

Environmental Report

Documenting the

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Of the

**Draft Mayo County Development Plan
2014 - 2020**



**In accordance with Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament
and of the Council on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and
programmes on the environment (SEA Directive)**

**Mayo County Council
February 2013**

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Table of Contents

Non-Technical Summary	i
1 SEA Introduction and context	1
1.1 Introduction and terms of reference	1
1.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	1
1.3 SEA legislation	1
1.4 SEA Process	2
1.5 Implications for Mayo County Council and the CDP	3
2 Strategic Environmental Assessment Methodology	4
2.1 Introduction	4
2.2 Stages of SEA	4
2.3 Screening	4
2.4 Scoping	5
2.5 Further consultation with the Environmental Protection Agency	7
2.6 Baseline environmental data and its likely evolution	8
2.7 Evaluation of alternative plans	8
2.8 Documenting the SEA process	9
2.9 Difficulties encountered	9
3 Context of the Mayo County Development Plan 2014 – 2020	10
3.1 Introduction	10
3.2 Content, policies and objectives of the draft CDP	11
3.3 The relationship of the draft CDP with other relevant plans and programmes	12
3.3.1 National Policy	13
3.3.2 Regional Policy	15
3.3.3 Local Policy	16
3.4 Legislative context	17
4 The Baseline Environment	19
4.1 Introduction	19
4.2 Biodiversity, fauna and flora	19
4.2.1 Introduction	19
4.2.2 Baseline environment	19

4.2.3 Existing problems.	30
4.2.4 Likely Evolution of Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna in absence of Mayo County Development Plan.	31
4.3 Population.	32
4.3.1 Baseline environment.	32
4.3.2 Existing problems.	33
4.3.3 Likely Evolution of Population in absence of Mayo County Development Plan	33
4.4 Human health.	34
4.4.1 Introduction.	34
4.4.2 Baseline environment	34
4.4.3 Existing problems	35
4.4.4 Likely Evolution of Human Health in the absence of the Mayo County Development Plan.	38
4.5 Soils and geology.	38
4.5.1 Introduction.	38
4.5.2 Baseline environment.	39
4.5.3 Existing problems.	43
4.5.4 Likely Evolution of Soils and Geology in the absence of the Mayo County Development Plan.	44
4.6 Water.	45
4.6.1 Introduction.	45
4.6.2 Baseline environment.	45
4.6.3 Existing problems.	53
4.6.4 Likely Evolution of Water in the absence of the Mayo County Development Plan.	54
4.7 Air and Noise.	55
4.7.1 Introduction.	55
4.7.2 Baseline environment.	55
4.7.3 Existing problems.	62
4.7.4 Likely Evolution of Air and Noise in the absence of the Mayo County Development Plan.	63
4.8 Climatic Factors.	66
4.8.1 Introduction.	66
4.8.2 Baseline environment.	66
4.8.3 Existing problems.	67

4.8.4 Likely Evolution of Climatic Factors in the absence of the Mayo County	
Development Plan . . . . .	.68
4.9 Material assets. . . . .	.68
4.9.1 Introduction. . . . .	.68
4.9.2 Baseline environment. . . . .	.69
4.9.3 Existing problems. . . . .	.78
4.9.4 Likely Evolution of Material Assets in the absence of the Mayo County	
Development Plan. . . . .	.82
4.10 Cultural heritage. . . . .	.84
4.10.1 Introduction. . . . .	.84
4.10.2 Baseline environment. . . . .	.86
4.10.3 Existing problems. . . . .	.90
4.10.4 Likely Evolution of Cultural Heritage in the absence of the Mayo County	
Development Plan. . . . .	.91
4.11 Landscape. . . . .	.91
4.11.1 Introduction. . . . .	.91
4.11.2 Baseline environment. . . . .	.91
4.11.3 Existing problems. . . . .	.93
4.11.4 Likely Evolution of Landscape in the absence of the Mayo County	
Development Plan . . . . .	.93
4.12 Interrelationships. . . . .	.94
5 Development Plans and Area Plans . . . . .	.96
5.1 Introduction . . . . .	.96
5.2 Ballinrobe Area Plan – baseline environment and key issues. . . . .	.96
5.3 Ballyhaunis Area Plan – baseline environment and key issues. . . . .	.97
5.4 Belmullet Area Plan – baseline environment and key issues. . . . .	.98
5.5 Claremorris Area Plan – baseline environment and key issues. . . . .	.98
5.6 Charlestown Area Plan – baseline environment and key issues. . . . .	.99
5.7 Killala Area Plan – baseline environment and key issues. . . . .	.100
5.8 Kiltimagh Area Plan – baseline environment and key issues. . . . .	.100
5.9 Knock Area Plan – baseline environment and key issues. . . . .	.101
5.10 Louisburgh Area Plan – baseline environment and key issues. . . . .	.102
5.11 Newport Area Plan – baseline environment and key issues. . . . .	.102
5.12 Swinford Area Plan – baseline environment and key issues. . . . .	.103

6 Environment Protection Objectives	104
6.1 Introduction.	104
6.2 Biodiversity, flora and fauna: EPOs, targets and indicators	104
6.3 Population; EPOs, targets and indicators	105
6.4 Human health; EPOs, targets and indicators	105
6.5 Soils and Geology; EPOs, targets and indicators	106
6.6 Water; EPOs, targets and indicators	106
6.7 Air and Noise; EPOs, targets and indicators	107
6.8 Climatic Factors; EPOs, targets and indicators	108
6.9 Material Assets; EPOs, targets and indicators	109
6.10 Cultural Heritage; EPOs, targets and indicators	110
6.11 Landscape; EPOs, targets and indicators	111
7 Alternative Scenarios	113
7.1 Introduction.	113
7.2 Alternative Scenario 1.	114
7.2.1 Description of Alternative Scenario 1	114
7.2.2 Evaluation of Alternative Scenario 1.	115
7.3 Alternative Scenario 2.	118
7.3.1 Description of Alternative Scenario 2	118
7.3.2 Evaluation of Alternative Scenario 2.	119
7.4 Alternative Scenario 3.	122
7.4.1 Description of Alternative Scenario 3	122
7.4.2 Evaluation of Alternative Scenario 3.	123
7.5 Evaluation of Alternative Scenarios	126
7.6 Preferred draft Mayo County Development Plan 2014 – 2020 scenario.	130
8 Evaluation of the draft Mayo County Development Plan 2014 - 2020	131
8.1 Introduction.	131
8.2 Significance of effects	232

9 Mitigation	234
9.1 Incorporation of mitigation into the draft Mayo County Development Plan 2014-2020	234
9.2 Additional mitigation measures	249
10 Monitoring	252
10.1 Introduction	252
10.2 Objectives, Targets and Indicators	252
References	261
Appendices	264

Glossary and acronyms

ACA: Architectural Conservation Area(s)

AFA: Areas for Further Assessment (towns or villages where flood risk is considered to be sufficiently high to justify these areas being studied in more detail for the ongoing Western CFRAM study)

CDP: County Development Plan

CFRAM: Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management

EPO: Environmental Protection Objective(s) are objectives pertaining to environmental elements which provide a benchmark “intention” against which the environmental effects of the plan can be tested.

GIS: Geographical Information System

GSI: Geological Survey of Ireland

HDA: Habitats Directive Assessment, an assessment undertaken in accordance with Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora) of the implications of a plan or project, either on its own or in combination with other plans or projects, on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site in view of the conservation objectives of that site

IGH: Irish Geological Heritage

Lden: Day-evening-night noise indicator; the noise indicator for overall annoyance

Lnight: Night time noise indicator; the noise indicator for sleep disturbance

Natura 2000 Network: The assemblage of sites which are identified as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) under the Habitats Directive or classified as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) under the Birds Directive 79/409/EEC, or a Site of Community Importance (SCI)

NHA: Natural heritage area(s); an area which has been designated as such by way of a Natural Heritage Order under Section 18 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000, or that, pending a decision by the Minister under section 17 or 18 of the Act, is subject of a notice under Section 16 of that Act

NIR: Natura Impact Report; the report prepared during Appropriate Assessment as required under the Habitats Directive which presents information on the assessment and the process of collating data on a **plan** and its potential significant impacts on Natura 2000 site(s).

NIS: Natura Impact Statement; the statement prepared during Appropriate Assessment as required under the Habitats Directive which presents information on the assessment and the process of collating data on a **project** and its potential significant impacts on Natura 2000 site(s).

NIAH: National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

NMP: Nutrient Management Plan(s)

RAL: Remedial Action List for the purpose of identifying issues to be remedied within public water supplies

RMP: Record of monuments and places

RPS: Record of Protected Structures

RWP: Rural Water Programme

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

Seveso sites: Sites with the presence of dangerous substances in establishments, covering both industrial "activities" as well as the storage of dangerous chemicals (named for the town in Italy where a ruptured valve at a chemical plant here released a cloud of dioxin).

Waste hierarchy: A legally binding (except in cases that may require specific waste streams to depart from the hierarchy) hierarchy of steps which classify waste management strategies according to their desirability

WFD: Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (the Water Framework Directive)

WRBD: Western River Basin District; one of eight River Basin Districts which have been designated as hydrological or geographical units for Ireland (Ecoregion 17) using a spatial management system.

List of Tables

Table 1.1	Information to be contained in an Environmental Report (ER) and relevant section
Table 2.1	Summary of submissions received from environmental authorities
Table 2.2	Classification of Mayo towns for the purpose of the draft Mayo CDP 2014 - 2020
Table 3.1	Outline of contents of the draft Mayo CDP
Table 4.1	Structure of current Environmental Report with reference to environmental considerations as described in Annex I of the SEA Directive
Table 4.2	Candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC) of Mayo
Table 4.3	Special Protection Areas (SPA) of Mayo
Table 4.4	NHAs in Co. Mayo
Table 4.5	pNHAs in Co. Mayo
Table 4.6	Statutory Nature Reserves of Mayo
Table 4.7	Ramsar Sites in Mayo
Table 4.8	LBAs identified in Co. Mayo
Table 4.9	Non SAC/NHA designated Bogs, Fens & Turloughs of Conservation Interest
Table 4.10	Population of County
Table 4.11	Population of main three urban centres of Mayo
Table 4.12	Environmental elements and human health considerations
Table 4.13	Status of transitional and coastal water bodies of Mayo
Table 4.14	Water Quality Status & compliance of bathing waters of Mayo, 2011
Table 4.15	Ambient air quality results for Zone D locations in 2011, incorporating Mayo sites
Table 4.16	Types and sources of noise in Mayo
Table 4.17	Legislation and policies pertaining to air quality, in the absence of a County Development Plan
Table 4.18	National and regional road schemes at proposed or design stage in Mayo
Table 4.19	Private Households in Permanent Housing Units (number) by province, county or city and type of water supply
Table 4.20	Public Water Supply Schemes of Mayo
Table 4.21	Current Status of Assessment of Needs Schemes (2009 Review)
Table 4.22	Estimated Spare Capacity for WWTP between 35,000PE and 1,001PE
Table 4.23	Estimated Spare Capacity for WWTP between 1,001PE and 201PE
Table 4.24	Estimated Spare Capacity for WWTP between 200PE and 100PE
Table 4.25	Remedial Action List (RAL) for Mayo, 2012
Table 4.26	Interrelationships between various environmental elements
Table 6.1	EPOs, target and indicators for biodiversity, flora and fauna
Table 6.2	EPOs, target and indicators for population
Table 6.3	EPOs, target and indicators for human health
Table 6.4	EPOs, target and indicators for soils and geology
Table 6.5	EPOs, target and indicators for water
Table 6.6	EPOs, target and indicators for air and noise
Table 6.7	EPOs, target and indicators for climatic factors
Table 6.8	EPOs, target and indicators for material assets
Table 6.9	EPOs, target and indicators for cultural heritage
Table 6.10	EPOs, targets and indicators for landscape
Table 7.1	Classification of towns and villages in Mayo
Table 7.2	Environmental Protections Objectives for environmental elements and associated codes
Table 7.3	Draft Mayo County Development Plan Alternative Scenarios against Environmental Protection Objectives
Table 8.1	Evaluation of draft Mayo County Development Plan 2014-2020 Policies and Objectives
Table 8.2	Description of effects on <i>Population</i> of some draft Plan policies / objectives
Table 8.3	Description of effects on <i>Material Assets</i> of some draft Plan policies / objectives
Table 8.4	Description of effects on <i>Water</i> of some draft Plan policies / objectives

Table 9.1 Record of alterations to / inclusions of policies and objectives of the draft Mayo County Development Plan 2014 - 2020

Table 9.2 Policies and objectives of the draft Plan which will mitigate against significant adverse effects on Biodiversity, flora and fauna

Table 9.3 Policies and objectives of the draft Plan which will mitigate against significant adverse effects on Water

Table 10.1 Environmental Monitoring - Mayo County Development Plan 2014- 2020

List of Maps

Figure 4.1 Special Areas of Conservation in Mayo

Figure 4.2 Special Protection Areas in Mayo

Figure 4.3 Map showing location of Local Biodiversity Areas, Tree Preservation Orders sites, hedgerow survey areas and Ballycroy National Park

Figure 4.4 Natura 2000 sites designated for the protection of *Margaritifera margaritifera* populations and additional recorded species

Figure 4.5 Population Change 2006-2011 (DED)

Figure 4.6 Seveso II sites of Mayo

Figure 4.7 Soil map of Mayo (Source: Teagasc and EPA)

Figure 4.8 Main CORINE Land Use Classes of Mayo (2006 data)

Figure 4.9 Geology map of Mayo (Source: Geological Survey of Ireland)

Figure 4.10 Irish Geological Heritage Sites (IGH) of Mayo (also shown are Natura 2000 sites and Natural Heritage Areas (NHA))

Figure 4.11 General Quarry Areas of Mayo

Figure 4.12 Location of landslide events in Mayo

Figure 4.13 Surface water status of Mayo

Figure 4.14 Surface water status of Mayo lakes

Figure 4.15 Groundwater status in Mayo

Figure 4.16 Miscellaneous aquatic designations in Mayo

Figure 4.19 Lden dB values for Ballina

Figure 4.20 Lden dB values for Castlebar

Figure 4.21 Transport Infrastructure in Mayo

Figure 4.23 Record of Monuments and Places in Mayo

Figure 4.24 Protected Structures in Mayo

Figure 4.25 Heritage Bridges of Mayo

Figure 4.26 Thatch Survey sites of Mayo

Figure 4.27 Landscape Appraisal – Policy Areas of Mayo

Figure 7.1 Alternative Scenario 1

Figure 7.2 Alternative Scenario 2

Figure 7.3 Alternative Scenario 3

List of Figures

Figure 4.17 Irish air quality monitoring network locations 2011

Figure 4.18 Monitoring Zones for Air Quality Monitoring 2011

Figure 4.22 Waste hierarchy pyramid

Figure 7.4 Matrix of effects of the draft Plan Alternative Scenarios on Environmental Protection Objectives



Non-technical summary

Introduction

This is the Environmental Report documenting the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) which was undertaken on the draft Mayo County Development Plan 2014 – 2020 to assess the effects of the draft Plan on the environment by virtue of its development policies and objectives. SEA is defined as a systematic process of predicting and evaluating the likely environmental effects of implementing a plan, in order to ensure that these effects are appropriately addressed at the earliest appropriate stage of decision-making on a par with economic and social considerations.

During the methodical SEA process, as guided by EU and national legislation and guidance, any significant effects as a consequence of the draft Plan on the environment were identified and evaluated and appropriate mitigation measures were proposed to negate or reduce these effects. Additionally, environmental monitoring with reference to the environmental effects of the draft Plan was proposed.

SEA Methodology

The Scoping stage entailed an examination of environmental issues and a decision on the level of detail to be included in the SEA Environmental Report, in consultation with the prescribed environmental authorities.

This Environmental Report, then, documents the SEA process, detailing the collection of qualitative and quantitative baseline data and identification, prediction, evaluation and mitigation of potential significant effects on the environment as a result of the adoption of the draft Plan in contrast to two alternative scenarios.

In accordance with the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations, 2004 (as amended), the Environmental Report and the draft Plan will be sent to the Minister, the Board and the prescribed authorities and will be placed on public display for a period of not less than ten weeks, during which time submissions or observations may be made to the Planning Authority. Any submissions or observations in relation to the Draft Plan or Environmental Report received during this period will be taken into consideration before the making of the Plan.

This Report, then, should be read in conjunction with the draft Mayo County Development Plan 2014 – 2020.

Mayo County Development Plan 2014 – 2020

The Mayo County Development Plan 2008 – 2014 was adopted in 2008 and is currently being reviewed. The Mayo County Development Plan, 2014 – 2020, covering a geographical area of 5560 km² and including a county population of 130 638 (CSO, 2012) is envisaged to set out the overall strategy and a Core Strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the county; inclusive of a written statement and a number of maps.

The draft Plan, as selected as the preferred alternative scenario during the SEA process contains policies and objectives pertaining to development within Mayo; these are dealt with in more detail in the main body of this report.

In addition to the evaluation of the draft Plan as an independent document, the effects of the draft Plan in combination with other plans and programmes has been considered. Many of these plans and programmes may have positive effects for the receiving environment, including the Western River Basin District Management Plan 2009 – 2015 and the County Mayo Heritage Plan 2006 – 2011.

Baseline Environment

For each environmental element, a general description of the existing environment with respect to biodiversity (including flora and fauna), population, human health, soils (and geology), water (surface freshwater, coastal, transitional, groundwater and bathing), air (including noise), climatic factors (including flooding), material assets (transport infrastructure, waste management and infrastructure, drinking water and infrastructure, waste water infrastructure, energy, forestry and fisheries), cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage), landscape and the interrelationships between these factors was undertaken and any existing problems relevant to the draft Plan were identified at this baseline stage. The examination of the baseline environment served to establish the location of sensitive or vulnerable areas which can be either avoided completely by development or protected / conserved with appropriate Plan policies and objectives. Baseline environmental data were also required to provide a dataset against which future datasets can be measured following and during monitoring programmes established during the SEA process.

The following environmental elements were assessed and their baseline data, existing challenges and predicted evolution in the absence of a draft County Development Plan.

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

Almost a third of County Mayo's land area is designated for the protection and conservation of flora and fauna. This high percentage reflects the international and national significance of Mayo's wealth of natural heritage. There are various categories of protected sites/areas in addition to undesignated wildlife corridors and ecological networks.

National and international designations within Mayo include Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Statutory Nature Reserves and National Parks, Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Ramsar Sites.

Additional species and habitats are also protected under the Wildlife Acts, the Flora Protection Order, 1999 and Tree Preservation Orders.

Existing challenges facing biodiversity, flora and fauna in Mayo include deteriorating water quality, invasive alien species, disease and predation and inappropriate development. Of additional importance from the baseline data viewpoint is the absence of detailed information on designated sites. Within Mayo, Conservation Management Plans are only available for four of 70 Natura 2000 sites (SACs and SPAs). This is of further relevance to the specific Habitats Directive Assessment (HDA) which examines the significant effects of a draft Plan specifically on the Natura 2000 Network. A HDA has been undertaken on the current draft Plan and its associated documents should also be read in conjunction with the draft Plan.

Population

The population in Mayo in 2010 was 130,638 persons, compared to 123,893 persons in 2006. This represented an increase in population of 5.5% in five years. The average annual rate of population increase in this five year period was 1.1% which was lower than the rate of 1.3% experienced over the last census period 2002-2006. It is estimated that the target population for the period of the

County Development Plan to 2020 is 148,413 persons, which would be a population increase of 17,775 persons in the period 2011 to 2020, representing an increase of 13.6% over this period. Despite this growth, Mayo's share of the West Regional population has continued to decline – from 30% in 2006 to 29% in 2011.

The dispersed rural nature of the county's population gives rise to an increased dependency on unsustainable modes of transport, which could impact on air-quality and climate factors. There is also an increased dependency on private waste water treatment systems in rural areas that could have negative impacts on groundwater and drinking water quality, which in turn could have adverse impacts on human health.

Human Health

Human health in the context of being subjected to significant effects as a consequence of the proposed Mayo County Development Plan 2014 – 2020 was assessed with reference to how environmental elements and their existing issues and predicted evolution may impact on the health of Mayo inhabitants and visitors. In Mayo, the general health of 39% adults has been described as 'very good', while a 'bad / vey bad' status was assigned by 2% of the adult population (CSO, 2012).

Many human health problems originate from environmental factors including air pollutants (SO_x, PM₁₀ and CO), noise pollution, water-borne infections and diseases and biodiversity loss. There are five Seveso sites as classified by the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) in Mayo.

Soils and Geology

The soils overlying the west of Mayo generally consist of various peats: blanket peats which are found in the uplands; with peaty gleys and peaty podzols found on lower lying lands support extensive agriculture in places. Areas of acid brown earths, podzols and gleys are found underlying areas of the county's northern and western coastal edges while the east of the county demonstrates a greater diversity of soils, including large areas of grey brown podzolics, brown podzolics, podzols, shallow brown earths and rendzinas. The geology of Mayo consists of younger Carboniferous limestones and Precambrian gneiss and a total of 122 Sites of Geological Interest have been identified in Mayo.

Existing problems exerting pressures on soil resources include agriculture, organic waste disposal, forestry, industries, peat extraction and development of different types. Landslides also present a challenge. In terms of the geological character of the county, inappropriate development may threaten the Sites of Geological Interest by direct or indirect disturbance.

Water

Encompassing surface freshwater, groundwater, transitional and coastal waters, water quality is afforded protection under many pieces of legislation, with the Water Framework Directive and transposed legislation at the forefront. Water bodies, defined within the Western River Basin District, to which Mayo is a part of, are classified as one of five quality statuses – high, good, moderate, poor and bad. The current baseline in Mayo is varied, but is dominated with high and good status water bodies. A bad status water body has been assigned to a water body the southeast of the county. Groundwater, assigned as good and poor, was also described for Mayo.

Transitional, coastal and bathing waters have also been described for Mayo. Briefly, transitional and coastal waters are, in general of high and good status, while 15 bathing waters within Mayo, in



accordance with the Bathing Water Quality Regulations, 2008 (as amended), are all 'good' (at time of data compilation).

Six Mayo shellfish waters, afforded protection under the European Communities (Quality of Shellfish Waters) Regulations 2006 (S.I. No. 268 of 2006) (as amended), are also protected by Pollution Reduction Programmes (PRP) for Shellfish.

A number of existing challenges threaten the quality and quantity of water in Mayo. These include diffuse and point pollution sources and abstraction and flooding. Diffuse pollution sources include agriculture, forestry runoff and peat extraction. Point sources include overloaded Wastewater Treatment Plants or discharges with inappropriate treatment (no nutrient removal) and commercial and industrial discharges under the Water Pollution Acts.

Air and Noise

The primary influences on air quality in Mayo include emissions from transport and domestic/commercial heating sectors. The prevailing westerly wind from the Atlantic Ocean ensures good dispersion of pollutants and background air pollutant concentrations are low and ambient and air quality monitoring at two Mayo sites concluded that a number of air pollutants at Castlebar and Claremorris were well within Air Quality Standard annual limits in 2011.

Noise in Mayo, a mainly rural county, originates mainly from infrastructure (road traffic, air traffic and windfarms), commercial and industrial sources in addition to planning and constructional sources.

Problems pertaining to noise include the issues facing existing legislative controls on noise abatement and prevention.

Climatic Factors

Climatic factors for the purpose of this SEA included flooding and the introduction of alien invasive species.

Flood baseline information in Mayo has increased in detail significantly under the Western CFRAM (Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management) Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) indicative flood mapping. Currently, 10 Areas for Further Assessment (AFA) have been identified within Mayo, and are distributed throughout the county, with five sites in coastal locations.

Invasive alien species in Mayo, as with other areas in Ireland, are a pervasive threat to indigenous aquatic and terrestrial species and on many occasions, their habitats. Many are drivers of ecosystem change as they out-compete existing species by their similar prey species or preferred habitat.

Material Assets

This SEA process included transport infrastructure, waste management and infrastructure, drinking water and wastewater treatment infrastructure, shellfish / freshwater fisheries, energy and forestry assets in the Material Assets category.

Briefly, **transport** infrastructure of Mayo consists of national primary, national secondary and regional roads, with an additional network of third class local roads. The rail link between Westport and Dublin connects most towns of the county; including Ballina, Westport, Castlebar, Claremorris



and Ballyhaunis. There are currently 78 piers and harbours maintained by Mayo County Council, while the Great Western Greenway, currently 42 km in distance consists of a walking / cycling trail linking Westport and Achill. Further additions to the Greenway are proposed.

Waste in Mayo is managed in accordance with the policies and objectives of the Connacht Waste Management Plan 2006-2011. Mayo waste infrastructure includes EPA-licensed waste facilities, and Mayo County Council-authorized waste facilities including transfer stations, waste permitted sites and Authorised Treatment Facilities (ATF) for end-of-life vehicles. Current issues pertaining to waste in Mayo include the lack of appropriate infrastructure to achieve some of the Connacht Waste Management Plan objectives, including processing of green waste.

Drinking water in Mayo is supplied to 25 377 households by 24 public water supply schemes. Additionally, over 200 private schemes are in operation. Existing issues which affect water quality include diffuse and point source pollution of the raw water source, aquatic invasive species and treatment complications and inadequacies which may result in high concentrations of trihalomethanes. Current challenges include maintenance of adequate water quality and pressure at Plants which are beyond operation capacity and protection of raw water sources.

Wastewater infrastructure is deemed insufficient to serve existing and proposed populations in the county; there is currently a need to upgrade 17 existing Wastewater Treatment Plants. Many Plants which require works are not on the Water Services Investment Programme (WSIP) and a further eight secondary treatment Plants persistently fail to achieve effluent quality standards.

Energy in Mayo is provided through the National Grid, with its power generated by power plants using energy from sources including gas, oil, coal, peat, hydro and others. The existing grid network is at capacity and as a proposal to develop and upgrade the electricity transmission network is underway.

Approximately 10% of the area of Mayo is covered with **forestry**, with just over 11% of this classified as broadleaved variety. There are a number of forest parks and forest recreation areas in Mayo including the Millennium Forest, Tourmakeady, Ard na Geeha / Cong Forest (near Cong), Sheefrey Forest near Doolough and Doogry, near Castlebar. In addition, Brackloon Wood is a native Atlantic oak woodland (formerly Lord Sligo's estate) while Laughil Wood near Lough Conn is a similar notable woodland type. Existing issues pertaining to forestry in Mayo include introduction of invasive species, diseases and predators. Presently, ash die-back disease, caused by the fungus *Chalara fraxinea* has been detected in Leitrim; its introduction to Mayo would be extremely serious.

Fisheries and Aquaculture in Mayo includes marine shellfish waters and freshwater fisheries, both invaluable assets to the county. There are six designated shellfish waters in Mayo: Achill Sound North, Achill Sound South, Blacksod Bay, Clew Bay, Killala Bay and Killary Harbour. Challenges facing marine fisheries include discharges from Wastewater Treatment Plants (for example, to Killala Bay) and agricultural and licensed discharges. In addition, other inland fisheries experience water pollution issues as a consequence of diffuse pollution from agricultural sources, forestry plantations and peat run-off in addition to challenges from licences and unlicensed activities and morphological pressures.

Cultural Heritage

Encompassing both archaeological and architectural heritage, Mayo has a rich archaeological heritage which is reflected in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP). Almost 6000 areas of archaeological importance (representing almost 8000 elements) are included in the RMP for Mayo



spanning over 7,000 years. This RMP is constantly updated as new sites and monuments are discovered. There are 51 National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the State in Mayo and a further 11 National Monuments that are subject to Preservation Orders. The Céide Fields Archaeological Complex in north Mayo is on the tentative list for designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The location of all sites of archaeological significance is illustrated within the body of this report.

The architectural heritage of Mayo comprises fine buildings found in urban areas, large country houses and associated demesnes and the smaller vernacular structures. Listed on the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) as groups of buildings within Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) or as particular built heritage types that have been recorded, they are part of the unique identity of Mayo.

Cultural heritage is a finite resource. Increased development pressure raises the potential for impact on the archaeological and architectural resource. Although the aforementioned cultural heritage is protected under legislation, impacts can still occur as a result of development. Proposed developments which cause ground disturbance can damage previously unknown subsurface archaeology. Some architectural features have already resulted in deterioration, loss or damage.

Landscape

Mayo presents a wide range of landscapes. These range from complex agricultural patterns in the lowlands with small roads and houses; to a deeply indented and islanded Atlantic coastline; to the great and often empty uplands and moorlands of the west and north of the county.

The Landscape Appraisal identifies vulnerable features across the county and groups together character units into Policy Areas which provide for the guidance of development across the county. Currently, there are four Landscape Policy Units in Mayo; (1) Montaine coastal, (2) Lowland coastal, (3) Upland, moors, heaths or bogs and (4) Drumlins and lowlands.

Existing problems regarding development in Mayo and its impact on landscape include the cumulative impact from clusters of one-off housing developments in sensitive landscape areas.

Interrelationships

The environment is an intricate network of interrelationships, with obvious examples being the receptor and pathway nature of surface water; affected by landscape, climatic factors and population, and itself affecting drinking water quality and human health. The interrelationships between environmental elements, then, influence the location and type of development with certain developments guided away from sensitive landscapes and areas with water and wastewater infrastructure pressures. Use of GIS (Geographical Information Systems) to identify and locate certain specific problem areas, and in turn areas which would benefit from development and are equipped, from a holistic environmental viewpoint, to 'accept' proposed development, proved invaluable to the SEA process.

Development Plans and Area Plans

Included within the body of the draft Plan are six main goals for the future development of the county, in addition to six integrated strategies with their associated policies and objectives which have the common aim of achieving the draft Plan goals. These include:

1. Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy



2. Economic Development Strategy
3. Infrastructure Strategy
4. Environment, Heritage & Amenity Strategy
5. Social Infrastructure & Community Development Strategy
6. Implementation and Monitoring Strategy

In addition, in order to secure the policies and objectives in the Strategies of this Plan, particularly the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy, Development Plans and Area Plans have been prepared for the Linked Hub and Key Towns in the county. Standalone Development Plans have been prepared for the Linked Hub towns of Castlebar and Ballina and the Key Town of Westport, and so additional Area Plans for all other Key Towns form part of this draft Plan including Ballinrobe, Ballyhaunis, Béal and Mhuirthead (Belmullet), Claremorris, Charlestown, Killala, Kiltimagh, Knock, Louisburgh, Newport and Swinford.

Baseline data on all 11 Key Towns were compiled and summarised.

Volume 2 of the draft Plan - *Planning Guidance and Standards for Development in Co. Mayo* - seeks to inform potential developers and the public of standards that will be required for developments. The guidance document comprises detailed guidance on residential development and other development, with *other development* segregated into Part A which addresses all other developments with Part B providing development-specific guidance for certain named categories.

Environmental Protection Objectives

Environmental Protection Objectives (EPOs) are broad objectives pertaining to all environmental elements which provide a benchmark “intention” against which the environmental effects of the draft Plan can be tested. In this instance, a number of EPOs has been developed with regard to national, European and international policy documents, strategies, guidelines, Directives, Conventions and peer-reviewed research and were evaluated against the draft Plan during the SEA process.

The following lists each environmental element and its corresponding EPO:

Environmental element / EPO code	Environmental Protection Objectives
Biodiversity, flora and fauna	
B1	To protect, conserve and restore habitats and species of local, national and international importance and interdependent species and habitats within the wider environment
Population	
P1	To ensure population growth is managed within a sustainable framework to reduce any potential impact a dispersed rural population may have on the environmental quality of the County
Human Health	
HH1	To protect human health by the minimisation of pollution incidences to water, air and soil and increased traffic arising from incompatible land uses or

	development in inappropriate locations
Soils and Geology	
SG1	To identify and protect areas which may be deemed to have a significant risk of landslide or erosion
SG2	To maximise the sustainable re-use of brownfield lands, and maximise the use of the existing built environment rather than developing greenfield lands
SG3	To ensure sustainable quarrying of non-renewable sand, gravel and rock deposits and to protect the IGH sites as identified by the GSI
Water (excl. drinking water)	
W1	To prevent deterioration of the status of waters with regard to quality, quantity and to improve status for rivers, lakes, transitional and coastal waters and groundwaters to at least good status, in accordance with the Water Framework Directive and associated legislation and plans (Western River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015, Pollution Reduction Plans for shellfish and <i>M. margaritifera</i> sub-basin management plans)
W2	To achieve and maintain required water quality standards and reduce discharges of pollutants or contamination to waters
Air and noise	
AR1	To maintain and improve air quality status in line with appropriate policies and legislative requirements
AR2	To minimise increases in travel related air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions
Noise	
N1	To avoid, prevent and reduce on a prioritised basis exposure to unacceptable levels of environmental noise
Climatic factors	
CF1	To keep areas free of development that would be subject to an inappropriate risk of flooding or would cause or exacerbate such a risk at other locations
CF2	To protect aquatic and terrestrial habitats from the spread of invasive species
Material Assets:	
Roads and transport infrastructure	
T1	To protect the road network of Mayo
T2	To continue to maintain and protect the piers and harbours of Mayo in an environmentally-sensitive manner with due consideration for water quality of designated and non-designated sites
T3	To continue to develop and promote the Great Western Greenway and other cycle / walking routes while ensuring no significant adverse effects on the environment, including the integrity of Natura 2000 sites.
Waste management and infrastructure	
W1	To reduce waste volumes through an integrated approach incorporating education and awareness and to increase reuse of waste by recycling and recovery
W2	To divert biowaste from landfill and reduce of landfill emissions
Wastewater Infrastructure	
WW1	To serve new development under the County Development Plan with appropriate waste water treatment



Drinking water

- DW1 To serve new development under the County Development Plan with appropriate waste water treatment
- DW2 To maintain and / or improve drinking water quality and quantity throughout the county

Cultural heritage:

Archaeological heritage

- A1 To protect the archaeological heritage and especially sites identified in the Record of Monuments and Places, National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the State and National Monuments that are subject to Preservation Orders and to safeguard the integrity of the archaeological sites in their setting

Architectural heritage

- AH1 To protect and where appropriate, enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of the architectural heritage of County Mayo

Landscape

- L1 To protect Mayo's sensitive landscapes, vulnerable landscape features and listed highly scenic views, scenic views, scenic viewing points, scenic routes and to protect the visual amenity of Mayo
-

Alternative Scenarios

In accordance with Article 5(1) and Annex I (h) of the SEA Directive and Schedule 2B of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations, 2004 (as amended), the SEA Environmental Report should contain, *inter alia*, the identification, description and evaluation of a plan or programme and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme.

In this instance, three Alternative Scenarios of the draft Mayo County Development Plan 2014 – 2020 were evaluated during the SEA process. The alternative scenarios were:

1. Alternative Scenario 1: Concentration of Growth in the Linked-Hub of Castlebar-Ballina only;
2. Alternative Scenario 2: Concentration of Growth in the Linked-Hub, Key Towns, and other towns with strictly limited development in Rural Areas; and
3. Alternative Scenario 3; Development of the Ballina-Castlebar Linked-Hub, Key Towns, other towns and serviced (sewerage) villages and appropriate development in rural areas

The evaluation of scenarios and selection of the preferred draft Plan was undertaken using a matrix plotting three draft Plan scenarios against all EPOs, and is documented in more detail in the main body of this report.

In accordance with Annex I(b) of the SEA Directive ' . . .the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme. . . ' should also be considered during the SEA process. Since it is a statutory obligation to have a County Development Plan the 'no-plan scenario' was not described as a reasonable alternative, but was examined hypothetically and is documented in Section 4 of the main body of this report.



Evaluation of the draft Mayo County Development Plan 2014 – 2020 policies and objectives

In a method similar to the evaluation of three draft Plan Alternative Scenarios, the policies and objectives of the preferred draft Plan were evaluated against the EPOs to demonstrate the interactions between the EPOs and the policies and objectives of the draft Plan, illustrating the environmental effects of implementing the draft Plan.

Mitigation Measures

In many instances, mitigation measures have been integrated into the draft Plan by the use of robust policies and objectives which encompass sustainable development with regard to best environment practise. In all cases, there is an undertaking that infrastructural development will be undertaken only when it can be shown that no significant effects on the environment (including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network) are predicted.

The inclusion of a number of specific policies and objectives for the protection, conservation and, in some cases, restoration of environmental elements are, in themselves, mitigation measures.

In addition during the SEA process, a number of draft Plan policies and objectives were altered to further strengthen the commitment to environmental protection and finally, Volume 2 of the draft Mayo County Development Plan 2014 – 2020 or the *Planning Guidance and Standards for Development in Co. Mayo* specifically addresses the assessments which may be undertaken prior to a development proposal being granted, including the inclusion of mitigation measures to offset or negate any predicted significant effects.

Monitoring

The purpose of monitoring is to assess the effects of the draft Mayo County Development Plan 2014-2020 which have been predicted during the SEA process. In addition, monitoring may also help identify some effects which may not have been envisaged, including positive and other medium- and long-term effects.

A monitoring matrix was compiled to engage the monitoring process and was developed with cognisance to existing environmental monitoring programmes.



1 SEA Introduction and context

1.1 Introduction and terms of reference

This is the environmental report on the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) of the draft Mayo County Development Plan 2014 to 2020. Briefly, it describes the assessment of the likely significant effects on the environment as a result of the new Mayo County Development Plan (CDP) by the detailed identification, description and evaluation of environmental elements and informs the CDP on any current issues which can in turn be mitigated against by specific policies and objectives integrated into the policies and objectives of the CDP. A standalone document, it should be read in conjunction with the draft CDP in addition to the Habitats Directive Assessment-associated documents.

1.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is defined as an assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, presenting a structured and participative procedure containing a set of tools to assist in the integration of environmental considerations and promote informed decision-making at plan/programme level. (GISEA Manual, EPA, 2009). It is a systematic process of predicting and evaluating the likely environmental effects of implementing a plan, or other strategic action, in order to ensure that these effects are appropriately addressed at the earliest appropriate stage of decision-making on a par with economic and social considerations.

The process includes:

- Preparing an Environmental Report where the likely significant environmental effects are identified and evaluated
- Consulting the public, environmental authorities, and any EU Member State affected, on the environmental report and draft plan or programme
- Taking account of the findings of the report and the outcome of these consultations in deciding whether to adopt or modify the draft plan or programme
- Making known the decision on adoption of the plan or programme and how SEA influenced the outcome.

1.3 SEA legislation

From a legislative viewpoint, the concept of SEA was initially introduced by way of the Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the SEA Directive) which was transposed into Irish legislation by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations, 2004 (S.I. No. 435 of 2004) and Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations, 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004). Subsequently, these statutory instruments were amended by S.I. 200 of 2011 and S.I. No. 201 of 2011. This SEA is being undertaken under S.I. No. 436 of 2004 (as amended) in accordance with Article 8, insofar as this legislation relates to land-use planning.



1.4 SEA Process

The SEA process is undertaken using a methodical iterative approach in conjunction with a number of experts in different sectors of the environment and this process is guided strictly by legislation. The environmental report, prepared to document the SEA process is also guided by Article 5 of the SEA Directive and by Schedule 2B of S.I. No. 436 of 2004. The structure of this report is summarised as follows:

Table 1.1 Information to be contained in an Environmental Report (ER) and relevant section

Relevant information as required by SEA legislation	ER Section
Outline of the contents and main objectives of the draft plan and relationship with other relevant plans or programmes	Section 3
Description of the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan	Section 4
Description of the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected	Section 4
Description of any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as Natura 2000 sites	Section 4
Description of environmental protection objectives (EPOs), established at international, EU or national level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation	Section 6
Description of the likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and interrelationships between these factors	Section 8
Description of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan	Section 9
Outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives considered, with a description of how the assessment was undertaken and including any difficulties encountered in compiling the information	Section 7
Description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring of the significant environmental effects of implementation of the plan	Section 10
A non-technical summary of the information provided under each of the preceding heading within this table	Included at the front of this report



1.5 Implications for Mayo County Council and the CDP

This Environmental Report (ER) will be submitted to the Elected Members with the draft CDP.

The Members must take account of the ER before the CDP is adopted. When the CDP is adopted, an SEA Statement will be made public, summarising, *inter alia*, how environmental considerations have been integrated into the CDP and the reasons for choosing the CDP as adopted over other alternatives considered in the ER.

Should alterations to the draft Plan be proposed, there will be a further submission period of not less than four weeks during which time submissions and/or observations may be made on the proposed alterations. If material alterations are proposed they will need to undergo a screening process to determine if SEA is required. The proposed alterations, the screening document and SEA ER, where relevant, will be sent to the Minister, the Board and the prescribed authorities and will be made available for public inspection.



2 Strategic Environmental Assessment Methodology

2.1 Introduction

The methodology followed in this report is derived from a number of sources; in strict accordance with appropriate legislation and also in conjunction with various guidance documents prepared on a national and EU level. Legally, the aforementioned SEA Directive (2001/42/EC), transposed Irish regulations and associated amendments provide the legislative framework while guidance from an interpretation of this legislation in addition to a combination of working knowledge, expert judgement and research is provided in the following:

- Development of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Methodologies for Plans and Programmes in Ireland (2001-DS-EEP-2/5) Synthesis Report. EPA, 2003;
- Implementation of Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. European Commission, 2000;
- Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2004;
- Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment; Streamlining AA, SEA and EIA Processes. Best Practice Guidance (2010-B-DS-4) STRIVE Report. EPA, 2011;
- SEA Pack and Scoping Guidance Document, EPA Updated Version 2010;
- SEA Process Checklist, EPA Updated Version 2012.

Additional material used in the compilation of this report and during the assessment proper is listed in the bibliography.

2.2 Stages of SEA

There are a number of stages or steps involved in the SEA process which are listed as follows:

1. Screening
2. Scoping
3. Collection of baseline data and identification, prediction, evaluation and mitigation of potential significant effects on the environment as a result of the new CDP, and compilation of Environmental Report on the SEA (**current stage**)
4. Consultation with designated environmental authorities and adoption of CDP
5. Monitoring of significant environmental effects following adoption and implementation of CDP

(As Stage 3, Environmental Report on the SEA of the draft CDP is the current stage, there will be no reference to the succeeding stages in this particular section.)

2.3 Screening

- ⊖ The purpose of screening is to determine definitively if there is a necessity for a strategic environmental assessment to be undertaken. There is a mandatory requirement under the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations, 2004 (as amended) to undertake a strategic environmental assessment in respect of city and county development plans.



The current draft plan is a new County Development Plan and so there is a *prima facie* case for SEA; in this instance screening is therefore not required and the SEA process should proceed to the next stage.

2.4 Scoping

The process of scoping for SEA is defined as the procedure whereby the range of environmental issues and the level of detail to be included in the Environmental Report are decided upon, in consultation with the prescribed environmental authorities. Scoping is necessary in order to establish, with objectivity, the potential impacts of the implementation of the draft plan on a number of environmental elements from consultations with a range of environmental bodies and the incorporation of associated submissions into the draft plan by way of their inclusion in the Environmental Report.

Scoping for the current SEA was initiated in April 2012 and a total of five designated environmental authorities were consulted including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and a number of Government Departments.

Briefly, in accordance with Article 13D of Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations, 2004 (as amended) and Department Circular PSSP 6/2011 a notice was circulated with an accompanying Consultation Document containing relevant information on the new CDP including geographic area involved, intended nature of the CDP and its intended lifespan, the likely scale, nature and location within the area during the life of the CDP and a broad spectrum of the predicted significant environmental impacts.

A number of submissions were received within the designated timeframe and those pertaining specifically to SEA are summarised in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1 Summary of submissions received from environmental authorities

Environmental Protection Agency:

One master document, the *SEA Pack* formed the main part of the submission on the new County Development Plan (CDP) from the EPA consisting of the *SEA Process Guidance*, a *Draft Scoping Checklist* and the *SEA Process Checklist*. While the former document detailed guidance on the importance and the necessity of *inter alia* up-to-date environmental information, use of GIS and the convening of SEA workshops and meetings, public consultation, important legislation and guidance, the main focus of this document was on the integration of a number of key environmental consideration within the CDP. This include water, biodiversity, air, noise and climatic factors, energy conservation / renewable energy, landscape character assessment, geology / geomorphology, human health / quality of life, transportation, tourism, infrastructure /planning, urban waste water discharge licensing, waste management, Environmental Impact Assessment, SEA, obligations with respect to national plans and policies and EU environmental legislation and the EPA report Ireland's Environment 2008.

The *Draft Scoping Checklist* provided a very useful list of environmental considerations / elements and the relevant information that should be factored into the examination of each by SEA Team members, including relevant updated legislation and information sources.

Finally, the *SEA Process Checklist* is a document presented in a step-by-step layout which literally laid out the SEA process from its initiation stage of Screening to the Scoping stage, environmental assessment, preparation of ER and the final information on the decision (SEA Statement) and Plan adoption stage.



Inland Fisheries Ireland:

Protection and conservation of water quality and fisheries habitat is imperative and should be factored into all development plans.

Issues raised by the IFI included the protection and proper management of water quality and fisheries habitat from threats including access routes to angling facilities, problematic WWTP, invasive species, rural housing and effluent treatment systems, integrated constructed wetlands, agriculture, forestry and SUDS.

Following complaints in recent years regarding motorised vehicles on some larger lakes and the negative impact on angling, it is proposed that the County Development Plan (CDP) will address the need to regulate these activities. Additionally, consideration should be given to provision of parking areas where new roads / road improvements are planned in an attempt to ensure that public health and safety is not compromised by the provision of public access routes adjacent to angling locations.

The CDP should include a policy on invasive species and the prevention of their spread during construction works.

While upgrades to a number of wastewater treatment plants should assure the attainment of good ecological status by the extended deadline of 2021, upgrades to some plants should be undertaken before further development is considered in these areas. The discharge of untreated effluent to sea should be discontinued and upgrades to all plants should take into consideration waste assimilative capacity of receiving waters in addition to the necessity of tertiary treatment for phosphorus removal. Privately-operated communal proprietary effluent treatment systems are of significant concern to the IFI, from the surface and groundwater contamination viewpoint. These systems should be under the responsibility and management of the local authority.

The IFI are in favour of zoning areas surrounding lakes where development of rural / one-off housing would not be permitted. Bearing in mind that these properties utilise single wastewater treatment systems the *EPA Code of Practice: Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses, 2009* should be strictly adhered to and a planning condition to maintain the proprietary effluent system on a long-term basis should be a consideration.

For the further protection and maintenance of water quality and fisheries habitat, integrated wetland systems design and installation should be in accordance with the Department publication *Integrated Constructed Wetlands, Guidance Document for Farmyard Soiled Water and Domestic Wastewater Applications*, and only by suitably qualified persons while agricultural activities should be monitored and controlled by the Water Pollution Act and the EC (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations, 2010. Cross-compliance inspections and issuing of Section 12 notices wherever required should continue.

Finally, forestry and its potentially serious negative impacts on water quality and fisheries habitat from a nutrient enrichment and pH viewpoint. Forestry production should be carefully considered and all proposals / forestry plans should be in accordance with *Forestry and Water Quality Guidelines*. SUDS should be included as part of all development projects, including road projects. The CDP should take account of the IFI document *Planning for watercourses in the urban environment*.

An Taisce:

This detailed submission deals with eight key issues with an additional section dedicated to an implementation and monitoring schedule for the CDP. A number of existing reports and policies were listed throughout the document for reference and a plethora of policies and objectives are proposed for inclusion in the new CDP.

The *Sustainable Transport & Land Use Patterns* section included a range of objectives and policies pertaining to transport demand reduction by the creation of walkable settlement patterns and new cycling routes and the discontinuation of major new roads and oil-dependant infrastructure, in addition to the prohibition of out-of-town commercial and/or retail development.

The eight key issues described included *Strategic planning & zoning, Peak oil, resource scarcity & climate change, Sustainable transport & land use patterns, Economic & employment development, Water, Natural capital & ecosystem services, Social capital & public participation and Cultural & built heritage*.

Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht:

This submission pertained primarily to nature conservation recommendations of the Department and focuses on sites, species and habitats within Mayo (including transboundary and offshore considerations). Reference was made to the abundance of ecological networks including Natura 2000 Network (Special Areas of Conservation, candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas), Natural Heritage Areas and proposed NHAs, national parks, nature reserves, freshwater pearl mussel sensitive areas and Annex IV (Habitats Directive) species which are *strictly protected wherever they occur*. Floral and faunal species protected the Wildlife Acts 1976 – 2000, protected species and natural habitats defined in the Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) and associated regulations, ecological corridors and stepping stones of Annex X



(Habitats Directive) and miscellaneous habitats of ecological value (wetlands, water bodies etc) are also very well represented in Mayo.

Particular reference was made to environmental assessments which should be undertaken and taken into account in preparing the County Development Plan (CDP), which itself should contain specific objectives to conserve and protect all elements of the aforementioned ecological considerations.

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) under Article 6 (3) of the Habitats Directive should be prepared with its Natura Impact Report (NIR) presented as a completed report for the draft CDP. Essentially, the AA will focus on the plan and its potential to impact significantly on the Natura 2000 Network of Mayo (including a 15 km screening distance outside the CDP area). Consequentially, measures to negate or mitigate against identified aspects of the policies, objectives and zonings of the CDP which may result in significant impacts should be developed.

Margaritifera margaritifera (freshwater pearl mussel) populations, two of which are found in Mayo, including *M. margaritifera* sensitive areas should be treated with appropriate caution, since the conservation objective of this taxon is now to **restore** their favourable conservation status.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report (ER) should be undertaken in conjunction with the NIR to ensure integration with biodiversity issues and concerns. The SEA ER should contain environmental information sourced from NPWS, EPA, Teagasc, BirdWatch Ireland and Mayo County Council survey data. Environmental sensitivities should be investigated prior to zoning or targeting areas for development and the precautionary principle should apply.

Environmental Protection objectives should be contained in the ER for all environmental elements and should integrate with objectives and obligations of all appropriate directives, transposed regulations and other Irish legislation, in addition to the Heritage Plan and Biodiversity Plan of Mayo County Council and the National Biodiversity Plan.

2.5 Further consultation with the Environmental Protection Agency

A meeting was held with Mr. Tadhg O'Mahony, EPA on 16th November 2012, to further discuss aspects pertaining to the Environmental Report, during its preparation. A number of items were discussed and much advice offered on existing information sources, in addition to important aspects of the environmental character of Mayo on which to focus. A brief summary is provided:

National Biodiversity Plan, Forest Action Plan, Pollution Reduction Plans for Shellfish, the EU Green Infrastructure Plan and other appropriate plans as data sources;
Material Assets Section should encompass freshwater fisheries and renewable energy;
Cumulative effects of other projects and plans and their significant effects are very important;

Additional Local Area Plans within the draft County Development Plan should be dealt with as separate entities within individual sections; and
Article 4(7) of the Water Framework Directive and European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 are notable pieces of legislation for a Strategic Environmental Assessment.



2.6 Baseline environmental data and its likely evolution

Collection of qualitative and quantitative (whenever available) baseline data and identification, prediction, evaluation and mitigation of potential significant effects on the environment as a result of the adoption of the new CDP, including the compilation of an Environmental Report describing the SEA process and its findings commences with the initial task of compiling existing data on the current state of the environment.

A general description of the existing environment with respect to biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water (surface freshwater, coastal, transitional, groundwater and bathing), air, climatic factors, material assets (drinking water, roads, piers and harbours, water and waste water infrastructure etc), cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage), landscape and the interrelationships between these factors is appropriate and any existing problems relevant to the new CDP are identified at this baseline stage. Identification of baseline environmental status may have a three-fold aim; to locate and identify key resources and sensitivities, to identify existing threats and hence incorporate environmental protection objectives and policies into the new CDP using these data to ensure that the adoption of the new CDP does not contribute to or exacerbate existing problems and, finally, to highlight the evolution of the current state of the environment in the absence of the CDP review.

Evolution of these environmental elements is evaluated in terms of current development trends but with no change in current policies (in this case in terms of the current Mayo CDP 2008 – 2014). Finally, the likely significant effects on the environment are identified, described and evaluated as a consequence of implementing the new CDP.

2.7 Evaluation of alternative plans

In accordance with Article 5 of the SEA Directive and 13 E of the SEA Regulations (S.I. No. 436 / 2004) (as amended) the likely significant effects on the environment as a result of implementing the new CDP are identified, described and evaluated, with reasonable alternatives taking account of the objectives and the geographical scope of the CDP also being considered and assessed concurrently. In this way, this environmental report which documents the SEA process contains information on how environmental considerations have been integrated throughout the entire process and how the preferred alternative was chosen to introduce accountability, credibility and transparency into the strategic decision-making process.

Three Alternative Scenarios were proposed and evaluated in this case with reference to all of the environmental considerations in a bid to select the most suitable alternative with reference to the aim of environmental protection and sustainable development. Unlike certain cases where one possible alternative may include a 'no-plan' scenario, in this case the existing plan is considered as a 'do-nothing scenario' as a 'no-plan' scenario simply is not feasible. However, the evolution of the environment in the absence of the draft Plan is assessed in Section 4.

The Alternative Plan Scenarios are described in more detail in Section 6, but briefly they all assume a target population of 28,700 in the Linked-Hub (Ballina-Castlebar) and 122,100 in the remainder of the County by 2022, along with low to medium level of economic growth during the lifetime of the plan (2014-2020) and towns are classified as in Table 2.2.

Table 2.2 Classification of Mayo towns for the purpose of the draft Mayo CDP 2014 – 2020 and proposed Alternative Scenarios

Classification	Town
Linked Hub	Ballina-Castlebar
Key Towns (RPGs)	Ballinrobe, Ballyhaunis, Belmullet, Claremorris, Swinford, Charlestown, Louisburgh, Westport
Key Towns (MCC)	Killala, Newport, Knock, Kiltimagh
Other Towns	Foxford, Crossmolina, Balla, Keel-Dooagh, Shrule, Kilkelly, Gob an Choire, Bangor Erris, Ballindine, Ballycastle, Bunnyconnelan West, Bellavary, Kilmaine, Cong, Turlough, Mulranny, Belcarra, Bohola, Lahardane
Villages (note the villages have wastewater treatment units or are on a priority list for a wastewater treatment unit)	Aghagower, Aghleam, Attymass, Ballycroy, Ballyglass, Ballyheane, Binghamstown, Breaffy, Bunnacurry, Carracastle, Cross, Crossboyne, Doogort, Gweesalia, Hollymount, Inver, Irishtown, Kilmovee, Knockmore, Mayo Abbey, Moygownagh, Moyne (Kilmeena), Roundfort, The Neale, Tourmakeady

The alternative scenarios include:

Alternative Scenario 1 Concentration of growth in the linked-hub of Castlebar-Ballina only

Alternative Scenario 2 Concentration of growth in the linked hub, key towns, and other towns with strictly limited development in rural areas

Alternative Scenario 3 Development of the Ballina-Castlebar linked hub, key towns, other towns and serviced (sewerage) villages and appropriate development in rural areas.

2.8 Documenting the SEA process

Two principal documents purporting to the SEA accompany the new CDP – the Environmental Report and the SEA Statement. Firstly, this document, as mentioned previously and its contents summarised in Table 1.1, is succinctly guided by Article 5 and Annex I of the SEA Directive, while the contents of the SEA statement are also described accurately by legislation. Article 9 of the SEA Directive details the contents of the SEA statement as follows:

- o a summary of how environmental considerations have been integrated into the LAP;
- o how the ER, submissions and consultations have been taken into account;
- o the reasons for choosing the LAP as adopted over other alternatives dealt with, and
- o measures to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementation of the LAP or amended LAP.

2.9 Difficulties encountered

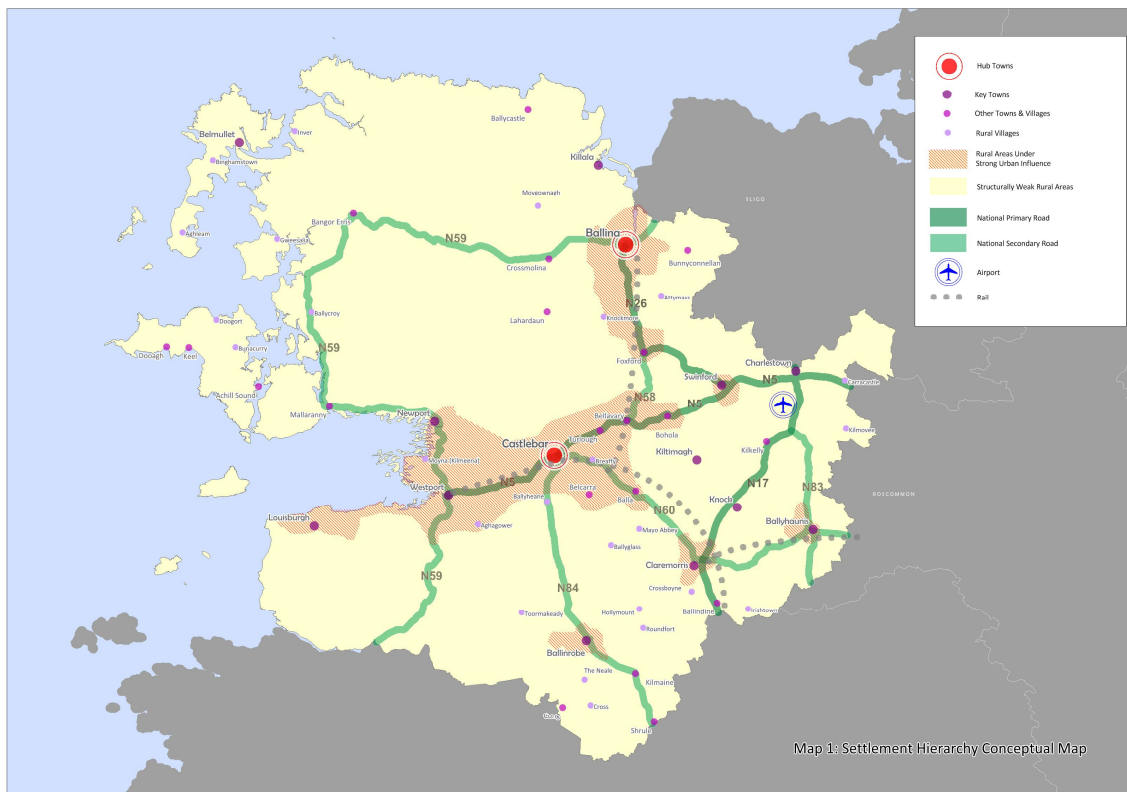
General difficulties included:

1. There is a lack of data-sharing mechanisms on a national level. An inter-agency environmental (web-based) portal with up-to-date easily-accessible (GIS-based) information on a range of environmental elements would be an invaluable asset.
2. There are some limitations with existing baseline data. A typical example includes the absence of comprehensive conservation objectives for all Natura 2000 sites and outdated site surveys.
3. The difficulty in assessing the detailed impacts of a large volume of draft Plan policies and objectives and to categorically illustrate effect types on each environmental elements was simply not entirely feasible. Therefore, a limited indication of potential effects with some detail *only* was provided in this case.

3 Context of the Mayo County Development Plan 2014 – 2020

3.1 Introduction

Pursuant to the Planning and Development Acts, 2000 (as amended), a planning authority is legally obliged to make prepare a County Development Plan (CDP) for its functional area every six years and, not later than four years after the preparation of this plan, a planning authority must give notice of its intention to review that plan and prepare a new plan. The Mayo County Development Plan 2008 – 2014 was adopted in 2008 and as such is due for review in 2012. The Mayo County Development Plan, 2014 – 2020, covering a geographical area of 5560 km² and including a county population of 130 638 (CSO, 2012) sets out the overall strategy and a Core Strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the county; inclusive of a written statement and a number of maps.





3.2 Contents, policies and objectives of the draft CDP

In accordance with Annex I of the SEA Directive the contents and main policies and objectives of the draft Plan are as follows:

Table 3.1 Outline of structure of the draft Mayo CDP

Section	Description
Introduction	Description of the draft Plan format, listing the six main goals for the future development of the county, in addition to listing the six integrated strategies with their associated policies and objectives which have the common aim of achieving the draft Plan goals. These include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy 2. Economic Development Strategy 3. Infrastructure Strategy 4. Environment, Heritage & Amenity Strategy 5. Social Infrastructure & Community Development Strategy 6. Implementation and Monitoring Strategy
1. The Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy	Based on the identification of different categories of settlements throughout the county, a Settlement Hierarchy of the draft Plan encompasses Linked-Hub, Key Towns, Other Towns and Villages and Countryside including Rural Villages. The key element of the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy is to continue to focus growth into the Linked Hub and Key Towns and to relate growth of the smaller towns and villages to the availability of infrastructure such as water and waste water. Priority will be given to decreasing residential and retail vacancy rates in the towns and villages
2. Economic Development Strategy	While acknowledging an economic downturn, there are a number of strengths and economic opportunities for Mayo which are identified within the draft Plan. The strategic aim of the Economic Development Strategy of the draft Plan is to maintain and attract new business investment into the county by continuing to provide and/or facilitate the provision of sustainable infrastructure; encouraging and supporting business innovation; and supporting local and international business through the implementation of its policy and objectives.
3. Infrastructure Strategy	Mayo County Council is responsible for the provision of some forms of infrastructure but the majority of infrastructure is provided by state agencies and private providers and in such cases the Council works to facilitate the provision of infrastructure. Investment in infrastructure is a key element in economic growth, employment, wellbeing of our citizens and environmental sustainability and policies and objectives within this section of the draft Plan attempt to address this need.
4. Environment, Heritage and Amenities Strategy	The strategic aim of the Environment, Heritage & Amenities Strategy of this Plan is to ensure the County is developed in a manner that does not compromise the value of the county's natural and cultural resources through the implementation of the policy and objectives below and the Development Guidance document of the draft Plan.
5. Social Infrastructure and Community Development Strategy	Social Infrastructure health care services, education facilities, burial grounds, fire and emergency services, recreational and cultural facilities. The strategic aim of the Social Infrastructure and Community Development Strategy of this Plan is to maintain and improve social infrastructure under the control of Mayo County Council in the county; to work with other agencies in maintaining and improving social infrastructure in the county; and to ensure the provision/improvement of social infrastructure and community development is fully integrated into the spatial planning and sustainable development of the county through the implementation of the policy and objectives below and the Development Guidance document of this Plan



6. Implementation and Monitoring Strategy	The lifetime of the draft Plan is six years – this strategy identifies the policies and actions arising out of the draft Plan and provides an approximate commencement date for individual projects which will bring the various policies and plans to fruition.
7. Development Plans and Area Plans	In order to secure the policies and objectives in the Strategies of this Plan, particularly the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy, Development Plans and Area Plans have been prepared for the Linked Hub and Key Towns in the county. Standalone Development Plans have been prepared for the Linked Hub towns of Castlebar and Ballina and the Key Town of Westport, and additional Area Plans for all other Key Towns form part of this draft Plan including Ballinrobe, Ballyhaunis, Béal and Mhuirthead (Belmullet), Claremorris, Charlestown, Killala, Kiltimagh, Knock, Louisburgh, Newport and Swinford.
Mayo County Development Plan 2014 - 2020 Volume 2	Volume 2 of the draft Mayo County Development Plan 2014 – 2020 or the <i>Planning Guidance and Standards for Development in Co. Mayo</i> seeks to inform potential developers and the public of standards that will be required for developments. The guidance document comprises detailed guidance on residential development and other development, with <i>other development</i> segregated into Part A which addresses all other developments with Part B providing development-specific guidance for certain named categories.

The principal aim of the draft Plan is to set out the strategies, for the proper planning and sustainable development of the county, generally based on the current plan but more strategic in nature.

The draft Plan contains objectives and policies for, *inter alia*:

- Zoning of land for particular purposes
- Provision or facilitation of infrastructure
- Conservation and protection of the environment
- Management of features of the landscape
- Promotion of compliance with environmental standards included in river basin management plans
- Integration of planning with social, community and cultural requirements
- Preservation of the character of the landscape
- Protection of protected structures
- Preservation of character of Architectural Conservation Areas
- Renewal of areas in need of regeneration
- Provision of accommodation for travellers
- Preservation and improvement of amenities and recreational amenities
- Control of Seveso II sites and development adjacent to such sites
- Provision of facilitation of community services such as education facilities and childcare
- Protection of linguistic and cultural heritage of the Gaeltacht
- Promotion of sustainable settlement and transportation strategies
- Preservation of public rights of way to places of natural beauty or recreational utility
- Identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes

The detailed objectives and policies of the draft Plan are shown and evaluated in Section 7 of this document.

3.3 The relationship of the draft CDP with other relevant plans and programmes

The Mayo County Development Plan is part of a hierarchy of local, regional and national plans. While it should be consistent with higher-level plans such as those of a regional or national nature, it



must guide or direct plans and programmes at a lower level hierarchically. In accordance with SEA legislation this environmental report includes information that may reasonably be required taking into account a number of factors, one of which is the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in order to avoid duplication of environmental assessment.

Essentially, the following national, regional and local plans have influenced the policies contained in the draft CDP and within which the plan is consistent.

3.3.1 National Policy

National Spatial Strategy 2000 – 2020

This National Spatial Strategy for Ireland (NSS) is a twenty year planning framework designed to achieve a better balance of social, economic, physical development and population growth between regions. Its focus is on people, on places and on building communities. Through closer matching of where people live with where they work, different parts of Ireland will for the future be able to sustain

- a better quality of life for people
- a strong, competitive economic position and
- an environment of the highest quality.

Its aim is to facilitate balanced regional development throughout the country. In Mayo, the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) identifies the towns of Ballina and Castlebar as a linked hub, the aim of which is to complement the nearby gateways of Galway and Sligo, whilst also providing services to its associated catchments. The NSS also supports the economic growth and revitalization of areas in the west region, previously centred on agriculture to diversify into alternative economies based on the sustainable use of natural resources such as scenic landscapes for tourism, the sea for fisheries and marine-based aquaculture, the land for agriculture, forestry, inland fisheries (rivers, streams and lakes) and renewable energy.

National Development Plan 2007 – 2013

The National Development Plan (NDP) *Transforming Ireland — A Better Quality of Life for All* sets out the roadmap to Ireland's future. The NDP integrates strategic development frameworks for regional development, for rural communities, for all-island co-operation, and for protection of the environment with common economic and social goals. The objective of the NDP is to deliver a better quality of life for all within a strong and vibrant economy that maintains our international competitiveness and promotes regional development, social justice and environmental sustainability.

In a county context the NDP sets out an investment programme for the promotion, fostering and encouragement of economic and social development in the Western Region which includes Mayo.

Food Harvest 2020– A Vision for Irish Agri-food and fisheries

With a primary goal of producing Irish agri-food in as environmentally sustainable method as possible, this strategy, during its preparation underwent an SEA, and emissions were quantified and measures prepared to reduce current concentrations. Mayo has a rural nature and as such, a national programme such as this may have positive impacts on the environment of Mayo.



National Climate Change Strategy 2007 – 2012

The National Climate Change Strategy 2007 – 2012 sets out a range of measures, building on those already in place under the first National Climate Change Strategy (2000) to ensure Ireland reaches its target under the Kyoto Protocol. The Strategy provides a framework for action to reduce Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions. The Framework for Climate Change Bill published December 2009 provides for a statutory obligation on the Minister to propose to the Government a National Climate Change Strategy on a 5-year cycle and to review the previous Strategy at the end of this time. The strategy will set an overall reduction target for the 5-year period within the context of the long-term and annual reduction targets set out in the Bill (as subject to review by the Minister). It will also set the policy context for the Carbon Budget and set out requirements in terms of policy objectives for the various sectors in the economy.

