

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT

FOR
PROPOSED MATERIAL ALTERATIONS

TO THE
**DRAFT LAOIS COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
2017-2023**

for: Laois County Council

Áras an Chontae
Portlaoise
County Laois



by: CAAS Ltd.

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APRIL 2017

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Section 1 Introduction and Background

1.1 Introduction

This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report for the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Laois County Development Plan 2017-2023.

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

The purpose of this report is to evaluate the requirement for SEA to be undertaken on the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft County Development Plan. Requirements in relation to the screening of Proposed Material Alterations to Draft County Development Plans are provided under Section 12 (7) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended.

This Report should be read in conjunction with the Draft Plan and all other associated documents including:

- The Proposed Material Alteration document(s);
- The SEA Environmental Report for the Draft Plan;
- The Appropriate Assessment (AA) Natura Impact Report for the Draft Plan; and
- The AA Screening Report for the Proposed Material Alterations.

1.2 Process so far

SEA was undertaken on the Draft Plan in order to comply with the SEA Directive and transposing Regulations. The SEA Environmental Report that accompanied the Draft Plan on public display contains the findings of this assessment. The SEA Environmental Report summarised the findings of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) that was also undertaken alongside the preparation of the Draft Plan.

In addition to the SEA, a Stage 2 AA² was undertaken on the Draft Plan in order to comply with the Habitats Directive and transposing Regulations – a Natura Impact Report was prepared that contains the findings of this assessment.

The Plan and associated documents, including those relating to the SEA and AA processes, were placed on public display and submissions were invited. Submissions were responded to in a Chief Executive's Report and Elected Members decided upon Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Plan that are the subject of this report.

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

² Appropriate Assessment is an impact assessment process concerning Natura 2000 Sites.

Section 2 SEA Screening

2.1 Introduction

The section examines whether each Proposed Material Alteration would be likely to have significant environmental effects (and thus would warrant the undertaking of SEA).

This examination takes account of relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A '*Criteria for determining whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment*' of the SEA Regulations, as amended, (see Section 2.5) and will be updated to take account of any submissions or observations received from environmental authorities.

2.2 Appropriate Assessment

Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening has been undertaken on the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Plan. AA is an impact assessment process concerning *European, or Natura 2000, Sites* - these sites have been designated or proposed for designation by virtue of their ecological importance.

The Habitats Directive³, its transposing Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) provide the requirement to screen the alterations for effects on European Sites. If the potential or uncertain effects are identified on the integrity of the network of European Sites then the alterations must undergo Stage 2 AA.

The AA Screening process has determined that the Proposed Material Alterations would not affect the integrity of the European Sites, therefore, Stage 2 AA is not necessary. An AA Screening Report contains the findings of this assessment and has informed this SEA Report.

2.3 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Compliance with Flood Risk Management Guidelines

The requirement for Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) is provided under '*The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities*' (DECLG, 2009). SFRA was undertaken on the Draft Plan and the findings of the SFRA were placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan as well as being summarised in the SEA Environmental Report. The findings of the SFRA have been taken into account by this SEA Screening exercise. Land use zoning is not being changed in areas that have elevated levels of flood risk.

2.4 SEA Screening Analysis

Table 2.1 examines whether each part of the Proposed Material Alterations would be likely to have significant environmental effects (and thus would warrant the undertaking of SEA).

Effects encompass the full range of effects⁴, including those arising cumulatively – such as those potentially arising as a result of interactions with other Proposed Material Alterations, the provisions of the Draft Plan and other plans and programmes.

The examination takes account relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A '*Criteria for determining whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment*' of the SEA Regulations, as amended, (see

³ Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

⁴ These include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects

Section 2.5) and will be updated to take account of any submissions or observations received from environmental authorities.

Table 2.1 is supplemented by Table 2.2 that provides details on:

- Significant positive effects likely to occur arising from implementation of the Proposed Material Alterations in combination with Draft Plan;
- Potential adverse effects, if unmitigated, of implementing the Proposed Material Alterations in combination with the Draft Plan;
- Mitigation measures that are already contained within the Draft Plan; and
- Residual adverse effects, after mitigation.

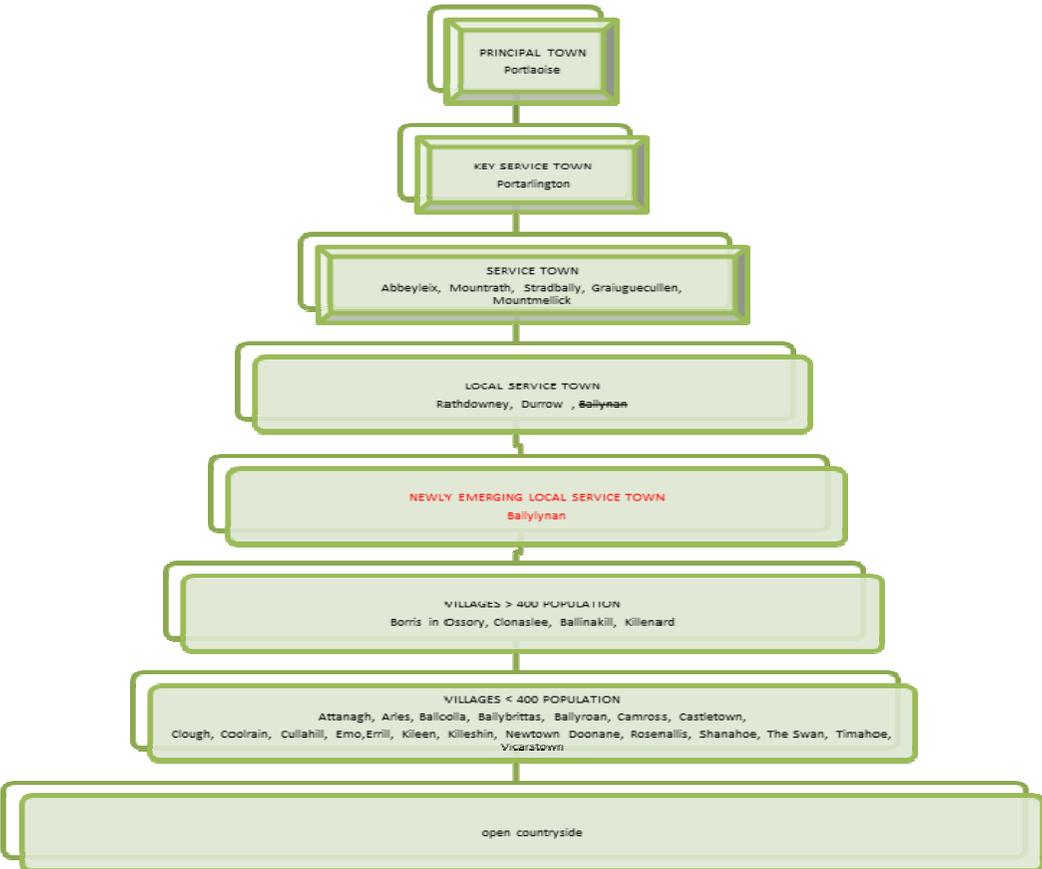
Table 2.1 Relevant Proposed Material Alterations and SEA Screening

Proposed Material Alterations to Volume 1: Written Statement of the Draft Laois County Development Plan 2017-2023	SEA Screening Notes for Proposed Material Alterations																																								
<p>Section 1: Introduction and Strategic Context Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 1 - No. 1</p> <p>Sub-section 1.2 Planning Context Insert additional text following first paragraph as follows:</p> <p>The Planning and Development Act 2000(as amended) requires that a Development Plan shall, so far as is practicable, be consistent with National and Regional Plans, Policies and Strategies which relate to proper planning and development and is also required to have regard to Guidelines by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government.</p>	<p>This Proposed Material Alteration relates to the parts of the Plan that set the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Material Alteration does not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.</p>																																								
<p>Section 1: Introduction and Strategic Context Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 1 - No. 2</p> <p>Sub-section Planning Context Insert additional text following final Para as follows:</p> <p>Section 28 Department Planning Guidelines</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines</th> <th>Relevant Section within Draft Laois County Development Plan 2017-2023</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities (2009)</td> <td>Separate Natura Impact Report prepared by CAAS Ltd</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Architectural Heritage Protection - Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2011</td> <td>Section 7 - Heritage</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Childcare Facilities Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2001)</td> <td>Section 4 - 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<p>Section 1: Introduction and Strategic Context Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 1 - No. 3</p> <p>Sub-section 1.2.1 National and Regional Context Insert additional text as follows:</p> <p>MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS OF THE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be consistent as far as possible with National Plans, Strategies and Policies which relate to proper planning and sustainable development 2. Have regard to the effects implementing the plan will have on adjoining local authorities 3. Set out the overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of County Laois 4. Contain a written statement and a plan or plans indicating the development objectives for County Laois 5. A range of objectives as follows – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The zoning of land for the use solely or primarily of particular areas for particular purposes (whether residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, recreational, as open space or otherwise, or a mixture of those uses), where and to such extent as the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, in the opinion of the planning authority, requires the uses to be indicated; b) The provision or facilitation of the provision of infrastructure including— <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i). Transport, energy and communication facilities, (ii). Water supplies and waste water services (regard having been had to the water services strategic plan for the area made in accordance with the Water Services Act 2007), (iii). Waste recovery and disposal facilities (regard having been had to the waste management plan for the area made in accordance with the Waste Management Act 1996), and (iv). Any ancillary facilities or services;] c) The conservation and protection of the environment including, in particular, the archaeological and natural heritage and the conservation and protection of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed for the purposes of this paragraph; d) The encouragement, pursuant to Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, of the management of features of the landscape, such as traditional field boundaries, important for the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species; e) The promotion of compliance with environmental standards and objectives established— <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i). For bodies of surface water, by the European Communities (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009; (ii). For groundwater, by the European Communities (Groundwater) Regulations 2010; which standards and objectives are included in river basin management plans (within the meaning of Regulation 13 of the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003); f) The integration of the planning and sustainable development of the area with the social, community and cultural requirements of the area and its population; g) The preservation of the character of the landscape where, and to the extent that, in the opinion of the planning authority, the proper planning and sustainable development of the area requires it, including the preservation of views and prospects and the amenities of places and features of natural beauty or interest; h) The protection of structures, or parts of structures, which are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest; i) The preservation of the character of architectural conservation areas; j) The development and renewal of areas, identified having regard to the core strategy, that are in need of regeneration, in order to prevent— <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i). Adverse effects on existing amenities in such areas, in particular as a result of the ruinous or neglected condition of any land, (ii). Urban blight and decay, (iii). Anti-social behaviour, or (iv). A shortage of habitable houses or of land suitable for residential use or a mixture of residential and other uses;] k) The provision of accommodation for travellers, and the use of particular areas for that purpose; l) The preservation, improvement and extension of amenities and recreational amenities; m) The control, having regard to the provisions of the Major Accidents Directive and any regulations, under any enactment, giving effect to 	<p>This Proposed Material Alteration relates to the parts of the Plan that set the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Material Alteration does not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.</p>

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<p>that Directive, of—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i). Siting of new establishments, (ii). Modification of existing establishments, and (iii). Development in the vicinity of such establishments, <p>for the purposes of reducing the risk, or limiting the consequences, of a major accident;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> n) The provision, or facilitation of the provision, of services for the community including, in particular, schools, crèches and other education and childcare facilities; o) The protection of the linguistic and cultural heritage of the Gaeltacht including the promotion of Irish as the community language, where there is a Gaeltacht area in the area of the development plan; p) The promotion of sustainable settlement and transportation strategies in urban and rural areas including the promotion of measures to— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i). Reduce energy demand in response to the likelihood of increases in energy and other costs due to long-term decline in non-renewable resources, (ii). Reduce anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, and (iii). Address the necessity of adaptation to climate change; <p>In particular, having regard to location, layout and design of new development;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> q) The preservation of public rights of way which give access to seashore, mountain, lakeshore, riverbank or other place of natural beauty or recreational utility, which public rights of way shall be identified both by marking them on at least one of the maps forming part of the development plan and by indicating their location on a list appended to the development plan, and r) Landscape, in accordance with relevant policies or objectives for the time being of the Government or any Minister of the Government relating to providing a framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes and developed having regard to the European Landscape Convention at Florence on 20 October 2000. 	
<p>Section 1: Introduction and Strategic Context Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 1 - No. 4</p> <p>Sub-section 1.3 County Profile Insert additional section following Section 1.3.5, as follows:</p> <p>1.3.6</p> <p>In accordance with Section 15[2] of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended, the Chief Executive of Laois County Council shall not more than two years after the making of the Plan, give a report to the members of the Local Authority on the progress achieved in securing the objectives of the Plan.</p>	<p>This Proposed Material Alteration relates to the parts of the Plan that set the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Material Alteration does not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.</p>
<p>Section 2: Development Plan Strategy (Core Strategy) Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 2 - No. 1</p> <p>Sub-section 2.1.2 Strategy Aims Amend Strategic Aim 9 as follows:</p> <p>Aim 9 Facilitate the economic, social and green sustainable development of the County through the provision of adequate transport infrastructure including walking and cycling infrastructure and initiatives and optimise the return of investment on infrastructure while preserving the natural and built heritage;</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>

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<p>Section 2: Development Plan Strategy (Core Strategy) Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 2 - No. 2</p> <p>Sub-section 2.1.2 Strategic Aims Amend Strategic Aim 10 as follows:</p> <p>Aim 10 Ensure a good quality of life and good health for the residents of Laois through maintaining and improving waste water treatment and water supplies and to minimise the adverse impacts of development on the environment through policies for the management of waste and emissions and management and protection of our water quality and seek to achieve our obligations under the Water Framework Directive;</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all beneficial effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration are present already and will be further contributed towards. Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 2: Development Plan Strategy (Core Strategy) Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 2 - No. 3</p> <p>Sub-section 2.1.4 Core Strategy Alignment with other Plans and Programmes Additional Objective OBJ 1 and renumbering of subsequent objectives accordingly:</p> <p>OBJ1 The Planning Authority will undertake a review of the housing strategy subsequent to the adoption of the future Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy [RSES] by the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly.</p>	<p>This proposed new objective provides for a review that would not in itself result in environmental effects. If the outcome of this review required an amendment to the Plan in the future, then such an amendment would have to be subject to appropriate levels of SEA and AA. Further assessment of this proposal is not required.</p>
<p>Section 2: Development Plan Strategy (Core Strategy) Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 2 - No. 4</p> <p>Sub-section 2.1.4 Core Strategy Alignment with other Plans and Programmes Amend Objective OBJ 1 as follows:</p> <p>OBJ 1±2 To review the Portlaoise Local Area Plan (2012-2018) and Mountmellick (2012-2018) and the joint Local Area Plans for Portarlington(2012-2018) and the Joint spatial Plan for Greater Urban Area of Carlow / Graiguecullen (2012-2018) [in association with Offaly County Council and Carlow County Council respectively] during the period of the Laois County Development Plan 2017-2023. New residential development in the local area plan areas shall only proceed in an orderly and structured fashion and be in accordance with the overall core strategy as set out in the Laois County Development plan 2017-2023.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 2: Development Plan Strategy (Core Strategy) Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 2 - No. 5</p> <p>Sub-section 2.1.6 Laois Core Strategy Map Amend text as follows:</p> <p>Zones D (Timahoe/ Swan) and Zone E (Slieve Blooms) have very definite rural and natural amenity with mixed farming and forested uplands. This scenario will lead to low levels of change in this zone – apart from increased pressure due to the development of tourism pursuits based on the natural amenities of these zones – walking, cycling, boating. Visitor attractions such as Abbeyleix Heritage House, Timahoe Round Tower and the Rock of Dunamase are indicated on the “Irelands Ancient East” Trail Initiative to encourage the growth of the tourism product within this County. It is anticipated that related and complimentary tourism could flourish in this zone subject to environmental and proper planning sustainable development standards.</p>	<p>This Proposed Material Alteration relates to the parts of the Plan that set the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Material Alteration does not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.</p>
<p>Section 2: Development Plan Strategy (Core Strategy) Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 2 - No. 6</p> <p>Sub-section 2.5.1 Settlement Hierarchy Amend Figure 6 to remove Ballylynan from the “Local Service Town” category and re-designate as a “Newly Emerging Local Service Town”. Figure 6 to be amended accordingly by inclusion of this category above “Villages >400” category and below “Local Service Town” category, as follows:</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>

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<p>Figure 6: Settlement Hierarchy</p> 	
<p>Section 2: Development Plan Strategy (Core Strategy) Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 2 - No. 7</p> <p>Sub-section 2.5.1 Settlement Hierarchy Amend Policy CS 10 as follows:</p> <p>CS10 <i>Provide for active and efficient use of derelict sites, vacant premises, neglected lands, disused (brownfield) or underused lands that are zoned and served by existing public infrastructure and facilities, to consolidate the urban form, improve streetscapes, support housing delivery and smarter travel as well as strengthen the vitality and vibrancy of urban areas, by way of the development management process and other mechanisms including the imposition of levies under the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 and Derelict Sites Act 1990, the preparation of opportunity site briefs and the consideration of incentives in the preparation of Development Contributions Scheme(s).</i> Encourage that areas of vacant, derelict and under used land within existing built up areas (brownfield sites) be brought into productive use as an alternative to the use of greenfield sites which inevitably involve some loss of natural resources</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>

