



Graiguenamanagh- Tinnahinch Draft Joint Local Area Plan 2021



Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report for Proposed Material Alterations

April 2021

Forward Planning

1. INTRODUCTION

Material Alterations to the Draft Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch (LAP) 2021 have been proposed by the Elected Members of Carlow and Kilkenny County Councils on the 8th and 15th of March respectively. These alterations have arisen following consideration by the Elected Members of each local authority of the Chief Executive's Report on submissions received during the public display period of the Draft Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Local Area Plan 2021. A total of 17 submissions were received by Kilkenny County Council and a total of 13 submissions were received by Carlow County Council on the Draft Joint Local Area Plan.

The issues raised by the submissions were summarised and the response and recommendation of the Chief Executive was provided in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

As part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment process, all land use plans, including the Draft Joint LAP, must undergo a formal 'test' or be screened to see if they would have likely significant effects on the environment. In order to comply with Section 20(3)(f) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the PA must make a determination whether an SEA is required "to be carried out in respect to one or more than one proposed material alteration of the draft local area plan".

This report has been prepared to consider whether the material alterations to the LAP will have any likely significant environmental effects, and as such, would therefore require the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). In order to assess whether the Material Alterations proposed for the Plan by the Elected Members of both Kilkenny and Carlow County Councils require full Strategic Environmental Assessment, Kilkenny and Carlow County Councils carried out this SEA Screening exercise which identified if any of the proposed material alterations, as outlined in the public consultation document entitled 'Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Joint Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Local Area Plan 2021', would be likely to have significant impacts on the environment.

This report also includes, as Appendix 1, an addendum to the Environmental Report of the Draft Plan, to incorporate the issues raised in the submissions received to the Draft Plan and Environmental Report.

1.1 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening has been undertaken on the Proposed Material Alteration of the Draft Plan. AA is an assessment process relating to the Natura 200 network, or European sites – these sites have been designated or proposed for designation by virtue of their ecological importance.

The Habitats Directive, its transposing Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011 (as amended) provide the requirement to screen the alterations for effects on European Sites. If

the effects are deemed to be significant, potentially significant or if the potential for impact cannot be ruled out, 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 Natura 2000 network of sites and, therefore, Stage 2 AA is not necessary.

1.2 FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT

Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) has been undertaken on the Proposed Material Alterations relating to land use zoning. The findings of this assessment are provided in an Addendum to the FRA that was prepared for the Draft Plan. The requirement for FRA is provided under 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DECLG, 2009).

2. SEA SCREENING ANALYSIS

Table 1 below examines whether each of the Proposed Material Alterations would be likely to have significant environmental effects (and thus would warrant the undertaking of Strategic Environmental Assessment). The text of the Draft Joint Graigueanamanagh-Tinnahinch Local Area Plan is shown in its normal font. Proposed additions are shown as *red italic text* and proposed deletions are shown in ~~strikethrough~~ text.

Effects encompass the full range of effects, 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 of the 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.

TABLE 1; Screening of Proposed Material Alterations

No.	Proposed Material Alteration	Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening
MA1	<p>Include following note in Community/Education, Agriculture, New Residential and Open Space in Appendix A: Land Use Zoning Objectives:</p> <p><i>Flood Risk: All proposed development within this zone which falls within flood zone A or B shall be subject to a site-specific flood risk assessment. No highly vulnerable uses (as set out in the Flood Risk Management Guidelines) other than extensions to existing structures and uses, will be permitted within Flood Zone A or B. Less vulnerable uses will also not be allowed within Flood Zone A other than extensions to existing structures and uses as set out in the Flood Risk Management guidelines.</i></p>	<p>The proposed alteration provides clarification in land-use zoning objectives and does not alter the provisions of the plan and will not result in no significant environmental effects.</p> <p>SEA is not required.</p>
MA2	<p>Amend text in Section 2.2.1 as follows:</p> <p>‘The area itself has remains of settlements dating from thousands of years earlier.’</p> <p><i>‘The town has a rich heritage and may yet have unidentified sites/features of archaeological activity associated with the settlement of the Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch area.’</i></p>	<p>No potential significant environmental effects will arise from this text change.</p> <p>SEA is not required.</p>
MA3	<p>Amend Objective ARCO1.1 as follows:</p> <p>‘To protect and preserve all Archaeological objects within the meaning of the National Monuments Acts items of archaeological interest from inappropriate development that would adversely affect and/or detract from the interpretation and setting of these historic sites.’</p>	<p>No potential significant environmental effects will arise from this text change.</p> <p>SEA is not required.</p>
MA4	<p>Include following note in Appendix B: Record of Protected Structures:</p> <p>www.archaeology.ie and the historic wreck records at https://www.archaeology.ie /underwater-archaeology/wreck-viewer</p>	<p>The proposed alteration provides clarification and does not alter the provisions of the plan and will not result in significant environmental effects.</p> <p>SEA is not required.</p>