National Renewable Energy Action Plan

The National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) sets out the Government's strategic approach and concrete measures to deliver on Ireland's 16% target under European Renewable Energy Directive 2009/28/EC. The development of renewable energy is central to overall energy policy in Ireland. Nationally, the Government's ambitions for renewable energy and the related national targets are fully commensurate with the European Union's energy policy objectives and the targets addressed to Ireland under the Renewable Energy Directive. Ireland's energy efficiency ambitions (20% of energy from renewable sources by 2020) as set out in the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan are duly reflected in the NREAP.

National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007 – 2016

This National Action Plan for Social inclusion (NAPinclusion), complemented by the social inclusion elements of the National Development Plan 2007-2013: *Transforming Ireland– A Better Quality of Life for All*, sets out how the social inclusion strategy will be achieved over the period 2007-2016. The overall goal of this Plan is to reduce the number of those experiencing consistent poverty to between 2% and 0% by 2012, with the aim of eliminating consistent poverty by 2016.

National Heritage Plan 2002

The National Heritage Plan sets out a clear and coherent strategy and framework for the protection and enhancement of Ireland's national heritage. The core objective of the Plan is to protect the national heritage as well as promoting it as a resource to be enjoyed by all.

National Biodiversity Plan: Action for Biodiversity 2011 – 2016

Ireland's second National Biodiversity Plan contains 102 actions towards understanding and protecting biodiversity in Ireland and overseas.

Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016 builds upon the achievements since 2002, when the first National Biodiversity Plan was published. The current plan focuses on actions that were not fully completed and addresses new and emerging issues. It has been developed along the lines of other plans, in particular the EU Biodiversity Action Plan and the CBD Strategic Plan and takes account of their aims, objectives and targets. Government Departments and State agencies representing all the relevant sectors were consulted on a series of draft action points in advance of the preparation of this Plan, in parallel with a comprehensive public consultation process.

National Landscape Strategy

The National Landscape Strategy is a policy framework shaped for the particular purposes of:



- Recognising the importance of all landscapes in Ireland
- Implementing the European Landscape Convention in Ireland
- Promoting sustainable development
- Enhancing and protect the environment

Landscape affects everybody and crosses the boundaries of almost all types of public policy. Society, economy and our physical environment are interdependent: when one changes it affects the others. The Strategy co-ordinates to greater effect the many existing administrative and technical systems which are charged with looking after the land and its resources, and the civil society and business interests which work towards these aims.

3.3.2 Regional Policy

Regional Planning Guidelines for the West Region 2010-2022

The aim of the Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) is to provide a framework for long term strategic development of the West Region for the period 2010 – 2022 which is consistent with the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) 2002 – 2020 and which ensures the successful implementation of the NSS at regional, county and local level.

A key aspect of the RPGs is integrating sustainable economic development with the protection and enhancement of the environment. The RPGs are influenced by a wide range of international, national and regional level plans, programmes and legislation and also establish a framework for other lower level plans and programmes.

Western River Basin District Management Plan 2009 – 2015

The Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy (the Water Framework Directive) has an ultimate goal of achieving good status of all waters (the entire surface water system from source to estuary, coastal and transitional waters and groundwater) by 2015.

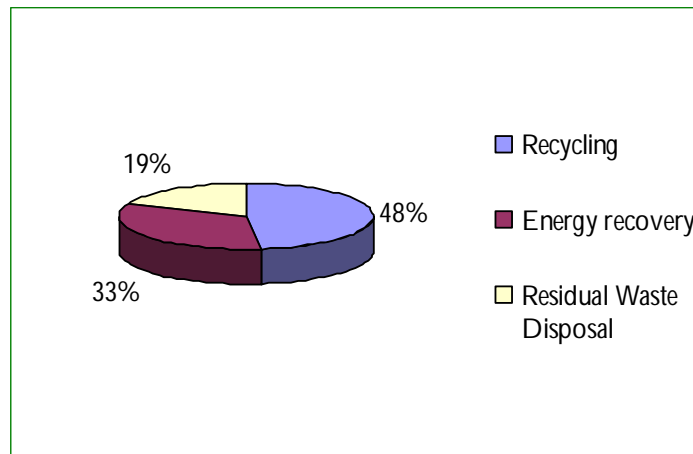
This ultimate aim encompasses four primary objectives:

- Preventing deterioration;
- Restoring good status;
- Reducing chemical pollution; and
- Achieving protected area objectives.

The Western River Basin Management Plan 2009 – 2015 includes an area of greater than 12193 km² of the functional areas of Mayo County Council, Galway County and City Councils, Roscommon, Sligo, Leitrim and Clare County Councils and has the principal aim of protecting all waters within the district and wherever necessary, improving waters to achieve sustainable water use.

Replacement Waste Management Plan for the Connacht Region 2006 – 2011

This Connacht Region Waste Management Replacement Plan has been developed by the local authorities of Galway City and County, Leitrim, Mayo, Roscommon and Sligo and covers the period from 2006 to 2011. The 2001 Plan adopted a regional approach to integrated waste management based on the waste hierarchy established in the EU Framework Directive on Waste and set the following targets for 2013 for municipal waste in the Region:



In line with National Policy the Replacement Connacht Waste Management Plan has its fundamental strategy grounded in the concept of integrated waste management. Priority will be assigned in accordance with the EU and National waste hierarchy with a strong emphasis on waste prevention and minimisation.

3.3.2 Local Policy

Mayo County Development Plan 2008 – 2014

The current County Development Plan (CDP) for Mayo was adopted in May 2008 and incorporates two variations of 2009 and 2011 as a consequence of Ministerial Direction and Core Strategy respectively. Briefly, the current CDP, prepared in accordance with the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), contains a number of policies and objectives which set out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development¹ of Mayo. Objectives and policies have been developed pertaining to considerations such as economic development, transport and public infrastructure, housing and community and environment, heritage and conservation.

County Mayo Heritage Plan 2006 – 2011

With the principal aim of this plan aimed at the identification, awareness-raising and promotion of conservation of the built, natural and cultural heritage of Mayo, the preparation of the County Mayo Heritage Plan was in response to the National Heritage Plan and to the requirements of the National Biodiversity Plan, developed in parallel with the National Heritage Plan.

Mayo Diversity Action Plan 2010 – 2015

The production of a Biodiversity Action Plan is an action of the County Mayo Heritage Plan 2006 – 2011 and an objective the County Mayo Development Plan 2008 – 2014.

The Biodiversity Action Plan provides a framework for the conservation of biodiversity and natural heritage at a local level and is designed to ensure that national and international targets for the conservation of biodiversity can be achieved while at the same time addressing local priorities.

The production of the Mayo Biodiversity Action Plan 2010 – 2015 is an action of the first National Biodiversity Plan published in 2002, which recognised the key role of local authorities in protecting our natural heritage.



3.4 Legislative Context

The Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the SEA Directive) and its transposed Irish legislation, including amendments form the legislative framework for the SEA process, including its documentation in the form of an Environmental Report. The Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) also forms an integral part of SEA and additional guidance from a European context and national context has been listed in Section 2.1. Additional legislation pertaining to the environmental considerations includes the following list which is regarded as not exhaustive:

- EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC)
- EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)
 - The Wildlife Act, 1976 (as amended)
- The Flora (Protection) Order 1999
- UN Convention of Biological Diversity 1992 (ratified 1996)
- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention 1971)
 - European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011
- The Local Government Water Pollution Acts 1977 and 1990
- European Communities (Quality of Salmonid Waters) Regulations, 1988
 - Council Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption
 - European Communities (Drinking Water) (No. 2) Regulations, 2007
- The Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (the Water Framework Directive)
 - European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations, 2003
 - Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations, 2001 and 2004
- Water Services Act, 2007
 - Water Services (Amendment) Act, 2012
- European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations, 2009
- European Communities Environmental Objectives (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) Regulations, 2009
- European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations, 2010
 - EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)
 - European Communities (Good Agricultural Practise for Protection of Waters) Regulations, 2006
- EU Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC)
 - Bathing Water Quality Regulations, 2008
 - Bathing Water Quality (Amendment) Regulations, 2011
- Shellfish Waters Directive (2006/113/EC)
 - European Communities (Quality of Shellfish Waters) Regulations, 2006
 - European Communities (Quality of Shellfish Waters) (Amendment) Regulations, 2009
- Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations, 2007
 - Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC)
 - European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations, 2008
- Air Pollution Act 1987 (as amended)
- The Environment Protection Agency Act 1992 (Ambient Air Quality Assessment and Management) Regulations 1999
 - Air Quality Standards Regulations, 2002
- Protection of the Environment Act, 2003
- Dangerous Substances Regulations (S.I. No. 12 of 2001)



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- Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992
 - Environmental Noise Regulations, 2006
 - The Waste Management Act, 1996 to 2010
 - Waste Management (Collection Permits) Regulations, 2007
 - Waste Management (Collection Permits) (Amendment) Regulations, 2008
 - Waste Management (Facility Permit & Registration) Regulations, 2007
 - Waste Management (Facility Permit & Registration) (Amendment) Regulations, 2008
 - Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery Activity) Regulations, 2008
 - Waste Management (Movement of Hazardous Waste) Regulations, 1998– 2000
 - Waste Management (Prohibition of Waste Disposal by Burning) Regulations, 2009
 - 2007/60/EC the Directive on the Assessment and Management of Flood Risks (of 23 October 2007) (The Floods Directive)
 - EIA Directive (85/337/EEC as amended by 97/11/EC and 2003/35/EC)
 - The Heritage Act, 1995
 - European Convention on Protection of the Archaeological Heritage 1992 (The Valletta Convention)
 - Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention)
 - European Treaty Series no.121, 1985
 - The Venice Charter, 1964
 - The Washington Charter, 1987
 - The Burra Charter 1979/ 1981/ 1988
 - The Nara Document on Authenticity 1994
 - The European Landscape Convention
 - Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1999
 - National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997
 - The National Monuments Acts, 1930 – 2004
 - The Kyoto Protocol Flexible Mechanisms Regulations, 2006 (S.I. 244 of 2006)
 - Emissions Trading Directive (2003/87/EC)
 - European Communities (Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading) Regulations, 2004
 - European Communities (Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading) (Amendment) Regulations, 2005



4 The Baseline Environment

4.1 Introduction

A general description of the existing or baseline environment with respect to biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water (surface freshwater, coastal, transitional, groundwater and bathing), air, climatic factors, material assets (drinking water, roads, piers and harbours, water and waste water infrastructure etc), cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage), landscape and the interrelationships between all of these factors is necessary for a number of reasons. In addition to the identification of areas with environmental problems or potential problems, the examination of the baseline environment may also establish the location of sensitive or vulnerable areas which can either be avoided completely by development or protected / conserved with appropriate CDP policies and objectives. Baseline environmental data are also required to provide a dataset against which future datasets can be measured following and during monitoring programmes.

Finally, an accurate baseline dataset is necessary for the prediction of the evolution of the current state of the environment in the absence of the CDP review.

This section will be laid out with environmental considerations listed as in the SEA Directive and includes the current baseline of each including an assessment of the current issues and existing problems. In addition, the evolution of each environmental consideration without the implementation of the CDP is predicted.

Environmental considerations or issues will be addressed as illustrated in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 Structure of current Environmental Report with reference to environmental considerations as described in Annex I of the SEA Directive

SEA Directive Annex I environmental issue	Current Environmental Report description
Biodiversity	Aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity, fauna and flora dealt with concurrently
Population	Population
Human health	Human health issues arising from environmental factors
Fauna	Biodiversity, fauna and flora dealt with concurrently
Flora	Biodiversity, fauna and flora dealt with concurrently
Soil	Soils and geology
Water	Incorporating surface and ground waters, coastal and transitional waters, bathing waters and shellfish waters
Air	Air and Noise
Climatic factors	Climatic factors including flooding and invasive species in Mayo
Material assets	Incorporating transport (road, rail, piers and harbours), waste management and infrastructure, water and waste water infrastructure, drinking water, energy and communications and forestry
Cultural heritage	Architectural and archaeological heritage
Landscape	Landscape
Interrelationships	Incorporating an examination of the correlation or lack thereof between all of the previous environmental elements



4.2 Biodiversity, fauna and flora

4.2.1 Introduction

Biodiversity is essentially defined as the abundance and diversity of living things, or the assortment, variation and array of flora and fauna. In this context biodiversity is herein taken to refer to flora, fauna and their associated habitats.

County Mayo has a particularly rich and diverse natural heritage. Mountains and upland areas are concentrated in the north and west of the county, which is characterised by a mosaic of peatland, heath and forestry plantations. More fertile farmland is found in the low-lying and undulating landscapes of east Mayo. There are several large lakes in the county and numerous medium to small lakes. Lough Conn and Mask are among the largest lakes in the country. Mayo is drained by an extensive network of rivers and streams. The main rivers of the county include the Moy, Deel, Owenmore, Owenduff, Newport, Bunowen, and the Erriff. The long and varied Mayo coastline contains a wide range of coastal habitats from cliffs to estuaries, mudflats, machair, sandy beaches and offshore islands. The richness and diversity of Mayo's habitats and species contribute to the character of the landscape.

4.2.2 Baseline environment

Almost a third of County Mayo's land area is designated for the protection and conservation of flora and fauna. This high percentage reflects the international and national significance of Mayo's wealth of natural heritage. Along with sites designated for nature conservation, Mayo has many other areas of local ecological importance including broadleaved woodlands, scrub, hedgerows, tree lines, cutover bog and wet grassland. Many of these areas are important, helping to form wildlife corridors and ecological networks across the landscape. These corridors and networks allow animal species to move freely from one habitat to another. There are various categories of protected sites/areas which are outlined as follows.

There are a total of 70 Natura 2000 sites; 52 candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC) and 18 Special Protection Areas (SPA), protecting, conserving and restoring approximately 63 species (including birds) and 46 habitats, some of which are priority habitats. Collectively referred to as the Natura 2000 network, cSACs and SPAs are designated in consideration of Habitats Directive Annex I habitats and Annex II species and classified in consideration of Birds Directive Annex I bird species. All 52 candidate SACs are illustrated in Table 4.2, while the 18 SPAs are shown in Table 4.3. Further detail is shown in Appendix I, where the frequency of occurrence of each habitat and species in Mayo is shown, in addition to their supporting SACs. Appendix II illustrates similar data for the 18 Mayo SPAs.



Table 4.2 Candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC) of Mayo

Site Code	Site Name	Site Code	Site Name
000297	Lough Corrib cSAC	000534	Owenduff / Nephin Complex cSAC
000458	Killala Bay / Moy Estuary cSAC	000541	Skealaghan Turlough cSAC
000461	Ardkill Turlough cSAC	000542	Slieve Fyagh Bog cSAC
000463	Balla Turlough cSAC	000633	Lough Hoe Bog cSAC
000466	Bellacorick Iron Flush cSAC	001482	Clw Bay Complex cSAC
000470	Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex cSAC	001497	Doogort Machair / Lough Doo cSAC
000471	Brackloon Woods cSAC	001501	Erris Head cSAC
00472	Broadhaven Bay cSAC	001513	Keel Machair / Menaun Cliffs cSAC
000475	Carrowkeel Turlough cSAC	001529	Lough Cahasy, Lough Baun and Roonah Lough cSAC
000476	Carrowmore Lake Complex cSAC	001536	Mocorha Lough cSAC
000479	Cloughmoyne cSAC	001571	Urlaur Lakes cSAC
000480	Clyard Kettle-holes cSAC	001774	Lough Carra / Mask Complex cSAC
000484	Cross Lough (Killadoon) cSAC	001899	Cloonakillina Lough cSAC
000485	Corraun Plateau cSAC	001922	Bellacorick Bog Complex cSAC
000492	Doocastle Turlough cSAC	001932	Mweelrea/Sheeffry / Erriff Complex cSAC
000495	Duvillaun Islands cSAC	001955	Croaghaun / Slievemore cSAC
000497	Flughany Bog cSAC	002005	Bellacragher Saltmarch cSAC
000500	Glenamoy Bog Complex cSAC	002006	Ox Mountains Bog cSAC
000503	Greaghans Turlough cSAC	002081	Ballinafad cSAC
000504	Kilglassan /Cahevavostia Turlough Complex cSAC	002144	Newport River cSAC
000507	Inishkea Islands cSAC	002177	Lough Dahybaun cSAC
000516	Lackan Saltmarsh and Kilcummin Head cSAC	002179	Towerhill House cSAC
000522	Lough Gall Bog cSAC	002243	Clare Island Cliffs cSAC
000525	Shrule Turlough cSAC	002268	Achill Head cSAC
000527	Moorehall (Lough Carra) cSAC	002298	River Moy cSAC
000532	Oldhead Wood cSAC	002320	Kildun Souterrain cSAC

Table 4.3 Special Protection Areas (SPA) of Mayo

Site code	Site Name	Site Code	Site Name
004004	Inishkea Islands SPA	004084	Inishglora and Inishkeeragh
004036	Killala Bay / Moy Estuary SPA	004093	Termoncarragh Lough and Annagh Machair SPA
004037	Blacksod Bay / Broadhaven SPA	004098	Owenduff / Nephin Complex SPA
004042	Lough Corrib SPA	004111	Duvillaun Islands SPA
004051	Lough Carra SPA	004136	Clare Island SPA
004052	Carrowmore Lake SPA	004177	Bills Rocks SPA
004062	Lough Mask SPA	004212	Cross Lough (Killadoon) SPA
004072	Stags of Broad Haven SPA	004227	Mullet Peninsula SPA
004074	Ilanmaster SPA	004228	Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA

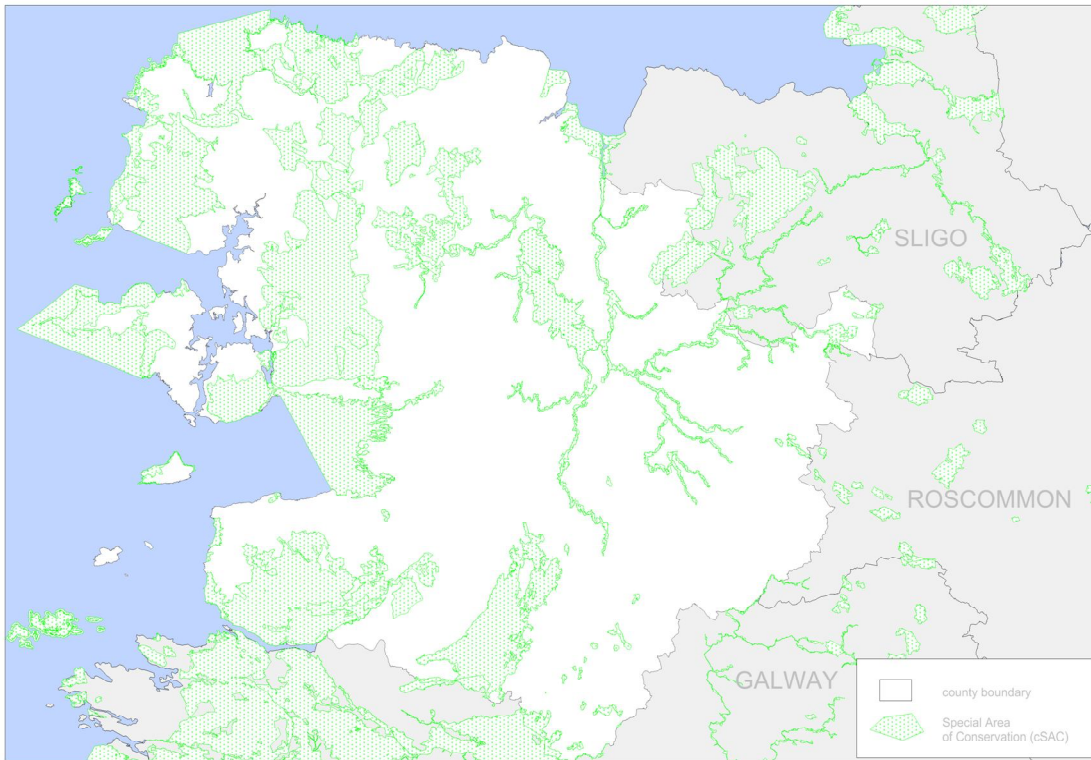


Figure 4.1 Special Areas of Conservation in Mayo

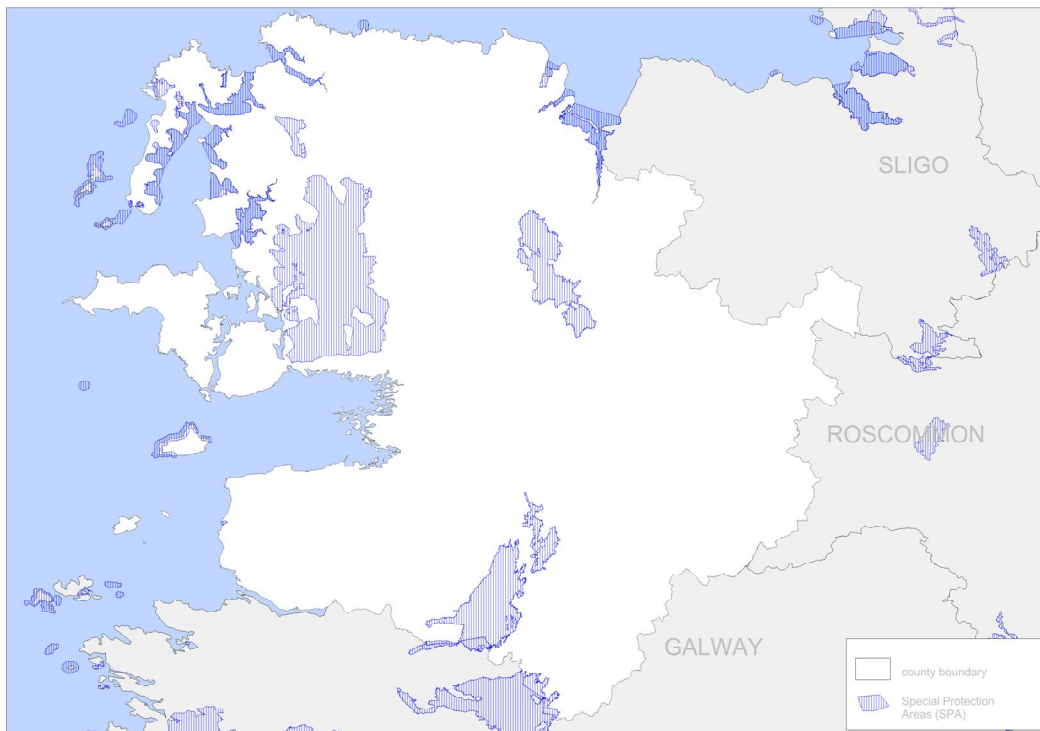


Figure 4.2 Special Protection Areas in Mayo



Few Natura 2000 sites are exclusively designated or classified in consideration of terrestrial or aquatic qualifying interests; many consist of a combination of terrestrial, freshwater and marine habitats and species. In the natural environment also there is considerable overlap between terrestrial and aquatic fauna and flora, with each co-existing and co-reliant in many cases.

Essentially, conservation objectives are employed to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the habitats and/or species within the Natura 2000 network. For most Natura 2000 sites in Mayo (candidate SACs and SPAs) generic conservation objectives have been assigned by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to maintain and/or restore the conservation status of their qualifying interests. Specific conservation objectives exist for every qualifying interest for which the Clew Bay cSAC has been designated. These objectives, while invaluable for the Clew Bay cSAC are also very useful in that they provide a framework for conservation and / or restoration of similar qualifying interests within other cSACs in Mayo.

Pursuant to Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, an Appropriate Assessment must be prepared to ensure that any plan or project will not have significant impacts on the integrity of designated habitats and species within or adjacent to a plan or project area, with respect to their specific conservation objectives. (Birds and their habitats within SPAs are included in this assessment under the ‘Habitats Directive umbrella’.) The Natura Impact Report (NIR) prepared to document the Appropriate Assessment of the draft Mayo County Development Plan 2014 – 2020 should therefore be read in conjunction with this SEA Environmental Report.

There are 15 Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and 48 proposed NHAs in County Mayo. NHAs are designated and protected under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000 due to their conservation value for ecological and/or geological/geomorphological heritage in a national context. Table 4.4 lists all designated NHAs while Table 4.5 lists proposed NHAs. Details of site synopses for designated NHAs are included in Appendix III.

Table 4.4 NHAs in Co. Mayo

Site Code	Site Name	Site Code	Site Name
000548	Tawnymackan Bog	002391	Inagh Bog
001473	Bangor Erris Bog	002403	Sraheens Bog
001548	Pollatomish Bog	002419	Glenturk More Bog
001566	Tristia Bog	002420	Cunnagher More Bog
001567	Tullaghan Bay and Bog	002432	Forrew Bog
001570	Ummerantarry Bog	002446	Ederglen Bog
002381	Doogort East Bog	002455	Lough Greney Bog
002383	Croaghmoyle Mountain		

Table 4.5 pNHAs in Co. Mayo

Site Code	Site Name	Site Code	Site Name
000215	Rathbaun Turlough	001483	Cloghmoyle Dunes
000385	Rostaff Turlough	001485	Cloonagh Lough (Mayo)
000459	Altaconey Bog	001486	Cloonboorhy Lough
000467	Benaderreen Cliffs	001488	Cooraun Point Machair/Dooreel Creek
000469	Bills Rocks	001491	Dambaduff Lough
000477	Clare Island	001492	Carrowmore Lough Shore
000481	Coolbarreen Lough	001499	Drumleen Lough



000482	Creevagh Head	001500	Eagle Island
000483	Croagh Patrick	001504	Frehill Island
000494	Downpatrick Head	001511	Inishdegil Islands
000502	Gowlaun Bog	001517	Killala Esker
000506	Inishglora and Inishkeeragh	001518	Kinlooney Lough
000509	Inishturk	001520	Knappagh Woods
000510	Kilgarriff Bog	001527	Lough Alick
000511	Killaturly Turlough	001528	Lough Beg, Carrowmore
000512	Kinrovar Machair	001533	Lough Manan
000519	Lough Conn and Lough Cullin	001559	Slisheen Turlough
000523	Lough Gower	001910	Mannin and Island Lakes
000546	Stags of Broadhaven	001967	Inishgalloon
000550	Towerhill Lake	001968	Mweelaun Island
000735	Maumtrasna Mountain Complex	001969	Caher Island
001278	Burren Rock	001970	Ballybeg Island
001470	Ardogommon Wood	001971	Inishdalla
001472	Mountpleasant School Turlough	002078	Moy Valley

Geological Sites

Geology is now recognised as an intrinsic component of natural heritage and regard should be given to the conservation of geological heritage features. The Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) established the Irish Geological Heritage Programme (IGH) in 1998 with the objective of identifying and selecting sites that best represent the geological heritage of Ireland for designation as Natural Heritage Areas. Currently there is no national designation of sites for geological interest in Mayo or elsewhere in Ireland. The IGH has identified 122 Sites of Geological Interest in Mayo. Some of these sites may merit national designation as NHAs. These sites are currently protected by policies in the Mayo County Development Plan 2008-2014 and details of description of these sites are given in Appendix IV. The location of these sites is shown in Figure 4.10 of Section 4.5.

Statutory Nature Reserves

Statutory Nature Reserves are state-owned land, inland waters or foreshore areas forming the habitat of a species or community of flora and fauna of scientific interest or forming part of an ecosystem of scientific interest, which would benefit from protection measures, established under the Wildlife Act, 1976 and the Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000. Statutory Nature Reserves are protected under Ministerial Order. There are three of these reserves in County Mayo, descriptions of which are given below:

Table 4.6 Statutory Nature Reserves of Mayo

Nature Reserve code and area covered	Site characteristics
Owenboy (Nature Reserve No. 59; 397.1 ha)	Situated 10 km west of Crossmolina and 10 km east of Bellacorrick on the south side of the Ballina/Belmullet Road at Eskeragh Bridge, this site is an extensive bog of intermediate type utilised by the internationally protected Greenland white fronted goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) and lying in a broad basin. It contains a number of low domes resembling raised bogs and numerous flushes with a rare species of moss. This Nature Reserve is also designated a Ramsar Site (No. 371).
Knockmoyle Sheskin (Nature Reserve No. 60; 1198 ha)	Situated north of Bord na Móna works at Bellacorrick between Oweniny River on the eastern side and Sheskin Lodge and the ruined settlement of



Oldhead Wood (Nature Reserve No. 61; 17 ha)	Sheskin on the western side, this site is made up of an extensive area of lowland blanket bog densely pool-studded and containing interesting flushes. This Nature Reserve is also designated a Ramsar Site (No. 372). Situated 3 km north-east of Louisburgh, this small reserve lies on the east side of two knolls which form a promontory on the southern shore of Clew Bay. It is an example of semi-natural woodland, oak being the dominant species, with birch, rowan, willow and some introduced beech and sycamore.
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National Parks

Ballycroy National Park

National Parks are almost entirely state owned areas designated nationally with the aims of nature conservation and public recreation and appreciation. Ballycroy National Park consists of 11,779 ha of Atlantic blanket bog in the Owenduff/Nephin Beg area of north-west Mayo. The area contains some of the most important blanket bog in Europe. Blanket bogs are included in Annex 1 of the Habitats Directive as a priority habitat type of Community interest, the conservation of which requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation. Ireland's western blanket bogs are the most important remaining in Western Europe and north-west Mayo contains some of the most extensive examples of this habitat type. The Owenduff area in the Nephin Mountains in particular is a wild and remote area of blanket bog, cliffs and river habitats containing some rare species of plants. The area is also important as a roosting, feeding and breeding site for certain migratory species, including some species such as the Greenland white-fronted goose, which are listed in Annex 1 of the Birds Directive. The Owenduff River is of international importance in conservation terms and it is the last river in Western Europe, which drains a relatively intact, extensive blanket bog system. The scenery and wilderness qualities of this area are outstanding. The area of the National Park is designated as a Special Protection Area (Site Code 004098) and as a candidate Special Area of Conservation (Site Code 000534).

Ramsar Sites

The Ramsar list of sites, named for the convention on wetlands held in Ramsar, Iran, over 40 years ago are recognised by the international community as being of significant value for the country in which they are located but also for humanity as a whole. Briefly, Ramsar sites are listed to protect and conservation of wetlands, their inhabiting waterfowl and other species and in many cases, biogenetic material. In Mayo five Ramsar sites cover an area of almost 5000 hectares and are summarised as follows:

Table 4.7 Ramsar Sites in Mayo

Ramsar site and area covered	Site characteristics
Lough Corrib (17728 ha)	The second largest lake in Ireland supports one of the largest areas of wetland vegetation consisting of reed, sedge and rush communities in the country. Other habitats include Sessile Oak (<i>Quercus petraea</i>) woodland, calcareous fen, callows grassland, marsh and raised bog with a soak system. The site provides important feeding grounds for waterbirds and supports internationally important numbers of several breeding and wintering waterbirds and nationally important numbers of numerous other waterbird species. The site supports the otter and numerous rare and threatened plant and fish species.



Owenduff catchment (1382 ha)	Part of the most extensive remaining blanket bog complex in Ireland, the site includes lowland and mountain blanket bog, wet heath and cliffs in the surrounding lowlands
Knockmoyle/Sheskin (1198 ha)	Part of an extensive area of lowland blanket bog with a remarkably dense network of pools and small acidic lakes
Killala Bay/Moy Estuary (1061 ha)	An estuary and intertidal bay separated from the sea by a long sandy island. The site includes a well-developed dune system, saltmarsh, sand and shingle beaches backed by sea-cliffs, and extensive sand and mudflats exposed at low tide.
Blacksod Bay and Broadhaven (683 ha)	A composite of diverse marine and coastal habitats that includes vast dune systems and extensive areas of dune grassland with saltmarshes occurring in sheltered bays and inlets.
Owenboy (397 ha)	Part of an extensive area of undulating lowland blanket bog consisting of domes, pool complexes, flushes, spring-fed fens, swallowholes and subterranean and surface streams.

Local Biodiversity Areas & Ecological Networks

Article 10 of the Habitats Directive recognises the importance of ecological networks as corridors and stepping stones for wildlife, including for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of species of flora and fauna. Ecological networks are important in connecting areas of local biodiversity with each other and with nearby designated sites so as to prevent islands of habitat from being isolated entities. Ecological networks are composed of linear features, such as treelines, hedgerows and rivers/streams, which provide corridors or stepping stones for wildlife species moving within their normal range. They are particularly important for mammals, especially for bats and small birds.

The Habitats Directive requires that ecological connectivity and areas of ecological value outside the network of designated ecological sites are maintained and it recognises the need for the management of these areas through land use planning and development policies.

Mayo County Council began the process of mapping the habitats of Co. Mayo in 2008. Habitat survey and mapping has been carried out within and around nine towns in the county - Killala, Kiltimagh, Ballyhaunis, Ballinrobe, Charlestown, Swinford, Belmullet, Westport and Castlebar. An area of 113.8 km² has been surveyed and mapped to date. Within this area, 36 habitat complexes of high local or greater conservation value were identified as Local Biodiversity Areas (LBAs). Many LBAs correspond to sites already designated by the Department of the Environment as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas for birds (SPAs) or proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs). Ecological corridors linking high biodiversity areas have also been identified.

A list of LBAs is given in Table 4.8. A description of each LBA is given in Appendix VI, which includes an evaluation of the site's conservation value and the main threats to them, and recommendations to maintain or enhance the conservation value of the LBAs.



Table 4.8 LBAs identified in Co. Mayo

LBA	Site Name	LBA	Site Name
LBA 1	Knocklahard Turlough	LBA 19	Mullaghanoe River Central
LBA 2	Rathredmond Hazel Wood	LBA 20	Mullaghanoe River East
LBA 3	Lower Robe River	LBA 21	Treanacally Bog
LBA 4	Lough Carra Wetlands	LBA 22	Ross Dunes
LBA 5	Carrownalecka Hazel Wood	LBA 23	Meelick Esker
LBA 6	Island Lake, Ballyhaunis	LBA 24	Bartragh Island
LBA 7	Annagh Loughs, Ballyhaunis	LBA 25	North Killala Coast
LBA 8	Tallagh Bog	LBA 26	Pollagh River Area
LBA 9	North Belmullet Twite Area	LBA 27	Cordarragh/Gowelboy Bog
LBA 10	Corclogh/Tonmore Bog	LBA 28	North Swinford Complex
LBA 11	South Belmullet Corncrake Areas	LBA 29	Carrowbeg Bog, Swinford
LBA 12	Southeast Castlebar Fens	LBA 30	Spaddagh River
LBA 13	Castlebar Lough	LBA 31	Killeen River Wet Grasslands
LBA 14	Lough Saleen	LBA 32	Colonel's Wood
LBA 15	Rathbaun Heath	LBA 33	Ballynacarrick Lough
LBA 16	Sonnagh Bog	LBA 34	Clerhaun Meadows
LBA 17	Sonnagh River	LBA 35	Westport House
LBA 18	Southeast Charlestown Wetland Complex	LBA 36	Corratowick Meadows

Protected Trees

In addition to being important wildlife habitat, trees also provide amenity value in the landscape. Nine groups of trees are protected under Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) in the current Mayo County Development Plan 2008-2014. Nationally, the Tree Register of Ireland (TROI) was established in 1999 to compile a comprehensive database of remarkable or champion trees throughout the country. The database now contains details of over 7,500 trees, many of which are national or county champions. Trees are remarkable for many reasons: their age, height, diameter, and for their historical and folklore associations, and can be critical in defining their local landscape. Appendix V indicates trees protected under a TPO and TROI trees noted as remarkable in Mayo.

Hedgerows

Hedgerows are an important feature of the Mayo landscape and an integral part of the rural environmental fabric, especially in the south and east of the county. The agricultural landscape contrasts with and compliments the large areas of upland and blanket bog. The county's hedgerow network is valuable not only in terms of agriculture, landscape and biodiversity—facilitating the movement of wild flora and fauna, acting as ecological corridors between habitat features, but functions to filter pollution, improve water quality and sequester carbon. They also act as a barrier to sound between traffic on busy roads and housing, and provide shelter in exposed areas. Roadside and townland boundary hedges generally contain a higher diversity of species than other hedges.

A survey of hedgerows was undertaken in 2007, using a standard methodology in 63 sample 1 km squares distributed evenly around the county, covering approximately 1% of its total area. This survey established the extent, composition, structure, condition and management of hedgerows in County Mayo.

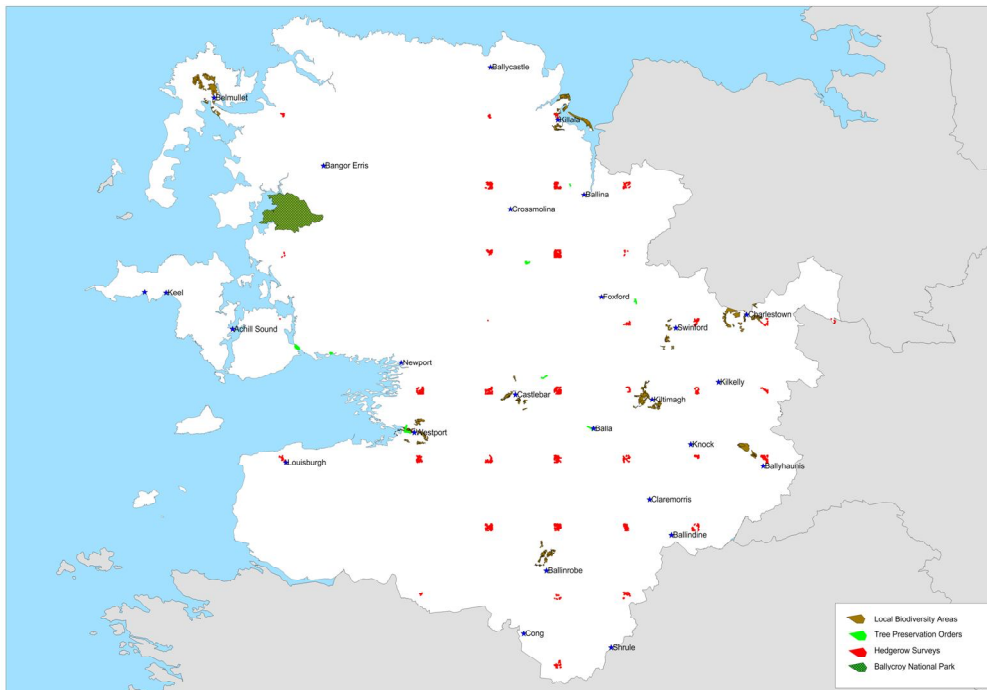


Figure 4.3 Map showing location of Local Biodiversity Areas, Tree Preservation Orders sites, hedgerow survey areas and Ballycroy National Park (*surface areas are shown larger for the purpose of presentation in a small-scale map*)

Forestry

Approximately 9% of Mayo is covered with forestry, of which 1% consists of broadleaved species. Coillte manage 6% while the remainder is in private ownership. The main areas of afforestation, which were planted in the 1960s and 1970s are in the north and west of the county in areas around Bellacorrick, Glenamoy and Ballycastle. These plantations are dominated by lodgepole pine.

Private forestry, planted mainly in the 1990s is predominantly concentrated in the east of the county. Under the National Forest Standard, 2000, all afforestation projects have to conform to a suite of environmental guidelines. Under these guidelines all features of biodiversity value; hedgerows, wetlands, stream banks and existing woodland have to be retained and protected. Up to 15% of the plantation has to be set aside for open space and the retention of existing habitats; in plantations in Mayo however this would be as high as 25%. Coillte manages plantation areas in 32 Forest Management Units (FMUs). These FMUs have been surveyed to identify areas of biodiversity interest and potential. Sixteen Biodiversity Areas have been identified by Coillte in its Mayo FMUs, which are listed in Appendix VI.

The National Survey of Native Woodland 2003–2008 identified two sites in Mayo - Knockbaun and Raheens Wood, in the top 19 undesignated sites ranked by conservation assessment score, out of 1217 woodland sites surveyed across the Republic.

Encroachment of scrub due to the reduction in agricultural activity in marginal areas, has resulted in the development of new woodland habitats, supporting various levels of biodiversity. Scrub can be an important habitat for birds and invertebrates.



Non-designated Bogs, Fens & Turloughs of Conservation Interest

In addition, there are 13 non SAC/NHA designated bogs, fens & turloughs of conservation interest in the county protected under the County Development Plan, and which are listed in Table 4.9 below.

Table 4.9 Non SAC/NHA designated Bogs, Fens & Turloughs of Conservation Interest

Name of Bog/Fen/Turlough	Main Habitat Type
Derrykinlough	Raised Western
Lagduff West	Lowland Blanket
Ballycroy	Lowland Blanket
Lagduff East	Lowland Blanket
Mayfield Loughs	Fen
Robe River Bog	Fen & Raised Western
Ballymore Loughs	Fen
Carrick Lough	Fen
Lough Caheer	Fen
Knocklehard Lake	Fen
Lough Naskea	Fen
Houndswood Fen	Fen
Ballindereen Turlough	Turlough

Protected Species

County Mayo is home to several rare, protected and/or threatened plant and animal species. In addition to those listed in Annex II and Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive and EU Birds Directive respectively, other species are protected under Annex V of the former directive (animal and plant species whose taking in the wild and exploitation may be subject to management measures) and include *Rana temporaria* and *Phoca vitulina* while Annex IV species (animal and plant species in need of strict protection) include *Lutra lutra* and *Najas flexilis*.

Further, the vulnerable status of other species is highlighted by their inclusion and classification in the Irish Red Data Book, which utilises IUCN categories with the principal aim of identifying those species most in need of conservation interventions. Species recorded in Mayo and their current Irish status includes *Salmo salar* (vulnerable), *Salvelinus alpinus* (vulnerable) and *Rana temporaria* (least concern). Regrettably, populations of *S. alpinus* have disappeared from Lough Conn in recent years but a large population continues to occur in Lough Mask.

Also used as a protection for surface water quality, the European Communities (Quality of Salmonid Waters) Regulations, 1988 affords protection to a number of fish taxa including *Salmo salar*, *Salmo trutta* and *Coregonus* spp. by assigning water quality standards to be met including physical and chemical conditions. In Mayo, the River Moy main channel and its 11 tributaries are designated salmonid waters.

The Wildlife Acts, 1976 and 2000 are to provide for the protection and conservation of wild fauna and flora, to conserve a representative sample of important ecosystems, to provide for the development and protection of game resources and to regulate their exploitation, and to provide the services necessary to accomplish such aims. It includes a diverse range of wild birds, land and marine mammals and amphibians.

Protected plants are those that are legally protected under the Flora Protection Order, 1999.

One species which warrants particular mention is the freshwater pearl mussel, *Margaritifera margaritifera* whose populations, in Mayo and nationwide are at unfavourable conservation status and thus need restoration. In Mayo there are two qualifying populations; in the Newport River cSAC and Mweelrea /Sheeffry/Erriff Complex cSAC with additional extant populations recorded at other locations as shown in Figure 4.4. While those populations within the two aforementioned cSACs are afforded some protection as qualifying interests of their cSAC, other *M. margaritifera* populations outside of cSACs are covered by the legal provisions of Annex V of the Habitats Directive in addition to the Wildlife Acts. Additionally, freshwater pearl mussel, *M. margaritifera*, are afforded protection and their water conditions must achieve environmental quality objectives under the European Communities Environmental (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) Regulations, 2009 (S.I. No. 296 of 2009). Essentially, sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures must be prepared for Natura 2000 sites designated for the protection of *M. margaritifera* populations.

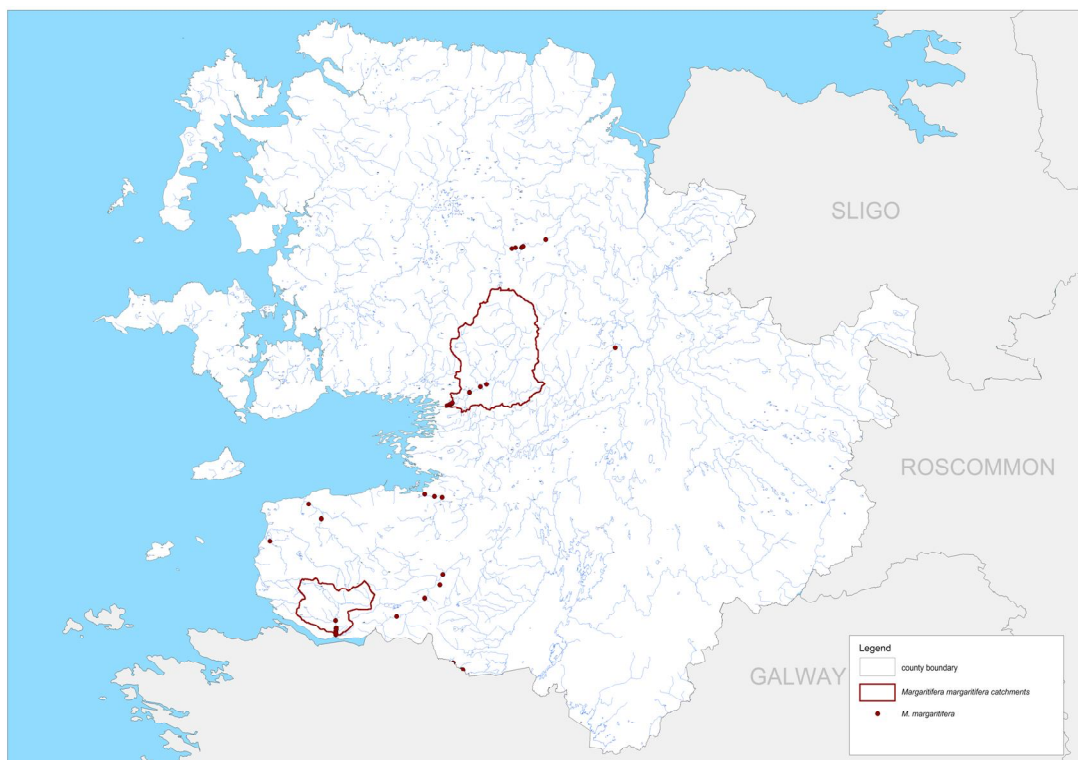


Figure 4.4 Natura 2000 sites designated for the protection of *Margaritifera margaritifera* populations and additional recorded species

4.2.3 Existing problems

A number of problems exist which threaten the conservation status of the biodiversity of Mayo. Aquatic habitats and species are particularly vulnerable to water quality and quantity issues; hence the efforts to maintain and restore surface and groundwater status in accordance with the objective of the Water Framework Directive and specifically by measures prescribed in the Western River Basin Management Plan 2009 – 2015, will in turn be of considerable benefit to the biodiversity in Mayo.

In addition to water pollution from a number of sources, other challenges which may result in loss, distribution or reduction of qualifying interests include land uses such as forestry and agricultural



activities which may introduce silt and nutrients to waters, in addition to contaminants and the initiation of pH changes.

Recreational activities may also impact on biodiversity by virtue of direct disturbance of aquatic species and also by disturbance or fragmentation of aquatic habitats.

Inappropriate development within or near Natura 2000 sites may impact significantly on their qualifying interests, directly, indirectly or in combination with other developments, plans for developments or projects. This threat is mitigated by a full Appropriate Assessment (AA) when deemed necessary by AA screening.

Invasive species is now cited as the second greatest threat to biodiversity worldwide after habitat destruction; the introduction of non-native flora and fauna can wreak havoc on Irish habitats and species. Problematic aquatic invasives in Mayo include *Dreissena polymorpha*, *Leuciscus* spp., *Lagarosiphon major* and *Elodea nuttallii*. The threat from *Dikogammarus villosus* is a very real one, though as yet this species has not been recorded in Ireland. Other pervasive threats to both habitats and species alike include overgrazing and erosion, as identified by the NPWS in a number of protected areas throughout Mayo. Climate change, species disease and predation are also significant issues.

Fundamentally, there is an issue in relation to baseline data include the lack of detailed information on designated sites and lack of Conservation Management Plans for these sites. Conservation Management Plans are only available for four sites: Owenduff/Nepin Complex SAC (Site Code: 000534); Owenduff/Nepin Complex SPA (Site Code: 004098), Lough Hoe Bog cSAC (Site Code: 000633) and Flughany Bog SAC (Site Code: 000497).

There is also a need to identify and collect information on all areas of local biodiversity value and ecological corridors in the county. Baseline information on the location and condition of habitats is fundamentally important for habitat management and conservation. This information is necessary to inform future planning policy and conservation policies, and for creating awareness among the public. Habitats of high conservation value can be avoided when planning developments and can be targeted for biodiversity conservation or enhancement measures.

4.2.4 Likely Evolution of Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna in absence of a County Development Plan

In the absence of a plan for development for Mayo, development will be ad-hoc, dispersed and assessed on a case-by-case basis. Since, in accordance with Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, every plan or project should be assessed to investigate its likely significant impacts on Natura 2000 site(s), protection will be afforded to the Natura 2000 network within Mayo. However, while projects an plans are assessed on a case-by-case basis, with no overall cohesive plan or strategy for development within the county, there may exist a situation where a number of plans or projects which have been screened from the necessity of an Appropriate Assessment, will significantly impact on Natura 2000 sites by virtue of their cumulative or in-combination effects elsewhere. This particular point demonstrates the importance of maintaining a register (with map data) of plans and projects within Mayo, along with their Habitats Directive Article 6 status i.e. screened from AA, AA undertaken etc.

In the absence of a county development plan for Mayo, species and habitats may face potential pressures as a result of direct or indirect aquatic pollution from poorly-sited developments. Those taxa outside of the Natura 2000 network will potentially be significantly affected to a greater degree than those within Natura 2000 sites, by virtue of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive and also because the location of many species and habitats afforded protection under the Wildlife Acts and Flora Protection Order such as *Rana temporaria*, *Triturus vulgaris*, *Austropotamobius pallipes* and *Najas flexilis* and *Equisetum X Moorei Newman* simply may not be currently identified at every location they exist in Mayo. Development, simply, must be strategically planned in an effort to protect the biodiversity of Mayo as a whole, with a strong focus on the promotion of sustainable development.



4.3 Population

4.3.1 Baseline environment

The population in Mayo in 2010 was 130,638 persons, compared to 123,893 persons in 2006. This represented an increase in population of 5.5% in five years. The average annual rate of population increase in this five year period was 1.1% which was lower than the rate of 1.3% experienced over the last census period 2002-2006. The Regional Planning Guidelines for the West Region 2010-2020 give target populations for Mayo of 143,640 for 2016 and 150,800 for 2020. Therefore it is estimated that the target population for the period of the County Development Plan to 2020 is 148,413 persons, which would be a population increase of 17,775 persons in the period 2011 to 2020, representing an increase of 13.6% over this period. Despite this growth, Mayo's share of the West Regional population has continued to decline – from 30% in 2006 to 29% in 2011.

Table 4.10 Population of County

	2006	2011	% Change (2006 to 2011)	2020 Target ¹	% Change (2011 to 2020)
Mayo	123,839	130,638	5.5%	148,413	13.6%
State	4,239,848	4,588,252	8.2%	5,249,132	14.4%

The pattern of change in the urban and rural areas within the County since 2006 has seen a greater dispersal of growth, with Ballina, Castlebar and Westport urban areas experiencing a minor increase in population compared to the environ areas of these towns. Most notably, the population of Ballina Urban grew by 3% over the period of 2006 to 2011, with the population of the Town's Environs growing by 105% over the same period.

Table 4.11 Population of main three urban centres of Mayo

	2006	2011	% Change (2006 to 2011)
Ballina Urban	10,056	10,361	3%
Ballina Environs	353	725	105.4%
Castlebar Urban	10,655	10,826	1.6%
Castlebar Environs	1,236	1,492	20.7%
Westport Urban	5,163	5,543	7.4%
Westport Environs	312	520	66.7%

Between 2006 and 2011 the County's urban population increased by 12.1%, but five new towns and villages were added to the census towns in 2011. The rural population of the county increased by 1.5% over the same period. Castlebar has the highest population of all towns in Mayo with a population of 12,318 persons, but only experienced a growth of 418 persons between the period of 2006 to 2011. Claremorris the fourth largest town in the county experienced the highest growth of all towns with a population increase of 817 persons over the same period. Castlebar was sixth in terms of population increase in Mayo behind the towns of Claremorris, Ballina, Ballinrobe, Ballyhaunis and Westport.

¹ Estimate based on target figures given in the Regional Planning Guidelines for the West Region 2010-2020 for the years 2016 and 2022



Population trends in Mayo indicate that growth in the urban fringes is exceeding growth in the urban centres, with population also decreasing in the rural countryside. In the absence of a CDP these trends would be likely to continue resulting in an increase in greenfield development with associated impacts on biodiversity, water, and landscape.

4.4 Human health

4.4.1 Introduction

Human health in the context of being subjected to significant effects as a consequence of the proposed Mayo County Development Plan 2014 – 2020 was assessed with reference to how environmental elements and their existing issues and evolution may impact on the health of Mayo inhabitants and visitors.

4.4.2 Baseline environment

Human health encompasses an enormous area of study and includes, *inter alia*, everything from physical and mental disabilities, long-term illness, acute and chronic disease, mental health and aging populations. While no specific data are available for Mayo, 2010 statistics identified that in the HSE West Region, 39% of adults described their own health as 'very good' while a 'bad/ very bad' status was assigned by 2% of the adult population, by their own perception (CSO, 2012). Additionally, the health condition diagnosed most frequently by doctors included chronic back conditions and hypertension (13% of adults 18 years and over) and high cholesterol at 12%. Other conditions commonly diagnosed included rheumatoid arthritis, heart failure, heart attack and anxiety / depression.

Additionally pertaining to human health, the scope of the Seveso II Directive (2003/105/EC), amending Council Directive 96/82/EC on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances, deals solely with the presence of dangerous substances in establishments, covering both industrial "activities" as well as the storage of dangerous chemicals. Nationally divided into upper- and lower-tier sites by the Health & Safety Authority (HSA), a total of five such establishments have been listed in Mayo and are shown in Figure 4.6.

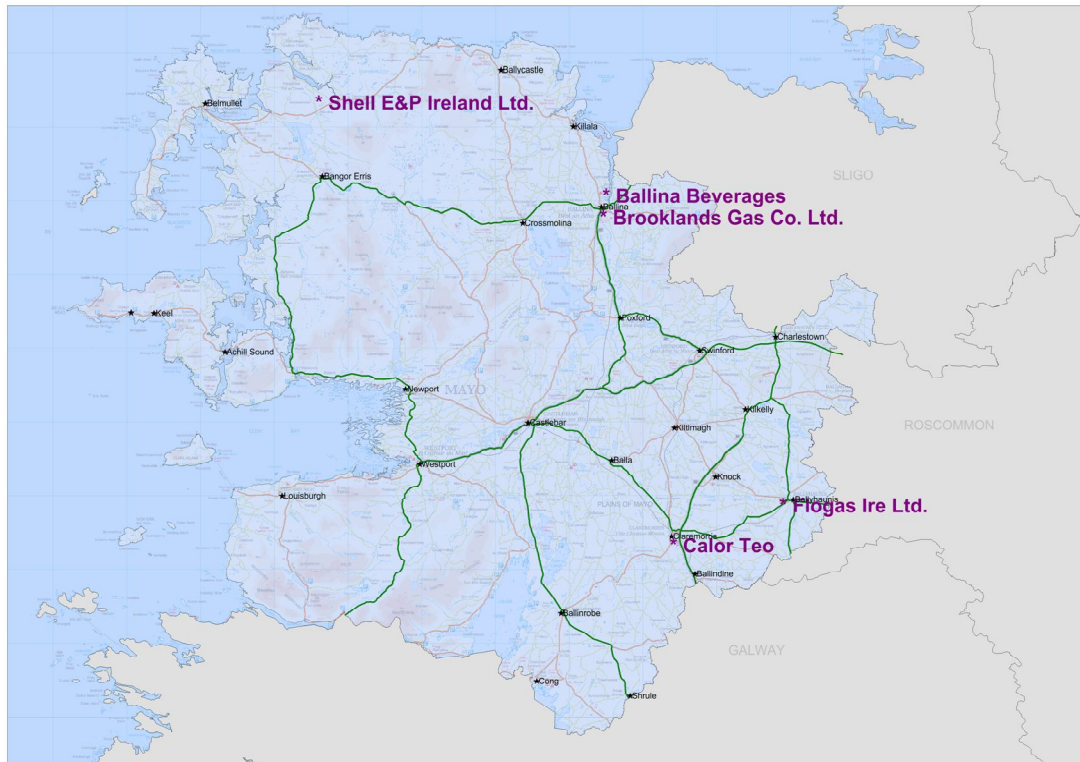


Figure 4.6 Seveso II sites of Mayo

4.4.3 Existing problems

Epidemiological studies undertaken nationally and on an international scale indicate that a number of environmental factors are causal factors in deteriorating human health. The following describes potential human health problems arising from environmental conditions.

Air quality has been identified as heavily influencing human health. Airborne pollutants include particulates and noxious gases and their presence in concentrations above specified emission limit values are breaches of the Air Pollution Act, 1987. For example, concentrated levels of SO₂ in ambient air can affect vegetation (via acid rain) and human health, particularly those suffering from asthma and chronic lung diseases. Generally, emissions of sulphur dioxide tend to be concentrated in urban areas. Limiting the sulphur content of smoky coal helps to protect human health and the environment by reducing air pollution, particularly during the winter months.

Particulate matter (PM₁₀) consists of very small particles in the air that can penetrate deep into the respiratory tract and pose significant health risks. Inhalation of these particles can increase the risk, frequency and severity of respiratory and cardio-pulmonary disorders. CO (carbon monoxide) is a highly toxic colourless and odourless gas which is emitted into the atmosphere by the oxidation.

Noise can potentially lead to hearing impairment, hypertension, ischemic heart disease, annoyance and sleep disturbance. Changes in the immune system and birth defects have also been attributed to noise exposure. Elevated noise levels can create stress, increase workplace accident rates, and stimulate aggression and other anti-social behaviors. The most significant causes are vehicle and



aircraft noise, prolonged exposure to loud music, and industrial noise. There may be psychological definitions of noise also. Firecrackers may upset noise-traumatized individuals. The most common noise-traumatized persons are those exposed to military conflicts, but often loud groups of people can trigger complaints and other behaviors about noise.

As well as the direct relationship between drinking water and its impacts on human health including water-borne diseases such as hepatitis and leptospirosis and protozoan-causing cryptosporidiosis, giardiasis, amoebiasis, a number of additional drinking water-based diseases include acute illnesses associated with *Escherichia coli* and other bacteria. Proper drinking water treatment including adequate settlement, coagulation, filtration and chlorination should aim to prevent drinking water-related disease and infection. Indirect effects of human health from surface waters may also include mental health issues which are proven to be positively influenced by aquatic ecosystems including lakes, seascapes, rivers and canals.

The current dispersed rural nature of the county's population gives rise to an increased dependency on unsustainable modes of transport, which could impact on air quality and climate factors; indirectly on human health. In addition, there is also an increased dependency on private waste water treatment systems in rural areas that could have negative impacts on groundwater and drinking water quality, which in turn could have adverse impacts on human health.

The geology of an area can be a factor influencing the concentration of radon, a radio-active gas which causes lung cancer, released into homes and other developments. There are a number of high radon areas in Mayo, with north Mayo one of the worst affected areas, with the south and east of the county also experiencing levels above acceptable concentrations. Radon measurements have been carried out by the RPII in a number of homes in each 10 km grid square of the National Grid. Houses were chosen at random to give a uniform distribution across the county and findings were used to predict the percentage of homes in each 10 km grid square with radon concentrations in excess of the national Reference Level of 200 Bq/m³. Ballina and its surrounding area is identified as at particular risk.

Biodiversity loss can have significant direct human health impacts if ecosystem services are no longer adequate to meet social needs. The World Health Organisation (WHO) emphasises that good human health and productive livelihoods depend upon ecosystem products and services, such as availability of fresh water, fresh air, food and fuel sources. In addition, significant medical and pharmacological discoveries are made through greater understanding of the biodiversity in Ireland and worldwide. Biodiversity loss may limit discovery of potential treatments for many diseases and health problems. Health promotion, health research, health monitoring, disease prevention, community health and the costs of public health management are all positively affected by ecosystem goods and services and put at risk by biodiversity loss and ecosystem change. The following matrix summarises the influence of the environmental elements on human health and highlights the epidemiological importance of environmental considerations.



Table 4.12 Environmental elements and human health considerations

Environmental element	Human health impact ²	Comment(s)
Biodiversity, flora and fauna	+ / -	A well-functioning healthy ecosystem with diverse and abundant floral and faunal elements have been shown to impact positively on human health while biodiversity loss can have a negative impact
Population	+ / -	A dispersed rural population may promote fresher, unpolluted air while a dense population increases exposure to noise and air pollutants. In contrast, a dispersed population will increase dependency small-scale wastewater treatment facilities
Soils and geology	-	Mayo is regarded as a high risk area for radon exposure (RPII). This odourless, colourless gas can increase the risk for lung cancer
Surface water	+ / -	Waterborne diseases can be transmitted to humans, while the recreational and aesthetic effects of waterscapes are very 'health-promoting'
Air	+ / -	Numerous airborne diseases from polluted areas of the county (usually denser population centres) in contrast to clean, unpolluted fresh air in rural, dispersed population areas
Noise	-	Increased environmental noise nuisance from development activities may increase emotional and mental health impacts
Climatic factors	-	Increased flooding events will result in loss of life in addition to transmission of waterborne infection and introduction of harmful invasive species such as poisonous jellyfish
Material Assets		
<i>Waste management</i>	-	Inappropriately-located waste management facilities will result in odour- and noise-related health issues
<i>Transport – roads</i>	-	Deaths / injury from road incidents and air pollutants in close proximity to high-volume routes
<i>Transport – other</i>	+ / -	Deaths / injury from rail traffic and harbours / piers, and negative impacts from airport noise but airport infrastructure may reduce road traffic
<i>Drinking water</i>	+ / -	Poor quality water from wells and boreholes leading to waterborne disease while clean, good-quality water is essential for good health
<i>Wastewater infrastructure</i>	+ / -	Adequate and efficient wastewater treatment should maintain good water status while poor wastewater infrastructure (in particular small-scale wastewater systems) may pollute waters and consequently impact on human health
<i>Energy and communications</i>	+ / -	Decreased dependency on non-renewables equates to less air pollutants whereas some renewable energy infrastructure may cause negative health impacts e.g. noise from wind turbines
<i>Forestry</i>	+	A healthy forest increases ambient oxygen concentrations while recreational use of forests promotes human mental and emotional wellbeing

² Where + is positive impact, – is negative impact and 'n' indicates no / indiscernible impact on human health



Cultural heritage	+	Well-preserved archaeological and architectural elements and their appreciation and enjoyment will result in a well-balanced and healthy mental state
Landscape	+ / -	Human health benefits from a scenic and aesthetically-pleasing landscape, while a landscape destroyed by inappropriate development can lead to poor emotional wellbeing

4.4.4 Likely Evolution of Human Health in absence of the Mayo County Development Plan

While health is heavily influenced by the environment, the evolution of human health in Mayo in the absence of a County Development Plan would likely progress as it has done previously. On saying that, however, development in an unplanned and ad-hoc manner would have an indirect negative effect on human health as a result of negative effects on other environmental elements such as air, water quality and biodiversity, as described previously.

4.5 Soils and geology

4.5.1 Introduction

Soil is the top layer of the earth's crust, formed of mineral particles, organic matter, water, air and living organisms. It is considered a non renewable natural resource, as it is formed by a complex series of processes which occur over long timescales. Soil is an extremely variable and living medium and performs many vital functions including food and other biomass production, storage, filtration and transformation of many substances including water, carbon and nitrogen. Damage to soil structure has repercussions to other environmental media and ecosystems.

To date, there is no legislation which is specific to the protection of soil resources. However, there is currently an EU Thematic Strategy on the protection of soil which includes a proposal for a Soil Framework Directive which proposes common principles for protecting soils across the EU. The objective of the Strategy is to protect the soil while using it sustainably, through the prevention of further degradation, the preservation of soil function and the restoration of degraded soils. The strategy is designed to halt and reverse the process of soil degradation, ensure healthy soils for future generations and remain capable of supporting the ecosystems on which our economic activities and well being depend.

Article 5 of the proposed Directive states that, for the purposes of preserving the various functions of soil; sealing, the development of artificial surfaces on top of soil resources, should be limited. The proposed Directive suggests that this may be achieved through rehabilitating brownfield sites, thus reducing the depletion of greenfield sites. The proposed Directive also states that soil should be used in a sustainable manner which preserves its capacity to deliver ecological, economic and social services, while maintaining its functions so that future generations can meet their needs. Although soil is not yet protected, provisions in favour of soil protection are spread across many policy areas and are usually designed to safeguard other environmental media. Under the EU Habitats Directive, areas of peat – raised bogs and blanket bogs – are included in SAC area designations.

The main pressures on soil resources in Ireland arise from intensive agriculture and organic waste disposal; forestry; industry; peat extraction; urbanisation and infrastructural development. Minimal protection of soils and geology, apart from that afforded by other environmental designations, means that sensitive areas such as peatlands are open to exploitation and degradation. Altering peatlands may result in contamination of soils and water courses. In addition, soil erosion due to development and forestry related operations can have an impact on water quality and can also lead to landslide events.

4.5.2 Baseline environment

Soils

The following Figures 4.7 and 4.8 show the distribution of soil types which occur in County Mayo.

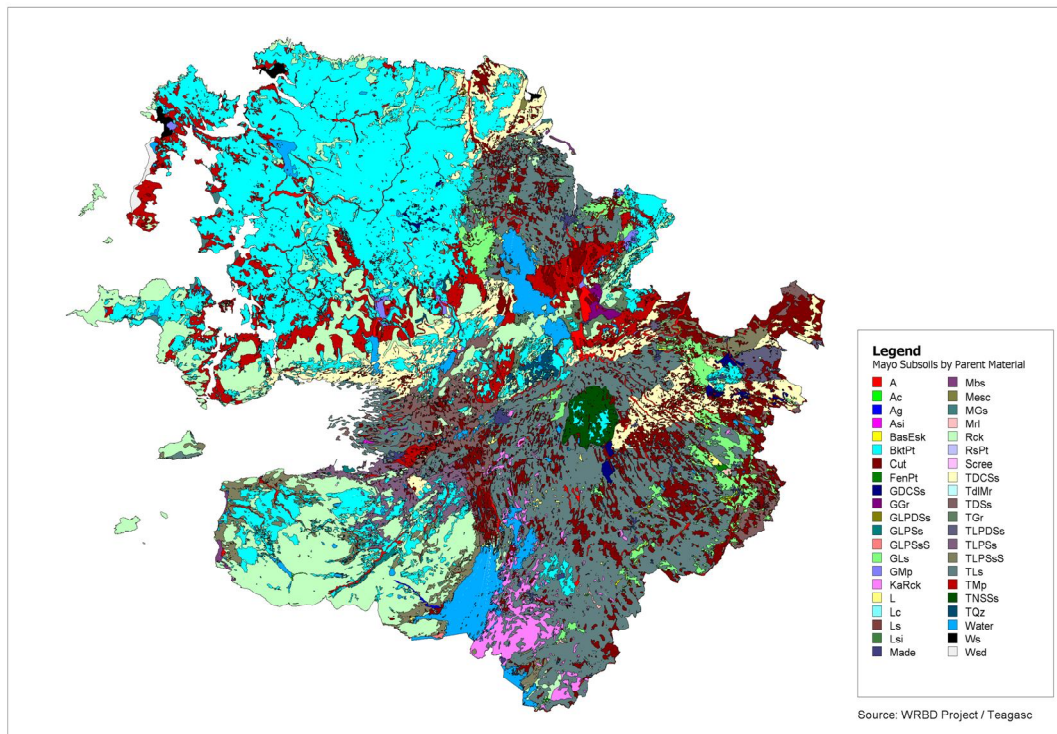


Figure 4.7 Soil map of Mayo (Source: Teagasc and EPA)

The soils overlying the west of the county generally consist of various peats: blanket peats which are found in the uplands; as well as peaty gleys and peaty podzols which are found on lower lying lands. The areas of blanket peat are internationally important - supporting a large variety of rare flora and fauna - and large areas are protected by a number of ecological designations. The peaty gleys and peaty podzols support extensive agriculture in places.

