to Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Area: Ensure that any development, modifications, alterations, or extensions materially affecting the character a Protected Structure, or a structure adjoining a Protected Structure or structure within or adjacent to an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA), is sited and designed appropriately and is not detrimental to the character or setting of the Protected Structure or the ACA to its setting or the character of the ACA. Any works/development carried out to a protected structure shall be in accordance with best conservation practice and the use of sustainable and appropriate materials. Works/development within the ACA shall ensure the conservation of traditional features and building elements which contribute to the character of the area. New proposals shall have appropriate regard to scale, plot, form, mass, design, materials, and colours and function.</p> <p><i>This will include the following:</i> <i>a) Works materially affecting the character of a Protected Structure or the exterior of a building/structure within an ACA will require planning permission.</i> <i>b) Any works/development carried out to a Protected Structure or the exterior of a building/structure within an ACA shall be in accordance with best conservation practice and use sustainable and appropriate materials.</i> <i>c) Prohibit development proposals either in whole or in part, for the demolition of Protected Structures or structures within an Architectural Conservation Area which contribute to the special character of the area, save in exceptional circumstances.</i></p>	1.Positive impacts on cultural heritage, population and human health and landscape.

		<p>2. Section 3.8.2 Amend Objective HC 9 as follows: Objective HC9 – Monuments and Places Ensure the protection and sympathetic enhancement of the monuments and places included and proposed for inclusion in the Record of Monuments and Places, as well as any monument that may be designated as a National Monument including the Athenry town walls, together with the integrity of their character and setting, by implementing the relevant provisions of the <i>Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994 1930 (as amended) and the Archaeology and Development: Guidelines for Good Practice for Developers. This will include the protection of all Monuments on the list provided by the National Monument Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, which has statutory responsibility in this area.</i> Ensure that all planning applications for development (including proposed service schemes such as electricity, sewerage, telecommunications and water schemes) within or in close proximity (30m) of the Zone of Archaeological Potential as defined in Maps 1A/1B, 2A/2B and within 30m of other recorded monuments (RMPs) and in close proximity of any national monuments including the historic walls, shall take account of the archaeological heritage of the area and the need for archaeological assessments and possible mitigation measures.</p> <p>3. Section 2.2.3 Amend both Objectives DS3 and Objective NH1 to read as follows:</p> <p>Protect European Natura 2000 sites, that form part of the Natura 2000 network (including Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation) in accordance with the requirements in the EU <i>Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)</i>, <i>EU Birds Directive 1979 (79/409/EEC 2009/147/EC)</i>, the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 (S.I. No 94 of 1997), the <i>Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010</i>, the <i>European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477 of 2011)</i> (and any subsequent amendments or updated legislation) and having due regard to the guidance in the <i>Appropriate Assessment Guidelines 2010</i> (and any subsequent or updated guidance) A plan or project (e.g. proposed development) within the Plan Area will only be</p>	<p>2. Positive impacts on cultural heritage, landscape and population and human health.</p> <p>3. Positive impacts on biodiversity, soil and geology and water EPOs</p>

	<p>authorised after the competent authority (Galway County Council) has ascertained, based on scientific knowledge evidence and a Habitats Directive Assessment where necessary, that:</p> <p>1. The plan or project will not give rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of any Natura 2000 site (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects); or</p> <p>2. The plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 site (that does not host a priority habitat and/or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000; or</p> <p>3. The plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 site (that hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, restricted to reasons of human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000.</p> <p>4. Section 3.9.1 Amend text under second subheading and as appropriate in other sections of the Draft Plan to re European Directives, the Natura 2000 Network and Environmental Assessments. At European level, the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC 2009/147/EC) mandate the identification and protection of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), which together create a network of protected wildlife areas, known as Natura 2000 network, across the European Union....etc.</p> <p>5. Amend accordingly any other references to the Birds Directive within any other sections of the Draft Plan as appropriate.</p> <p>6. Section 3.9.2 Amend Objective NH4 – Impact Assessment to read as follows:</p>	<p>4. Noted.</p> <p>5. Noted</p> <p>6. Positive impacts on Biodiversity EPOs</p>
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Ensure full compliance with the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) and EIA Directive (85/337/EEC), and the associated European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 477 of 2011), European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004-2011, Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004-2011 and the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1989-2011 (or any updated/superseding legislation).

Planning applications for proposed developments within the Plan Area that may give rise to likely significant effects on the environment may need to be accompanied by one or more of the following: ~~an Environmental Impact Assessment or, an Ecological Impact Assessment, Appropriate Assessment screening report or a Natura Impact Statement~~ **an Environmental Impact Statement, an Ecological Impact Assessment Report, a Habitats Directive Assessment Screening Report or a Natura Impact Statement, as appropriate. Ensure that Natura Impact Statements and any other environmental or ecological impact assessments submitted in support of proposals for development are carried out according to best practice methodologies and contain all necessary baseline assessments.**

6. Insert New Objective in Section 3.9.2 to read as follows:
NH11 – Consultation with Environmental Authorities
Ensure that all development proposals are screened to determine whether they are likely to have a significant direct, indirect or cumulative effect on the integrity or conservation objectives of any Natura 2000 site and, where significant effects are likely or uncertain, there will be a requirement for consultation with the relevant environmental authorities as part of any Habitats Directive Assessment that may be required

7. Section 3.1.2 Amend Objective LU8.
 Promote the development of open spaces and recreational activities in accordance with best practice and on suitable lands with adequate access to the local community and retain existing open space and recreational facilities unless it can be demonstrated by Galway County Council that these uses are no longer required by the community. ~~Ensure that any flood risk areas within the OS zone are appropriately managed to avoid, reduce and/or mitigate the risk of flooding~~

in particular.

6. Positive impacts on Biodiversity and Water EPOs in particular.

7. Noted. Other policies and objectives in the draft LAP provide additional detail on flood risk zoning.

No. 2	West Regional Authority	<p>1. Insert new wording in Section 3.9.1 Ecological Networks. <i>The various habitats within Athenry and surrounding areas form part of an “ecological network” that facilitates the movement of species between areas and ensures the effective functioning and survival of the diverse range of habitats and species. Ecological networks provide „corridors“ or „stepping stones“ that support species migration, dispersal and daily movements between the „core areas“ and thereby contribute to a more integrated and functional ecological system.</i></p> <p><i>Established</i> trees and hedgerows are also of high local biodiversity value and contribute to ecological connectivity. Features that contribute to the creation of an ecological network should be retained and included in the design plans for development proposals.</p>	Noted, indirect positive impacts on Biodiversity.
No 3	NRA	<p>1. Draft Land use zoning objectives Other – Strategic Reserve on the Land Use Zoning Maps 1A/1B will be amended to TI Transport Infrastructure</p> <p>2. Amend Draft Land Use Zoning Matrix to include Transport Infrastructure and appropriate uses.</p> <p>3. 6 linear pockets between old LAP boundary and corridor of Athenry Relief Road to formerly zoned Strategic Infrastructure are proposed to be rezoned as agriculture.</p> <p>4. Section 3.1.2 Amend Objective LU10 as follows: Other Strategic Reserve (SR) Transport Infrastructure (TI) No use or specific controls are assigned to this zoning objective other than to facilitate the delivery of essential road infrastructure. Facilitate the provision and maintenance of essential transportation infrastructure. This shall include the reservation of lands to facilitate possible track dualing of the rail line between Galway and Athenry and other rail infrastructure improvements, public roads including the</p>	<p>1. A range of impacts ranging from positive to those that can be mitigated against through development management and control</p> <p>2. Positive impacts on EPOs</p> <p>3. Positive impacts and impacts that can be mitigated through development management and control.</p> <p>4. Noted, largely positive impacts for material assets to impacts that can be mitigated against through development management and control.</p>