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<p>Section 2: Development Plan Strategy (Core Strategy) Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 2 - No. 8</p> <p>Sub-section 2.5.1 Settlement Hierarchy Amend Policy CS 12 as follows:</p> <p>CS12 It is an objective of this Council to increase the delivery of housing units in areas of need and to encourage and facilitate the appropriate development and renewal of areas that are in need of regeneration in order to prevent (i) Adverse effects on existing amenities in such areas, in particular as a result of the ruinous or neglected condition of any land (ii) Urban blight or decay (iii) Anti-social behavior, or (iv) A shortage of habitable houses or of land suitable for residential use or a mixture of residential and other uses. Utilise the provisions of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 to incentivise urban regeneration, tackle land hoarding and dereliction, enhance the economic viability of housing developments, increase the delivery of social housing and encourage integrated mixed tenure developments</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>											
<p>Section 2: Development Plan Strategy (Core Strategy) Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 2 - No. 9</p> <p>Sub-section 2.6 Rural Housing Strategy Insert additional text following final Para as follows –</p> <p>The Council will resist one-off housing proposals, where such development involves the creation of a new direct access point or the generation of increased traffic flows from existing direct access/egress points to the national road network where speed limits greater than 60km/h apply, in accordance with Policy Trans 5.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>											
<p>Section 3: Housing Policy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 3 - No. 1</p> <p>New Section 3.3 Implementation of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 Insert new Section 3.3 as follows –</p> <p>3.3 Implementation of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 The Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 provides for the imposition of a Vacant Site Levy within areas where housing is required and areas in need of renewal.</p> <p>3.3.1 Vacant Housing Sites By reference to criteria set out in the 2015 Act as they apply to Laois (set out below), Laois County Council has determined that a need for housing exists in the Towns of Portlaoise, Portarlinton, Mountmellick and Graiguecullen. The Planning Authority may determine that a need for housing exists in additional Laois Towns during the Plan period.</p> <p>(a) The projected increase in the number of households as per Core Strategy and Housing Strategy during the period 2017-2023 is significant – Portlaoise (1824), Portarlinton (271), Mountmellick (257), Graiguecullen (215)</p> <p>(b) The cost of house prices and the cost of renting are increasing indicating increased housing need</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>LAP Town</th> <th>Rent (Source: average monthly rent prtb.ie)</th> <th>Purchase (Source: Q3 2016 DAFT Report)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Portlaoise</td> <td>€597.76 – 2015 €548.21 - 2014</td> <td rowspan="2">Not disaggregated by town over time.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Portarlinton</td> <td>€537.23 – 2015 €482.28 - 2014</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mountmellick</td> <td>€499.20 – 2015</td> <td>County figures per Daft Report (Q3 2016)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	LAP Town	Rent (Source: average monthly rent prtb.ie)	Purchase (Source: Q3 2016 DAFT Report)	Portlaoise	€597.76 – 2015 €548.21 - 2014	Not disaggregated by town over time.	Portarlinton	€537.23 – 2015 €482.28 - 2014	Mountmellick	€499.20 – 2015	County figures per Daft Report (Q3 2016)	<p>Urban regeneration and improved use of vacant sites will contribute towards sustainable mobility, minimising increases in energy usage and emissions to air, including greenhouse gas emissions and other emissions. Such development within existing centres would also avoid the need to develop more sensitive greenfield lands elsewhere in the County and beyond, thereby avoiding potential adverse effects on various environmental components.</p> <p>The existing Draft Plan already includes provisions in relation to urban regeneration and the use of vacant sites. The proposed changes further contribute towards such provisions and provides additional detail on this issue. There are no additional adverse effects arising from this change (significant, potential or uncertain) that were not envisaged and mitigated by the SEA of the Plan. The SEA process has successfully facilitated the integration of mitigation into the Plan in order to contribute towards the protection of the environment – see Table 2.2. Positive effects arising from the development of these sites have already been considered and will be further contributed towards. As these changes would not result in significant environmental effects, SEA is not required.</p>
LAP Town	Rent (Source: average monthly rent prtb.ie)	Purchase (Source: Q3 2016 DAFT Report)										
Portlaoise	€597.76 – 2015 €548.21 - 2014	Not disaggregated by town over time.										
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Graiguecullen	€468.67 - 2014	Average Price: €152,362 Yr-on-Yr: +11.5% Quarter-on-Quarter: +3.6% From Trough: +46.9%
	€600.26 - 2015	
	€584.98 - 2014	

- (c) Cited area of choice on social housing waiting list (September 2016) indicate housing need in these Towns – Portlaoise (944), Portarlinton (377), Mountmellick (322), Graiguecullen (63). Note: up to 3 choices of area per household relates.
- (d) The number of habitable houses available for purchase and for rent is less than 5% of the total number of habitable houses in the area, indicating housing need.

LAP Town	Source: daft.ie on 30/09/16 No. properties for sale + rent > or < 2011 Population / Household Size (2.87) / 20
Portlaoise	190 (sale) + 18 (rent) < 350 5% of 7019 - Pop: 20,145
Portarlinton	48 (sale) + 4 (rent) < 136 5% of 2714 - Pop: 7,788
Mountmellick	32 (sale) + 1 (rent) < 82 5% of 1650 - Pop: 4735
Graiguecullen	3 (sale) + 1 (rent) < 69 5% of 1382 - Pop: 3,966

3.3.2 Vacant Regeneration Sites

Laois County Council has identified the following Regeneration Area in Portlaoise as being in need of renewal. Additional Regeneration Areas may be identified in Portlaoise or in other Laois towns during the Plan period.



Due to its location, the area benefits from extensive existing public infrastructure including roads, water infrastructure, Portlaoise train station and schools (primary, secondary, further education), existing facilities include a running track, public park, family resource centre in the vicinity, as well as the commercial and civic services available in the Town Centre. Appropriate development of sites in this Regeneration Area has the potential to make efficient use of public infrastructure and facilities, deliver homes, enable smarter travel and sustainable communities

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<p>as well as contribute to the implementation of the Council's Core Strategy, Housing Strategy and Retail Strategy in Portlaoise, as set out in this Plan.</p> <p>The Regeneration Area currently includes disused lands in neglected condition; its streetscapes are marred by inactive gap sites or derelict buildings that detract from its character, appearance and amenity. There are indications of anti-social behavior in the Area and its vicinity, especially along Harpur's Lane with a number of derelict houses along that Street. In the opinion of the Planning Authority the existence of vacant sites within the Regeneration Area exacerbates anti-social behavior in the area. Appropriate development of sites in this Regeneration Area has the potential to provide passive surveillance and active land uses, enlivening and enhancing the character, appearance and amenity of the area.</p> <p>Vacant Site Policies</p> <p>It is the policy of the Council to:</p> <p>HP13 Maintain the Laois Register of Vacant Sites, entering or deleting Sites from the Register in accordance with the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 and related Departmental Guidance</p> <p>HP14 Identify additional Regeneration Area(s) and/or make determinations that a need for housing exists in additional Laois Towns during the Plan period as appropriate</p> <p>HP 15 Implement the provisions of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 by entering vacant housing sites on the Laois Register of Vacant Sites and thereafter imposing levies in accordance with the Act within lands zoned Residential 1 or Residential 2 in Portlaoise, Portarlinton, Mountmellick, Graiguecullen and any other Laois towns with an identified housing need, as appropriate</p> <p>HP16 Implement the provisions of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 by entering vacant regeneration sites, located within the Portlaoise Regeneration Area identified herein, or within any other identified Regeneration Area, on the Laois Register of Vacant Sites and thereafter impose levies in accordance with the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015</p> <p>HP17 Facilitate the development of all classes of dwelling units within the Regeneration Area identified herein in Portlaoise notwithstanding zoning restrictions relating to some classes of dwelling units set out in the zoning matrix of the Portlaoise Local Area Plan 2012-2018, this policy shall become defunct once the Portlaoise Local Area Plan 2012-2018 is superseded</p>	
<p>Section 4: Social, Community and Recreational Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 4 - No. 1</p> <p>Sub-section 4.1 Introduction Insert additional text after third Para as follows:</p> <p>Laois Sports Partnership and County Council are to continue to facilitate the development of quality and inclusive sport and recreation facilities, programmes and projects through capacity building.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 4: Social, Community and Recreational Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 4 - No. 2</p> <p>Sub-section 4.2 Social and Community Re-title Objectives SOC1 – SOC4 as Objectives OBJ1 – OBJ4</p>	<p>This Proposed Material Alteration involves re-titling a number of objectives and would not have environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.</p>

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<p>Section 4: Social, Community and Recreational Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 4 - No. 3</p> <p>Sub-section 4.2 Social and Community Insert additional Objective XX as follows:</p> <p>XX Seek to investigate the feasibility of developing a Greenway Network throughout County Laois, and linking County Laois to regional and national Greenway Networks.</p>	<p>This proposed new objective provides for an investigation which would not in itself result in environmental effects. If the outcome of this investigation required an amendment to the Plan in the future, then such an amendment would have to be subject to appropriate levels of SEA and AA. Any proposed lower tier projects emerging from the investigation would need to be subject to their own assessment processes, including those relating to EIA and AA. Further assessment of this proposal is not required.</p>
<p>Section 4: Social, Community and Recreational Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 4 - No. 4</p> <p>Sub-section 4.2 Social and Community Additional Objective XX as follows:</p> <p>XX Explore the potential for rural recreational tourism in conjunction with Tourism bodies, Waterways Ireland, Failte Ireland, National Trails Office and National Parks and Wildlife to diversify the range of tourist experience and extend the tourist season.</p>	<p>This proposed new objective provides for an exploration which would not in itself result in environmental effects. If the outcome of this exploration required an amendment to the Plan in the future, then such an amendment would have to be subject to appropriate levels of SEA and AA. Any proposed lower tier projects emerging from the exploration would need to be subject to their own assessment processes, including those relating to EIA and AA. Further assessment of this proposal is not required.</p>
<p>Section 4: Social, Community and Recreational Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 4 - No. 5</p> <p>Sub-section 4.2.1 Education Insert additional text at start of section as follows:</p> <p>Education is critical to achieving the full socio-economic potential of the study area. In terms of planning for the provision of education infrastructure in Portlaoise, the primary role of the Planning Authority is to identify and reserve sufficient lands at the most optimum locations within the study area. In general, where new schools are required, they should be located close to, or within the main residential areas of urban settlements so that as many students [and teachers] as possible can walk or cycle to school. The opportunity should be taken to locate the schools so that they naturally contribute to the development of a sense of community. Proximity to open space areas should also be a factor for consideration as this would allow ready access to these amenities and other aligned facilities by the schools and in the strategic long-term may future-proof these schools for possible future expansion should that be necessary. School and other educational premises represent a valuable resource in terms of land and buildings, which generally are only used on a partial basis. The dual use of educational facilities, where it does not conflict with the delivery of the education service can contribute to meeting the wider needs of the community, by helping to satisfy demand for a variety of activities. Section 28 Guidelines entitled The Provision of Schools and the Planning System: A Code of Practice [DoEHLG, 2008] is the pre-eminent guiding document against which applications of this type will be considered. The Department of Education and Skills Technical Guidance Document TGD-025 Identification and Suitability Assessment of Sites for Primary Schools 2012 will also be consulted.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 4: Social, Community and Recreational Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 4 - No. 6</p> <p>Sub-section 4.2.1 Education Insert additional Policy XX as follows:</p> <p>XX Encourage, promote and facilitate the provision of education infrastructure and related facilities in accordance with Section 28 national guidelines entitled The Provision of Schools and the Planning System: A Code of Practice [DoEHLG, 2008].</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>

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<p>Section 4: Social, Community and Recreational Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 4 - No. 7</p> <p>Sub-section 4.2.4 Burial Grounds Amend Section as follows –</p> <p>4.2.4 Historic Graveyards and Burial Grounds Burial Grounds are an important part of local heritage and often contain standing artefacts or sites of earlier structures. Listed Burial Grounds are protected under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994. Consultation with the NMS of the DoAHG is necessary prior to undertaking works. The majority of the older/historic burials grounds are listed in the RMP and protected as archaeological monuments by the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004.</p>	<p>This Proposed Material Alteration relates to the parts of the Plan that set the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Material Alteration does not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.</p>
<p>Section 4: Social, Community and Recreational Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 4 - No. 8</p> <p>Sub-section 4.2.4 Burial Grounds Replace Policy BG3 as follows –</p> <p>BG3 Protect, preserve, enhance, conserve and maintain the cultural heritage of archaeological/historic graveyards and historic burial grounds (including those identified in the RMP), and continue to encourage and promote local involvement and community stewardship in the care, maintenance, rehabilitation, management and conservation of these graveyards in accordance with legislation and best conservation and heritage and principles. Protect the cultural heritage of historical burial grounds within County Laois and encourage their management and maintenance in accordance with conservation principles</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all beneficial effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration are present already and will be further contributed towards. Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 4: Social, Community and Recreational Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 4 - No. 9</p> <p>Sub-section 4.3 Natural and Recreational Amenities Amended and additional text at Para 3 as follows –</p> <p>Countryside recreation refers to a wide range of activities including horse riding, cycling, walking, picnicking, country drives, off-road biking, nature trails, bird watching, painting, photography, field studies, orienteering, para –gliding and hang- gliding, rock climbing, back-packing, caving, mountaineering, hill walking and adventure sports, camping in the wild, archaeological guided walks and water related activities such as swimming, boating, canoeing and kayaking, wildlife and heritage trails, bird and animal watching, rafting, hill walking, mountain running, mountaineering, swimming and boating. Laois County Council continues to work with the adjoining Counties to further develop and coordinate countryside recreation activities in an environmentally sustainable manner. It is recognised that the countryside of County Laois provides an important resource in outdoor recreational facilities not only for its own population but also for those visiting the county. The Council recognises the significance of natural amenities as a major resource for visitors and local people.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 4: Social, Community and Recreational Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 4 - No. 10</p> <p>Sub-section 4.3 Natural and Recreational Amenities Additional Policy XX as follows:</p> <p>XX Support, promote and facilitate the provision and the development of outdoor activities and seek to preserve, improve and extend recreational amenities.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>

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<p>Section 4: Social, Community and Recreational Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 4 - No. 11</p> <p>Sub-section 4.3 Natural and Recreational Strategy Additional Policy XX as follows:</p> <p>XX Recognizing the role played by natural amenities and landscape, as part of our heritage and as a major resource both for visitors and local people, support and protect public access to our natural heritage including mountains, uplands moorlands, forests, rivers, lakes, valleys, nature reserves, scenic areas, areas of natural beauty and to the countryside generally.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all beneficial effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration are present already and will be further contributed towards. Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 4: Social, Community and Recreational Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 4 - No. 12</p> <p>Sub-section 4.3 Natural and Recreational Strategy Insert additional Policy XX as follows:</p> <p>XX Develop the potential of Co Laois as an Outdoor Activity Hub.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 4: Social, Community and Recreational Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 4 - No. 13</p> <p>Sub-section 4.3.1 Open Space Provision Replacement policy NRA9 as follows:</p> <p>NRA9 Update the County Play and Recreation Strategy in consultation with the National Play & Recreational Strategies. Ensure that a range of options are explored for the provision of open space in consultation with the County play strategy;</p>	<p>This proposed change provides for the updating of the County's Play and Recreation Strategy. The updating of such a Strategy would have to be subject to appropriate levels of SEA and AA. Various provisions have been integrated into the County Plan (including those identified in Table 2.2) with which any future development would have to comply. Further assessment of this proposal is not required.</p>
<p>Section 4: Social, Community and Recreational Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 4 - No. 14</p> <p>Sub-section 4.3.1 Open Space Provision Amend Policy NRA18 as follows:</p> <p>NRA18 Investigate the feasibility of developing walking and cycling routes [such as the Slieve Bloom Mountains Biking Project, Durrow Green Network Cycle Trail] to reflect recreational value and to implement strategic green corridors and ensure that any plan or project associated with open space planning, recreation or tourism is subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening in compliance with the Habitats Directive, and subsequent assessment as required.</p>	<p>This proposed change is to add a new example of a walking and cycling route the feasibility of which is to be investigated. This investigation would not in itself result in environmental effects. If the outcome of this investigation required an amendment to the Plan in the future, then such an amendment would have to be subject to appropriate levels of SEA and AA. Any proposed lower tier projects emerging from the investigation would need to be subject to their own assessment processes, including those relating to EIA and AA. Further assessment of this proposal is not required.</p>
<p>Section 4: Social, Community and Recreational Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 4 - No. 15</p> <p>Sub-section 4.3.2 Sport and Recreation Provision in County Laois Amend Policy NRA26 as follows:</p> <p>NRA26 Devise and adopt, in co-operation with other relevant agencies, a "Play and Recreational Plan for County Laois" setting out strategy for the provision, resourcing and implementation of improved social and play opportunities for children and the youth of the County.</p>	<p>This proposed change would provide for a Play and Recreational Plan for County Laois. The preparation and adoption of such a Plan would have to be subject to appropriate levels of SEA and AA. Various provisions have been integrated into the County Plan (including those identified in Table 2.2) with which any future development would have to comply. Further assessment of this proposal is not required.</p>