Areas of acid brown earths, podzols and gleys are found underlying areas of the county's northern and western coastal edges. These soils support areas of extensive agriculture.

The east of the county demonstrates a greater diversity of soils, including large areas of grey brown podzolics, brown podzolics, podzols, shallow brown earths and rendzinas. Peat bogs also cover significant areas in particular north and north-east of Castlebar and around Kiltimagh. These soils in the east of the county, although not supporting the variety or important nature of flora and fauna that the soils in the west of the county, do support the majority of the county's agricultural activities.

Figure 4.8 shows the main CORINE 2006 Land Use Classes in the county.

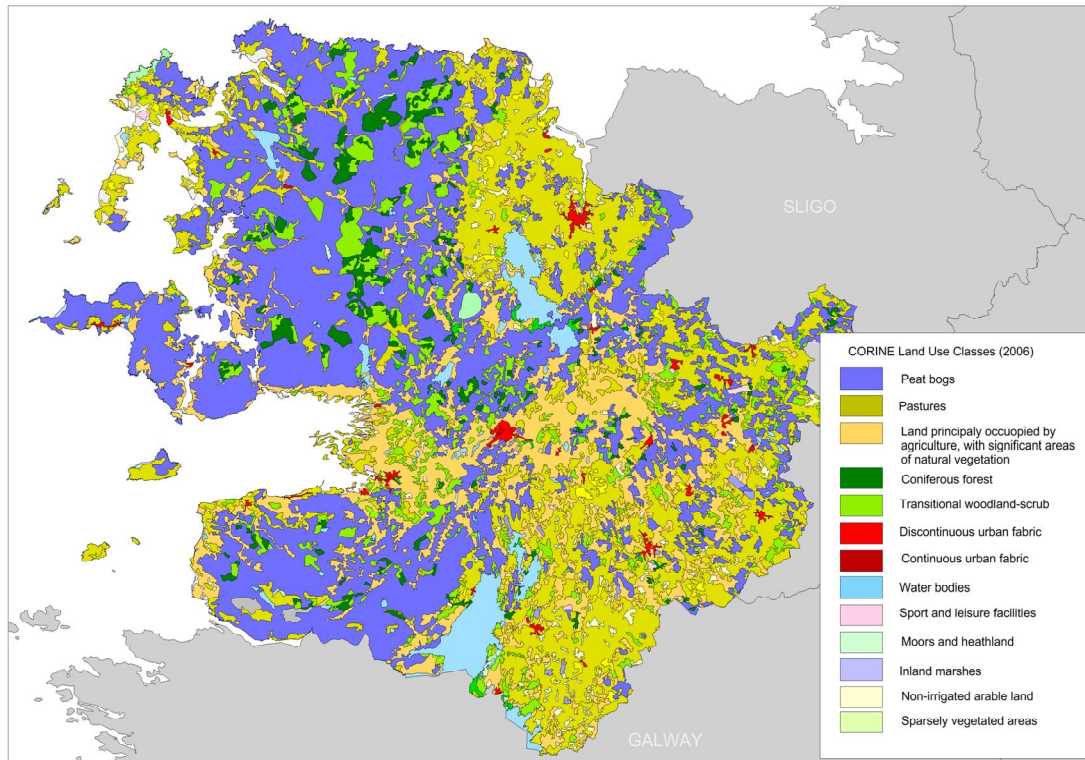


Figure 4.8 Main CORINE Land Use Classes of Mayo (2006 data)

Geology

North Mayo has had a long and complex geological history. The oldest rocks in Ireland, Precambrian gneiss, can be found in the plains of Erris. In contrast, younger Carboniferous limestones make up much of the low-lying lands of the south east of the county. The underlying geology of the county is outlined in Figure 4.9.

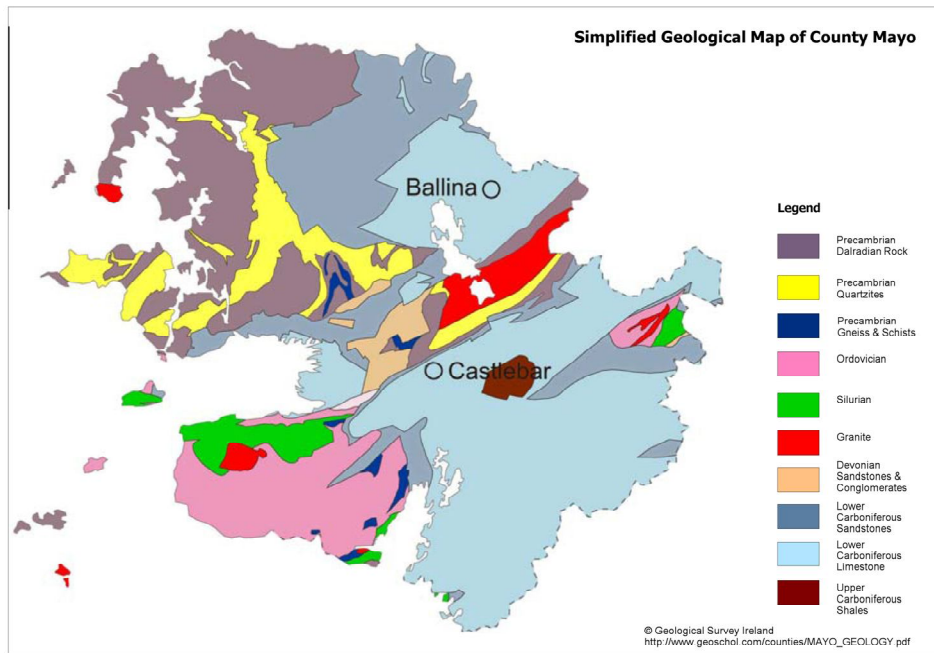


Figure 4.9 Geology map of Mayo (Source: Geological Survey of Ireland)

Quaternary sediments (deposited or formed during the last 2 million years) form a discontinuous blanket, covering most of the bedrock with moraines, drumlins and eskers. The Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) has identified 122 sites in Mayo as Irish Geological Heritage Sites (IGH). These Sites of Geological Interest are illustrated in Figure 4.10 with more detail afforded in Appendix IV.



Figure 4.10 Irish Geological Heritage Sites (IGH) of Mayo (also shown are Natura 2000 sites and Natural Heritage Areas (NHA))

Extractive Industries

The quaternary geology (soils which have been deposited or formed during the last 2 million years) underlying the soils in County Mayo supports a range of quarrying activities including limestone, granite, sand and gravel quarrying.

Quarry sites are spread throughout the county with clusters or large sites found near Foxford, Barnalyra, Kilkelly, Castlebar, Ballyhaunis, Cong, Achill Island, Blacksod, Westport and Ballycastle. A map of General Quarry Areas in the County is included in Figure 4.11.

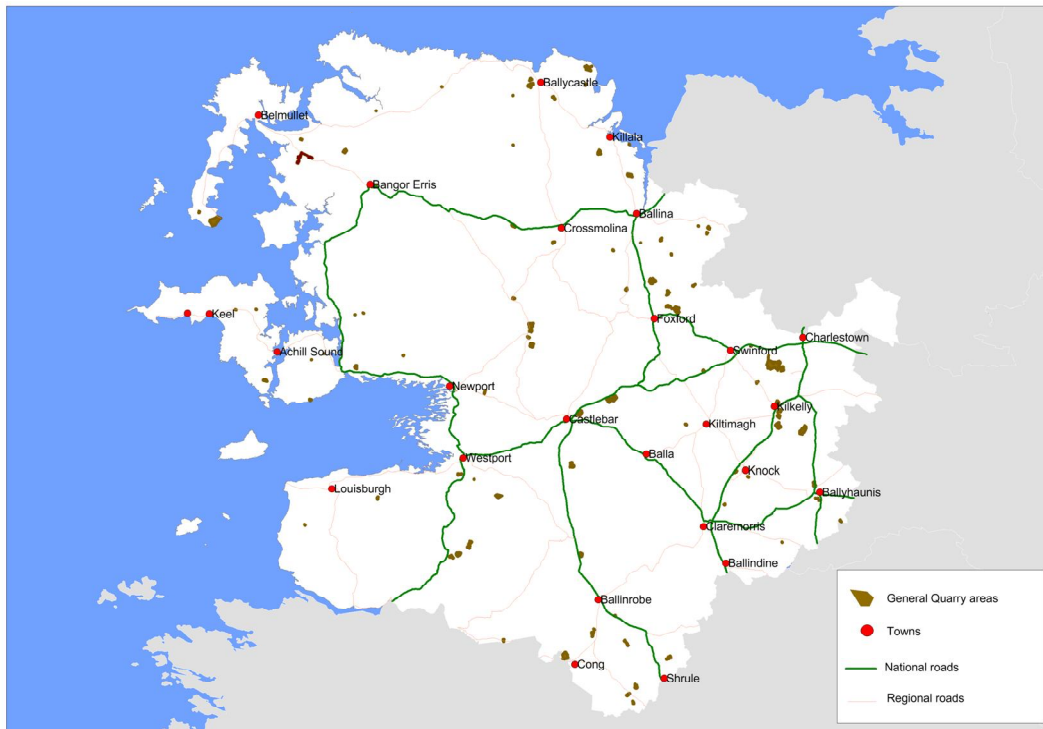


Figure 4.11 General Quarry Areas of Mayo (some areas are shown larger for the purpose of presentation in a county map)

4.5.3 Existing problems

The main pressures on soil resources in the county arise from agriculture, organic waste disposal, forestry, industry, peat extraction, urbanisation and infrastructural development. These activities can lead to soil degradation including loss of organic matter, decline in soil fertility, acidification, loss of soil stability, soil erosion, compaction, contamination and loss of biodiversity.

Generally, development in County Mayo is not significantly impacting Blanket Bog sites within designated ecological sites. Blanket bog outside these sites may be experiencing localised losses as a result of individual developments. Development on peat bogs has the potential to impact on the integrity of the bog environment. For example, infrastructural development has the potential to cause landslides while afforestation has the potential to result in losses to biodiversity and flora and fauna.

Greenfield development involves the building upon and thereby sealing off of soil, thus representing an environmental problem.

The development of quarries in County Mayo has led to the depletion of both subsoils, the material which has been quarried, and topsoil, which has been removed in order to obtain the subsoil.

There is potential that soil may be polluted and contaminated as a result of pollution from development which is not serviced by appropriate waste water infrastructure and from agricultural sources. Soil erosion resulting from construction works and agricultural / forestry/ fishery operations has potential to impact on water quality and fishery resources.

Peat is prone to saturation and when disturbed may become saturated and unstable on slopes. Due to the waterlogged nature of the soils of much of the county, landslides can be a significant issue. In

addition to water quality and fishery impacts, these can impact on infrastructure and can have health and safety implications. The GSI have established a landslide database; to date there has been a total of 15 recorded landslide events in the county. The location of these landslide events is shown on Fig 4.12.

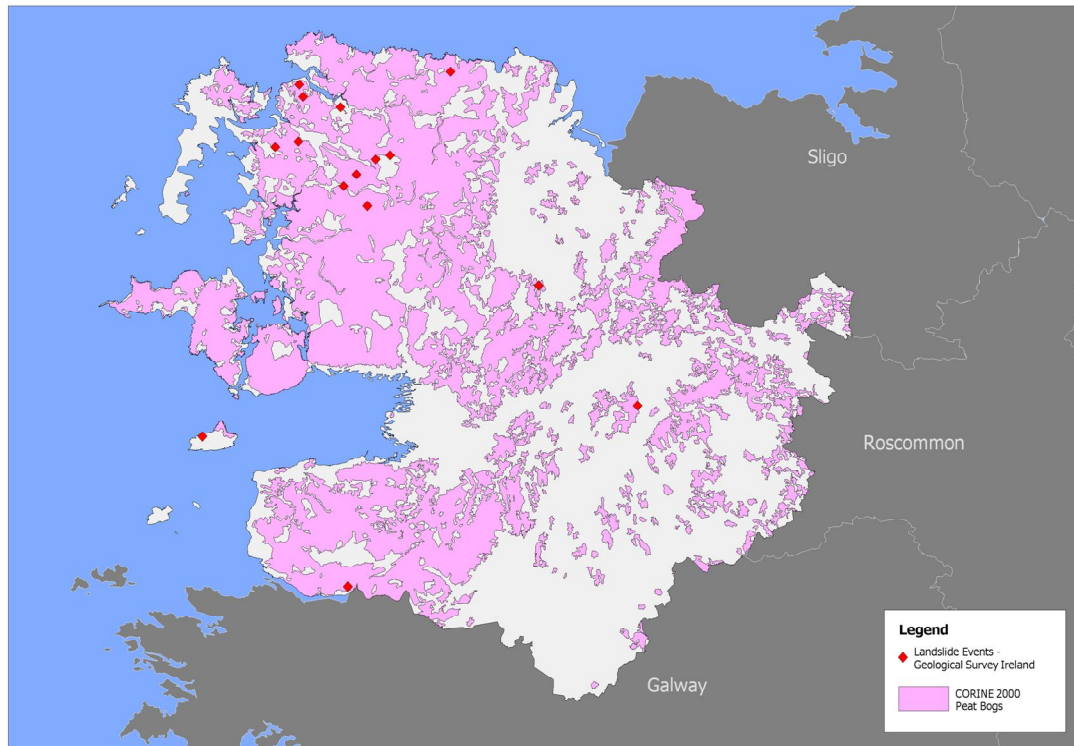


Figure 4.12 Location of landslide events in Mayo

Coastal erosion is an increasing concern, particularly in low lying coastal areas and the Council seeks to implement works under the National Coastal Protection Programme and to co-operate in the preparation of a Coastal Zone Management Strategy.

4.5.4 Likely Evolution of Soils and Geology in absence of the Mayo County Development Plan

In the absence of a County Development Plan (CDP), development would occur in an ad-hoc manner and not have mitigation for soil/peat exposure, erosion and water seepage/runoff. In the absence of a CDP it is likely that there would be applications to expand quarrying activities in certain areas which are underlain by valuable deposits.

Greenfield development would be likely to result in the building upon and thereby sealing off of the non-renewable subsoil and soil resources. The proposed Soil Directive suggests encouraging the rehabilitation of brownfield sites, thus reducing the depletion of greenfield sites. Soil would also have the potential to be polluted and contaminated as a result of pollution from development which is not serviced by appropriate waste water infrastructure and from agricultural sources.



4.6 Water

4.6.1 Introduction

The quality of water in Mayo is maintained and protected by a plethora of legislation, local, regional, national and European. In recent years the Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (the Water Framework Directive) has radically altered the more traditional emission limit value approach to water protection by introducing an encompassing water protection / improvement and conservation framework prescribing steps to reach the common goal of achieving good water status within the EU by 2015.

Under Article 6, 7(1) and Annex IV of the Water Framework Directive, reference is made to a register of protected areas. Essentially, areas designated as requiring special protection for the protection of surface water and groundwater or for the conservation of habitats and species directly depending on water are listed and maintained in a register which is kept under review and up-to-date.

Bodies of water, within each river basin district, used for the abstraction of water intended for human consumption providing more than 10m³ or more than 50 persons or those bodies intended for such future use, in addition to other areas, including *inter alia*:

- i. Areas designated for the protection of economically-significant aquatic species;
- ii. Bodies of water designated as recreational waters, including areas designated as bathing waters under Directive 76/160/EEC;
- iii. Nutrient-sensitive areas, including areas designated as vulnerable zones under Directive 91/676/EEC and areas designated as sensitive areas under Directive 91/271/EEC; and
- iv. Areas designated for the protection of habitats or species where the maintenance or improvement of the status of water is an important factor in their protection, including relevant Natura 2000 sites designated under Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 79/409/EEC.

The aforementioned protected areas are described throughout this section of the current document in addition to Section 4.2 *Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna*.

4.6.2 Baseline environment

Water bodies or bodies of surface waters are defined within the Water Framework Directive (WFD) as “a discrete and significant element of surface water such as a lake, a reservoir, a stream, river or canal, part of a stream, river or canal, a transitional water or a stretch of coastal water”, while a groundwater body is defined as “a distinct volume of groundwater within an aquifer or aquifers”. Using a spatial management system, eight River Basin Districts (RBD) have been designated as hydrological or geographical units for Ireland, Ecoregion 17, with Mayo designated as part of the Western River Basin District.

The Water Framework Directive was transposed into Irish legislation in 2003 by the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations, 2003, in addition to successive supporting Irish legislation including, *inter alia*, European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations, 2009, European Communities Environmental Objectives (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) Regulations, 2009 and European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations, 2010.



Water is both a receptor and pathway of environmental pollution and hence its importance as an environmental consideration in this context cannot be overstated.

The water quality in Mayo has been assessed in accordance with the requirements of the WFD. Briefly, the county has been segregated into individual surface water bodies and ascribed statuses by a combination of the determination of surface water ecological status and chemical status. Most³ surface water bodies were monitored for ecological status using data on biological, hydromorphological, chemical and physico-chemical and general elements to classify a status of high, good, moderate, poor and bad. Essentially, classification is based on a 'one-out-all-out' system where the lowest classification for each of the elements monitored is utilised for the water body status assignment. Surface water chemical status includes consideration of priority and priority hazardous substances. Where surface water bodies of high and good status exists, they must be protected while those of less than good must be restored to at least good status by 2015⁴.

The current baseline in Mayo pertaining to surface water status (lotic waters only) is described as variable. While high water body status accounts for a small portion of the total area of the county, good, moderate and poor statuses account for almost half of surface water area and approximately 56% (moderate and poor additionally) of the total area respectively. One water body of bad status is located in the River Robe catchment, the principal tributary of Lough Mask, and accounts for approximately 2% of the area of the county. As illustrated in Figure 4.13 the greater majority of moderate and poor water bodies are, in general, located in the more populated, developed portions of the county, whereas the good and high water bodies are in the western, sparsely-populated, less-developed catchments.

³ It is not possible to monitor every water body so the status of monitored (donor) water bodies was used to extrapolate the status of nearby unmonitored (recipient) water bodies that are similar in terms of physical characteristics and the pressures acting on them.

⁴ The Western River Basin Management Plan 2009 – 2015 aims to achieve good status for 74% of rivers by 2015, with 100% compliance to be achieved over two planning cycles to 2021 and to 2027

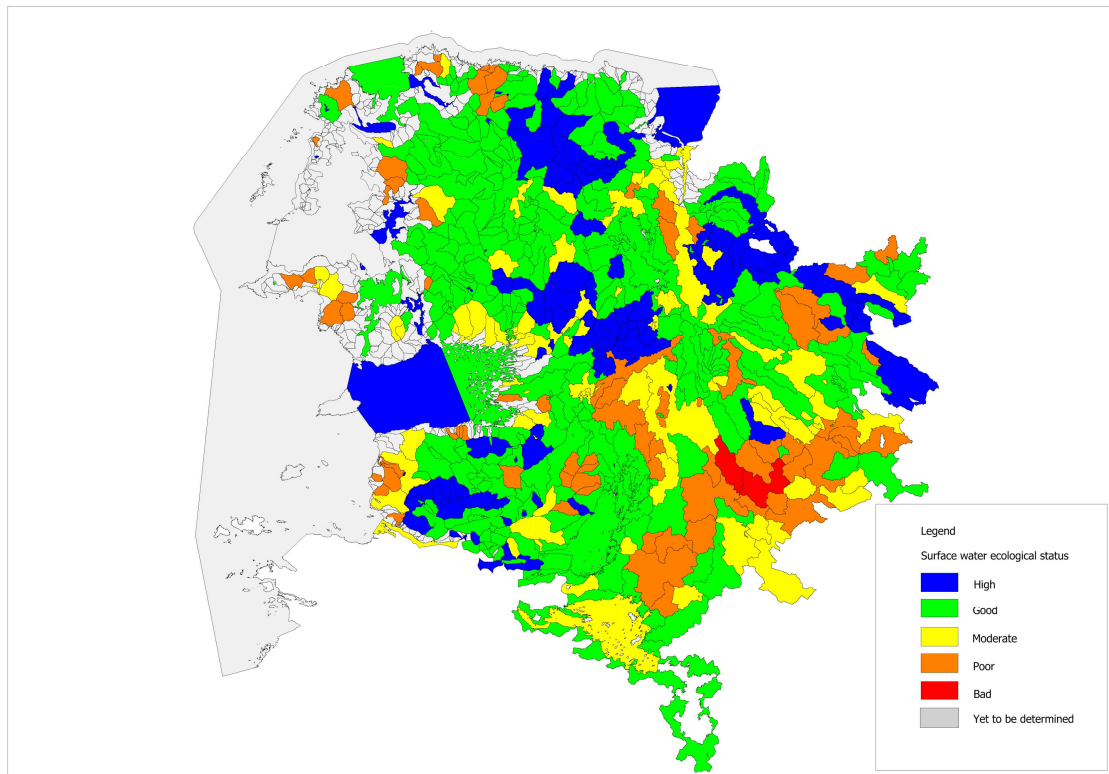


Figure 4.13 Surface water status of Mayo

Lake water is assessed, in accordance with the WFD and associated legislation, using a different tranche of biological quality elements, namely, phytobenthos and macrophytes, phytoplankton, macroinvertebrates and fish in addition to supporting chemical and physico-chemical elements including nutrients, oxygenation and acidification conditions. The current baseline data are quite variable with the larger lakes; Conn, Cullin, Carra and Carrowmore described as of moderate status and a number of smaller lakes assigned a status of high. Lakes which have been assigned good status include Mask, Beltra, Feeagh and Furnace. No Mayo lakes have been assigned as bad, but since the recovery of lakes following measures to *inter alia*, reduce eutrophication-promoting nutrients may take more than 20 years, the current situation makes the principal objective of the WFD and the restoration of lakes to good status from moderate or poor quite a difficult task. The EEA (European Environment Agency), in a recent report, concluded that water bodies throughout Europe are generally improving, but not quickly enough to meet the targets set by the WFD – in fact only 52 % of water bodies are predicted to achieve good ecological status by 2015, according to Member States own plans.

The current status of Mayo lakes is illustrated in Figure 4.14.

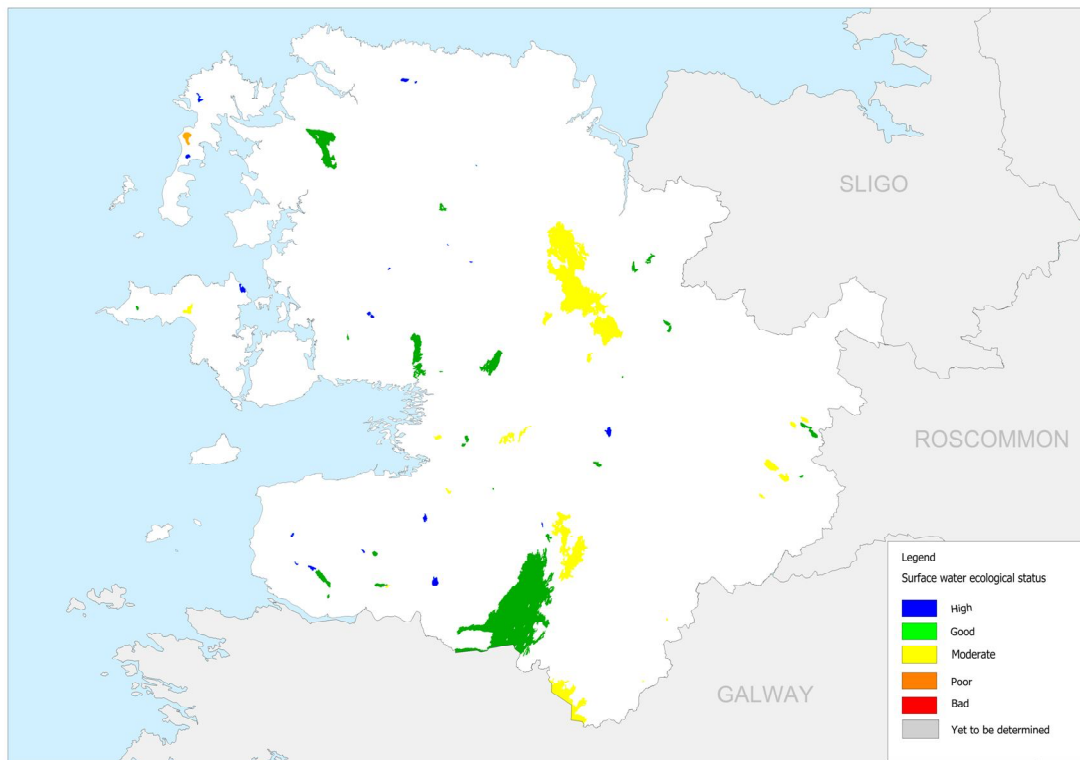


Figure 4.14 Surface water status of Mayo lakes

Additional protection afforded to surface water in Mayo is under the European Communities (Quality of Salmonid Waters) Regulations, 1988 and the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations, 2001 and 2004. Essentially, the former identifies (in its First Schedule) waters which are capable of supporting salmon (*Salmo salar*), trout (*Salmo trutta*), char (*Salvelinus alpinus*) and whitefish (*Coregonus* spp.) and must meet specified quality standards. Salmonid waters in Mayo include the River Moy main channel and 11 tributaries. The latter piece of legislation affords protection by the designation of *sensitive areas*, into which waste water treatment discharges are subjected to more stringent treatment to reduce both total phosphorus and total nitrogen. The sole designated sensitive freshwater water body in Mayo is the Castlebar River, downstream of the Waste Water Treatment Plant outfall at Knockthomas to its entry into Lough Cullin. More detail on the ecological aspects of all surface waters are discussed in more detail in *Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora* Section.

The quality of groundwater in Mayo within the Western RBD, as within every other EU Member State is also assigned a status – good or poor – following a reliable assessment in accordance with Annex V of the WFD. In addition to this Directive and associated transposed regulations to protect and restore, wherever necessary, groundwater, additional legal instruments are also in existence which strengthen and support the WFD ultimate goal with respect to groundwater. Some include the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC), the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC), the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive (96/61/EC) and the Landfill Directive (99/31/EC). In addition, the Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) represents a proportionate and scientifically-sound response to the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) as it relates to assessments on chemical status of groundwater and the identification and reversal of significant and sustained upward trends in pollutant concentrations. It therefore compliments the Water Framework Directive.



Groundwater quality and quantity, by its nature, will be strongly influenced by its underlying bedrock and subsoil type permeability in addition to the thickness of the unsaturated zone (the zone immediately below the land surface where the pores contain both water and air, but are not totally saturated with water). Irelands' bedrock aquifers (rocks which store and transmit groundwater) are classified into nine different types depending on their differing abilities to store and transmit water in addition to the value of the groundwater resource. Regionally important aquifers (R) include karsified bedrock (Rk), fissured bedrock (Rf) and extensive sand and gravel (Rg), while locally important aquifers (L) include bedrock which is generally moderately productive (Lm), bedrock which is moderately productive only in local zones (LI) and sand and gravel (Lg). Finally, poor aquifers (P) include bedrock which is generally unproductive except for local zones (PI) and bedrock which is generally unproductive (Pu).

In Mayo, much of the east of the county is classified as 'LI' or locally important, moderately productive only in local zones with much of the south and west of Mayo described as 'Rck', regionally important, conduit karst aquifer with good development potential. Further, a relatively small area is classified as 'PI', poor aquifer, generally unproductive except in local zones while an area of Killala Bay is classified as 'Rk' regionally important, karst aquifer, good development potential. In Mayo, like elsewhere, impacts to aquifers with greater potential are more significant than impacts on those with less potential.

Groundwater in Mayo, also discussed in the context of drinking water in the *Material Assets* section as well as the *Soils and Geology* section of this document, is also closely associated with the objectives of the Water Framework Directive. Within the Western RBD, a number of monitoring points have been selected in Mayo and the monitoring programme includes a quantitative monitoring network, a surveillance and operational water quality monitoring network and appropriate monitoring to support the achievement of protected area objectives. The current groundwater status in Mayo is illustrated in Figure 4.15.



Figure 4.15 Groundwater status in Mayo

Transitional, coastal and bathing waters

With a length of coastline of 1235 km, the current status of transitional⁵ water in Mayo has been assigned descriptions of high, good, moderate or poor (no poor transitional water body status have been assigned in Mayo) based on assessments of biological, hydro-morphological, chemical and physico-chemical elements, general conditions and specific pollutants. Based on a one-out-all-out assessment for biological quality elements (including phytoplankton, other aquatic flora, fish and benthic invertebrates) and the other elements, the final results are combined and the lower status achieved is the one assigned. Of the seven transitional waters assessed and with assigned surface water status, three are of high, three are of good and one is of moderate surface water status.

Further, for coastal⁶ waters described in the Water Framework Directive and assigned surface water status by the Environmental Protection Agency (Inland Fisheries Ireland, Marine Institute and Dublin County Council) based on elements which are closely similar to those for transitional waters (some biological and hydromorphological elements differ) currently coastal waters of Mayo are very satisfactory, with two designated as high. In general, there are a number of transitional and coastal water bodies which must be restored by 2015, to meet the principal objective of the WFD. The following table shows the current status of transitional and coastal water bodies of County Mayo.

⁵ Bodies of surface water in the vicinity of river mouths which are partly saline in character as a result of their proximity to coastal waters but which are substantially influenced by freshwater flows

⁶ Surface water on the landward side of a line, every point of which is at a distance of one nautical mile of the seaward side of the nearest point of the baseline from which the breadth of territorial waters is measured, extending where appropriate up to the outer limit of transitional waters



Table 4.13 Status of transitional and coastal water bodies of Mayo

Surface water body name	Area (km ²)	Water body type	Surface water status
Erriff Estuary	0.4	Transitional	High
Westport Bay	15.3	Transitional	Good
Newport Bay	9.3	Transitional	Good
Tullaghan Bay	17.2	Transitional	High
Sruwaddacon Bay	8.4	Transitional	High
Moy Estuary	7.4	Transitional	Moderate
Furnace Lough	1.6	Transitional	Good
Outer Clew Bay	198.4	Coastal	High
Killary Harbour	12.7	Coastal	Moderate
Inner Clew Bay	65.2	Coastal	Good
Broadhaven	57.4	Coastal	Good
Killala	81.4	Coastal	High

Briefly, bathing waters are protected by a combination of the Water Framework Directive and the Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) and transposed Irish legislation of both. Briefly, the 2006 Directive replaced the existing 1976 EU Directive and introduced tight microbiological standards for two new parameters, intestinal enterococci (I.E) and *Escherichia coli*, whereas previous assessments were based principally on results of total and faecal coliforms analyses plus a suite of physico-chemical parameters. In the interim period to 2015, when the Bathing Water Quality Regulations, 2008 (as amended) are fully implemented, transitional measures are in place and for the 2011 and 2012 bathing season the two new microbiological parameters are to be monitored and the results assessed for compliance with the water quality standards specified in the 1976 Directive.

A three tier classification system of 'good', 'sufficient' and 'poor' is used in keeping with previous assessments, and from 2015 microbiological results will be used to classify bathing waters into four categories: 'excellent', 'good', 'sufficient' and 'poor' in accordance with the 2008 Regulations with a classification of 'sufficient' to be achieved by 2015 for all bathing waters. Under the current classification system 'good' quality relates to compliance with both EU guide and mandatory values with 'sufficient' relating to compliance with the mandatory values only and 'poor' classification reflecting noncompliance with mandatory values. Bathing water data from 2011 do not include the 'excellent' classification as the 1976 Directive does not have bathing water standards that equate to this.

In Mayo, there are currently 15 identified bathing waters, with one removed in the 2011 season due to its remote location and another location included. These are Bertra Beach, Carrowmore Beach, Carrowniskey Beach, Dugort Beach, Dooega Beach, Elly Bay, Golden Strand, Keel Beach, Keem Beach, Ross Beach, Old Head Beach, Mullaghroe Beach, Mulranny Beach, Rinroe Beach and Clare Island.

Current water quality status and compliance with mandatory and guide values are shown in the following table for the bathing season of 2011. At the time of writing of this report, the 2012 data were not published.



Table 4.14 Water Quality Status & compliance of bathing waters of Mayo (data from 2008 to 2011)

Bathing Area	Water Quality Status	Compliance with mandatory / guide values		
		<i>E. coli</i> (mandatory)	<i>E. coli</i> (guide)	I.E. (guide)
Bertra Beach	Good	✓	✓	✓
Carrowmore Beach	Good	✓	✓	✓
Carrowniskey Beach	Good	✓	✓	✓
Dugort Beach	Good	✓	✓	✓
Doega Beach	Good	✓	✓	✓
Elly Bay	Good	✓	✓	✓
Golden Strand	Good	✓	✓	✓
Keel Beach	Good	✓	✓	✓
Keem Beach	Good	✓	✓	✓
Ross Beach	Good	✓	✓	✓
Old Head Beach	Good	✓	✓	✓
Mullaghroe Beach	Good	✓	✓	✓
Mulranny Beach	Good	✓	✓	✓
Rinroe Beach	Good	✓	✓	✓
Clare Island	Good	✓	✓	✓

In 2011, 13 Mayo bathing beaches were awarded the international Blue Flag award for beach excellence in conjunction with An Taisce with support from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government. As well as meeting criteria of water quality, environmental information and education, safety and services and environmental management including management of waste are also considered in the granting of this award. In addition to the record for the highest number of Blue Flag beaches in Ireland, seven Mayo beaches received the Green Coast Award in 2011; White Strand, Silver Strand, Carrowniskey, Cross, Termon, Srah and Portacloy.

Shellfish waters in Mayo include waters which support shellfish life and growth and are afforded protection under the Shellfish Waters Directive (2006/113/EC) and its transposed legislation, the European Communities (Quality of Shellfish Waters) Regulations 2006 (S.I. No. 268 of 2006) (as amended). The legislations sets out water quality requirements for the designation of shellfish growing areas and for the establishment of pollution reduction programmes to protect or improve these designated waters. In Mayo, there are currently six waters designated under the Shellfish Directive and a Pollution Reduction Programme (PRP) was initiated for their protection in 2010. These include the Achill Sound North, Achill Sound South, Blacksod Bay, Clew Bay, Killala Bay and Killary Harbour.

Finally, the location of a number of aquatic designations are shown in Figure 4.16.



2010 and are currently addressed by licences and certificates issued by the EPA in accordance with the Wastewater Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations, 2007 and generally based on environmental objectives of the EC Environmental Objectives (Surface Water) Regulations, 2009 and EC Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations, 2010. The topic of wastewater infrastructure will be dealt with in further detail in the *Material Assets* section of this document, but the level of treatment in addition to the capacity and current PE (population equivalent) of each Plant in Mayo are of utmost concern in the growing pressure to restore less-than-good water status and protect existing water bodies of good and high.

Unsewered wastewater discharges have the potential to introduce pollutants in the form of suspended solids, nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen in its various forms to both surface and ground waters. As of 26th June 2012, a nationwide compulsory registration of domestic septic tanks was introduced. By September, approximately 600 premises had registered in Mayo.

Other urban waste water discharges are controlled by IPPC licenses and licences for discharges to waters under the Water Pollution Acts. In Mayo, there are currently 96 discharge licences, the majority (67) of which authorise the discharge of effluents to water (42 to groundwater, 12 to sea, 11 to river and 2 to lake) and 29 to sewer, but if not properly monitored or reviewed have potential for aquatic damage; surface and groundwaters.

Other existing problems pertaining to water quality include impacts from forestry – acidification, nutrient enrichment and siltation are generally the impacts from this source. Peat extraction and its consequential release of nutrients and peat silt to surface waters is another notable problem, in addition to pesticide use, aquaculture, and threats from landfills, contaminated lands, historic mines, invasive alien species and water abstraction.

Specific problems pertaining to coastal and transitional waters, as well as bathing and shellfish waters include fishing practises, recreational activities, dumping at sea, wastewater discharges, inappropriate coastal development and dredging activities.

4.6.4 Likely Evolution of Water in the absence of the Mayo County Development Plan

In the absence of a plan for development in County Mayo, development would occur in an ad-hoc and piecemeal fashion, with applications dealt with on a case-by-case basis and no informed strategy for the county as a whole, aside from Regional Planning Guidelines and other regional and national plans and programmes. Areas which are currently over-developed may continue with this trend while under-developed locations may remain so.

This scenario would have quite a negative impact on water quality and on quantity. The quality of surface waters and groundwaters would be impacted from pressures on urban wastewater treatment plants and the siting of small domestic wastewater treatment systems in unsewered and possibly inappropriate locations from the geological viewpoint, for example. Further, pressures on existing water abstractions may arise from increased developments in an unplanned manner. Dispersed infrastructural development, during construction and operation all have the potential to impact on water quality, preventing the improvement of less-than-good and the maintenance of good and high water body status. Extending to groundwater, coastal, transitional, bathing and shellfish waters, unplanned development or development in the absence of a general county plan will negatively impact on these receptors from a variety of sources and along a number of pathways.

Aquatic environmental legislation would still be enforced in the absence of a CDP, but increased pressures from ‘unplanned developments’ would likely lead to increased water pollution incidences and exceedences in many water quality parameters from more imperceptible, diffuse sources of pollution.



4.7 Air and Noise

4.7.1 Introduction

Air quality is dependent on many factors including local and national weather conditions as well as point and diffuse sources of air pollutants. Air quality monitoring is undertaken in accordance with relevant Irish ambient air standards adopted from the EC Air Framework Directive (96/62/EC) and associated Daughter Directives on air quality (1999/30/EC, 2000/69/EC). The Irish Air Quality Standards Regulations, S.I. No. 271 of 2002 specify limit values in ambient air for a number of parameters including sulphur dioxide (SO₂), lead (Pb), particulate matter (PM₁₀) (Stage I) and carbon monoxide (CO) nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), particulate matter (PM₁₀) and benzene (C₆H₆). The limit values have been set with regard to scientific and medical evidence on the effects of the particular pollutant on health and the wider environment.

Environmental noise is the summary of noise from transport, industrial and recreational activities. The definition is pursuant to the Environmental Noise Directive 2002/49/EC article 10.1. This Directive provides for a common approach intended to avoid, prevent or reduce the harmful effects of environmental noise. The main target is integrated noise management. In the first step the competent authorities in the European member states had to produce strategic noise maps for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations. The second step is to inform and consult the public. The third step is producing local action plans to reduce noise.

4.7.2 Baseline environment

Air Quality

The Air Framework Directive (96/62/EC) requires that member states divide their territory into zones for the assessment and management of air quality. Ireland is divided into four zones as defined in the Air Quality Regulations (2002), amended by the Ambient Air Regulations, 2009. The air quality monitoring data for County Mayo refer to information collated for Zone D by the EPA. This zone includes all of rural Ireland, including County Mayo but excludes large cities and towns. There are two air quality monitoring stations in County Mayo, located in Castlebar and Claremorris and operated by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The EPA report *Air quality in Ireland 2011: Key indicators of ambient Air quality* indicates that air quality monitoring for Zone D on the concentrations of regulated pollutants is well below the required limit values. There are five categories used to describe air quality information which include very good, good, fair, poor to very poor. The index is based on a maximum of four parameters, the one hour average of SO₂, NO₂ and O₃ combined with the rolling 24hr average of PM₁₀. To date, air quality monitoring data for Zone D indicate very good air quality with concentrations of specific pollutants being well within the emission limits values. Therefore the implementation of Special Control Area Orders or Air Quality Management Plans for the county has not been required.

The primary influences on air quality in County Mayo include emissions from transport and domestic/commercial heating sectors. The prevailing westerly wind from the Atlantic Ocean ensures good dispersion of pollutants and background air pollutant concentrations are low. Meteorological conditions play a major role with regard to the levels of air pollutants measured. The prevailing wind is from south–southwest direction with an average annual speed of about 5.2-7 metres/second and increasing wind speeds detected on western coastal areas. Annual rates of precipitation in the Mayo region are about 1200 mm with the maximum amounts occurring during the winter months. Precipitation is an important factor in the releasing of both natural and anthropogenic pollutants from the atmosphere. There are two synoptic meteorological stations within County Mayo that provide hourly wind direction/wind speed, cloud cover and cloud height. These data are important in undertaking air quality dispersion modelling studies.

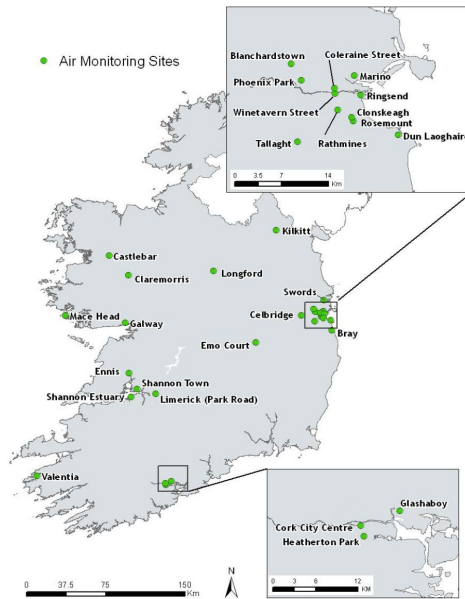


Figure 4.17 Irish air quality monitoring network locations 2011 Source: EPA, 2012. *Air Quality in Ireland 2011 - Key indicators of Ambient Air Quality*

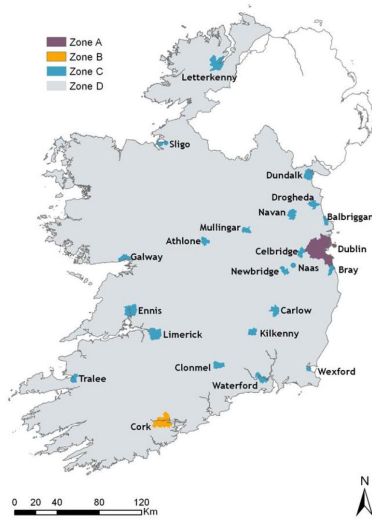


Figure 4.18 Monitoring Zones for Air Quality Monitoring 2011
Source: EPA, 2012. *Air Quality in Ireland 2011 - Key indicators of Ambient Air Quality*



Table 4.15 Ambient air quality results for Zone D locations in 2011, incorporating Mayo sites

Pollutant	Castlebar	Claremorris	Kilkitt Monaghan	Shannon town	AQS Annual Limit
	$\mu\text{g} / \text{m}^3$	$\mu\text{g} / \text{m}^3$	$\mu\text{g} / \text{m}^3$	$\mu\text{g} / \text{m}^3$	$\mu\text{g} / \text{m}^3$
NO ₂	8		3	6	40
NO _x	14		3	9	30
SO ₂			3	1	20
PM ₁₀	14	12	9	11	40
PM _{2.5}		6	-	-	25
Ozone	53		59		120

The sources and distribution of emissions levels for sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides particulates and carbon monoxide are as follows:

Sulphur dioxide (SO₂): the principal source of this gas is the combustion of fossil fuels from power generating plants, industrial processes or homes. Sulphur dioxide (SO₂) concentrations measured by the EPA in 2008 were very low relative to the limit values. There were no exceedances of either the daily limit value of 125 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ or the hourly limit value of 350 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ at any station. Concentrated levels of SO₂ in ambient air can affect vegetation (via acid rain) and human health, particularly those suffering from asthma and chronic lung diseases. Emissions of sulphur dioxide tend to be concentrated in urban areas.

Nitrogen oxides (NO_x): includes nitric oxide (NO) and nitrogen dioxide which are formed during high temperature combustion processes from the oxidation of nitrogen in the air or fuel. The principal source of nitrogen oxides is road traffic hence the distribution of nitrogen oxides as NO₂ is concentrated in the urban areas. Other sources of NO_x are power stations and industrial processes. Concentrations measured by the EPA in 2008 were compliant with all limit values. NO_x levels are important as they are a precursor for ozone.

PM₁₀: particulate matter (PM₁₀) consists of very small particles in the air that can penetrate deep into the respiratory tract and pose significant health risks. Inhalation of these particles can increase the risk, frequency and severity of respiratory and cardiopulmonary disorders. PM₁₀ found in the atmosphere can result from direct emissions (primary PM₁₀) or can subsequently be formed by the interaction of other chemical compounds (secondary PM₁₀). The principal source of airborne PM₁₀ matter is from diesel vehicles. Concentrations of particulate matter (PM₁₀) measured by the EPA in 2008 were compliant with limits, which permits no more than 35 daily values greater than the limit value of 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The annual mean concentration measured at all stations was below the 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ limit value for annual mean. Black smoke is also an issue, it consists of fine particulates suspended in air that mainly arise from the incomplete burning of fossil fuels, in the domestic, industrial or transport sectors. Open fires in dwelling houses are a major source of much of the particulate material emitted to air as smoke.

Carbon monoxide (CO): is a toxic colourless and odourless gas which is emitted into the atmosphere by the oxidation of hydrocarbons and other organic compounds. It is a component of motor-vehicle exhaust, which accounts for most of the CO emissions nationwide. CO concentrations are generally higher in areas with heavy traffic congestion. It survives in the atmosphere for a period of approximately one month but is eventually oxidised to carbon dioxide (CO₂) which, although non-toxic, is the major 'greenhouse' gas. Emissions of carbon monoxide are localised to the immediate urban areas and major roads. Concentrations measured by the EPA in 2008 were well within the daily 8-hour mean limit of 10 mg/m^3 .



Noise

The main sources of environmental noise in Mayo are outlined below (as adopted from the Irish governments consultation paper on noise 27/8/08).

Table 4.16 Types and sources of noise in Mayo (D to F are outside of the scope of this document)

Noise category	Source of noise
A Infrastructural	Road traffic noise, air traffic, wind farms
B Commercial / Industrial	IPPC and waste sites, industrial operations, workshops and factories, quarries
C Planning/Construction	General construction noise
D Recreational	Noise, violence and disruption arising from bars/nightclubs/discos (Section 4 of the Courts (No.2) Act 1986), jet skis, quad bikes
E Anti-social	Continual and persistent car and house alarms, noise from neighbourhood parties, particularly high domestic noise levels at weekends - housing tenants (Private and public), animal noise including in particular the baying of dogs, young people loitering and engaging in boisterous activities
F Other	Noise from agricultural sources

The European Council Environmental Noise Directive 2002/49/EC and its transposition into Irish law in the form of the Noise Regulations, 2006 require that strategic noise maps (using harmonised noise indicators Lden and Lnight) be produced for sources of road, train, and airport noise sources above certain thresholds.

The only noise source which requires an action plan in County Mayo is road traffic noise. The Mayo Local Authorities Noise Action Plan addresses road traffic noise as required by the Environmental Noise Regulations, 2006. The action plan areas include: Castlebar from the N5 between Gorteendrunagh townland to the townland of Knockacroghery on the Westport Road and the N60 from the boundary of Doogary / Carrownurlaur townland east of Castlebar to the junction with the N5 at Gorteendrunagh townland. The other action plan area is Ballina and covers the N26 from the Station Road near the Moy Heights road junction, along Kevin Barry Street, to the start of Teeling Street in Ballina. Lands adjacent to these sections of the N21 and N22 are located within the action plan area if noise mapping has indicated that the environmental noise levels may be 55dB Lden or greater.

The aim of the action plan is to manage existing road noise within the plan area and to protect the future noise environment within the plan area. While no limits exist for environmental noise in Ireland, the EPA recommends that proposed onset levels for assessment of noise mitigation measures due to road traffic are as follows: 70dB, Lden and 57dB, Lnight. Noise maps were prepared for major roads in the county based on a road noise computation model run by the NRA. These maps present calculated environmental noise levels from major roads in coloured noise contour bands from 55dB Lden and 50dB Lnight, to greater than 75dB Lden and greater than 70dB Lnight, in 5 dB bands. The EPA has estimated that a total of 1769 individuals are resident within the noise mapping/action planning area. Assessments carried out indicated that the population exposures were below the required reporting thresholds.

The level of environmental noise generated by a particular road is dependent on a range of factors including the number and type of vehicles, the speed of the vehicles, the road surface and the incline. The extent to which the noise travels from the road is affected mainly by the following parameters: distance, weather, the presence of acoustic barriers, buildings, road width, road incline, nature of the topography and whether the ground is acoustically absorbent or reflective.



Figure 4.19 Lden dB values for Ballina

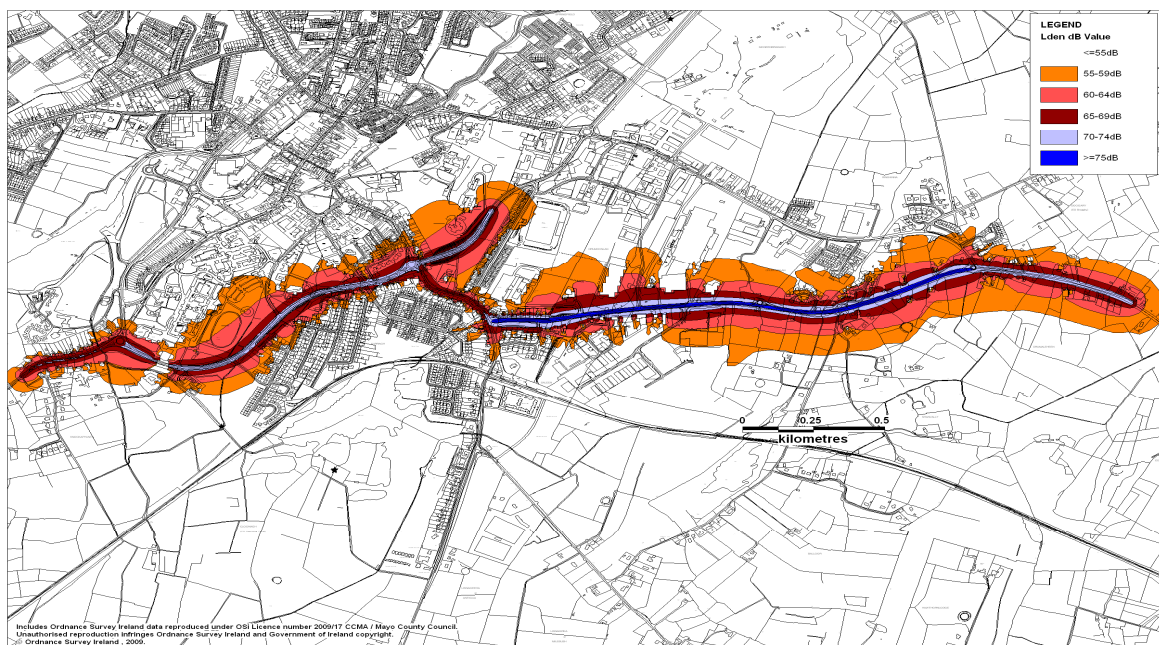


Figure 4.20 Lden dB values for Castlebar



County Mayo is served by Ireland West Airport Knock, which is situated in the east of the county. A major airport is defined in the legislation as a civil airport that has more than 50,000 movements per year (a movement being a take-off or a landing), excluding those purely for training purposes on light aircraft. The number of movements per year at Ireland West Airport Knock at present is significantly lower than the threshold required for Action Planning under the Environmental Noise Directive.

The Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) is vested with many of the regulatory functions pertaining to aircraft noise. Under EU requirements, aircraft must be certified to noise standards set down by the International Civil Aviation Organization and operating restrictions are in place with regard to take offs and landings. Operating Noise procedures at airports is regulated by European Communities (Air Navigation and Transport Rules and Procedures for Noise Related Operating Restrictions at Airports) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 645 of 2003). These Regulations apply to civil airports that have more than 50,000 movements of civil subsonic jet airplanes per year, as Ireland West Airport Knock is below this threshold the legislation does not apply.

As a component of the Environmental Impact Statement for Ireland West Airport Knock undertaken by RPS in 2010, attended and unattended noise measurements were performed at sensitive receiver locations. The choice of locations assessed in the report took due regard to the most exposed noise sensitive receptor to potential sources of environmental noise whether directly or indirectly affected. In summary, the noise levels recorded at all locations were dominated or heavily influenced by road traffic noise from the existing N17 and R367 roads.

Activities that are subject to an IPPC licence or a waste licence are required to comply with noise limit values imposed by the EPA. The relevant guidance is set out in the EPA publication "Guidance Note for Noise in Relation to Scheduled Activities". This document contains suggested noise limits of 55 dB(A) L_{Ar,T} for daytime and 45dB(A) L_{Aeq,T} for night-time; with said limits to be applied to "sensitive locations". Whilst these limits have a very specific application, they have appeared in many different contexts and often form the basis for conditions in planning permissions. Similar noise conditions are also imposed on waste-licensed facilities. There are currently nine IPPC-licensed facilities in the county, all licences have noise control requirements. Under the Environmental Noise Regulations, 2006 no maps were produced for industrial plant activity, as individual plants were below the reporting threshold required in the Directive.

There are currently four windfarms in operation in County Mayo. These are located in Castlebar (c.22 turbines), Kiltimagh (Cullilea - six turbines), Bellacorrick (c. 22 turbines), Claremorris (Mace – between Claremorris and Knock c. three turbines). There are two distinct noise sources associated with the operation of wind turbines; aerodynamic noise caused by blades passing through the air, and mechanical noise created by the operation of mechanical elements in the nacelle - the generator, gearbox and other parts of the drive-train. Aerodynamic noise is a function of many interacting factors including blade design, rotational speed, wind speed and inflow turbulence; it is generally broadband in nature and can display some "character" (swish). Mechanical noise from a wind turbine is tonal in nature. Advances in turbine technology and design have resulted in reduced noise emissions. The most recent direct drive machines have no high-speed mechanical components and therefore do not produce mechanical noise.

Turbine noise increases as wind speeds increase, but at a slower rate than wind generated background noise increases. The impact of wind energy development noise is therefore likely to be greater at low wind speeds when the difference between noise of the wind energy development and the background noise is likely to be greater. Wind turbines do not operate below the wind speed referred to as cut-in speed, usually around 5 ms⁻¹. Larger and variable speed wind turbines emit lower noise levels at cut-in speed than smaller fixed speed turbines. Noise from wind turbines is radiated more in some



directions than others, with areas down-wind experiencing the highest predicted noise levels. At higher wind speeds noise from wind has the effect of largely masking wind turbine noise. In general larger turbines have a greater noise potential due to longer rotors.

The factors affecting noise levels from wind farms are topography and the remote nature of the sites which can influence how noise is produced. As noise radiates sound waves hemi spherically, multiple wind turbines can appear as a point source so that the number of turbines doubles the acoustic output by 3 dB. Absorption and screening of noise can be influenced by atmospheric conditions, objects and vegetation. The later is only effective on a seasonal basis. Meteorological conditions such as wind, temperature can refract or bend sound towards the ground thereby increasing sound levels.

The character of noise associated with wind farms is primarily based on the mechanical components of the turbines which will be perceived as tonal in character. The attitude of the listener depends on the context in which the noise of wind turbine arises which is primarily in a rural location where background ambient noise levels are low. The total perceived noise at any noise sensitive location is the logarithmic sum of background noise and wind turbine noise therefore wind turbine noise must be taken within the context of other noise sources.

Wind turbines operate in wind speeds of 3-25 ms⁻¹. The noise emitted by turbines will increase with wind speed between 1-4dB LAeq per ms⁻¹. Therefore noise from wind farms at noise sensitive locations will depend on the speed of the turbines and the distance from the turbine. Noise from turbines can carry for long a distance but is unlikely to be problematic for noise sensitive locations situated 350-400 m from the turbine. Guidelines the DoEHLG document suggests a “lower fixed limit of 45dB(A) or a maximum increase of 5dB(A) above background noise at nearby noise sensitive locations”. The latter requirement may be relaxed in areas with low background levels. A fixed limit of 43dB(A) at night time is deemed appropriate, as there is no requirement to protect external amenity.

Extractive industries are associated with many noise generating activities- removal of topsoil and overburden, excavation with machinery, drilling and blasting of rock, crushing and screening of aggregates, transport of raw materials and finished products within the site and on public roads. Blasting (which occurs at quarries, but not in sand and gravel pits) can give rise to vibration, audible noise, flyrock and dust. Noise can cause annoyance; nuisance, sleep disturbance and can also affect wildlife. Section 261 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), introduced a new system of one-off registration for all quarries except those for which planning permission was granted in the five years prior to that date. Under the registration system, quarry operators must supply full details of their operations to the planning authority, including information on the area of the quarry, the material being extracted, the hours of operation, and the traffic, noise and dust generated by the quarry.

In respect to blasting, reference is made to EPA guidance to the effect that “Blasting should not give rise to air overpressure values at the nearest occupied dwelling in excess of 125 d(B)(Lin)max peak with a 95% confidence limit”. Mayo County Council has now completed the process of quarry registration in accordance with Section 261 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and at present there are a total of 100 registered quarries in the county. Depending on the complexity of the quarrying operation, noise conditions were included as part of the registration process and as part of the planning process for quarry extension applications.

The current Irish Building Regulations call for certain constructions to offer “reasonable resistance” to both airborne and impact sound. In the absence of any form of objective criterion, reference is often made to the guidance values put forward in the “Similar Construction” method described in



Technical Guidance Document E. Part E of the Building Regulations (Sound) sets out the legal requirements in relation to sound insulation in buildings, including dwellings and apartment blocks. In relation to micro-renewable energy systems the Planning and Development Regulations 2007- SI 135/2007 introduced a planning exemption for domestic dwellings and attached a condition to the exemption which requires that noise levels from wind turbines must not exceed 43dB(A) during normal operation, or in excess of 5 dB (A) above the background noise, whichever is greater, as measured from the nearest neighbouring inhabited dwelling.

For commercial, public, industrial and agricultural buildings the Planning and Development Regulations 2008 (S.I. No. 8 of 235) provide planning exemptions for renewable technologies where noise levels do not exceed 43dB(A) during normal operations as measured from the nearest party boundary.

The planning system is used to control noise from construction works and from the use of premises for which planning permission is granted. Conditions can be attached to individual permissions, (under section 34(4) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended)) to “reduce or prevent the emission or the intrusion of noise and vibration,” such as the imposition of noise level during the construction phase and/or imposing permitted noise levels and operating hours that are permitted in the use of the premises.

4.7.3 Existing problems

Air Quality

Pollutants from road traffic and household fires, especially in urban areas, pose the main risk to air quality in Ireland but it must be emphasised that air quality is very good by international standards. It is important that meteorological and geographical aspects are taken in consideration when assessing the potential sources of air pollution as these issues play a major role in the standard of air quality. Air pollution incidents can be localised in nature however there is also a transboundary nature to air emissions which contributes to the complexity of assessment.

In Mayo there is high dependence on individual car ownership. The rural context of the county means that travel to and from work by car is typically necessary. Motor vehicles are a major source of emissions of carbon monoxide (CO), benzene (C₆H₆) and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) as well as a wide range of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) including benzene (C₆H₆). In general, concentration levels of these air pollutants are normally below limit values in the air quality standards. However the pollutant emissions emanating from vehicular sources are also those to which the public may be most readily exposed, and they present a considerable risk in areas subject to heavy traffic.

A high reliance on fossil fuel for domestic and commercial space heating in the county is compounded by the lack of district heating networks as well as combined heat and power plants, where emissions from centralised sources would be easier to control. In addition the uncontrolled burning of gorse and forest fires is an existing threat to on air quality. On average Mayo County Council Fire Brigade attend approximately 300 incidents of gorse and forest fires annually. The majority of such responses are concentrated in the period from April to June. The burning of vegetation is a major source of many air-borne particles and trace gases that influence the concentration of ozone at ground level. The actual composition of smoke depends on the type of wood and vegetation being burnt, the temperature of the fire and the wind conditions. Other sources of air pollution are odours primarily from the seasonal application of slurry and animal storage.



Air borne radiation is a natural air pollutant and occurs primarily as a result of cosmic radiation and the decay of radionuclide in soils and rocks. Radon is a Class-1 carcinogen. The level of radiation depends on where you live, degree of insulation in home and air travel/occupation. A significant portion of county Mayo has radon levels above the reference. The carcinogenic gas has direct links to lung cancer and attributes for 10-15 per cent of all lung cancer cases nationally. In a recent study by the Radiological Institute of Ireland (RII), four homes in Mayo had more than four times the acceptable level with readings in excess of 800 becquerels per cubic metre (Bq/m³) and were found in Charlestown, Castlebar, Claremorris and Ballinrobe. North Mayo is one of the worst affected areas with the south and east of the county experiencing levels well above acceptable levels, however the west coastline of the county has far lower levels of the toxic gas. Mayo is regarded as a high risk area according to the RII. Ballina town and the surrounding area is particularly at risk with a high level of the gas in the town itself and for a number of surrounding miles. Radon has no smell, colour or taste and can only be detected using special detectors. Long-term exposure to radon increases the risk of lung cancer.

Noise

A brief analysis of the noise sources suggests that there are very few areas of environmental noise or noise nuisance that are not covered by some legislative provision. However, the effectiveness of the existing controls is adversely affected by the following factors:

- Lack of powers of a type which can result in immediate or short-term abatement action e.g. powers of entry, intervention, seizure or closure, in situations where nuisance is severe;
- The burden on the citizen in terms of following through on a noise complaint;
- The resources available to enforcement authorities nationally and locally both in following up legal proceedings and in provision of an out of office hours service; and
- Lack of national standards for best practice or codes of practice or guidelines with some statutory backing results in inconsistent application of controls.

A more integrated approach to noise management is required because of the variety of sources and the variety of remedial actions which can be applied.

4.7.4 Likely Evolution of Air and Noise in absence of the Mayo County Development Plan

Air Quality

The absence of a County Development Plan could lead to the development of non strategic projects in isolated parts of County Mayo and or the uncontrolled expansion of urban areas without appropriate infrastructure. This would increase the potential for localised air pollution issues. In addition the trans-boundary nature of air pollution means it is important to take cognisance of the impact potential developments may have on neighbouring areas outside the jurisdiction of Mayo County Council. Meteorological and topographic conditions as well as existing settlement patterns in the development area may be overlooked with regard to the potential impact on air quality. The following policies and legislation will have the potential to affect air quality in the region in the absence of a County Development Plan.



Table 4.17 Legislation and policies pertaining to air quality, in the absence of a County Development Plan

Legislation / policy	Key objective	Current situation in Mayo
Clean Air for Europe Directive (CAFÉ) (2008/50/EC)	Emission levels for specific pollutants remain within limit values as outlined in the Directive	Emission levels in Mayo are well below the specified limit values for the CAFÉ directive
Kyoto Protocol, as detailed in DoECLG National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012	Strategy for the reduction of emissions which will be apportioned to all sectors but with the main focus on transport, residential, industry, electricity production, the public sector and waste, all of which should serve to reduce the amount of air pollutants emitted to the atmosphere	National strategy which includes Mayo
EU Directive on National Emission Ceilings (2001/81/EC), transposed by the European Communities (National Emissions Ceilings) Regulations, 2004 (S.I. No. 10 of 2004) and further set out in the National Programme on Transboundary Pollutants (a 2005 government document)	Specifies challenging aggregate national ceilings for four transboundary pollutants; sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, ammonia and volatile organic compounds which contribute to acidification, eutrophication and ground level ozone	Progressive reduction of these emissions through use of policies and measures in different sectors
European Communities Act, 1972 (Environmental Specifications for Petrol, Diesel Fuels and Gas Oils for use by non-road mobile machinery, including inland waterway vessels, agricultural and forestry tractors, and recreational craft) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 155 of 2011)	Improved effectiveness of pollution abatement technologies in road vehicles resulting in a reduction in the sulphur content of both petrol and diesel fuels	
The Smarter Travel Policy, 2009	To achieve sustainable transport, including actions aimed at reducing the distances travelled by car, and actions to ensure alternatives such as walking, cycling, and public transport are more widely available, all of which should serve to reduce the amount of air pollutants emitted to the atmosphere.	
Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) licenses governing a wide a range of industries from intensive agriculture to pharmaceutical operations	Air emissions / odours from existing and new industrial activities do not significantly impair ambient air quality, by strategic location and pollution-abatement conditions	Nine IPPC licenced-facilities in Mayo with conditions to avoid potential impacts on air quality
Limitation of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds due to the use of Organic Solvent in Certain Paints, Varnishes and Vehicle Refinishing Products Regulations 2007 (S.I. No. 199 of 2007)	Control of emission of air pollutants from vehicle refinishing companies	50 such premises registered in Mayo
Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds from Organic Solvents Regulations 2002 (S.I. No. 543 of 2002)	Addresses emissions from dry cleaning operations	11 such premises registered in Mayo



<p>The Air Pollution Act, 1987 (Marketing, Sale and Distribution of Fuels) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 270 of 2011) which consolidates the voluntary agreement between the Minister and the Solid Fuel Trade Group (SFTG), the industry group representing the majority of solid fuel importers National Building Regulations and related Technical Guidance Documents, Part L</p>	<p>Limits the maximum sulphur content of bituminous (or 'smoky') coal to 0.7%</p>	<p>Recent introduction of natural gas supplies. should reduce dependencies on more polluting fuels, particularly in urban areas</p>
<p>Connaught Waste Management Plan 2006–2011</p>	<p>Impacts indirectly on air quality/ climate change as some of the objectives relate to the reduction of organic waste to landfill, which would in turn lead to a reduction in the amount of methane gas production</p>	<p>Participation in Mayo and on a national scale should result in increased energy efficiency and reduced requirement for the consumption of fossil fuels Two EPA-licensed landfills in Mayo; Derrinnumera and Rathroeen. Methane gas production at both landfills is monitored under licence requirements.</p>
<p>Section 261 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended)</p>	<p>Registration of quarries to limit / prevent dust from quarry sites which can affect air quality; the severity dependant on factors such as local microclimate conditions, concentration of dust particles in the ambient air and the size and chemistry of dust particles.</p>	<p>100 registered quarries in Mayo of 112 listed</p>
<p>Renewable Energy Strategy for Mayo 2011-2020</p>	<p>Promotes the development of renewable energy sources in the county which is a positive step in maintenance good air quality by decreasing a reliance on fossil fuels</p>	<p>The Mayo RES Strategy was adopted in 2011</p>
<p>EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (2010/31/EU) (EPBD)</p>	<p>Improves energy performance of residential and non-residential buildings, both new-build and existing and is regulated by Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland. The EPBD obliges specific forms of information and advice on energy performance to be provided to building purchasers, tenants and users.</p>	<p>While a European/ national piece of legislation, air quality in Mayo should improve as a consequence of increased energy efficiency and fewer fossil fuels</p>

Noise

The evolution of noise emissions without the implementation of a County Development in Mayo can only be considered within a generic context as very little baseline data exist to accurately model future scenarios at a local level. Noise emissions from various projects may have negative impacts on ambient noise levels given the low background levels predominant in the county. However in the absence of CDP there would be no framework guiding developments and associated infrastructural requirements to appropriate locations within the County. This may result in negative impacts for noise sensitive locations such as schools, libraries, hospitals, nursing homes, funeral homes and churches. The impact of projects will depend on a number of variables such as the locations of the



projects, the type and scale of projects and planning controls for such developments during construction and operation.