		<p>completion of the Athenry Relief Road, footpaths, cycle ways, and bus stops and landscaping, together with any necessary associated works, as appropriate.</p> <p>5. Section 3.5.2 Insert New Objective as follows: Objective TI 12 - Goods Transportation Hub Engage with relevant stakeholders to identify demand and identify potential locations for a Goods Transportation Hub within the Plan area</p>	<p>5. Neutral to uncertain impacts due to lack of detail at this stage regarding location etc.</p>
No 4	Dept of Education and Skills	<p>BT Zoning under Education – Primary/Secondary amend from not permitted (N) to open for consideration (O)</p> <p>BE zoning under Warehousing – amend from permitted to open for consideration(O)</p> <p>Amend Note 4 to read as follows: Warehousing (*) – The development or subdivision of stores into less than 700m2 shall not normally be permitted in edge-of centre and out-of-centre locations, in accordance with the Retail Planning Guidelines 2005/2011 (or any updated/superseding document). Refer to Matrix as Amended.</p>	<p>Neutral impacts to impacts that can be mitigated through development management and control.</p>
No.5	OPW	<p>1. Amend Draft Maps 1A/1B and rezone undeveloped lands within Flood Zone A and B to open space/recreation and amenity (OS).</p> <p>Undeveloped Residential Lands to Open Space: (MA5): Refer to Material Alterations/Amendments: Land Use Zoning Maps 1A/1B.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential Phase 2 at Baunmore; • Sliver of Residential Phase 2 north of Pairc na hAbhainn; • Sliver of residential lands to the east of Caheroyan House and north of the River; • Sliver of Residential Phase 2 to the north east of Caheroyan House and north of the River Clarin; • Undeveloped Residential (backland) north east of Dunclarin Court and north of the River Clarin ; • Undeveloped Residential Phase 2 at Carrowntober West, to the north east of the Plan Boundary <p>Other Undeveloped Lands to Open Space:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industrial Lands at Gortnahown within Flood Zone A to Open Space (area: 0.2133Ha); • Community Facility Zonings north east of Pairc na hAbhainn Housing 	<p>1. The rezonings in light of the SFRA are in line with relevant guidelines and will result in positive impacts for Material Assets, Water, Biodiversity, Soil, Population and human health in particular.</p>

		<p>estate;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sliver of undeveloped Industrial lands at Caheroyan townland south of the railway line and north of the River Clarin; • Existing undeveloped Industrial lands immediately south of the proposed spur road; • Public Utility zoning – southern aspect within Flood Zone A. <p>2. Amend Specific Objectives Map 2A/2B to reflect Open Space Zonings.</p> <p>3. Insert new text in Section 2.2.2. Insert new text within subsection titled S.2.2.2 Preferred Development Option – Managed Phased Development (Option 4) second last paragraph to read as follows: <i>In general undeveloped lands have been appropriately zoned to avoid flood risk.</i></p> <p>4. Insert new Objective within S 2.2.3 - Development Strategy Objectives to read as follows: <i>Objective DS7 – Flood Risk Management and Assessment Ensure that proposals for new developments located within identified or potential flood risk areas, or which may exacerbate the risk of flooding elsewhere, are assessed in accordance with the provisions of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009 (or any updated/superseding document) and the relevant policies and objectives in this Plan.</i></p> <p>5. S.3.1.2 Land Use Zoning Objectives: Insert new Objective to read as follows: <i>Objective LU11 – Flood Risk Areas and Land Use Zones. Ensure that any development that may be compatible with the land use zoning objectives/matrix but which includes a use that is not appropriate to the Flood Zone (as indicated on Maps 3A/3B – Indicative Flood Risk Management Areas) and/or that may be vulnerable to flooding is subject to flood risk assessment, in accordance with the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009 and the policies and objectives of this Plan.</i></p> <p>6. Section 3.6.1 Utility and Environmental Infrastructure: Context.</p>	<p>2. As above.</p> <p>3. Positive impacts for material assets, biodiversity and water in particular.</p> <p>4. Positive impacts as outlined in point 1 above</p> <p>5. Positive impacts as outlined in point 1 above.</p> <p>6. Noted, indirect positive impacts</p>
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		<p>Insert new subsection titled Surface Water Drainage. Include a new subsection (after Water Services) titled Surface Water Drainage with the following wording and include text under Flood Zone table which refers to SuDS.</p> <p>Surface Water Drainage <i>In order to ensure that surface water is disposed of in a controlled and sustainable manner, future developments will be required to address surface water disposal through on-site systems, (depending on site characteristics), discharge to adjacent surface water (where available) or discharge to an existing surface water sewer if available. The Local Area Plan will facilitate the upgrading of surface water infrastructure where necessary and promote the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in developments, such as permeable surfaces, retention ponds and rainwater harvesting, to restrict surface water runoff in new developments to Greenfield levels and to minimise flood risks and potential impacts. Proposals for SuDS will be in accordance with the recommendations as contained within the EPA document entitled Guidance on Authorisation of Discharges to Groundwater 2011 (or any updated version of this document).</i></p> <p>7. Amend subsection title and text Flooding and Surface Water to read as follows:</p> <p>Flooding and Surface Water This Local Area Plan takes due consideration of the national guidelines issued by the DoEHLG entitled „The Planning System and Flood Risk Management: Guidelines for Planning Authorities“ 2009 and the recommendations from the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment carried out for County Galway and specifically for the Plan Area and this has informed the making of the Athenry Local Area Plan. Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in developments can contribute to surface water retention and help reduce and prevent flooding. Proposals for SuDS shall be in accordance with the recommendations as contained within the EPA document entitled „Guidance on Authorisation of Discharges to Groundwater 2011‘ or any updated version of this document. Flood Risk Management and Assessment The Department of the Environment and the OPW published national flood risk management guidelines in 2009 entitled <i>The Planning System</i></p>	<p>7. Positive indirect impacts as this relates to text rather than policies or objectives. Nonetheless it provides additional context and clarity in relation to flood risk management so may be considered to generate indirect positive impacts as outlined in Point 1 above.</p>
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		<p>and Flood Risk Management: Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009. The Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009 require Planning Authorities to ensure that, where relevant, flood risk is a key consideration in preparing development plans, local area plans and the assessment of planning applications. The aim of the Guidelines is to avoid flood risk where possible, substitute less vulnerable uses when avoidance is not possible and mitigate and manage the risk where avoidance and substitution are not possible.</p> <p>The Guidelines provide guidance on identifying areas where the probability of flood risk is high (Flood Zone A), moderate (Flood Zone B) and low (Flood Zone C) and identifies the types of land use that are appropriate within each Flood Zone. The Guidelines also highlight the need to assess the potential impacts of climate change as part of a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for a plan. The Guidelines suggest that where mathematical models are not available, climate change flood extents can be assessed by using Flood Zone B outline as a surrogate for Flood Zone A with allowance for the possible impacts of climate change.</p> <p>The OPW has produced flood maps as part of the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) that identify areas at risk of flooding, including fluvial, coastal, pluvial and groundwater flooding, for the entire country. Galway County Council has also carried out a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for County Galway, including a specific assessment for the Athenry Plan Area. As part of the SFRA, the historic flood risk areas have been identified and a number of local level assessments have also been carried out, including local knowledge of flood events and site walkovers. The SFRA generally confirms the flood extents identified in the OPW PFRA mapping.</p> <p>The LAP takes due consideration of the national Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009 and the recommendations emanating from the SFRA. The LAP identifies Flood Zones in accordance with the Guidelines (shown on Map 3A/3B – Indicative Flood Risk Management Areas), designates land use zones (see Map 1A/1B – Land Use Zoning) considered appropriate to each Flood Zone and includes policies and objectives dealing with flood risk assessment and management (see also Map 2A/2B – Specific Objectives). The Flood Zones identified are:</p>	
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		<p>Flood Zone</p> <p>Flood Zone A Probability of Flooding Flood Risk Areas Included</p> <p>High</p> <p>> 1:100 for river flooding > 1:200 for coastal flooding</p> <p>Flood Zone B Moderate</p> <p>1:100 to 1:1000 for river flooding 1:200 to 1:1000 for coastal flooding</p> <p>Flood Zone C Low</p> <p>< 1:1000 for river flooding < 1:1000 for coastal flooding</p> <p><i>The LAP also promotes the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in developments, which can contribute to surface water retention and help reduce and prevent flooding. Proposals for SuDS will be in accordance with the recommendations as contained within the EPA document entitled Guidance on Authorisation of Discharges to Groundwater 2011 (or any updated version of this document).</i></p> <p>8. Section 3.6.2 Amend title and text within Objective UI 4 as follows: Objective UI4 – Surface Water Drainage and Sustainable Drainage Systems Maintain and enhance, as appropriate, the existing surface water drainage system in the Plan Area, ensure that new developments are adequately serviced with surface water drainage infrastructure and promote the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems in all new developments. Surface water runoff from development sites will be limited to pre-development levels and planning applications for new developments will be required to provide details of surface water drainage and Sustainable Drainage Systems proposals.</p> <p>9. S. 3.6.2 Utility and Environmental Infrastructure: Amend Section Title under Policy to read as follows: Flooding and Flood Related Policy to Flood Risk Management Policy Amend Policy UI 4 – to read as follows: Flooding-Flood Risk Management and Assessment Galway County Council in co-operation with the OPW shall support the</p>	<p>8. Positive impacts on biodiversity and water EPOS in particular</p> <p>9. Positive impacts as outlined in point 1 above.</p>
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		<p>implementation of the <i>EU Flood Risk Directive (2007/60/EC)</i> and shall have due regard to the Catchment Flood Risk Management Plan (CFRAM) and the recommendations and outputs arising from same which relate to or impact the Plan area.</p> <p><i>It is the policy of Galway County Council to support, in co-operation with the OPW, the implementation of the EU Flood Risk Directive (2007/60/EC), the Flood Risk Regulations (SI No. 122 of 2010) and the DoEHLG/OPW publication Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009 (and any updated/superseding legislation or policy guidance). Galway County Council will also take account of the Catchment Flood Risk Management Plans (CFRAMs), Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) and County Galway Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2012 and any recommendations and outputs arising from same that relate to or impact on the Plan Area.</i></p> <p>10. Amend section 3.6.2 title under objectives to read as follows: Flooding and Flood Related Objectives to <i>Flood Risk Management Objectives</i></p> <p>11. Section 3.6.2 Utility and Environmental Infrastructure. Amend title and text within Objective UI11 as follows: Objective UI 10-11– Flood Risk Management and Assessment Implement the provisions of the DoEHLG/OPW publication 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management: Guidelines for Planning Authorities' 2009 or any superseding document in relation to flooding and flood risk management and facilitate flood management measures, as appropriate. <i>Ensure the implementation of the DoEHLG/OPW publication Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009 (or any superseding document) in relation to flood risk management within the Plan Area. This will include the following:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Avoid, reduce and/or mitigate, as appropriate in accordance with the Flood Risk management Guidelines 2009, the risk of flooding within the flood risk areas indicated on Maps 3A/3B – Indicative Flood Risk Management Areas, including fluvial, coastal/tidal, pluvial and groundwater flooding, and any other flood risk areas that may be identified during the period of the Plan or in relation to a planning application.</i> <i>2. Development proposals in areas where there is an identified or potential risk of flooding, or that could give rise to a risk of</i> 	<p>10. Noted.</p> <p>11. Positive impacts as outlined in point 1 above.</p>
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		<p><i>flooding elsewhere, may be required to carry out a Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment, and Development Management Justification Test where appropriate, in accordance with the provisions of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009 (or any superseding document), Any flood risk assessment also should include an assessment of the potential impacts of climate change, such as an increase in the extent or probability of flooding, and any associated measures necessary to address these impacts.</i></p> <p>3. Development that would be subject to an inappropriate risk of flooding or that would cause or exacerbate such a risk at other locations shall not normally be permitted</p> <p>4. Where certain measures proposed to mitigate or manage the risk of flooding associated with new developments are likely to result in significant effects to the environment or Natura 2000 Sites downstream, such measures will undergo appropriate environmental and Habitats Directive Assessments.</p> <p>12. Amend objective and title in Objective UI14 12 to read as follows: Objective UI 11-12 – Flood Risk Assessment Zones and Appropriate Land Uses</p> <p>It is an objective of the Galway County Council to protect areas prone to flooding from inappropriate development and to ensure that new development does not result in an increased risk of flooding within the site, on other lands, in low lying areas and in areas adjacent to rivers/streams. In this regard, development proposals, in areas where there is a potential risk of flooding or which could give rise to a risk of flooding elsewhere, shall be required to carry out a detailed flood risk assessment in accordance with the provisions of the DoEHLG's <i>The Planning System and Flood Risk Management, Guidelines to Planning Authorities 2009</i>, or any superseding document Protect Flood Zone A and Flood Zone B from inappropriate development and direct developments/ land uses into the appropriate Flood Zone in accordance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009 (or any superseding document) and guidance contained in DM Guideline UI1- Flood Zones and Appropriate Land Uses. Where a development/land use is proposed that is inappropriate within the Flood Zone, then the development proposal will need to be accompanied by a Development Management Justification Test and Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment in accordance with the criteria set out under the Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009.</p>	<p>12. Positive Impacts as outlined in Point 1 above.</p>
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		<p>13. Utility and Environmental Infrastructure. Amend Section 3.6.2 Objective UI 12-13 Flood Plains Waterbodies and Watercourses Objective UI 12 13– Flood Plains Waterbodies and Watercourses Protect rivers, streams and undeveloped riparian strips near rivers, streams and natural floodplains in the Plan Area allowing a 10 metre environmental management buffer on each side of the River Clarin and its tributaries, where appropriate, and prevent culverting or realignment, where possible. Refer to the Specific Objectives Maps (2A/2B). Protect waterbodies and watercourses within the Plan Area from inappropriate development, including rivers, streams, associated undeveloped riparian strips and natural floodplains. This will include a 10m environmental management buffer on either side of the River Clarin and its tributary, measured from the near river bank. Promote the sustainable management and use of watercourses and avoid the culverting or realignment of these features. Refer to the Specific Objectives Maps (2A/2B).</p> <p>14. Insert new Subsection 3.6.3 for the inclusion of a new Development Control Standard titled Development Management Guidelines as follows: DM Guideline UI1 – Flood Zones and Appropriate Land Uses The table below indicates the types of land uses that are appropriate in each of the Flood Zones identified within the Plan Area, in accordance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009. Where developments/land uses are proposed that are considered inappropriate to the Flood Zone, then a Development Management Justification Test and Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment will be required in accordance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Land Uses</th> <th>Flood Zone A</th> <th>Flood Zone B</th> <th>Flood Zone C</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>HVD – Highly Vulnerable Development</td> <td>Inappropriate (if proposed then Justification Test & detailed FRA required)</td> <td>Inappropriate (if proposed then Justification Test & detailed FRA required)</td> <td>Appropriate (screen for flood risk)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LVD – Less Vulnerable</td> <td>Inappropriate (if proposed</td> <td>Inappropriate due to</td> <td>Appropriate (screen for</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Land Uses	Flood Zone A	Flood Zone B	Flood Zone C	HVD – Highly Vulnerable Development	Inappropriate (if proposed then Justification Test & detailed FRA required)	Inappropriate (if proposed then Justification Test & detailed FRA required)	Appropriate (screen for flood risk)	LVD – Less Vulnerable	Inappropriate (if proposed	Inappropriate due to	Appropriate (screen for	<p>13. Positive impacts as outlined in Point 1 above.</p> <p>14. Positive impacts as outlined in Point 1 above</p>
Land Uses	Flood Zone A	Flood Zone B	Flood Zone C												
HVD – Highly Vulnerable Development	Inappropriate (if proposed then Justification Test & detailed FRA required)	Inappropriate (if proposed then Justification Test & detailed FRA required)	Appropriate (screen for flood risk)												
LVD – Less Vulnerable	Inappropriate (if proposed	Inappropriate due to	Appropriate (screen for												