<p>MA5</p>	<p>Amend Objective TO2.1 and TO2.2 as follows: TO2.1: <i>To support the implementation of the Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Tourism and Recreational Project Concept Study, and the development of tourism infrastructure (in particular at The Hub), overnight accommodation (in particular Brandondale House), attractions and facilities at appropriate locations subject to the appropriate protection of architectural heritage and natural amenities and appropriate statutory processes required by the European Habitats Directive.</i></p> <p>TO2.2: <i>To support the implementation of the Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Tourism and Recreational Project Concept Study, and the development of outdoor leisure activities and a River Park and associated uses on lands that are designated as open space, subject to the protection of landscape character and natural heritage and appropriate statutory processes required by the European Habitats Directive</i></p>	<p>No potential significant environmental effects will arise from this text change.</p> <p>SEA is not required.</p>
<p>MA6</p>	<p>Amend Objective GIO 1.2 as follows: To preserve, protect and augment trees, groups of trees, woodlands and hedgerows within the settlement by increasing, where appropriate, tree canopy coverage and tree planting using locally native species by incorporating them within design proposals and supporting their integration into the existing Green Infrastructure network.</p>	<p>No potential significant environmental effects will arise from this text change.</p> <p>SEA is not required.</p>
<p>MA7</p>	<p>Amend legend of Map 1 'Land Use Zoning Objective' as follows: Pedestrian/Cycle Improvements <i>Indicative Pedestrian/Cycle Improvements</i></p>	<p>No potential significant environmental effects will arise from this text change.</p> <p>SEA is not required.</p>
<p>MA8</p>	<p>Amalgamate Section 10.6 Natural Heritage and Section 8.4 Natural Heritage and Biodiversity</p>	<p>The proposed alteration provides clarification and does not alter the provisions of the plan and will not result in significant environmental effects.</p>

		SEA is not required.
MA9	<p>Insert new objective in Section 10.2 as follows:</p> <p><i>INFO 1.3 Where a private water supply is proposed for development the Council will require the cumulative impacts of a private water supply on the hydrological regime of the River Barrow SAC to be addressed as part of any project assessment.</i></p>	<p>This objective requires additional assessment of the impacts on the SAC of any additional water supply, and therefore will not result in significant environmental effects.</p>
MA10	<p>Amend text in Section 10.3 as follows:</p> <p>The status of the River Barrow in Graiguenamanagh is “good.” <i>The status of the River Barrow in Graiguenamanagh is “moderate”.</i></p>	<p>No potential significant environmental effects will arise from this text change.</p> <p>SEA is not required.</p>
MA11	<p>Amend Objective INFO3.4 as follows:</p> <p>To require the preparation of Drainage Impact Assessments, in line with the SFRA for this Draft Joint LAP, for all development proposals within the plan area <i>and to consider sustainable drainage and natural water retention measures. ‘To identify any measures, such as natural water retention measures, that can have benefits for Water Framework Directive, flood risk management and biodiversity objectives’</i></p>	<p>This change provides further detail on the issues to be considered in any Drainage Impact Assessment and therefore will not result in significant environmental effects.</p>
MA12	<p><i>NHO1.5 “To work with Inland Fisheries Ireland and the OPW to, subject to appropriately considering implications for flood risk and complying with the Habitats Directive, remove barriers to fish movement as part of any instream development works in the Duiske River”</i></p>	<p>This change commits to working with Inland Fisheries Ireland and the OPW as part of any instream development works. Considering the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan which provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, it is</p>

		determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Material Alteration: either are present already (positive) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (negative). Any such project will be subject to project level environmental assessment. Consequently, further assessment is not required.
MA13	Amend text in Section 1.6 as follows: National Biodiversity Plan 2011-2016 <i>Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan 2017-2021</i>	No potential significant environmental effects will arise from this text change. SEA is not required.
MA14	Insert new objective in Section 10.6 as follows: <i>NHO1.6: 'It is an objective to consider guidance by Inland Fisheries Ireland on planning for watercourses in the urban environment, particularly in relation to riparian buffer zones.'</i>	This change provides further detail on the guidance to be considered in relation to watercourses and therefore will not result in significant environmental effects.
MA15	Amend text in Section 4.2.1 as follows: The population targets for County Kilkenny are set by the National Planning Framework (NPF), and the Implementation Roadmap for the National Planning Framework (July 2018) <i>and Section 28 Guidelines 'Housing Supply Target Methodology for Development Planning'</i> . The transitional Regional and County Population Projections for County Kilkenny are set out in Table 4.3 below up until 2027. Graiguenamanagh will account for 1.5% of County Kilkenny's population to 2027 which will result in a population of 1,666 <i>1,581</i> to 2027 in Graiguenamanagh.	This text change results from new guidelines which will reduce the population growth and therefore the impact is further reduced and will not result in any significant environmental effects.