In the absence of a County Development Plan the primary objective for noise control in County Mayo is to ensure compliance with the Environmental Noise Directive 2002/49/EC. Work is already underway to achieve compliance with this Directive with the compilation and implementation of a noise action plan for County Mayo. It is envisaged that compliance with this Directive will be achieved by measures proposed in this plan. Noise abatement requires a local and tailor-made approach to reduce noise along existing roads and for existing dwellings. There are many synergies between measures abating noise and other sustainable transport and development policies e.g. noise abatement may also improve air quality.

The Department of Environment, Community and Local Government is the lead department responsible for ensuring that Ireland meets its Kyoto Protocol commitments. The strategies for achieving these commitments are set out in the National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012. The strategy for reducing emissions will be shared across all sectors but one of main focuses will be on transport this will indirectly have implications in terms of reducing traffic derived noise.

4.8 Climatic Factors

4.8.1 Introduction

Climatic factors and their influence in Mayo are described in this context with reference to flooding and invasive alien species which are increasing in abundance and diversity, as a consequence of changing climatic factors.

4.8.2 Baseline environment

Flood Risk baseline information has considerably increased in detail since the preparation and adoption of the SEA Environmental Report for the Mayo County Development Plan 2008-2014 with the Western CFRAM (Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management) Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) indicative flood mapping.

The following PFRA datasets/drawings are available;

Groundwater

- Fluvial – 1 in 100 and 1 in 1000 year event
- Pluvial – 1 in 100 and 1 in 1000 year event
- Coastal – 1 in 100 and 1 in 1000 year event

These datasets are available in GIS to help provide a better visualisation of flood areas and the implications of the proposed plan and the development is guides.

The PFRA maps produced under the Western CFRAM Project were used to identify Areas for Further Assessment (AFAs). These are towns or villages where flood risk is considered to be sufficiently high to justify these areas being studied in more detail as part of the ongoing development of the Project.

Within each of the AFAs the risk of flooding from rivers and sea will be investigated using river survey work and computerised river modelling as part of a detailed assessment. The next CFRAM Project milestone is the delivery of flood maps for the AFAs with a more reliable estimated of flood risk than is currently available. Following on from this, final recommendations on the management



of flood risk within each AFA will be published in 2015 in the Management Plans for the Western CFRAM Area.

Draft Inception Reports detailing the Flood History of each of the AFAs are available under the CFRAM Project.

Currently planning applications are being reviewed in line with the *OPW Planning System & Flood Risk Management Guidelines* (Nov 2009). The PFRA Datasets, together with OPW Benefiting Lands Flooding Mapping and local knowledge are being used to establish if detailed Flood Risk Assessments are required.

Invasive alien species

While already briefly referred to in the *Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna* section of this report, a major threat to our native species of flora and fauna are non-native invasive species as they can out-compete native plants and animals for space, prey and other food sources. In addition, increasing in numbers and varieties as a consequence of climate change patterns, they can transmit pathogens and parasites to human and other mammals. They are typically difficult and expensive to eradicate and over time, many invasives are becoming naturalised to our country and county.

Some species of aquatic and terrestrial invasive flora and fauna which specifically pertain to Mayo include;

- *Gunnera tinctoria* (giant rhubarb)
- *Gunnera manicata* (Brazilian giant rhubarb)
- *Lagarosiphon major* (African curly waterweed)
- *Centranthus ruber* (red valerian)
- *Fallopia japonica* (Japanese knotweed)
- *Rhododendron ponticum* (rhododendron)
- *Heracleum mantegazzianum* (giant hogweed)
- *Neovison vison* (American mink)
- *Corbicula fluminea* (Asian river clam)
- *Pelagia noctiluca* (mauve jellyfish)
- *Dreissena polymorpha* (zebra mussel)

4.8.3 Existing problems

The AFAs relevant to Mayo have been compiled and are as follows;

- Ballina & Environs
- Castlebar
- Charlestown & Environs
- Crossmolina
- Foxford
- Louisburgh
- Newport
- Swinford
- Westport
- Westport Quay

To reiterate, these are areas which have been identified as Areas for Further Assessment under the Western CFRAM Project. Fundamentally, these are area where the risk of flooding from rivers and the sea is considered to be sufficiently high to justify further assessment. In addition to the typical



problem associated with flooding including loss and damage of property and infrastructure, flood waters can also transmit waterborne pathogens.

In general, non-native species cause specific problems to the particular habitat they invade or to the species they 'target'. While zebra mussels out-compete many benthic species of flora and fauna in addition to other feeders of aquatic plankton, they also clog and foul intake pipes for water extraction. Rhododendron growth is highly expansive and consequently this terrestrial plant out-competes many plants, preventing light reaching ground flora, while Japanese knotweed is particularly problematic owing to its capability of growing through tarmac, concrete and other building elements.

4.8.4 Likely Evolution of Climatic Factors in absence of the Mayo County Development Plan

The development of the Management Plans for the Western CFRAM Area will provide recommendations on what works need to be carried out to protect existing structures within the Areas of Further Assessment noted previously.

Any new development coming forward for planning is being assessed in line with the OPW Planning System & Flood Risk Management Guidelines (Nov 2009). Accordingly, any proposed development that is at risk of flooding or that will increase the risk of flooding elsewhere should not be allowed to proceed.

In this regard, the absence of a County Development Plan would have little impact on the evolution of flood risk around the county.

In the absence of a development plan for Mayo, the issue of invasive species will continue to be tackled by specific legislation and guidelines as published by Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI), the National Biodiversity Data Centre / Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and Inland Waterways. A County Development Plan for Mayo should, however, promote eradication and, when appropriate, preventative measures for invasive species to Mayo, which can cause catastrophic effects on our native biodiversity, in addition to commercial fisheries, drinking water quality, built structures and tourism.

4.9 Material Assets

4.9.1 Introduction

For the purpose of this assessment Material Assets includes road infrastructure, additional transport infrastructure (piers and harbours, rail, Ireland West Airport Knock, Great Western Greenway), waste management and infrastructure, drinking water and waste water treatment infrastructure, shellfish / freshwater fisheries, energy and forestry assets.

Waste Management and Infrastructure

County Mayo is one of six Local Authorities that make up the Connaught Waste Management Region. In dealing with the management of Waste Collection Permits, Mayo County Council was the lead and nominated authority in the Region until May 2012. With the establishment of a National Waste Collection Permitting Office in Offaly Co. Council, Mayo County Council is no longer a Nominated Authority for the Connacht Region. Mayo County Council continues to deal with management of, *inter alia*, waste facility permits and enforcement.

The existing Connacht Waste Management Plan 2006–2011 details the Region's integrated waste management approach and policies with specific targets that are to be achieved by 2013. The targets are derived from the EU Waste Hierarchy and require that of waste arising, 48% is recycled, 33% is



used for energy recovery and 19% of residual waste is sent for disposal. This plan is currently going through a four-stage evaluation process for review and replacement with a new plan (circa 2013).

Drinking Water

Drinking water quality in Ireland is protected and regulated by the European Communities (Drinking Water) (No. 2) Regulations, 2007 (S.I. No. 278 of 2007). As well as assigning mandatory parametric values on drinking water quality in order to protect human health, the Drinking Water Regulations place responsibility on drinking water providers and supervisory authorities to ensure that safe drinking water is supplied to consumers. Under the Drinking Water Regulations, each Local Authority must implement a programme of monitoring on regulated schemes to ensure that the drinking water provided complies with the standards as set out by the Drinking Water Regulations. Regulated schemes are defined in the Drinking Water Regulations and are principally those schemes that serve a population of greater than 50 persons. In addition, schemes which serve below 50 persons and which are serving a commercial or public activity are also regulated.

The quality of the drinking water source, the treatment of the water and the distribution infrastructure are important elements in the provision of a good water supply.

Wastewater Infrastructure

The treatment of wastewater is governed by the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) (amended by Directive 98/15/EEC) transposed into Irish law by the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2001 (S.I. No. 254 of 2001). The Directive aims to protect the environment from the adverse effects of the wastewater discharges by ensuring that wastewater is appropriately treated before it is discharged to the receiving environment. The Regulations stipulate that sewage treatment facilities are in place in all towns in the county by 2005.

Also, it is noted that the treatment of wastewater is relevant to the Water Framework Directive which requires all public bodies, including Mayo County Council, to coordinate their policies and operations so as to maintain the good status of water bodies which are currently unpolluted and restore less-than-good water bodies to good status by 2015. The European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (S.I. No. 272 of 2009) applies to all surface waters and are made to give effect to the measures needed to achieve the environmental objectives established for bodies of surface water by Water Framework Directive.

The policy of Mayo County Council is to improve and extend Water Services in the county. Expansion and improvement of these services is necessary to encourage and facilitate industrial and commercial development in the county as well as to serve existing and proposed development. Maintaining a proper balance between protecting and enhancing the environment and economic and sustainable development is a central goal of Mayo County Council.

4.9.2 Baseline environment

Transport Infrastructure

In Mayo, the existing road network is deemed adequate for transporting heavy goods and to link population centres within the county. Currently, the road infrastructure of Mayo consists of 398.7 km of national route network comprising 131.98 km of national primary and 266.72 km of national secondary-categorised roads. Much of this has been upgraded to current best standard single carriageway. Some national and regional road upgrade schemes are summarised in Table 4.18.

Additionally, the regional road network in Mayo equates to 628.4 km, while local roads account for the remaining 5331 km.



Table 4.18 National and regional road schemes completed, commenced or at design stage in Mayo (status in brackets)

National routes	Regional routes
Priority projects for 2014-2020:-	
N5 Westport to Turlough	R311 Link Road, Castlebar (Newport Road to Lannagh Road Roundabout)
N5 Turlough to Bohola incorporating N58 & N26	R311 Newport Road, Castlebar (Rehins)
N17 Re-alignment	R314/L1190 Bearnadearg, Ballina
a. Knock to Charlestown	
b. Claremorris to Ballindine	
c. Knock to Claremorris	
N59 Westport to Mulranny	R314 Killala - Ballycastle Road at Killybrone
N60 Castlebar to Claremorris	R321 Bohola – Kiltimagh Road
a. Lagnamuck	
b. Heathlawn	
c. Manualla Cross	
N59 Ballina to Crossmolina	R324 Neale – Cross Road
	R331 Ballinrobe – Claremorris Road at Brookhill – Millbrook
	R312 Castlebar – Bellacorrick Road at Glenisland – Part 8 Planning
	R324 Neale – Cross Road at Cross – Part 8 Planning
Road projects since 2008:-	
N59 Kilbride (completed)	
N59 Knockbrega (completed)	
N59 Westport to Mulranny (CPO confirmed)	
N5 Westport Turlough (CPO/EIS imminent)	
National Road pavement overlay programme	

Transport infrastructure in Mayo also includes the rail network, airport, Great Western Greenway and piers and harbours which are illustrated in Figure 4.21. The Westport – Dublin rail link makes five stops within Mayo, with the service from Ballina joining the primary line at Manulla Junction. The rail network is easily accessible by road, linking towns including Westport, Castlebar, Claremorris and Ballyhaunis.

Ireland West Airport Knock, located in the townland of Kilgarriff East along the National Primary Route (N17 Galway / Sligo) and approximately 7 km from the National Primary Road (N5) is the main international air access gateway for the west, northwest and midland regions of Ireland. The airport has experienced rapid development and now serves more than 20 scheduled and charter destinations across Ireland, the UK, Europe and beyond. Additionally, a Local Area Plan for the airport and environs was recently adopted by Mayo County Council, paving the way for the designation of lands in the vicinity of the airport as a Strategic Development Zone (SDZ).

The 78 piers and harbours within the county vary considerably in size and scale with 13 located on Mayo's offshore islands and 65 on the mainland. Generally used for landings for aquaculture, recreational activities and commercial fishing, none of the piers or harbours are currently used for importation on a commercial scale. With two objectives and one policy of the current Mayo County

Development Plan 2008 – 2014 pertaining to the development, improvement and provision of piers and harbours, a total 16 harbours, piers and slipway large projects were indicated within the Plan. Additionally, 34 other piers and harbour schemes which are listed in the current Plan, including works such as provision of concrete coastal blocks, protection works and dune stabilisation measures.

The 42 km Great Western Greenway is the longest off-road walking and cycling trail in Ireland, in a highly-scenic route stretching from Westport to Achill. The Greenway, part of the National Cycle Network, now encompasses three routes Achill to Mulranny (13 km), Mulranny to Newport (18 km) and Newport to Westport (11 km). The Greenway attracts numerous local and visiting walkers and cyclists all through the year and has proven to be a valuable amenity to Mayo, show-casing the county's existing natural heritage, promoting outdoor activities and attracting more tourists and visitors to Mayo.

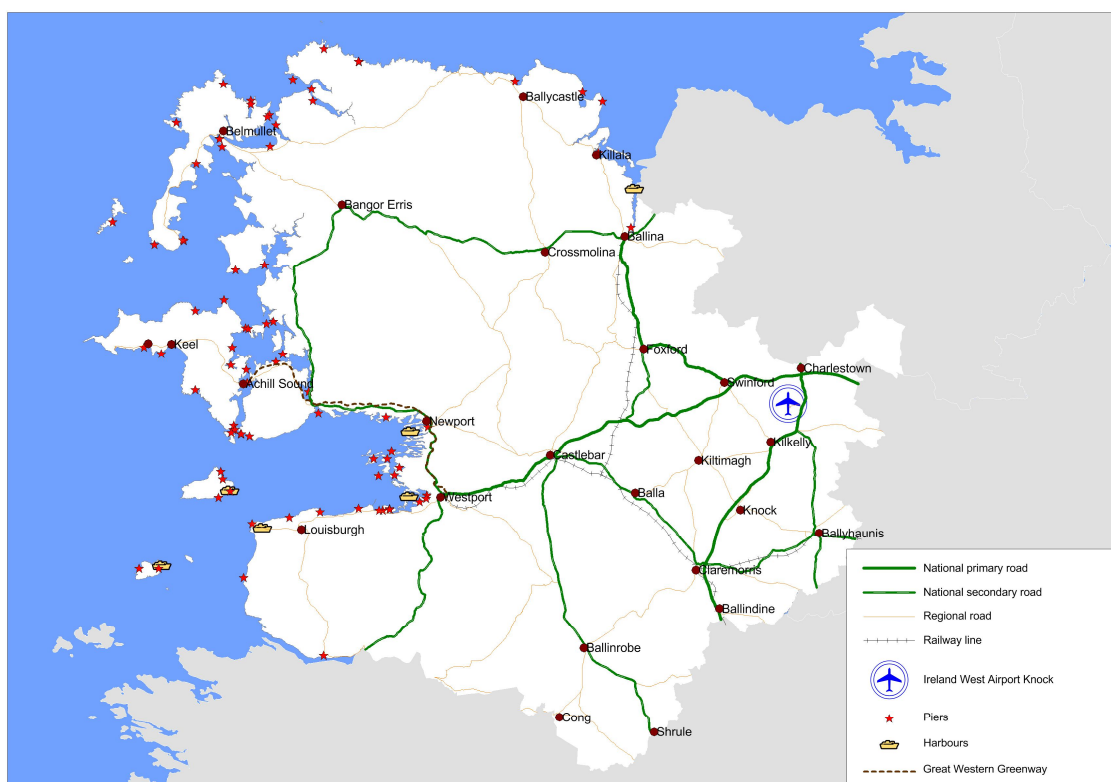


Figure 4.21 Transport Infrastructure in Mayo

Waste Management and Infrastructure

The 2009 Connaught Waste Management Region Annual Report shows a continued increase in commercial and industrial waste and a continuing decline in construction and demolition waste arising. This is in line with the current ongoing downturn in the construction industry. Notwithstanding this, the construction and demolition waste remains a target area due to the potential to achieve much greater recycling and recovery in this sector.

Further, the annual report shows that the quantity of household waste being produced in the region is falling, thus reversing previous trends. This is expected given the ongoing deep recession in the wider economy. Separate organic waste collection service is being expanded. Waste collection



permits have been modified to ensure that the third bin is provided to 100% of commercial premises and 40% of households. Progress in this area is poor and enforcement action may be needed to accelerate the roll-out of brown bins in the county.

Waste infrastructure includes a number of EPA-licensed facilities and local authority authorised waste facilities including transfer stations, waste permit sites and ATFs (authorised treatment facilities to depollute end-of-life vehicles). There is an extensive network of bring banks for collection of glass and aluminium cans and the Connacht Waste Management Plan provides for the expansion of this network. The new County Development Plan should provide for the inclusion of bring banks within all larger scale retail commercial developments. There are two recycling centres which accept a range of household wastes including hazardous wastes. Plans are afoot to develop a third recycling facility in Belmullet. A fourth recycling facility may be developed in Claremorris.

Waste sludge is managed by way of contract between Mayo Co. Council and Dominick O'Reilly Transport Services Ltd. This contract provides for the removal of all municipal sludge by Dominick O'Reilly (from Mayo Co. Council wastewater treatment plants) and its treatment at the permitted facility of Dominick O'Reilly, located in Tooreen, Ballyhaunis. The treated sludge is transported from Tooreen to Carlow/Kilkenny for land-spreading under Nutrient Management Plans. The current Sludge Management Plan of Mayo County Council is due to be reviewed, to take account of a revised Connacht Waste Management Plan and the need to plan for increased sludge volumes which will arise from the implementation of the Water Services (Amendment) Act, 2012.

The vast majority of waste streams generated can be managed through permitted waste collectors who are authorised to collect in Mayo and to transfer wastes to specific authorised facilities within and outside of the county.

Mayo County Council has two EPA-licensed landfills, one of which is operational. All waste accepted at these facilities must now be pre-treated to ensure diversion of bio-waste.

There are a number of historic landfills in the county; of these five fall under the Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery Activity) Regulations, 2008. Two have been classified as moderate risk and three have been classified as low risk. Further investigation is ongoing.

Drinking Water

Mayo County Council provides drinking water for 25,377 households (CSO 2011), served off 24 public water supply schemes. Additionally, a total of 238 private schemes operate in Mayo. A total of 157 of these schemes are served off public water supply schemes, and 77 schemes provide water from their own source. In addition, drinking water is supplied to households and commercial premises from their own private sources.

Table 4.19 Private Households in Permanent Housing Units (number) by province, county or city and type of water supply (Source: CSO 2011)

Province, County or City	All types of water supply	Public mains	LA group scheme	Private group scheme	Other private source	No piped water	Not stated
Mayo	47,932	25,377	11,902	6,196	3,217	67	1,173
% of Total	100	53	25	13	7	0	2



Drinking water sources in Mayo include surface water lakes and rivers and, groundwater springs and wells. There are many legislative provisions for the protection of surface water quality, the foremost of which being the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations, 2003 (SI No 722 of 2003), which transposed the European Communities Water Framework Directive.

The following table lists the 24 public water supply schemes in Mayo which serve a population of 80,349 people.

Table 4.20 Public Water Supply Schemes of Mayo

Area	Major schemes	Minor schemes
North-East Region	Ballina RWSS	Ballycastle
		Bonniconlon
		Ceide Fields
		Crossmolina
		Dooastle/Clontia
		Foxford
		Swinford
		Kiltimagh
		Kilkelly
		Knock Airport
		Charlestown
South Region	Lough Mask RWSS	Kilmaine
		Shrule
		Cong
West Region	Erris RWSS	Louisburgh
	Westport RWSS	Mulranny
	Achill RWSS	Newport
		Clare Island
		Inishturk

Major schemes include the Lough Mask Regional Water Supply Scheme which currently supplies 52% of Mayo's treated water. Towns and some Group Water Supply schemes supplied include Castlebar, Claremorris, Ballyhaunis, Ballinrobe, Knock, Ballyhaunis, Balla and parts of Westport. The three remaining major schemes include regional supply schemes at Ballina, Erris, Westport and Achill.

The current baseline status of the drinking water quality in Mayo is considered to be very high. This can be attributed to the introduction of legislation to protect source waters, capital investment from Mayo County Council and the rural water programme and the introduction of drinking water legislation which broadened the monitoring and supervisory role of the Local Authority and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Investment in the Mayo County Council Water Services Capital Works Programme (WSIP), coupled with the National Rural Water Programme has seen a dramatic improvement in the quality of drinking water over the past decade.



In November 2002, the European Court of Justice ruled that Ireland was in contravention of the EU's Drinking Water Directive due to the substandard quality of drinking water on privately sourced Group Water Schemes. The ECJ threatened to impose substantial fines. In response, the Department of the Environment initiated a major programme of capital upgrade works under the Action Plan for Rural Drinking Water Quality 2003-2006. The resulting Rural Water Programme (RWP) comprised five water quality upgrade solutions, involving either connection to the public water mains or the construction of standalone water treatment facilities, where public mains connection was not a viable technical option.

In Mayo, a total of 23 schemes choose to enter a Design Build and Operate Contract. The contacts were offered in two bundles. Bundle 1 involved 13 group water schemes, serving a total of 4,300 houses and Bundle 2 involved a further 10 schemes serving 4,500 houses. The schemes contractors provide monthly reports to Mayo County Council to ensure that water quality on the schemes is maintained to the highest standard. The distribution network of these schemes was also augmented to ensure that a good drinking water supply is delivered to the consumers' tap and to reduce the amount of unaccounted water, much of which is lost through leaks.

A total of 31 schemes are connected to the public mains supply. While these schemes remain private, they are now supplied with drinking water that is of good quality. The maintenance of the distribution network remains the responsibility of the group water scheme and it is imperative to ensure that the water delivered to the consumer remains of good quality. Investment into the distribution infrastructure was made under the RWP to upgrade the system of such group water schemes.

A total of 25 new group water schemes were also formed under the RWP in Mayo. These facilitated the connection of individual houses to a good potable water supply, many of which are served off public mains water. Mayo County Council took over a total of 73 schemes under the RWP. These schemes were previously connected to the public mains. In doing so, the schemes could be upgraded to ensure the quality and quantity of water supplied is maintained.

Grants were also available for upgrades to individual houses with individual water supplies under the RWP. A total of 18 individual supplies were upgraded under this scheme.

Finally, Mayo County Council has proposed a regional water supply scheme – East Mayo Regional Water Supply Scheme (EMRWSS) to encompass a number of existing smaller Plants including Foxford, Swinford, Charlestown, Kilkelly, the Ireland West Airport Knock and Cloontia/Dooastle and a number of Group Water Schemes in the area. Currently included on the Water Services Investment Programme (WSIP) Mayo County Council is currently procuring Engineering Consultancy Services to undertake a Feasibility Study for the study area.

Wastewater Infrastructure

The Water Services Assessment of Needs 2007-2013 shows that there is insufficient waste water treatment infrastructure in County Mayo to serve existing and proposed populations in the county, and identifies that there is a need to upgrade 17 existing sewerage schemes around the county.

The Assessment of Needs identifies that there is a need to upgrade 17 existing sewerage schemes. However only 11 schemes out of the 17 have been either completed or been approved for funding to proceed. The remaining six have not been approved for funding to date.

The Assessment of Needs also identified that there are requirements to provide new sewerage schemes at 46 settlements. Of these schemes only Moygawnagh and Roundfort have been provided with a new wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and collection system. A collection system has also



been completed at Mayo Abbey, and a new WWTP is currently under construction. (Refer to Appendix VII for a full listing of WWTP in each category).

A review of the Assessment of Needs was carried out in 2009 which prioritised schemes taking into account specific environmental and economic pressures. The following table provides a summary of those schemes prioritized in 2009, and their current status.

Table 4.21 Current Status of Assessment of Needs Schemes (2009 Review)

Scheme	Works Required	Status
Castlebar Environs Scheme	Upgrade of collection system and WWTP	Was at construction stage – Now complete
Ballina Main Drainage	Upgrade of collection system and WWTP	Was at construction stage – Now complete
Achill Sound Sewerage Scheme	Upgrade of collection system and WWTP	Was at construction stage – Now complete
Kiltimagh Sewerage Scheme	Upgrade of collection system and WWTP	Upgrade of WWTP complete. No funding available for upgrading for collection system
Killala Sewerage Scheme	Upgrade of collection system and WWTP	Upgrade of WWTP at planning stage. No funding available for collection system
Mayo Sludge Management	New Sludge Hub Centre	Planning Application refused by An Bord Pleanála. No funding available to proceed further.
Newport Sewerage Scheme	Upgrade of collection system and WWTP	Stalled at Preliminary Design and ran into difficulty with Sludge Hub Centre. No funding approved to proceed further.
Claremorris Sewerage Scheme 1	Stormwater separation	No funding approved
Claremorris Sewerage Scheme 2	Upgrade of WWTP capacity	Not currently on the WSIP 2007-2009
Ballyhaunis Sewerage Scheme	Upgrade of WWTP capacity	Not currently on the WSIP 2007-2009
Foxford Sewerage Scheme	Upgrade of collection system and WWTP	WWTP ready to go to Part 8. No funding approved for collection system
Charlestown / Bellaghy Sewerage Scheme	Upgrade of collection system and WWTP	Currently at design stage. No funding approved to go to construction.

The following three tables provide an estimate of the available spare capacity at the WWTP in Mayo based on 2011 data.

Table 4.22 Estimated Spare Capacity for WWTP between 35,000PE and 1,001PE

Plant	Design Capacity	Estimated 2011 Loading	Spare Capacity	Spare Capacity (%)
Castlebar	35000PE	26794PE	8206PE	23%
Ballina	25000PE	12098PE	12902PE	52%
Westport	15000PE	11826PE	3174PE	21%
Ballinrobe	8000PE	8499PE	-499PE	-6%
Swinford	6500PE	3000PE	3500PE	54%

**Environmental Report of Strategic Environmental Assessment of
Draft Mayo County Development Plan 2014 – 2020**



Knock	6200PE	2200PE	4000PE	65%
Knock Wastewater Treatment Plant	6200PE	661PE	5539PE	89%
Claremorris	5330PE	3051PE	2279PE	43%
Achill Island Central	4000PE	2199PE	1801PE	45%
Ballyhaunis	4000PE	5044PE	-1044PE	-26%
Kiltimagh	3333PE	1807PE	1526PE	46%
Crossmolina	3100PE	2154PE	946PE	31%
Cong	2200PE	944PE	1256PE	57%
Foxford	1360PE	1700PE	-340PE	-25%
Newport	1287PE			
Achill Sound	1200PE	569PE		
Balla	1200PE	884PE	316PE	26%
Charlestown	1200PE	1356PE	-156PE	-13%
Bangor Erris	1080PE	583PE	497PE	46%
Mulranny	1017PE	486PE	531PE	52%

Table 4.23 Estimated Spare Capacity for WWTP between 1,001PE and 201PE

Plant	Design Capacity	Estimated 2011 Loading	Spare Capacity	Spare Capacity (%)
Louisburgh	1000PE	392PE	608PE	61%
Kilkelly	900PE	500PE	400PE	44%
Kilmaine	800PE	170PE	630PE	79%
Ballindine	730PE	706PE	24PE	3%
Doogort	700PE	420PE	280PE	40%
Gweesalia	700PE	450PE	250PE	36%
Knock Airport	700PE	300PE	400PE	57%
Bohola	650PE	250PE	400PE	62%
Ballycastle	600PE	340PE	260PE	43%
Shrule	600PE	391PE	209PE	35%
Belcarra	500PE	400PE	100PE	20%
Lahardane	500PE	430PE	70PE	14%
Old Head	470PE	300PE ^{Note1}	170PE	28%
Ballyvary	400PE	300PE ^{Note2}	100PE	25%
Irishtown	400PE	350PE ^{Note3}	50PE	13%
Roundfort	400PE	150PE ^{Note2}	250PE	63%
Bonniconlon	350PE	300PE ^{Note3}	50PE	14%
Aghagower	300PE	290PE ^{Note3}	10PE	3%



Moygownagh	300PE	100PE ^{Note3}	200PE	67%
Tourmakeady	250PE	200PE ^{Note3}	50PE	20%

Note 1: This is an estimate. However, this plant is hydraulically under pressure due to infiltration on the collection system

Note 2: This is an estimate.

Note 3: This is an estimate. However, this plant has experienced operational difficulties in the past few years

Table 4.24 Estimated Spare Capacity for WWTP between 200PE and 100PE

Plant	Design Capacity	Estimated 2011 Loading	Spare Capacity	Spare Capacity (%)
Ballycroy	200PE	150PE ^{Note1}	Ballycroy	25%
Hollymount	192PE	185PE	Hollymount	4%
Kilmovee	170PE	134PE ^{Note1}	Kilmovee	20%

Note 1: This is an estimate

Energy

Energy in Mayo is provided through the National Grid, with its power generated by power plants using energy from sources including gas, oil, coal, peat, hydro and others. Wind energy also feed into the National Grid and is dealt with in more detail in Section 4.7. From an infrastructural viewpoint, Mayo has two 110 kV lines traversing the county, from Bellacorrick to Sligo and Bellacorrick to Claremorris, with 110 kV stations at Bellacorrick, Ballina, Castlebar, Westport and Claremorris. The *Renewable Energy Strategy for County Mayo 2011 to 2020* was adopted in May 2011, sets out a path for Mayo to meet the national legally-binding renewable energy targets including:

- 16% of energy consumption to come from renewable sources by 2020;
- 42.5% electricity consumption to come from renewable sources by 2020;
- 12% energy consumption to come from renewable sources for heating and cooling; and
- 10% final energy from renewable sources consumed in transport by 2020.

Mayo Forestry

Also dealt with in the Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna section of this document, 10% of the area of Mayo is covered with forestry, with just over 11% of this classified as broadleaved species including oak (*Quercus* spp) and birch (*Betula pendula*). The remaining coniferous species are dominated with lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) and sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*).

There are a number of forest parks and forest recreation areas in Mayo including the Millennium Forest, Tourmakeady, Ard na Geeha / Cong Forest (near Cong), Sheefrey Forest near Doolough and Doogry, near Castlebar. In addition, Brackloon Wood is a native Atlantic oak woodland (formerly Lord Sligo's estate) while Laughil Wood near Lough Conn is a similar notable woodland type.

In addition to existing woodlands in Mayo, funding available from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food under the NeighbourWood Scheme, have seen new forests and forest enhancement projects established throughout the county at locations in Ballina, Swinford, Newport and Claremorris.

Forests cultivated commercially since the 1980s have been supported by Government and EU-supported grants and currently greater than 50% of privately-owned forests are managed by full-time



farmers, while 90% are part-time farmers. Coillte, the private limited company established under the Forestry Act, 1988 and whose shares are held by the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Food and the Minister for the Finance, manage 6% of commercial forest area in Mayo.

To summarise, as a consequence of funding by the Forest Service and the Forest Environment Protection Scheme, grants and subsidies available to land-owners for the establishment of woodland encourages high nature-value woodland, which is in accordance with the National Forest Standard, 2000; essentially a guidance document for sustainable forest management by the incorporation of proper planting and management in accordance with environmental guidelines purporting to water quality, archaeology, biodiversity landscape and harvesting.

Fisheries and Aquaculture

The EU Shellfish Waters Directive (2006/113/EC), transposed into Irish legislation by the European Communities (Quality of Shellfish Waters) Regulations, 2006 (S.I. No. 268 of 2006) (as amended), aims to protect and improve shellfish waters in order to support shellfish life and growth, where shellfish include bivalve and gastropod molluscs; mussels, scallops, clams, oysters and cockles.

The Directive requires Member States to designate waters that need protection in order to support shellfish life and growth, and then establish Pollution Reduction Programmes (PRPs) for the designated waters, in accordance with the WFD. There are six designated shellfish waters in Mayo: Achill Sound North, Achill Sound South, Blacksod Bay, Clew Bay, Killala Bay and Killary Harbour (shown in Figure 4.16, Section 4.6.2). PRPs are in operation for these areas.

Under Article 4 of the Quality of Shellfish Waters Regulations 2006 (as amended), the Council is required to ensure that the performance of its functions promotes compliance with the objectives of these pollution reduction programmes and with the objectives of the Shellfish Waters Directive. Such functions include waste water treatment, waste management, effluent discharge licenses, planning and development and building control.

In addition to shellfish and their aquatic habitat, much of north Mayo is drained by one of the most important commercial fishing rivers in Europe; the River Moy. With its 11 tributaries, the Moy is a designated salmonid river under the European Communities (Quality of Salmonid Waters) Regulations, 1988.

4.9.3 Existing problems

Roads

The road network is described as adequate, though in the current economic climate maintaining road surfaces to a superior level can prove difficult. Though not all finished with asphalt surfaces, regular local road strengthening and pavement overlays occur whenever necessary. While not feasible to provide adequate road infrastructure to all locations in such a vast county, the existing network has proven to be adequate.

Additional Transport Infrastructure

Maintenance of existing transport infrastructure is the main issue pertaining to transport infrastructure. Railway lines and associated infrastructure is the responsibility of Iarnród Éireann while Ireland West Airport Knock is managed by Connaught Airport Development Company Ltd, trading as Ireland West Airport Knock.

Existing problems, then, in relation to the piers and harbours of Mayo in the context of the proposed Mayo County Development Plan 2014 – 2020 include their continuing maintenance for use by leisure, tourism, fishing and aquaculture having due regard for the protection of designated conservation areas and for marine and coastal biodiversity.

Waste Management and Infrastructure

The integrated waste management hierarchy pyramid illustrates the approach that must be taken, with waste prevention as the primary objective. Of the waste thereafter produced disposal is to be the last resort. The diversion of waste from landfill and separate collection of organic wastes and dry recyclables for appropriate treatment in order to achieve national and EU targets is being advanced. However not all of the infrastructure included in the Connacht Waste Management Plan has been developed to date. There is no thermal treatment and energy recovery facility in the region and the network of facilities identified for the county is not fully established. These include facilities for the collection and processing of green waste.

The 2011 Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) Plan of Mayo County Council lists priority areas which include targeting priority waste streams such as hazardous wastes and targeting unauthorised activity to ensure a level playing field for all operators involved in waste management. Uncollected waste continues to be an issue as there is no statutory obligation on householders to avail of a kerbside waste collection service. However, the percentage of uncollected waste has fallen from 43% in 2010 to 32% in 2011. This is being managed locally through enforcement of Waste Presentation Bye-laws. Accurate data is key to monitoring progress and considerable effort is required to achieve this.

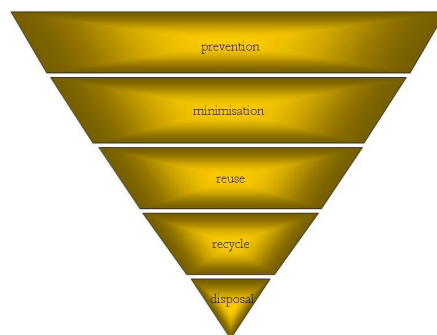


Figure 4.22 Waste hierarchy pyramid

Drinking Water

Mayo County Council provides water treatment for all public water supply schemes. The level of treatment required is a function of the water quality of the abstraction water and the risk of contamination associated with that water supply source. For example, a groundwater supply would not have a high turbidity or suspended matter content and consequently, only chlorination disinfection treatment may be required. However, a river or other surface water source, with high suspended solids, may require extended treatment in the form of settlement, coagulation and filtration followed by disinfection to produce potable water. In recent years the risk of *Cryptosporidium* contamination of water supplies has lead to increased investment in monitoring and treatment of public drinking water supplies.



The quality of the raw water supply may be affected by diffuse and point source pollution and natural fluctuations in the chemistry of the water, particularly in river water sources.

There is also a pervasive risk of contamination from pesticide residuals and other priority substances, the removal of which may not occur during the general drinking water treatment process of settling, coagulation, filtration and disinfection. Measures should therefore be taken to protect raw water from this contamination.

One problematic invasive species in lentic surface waters Mayo is *Dreissena polymorpha*. The zebra mussel has been found on the water abstraction intake pipes and measures have been taken to place screening on the intake to prevent build-up and blockages caused by the large populations of mussels depositing on pipes. Other invasive species which may threaten the aquatic environment include *Lagarosiphon major* and *Elodea nuttallii*. Populations of *Dikogammarus villosus*, presently not recorded in Ireland, is being found at an increasing number of UK locations. Finally, the filtration process at the Lough Mask Water Treatment Plant encounters issues on an annual basis, corresponding with a spring peak in bacillariophyte populations.

Water quality can be affected by the absence of source protection measures in proximity to the abstraction point of groundwater and surface water sources. The introduction of source protection measures such as physical barriers to prevent animal access or inference with the source, covering of groundwater abstraction points, preventive maintenance of source covers and cessation of the use of pesticides and other chemical around a source. In addition, the European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations, 2010 (S.I. No. 610 of 2010) allows a Local Authority to take specific measures to protect drinking water sources. Measures include the control and management of slurry, soiled water and land spreading.

Climatic extremes cause considerable problems relating to drinking water. The extreme and prolonged sub-zero temperatures and the thaw thereafter can cause considerable disruption to water supplies. Low temperatures can also affect the efficiency of the water treatment chemicals used at water treatment plants.

Heavy rains can cause an influx of diffuse pollution to a water supply, thereby increasing turbidity and the risk of contamination while long dry spells can lead to increased influence of groundwater on surface water supplies. The quality of the underlying aquifer will therefore affect the quality of the surface water source.

From an infrastructural aspect, there are additional existing issues pertaining to drinking water including the operation of some Plants beyond capacity. Lough Mask Water Treatment Plant has a design capacity of 27 300 m³day⁻¹ and is currently treating 29 790 m³day⁻¹. Additionally, Westport Regional Water Supply Scheme is also at / nearing its operation capacity of 3 500 m³day⁻¹, and as such would be under severe pressure should major development be guided to the town. Charlestown Water Supply Scheme, with chlorination treatment only, exhibits very high UFW (unaccounted-for-water) figures at 60% loss or 1m³/km/h. The parametric trihalomethane concentration (the carcinogenic by-product formed in the presence of chlorine and natural organic matter of water) is currently at 100 µg/l and this is exceeded at plants including Kiltimagh and Lough Mask. In addition, high aluminium concentrations have been observed in treated water at Louisburgh Water Treatment Plant.

To summarise, the main issues identified in Mayo drinking water supplies are illustrated in the following remedial action list (RAL).



Table 4.25 Remedial Action List (RAL) for Mayo, 2012

Scheme	Main issue	Proposed remedies	Proposed completion date
Kiltimagh WSS	Elevated levels of trihalomethanes (THM) above the standard in the Drinking Water Regulations	Upgrade	
Lough Mask RWSS	Elevated levels of trihalomethanes (THM) above the standard in the Drinking Water Regulations	Upgrade	May 2014
Cong PWS	Inadequate treatment for <i>Cryptosporidium</i> contamination	Upgrade	July 2012
Foxford WSS	Elevated levels of trihalomethanes (THM) above the standard in the Drinking Water Regulations	Improve operations (from slow sand filters and chlorination only)	July 2012
Kilmaine PWS	Supply identified by the HSE where further investigation or improvement maybe required	Upgrade	

Wastewater Infrastructure

A number of issues pertaining to wastewater treatment infrastructure include;

- In 2010, eight of the secondary treatment plants persistently failed to achieve the effluent quality standards (at least half the effluent samples did not meet all the effluent quality standards).
 - Infrastructural improvements are required to address the effluent quality issues at Ballindine, Belcarra, Charlestown, Foxford and Lahardane. The root cause of the failures at Balla and Gweesalia was unclear. Works to remove storm water are being carried out at Louisburgh;
- In 2010, five agglomerations had less than secondary treatment.
 - New plants have been commissioned at Achill Sound and Kiltimagh. The latter has resulted in a significant improvement in the receiving waters. The process to install/upgrade plants at Killala and Newport is stalled. Belmullet is on the Water Services Investment Programme (with Foxford and Charlestown);
- The *Focus on Urban Waste Water Discharges in Ireland* (EPA,)report identifies that there is a high probability that urban waste water discharges from the following eight agglomerations in Mayo are the principal cause of moderate or slight river pollution (based on data from the EPA's 2007-2009 river monitoring programme): Balla, Ballindine, Castlebar, Charlestown, Claremorris, Kilkelly, Kiltimagh and Knock;
- The report identifies the Plant at Killala as a key pressure on a designated shellfish water; and
- 28 of the 33 agglomerations greater than 500 PE had at least secondary treatment in 2010.



Energy and telecommunications

The existing grid network is at capacity and as a consequence EirGrid have proposed to develop and upgrade the electricity transmission network, involving two 400kV lines from Bellacorick to both Cashla in Galway and Flagford in Roscommon between now and 2025.

Forestry

A number of challenges face forestry plantations in Mayo, including the existing monoculture of coniferous planting which exists as a consequence of 1960s and 1970s planting incentives, in addition to the wall effect; a phenomenon where excessive planting of trees with no open spaces can negatively impact on the character and amenity of the existing landscape.

Other issues include the introduction of invasive species which may upset the ecological balance within a forest ecosystem. Diseases and predators are also problematic. Currently, ash die-back disease, caused by the fungus *Chalara fraxinea* has been introduced into western counties, with a lack of scientific knowledge on the origin of disease and its spread. Currently, it is likely that imports of ash plants and wood from Europe infected with the fungus transmit to both saplings and older established Irish ash. The Destructive Insects and Pests Acts, 1958 and 1991 (*Chalara fraxinea*) Order, 2012 has been made to provide measures which should be put in place to prevent the spread of *Chalara fraxinea* in *Fraxinea* spp.

Fisheries and Aquaculture

Pollution Reduction Programmes (PRP) for eight shellfish waters of Mayo and monitoring conducted by the Marine Institute to verify compliance with the Quality of Shellfish Waters Regulations, 2006 have concluded that land-based pressures, including point, diffuse and morphological pressures affect the shellfish water quality parameter including wastewater treatment plant discharges, combined-sewer-overflows (CSOs), agricultural and licenced discharges. In addition, other inland fisheries experience water pollution issues as a consequence of diffuse pollution from agricultural sources and forestry and peat run-off in addition to challenges from licences and unlicensed activities and morphological pressures.

4.9.4 Likely Evolution of Material Assets in absence of the Mayo County Development Plan

Roads Infrastructure

In the absence of a County Development Plan (CDP), there would be no framework directing development and associated infrastructural requirements such as new roads to appropriate locations within the county. This may result in negative impacts upon the existing road infrastructure including deterioration of road surfaces receiving increased volumes of traffic, or alternatively lower volumes of traffic in areas of the county with superior road quality.

Additional Transport Infrastructure

In the absence of the Mayo CDP 2014 – 2020, the maintenance of Mayo piers and harbours would continue, providing coastal protection, upgrade of pier road access and public safety features.

Waste Management and Infrastructure

In the absence of a County Development Plan, the Connaught Waste Management Plan will continue to drive waste management in County Mayo. Constantly evolving environmental legislation assists



with an integrated approach to achieving targets in waste management. Greater awareness due to successful local and national campaigns, greater visibility of enforcement through multi-agency road check points and media coverage assist with advancing towards achieving 'Replacement Waste Management Plan for the Connaught Region 2006-2011' objectives.

The new County Development Plan should provide an overall strategy for the land use development of the county and associated infrastructure necessary to achieve this. The infrastructure identified in the new County Development Plan may provide outlets for waste arising. In the absence of this, continued efforts in encouraging private sector development will be required.

Drinking Water

In the absence of a CDP with the sporadic development of towns and rural areas, the Capital Works Programme and Rural Water Programme would be speculative. Undue strain would be placed on the treatment capacity of the water treatment plants and therefore, the quality of water would be compromised. In terms of distribution and infrastructure, the Regional Water Supply Schemes are generally based on large trunk mains supplying water to service reservoirs near the population concentrations of towns and villages. This allows for a more average demand of water from the Treatment Works and an average flow within the trunk mains. The service reservoirs provide storage of water close to the areas of highest demand while also providing pressure balancing.

In the absence of a County Development Plan, particularly one which encourages development in urban areas, these trunk mains would come under increasing pressure for direct connections. This would reduce the capacity of the main to carry out its fundamental function of supplying water to the service reservoirs. It would also increase the risk of leakage from the system, putting the overall system of supply to service reservoirs at risk.

Wastewater Infrastructure

The existing public sewerage schemes around the county are based on domestic and non-domestic clusters of sufficient size and density to make the provision of a collection and treatment systems economically feasible. In the absence of a County Development Plan development could occur anywhere throughout the county. This could lead to a reduction in the development of property clusters thereby making the design and advancement of new wastewater schemes difficult.

As noted by the Water Services Assessment of Needs 2007-2013, there is a need for wastewater treatment infrastructure in County Mayo to serve existing populations, regardless of future development. If the new CDP can encourage development in the towns and villages described in the SEA process, it can strengthen the economic and environmental case for the provision of these sewerage schemes.

Energy and telecommunications

The Mayo County Development Plan 2008-2014 identified a considerable number of renewable energy options within Mayo and set objectives to renew the Wind Energy Strategy for the county. In the absence of the Mayo County Development Plan 2014-2020, the location, volume and type of alternative energy projects may not be guided or promoted appropriately or adequately. The Renewable Energy Strategy for County Mayo 2011 – 2020 is in place but the guiding of land use / zoning for renewable energy infrastructure will be further underpinned and strengthened by policies and objectives within the County Development Plan.



Forestry

In the absence of a County Development Plan for Mayo, the forest infrastructure of Mayo would be protected and enhanced by aforementioned legislation, Tree Preservation Orders and the Forestry Act, 1946 and Coillte, but the County Development Plan would guide sustainable development of forestry in harmony with the existing environment, in particular the landscape, water and biodiversity considerations.

Fisheries and Aquaculture

In the absence of a County Development Plan and the absence of a strategy to guide development in the county, there would certainly be significant issues arising from inappropriately-sited development at coastal locations in proximity to shellfish waters in addition to commercial and residential developments (particularly with small-scale domestic wastewater treatment facilities) sited adjacent to or within a water body of fishery potential or a tributary thereof. For the purpose of this assessment, lentic waters are particularly relevant. Examples would include large lakes such as Conn and Mask, in addition to smaller lakes of notable fisheries value.

4.10 Cultural Heritage

4.10.1 Introduction

For the purpose of this assessment, *Cultural Heritage* was described with reference to both Archaeological and Architectural heritage.

Archaeological heritage

Heritage, by definition, means inherited properties, inherited characteristics and anything transmitted by past ages and ancestors. It covers everything, from objects and buildings to the environment. Cultural heritage includes physical buildings, structures and objects complete or in part, which have been left on the landscape by previous and indeed current generations. The heritage of Co. Mayo is a unique resource which is fundamental to the cultural identity of the county and the quality of life of its citizens. Our heritage is central to how we see ourselves and to our identity as individuals and communities. For example historic buildings can become a focus of community identity and pride.

The archaeological heritage includes National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the State, National Monuments that are the subject of Preservation Orders, archaeological and architectural monuments and sites listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and the Register of Historic Monuments, zones of archaeological potential in Historic Towns; the underwater archaeological heritage, including Historic Wrecks; unknown and unrecorded archaeological sites (including subsurface elements with no visible surface remains); potential sites located in the vicinity of large complexes of sites or monuments, present or former wetlands, unenclosed land, rivers or lakes, or inter-tidal zones.

Ireland has a long and varied maritime history with extensive records for shipwrecks along its coast, rivers, lakes and offshore waters. Evidence for maritime archaeology may survive in the form of ports, harbours, piers and jetties, coastal settlements, submerged cultural landscapes, fortifications, anchors, fish traps, shell middens, kelp grids and the material traces of other activities in the past that involved the exploitation of the coastal and maritime resource. Previously unrecorded archaeological sites other than wrecks may also lie undiscovered in Ireland's coastal waters.



Monuments can be described as any artificial or partly artificial building structure, or erection. Monuments protected under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004 include places and artifacts associated with commercial, cultural, economic, industrial, military, religious or social activity.

Administrative Framework and International Conventions: The Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht has a specific role at central government level in the protection of the archaeological heritage through the relevant legislation (National Monuments Acts 1930-2004, Heritage Act 1995). The overall State archaeological service provided by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht is delivered through the Heritage Service and the National Museum of Ireland. The Heritage Council is a statutory independent body appointed by the Minister. The European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage provides the basic policy framework for protection of the archaeological heritage. The 1992 European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (the Valletta Convention) was ratified by Ireland in 1997. The aim of the Convention is to '*protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study*' (Article 1). The Convention provides the basic framework for policy on the protection of the archaeological heritage. Ireland is party to the UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation) Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (the World Heritage Convention). The Céide Fields Archaeological Complex in North Mayo is on the tentative list for designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Architectural Heritage

The term 'architectural heritage' is defined in the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments Act, 1999, as meaning 'all

- a. structures and buildings together with their settings and attendant grounds, fixtures and fittings,
- b. groups of such structures and buildings, and
- c. sites

which are of architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.'

Protected Structure

A 'protected structure' is defined as any structure or specified part of a structure, which is included in the Record of Protected Structures. A structure is defined by the Act as; 'any building, structure, excavation, or other thing constructed or made on, in or under any land, or any part of a structure'.

In relation to a protected structure or proposed protected structure, the meaning of the term 'structure' is expanded to include:

- a) the interior of the structure;
- b) the land lying within the curtilage of the structure;
- c) any other structures lying within that curtilage and their interiors, and
- d) all fixtures and features which form part of the interior or exterior of the above structures.

Record of Protected Structures

Each local authority has a legal responsibility to include a Record of Protected Structures (RPS) in its Development Plan. Structures, or parts of structures, can be added to the Record if they are deemed of special, architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or value.



Architectural Conservation Areas

An Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) is a place, area, group of structures or townscape that is of special, architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or value, or contributes to the appreciation of protected structures.

ACAs could include, for example, a terrace of houses, a streetscape, a town or village centre or a group of structures associated with a specific building such as a country house or an industrial or maritime building. Structures in an ACA are important in their contribution to the character of the area. Any works that would have a material effect on the special character of an ACA require planning permission.

The legislative framework covering architectural heritage includes the following;

National Monuments Act 1930-2004

Heritage Act, 1995

Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended)

In addition to national legislation there are also European and international legal frameworks to be consulted in relation to architectural heritage including the following;

The Venice Charter 1964

The Burra Charter 1979/ 1981/ 1988

The Granada Convention for the Protection of Architectural Heritage of Europe (1985)

The Washington Charter 1987

The Nara Document on Authenticity 1994

The Granada Convention for the Protection of Architectural Heritage of Europe (1985)

4.10.2 Baseline environment

Archaeological heritage

County Mayo has a rich archaeological heritage. This wealth is reflected in the RMP which lists and protects monuments and places in Co. Mayo under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994. Nearly 6,000 areas of archaeological importance (representing almost 8,000 elements) are included in the RMP for Co. Mayo spanning over 7,000 years (Fig. 4.0). This RMP is constantly updated as new sites and monuments are discovered. There are 51 National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the State in Co. Mayo and a further 11 National Monuments that are subject to Preservation Orders.

The 1987 and 1994 (Amendment) Acts of the National Monuments Act 1930-2004 specifically address the protection of underwater archaeology. All wrecks over 100 years old and archaeological objects underwater are protected under the legislation and significant wrecks less than one hundred years old can be designated by Underwater Heritage Order on account of their historical, archaeological or artistic importance.

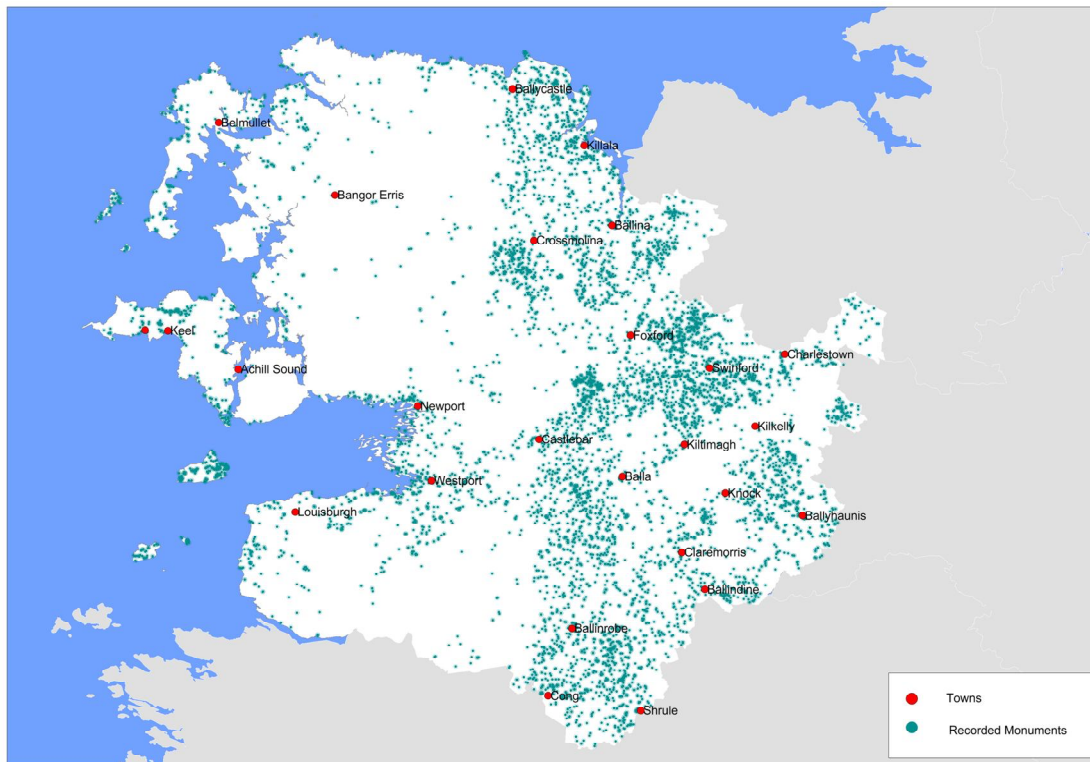


Figure 4.23 Record of Monuments and Places in Mayo

Architectural heritage

The architectural heritage of Mayo spans many centuries. This heritage reflects past lives and is an important record of the economic and social history of the county. Architectural heritage includes churches, courthouses, commercial and institutional buildings including banks and post offices, country houses, and also includes vernacular architecture. Within this range of building types are structures, streetscapes, village and town cores of such architectural heritage significance or special character that they are deemed worthy of protection either as individual elements which are listed on the Record of Protected Structures (RPS), as groups of buildings within Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) or as particular built heritage types that have been recorded as part of the unique identity of Mayo.

County Mayo has a rich architectural heritage, 271 of which are noted in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) for County Mayo. The list of protected structures and a description of each is contained in the Mayo County Council, County Development Plan 2003–2008, Appendix: IX, Record of Protected Structures.

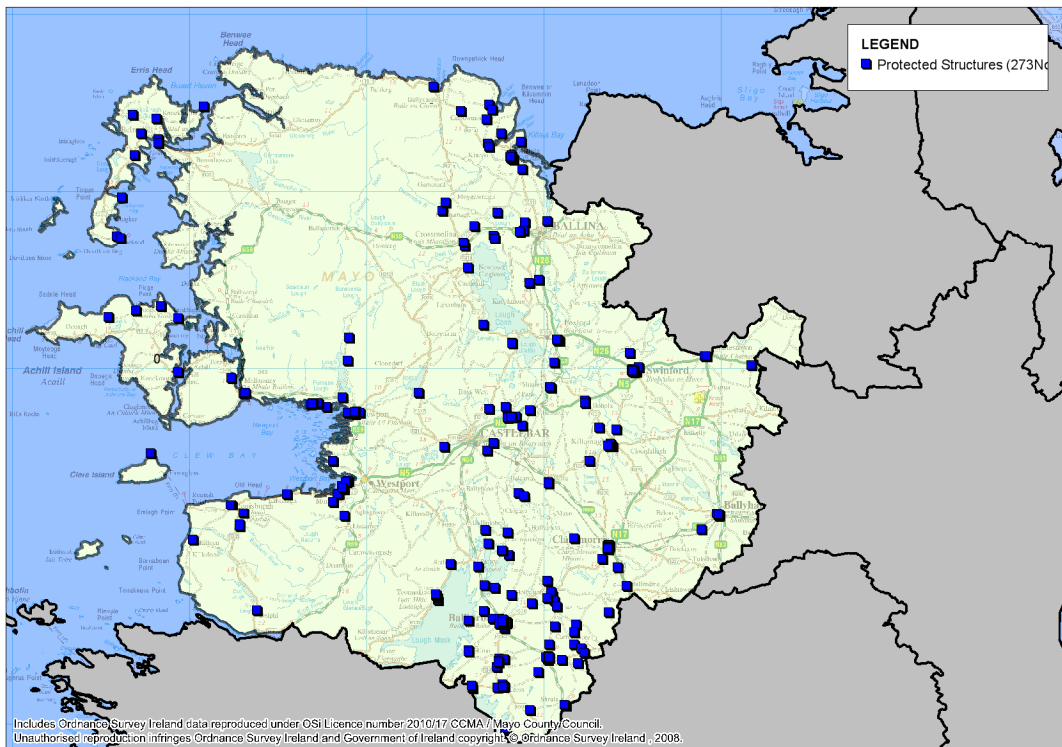


Fig. 4.24 Protected Structures in Mayo

Designed Landscapes – Historic Gardens, Demesnes and Estates

Historic designed landscapes relate to gardens, parkland, woodland, estates and public parks. By using both natural and built features such as trees, shrubs, lawns, ponds, watercourses, views/vistas, walled gardens, follies, farm outbuildings, gates and gate lodges, our ancestors created these compositions which are part of our architectural and horticultural heritage.

Industrial & Maritime Built Heritage

Industrial Heritage relates to sites, structures, mechanisms and artefacts associated with the industrial past, mainly of the 18th and 19th centuries and can extend further back to include archaeological sites. Examples of the industrial and maritime heritage of Mayo include structures associated with transportation such as railway stations and associated structures, historic bridges, lighthouses, coastguard stations, harbours, piers and quays. Architectural heritage related to transportation is also an important asset. Mill buildings and associated structures such as mill races, sluices and weirs also form part of this built heritage.

Vernacular Built Heritage

Vernacular built heritage forms a significant part of the built heritage of County Mayo, while many of these structures may not be listed on the Record of Protected Structures, their distinctive character contributes positively to the towns, villages and rural landscape of the county.

Traditional Features and Other Built Heritage

There are other elements of built heritage including stone walls, gates, lime-kilns, post-boxes, water pumps and other traditional features that contribute positively to the towns, villages and rural landscape of the county.

Energy Efficiency and the Built Heritage

Proposals to improve the thermal performance of historic structures require careful consideration so as not to damage historic fabric. Planning permission is required for any works that would materially affect the character of a Protected Structure.

Supplementing the RPS, inventories of architectural heritage have also been carried out on behalf of Mayo County Council including the Heritage Bridge Survey, Railway Heritage Survey and Thatch Survey.

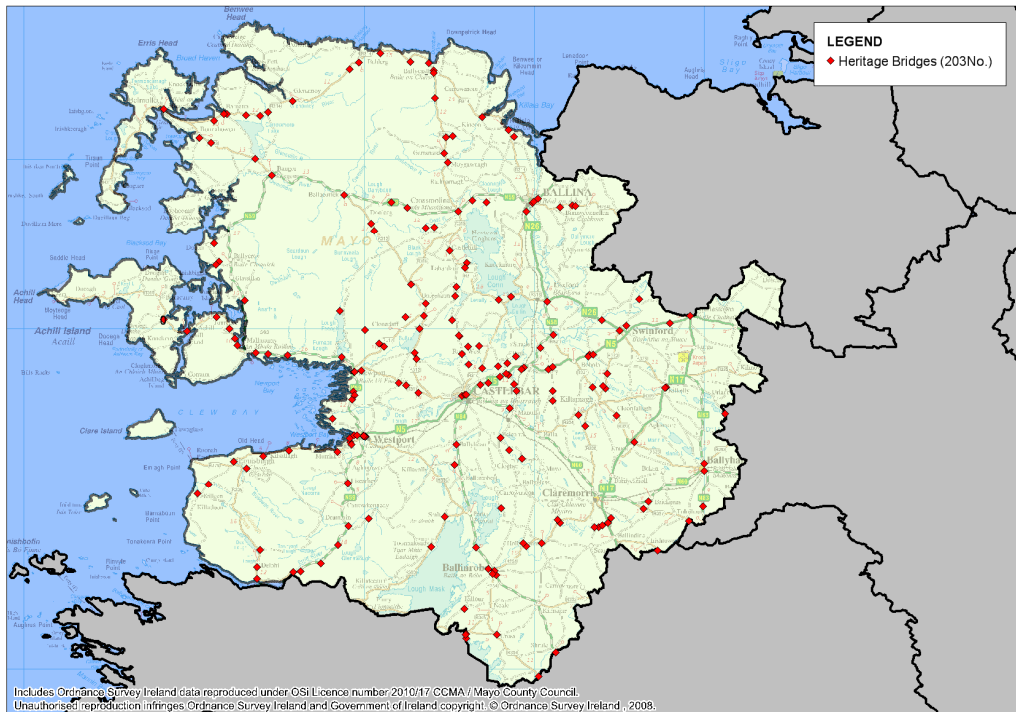


Fig. 4.25 Heritage Bridges of Mayo

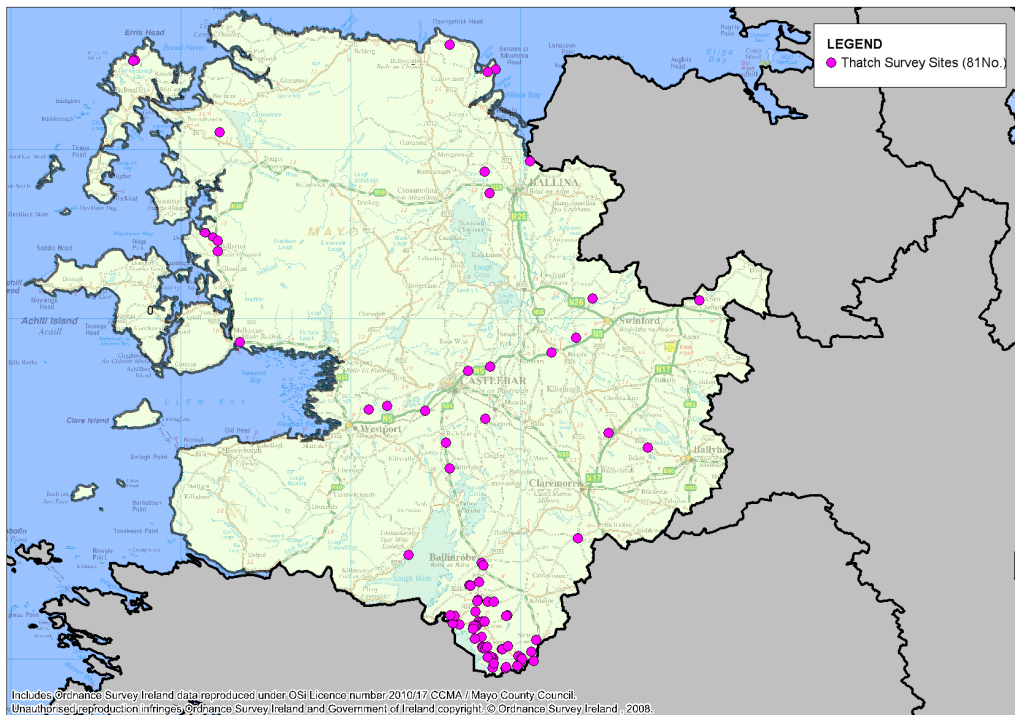


Fig. 4.26 Thatch Survey sites of Mayo

4.10.3 Existing problems

Archaeological heritage

The archaeological heritage is a non-renewable resource. Increased development pressure raises the potential for impact on the archaeological resource. Although the aforementioned cultural heritage is protected under legislation, impacts can still occur as a result of development. Proposed developments which cause ground disturbance can damage previously unknown subsurface archaeology.

The first option in all circumstances must be non-destructive investigation and study. There should always be a presumption in favour of avoiding developmental impacts on the archaeological heritage. Based on general principles, a number of approaches and methods can be set out for securing the protection of the archaeological heritage in the context of development. The encouragement and facilitation of development on brownfield sites contributes to mitigating a number of the adverse impacts associated with greenfield development, however, brownfield development has the potential to significantly adversely impact upon cultural heritage if not mitigated. The context and setting of archaeology in both townscapes and landscapes can be adversely impacted upon by developments if unmitigated against. The archaeological heritage should be protected from damage, including any hitherto unrecorded sites.

Architectural heritage

Architectural heritage is a finite resource. Only some of architectural heritage of County Mayo, as outlined above, is listed in the RPS. Although architectural heritage is protected under legislation deterioration, impacts can still occur as a result of development.



4.10.4 Likely Evolution of Cultural Heritage in absence of the Mayo County Development Plan

Archaeological heritage

In the absence of a new Mayo County Development Plan 2014 - 2020 proposed developments would have no guidance as to where to be directed and planning applications would continue to be assessed on an individual basis. Cultural Heritage would continue to be protected under a number of strategic actions relating to archaeological protection. The Cultural Heritage would be impacted upon by the nature of permitted applications.

Architectural heritage

In the absence of the Mayo CDP objectives with respect to architectural heritage would not be stated and planning applications would continue to be assessed on an individual basis.

4.11 Landscape

4.11.1 Introduction

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

4.11.2 Baseline environment

Mayo presents a wide range of landscapes. These range from complex agricultural patterns in the lowlands with small roads and houses; to a deeply indented and islanded Atlantic coastline; to the great and often empty uplands and moorlands of the west and north of the county.

County Mayo's Landscape Appraisal (Mayo County Development Plan 2008-2014) subdivides the County into 16 distinct landscape character units each containing an area of land with similar character-giving elements such as slope, vegetation and land use. The appearance of the landscape is relatively uniform within each Character Unit.

The Landscape Appraisal identifies vulnerable features across the county including river banks, lake shorelines, the coastline and the skylines of the county's uplands and it is a policy of the Council to recognise and facilitate appropriate development in a manner that has regard to the character and sensitivity of the landscape, to ensure development does not have a disproportionate effect on the landscape and scenic views in terms of location, design and visual prominence.

With regard to both the character units and the vulnerable features, the Appraisal groups together character units into Policy Areas which provide for the guidance of development across the county. There are four Landscape Policy Units in County Mayo.

Policy Area 1: Montaine Coastal

This area is visually distinct in County Mayo landscape terms as it incorporates, in a relatively small area, two dramatic landscape attributes being a steep and rugged shoreline and mountains rising immediately above. These elements make it a desirable setting for visitors and also particularly sensitive to inappropriate development.



Policy Area 2: Lowland Coastal

This area, despite the mildly variant terrain and land cover, has as a principle landscape factor a visual association with the coastline. The lowland coast is considered a separate core policy area, in relation to the other steeper coastal area, as it has significantly different landscape attributes, sensitivities and robustness.