		<p>Development then climate flood risk) Justification change Test & detailed (if proposed FRA required) then Justification Test & detailed FRA required)</p> <p>WCD – Water- Compatible Development Appropriate (detailed FRA may be required) Appropriate (detailed FRA may be required) Appropriate (screen for flood risk)</p> <p>Notes (refer to Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009 for additional detail): 1. HVD – Houses, schools, hospitals, residential institutions, emergency services, essential infrastructure, etc. 2. LVD – Economic uses (retail, leisure, warehousing, commercial, industrial, non-residential institutions, etc.), land and buildings used for agriculture or forestry, local transport infrastructure, etc. 3. WCD – Docks, marinas, wharves, water-based recreation and tourism (excluding sleeping accommodation), amenity open space, sports and recreation, flood control infrastructure, etc.</p> <p>Refer to the separate supporting document Conclusions for Athenry Indicative Flood Risk Zones, which forms part of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for County Galway 2012. Refer to the Development Management Standards and Guidelines in the Galway County Development Plan.</p>	
No.16	EPA	<p>1. Section 3.9.2 New Objectives as follows: Objective NH10 – Visual Impact Assessment Require Visual Impact Assessment for developments with potential to impact on areas of significant landscape character and should include urban and natural features such as Esker Riada and historic buildings as appropriate.</p>	<p>1. Positive impacts on landscape and cultural heritage in particular. Removal of reference to Esker Riada is not recommended as this is a significant area of cultural and natural heritage and reference to same in objective assists in highlighting this resource.</p> <p>2. For most EPOS, impacts can be</p>