Amend Table 4.3: Transitional Population Projections for Kilkenny County & Graiguenamanagh as follows:

Table 4.3 Transitional Population Projections for Kilkenny County & Graiguenamanagh						
Population	1996	2002	2006	2011	2016	2027
Graiguenamanagh	1,113	1,166	1,097	1,476	1,389	1,666 1,581
Kilkenny County	75,336	80,399	87,558	95,419	99,232	110,000

Amend text in Section 4.2.2 as follows:

The population targets for County Carlow are set by the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Implementation Roadmap for the National Planning Framework (July 2018) *and Section 28 Guidelines 'Housing Supply Target Methodology for Development Planning'*. The transitional Regional and County Population Projections for County Carlow are set out in Table 4.4 below up until 2027. In line with the existing Core Strategy Tinnahinch will account for 0.80% of the population growth of County Carlow with a projected population of ~~355~~ 376 by 2027.

Table 4.4 Transitional Population Projections for County & Tinnahinch						
Population	1996	2002	2006	2011	2016	2027
Tinnahinch	261	269	326	315	306	355 376
Carlow County	41,616	46,014	50,349	54,612	56,932	63,000

Amend text in Section 4.3.1 as follows:

The population of Graiguenamanagh for this plan period will account for 1.5% of the total population for Kilkenny County, such growth equates to an additional population of ~~277~~ 192 persons over the Plan period. *Having regard to the Section 28 Guidelines: Housing Supply Target Methodology for Development Planning and Appendix 1 of the accompanying Circular and applying the adjustment methodology to facilitate convergence with the NPF scenario 4,725 total households are to be accommodated over the period 2021-2027 (788 annual average households). Having regard to the requirement to comply with the existing core strategy while having due regard to the Section 28 Guidelines, At an average occupancy rate of 2.7 persons per household, the housing requirement for this plan is therefore to provide for ca. ~~103~~ 71 additional housing units over the lifetime of the plan¹ to accommodate the projected population growth.*

SEA is not required.

¹ Applying an average occupancy of 2.7 persons which is average for Graiguenamanagh

Amend Table 4.5: Housing Requirement Graiguenamanagh as follows:

Table 4.5: Housing Requirement Graiguenamanagh			
Location (Refer to Map 1)	Quantum of land for Housing (ha)	Estimated Residential Capacity	Density
NR1	0.77	17	Min 20/ha
NR2	0.23	6	Min 20/ha
NR3	0.18	5	Min 20/ha
NR4	0.50	11	Min 20/ha
NR5*	1.71	34	20/ha
NR6	1.09	23	Min 20/ha
NR7	2.4 0.36	48 9	Min 20/ha
LD1**	2	20	10/ha
Total	8.88 3.13	158 Units 71 Units	

Amend text in 4.3.2 as follows:

The population of Tinnahinch for this plan period will account for 0.8% of the total population growth for Carlow County to 2027. This equates to an additional population of 49 persons over the Plan period. *Having regard to the Section 28 Guidelines: Housing Supply Target Methodology for Development Planning and Appendix 1 of the accompanying Circular and applying the adjustment methodology to facilitate convergence with the NPF scenario 3,198 total households are to be accommodated over the period 2021-2027 (533 annual average households). Having regard to the requirement to comply with the existing core strategy while having due regard to the Section 28 Guidelines, this plan will therefore provide for ca. 18 26 additional housing units over the lifetime of the plan to accommodate the projected population growth of an additional 70 persons over the Plan period.*

Delete text in Section 4.3.3 as follows:

~~Units contributing towards meeting the social housing for such persons already living in Graiguenamanagh will therefore not be included as part of the proposed ca. 103 71 units but will be added to same. Therefore, this LAP will provide for a total housing unit requirement of ca. 137 105 units on zoned residential land. (See Table 4.5) in Graiguenamanagh.~~

Delete text in Section 4.3.4 as follows:

Units contributing towards meeting the social housing for such persons already living in Tinnahinch will therefore not be included as part of the proposed ca. 18 units 26 units but will be added to same. This LAP provides for a minimum requirement of 25 21 residential units on zoned residential land (See Table 4.6 below NR8) with an additional low-density residential zoning (LD2) provided to accommodate low density residential/serviced sites in Tinnahinch in compliance with NPO 18(b).

Amend Table 4.6 as follows:

Table 4.6: Housing Requirement Tinnahinch			
Location (Refer to Map 1)	Quantum of land for Housing (ha)	Estimated Residential Capacity	Density
LD2**	1.52 0.5	15 5	10/ha
NR8*	1.93	25 21 (other community facilities maybe considered on this site)	13/ha ²
	3.45 2.43	40 Units 26 Units	

Amend Table 4.7: Combined Housing Requirement for Graiguenamanagh and Tinnahinch as follows:

Table 4.7: Combined Housing Requirement for Graiguenamanagh and Tinnahinch			
Location (Refer to Map 1)	Quantum of land for Housing (ha)	Estimated Residential Capacity	Density
New Residential	6.88 3.13	138 71	Min 20/ha
Low Density Residential	3.52 ** 0.5	35 5	10/ha
New Residential	1.93	25 21	Min 13/ha ³
Total	12.33 5.56	198 Units 97 Units	

² Density provision has due regard to the pattern of residential density in the vicinity of the site and the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Residential Development in Urban Areas 2009.