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<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 1</p> <p>Sub-section 5.1 Economic Development Insert additional text after first Para as follows:</p> <p>This section deals with the economic development of Laois including town/village centre management, retail, tourism, inward investment, local entrepreneurship and the rural economy. A sound local economy is fundamental to fostering sustainable communities and a good quality of life. This Development Plan seeks to create the conditions to support the sustainable economic development of County Laois during the Plan period 2017-2023. The Council will engage and collaborate with all relevant stakeholders to ensure the economic potential of the tourism sector is secured for the benefit of the local economy. In addition to the economic benefits associated with the sector, Laois County Council is committed to protecting, promoting and enhancing the natural resources of the County making it a nicer place to live and visit.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 2</p> <p>Sub-section 5.1 Economic Development Amend Policy ECN4 as follows:</p> <p>ECN4 Support the marketing of Laois for Inward Investment and as a visitor destination within the Ireland's Ancient East initiative through the Laois LECP.</p>	<p>This proposed change does not change the effects arising from the Policy, it provides additional information/clarification. Further assessment of this proposal is not required.</p>
<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 3</p> <p>Sub-section 5 Economic Development Insert new section following Section 5.1 as follows:</p> <p>Industrial and Commercial Zoning</p> <p>Laois County Council is proposing extensive industrial and commercial land-use zonings in the draft Plan.</p> <p>The Council is mindful of the need to ensure that economic development and employment opportunities within the county are maximized so as to cater for the dramatic increase in population that has occurred over the past two decades in particular.</p> <p>The type and quantum of such zonings are as follows and are listed in order of size:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industrial: 242 hectares • Enterprise and Employment: 229 hectares • General Business 141 hectares • Transport and Utilities: 76 hectares • Tourism: 42 hectares • Retail Warehousing: 20 hectares <p>This is a total of 750 hectares [1,852 acres].</p> <p>By way of comparison this exceeds by a factor of 3, the amount of land earmarked for residential development [240 hectares] in the Core Strategy Table on page 29 of the draft Plan.</p> <p>In addition other zonings which are more generic in name allow for a certain level of economic development. For example the land use light industry is considered as "open for consideration" [without invoking a material contravention procedure] in Town and Village Centres zonings.</p>	<p>This Proposed Material Alteration relates to the parts of the Plan that set the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Material Alteration does not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.</p>

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<p>As expected the bulk of the industrial and associated zonings are located in accordance with the settlement strategy which in turn adheres to advice from the Midland Regional Planning Guidelines as to the optimum siting of population growth and employment generation. The Principal Town of Portlaoise, the Key Service Town of Portarlington and the Service Towns of Abbeyleix, Graiguecullen, Mountmellick, Mountrath and Stradbally collectively account for 487 hectares [65%] of the overall total.</p> <p>The Council is also mindful of the economic development opportunities presented as a result of recent large scale road and rail infrastructure projects throughout the county such as the M7 and M8 Motorway and various rail upgrades.</p> <p>This has been of major benefit to Portlaoise following on from its designation in both the NSS and RPGs as an Inland Port and National Transport Node In recognition of this designation, the Council has been pro-active and has serviced and zoned a large landbank at Togher, due south of the town centre and directly adjacent to the M7, for various enterprise and employment activities. The ability of this site to facilitate Foreign Direct Investment development opportunities will be maximised during the Plan period.</p> <p>Moreover, the Council has allocated economic development and employment generating land use zonings in a number of smaller settlements that benefit from being in close proximity to the improved road and rail transport network. These locations include Borris-in-Ossory, Ballacolla, Ballybrittas and Rathdowney.</p>	
<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 4</p> <p><i>Sub-section 5.6 Home Based Economic Activity</i> Amend Policy ECN17 as follows:</p> <p>ECN17 Seek to provide opportunities for highly-skilled outbound commuters to work locally through local employment opportunities, tourism opportunities, the development of an e-working centre or working-from-home arrangements facilitated by high-speed broadband in the interests of sustainable economic development, smarter travel and quality of life considerations;</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 5</p> <p><i>Sub-section 5.7 Town/Village Centre Management</i> Amend Policy ECN21 as follows:</p> <p>ECN21 Encourage the maintenance of town/village centre buildings and improve the quality of the public realm in town/village centres making them more attractive and safe to locals and visitors, as well as more pedestrian and cycle-friendly. Prepare Public Realm Strategies, where appropriate, liaising closely with residents, visitors and other relevant stakeholders;</p>	<p>The preparation of Public Realm Strategies would have to be subject to appropriate levels of SEA and AA. Various provisions have been integrated into the County Plan (including those identified in Table 2.2) with which any future development would have to comply. Further assessment of this proposal is not required.</p>
<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 6</p> <p><i>Sub-section 5.7 Town/Village Centre Management</i> Amend Policy ECN24 as follows:</p> <p>ECN24 Retain and foster a mix of uses in town/village centres including commercial, community-based, civic, educational, recreational , Tourism and religious to bolster the central role of town/village centres in the day-to-day lives of Laois people;</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>

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<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 7</p> <p>Sub-section 5.7 Town/Village Centre Management Amend Policy ECN25 as follows:</p> <p>ECN25 Support the hosting of markets (including farmers markets), events or festivals in town/village centre locations and the running of town-based cultural/learning facilities such as the Dunamaise Theatre, the Stradbally Arthouse and Laois' library network in the interests of vitality and vibrancy.</p>	<p>This proposed change is to provide clarification. Further assessment of this proposal is not required.</p>																					
<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 8</p> <p>Sub-section 5.7 Town/Village Centre Management Amend Policy ECN30 as follows:</p> <p>ECN30 Provide short-stay parking in town centres to support business and tourism activities, balancing the need to encourage people into the town centre against sustainable transport and land-use efficiency considerations.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>																					
<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 9</p> <p>Sub-section 5.8.5 Identifying the County Retail Hierarchy Amend Table 12 as follows:</p> <p>Table 12: Laois Retail Hierarchy</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Status under County Hierarchy</th> <th>Town</th> <th>Action</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Major Town Centre MRPGs: Principal Town</td> <td>Portlaoise</td> <td>Reinforce and grow high-order retail functioning with particular emphasis on historic core defined by the Primary Retail Area. Enhance the retail appeal of Laois by strengthening retail functions of Portlaoise.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>County Town Centre MRPGs: Key Service Town</td> <td>Portarlington</td> <td>Encourage retail development commensurate with existing and anticipated growth, with particular emphasis on traditional core</td> </tr> <tr> <td>County Town Centre MRPGs: Service Towns: —MRPG: Local Service Towns:</td> <td>Mountmellick Abbeyleix Mountrath Stradbally Rathdowney Durrow Ballynana</td> <td>Sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of the central parts of the town in conjunction with the utilisation of strategic backland areas.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>County Town Centre MRPGs: Local Service Towns</td> <td>Durrow Rathdowney</td> <td>Provide and retain essential shopping facilities in smaller rural settlements to serve local residents and the wider hinterland.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Newly Emerging Local Service Town</td> <td>Ballynana</td> <td>Provide and retain essential shopping facilities in smaller rural settlements to serve local residents and the wider hinterland.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>District Centre MRPG Service Town:</td> <td>Graigucullen</td> <td>Provide for shopping, amenity, commercial and community facilities of a scale and type to serve residents living within the district without undermining Carlow Town Centre.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Status under County Hierarchy	Town	Action	Major Town Centre MRPGs: Principal Town	Portlaoise	Reinforce and grow high-order retail functioning with particular emphasis on historic core defined by the Primary Retail Area. Enhance the retail appeal of Laois by strengthening retail functions of Portlaoise.	County Town Centre MRPGs: Key Service Town	Portarlington	Encourage retail development commensurate with existing and anticipated growth, with particular emphasis on traditional core	County Town Centre MRPGs: Service Towns: —MRPG: Local Service Towns:	Mountmellick Abbeyleix Mountrath Stradbally Rathdowney Durrow Ballynana	Sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of the central parts of the town in conjunction with the utilisation of strategic backland areas.	County Town Centre MRPGs: Local Service Towns	Durrow Rathdowney	Provide and retain essential shopping facilities in smaller rural settlements to serve local residents and the wider hinterland.	Newly Emerging Local Service Town	Ballynana	Provide and retain essential shopping facilities in smaller rural settlements to serve local residents and the wider hinterland.	District Centre MRPG Service Town:	Graigucullen	Provide for shopping, amenity, commercial and community facilities of a scale and type to serve residents living within the district without undermining Carlow Town Centre.	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
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Neighbourhood Centres	Kilminchy Fairgreen	Provide for shopping, amenity, commercial and community facilities of a scale and type to serve neighbourhood residents without undermining the town centre.	
Villages	Includes zoned villages only	Provide and retain essential shopping facilities in smaller rural settlements to serve local residents and the wider hinterland.	
<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 10</p> <p>Sub-section 5.8.10 Retail Policies and Objectives Amend Objective OBJ 4 as follows:</p> <p>OBJ 4 Acknowledge the importance of the principal, key service and service towns in providing a wide range of both convenience and comparison and visitor shopping in locations close to centres of population and larger, more remote retail hinterlands;</p>			<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 11</p> <p>Sub-section 5.8.10 Retail Policies and Objectives Amend Objective OBJ 5 as follows:</p> <p>OBJ 5 Acknowledge the importance of local service towns, villages and rural serviced settlements and hinterlands in suburban and rural locations in meeting local and visitor shopping needs.</p>			<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 12</p> <p>Sub-section 5.8.10 Retail Policies and Objectives Amend Objective RET 4 as follows:</p> <p>RET4 Ensure that the retail needs of the County's residents and visitors are met as fully as possible within the county taking due cognisance of the regional retail and settlement hierarchy;</p>			<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 13</p> <p>Sub-section 5.8.10 Retail Policies and Objectives Amend Objective RET 14 as follows:</p> <p>RET14 Improve the public realm of town centres through the encouragement of high quality civic design, including but not limited to the provision of attractive street furniture, lighting and effective street cleaning. Prepare Public Realm Strategies, where appropriate, liaising closely with residents, visitors and other relevant stakeholders.</p>			<p>The preparation of Public Realm Strategies would have to be subject to appropriate levels of SEA and AA. Various provisions have been integrated into the County Plan (including those identified in Table 2.2) with which any future development would have to comply. Further assessment of this proposal is not required.</p>
<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 14</p> <p>Sub-section 5.9 Rural Economic Activities Insert additional text at end of first Para, as follows:</p> <p>The Council will seek to facilitate rural economic development opportunities in accordance with policies and objectives set out hereunder and also having particular regard to the requirements of Policy Trans 5, which restricts development along the national road network.</p>			<p>This Proposed Material Alteration relates to the parts of the Plan that set the context for Plan provisions and it cites some of these provisions; this Proposed Material Alteration does not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.</p>

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<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 15</p> <p>Sub-section 5.9 Rural Economic Activities Insert additional Objective XX as follows:</p> <p>XX Plan and prepare for the future use of large industrial peatland sites when peat harvesting finishes in conjunction with NPWS, Coillte and ESB/Bord na Mona and other stakeholders.</p>	<p>The preparation of any plans in relation to the future usage of peatlands would have to be subject to appropriate levels of SEA and AA. Various provisions have been integrated into the County Plan (including those identified in Table 2.2) with which any future development would have to comply. Further assessment of this proposal is not required.</p>
<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 16</p> <p>Sub-section 5.9 Rural Economic Activities Insert additional paragraph under 'Peatlands' as follows:</p> <p>Peatlands are one of the world's most important ecosystems. Covering a mere 3% of the world's terrestrial surface, peatlands contain 550 gigatonnes of carbon, making them the most important long term carbon sinks in the terrestrial biosphere. This ability of peatlands to store CO2 and other greenhouse gas means they have a net cooling effect on the global climate. Our management of peatlands has to be sustainable. The rewetting and restoration of peatland has the capacity to secure existing carbon stock and reinitiate the carbon sequestration capacity of degraded peatlands.</p>	<p>This Proposed Material Alteration relates to the parts of the Plan that set the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Material Alteration does not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.</p>
<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 17</p> <p>Sub-section 5.9 Rural Economic Activities Insert additional text above Figure 13 as follows:</p> <p>Aggregate extraction can only take place where suitable aggregate resources exist; they are a 'tied' resource. It is considered, therefore, that planning policies should be carefully constructed to avoid adverse effects on aggregate resources and the related extractive industries and added value production that are essential for the built environment, infrastructure and future economic development.</p> <p>Like many forms of development, extractive industries have the potential to cause harm to the environment, heritage and the landscape if not appropriately designed and managed. However, aggregates are a necessary resource and are of great importance to the economy and society. In addition, well managed and designed quarry sites minimise environmental effects. There is also the potential for habitat creation through the restoration of quarry sites following the cessation of operations.</p>	<p>This Proposed Material Alteration relates to the parts of the Plan that set the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Material Alteration does not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.</p>
<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 18</p> <p>Sub-section 5.9 Rural Economic Activities Insert additional text above Figure 13 as follows: The following National Guidelines (as may be superseded and/or updated) should be complied with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Environmental Management(EPA 2006); ii. Quarries and Ancillary Activities: DOECLG Guidelines 2004); iii. Environmental Code(ICF 2006); iv. Geological Heritage Guidelines(ICF & GSI 2008); v. Archaeological Code of Practice((ICF & DOECLG 2009); vi. Secs 261 & 261A Planning and Development Acts 2000 – 2013. 	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>

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<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 19</p> <p>Sub-section 5.9 Rural Economic Activities Insert additional Policy XX after Policy RUR1 as follows:</p> <p>XX Support and facilitate agri-tourism and the work of farming / local bodies within the county in the promotion of the rural economy, including agriculture development, tourism adaptation, rural diversification and in the development of new initiatives to support farming.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 20</p> <p>Sub-section 5.9 Rural Economic Activities Insert additional Policy XX as follows:</p> <p>XX To support the necessary role of the extractive industries in the delivery of building materials for infrastructural and other development and to recognize the need to develop extractive industries for the benefit of society and the economy.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 21</p> <p>Sub-section 5.9 Rural Economic Activities Insert additional Policy XX as follows:</p> <p>XX To secure the long-term supply of value-added products (such as concrete products and asphalt), which are often, but not always, produced in conjunction with aggregate extraction.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 22</p> <p>Sub-section 5.9 Rural Economic Activities Insert additional Policy XX as follows:</p> <p>XX Protect rural amenities, natural archaeological and natural heritage, visual amenities, eco-systems, conservation areas, landscape and scenic views from adverse impacts of agricultural practices and development particularly in high amenity areas and ensure that it is appropriate in nature and scale, and ensure it does not have an undue negative impact on the visual/scenic amenity of the countryside and identify mitigating measures where required. Integrate into the landscape, including the minimal use of signage.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all beneficial effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration are present already and will be further contributed towards. Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 23</p> <p>Sub-section 5.9 Rural Economic Activities Insert additional Policy XX as follows:</p> <p>XX Protect access routes to upland walks and rights of way.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>

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<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 24</p> <p>Sub-section 5.9 Rural Economic Activities Insert additional Policy XX as follows:</p> <p>XX Not to permit the convergence of the forest edge and the skylines and avoid geometric shapes particularly in uplands and monitor forestry applications in elevated and prominent landscapes and being conscious of the potentially negative visual impact of forestry development on landscape quality, conservation and harmony and on the surrounding area in terms of its nature and scale (including clear-felling activity), protect from injury scenic and exposed/elevated landscapes, scenic routes, views, prospects and vistas(including to water and valley approaches to the hills), Geological sites, National Monuments, heritage features, Aquatic zones, and in Primary and Secondary Amenity Areas. Ensure that exclusion zones are applied to sites of archaeological importance and areas of archaeological potential. The Council will seek to have such planting and felling conducted in a manner which takes into account best practice in forestry planting and felling in the context of landscape design so that it integrates into the landscape.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all beneficial effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration are present already and will be further contributed towards. Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 25</p> <p>Sub-section 5.9 Rural Economic Activities Insert additional Policy XX as follows:</p> <p>XX Discourage new forestry development, except for broadleaf in Sensitive Rural Landscapes and Visually Vulnerable Areas, along designated Scenic Routes (Broadleaf forestry will be open to consideration in these areas).</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all beneficial effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration are present already and will be further contributed towards. Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 26</p> <p>Sub-section 5.9 Rural Economic Activities Insert additional Policy XX as follows:</p> <p>XX Forest development should follow current best practice and adhere to/be in accordance with Forest Service Guidelines and in respect of Landscape Guidelines where landscape objectives should focus on compatibility and enhancement of existing local landscape character. It should have regard to* FS "Code of Best Forest Practice (2000)".</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all beneficial effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration are present already and will be further contributed towards. Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 27</p> <p>Sub-section 5.9 Rural Economic Activities Amend Policy RUR 4 as follows:</p> <p>RUR4 Support the appropriate sustainable management of peat extraction and related manufacturing activities subject to environmental, traffic and planning considerations and ensure that that any plan or project associated with peatland development is subject to the appropriate assessment screening in compliance with the Habitats Directive , and subsequent assessment if required;</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all beneficial effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration are present already and will be further contributed towards. Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>