		<p>2. Section 3.5.2 Amend Objective TI 13- Transport Network Improvements as follows: Objective TI 13 – Transport Network Improvements Facilitate the timely delivery of any improvements of the existing transportation network, including the completion of the Athenry Relief Road and the implementation of traffic management measures subject to normal planning and environmental considerations. Where possible, there will be minimal hedgerow/stone wall removal and beneficial landscaping and planting to maintain wildlife corridors.</p> <p>3. Section 3.2.2 Amend Objective RD1 – Phased Residential Development after Point No. 3 to read as follows: The above exceptions will be subject to compliance with the Core Strategy in the current Galway County Development Plan, the policies and objectives in this LAP, conforms to EPA standards and guidelines (e.g. EPA Code of Practice: Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (p.e ≤10). Planning-Developments will only be permitted where a substantiated case has been made to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority and the development will they do not prejudice the future use of the lands for the longer term growth needs of the town and its environs in a sustainable manner.</p> <p>4. Section 3.4.2 Amend Objective ED 5 – Tourism Development to read as follows: Objective ED5 – Tourism Development: Encourage and assist the development of the tourism potential within Athenry in a manner that respects protects the architectural, archaeological and cultural significance of the town and its environs in a sustainable manner</p> <p>5. Amend text in Section 1.3.2 to include reference to EU Habitats Directive and National European (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. S.1.3.2 Statutory Process 3rd Paragraph - Amend text to include reference to the EU Habitats Directive and the National European (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. Text to read as follows: A Habitats Directive Assessment has been prepared in accordance with Article 6(3) of the <i>EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)</i>, the national</p>	<p>mitigated for this objective.</p> <p>3. Clarification is provided by rewording and this generates positive impacts on a number of EPOS particularly water and population and human health.</p> <p>4. Rewording enhances overall protection so generates positive impacts for a number of EPOs including population and human health, landscape and cultural heritage.</p> <p>5. Noted and accepted</p>
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		<p><i>Natural Habitats Regulations (SI No. 94 of 1997) (as amended), European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 and the Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland-Guidance for Planning Authorities 2010 issued by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Planning and Development Act 2000, (as amended). A Habitats Directive Assessment is an assessment of the implications of the plan or project, alone and/or in combination with other plans and projects, on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site, in view of its conservation objectives</i></p> <p>6. Section 3.6.2 Insert new Objectives as follows: Objective UI 5 – Maintenance and Improvement of Water Services Infrastructure <i>Support the maintenance, improvement and monitoring of public water supply, wastewater disposal/discharges including storm water discharges and surface water drainage infrastructure, as necessary to address deficiencies and/or service the development needs of the town. This will include the following and any other projects approved during the period of the Plan:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ensure that trade effluent from new development is managed properly and discharged to sewer in accordance with relevant discharge licenses, where appropriate.</i> • <i>Continue to carry out improvements to the existing infrastructure and quality of the town’s water supply system.</i> • <i>Improve and maintain an adequate surface water drainage system throughout the Plan area.</i> <p>7. Insert a new Objective in 3.9.2 as follows: Objective NH9 – Control of Invasive and Alien Invasive Species <i>Seek to prevent and promote measures to prevent the spread of invasive and alien invasive species. Require a landscaping plan to be produced for developments near water bodies and ensure that such plans do not include alien invasive species.</i></p>	<p>6. Positive impacts particularly for water and biodiversity EPOs</p> <p>7. Positive impacts particularly for water and biodiversity EPOs</p>
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Table 2: Proposed Zoning Changes

No. 1 MA 1	Phillip Farrell	Lands at Furzypark – include within the LAP boundary and zone as industrial (5.058 ha)	Impacts identified for this zoning are associated with typical impacts that arise due to development on greenfield lands –
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			<p>for many of these they may be mitigated against through development management and control. However due to its proximity to the M6 junctions it is recommended that the following mitigation measures be included to minimise any additional impacts on biodiversity and transport. In addition, whilst this area lies within Flood Zone C, there are very small areas identified as at risk of pluvial flooding (indicative and extreme) in the SFRA, therefore a further mitigation measure is recommended in relation to this rezoning:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Habitat survey to be undertaken in advance of any planning application; 2. Application of Objective TI 14 – Road Safety Audits, Traffic Impact Assessment 3. Application of Objective UI11 Flood Risk Management and Assessment. <p>Providing the mitigation measures above and those outlined in the LAP and SEA ER of the draft LAP are adhered to, this proposed amendment should not result in significant adverse impacts on SEA parameters.</p>
No 3 MA 3	NRA	6 linear pockets of land that were zoned as Strategic Infrastructure are proposed to be rezoned to Agriculture.	Positive impacts are identified for a number of EPOs including biodiversity, soil and geology and landscape.
No. 5	OPW	Amend Draft Maps 1A/1B and rezone undeveloped lands within Flood Zone A	These rezonings are reflective of the

MA 5		<p>and B to open space/recreation and amenity (OS). Undeveloped Residential Lands to Open Space: (MA5): Refer to Material Alterations/Amendments: Land Use Zoning Maps 1A/1B.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential Phase 2 at Baunmore; • Sliver of Residential Phase 2 north of Pairc na hAbhainn; • Sliver of residential lands to the east of Caheroyan House and north of the River; • Sliver of Residential Phase 2 to the north east of Caheroyan House and north of the River Clarin; • Undeveloped Residential (backland) north east of Dunclarin Court and north of the River Clarin ; • Undeveloped Residential Phase 2 at Carrowntober West, to the north east of the Plan Boundary <p>Other Undeveloped Lands to Open Space:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industrial Lands at Gortnahown within Flood Zone A to Open Space (area: 0.2133Ha); • Community Facility Zonings north east of Pairc na hAbhainn Housing estate; • Sliver of undeveloped Industrial lands at Caheroyan townland south of the railway line and north of the River Clarin; • Existing undeveloped Industrial lands immediately south of the proposed spur road; • Public Utility zoning – southern aspect within Flood Zone A. <p>Amend Specific Objectives Maps 2A/2B accordingly</p>	<p>SFRA prepared for Athenry and are in line with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009. Positive impacts are identified for material assets, population and human health, water and biodiversity.</p>
No.8 MA 8	Coffey Construction Limited	<p>Include within LAP boundary and zone land to industrial (3.993ha)</p>	<p>Impacts identified for this zoning are associated with typical impacts that arise due to development on greenfield lands – for many of these they may be mitigated against through development management and control. However due to its proximity to the proposed Athenry Relief Road it is recommended that the following mitigation measures be included to minimise any additional</p>

			<p>impacts on biodiversity and transport.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Habitat survey to be undertaken in advance of any planning application; 2. Application of Objective TI 14 – Road Safety Audits, Traffic Impact Assessment <p>Providing the mitigation measures above and those outlined in the LAP and SEA ER of the draft LAP are adhered to, this proposed amendment should not result in significant adverse impacts on SEA parameters.</p>
No.10 MA 10	Rinnbreac Properties Limited	Lands at Knockaunglass (East of Abbey Glen), Athenry Rezone area of land to Residential phase 1 (0.58ha)	<p>The rezoning from Community to Residential Ph1 for this area is not assessed as generating significant negative impacts on the environment as many impacts would be mitigated through development control and the development activities associated with community are similar to those of residential (ie: construction, greenfield site) This would result in impacts on soil and geology EPOs, biodiversity and water during construction . They are not considered significant. However, the issue of sufficient wastewater and water supply remain important and adherence to Objectives and Policies including Objective DS5 Service Led Development, Objective DS6 Residential Development Phasing and Policy UI1 Water Supply, Wastewater and Surface Water Infrastructure are essential.</p>

No.12 MA 12	Mr. John Hickey	Amend Land use maps and rezone from Residential to Commercial/Mixed Use.(C2)	For most impacts these may be addressed through development management and control particularly as the area is not principally a greenfield site and existing buildings are located therein.
No.13 MA 13	Mr. Kevin Burke	Include within LAP boundary and zoned to Industrial (1.89ha)	<p>Impacts identified for this zoning are associated with typical impacts that arise due to development on greenfield lands – for many of these they may be mitigated against through development management and control. However due to its proximity to the M6 junctions it is recommended that the following mitigation measures be included to minimise any additional impacts on biodiversity and transport.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Habitat survey to be undertaken in advance of any planning application; 2. Application of Objective TI 14 – Road Safety Audits, Traffic Impact Assessment <p>Providing the mitigation measures above and those outlined in the LAP and SEA ER of the draft LAP are adhered to, this proposed amendment should not result in significant adverse impacts on SEA parameters.</p>
No.15 MA 15A/15B	T.J. Divilly	Lands at Ballydavid South 15A: Rezone from agriculture to residential Phase 2 15B: Include within LAP boundary and zone land to Industrial.(4.619ha)	Land Parcel 15A adjoins the Esker Riada which is a significant geological, landscape and ecological feature within the plan area and afforded protection through Objective NH5 Biodiversity and Ecological Networks. These lands cannot be developed until such time as the