³ Other community facilities will be considered on this site which will be subject to a Social Infrastructure Assessment.

Amend Map 1 Land Use Zoning Map to reduce quantum of New Residential land zoned in area known as NR7 as follows:



Amend Map 1 Land Use Zoning Map to reduce quantum of Low-Density Residential land zoned in area known as LD2 as follows:



Amend text in Section 4.3.5 New Residential Zoning in Graiguenamanagh as follows:

In accordance with the Core Strategy it is anticipated that ca. ~~137~~ 105 housing units will be required up to 2027. To

facilitate such growth, this LAP proposes to zone ~~8.88ha~~ **3.13ha** of lands for 'New Residential'. ~~with an additional 'New Residential - Low Density' (LD1) provided to accommodate low density residential/serviced sites in Graiguenamanagh in compliance with NPO 18(b).~~

It should also be noted that National Planning Framework; National Policy Objective (NPO) 18b sets out a requirement to *'develop a programme for 'new homes in small towns and villages' with local authorities, public infrastructure agencies such as Irish Water and local communities to provide serviced sites with appropriate infrastructure to attract people to build their own homes and live in small towns and villages.'* In this regard ***the Draft Joint LAP has provided for 2ha for Low Density Housing (LD1), designated in accordance with Objective 18b of the National Planning Framework is provided for under "Rural Housing" in the Core strategy of the Draft County Plan and is therefore excluded from the Section 28 housing demand calculations for Graiguenamanagh whilst 0.5ha has been identified in Tinnahinch to facilitate 5 units*** ~~ca. 3.52ha of land has been identified in this Draft Joint LAP. A total of 2ha has been identified in Graiguenamanagh to facilitate ca. 20 units and 1.52ha has been identified in Tinnahinch to facilitate ca. 15 units.~~ It is anticipated each site would be developed at a minimum of 10 units to the hectare. These sites will seek to reduce the demand for one-off housing in the rural countryside, address population decline through the provision of a mix of dwelling units, support the provision of community infrastructure, sustainable services and commercial enterprise throughout Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch.

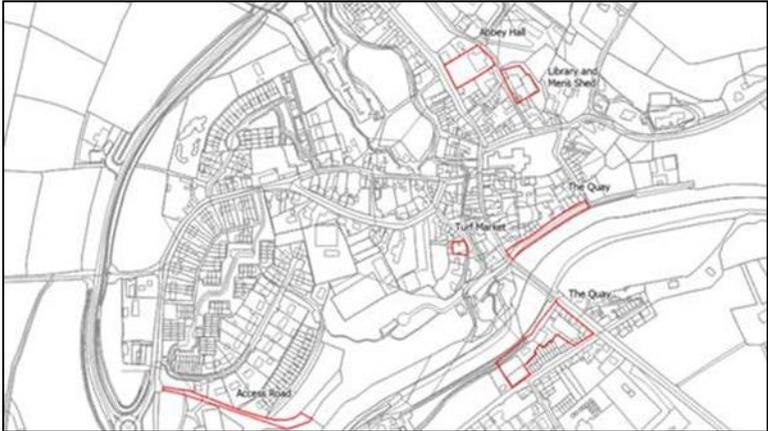
Amend text in Section 4.3.6 New Residential Zoning Tinnahinch as follows:

In accordance with the Core Strategy it is anticipated that ca. ~~25~~ **21** housing units will be required up to 2027.

MA16 Amend Map 1 Land Use Zoning Map to alter land use designation NR5 New Residential land to Agriculture use as follows:

The proposed amendment is due to the introduction of new S.28 Guidelines as discussed in MA15. Such guidelines reduce the population growth and therefore the quantum of new residential zoned lands is no

		<p>longer required. The change of zoning to Agriculture use is less intensive and therefore would not result in significant environmental effects.</p> <p>SEA is not required.</p>
<p>MA17</p>	<p>Inclusion of additional Appendix titled 'Appendix E Infrastructure Assessment'</p>	<p>The proposed alteration provides clarification and does not alter the provisions of the plan and will not result in significant environmental effects.</p> <p>SEA is not required.</p>
<p>MA18</p>	<p>Insert new objective in Section 10.5 as follows: <i>INFO 4.3: It is an objective of the Council that future development proposals/initiatives within Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch will seek to comply with Climate Action Policies and Objectives in the Kilkenny and Carlow Development Plans, to facilitate the transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society through the encouragement and integration of appropriate mitigation and adaptation considerations and measures into all development.</i></p>	<p>The proposed alteration provides clarification and does not alter the provisions of the plan and will not result in significant environmental effects.</p> <p>SEA is not required.</p>
<p>MA19</p>	<p>Amend Objective TCO1.1 as follows:</p>	<p>The proposed alteration provides an additional level of</p>