Policy Area 3: Uplands, moors, heaths or bogs

These distinctive and vast areas of the county form a single policy unit due to the similar visual characteristics of smooth topography, limited shelter vegetation, often steep slopes and prominent ridge lines, rendering this policy unit similar suitability to absorb development.

Lakeland Sub-policy Area 3A

This distinctive area of the county comprises the landscapes of policy areas 3 and 4, which bound Lough Conn. The environs of this Lough are often slopes and secondary ridgelines with limited shelter vegetation to the south and undulating areas of pasture, woodland and forest with underlying glacial drumlins to the north.

Policy Area 4: Drumlins and Lowlands

These undulating areas of pasture, woodland and forest make up the remainder of the county and are considered to have a generally similar ability to absorb development. Many of these areas are underlain by glacial drumlins and incorporate low-lying lakelands.

Lakeland Sub-policy Area 4A

This distinctive area of the county comprises the landscapes of policy areas 3 and 4, which bound Lough Mask. It bounds often steep slopes and prominent ridge lines with limited shelter vegetation to the west and undulating areas of pasture, woodland and forest with underlying glacial drumlins to the east.

County Mayo's eastern landscapes (Policy Area 4) are the most robust in the county and are least sensitive to change. All other landscapes are highly sensitive to change.



New developments would not be directed to the most appropriate locations and would have to be assessed on an application by application basis.

4.12 Interrelationships

By its nature, the environment is a weave of interrelated elements, the impact on one directly or indirectly impacting on one or more elements. Surface water is a noted ecological pathway and receptor of pollution and has potential to impact on material assets such as drinking water and infrastructure, in addition to human health. In addition, inappropriate developments may significantly impact on air quality, thereby impacting on human health while soils and geology are closely bound to landscape. The interrelationships between environmental elements examined during this assessment are shown in Table 4.26.



Table 4.26 Interrelationships between various environmental elements

	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Population	Human health	Soils and geology	Water	Air	Noise	Climatic factors	Material Assets (waste management/transport infrastructure/wastewater)	Cultural heritage	Landscape
Biodiversity, flora and fauna	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Population	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Human health	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Soils and geology	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Air	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Noise	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Climatic factors	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Flooding	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Transport	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Waste management	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Drinking water	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wastewater	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Archaeological heritage	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Architectural heritage	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Landscape	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



5 Development Plans and Area Plans

5.1 Introduction

In order to secure the policies and objectives in the Strategies of the draft Plan, particularly the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy, Development Plans and Area Plans have been prepared for the Linked Hub and Key Towns in the County.

While standalone Development Plans have been prepared for the Linked-Hub towns of Castlebar and Ballina and the Key Town of Westport, Area Plans have been prepared for the remaining Key Towns and form part of the draft Plan.

Eight towns in Mayo have been identified as Key Towns in the Regional Planning Guidelines for the West Region. The towns are Ballinrobe, Ballyhaunis, Belmullet, Claremorris, Swinford, Charlestown, Louisburgh and Westport. Four additional towns have been identified by Mayo County Council as Key Towns due to their location in rural areas where the urban structure is weak and where they could play a key role in delivering services and supporting employment in physically remote and peripheral areas. These four additional towns are Killala, Newport, Kiltimagh and Knock.

For the purpose of this SEA, the likely significant effects on the environment as a consequence of implementing each of these draft Local Area Plans has been examined and is presented in detail in Section 8 of this report. For the purpose of a more detailed environmental assessment, baseline environmental data within each Key Town Plan area and key issues were identified under the categories as listed in the SEA Directive and transposed legislation.

5.2 Ballinrobe Area Plan – baseline environment and key issues

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna:- The primary biodiversity designations within this area have been discussed within Section 4 of this report and key issues at a countywide level are similar to those at a lower tier. Specifically, there are 13 SACs and three SPAs potentially affected by the draft Plan area. There are no specific pressures on these Natura 2000 sites which have not been identified on a county-wide scale.

Population:- With a population of 2704, there are currently 324 housing units (excluding holiday homes) which are vacant, indicating that there is an ample supply of housing stock in Ballinrobe to serve future population growth within the timeframe of this plan and beyond. No issues are therefore of note with regards to population.

Human Health:- There are no specific issues of note regarding human health within this draft Plan area.

Soils and Geology:- Ballinrobe overlays an area of Carboniferous limestones and Devonian sandstones and the soil is characterised by a good of soils, including large areas of grey brown podzolics, brown podzolics, podzols, shallow brown earths and rendzinas. No issues have been identified with reference to soils and geology.

Water:- With the assignment of status water bodies throughout the county by the Western River Basin District, those in the vicinity of this draft Plan area are good, moderate and poor. Key pressures include those general which have been discussed in Section 4 of this document.

Air and Noise:- There are no issues related to these environmental elements within this area.



Climatic Factors:- Under the Western CFRAM Project maps were used to identify Areas for Further Assessment (AFAs) within Mayo; towns or villages where flood risk is considered to be sufficiently high to justify these areas being studied in more detail as part of the ongoing development of the Project. Ballinrobe may have some areas prone to flooding but the town is not included as an AFA.

Despite a number of initiatives, *Dreissena polymorpha* were recorded in Lough Mask in the latter part of the last decade. The introduction and spread of other alien invasives to water bodies within the draft Plan area would be of serious environmental consequence.

Material Assets:- The wastewater treatment plant with a PE of 8000 is now deemed at capacity and an upgrade is necessary. In contrast, drinking water for this draft Plan area is supplied by Lough Mask and the supply is described as abundant and of excellent quality. Traffic is described as heavy within the town centre and the former railway line to Claremorris would be a valuable asset from the transport viewpoint.

Cultural Heritage:- There are no specific archaeological or architectural structures or objects within this draft Plan area which will not be protected under general draft Mayo County Development Plan policies and objectives.

Landscape:- Ballinrobe is located in County Mayo's eastern Landscapes Policy Area (Policy area Number 4). This Policy Area is the most robust in the county and is least sensitive to change.

5.3 Ballyhaunis Area Plan – baseline environment and key issues

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna:- Ballyhaunis has some notable habitats and ecological corridors, and its nearest Natura 2000 site is the River Moy cSAC (Mannin and Island Lakes). It is also a few kilometres from Lough Corrib cSAC.

Population:- A significant population growth since 2002; this base should be increased further.

Human Health:- The principle human health issue is the existence of one Seveso II site - Flogas Ireland Ltd.

Soils and Geology:- Nothing of note.

Water:- The Dalgan River, flowing through the town, is currently in a poor water body status, which must be restored to good status. Threats to the river include agricultural sources in addition to domestic point pollution.

Air and Noise:- No significant issues of note pertaining to this area.

Climatic Factors:- No significant issue of note pertaining to this area.

Material Assets:- The design capacity of wastewater treatment Plant is exceeded and an upgrade is necessary; public water is sourced from the Lough Mask RWSS.

Cultural Heritage:- A very rich cultural heritage with the town dating to 1348, four Protected Structures and 14 Recorded Monuments.

Landscape:- Within Policy Area 4 (Drumlins and Lowlands); no significant issues.



5.4 Belmullet Area Plan – baseline environment and key issues

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna:- The primary biodiversity designations within this area have been discussed within Section 4 of this report and key issues at a countywide level are similar to those at this lower tier echelon.

Population:- Commuting patterns to larger towns due to lack of employment are consequential to the town's peripheral location. There are associated impacts on quality of life as a result.

Human Health:- No significant issues have been identified but traffic can be regarded as a nuisance, but the discharge of raw sewage to Broadhaven Bay is not conducive to good human health.

Soils and Geology:- The Belmullet area is composed of a complex of soil types interspersed with areas of cutaway raised bog. Loss of Greenfield lands for development and site works associated with such development may potentially impact on soils in the draft Plan area through soil sealing and potential changes to the soil structure.

Water:- Water quality throughout the draft Plan area varies but one of the primary pressures on coastal and transitional water quality is due to the absence of a properly-functioning wastewater treatment plant. Other pressures on water quality include agricultural sources of diffuse pollution, domestic septic tanks and run-off from forestry plantations.

Air and Noise:- There are some incidences of noise and air pollution as a consequence of traffic congestion, due to the town's narrow streets and bottle-neck corners.

Climatic Factors:- Some flooding issues have been identified and the potential effects of this are dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Material Assets:- Previously discussed under the heading of *Water*, the lack of an adequate wastewater treatment plant for the town and the consequential discharge of untreated sewage to Broadhaven Bay is a huge issue. In addition, there is no provision for stormwater collection in Belmullet.

Pertaining to drinking water, there has been a 25% loss through leakage in recent years.

Cultural Heritage:- The cultural heritage of Belmullet includes buildings, structures and objects and today Belmullet has retained much of its 19th century street form and no existing problems have been identified.

Landscape:- Belmullet is located in an area of low-lying islands and peninsulas with varying topographical and land cover characteristics but unified by its proximity to the coast. There are no significant landscape issues but development should not interrupt or reduce the integrity of natural linear features such as coastlines and ridgelines.

5.5 Claremorris Area Plan – baseline environment and key issues

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna:- Though there are no Natura 2000 sites within the draft Plan area; there are undesignated significant habitats and Mayfield Lough is a fen of conservation interest. Key issues at a countywide level are similar to those within this smaller area.

Population:- Despite a significant population increase, there is a high vacancy rate in residential units.



Human Health:- There is a Seveso II site in Claremorris – Calor Gas Teo - which is noteworthy.

Soils and Geology:- No significant issues associated with this environmental consideration

Water:- With the River Robe as the plan area's most significant water body, the main issue with this Area Plan and its vicinity is the assignment of three water bodies as bad. The first, the Clooneen, is so designated due to its ecological status (specifically fish status), while two other water bodies, Ardroe and Newtown South, are similarly assigned. These water bodies, the only bad status bodies in Mayo must be restored to good status by 2021.

Air and Noise:- There are minor issues as a result of motor transport, which could be mitigated by alternative modes of transport.

Climatic Factors:- There are no specific issues pertaining to climatic factors which differ from the general county-wide issues.

Material Assets:- Approximately 91% of the town's drinking water is supplied from Lough Mask Regional Water Supply Scheme and the existing wastewater treatment plant (design capacity 8000 PE) requires upgrade.

Cultural Heritage:- There are a number of archaeological and architectural features in Claremorris. In addition, there are additional buildings / structures which should be included in the RPS.

Landscape:- There are no significant issues relating to landscape within this draft Plan area; within Policy Area 4.

5.6 Charlestown Area Plan – baseline environment and key issues

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna:- Natural heritage includes habitats and ecological corridors with the River Mullaghanoe (a tributary of the River Moy / part of River Moy cSAC) flowing through the town. The integrity of the cSAC should not be significantly affected by inappropriate development or inappropriate location of development.

Population:- A population increase should be continued by promotion and encouragement of investment and services.

Human Health:- No significant issues pertaining specifically to Charlestown

Soils and Geology:- Nothing of note regarding this environmental element; soil is principally composed of peat and till, overlying lower carboniferous geology.

Water:- Primarily, the River Mullaghanoe is notable as a tributary of the River Moy, a candidate SAC and as a salmonid water course. Currently, the water body status is poor, and must be restored to good status.

Air and Noise:- No significant issues pertaining to air and noise, but of four homes in Mayo with radon concentrations greater than four times the acceptable level ($> 800 \text{ Bq/m}^3$) one was identified in Charlestown.

Climatic Factors:- Charlestown and environs is an AFA.

Material Assets:- While the town is served by excellent infrastructure (N17, N5 and N26) and the current water supply (Bushfield Well) is adequate and of good quality, the wastewater treatment plant



is 13% above design capacity and its upgrade is a priority to ensure further deterioration of the Mullaghanoe.

Cultural Heritage:- Charlestown dates back to 1846 and has two Protected Structures and seven Recorded Monuments.

Landscape:- Within Policy Area 4 (Drumlins and Lowlands)

5.7 Killala Area Plan – baseline environment and key issues

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna:- Killala has a wealth of designated and undesignated sites, of particular ecological importance. Killala Bay / Moy Estuary is an SAC and SPA which is within the draft Plan area. Other designated areas include the Killala Bay / Moy Estuary Ramsar site (site code 843) and four Local Biodiversity Areas; Ross Dunes, Meelick Esker, Bartragh Island and North Killala Coast. Killala Bay is also a shellfish area. Existing issues include the threat to aquatic biodiversity from diffuse and point pollution sources, loss of habitat and loss and disturbance of protected and other species.

Population:- No significant issues arising from this consideration. Killala currently has a population of 574 (CSO, 2013).

Human Health:- No significant issues have been identified but a number of environmental issues can negatively impact on human health.

Soils and Geology:- This draft Plan area consists of soils generally composed of brown earths and brown podzolics. In addition, rendzinas and lithosols are present, while carboniferous limestone till compose the subsoil. Geologically, the draft Plan area consists mainly of rocks conforming to Carboniferous Sedimentary with a Late Cretaceous / Early Tertiary Igneous intrusion. There are no key issues specific to this draft Plan area.

Water:- As previously discussed, coastal and transitional waters are under pressure from point and diffuse sources of pollution.

Air and Noise:- There are no specific issues relating to this draft Plan area but an application has been submitted to the EPA by Mayo Renewable Power Ltd for the operation of combustion installations. This IPPC licence will, undoubtedly, set limits for air emissions.

Climatic Factors:- Nothing of note specific to this area.

Material Assets:- The provision of a wastewater treatment Plant is important.

Cultural Heritage:- A rich heritage including six protected structures, two recorded monuments (early Christian settlement and Round Tower)

Landscape:- Killala is located in Policy Area 1 (Montaine Coastal) and development should not interfere with views and prospects.

5.8 Kiltimagh Area Plan – baseline environment and key issues

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna:- Kiltimagh and environs has a rich natural heritage including habitats and ecological corridors, and the nearest Natura 2000 site is the River Moy cSAC.

Population:- With a 2.75% increase in population, further growth should be encouraged with investment and additional services.



Human Health:- Nothing of note for this Key Town

Soils and Geology:- No significant issues of note.

Water:- The Pollagh and Glore Rivers, tributaries of the River Moy, are assigned poor and good status respectively, indicating that the Pollagh must be restored to good status and the Glore must maintain its current good status.

Air and noise:- No significant issues of note.

Climatic Factors:- No specific issues relevant to this area in comparison to any other part of the County.

Material Assets: - Drinking water sourced from the Glore River; water treatment Plant needs upgrading. Upgrade of wastewater collection system and more frequent public bus service to Linked-Hub towns required.

Cultural Heritage:- Artisan town (1617) with c. five Protected Structures and five Recorded Monuments.

Landscape:- Within Policy Area 4 (Drumlins and Lowlands)

5.9 Knock Area Plan – baseline environment and key issues

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna:- The nearest site of natural heritage is the River Moy cSAC.

Population:- Knock has experienced a substantial population growth of 36.5% during 2002-2011 and the population base should continue to build, with investment and services attracted to the town.

Human Health:- No significant issues of note.

Soils and Geology:- No significant issues of note; the soil consists of blanket bog with till and exposed bedrock.

Water:- The Knock Area Plan is located on two water bodies; of high and moderate status. Moderate water body must be restored to good under the objectives of the Western River Basin Management Plan 2009 – 2015.

Air and noise:- No significant issues with the exception of general traffic noise and exhaust emissions which increase during summer months due to religion-related tourism.

Climatic Factors:- nothing significant.

Material Assets:- With good access links, an abundant water supply and public sewerage system (with spare capacity) there are no significant issues.

Cultural Heritage:- In addition to an internationally-recognised Marian site with Basilica which accommodates up to 10,000 persons, there are four Recorded Monuments in the area. Development should not threaten the town's attraction as a catalyst for attracting a broad religious tourism market.

Landscape:- Within Policy Area 4 (Drumlins and Lowlands) there are no significant issues of note relating to landscape.



5.10 Louisburgh Area Plan – baseline environment and key issues

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna:- Rich natural heritage with Oldhead Wood cSAC, Clew Bay Complex cSAC, Lough Cahasy/Lough Baun/ Roonah Lough cSAC and Mweelrea / Erriff / Sheeffrey complex cSAC in close proximity, in addition to other natural features.

Population:- Over 100% growth between 2002 – 2011.

Human Health:- Nothing significant of note within this area.

Soils and Geology:- Nothing significant of note.

Water:- Bunowen River water body of good and moderate status; must be maintained at and restored to good. Coastal water at high status (Clew Bay).

Air and Noise:- No significant issues of note.

Climatic Factors:- No significant issues of note, with the exception that Louisburgh is an AFA.

Material Assets:- Road linkages to Westport are poor, the public water supply is operating over capacity and needs upgrading, but the wastewater treatment Plant has spare capacity.

Cultural Heritage:- Rich cultural heritage with monuments and abbeys

Landscape:- Louisburgh is located within Policy Area 2 (Lowland Coastal)

5.11 Newport Area Plan – baseline environment and key issues

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna:- Newport is an important area with two cSACs and an SPA in close proximity – Clew Bay Complex and Newport River cSAC and Owenduff / Nephin Complex SPA. In addition NHAs, Ramsar sites and Ballycroy National Park, a notable national park is closeby. The main issue is the current conservation status of *Margaritifera margaritifera*, one of the qualifying interests for which the Newport River cSAC is designated, and their current unfavourable conservation status.

Population:- A 4.3% increase in the period 2006-2011, but investment and services should encourage further population growth.

Human Health:- No specific issues for this environmental element

Soils and Geology:- The geological / geomorphological heritage of Newport is unique with a drumlin landscape and drowned drumlins within Clew Bay. No specific problems exist in this area, but insensitive development may threaten the soil/geology status.

Water:- Clew Bay, a designated shellfish water, is of good water status in Inner Clew Bay while the outer portion of the bay is of high water status. The Newport River, providing drinking water for the town, is currently of moderate status.

Air / Noise:- Noise from traffic sources may be an issue on the N59, which runs through the town centre. Air quality may also be impacted by traffic emissions.



Climatic Factors:- Newport is listed as an AFA

Material Assets:- Of notable importance is the absence of a suitable Wastewater Treatment Plant and collection network. The Water Treatment Plant also requires upgrading.

Cultural Heritage:- A rich cultural heritage including Harry Clarke windows in St. Patrick's Church, 10 Protected Structures and 7 Recorded Monuments.

Landscape:- A richly scenic part of Mayo, included in Policy Area 2 (lowland coastal)

5.12 Swinford Area Plan – baseline environment and key issues

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna:- The Spaddagh River in close proximity to Swinford, a tributary of the Moy and therefore part of the River Moy cSAC. In addition, Callow Lakes are closeby.

Population:- Swinford has had a population decrease of 4.5% since 2006; population growth should be promoted.

Human Health:- No significant issues pertaining to this environmental element.

Soils and Geology:- On lower carbobiferous limestone; springs are common in the area.

Water:- Swinford lies on a water body of good status, and must be maintained to fulfil the main objective of the Western River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015.

Air and Noise:- No significant issues pertaining to Swinford.

Climatic Factors:- Swinford is designated as an AFA.

Material Assets:- The public water supply (from Carrowcanada spring) requires upgrade, but the wastewater treatment system of the area currently has spare capacity. Strategic road transport links on the N26 and N5 are good. In close proximity to Ireland West Airport Knock.

Cultural Heritage:- Swinford dates back to 1700 and has 20 Protected Structures and 10 Recorded Monuments which should be protected.

Landscape:- Within Policy Area 4 (Drumlins and Lowlands)



6 Environmental Protection Objectives

6.1 Introduction

Environmental Protection Objectives (EPOs) are broad objectives pertaining to environmental elements which provide a benchmark “intention” against which the environmental effects of the draft Plan can be tested. In this instance, a number of EPOs has been developed for the environmental elements examined as part of this assessment. They have been devised as relevant to the draft Plan, and as not general objectives; however since the SEA relates to a county-wide Plan, the list of EPOs is lengthy and adapted to a broad Plan, unlike specific small-project-based EPOs.

The EPOs were, in general, developed with regard to national, European and international policy documents, strategies, guidelines, Directives, Conventions and peer-reviewed research. In addition, each EPO is linked to an appropriate target and indicator. Briefly, a target is a general, quantitative and measurable aim to achieve the EPO with a specific timeframe, if appropriate. One or more indicators also generally accompany the EPO and target; the indicator(s) assess / measure the success of achieving the specific EPOs.

Essentially, the use and incorporation of EPOs into an SEA are in accordance with Section (e) Schedule 2B of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations, 2004 (as amended) and as described in Section 4.21 and Table 4B of DoEHLG guidance document of 2004.

6.2 Biodiversity, flora and fauna; EPOs, targets and indicators

Biodiversity is essentially defined as the abundance and diversity of living things, or the assortment, variation and array of flora and fauna. In this context biodiversity is herein taken to refer to flora, fauna and their associated habitats.

County Mayo has a particularly rich and diverse natural heritage. Mountains and upland areas are concentrated in the north and west of the county, which is characterised by a mosaic of peatland, heath and forestry plantations. More fertile farmland is found in the low-lying and undulating landscapes of east Mayo. There are several large lakes in the county and numerous medium to small lakes. Lough Conn and Mask are among the largest lakes in the country and Mayo is drained by an extensive network of rivers and streams.

The following Environmental Protection Objectives (EPOs), targets and indicators have been developed having regard to the environmental baseline and the current issues or challenges associated with biodiversity, flora and fauna of Mayo.

Table 6.1 EPOs, targets and indicators for biodiversity, flora and fauna

Biodiversity, flora and fauna EPO	Target	Indicator
To protect, conserve and restore habitats and species of local, national and international importance and interdependent species and habitats within the wider environment	To achieve and maintain favourable conservation status for habitats and species	No loss, reduction, fragmentation, disturbance, destruction of habitats and species within Mayo



6.3 Population; EPOs, targets and indicators

According to the 2011 census, 60% of Mayo’s population live in rural areas and 40% live in urban areas. This compares to a 63%-37% split in the 2006 Census. The trend indicates that population growth in the county’s urban centres is growing at a higher rate than in the rural areas, but still a significant portion of the population live in rural Mayo giving a more dispersed pattern to population and housing growth. The dispersed rural nature of the county’s population gives rise to an increased dependency on unsustainable modes of transport, which could impact on air-quality and climate factors. There is also an increased dependency on private waste water treatment systems in rural areas that could have negative impacts on groundwater and drinking water quality, which in turn could have adverse impacts on human health.

With these data, the following EPOs, targets and indicators have been prepared relating to population.

Table 6.2 EPOs, targets and indicators for population

Population EPO	Target(s)	Indicator(s)
To ensure population growth is managed within a sustainable framework to reduce any potential impact a dispersed rural population may have on the environmental quality of the county	(i) increase population growth of the urban centres of the County	(i) Increase in population of the urban centres
	(ii) reduce the number of new residential properties in the rural countryside	(ii) Avoid, where possible, the construction of new residential development in the rural countryside

6.4 Human Health; EPOs, targets and indicators

Human health in the context of being subjected to significant effects as a consequence of the proposed Mayo County Development Plan 2014 – 2020 was assessed with reference to how environmental elements and their existing issues and evolution may impact on the health of Mayo inhabitants and visitors.

A number of environmental elements have the potential to impact negatively on human health within the county; as a consequence of the draft Plan, changes in health patterns may emerge.

Table 6.3 EPOs, targets and indicators for human health

Human Health EPO	Target	Indicator
To protect human health by the minimisation of pollution incidences to water, air and soil and increased traffic arising from incompatible land uses or development in inappropriate locations	To ensure protection of environmental elements which are closely linked to human health including water, air, landscape, biodiversity and soil quality	No deterioration of environmental elements such as water, air and soil quality as described individually throughout this document



6.5 Soils and Geology; EPOs, targets and indicators

The proposed EU Soils Framework Directive states that soil should be used in a sustainable manner which preserves its capacity to deliver ecological, economic and social services, while maintaining its functions so that future generations can meet their needs. Having regard to this and the baseline study of the soils and geology, the following EPOs have been established for soils and geology. Associated indicators and targets serve to assess or measure the success rate of the proposed objectives.

Table 6.4 EPOs, targets and indicators for soils and geology

Soils and Geology EPO	Target(s)	Indicator(s)
To identify and protect areas which may be deemed to have a significant risk of landslide or erosion	(i) Number of developments in areas which may be considered to be prone or at risk from landslides (ii) Number of developments in an area identified as a high erosion prone area, or an area at significant risk of erosion	(i) No development in areas which may be considered at significant risk to landslides (ii) No development in areas considered at significant risk of erosion
Maximise the sustainable re-use of brownfield lands, and maximise the use of the existing built environment rather than developing greenfield lands	(iii) Area of brownfield land available	(iii) No brownfield land to be available (subject to availability on the open market and demand for such land) at the end of the CDP lifespan
To ensure sustainable quarrying of non-renewable sand, gravel and rock deposits and to protect the IGH sites as identified by the GSI	(iv) Proportion of excavated area returned to productive use (v) Number of developments which would be considered to have significant adverse impacts on IGH sites	(iv) All extraction sites to have progressive rehabilitation programmes in place with agreed rehabilitation targets (v) No developments to adversely impact on IGH sites

6.6 Water; EPOs, targets and indicators

The quality of water in Mayo is maintained and protected by a plethora of legislation, local, regional, national and European. In recent years the Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (the Water Framework Directive) has radically altered the more traditional emission limit value approach to water protection by introducing an encompassing water protection / improvement and conservation framework prescribing steps to reach the common goal of achieving good water status within the EU by 2015.

The current baseline status of waters in Mayo is varied and improvement of less-than-good water bodies is a priority, in addition to the maintenance of good and high water body status. Consequently, the following EPOs, targets and indicators have been developed.



Table 6.5 EPOs, targets and indicators for water

Water EPO	Target	Indicator
To prevent deterioration of the status of waters with regard to quality, quantity and to improve status for rivers, lakes, transitional and coastal waters and groundwaters to at least good status, as appropriate to the Water Framework Directive and associated legislation and plans (Western River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015, Pollution Reduction Plans for shellfish and <i>M. margaritifera</i> sub-basin management plans)	The status of surface waters (lakes, rivers, transitional and coastal waters) will be restored to at least good status and deterioration in good and high status water bodies will be prevented.	100% water bodies designated at good status by 2027 as shown by monitoring within the Western River Basin District
To achieve and maintain required water quality standards and reduce discharges of pollutants or contamination to waters	No exceedences of relevant water quality legislation and compliance with appropriate parameters	Breaches and exceedences in water quality parameters

6.7 Air and Noise; EPOs, targets and indicators

Air

Protecting the valuable asset of good air quality in the region is of utmost importance. Particularly ensuring that adverse air quality does not impact on the most vulnerable of the population whether their vulnerability is due to occupation, age, existing health conditions or other factors.

Noise

Environmental noise is the summary of noise from transport, industrial and recreational activities. The definition is pursuant to the Environmental Noise Directive 2002/49/EC article 10.1. This Directive provides for a common approach intended to avoid, prevent or reduce the harmful effects of environmental noise. The main sources of environmental noise in Mayo are from infrastructural, commercial and planning / construction origin.

Measures should be adopted to control air-polluting emissions from both stationary and transport sources and to control and alleviate noise-related challenges by consideration of the following:

Table 6.6 EPOs, targets and indicators for air quality and noise

Air and Noise EPOs	Target(s)	Indicator(s)
Maintain and improve air quality status in line with appropriate policies and legislative requirements	Ensure monitoring results are maintained within the appropriate emission limit values	Air monitoring data to indicate compliance with appropriate policies and legislative requirements / compliance with emission limit values
To minimise increases in travel related air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions.	An increase in the percentage of the population travelling to work or school by public transport or non-mechanical means	Percentage of population within the Plan area travelling to work or school by public transport or non mechanical means



To avoid, prevent and reduce on a prioritised basis exposure to unacceptable levels of environmental noise.	To manage environmental noise from major roads.	Traffic flow data collected for all roads in the county.
	To protect satisfactory noise environments where they exist.	Number of locations monitored to establish the full extent of major roads in the county with an excess of three million vehicles per annum
	To protect the quality of the future noise environment by acoustical planning.	New noise maps for areas around major roads carrying 3 million vehicles per annum. Ensure that noise maps are produced for the Westport/Ballina to Dublin railway line and Ireland West Airport Knock, if relevant at this stage (2012)
		Revise Noise Action Plan.
		Number of IPPC licensed facilities and acoustic compliance details

6.8 Climatic Factors; EPOs, targets and indicators

Flood Risk baseline information has considerably increased in detail in recent years with the Western CFRAM (Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management) Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) indicative flood mapping. These datasets provide a better visualisation of flood areas and the implications of the draft Plan and the development is guides.

In addition, invasive alien species which are increasing in abundance and diversity, as a consequence of changing climatic factors need objectives to prevent new introductions and spread of existing species.

Table 6.7 EPOs, targets and indicators for air quality and noise

Climatic Factors EPOs	Target(s)	Indicator(s)
Flooding		
To keep areas free of development that would be subject to an inappropriate risk of flooding or would cause or exacerbate such a risk at other locations	All new developments assessed in line with the OPW <i>Planning System & Flood Risk Management Guidelines</i> (Nov 2009) to ensure that the flood risk is fully assessed and mitigated, and run off from the development does not increase flood risk elsewhere	Flooding of new developments Increase of flooding elsewhere resulting from new developments
Invasive species		
To protect aquatic and terrestrial habitats from the spread of invasive species	Prevent introduction of new invasive species. Control or manage existing invasive species to prevent increases in their current distribution	Abundance and diversity of new or existing invasive species reported and recorded in Mayo aquatic and terrestrial environment



6.9 Material Assets; EPOs, targets and indicators

Material Assets, defined as a combination of infrastructure encompassing transport, waste, water and wastewater, energy and communications, fisheries and forestry is a hugely important aspect of the county, but with potential to adversely impact on the surrounding environment, during construction / development stage in addition to during use and operation.

Table 6.8 EPOs, targets and indicators for material assets

Material Assets EPOs	Target(s)	Indicator(s)
Transport Infrastructure		
To protect the road network of County Mayo	(i) Developments to be located off our National Roads and not within sensitive landscapes (ii) No large-scale developments to be planned in remote locations where access is by local roads only	(i) Number of developments located close to the National Road Network (ii) Number of large-scale developments located in remote locations where access is by local roads only
To continue to maintain and protect the piers and harbours of Mayo in an environmentally-sensitive manner with due consideration for water quality of designated and undesignated sites	Any improvements / modifications made to piers / harbours will not impact on surrounding environment from the viewpoint of water quality, invasive species introduction or adverse impacts on protected structures	Number of piers and harbours maintained / repaired which result in negative effects on water quality, protected structures or the introduction or increase in abundance of invasive species
To continue to develop and promote the Great Western Greenway and other cycle / walking routes while ensuring no significant adverse effects on the environment, including the integrity of Natura 2000 sites.	No significant adverse effects on the environment, including the integrity of Natura 2000 sites by virtue of development and use of the Great Western Greenway and other cycle / walking routes	Number of Habitats Directive Assessment undertaken on Greenway or other cycle / walking routes developments and evidence of significant adverse effects on the environment including the integrity of Natura 2000 sites
Waste management and infrastructure		
To reduce waste volumes through an integrated approach incorporating education and awareness and to increase reuse of waste by recycling and recovery	48 % waste recycled, 33% energy recovery and 19% waste landfilled. Attitude change	Increase in percentage of customers participating in a refuse collection service with an increase in waste volumes recovered and recycled and consequential reduction in volume of waste collected and landfilled
To divert biowaste from landfill and reduce of landfill emissions	Reduction in greenhouse gasses through diversion of bio-waste from landfill.	Number of customers with brown bin collection service
Drinking Water		
To maintain and / or improve drinking water quality and quantity throughout the county To serve existing and new development under the County Development Plan with suitable potable water at adequate pressure	100% compliance with the Drinking Water Regulations, 2007 (S.I. No. 278 of 2007) No new developments granted permission which cannot be adequately served by a water scheme over the lifetime of the County Development Plan in order to maintain water quality and supply standards in line with	No boiled water notices or exceedences in parametric values set in S.I. No. 278 of 2007 (i) Overloaded Water Treatment Plants (ii) Inability to meet drinking water quality standards (iii) Inability to meet pressure



	relevant standards and regulations	requirements
Wastewater infrastructure		
To serve new development under the County Development Plan with appropriate waste water treatment	No new developments granted permission which cannot be adequately served by a public waste water treatment plant over the lifetime of the County Development Plan in order to maintain effluent standards in line with relevant regulations	(i) Overloaded Wastewater Treatment Plant (ii) Inability to meet treated effluent discharge limits (iii) Long Term Indicator: Water Status in 2015 Report
Energy and communications		
Forestry		
Fisheries and Aquaculture		

6.10 Cultural Heritage; EPOs, targets and indicators

Archaeological Heritage

Co. Mayo has a rich archaeological heritage. This wealth is reflected in the RMP which lists and protects monuments and places in Mayo under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994. Nearly 6,000 areas of archaeological importance (representing almost 8,000 elements) are included in the RMP for Co. Mayo spanning over 7,000 years. This RMP is constantly updated as new sites and monuments are discovered. There are 51 National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the State in Co. Mayo and a further 11 National Monuments that are subject to Preservation Orders.

Archaeological heritage is a non-renewable resource. Increased development pressure raises the potential for impact on the archaeological resource. Although the aforementioned cultural heritage is protected under legislation, impacts can still occur as a result of development. Proposed developments which cause ground disturbance can damage previously unknown subsurface archaeology.

Architectural Heritage

The Mayo Co. Development Plan 2014 - 2020 is subject to a number of high level National and International architectural protection policies and objectives.

All the structures listed in the RPS are protected under Part IV of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2010.

It is a strategic environmental objective to protect and where appropriate, enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of the architectural heritage of County Mayo.(SEO AH1).



The following EPOs, targets and indicators have been established with a view to protect cultural heritage within Mayo:

Table 6.9 EPOs, targets and indicators for cultural heritage

Cultural heritage EPO	Target	Indicator
To protect the archaeological heritage and especially sites identified in the Record of Monuments and Places, National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the State and National Monuments that are subject to Preservation Orders and to safeguard the integrity of the archaeological sites in their setting.	No developments carried out over the lifespan of the Mayo CDP 2014 -2020 which will result in the full or partial loss of the archaeological heritage and especially sites identified in the Record of Monuments and Places, National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the State and National Monuments that are the subject of Preservation Orders. No developments which result in the full or partial loss of the integrity of the archaeological sites in their setting.	Number of developments carried out over the lifespan of the Mayo CDP 2014 - 2020 which results in the full or partial loss of the archaeological heritage and especially sites identified in the Record of Monuments and Places, National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the State and National Monuments that are the subject of Preservation Orders. The integrity of the archaeological sites in their setting can also be impacted upon by new developments
To protect and where appropriate, enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of the architectural heritage of County Mayo	To prohibit the number of unauthorised developments that result in the full or partial loss of architectural heritage of the county.	Number of developments carried out over the period of the CDP that result in full or partial loss of the architectural heritage of the county.

6.11 Landscape; EPOs, targets and indicators

Ireland signed and ratified the European Landscape Convention in 2002 with the Convention entering into force in Ireland from in 2004. The aims of the Convention include conserving and maintaining the significant or characteristic features of a landscape, justified by its heritage value derived from its natural configuration and/or from human activity, harmonising changes in the landscape which are brought about by social, economic and environmental processes and enhancing landscapes.

Sensitive landscapes in Mayo have been identified within the environmental baseline description of the county. Vulnerable features which have been identified include the coastline, skylines, river banks and lake shorelines.

The following EPOs, indicators and targets have been developed with regard to Mayo's environmental baseline and the above strategic action.

Table 6.10 EPOs, targets and indicators for landscape

Landscape EPO	Target(s)	Indicator(s)
To protect County Mayo's sensitive landscapes, vulnerable landscape features and listed highly scenic views, scenic views, scenic	(i) No developments to be conspicuously located within or on sensitive landscapes, vulnerable landscape features and listed highly	(i) Number of conspicuous developments adversely impacting upon vulnerable landscape features



<p>viewing points, scenic routes and to protect the visual amenity of County Mayo</p>	<p>scenic views, scenic views, scenic viewing points and scenic routes sensitive landscapes (ii) No developments to adversely impact upon sensitive landscapes, vulnerable landscape features and listed highly scenic views, scenic views, scenic viewing points and scenic routes. (iii) No loss of sensitive landscapes, vulnerable landscape features and listed highly scenic views, scenic views, scenic viewing points and scenic routes. (iv) Developments should be sited and designed so as not to interfere with the visual amenity of the landscape of Mayo</p>	<p>(ii) Number of developments adversely impacting upon vulnerable landscape features (iii) Number of vulnerable landscape features lost (iv) Number of developments interfering with the visual amenity of the landscape of Mayo</p>
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7 Alternative Scenarios

7.1 Introduction

In accordance with Article 5(1) and Annex I(h) of the SEA Directive and Schedule 2B of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations, 2004 (as amended), the SEA Environmental Report should contain, *inter alia*, the identification, description and evaluation of plan or programme and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme. Further, an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken is documented in this document.

It is a statutory obligation to have a County Development Plan but, in accordance with Annex I(b) of the SEA Directive '...the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme. ...' the no-plan scenario was assessed and documented in Section 4 of this document. Since this is not a feasible alternative scenario of the CDP, its assessment is not included in this stage. Essentially, then, three alternative scenarios were identified, described and evaluated during this SEA. Their merits of all three were compared and contrasted and environmental consequences of all were predicted. All three scenarios described are reasonable and realistic plan alternatives for accommodating and guiding future development in Mayo.

The general assumptions for all three scenarios include the following:

The alternative scenarios assume a target population of 28,700 in the Linked-Hub (Ballina-Castlebar) and 122,100 in the remainder of the County by 2022, along with low to medium level of economic growth during the lifetime of the plan (2014-2020). Towns are classified as illustrated in Table 6.1.

Table 7.1 Classification of towns and villages in Mayo

Classification	Town
Linked Hub	Ballina - Castlebar
Key Towns (RPGs)	Ballinrobe, Ballyhaunis, Belmullet, Claremorris, Swinford, Charlestown, Louisburgh, Westport
Key Towns (MCC)	Killala, Newport, Knock, Kiltimagh
Other Towns	Foxford, Crossmolina, Balla, Keel-Dooagh, Shrule, Kilkelly, Gob an Choire, Bangor Erris, Ballindine, Ballycastle, Bunnyconnellan West, Bellavary, Kilmaine, Cong, Turlough, Mulranny, Belcarra, Bohola, Lahardane
Villages (note the villages have wastewater treatment units or are on a priority list for a wastewater treatment unit)	Aghagower, Aghleam, Attymass, Ballycroy, Ballyglass, Ballyheane, Binghamstown, Breaffy, Bunnacurry, Carracastle, Cross, Crossboyne, Doogort, Gweesalia, Hollymount, Inver, Irishtown, Kilmovee, Knockmore, Mayo Abbey, Moygownagh, Moyne (Kilmeena), Roundfort, The Neale, Tourmakeady

7.2 Alternative Scenario 1

7.2.1 Description of Alternative Scenario 1; Concentration of Growth in the Linked-Hub of Castlebar-Ballina only

Alternative Scenario 1 concentrates growth in the Linked Hub of Ballina-Castlebar. Distinctive town centres and defined development boundaries are created for the Linked-Hub with the aim of protecting the natural environment, encouraging suitable employment opportunities and creating sustainable centres in which to live.

Development outside the Linked-Hub is strictly controlled with the exception of rural or resource dependent activities such as agriculture, forestry, fishing and renewable energy. A visualisation of this scenario is illustrated in Figure 6.1.

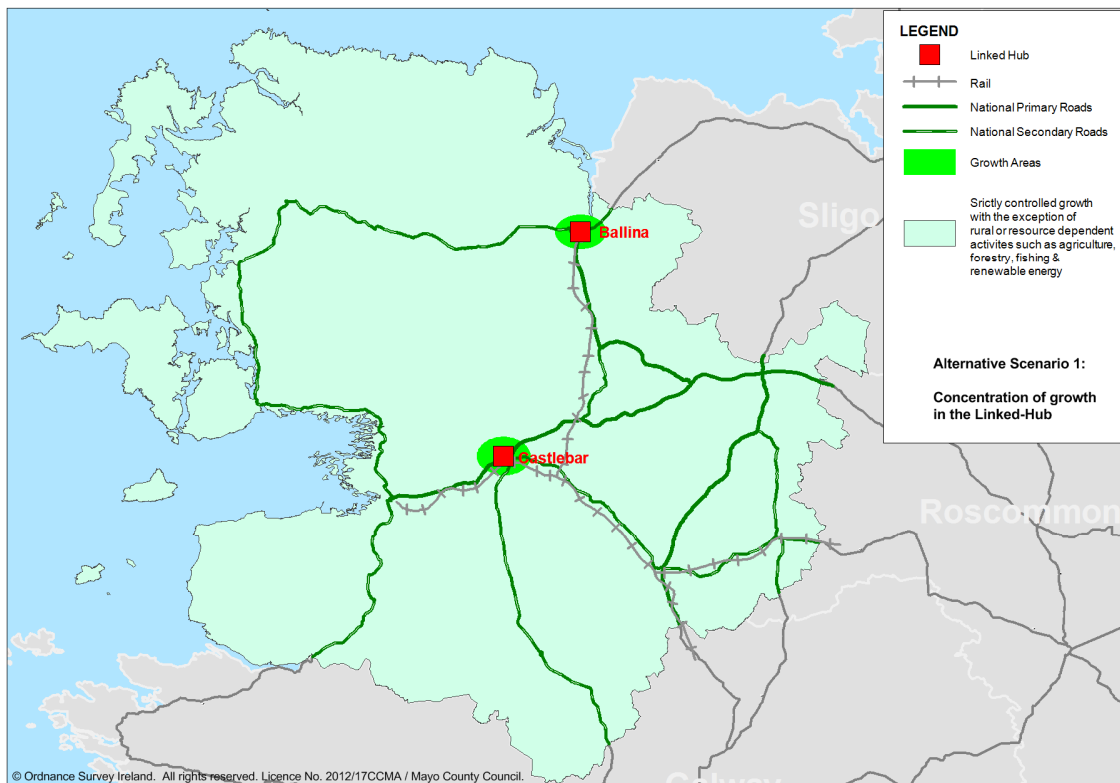


Figure 7.1 Alternative Scenario 1



7.2.2 Evaluation of Alternative Scenario 1

Biodiversity, flora and fauna

Alternative Scenario 1 will see growth and development in the linked hub of Ballina-Castlebar with strict control of development outside of this area, with the exception of resource-dependant activities.

Concentrating growth in one area of the county should result in the protection of the natural environment in the growth-controlled areas outside of the linked hub. However, this would not be the case. Firstly, resource-dependant activities have the potential to impact negatively on biodiversity, during construction and on occasions, during operation. Agricultural and forestry activities result in diffuse and point discharges which are responsible for many cases of eutrophication within Mayo. As there are 70 Natura 2000 sites in Mayo, covering a large percentage of the county, any development should be strictly controlled and an Article 6(3) Appropriate Assessments always undertaken for any plan or project, when deemed necessary following AA screening.

Additionally, concentrating growth in the linked hub of Ballina-Castlebar would likely impact significantly on the protected sites in that area, including, in particular, the River Moy Complex cSAC, Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA and Killala Bay / Moy Estuary cSAC and SPA, among other sites and undesignated biodiversity elements. Also, the River Moy and its 11 tributaries are designated salmonid waters, meeting emission limit values set in the European Communities (Quality of Salmonid Waters) Regulations, 1988.

Population

Concentrating growth in the Linked Hub of Ballina-Castlebar would be positive in terms of ensuring that the dispersed nature of the county's population does not continue to grow. This would result in a greater demand for infrastructural provision in the linked hub area at the expense of other existing settlement centres within the county. This Scenario would conflict with the idea of sustainably managing the potential impact of a dispersed rural population by not addressing the existing problem but concentrating solely on growth.

Human Health

With the combination of some negative impacts as a consequence of this Alternative Plan Scenario, in particular population and drinking water quality and availability, Scenario 1 would not be conducive to a healthy Mayo population, with pressures on existing infrastructure in the Linked-Hub and many people commuting from other parts of the county to work in the Ballina-Castlebar part of the county.

Soils and Geology

All of the scenarios allow for development of rural or resource dependent activities such as agriculture, forestry, fishing and renewable energy. It is the development of these activities along with infrastructural development that is most likely to impact on soils and geology within Mayo.

In terms of the impact on soils and geology, Alternative Scenarios 1 and 2 are very similar, with strictly limited development in rural areas. Scenario 3 would have a marginally greater impact with permitted development in rural areas.



Water

The restriction of development in the linked hub of Ballina-Castlebar only and subsequent limitation of development outside of this linked-hub area (with some exceptions) would initially appear to be beneficial for the aquatic environment, with little or only limited development in many areas which are currently at high and good surface water status, generally in the western portion of the county. Additionally, the strict control of development in areas which must be improved to good status, south-east Mayo, would allow programmes of measures to focus on existing problems and not on prevention or control of future development. However, with development centred in just one key location in Mayo, immense pressure would be acute within this area, with potential aquatic pollution as a result. Population size would consequently increase in this area due to employment opportunities and sustainable centres for habitation but this would consequently place pressure on existing surface waters as a result of increased abstraction for drinking water purposes and potential inadequate wastewater treatment from overloaded Wastewater Treatment Plants. Notably, the River Moy and its 11 tributaries are designated salmonid surface waters, while the Castlebar River is the only one in Mayo described as a nutrient sensitive river, for which stricter limits are placed on effluent discharges from the towns' Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Additionally, restricting development outside of the linked hub to rural or resource-dependent activities such as agriculture, forestry, fishing and renewable energy would increase diffuse sources of aquatic pollution, with agricultural activities one of the most threatening to water quality and, on occasion, one of the most difficult to control, monitor and enforce.

Climatic Factors

Flooding

Castlebar and Ballina are identified in the CFRAM study as Areas for Further Assessment. The CFRAM Project will eventually produce recommendations on works to be carried out to protect properties in these areas from flooding. The concentration of growth in Castlebar and Ballina would on one hand increase the economic argument for implementing the CFRAM recommendations. However, any development within these areas would have to be controlled in line with OPW Planning System & Flood Risk Management Guidelines (Nov 2009) to reduce the risk of flooding to those developments and others in the vicinity.

Invasive Species

Material Assets

Transport

Transport infrastructure would be highly developed within the Linked-Hub while likely disadvantages in the areas of the county outside of the Linked-Hub would arise from the transport viewpoint.

Waste

The concentration of development into the linked hubs of Castlebar and Ballina will result in increased populations in these two areas; which will have a positive impact on the sustainability of kerbside collection provision in these areas. However, the nett effect of this policy will be to diminish the population density as one moves further out from the hub centres. Consequently, a reduction in 'economy of scale' will lead to the loss/withdrawal of kerb-side collection services for residual, recyclable and bio-waste fractions outside of the main Linked Hubs. The latter (food and green waste) may be managed by alternative means such as substitute animal feed and home composting.



Drinking Water

Development concentrated in the Link Hub, with the consequential increase in the demand for potable water, would place pressure on the existing water distribution system and treatment systems for this area. Consequently, developments within these areas that are not connected with adequately sized and effectively operated water treatment plants, will almost certainly cause significant deterioration in the quality of drinking water and the pressure along the network. This is a significant risk that could be mitigated against by the provision and upgrading of appropriate water treatment facilities and the supply network.

The concentration of development in one or two key areas would have, on the face of it, an economic argument in relation to the provision of a distribution system and to some degree, treatment plants.

Castlebar town is supplied from the treatment plant in Tourmakeady, which is currently being upgraded to cater for future demands for a large portion of south Mayo. The upgrading works would be adequate to meet the needs of the Castlebar area if development is restricted to the Link-Hubs. However, it is likely that the arterial main from Party to Castlebar would need to be upgraded, upsizing of the distribution network in some areas around the town would be required and additional storage and balancing tanks needed around Castlebar.

Ballina town and environs is supplied from Lough Conn, with treatment plants located at Knockanillaun and Lisglennon. These treatment plants have limited spare capacity and upgrading works would be required to cater for large developments. Additionally, a new distribution reservoir would be required in Ballina, along with some upsizing of some of the distribution network to cater for development areas around the town.

Energy and communications

Focussed growth in one area may impact on the energy and communications infrastructure in other parts of the county.

Forestry

Development focussed in one economic centre of the county would see forestry plantations outside of this area left in its current state, with no development encroaching on existing forests. However, Belleek Wood in Ballina and other forested areas within the Linked-Hub may be compromised by development.

Fisheries and Aquaculture

While fisheries and aquacultural enterprises outside of the Linked-Hub will remain as they are, development within the Linked-Hub may impact negatively on the designated shellfish area of Killala Bay, in addition to the River Moy (designated as a salmonid river).

Cultural Heritage

Archaeology

The archaeological heritage and some sites identified in the Record of Monuments and Places will be impacted upon, as a consequence of development guided by this Alternative Scenario. Further, the integrity of the archaeological sites in their setting will potentially be impacted upon.



Architecture

In terms of the protection of the Architectural Heritage all of the three scenarios would have an impact on the Architectural Heritage. It would appear that Scenario 3 will have a greater impact than Scenario 2 and that in turn Scenario 2 will have a greater impact than Scenario 1. Thus Scenario 3 will potentially have the biggest impact on the Architectural Heritage followed by Scenario 2 while Scenario 1 may have the least impact.

Landscape

In terms of the protection of the landscape all of the three scenarios would have an impact on the landscape of Mayo. It would appear that Scenario 1 may have the least impact.

7.3 Alternative Scenario 2

7.3.1 Description of Alternative Scenario 2; Concentration of Growth in the Linked Hub, Key Towns, and other towns with strictly limited development in Rural Areas

Alternative Scenario 2 concentrates growth into the Linked Hub, Key Towns, and other towns in the County.

Distinctive town centres and defined development boundaries are created for the Linked-Hub and Key Towns with the aim of protecting the natural environment, encouraging suitable employment opportunities and creating sustainable centres in which to live.

Other towns are developed in an appropriate size and scale, and in a sequential manner from the existing town centre out.

Development outside the urban centres, especially residential development, is strictly controlled with the exception of rural or resource dependent activities such as agriculture, forestry, fishing and renewable energy. This alternative scenario is shown in Figure 6.2.

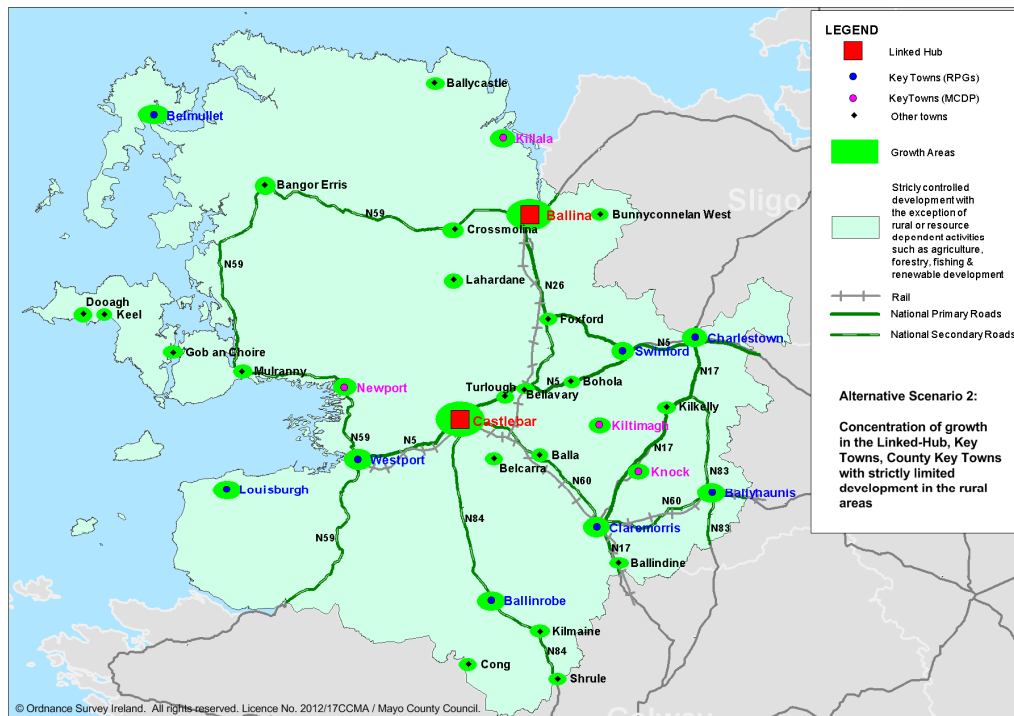


Figure 7.2 Alternative Scenario 2

7.3.2 Evaluation of Alternative Scenario 2

Biodiversity, flora and fauna

This scenario, concentrating growth in the linked hub, key towns and other towns would essentially oversee development in the current urban centres.

Protected sites or conservation areas are required to conserve habitats and species, in their natural environment, using a strategic approach. Essentially then, the location of protected sites is just dictated by the location of qualifying interests such as habitats and species. As a consequence, development should be planned taking into account the location, size, scale and international importance of protected sites and inclusive of mitigation measures to ensure conservation and / or restoration.

While development in the linked hub, key towns and other towns would likely impact on the biodiversity at these locations, the strictly-limited development outside of these areas would likely be advantageous to the existing flora and fauna at these locations, ensuring that all rural or resource-dependant projects are assessed as per Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. Residential development and associated effluent treatment systems, though also subject to Appropriate Assessment, are likely to be located in more rural locations than industrial activities and as such, are more likely to impact significantly on the biodiversity of Mayo. Alternative Scenario 2 is the preferred scenario from the viewpoint of aquatic biodiversity, flora and fauna.



Population

This scenario concentrates growth in the linked hub, key towns and other towns and strictly limits development in rural areas. This would be positive in terms of managing the growth in the dispersed rural population of the county. But strictly controlling development outside of the identified key towns would reduce the services available to the existing rural population. Therefore the existing dispersed population would need to travel to the towns and villages which would be unsustainable. Therefore it conflicts with the EPO in reducing the impact of the existing dispersed rural population.

Human Health

Concentrating growth into the Linked Hub, Key Towns, and other towns in the county, Alternative Scenario 2 promotes more dispersed and less concentrated growth through a larger part of the county. Human health would be both negatively and positively impacted by this Scenario.

Soils and Geology

Please refer to Section 6.2.2.

Water

Surface water quality throughout the county is quite variable, but notably the only water body of bad status is in the River Robe catchment, in the southeast of the county. Concentrating growth in the linked hub, key towns and other towns as in Scenario 2 would provide a balanced development approach throughout the county, which should prevent pressures on water quality in just one area and reduce negative impacts on aquatic quality and quantity to a more manageable level, albeit smaller water quality issues in a number of different locations. Particular attention should be paid to future development in the key towns of Claremorris, Ballyhaunis and Ballinrobe as bad water quality status has been designated at this location, in addition to a large area of poor water quality status. Restricting the development outside of the linked-hub and key towns and other towns to agriculture, forestry, fishing and renewable energy is rather inhibiting, with many pockets outside of these areas likely to be very suitable for residential development, provided proper conditions are set with regards to water protection measures during construction and wastewater treatment post-construction.

Climatic Factors

Flooding

The towns of Ballina Castlebar, Charlestown, Crossmolina, Foxford, Louisburgh, Newport, Swinford and Westport are identified in the CFRAM study as Areas for Further Assessment. The CFRAM Project will eventually produce recommendations on works to be carried out to protect properties in these areas from flooding. The concentration of growth in these towns would on one hand increase the economic argument for implementing the CFRAM recommendations. However, any development within these areas would have to be controlled in line with OPW Planning System & Flood Risk Management Guidelines (Nov 2009) to reduce the risk of flooding to those developments and others in the vicinity.



Material Assets

Transport

Transport infrastructure would be well-developed and maintained within the Linked-Hub , Key Towns and other towns while likely disadvantages in the areas of the county outside of these areas would arise from the transport viewpoint.

Waste

The distribution of development between the linked hubs (Castlebar and Ballina) and the other main towns/urban settlements will both maintain and increase populations in these areas; which will have a positive impact on the sustainability of kerbside collection provision in these areas. However, this development policy will serve to diminish the population density in the non-urban areas, including small villages and dispersed rural settlements. As a consequence of this overall policy, it is likely that the sustainability of kerbside collection in the rural/development restricted areas will suffer leading to the loss/withdrawal of kerb-side collection services for residual, recyclable and bio-waste fractions. On the other hand economies of scale will provide for increased kerbside collection in the development favoured areas. Given the predominant rural nature of County Mayo, it is difficult to fully determine the effect that Scenario 2 would have on the overall Waste Management for the County.

Drinking Water

Concentrating the future growth in the county in the linked hub, key towns and others towns would ease the pressure on water treatment infrastructure, and in particular the water distribution network throughout the county, and in turn, reduce the impacts on water quality and water supply. It may put some pressure on towns where the treatment plants and supply network are at or nearing capacity, and timely upgrading works would be required.

Concentrating development at these locations would allow for targeted and economical water distribution and treatment systems to be provided.

Existing clusters of development (small villages) elsewhere around the county may be in need of improvements in water supply, but without the possibility of future development in these areas, it may not be economically feasible to provide undertake upgrading works.

Energy and Communications

Focussed growth in the Linked-Hub, Key Towns and other towns in Mayo may impact negatively on the energy and communications infrastructure in other parts of the county, outside of these areas.

Forestry

Focussed growth in the Linked-Hub, Key Towns and other towns in Mayo may impact on forestry in these areas by virtue of larger populations, increased traffic and more development within these areas adjacent to forest plantations.

Fisheries and Aquaculture

Concentration of growth in the Linked Hub, Key Towns, and other towns in the county will have advantages and challenges for the fisheries and aquaculture industry of Mayo. While increased populations in certain areas will impact on surface and coastal water quality (due to pressure on



existing wastewater treatment facilities), the promotion development of resource-dependant activities including fisheries will see growth and expansion within the area of aquaculture.

Cultural Heritage

Archaeology

Similar to Alternative Scenario 1, the archaeological heritage and some sites identified in the Record of Monuments and Places will be impacted upon, as a consequence of development guided by this scenario. Further, the integrity of the archaeological sites in their setting will potentially be impacted upon.

Architecture

Please refer to 7.2.2.

Landscape

In terms of the protection of the landscape all of the three scenarios would have an impact on the landscape of Mayo. Alternative Scenario 2 will potentially have a greater impact on the landscape than Alternative Scenario 1, and less of an impact than Alternative Scenario 3.

7.4 Alternative Scenario 3

7.4.1 Description of Alternative Scenario 3; Development of the Ballina-Castlebar

Linked Hub, Key Towns, other towns and serviced (sewerage) villages and appropriate development in rural areas

Alternative Scenario 3 concentrates growth in a hierarchy of settlements which include the Linked Hub, Key Towns, other towns and small serviced (sewerage) villages, along with appropriate development in the rural areas in the county, based on achieving target populations in the settlement hierarchy.

Distinctive town centres and defined development boundaries are created for the Linked-Hub and Key Towns with the aim of protecting the natural environment, encouraging suitable employment opportunities and creating sustainable centres in which to live.

Other towns and villages are developed in an appropriate size and scale, and in a sequential manner from the existing town/village centre out.

The rural areas are developed in a sustainable manner to facilitate:

- Permanent housing needs in areas that have sustained population loss;
- Genuine residential needs of pre-determined categories of people in areas identified as being under Strong Urban Influence; and
- Rural or resource dependent activities such as agriculture, forestry, fishing and renewable energy.

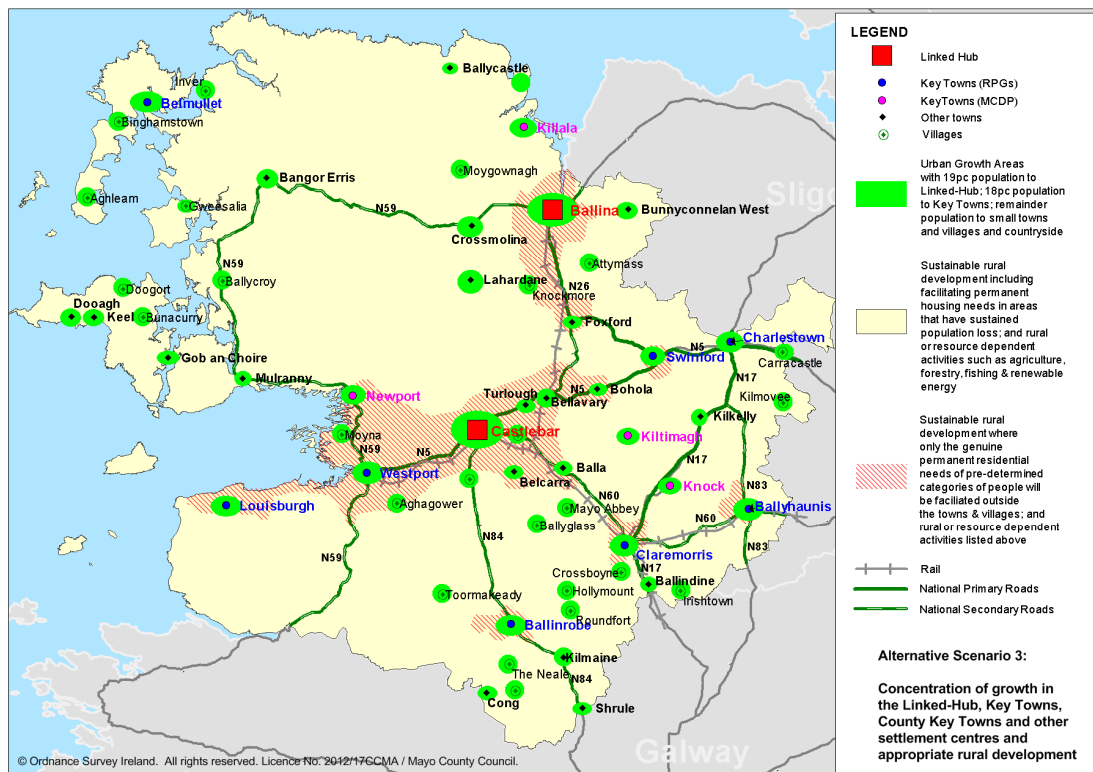


Figure 7.3 Alternative Scenario 3

7.4.2 Evaluation of Alternative Scenario 3

Biodiversity, flora and fauna

Concentrating growth in a hierarchy of settlements including linked hub, key towns, other towns and small serviced villages and development of rural centres in a sustainable manner to include residential and resource-dependant activities will impact on the integrity of protected sites and undesignated biodiversity elements, by virtue of the diverse and patchy distribution of flora and fauna.

Essentially in Mayo when, *inter alia*, Natura 2000 sites, Annex IV and V species (of Habitats Directive), Wildlife Act species, Flora Protection Order 1999 species and Ramsar sites are all considered there are few (if any) parts of Mayo which will not be affected or negatively impacted by development of some form. Essentially, biodiversity is ubiquitous so development should be strategically planned to protect, conserve and restore existing biodiversity.

The development of rural areas to include both residential and resource-dependant activities will likely result in cumulative effects on biodiversity, more notable aquatic biodiversity, as projects not significant on their own, will have cumulative effects when in combination with other plans and projects.

Currently, there are a large number of uninhabited residential buildings in Mayo, making the development of further permanent housing projects ill-considered. Further, while Article 6(3) Habitats Directive Assessments can protect / restore habitats and species within designated sites, outside of sites, protection will only be afforded through enforcement of existing legislation and strong, strict sustainable development policies of planning. One type of development – rural or



resource-dependant activities would be more manageable and less likely to give rise to negative environmental impacts, pertaining to biodiversity, instead of a number of types which will require varying types of infrastructure.

Population

This scenario allows for development in Ballina-Castlebar Linked Hub, Key Towns, other towns and serviced (sewerage) villages and appropriate development in rural areas. This would be positive in terms on sustainably managing the existing dispersed rural population, by ensuring that basic services meet the needs of the existing rural population. The Scenario is not sufficient to manage future population growth as the restriction in development in the rural areas would not suffice in directing future population growth to the towns and villages which would in turn become unsustainable over the lifetime of the Development Plan.

Human Health

Human health would be both negatively and positively impacted by this Scenario.

Soils and Geology

Please refer to Section 7.2.2.

Water

The third alternative scenario describes a more natural, flowing yet planned approach to development which would encourage growth in a hierarchy of settlements including the linked hub, key towns, other towns and small serviced (sewerage) villages, along with appropriate development in the rural areas in the county, based on achieving target populations in the settlement hierarchy. This approach to development would not curtail residential development whenever deemed suitable; in areas that have sustained population loss and to benefit the needs of pre-determined categories of people in areas identified as being under *Strong Urban Influence*. This scenario would result in challenges for the improvement or maintenance of water quality, but with appropriate water-protection policies, objectives and measures this would be a suitable scenario which would encourage development in rural areas in a sustainable manner, in addition to the planned development of towns and villages in an appropriate size and scale.

Climatic Factors

Flooding

Any development within the county would have to be controlled in line with OPW Planning System & Flood Risk Management Guidelines (Nov 2009) to reduce the risk of flooding to those developments and others in the vicinity.

Material Assets

Transport

As a result of varying types of development within the Linked-Hub, Key Towns and other towns and serviced towns including residential and resource-dependant activities within rural areas, it is likely that the transport infrastructure within the county will benefit with upgrades and maintenance. This is the most beneficial option from the transport infrastructure viewpoint.



Waste

The distribution of development predominantly in the urban areas (comprising the linked hubs, key towns, other towns and serviced villages) together with appropriate development in the rural areas will result in an overall positive impact on the kerbside collection provision for the county as a whole. This is likely to have a positive impact by way of increasing the sustainability of segregated waste collection, in particular in the area of bio-waste (food waste) collection.

Drinking Water

Concentrating the future growth in the county in the linked hub, key towns and other towns would ease the pressure on water treatment infrastructure, and in particular the water distribution network throughout the county, and in turn, reduce the impacts on water quality and water supply. It may put some pressure on towns where the treatment plants and supply network are at or nearing capacity, and timely upgrading works would be required.

Concentrating development at these locations would allow for targeted and economical water distribution and treatment systems to be provided and maintained. The development in rural areas may place water supply pressures on some schemes and should be monitored accordingly.

Energy and communications

Focussed growth in the Linked-Hub, Key Towns and other towns in Mayo may impact negatively on the energy and communications infrastructure in other parts of the county, outside of these areas, as with Alternative Scenario 2. The inclusion of residential development on this environmental element does not make a huge difference.

Forestry

In a manner similar to Alternative Scenario 2, there would likely be negative and positives outcomes on forestry as a consequence of Alternative Scenario 3.

Fisheries and Aquaculture

Concentration of growth in the Linked Hub, Key Towns, and other towns in the county will have advantages and challenges for the fisheries and aquaculture industry of Mayo. While increased populations in certain areas will impact on surface and coastal water quality (due to pressure on existing wastewater treatment facilities), the promotion development of resource-dependant activities including fisheries will see growth and expansion within the area of aquaculture, with potential negative effects arising from increased residential development in areas located in adjacent to fisheries and aquacultural enterprises.