			<p>overall development can connect to the public sewer network and the treatment plant on site be decommissioned. This is unlikely to happen before 2021. As this cannot be developed until sufficient wastewater treatment exists, it is unlikely to occur over the lifetime of the draft plan. Therefore SEA impacts for this rezoning are identified as neutral for many parameters. However, should applications come forward for this land during the lifetime of the plan, adherence to a range of policies and objectives would be required and potential impacts on the geology, hydrology and biodiversity of the Esker Riada would require assessment. In this context, adherence to Policy NH1 Natural Heritage, Landscape and Environment, Objective NH4 Impact Assessment would be essential.</p> <p>Parcel 15B is currently agricultural land and a review of aerial photography suggests habitats of improved grassland with hedgerows. Impacts identified for this zoning are associated with typical impacts that arise due to development on greenfield lands – for many of these they may be mitigated against through development management and control. However due to its proximity to the proposed Athenry Relief Road it is recommended that the following mitigation measures be included to minimise any additional impacts on biodiversity and transport. In addition, it is noted that this area lies within Flood Zone C but there is pluvial</p>
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			<p>flooding (indicative and extreme); therefore an additional mitigation measure is further recommended for this rezoning. therefore</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Habitat survey to be undertaken in advance of any planning application; 2. Application of Objective TI 14 – Road Safety Audits, Traffic Impact Assessment 3. Application of Objective UI11 Flood Risk Management and Assessment will apply. <p>Providing the mitigation measures above and those outlined in the LAP and SEA ER of the draft LAP are adhered to, this proposed amendment should not result in significant adverse impacts on SEA parameters.</p>
No.19 MA 19	HOCM c/o O Neill O Malley Galway	Lands at Caheroyan Balance of site (1.3ha) rezoned as Residential Phase 2.	<p>These lands are surrounded by existing residential development with pockets of open space. These lands cannot be developed until such time as the overall development can connect to the public sewer network and the treatment plant on site be decommissioned. This is unlikely to happen before 2021.</p> <p>As this cannot be developed until sufficient wastewater treatment exists, it is unlikely to occur over the lifetime of the draft plan. Therefore SEA impacts for this rezoning are identified as neutral for many parameters.</p>
No.23 MA 23	Teagasc	Lands at Raheen – amend from community facilities to agriculture Linear Strips Lot No 8A/5B: rezone from Strategic Infrastructure to agriculture.	<p>These rezonings are identified as generating positive impacts on a range of parameters including soil and geology, biodiversity and water.</p>

No.25 MA 25	IDA	<p>IDA Ireland Athenry Strategic Site Amend proposed zoning on land adjacent to BT zoning from community facilities to agriculture</p> <p>Remove the symbol ED – indicative locations for school provision for this site within the Specific Objectives Map 2A/2B</p>	<p>Rezoning to agriculture will generate positive impacts for human health and population and soil and geology EPOs. Other impacts may be mitigated against through development control.</p> <p>Removal of symbol ED – neutral to no impacts on SEA parameters</p>
No 28 MA 28	Kathleen Bane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include within LAP boundary and zone land to industrial (3.82ha) • Linear strip already contained within LAP boundary to remain agricultural. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lands to be included within LAP boundary and zoned industrial: <p>Impacts identified for this zoning are associated with typical impacts that arise due to development on greenfield lands – for many of these they may be mitigated against through development management and control. However due to its proximity to the proposed Athenry Relief Road it is recommended that the following mitigation measures be included to minimise any additional impacts on biodiversity and transport. It is also noted that this area lies within Flood Zone C but there is a small pocket identified as being at risk of pluvial flooding (indicative and extreme, therefore an additional mitigation measure is recommended;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Habitat survey to be undertaken in advance of any planning application; 2. Application of Objective TI 14 – Road Safety Audits, Traffic Impact Assessment 3. Application of Objective UI11 Flood Risk Management and Assessment will apply.

			<p>Providing the mitigation measures above and those outlined in the LAP and SEA ER of the draft LAP are adhered to, this proposed amendment should not result in significant adverse impacts on SEA parameters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linear strip within existing LAP: Retention of agricultural zoning generates positive to neutral impacts for a range of parameters.
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2.1.2 Characteristics of the Effects and of the Area Likely to be Affected

The effects have been determined having regard to:

1. The area likely to be affected,
2. The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of effects,
3. The cumulative nature of the effects,
4. The transboundary nature of the effects,
5. The risk to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents),
6. The magnitude and spatial extent of the effect (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected),
7. The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:
 - special natural characteristics or cultural heritage,
 - exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values, and
 - intensive land use.
7. The effects on areas or landscapes, which have recognised national, European Union or international protection status.

Table 2B: Summary Table

Material Amendment	SEA Effects
No 20 DECLG	All these amendments are identified as generating positive impacts on a range of SEA parameters including biodiversity, water, soil and geology and cultural heritage EPOs.

	<p>Principally as these material amendments provide further clarification (eg; additional text in Section 3.2.1 Residential Development); highlight relevant legislation, guidelines and policy as appropriate (eg: Retail Planning Guidelines, reference to recent /updated legislation such as the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011).</p>
No 22 DAHG	<p>Positive impacts for cultural heritage, landscape and population and human health due to increased protection and text associated with Objective HC9 Monuments and Places, and precise wording added to Objective HC4 Development /Works relating to Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Area.</p> <p>Positive impacts for biodiversity EPOs associated with additional text to Objective DS3 and Objective NH1 Natura 2000 Network and Habitats Directive Assessment. New objectives regarding consultation with environmental authorities also generates positive impacts for Biodiversity EPOs.</p>
No 2 WRA	<p>Positive impacts for biodiversity, soil and geology and water due to additional text regarding Ecological Networks.</p>
No 3 NRA	<p>Rezoning from Strategic Infrastructure to Agriculture generate positive impacts on biodiversity, soil and geology EPOs in particular as the rezone directs less intensive development activities to these areas. Amendment of Objective LU10 Transport Infrastructure generates positive impacts for material assets EPOs including transport, and indirect positive impacts on Air Quality and Climate EPOs. Objective T112 Good Transportation Hub generates mostly neutral or uncertain impacts as site and scale of such development is unknown at this time.</p>
No 5 OPW	<p>All rezonings from residential to open space are in line with the findings of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and comply with requirements of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009; hence positive impacts are identified for a number of EPOs including material assets, population and human health, water and biodiversity.</p> <p>The insertion of new objectives such as DS7 Flood Risk Management and Assessment and LU11 Flood Risk Areas and Land Use Zones also provides greater clarity and reflects better the requirements of the above guidelines. Again, positive impacts are identified for a range of EPOs as above.</p> <p>New text regarding Sustainable Drainage Systems (Objective UI4 Surface Water Drainage and Sustainable Drainage Systems), Utility and Environmental Infrastructure (Objective UI 13 Waterbodies and Watercourses) and Flood Risk Management and Assessment (Policy UI4 Flood Risk Management and Assessment) amongst others, generates positive impacts for water and biodiversity EPOs in particular.</p>
No 16 EPA	<p>New Objective NH10 Visual Impact Assessment – generates positive impacts on landscape and cultural heritage. The deletion of a specific reference to the Esker Riada is not recommended as this is an important natural and cultural heritage feature within and close to the Plan Area</p> <p>Amendment of Objective T113 Transport Network Improvements generates impacts that can be mitigated</p>

	<p>through development management.</p> <p>Additional text in Objective RD1 Phased Residential Development provides greater clarity on this issue and generates positive impacts on water EPOs. Amendment of Objective ED5 Tourism Development generates positive impacts as it highlights sustainability and protection of heritage of the town.</p> <p>Objective UI5 Maintenance and Improvement of Water Services Infrastructure- this new objective strengthens overall water quality management and infrastructure so generates a range of positive impacts on water, biodiversity and population and human health.</p> <p>Objective NH9 – positive impacts for biodiversity in particular.</p>
Proposed Rezoning	Please refer to Material Amendments Map
MA1	<p>Should this rezoning be adopted the following mitigation measures are recommended:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Habitat survey to be undertaken in advance of any planning application; 2. Application of Objective TI 14 – Road Safety Audits, Traffic Impact Assessment 3. Application of Objective UI11 Flood Risk Management and Assessment will also apply
MA 3	<p>6 linear pockets of land that were zoned as Strategic Infrastructure are proposed to be rezoned to Agriculture.</p> <p>Positive impacts are identified for a number of EPOs including biodiversity, soil and geology and landscape.</p>
MA 5	These rezonings reflect the findings of the SFRA and generate positive impacts on material assets, water and population and human health EPOs.
MA 8	<p>The environmental impact of this rezoning is assessed for most EPOs as generating impacts that can be mitigated. Should this rezoning be adopted the following mitigation measures are recommended:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Habitat survey to be undertaken in advance of any planning application; 2. Application of Objective TI 14 – Road Safety Audits, Traffic Impact Assessment
MA 10	Individually this rezoning gives rise to impacts that can be mitigated against through development control. They are not considered significant. However, the issue of sufficient wastewater and water supply remain important and adherence to Objectives and Policies including Objective DS5 Service Led Development, Objective DS6 Residential Development Phasing and Policy UI1 Water Supply, Wastewater and Surface Water Infrastructure are essential.
MA 12	For most impacts these may be addressed through development management and control particularly as the