	<p>TCO1.1: To support the delivery of projects for town centre regeneration which comply with the provisions of the relevant CDP and this Joint LAP submitted as funding applications to the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund.</p> <p><i>a) The preparation of an architectural design/brief is required for the following sites to ensure the character of the area is maintained and that any potential flood defence proposals are appropriate to its location</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Quays Graiguenamanagh and Tinnahinch</i> <i>The stone buildings/sheds located on the back lanes of Graiguenamanagh</i> 	<p>architectural assessment of any development proposal and does not alter the provisions of the plan and will not result in environmental effects.</p> <p>SEA is not required.</p>
<p>MA20</p>	<p>Amend text in Section 5.4.1 as follows: The regeneration and refurbishment of the following buildings and sites within the settlement would greatly enhance the appearance and vitality of the settlement. (Refer to Map 1). <i>(Refer to Figure 5.1 below).</i></p> 	<p>The proposed alteration provides clarification and does not alter the provisions of the plan and will not result in significant environmental effects.</p> <p>SEA is not required.</p>
<p>MA21</p>	<p>Amend text in Section 5.6 as follows: Require a sequential approach to the provision of new retail facilities i.e. new retail facilities will be required to locate on lands zoned for mixed uses <i>and within the retail core area as identified on Map 1</i> through the redevelopment and/or reuse of existing vacant premises where appropriate.</p>	<p>The proposed alteration provides clarification and does not alter the provisions of the plan and will not result in significant environmental</p>

		effects. SEA is not required.
MA22	Amend Objective TO2.6 in Section 5.9.4 as follows: TO2.6: To encourage and facilitate the delivery of a mix of appropriate uses including tourism, <i>commercial, retailing</i> and leisure, <i>community</i> related developments on lands zoned 'Mixed Use' within Tinnahinch.	The proposed alteration provides clarification and does not alter the provisions of the plan and will not result in significant environmental effects. SEA is not required.
MA23	Amend text in Section 7.2.1 as follows: Formal sports amenity areas are located at the Graiguenamanagh GAA Grounds <i>and Highview Athletic FC are located</i> to the north west of the settlement providing significant facilities to the residents of the settlement; however, access to same can be limited.	The proposed alteration provides clarification and does not alter the provisions of the plan and will not result in significant environmental effects. SEA is not required.
MA24	Amend text in Section 5.4.1 as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Abbey Hall 2. Refurbishment of the Town Library and development of a Men's Shed 3. Development of a Car Park and Public Toilets at Turf Market 4. Development of an access road and car park for Outdoor Activity Centre 5. The public realm associated with the Quay in both Graiguenamanagh and Tinnahinch. 6. <i>Conversion of stone buildings/sheds located on the back lanes of Graiguenamanagh</i> 	No potential significant environmental effects will arise from this text change. SEA is not required.
MA25	Insert new objective in Section 5.9.4 as follows: <i>TO2.7 'To facilitate the expansion of additional overnight tourism accommodation in association with the expansion of facilities at Brandondale house on the lands to the South West of Brandondale house subject to</i>	The principle of overnight accommodation at Brandondale House was already included in Objective

development management criteria.'

This objective will be indicated on Map 1 'Landuse Zoning Map' as follows



TO2.1 of the Draft Plan, this alteration provides clarification and does not alter the provisions of the plan and will not result in significant environmental effects.

SEA is not required.

MA26

Amend text in Section 11.3.1 Masterplan Lands as follows:

A masterplanning approach should be undertaken by the project proponent and the output submitted to the local Planning Authority as part of a planning application (and/or through formal Section 247 Preplanning Meetings) as a means of demonstrating that key urban design and good place making principles have been fully considered in the proposed design. The Masterplan should show:

- How proposed areas and spaces relate to the development area, the wider environment and how these areas could be better connected
- *How the proposed development has regard to adjoining properties and the need to protect the amenities of existing established properties including the existing landowners*
- Suggested relationships between buildings, public spaces and wider environment; and
- An understanding of how new uses are integrated into the surrounding urban context and natural environment.

The proposed alteration provides clarification and does not alter the provisions of the plan and will not result in significant environmental effects.

SEA is not required.