Cultural Heritage

Archaeology

Similar to Alternative Scenario 1 and 2, the archaeological heritage and some sites identified in the Record of Monuments and Places will be impacted upon, as a consequence of development guided by this scenario. Further, the integrity of the archaeological sites in their setting will potentially be impacted upon. Essentially, it is predicted that all three scenarios may significantly impact on the archaeological heritage of Mayo.



Architecture

Please refer to 7.2.2.

Landscape

In terms of evaluation of the three alternative scenarios for their impact on the Mayo landscape, all of the three scenarios are predicted to have an impact. It would appear that Scenario 3 will have a greater impact than Alternative Scenario 2 and that in turn Alternative Scenario 2 will have a greater impact than Scenario 1. Thus Alternative Scenario 3 will potentially have the biggest impact on the Landscape followed by Alternative Scenario 2 while Alternative Scenario 1 may have the least impact.

7.5 Evaluation of Alternative Scenarios using Environmental Protection Objectives (EPO)

The evaluation of the three proposed alternative scenarios for their respective impacts on the environment was undertaken utilising the Environmental Protection Objectives (EPOs) specifically developed to protect, maintain, conserve or restore environmental elements within Mayo. Being cognisant of environmental EPOs, each of three alternative scenarios were evaluated for their impacts on the environment by virtue of the alternative plan scenarios' capability to impact negatively, positively, to an unknown unpredicted extent or to a neutral extent on Mayo's environment. To examine the impacts, the following matrix was incorporated.

Likely to Improve status of EPOs	No Likely interaction with status of EPOs	Neutral Interaction with status of EPOs	Uncertain interaction with status of EPOs	Potential Conflict with status of EPOs- likely to be mitigated by measures	Probable Conflict with status of EPOs- unlikely to be mitigated by measures
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Figure 7.4 Matrix of effects of the draft Plan Alternative Scenarios on Environmental Protection Objectives



Environmental Protection Objectives (EPOs) were developed for each environmental element and are described in detail, with associated targets and indicators, in Section 5. A summary of all EPOs is shown in Table 7.2.

Table 7.2 Environmental Protection Objectives for environmental elements and associated codes

Environmental element / EPO code	Environmental Protection Objectives
Biodiversity, flora and fauna	
B1	To protect, conserve and restore habitats and species of local, national and international importance and interdependent species and habitats within the wider environment
Population	
P1	To ensure population growth is managed within a sustainable framework to reduce any potential impact a dispersed rural population may have on the environmental quality of the County
Human Health	
HH1	To protect human health by the minimisation of pollution incidences to water, air and soil and increased traffic arising from incompatible land uses or development in inappropriate locations
Soils and Geology	
SG1	To identify and protect areas which may be deemed to have a significant risk of landslide or erosion
SG2	To maximise the sustainable re-use of brownfield lands, and maximise the use of the existing built environment rather than developing greenfield lands
SG3	To ensure sustainable quarrying of non-renewable sand, gravel and rock deposits and to protect the IGH sites as identified by the GSI
Water (excl. drinking water)	
W1	To prevent deterioration of the status of waters with regard to quality, quantity and to improve status for rivers, lakes, transitional and coastal waters and groundwaters to at least good status, in accordance with the Water Framework Directive and associated legislation and plans (Western River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015, Pollution Reduction Plans for shellfish and <i>M. margaritifera</i> sub-basin management plans)
W2	To achieve and maintain required water quality standards and reduce discharges of pollutants or contamination to waters
Air and noise	
AR1	To maintain and improve air quality status in line with appropriate policies and legislative requirements
AR2	To minimise increases in travel related air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions
Noise	
N1	To avoid, prevent and reduce on a prioritised basis exposure to unacceptable levels of environmental noise
Climatic factors	
CF1	To keep areas free of development that would be subject to an inappropriate risk of flooding or would cause or exacerbate such a risk at other locations
CF2	To protect aquatic and terrestrial habitats from the spread of invasive species
Material Assets:	
Roads and transport infrastructure	
T1	To protect the road network of Mayo



T2	To continue to maintain and protect the piers and harbours of Mayo in an environmentally-sensitive manner with due consideration for water quality of designated and non-designated sites
T3	To continue to develop and promote the Great Western Greenway and other cycle / walking routes while ensuring no significant adverse effects on the environment, including the integrity of Natura 2000 sites.
Waste management and infrastructure	
W1	To reduce waste volumes through an integrated approach incorporating education and awareness and to increase reuse of waste by recycling and recovery
W2	To divert biowaste from landfill and reduce of landfill emissions
Wastewater Infrastructure	
WW1	To serve new development under the County Development Plan with appropriate waste water treatment
Drinking water	
DW1	To serve new development under the County Development Plan with appropriate waste water treatment
DW2	To maintain and / or improve drinking water quality and quantity throughout the county
Cultural heritage:	
Archaeological heritage	
A1	To protect the archaeological heritage and especially sites identified in the Record of Monuments and Places, National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the State and National Monuments that are subject to Preservation Orders and to safeguard the integrity of the archaeological sites in their setting
Architectural heritage	
AH1	To protect and where appropriate, enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of the architectural heritage of County Mayo
Landscape	
L1	To protect Mayo's sensitive landscapes, vulnerable landscape features and listed highly scenic views, scenic views, scenic viewing points, scenic routes and to protect the visual amenity of Mayo



Table 7.3 Draft Mayo County Development Plan Alternative Scenarios against Environmental Protection Objectives

	Likely to Improve status of EPOs	No Likely interaction with status of EPOs	Neutral Interaction with status of EPOs	Uncertain interaction with status of EPOs	Potential Conflict with status of EPOs- likely to be mitigated by measures	Probable Conflict with status of EPOs- unlikely to be mitigated by measures
Alternative Scenario 1					B1, HH1, SG1-3, AR1 & AR2, N1, CF1, CF2, T1, T2, T3, WM2, A1, AH1, L1	P1, W1 & W2, WM1, WW1, DW1,
Alternative scenario 2				WM1, WM2, N1	B1, P1, HH1, SG1-3, W1 & W2, AR1 & AR2, CF2, CF2, T1, T2, T3, WW1, DW1, A1, AH1, L1	
Alternative scenario 3	T1, WM1, WM2			N1	B1, P1, HH1, SG1-3, W1 & W2, AR1 & AR2, CF1, CF2, T2, T3, WW1, DW1, A1, AH1, L1	

Where B1 is EPO for Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, P1 is EPO for Population, SG1 – 3 are EPOs for Soils and Geology, W1 & W2 are EPOs for Water, AR1 & AR2 are EPOs for Air, N1 is EPO for Noise, CF1 & CF2 are EPOS for Climatic Factors, T1, T2 & T3 are EPOs for Transport infrastructure, WM1 & WM2 are EPOs for Water Management Infrastructure, DW1 & DW2 are EPOs for Drinking Water, WW1 is EPO for Wastewater Infrastructure, A1 is EPO for Archaeological Heritage, AH1 is EPO for Architectural Heritage and L1 is EPO for Landscape



7.6 Preferred draft Mayo County Development Plan 2014 – 2020 scenario

The Alternative Scenario which was most preferred according to an assessment and evaluation of three Plan scenarios against Environmental Protection Objectives (EPOs) was Alternative Scenario 3. This Plan scenario is described as concentrating growth in a hierarchy of settlements which include the Linked Hub, Key Towns, other towns and small serviced (sewerage) villages, along with appropriate development in the rural areas in the county, based on achieving target populations in the settlement hierarchy. Other towns and villages are developed in an appropriate size and scale, and in a sequential manner from the existing town/village centre out.

Alternative Scenario 1 was selected as an alternative which would cause potential conflicts to many aspects of the environment, but mitigation measures would negate or lessen such impacts. However, since this alternative was described as impacting negatively on surface (and ground) water, population, wastewater infrastructure and some aspects of waste management, with no mitigation preventing the predicted conflict, Alternative Scenario 1 was not considered a feasible option.

Alternative Scenario 2 received similar evaluation to Alternative Scenario 3, in that many environmental aspects were deemed to be negatively impacted by this alternative, but mitigation is likely to prevent significant impacts on the environment. Alternative Scenario 3, with its more extended growth and promotion of resource-dependant activities in addition to genuine and appropriate residential development would also result in conflict with Environmental Protection Objectives, but which are deemed to be suitably mitigated by measures. Since a number of environmental aspects are predicted to be improved as a consequence of this Plan scenario, the chosen Plan alternative is Alternative Scenario 3.



8 Evaluation of the draft Mayo County Development Plan 2014 – 2020 policies and objectives

8.1 Introduction

This section evaluates the policies and objectives of the draft Plan against the Environmental Protection Objectives (EPOs) for environmental elements which were prepared during the SEA process and shown in Section 6. The interactions between the EPOs against the policies and objectives of the draft Plan illustrate the environmental effects of implementing the draft Plan and in some cases, describe the scope of these effects, that is, cumulative, short-term, negative, positive etc, in accordance with Schedule 2, part (f) of the SEA Directive and Schedule 2B of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations, 2004 (as amended).

The process of evaluation of the detailed policies and objectives enables the likely significant effects on implementing the draft Plan to be identified at an early stage and for the formulation of appropriate and suitable mitigation measures to be incorporated into the draft Plan, by the inclusion of additional policies and objectives, or the amendment or supplementation of existing policies and objectives with environmental-protection recommendations.

The following matrix contains the policies and objectives of the draft Plan but **with** changes and inclusions made **during the SEA process**. Changes and policy / objective inclusions are highlighted in **green font** with deleted portions of policies and objectives shown using a ~~strikethrough~~.

Details pertaining to all Environmental Protection Objectives and their codes are shown in Table 7.2 of the preceding section.



Table 8.1 Evaluation of draft Mayo County Development Plan Policies and objectives

Draft CDP policy / objective	Likely to Improve status of EPOs	No Likely interaction with status of EPOs	Neutral Interaction with status of EPOs	Uncertain interaction with status of EPOs	Potential Conflict with status of EPOs- likely to be mitigated by measures	Probable Conflict with status of EPOs- unlikely to be mitigated by measures
Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy						
P-01 It is the policy of the Council to ensure the sustainable development of the Linked Hub and Key Towns in the County and to manage development outside these towns in a way that ensures the viability of rural communities while ensuring environmental protection through the implementation of the objectives and Development Guidance document of this Plan. Linked-Hub of Castlebar-Ballina	P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 AR1 AR2 N1 WM1 WM2	T2, T3		CF1	B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 WW1 DW1 DW2 A1 AH1 L1	
P-02 It is the policy of the Council to support the sustainable development of the Linked Hub of Castlebar-Ballina to facilitate a minimum population target of 28,700 persons by 2022 and to ensure that the towns are centres of economic growth to attract and support a wide range of services and amenities and deliver a high quality of life, thereby making the areas attractive as places to work, live, visit and invest in, while ensuring no significant adverse impact effects on the environment or including the Natura 2000 network.	P1, HH1 AR1, AR2 N1 T3 WM1 WM2	T2		CF1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 WW1 DW1 DW2 A1 AH1 L1	
P-03 It is a policy of the Council to prepare a Strategy for the Linked Hub of Castlebar-Ballina.	P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 AR1 AR2 N1	W1 & W2 CF2 T2, T3		WM1 WM2	T1 WW1 DW1 DW2 A1 AH1 L1	



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Draft CDP policy / objective	Likely to Improve status of EPOs	No Likely interaction with status of EPOs	Neutral Interaction with status of EPOs	Uncertain interaction with status of EPOs	Potential Conflict with status of EPOs- likely to be mitigated by measures	Probable Conflict with status of EPOs- unlikely to be mitigated by measures
Key Towns						
P-04 It is the policy of the Council to promote and facilitate the growth and sustainable development of the towns of Béal an Mhuirthead (Belmullet), Ballinrobe, Ballyhaunis, Claremorris, Charlestown, Killala, Kiltimagh, Knock, Louisburgh, Newport, Swinford and Westport in their role as Key Towns, towards achieving the population targets set out in the Core Strategy Table (Table 1(A)), with an appropriate range of social and physical infrastructure, facilities and services, including retail and commercial and enterprise development to serve the inhabitants of the towns and their rural hinterlands through the implementation of the policies and objectives in the Key Town Section of this Strategy and the Development Guidance document of this Plan.	P1 HH1 AR1, AR2 N1 T2, T3 WM1 WM2			CF1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 WW1 DW1 DW2 A1 AH1 L1	
Other Towns and Villages						
P-05 It is the policy of the Council to support the sustainable development and growth of the towns of Foxford, Crossmolina, Balla, Keel-Dooagh, Shrule, Kilkelly, Achill Sound, Bangor Erris, Ballindine, Ballycastle, Bonniconlon, Bellavary, Kilmaine, Cong, Turlough, Mulranny, Belcarra, Bohola and Lahardane to the population levels set out in the Core Strategy Table (Table 1(B)) and	P1 HH1 AR1, AR2, T2, T3 N1 WM1 WM2			CF1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 WW1 DW1 DW2 A1 AH1 L1	



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through the implementation of the Housing objectives below, the other Strategies and Development Guidance document of this Plan.						
Countryside / Rural Areas						
P-06 It is the policy of the Council to support the sustainable development of the countryside and rural villages in the County through the implementation of the Housing Objectives below, the relevant Strategies and the Development Guidance document of this Plan.	P1 HH1 AR1, AR2, N1	T2, T3		WM2 CF1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 WM1 WW1 DW1 DW2 A1 AH1 L1	
Housing Objectives						
General						
HG-01 It is an objective of the Council to facilitate the provision of a suitable housing, including type, size, design and tenure, in the County in accordance with the Core Strategy Tables (Table 1(A-C)), the Mayo Housing Strategy and the Development Guidance document accompanying this Plan.	AR1, AR2, N1	P1 HH1 T2, T3 CF1		WM1 WM2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 WW1 DW1 DW2 A1 AH1 L1	
HG-02 It is an objective of the Council to encourage those seeking to build a dwellinghouse to purchase vacant housing, or other vacant properties that can converted to a house, in preference to constructing a new house.	P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 AR1, AR2, N1	T2, T3 CF1	WM1 WM2	B1 CF2 WW1 DW1 DW2	T1 A1 AH1 L1	



Table 8.1 Evaluation of draft Mayo County Development Plan Policies and objectives

Draft CDP policy / objective	Likely to Improve status of EPOs	No Likely interaction with status of EPOs	Neutral Interaction with status of EPOs	Uncertain interaction with status of EPOs	Potential Conflict with status of EPOs- likely to be mitigated by measures	Probable Conflict with status of EPOs- unlikely to be mitigated by measures
<p>HG-03 It is an objective of the Council to address the issue of Unfinished Housing Estates in the County by implementing the guidance manual <i>Managing and Resolving Unfinished Housing Developments</i> (DoECLG 2011), in particular by including unfinished housing development units into calculations for housing requirements; examining the potential of vacant stock for other uses (e.g. community/cultural/holiday home use); requiring the preparation of Site Resolution Plans by developers/financial institutions/new investors; and considering reconfiguration of unfinished housing estates that promotes improved quality of life.</p>	P1 HH1 W1 & W2 AR1, AR2 WM2	SG1 SG2 SG3 T2, T3		B1 N1 WM1 WW1 DW1 DW2 AH1 CF1	CF2 T1 A1 L1	
Urban Housing						
<p>UH-01 It is an objective of the Council to ensure that future housing in urban areas in the County is located on lands zoned for residential use. In un-zoned towns and villages residential development shall be located in town/village centres or immediately adjacent to town/village centres (based on the sequential approach); on serviced lands; and in accordance with the Development Guidance document of this Plan.</p>	P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 AR1, AR2, N1 WM1 WM2	T2, T3		CF1	B1 CF2 T1 WW1 DW1 DW2 A1 AH1 L1	



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Draft CDP policy / objective	Likely to Improve status of EPOs	No Likely interaction with status of EPOs	Neutral Interaction with status of EPOs	Uncertain interaction with status of EPOs	Potential Conflict with status of EPOs- likely to be mitigated by measures	Probable Conflict with status of EPOs- unlikely to be mitigated by measures
UH-02 It is an objective of the Council to prepare Design Guidelines for Towns and Villages in the County. In the interim the design guidance and principles set out in the Villages Design Statements for Louisburgh, Mulranny and Belcarra and the Urban Design Assessment & Guidelines for Kiltimagh as set out in the Kiltimagh Local Area Plan shall apply.	SG1 SG2 SG3 AR1, AR2, N1 T2 L1	P1 HH1 B1 W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T3	WM1 WM2	WW1 DW1 DW2	T1 A1 AH1	
Rural Housing						
RH-01 It is an objective of the Council to ensure that future housing in rural areas complies with the <i>Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2005</i> (DoEHLG), Map 1 Settlement Strategy Conceptual Map and the Development Guidance document of this Plan.	P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 AR1, AR2, N1 T2 L1	T3 CF1		WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2 AH1	T1 B1 CF2 A1	
RH-02 It is an objective of the Council to require rural housing to be designed in accordance with the Design Guidelines for Rural Housing (Mayo County Council). Consideration will be given to minor deviations from the guidelines where it can be demonstrated that the deviation will not have an adverse visual impact on the landscape or on residential amenity and which respects the spirit and intention of the guidelines.	SG1 SG2 SG3 L1	P1 HH1 W1 & W2 CF1 T2, T3 WM1 WM2	B1 AR1, AR2, N1 CF2 DW1 DW2	AH1		



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Traveller Accommodation						
TA-01 It is an objective of the Council to take reasonable steps to secure the implementation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme in the County.	N1	P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T2, T3	AR1, AR2 WW1 DW1 DW2	WM1 WM2 AH1	B1 T1 A1 L1	
Social and Affordable Housing						
SA-01 It is an objective of the Council to review the Housing Strategy for Co. Mayo within one year of the adoption of this Plan. The review shall take into consideration the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy of this Plan and the Housing Policy Statement issued by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government on 16 th June 2011 or subsequent guidance.	P1 HH1 N1 AR2, AR1	SG1 SG2 SG3 CF1 CF2 T2, T3	WM1 WW1 DW2	WM2 DW1	B1 W1 & W2 A1 AH1	T1 L1
Housing for the Elderly / Dependant Relatives						
AL-01 It is an objective of the Council to support the concept of independent living for elderly people and to integrate such housing within mainstream residential development.		P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 N1 AR2 AR1 CF1 T2 T3 WM1 WM2	WW1 DW2	DW1	B1 A1 AH1	W1 & W2 CF2 T1 L1
AL-02 It is an objective of the Council to facilitate the provision of appropriate accommodation for older/dependant relatives within the existing family home.	P1 HH1	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 N1 AR2, AR1 CF1 CF2 T2, T3	WW1 DW2	DW1	B1 WM1 WM2 A1 AH1	T1 L1



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Other Development in Other Towns and Villages and the Rural Villages						
TV-01 It is an objective of the Council to promote the sustainable development and appropriate growth of Other Towns & Villages and the Rural Villages in the Settlement Strategy by ensuring any new development respects the scale and character of the existing settlement.	P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 N1 AR2, AR1 L1	T2, T3	WM1 WM2	CF1	B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 WW1 DW1 DW2 A1 AH1	
Economic Development Strategy						
PY-01 It is the policy of the Council to encourage and promote enterprise and employment development at appropriate locations in the County in accordance with the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy of this Plan and through the implementation of the objectives below.	P1 HH1 N1 AR2, AR1 WM1 WM2	T2, T3		CF1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 WW1 DW1 DW2 A1 AH1 L1	
General						
E-01 It is an objective of the Council to prepare a strategy to promote employment and support local enterprise.		W1 & W2 T2, T3	P1 HH1 N1 AR2, AR1 WM1 WM2	CF2	B1 A1 AH1 AH1 CF1	SG1 SG2 SG3 T1 WW1 DW1 DW2 L1
E-02 It is an objective of the Council to encourage enterprise and employment development to locate in brownfield sites or unoccupied buildings in town centres or where appropriate in existing industrial/retail parks or other brownfield industrial sites in preference	SG1 SG2 SG3 AR2 WM1 WM2	T2, T3	P1 HH1 AR1, N1	CF1	B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 WW1 DW1 DW2 A1 AH1 L1	



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to undeveloped zoned or unzoned lands.						
E-03 It is an objective of the Council to facilitate agri-industry and other rural enterprise activities that are dependent on their locality in rural locations, where it can be demonstrated that the development will not adversely impact have significant adverse effects on the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network, residential or visual amenity. Preference will be given to occupying vacant structures which the planning authority consider appropriate for the use proposed.	T2 L1	T3	P1 HH1	B1, AR2, AR1, N1 CF1 WM1 WM2 DW1 DW2	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1	
E-04 It is an objective of the Council to encourage and facilitate home-based employment of appropriate type, size and scale, where it can be demonstrated that the development will not adversely affect have significant adverse effects on the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network, residential or visual amenity.	P1 AR2,AR1,N1	T2, T3 CF1	WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2 L1 HH1	B1 A1 AH1	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF2 T1	
E-05 It is an objective of the council to require all new developments to comply with the Development Guidance document of this Plan.	SG1 SG2 SG3 AR2, AR1, N1 CF1 T1 T2, T3 L1	P1 HH1	W1 & W2 CF2	B1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2 A1 AH1		
E-06 It is an objective of the Council to	T1	P1 HH1 SG1		WW1 DW1 DW2		



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review the Development Contribution Scheme		SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 AR2 AR1 N1 CF1CF2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 A1 AH1 L1				
AG-01 It is an objective of the Council to support the sustainable development of agriculture, with emphasis on local food supply and agriculture diversification (e.g. agri-business and tourism enterprises) where it can be demonstrated that the development will not adversely affect have significant adverse effects on the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network, residential or visual amenity.	AR2,AR1 N1 CF1	T2, T3	P1 HH1 WW1 DW1 DW2 L1	WM1 WM2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1	
AG-02 It is an objective of the Council to support farmer's markets and weekly local food and craft markets in the settlements outlined in the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy of this plan.	AR2,AR1,N1	P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 CF1 B1 T2, T3 A1 AH1	WM1 WW1 DW2	WM2 DW1	W1 & W2 CF2 T1 L1	
Forestry						
FY-01 It is an objective of the Council to promote sustainable forestry development of appropriate scale in accordance with the Indicative Forest Strategy for Mayo or any amendment to it where it can be demonstrated	AR2,AR2 T3	P1 HH1 T2 WM1 WM2	WW1 DW2 L1	DW1 N1 CF1	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1	



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that the development will not have significant adverse effects on adversely affect the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network or visual amenity.						
MF-01 It is an objective of the Council to support the sustainable development of marine aquaculture and fishing industries having regard to best environmental practices so as to maximize their contribution to jobs and growth in coastal communities where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on adversely impact the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network, residential or visual amenity.	AR2 T2	P1, HH1 AR1, N1 T3 CF1	WW1 DW1 DW2 L1	WM1	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 WM2 A1 AH1	
MF-02 It is an objective of the Council to protect the County's valuable inland fishery resource and support its sustainable development through the protection of water and habitat quality and facilitation of ancillary infrastructure at appropriate locations.	W1 & W2 CF2 T2 WW1 DW1 DW2	P1 HH1 AR1 N1, AR2 CF1 T3	WM1 WM2		SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
Tourism						
TM-01 It is an objective of the Council to support and promote sustainable tourism development throughout the County and to work in partnership with tourism organisations	AR1,N1, AR2 T2, T3	P1 HH1 CF1	WW1 DW1 DW2 L1	WM1 WM2	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1	



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in securing the development of tourism enterprises and infrastructure in suitable locations where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on adversely impact the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network, residential or visual amenity.						
TM-02 It is an objective of the Council to ensure that tourism related accommodation such as holiday homes, hotels, caravan/camping parks etc., are located within existing settlements where there is existing infrastructure provision to service the development and where they can contribute to maintenance of essential rural services, unless it is proposed to reuse an existing structure outside a settlement and in such cases where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on adversely impact the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network, residential or visual amenity.	AR1, AR2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2	P1 HH1 CF1	L1		WW1 DW1 DW2	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2, N1 CF2 T1 A1 AH1
TM-03 It is an objective of the Council to continue to provide where possible, or encourage the provision of, walkways and cycleways throughout the county where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on adversely	AR2, AR1 N1 T3 HH1	P1 T2 WM1 WM2 CF1 WW1 DW1 DW2	L1			SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF2 A1 AH1



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impact the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network or visual amenity, and to promote the County as a premier walking/cycling destination in the Country.						
Extractive Industries						
EI-01 It is an objective of the Council to ensure that the development of aggregate resources (stone and sand/gravel deposits) is carried out in a manner, which minimizes impacts significant adverse effects on the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network, amenities, infrastructure and the community, and has full regard to the principles of sustainability.	AR2, AR1 N1 L1	P1 HH1 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 CF1 DW1 DW2				SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 T1 A1 AH1
EI-02 It is an objective of the Council to ensure compliance with the Quarry and Ancillary Activities Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities DoEHLG (April 2004) or any new or subsequent quarry guidance.	W1 & W2, AR1 N1	P1 HH1 AR2 T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	CF2 T2	B1		SG1 SG2 SG3 T1 A1 AH1 L1
RE-01 It is an objective of the Council to implement the Renewable Energy Strategy for Co. Mayo 2011-2020 or any amendment to the same.	AR2, AR1 T2	T3 CF1 WW1 DW1 DW2	P1 HH1 N1 WM1 WM2			SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1
RT-01 It is an objective of the Council to support and promote the retail sector in the County and to ensure compliance with the		W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T2, T3 DW2	P1 HH1 AR2, AR1 N1 L1	WM1 WM2	WM2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 T1 A1 AH1



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Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities DoECLG (April 2012) and Retail Design Manual DoECLG (April 2012).						
RT-02 It is an objective of the Council to undertake an expert study into the possibility of revising downwards existing retail floorspace caps in the County as a possible measure to protect established town centres having regard to consumer choice.	SG1 SG2 SG3 T1 WM1	P1 HH1 W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T2, T3 L1	AR2, AR1 N1	B1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2 A1 AH1		
RT-03 It is an objective of the Council to actively promote a hierarchy of retail functions in the County as set out in Appendix 1 and that complements the Settlement Hierarchy of this Plan: a. To retain and further develop the higher order shopping functions in Castlebar, Ballina and Westport as the main retailing centres of the County. b. To encourage retail provision in the Key Towns in order to realise their role as Key Towns. c. To retain and further develop local shopping facilities in Other Towns & Villages and Rural Villages.	P1 HH1 WM1	T2, T3 CF1	AR2 AR1 L1	CF2 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2, N1 T1 A1 AH1	
RT-04 It is an objective of the Council to	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1	T2, T3 CF1	P1 HH1 AR1	WM2 WW1	B1, N1 T1 A1 AH1 L1	



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promote and reinforce all town centres in the County as primary shopping areas and to take a proactive approach to facilitate site assembly in town centres (having regard to the built heritage in the town) to address issues such as vacancy and urban sprawl.	& W2, AR2 WM1		CF2	DW1 DW2		
RT-05 It is an objective of the Council to strictly control the location and range of goods sold from retail warehouse units in order to ensure that the retail primacy of the town centre is not unduly prejudiced.	SG1 SG2 SG3 CF2 WM1	P1 HH1 W1 & W2 CF1 T2, T3 WW1 DW1 DW2	N1 AR1 AR2 L1	WM2	B1 T1 A1 AH1	
RT-06 It is an objective of the Council that proposals for retail development in towns and villages shall make a positive contribution to the general townscape through the promotion of excellence in urban design, consideration of the built heritage and designed to a scale relevant to the settlement.	SG1 SG2 SG3 N1 AR1 AR2 L1	P1 HH1 T2, T3 CF1 WM1 WM2		WW1 DW1 DW2	B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1	
Childcare Facilities						
CP-01 It is an objective of the Council to work in partnership with Mayo Childcare Committee to implement the <i>County Childcare Strategy</i> and to encourage the provision of childcare facilities at appropriate locations in rural areas, town centres, neighbourhood centres, residential areas, places of employment	P1 HH1 AR2 WM1	T2, T3 CF1	AR1, N1	WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	



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and educational institutions and in areas close to public transport nodes.						
AD-01 It is an objective of the Council to:	T1 T3	P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2, N1, AR1, AR2 CF1 CF2 T2 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2			A1 AH1 L1	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control the proliferation and size of advertising structures. • Provide advertising panels at appropriate locations in towns and villages having regard to the built heritage. • Discourage the use of plastic and neon signs in favour of traditional materials. ▪ Ensure that all sign-posting on tourist routes, attractions and accommodation complies with the most recent relevant national specifications and does not give rise to traffic hazard or interfere with the character of the landscape. 						
SS-01 It is an objective of the Council to ensure that the siting of proposed new establishments or modification of existing establishments classified under the Seveso II Directive as listed in Appendix 2, shall not present an unacceptable risk to the health and safety of existing populations.	P1 HH1 N1 AR1	AR2 CF1 T2 T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	W1 & W2 CF2		B1 T1 A1 AH1 L1	



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SS-02 It is an objective of the Council to ensure that appropriate distances are maintained between any proposed development and any existing Seveso II establishment in the interest of health and safety of the occupiers of the proposed development.	P1 HH1	T1 T2 T3 CF1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	W1 & W2 N1, AR1, AR2 CF2	B1	SG1 SG2 SG3 A1 AH1 L1	
Infrastructure Strategy						
PY-02 It is the policy of the Council, in conjunction with all relevant statutory agencies and infrastructure providers to provide, or facilitate the provision of, high quality sustainable infrastructure to serve the economic and social needs of the County through the implementation of the objectives below.	P1 HH1 AR2, AR1, N1 T2, T3 WW1 DW1 DW2	CF1		T1 WM1 WM2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 CF2 A1 AH1 L1	
General						
I-01 It is an objective of the Council to provide, or facilitate the provision of, all infrastructure projects set out in Table 3, with priority given to infrastructure serving the Linked-Hub and Key Towns or areas where significant environmental issues are evident and require the particular infrastructure to solve the issues and where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network or	P1 HH1 AR2, AR1, N1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	T2, T3 CF1	L1		SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1	



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visual amenity.						
I-02 It is an objective of the Council to require relevant infrastructure developments to comply with the relevant requirements of the Development Guidance document of this Plan.	AR1, N1 T1 T2, T3 WW1 DW1 DW2	P1 HH1	W1 & W2, AR2 WM1 WM2 L1	CF1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 CF2 A1 AH1	
I-03 It is an objective of the Council to require major public and private utilities infrastructure to follow the line of existing infrastructure of a similar type unless there are over riding issues such as public safety or best environmental practice. The Council will safeguard and protect infrastructure corridors from development for non-infrastructure related purposes that would prejudice their future use.	W1 & W2 WW1 DW1 DW2	P1 HH1 CF1 T2, T3 WM1 WM2	AR1, AR2	T1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 N1 CF2 A1 AH1 L1	
Land Use Integration and Sustainable Transport						
LS-01 It is an objective of the Council to support and promote an integrated approach to land-use planning and transportation through the implementation of the Area Plans.	P1 HH1 AR1 AR2 N1 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 L1		W1 & W2	WW1 CF1 DW1 DW2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 CF2 T1 A1 AH1	
LS-02 It is an objective of the Council to support sustainable travel in the County by ensuring future population and employment growth predominantly takes place in urban	P1 HH1 AR2	T2, T3 CF1 WM1 WM2 L1	W1 & W2 CF2	WW1 DW1 DW2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 AR1, N1 T1 A1 AH1	



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areas that will warrant provision of public transport services.						
LS-03 It is an objective of the Council to implement the key goals, targets and actions of <i>Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009-2020</i> .	P1 HH1 T1	T2, T3 CF1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2 L1	W1 & W2 CF2	A1 AH1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1	
Roads						
RD-01 It is an objective of the Council to protect the capacity and safety of the National Road and Strategically Important Regional Road network (listed in Appendix 4) in the County and ensuring compliance with the Spatial Planning and National Roads Planning Guidelines (January 2012).	CF2 T1	P1 HH1 T2, T3 WW1 DW1 DW2 CF1	W1 & W2 AR1, AR2, N1 WM1 WM2	A1 AH1 L1	SG1 SG2 SG3	
RD-02 It is an objective of the Council to support improvements to the existing National Road and Regional Road network including road schemes and by-passes outlined in Table 3 where it can be demonstrated that the development will not will not have significant adverse effects on the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network or visual amenity.	AR1, N1 T1 T3	P1 HH1 T2 CF1 WW1 DW1 DW2	WM1 WM2 L1	AR2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 A1 AH1	
RD-03 It is an objective of the Council, in co-operation with the Department of	AR1, N1 T1	P1 HH1 CF1 T2, T3 WW1	WM1 WM2 L1	AR2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 A1 AH1	



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Environment, Community and Local Government, to continue with the strengthening and improvement of the local road network including links, by-passes and relief roads, with priority given to those serving the Linked-Hub and Key Towns and interconnection between such settlements, where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.		DW1 DW2				
RD-04 It is an objective of the Council to provide a safe road system throughout the County through Road Safety Schemes and to encourage the promotion of road safety in the County.	T1 HH1	P1 W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	B1 AR1 AR2 N1 L1		SG1 SG2 SG3 A1 AH1	
RD-05 It is an objective of the Council to continue to review road classifications in the County and reclassify where deemed necessary.	T1 HH1	P1 W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2 A1 AH1 L1	B1 AR1, AR2, N1		SG1 SG2 SG3	
Parking Provision						
PP-01 It is an objective of the Council to support and facilitate the provision of public parking facilities at appropriate locations, including the provision of bus parking facilities	AR1, AR2, N1 HH1	P1 CF1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	L1	B1 T3	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 T2 A1 AH1	



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within and on the edge of towns and villages, and at appropriate scenic viewing points and scenic routes where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network, residential or visual amenity.						
PC-01 It is an objective of the Council to encourage and facilitate the maintenance and further development of the public footpath network, public rights of way, walking and cycling routes and associated infrastructure in the County, including where possible the retrofitting of cycle and pedestrian routes into the existing urban road network, and to support the establishment of a network of interlinked cycle ways and walk ways in the County and the adjoining Counties, having regard to best practice standards and where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.	P1 HH1 AR1, AR2, N1 T1 T2, T3	CF1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2		B1	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF2 A1 AH1 L1	
RL-01 It is an objective of the Council to support and encourage the provision of a high-quality rail network and service (including commuter services) and ancillary works for	P1 HH1 AR1, AR2, N1 T1	T2, T3 CF1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2		B1	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF2 A1 AH1 L1	



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passenger and freight carriage to, from and within the County, including the re-opening of the Western Rail Corridor where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.						
RL-02 It is an objective of the Council to safeguard and protect all existing or historic rail lines and associated facilities from redevelopment for non-transport related purposes in order to not preclude their future use as an operational transportation network.	T1	SG1 SG2 SG3 AR1, AR2, N1 CF1 CF2 T2 WM1 WM2	P1 HH1 W1 & W2 DW2	B1 A1 AH1	T3 L1	
BS-01 It is an objective of the Council to support the provision of public and private bus services, including the Rural Transport Programme, in the County by:	P1 HH1 AR1, AR2, N1	T2, T3 WM1 CF1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2		B1 AH1	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Encouraging appropriate and sustainable development patterns that will support the provision of services; and b. Supporting the provision of bus shelters and park & ride facilities at appropriate locations in the County where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have 						



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significant adverse affects on the environment of including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.						
AT-01 It is an objective of the Council to support the development of Ireland West Airport Knock in accordance with the Ireland West Airport Knock Local Area Plan 2012.	P1 HH1 AR1, AR2, N1	T2, T3 CF1 WW1 DW1 DW2	WM1 WM2 L1		SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1	
AT-02 It is an objective of the Council to request the Minister of the Environment, Community and Local Government to designate the area within the Ireland West Airport Knock Local Area Plan as a Strategic Development Zone.		T2, T3 CF1 WW1 DW1 DW2	P1 HH1 AR1, AR2, N1	WM1 WM2 A1 AH1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 L1	
AT-03 It is an objective of the Council to safeguard the public safety in the area around Ireland West Airport Knock by ensuring all development within 15km of Ireland West Airport Knock be subject to safe guarding restrictions outlined in the Development Guidance document of this Plan.		W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	P1 HH1 AR1 AR2 N1	B1 AH1 L1	SG1 SG2 SG3 T1 A1	
AT-04 It is an objective of the Council to ensure any development associated with light aircraft/helicopter activity is located in areas that avoid significant adverse affects on the	AR1, N1	P1 HH1 T2, T3 CF1 WM1 WW1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	AR2 T1 L1	B1	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF2 A1 AH1	



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environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network and residential amenity.						
Ports, Harbours and Piers						
PH-01 It is an objective of the Council to develop and improve ports, harbours, piers, slipways and associated shore facilities and access, including those that can be shared by leisure, tourism, fishing, renewable energy and aquaculture, where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse affects on the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.	AR1, N1 T2	T3 WW1 DW1 DW2	P1 HH1 AR2 WM1 WM2	B1 CF1	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
PH-02 It is an objective of the Council to investigate the potential for developing Ballina, Westport and Ballyglass/Blacksod harbours for increased usage and greater economic benefit where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse affects on the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.	T2	T3 WW1 DW1 DW2	P1 HH1 AR1 WM1 WM2	B1 CF1	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
WS-01 It is an objective of the Council to ensure the provision of an adequate level of water services infrastructure throughout the County to meet domestic, commercial, industrial and other needs, having regard to the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy of this	P1 HH1 WW1 DW1 DW2	T2, T3 CF1 WM1 WM2	AR1, AR2, N1	B1	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	



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Plan, the Water Services Investment Programme, the Rural Water Programme and Table 3 above and where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse affects on the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.						
WS-02 It is an objective of the Council to ensure a safe and secure water supply is provided in the County.	W1 & W2 HH1	CF2	T3 WM1 CF1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	P1 AR1, AR2, N1	B1 L1	SG1 SG2 SG3 T1 T2 A1 AH1
WS-03 It is an objective of the Council to promote water conservation and responsible use of water by introducing water metering charges.	W1 & W2		P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 AR1, AR2, N1 CF1 CF2 T1 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2 A1 AH1 L1		B1	
WL-01 It is an objective of the Council to implement the Regional Waste Management Plan for the Connaught Region (as amended) with particular emphasis on reuse, recycling and disposal of residual waste in the most appropriate matter where it can be demonstrated that the development will not will not have significant adverse affects on the environment, including the integrity of the	AR1, AR2, N1 WM1 WM2 HH1		P1 T2, T3 CF1 WW1 DW1 DW2	T1 L1	B1 AH1	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF2 A1



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Natura 2000 network, residential or visual amenity.						
TC-01 It is an objective of the Council to support and facilitate the delivery of high capacity ICT infrastructure, broadband networks and digital broadcasting in the County having regard to the Government Guidelines <i>Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures-Guidelines for Planning Authorities 1996</i> (DoEHLG) and Circular Letter PL 07/12 and where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse affects on the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network or visual amenity.	AR1, AR2, N1	P1 HH1 T2, T3 CF1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	L1	B1	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1	
TC-02 It is an objective of the Council to locate telecommunication masts in non-scenic areas, having regard to the <i>Landscape Appraisal of County Mayo</i> , or in areas where they are unlikely to intrude on the setting of, or views of/from, national monuments or protected structures.		P1 HH1 T2, T3 CF1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	AR1, AR2		SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2, N1 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
TC-03 It is an objective of the Council to set up a register of approved telecommunication structures in the County to assist in the assessment of future telecommunication developments and maximizing the potential for	SG1 SG2 SG3 N1	P1 HH1B1 CF1 CF2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	W1 & W2, AR1 AR2		T1 A1 AH1 L1	



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future mast sharing and co-location.						
EY-01 It is an objective of the Council to support and facilitate the provision of a reliable energy supply in the County, with emphasis on increasing our reliance on energy derived from renewable resources whilst seeking to protect and maintain bio-diversity, wildlife habitats, the landscape, nature conservation and residential amenity.	AR1, AR2, N1	HH1	P1 CF1 T2, T3 WW1 DW1 DW2	L1	WM1 WM2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1
EY-02 It is an objective of the Council to implement the Renewable Energy Strategy for Co. Mayo 2011-2020.	AR1, AR2, N1		P1 HH1 CF1 T2, T3 WW1 DW1 DW2		WM1 WM2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1
EY-03 It is an objective of the Council to promote energy conservation through reduced consumption and incorporating renewable energy technology into building design standards	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 AR1, AR2		CF1 CF2 T1 T2, T3 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2 A1 AH1	P1 HH1 N1 WM1	W1 & W2	L1
Environment, Heritage & Amenities Strategy						
PY-03 It is the policy of the Council, in conjunction with all relevant statutory agencies, to recognise the inter-relationship between the environment (natural and cultural); the economy; and well being of our citizens and thereby ensuring development in the County does not compromise the value of, or cause deterioration to, our natural and cultural	P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 N1, AR1, AR2 CF1 CF2 T2 T3 A1 AH1 L1		WM1 WM2 T1 WW1 DW1 DW2			



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resources by implementing the objectives below and the Development Guidance document of this Plan.						
CC-01 It is an objective of the Council to support the <i>National Climate Change Strategy</i> on an ongoing basis through implementation of supporting objectives in this Plan, particularly those supporting use of alternative and renewable energy sources, sustainable transport, air quality, coastal zone management, flooding and soil erosion and promotion of the retention of, and planting of trees, hedgerows and afforestation subject to no significant adverse effects on the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 N1 AR1 AR2 CF1 CF2 WM1	P1 HH1 T2, T3 WW1 DW1 DW2		WM2	T1 A1 AH1 L1	
AN-01 It is an objective of the Council to support the implementation of the Air Quality Regulations.	B1 HH1 W1 & W2 AR1,AR2	CF1 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	N1 CF2 T1	A1 AH1 L1		
AN-02 It is an objective of the Council to require that noise levels from new and existing developments do not exceed normally accepted standards, as set down in the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006.	N1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 AR1,AR2 CF1 CF2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2 A1 AH1	P1 HH1 T1			



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CZ-01 It is an objective of the Council to facilitate an Integrated Coastal Zone Management approach to the coastal zone areas of the County to ensure sustainable development and the protection and enhancement of the man-made and natural resources of these areas where it can be demonstrated that the development will not adversely impact have significant adverse effects on the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.	B1 CF1 CF2 T2 HH1	L1	T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	P1 N1, AR1,AR2	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
CZ-02 It is an objective of the Council to support measures to protect the coastal edge and coastal habitats from destruction and degradation to ensure that their roles as ecological corridors, coastal flooding and storm surge buffers are retained and enhanced.	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T2		P1 HH1 T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	N1, AR1,AR2	T1 A1 AH1 L1	
CZ-03 It is an objective of the Council to undertake, or facilitate the provision of, environmentally-sensitive coastal protection works where appropriate where it can be demonstrated that the development will not adversely impact have significant adverse effects on the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.	B1 T2 CF1 HH1		P1 T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	N1, AR1,AR2	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	



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CZ-04 It is an objective of the Council to strictly control unauthorized removal of beach material and make prohibition orders where necessary.	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T2	P1 HH1 T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	N1, AR1,AR2 T1 AH1 L1	CF1	A1	
CZ-05 It is an objective of the Council to protect, enhance and conserve all beaches in the County and to retain Blue Flag status on beaches currently awarded this status whilst seeking to increase the present number of Blue Flag beaches where it can be demonstrated that the development will not adversely impact have significant adverse effects on the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.	B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T2, T3 L1 HH1	P1 SG1 SG2 SG3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	N1 AR1 AR2 AH1	CF1	T1 A1	
FS-01 It is an objective of the Council to restrict inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding (inland or coastal) as identified on the CFRAM flood hazard maps and flood risk maps, erosion and other natural hazards or would cause or exacerbate such a risk at other locations. As part of this, the Planning Authority shall require a Flood Risk Assessment and/or a Landslide Risk Assessment for any new development.	SG1 SG2 SG3 CF1 W1 & W2 T2 WW1 DW1 DW2 HH1	T1 T3 WM1 WM2 AH1	P1 AR1,AR2	N1, B1 CF2	A1 L1	
FS-02 It is an objective of the Council to require certain developments in the settlements	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 T2	P1 HH1 T3 WM1 WM2	N1, AR1,AR2	B1 CF1 AH1	A1 L1	



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identified in the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy to incorporate “Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems” as part of the development proposals. Surface Water Management Systems should be designed in accordance with <i>Dublin Corporation Stormwater Management Policy for Developers</i> .	WW1 DW1 DW2							
WQ-01 It is an objective of the Council to implement the Western River Basin District Management Plan “ <i>Water Matters</i> ” 2009-2015 to ensure the protection, improvement and sustainable use of all waters in the County, including rivers, lakes, ground water, coastal and estuarine transitional waters, and to restrict development likely to lead to deterioration in water quality and quantity .	SG1 W1 & W2 WW1 HH1	SG2 CF2 DW1	SG3 T2 DW2	B1 T2	P1 T1 WM1 WM2	N1, AR1,AR2	AH1 L1 CF1	T3 A1
WQ-02 It is an objective of the Council to require development in an unsewered area which includes a septic tank/proprietary effluent treatment unit and percolation areas to be rigorously assessed in accordance with the accepted EPA Code of Practice for single houses or small communities, business, leisure centres and hotels, taking into account the cumulative effects of existing and proposed developments in the area. Any planning applications for development which require	P1 SG3 WW1	HH1 W1 & W2 DW1	SG1 SG2 CF2 DW2	CF1 WM1	T2, T3 WM2	N1, AR1,AR2 T1	AH1	B1 A1 L1



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such systems shall be accompanied with an assessment carried out and certified by a suitably qualified person (<i>i.e.</i> the holder of an EPA FETAC certificate) with professional indemnity insurance.						
WQ-03 It is an objective of the Council to require any new development to connect to a public water supply or Group Water Scheme. Connections to wells will only be considered where there is no public water main or Group Water Scheme serving the site and where it can be demonstrated that connection to the proposed well will not have significant adverse effects on water quality or water quantity in the area and can provide a potable water supply in accordance with EU Drinking Water standards.	P1 HH1 W1 & W2 DW1 DW2	SG1 SG2 CF1 SG3 T1 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 L1	N1, AR1,AR2	B1 CF2 AH1	A1	
LP-01 It is an objective of the Council, through the <i>Landscape Appraisal of County Mayo</i> , to recognize and facilitate appropriate development in a manner that has regard to the character and sensitivity of the landscape and to ensure that development will not have a disproportionate effect on the existing or future character of a landscape in terms of location, design and visual prominence.	W1 & W2 T2, T3	CF1 CF2 T1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	P1 HH1 N1 AR1 AR2 L1		SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 A1 AH1	



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VP-01 It is an objective of the Council to ensure that development does not adversely interfere with views and prospects worthy of preservation and protection as outlined on Map 3, or on the views to and from places and features of natural beauty or interest (e.g. coastline, lakeshores, protected structures, important historic sites) when viewed from the public realm.	T2, T3 AH1 HH1	SG1 SG2 SG3 N1, AR1,AR2 CF1 CF2 T1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1	P1 W1 & W2 L1		B1 A1	
GH-01 It is an objective of the Council to implement the County Mayo Heritage Plan and Biodiversity Plan in conjunction with The Heritage Council, Heritage Forum, relevant stakeholders and the community.	B1 W1 & W2 N1, AR1 CF2 T2, T3 AH1	P1 HH1 CF1 SG1 SG2 SG3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1	AR2	T1 A1	L1	
NH 1 It is an objective of the Council to protect, enhance and conserve: a) Candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural Heritage Areas and proposed National Heritage Areas, Statutory Nature Reserves, Ramsar Sites and Biogenetic Reserves, including those listed in the Environmental Report documenting the Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report of	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 HH1 W1 & W2 N1 AR1 AR2 CF2 WW1 L1	P1 CF1 WM1 T1 WM2 DW1 DW2		AH1	T2, T3 A1	



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this plan and any modifications or additional areas that may be so designated during the lifetime of the plan.						
b) Natural habitats and plant and animal species identified under the Habitats Directive, Birds Directive, Wildlife Act and the Flora Protection Order, or any other relevant legislation that may be implemented during the lifetime of the plan.						
c) Features of natural interest and amenity, which provide a unique habitat for wildlife including ecological networks (including ecological corridors and stepping stones), riparian zones, hedgerows, stonewalls and shelterbelts.						
d) Bogs, fens and turloughs listed in the Environmental Report documenting the Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report of this plan.						
e) Features of geological interest as listed in the Audit of County						



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Geological Sites (Mayo County Council).						
f) The conservation value of disused railway lines, waterways, walkways <i>etc.</i> notwithstanding that some of these items (e.g. disused rail lines) may be developed at some future date as part of the County's infrastructure where it can be demonstrated that the development will not adversely impact affect the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.						
g) Surface waters, aquatic and wetland habitats and freshwater and water-dependant species through the implementation of the <i>EU Water Framework Directive</i> .						
h) Trees or groups of trees protected under Tree Preservation Orders listed in the Environmental Report documenting the Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report of this plan , as well as trees and woodlands of particular amenity and nature						



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conservation value, or which make a valuable contribution to the character of the landscape, a settlement or its setting.						
i) Sites of local conservation importance including those identified in the <i>Local Biodiversity Action Plan</i> .						
NH-02 It is an objective of the Council to ensure that the unique ecological, scenic, recreational and environmental character of Ballycroy National Park is protected and enhanced, and to prohibit any development, which would impair its character.	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 L1	P1 HH1 T2 WM1 WM2 CF1	N1, AR1 AR2 T1	A1 AH1 DW2	T3	
NH-03 It is an objective of the Council to implement Article 6 of the <i>EU Habitats Directive</i> , by subjecting any plan or project likely to have significant adverse effects on impact Natura 2000 or European Sites (SACs, SPAs), whether directly (in situ), indirectly (ex-situ) or in combination with other plans or projects, to an appropriate assessment in order to inform decision making.	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 N1, AR1,AR2 CF2 L1 DW2	P1 HH1 CF1 WM1 WM2 WW1	T1	A1 AH1	T2, T3	
NH-04 It is an objective of the Council to fully integrate wildlife and biodiversity considerations into all areas of the Council's	B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T2, T3 DW2	P1 HH1 CF1 SG1 SG2 SG3 WM1 WM2	N1, AR1,AR2 T1	A1 AH1	L1	



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roles and responsibilities and into all its works and operations.		WW1 DW1				
NH-05 It is an objective of the Council to increase awareness of the importance of the natural heritage of the County and to promote education, knowledge and pride in our natural heritage.	B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T3 A1 AH1 L1	P1 HH1 CF1 SG1 SG2 SG3 T2 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1	N1, AR1,AR2 T1 DW2			
NH-06 It is an objective of the Council to support the implementation of the National Biodiversity Plan.	B1 W1 & W2 CF2 DW2	P1 HH1 CF1 SG1 SG2 SG3 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1	N1 AR1 AR2 L1	A1 AH1		
NH-07 It is an objective of the Council to promote best practice in the control of invasive species in the carrying out of both local authority and private development.	B1 W1 & W2 CF2 DW2 HH1	P1 SG1 SG2 SG3 WM1 WM2	N1, AR1,AR2 T1 T2, T3	AH1	A1 L1	
NH-08 It is an objective of the Council to utilise opportunities to enhance and create wildlife habitats where they arise.	T2	P1 HH1 CF1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1	N1, AR1,AR2 T1	CF2 DW2	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 T3 A1 AH1 L1	
AH-01 It is an objective of the Council to:	SG1 SG2 SG3 T2 A1 AH1 L1	B1 CF1 CF2 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	P1 HH1 N1, AR1,AR2 T1	W1 & W2	T3	
a) Protect the archaeological heritage and especially sites identified in the <i>Record of Monuments and Places</i> , National Monuments in the ownership or						



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<p>guardianship of the State, and National Monuments that are the subject of Preservation Orders, and to safeguard the integrity of the archaeological sites in their setting. Proposals within or adjacent to a buffer zone of 30m from a Site on the Record of Monuments and Places shall be assessed having regard to the requirements as set out in the relevant Development Guidance document of this plan.</p>						
<p>b) Require that planning applications within the zones of archaeological potential as outlines in the Record of Monuments and Places include an archaeological assessment as set out in the relevant Development Guidance document of this plan.</p>						
<p>c) Require that all large scale planning applications (i.e. development of lands on 0.5 ha or more in area or 1 km or more in length) include an archaeological assessment as set out in the relevant Development Guidance document of this plan.</p>						
<p>d) Facilitate appropriate guidance in</p>						



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relation to the protection of the archaeological heritage in the County.						
e) Promote public awareness and appreciation of the archaeological heritage of the County.						
f) Protect the tentative World Heritage Site in Mayo on the UNESCO Tentative List – Ireland 2010, The Céide Fields and North West Mayo Bogs, from inappropriate development and support its nomination to World Heritage Status.						
g) Facilitate public access to National Monuments in State care or in the ownership of the State where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on adversely impact the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network, residential or visual amenity.						
h) Ensure the preservation of National Monuments that are the subject of Preservation Orders and features of archaeological interest in areas that are						



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<p>identified as Zones of Archaeological Potential in the <i>Record of Monuments and Places</i>.</p> <p>i) Protect, enhance and promote awareness of the industrial heritage of the County.</p> <p>j) Protect historic burial grounds within the County and encourage their maintenance in accordance with best conservation principles.</p>						
<p>AH-02 It is an objective of the Council to review the <i>Record of Protected Structures</i> including taking into consideration ministerial recommendations arising from the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage and add structures of special interest as appropriate, including industrial, maritime or vernacular heritage.</p>	T2 A1 AH1	P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 N1, AR1,AR2 CF1 CF2 T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	T1	W1 & W2	L1	
<p>AH-03 It is an objective of the Council to ensure that any development, modification, alteration, or extension affecting a Protected Structure and/or its setting is sensitively designed and sited and is appropriate in terms of the proposed materials, scale, density and layout, impact on historic features and junction</p>	T2 AH1	CF1 SG1 SG2 SG3 N1, AR1,AR2 T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2 HH1	P1 L1	B1 W1 & W2 CF2 A1	T1	



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with the Protected Structure and would not detract from the special interest, character and setting of the Protected Structure.						
AH-04 It is an objective of the Council to promote and improve the understanding of the architectural heritage of Mayo.	T2 A1 AH1	HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 N1, AR1,AR2 CF1 CF2 T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	L1			
AH-05 It is an objective of the Council to ensure that any new development or alteration to a building within or adjoining an Architectural Conservation Area positively enhances the character of the area and is appropriate in terms of the proposed materials, scale, density and layout, proportions, plot ratio and building lines.	SG1 SG2 SG3 T2 AH1	N1, AR1,AR2 CF1 T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	P1 HH1 L1	B1	W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1	
AH-06 It is the objective of the Council to identify places of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest and to define them as Architectural Conservation Areas and to undertake an assessment to inform the potential ACA designation for the following areas: a. Ballinrobe c. Pontoon b. Killala d. Dugort	T2 A1 AH1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 CF1 W1 & W2 CF2 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	P1 HH1 N1, T3 AR1,AR2		T1 L1	



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<p>AH-07 It is an objective of the council to protect the character of an Architectural Conservation Area and to prohibit the demolition of a structure that positively enhances the character of an Architectural Conservation Area, except in very exceptional circumstances. Where demolition is granted an assessment of the impact of the replacement structure on the character of the Architectural Conservation Area will be required.</p>	T2 AH1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 CF1 W1 & W2 CF2 T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	P1 HH1 N1, AR1,AR2		T1 A1 L1	
<p>AH-08 It is an objective of the council to require that proposals for development within historic gardens, demesnes and estates include an appraisal of the designed landscape prior to the initial design of any development, so this evaluation informs the design and respects the built heritage and horticultural elements of the site.</p>	CF2 T2 AH1	CF1 SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 N1, AR1,AR2 T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	P1 HH1	W1 & W2	T1 A1 L1	
<p>AH-09 It is an objective of the council to protect buildings and features of industrial and maritime heritage.</p>	T2 A1 AH1	P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 N1, AR1,AR2 CF1 CF2 T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2			T1 L1	
<p>AH-10 It is an objective of the council to promote the sympathetic maintenance and re-</p>	T2 A1 AH1	P1 HH1 CF1 SG1 SG2 SG3	N1, AR1,AR2		B1 CF2 L1	



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use of vernacular built heritage and to encourage the retention of original fabric such as windows, doors, renders, pub/shop-fronts, roof coverings and interiors etc		W1 & W2 WM1 WW1 DW2	T3 WM2 DW1	T1		
AH-11 It is an objective of the council to promote the sympathetic maintenance of traditional features and other built heritage such as stone walls and other elements such as post-boxes, water pumps, paving etc.	T2 A1 AH1	P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 N1, AR1,AR2 CF1 CF2 T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	T1		L1	
AH-12 It is an objective of the council to ensure that measures to upgrade the energy efficiency of Protected Structures and historic buildings do not damage the historic fabric.	N1 AR1 AR2 T2 A1 AH1	P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2			T1 L1	
NR-01 It is an objective of the Council, where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on adversely impact the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network, to: a. Strictly control development that would materially interfere with existing and potential Blue Flag Beaches meeting the	P1 HH1 W1 & W2 N1, AR1 AR2 CF1 CF2 T2, T3	B1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	T1	AH1	SG1 SG2 SG3 A1 L1	



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qualifying criteria for Blue Flag designation or the recreational use of those beach areas.						
b. Co-operate with Coillte and the Forest Service in the protection of existing and development of additional forest amenity sites.						
c. Manage to the highest standard all public parks, open spaces and amenities under the control of the Council and to avoid loss of any open space in the County unless an alternative superior open space can be provided.						
d. Support the provision of adequate and accessible open space at a convenient distance from homes and places of work.						
e. Preserve the major natural amenities of the County and provide sustainable ancillary facilities to enhance their recreational, amenity and conservation value and to control inappropriate and non-compatible uses.						
AC-01 It is an objective of the Council to,	N1, AR1,AR2 T2	WM1	WM2	P1 HH1	T3	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2



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within the lifetime of this Plan, identify, preserve and enhance existing accesses and public rights of way to recreational areas including the coast, upland areas, lakeshores, river-bank areas and heritage sites, in accordance with sustainable management practices and any guidance from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and where necessary to establish new ones in co-operation with landowners and the local community, where it can be demonstrated that the development will not adversely impact the environment or Natura 2000 network. When public rights of way are identified, the owners of the public rights of way shall be notified and the public rights of way shall be mapped in accordance with the Planning Acts.		CF1 WW1 DW1 DW2			CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
Social Infrastructure & Community Development Strategy						
PY-05 It is the policy of the Council, in conjunction with all relevant statutory agencies and social infrastructure providers, to provide, or facilitate the provision of, high quality sustainable social infrastructure increase improve the quality of life of the citizens of the County and to reduce social exclusion through the implementation of the objectives below.	P1 DW2	HH1	WM1	N1, AR1,AR2 T2, CF1 T3 WW1 DW1	WM2 A1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 CF2 T1 AH1 L1



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General						
SC-01 It is an objective of the Council, in conjunction with the Mayo County Development Board, to support the provision of a broad range of social and community facilities within settlements or in close proximity to existing facilities or public transport routes to meet the changing needs of all sectors of the community.	P1 HH1 N1, AR1,AR2 T2, T3 WM1	WW1 DW1 DW2 CF1		WM2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
SC-02 It is an objective of the Council to require relevant social infrastructure developments to comply with the standards set out in the Development Guidance document of this Plan. Social Inclusion		T2, T3 WW1 DW1 CF1	WW1 DW2	P1 HH1 W1 & W2 N1, AR1,AR2	WM1 WM2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1
SI-01 It is an objective of the Council to:	T2, T3 HH1	W1 & W2 WM1 WW1 DW2 CF1	W2 WM2 DW1	N1, AR1,AR2		SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 A1 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1
a) Support the <i>National Disability Strategy</i> and ensure compliance with the <i>Disability Act 2005</i> .						
b) Continuously seek to improve and provide additional facilities which maximize accessibility to persons with disabilities or other special requirements to public services, buildings and community facilities.						
c) Seek to improve the quality of life for						



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disadvantaged individuals and communities in the County.						
SI-02 It is an objective of the Council to strengthen the unique linguistic and cultural heritage of Gaeltacht Mhaigh Éo by supporting and facilitating improved physical, social and economic infrastructure at appropriate locations throughout the Gaeltacht areas and to require a Language Impact Statement to determine the impact any proposed development will have on the use of Irish as the community language.		W1 & W2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 CF1 WW1 DW1 DW2	P1 HH1 N1 AR1 AR2		SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 CF2 T1 A1 L1	
SI-03 It is an objective of the Council to maintain and support the communities of Mayo's inhabited islands by facilitating sustainable social and economic development through the provision of, or facilitating the provision of, infrastructure (social and physical), housing and services, having regard to the traditional building patterns of the Islands and the need to protect the cultural and natural heritage of the Islands.	P1 T2 DW2 HH1	T3 CF1 WW1 DW1	N1, AR1,AR2 WM1	WM2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 A1 AH1 L1	
HH-01 It is an objective of the Council to support the provision of improved public health services on suitably zoned lands in the Key Towns and in other towns and villages, on lands in the town centres or immediately	HH1	T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1	P1 CF1 DW1		N1, AR1,AR2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1



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adjacent to town centres (based on the sequential approach) which are serviced (water service, footpaths, lighting etc.)						
ED-01 It is an objective of the Council to support the development of education facilities for all levels of education and education services at suitable locations in the County and to implement the Provisions of Schools and the Planning System Code of Practice 2008.	WM1 HH1	T2, T3 WW1 CF1 DW1 DW2	P1	N1, AR1,AR2 WM2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
BG-01 It is an objective of the Council to protect, maintain and manage burial grounds in co-operation with the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and others.	B1 CF2	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 N1, AR1,AR2 CF1 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	P1 HH1		T1 A1 AH1 L1	
FE-01 It is an objective of the Council to provide adequate manpower, equipment, training and housing facilities to ensure an adequate fire service to serve the needs of the County.	AR1 HH1	SG1 SG2 SG3 CF1 W1 & W2 N1, AR2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	P1	AH1	B1 CF2 T1 A1 L1	
ART-01 It is an objective of the Council to support the implementation of the <i>Mayo County Council Strategic Arts Plan 2011-2016</i> and to ensure comprehensive provision of arts infrastructure incorporating spaces suitable for	HH1	W1 & W2 N1 AR1 AR2 CF1 CF2 T2 T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1	P1		SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 T1 A1 AH1 L1	



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the arts and a variety of arts practices throughout the County.		DW2				
LIB-01 It is an objective of the Council to implement the <i>Mayo County Library Development Plan 2010-2014</i> or any subsequent Plan.	HH1	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 N1, AR1,AR2 CF1 CF2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 DW1 DW2	P1	A1 AH1	B1 T1 L1	
SOS-01 It is an objective of the Council to:	P1 HH1 AR2 T3	AR1 T2 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	N1 CF1		SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
a. Support the provision of adequate and accessible sports facilities at a convenient distance from homes and places of work.						
b. Support the Mayo Sports Partnership and the implementation of the sports strategy <i>Promoting an Active Mayo 2010-2014</i> and any subsequent strategy.						
c. Assist and support sporting organisations in the County and to investigate ways of improving the quality and capacity of existing sporting facilities, such as encouraging more efficient use of playing fields and encouraging shared use of existing facilities.						



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d. To resist the loss of existing sporting facilities unless the facility is provided on an alternative site or it can be demonstrated that there is no longer sufficient demand to sustain such a facility.						
e. To maintain and improve the existing levels of services at existing public pools and to support the provision of a swimming pool in Béal an Mhuirthead (Belmullet) and Ballinrobe through public private partnership, assistance to a private promoter or any other means.						

Development Plans and Area Plans

Settlement Strategy

P1 HH1 AR2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2

AR1 N1

SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T1 WW1 DW1 DW2 A1 AH1 L1

P-04 It is the policy of the Council to promote and facilitate the growth and sustainable development of the towns of Béal an Mhuirthead (Belmullet), Ballinrobe, Ballyhaunis, Claremorris, Charlestown, Killala, Kiltimagh, Knock, Louisburgh, Newport and Swinford in their role as Key Towns, towards achieving the population targets set out in the Core Strategy, with an appropriate range of social and physical infrastructure, facilities and



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services, including retail and commercial and enterprise development to serve the inhabitants of the towns and their rural hinterlands							
Economic Development	P1	HH1	WM1	T2, T3	CF1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 WW1 DW1 DW2 A1 AH1 L1	
P-05 It is the policy of the Council to promote the Key Towns as areas suitable for robust economic development as deemed appropriate.	WM2						
O-01 It is an objective of the Council to:	P1	HH1	AR2	WM1	T2, T3	AR1 DW1 N1 CF1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1
a. Identify and support a niche economic role for each of the Key Towns.	WM2						
b. Identify the key assets in each Key Town and encourage or assist in developing these assets in a sustainable manner.							
c. Implement the zoning objectives for enterprise and employment in each of the Key Towns.							
d. Prioritise key infrastructure for enterprise and employment in each of the Key Towns.							
e. Continue to make the Key Towns							



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more physically attractive to encourage people to work, visit and live in them.						
Town Development	P1 HH1 AR1 AR2 N1 T3 WM1 WM2	T2	W1 & W2 CF1	DW1 DW2 AH1	A1 SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 CF2 T1 WW1 L1	
P-06 It is the policy of the Council to create integrated, attractive, vibrant and sustainable Key Towns.						
O-02 It is an objective of the Council to:	P1 HH1 AR1 AR2 N1 T2 T3 WM1 WM2 L1			DW1 DW2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T1 A1 AH1	
a. Implement the land use zoning objectives (see below) in each of the Key Towns.						
b. Create high quality urban environments in the Key Towns through the requirement and provision of high quality design in buildings, structures, open spaces and the public realm that improves the quality of life for residents, visitors and other users of the town by implementing the Development Guidance document accompanying this Plan and relevant policies and objectives set out in this Plan.						
c. Address the issue of vacancy in the Key Towns by encouraging new uses into vacant properties in preference to new						



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<p>developments and by reviewing the development contribution scheme to encourage use of vacant properties.</p> <p>d. Address the issue of Unfinished Housing Estates in the Key Towns by implementing the guidance manual <i>Managing and Resolving Unfinished Housing Developments</i> (DoECLG 2011).</p> <p>e. Encourage in-fill development, reuse of brownfield sites and reuse of derelict sites on appropriate sites in the Key Towns where the proposal respects the existing scale and character of the area.</p> <p>f. Encourage use/redevelopment of over ground floor stories of buildings for appropriate uses in the town centre of the Key Towns.</p> <p>g. Encourage appropriate late evening/night time economy in the town centres of the Key Towns.</p> <p>h. Prepare Design Guidelines for Towns and Villages in the County.</p> <p>i. Set up Town Centre Management Programmes in a number of the Key Towns.</p>						
<p>P-07 It is a policy of the Council to prioritise key physical infrastructure (waste, water, transportation, parking,</p>	<p>P1 HH1 AR1 AR2 N1 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1</p>				<p>SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 T1 CF1 A1 AH1 L1</p>	



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communications and energy) provision and to ensure provision of a high level of social infrastructure (health care services, education facilities, burial grounds, fire and emergency services, recreational and cultural facilities) in each of the Key Towns.	DW2					
O-03 It is an objective of the Council to: a. Identify infrastructure deficiencies in each of the Key Towns and to actively seek to upgrade/replace infrastructure deficiencies. b. Identify, plan and encourage smarter travel provision in each of the Key Towns. c. Strengthen and improve transport linkages between the Key Towns and Linked-Hub.	P1 HH1 AR1 AR2 N1 T2, T3 WW1 DW1 DW2		CF1	WM1 WM2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
O-04 It is an objective of the Council to: a. Support the provision of an extensive range of services (e.g. health, nursing homes, education, postal, recreation) and community facilities (e.g. community buildings, youth centres, sports facilities, recycling facilities, recreational grounds) by supporting the	P1 HH1 T3 WM1 T2		AR1 AR2 N1 CF1	WM2 DW2	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	



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retention and further provision of services at appropriate locations in the Key Towns. b. Ensure access to housing in accordance with the Mayo Housing Strategy.						
P-08 It is a policy of the Council to ensure a high level of green infrastructure (e.g. communal green space, private gardens, institutional land, local parks, river corridors, floodplains) provision in each of the Key Towns.	HH1 AR1 AR2 N1 CF1	P1 T2 WM1 WM2 WW1	W1 & W2 T3 DW1 DW2		SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
O-05 It is an objective of the Council to: a. Identify green infrastructure deficiencies in each of the Key Towns and to actively seek to create or enhance green infrastructure. b. Resist the loss of existing private or public green infrastructure in Key Towns unless an alternative site is provided in a suitable location. c. Retain or improve access to green infrastructure. d. Ensure that any new development in the Key Towns does not increase flood risk in the relevant catchment	AR1 AR2 N1 T3 L1 HH1	P1 T2 WM1 WM2 WW1	DW1 DW2		SG1 SG2 SG3 CF2 T1 A1 AH1	



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area.						
Natural and Cultural Heritage Policy P-09 It is a policy of the Council to conserve and enhance the local distinctiveness reflected in the built environment, the natural landscape and the cultural heritage of the Key Towns and to sustainably manage these assets to maximise benefits for all particularly in areas such as improved quality of life, tourism, education and recreation.	CF2 T2	P1 SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 WM1 WM2 WW1	AR1,AR2,N1 T1 CF1 DW1 DW2	B1 AH1	T3 A1 L1	
O-06 It is an objective of the Council to: a. Identify, protect and enhance scenic and environmentally sensitive areas in the Key Towns. b. Conserve, protect and enhance existing Recorded Monuments and Protected Structures in the Key Towns in a sustainable manner. c. Make Architectural Conservation Areas in the relevant Key Towns and to review the Record of Protected Structures in the Key Towns. d. Make Tree Preservation Orders and	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 HH1 W1 & W2 AR1 N1 CF2 L1	P1 T2 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	AR2 CF1	A1 AH1	T1 T3	



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conserve and protect green infrastructure, Natura 2000 sites, Natural Heritage Areas, Local Biodiversity Areas and ecological corridors in and adjacent to the Key Towns.						
<p>Land Use Zoning</p> <p>O-07 It is an objective of the Council to zone lands in the Key Towns for one or more of the following uses and to implement the following land use zoning objectives:</p> <p>a. Agriculture: To reserve land for agricultural and rural uses and to preserve the amenity of the town setting.</p> <p>b. Industry: To provide land for industrial use and ancillary facilities.</p> <p>c. Enterprise & Employment: To provide land for light industrial and appropriate commercial development.</p> <p>d. Community Services/Facilities: To provide land for community and social facilities.</p> <p>e. Infrastructure & Utilities: To provide land for public infrastructure and</p>	P1 HH1	T2, T3	AR1 AR2 N1 WM1 WM2	CF1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 WW1 DW1 DW2 A1 AH1 L1	



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f. public utilities. Recreation & Amenity: To provide land for recreation and amenity purposes.						
g. Town centre: To maintain and enhance the vitality, viability and environment of the town centre and provide for appropriate town centre uses.						
h. Residential: To protect the amenity of existing residential areas and provide further lands primarily for residential development at appropriate densities and ancillary facilities.						