	area is not principally a greenfield site and existing buildings are located therein
MA 13	<p>The environmental impact of this rezoning is assessed for most EPOs as generating impacts that can be mitigated. Should this rezoning be adopted the following mitigation measures are recommended:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1.Habitat survey to be undertaken in advance of any planning application; 2. Application of Objective TI 14 – Road Safety Audits, Traffic Impact Assessment</p>
MA 15A	<p>15A: As this cannot be developed until sufficient wastewater treatment exists, it is unlikely to occur over the lifetime of the draft plan. Therefore SEA impacts for this rezoning are identified as neutral for many parameters. However, should applications come forward for this land during the lifetime of the plan, adherence to a range of policies and objectives would be required and potential impacts on the geology, hydrology and biodiversity of the Esker Riada would require assessment. In this context, adherence to Policy NH1 Natural Heritage, Landscape and Environment, Objective NH4 Impact Assessment would be essential.</p>
MA 15B	<p>15B: Should this be adopted, the following mitigation measures are recommended:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1.Habitat survey to be undertaken in advance of any planning application; 2. Application of Objective TI 14 – Road Safety Audits, Traffic Impact Assessment 3. Application of Objective U111 Flood Risk Management and Assessment will also apply</p>
MA 19	<p>These lands are surrounded by existing residential development with pockets of open space. These lands cannot be developed until such time as the overall development can connect to the public sewer network and the treatment plant on site be decommissioned. This is unlikely to happen before 2021. As this cannot be developed until sufficient wastewater treatment exists, it is unlikely to occur over the lifetime of the draft plan. Therefore SEA impacts for this rezoning are identified as neutral for many parameters.</p>
MA 23	<p>These rezonings are identified as generating positive impacts on a range of parameters including soil and geology, biodiversity and water.</p>
MA 25	<p>Rezoning to agriculture will generate positive impacts for human health and population and soil and geology EPOs. Other impacts may be mitigated against through development control.</p> <p>Removal of symbol ED on Specific Objectives Map 2A/2B – neutral to no impacts on SEA parameters</p>
MA 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lands to be included in boundary and zoned Industrial. Impacts identified for this zoning are associated with typical impacts that arise due to development on greenfield lands – for many of these they may be mitigated against through development management and control. However due to its proximity to the proposed Athenry Relief Road it is recommended that the following mitigation measures be included to minimise any additional impacts on biodiversity and transport. <p style="text-align: center;">1. Habitat survey to be undertaken in advance of any planning application 2. Application of Objective TI 14 – Road Safety Audits, Traffic Impact Assessment</p>

	3. Application of Objective UI11 Flood Risk Management and Assessment
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- Linear Strip: Retention of agricultural zoning generates positive to neutral impacts for a range of parameters.

2.1.3 Cumulative and in-combination Effects.

A number of new zonings proposed are for industrial and require inclusion within the plan area; hence the following mitigation measures are proposed for these zonings:

- 1. Habitat survey to be undertaken in advance of any planning application**
- 2. Application of Objective TI 14 – Road Safety Audits, Traffic Impact Assessment**
- 3. Application of Objective UI11 Flood Risk Management and Assessment where appropriate**

Whilst impacts associated with these rezonings at an individual level may be addressed through mitigation measures associated with development management guidelines and control; cumulatively they represent an intensification of land uses at the periphery of the town, and the inclusion of formerly agricultural or undeveloped lands to more potentially intensive development activities as shown in the land use matrix. There may be in combination and cumulative effects associated with these rezonings in relation to biodiversity EPOs and in particular disturbance and disruption to greenfield areas that may function as wildlife corridors. In addition, there may also be cumulative/in combination effects arising from these rezonings in relation to traffic and transport and in particular the lands proposed for rezoning close to the junction of the M6. Therefore it is recommended that an additional mitigation measure be provided to monitor the cumulative impacts of these industrial zonings in the event that development applications are brought forward over the lifetime of the plan. This mitigation measure would allow the monitoring of impacts and highlight if significant in combination effects are arising on SEA parameters during the plan timeframe. This mitigation measure is as proposed as follows:

Potential cumulative and in combination impacts on material assets, principally transport, and impacts on biodiversity will be assessed in relation to development applications for areas zoned industrial on the periphery of the plan area over the lifetime of the plan 2012 to 2018.

3 Conclusions

The SEA Screening determines that providing relevant policies and objectives in the draft LAP are adhered to, and the recommended mitigation measures as outlined in this Screening Report are implemented, the proposed material amendments to the draft Athenry LAP 2012 – 2018 will not result in significant adverse impacts on the environment.

SEA and NIR response to
submissions received on
proposed amendments and
material alterations to
Athenry Draft Local Area
Plan 2012 – 2018. June 2012

Prepared for Galway County
Council

Minogue and Associates
www.minogueandassociates.com

Screening Report on Submissions on proposed material amendments to draft Athenry Local Area Plan 2012 -2018 Managers Report. 11th June 2012

Introduction

This report presents the environmental implications of the submissions made on the material amendments proposed to the draft Athenry Local Area Plan 2012 -2018 following the public display period. The adoption of the Draft Local Area Plan was considered at the monthly Galway County Council meeting held on the 23rd April 2012 together with the Managers Report on the submissions received. The Members made a number of Material Alterations to the proposed Draft Local Area Plan and these Alterations, together with addendum reports on the SEA and HDA were put on public display for the period Thursday the 3rd May to Wednesday the 30th May 2012. A total of **6 Submissions** were received on the Material Alterations (only), the details of which are set out hereunder. This report assesses the recommendations made by the Managers Report in advance of the Galway County Council Meeting in June 2012 and determines what (if any) the environmental implications are of these same recommendations. In addition, it identifies whether additional mitigation measures are required in relation to these recommendations. The assessment of the recommendations is undertaken against the Environmental Protection Objectives (EPOs) presented in the SEA Environmental Report.

This report is also informed by the Habitats Directive Assessment (HDA) process, and a similar screening exercise has been undertaken against Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive. Again, this process will assess the recommendations in relation to likely significant effects on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites within the plan area and a 15km buffer of same.

The report uses the following text formatting to highlight changes that are recommended to the Draft Athenry Local Area Plan:

- Existing Text – Shown in black text.
- Proposed Deletion – Shown in ~~black text~~.

Proposed Addition – Shown in **blue highlight**

Where additional mitigation measures are recommended, these are shown in the SEA or HDA column in **Blue Font**.

This report concludes that the SEA and NIR supports all the Manager's Recommendations as detailed in the Manager's Report of 11th June 2012 and no additional mitigation measures are required should the Manager's Recommendations be adopted. An additional mitigation measure is proposed for Objective LU4 Industrial (I), this is shown in the SEA Column of Submission No 1. And No 2.

Table 1: Draft Submissions on Athenry LAP SEA and HDA Response and comments on Managers Report Response – Additional Recommendation Text from SEA and HDA are in blue font.