MA27

Amend Objective MPO1.2 as follows:

MPO1.2: To require the preparation of a masterplan for the lands identified 'Masterplan 2' along the River Barrow,

The proposed alteration provides clarification and does

	Tinnahinch <i>in co-operation with all stakeholders</i> and to actively secure the implementation of these plans and the achievement of specific objectives.	not alter the provisions of the plan and will not result in significant environmental effects. SEA is not required.
MA28	Insert new objective in Section 6.1.3 Core Strategy Policy & Objectives <i>COM1.4: A Social Infrastructure Assessment (SIA) shall be prepared for the development of this site to ensure that new community facilities where deficit exists are provided on a phased basis in this new residential community in tandem with the provision of housing. The SIA shall include quantitative and spatial assessment of the existing infrastructure provision, and recommendations for future services based on demographic and area-based analysis in relation to services such as; education, childcare; other community services; open space; sports and other amenities.</i>	The proposed alteration provides clarification and does not alter the provisions of the plan and will not result in significant environmental effects. SEA is not required.
MA29	Amend Strategic Objective SO4 as follows: To support the creation and enhancement of a network of pedestrian walkways, footbridges and open spaces connecting the River Barrow and other recreational and tourist attractions within the settlement <i>while ensuring the protection and preservation of the natural and built heritage of the area.</i>	The proposed alteration provides clarification and does not alter the provisions of the plan and will not result in significant environmental effects. SEA is not required.

3. SCHEDULE 2A ASSESSMENT

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 Joint Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch LAP which provides a framework for land use planning in Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch, County Kilkenny.

Proposed Material Alterations encompass changes to the text and maps of the Draft Joint LAP.

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 Draft Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Joint LAP which is directly influenced by Kilkenny County Development Plan, Carlow County Development Plan and higher tier land use plans. On examination of the various proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 4, arising from the degree to which the proposed Material Alterations and associated Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch LAP influence other plans, there are no proposed Material Alterations that would be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

No further SEA is required.

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 Draft Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Joint LAP, to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate, has undergone SEA Screening. Taking the above and the examination of the various proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 4 into account, arising from the degree to which the proposed Material Alterations and associated Local Area Plan are relevant for the integration of environmental considerations with a view to promoting sustainable development, there are no Proposed Material Alterations that would be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

Therefore, no SEA is required.

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 environmental conditions do not worsen and, where possible, contributes towards their amelioration.

No further SEA is required.

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 Draft Joint LAP relates to the land use sector and has undergone SEA Screening. 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 Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.3 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 Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.3).

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 Proposed Variation provided under Section 2.3).

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 Proposed Variation provided under Section 2.3).

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 Proposed Variation provided under Section 2.3).

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 Proposed Variation provided under Section 2.3).

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 Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.3).

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 Proposed Variation provided under Section 2.3).

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 Proposed Variation provided under Section 2.3).

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 Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.3).

5. CONCLUSION

It is not anticipated that the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Joint LAP will have likely significant environmental effects and at this stage in the process it is considered that an SEA will not be required.

This screening takes into 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 Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (as amended). Considering the content of the Proposed Material Alterations and the measures that have already been integrated into the Draft Joint Plan that contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that 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 Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required for the Proposed Material Alterations.

Appendix 1: Addendum to the Environmental Report

This section should be read in conjunction with the Environmental Report on the Draft Plan. Proposed deletions are shown in ~~striketrough~~ text. Proposed additions are shown as *red italic* text.

Amend text in Section 3.3.2 Flora and Fauna as follows:

A number of species are protected under European and national law, under Annex IV of the Habitats Directive and the Wildlife Acts. Data is available from the ESM Webtool, National Biodiversity Data Centre *and NPWS Biodiversity Records* on the occurrence of species in Co. Kilkenny and Co. Carlow. The NPWS produce a number of plans in relation to some protected species, ~~these are set out below, and~~ the distribution of the species in the Plan area is included.

~~The NPWS have produced a number of Species Action Plans for particular species of highest conservation concern and their distribution within Kilkenny and Carlow is set out in Table 3.3.~~

The National Biodiversity Data Centre and NPWS Biodiversity records have been consulted to ascertain the distribution of the following species within the Plan area

Species Action Plan	Distribution in Plan area⁴
Species Action Plan Red Grouse 2013	In Plan Area
Species Action Plan Bats 2008	Widely found
Species Action Plan Killarney Fern 2008	In Plan area
Species Action Plan Red Squirrel 2008	In Plan area
Species Action Plan Irish Lady's tresses, Pollan, Hare, Corncrake 2005	
Irish Lady's tresses	None in Plan Area
Pollan	None in Plan Area
Hare (Lepus timidus hibernicus)	In Plan Area
Corncrake	Widely Found

- Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (Vertigo (Vertigo) moulinsiana)*
- Freshwater White-clawed Crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes)*
- European Otter (Lutra lutra)*
- Killarney Fern (Trichomanes speciosum)*
- NSNW Woodland Habitats 2010*
- Margaritifera Sensitive Areas*
- All Bats (Suitability Index 31.67)*

Amend text in Section 3.3 of SEA as follows:

~~Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and its targets~~

Conserve and restore biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and its targets

Amend text in Table 4.1 of SEA as follows:

~~Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and its targets~~

Conserve and restore biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and its targets

Amend text in Table 5.1 of SEA as follows:

~~Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and its targets~~

Conserve and restore biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and its targets

Amend text in Table 5.1 of SEA as follows:

~~Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and its targets~~

Conserve and restore biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and its targets

Amend text in Chapter 8 Plan Monitoring as follows:

The Monitoring Programme focuses on issues relating to the potential significant environmental effects identified by the SEA. Furthermore, as the mitigation has been integrated into the Plan, it must be implemented. In addition to addressing each of the indicators as they relate to the potential significant environmental effects identified by the SEA, reporting on SEA Monitoring will also address the implementation of mitigation measures.