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<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 28</p> <p><i>Sub-section 5.9 Rural Economic Activities</i> Amend Policy RUR 7 as follows:</p> <p>RUR7 Support in principle the expansion of the aggregates and concrete products industry which offers opportunity for employment and economic development generally subject to environmental , traffic and planning considerations and ensure that any plan or project associated with extractive industry is subject to Appropriate assessment screening in compliance with the Habitats Direction and subsequent assessment as required , applicants for planning permission shall have regard to the GSI-ICF Quarrying Guidelines.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 29</p> <p><i>Sub-section 5.9 Rural Economic Activities</i> Amend Policy RUR 9 as follows:</p> <p>RUR9 Investigate the feasibility of mapping the full extent of aggregate resources of the county during the lifetime of the County Development Plan 2017-20213 and Seek to prevent the sterilisation and inappropriate development of aggregate and mineral resources in order to ensure a sustainable supply of these non-renewable resources.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 30</p> <p><i>Sub-section 5.10 Tourism</i> Amend fourth Para as follows:</p> <p>Under the Ireland's Ancient East Programme, signage has been installed at the following sites: Emo Court, the Rock of Dunamase, Heywood Gardens, Timahoe Round Tower and Abbeyleix Heritage House. It is the aim of Laois County Council to facilitate and encourage signage at further sites of importance including Donaghmore Workhouse and Agricultural Museum, Aghaboe Abbey, Killeshin Romanesque Church and others. Recommends the following specific sites to be signposted and marketed: Emo Court, Heywood Gardens, Aghaboe Abbey, Heritage House Abbeyleix, Timahoe Round Tower and the Rock of Dunamase.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential adverse effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration will be mitigated so as not to be significant. Consequently, further assessment is not required.</p>
<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 31</p> <p><i>Sub-section 5.10 Tourism</i> Insert additional text after sixth Para as follows:</p> <p>Fáilte Ireland data indicates that County Laois attracted approximately 57,000 overseas visitors in 2015. This demonstrates Laois' potential as a tourism destination. Initiatives such as Ireland's Ancient East aim to further increase the numbers of visitors to the county.</p>	<p>This Proposed Material Alteration relates to the parts of the Plan that set the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Material Alteration does not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.</p>

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<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 32</p> <p>Sub-section 5.10 Tourism Insert additional text after final Para as follows:</p> <p>Ireland's Ancient East, established in 2016, has a target growth in visitor numbers of 600,000 (21%) to the region and an additional visitor revenue of €204 million (28%). To offer visitors a compelling motivation to visit the east of Ireland, Fáilte Ireland has developed a new umbrella destination brand called Ireland's Ancient East. The brand is rooted in the rich history and diverse range of cultural heritage experiences that are particularly prevalent in the East, South and Midlands regions of Ireland. The new destination brand has been designed to appeal to the key customer segments – namely the Culturally Curious and the Great Escapers – and to present this large geographic area in a cohesive and unified manner. Ireland's Ancient East offers a personal experience of 5,000 years of Europe's history. A journey of discovery in a lush green landscape that attracted warring settlers for millennia, illuminated by stories told by the best story tellers in the world. The key strategic objectives of the Ireland's Ancient East initiative are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To drive growth in international visitor numbers, tourism revenue and associated tourism employment in the regions which currently underperform in these areas. • To move Ireland's east and south from a transit and day tripping zone to a destination which attracts international overnight visitors. • To develop a world class visitor experience, this delivers fully on the brand promise. To differentiate Ireland's east, south and midlands destination, within the international tourism marketplace, on the basis of the quality of its heritage experiences and a clear and memorable narrative, this links all experiences within it. Additional contextual information (Para.5.10) , • To disperse visitor traffic across the geography by encouraging the exploration of both the well-known attractions (in some cases congested) and lesser known sites and experiences (hidden gems). • To ensure Ireland's Ancient East is delivered in accordance with the principles of sustainable tourism, ensuring that economic, social and environmental benefits are delivered in a balanced way. <p>During the life-time of this Plan there will be a phased roll-out of the branding strategy, with investment in tourism signage and the enhancement of the visitor experience across the programme area. The strategy will develop Ireland's Ancient East as a destination that is easy for the independent visitor to explore, interpret, understand and appreciate. The implementation strategy will deal with on the ground information as well as promotional aspects of the brand and the accessibility of sites, possibly including mechanisms for pre-booking, ticketing and improved management. The strategy will enhance the visitor experience by promoting innovation in product development including the delivery of information through foreign languages and using digital technology where appropriate.</p>	<p>This Proposed Material Alteration relates to the parts of the Plan that set the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Material Alteration does not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.</p>
<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 33</p> <p>Sub-section 5.10 Tourism Remove second last paragraph as follows:</p> <p>Fáilte Ireland data indicates that County Laois attracts a low number of overseas visitors and less overseas tourism revenue than surrounding counties – revenue of €11 million and overseas visitor numbers of 37,000 in 2012. Despite the absence of a tourism tradition in Laois, Fáilte Ireland recorded an increased level of overseas visitors (40%) and revenue (73%) during <i>The Gathering 2013</i>. This demonstrates Laois' potential as a tourism destination.</p>	<p>This Proposed Material Alteration relates to the parts of the Plan that set the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Material Alteration does not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.</p>

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<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 34</p> <p>Sub-section 5.10 Tourism Insert additional text after final Para as follows:</p> <p>Fáilte Ireland promotes the incorporation of the principles of sustainability in the County Development Plan. The following five principles have been prepared to encapsulate the need to achieve a balance between appropriate tourism development and economic, environmental and social sustainability.</p> <p>Developments will be assessed having regard to compliance with these, and the associated policies.</p> <p>Principle 1: Tourism, when it is well managed and properly located, should be recognised as a positive activity which has potential to benefit the host community, the place itself and the visitor alike. Sustainable tourism planning requires a balance to be struck between the needs of the visitor, the place and the host community.</p> <p>Principle 2: Our landscapes, our cultural heritage, our environment and our linguistic heritage all have an intrinsic value which outweighs their value simply as a tourism asset. However, sustainable tourism planning makes sure that they can continue to be enjoyed and cherished by future generations and not prejudiced simply by short term considerations.</p> <p>Principle 3: Built development and other activities associated with tourism should in all respects be appropriate to the character of the place in which they are situated. This applies to the scale, design and nature of the place as well as to the particular land use, economic and social requirements of the place and its surroundings.</p> <p>Principle 4: Strategic tourism assets – including special landscapes, important views, the setting of historic buildings and monuments, areas of cultural significance and access points to the open countryside, should be safeguarded from encroachment by inappropriate development.</p> <p>Principle 5: Visitor accommodation, interpretation centres, and commercial / retail facilities serving the tourism sector should generally be located within established settlements thereby fostering strong links to a whole range of other economic and commercial sectors and sustaining the host communities.</p> <p>Sustainable tourism facilities, when properly located and managed can, especially if accessible by a range of transport modes, encourage longer visitor stays, help to extend the tourism season, and add to the vitality of settlements throughout the year. Underlying these principles for Sustainable Tourism, the definitions of economic, environmental and social sustainability, against which any tourism project should be assessed, are defined as follows:</p> <p>Economic sustainability must be considered to ensure that the tourism sector is managed. The key strengths of the County include landscape, heritage, natural environment, and lifestyle and amenity pursuits. The sector is highly affected by seasonality and there are extremes in visitor numbers at key attractions contrasted with smaller attractions which struggle to maintain visitor numbers. These 'peaks and troughs' should be carefully managed to ensure the protection of natural resources. Tourism innovation should also be encouraged – particularly where it brings about environmental benefits. Finally, for projects to be economically sustainable they should meet the needs of the permanent and also visitor population alike, so the preparation of robust business plans for all such developments will ensure proposals are viable and sustainable.</p> <p>Environmental sustainability will be central to the development and protection of a viable tourism sector and this is a key consideration in a County where tourism attractions are located in environmentally sensitive areas and close to historic areas where the quality of the built heritage and environment must be protected from inappropriate development - whether tourism related or not. The 'mainstreaming' of policy guidance tools such as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) will undoubtedly address any deficits in relation to many of these key policy areas.</p> <p>Social Sustainability is arguably more difficult to assess. Many of the potentially negative impacts of tourism development can however be addressed through careful consideration of the social and cultural nature of the receiving environment. The impacts that large-scale developments can have on existing local communities' policies can be assessed having regard to the impact of visitor numbers on local quality of life, culture and heritage – with a particular emphasis placed on unique areas such as culturally sensitive areas where small impacts over time may have a significant cumulative effect.</p>	<p>This Proposed Material Alteration relates to the parts of the Plan that set the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Material Alteration does not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.</p>

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<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 35</p> <p>Sub-section 5.10 Tourism Insert additional text following: The Council will consult with TII in relation to any tourism and recreational proposals in order to ensure that any such proposal would not affect the national road network, having particular regard to the requirements of Policy Trans 5.</p>				<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 36</p> <p>Sub-section 5.10.1 Laois's Tourism Strategy Reinstate Table 17 from the Laois County Development Plan 2011 – 2017 before final Para as follows:</p>				<p>This Proposed Material Alteration relates to the parts of the Plan that set the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Material Alteration does not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.</p>
Key Heritage Assets	Archaeological Assets	Architectural Assets	Natural Assets	
	Monastic heritage including Abbey at Aghaboe, intact Round Tower at Timahoe and fine Romanesque doorway at Killeshin	Emo Court and gardens	Slieve Blooms Nature Reserve with walks at: Monicknew Glenbarrow The Cut	
	Viking Longphort known as Dunrally Fort close to Vicarstown	Heywood Gardens	Timahoe Esker Nature Reserve with walk	
	Rock of Dunamais with Norman Influences	Castledurrow, Ballyfin, Abbeyleix, Stradbally Hall, Roundwood House demesnes	Granstown Nature Reserve with walk	
	Maryborough Fort and St Peter's Church and graveyard associated with Plantation of Laois-Offaly	Fine Georgian Square: O'Connor Square Mountmellick	Waterways: Nore, Erkina and Barrow including its source and smaller streams. Grand Canal Small lakes at Ballinakill, Brittas House, Ballyfin	
	Tower houses at Lea, Cullahill and Ballaghmore	Proposed Architectural Conservation Areas at Portlaoise, Abbeyleix and Durrow	Wetlands walks at Slieve Blooms, Killamuck, Portarlinton and the Derries	
	Fortified houses at Brittas House,			
	Industrial Archaeology Donaghmore Workhouse and Agricultural Museum Mill Buildings at Mountmellick, Castletown, Donaghmore Exhibits at Stradbally Steam Museum, Work Museum Mountmellick and Heritage Centre Abbeyleix	Historic town and villages such as Portarlinton, Mountrath Market Square, Clonaslee, Ballinakill, Emo, Timahoe and Stradbally	Woodlands open to the public: Oughaval Wood, Carrick Wood Dunmore Wood Garryhinch Wood Brittas Wood Togher Wood Caponellan Forest and Lake Walk	

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	Heritage Trails, Sli Dala, ancient travelling route extant in places	Coolbanagher Church, Emo	Subtle landscape of rolling hills, river basins and their floodplains, expansive flat areas, upland areas
		Midland Regional Hospital	On road and off-road walking and cycling routes open up the countryside to rural tourism 8.1.1 Walks mapped on Laois Tourism www.laoistourism.ie Sli na Slainte Coillte
Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 37 Sub-section 5.10.1 Laois's Tourism Strategy Insert additional Policy XX after Policy TM2 as follows: XX Direct the provision of tourist related facilities, such as information offices and cultural centres, into town and village locations to support and strengthen the existing economic infrastructure of such centres. In all cases, the applicant must submit a robust assessment setting out the sustainability of any proposal with respect to economic, environmental and social sustainability, as defined herein.			Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.
Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 38 Sub-section 5.10.1 Laois's Tourism Strategy Amend Policy TM3 as follows: TM3 Support in principle the development or expansion of a tourism proposition around the Slieve Bloom Mountains, Laois' Inland Waterways, Laois' historic towns and villages, heritage-based tourism, activity-based tourism, geo tourism , eco-tourism, food-based tourism, diaspora-based tourism and spiritual tourism. Proposals for sustainable tourism development will be required to demonstrate a need to locate in a particular area and demonstrate compliance with the Development Management Standards;			Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.
Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 39 Sub-section 5.10.1 Laois's Tourism Strategy Amend Policy TM7 as follows: TM7 Support and promote the existing festivals and cultural events which take place in the county and facilitate the establishment of new events where viable to increase the profile of the county as a key tourism destination and enjoyable place to be;			This proposed change does not change the effects arising from the Policy, it provides additional information/clarification as to the purpose of the Policy. Further assessment of this proposal is not required.
Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 40 Sub-section 5.10.1 Laois's Tourism Strategy Amend Policy TM9 as follows: TM9 Promote and facilitate the development of rural tourism such as including but not limited to open farms, on-farm craft villages and visitor centres and the reuse and refurbishment of vernacular buildings (houses or farm/industrial buildings) for tourist related facilities, including holiday home accommodation; where these are not detrimental to the character, scenic value and rural amenity of the surrounding area, including protecting and maintaining biodiversity, wildlife habitats, water quality, rural landscape character, scenic amenities and nature conservation. Proposals will be required to demonstrate a need to locate in a particular area and demonstrate compliance with the Development Management Standards set out in Section 8;			This proposed change does not change the effects arising from the Policy, it provides additional clarification. Further assessment of this proposal is not required.

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<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 41</p> <p>Sub-section 5.10.1 Laois's Tourism Strategy Amend Policy TM10 as follows:</p> <p>TM10 Work in collaboration with Coillte, neighbouring local authorities, Fáilte Ireland, community organisations and other interested parties to develop new forest accommodation, with required ancillary facilities, access, signage and trails for walking, cycling, mountain-biking and horse-riding.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential adverse effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration will be mitigated so as not to be significant. Consequently, further assessment is not required.</p>
<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 42</p> <p>Sub-section 5.10.1 Laois's Tourism Strategy Amend Policy TM11 as follows:</p> <p>TM11 Continue to work in collaboration with Failte Ireland and other key stakeholders on the development of the Ireland's Ancient East branding strategy, to implement the programmes and plans of the Ireland's Ancient East initiative over the lifetime of the plan to maximise the tourism potential of the county. As part of that process Laois County Council will liaise with Fáilte Ireland on the development of the over-arching strategy, as well as any smaller scale plans or programmes that are prepared to give effect to that strategy. Laois County Council will consult with Fáilte Ireland as required, on assessment of any such plans, programmes or policies to ensure that they are adequately screened or assessed in full compliance with Directives including the SEA Directive and the Habitats Directive.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 43</p> <p>Sub-section 5.10.1 Laois's Tourism Strategy Insert new Policy XX after Policy TM11 as follows:</p> <p>XX Facilitate Fáilte Ireland initiatives for the development of tourism experiences in the County that are fit for purpose and deliver on the Ireland's Ancient East brand promise, within the context of the land use management and infrastructural provision in the County.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 44</p> <p>Sub-section 5.10.1 Laois's Tourism Strategy Amend Policy TM 14 as follows:</p> <p>TM 14 Support in principle and investigate the feasibility of, subject to compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directive, developing and marketing off-road Slieve Bloom Mountain Biking Trail by Coillte and Durrow Green Network Cycle Trail in co-operation with relevant stakeholders including Durrow Development Forum.</p>	<p>This proposed change is to add a Green Network Cycle Trail, the feasibility of which is to be investigated. This investigation would not in itself result in environmental effects. If the outcome of this investigation required an amendment to the Plan in the future, then such an amendment would have to be subject to appropriate levels of SEA and AA. Any proposed lower tier projects emerging from the investigation would need to be subject to their own assessment processes, including those relating to EIA and AA. Further assessment of this proposal is not required.</p>