Ref. No.	Submission	Environmental Issue	SEA Comment	HDA Comment
No. 5	Department of Environment Community and Local Government, (DECLG)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Council is advised to review all material alterations to residential zoning objectives (either Phase 1 or Phase 2) to ensure that they are consistent with the housing land allocation for Athenry as set out in the Core Strategy in the Galway County Development Plan (GCDP) and should omit any zoning objectives for which there is no clear justification on the grounds of proper planning and sustainable development. In particular the proposal to zone land comprising a mature woodland adjoining Esker Riada to the north of the town from Agricultural use to Residential Phase 2 (MA15A). Reconsider the proposed material alteration to the development boundary to accommodate additional industrial zoning objectives pending the completion of necessary traffic impact 	<p>Manager’s Recommendation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Accept MA15A and zone the lands as R – Residential (Phase 2). Insert a Table with a schedule of Land Use Zoning Areas (including areas of developed and undeveloped lands in each zone) in Section 3.1.3 after the Land Use Zoning Matrix. The figures in this table shall take account of the Elected Members decisions after consideration of this Managers Report. <p>SEA Response: the proposed rezoning to R2 in an area close to the Esker Riada will require careful scrutiny should development applications come forward over the lifetime of the plan. In this instance, adherence in particular to the following objectives and policies will be essential: Policy NH2 Ecological Networks, Objective NH5 Biodiversity and Ecological Networks.</p> <p>Manager’s recommendation accepted.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> These lands were amongst a number of zoning proposals which were not recommended in the Managers Report on the Draft Submissions and were approved by the Members at Council on 23/04/2012. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> .See SEA response. Manager’s Recommendation is accepted See SEA Response. Manager’s Recommendation is accepted

		<p>assessments and in the absence of a clear evidence base to explain why the demand for industrial development cannot be accommodated on existing undeveloped industrial land.</p>	<p>MA 15B Manager’s Report Recommendation: The inclusion and the zoning of land to Industrial use under Material Alteration/Amendment 15B (MA15B) should be removed and the land revert to the original un-zoned Agricultural land. The Draft LAP Boundary should revert to the original boundary as published under the Draft Plan.</p> <p>SEA Response: the rezoning to original agricultural generates more positive impacts including those for soil and geology, biodiversity, landscape and water. In addition, retaining the original plan boundary facilities more concentrated development within the functional plan area and avoids piecemeal development on the fringes of the town with accompanying potential cumulative negative impacts namely for water, biodiversity and material assets.</p> <p>Therefore the Manager’s recommendation accepted.</p> <p>MA 28 Manager’s Report Recommendation: It is recommended that the inclusion and the zoning of land to Industrial use under Material Alteration/Amendment 28(MA28) should be removed and the lands revert to the original un-zoned Agricultural land. The Draft LAP Boundary should revert to the original boundary as published under the Draft Plan.</p> <p>SEA Response: the rezoning to original agricultural generates more positive impacts including those for soil and geology, biodiversity, landscape and water. In addition, retaining the</p>	
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		<p>3. A Stage 2 Flood Risk Assessment is</p>	<p>original plan boundary facilities more concentrated development within the functional plan area and avoids piecemeal development on the fringes of the town with accompanying potential cumulative negative impacts namely for water, biodiversity and material assets. Therefore the Manager’s recommendation accepted.</p> <p>Recommendation: MA8 Accept MA8 to include and zone the lands as Industrial (I) SEA Response: These lands lie within the line of the proposed Athenry Relief Road and are serviceable. The following mitigation measure is recommended for these lands: Objective LU4 – Industrial (I) Promote the development of industrial and industrial-related uses, including manufacturing, processing of materials, warehousing and distribution, on suitable lands with adequate services and facilities and a high level of access to the major road network and public transport facilities. Adequate edge treatments and/or screening will be required to ensure high quality interfaces with public spaces and any adjoining residential areas or other sensitive land uses, as appropriate. Proposals on Industrial lands will be subject to requirements in the Plan in relation to avoiding unacceptable transport, environmental and water quality impacts.</p> <p>3.Recommendation: No change to the Draft Plan as amended. No change to the Indicative Flood Risk</p>	<p>3. See SEA Response. Manager’s recommendation accepted.</p>
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		<p>advised both for new and historically zoned areas in order to comply with the key principle of avoidance of flood risk as set out in the Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009.</p> <p>4. Review the zoning of lands north of the town outside the town centre pending the preparation of a retail impact assessment of the proposed zoning for commercial use to assess to the satisfaction of the planning authority the need for additional retail development in that location and the potential impact it might have on the town centre.</p>	<p>Assessment Maps 3A/3B. SEA Response: GCC has undertaken additional flood assessment work including groundtruthing and the output maps have guided and informed land use zonings. Therefore the Manager's recommendation accepted.</p> <p>4.MA 12 (site area: 0.81Ha) and the proposed Commercial/Mixed Use (C2) re-zoning: These lands were proposed to be re-zoned under Material Alterations/Amendments (MA12) from R - Residential to Commercial/Mixed Use (C2). Recommendation: 1. Accept MA12 and zone lands to Commercial/Mixed Use (C2). 2. Amend S. 3.4.2 – Objective ED4 to read as follows: Objective ED4 – Retail Development Support the development of appropriate types, scales and patterns of retail development in suitable locations within the town and with high quality designs that, support the vitality and viability of the existing town centre and associated main streets, that are easily accessible particularly in terms of public transport, that protect investment in strategic roads and infrastructure and that contribute to the creation of a high quality retail environment, in accordance with the <i>Retail Planning Guidelines 2005</i> and the <i>Draft Retail Planning Guidelines 2012</i> (and any subsequent review or update), and will require Retail Impact Assessments, including details of the application of a 'sequential approach' and Design Statements, where appropriate, for retail development in</p>	<p>4. See SEA Response. Manager's recommendation accepted.</p>
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			<p>accordance with the Retail Planning Guidelines and Development Management (DM) Guidelines ED1 and ED2 as contained within this Plan. The town centre (C1) zoning shall remain the primary focus for the location of new retail development and on Commercial/Mixed Use (C2) zoning where appropriate.</p> <p>SEA Response: As the proposed lands are located approximately 160m from the town centre, this is considered to be within walking distance of the town centre under the Retail Planning Guidelines. Any proposals for retail development would be required to carry out a Retail Impact Assessment (RIA) under the 2012 Retail Planning Guidelines including assessment on existing retail and on the vitality and viability of the existing town centre. The proposed Commercial/Mixed Use (C2) zoning does not preempt the outcome of such assessment. Due to its proximity to the town centre and the insertion of the 2012 Retail Planning Guidelines, it is considered that this rezoning will generate impacts on many environmental parameters that can be addressed through site level mitigation and will contribute to more positive impacts for population and human health and material asset EPOS.</p> <p>Amendment of Objective ED4 updates objective in line with recent guidelines and accurately reflects policy and statutory framework.</p> <p>Managers Recommendation accepted.</p>	
1	The National Roads Authority	1. Refer to submission made on 30.2.2012 and recommend the following (NRA recommended text in blue highlight)	1. SEA Response: the proposed insertions to Objective ED2 strengthen the objective by highlighting needs for	1. See SEA Response. Manager's recommendation accepted.

	<p>(NRA), St. Martin's House, Waterloo Road, Dublin 4.</p>	<p>Objective ED2 – Business & Technology Park Development Promote and encourage the establishment of Business and Technology activities, which can be developed in a campus style park, on Business and Technology zoned lands in tandem with the delivery of essential infrastructural requirements. The development of these lands will be in accordance with Sections 2.4 and 2.5 of the County Development Plan 2009-2015. The Council shall also require an overarching Master Plan and Transport Assessment to integrate with transport and mobility plans and to identify and co-ordinate essential infrastructure requirements and may require Design Statements/Development Briefs for all large scale or sensitively located development proposals within BT zoned lands. The overarching Master Plan for this zoning will be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and EU Habitats Directive Assessment (HDA). The Master Plan shall be undertaken in consultation with relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>2. Proposed Map Amendments MA1 and MA13: The NRA notes the proposal to extend the LAP boundary to the south to incorporate additional areas with an Industrial Zoning objective. The Authority does not support the further extension of the LAP boundary at this location having regard to the potential impact such incremental development may have on the adjoining M6 and associated junctions.</p>	<p>transport assessment and infrastructure requirements; this generates positive impacts for Material Asset EPOs, and Population and Human Health EPOs in particular.</p> <p>Managers Recommendation Accepted.</p> <p>2. MA 1 and MA13 Manager's Recommendation: 1. Accept Material Alterations MA1 and MA13 to include and zone as Industrial (I). 2. Amend Objective LU4 – Industrial (I)</p> <p>SEA Response: The following mitigation measure is proposed in order to address any potential in combination/cumulative effects on transport, water quality and other environmental parameters: Objective LU4 – Industrial (I) Promote the development of industrial and industrial-related</p>	<p>2. See SEA Response. Manager's recommendation accepted.</p>
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			<p>uses, including manufacturing, processing of materials, warehousing and distribution, on suitable lands with adequate services and facilities and a high level of access to the major road network and public transport facilities. Adequate edge treatments and/or screening will be required to ensure high quality interfaces with public spaces and any adjoining residential areas or other sensitive land uses, as appropriate. Proposals on industrial lands will be subject to requirements in the Plan in relation to avoiding unacceptable transport, environmental and water quality impacts.</p> <p>Manager's Recommendation's Accepted.</p>	
3	<p>Department of Education and Skills Forward Planning Section, Portlaoise Road, Tullamore Co. Offaly</p>	<p>The Department notes the contents of the amendments/material alterations in relation to the Athenry Draft Local Area Plan 2012-2018 and have no further comment to make in this particular instance.</p>	<p>Managers Recommendation – no change. Managers Recommendation is accepted.</p>	<p>See SEA response. Manager's recommendation accepted.</p>
4	<p>The Office of Public Works HQ (OPW) Engineering Section, Jonathan Swift Street, Trim, Co Meath</p>	<p>The OPW welcomes the following flooding and flood related objectives in the Athenry Draft Local Area Plan including: Objectives DS7, LU11, UI11, UI12 and Policies UI4 and DM Guideline UI1. The OPW recommend the following: 1. The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009 (DoEHLG/OPW): The Guidelines place a firm onus on Local Authorities to follow the hierarchal order to avoid, mitigate and</p>	<p>1. Noted. Please see Manager's Report for detailed response.</p>	<p>See SEA Response to all items. Manager's recommendations accepted.</p>