Development Plans and Area Plans - Ballinrobe

KTBE-01	It is an objective of the Council to encourage development in the town of Ballinrobe in accordance with the Land Use Zoning Map BE1.	P1 HH1	T2, T3	AR1 AR2 N1	WM1 WM2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T1 WW1 DW1 DW2 A1 AH1 L1
KTBE-02	It is an objective of the Council to encourage development that gives effect to the Opportunities and Solutions outlined in Table 6 where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have no significant adverse impacts effects on the environment or including the integrity of	P1 HH1 AR1 AR2 N1 T2 T3			WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2 CF1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1



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the Natura 2000 network.						
KTBE-03 It is an objective of the Council to ensure infill development respects the unique height-to- width ratio with respect to the building design in Ballinrobe town centre and maintains the existing sense of enclosure on town centre streets.	SG1 SG2 SG3	P1 HH1 W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 DW2	AR1,AR2,N1 T1	WW1 DW1 A1 L1 AH1		
KTBE-04 It is an objective of the Coucil to encourage the re-development and refurbishment of Bridge Stree / High Street whilst safeguarding the protected structures and their curtilages along the street.	AH1	P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 T2, T3 CF1 WM1 WM2	AR1,AR2,N1	W1 & W2 CF2 WW1 DW1 DW2	T1 A1 L1	
KTBE-05 It is the objective of the Council to encourage re-development of all derelict buildings in Ballinrobe registered on the Derelict Sites list.	SG1 SG2 SG3	P1 HH1 W1 & W2 T2, T3 CF1 WM1 WM2	AR1,AR2,N1	DW1 DW2	B1 CF2 T1 WW1 A1 AH1 L1	
KTBE-06 It is an objective of the Council to designate within the lifetime of this plan an Architectural Conservation Area for Ballinrobe Town centre, including all or parts of Bowgate Street, Main Street, High Street/Bridge Street, Glebe Street and Abbey Street.	A1 AH1	P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	AR1,AR2,N1	B1	T1 L1	



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KTBE-07 It is an objective of the Council to encourage the development of the site rear of New Street/Convent Road for appropriate town centre uses, with pedestrian links to New Street/Convent Road.	AR2 T3	P1 HH1 T2 CF1 WM1 WM2	AR1, N1	DW1 DW2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 WW1 A1 AH1 L1	
KTBE-08 It is an objective of the Council to seek ways to make more use of the Cornmarket area, including making the area pedestrian and market place friendly, and to encourage and support the provision of a weekly market in the Cornmarket area.	AR2	P1 HH1 B1 W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1	AR1 DW2	DW1 N1 A1 AH1	SG1 SG2 SG3 T1 L1	
KTBE-09 It is an objective of the Council to increase the capacity and upgrade the existing waste water treatment plant in Ballinrobe.	P1 B1 W1 & W2 WW1 DW2 HH1	T2, T3 WM1 WM2	AR1 AR2 N1 DW1	CF1 A1 AH1 L1	SG1 SG2 SG3 CF2 T1	
KTBE-10 It is an objective of the Council to implement the recommendations of the traffic study carried out on Ballinrobe town in 2007 on behalf of Mayo County Council, along with, and placing emphasis on, the implementation of measures to promote smarter travel in the town.	AR1,AR2,N1 T1	P1 HH1 W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2		B1 A1 AH1	SG1 SG2 SG3 L1	



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KTBE-11 It is an objective of the Council to support and secure a strategic footpath and cycle path network for the town and its environs generally in line with that indicated on Map BE2.	AR1 AR2 N1 T1 T3	P1 HH1 T2 WM1 WM2 CF1 WW1 DW1 DW2			SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 A1 AH1 L1	
KTBE-12 It is an objective of the Council to encourage the re-establishment of the Ballinrobe to Claremorris dismantled railway line as a walking and cycling route or as a spur line of the Western Rail corridor.	AR1,AR2,N1 T1 T3	P1 HH1 T2 WM1 WM2 CF1 WW1 DW1		DW2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 A1 AH1 L1	
KTBE-13 It is an objective of the Council to encourage the appropriate refurbishment of Cranmore House and the Military Barracks for amenity and cultural purposes.		P1 HH1 T2, T3 CF1 WM1 WM2 DW2	AR1 AR2 N1	W1 & W2 WW1 DW1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
KTBE-14 It is an objective of the Council to protect the water quality and riparian zone of the rivers Robe and Bulkan. Any proposed developments adjacent to or close to watercourses shall be carefully assessed to ensure that there is no adverse impact to the water course, its riparian zone or to any waterbody into which it flows including significant adverse effects on , <i>inter alia</i> , the	B1 W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 DW1 DW2 HH1	P1 SG1 SG2 SG3 T3 WM1 WM2	AR1 AR2 N1 T1	WW1 A1 AH1	T2 L1	



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Lough Corrib, Moorehall (Lough Carra), Lough Carra/Mask Complex candidate Special Areas of Conservation and Lough Mask, Lough Carra and Lough Corrib Special Protection Areas.						
KTBE-15 It is an objective of the Council to make Tree Preservation Orders for the tree groups along the River Robe and important tree groups in the town.	B1 W1 & W2 AR1 CF2 L1	P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 T1 T2 T3 CF1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2 A1 AH1	AR2,N1			
KTBE-16 It is an objective of the Council to protect and enhance all significant views of interest in Ballinrobe, including those identified on Map BE2. The Council will require a Visual Impact Assessment for development proposals that have the potential to have an adverse impact on important views or streetscapes.	B1 L1 HH1	P1 SG1 SG2 SG3 CF1 CF2 T2 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW2	AR1,AR2,N1 T1	W1 & W2 AH1	T3 A1	



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KTBE-17 It is an objective of the Council to support and promote one the Region's iconic attractions horse racing in Ballinrobe- along with angling and other tourism/recreational activities in the town, where it can be demonstrated the development will not have significant adverse effects on the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.	HH1	P1 SG1 SG2 SG3 T2, T3 CF1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	AR1 AR2 N1	B1 W1 & W2 AH1	CF2 T1 A1 L1	
Development Plans and Area Plans - Ballyhaunis						
KTBY-01 It is an objective of the Council to encourage development in the town of Ballyhaunis in accordance with the Land Use Zoning Map BY1.	P1 AR1,AR2,N1	HH1 T2, T3		WM1 WM2	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T1 WW1 DW1 DW2 A1 AH1 L1	
KTBY-02 It is an objective of the Council to encourage development that gives effect to the Opportunities and Solutions outlined in Table 7 where it can be demonstrated that the development will have no significant adverse effects on the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.	P1 AR1,AR2,N1 T3	HH1 T2		B1 WM1 WM2 WW1 CF1 DW1 DW2	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	



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KTBY-03 It is an objective of the Council to improve the attractiveness of the Town Centre's built fabric, including the encouragement of appropriate redevelopment and renewal of vacant sites and buildings, in particular Knox St, and to ensure high architectural quality in all new developments.	SG1 SG2 SG3	P1 HH1 T2, T3 CF1 WM1 WM2	AR1,AR2,N1	WW1 DW1 DW2	B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
KTBY-04 It is the objective of the Council to encourage re-development of all derelict buildings in Ballyhaunis registered on the Derelict Sites list.	SG1 SG2 SG3	P1 HH1 T2, T3 CF1 WM1 WM2	AR1,AR2,N1	WW1 DW1 DW2	B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
KTBY-05 It is an objective of this Plan to comply with the requirements of objectives SS-01 and SS-02 in the Infrastructure Strategy of this Plan regarding the Seveso II site "Flogas Ltd", Clare Road.	AR1 HH1	CF2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2	P1 SG1 SG2 SG3 AR2 N1 T1	W1 & W2 WW1 CF1 DW1 DW2 AH1	B1 A1 L1	
KTBY-06 It is an objective of the Council to increase the capacity and upgrade the existing waste water treatment plant in Ballyhaunis.	P1 HH1 B1 W1 & W2 WW1 DW2	T2, T3 CF1 WM1 WM2 DW1	AR1,AR2,N1	A1 AH1	SG1 SG2 SG3 CF2 T1 L1	
KTBY-07 It is an objective of the Council to facilitate the construction of the town's outer by pass where it can be	T1 T3	P1 HH1 T2 CF1 WM1 WM2	AR1,AR2,N1	B1 DW2	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF2 A1 AH1 L1	



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demonstrated that the development will have no adverse impacts on the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 site and to safeguard the line of the proposed route of the road from any development that could prejudice the construction and safe operation of the road.		DW1				
KTBY-08 It is an objective of the Council to restrict the number of access points entering and exiting onto the Knock Link Road and not to permit any additional access that would undermine the strategic importance and safe operation of the road.	N1 T1	P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	AR1 AR2 AH1	A1	B1 L1	
KTBY-09 It is an objective of the Council to continue to encourage rail use as a sustainable mode of transport and to promote the upgrading of the rail services to the town and connecting bus services. It is also an objective of the council to ensure the future protection of lands adjacent to the railway station from inappropriate development that could jeopardize the long term viability and improvement of the transport facility.	P1 HH1 AR1,AR2 T1	CF1 CF2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	W1 & W2	N1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 A1 AH1 L1	
KTBY-10 It is a policy of the Council to promote the town's strategic location in relation to Ireland West Airport Knock.	P1	W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2	AR1,AR2,N1 T1	AH1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 L1	



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			WW1 DW1 DW2 A1 HH1			
KTBY-11 It is an objective of the Council to support and secure a strategic path network for the town and its environs generally in line with that indicated on Map BY2.	AR1,AR2,N1 T3	P1 T2 WM1 T1 CF1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2 HH1		W1 & W2	SG1 SG2 SG3 CF2 A1 AH1 L1	
KYBY-12 It is an objective of the Council to utilise a system of Pay and Display parking in selected areas in the town centre and to monitor and review the impact of this. It is also an objective to improve the quality and provision of off-street town centre parking and encourage the use of such facilities.	AR2	P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF1 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	AR1 N1 T1		B1 CF2 A1 AH1 L1	
KTBY-13 It is an objective of the Council to seek ways to make more use of the Town Square area, including making the area pedestrian and market place friendly.	AR2 T3	P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T2 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW2	AR1 N1 DW1	A1 AH1	T1 L1	
KTBY-14 It is an objective of the Council to protect the water quality and riparian zone of the river Dalgan and to encourage appropriate developments that enhance their landscape setting and public benefit. Any proposed developments adjacent to or close to watercourses shall be carefully assessed to	W1 & W2 CF1 HH1	P1 SG1 SG2 SG3 T2, T3 WM1 WM2	AR1 AR2 N1 DW1	WW1 A1 AH1	B1 CF2 T1 L1	



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ensure that there is no adverse impact effect to the water course, its riparian zone or to any waterbody into which it flows, in addition to the integrity of Natura 2000 sites within an appropriate radial buffer zone.						
KTBY-15 It is an objective of the Council to encourage the enhancement and extension of the Dalgan River walkway and to safeguard the value of the river as an ecological "green corridor". Riverside walkway provisions should be incorporated, where appropriate, into development proposals bounding the river. All such proposals shall be carefully assessed to ensure that there is no significant detrimental impact on the watercourse or any other water body into which it flows, in addition to the integrity of Natura 2000 sites within an appropriate radial buffer zone.	AR1,AR2,N1 HH1	T3	P1 T2 WM1 WM2 DW1		CF1 WW1 AH1 DW2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 L1
KTBY-16 It is an objective of the Council to make Tree Preservation Orders for the tree groups identified in Map BY2.	B1 AR1 CF2 AH1 L1		P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 T1 T2, T3 CF1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2 A1		W1 & W2 AR2 N1	
KTBY-17 It is an objective of the Council to protect and enhance all key views of	L1 HH1		P1 SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2		T1 AH1	B1 A1



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interest in Ballyhaunis, including those identified on Map BY2. The Council will require a Visual Impact Assessment for development proposals that have the potential to have an adverse impact on important views or streetscapes.		AR1 AR2 N1 CF1 CF2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2				
KTBY-18 It is an objective of the Council to improve the overall attractiveness of Ballyhaunis for visitors and tourism, including through the enhancement of the visual amenity of the town and its approaches and through the encouragement of new or extended facilities for tourists, including quality tourist accommodation, attractions and activities.	T3 HH1	P1 AR1 AR2 N1 T2 WM1 WM2 CF1 WW1 DW1 DW2			SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
KTBY-19 It is an objective of the Council to protect the Abbey and its associated lands as one of the town's key tourist attractions.	CF2	P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 AR1 AR2 N1 T2, T3 CF1 WM1 WM2 DW1 DW2	AH1		T1 A1 L1	
KYBY-20 It is an objective of the Council to support and, where possible, implement measures to create interpretative walking routes in and around the town, linking the town's special features of built and natural	AR1 AR2 N1 T3	P1 HH1 T2 WM1 WM2 CF1 WW1 DW1 DW2		AH1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 L1	



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heritage interest.						
KYBY-21 It is an objective of the Council, in accordance with the relevant strategies and development guidance contained in this County Development Plan, to work with existing service providers and relevant interests to promote Ballyhaunis as the key tourist location within East Mayo and the gateway to the wider County area.	T3	P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 T2 CF1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	AR1 AR2 N1 AH1	A1	B1 CF2 T1 L1	
KTBY-22 It is an objective of the Council to facilitate a mixed use extension to the existing town centre on lands to the east of Aisling Drive with pedestrian links to Clare Road and Hazelhill areas.	AR2 T3	W1 & W2 T2 WM1 WM2 HH1	P1 AR1 N1	DW1 DW2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 CF1 CF2 T1 WW1 A1 AH1 L1	
KTBY-23 It is an objective of the Council to facilitate a mixed use extension to the existing town centre on lands to the rear of Knox Street/Main Street incorporating redeveloped surface parking, which is overlooked, with strong pedestrian access to Main Street and Knox Street.	AR2 T3	W1 & W2 T2 WM1 WM2 HH1	P1 AR1 N1	DW1 DW2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 CF2 T1 WW1 A1 AH1 L1	
KTBY-24 It is an objective of the Council to facilitate a mixed use extension to the existing town centre on vacant lands on Barrack Street incorporating redeveloped and overlooked surface parking, and a strong urban		T2 T3 WM1 WM2 HH1	P1 AR1 AR2 N1	W1 & W2 DW1 DW2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 CF2 T1 WW1 A1 AH1 L1	



Table 8.1 Evaluation of draft Mayo County Development Plan Policies and objectives

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streetscape along the site's front boundary.						
Development Plans and Area Plans - Béal an Mhuirthead						
KTBT-01 It is an objective of the Council to encourage development in the town of Béal an Mhuirthead in accordance with the Land Use Zoning Map BT1.	P1 AR1,AR2,N1	HH1	T2, T3	CF1 WM1 WM2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 WW1 DW1 DW2 A1 AH1 L1	
KTBT-02 It is an objective of the Council to encourage development that gives effect to the Opportunities and Solutions outlined in Table 8 where it can be demonstrated that the development will have no adverse impacts effects on the environment and including the integrity of the the Natura 2000 network.	P1 N1 T3	HH1 AR1 AR2	T2	B1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
KTBT-03 It is a policy of the Council to work with local agencies, in particular Udaras na Gaeltachta to encourage the development and growth of Béal an Mhuirthead as an employment centre for the wider rural area.	P1 DW1	HH1 AR2 WM1	W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T2, T3 WW1 DW2	AR1 N1 WM2 CF1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
KTBT-04 It is a policy of the Council to support the provision of a Sustainable Energy Park in Béal an Mhuirthead in accordance with the provisions of the Renewable Energy Strategy 2011-2022 for County Mayo.	AR1,AR2		T2, T3 WW1 CF1	P1 HH1 N1 WM1 WM2 DW1 DW2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	



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KTBT-05 It is an objective of the Council, in accordance with the policies and objectives contained in the Mayo County Development Plan, to work with existing service providers and relevant interests to promote Béal an Mhuirthead as one of the key tourist locations within County Mayo.		P1 HH1 W1 & W2 T2, T3 CF1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2		AR1,AR2,N1 AH1	A1 SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 CF2 T1 L1	
KTBT-06 It is the objective of the Council to encourage re-development of all derelict buildings in Béal an Mhuirthead registered on the Derelict Sites list.	SG1 SG2 SG3	P1 HH1 W1 & W2 T2, T3 CF1 WM1 WM2	AR1 AR2 N1	DW1 DW2	B1 CF2 T1 WW1 A1 AH1 L1	
KTBT-07 It is a policy of the Council to promote use of the Irish language in the public realm through signage and other measures throughout the Town Centre area.		P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 AR1 AR2 N1 CF1 CF2 T1 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2		B1 A1	AH1 L1	
KTBT-08 It is an objective of the Council to create a more pedestrian friendly environment in the town centre of Béal an Mhuirthead.	AR1,AR2,N1 T1 T3	P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T2 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2		A1 AH1	L1	
KTBT-09 It is an objective of the Council to support and secure a strategic	AR1,AR2,N1 T1	P1 HH1 T2 WM1 CF1			SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF2 A1 AH1 L1	



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footpath and cycle path network throughout the town and its environs generally in line with that indicated on Map BT2. B1	T3	WM2 DW1	WW1 DW2			
KTBT-10 It is an objective of the Council to support the provision of a swimming pool in Béal an Mhuirthead through public private partnership, assistance to a private promoter or any other means.		P1 T3 WM2	HH1 CF1 WM1	T2, WM1	AR1 AR2 N1 WW1 AH1	DW1 DW2 SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 L1
KTBT-11 It is an objective of the Council to protect and enhance all significant views of interest in Béal an Mhuirthead, including those identified on Map BT2. The Council will require a Visual Impact Assessment for development proposals that have the potential to have an adverse impact on important views or streetscapes.	L1	P1 SG2 CF2 WM1 WW1 DW2	HH1 & W2 CF1 T2, T3 WM2 DW1	SG1 W1 CF1 T2, T3 WM2 DW1	AR1,AR2,N1 T1 B1 AH1	A1
KTBT-12 It is an objective of the Council to prioritise the construction of a civic amenity site in Béal an Mhuirthead.	AR1,AR2,N1	WM1	P1 T3 DW1	HH1 CF1 WW1	T2, WW1	B1 WM2 DW2 SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1
KTBT-13 It is an objective of the Council to prioritise the provision of a new wastewater treatment plant and extended collection network for Béal an Mhuirthead, to allow for the sustainable expansion of the town and to enable it to develop to its full potential.	P1 WW1	HH1 W1 & W2 DW2	T2, CF1 DW1	T3 WM1 WM2	AR1 AR2 N1 B1	SG1 SG2 SG3 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1



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KTBT-14 It is an objective of the Council to investigate the possible provision of interim wastewater treatment infrastructure, in conjunction with the Private Sector, prior to the commissioning of the Waste Water Treatment Plant and extended Collection Network.	P1 HH1 W1 & W2 WW1	CF1 CF2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 DW1	AR1,AR2,N1	B1 DW2	SG1 SG2 SG3 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
KTBT-15 It is an objective of the Council to encourage the decommissioning of existing individual wastewater treatment systems within the Plan area, once the extended sewerage collection network and wastewater treatment plant are operational. The Council will investigate the introduction of an incentivized scheme in order to support the implementation of this objective.	P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 WW1	CF1 CF2 T1 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 DW1 A1 AH1	AR1 AR2 N1 L1	B1 DW2		
KTBT-16 It is an objective of the Council to protect and improve the town's potable drinking water supply, in line with the standards outlined within the EU Water Framework Directive and the Western River Basin District Project Management Plan <i>Water Matters 2009 - 2015</i>	W1 & W2 CF2 DW1 DW2 HH1	T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1	P1 AR1 AR2 N1 L1	B1	SG1 SG2 SG3 T1 A1 AH1	
KTBT-17 It is an objective of the Council to encourage the development of a new street linking Shore Road and Church Street as	T3	P1 HH1 T2 WM1 WM2 DW1 DW2		W1 & W2 AR1 AR2 AH1 WW1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 N1 CF2 T1 A1 L1	



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indicated on Map BT2 having regard to best practice principles in urban design.						
Development Plans and Area Plans - Claremorris						
KTCS-01 It is an objective of the Council to encourage development in the town of Claremorris in accordance with the Land Use Zoning Map CS1.	P1 HH1 AR1,AR2,N1	T2, T3		CF1 WM1 WM2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 WW1 DW1 DW2A1 AH1 L1	
KTCS-02 It is an objective of the Council to encourage development that gives effect to the Opportunities and Solutions outlined in Table 9 where it can be demonstrated that the development will have no adverse effects on the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.	P1 HH1 AR1 AR2 N1 T3	T2		B1 CF1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
KTCS-03 It is an objective of the Council to support and promote the development potential of Claremorris as a transportation hub given its trans-nodal infrastructural location.	P1	W1 & W2 T2, T3 WW1 DW1 DW2 HH1		WM1 WM2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 AR1,AR2,N1 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
KTCS-04 It is an objective of the Council to encourage and facilitate the development of the tourism potential of Claremorris in a manner that respects, builds on, protects and enhances the cultural, built and natural heritage and local amenities of the town.	T3 AH1	P1 HH1 T2 WM1 CF1 WM2 DW1 DW2	AR1 AR2 N1	WW1 A1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 L1	



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KTCS-05 It is an objective of the Council to support the role of the town centre as the dominant retailing and commercial area in Claremorris.		P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW2	AR1 AR2 N1	DW1 A1	T1 AH1 L1	
KTCS-06 It is an objective of the Council to develop an attractive, serviced industrial land bank to the north of the inner relief road, on lands zoned for industrial development (refer to Map CS1), suitable for a range of high class and environmentally acceptable business and technology / industrial park type developments.	AR1,AR2,N1	P1 HH1 T2, T3 CF1 WM1 WM2		AH1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 WW1 DW1 DW2 A1 L1	
KTCS-07 It is an objective of the Council to ensure that lands zoned Enterprise and Employment (refer to Map CS2) are developed in an orderly and in-depth manner.	AR1,AR2,N1	P1 HH1 T2, T3 CF1 WM1 WM2		AH1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 WW1 DW1 DW2 A1 L1	
KTCS-08 It is an objective of the Council to continue to facilitate the further development of the Mayfield Lough and McMahan Park as an amenity / recreation area in Claremorris.	CF1 AR1 AR2 N1 T2 T3 L1 HH1	P1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2		AH1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1	
KTCS-09 It is an objective of the Council to support the establishment of an	AR1,AR2,N1 T1 T3	P1 T2 WM1 CF1 WM2		DW2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 &	



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accessible walking / cycling network through out the plan area and surrounding area that provides safe and attractive circulation routes for pedestrians and cyclists for the enjoyment and recreational use of the entire community by linking residential areas, community facilities, amenities and the town centre.	HH1	WW1 DW1			W2 CF2 A1 AH1	
KTCS-10 It is an objective of the Council to provide a Civic Amenity Facility in Claremorris.	AR1,AR2,N1 WM1	P1 T2, T3 CF1 WW1 DW1		WM2 AH1 DW2 HH1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 L1	
KTCS-11 It is an objective of the Council to examine the feasibility of, with the aim of constructing, the following road projects within the plan area: (i) construction of an inner relief road from the N60 to the old N17 (ii) construction of a link road from the L-5572-0 (Cloonconner Rd.) to the old N17 Claremorris/Ballindine Road, with the intention of extinguishing the vehicular right of way on the Cloonconner Rd. to/from the N17 By-Pass The above road projects will be subject to the normal planning and environmental considerations, including in combination effects	AR1 T1	P1 HH1 T2, T3 CF1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1		B1 AR2 N1 CF2 AH1 DW2	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 A1 L1	



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under an assessment in accordance with Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive, as appropriate.						
KTCS-12 It is an objective of the Council to safeguard and protect the Claremorris By-Pass from development for non-infrastructure related purposes that would prejudice its future use as part of the Western Infrastructural Corridor.	T1	P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF1 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW2	AR1 AR2 N1	A1 AH1	B1 CF2 L1	
KTCS-13 It is an objective of the Council to support the reinstatement of the Western Rail Corridor, in particular to actively seek and promote the re-opening of the Claremorris-Galway rail link as well as a link to Sligo and to safeguard and protect these potential rail links from redevelopment for non transport related purposes in order not to preclude their future uses as an operational transportation network.	P1 AR1 AR2 T1	T2, T3 WM1 CF1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2 HH1		N1 AH1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 A1 L1	
KTCS-14 It is an objective of the Council to co-operate with relevant agencies to secure improvements to the public transport system serving Claremorris and to support initiatives designed to improve bus-rail interchange facilities.	AR1,AR2,N1	CF1 CF2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2 HH1	P1	A1 AH1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 T1 L1	
KTCS-15 It is an objective of the Council to support the development of Claremorris station for passenger and freight	P1 AR2	SG1 SG2 SG3 CF1 W1 & W2 T2, T3 WM1	AR1	B1 CF2	N1 T1 A1 AH1 L1	



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services and as a distribution depot.		WM2 DW1 HH1	WW1 DW2			
KTCS-16 It is an objective of the Council to facilitate, identify, support and secure a footpath and cycleway network throughout the plan area, as appropriate and as funding permits through the production and implementation of a smarter travel plan for the town.	AR1,AR2,N1 T3	T1	P1 HH1 CF1 T2 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1		SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 A1 AH1 L1 DW2	
KTCS-17 It is an objective of the Council, in conjunction with the relevant agencies to protect, maintain and enhance the conservation value of Mayfield and Clare Loughs, their associated wetland habitats and rich diversity of plant and animal species and the extent, quality and connectivity of surface waters and wetlands as well as to promote the educational role of the lakes.	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T2, T3 L1 HH1	T1	P1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	AR1,AR2,N1	A1 AH1	T1
KTCS-18 It is an objective of the Council to protect and enhance the conservation value of the disused railway lines in the town and their setting / margins as wildlife habitats and corridors notwithstanding that such disused railway lines may be developed at some future date as part of the County's infrastructure / greenway network in a	SG1 SG2 SG3 AR1 AR2 N1 L1 HH1		P1 T2, T3 WM1 CF1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2		B1 W1 & W2 CF2 AH1	T1 A1



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manner that has regard to their inherent conservation value.						
KTCS-19 It is an objective of the Council to comply with the requirements of objectives SS-01 and SS-02 in the Infrastructure Strategy of this Plan regarding Seveso II site 'Calor Gas Teo'.	AR1 HH1	T2, T3 WM1 WM2 DW2	P1 SG1 SG2 SG3 AR2 N1 CF2 T1	W1 & W2 WW1 CF1 A1 AH1	L1	
KTCS-20 It is the objective of the Council to encourage re-development of all derelict buildings in Claremorris registered on the Derelict Sites list.	SG1 SG2 SG3	P1 HH1 CF1 W1 & W2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2	AR1 AR2 N1	WW1 DW1 DW2	B1 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
KTCS-21 It is an objective of the Council to increase the capacity and upgrade the existing waste water treatment plant in Claremorris.	P1 B1 W1 & W2 WW1 HH1	CF1 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 DW1	AR1 AR2 N1	DW2	SG1 SG2 SG3 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
Development Plans and Area Plans - Charlestown						
KTCN-01 It is an objective of the Council to encourage development in the town of Charlestown in accordance with the Land Use Zoning Map CN1.	P1 AR1,AR2,N1	T2, T3 HH1		WM1 WM2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T1 WW1 DW1 DW2 A1 AH1 L1	
KTCN-02 It is an objective of the Council to encourage development that gives effect to the Opportunities and Strategic Goals outlined in Table 10 where is can be	P1 HH1 AR1 AR2 N1 T3	T2		B1 WM1 CF1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	



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demonstrated the development will have no adverse impacts effects on the environment or including the integrity of any Natura 2000 site.						
KTCN-03 It is an objective of the Council to enhance the range of existing functions in the town which include the residential centre; Market town and local service centre; Central Business District.		P1 HH1 W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1	AR1 AR2 N1	B1 DW1 DW2	SG1 SG2 SG3 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
KTCN-04 It is an objective of the Council to protect and enhance existing amenity facilities in Charlestown, particularly the fair green, bowling alley, football pitch and the river area.	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 L1 HH1	T3 CF1 WM1 WM2 WW1	AR1 AR2 N1	T2 A1 AH1 DW2	B1 CF2 T1	
KTCN-05 It is an objective of the Council to protect and enhance areas considered unique and important in the town such as the Church, the Library, Arts Centre, Town Hall, Railway line and Station, Westpoint Business Centre and the Health Centre.	SG1 SG2 SG3 AH1 L1	P1 HH1 CF1 W1 & W2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	AR1,AR2,N1	B1 CF2 A1	T1	
KTCN-06 It is an objective of the Council to develop the local economy by encouraging additional commercial businesses and industries and to promote the clustering of such industries on suitably zoned land.	P1 AR2 N1	CF1 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 HH1		DW1 DW2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 AR1 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	



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KTCN-07 It is an objective of the Council to ensure the provision of adequate waste water and water infrastructure to ensure that services are delivered in line with the further development and growth of Charlestown.	P1 HH1 W1 & W2 CF2 WW1 DW1 DW2	CF1 T2, T3 WM1 WM2	AR1 AR2 N1		SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
KTCN-08 It is an objective of the Council to actively seek and support the reinstatement of the Western Rail Corridor.	P1 AR2	CF1 HH1 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW2	AR1	N1 AH1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 L1	
KTCN-09 It is an objective of the Council to protect all structures included in the Record of protected Structures in line with the prevailing legislation.	A1 AH1 L1	P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 AR1 AR2 N1 CF1 CF2 T2 T3 WM1 WM2 DW1 DW2			T1	
KTCN-10 It is an objective of the Council to improve and enhance the river walk way within the town, and pedestrian linkages within the town.	AR1 AR2 N1 T3 L1	P1 HH1 WW1 DW1 DW2		T2 AH1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1	
KTCN-11 It is an objective of the Council to support local sports and community groups in delivering facilities, including the delivery of a new Town Park on a site identified adjacent to the Church.	HH1	P1 T2, T3 CF1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	AR1 AR2 N1		SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	



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KTCN-12 It is the objective of the Council to promote the appropriate re-use, re-development and re-generation of derelict sites and buildings in the town particularly derelict buildings along Church Street and Main Street.	SG1 SG2 SG3	P1 HH1 W1 & CF1 W2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2	AR1 AR2 N1	DW1 DW2	B1 CF2 T1 WW1 A1 AH1 L1	
KTCN-13 It is an objective of the Council to protect the Mullaghanoe River as a salmonid water course and all water courses and surface waters within the area, their water quality, ecology and function as ecological corridors and as potential influences on the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites within an appropriate radial buffer zone.	B1 W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 WW1 DW1 DW2 HH1	P1 SG1 SG2 SG3 T2 WM1 WM2	AR1 AR2 N1	A1 AH1	T1 T3 L1	
KTCN-14 It is an objective of the Council to protect and enhance all significant views of interest in Charlestown including those identified on Map CN1. The Council will require a Visual Impact Assessment for development proposals that have the potential to have an adverse impact on important views or streetscapes.	L1 HH1	P1 SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T2 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	AR1,AR2,N1 T1	B1 AH1	T3 A1	
KTCN-15 It is an objective of the Council to secure sites for Town Centre Parking.		P1 HH1 W1 & W2 CF1 T2, T3 WW1 DW1 DW2	AR1 AR2 N1 WM1 WM2		SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
KTCN-16 It is an objective of the Council to revitalise the town centre and		P1 HH1 CF1 T2, T3 WW1	AR1 AR2 N1 WM1 WM2	B1 DW1 DW2	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	



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encourage the redevelopment of the backland areas to the rear of Church Street and Main Street where it can be demonstrated the development will not have adverse effects on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site (cSAC River Moy cSAC Site Code 002298).						
KTCN-17 It is an objective of the Council to encourage the roll out of high quality communications network in Charlestown to meet the needs of the business sector.		P1 HH1 CF1 T2 T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	AR1 AR2	N1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
KTCN-18 It is an objective of the Council to promote and market Charlestown as an Enterprise Centre.		P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 CF1 W1 & W2 T2, T3 WW1 A1 AH1 DW2	AR1 AR2 N1	DW1	B1 CF2 T1 L1	
Development Plans and Area Plans – Killala						
KTKA-01 It is an objective of the Council to encourage development in the town of Killala in accordance with the Land Use Zoning Map KA1.	P1	AR1,AR2,N1	HH1		CF1 WM1 WM2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 L1
KTKA-02 It is an objective of the Council to encourage development that gives effect to the Opportunities and Solutions outlined in Table 11 where it can be demonstrated the development will not have	P1	AR1,AR2,N1	HH1		B1 CF1 WM1 WM2	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 L1



Table 8.1 Evaluation of draft Mayo County Development Plan Policies and objectives

Draft CDP policy / objective	Likely to Improve status of EPOs	No Likely interaction with status of EPOs	Neutral Interaction with status of EPOs	Uncertain interaction with status of EPOs	Potential Conflict with status of EPOs- likely to be mitigated by measures	Probable Conflict with status of EPOs- unlikely to be mitigated by measures
adverse effects on the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.						
KTKA-03 It is an objective of the Council, in accordance with the policies and objectives contained in this Plan, to work with existing service providers and relevant interests to promote Killala as one of the key tourist locations within County Mayo.	AR1,AR2,N1	P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 CF1 W1 & W2 WM1 WM2		A1	B1 CF2 T1 L1	
KTKA-04 It is an objective of the Council to protect and enhance the character of the pier area and to provide for the development of appropriate tourism and leisure uses and ancillary works such as car parking, navigation.	HH1	P1 CF1 WM1 WM2	AR1 AR2 N1		SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1A1 L1	
KTKA-05 It is an objective of the Council to promote greater public accessibility to existing tourist attractions in the town.	HH1	P1 WM1 WM2 CF1	AR1 AR2 N1	A1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 L1	
KTKA-06 It is an objective of the Council to support the implementation of the Killala Harbour & Recreation Park Plan.	AR1,AR2,N1 HH1	P1 WM1 WM2		CF1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 L1	
KTKA-07 It is an objective of the Council to support the linkage of the Western Way with various local walking/cycling trails in the area including the Great Western	AR1,AR2,N1 HH1	P1 CF1 WM1 WM2			SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 L1	



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Greenway.						
KTKA-08 It is an objective of the Council to support the provision of amenity walkways with dedicated pedestrian and cycle ways, planting and picnic areas in the town as depicted on Map KA2.	AR1,AR2,N1	HH1	P1 CF1 WM1 WM2		SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 L1	
KTKA-09 It is an objective of the Council to provide a pedestrian walkway between Steeple Lane and Market Street as outlined on Map KA2. B1	AR1 AR2 N1 T1		P1 HH1 CF1 W1 & W2 WM1 WM2	CF2	SG1 SG2 SG3 A1 L1	
KTKA-10 It is an objective of the Council to upgrade and further develop the inner relief road as shown indicatively on Map KA2 subject to no significant adverse effects on the environment including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.	AR1 AR2 N1 T1		P1 HH1 W1 & W2 WM1 WM2		SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 CF2 A1 L1	
KTKA-11 It is an objective of the Council to investigate the provision of a bypass around the town and to improve traffic management through the provision of the inner relief road and the development of a town centre car park, subject to no significant adverse effects on the environment including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.	P1 HH1 W1 & W2		WM1 WM2	AR1 AR2 N1	B1	SG1 SG2 SG3 CF2 T1 A1 L1



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KTKA-12 It is an objective of the Council to provide, or facilitate the provision of, a waste water treatment plant and associated works for the town.	P1 HH1	B1 W1 & W2 WM1 WM2	AR1 AR2 N1	CF2	T1 A1 L1 SG1 SG2 SG3	
KTKA-13 It is an objective of the Council to ensure that the historic architectural character of Killala is protected and enhanced.	A1 L1	P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 WM1 WM2	AR1,AR2,N1		T1	
KTKA- 14 It is an objective of the Council to designate within the lifetime of this plan an Architectural Conservation Area for Killala town centre including Market Street, Courthouse Street, Church Street, Church Lane, William Street, Georges Street, and Ballina Road (R314) and the coastline to the pier	B1 W1 & W2 CF2	P1 HH1 WM1 WM2 SG1 SG2 SG3	AR1,AR2,N1	A1	T1 L1	
KTKA- 15 It is an objective of the Council to protect the conservation sites Killala Bay/Moy Estuary Special Area of Conservation Area (Site Code 000458) and Special Protection Area (Site Code 004036). Development proposals will be required to demonstrate that the development will not have an adverse significant adverse effects on the integrity of the sites.	HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3	P1 W1 & W2 CF2 WM1 WM2	AR1 AR2 N1 T1	B1	A1 L1	
KTKA-16 It is an objective of the Council to ensure that development does not adversely interfere with views and prospects illustrated on Map KA2 and the settings and views to and	HH1	P1 WM1 WM2 SG1 SG2 SG3	AR1 AR2 L1	N1	B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1	



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from places of built heritage or natural beauty.						
KTKA-17 It is an objective of the Council to support appropriate enterprise/employment uses that would be sympathetic to and supportive of maintaining the architectural character and setting of Killala House (a Protected Structure) and adjacent lands (zoned Enterprise & Employment on Map KA2 and labeled KTKA-16 on Map KA2).	P1 HH1	WM1 WM2 SG1 SG2 SG3		AR1 AR2	B1 W1 & W2 N1 CF2 T1 A1 L1	
KTKA- 18 It is an objective of the Council to provide a public car park in the town centre as shown on Map KA2.		P1 HH1 WM1 WM2			T1 A1 L1 SG1 SG2 SG3	
KTKA-19 It is an objective of the Council to retain the tourist accommodation function of the holiday cottages at Steeple Hill.	A1 HH1	P1 WM1 WM2 SG1 SG2 SG3	L1	T1		
Development Plans and Area Plans - Kiltimagh						
KTKH-01 It is an objective of the Council to encourage development in the town of Kiltimagh in accordance with the Land Use Zoning Map KH1.	P1 HH1 N1 AR1 AR2	T2, T3		WM1 WM2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 WW1 DW1 DW2 A1 AH1 L1	
KTKH-02 It is an objective of the Council to encourage development that gives effect to the Opportunities and Strategic Goals outlined in Table 12 subject to no adverse effects on the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.	P1 HH1 N1 AR1 AR2 T3	T2		B1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	



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KTKH-03 It is an objective of the Council to protect and enhance existing amenity facilities in Kiltimagh, particularly the Pollagh River, the playground, GAA pitch, Wetland Park and Sculpture Trail.	T2, T3 L1 HH1	P1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	N1, AR1,AR2	CF1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1	
KTKH-04 It is an objective of the Council to provide and manage a high quality water supply network in accordance with National and EU Standards and Directives.	P1 W1 & W2 CF2 DW1 DW2 HH1	T3 CF1 WM1 WM2 WW1	N1, AR1,AR2		SG1 SG2 SG3 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
KTKH-05 It is an objective of the Council to support the work of IRD Kiltimagh Ltd in providing essential community services for the elderly and marginal groups of Kiltimagh.	P1 HH1	W1 & W2 CF1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	N1, AR1,AR2	T2, T3 A1 AH1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 CF2 T1 L1	
KTKH-06 It is an objective of the Council to provide a green link connecting the town centre and GAA Pitch. This route should be safe for pedestrians and cyclists.	N1, AR1,AR2 T3 HH1	P1 T2 CF1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2			SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
KTKH-07 It is an objective of the Council to ensure infill development respects the unique height-to-ratio building design in Kiltimagh town centre along Main Street, James Street and Thomas Street.		P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 DW1 DW2	N1, AR1,AR2 T1	B1 WW1 A1 L1 AH1		



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KTKH-08 It is the objective of the Council to encourage re-development of all derelict buildings in Kiltimagh, particularly the building on Thomas Street registered on the Derelict Sites list.	SG1 SG2 SG3	P1 HH1 W1 & W2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2	N1, AR1,AR2	WW1 DW1 DW2 CF1	B1 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
KTKH-09 It is an objective of the Council to Support the reopening of the railway line in Kiltimagh as part of the Western Rail Corridor restoration programme.	P1 AR1 AR2	T2, T3 CF1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2 HH1			SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 N1 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
KTKH-10 It is an objective of the Council to promote more frequent bus services to Castlebar allowing increased connectivity and accessibility for tourists and residents alike.	P1 N1 AR1 AR2 HH1	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2 A1 AH1	L1	B1	T1	
KTKH-11 It is an objective of the Council to promote art on Main Street, including the Heritage Sculpture walk conveying the history and future of Kiltimagh.		P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	N1, AR1,AR2 T1	A1	AH1 L1	
KTKH-12 It is an objective of the Council to protect existing public sculptures throughout the town and support the provision of additional sculptures at appropriate locations throughout the town.	HH1	P1 SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1	N1, AR1,AR2 T1	B1 A1 AH1	L1	



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		DW2				
KTKH-13 It is an objective of the Council to support the creation of an Art Residency programme with revolving art residency spaces.	HH1	P1 SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	N1 AR1 AR2	B1 A1 AH1	T1 L1	
KTKH-14 It is an objective of the Council to implement effective vehicular linkages within and around the town subject to further feasibility studies, detailed design and traffic impact assessment.	T1	T2, T3 CF1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2 HH1		W1 & W2 AR1 AR2	N1, SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 CF2 A1 AH1 L1	
Development Plans and Area Plans - Knock						
KTKK-01 It is an objective of the Council to encourage development in the town of Knock in accordance with the Land Use Zoning Map KK-1.	P1 HH1 AR2	N1, AR1 T2, T3		CF1 WM1 WM2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 WW1 DW1 DW2 A1 AH1 L1	
KTKK-02 It is an objective of the Council to encourage development that gives effect to the Opportunities and Solutions outlined in Table 13 where it can be demonstrated the development will have no adverse impacts effects on the environment or including the integrity of any Natura 2000 site.	P1 HH1 AR2 T3	N1 AR1 T2		B1 CF1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
KTKK-03 It is an objective of the Council to support and facilitate the development of Knock a world renowned		P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 CF1 W1 & W2 CF2	N1 AR1 AR2	WM1 WM2 DW1 DW2 AH1	B1 T1 A1 L1	



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religious tourist destination.		T2, T3 WW1				
KTKK-04 It is an objective of the Council to support and facilitate the development of the towns' religious tourism products to the highest international standards, in a manner that respects, builds on, protects and enhances the cultural, built and natural heritage and local amenities of the town.	HH1	P1 SG1 SG2 SG3 CF1 W1 & W2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	N1 AR1 AR2 AH1		B1 CF2 T1 A1 L1	
KTKK-05 It is an objective of the Council to ensure that all new development proposals make a positive contribution to the built and natural environment of the Plan area by ensuring that they are absorbed into the surrounding streetscape/landscape so that it does not impinge in any significant way on the character, integrity or uniformity of the town and do not undermine or interfere with the iconic status of the Knock Basilica.	L1 HH1	P1 SG1 SG2 SG3 T2, T3 CF1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	W1 & W2 N1 AR1 AR2 AH1		B1 CF2 T1 A1	
KTKK-06 It is an objective of the Council to support the role of the town centre as the dominant retailing and commercial area in Knock by encouraging an appropriate mix of uses, whilst safeguarding its supporting role as religious tourism destination.		P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 N1 AR1 AR2 CF1 CF2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2		B1 AH1	T1 A1 L1	
KTKK-07 It is an objective of the	N1 AR1 AR2 T3	P1 T2 CF1			SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 &	



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Council to support the establishment of an accessible walking / cycling network through out the Plan area and surrounding area that provides safe and attractive circulation routes for pedestrians and cyclists for the enjoyment and recreational use of the entire community by linking residential areas, community facilities, amenities and the town centre.	HH1	WM1 WW1 DW2	WM2 DW1		W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
KTKK-08 It is an objective of the Council to safeguard and protect the Knock By-Pass from development for non-infrastructure related purposes that would prejudice its future use as part of the Western Infrastructural Corridor.	T1	P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 T2 T3 CF1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2		N1 AR1 AR2 W1 & W2 A1 AH1	B1 CF2 L1	
KTKK-09 It is an objective of the Council to support and facilitate project that will improve access / linkages to and from the town as it grows in its role as an international religious tourism destination.	HH1	P1 T2 T3 CF1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2		N1 AR1 AR2 A1 AH1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 L1	
Development Plans and Area Plans – Louisburgh						
KTLB-01 It is an objective of the Council to encourage development in the town of Louisburgh in accordance with the Land Use Zoning Map LB1.	P1 HH1 N1 AR1 AR2	T2, T3		WM1 WM2 CF1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 WW1 DW1 DW2 A1 AH1 L1	
KTLB-02 Council to encourage development that gives	P1 HH1N1 AR1 AR2 T2, T3			B1 WM1 WM2 CF1 WW1 DW1	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	



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effect to the Opportunities and Solutions outlined in Table 14 where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse impacts effects on the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.				DW2		
KTLB-03 It is an objective of the Council, in accordance with the policies and objectives contained in this Plan, to work with existing service providers and relevant interests to promote Louisburgh as one of the key tourist locations within County Mayo.	T3	P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 CF1 W1 & W2 WW1 DW1 DW2	N1, AR1,AR2 L1	CF2 T2 WM1 WM2 A1 AH1	B1 T1	
KTLB-04 It is an objective of the Council to protect the water quality and riparian zone of the Bunowen River. Any proposed developments adjacent to or close to watercourses shall be carefully assessed to ensure that there is no adverse impact to the water course, its riparian zone or to any waterbody into which it flows, including Natura 2000 sites, wherever appropriate.	DW1 DW2 CF1 HH1	P1 SG1 SG2 SG3 T2, T3 WM1 WM2	N1, AR1 AR2	B1 WW1 AH1	W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 L1	
KTLB-05 It is an objective of the Council to encourage the development of a Bunowen River walkway and to safeguard the value of the river as an ecological “green corridor”. Riverside walkway provisions should	N1 AR1 AR2 CF1 T2, T3 HH1	P1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1		DW2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	



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be incorporated into development proposals bounding the river, where appropriate. All such proposals shall be carefully assessed to ensure that there is no significant detrimental impact on the watercourse, including its habitats and species, or any other water body into which it flows.						
KTLB-06 It is an objective of the Council to make Tree Preservation Orders for the tree groups identified in Map LB2.	B1 AR1 CF2 AH1 L1		P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 CF1 W1 & W2 N1 AR2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2A1	T1		
KTLB-07 It is an objective of the Council to support and secure a strategic footpath and cycle path network for the town and its environs generally in line with that indicated on Map LB2.	N1, AR1,AR2 T3		P1 HH1 T2 CF1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2		SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
KTLB-08 It is an objective of the Council to protect and enhance all significant views identified on map LB2. The Council will require a Visual Impact Assessment for development proposals that have the potential to have an adverse impact on important views or streetscapes.	L1 HH1		P1 SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	N1, AR1,AR2 T1	B1 A1 AH1	



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KTTLB-09 It is an objective of the Council to re-establish a village green on Church Street as indicated on Map LB2.	SG1 SG2 SG3 HH1	P1 W1 & W2 CF1 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	N1, AR1, AR2	AH1	B1 CF2 T1 A1 L1	
KTTLB-10 It is an objective of the Council to establish a pedestrian link between the town and Carrowmore Beach.	N1 AR1 AR2 T3	P1 T2 CF1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2		AH1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 L1	
Development Plans and Area Plans – Newport						
KTNT-01 It is an objective of the Council to encourage development in the town of Newport in accordance with the Land Use Zoning Map NT1.	P1 HH1 N1 AR1 AR2	T2, T3		WM1 WM2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T1 WW1 DW1 DW2 A1 AH1 L1	
KTNT-02 It is an objective of the Council to encourage development that gives effect to the Opportunities and Strategic Goals outlined in Table 15 where it can be demonstrated the development will have no adverse impacts effects on the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.	N1 AR1 AR2 T3 HH1	P1		B1 T2 WM1 CF1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
KTNT-03 It is an objective of the Council to promote Newport as a tourism destination with emphasis on cultural heritage, sailing, angling, fishing and walking/cycling.	T2, T3 HH1	P1 SG1 SG2 SG3 CF1 WW1 DW1 DW2	N1 AR1 AR2	WM1 WM2 A1 AH1	B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 L1	



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KTNT-04 It is an objective of the Council to protect and enhance existing amenity areas/facilities in Newport, particularly the river/estuary; the playground, the tennis courts; the sporting pitches; Grace Kelly Amenity Park; and the Great Western Greenway.	SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 N1 AR1 AR2 T2, T3 L1 DW2 HH1	P1 WM1 WM2 CF1 WW1 DW1		B1 CF2 A1	T1 AH1	
KTNT-05 It is an objective of the Council to make Tree Preservation Orders for individual and groups of trees in the town, particularly those located at Newport House, Grace Kelly Amenity Park and along the Newport River.	B1 AR1 CF2 AH1 L1	P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 CF1 W1 & W2 T1 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2A1	N1 AR2			
KTNT-06 It is an objective of the Council to ensure the provision of adequate waste water and water infrastructure to ensure that services are delivered in line with the further development and growth of Newport.	P1 W1 & W2 WW1 DW1 DW2 HH1	T2, T3 CF1 WM1 WM2	N1 AR1 AR2	B1	SG1 SG2 SG3 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
KTNT-07 It is an objective of the Council to maintain and further develop walking routes and linkages to the walking routes throughout the town.	N1 AR1 AR2 T3 HH1	P1 T2 WM1 WM2 CF1 WW1 DW1 DW2			SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
KTNT-08 It is an objective of the Council to facilitate pedestrian mobility and safety in the town by introducing traffic	N1 AR1 AR2 T1 T3	P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 CF1 W1 & W2 T2		B1 CF2 A1 AH1	L1	



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calming measure and pedestrian crossings.		WM1 WW1 DW2	WM2 DW1			
KTNT-09 It is an objective of the Council to identify an appropriate site within the town for the development of a new Community Hall.		P1 W2 CF1 WM2	HH1 W1 & T2, T3 WM1	N1 AR1 AR2	WW1 DW1 DW2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1
KTNT-10 It is an objective of the Council to protect the Newport River and all water courses and surface waters within the area; their water quality, ecology and function as ecological corridors; and in this regard development will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposed development will not have an significant adverse effects impact on the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites including the Clew Bay Complex (Site Code 001482) and Newport River (Site Code 002144) candidate Special Areas of Conservation.	B1 W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 DW1 DW2 HH1	P1 SG1 SG2 SG3 WM1 WM2	HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1	N1 AR1 AR2	WW1 A1 AH1	T1 T2 T3 L1
KTNT-11 It is an objective of the Council to protect restore the favourable conservation status of the Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) population located in Newport River in accordance with the programme of measures contained in the Newport Sub-basin Management Plan, and in this regard development will only be permitted	W1 & W2 CF2 DW2	P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1	HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1	N1 AR1 AR2	B1 AH1 CF1	T1 T2 T3 A1 L1



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where it can be demonstrated that the proposed development will not have an effect significant adverse effects on the Freshwater Pearl Mussel population or its habitat, by virtue of their conservation objectives.						
KTNT-12 It is an objective of the Council to protect and enhance all significant views of interest in Newport including those identified on Map NT2. The Council will require a Visual Impact Assessment for development proposals that have the potential to have an adverse impact on important views or streetscapes.	AH1 L1 HH1	P1 SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF1 T2 T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	N1 AR1 AR2	A1	B1 CF2 T1	
Development Plans and Area Plans - Swinford						
KTSD-01 It is an objective of the Council to encourage development in the town of Swinford in accordance with the Land Use Zoning Map SD1.	P1 HH1 N1 AR1 AR2	T2, T3		WM1 WM2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 WW1 DW1 DW2A1 AH1 L1	
KTSD-02 It is an objective of the Council to encourage development that gives effect to the Opportunities and Solutions outlined in Table 16 where it can be demonstrated that the development will have no adverse impacts effects on the environmental or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.	P1 HH1 N1 AR1 AR2	T2 T3		WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
KTSD-03 It is an objective of the Council to protect and enhance existing	SG1 SG2 SG3 L1 HH1	P1 W1 & W2 T2 T3 WM1	N1 AR1 AR2	B1 A1 AH1	CF2 T1	



Table 8.1 Evaluation of draft Mayo County Development Plan Policies and objectives

Draft CDP policy / objective	Likely to Improve status of EPOs	No Likely interaction with status of EPOs	Neutral Interaction with status of EPOs	Uncertain interaction with status of EPOs	Potential Conflict with status of EPOs- likely to be mitigated by measures	Probable Conflict with status of EPOs- unlikely to be mitigated by measures
amenity facilities in Swinford, particularly the golf course, tennis courts, Amenity Park and Brabazon Woods.		WM2 DW1	WW1 DW2			
KTSD-04 It is an objective of the Council to protect and enhance areas considered unique and important in the town such as the Courthouse, the Famine Graveyard, the Church, and the Railway Bridge.	SG1 SG2 SG3 L1 HH1	P1 W1 & W2 T2 T3 CF1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	N1 AR1 AR2	A1 AH1	B1 CF2 T1	
KTSD-05 It is an objective of the Council to develop the local economy by encouraging additional healthcare and pharmaceutical industries and to promote the clustering of such industries on suitably zoned land.	P1 HH1	T2, T3 CF1 WW1 DW2	WM1 WM2 DW1	N1 AR1 AR2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
KTSD-06 It is an objective of the Council to provide and manage a high quality water supply network in accordance with National and EU Standards and Directives.	W1 & W2 DW1 DW2	CF2 HH1	P1 T2, T3 CF1 WM1 WM2 WW1	N1 AR1 AR2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 A1 AH1 L1	
KTSD-07 It is an objective of the Council to develop and maintain walking routes throughout the town – particularly those linking key amenity areas, as identified on Map SD2 where it can be demonstrated the development will not have adverse impact on the environment, particularly water quality.	N1 AR1 AR2 HH1	T3	P1 T2 WM1 CF1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2		SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	



Table 8.1 Evaluation of draft Mayo County Development Plan Policies and objectives

Draft CDP policy / objective	Likely to Improve status of EPOs	No Likely interaction with status of EPOs	Neutral Interaction with status of EPOs	Uncertain interaction with status of EPOs	Potential Conflict with status of EPOs- likely to be mitigated by measures	Probable Conflict with status of EPOs- unlikely to be mitigated by measures
KTSD-08 It is an objective of the Council to protect all structures included in the Record of protected Structures in line with the prevailing legislation.	A1 AH1 L1	P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T2 T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	N1 AR1 AR2		T1	
KTSD-09 It is an objective of the Council to provide, or facilitate the provision of, a new Town Centre River Walkway identified on Map SD2. Any development proposals on lands adjacent to the walkway must provide links to the walkway. The walkway shall remain publicly accessible.	N1 AR1 AR2 T3 HH1	P1 T2 CF1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1		DW2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
KTSD-10 It is an objective of the Council to ensure infill development respects the unique height-to-ratio building design in Swinford town centre along Market Street and Main Street.		P1 HH1 SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T2, T3 WM1 WM2 DW1 DW2	N1 AR1 AR2 T1 WW1	A1 AH1	L1	
KTSD-11 It is the objective of the Council to encourage re-development of all derelict buildings in Swinford, particularly those registered on the Derelict Sites list.	SG1 SG2 SG3	P1 HH1 W1 & W2 CF1 T2, T3 WM1 WM2	N1 AR1 AR2	WW1 DW1 DW2 A1	B1 CF2 T1 AH1 L1	
KTSD-12 It is an objective of the Council to protect the Spaddagh and Derryonan Rivers and all water courses and surface waters within the area, their water quality, ecology and function as ecological	B1 W1 & W2 CF2 DW1 DW2 HH1	P1 SG1 SG2 SG3 T2, T3 WM1 WM2	N1 AR1 AR2 T1	WW1 A1 CF1 AH1	L1	



Table 8.1 Evaluation of draft Mayo County Development Plan Policies and objectives

Draft CDP policy / objective	Likely to Improve status of EPOs	No Likely interaction with status of EPOs	Neutral Interaction with status of EPOs	Uncertain interaction with status of EPOs	Potential Conflict with status of EPOs- likely to be mitigated by measures	Probable Conflict with status of EPOs- unlikely to be mitigated by measures
<p>corridors, in this regard developers are required to show that any proposed development in the town will not adversely impact on affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 site 002298 (River Moy): River Moy candidate Special Area of Conservation.</p>						
KTSD-13 It is an objective of the Council to protect and enhance all significant views of interest in Swinford including those identified on Map SD2. The Council will require a Visual Impact Assessment for development proposals that have the potential to have an adverse impact on important views or streetscapes.	L1 HH1	P1 SG1 SG2 SG3 W1 & W2 CF1 CF2 T2 T3 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	N1 AR1 AR2 T1	B1 A1 AH1		
KTSD-14 It is an objective of the Council to secure sites for Town Centre Parking.		P1 HH1 T2 T3 CF1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2	AR1 AR2	N1	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 T1 A1 AH1 L1	
KTSD-15 It is an objective of the Council to support and promote the reinstatement of the Western Rail Corridor.	P1 AR1 T1	T2 T3 HH1 CF1 WM1 WM2 WW1 DW1 DW2		N1 AR2	SG1 SG2 SG3 B1 W1 & W2 CF2 A1 AH1 L1	



8.2 Significance of effects

A number of draft Plan policies / objectives which were deemed as having an ‘uncertain interaction with the status of the EPOs’ were placed in this category merely because some policies / objectives are strategic in nature and their effects on certain environmental elements were difficult to predict accurately. Where this was the case, the ‘uncertain’ effects were treated similar to those with ‘potential conflict – likely to be mitigated by measures’, using a precautionary approach. As such, significant adverse effects, if any, as a consequence of the implementation of these draft Plan policies / objectives would be determined by the nature and extent of development arising from these measures, and site specific environmental factors. The uncertainties will be avoided by the development management process and the granting of planning permission when conflict with EPOs is not predicted (or when potential conflict can be mitigated by appropriate measures). Details of mitigation measures are dealt with in Section 9 of this document.

In accordance with Article 5 and Annex I (f) of the SEA Directive the likely significant effects on the environment should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short-, medium- and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects. The preceding matrix (Table 8.1) illustrated positive and negative effects; ‘likely to improve status of EPOs’ (positive) and ‘potential conflict with status of EPOs likely to be mitigated by measures’ (negative) and ‘probable conflict with status of EPOs unlikely to be mitigated by measures’ (negative) respectively. Should any draft Plan policy / objective have been placed in the latter category the indication would be that the draft Plan is not ‘environmentally sound’ in its entirety and consequently significant adverse effects on the environment would result by the implementation of the draft Plan. However, no policies / objectives of the draft Plan were described as unlikely to be mitigated by measures to ensure no significant effects.

With reference to the description of effects, the large number of varying policies and objectives evaluated against a number of specific environmental elements gave rise to longterm, medium term, permanent, temporary, cumulative and synergistic effects. Due to the large number of combinations, only a sample of the description of effects is described within this report.

In the case of *Population*, a number of policies / objectives were predicted to result in longterm effects, while others were described as having potential short to medium term effects. Cumulative effects were also predicted. A number of such policies / objectives are shown in Table 8.2.

Table 8.2 Description of effects on *Population* of some draft Plan policies / objectives

Long-term	Medium to Long-term	Cumulative effects
E-01; E-03; PY-02; LS-01; RL-01	P-05; RH-01; SA-01; TV-01; AG-01; CP-01	HG-02; WQ-02



With reference to *Material Assets* and in particular wastewater treatment, the description of some effects is illustrated in Table 8.3.

Table 8.3 Description of effects on *Material Assets* of some draft Plan policies / objectives

Long-term	Medium to Long-term
P-01; P-04; UH-01; P-02	P-05; P-06

Water as an environmental element is both a receptor and pathway of environmental pollutants and the effects thereon as a consequence of some of the draft Plan policies / objectives are shown in Table 8.4.

Table 8.4 Description of effects on *Water* of some draft Plan policies / objectives

Long term	Medium term	Short term	Temporary	Synergistic	Cumulative
P-06; FY-01; RE-01	E-01	PH-01; CZ- 03	TM-03; NH-08	SC-01; SOS-01	AG-01; CP-01



9 Mitigation Measures

9.1 Incorporation of mitigation into the draft Mayo County Development Plan 2014-2020

In accordance with Article 5 and Annex I (g) the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme must be described fully and form an integral part of the SEA process.

In many instances, mitigation measures have been integrated into the draft Plan by the use of robust policies and objectives which encompass sustainable development with regard to best environment practise. In all cases, infrastructural development will be undertaken only when it can be shown that no significant effects on the environment (including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network) are predicted.

The inclusion of a number of specific policies and objectives for the protection, conservation and, in some cases, restoration of environmental elements are, in themselves, mitigation measures of sorts.

During the SEA process, a number of draft Plan policies and objectives were altered to further strengthen the commitment to environmental protection; these have been shown in Table 8.1 where changes and policy / objective inclusions are highlighted in green font with deleted portions of policies and objectives shown using a ~~strike through~~.

Finally, Volume 2 of the draft Mayo County Development Plan 2014 – 2020 or the *Planning Guidance and Standards for Development in Co. Mayo* specifically addresses the assessments which may be undertaken prior to a development proposal being granted permission. These include Habitats Directive Assessments, Flood Risk Assessments, Ecological Assessments, Landslide Risk Assessment.

The following table highlights the changes / inclusions made to the draft Plan policies and objectives during the SEA process.