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<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 45</p> <p>Sub-section 5.10.1 Laois's Tourism Strategy Amend Policy TM17 as follows:</p> <p>TM17 Co-operate with National Trails Office (management standards), Fáilte Ireland, National Way Marked Way Advisory Committee, Coillte, the Heritage Council and other relevant bodies, in order to support the sustainable development, maintenance and enhancement of walking routes at appropriate locations throughout the county, including but not limited to, drying rooms for walkers and repair facilities for cyclists subject to compliance with the policies and objectives of the Plan particularly as they relate to the protection of the natural environment subject to compliance with the Habitats and Bird Directives;</p>	<p>This proposed change is to add a new example of a walking and cycling route the feasibility of which is to be investigated. This investigation would not in itself result in environmental effects. If the outcome of this investigation required an amendment to the Plan in the future, then such an amendment would have to be subject to appropriate levels of SEA and AA. Any proposed lower tier projects emerging from the investigation would need to be subject to their own assessment processes, including those relating to EIA and AA. Further assessment of this proposal is not required.</p>
<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 46</p> <p>Sub-section 5.10.1 Laois's Tourism Strategy Amend Policy TM21 and relocate to after Policy TM11 as follows:</p> <p>XX Encourage the clustering of tourism enterprise in town and village centres in the interest of sustainable tourism development and the enhancement of the public realms of town and village centres to maximise their tourism potential; in all cases, the applicant must submit a robust assessment setting out the sustainability of any proposal with respect to economic, environmental and social sustainability, as defined herein.</p>	<p>This proposed change is to provide clarification. Further assessment of this proposal is not required.</p>
<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 47</p> <p>Sub-section 5.10.1 Laois's Tourism Strategy Amend Policy TM22 as follows:</p> <p>TM22 Seek to maintain existing walking and cycling trails as well as facilities associated with angling and examine the feasibility of setting up additional walking/cycling trails or canoe/bridle trails and support the development and funding for general enhancements along trails and in collaboration with the National Trails Office, provide up to date information on trail locations and routes;</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 48</p> <p>Sub-section 5.10.1 Laois's Tourism Strategy Insert new Policy XX as follows:</p> <p>XX Subject to compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives, support in principle the development and marketing of the Erkina River Blueway Trail in association with all relevant stakeholders including Woodenbridge Paddlers Association and facilitate related commercial opportunities in Durrow as well as opportunities to link with other tourist and recreational facilities in the area.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 49</p> <p>Sub-section 5.10.1 Laois's Tourism Strategy Insert new Policy XX after Policy TM26 as follows:</p> <p>XX Develop a management plan for specific busy tourist sites in order to facilitate the effective accommodation of large numbers of tourists at sensitive locations.</p>	<p>The preparation of a management plan would have to be subject to appropriate levels of SEA and AA. Various provisions have been integrated into the County Plan (including those identified in Table 2.2) with which any future development would have to comply. Further assessment of this proposal is not required.</p>

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<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 50</p> <p>Sub-section 5.10.1 Laois's Tourism Strategy Insert new Policy XX after Policy TM26 as follows:</p> <p>XX Support the implementation of Ireland's Ancient East by facilitating the provision of visitor information– in line with the policies and objectives with respect to heritage sites; and integrating the objectives of Ireland's Ancient East with transport programmes in the County;</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 51</p> <p>Sub-section 5.10.1 Laois's Tourism Strategy Insert new Policy XX after Policy TM26 as follows:</p> <p>XX Encourage and support the provision of foreign language interpretation interventions in order to ensure the appropriate interpretation and appreciation of the county's heritage asset.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 5: Economic Development Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 5 - No. 52</p> <p>Sub-section 5.10.1 Laois's Tourism Strategy Insert new Policy XX after Policy TM26 as follows:</p> <p>XX Encourage and support the provision of a wider range of accommodation types are available throughout the county in order to ensure that the county is an attractive location to spend increased amounts of time for a wide range of visitors.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 6: Infrastructure Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 6 - No. 1</p> <p>Sub-section 6.1.1 Policy Context Amend text in relation to the Spatial Planning National Roads - Guidelines for Planning Authorities [DOEHLG, 2012] as follows:</p> <p>Spatial Planning and National Roads-Guidelines for Planning Authorities, [DoEHLG, 2012]</p> <p>These Guidelines set out planning policy considerations relating to development affecting national roads including motorways, national primary and national secondary roads. In summary, the guidelines require that planning authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have due regard to the protection of investment in and the strategic function of national roads; • Protect alignments for future national roads projects; • Restrict the numbers of new access points to national roads, subject to a very limited number of exceptions; • Restrict proposals which unduly intensify use of existing access points and junctions, particularly on stretches of national road outside of the 60kmh speed limit zones; • Co-operate with NRA TII regarding the management of national roads. 	<p>This Proposed Material Alteration relates to the parts of the Plan that set the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Material Alteration does not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.</p>

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<p>Section 6: Infrastructure Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 6 - No. 2</p> <p>Sub-section 6.1.2.1 Motorway Network Insert additional Policy XX as follows:</p> <p>XX Seek to prevent and control the spread of invasive plant species along the roads network</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all beneficial effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration are present already and will be further contributed towards. Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 6: Infrastructure Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 6 - No. 3</p> <p>Sub-section 6.1.2.1 Motorway Network Insert additional Policy XX after Policy TRANS 4 as follows:</p> <p>XX Support sustainable travel in the tourism sector by the promotion of public transport use and by undertaking enhancements to overall accessibility thereby making the County easier for visitors to navigate. Integrate the County's transport and tourism strategies to promote increasingly sustainable travel patterns among visitors to the County.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 6: Infrastructure Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 6 - No. 4</p> <p>Sub-section 6.1.2.2 Non-Motorway National Routes / Strategic Regional Roads Insert additional Policy XX as follows:</p> <p>XX Consider permitting access for replacement dwellings for persons who [or their families] own the original house and site for a minimum of 10 years [documentary evidence in this regard to be submitted] subject to the following provisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The original dwelling is in-situ and is habitable; • The cost of refurbishment of and/ or extension to the original dwelling is prohibitive; • The applicant complies with the provisions of the local need factor of the rural housing policy as outlined in Section 2.6.1; • An alternative site with access onto a minor road is not available; • The proposed development can be accommodated without the creation of a specific traffic hazard; • Where possible an existing entrance is used; • The Councils road standards are fully met; • The site is of minimum size of 0.202 hectares [0.5 acres]; <p>If necessary, a replacement septic tank drainage system in accordance with the requirements of the EPA Code of Practice: Waste Water Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (p.e ≤10) 2009 shall be installed on the site.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 6: Infrastructure Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 6 - No. 5</p> <p>Sub-section 6.1.2.2 Regional Roads Insert additional text at end of third Para as follows:</p> <p>The Council will seek to collaborate with TII in relation to national routes through the county, in particular in relation to high risk locations.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>

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<p>Section 6: Infrastructure Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 6 - No. 6</p> <p>Sub-section 6.1.2.2 Regional Roads Amend Policy TRANS 14 as follows:</p> <p>TRANS 14 Consider permitting access for single dwellings for full time farmers or farmers and / or their children who derive a substantial portion of their income from farming the land, subject to the following provisions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. An alternative site with access onto a minor road is not available; ii. The proposed development can be accommodated without the creation of a specific traffic hazard; iii. Where possible an existing entrance is used; iv. The Councils road standards are fully met. 	<p>This proposed change (involving the removal of the word substantial) does not change the effects arising from the Policy (which allows for the consideration of permitting access for single dwellings). Further assessment of this proposal is not required.</p>
<p>Section 6: Infrastructure Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 6 - No. 7</p> <p>Sub-section 6.1.2.2 Regional Roads Amend Policy TRANS 16 as follows:</p> <p>TRANS 16 <i>Restrict development requiring access onto Regional Roads where speed limits in excess of 50kph apply, This restriction will not necessarily apply in the following cases:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>In the case of applications for single-dwelling units for a famer or a farmer's son or daughter, permission may be considered, where evidence submitted clearly demonstrates that an alternative site accessed from a local road is not available and where the Council's road standards can be met. Also, the farm in question is of minimum size of 37 hectares [91 acres];</i> • <i>In the case of applications for commercial developments unsuited to existing allocated development areas such as enterprise parks and town centres, such as waste disposal facilities, large-scale wind farms, solar farms or quarries and associated aggregate processing and manufacturing, where the development will not adversely affect road safety.</i> • <i>In the case of development relating to established farm activity where the development will not adversely affect road safety.</i> 	<p>This proposed change (involving the addition of another example of commercial developments unsuited to existing allocated development areas) does not change the effects arising from the Policy. Further assessment of this proposal is not required.</p>
<p>Section 6: Infrastructure Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 6 - No. 8</p> <p>Sub-section 6.1.3.1 Laois Walking and Cycling Strategy Insert additional Policy XX as follows:</p> <p>XX Investigate the possibility of developing and utilising existing abandoned road/ rail infrastructure for the purposes of walking and cycling.</p>	<p>This proposed change introduces an investigation. This investigation would not in itself result in environmental effects. If the outcome of this investigation required an amendment to the Plan in the future, then such an amendment would have to be subject to appropriate levels of SEA and AA. Any proposed lower tier projects emerging from the investigation would need to be subject to their own assessment processes, including those relating to EIA and AA. Further assessment of this proposal is not required.</p>
<p>Section 6: Infrastructure Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 6 - No. 9</p> <p>Sub-section 6.1.3.1 Laois Walking and Cycling Strategy Amend Policy TRANS48 as follows:</p> <p>TRANS48 <i>Develop on-road cycle trail with a Rathdowney Trailhead to facilitate sporting and general cycling as well as link points of interest including Donaghmore Workhouse and Museum, Aghaboe Abbey, views of Gortnaclea Castle, Clough Village, Grantstown Lake and River Erkina.</i></p>	<p>This proposed change (involving the addition of another example of points of interest) does not change the effects arising from the Policy. Further assessment of this proposal is not required.</p>

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<p>Section 6: Infrastructure Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 6 - No. 10</p> <p><i>Sub-section 6.1.3.1 Laois Walking and Cycling Strategy</i> Amend Policy TRANS56 as follows:</p> <p>TRANS56 Support the designation of forest cycling areas in Laois such as at cycle club trails at Durrow, Cullenagh, Fossey and Cullahill Mountain.</p>	<p>This proposed change (involving the addition of another example of cycle club trails) does not change the effects arising from the Policy. Further assessment of this proposal is not required.</p>
<p>Section 6: Infrastructure Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 6 - No. 11</p> <p><i>Sub-section 6.2 Water Supply and Wastewater Services</i> Insert additional objective OBJ XX as follows:</p> <p>XX It is the objective of the Council to work with Irish Water to facilitate the timely delivery of ongoing and future upgrades of water supply and wastewater services to meet the future needs of the County and the Region.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 6: Infrastructure Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 6 - No. 12</p> <p><i>Sub-section 6.2.1 Public Water Supply</i> Insert additional policy XX as follows:</p> <p>XX Protect both ground and surface water resources and to work with Irish Water to develop and implement Water Safety Plans to protect sources of public water supply and their contributing catchment.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all beneficial effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration are present already and will be further contributed towards. Any Water Safety Plans would have to be subject to appropriate levels of SEA and AA. Various provisions have been integrated into the County Plan (including those identified in Table 2.2) with which any future development would have to comply.</p> <p>Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 6: Infrastructure Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 6 - No. 13</p> <p><i>Sub-section 6.2.2 Public Wastewater</i> Replace Policy WS1 as follows:</p> <p>WS1 Facilitate the delivery of Irish Water's Capital Investment Plan 2014-2016 and Investment Plan for 2017-2021, and all subsequent Irish Water Investment Plans and ensure that all lands zoned for development are serviced by adequate water services. Facilitate the delivery of Irish Water's Water Services Investment Programme, and all subsequent Water Services Investment Programmes, to ensure that all lands zoned for development are serviced by an adequate wastewater collection and treatment system.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 6: Infrastructure Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 6 - No. 14</p> <p><i>Sub-section 6.2.3 Procedures of the Water Supply and Wastewater Services Department</i> Replace Policy WS5 as follows:</p> <p>WS5 To promote and support the implementation of Irish Water's Eastern and Midlands Region Water Supply Project. to ensure that the overall allocation of 15 million litres of potable water per day (15MLD) is provided in relation to IWS East/Midlands Water Supply Project to ensure a resilient water supply for Laois thus ensuring that Portlaoise, the County Town is included in the "Benefiting Corridor"</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>

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<p>Section 6: Infrastructure Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 6 - No. 15</p> <p>Sub-section 6.3.3 Climate Change Insert additional text after fourth Para as follows:</p> <p>The National Mitigation Plan is currently being prepared by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE) and relevant aspects of this plan will be incorporated into Laois County Development Plan by way of variation, as relevant and appropriate, on completion of the plan.</p>	<p>Any variation to the County Development Plan would have to be subject to appropriate levels of SEA and AA. Various provisions have been integrated into the County Plan (including those identified in Table 2.2) with which any future development would have to comply.</p> <p>Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 6: Infrastructure Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 6 - No. 16</p> <p>Sub-section 6.6 Waste Recovery and Disposal Insert additional Policy ES3 as follows:</p> <p>ES3 Investigate the feasibility of using the former County landfill site at Kyletalesha for alternative activities such as energy production, nature conservation and other suitable activities.</p>	<p>This proposed change is to undertake an investigation. This investigation would not in itself result in environmental effects. If the outcome of this investigation required an amendment to the Plan in the future, then such an amendment would have to be subject to appropriate levels of SEA and AA. Any proposed lower tier projects emerging from the investigation would need to be subject to their own assessment processes, including those relating to EIA and AA. Further assessment of this proposal is not required.</p>
<p>Section 6: Infrastructure Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 6 - No. 17</p> <p>Sub-section 6.6 Waste Recovery and Disposal Insert additional Objective OBJ 7 as follows:</p> <p>OBJ7 To facilitate a sustainable and diverse mix of developments which limit the net adverse impacts associated with global warming such as promoting renewable energy, the growth of local farm produce and the promotion of sustainable modes of public transport.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 6: Infrastructure Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 6 - No. 18</p> <p>Sub-section 6.6.1 Renewable Energy Insert additional text after first Para as follows:</p> <p>Wind, solar, hydro and geothermal energy do not produce GHG emissions or emissions of air pollutants such as particulates, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide. Use of these renewable resources can have considerable co-benefits for human health and ecosystems. Meeting energy requirements from renewable resources can provide significant economic and employment benefits at local to national scales.</p>	<p>This Proposed Material Alteration relates to the parts of the Plan that set the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Material Alteration does not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.</p>
<p>Section 6: Infrastructure Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 6 - No. 19</p> <p>Sub-section 6.6.1.1 Solar Power Insert additional Policy XX as follows:</p> <p>XX Ensure that new hydro energy schemes take into account the impact on public rights of way and walking routes.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all beneficial effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration are present already and will be further contributed towards. Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>

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<p>Section 6: Infrastructure Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 6 - No. 20</p> <p>Sub-section 6.6.1.3 Solar Power Correct spelling in third Para, first criterion as follows:</p> <p>Typically suited to lowing low-lying lands due to the need for level sites,</p>	<p>This amendment relates to the correction of spelling and would not have any environmental interactions. Consequently, further assessment is not required.</p>
<p>Section 6: Infrastructure Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 6 - No. 21</p> <p>Sub-section 6.6.1.3 Solar Power Insert additional criteria at third Para 'Ground-Mounted Arrays' as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape and visual impact; • local ecology; • archaeological considerations; • avoidance of material glint and glare on neighbouring residential properties and • transportation and aviation safety considerations. 	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all beneficial effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration are present already and will be further contributed towards. Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 6: Infrastructure Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 6 - No. 22</p> <p>Sub-section 6.6.1.4 Wind Energy Insert additional text above Map 1.6.5 as follows:</p> <p>The Council's approach to wind energy has been prepared to inform developers, landowners and the public of the most appropriate sites for the location of wind energy proposals. This approach accords with the guidelines on Wind Energy Development to identify preferred areas and areas where the wind farms should not be considered. This followed an analysis of areas suitable for wind energy development within the County. This assessment utilised a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) approach examining a range of factors relating to wind energy development including: wind energy potential (through the Wind Speed Atlas, www.seai.ie), proposed and existing grid connections, natural heritage designations, landscape sensitivity. The strategy identifies the following:</p> <p>Preferred Area - These areas are considered suitable for windfarm development because of sufficient wind speeds, access to grid network, and established patterns of enquiries.</p> <p>Area Open for Consideration – These are the only areas, outside the preferred areas, open to consideration for appropriate wind energy proposals. They have been identified having regard to a range of factors, including wind energy potential (through the wind speed atlas www.seai.ie), existing grid connections, proposed grid connections, natural heritage designations and landscape sensitivity, the road infrastructure is adequate and where likely conflict with natural heritage designations can be protected.</p> <p>Area not for consideration – Areas where wind energy proposals will not be favoured have been identified due to the significant environmental, heritage and landscape constraints. These include; SAC and SPA (Natura 2000) Sites, NHAs, unspoiled areas of EHSAs, Areas of Fresh Water Pearl Mussel, important views and prospects. It is considered that these areas have little or no capacity for wind energy development.</p>	<p>This Proposed Material Alteration relates to the parts of the Plan that set the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Material Alteration does not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.</p>