Amend Table in Chapter 6 as follows:

Chapter	Development Objective	Assessment of impact on SEA objectives (See Chapter 4)			
		Significant beneficial impact	Uncertain Impact	Significant adverse impact	No relationship or significant impact
5	<p>TO2.1: To support the implementation of the Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Tourism and Recreational Project Concept Study, and the development of tourism infrastructure (in particular at The Hub), overnight accommodation (in particular Brandondale House), attractions and facilities at appropriate locations subject to the appropriate protection of architectural heritage and natural amenities <i>and appropriate statutory processes required by the European Habitats Directive</i></p>	P1 P6 LS2 M1 M3 M4 M5			B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 LS1 W2 W1 W5 W4 A3 A4 CH1 L1 C1 C3 P2 P3 P4 P3 W3 A1 A2 A5 A6 C2 C4 C5 M2 M6 M7 LS3
	<p>TCO1.1: To support the delivery of projects for town centre regeneration which comply with the provisions of the relevant CDP and this Joint LAP submitted as funding applications to the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund.</p> <p><i>a) The preparation of an architectural design/brief is required for the following sites to ensure the character of the area is maintained and that any potential flood defence proposals are appropriate to its location</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Quays Graiguenamanagh and Tinnahinch</i> <i>The stone buildings/sheds located on the back lanes of Graiguenamanagh</i> 	P1 P2 P6 LS2 LS1 A3 A4 C1 C3 M1 M3 M4 M5 L1	P5		B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 W5 W4 P4 W3 A1 A2 A5 A6 C2 C4 C5 M2 M6 M7 W2 W1 CH1 P3 LS3
	<p>TO2.2: To support the implementation of the Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Tourism and Recreational Project Concept Study, and the development of outdoor leisure activities and a River Park and associated uses on lands that are designated as open space, subject to the protection of landscape character and natural heritage (Natura 2000 conservation objectives) and inclusion of construction management plans <i>and appropriate statutory</i></p>	B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 P1 P6 W5 W4 CH1 L1			LS2 LS1 W2 W1 A3 A4 C1 C3 M1 M3 M4 M5 P2 P4 P5 W3 A1 A2 A5 A6 C2 C4 C5 M2 M6 M7 P3 LS3

	<i>processes required by the European Habitats Directive</i>				
	TO2.6: To encourage and facilitate the delivery of a mix of appropriate uses including tourism, <i>commercial, retailing</i> and leisure, <i>community</i> related developments on lands zoned 'Mixed Use' within Tinnahinch.	B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 M1 M3 M4 M5 P1 P6 CH1 W5 W4			LS2 LS1 W2 W1 L1 A3 A4 C1 C3 P2 P3 P4 P5 W3 LS3 A1 A2 A6 C2 C4 C5 M2 M6 M7
	TO2.7: <i>To facilitate the expansion of additional overnight tourism accommodation in association with the expansion of facilities at Brandondale house on the lands to the South West of Brandondale house subject to development management criteria.</i>	<i>P1 P6 LS2 M1 M3 M4 M5</i>			<i>B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 LS1 W2 W1 W5 W4 A3 A4 CH1 L1 C1 C3 P2 P3 P4 P5 W3 A1 A2 A5 A6 C2 C4 C5 M2 M6 M7 LS3</i>
6	COM1.4: <i>A Social Infrastructure Assessment (SIA) shall be prepared for the development of this site to ensure that new community facilities where deficit exists are provided on a phased basis in this new residential community in tandem with the provision of housing. The SIA shall include quantitative and spatial assessment of the existing infrastructure provision, and recommendations for future services based on demographic and area-based analysis in relation to services such as; education, childcare; other community services; open space; sports and other amenities.</i>	<i>P1 P2 P5</i>			<i>B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 P3 P4 P6 W1 W2 W3 W4 W5 LS1 LS2 LS3 A1 A2 A3 A4 A5 A6 M1 M2 M3 M4 M5 M6 M7 CH1 L1</i>
7	GIO 1.2: To preserve, protect and augment trees, groups of trees, woodlands and hedgerows within the settlement by increasing, where appropriate, tree canopy coverage <i>and tree planting</i> using locally native species by incorporating them within design proposals and supporting their integration into the existing Green Infrastructure network.	B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 P1 P6 LS2 W2 W1 W5 L1 LS3			LS1 W4 A3 A4 C1 C3 CH1 M1 M3 M4 M5 P2 P3 P4 P5 W3 A1 A2 A5 A6 C2 C4 C5 M2 M6 M7
8	ARCO1.1: To protect and preserve all items of archaeological interest <i>all archaeological objects within the meaning of the National Monuments Act</i> from inappropriate development that would adversely affect and/or detract from the interpretation and setting of these historic sites.	L1 CH1			B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 P1 P6 A3 A4 LS2 LS1 W2 W1 W5 W4 C1 C3 M1 M3 M4 M5 P2 P3 P4 P5 W3 A1 A2 A5 A6 C2 C4 C5 M2 M6 M7 LS3
10	INFO 1.3: <i>Where a private water supply is proposed for</i>	<i>B2, B3, B4, B5,</i>			<i>P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, W4,</i>