		<p>manage flood risks, and it details a flood zone system for this purpose, in order to allow planning decisions to be made with regard to flood risk.</p> <p>The OPW recommends that applications for all such development in flood risk areas be accompanied by a flood risk assessment. In addition the Guidelines also require that an appropriately detailed FRA be carried out for historically zoned areas in the Athenry Draft Local Area Plan.</p> <p>2.The OPW recommend exercises such as a site walkover identifying flood areas through type of vegetation associated with flood zones and other useful techniques such as modelling of bridges and culverts to study hydraulic performance and possible overflow mechanisms that can provide extra detail and should also be considered as part of the Stage 2 PFRA at a flood zoning level</p> <p>3. The OPW recommends that a Stage 2 Flood Risk Assessment as per the Guidelines for all areas covered by the Athenry Draft Local Area Plan where zoning occurs. This Stage 2 FRA would inform decisions in the Athenry Draft LAP and where there is an instance of flood risk to new developments, it should take account of the Guidelines and a flood risk assessment should be available for all individual developments. A Stage 3 FRA may be required for some developments for further investigate the specific flood risk</p>	<p>2. Noted. Please see Manager’s Report for detailed response.</p> <p>3. Noted. Please see Manager’s Report for detailed response.</p> <p>The SEA has assessed and evaluated the flood risk zones that were identified as detailed in the Manager’s report. In line with the Planning System and Flood Risk Guidelines, vulnerable uses were not permitted in identified flood zones and a range of policies, objectives and development Management Guidelines support flood risk management and landuse (e.g: Objective DS7 Flood Risk Management and Assessment).</p> <p>It is considered that the draft LAP provides</p>	
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		at that location, in line with the Guidelines.	sufficient and robust flood protection and management measures and the Manager's recommendation accepted.	
2	Cian O' Mahony, Scientific Officer, SEA Section, Office of Environmental Assessment, EPA, Regional Inspectorate, Cork	<p>1. Objective TI 12 Goods Transportation Hub. The submission requests that it is developed at an appropriate location and take into account the particular vulnerabilities identified with the Plan/SEA Screening, including provision of appropriate and adequate critical service infrastructure in advance of permission being permitted. Consideration should be given to reviewing the existing traffic management plan to ensure that it is robust enough to facilitate such a development. An assessment of the likely effects in relation to Noise and Air Quality and appropriateness of the existing transport network within the Plan area should be considered.</p> <p>2. It is noted that the Habitats Directive Assessment Addendum that 'Zoning of Transport Infrastructure will require a minimum of 4 watercourse crossings over the River Clarin. It should be ensured that the requirements of the EIA and Habitats and Flood Directives are in particular are taken into account in this regard including the potential for</p>	<p>1. Recommendation: Amend Objective TI12 to read as follows: Objective TI 12 - Goods Transportation Hub Engage with relevant stakeholders to identify demand and identify potential locations for a Goods Transportation Hub within the Plan area in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development including the provision of appropriate and adequate critical service infrastructure.</p> <p>SEA Response: This proposed amendment will provide impacts that can be mitigated for a range of material asset EPOs in particular. Manager's recommendation accepted.</p> <p>2. The amended policies and objectives in the draft plan including Objective DS3 Natura 2000 Network and Habitats Directive Assessment, new Objective DS7 Flood Risk Management and Assessment and Objective NH4 Impact Assessment are considered sufficient to address any potential environmental issues arising in relation to this.</p>	<p>1. See SEA response. Manager's recommendations accepted.</p> <p>2. See SEA Response. In particular Objective DS3 Natura 2000 Network and Habitats Directive Assessment and new Objective NH11 Consultation with environmental authorities is considered to provide sufficient protection to any potential developments associated with</p>

		<p>cumulative/in-combination effects. Additionally, any such proposals should be done in consultation with the NPWS and OPW to determine potential for impact on biodiversity and flood related impacts in particular. Consideration should also be given to consulting with the Inland Fisheries Ireland to ensure protection of fisheries where relevant</p> <p>3. Increase in rezoning of Greenfield lands to Industrial Zoned Land: The Agency acknowledges the SEA recommendations provided in the SEA Screening Report for the Alterations, in relation to the intensification of industrial zoning being proposed in the Plan area. It should be ensured that a robust monitoring programme takes account of this proposed increase in development of industrial zoned/proposed industrial zoned lands to identify potential cumulative/in-combination effects and mitigation measures are appropriate enough to address issues should they arise. The intention to require Flood Risk Assessment, Habitat Mapping and Traffic Impact Assessment are noted. The potential impact on surface and ground water quality should also be considered.</p> <p>4. Obligations with respect to National Plans and Policies and EU</p>	<p>Manager's recommendation accepted.</p> <p>3. Please see recommended mitigation measure for Objective LU4 Industrial (I) as shown in SEA response to Submission No.1</p> <p>Manager's recommendation accepted.</p> <p>4. Noted.</p>	<p>the River Clarin.</p> <p>Manager's recommendation accepted.</p> <p>3. Please see SEA Response.</p> <p>Manager's recommendation accepted.</p> <p>4. Noted.</p>
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		<p>Environmental Legislation: It is a matter for Galway County Council to ensure that, when undertaking and fulfilling their statutory responsibilities and that at all times compliant with the requirements of national and EU Environmental Legislation.</p> <p>5. SEA Statement: The requirement to prepare an SEA Statement outlining 'Information on the Decision' as required by Article 141 of the Planning and Development Regulations as amended by Article 8 of the SEA Regulations. A copy of the SEA Statement should be sent to any Environmental Authority consulted during the SEA process.</p>	<p>5. Noted. This will be prepared when the LAP is adopted.</p>	<p>5. Noted.</p>
6	<p>The Athenry Retailers C/O James O' Donnell, Planning Consultancy Services, Gray Office Park, Galway Retail Park, Headford Road, Galway</p>	<p>The clients of this Submission are not in favour of the proposed re-zoning of lands along the Monivea Road from R- Residential to Commercial/Mixed Use (C2) under Material Alterations/Amendments No 12 (MA12) for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This re-zoning has the potential to adversely impact on the vitality and viability of the town centre and would be injurious to the existing residential character of the area. • The site is located within an established residential area along the southern edge of the Monivea Road at Caheroyn and the lands primarily consist of a number of old bungalow properties. • Planning Histories associated with the site include permissions for existing 	<p>Manager's Recommendation: Accept MA12 and zone lands to commercial/Mixed Use (C2). Amend S. 3.4.2 – Objective ED4 regarding reference to the Retail Planning Guidelines and update any other reference to the Draft Guidelines 2011 within the Plan as required.</p> <p>SEA Response: Please see response as detailed under Submission No.5 point 4 above. The Manager's recommendation is accepted.</p>	<p>Please see SEA Response. Manager's Recommendations Accepted.</p>

		<p>dwelling houses on the northern aspect of the site to various persons (97/1239, 00/2402). The permission relating to the southern aspect consists of the demolition of 3 existing houses, creation of a new road entrance and 80 no car parking spaces (08/1640). The submission clients are concerned that this planning permission combined with the proposed C2 zoning will act as a precursor to an Edge of Centre Convenience Retail Outlet (Discount Retail Store).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The response contained within the Managers Report on submissions to the Draft Plan (Submission No 12) stated that the lands are removed from the town centre and from other contiguous Commercial/Mixed Use (C2) zonings and would undermine the vibrancy and vitality of the town. • Impact on Vitality and Viability – owing to the increased vacancy rates within the town, it is considered that there is no justifiable need for an additional Commercial zoning at this location and would pose a threat to the livelihood of existing business within the town. <p>The submission also states that the existing supply of Town Centre/Commercial (C1) and Commercial/Mixed Use (C2) zones within the town (inside and outside the medieval core) would negate the need for an additional C2 zoning within a residential area. In the absence of any suitable retail or</p>		
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		commercial justification for the proposed re-zoning, the submission requests that the subject lands should be retained for Residential purposes only.		
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