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<p>Section 6: Infrastructure Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 6 - No. 25</p> <p>Sub-section 6.6.1 Renewable Energy Insert additional Policy XX as follows:</p> <p>XX It is policy of the Council to promote PV Solar for domestic or local use on rooftops of domestic dwellings, industrial, agriculture and public buildings.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 6: Infrastructure Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 6 - No. 26</p> <p>Sub-section 6.6.1 Renewable Energy Insert additional Policy XX as follows:</p> <p>XX Planning applications shall comply with DECLG Guidelines (2006) or any future guidelines and the best international practices and standards.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 6: Infrastructure Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 6 - No. 27</p> <p>Sub-section 6.6.1 Renewable Energy Insert additional Policy XX as follows:</p> <p>XX Identify existing public rights of way and preserve them as public rights of way. Take into account, when assessing planning applications, the impact on public access to the countryside including public rights of way, recreational amenities and the openness and visual amenity of the countryside.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 6: Infrastructure Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 6 - No. 28</p> <p>Sub-section 6.6.3 Electricity Insert additional text following first Para as follows:</p> <p>Grid25 GRID25, the grid development strategy, was published in 2008 and is now due for review. EirGrid therefore published a draft strategy entitled <i>Your Grid, Your Views, Your Tomorrow: Ireland's Draft Grid Development Strategy</i> for consultation in March 2015. The aim of <i>Your Grid, Your Views, Your Tomorrow</i> was to start a dialogue about the need for grid development, and to seek opinions and suggestions from anyone impacted by the plans. The draft strategy consultation ran from the 27 March to the 5 June 2015. Feedback on the draft strategy is currently being reviewed with the aim of informing the preparation of a Grid Development Strategy to be published in 2016. The draft strategy can be viewed at the following link: EirGrid-Draft-Grid-Development-Strategy. The draft strategy considers the facilitation of renewable energy in the East Region. This is addressed in p.52 of Appendix 1, which states that "To meet Dublin demand growth it is necessary to install additional transformer capacity and increase circuit capacity to the north and south of the city, and into the city itself. These projects will strengthen the network for all electricity users, and in doing so will improve the security and quality of supply".</p> <p>Grid25 Implementation Programme With regard to the Grid25 Implementation Programme, it should be noted that EirGrid is currently preparing a new Grid Implementation Plan and associated SEA. The revised Grid Implementation Plan will replace EirGrid's original "Grid 25 Implementation Programme 2011-2016", and is a regional spatial 6 year Development Plan for grid development.</p>	<p>This Proposed Material Alteration relates to the parts of the Plan that set the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Material Alteration does not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.</p>

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<p>White Paper on Energy Policy Framework 2015 2030 Building on the 2007 White Paper 'Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland', the 2015 White Paper sets out Ireland's energy future and confirms the core objectives of sustainability, security of supply and competitiveness. Chapter 7.3 of the White Paper recognises the need for the development and renewal of energy networks to meet economic and social goals. It endorses the strategic programmes of the energy infrastructure providers, subject to their adherence to national and international standards for design and construction, and to community consultation.</p> <p>The Transmission Network and Landscape The issue of compatibility of land-uses and landscape areas with high voltage powerlines is a subject which EirGrid is very cognisant of. For this reason in 2012, EirGrid appointed Consultants to undertake an evidence-based study on the actual visual and landscape effects of the presence of transmission infrastructure over a range of Ireland's typical landscapes. The Study included towers and substations located in different Landscape Character Types (LCTs) around Ireland and included locations in County Laois. The findings of the studies have been concluded and can be viewed on its environmental webpage:http://www.eirgridgroup.com/about/in-the-community/environment</p>	
<p>Section 6: Infrastructure Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 6 - No. 29</p> <p>Sub-section 6.6.3 Electricity Second Para amended in order to form additional policy XX as follows:</p> <p>The Council will support the reinforcement of the electricity transmission grid to improve energy supply to the county. Where strategic route corridors have been identified, the Council will support the statutory providers of national grid infrastructure by safeguarding such corridors from encroachment provided these corridors do not have adverse impacts on residential amenity or the environment. Applicants shall ensure that planning applications involving the siting of power lines and other overhead cables fully consider impacts on the landscape, national monuments, archaeology and views special amenity value. Where impacts are inevitable, mitigation measures to minimise such impact must be provided. Development shall be consistent with best practice, with regard to siting and design.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 6: Infrastructure Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 6 - No. 30</p> <p>Sub-section 6.6.3 Electricity Amend Policy ELEC 3 follows:</p> <p>ELEC 3 Facilitate the provision of and improvements to energy networks in principle, provided that it can be demonstrated that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. The development is required in order to facilitate the provision or retention of significant economic or social infrastructure; II. The route proposed has been identified with due consideration for social, environmental and cultural impacts; III. The design is such that will achieve least environmental impact consistent with not incurring excessive cost; IV. Where impacts are inevitable mitigation features have been included; V. Proposals for energy infrastructure should be assessed in accordance with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. VI. Ensure that the ability of the area to absorb overhead transmission lines is considered with reference to the <i>National Landscape Strategy 2015</i>. VII. Cognisance will be taken of the <i>Code of Practice between the DoECLG and Eirgrid(2009)</i>. VIII. Ensure that landscape and visual assessment of planning application shall focus on the potential to impact upon landscape designations and important designated sites. 	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>

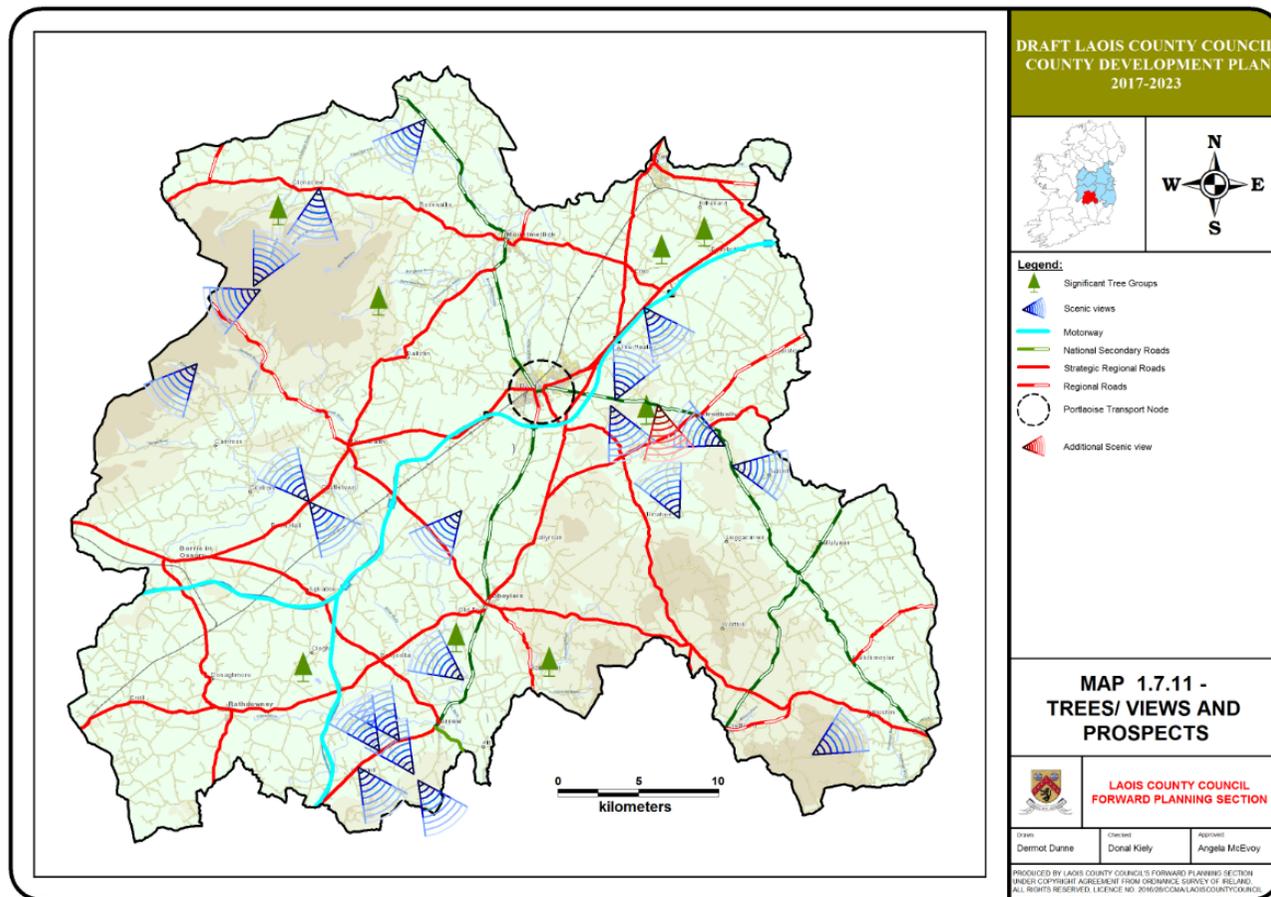
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<p>Section 6: Infrastructure Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 6 - No. 31</p> <p>Sub-section 6.6.5.2 Telecommunications Masts and Antennae Insert additional Policy XX as follows:</p> <p>XX Promote and facilitate the sharing of facilities. Co-location and clustering of new masts and support structures on existing sites will normally be required, unless a fully documented case is submitted explaining the precise circumstances which mitigate against co-location and clustering. Where it is not possible to share a support structure, the applicant should, where possible, share the site or an adjacent site so that the antennae may be clustered. In sensitive landscape areas the presumption will be that applications must meet the co-location requirements. Where it has been proven that there is a need for new/expanded coverage in a particular area, the applicant shall show that all existing masts and support structures have been examined to determine if the attachment of new antennae to existing structures can provide the coverage required, the applicant shall submit either a Discovery Series Map or similar map type (to be agreed with planning authority) to the scale of 1:50,000 the location of all telecommunication structures within a radius of 1km of the proposed site, indicating the coverage area of the proposed facility and a technical evaluation of the capabilities of these masts to take additional antennae and provide the coverage required. Avoid a proliferation of masts and aerials in the upland areas (names mountain area) in order to protect their amenity value and their unspoilt character.</p> <p>Applicants shall indicate whether or not they are willing to share the proposed masts with other telecommunication operators. Comply with the Code of Practice of Sharing Radio Sites issued by the Commission for Communication Regulation.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 6: Infrastructure Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 6 - No. 32</p> <p>Sub-section 6.6.5.2 Telecommunications Masts and Antennae Insert additional Policy XX as follows:</p> <p>XX Demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the DOECLG Guidelines on "Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures (1996)" and the Circular Letter of 2012(PL07/12)(as may be may be amended) and other publications and material as may be relevant.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 6: Infrastructure Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 6 - No. 33</p> <p>Sub-section 6.6.5.2 Telecommunications Masts and Antennae Replace Policy TELE10 as follows:</p> <p>TELE10 TELE 10 Existing Public Rights of Way will be identified prior to any new telecommunication developments (including associated processes) which will be prohibited if they impinge thereon or on recreational amenities, public access to the countryside, communities or the natural and built environment. Ensure the location of telecommunications structures minimise and/or mitigate any adverse impacts on communities, the natural and built environment and public rights of way.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 6: Infrastructure Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 6 - No. 34</p> <p>Sub-section 6.6.5.2 Telecommunications Masts and Antennae Insert additional Policy TELE XX as follows:</p> <p>XX Access roads will be permitted only where they are absolutely necessary. The applicant shall be required to demonstrate that the greatest care has been taken in terms of minimising visual impact on landscapes, particularly sensitive or historic landscapes, natural environment by ensuring that they do not scar the landscapes and that they follow the natural contours so as to minimise their visual intrusion and should be bordered with scrubs and that they are designed and landscaped to avoid visual and environmental disruption of the landscape. It shall be a condition of permission that the land is reinstated at the end of the construction period. In the event that a developer requires that an access track be retained, the developer shall indicate the justification for doing so as part of the planning application and indicate the frequency of visits which will be required to service the site and facility.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>

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<p>Incorporate the following in the Development Management Standards in section 8 DC 66</p> <p>Prohibit satellite dishes in areas which would cause unacceptable harm to visual amenities or would materially harm the character and appearance of rural areas. The design and visual appearance of masts, antennae of satellite dishes and their associated equipment shall be as unobtrusive as possible. Cumulative effect of dishes in the area should be considered.</p> <p>Cables and wire connections shall be located underground.</p> <p>Where masts are located in areas of high amenity, landscapes of exceptional or high value or international or national importance and high sensitivity as indicated in the Landscape Character Assessment, there shall be a presumption to provide a "Landscape Impact Report" to allow proper assessment of the visual impact. Surrogate (coniferous trees) shall be considered.</p> <p>Strive to reduce the number of telecommunication structures by ensuring that ComReg's Code of Conduct is implemented.</p> <p>Masts will only be permitted if supported by an acceptable Visual and Environmental Impact Assessment Report. In sensitive landscape and amenity areas the presumption shall be that applications must meet the co-location requirements or be supported by a Visual Impact Assessment Report that will demonstrate that the development can be satisfactorily absorbed into the landscape. VIA required within a focal point/view or in sensitive landscapes.</p> <p>Applicants must demonstrate the significance of the proposed development as part of the telecommunications network.</p> <p>Discourage the development of individual telecommunications support structures and antennae for private use.</p>	
<p>Section 7: Heritage Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 7 - No. 1</p> <p>Sub-section 7.4 Built Heritage Amend Objective OBJ 2 as follows:</p> <p><i>OBJ 2 Recognise the importance of archaeology and National Monuments as part of our heritage and provide public access, subject to reasonable conservational restrictions, reasonable considerations of public safety and avoidance of adverse effects on extant land uses, to Archaeological Sites and National Monuments in state, Council or private ownership. Traditional access routes will be designated as public rights of way. In other cases, routes will be acquired either by agreement with landowners or way of compulsory powers. Appropriate signage will be put in place";</i></p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all beneficial effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration are present already and will be further contributed towards. Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 7: Heritage Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 7 - No. 2</p> <p>Sub-section 7.4 Built Heritage Amend Objective OBJ 6 as follows:</p> <p><i>OBJ 6 Designate Architectural Conservation Areas in Ballyroan, Mountmellick, Mountrath, Stradbally and Portarlinton [the latter in conjunction within Offaly County Council] over the Plan period.</i></p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all beneficial effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration are present already and will be further contributed towards. Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 7: Heritage Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 7 - No. 3</p> <p>Sub-section 7.4 Built Heritage Omit Objective OBJ 11 as follows:</p> <p>OBJ 11 Designate additional ACAs in the towns of Mountmellick, Mountrath, Stradbally and Portarlinton [in association with Offaly County Council];</p>	<p>This amendment involves the deletion of repetition and would not interact with the environment. Consequently, further assessment is not required.</p>
<p>Section 7: Heritage Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 7 - No. 4</p> <p>Sub-section 7.4 Built Heritage Insert additional Objective XX as follows:</p> <p>XX To work with stakeholders including the OPW, the Heritage Council, the Arts Council, local communities and businesses to support the development of heritage and cultural tourism in County Laois.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>

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<p>Section 7: Heritage Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 7 - No. 5</p> <p>Sub-section 7.4 Built Heritage Insert additional Objective XX as follows:</p> <p>XX Implement, promote and support, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders (including the Co Heritage Forum, the Heritage Council, community groups and the wide public) the aims and objectives contained in the Laois County Heritage Plan 2014-2019 and any revision thereof and take cognisance, in assessing planning applications and preparing development plans, the provisions of the Plan.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 7: Heritage Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 7 - No. 6</p> <p>Sub-section 7.5.4 Buildings at Risk Insert additional Policy XX after Policy BH7 as follows:</p> <p>XX Favourably consider proposals for tourism and recreation development, which involve the reinstatement, conservation and / or replacement of existing disused buildings, and to adopt a positive interpretation of plan policies to encourage such development.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 7: Heritage Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 7 - No. 7</p> <p>Sub-section 7.6 Vernacular Buildings Amend Policy BH9 as follows as follows: BH9 Promote the re-use of old buildings for rural development opportunities. A range of small-scale uses for old buildings may be possible without substantial alteration such as including but not limited to arts and craft workshops or tourism and self-catering accommodation, small-scale manufacturing industry, such as including but not limited to cheese making, small-scale engineering and furniture making.</p>	<p>This proposed change does not change the effects arising from the Policy, it provides additional clarification. Further assessment of this proposal is not required.</p>
<p>Section 7: Heritage Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 7 - No. 8</p> <p>Sub-section 7.9 Archaeological Heritage Amend first Para as follows: Archaeology is an irreplaceable link with the past and is to be found in [virtually] every townland in County Laois.</p>	<p>This proposed change does not change the effects arising from the Policy, it provides additional clarification. Further assessment of this proposal is not required.</p>
<p>Section 7: Heritage Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 7 - No. 9</p> <p>Sub-section 7.9 Archaeological Heritage Amend Objective OBJ 2 as follows: OBJ2 Secure the preservation (in situ) of existing archaeological monuments including the integrity of town defences, town walls, embankments, town gates, bastions or ancillary fortifications or portions thereof. Preservation by record may also be appropriate in some circumstances [as determined by the Planning Authority] in accordance with Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all beneficial effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration are present already and will be further contributed towards. Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 7: Heritage Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 7 - No. 10</p> <p>Sub-section 7.9 Archaeological Heritage Amend Objective OBJ 8 as follows: OBJ 8 When considering proposals for extractive Industry, the applicant shall have regard to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Archaeological Code of Practice agreed between Irish Concrete Federation and National Monuments Division; • the Code of Practice for Bord Na Mona • and other Archaeological Codes of Practice https://www.archaeology.ie/codes-of-practice. • Currently the Code of Practice with TII is at an advanced stage (pers. comm.). 	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>