	<i>development the Council will require the cumulative impacts of a private water supply on the hydrological regime of the River Barrow SAC to be addressed as part of any project assessment.</i>	W1, W2, W3, B1, LS1, L1			W5, LS2, LS3, A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, M1, M2, M3, M4, M5, M6, M7, CH1
	INFO3.4: To require the preparation of Drainage Impact Assessments, in line with the SFRA for this Draft Joint LAP, for all development proposals within the plan area <i>and to consider sustainable drainage and natural water retention measures. To identify any measures, such as natural water retention measures that can have benefits for Water Framework Directive, flood risk management and biodiversity objectives.</i>	W2 W1 W5 W4			B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 LS2 LS1 P1 P6 C1 C3 CH1 L1 A3 A4 M1 M3 M4 M5 P2 P3 P4 P5 LS3 A1 A2 A5 A6 C2 C4 C5 M2 M6 M7 W3
	NHO1.5: To work with Inland Fisheries Ireland and the OPW to, subject to appropriately considering implications for flood risk and complying with the Habitats Directive, remove barriers to fish movement as part of any instream development works in the Duiske River	B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 W1 W 2 W4 W3			P1 P2 P3 P4 P5 W5 LS1 LS2 LS3 A1 A2 A3 A4 A5 A6 C1 C2 C3 C4 C5 M1 M2 M3 M4 M5 M6 M7 CH1 L1
	NHO1.6: It is an objective to consider guidance by Inland Fisheries Ireland on planning for watercourses in the urban environment, particularly in relation to riparian buffer zones.	B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 W1 W2 W3 W4 W5 LS1			P1 P2 P3 P4 P5 P6 LS2 LS3 A1 A2 A3 A4 A5 A6 C1 C2 C3 C4 C5 C6 M1 M2 M3 M4 M5 M6 M7 CH1 L1
	INFO 4.3: It is an objective of the Council that future development proposals/initiatives within Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch will seek to comply with Climate Action Policies and Objectives in the Kilkenny and Carlow Development Plans, to facilitate the transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society through the encouragement and integration of appropriate mitigation and adaptation considerations and measures into all development.	A1 A2 A3 A4 A5 A6 C1 C2 C3 C4 C5			P1 P2 P3 P4 P5 P6 W1 W2 W3 W4 W5 LS1 LS2 LS3 M1 M2 M3 M4 M5 M6 CH1 L1 B1 B2 B3 B4 B5
11	MPO1.2: To require the preparation of a masterplan for the lands identified 'Masterplan 2' along the River Barrow, Tinnahinch <i>in co-operation with all stakeholders</i> and to actively secure the	P1			B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 P2 P3 P4 P5 P6 W1 W2 W3 W4 W5 LS1 LS2 LS3 A1 A2 A3 A4 A5 A6

	implementation of these plans and the achievement of specific objectives.				<i>C1 C2 C3 C4 C5 M1 M2 M3 M4 M5 M6 M7 CH1 L1</i>
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Appendix 2: Screening Determination for SEA



STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA) DETERMINATION OF MATERIAL ALTERATIONS TO THE DRAFT JOINT GRAIGUENAMANAGH-TINNAHINCH LOCAL AREA PLAN

I refer to the requirement under article 14A(2) of the Planning and Development Regulations (Strategic Environmental Assessment) 2004 in relation to considering whether or not implementation of a Local Area Plan would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

In accordance with the requirements of Article 14A, a 'Screening' of the Material Alterations to the proposed Draft Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Joint Local Area Plan was undertaken in respect of SEA.

None of the alterations are considered to have significant impacts on the environment.

Recommendation

I therefore recommend that a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required for the Material Alterations to the Draft Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Joint Local Area Plan, as per the provisions of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001-2018.

The Environmental Authorities shall be informed of this decision, as per Article 14(A)(6)(b) of the 2001-2018 Regulations.

Signed

Handwritten signature of Denis Malone in blue ink.

Denis Malone
A/Director of Services
Kilkenny County Council

Signed

Handwritten signature of Michael Rainey in blue ink.

Michael Rainey
Director of Services
Carlow County Council

Date

31st March 2021

Date

31st March 2021