Table 9.1 Record of alterations to / inclusions of policies and objectives of the draft Mayo County Development Plan 2014 - 2020

Policy / objective	Alteration	Comment	Environmental element
P-02	It is the policy of the Council to support the sustainable development of the Linked Hub of Castlebar-Ballina to facilitate a minimum population target of 28,700 persons by 2022 and to ensure that the towns are centres of economic growth to attract and support a wide range of services and amenities and deliver a high quality of life, thereby making the areas attractive as places to work, live, visit and invest in, while ensuring no significant adverse impact effects on the environment or including the Natura 2000 network.	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment, in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water
E-03	It is an objective of the Council to facilitate agri-industry and other rural enterprise activities that are dependent on their locality in rural locations, where it can be demonstrated that the development will not adversely impact have significant adverse effects on the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network, residential or visual amenity. Preference will be given to occupying vacant structures which the planning authority consider appropriate for the use proposed.	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment, in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water
E-04	It is an objective of the Council to encourage and facilitate home-based employment of appropriate type, size and scale, where it can be demonstrated that the development will not adversely affect have significant adverse effects on the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network, residential or visual amenity.	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment, in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water
AG-01	It is an objective of the Council to support the sustainable development of agriculture, with emphasis on local food supply and agriculture diversification (e.g. agri-business and tourism enterprises) where it can be demonstrated that the development will not adversely affect have significant adverse effects on the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network, residential or visual amenity.	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment, in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water
FY-01	It is an objective of the Council to promote sustainable forestry development of appropriate scale in accordance with the	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment, in	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water

**Environmental Report of Strategic Environmental Assessment of
Draft Mayo County Development Plan 2014 – 2020**



	Indicative Forest Strategy for Mayo or any amendment to it where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on adversely affect the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network or visual amenity.	addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	
MF-01	It is an objective of the Council to support the sustainable development of marine aquaculture and fishing industries having regard to best environmental practices so as to maximize their contribution to jobs and growth in coastal communities where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on adversely impact the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network, residential or visual amenity.	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment, in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water
MF-02	It is an objective of the Council to protect the County's valuable inland fishery resource and support its sustainable development through the protection of water and habitat quality and facilitation of ancillary infrastructure at appropriate locations.	Strengthening of policy to include the substrate and morphological considerations of the aquatic environment	Water
TM-01	It is an objective of the Council to support and promote sustainable tourism development throughout the County and to work in partnership with tourism organisations in securing the development of tourism enterprises and infrastructure in suitable locations where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on adversely impact the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network, residential or visual amenity.	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment, in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water
TM-02	It is an objective of the Council to ensure that tourism related accommodation such as holiday homes, hotels, caravan/camping parks etc., are located within existing settlements where there is existing infrastructure provision to service the development and where they can contribute to maintenance of essential rural services, unless it is proposed to reuse an existing structure outside a settlement and in such cases where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on adversely impact the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network, residential or visual amenity.	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment, in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water
TM-03	It is an objective of the Council to continue to provide where possible, or encourage the	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water

**Environmental Report of Strategic Environmental Assessment of
Draft Mayo County Development Plan 2014 – 2020**



	provision of, walkways and cycleways throughout the county where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on adversely impact the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network or visual amenity, and to promote the County as a premier walking/cycling destination in the Country	Appropriate Assessment, in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	
EI-01	It is an objective of the Council to ensure that the development of aggregate resources (stone and sand/gravel deposits) is carried out in a manner, which minimizes impacts significant adverse effects on the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network, amenities, infrastructure and the community, and has full regard to the principles of sustainability.	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water
I-01	It is an objective of the Council to provide, or facilitate the provision of, all infrastructure projects set out in Table 3, with priority given to infrastructure serving the Linked-Hub and Key Towns or areas where significant environmental issues are evident and require the particular infrastructure to solve the issues and where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network or visual amenity	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water
RD-02	It is an objective of the Council to support improvements to the existing National Road and Regional Road network including road schemes and by-passes outlined in Table 3 where it can be demonstrated that the development will not will not have significant adverse effects on the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network or visual amenity	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water
RD-03	It is an objective of the Council, in co-operation with the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, to continue with the strengthening and improvement of the local road network including links, by-passes and relief roads, with priority given to those serving the Linked-Hub and Key Towns and interconnection between such settlements, where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water
PP-01	It is an objective of the Council to support	Strengthening of policy to	Biodiversity, flora



	and facilitate the provision of public parking facilities at appropriate locations, including the provision of bus parking facilities within and on the edge of towns and villages, and at appropriate scenic viewing points and scenic routes where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network, residential or visual amenity	clarify the goal of ad fauna, Water Appropriate Assessment in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment
PC-01	It is an objective of the Council to encourage and facilitate the maintenance and further development of the public footpath network, public rights of way, walking and cycling routes and associated infrastructure in the County, including where possible the retrofitting of cycle and pedestrian routes into the existing urban road network, and to support the establishment of a network of interlinked cycle ways and walk ways in the County and the adjoining Counties, having regard to best practice standards and where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Biodiversity, flora Appropriate Assessment in and fauna, Water addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment
RL-01	It is an objective of the Council to support and encourage the provision of a high-quality rail network and service (including commuter services) and ancillary works for passenger and freight carriage to, from and within the County, including the re-opening of the Western Rail Corridor where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Biodiversity, flora Appropriate Assessment in and fauna, Water addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment
BS-01	It is an objective of the Council to support the provision of public and private bus services, including the Rural Transport Programme, in the County by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Encouraging appropriate and sustainable development patterns that will support the provision of services; and d. Supporting the provision of bus shelters and park & ride facilities at appropriate locations in the County where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse affects on the 	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Biodiversity, flora Appropriate Assessment in and fauna, Water addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment

**Environmental Report of Strategic Environmental Assessment of
Draft Mayo County Development Plan 2014 – 2020**



environment ~~or~~ including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.

AT-04	It is an objective of the Council to ensure any development associated with light aircraft/helicopter activity is located in areas that avoid significant adverse affects on the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network and residential amenity.	Strengthening of objective to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment in addition to the integration of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water
PH-01	It is an objective of the Council to develop and improve ports, harbours, piers, slipways and associated shore facilities and access, including those that can be shared by leisure, tourism, fishing, renewable energy and aquaculture, where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse affects on the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water
PH-02	It is an objective of the Council to investigate the potential for developing Ballina, Westport and Ballyglass/Blacksod harbours for increased usage and greater economic benefit where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse affects on the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water
WS-01	It is an objective of the Council to ensure the provision of an adequate level of water services infrastructure throughout the County to meet domestic, commercial, industrial and other needs, having regard to the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy of this Plan, the Water Services Investment Programme, the Rural Water Programme and Table 3 above and where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse affects on the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	Biodiversity, flora and funas, Water
WL-01	It is an objective of the Council to implement the Regional Waste Management Plan for the Connaught Region (as amended) with particular emphasis on reuse, recycling and disposal of residual waste in the most appropriate matter where it can be demonstrated that the development will not will not have significant adverse affects on the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network, residential or visual amenity.	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	Biodiversity, flora and funa, Water



TC-01	It is an objective of the Council to support and facilitate the delivery of high capacity ICT infrastructure, broadband networks and digital broadcasting in the County having regard to the Government Guidelines <i>Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures-Guidelines for Planning Authorities 1996</i> (DoEHLG) and Circular Letter PL 07/12 and where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse affects on the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network or visual amenity.	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water
CC-01	It is an objective of the Council to support the <i>National Climate Change Strategy</i> on an ongoing basis through implementation of supporting objectives in this Plan, particularly those supporting use of alternative and renewable energy sources, sustainable transport, air quality, coastal zone management, flooding and soil erosion and promotion of the retention of, and planting of trees, hedgerows and afforestation subject to no significant adverse effects on the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water
CZ-01	It is an objective of the Council to facilitate an Integrated Coastal Zone Management approach to the coastal zone areas of the County to ensure sustainable development and the protection and enhancement of the man-made and natural resources of these areas where it can be demonstrated that the development will not adversely impact have significant adverse effects on the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water
CZ-03	It is an objective of the Council to undertake, or facilitate the provision of, environmentally-sensitive coastal protection works where appropriate where it can be demonstrated that the development will not adversely impact have significant adverse effects on the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water
CZ-05	It is an objective of the Council to protect, enhance and conserve all beaches in the County and to retain Blue Flag status on beaches currently awarded this status whilst seeking to increase the present number of Blue Flag beaches where it can be demonstrated that the development will not adversely impact have significant adverse	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water



effects on the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.

WQ-01	It is an objective of the Council to implement the Western River Basin District Management Plan “ <i>Water Matters</i> ” 2009-2015 to ensure the protection, improvement restoration and sustainable use of all waters in the County, including rivers, lakes, ground water, coastal and estuarine transitional waters, and to restrict development likely to lead to deterioration in water quality and quantity .	Amendment of objective to follow more strictly the primary goal of the Water Framework directive and by extension, that of the WRBD	Water
NH-01	<p>NH 1 It is an objective of the Council to protect, enhance and conserve:</p> <p>j) Candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural Heritage Areas and proposed National Heritage Areas, Statutory Nature Reserves, Ramsar Sites and Biogenetic Reserves, including those listed in the Environmental Report documenting the Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report of this plan and any modifications or additional areas that may be so designated during the lifetime of the plan.</p> <p>k) Natural habitats and plant and animal species identified under the Habitats Directive, Birds Directive, Wildlife Act and the Flora Protection Order, or any other relevant legislation that may be implemented during the lifetime of the plan.</p> <p>l) Features of natural interest and amenity, which provide a unique habitat for wildlife including ecological networks (including ecological corridors and stepping stones), riparian zones, hedgerows, stone walls and shelterbelts.</p> <p>m) Bogs, fens and turloughs listed in the Environmental Report documenting the Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report of this</p>	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment in addition to the integration of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water



plan.

- n) Features of geological interest as listed in the Audit of County Geological Sites (Mayo County Council).
- o) The conservation value of disused railway lines, waterways, walkways *etc.* notwithstanding that some of these items (e.g. disused rail lines) may be developed at some future date as part of the County's infrastructure where it can be demonstrated that the development will not adversely ~~impact~~ **affect** the environment ~~or~~ **including the integrity of the** Natura 2000 network.
- p) Surface waters, aquatic and wetland habitats and freshwater **and water-dependant** species through the implementation of the *EU Water Framework Directive*.
- q) Trees or groups of trees protected under Tree Preservation Orders listed in the **Environmental Report documenting the Strategic Environmental Assessment** ~~Environmental Report~~ of this plan, as well as trees and woodlands of particular amenity and nature conservation value, or which make a valuable contribution to the character of the landscape, a settlement or its setting.
- r) Sites of local conservation importance including those identified in the *Local Biodiversity Action Plan*.

NH-03	<p>It is an objective of the Council to implement Article 6 of the <i>EU Habitats Directive</i>, by subjecting any plan or project likely to have significant adverse effects on impact Natura 2000 or European Sites (SACs, SPAs), whether directly (in situ), indirectly (ex-situ) or in combination with other plans or projects, to an appropriate assessment in order to inform decision making.</p>	<p>Strengthening of objective to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment</p> <p>Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water</p>
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AH-01	<p>It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> k) Protect the archaeological heritage and especially sites identified in the <i>Record of Monuments and Places</i>, National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the State, and National Monuments that are the subject of Preservation Orders, and to safeguard the integrity of the archaeological sites in their setting. Proposals within or adjacent to a buffer zone of 30m from a Site on the <i>Record of Monuments and Places</i> shall be assessed having regard to the requirements as set out in the relevant Development Guidance document of this plan. l) Require that planning applications within the zones of archaeological potential as outlines in the <i>Record of Monuments and Places</i> include an archaeological assessment as set out in the relevant Development Guidance document of this plan. m) Require that all large scale planning applications (i.e. development of lands on 0.5 ha or more in area or 1 km or more in length) include an archaeological assessment as set out in the relevant Development Guidance document of this plan. n) Facilitate appropriate guidance in relation to the protection of the archaeological heritage in the County. o) Promote public awareness and appreciation of the archaeological heritage of the County. p) Protect the tentative World Heritage Site in Mayo on the UNESCO Tentative List – Ireland 2010, The Céide Fields and North West Mayo Boglands, from inappropriate development and support its nomination to World Heritage Status. q) Facilitate public access to National 	<p>Clarifying the objective with respect to archaeological heritage and assessments thereof.</p> <p>Strengthening of objective to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment</p>	<p>Cultural heritage: archaeology, Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water</p>
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Monuments in State care or in the ownership of the State where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on ~~adversely impact~~ the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network, residential or visual amenity.

- r) Ensure the preservation of National Monuments that are the subject of Preservation Orders and features of archaeological interest in areas that are identified as Zones of Archaeological Potential in the *Record of Monuments and Places*.
- s) Protect, enhance and promote awareness of the industrial heritage of the County.

Protect historic burial grounds within the County and encourage their maintenance in accordance with best conservation principles

NR-01

It is an objective of the Council, where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on ~~adversely impact~~ the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network, to:

Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment

Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water

- f. Strictly control development that would materially interfere with existing and potential Blue Flag Beaches meeting the qualifying criteria for Blue Flag designation or the recreational use of those beach areas.
- g. Co-operate with Coillte and the Forest Service in the protection of existing and development of additional forest amenity sites.
- h. Manage to the highest standard all public parks, open spaces and amenities under the control of the Council and to avoid loss of any open space in the County unless an alternative superior open space can be provided.



- i. Support the provision of adequate and accessible open space at a convenient distance from homes and places of work.
- j. Preserve the major natural amenities of the County and provide sustainable ancillary facilities to enhance their recreational, amenity and conservation value and to control inappropriate and non-compatible uses.

KTBE-02	It is an objective of the Council to encourage development that gives effect to the Opportunities and Solutions outlined in Table 6 where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have no significant adverse impacts effects on the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water
KTBE-14	It is an objective of the Council to protect the water quality and riparian zone of the rivers Robe and Bulkan. Any proposed developments adjacent to or close to watercourses shall be carefully assessed to ensure that there is no adverse impact to the water course, its riparian zone or to any waterbody into which it flows including significant adverse effects on , inter alia, the Lough Corrib, Moorehall (Lough Carra), Lough Carra/Mask Complex candidate Special Areas of Conservation and Lough Mask, Lough Carra and Lough Corrib Special Protection Areas.		Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water
KTBE-17	It is an objective of the Council to support and promote one the Region's iconic attractions horse racing in Ballinrobe- along with angling and other tourism/recreational activities in the town, where it can be demonstrated the development will not have significant adverse effects on the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water
KTBY-02	It is an objective of the Council to encourage development that gives effect to the Opportunities and Solutions outlined in Table 7 where it can be demonstrated that the development will have no significant adverse effects on the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water
KTBY-07	It is an objective of the Council to facilitate the construction of the town's outer by pass where it can be demonstrated that the	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment in	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water



	development will have no adverse impacts on the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 site and to safeguard the line of the proposed route of the road from any development that could prejudice the construction and safe operation of the road.	addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	
KTBY-14	It is an objective of the Council to protect the water quality and riparian zone of the river Dalgan and to encourage appropriate developments that enhance their landscape setting and public benefit. Any proposed developments adjacent to or close to watercourses shall be carefully assessed to ensure that there is no adverse impact effect to the water course, its riparian zone or to any waterbody into which it flows, in addition to the integrity of Natura 2000 sites within an appropriate radial buffer zone	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water
KTBY-15	It is an objective of the Council to encourage the enhancement and extension of the Dalgan River walkway and to safeguard the value of the river as an ecological "green corridor". Riverside walkway provisions should be incorporated, where appropriate, into development proposals bounding the river. All such proposals shall be carefully assessed to ensure that there is no significant detrimental impact on the watercourse or any other water body into which it flows, in addition to the integrity of Natura 2000 sites within an appropriate radial buffer zone.	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water
KTBT-02	It is an objective of the Council to encourage development that gives effect to the Opportunities and Solutions outlined in Table 8 where it can be demonstrated that the development will have no adverse impacts effects on the environment and including the integrity of the the Natura 2000 network.	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water
KYBT-16	It is an objective of the Council to protect and improve the town's potable drinking water supply, in line with the standards outlined within the EU Water Framework Directive and the Western River Basin District Project Management Plan Water Matters 2009 - 2015	Amending of objective to give clearer reference to the Western RBD document	Water
KTCS-02	It is an objective of the Council to encourage development that gives effect to the Opportunities and Solutions outlined in Table 9 where it can be demonstrated that the development will have no adverse effects on the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment in addition to the integration of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water

**Environmental Report of Strategic Environmental Assessment of
Draft Mayo County Development Plan 2014 – 2020**



KTCS-11	<p>It is an objective of the Council to examine the feasibility of, with the aim of constructing, the following road projects within the plan area:</p> <p>(iii) construction of an inner relief road from the N60 to the old N17</p> <p>(iv) construction of a link road from the L-5572-0 (Cloonconner Rd.) to the old N17 Claremorris/Ballindine Road, with the intention of extinguishing the vehicular right of way on the Cloonconner Rd. to/from the N17 By-Pass</p> <p>The above road projects will be subject to the normal planning and environmental considerations, including in combination effects under an assessment in accordance with Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive, as appropriate.</p>	<p>Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment</p>	<p>Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water</p>
KTCN-02	<p>It is an objective of the Council to encourage development that gives effect to the Opportunities and Strategic Goals outlined in Table 10 where it can be demonstrated the development will have no adverse impacts effects on the environment or including the integrity of any Natura 2000 site.</p>	<p>Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment</p>	<p>Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water</p>
KTCN-13	<p>It is an objective of the Council to protect the Mullaghanoe River as a salmonid water course and all water courses and surface waters within the area, their water quality, ecology and function as ecological corridors and as potential influences on the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites within an appropriate radial buffer zone.</p>	<p>Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment</p>	<p>Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water</p>
KTCN-16	<p>It is an objective of the Council to revitalise the town centre and encourage the redevelopment of the backland areas to the rear of Church Street and Main Street where it can be demonstrated the development will not have adverse effects on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site (cSAC River Moy cSAC Site Code 002298).</p>	<p>Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment</p>	<p>Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water</p>
KYKA-02	<p>It is an objective of the Council to encourage development that gives effect to the Opportunities and Solutions outlined in Table 11 where it can be demonstrated the development will not have adverse effects on the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.</p>	<p>Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment</p>	<p>Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water</p>
KYKA-15	<p>It is an objective of the Council to protect the conservation sites Killala Bay/Moy</p>	<p>Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of</p>	<p>Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water</p>

**Environmental Report of Strategic Environmental Assessment of
Draft Mayo County Development Plan 2014 – 2020**



	Estuary Special Area of Conservation Area (Site Code 000458) and Special Protection Area (Site Code 004036). Development proposals will be required to demonstrate that the development will not have an adverse significant adverse effects on the integrity of the sites.	Appropriate Assessment in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	
KTKH-02	It is an objective of the Council to encourage development that gives effect to the Opportunities and Strategic Goals outlined in Table 12 subject to no adverse effects on the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water
KTKK-02	It is an objective of the Council to encourage development that gives effect to the Opportunities and Solutions outlined in Table 13 where it can be demonstrated the development will have no adverse impacts effects on the environment or including the integrity of any Natura 2000 site.	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water
KTLB-02	It is an objective of the Council to encourage development that gives effect to the Opportunities and Solutions outlined in Table 14 where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse impacts effects on the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water
KTLB-04	It is an objective of the Council to protect the water quality and riparian zone of the Bunowen River. Any proposed developments adjacent to or close to watercourses shall be carefully assessed to ensure that there is no adverse impact to the water course, its riparian zone or to any waterbody into which it flows, including Natura 2000 sites, wherever appropriate.	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water
KYNT-02	It is an objective of the Council to encourage development that gives effect to the Opportunities and Strategic Goals outlined in Table 15 where it can be demonstrated the development will have no adverse impacts effects on the environment or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water
KYNT-10	It is an objective of the Council to protect the Newport River and all water courses and surface waters within the area; their water quality, ecology and function as ecological corridors; and in this regard development will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposed development will not have an significant adverse effects impact on the integrity of	Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment	Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water



KYNT-11	<p>the Natura 2000 sites including the Clew Bay Complex (Site Code 001482) and Newport River (Site Code 002144) candidate Special Areas of Conservation.</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to protect restore the favourable conservation status of the Freshwater Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) population located in Newport River in accordance with the programme of measures contained in the Newport Sub-basin Management Plan, and in this regard development will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposed development will not have an effect significant adverse effects on the Freshwater Pearl Mussel population or its habitat, by virtue of their conservation objectives.</p>	<p>Amending of objective to provide an accurate status of <i>M. margaritifera</i> and the measures to restore its favourable conservation status</p>	<p>Biodiversity, flora and fauna</p>
KTSD-02	<p>It is an objective of the Council to encourage development that gives effect to the Opportunities and Solutions outlined in Table 16 where it can be demonstrated that the development will have no adverse impacts effects on the environmental or including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.</p>	<p>Strengthening of policy to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment in addition to the inclusion of the Natura 2000 network as an integral part of the environment</p>	<p>Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water</p>
KTSD-12	<p>It is an objective of the Council to protect the Spaddagh and Derryronan Rivers and all water courses and surface waters within the area, their water quality, ecology and function as ecological corridors, in this regard developers are required to show that any proposed development in the town will not adversely impact on affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 site 002298 (River Moy)- River Moy candidate Special Area of Conservation.</p>	<p>Strengthening of objective to clarify the goal of Appropriate Assessment with clear details of the Natura 2000 site influenced by the draft Swinford Area Plan</p>	<p>Biodiversity, flora and fauna, Water</p>

9.2 Additional mitigation measures

In addition to Table 9.1, the following provides for additional mitigation which were proposed during the Strategic Environmental Assessment and when in place, are predicted to offset or negate significant adverse effects on the Natura 2000 Network, in view of their conservation objectives.

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

In addition to the amendments to some policies and objective during the SEA, a number of additional policies and objectives proposed in the Environment, Heritage and Amenities Strategy are, in themselves, mitigation measures. These include;



Table 9.2 Policies and objectives of the draft Plan which will mitigate against significant adverse effects on Biodiversity, flora and fauna

Policy / objective reference	Policy / objective
NH-03	It is an objective of the Council to implement Article 6 of the <i>EU Habitats Directive</i> , by subjecting any plan or project likely to have significant adverse effects on impact Natura 2000 or European Sites (SACs, SPAs), whether directly (in situ), indirectly (ex-situ) or in combination with other plans or projects, to an appropriate assessment in order to inform decision making.
NH-04	It is an objective of the Council to fully integrate wildlife and biodiversity considerations into all areas of the Council's roles and responsibilities and into all its works and operations.

Water

Similarly, the main mitigation measure to negate significant adverse effects on water quality and quantity are contained in the draft Plan objectives and policies:

Table 9.3 Policies and objectives of the draft Plan which will mitigate against significant adverse effects on Water

Policy / objective reference	Policy / objective
WQ-01	It is an objective of the Council to implement the Western River Basin District Management Plan " <i>Water Matters</i> " 2009-2015 to ensure the protection, improvement restoration and sustainable use of all waters in the County, including rivers, lakes, ground water, coastal and estuarine transitional waters, and to restrict development likely to lead to deterioration in water quality and quantity .

Noise

Environmental noise can be generated during construction and operational phases but principles of good urban design and attention to sensitive receptors should mitigate any negative effects of noise generated from car parks.

Material Assets (Drinking Water and Wastewater)

For developments that would impact on drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, there would be concerns with demands/loading that would put the system over the design capacity, in which case, mitigation measures would involve upgrading works to the distribution/collection system or to the treatment works.



Cultural Heritage (Archaeology)

Potential conflict with the status of the Archaeological Environmental Protection Objective (EPO) will be mitigated with by various measures in the context of the following legislation/ guidelines/objectives.

1. Legislation
 - (a) The European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage
 - (b) The National Monuments Acts (1930-2004)
 - (c) The Heritage Act 1995
 - (d) The National Cultural Institutions Act 1997
2. Guidelines
 - (a) Framework and Principles for the protection of the Archaeological Heritage
 - (b) Policy and Guidelines on Archaeological Excavation
3. Objectives
 - (a) It is an objective of Mayo Co. Council to protect the archaeological heritage and especially sites identified in the Record of Monuments and Places, National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the State and National Monuments that are subject to Preservation Orders and to safeguard the integrity of the archaeological sites in their setting.
 - (b) It is an objective of Mayo Co. Council to require that planning applications within the zones of archaeological potential as outlined in the Record of Monuments and Places include an archaeological assessment as set out in accordance with the requirements of Mayo Co. Council
 - (c) It is an objective of Mayo Co. Council to require that all large scale planning applications (i.e. development of lands on 0.5ha. or more in area or 1km. or more in length) include an archaeological assessment in accordance with the requirements of Mayo Co. Council.

Cultural Heritage (Architecture)

Mitigation can be achieved by adherence to the relevant legislation and guidelines with respect to architectural heritage.

Landscape

Mitigation measures to prevent conflict arising from the draft Plan policies and objectives on landscape will include strict adherence to the relevant legislation and guidelines with respect to landscape features, the evaluation of specific projects and proposals on an individual basis with respect to scenic views and prospects and by imposing appropriate conditions with respect to local, regional, national and European legislation and guidance.



10 Monitoring

10.1 Introduction

The purpose of monitoring is to assess the significant environmental effects of the draft Mayo County Development Plan 2014-2020 which have been predicted during the SEA process. In addition, monitoring may also help identify some effects which may not have been envisaged, including positive and other medium- and long-term effects. In some cases, the identification of effects during monitoring may highlight problems which may indicate the need for remedial measures to alleviate such issues.

Existing environmental monitoring is currently undertaken throughout Mayo for a number of environmental elements in accordance with environmental legislation and also by postgraduate and post doctorate fellows; in most instances use can be made of existing monitoring programmes and collated data.

10.2 Objectives, Targets and Indicators

It is envisaged that monitoring will take place in consideration of the targets and indicators which were compiled for each environmental element during the SEA process. Conducive to the protection of the environment from inappropriate development activities and other threats and prepared with regard to national, European and international policy documents, strategies, guidelines, Directives, Conventions and peer-reviewed research, the following table details the Environmental Protection Objectives, associated targets and indicators, in addition to the responsible monitoring body and type of monitoring results anticipated.



Table 10.1 Environmental Monitoring - Mayo County Development Plan 2014-2020

Environmental Protection Objectives	Target(s)	Indicator(s)	Information Source / Monitoring Body	Results Format
<p>Biodiversity, flora and fauna To protect, conserve and restore habitats and species of local, national and international importance and interdependent species and habitats within the wider environment</p>	To achieve and maintain favourable conservation status for habitats and species	No loss, reduction, fragmentation, disturbance, destruction of habitats and species within Mayo	National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Marine Institute, BirdWatch Ireland, Irish Whale and Dolphin Group, research / peer-reviewed journals, Mayo County Council Environment Section, EPA	Qualitative and quantitative data, GIS / MapInfo format
<p>Population To ensure population growth is managed within a sustainable framework to reduce any potential impact a dispersed rural population may have on the environmental quality of the County</p>	<p>(i) increase population growth of the urban centres of the County (ii) reduce the number of new residential properties in the rural countryside</p>	<p>(i) Increase in population of the urban centres (ii) Avoidance, where possible, of construction of new residential development in the rural countryside</p>	Mayo County Council Planning Section / Housing Section, Central Statistics Office (CSO)	Qualitative and quantitative data, GIS / MapInfo format
<p>Human Health To protect human health by the minimisation of pollution incidences to water, air and soil and increased traffic arising from incompatible land uses or development in inappropriate locations</p>	To ensure protection of environmental elements which are closely linked to human health including water, air, landscape, biodiversity and soil quality	No deterioration of environmental elements such as water, air and soil quality as described individually throughout this document	Health Service Executive (HSE) West, CSO, Health & Safety Authority	Quantitative data – regional trends,
<p>Soils and Geology To identify and protect areas which</p>	(i) Number of developments in	(i) No development in areas	Geological Survey of	CORINE, qualitative data mainly

**Environmental Report of Strategic Environmental Assessment of
Draft Mayo County Development Plan 2014 – 2020**



may be deemed to have a significant risk of landslide or erosion	<p>areas which may be considered to be prone or at risk from landslides</p> <p>(ii) Number of developments in an area identified as a high erosion prone area, or an area at significant risk of erosion</p>	<p>which may be considered at significant risk to landslides</p> <p>(ii) No development in areas considered at significant risk of erosion</p>	<p>Ireland (GSI), Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII), Teagasc, Irish Geological Heritage Section, Irish Landslides Working Group</p>
To maximise the sustainable re-use of brownfield lands, and maximise the use of the existing built environment rather than developing greenfield lands	<p>(iii) Area of brownfield land available</p>	<p>(iii) No brownfield land to be available (subject to availability on the open market and demand for such land) at the end of the CDP lifespan</p>	
To ensure sustainable quarrying of non-renewable sand, gravel and rock deposits and to protect the IGH sites as identified by the GSI	<p>(iv) Proportion of excavated area returned to productive use</p> <p>(v) Number of developments which would be considered to have significant adverse impacts on IGH sites</p>	<p>(iv) All extraction sites to have progressive rehabilitation programmes in place with agreed rehabilitation targets</p> <p>(v) No developments to adversely impact on IGH sites</p>	
<p>Water (excl drinking water)</p> <p>To prevent deterioration of the status of waters with regard to quality, quantity and to improve status for rivers, lakes, transitional and coastal waters and groundwaters to at least good status, in accordance with the Water Framework Directive and associated legislation and plans (Western River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015, Pollution</p>	<p>The status of surface waters (lakes, rivers, transitional and coastal waters) will be restored to at least good status and deterioration in good and high status water bodies will be prevented.</p>	<p>100% water bodies designated at good status by 2027 as shown by monitoring within the Western River Basin District</p>	<p>Western River Basin District website and reports, WFD websites, Mayo County Council Environment Section, Mayo County Council Water Services Section,</p> <p>Qualitative and quantitative data, GIS – water body data, water quality results – qualitative data</p>

**Environmental Report of Strategic Environmental Assessment of
Draft Mayo County Development Plan 2014 – 2020**



Reduction Plans for shellfish and *M. margaritifera* sub-basin management plans)

To achieve and maintain required water quality standards and reduce discharges of pollutants or contamination to waters

No exceedences of relevant water quality legislation and compliance with appropriate parameters

Breaches and exceedences in water quality parameters

Air Quality

To maintain and improve air quality status in line with appropriate policies and legislative requirements

Ensure monitoring results are maintained within the appropriate emission limit values

Air monitoring data to indicate compliance with appropriate policies and legislative requirements / compliance with emission limit values

EPA Monitoring Stations, Mayo County Council Environment Section, National Roads Authority, CSO

Quantitative data whenever available, IPPC Licence detail and exceedences,

To minimise increases in travel-related air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions

An increase in the percentage of the population travelling to work or school by public transport or non-mechanical means

Percentage of population within the Plan area travelling to work or school by public transport or non mechanical means

Noise

To avoid, prevent and reduce on a prioritised basis exposure to unacceptable levels of environmental noise

(i) To manage environmental noise from major roads.

(i) Traffic flow data collected for all roads in the county.

Mayo County Council Environment Section (enforcement), National Roads Authority, EPA, Noise Action Plan

Quantitative data, statistics, GIS noise maps

(ii) To protect satisfactory noise environments where they exist.

(ii) Number of locations monitored to establish the full extent of major roads in the county with an excess of three million vehicles per annum

To protect the quality of the future noise environment by

New noise maps for areas around major roads carrying



acoustical planning

3 million vehicles per annum. Ensure that noise maps are produced for the Westport/Ballina to Dublin railway line and Ireland West Airport Knock, if relevant at this stage (2012)

Revise Noise Action Plan.

Number of IPPC licensed facilities and acoustic compliance details

Climatic Factors - Flooding

<p>To keep areas free of development that would be subject to an inappropriate risk of flooding or would cause or exacerbate such a risk at other locations</p>	<p>All new developments assessed in line with the OPW <i>Planning System & Flood Risk Management Guidelines</i> (Nov 2009) to ensure that the flood risk is fully assessed and mitigated, and run off from the development does not increase flood risk elsewhere</p>	<p>Flooding of new developments</p> <p>Increase of flooding elsewhere resulting from new developments</p>	<p>CFRAMS, Mayo County Council Water Services / Planning Sections, OPW</p>	<p>Qualitative / location data, Identification of AFAs</p>
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Climatic Factors – Invasive Species

<p>To protect aquatic and terrestrial habitats from the spread of invasive species</p>	<p>Prevent introduction of new invasive species. Control or manage existing invasive species to prevent increases in their current distribution</p>	<p>Abundance and diversity of new or existing invasive species reported and recorded in Mayo aquatic and terrestrial environment</p>	<p>NPWS, National Biodiversity Data Centre, CAISIE (Control of Aquatic Invasive Species), research / peer-reviewed journals</p>	<p>Qualitative / location data, confirmation of presence (quantitative data on limited species)</p>
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Material Assets – Transport infrastructure

<p>To protect the road network of Mayo</p>	<p>(i) Developments to be located off our National Roads and not within sensitive landscapes</p>	<p>(i) Number of developments located close to the National Road Network</p>	<p>Mayo County Council Roads Design Section, Mayo County Council</p>	<p>Qualitative and quantitative data, GIS / mapping data</p>
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<p>To continue to maintain and protect the piers and harbours of Mayo in an environmentally-sensitive manner with due consideration for water quality of designated and non-designated sites</p>	<p>(ii) No large-scale developments to be planned in remote locations where access is by local roads only Any improvements / modifications made to piers / harbours will not impact on surrounding environment from the viewpoint of water quality, invasive species introduction or adverse impacts on protected structures</p>	<p>(ii) Number of large-scale developments located in remote locations where access is by local roads only Number of piers and harbours maintained / repaired which result in negative effects on water quality, protected structures or the introduction or increase in abundance of invasive species</p>	<p>Planning Section, Regional Design Office, National Roads Authority, Mayo County Council Area Office and Planning Section, WRBD / WFD reports and websites, CAISIE,</p>	<p>Qualitative data, GIS / mapping data, confirmation of presence (quantitative data on limited species)</p>
<p>To continue to develop and promote the Great Western Greenway, with due consideration given to designated and non-designated sites and the surrounding natural environment</p>	<p>No significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites or other existing designated or undesignated environmental considerations by virtue of disturbance as a result of location, scale or use of the Greenway infrastructure</p>	<p>Number of Habitats Directive Assessment undertaken at Part 8 stage of Greenway project planning and evidence of significant effects on Natura 2000 sites or any other designated or undesignated sites of ecological / natural importance</p>	<p>Mayo County Council Forward Planning Section, NPWS,</p>	<p>Quantitative and qualitative data, GIS / mapping data</p>
<p>Material Assets – Waste management & infrastructure</p>				
<p>To reduce waste volumes through an integrated approach incorporating education and awareness and to increase reuse of waste by recycling and recovery</p>	<p>48 % waste recycled, 33% energy recovery and 19% waste landfilled. Attitude change</p>	<p>Increase in percentage of customers participating in a refuse collection service with an increase in waste volumes recovered and recycled and consequential reduction in volume of waste collected and landfilled</p>	<p>Current Connacht Waste Management Plan and future Plans, EPA Waste Licensing Section and EPA Environmental Enforcement and Assessment Offices</p>	<p>Regional and local qualitative and quantitative data, percentages / numbers of waste collectors, customer participation, waste volume / breakdown at landfill(s) throughout Mayo, greenhouse gas concentration,</p>
<p>To divert biowaste from landfill and reduce of landfill emissions</p>	<p>Reduction in greenhouse gasses through diversion of bio-waste from landfill.</p>	<p>Number of customers with brown bin collection service</p>		

**Environmental Report of Strategic Environmental Assessment of
Draft Mayo County Development Plan 2014 – 2020**



Material Assets – Wastewater Infrastructure

<p>To serve new development <i>guided by / under the</i> draft Plan with appropriate waste water treatment</p>	<p>No new developments granted permission which cannot be adequately served by a public waste water treatment plant over the lifetime of the County Development Plan in order to maintain effluent standards in line with relevant regulations</p>	<p>(i) Overloaded Wastewater Treatment Plant (ii) Inability to meet treated effluent discharge limits (iii) Long Term Indicator: Water Status in 2015 Report</p>	<p>Mayo County Council Water Services Section, Mayo County Council Environment Section, EPA annual reports,</p>	<p>Quantitative data, parametric limit concentrations, statistical data</p>
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Material Assets – Drinking Water

<p>To serve existing and new development under the County Development Plan with suitable potable water at adequate pressure</p>	<p>No new developments granted permission which cannot be adequately served by a water scheme over the lifetime of the County Development Plan in order to maintain water quality and supply standards in line with relevant standards and regulations</p>	<p>(i) Overloaded Water Treatment Plants (ii) Inability to meet drinking water quality standards (iii) Inability to meet pressure requirements</p>	<p>Mayo County Council Environment Section, Mayo County Council Water Services Section, EPA, HSE</p>	<p>Quantitative and qualitative data, GIS / mapping data, UFW (unaccounted-for-water data)</p>
<p>To maintain and / or improve drinking water quality and quantity throughout the county</p>	<p>100% compliance with the Drinking Water Regulations, 2007 (S.I. No. 278 of 2007)</p>	<p>No boiled water notices or exceedences in parametric values set in S.I. No. 278 of 2007</p>		<p>Quantitative and qualitative data, quantitative water quality results, comparative statistics with transboundary / other counties</p>

Cultural Heritage - Archaeology

<p>To protect the archaeological heritage and especially sites identified in the Record of Monuments and Places, National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the State and National Monuments that are subject to Preservation Orders and to safeguard the integrity of the archaeological sites in their setting</p>	<p>No developments carried out over the lifespan of the Mayo CDP 2014 -2020 which will result in the full or partial loss of the archaeological heritage and especially sites identified in the Record of Monuments and Places, National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the State and National Monuments that are the subject</p>	<p>Number of developments carried out over the lifespan of the Mayo CDP 2014 - 2020 which results in the full or partial loss of the archaeological heritage and especially sites identified in the Record of Monuments and Places, National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the State</p>	<p>Mayo County Council Archaeology Section, Office of Public Works (OPW), Heritage Service, Mayo County Council Heritage Officer, National Museum of Ireland</p>	<p>Lists of excavations, damage reports, quantitative data on RMP</p>
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of Preservation Orders. No developments which result in the full or partial loss of the integrity of the archaeological sites in their setting.

and National Monuments that are the subject of Preservation Orders. The integrity of the archaeological sites in their setting can also be impacted upon by new developments

Cultural Heritage - architecture

To protect and where appropriate, enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of the architectural heritage of County Mayo

To prohibit the number of unauthorised developments that result in the loss of architectural heritage.

Number of developments carried out over the period of the Mayo CDP 2014-2020 that result in full or partial loss of the architectural heritage of the county.

Mayo County Council Architects Heritage Service,

Qualitative data, GIS / mapping data,

Landscape

To protect Mayo's sensitive landscapes, vulnerable landscape features and listed highly scenic views, scenic views, scenic viewing points, scenic routes and to protect the visual amenity of Mayo

(i) No developments to be conspicuously located within or on sensitive landscapes, vulnerable landscape features and listed highly scenic views, scenic views, scenic viewing points and scenic routes sensitive landscapes
(ii) No developments to adversely impact upon sensitive landscapes, vulnerable landscape features and listed highly scenic views, scenic views, scenic viewing points and scenic routes.
(iii) No loss of sensitive landscapes, vulnerable landscape features and listed highly scenic views, scenic views, scenic viewing points and scenic routes.

(i) Number of conspicuous developments adversely impacting upon vulnerable landscape features
(ii) Number of developments adversely impacting upon vulnerable landscape features
(iii) Number of vulnerable landscape features lost
(iv) Number of developments interfering

Mayo County Council Planning Section, Register, Development Plan / Local Area Plans, GSI, Fáilte Ireland, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

CORINE data, quantitative data – numbers of developments, spatial analyses



(iv) Developments should be sited and designed so as not to interfere with the visual amenity of the landscape of Mayo with the visual amenity of the landscape of Mayo



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Appendices

Appendices

Appendix I

Appendix I Annex I species and Annex II habitats, frequency of occurrence in Mayo and their supporting SACs

Qualifying Interests: Annex I habitats with code in square brackets []	Frequency of occurrence	Supporting SACs
[3110] Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>)	5	Lough Corrib cSAC, Owenduff /Nephin Complex cSAC, Lough Hoe Bog cSAC, Lough Carra/Mask Complex cSAC, Ox Mountains Bogs cSAC
[3140] Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp.	3	Lough Corrib cSAC, Urlaur Lakes cSAC, Lough Carra/Mask Complex cSAC
[3260] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche - Batrachion</i> vegetation	2	Lough Corrib cSAC, Owenduff /Nephin Complex cSAC
[3260] Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco Brometalia</i>) (* important orchid sites)	2	Lough Corrib cSAC, Lough Carra/Mask Complex cSAC
[6410] <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>)	1	Lough Corrib cSAC
[7110] * Active raised bogs	3	Lough Corrib cSAC, River Moy cSAC, Flughany Bog cSAC
[7120] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration	2	Lough Corrib cSAC, River Moy cSAC
[7210] * Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion avallianae</i>	4	Lough Corrib cSAC, Lough Carra/Mask Complex cSAC, Clyard Kettle-holes cSAC, Mocorha Lough cSAC
[7220] * Petrifying springs with tufa	1	Lough Corrib cSAC

Appendices

formation (<i>Cratoneurion</i>)		
[7230] Alkaline fens	5	Lough Corrib cSAC, Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex cSAC, Lough Carra/Mask Complex cSAC, Bellacorick Bog Complex cSAC, River Moy cSAC,
[8240] * Limestone pavements	3	Lough Corrib cSAC, Cloughmoyne cSAC, Lough Carra/Mask Complex cSAC
[91A0] Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles	4	Lough Corrib cSAC, Brackloon Woods cSAC, Oldhead Wood cSAC, River Moy cSAC,
[91D0] * Bog woodland	1	Lough Corrib cSAC
[1130] Estuaries	1	Killala Bay / Moy Estuary cSAC
[1140] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	5	Killala Bay / Moy Estuary cSAC, Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex cSAC, Broadhaven Bay cSAC, Clew Bay Complex cSAC, Achill Head cSAC
[1210] Annual vegetation of drift lines	3	Killala Bay / Moy Estuary cSAC, Clew Bay Complex cSAC, Mweelrea /Sheeffry/Erriff Complex cSAC
[1330] Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco - Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)	6	Killala Bay / Moy Estuary cSAC, Lackan Saltmarsh and Kilcummin Head cSAC, Mweelrea /Sheeffry/Erriff Complex cSAC, Bellacragher Saltmarsh cSAC, Broadhaven Bay cSAC, Clew Bay Complex cSAC
[2110] Embryonic shifting dunes	3	Killala Bay / Moy Estuary cSAC, Clew Bay Complex cSAC, Mweelrea /Sheeffry/Erriff Complex cSAC
[2120] Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes")	6	Killala Bay / Moy Estuary cSAC, Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex cSAC, Lackan Saltmarsh and Kilcummin Head cSAC, Clew Bay Complex cSAC, Lough Cahasy, Lough Baun and Roonah Lough cSAC, Mweelrea /Sheeffry/Erriff Complex cSAC
[2130] * Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")	3	Killala Bay / Moy Estuary cSAC, Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex cSAC, Lackan Saltmarsh and Kilcummin Head cSAC,
[2190] Humid dune slacks	1	Killala Bay / Moy Estuary cSAC
[3180] * Turloughs	9	Ardkill Turlough cSAC, Balla Turlough cSAC, Carrowkeel Turlough cSAC, Clyard Kettle-holes cSAC, Doocastle Turlough cSAC, Greaghans Turlough cSAC, Kilglassan /Caheravoostia Turlough Complex cSAC, Shrulle Turlough cSAC, Skealaghan Turlough cSAC,
[2150] * Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno - Ulicetea</i>)	2	Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex cSAC, Mweelrea /Sheeffry/Erriff Complex cSAC
[21A0] Machairs (* in Ireland)	5	Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex cSAC, Inishkea Islands cSAC, Glenamoy Bog Complex cSAC, Doogort Machair/Lough Doo cSAC, Keel Machair /Menaun Cliffs cSAC
[3150] Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> -type	1	Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex cSAC

Appendices

vegetation

[1160] Large shallow inlets and bays	4	Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex cSAC, Broadhaven Bay cSAC, Clew Bay Complex cSAC, Achill Head cSAC,
[1170] Reefs	3	Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex cSAC, Broadhaven Bay cSAC, Achill Head cSAC
[8330] Submerged or partly submerged sea caves	1	Broadhaven Bay cSAC
[7130] Blanket bogs (* if active only)	5	Carrowmore Lake Complex cSAC, Lough Gall Bog cSAC, Owenduff /Nephin Complex cSAC, Lough Hoe Bog cSAC, Bellacorick Bog Complex cSAC
[7150] Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i>	8	Carrowmore Lake Complex cSAC, Lough Gall Bog cSAC, Bellacorick Bog Complex cSAC, Ox Mountains Bogs cSAC, Flughany Bog cSAC, Glenamoy Bog Complex cSAC, Lough Corrib cSAC, River Moy cSAC
[1220] Perennial vegetation of stony banks	4	Cross Lough (Killadoon) cSAC, Clew Bay Complex cSAC, Keel Machair /Menaun Cliffs cSAC, Lough Cahasy, Lough Baun and Roonah Lough cSAC
[4010] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>	5	Glenamoy Bog Complex cSAC, Bellacorick Bog Complex cSAC, Ox Mountains Bogs cSAC, Corraun Plateau cSAC, Owenduff /Nephin Complex cSAC
[4030] European dry heaths	3	Corraun Plateau cSAC, Oldhead Wood cSAC, Lough Carra/Mask Complex cSAC
[4060] Alpine and Boreal heaths	5	Corraun Plateau cSAC, Owenduff /Nephin Complex cSAC, Erris Head cSAC, Keel Machair /Menaun Cliffs cSAC, Croaghau/ Slievemore cSAC
[5130] <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands	3	Corraun Plateau cSAC, Owenduff /Nephin Complex cSAC, Glenamoy Bog Complex cSAC
[7120] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration	1	Flughany Bog cSAC
[1230] Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts	3	Glenamoy Bog Complex cSAC, Erris Head cSAC, Clare Island Cliffs cSAC,
[3160] Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	4	Glenamoy Bog Complex cSAC, Ox Mountains Bogs cSAC, Owenduff /Nephin Complex cSAC, Bellacorick Bog Complex cSAC
7130] Blanket bogs (* if active only)	3	Glenamoy Bog Complex cSAC, Slieve Fyagh Bog SAC, Ox Mountains Bogs cSAC
[7140] Transition mires and quaking bogs	3	Glenamoy Bog Complex cSAC, Owenduff /Nephin Complex cSAC, Cloonakillina Lough cSAC,
[1410] Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>)	2	Lackan Saltmarsh and Kilcummin Head cSAC, Bellacragher Saltmarsh cSAC,
[3130] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic	1	Owenduff /Nephin Complex cSAC

Appendices

standing waters with vegetation of the
Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the
Isoëto - Nanojuncetea

[1150] * Coastal lagoons	3	Clew Bay Complex cSAC, Lough Cahasy, Lough Baun and Roonah Lough cSAC, Mweelrea /Sheeffry/Erriff Complex cSAC,
[91E0]* Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno - Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae</i>)	2	Lough Carra/Mask Complex cSAC, River Moy cSAC
[8210] Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	1	Clare Island Cliffs cSAC
[8220] Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	1	Clare Island Cliffs cSAC
Qualifying Interests:		
Species with code in square brackets []		
[1029] <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>	3	Lough Corrib cSAC, Mweelrea /Sheeffry/Erriff Complex cSAC, Newport River cSAC,
[1092] <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>	3	Lough Corrib cSAC, Lough Hoe Bog cSAC, River Moy cSAC,
[1095] <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>	3	Lough Corrib cSAC, Killala Bay / Moy Estuary cSAC, River Moy cSAC,
[1096] <i>Lampetra planeri</i>	2	Lough Corrib cSAC, River Moy cSAC,
[1106] <i>Salmo salar</i> (only in fresh water)	6	Lough Corrib cSAC, Glenamoy Bog Complex cSAC, Owenduff /Nepin Complex cSAC, Mweelrea /Sheeffry/Erriff Complex cSAC, Newport River cSAC, River Moy cSAC,
[1303] <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	6	Lough Corrib cSAC, Moore Hall (Lough Carra) cSAC, Lough Carra/Mask Complex cSAC, Ballinafad cSAC, Towerhill House cSAC, Kildun Souterrain cSAC
[1355] <i>Lutra lutra</i>	6	Lough Corrib cSAC, Owenduff /Nepin Complex cSAC, Clew Bay Complex cSAC, Lough Carra/Mask Complex cSAC, Mweelrea /Sheeffry/Erriff Complex cSAC, River Moy cSAC,
[1393] <i>Drepanocladus (Hamatocaulis) vernicosus</i>	5	Lough Corrib cSAC, Carrowmore Lake Complex cSAC, Glenamoy Bog Complex cSAC, Owenduff /Nepin Complex cSAC, Lough Carra/Mask Complex cSAC,
[1833] <i>Najas flexilis</i>	3	Lough Corrib cSAC, Mweelrea /Sheeffry/Erriff Complex cSAC, Lough Dahybaun cSAC,
[1014] <i>Vertigo angustior</i>	2	Killala Bay / Moy Estuary cSAC, Mweelrea /Sheeffry/Erriff Complex cSAC
[1365] <i>Phoca vitulina</i>	2	Killala Bay / Moy Estuary cSAC, Clew Bay Complex cSAC

Appendices

[1528] <i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>	5	Bellacorick Iron Flush cSAC, Carrowmore Lake Complex cSAC, Glenamoy Bog Complex cSAC, Owenduff /Nephin Complex cSAC, Bellacorick Bog Complex cSAC,
[1395] <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>	6	Mullet/Blacksod Bay Complex cSAC, Glenamoy Bog Complex cSAC, Inishkea Islands cSAC, Doogort Machair/Lough Doo cSAC, Keel Machair /Menaun Cliffs cSAC, Mweelrea /Sheeffry/Erriff Complex cSAC,
[1364] <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>	2	Duvillaun Islands cSAC, Inishkea Islands cSAC
[1013] Geyer's whorl snail <i>Vertigo geyeri</i>	5	Clew Bay Complex cSAC, Bellacorick Bog Complex cSAC, Mweelrea /Sheeffry/Erriff Complex cSAC, Ox Mountains Bogs cSAC, Lough Hoe Bog cSAC,

Appendices

Appendix II Annex I birds and habitats, frequency of occurrence in Mayo and their supporting SACs

Special Conservation interests	Frequency of occurrence	Supporting SPAs
<i>Arenaria interpres</i> (ruddy turnstone)	1	Inishkea Islands
<i>Branta leucopsis</i> (barnacle goose)	4	Inishkea Islands, Inishglora and Inishkeeragh, Termoncarragh Lough and Annagh Machair, Duvillaun Islands
<i>Calidris alba</i> (sanderling)	3	Inishkea Islands, Blacksod Bay/ Broadhaven, Killala Bay/Moy Estuary
<i>Calidris alpina schinzii</i> (Baltic dunlin)	1	Inishkea Islands
<i>Calidris maritima</i> (purple sandpiper)	1	Inishkea Islands
<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> (common ringed plover)	3	Inishkea Islands, Killala Bay/Moy Estuary, Blacksod Bay/ Broadhaven
<i>Larus canus</i> (common gull)	7	Inishkea Islands, Lough Corrib, Lough Carra, Carrowmore Lake, Lough Mask, Clare Island, Lough Conn and Lough Cullin
<i>Larus argentatus</i> (herring gull)	2	Inishkea Islands, Inishglora and Inishkeeragh,
<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> (European shag)	3	Inishkea Islands, Inishglora and Inishkeeragh, Clare Island
<i>Sterna paradisaea</i> (Arctic tern)	3	Inishkea Islands, Lough Corrib, Inishglora and Inishkeeragh,
<i>Sterna albifrons</i> (little tern)	1	Inishkea Islands
<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> (European golden plover)	3	Killala Bay/Moy Estuary, Lough Corrib, Owenduff/ Nephin Complex
<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> (grey plover / black-bellied plover)	1	Killala Bay/Moy Estuary
<i>Calidris alpina</i> (dunlin)	1	Killala Bay/Moy Estuary
<i>Limosa lapponica</i> (bar-tailed godwit)	2	Killala Bay/Moy Estuary, Blacksod Bay/ Broadhaven
<i>Numenius arquata</i> (Eurasian curlew)	1	Killala Bay/Moy Estuary

Appendices

<i>Tringa totanus</i> (common redshank)	1	Killala Bay/Moy Estuary
Wetlands	5	Killala Bay/Moy Estuary, Blacksod Bay/ Broadhaven, Lough Corrib, Lough Mask, Lough Conn and Lough Cullin
<i>Gavia immer</i> (great northern loon / common loon)	1	Blacksod Bay/ Broadhaven
<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> (pale-bellied brent goose)	1	Blacksod Bay/ Broadhaven
<i>Melanitta nigra</i> (common scoter)	3	Blacksod Bay/ Broadhaven, Lough Corrib, Lough Conn and Lough Cullin
<i>Mergus serrator</i> (red-breasted merganser)	1	Blacksod Bay/ Broadhaven
<i>Calidris alpina</i> (dunlin)	1	Blacksod Bay/ Broadhaven
<i>Numenius arquata</i> (Eurasian curlew)	1	Blacksod Bay/ Broadhaven
<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> (sandwich tern)	3	Blacksod Bay/ Broadhaven, Carrowmore Lake, Cross Lough (Killadoon),
<i>Anas strepera</i> (gadwall)	1	Lough Corrib
<i>Anas clypeata</i> (Northern shoveler)	1	Lough Corrib
<i>Aythya ferina</i> (common pochard)	1	Lough Corrib
<i>Aythya fuligula</i> (tufted duck)	3	Lough Corrib, Lough Mask, Lough Conn and Lough Cullin,
<i>Circus cyaneus</i> (hen harrier)	1	Lough Corrib
<i>Fulica atra</i> (Eurasian coot)	1	Lough Corrib
<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> (black-headed gull)	2	Lough Corrib, Lough Mask
<i>Sterna hirundo</i> (common tern)	2	Lough Corrib, Lough Mask
<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> (Greenland white-	5	Lough Corrib, Lough Mask, Termoncarragh Lough and Annagh Machair, Owenduff/

Appendices

fronted goose)		Nephin Complex, Lough Conn and Lough Cullin,
<i>Larus fuscus</i> (lesser black-backed gull)	2	Lough Mask, Inishglora and Inishkeeragh,
<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i> (storm petrel)	3	Stags of Broad Haven, Illanmaster, Inishglora and Inishkeeragh,
<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i> (Leach's storm petrel)	1	Stags of Broad Haven
<i>Fratercula arctica</i> (Atlantic puffin)	3	Stags of Broad Haven, Illanmaster, Bills Rocks,
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> (great cormorant)	1	Inishglora and Inishkeeragh,
<i>Crex crex</i> (corncrake)	2	Termoncarragh Lough and Annagh Machair, Mullet Peninsula,
<i>Falco columbarius</i> (merlin)	1	Owenduff/ Nephin Complex
<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> (Northern fulmar)	2	Duvillaun Islands, Clare Island
<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i> (storm petrel)	1	Duvillaun Islands
<i>Rissa tridactyla</i> (black-legged kittiwake)	1	Clare Island
<i>Uria aalge</i> (common guillemot)	1	Clare Island
<i>Alca torda</i> (razorbill)	1	Clare Island
<i>Pyrhacorax pyrrhacorax</i> (red-billed chough)	1	Clare Island

Appendix III

Site Synopses are included in Appendix I of the Environmental Report of the SEA of Mayo County Development Plan 2008-2014

Appendix IV

The IGH has identified 122 Sites of Geological Interest in Mayo. Some of these sites may merit national designation as NHAs. (A full list is in Appendix VI of the Mayo County Development Plan 2008-2014)

Appendix V

Trees protected under a TPO and TROI trees noted as remarkable in Mayo

- Crofton Park, Ballina Tree Preservation Order 1979
- Rosturk, Mulranny Tree Preservation Order 1980
- Moat, Ballina Tree Preservation Order 1977
- Mallaranny Tree Preservation Order 1993
- Rosbarnagh Tree Preservation Order 1980
- Callow Loughs Tree Preservation Order 1991
- Ballyneggin Tree Preservation Order 1993
- Clogher Turlough, Tree Preservation Order 1993
- Breandrum/Windsor Tree preservation Order 1993

Appendix VI

Sixteen Biodiversity Areas have been identified by Coillte in its Mayo FMUs

Creagh

Creagh is on the eastern shores of Lough Mask and is partially within the SAC Lough Mask /Carra complex. Most of the site is old woodland with a long history of woodland cover. The wood is now dominated by conifers, however, there are significant native woodland elements present. This area is an important foraging area for the Lesser Horseshoe bat (Annex II species). Creagh is within the 2km foraging zone of the hibernation roost at Creagh house, Ballinrobe, and 2.5km of the maternity roost at Curraghmore, Ballinrobe.

Moorehall

Moorehall is an old woodland site with a long history of woodland cover including parkland and long established plantations. The site is partially within SAC Lough Carra/Mask complex and Lough Carra SPA. Conifers are the main canopy forming species within the property but these are generally mature and have been well thinned for the most part allowing native woodland flora to develop in the understorey. This site is particularly important for the Annex II species Lesser Horseshoe bat and the coach house within the site has been designated as an SAC for this bat species. Bats also roost within the cellars of the old house. Commuting is known to occur between this site and Towerhill.

Towerhill

This biodiversity area is an old woodland site with a long history of woodland cover. Conifers dominate the canopy throughout much of the property; however, where this canopy has been thinned to allow sufficient light levels reach the wood floor, native woodland development occurs. A small area on the western boundary of the site supports broadleaved woodland dominated by beech with significant native woodland elements in the understorey. The Annies River runs through the north eastern edge of the property and feeds Towerhill Lake. Wet woodland also occurs in the riparian zone of this river. Open areas towards the southern boundary of the site supports fen rich grassland with tussocks of the greater tussock sedge *Carex paniculata*.

This site is an important roosting and foraging site for the Lesser Horseshoe Bat, an Annex II species in the EU Habitats Directive. This site, along with others within the surrounding region, (specifically Moorhall), is a particular hotspot for this species with commuting ongoing between sites. There are two nature conservation designations within the site: Towerhill House SAC (Site code 002179) and Towerhill Lake NHA (Site code 550).

Ballykine: Ballykine is a large species-rich old woodland site characterised by small subs with a diversity of planted broadleaf and conifer

species. A range of habitat types also occur here including wet woodland and limestone pavement as well as wetlands and the plantation woodlands. The conifer dominated subs for the most part are mature and well thinned, with sufficient light levels reaching the wood floor, allowing a native woodland understorey to develop. Oak-ash hazel (WN2) woodland is the most appropriate native woodland type for the dry areas of this property. This wood is within the SAC 1774 Lough Carra/Mask Complex. Ballykine is an important foraging area for the Annex II species, Lesser Horseshoe bat. The property is in the 2.5km radius of maternity roosts at two Lesser horseshoe bat SAC sites: 1774, at Ballykine Hs. & 474 Ballymaclancy Cave, as well as in the 2km radius of a hibernation roost at Toberbiroge. The lung wort lichen, *Lobaria pulmonaria*, is an indicator of old woodland sites and was recorded at this site.

Ard na Geeha: This biodiversity area consists of a property on the northern shore of Lough Corrib and is adjacent to other properties such as Ashford and Toberbiroge, forming a significant network of biodiversity areas. This property is partly within the SAC Lough Corrib and SPA of the same name. This property is important for the Lesser Horseshoe Bat as it lies within a 200m zone around two known hibernation sites: (1) SAC Site Code 474 Ballymaglancy Cave and (2) Undesignated site at Toberbiroge. The physical shape of this property provides important connectivity that effectively forms part of the woodland bridge between Loughs. Corrib and Mask. This provides significant area for potential foraging and commuting routes for all bat species as well as wildlife in general. This biodiversity area is characterised by subs with a mixture of planted species (mainly conifer). The subs are mature and for the most part well thinned allowing an understorey of native species to develop. A large proportion of this site is a long established plantation with a significant history of woodland cover. There is a bat roost in the observation hut within the property. The roosting species is likely to be common pipistrelle (pers comm. J.Higgins conservation ranger NPWS).

Ashford: consists of a number of small subs supporting a variety of conifer species. These subs are mostly mature and well thinned allowing a native flora to develop in the understorey. A large proportion of the property is long established plantation with a significant history of woodland cover. This property is directly adjacent to Ard na geeha and Pigeon hole which together create a network of woodlands and a significant wildlife reserve.

This property lies within 2.5km radius from a known Lesser horseshoe bat hibernation roost at Ballymaglancy Cave SAC 474 and 600m from another hibernation roost (undesignated) at Toberbiroge, Co. Galway. This species is in Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive. This property also has quite a high amenity value owing to its proximity to Ashford castle and the village of Cong.

Pigeon hole

Pigeon hole property is directly adjacent to Ashford and Toberbiroge properties creating a large biodiversity network of considerable value to wildlife. Conifers are the predominant planted species within the property and include quite a range of species. Subs are generally mature and well thinned creating appropriate conditions that facilitate the development of a native woodland understorey. Within this property there is a large underground cave, called the Pigeon hole. This is one of the spots where the underground river that links Lough Corrib and Lough Mask can be accessed.

This property lies within 2.5km radius from two known Lesser horseshoe bat hibernation roosts: Ballymaglancy Cave SAC 474 and Toberbiroge, Co. Galway (undesignated). The Lesser horseshoe bat is on Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive. A further roost occurs in a cave close to the Pigeon hole cave within the property (pers comm. John Higgins).

Toberbiroge

Toberbiroge forms a network of woodland cover along with the adjacent properties of Ard na Geeha, Pigeon Hole, Clonbur and Ballykine. This biodiversity area is particularly important owing to the location of a number of Lesser horseshoe bat roosts both within, and in the environs of the property. This property lies within the 2.5km zone radius of the maternity roost at Ballykine House (SAC 1774) and within the 2km radius of the hibernation roost at Ballymaclancy house (SAC 474). An undesignated roost also occurs within the property. This species is in Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive. The maintenance of woodland cover is one of the management prescriptions that will maintain this property as a foraging and commuting site for this bat species.

This property consists of a number of subs that are Long Established Plantation with a significant history of woodland cover. Conifers dominate the canopy throughout the property; however, these are well thinned for the most part allowing a species-rich native woodland

flora to develop in the understorey. Many of the subs have rocky outcrops and ledges supporting a rich bryophyte flora. Open patches of limestone outcrops supporting orchid rich grassland also occur and add to the diversity of the site. Goats were observed grazing within the wood at time of survey but do not appear to be having serious impacts on the woodland flora.

Rosshill

Rosshill biodiversity area consists predominantly of mature conifer subs. These subs have been thinned and support a native woodland understorey. This property is adjacent to others such as Clonbur, Ballykine, Big and White islands which together form a large biodiversity network of high conservation value. Ross hill is partly within the SAC 1774 Lough Carra/Mask complex and the SPA 62 Lough Mask.

Interesting habitats within this biodiversity area include limestone pavement an Annex I priority habitat, and wetlands associated with the Clonbur River that runs through the property. This property is within the 2.5km radius of the Lesser horseshoe bat maternity roost at Ballykine House and consequently this site is an important roosting and foraging site for the Lesser horseshoe bat, Annex II species in the EU Habitats Directive.

Clonbur

This property is adjacent to others such as Ross hill, Ballykine, Big and White islands which together form a large biodiversity network of high conservation value. Clonbur is partly within the SAC 1774 Lough Carra/Mask complex and the SPA 62 Lough Mask. Interesting habitats within this biodiversity area include limestone pavement an Annex I priority habitat, and wetlands associated with the Clonbur River that runs through the property. Clonbur biodiversity area consists predominantly of mature conifer subs. These subs have been well thinned and support a native woodland understorey. Some of this property has had a long history of woodland cover.

This site is an important roosting and foraging site for the Lesser horseshoe bat, Annex II species in the EU Habitats Directive, and the property is within the 2.5km radius of a maternity roost at Ballykine House (SAC 1774) and 2km of a hibernation roost at Ballymaglancy (SAC 474). Parts of this property together with neighbouring areas of Ballykine and Ross hill have been included in a proposal for LIFE Nature funding for native woodland restoration (LIFE-Nature 2004). As with Ballykine and Rosshill properties this site was under

consideration to be designated as a nature reserve (Cross 1982, Speight 1982).

Big & White Islands

Big island and White island are two islands on the southern shore of Lough Mask that are connected to the shore by a narrow causeway. Both islands are within SAC 1774 Lough Carra/Mask Complex and SPA 62 Lough Mask and are old woodland sites with a long history of woodland cover. The main habitat type on both islands is mixed broadleaf/conifer woodland. This woodland type consists of well-thinned conifers with native woodland development in the understorey. Some particularly large trees were recorded on both islands, e.g Beech >1m DBH. Old trees with dead branches are also present and have an important value to invertebrates and wildlife in general. Within both islands there is significant age class diversity as well as species diversity which further increase the conservation value of this biodiversity area. This area is an important foraging and commuting zone for the Lesser Horseshoe bat, an Annex II species in the EU Habitats Directive. This biodiversity area is within 2.5km radius of a Lesser horseshoe bat maternity roosts at Ballykine House. Big island supports a large active Badger sett. A flock of long tailed tits were foraging in the wood at the time of survey. The lungwort lichen, *Lobaria pulmonaria*, is an indicator of old woodland sites and was recorded on both islands. Wet woodland occurs on the shores of the islands

Lislaughtera

This biodiversity area consists of a property on the northern shore of Lough Corrib and is adjacent to other properties such as Ashford and Ard na Geeha, forming a significant network of biodiversity areas. This property is partly within the SAC Lough Corrib and SPA of the same name. This biodiversity area is characterised by subs with a mixture of planted species (mainly conifer). The subs are mature and for the most part well thinned allowing an understorey of native species to develop. A species-rich wet woodland runs through the centre of the property along the line of a stream. A large proportion of this site is a long established plantation with a significant history of woodland cover.

Derrinrush

Derrinrush biodiversity area consists of the main property on the shores of Lough Carra as well as the surrounding islands: Horse, Hare and Hog. All of the subs are old woodland with a history of broadleaf cover since the 1830's O.S. Maps. All of the biodiversity area is within the SAC 1774 Lough Carra/Mask Complex. The main habitat within the property is Oak- ash-hazel woodland. While only the edge of the property supports mature wood the central portion is a young oak plantation and supports significant natural regeneration of native woodland elements. Deer were present at time of survey but do not appear to be causing serious damage to the developing broadleaf woodland.

Tourmakeady

The Peoples Millennium Forest covers much of this biodiversity area. The Glensaul River runs through the property and the riparian zone is well developed in places. A lake with fringing emergent communities and aquatic species also occurs within the biodiversity area. The site supports a significant amount of old woodland with a long history of woodland cover. Native woodland elements occur throughout the site. Notable species recorded include St Dabeoc's heath *Daboecia cantabrica*. Signs of badger and pine marten are widespread throughout the site. There was some evidence of browsing but no deer droppings were recorded during the survey. Invasive exotics occur including, cherry laurel, rhododendron, *Leycesteria formosa* and Japanese knot weed. Rhododendron and cherry laurel are fairly dense in places.

Knockranny

Knockranny biodiversity area consists of a mixed conifer/broadleaf wood with patches of species-rich native woodland throughout. The Carrowbeg River runs along the south western boundary to the site and supports a well developed riparian zone in places. Most of the subs support a fairly open canopy of mature conifers that facilitate the development of a native woodland understorey. All of this property is old woodland with a history of woodland cover since the 1830s.

Brackloon

This is an old woodland site with a long history of woodland cover. Significant areas of semi-natural Atlantic oak woodlands remain on the edge of the property. This woodland type is analogous to the Annex I habitat 'Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles'. The Owenwee River runs through the property which slopes towards the river. Exotics including Rhododendron appear to have been very successfully removed from the site. The site is designated as an SAC (site code 471).

Appendix VII

Assessment of Needs Data – Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Data

Sewerage schemes and settlements for which upgrades are necessary and current status (December 2012)			
Sewerage scheme	Status	Sewerage scheme	Status
Achill Sound	Completed/ approved for funding	Bangor Erris	No funding approval
Belmullet	Completed/ approved for funding	Doogort	No funding approval
Newport	Completed/ approved for funding	Balla	No funding approval
Ballina	Completed/ approved for funding	Kilkelly	No funding approval
Foxford	Completed/ approved for funding	Ballyhaunis	No funding approval
Charlestown	Completed/ approved for funding	Tourmakeady	No funding approval
Kiltimagh	Completed/ approved for funding		
Killala	Completed/ approved for funding		
Claremorris	Completed/ approved for funding		
Louisburgh	Completed/ approved for funding		
Castlebar	Completed/ approved for funding		
New sewerage schemes necessary (settlements)		New sewerage schemes necessary (settlements)	
Tagheen, Aghleam, Binghamstown, Inver, Carrowteige, Rosspport, Glenamoy, Valley, Bunacurry, Dooega, Carraholly, Clare, Kileen, Drumin, Murrisk, Leckanvy, Moygawnagh, Knockmore, Bofeenau, Attymass, Killaser, Parke, Straide, Ballintober		Midfield, Roosky, Carracastle, Clogher, Islandeady, Ballyhean, Killawullaun, Killavally, Carrownacon, Partry, Roundford, Glencorrib, Breaffy, Manulla, Ballyglass, Mayo Abbey, Facefield, Barnycarroll, Bekan, Aghamore, Toren, Urlar	