Proposed Material Alterations to Volume 1: Written Statement of the Draft Laois County Development Plan 2017-2023	SEA Screening Notes for Proposed Material Alterations																														
<p>Section 7: Heritage Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 7 - No. 11</p> <p>Sub-section 7.9.1 The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) Amend Table 23 in order to list monument / site names alphabetically as follows:</p> <p>Table 23: Monuments protected by Preservation Orders in County Laois</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Preservation Order No</th> <th>Monument Name</th> <th>RMP Number</th> <th>Townland</th> <th>Effective Date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3/95</td> <td>Clogrennan</td> <td>LA034-008---</td> <td>Clogrennan</td> <td>1995</td> </tr> <tr> <td>197</td> <td>Lamberton Fort</td> <td>LA018-012---</td> <td>Lamberton Demesne</td> <td>1957</td> </tr> <tr> <td>190</td> <td>Motte</td> <td>LA024-006001-</td> <td>Ballyroan</td> <td>1952</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4/81</td> <td>Motte & Bailey</td> <td>LA024-015001- LA024-015002-</td> <td>Ballinlogh</td> <td>1981</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9/77</td> <td>Ringfort</td> <td>LA028-011---</td> <td>Garryduff</td> <td>1977</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Preservation Order No	Monument Name	RMP Number	Townland	Effective Date	3/95	Clogrennan	LA034-008---	Clogrennan	1995	197	Lamberton Fort	LA018-012---	Lamberton Demesne	1957	190	Motte	LA024-006001-	Ballyroan	1952	4/81	Motte & Bailey	LA024-015001- LA024-015002-	Ballinlogh	1981	9/77	Ringfort	LA028-011---	Garryduff	1977	<p>This Proposed Material Alteration relates to the parts of the Plan that set the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Material Alteration does not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.</p>
Preservation Order No	Monument Name	RMP Number	Townland	Effective Date																											
3/95	Clogrennan	LA034-008---	Clogrennan	1995																											
197	Lamberton Fort	LA018-012---	Lamberton Demesne	1957																											
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4/81	Motte & Bailey	LA024-015001- LA024-015002-	Ballinlogh	1981																											
9/77	Ringfort	LA028-011---	Garryduff	1977																											
<p>Section 7: Heritage Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 7 - No. 12</p> <p>Sub-section 7.9.2 Rock of Dunamaise Amend Policy ARCH4 as follows:</p> <p>ARCH4 Promote and develop the importance of the Rock of Dunamaise as a cultural and tourism resource;</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>																														
<p>Section 7: Heritage Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 7 - No. 13</p> <p>Sub-section 7.10 Natural Heritage Omit Objective OBJ3 as follows:</p> <p>OBJ3 Undertake a feasibility study to report, within one year of the adoption of this Plan, on areas which are considered to be suitable for designation such as the Slieve Blooms and promote any proposals with the National Parks and Wildlife Service;</p>	<p>The removal of this objective (which provided for the undertaking of a study) would not result in significant environmental effects. Consequently, further assessment is not required.</p>																														
<p>Section 7: Heritage Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 7 - No. 14</p> <p>Sub-section 7.11 Biodiversity Amend Policy BIO 1 as follows:</p> <p>BIO1 Comply with the objectives of the National Biodiversity Plan 2011-2016 (and any future National Biodiversity Plan which may be adopted during the period of this plan) as appropriate to County Laois. The objectives cover the conservation of biodiversity in the wider countryside both within and outside protected areas, the strengthening of the knowledge base on biodiversity and increasing public awareness and participation in the subject.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all beneficial effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration are present already and will be further contributed towards. Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>																														

Proposed Material Alterations to Volume 1: Written Statement of the Draft Laois County Development Plan 2017-2023	SEA Screening Notes for Proposed Material Alterations																		
<p>Section 7: Heritage Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 7 - No. 15</p> <p>Sub-section 7.12 Green Infrastructure Insert additional Policy XX as follows:</p> <p>Conserve, enhance, manage and protect, facilitate, improve the green infrastructure network, in consultation with relevant stakeholders and develop new Green infrastructure by recognizing the synergies that can be achieved with regard to the protection and management of heritage.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>																		
<p>Section 7: Heritage Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 7 - No. 16</p> <p>Sub-section 7.12.2 Special Areas of Conservation Amend text of first Para as follows:</p> <p>Special Areas of Conservation are prime wildlife areas, considered to be important on a European as well as Irish level. The legal basis on which SACs are selected and designated is the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), transposed into Irish law in the European Union (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997. The European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2015 The Directive lists certain habitats and species that must be protected within SACs. Irish habitats include raised bogs, blanket bogs, turloughs, sand dunes, machair, heaths, lakes, rivers, woodlands, estuaries and sea inlets. The species which must be afforded protection under the Habitats Directive include inter alia all our bat species, Salmon, Pearl Mussel, Common Frog, Pine Marten, Mountain Hare and Otter. There are eight SACs to date in County Laois.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all beneficial effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration are present already and will be further contributed towards. Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>																		
<p>Section 7: Heritage Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 7 - No. 17</p> <p>Sub-section 7.12.2 Special Areas of Conservation Amend Table 24 in order to list monument / site names alphabetically as follows:</p> <p>Table 24 Special Areas of Conservation in County Laois</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Site Name</th> <th>Site Code</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Ballyprior Grassland</td> <td>002256</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clonaslee Eskers and Derry Bog</td> <td>000859</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coolrain Bog</td> <td>002332</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Knockacoller Bog</td> <td>002333</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lisbigney Bog</td> <td>000869</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mountmellick</td> <td>002141</td> </tr> <tr> <td>River Barrow And River Nore</td> <td>002162</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Slieve Bloom Mountains</td> <td>000412</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Site Name	Site Code	Ballyprior Grassland	002256	Clonaslee Eskers and Derry Bog	000859	Coolrain Bog	002332	Knockacoller Bog	002333	Lisbigney Bog	000869	Mountmellick	002141	River Barrow And River Nore	002162	Slieve Bloom Mountains	000412	<p>This Proposed Material Alteration relates to the parts of the Plan that set the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Material Alteration does not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.</p>
Site Name	Site Code																		
Ballyprior Grassland	002256																		
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River Barrow And River Nore	002162																		
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<p>Section 7: Heritage Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 7 - No. 18</p> <p>Sub-section 7.13 Trees and Woodlands Replace Figure 29, Map 1.7.11 with updated map as follows:</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all beneficial effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration are present already and will be further contributed towards. Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>																		



Section 7: Heritage Strategy
Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 7 - No. 19

Sub-section 7.14 Waterways and Wetlands

Insert additional text after final Para as follows:

BARROW LINE OF THE GRAND CANAL

*The Grand Canal is a **man-made linear waterway** and is a key element of green Infrastructure and has a unique setting of historic character. The towpath provides an uninterrupted corridor for pedestrians and cyclists.*

This Proposed Material Alteration relates to the parts of the Plan that set the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Material Alteration does not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.

Proposed Material Alterations to Volume 1: Written Statement of the Draft Laois County Development Plan 2017-2023	SEA Screening Notes for Proposed Material Alterations
<p>Section 7: Heritage Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 7 - No. 20</p> <p><i>Sub-section 7.14 Waterways and Wetlands</i> Insert additional Policy XX as follows: XX Promote and develop the towpaths along the Barrow Line in co-operation with Waterways Ireland and neighbouring local authorities.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 7: Heritage Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 7 - No. 21</p> <p><i>Sub-section 7.14 Waterways and Wetlands</i> Insert additional Policy XX as follows: XX Investigate the possibility of developing long distance walking routes, within the lifetime of the Plan, along the disused Mountmellick Line.</p>	<p>This proposed new objective provides for an investigation which would not in itself result in environmental effects. If the outcome of this investigation required an amendment to the Plan such an amendment would have to be subject to appropriate levels of SEA and AA. Further assessment of this proposal is not required.</p>
<p>Section 7: Heritage Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 7 - No. 22</p> <p><i>Sub-section 7.14 Waterways and Wetlands</i> Insert additional Policy XX as follows: XX Facilitate the development of the Grand Canal for cycling, walking and nature study.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 7: Heritage Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 7 - No. 23</p> <p><i>Sub-section 7.14 Waterways and Wetlands</i> Insert additional Policy XX as follows: XX Support the development of the amenities and recreational potential of the River Barrow, in co-operation with the NPWS, IW, adjoining Councils and other relevant authorities.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 7: Heritage Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 7 - No. 24</p> <p><i>Sub-section 7.19.1 Cross Border Sites</i> Amend Policy CBS 1 as follows: CBS 1 Co-operate with adjoining local authorities and other agencies in relation to cross border sites such as the Slieve Blooms and waterways and ensure a coherent and strategic approach to their sustainable development and conservation.</p>	<p>This proposed change does not change the effects arising from the Policy, it provides an example of a cross border site. Further assessment of this proposal is not required.</p>

Proposed Material Alterations to Volume 1: Written Statement of the Draft Laois County Development Plan 2017-2023	SEA Screening Notes for Proposed Material Alterations
<p>Section 7: Heritage Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 7 - No. 25</p> <p>Sub-section 7.21 Geology Insert additional text after first Para as follows –</p> <p>The Council recognises that Geology is an intrinsic component of natural heritage within the Planning Acts and Regulations and the Heritage Act 1995 to be protected and promoted for its heritage value and for its potential for recreational and geo-tourism initiatives and that it must ensure that geological heritage is adequately addressed in Development Plans.</p> <p>While the most important geological sites and geomorphological scientific sites will be designated as NHAs the National Heritage Plan (2002) has recommended the recognition and protection of other important sites known as County Geological Sites. The Irish Geological Programme (a partnership between the GSI and NPWS) identifies CGs, that although of national, regional and local importance will not receive the statutory protection of NHA sites.</p>	<p>This Proposed Material Alteration relates to the parts of the Plan that set the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Material Alteration does not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.</p>
<p>Section 7: Heritage Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 7 - No. 26</p> <p>Sub-section 7.21 Geology Amend Policy GEO1 as follows:</p> <p>GEOL1 Work with stakeholders to protect, preserve, enhance, maintain, manage, conserve, recognise and, where appropriate, restore the character conservation value and integrity of these sites for their amenity, scientific, heritage and historic values(including County Geological Sites listed in Table 28, proposed NHA's, areas near site and areas of geomorphological. Protect from inappropriate development the County Geological Sites listed in Table 25.1 as notified by the Geological Survey of Ireland;</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all beneficial effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration are present already and will be further contributed towards. Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 7: Heritage Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 7 - No. 27</p> <p>Sub-section 7.21 Geology Insert additional Policy XX as follows:</p> <p>XX Encourage and facilitate the development of geo-tourism by conserving and managing geological resources, and by the development of a Rock Trail (named), Geoparks or other similar geo-tourism initiatives.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 7: Heritage Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 7 - No. 28</p> <p>Sub-section 7.21 Geology Insert additional map 1.7.13, Geological Sites, as follows:</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all beneficial effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration are present already and will be further contributed towards. Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>

Proposed Material Alterations to Volume 1: Written Statement of the Draft Laois County Development Plan 2017-2023	SEA Screening Notes for Proposed Material Alterations
<p>Section 7: Heritage Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 7 - No. 29</p> <p>Sub-section 7.21 Geology Insert additional section following 7.21 as follows –</p> <p>ESKERS The Council recognises the unique importance of esker landscape and its archaeological and historic value. All proposals for sand and gravel extraction will be determined by considering the need to conserve the environment and the extent to which proposed developments would be damaging. There is a presumption against new quarry development on eskers. 3 The Council recognises that the exploitation of deposits can have seriously damaging environmental impact on the esker network.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all beneficial effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration are present already and will be further contributed towards. Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 7: Heritage Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 7 - No. 30</p> <p>Sub-section 7.21 Geology Insert additional Policy XX as follows:</p> <p>XX Protect, preserve and conserve the landscape and natural heritage and geo-diversity values of esker systems from inappropriate development. Ensure that any plan or project affecting eskers are adequately assessed with regard to their potential impact on the environment.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all beneficial effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration are present already and will be further contributed towards. Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>

Proposed Material Alterations to Volume 1: Written Statement of the Draft Laois County Development Plan 2017-2023	SEA Screening Notes for Proposed Material Alterations
<p>Section 7: Heritage Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Section No. 7 - No. 31</p> <p>Sub-section 7.21 Geology Insert additional Policy XX as follows:</p> <p>XX Assess applications for quarrying activity and gravel extraction and other development in proximity to eskers, with respect to their landscape importance or amenity value and the need to conserve them free from inappropriate development and to conserve their environmental character values and the extent to which proposals would damage these qualities.</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all beneficial effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration are present already and will be further contributed towards. Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Section 8: Material Alterations to Development Standards</p>	<p>Development management standards (many of which relate to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management) would contribute towards the achievement of the Plan's overall vision and aims. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from Proposed Material Alterations relating to the Development Management Standards: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>

Proposed Material Alterations to Volume 2: Settlement Plans of the Draft Laois County Development Plan 2017-2023	SEA Screening Notes for Proposed Material Alterations
<p>Material Alteration Ref. Abbeyleix-1</p> <p>Section No. Written Objectives: Character and Built Form Amend Objective AB 06 as follows:</p> <p>AB 06 Protect individual trees, groups of trees and hedgerows on all approach roads , particularly the Ballcolla and Cork Roads , Ladies Hill , church Grove and the Vicarage</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all beneficial effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration are present already and will be further contributed towards. Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.</p>
<p>Material Alteration Ref. Abbeyleix-2</p> <p>Section No. Written Objectives: Housing Provision Amend Objective AB 10 as follows:</p> <p>AB 10 Mixed use applications which comprise of a housing element will also be accepted within the town centre zoning though loss of active commercial or retail floor space to residential use will not be accepted; no further development occurs until appropriate water supply and waste water infrastructure capacity is provided</p>	<p>Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential adverse effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration will be mitigated so as not to be significant. Consequently, further assessment is not required.</p>

Material Alteration Ref. Mounthraht -1

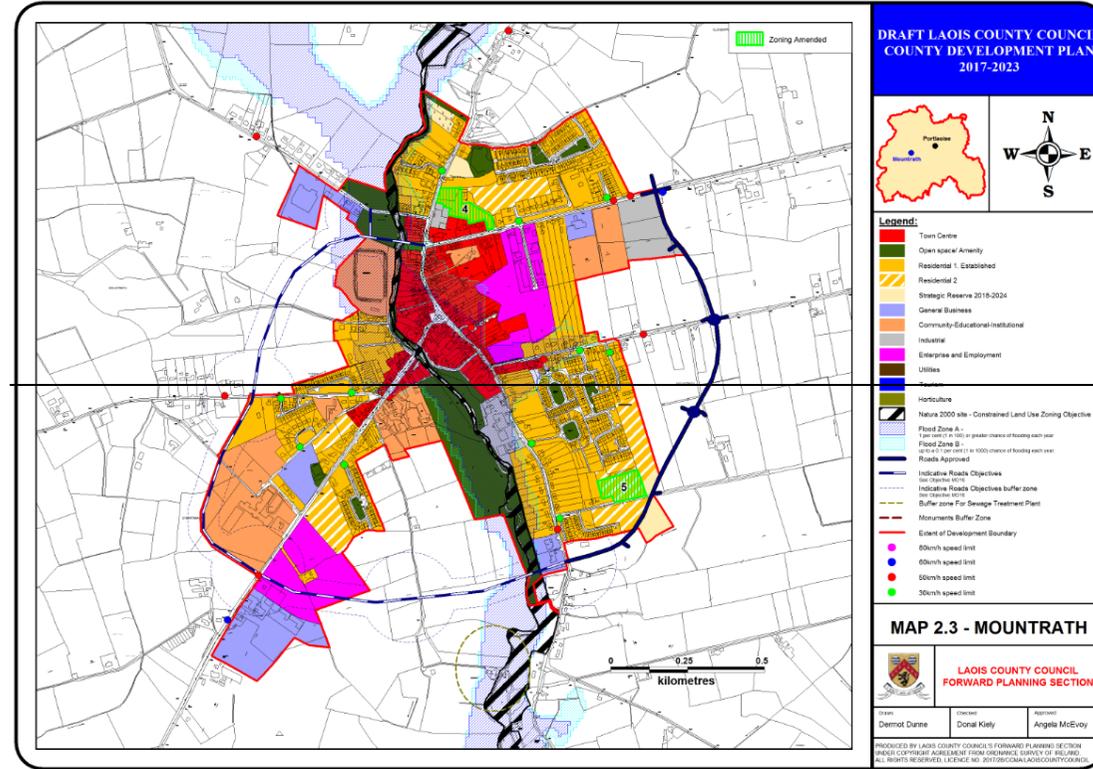
Map No. 2.3 Mounthraht Land-use Zoning Map

Zoning amendment on Map 2.3, zone lands No. 5 on attached map for Res 2 purposes –

Material Alteration Ref. Mounthraht 2

Map No. 2.3 Mounthraht Land-use Zoning Map

Zoning amendment on Map 2.3, zone lands No. 4 on attached map for Res 1 purposes –



Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.

Proposed Material Alterations to the Appendices of the Draft Laois County Development Plan 2017-2023					SEA Screening Notes for Proposed Material Alterations	
Appendix 1 – Record of Protected Structures						
Material Alteration Ref. 1						
Page No.		Title				
50		<i>Record of Protected Structures</i>				
Delete RPS No. 278 (Morrin's Shop, Shannon Street, Mountrath) from RPS.						
RPS 278	Morrin's Shop Shannon Street, Mountrath	Mountrath	-		-	-
Appendix 1 – Record of Protected Structures						
Material Alteration Ref. 2						
Page No.		Title				
86		<i>Record of Protected Structures</i>				
Delete RPS No. 309 (Thatched Cottage, Off Main Street, Ballylynan) from RPS.						
RPS 309	Thatched Cottage, Off Main Street, Ballylynan	Ballylynan	-		-	-
Appendix 1 – Record of Protected Structures						
Material Alteration Ref. 3						
Page No.		Title				
75		<i>Record of Protected Structures</i>				
Delete RPS No. 750 (House, Main Street, Stradbally) from RPS.						
RPS 750	House, Main Street, Stradbally	Stradbally	12900435		Local	-
Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential adverse effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration will be mitigated so as not to be significant. Consequently, further assessment is not required.						

Appendix 4 – Laois County Retail Strategy
Material Alteration Ref. Retail Strategy-1

Section No. 1.5.2 Laois Retail Strategy

Amend Table 1.1 as follows:

County Laois Retail Hierarchy	
Retail Function	Centre
Major Town Centre MRPGS: Principal Town	Portlaoise
County Town Centre MRPGS: Key Service Town	Portarlinton
County Town Centre MRPGS: Service Towns	Mountmellick
	Rathdowney
	Mountrath
	Stradbally
	Durrow
	Abbeyleix
County Town Centre MRPGS: Local Service Towns	Durrow
	Rathdowney
Newly Emerging Local Service Town	Ballylynan
District Centre MRPGS: Service Town	Carlow Environs
Neighbourhood Centres	Fairgreen, Mountmellick Road, Portlaoise Kilminchy, Dublin Road, Portlaoise
Villages	Includes zoned villages only

Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, further assessment is not required. See also Table 2.2.

Appendix 4 – Laois County Retail Strategy
Material Alteration Ref. Retail Strategy-2

Section No. 5.6: Criteria for the Assessment of Future Retail Development

Amend first Para of final section, Traffic and Transport Assessments as follows:

If and when deemed necessary by the Planning Authority, following consideration of all relevant factors, a Traffic and Transport Assessment (TTA) will be required for retail developments over a particular threshold (100sqm), as set out in the Traffic Management Guidelines 2003, and the Traffic Transport Assessment Guidelines 2007. A Traffic and Transport Assessment (TTA) may be required for retail developments over a particular threshold (100sqm) as set out in the Traffic Management Guidelines 2003 and the Traffic Transport Assessment Guidelines 2007.

This proposed change does not change the effects arising from the Retail Strategy. Further assessment of this proposal is not required.

<p>Appendix 5 – Wind Energy Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Wind Strategy-1</p> <p>Section No. 4.4 Designated Areas Insert reference to Ballyprior SAC in Table 8 as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Site Name</th> <th>Site Code</th> <th>½" Map Number</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>River Barrow And River Nore</td> <td>002162</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clonaslee Eskers and Derry Bog</td> <td>000859</td> <td>38</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lisbigney Bog</td> <td>000869</td> <td>44</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mountmellick</td> <td>002141</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Slieve Bloom Mountains</td> <td>000412</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coolrain Bog</td> <td>002332</td> <td>38/44</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Knockacollier Bog</td> <td>002333</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ballyprior SAC</td> <td>00256</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Site Name	Site Code	½" Map Number	River Barrow And River Nore	002162		Clonaslee Eskers and Derry Bog	000859	38	Lisbigney Bog	000869	44	Mountmellick	002141		Slieve Bloom Mountains	000412		Coolrain Bog	002332	38/44	Knockacollier Bog	002333		Ballyprior SAC	00256		<p>This Proposed Material Alteration relates to the parts of the Plan that set the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Material Alteration does not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.</p>
Site Name	Site Code	½" Map Number																										
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Slieve Bloom Mountains	000412																											
Coolrain Bog	002332	38/44																										
Knockacollier Bog	002333																											
Ballyprior SAC	00256																											
<p>Appendix 5 – Wind Energy Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Wind Strategy-2</p> <p>Section 5 Area Classifications Amend second Para as follows: Map No. 1.6.5 map No. 10</p>	<p>This alteration relates to numbering and would not be likely to interact with the environment. No further assessment is required.</p>																											
<p>Appendix 5 – Wind Energy Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Wind Strategy-3</p> <p>Section 4.5 Landscape Character Types Amend fourth Para of page 19 as follows: LCT 7: Rolling Hills Areas Type 7: Rolling Hills Areas</p>	<p>This alteration relates to number formatting and would not be likely to interact with the environment. No further assessment is required.</p>																											
<p>Appendix 5 – Wind Energy Strategy Material Alteration Ref. Wind Strategy-4</p> <p>Section No. 5.2 Suggested Policy for Wind Energy Developments in County Laois Amend Policy WES 3 as follows:</p> <p>Laois County Council will seek to promote wind energy in appropriate sites in the County and will work with agencies such as the Laois County Development Board, I.D.A, Enterprise Ireland and Irish Wind Energy Association to encourage investment in research and technology associated with windfarms and other renewable energy technology.</p> <p>Material Alteration Ref. Wind Strategy-5</p> <p>Section 6.9 Environmental Monitoring Insert additional text after first Para, as follows: such as European Sites.</p> <p>Material Alteration Ref. Wind Strategy-6 Section No. 6.11 Aquifers Insert additional text as follows at end of Para:</p>	<p>None of these proposals change the effects arising from the Wind Energy Strategy. Further assessment of this proposal is not required.</p> <p>The new map does not change the provisions of the Plan relating to Wind Energy. As detailed in the SEA Environmental Report prepared that accompanied the Draft Plan on public display: "It is noted that Objective EN7 includes a requirement for "a setback distance of 1.5 km of Wind turbines from schools, dwellings, community centres and all public roads in all areas open for consideration for wind farm development" which would limit Laois County Council's ability to contribute towards the National Renewable Energy Action Plan target of 40% of electricity demand to be provided by renewable energy by 2020. In addition, the distance specified is not consistent with Government policy on the issue."</p> <p>With respect to the additional Scenic View, taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan</p>																											

, groundwater or drinking water.

Material Alteration Ref. Wind Strategy-7

Section No. 6 Development Control Standards for Wind Farms in County Laois

Insert additional Development Control Standard as follows –

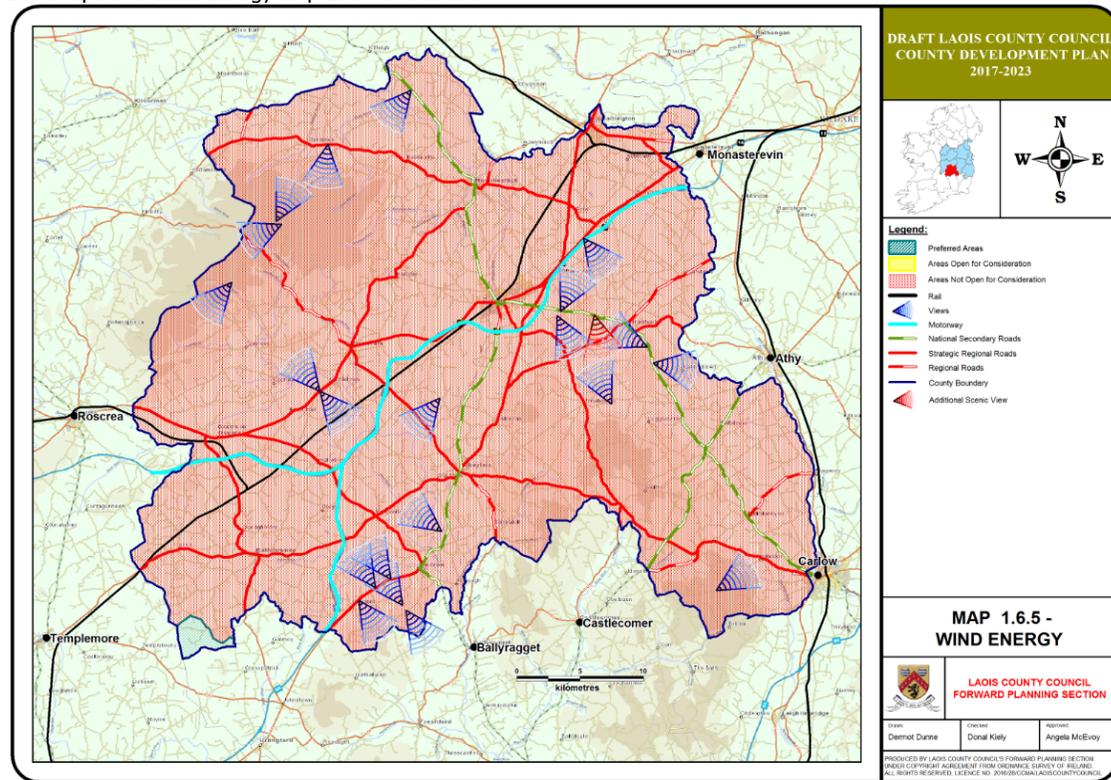
6.19 Decommissioning of associated infrastructure at end of life.

Planning application permission for any renewable energy infrastructure [including wind] must be accompanied by a full and complete set of plans and condition on how the site shall be restored to its original condition at end of life. This should be accompanied by a bond, payable by the developer to the planning authority; the sole purpose of this bond shall be to enable the removal of any and all associated infrastructure with the granted development at the end of the developments term of existence.

Material Alteration Ref. Wind Strategy-8

Section No. 7.4 Wind Energy Map

Insert updated Wind Energy Map 1.6.5 as follows:



which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all beneficial effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration are present already and will be further contributed towards.

Table 2.2 Positive Effects, Potential Adverse Effects, if unmitigated, Mitigation Measures and Residual Adverse Effects

Environmental Component	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potential Adverse Effect, if unmitigated	Mitigation Measures, including	Residual Adverse Effects, after mitigation
Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitates lower overall effects on ecology (including designated sites, ecological connectivity, habitats) – due to increased utilisation of lands within existing development boundaries and use of existing utilities and brownfield sites. Facilitates protection of ecology with respect to the provision of water services. Facilitates contribution towards the protection of ecology as a result of contributing towards the protection of environmental vectors, including air and water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure: loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including Natura 2000 Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects. Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species. 	<p>BIO2, BIO3, NH10, NH8, NH9, NH1, NH2, NH 3, NH4, NH5, NH6, NH7, NH15, TRANS 3, TM11, NH36</p> <p>Natura 2000 site – Constrained Land Use Zoning Objective</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of an extent of non-protected habitats and species arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces. Losses or damage to ecology (these would be in compliance with relevant legislation).
Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitates protection of human health with respect to the provision of water services and the provision of transport infrastructure integrated with land use planning – and associated interactions with sustainable mobility, emissions and energy usage. Facilitates contribution towards the protection of human health as a result of contributing towards the protection of environmental vectors, including air and water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential interactions if effects upon environmental vectors such as water and air are not mitigated 	<p>CS15, ES25</p> <p>Also see measures under environmental vectors soil, water and air below.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential interactions with residual effects on environmental vectors. This has been mitigated by provisions which have been integrated into the Plan, including those relating to sustainable mobility and infrastructural provision.
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitates lower overall effects on soil – due to increased utilisation of lands within existing development boundaries and use of existing utilities and brownfield sites. Facilitates protection of soil with respect to the provision of water services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Damage to the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource. 	<p>ES20, ES22, ES23, ES24 and NH 12</p> <p>Also see measures under water below.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces.
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitates lower effects on ground and surface waters due to higher levels of development within established and serviced settlement centres that have installed/upgraded water services capable of delivering Water Framework Directive targets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adverse impacts upon the status of water bodies arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology. Increase in the risk of flooding. 	<p>WS34, WS35, WS38, WS2, WS13, WS31, WS32, WS36 and WS42</p> <p>FD 01, FD1, FD2, FD3, FD4 and FD5</p> <p>Also see measures under soil above and material assets below.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased loadings as a result of development to be in compliance with River Basin Management Plans. Flood related risks remain due to uncertainty with regard to extreme weather events.

SEA Screening Report for Proposed Material Alterations

Environmental Component	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potential Effect, if unmitigated	Mitigation Measures, including	Residual Adverse Effects
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides for planned infrastructure including water services infrastructure and transport infrastructure. Make most use of existing water services and drainage infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity is needed to ensure the mitigation of potential conflicts). Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water that is both wholesome and clean (water services infrastructure and capacity is needed to ensure the mitigation of potential conflicts) Increases in waste levels 	WS1, WS15, WS 16, WS17, WS18, WS19 and ES6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residual wastes to be disposed of in line with higher level waste management policies.
Air and Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitates contribution towards a shift from car to more sustainable and non-motorised transport modes. Facilitates contribution towards reducing congestion and associated adverse effects on air quality. Facilitates contribution towards reductions in travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emissions to air including greenhouse gas emissions and other emissions. 	ES10, CC1, CC2, CC2 and NRA1 Also see measure under human health above (and various Plan measures relating to land use development and sustainable mobility)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An extent of travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air. This has been mitigated by provisions which have been integrated into the Plan, including those relating to sustainable mobility.
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection of cultural heritage by facilitating compliance with protection legislation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities. 	Archaeological Heritage OBJ1, OBJ2, OBJ5, OBJ7, ARCH5, ARCH6, ARCH7, ARCH8, ARCH17 Architectural Heritage OBJ1, OBJ5, OBJ6, OBJ7, BH1, BH 2, BH 3, BH 4, BH 5, BH 6 and BH 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential alteration to the context and setting of architectural heritage however these will occur in compliance with legislation. Potential alteration to the context and setting of archaeological heritage however this will occur in compliance with legislation. Potential loss of unknown archaeology however this loss will be mitigated by measures integrated into the Draft Plan.
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection of cultural heritage by facilitating compliance with objectives relating to landscape management and protection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of statutory designations relating to the landscape. 	OBJ 2, OBJ 5, LS01, LS2, LS3, LS4, LS5, LS6, LS7, LS8, AV1, AV2 and AV3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. The Draft Plan contributes towards the protection of landscape designations. The County's landscapes will change overtime as a result of natural changes in vegetation cover combined with new developments.

2.5 Schedule 2A

PART 1

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

The changes proposed by the Material Alterations relate to the provisions of the Draft County Development Plan that provides a framework for land use planning in Laois. Proposed Material Alterations encompass changes to the text and maps of the Draft Plan.

Taking the above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4 into account, arising from the degree to which the Proposed Material Alterations and associated County Development Plan set a framework for projects and other activities, the Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

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

The Proposed Material Alterations are being made to the County Development Plan. The Plan is nested in a hierarchy of land use plans and policy and will influence lower tier plans including Local Area Plans (LAPs). LAPs are in place, or will be in place, for the following towns: Portlaoise; Portarlinton; Mountmellick; and Graiguecullen. These LAPs are reviewed and made under Sections 18, 19 and 20 of the Planning and Development Act. The CDP provides the key parameters for these LAPs such as the future population and housing targets and sets out the broad strategy for the future economic and social development of these towns.

Taking the above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4 into account, arising from the degree to which the Proposed Material Alterations and associated County Development Plan influence other plans, the Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

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

The County Development Plan to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate has undergone SEA. This process integrated environmental considerations into the Draft Plan and found that the Draft Plan contributes to environmental protection and management and sustainable development.

Taking the above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4 into account, arising from the degree to which the Proposed Material Alterations and associated County Development Plan are relevant for the integration of environmental considerations with a view to promoting sustainable development, the Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

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

Environmental problems arise where there is a conflict between current environmental conditions and legislative targets.

Through its provisions relating to environmental protection and management, the Draft Plan contributes towards ensuring that environmental conditions do not get worse and, where possible, it contributes towards its amelioration.

Taking the above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4 into account, arising from environmental problems relevant to the Proposed Material Alterations and associated County Development Plan, the Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

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

The County Development Plan relates to the land use sector and has undergone SEA. This process integrated considerations with regard to EU and national legislation on the environment into the Plan, including those relating to the waste management and the Water Framework Directive.

Taking the above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4 into account, arising from the relevance of the Proposed Material Alterations for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment, the Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

PART 2

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

The Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

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

The Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

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

The Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

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

The Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

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

The Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

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

a) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;

The Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

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

The Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

c) intensive land-use.

The Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

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

The Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

Section 3 Conclusion

The potential effects arising from the Proposed Material Alterations are either present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Therefore, it is determined that SEA is not required for the Proposed Material Alterations.

A one-page SEA determination accompanies this SEA Report.