

# **APPENDIX II OF NATURA IMPACT REPORT**

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**IN SUPPORT OF THE  
APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT  
OF THE  
Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021**

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF  
ARTICLE 6(3) OF THE EU HABITATS DIRECTIVE**

**for: Galway County Council**

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## Appendix II

### Potential impacts associated with each policy and objective of the Plan and the means by which such impacts are mitigated by provisions in the Plan

This appendix presents a review of potential impacts on the Natura 2000 network associated with each policy and objective of the Plan. Measures incorporated into the Plan (as a series of policies and objectives) which are part of those that mitigate these potential significant effects are also presented.

The policies and objectives of each chapter are grouped into individual tables below.

#### Chapter 1: Introduction

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential impacts on the Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<p>Vision: Enhance the quality of life of the people of Galway and maintain the County as a uniquely attractive place in which to live, work, invest and visit, harnessing the potential of the county's competitive advantages in a sustainable and environmentally sensitive manner.</p> <p><b>Strategic Aim 1 – Promote Regional Development:</b> Promote regional development and growth through harnessing the economic and employment potential of the competitive advantages of County Galway such as its strategic location, quality of life, landscape, heritage and natural resources, in a sustainable and environmentally sensitive manner.</p> <p><b>Strategic Aim 2 – Environmental Protection:</b> Afford suitable protection to the environment and natural resources of the County and ensure the fulfilment of environmental responsibilities.</p> <p><b>Strategic Aim 3 – Living Landscapes:</b> Recognise the importance of living landscapes where people live, work, visit and enjoy while ensuring they are managed in a sustainable and appropriate manner.</p> <p><b>Strategic Aim 4 – Balanced Urban and Rural Areas:</b> Prioritise development within the Hub town of Tuam, the Galway Metropolitan Area, Ballinasloe, the key towns and smaller towns, villages and settlements within the County, while supporting the role of the rural areas in sustaining the rural based economy.</p> <p><b>Strategic Aim 5 – Inclusive Communities:</b> Encourage and support the development of inclusive communities which engage and include all members of society facilitating equal physical, social and cultural access and integration.</p> <p><b>Strategic Aim 6 – Integrated Development:</b> Ensure a more sustainable and integrated concept of development with regard to land use, transportation, water services, energy supply and waste management over the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p><b>Strategic Aim 7 – Sustainable Transportation:</b> Minimise travel demand and promote the increase of sustainable mobility throughout the county.</p> <p><b>Strategic Aim 8 – An Gaeltacht:</b> Promote the Gaeltacht as an Irish speaking community, recognising its importance locally, nationally and internationally and endeavour to enhance, sustain and protect the remaining Irish speaking communities of the Gaeltacht, where possible.</p> <p><b>Strategic Aim 9 – Infrastructural Projects:</b> Facilitate the development of infrastructural projects, which will underpin sustainable development throughout the County and Region during the Plan period.</p> <p><b>Strategic Aim 10 – Heritage:</b> Enhance and protect the built heritage and natural environment, including buildings, archaeology, landscape and biodiversity, within the County.</p> <p><b>Strategic Aim 11 – Climate Change Adaptation:</b> Engage in efforts to limit the human induced causes of climate change and take account of climate change in planning and delivering work programmes. Engage in efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change and integrate climate change considerations in planning and delivering work programmes.</p>	<p>Development of rural areas, and sustainable transport developments may lead to temporary and permanent impacts on Natura 2000 network of sites.</p>	<p><b>Obj:DS6</b>  <b>Obj: DS10</b>  <b>Obj: CC5</b>  <b>Obj: NHB1</b>  <b>Obj: NHB12</b>  <b>Obj: WS1</b>  <b>Obj: WS2</b>  <b>Obj: WW5</b>  <b>Obj: WW7</b>  <b>Obj: EQ1</b>  <b>Obj: FL3</b>  <b>Obj: NHB3</b>  <b>Pol: EDT1</b>  <b>Pol: TI1</b>  <b>Pol: NHB1</b>  <b>Pol: NHB4</b></p>

## Chapter 2: Spatial Strategy, Core and Settlement Strategy

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential impact on the Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<p><b>Objective DS 1 – Development Strategy:</b> It is the overarching objective of Galway County Council to support and facilitate the sustainable development of County Galway in line with the preferred development strategy option: Option 4 – To Develop the Hub town of Tuam, supporting the Gateway and Key Towns while Encouraging the Development of Other Settlement Centres and Appropriate Development in Rural Areas, which will allow County Galway to develop in a manner that maintains and enhances the quality of life of local communities, promotes opportunities for economic development, sustainable transport options, social integration, and protects the cultural, built, natural heritage and environment while also complying with relevant statutory requirements.</p> <p><b>Objective DS 2 – Galway Transportation and Planning Study Area (GTPS):</b> a) Continue to recognise the defined Galway Transport and Planning Study Area, the commuter zone of Galway City, which requires careful management of growth and strong policies to shape and influence this growth in a sustainable manner. b) Support a review of the Galway Transportation and Planning Study during the lifetime of the Plan, in co-operation with Galway City Council. Consideration of the inclusion of a Strategic Transport Assessment shall form part of this review.</p> <p><b>Objective DS 3 – Integrated Land Use and Sustainable Transportation</b> Integrate land use planning and sustainable transportation planning, promote the consolidation of development, encourage sustainable travel patterns by reducing the need to travel particularly by private transport, while prioritising walking, cycling and public transport.</p> <p><b>Objective DS 4 – Supporting and Securing Investment</b> Galway County Council shall seek to secure investment or support investment, as appropriate, in the necessary infrastructure to pursue the Spatial, Core and Settlement Strategies as set out in this Plan.</p> <p><b>Objective DS 5 – Protection and Management of the Assets of the County</b> Protect and manage the assets that contribute to the unique visual and environmental character and sense of identity of County Galway, and which underpin tourism, heritage, biodiversity and quality of life.</p> <p><b>Objective DS 6 – Natura 2000 Network and Habitats Directive Assessment</b> Protect European sites that form part of the Natura 2000 network (Including Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation) in accordance with the requirements in the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010, the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011(SI No.477 of 2011) (and any subsequent amendments or updated legislation) and having due regard to the guidance in the Appropriate Assessment Guidelines 2010 (and any updated or subsequent guidance). A plan or project (e.g. proposed development) within the Plan Area will only be authorised after the competent authority (Galway County Council) has ascertained, based on scientific evidence, Screening for Appropriate Assessment, and/or a Habitats Directive Assessment where necessary, that: 1. The Plan or project will not give rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary effects on the integrity of any European site (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects); or 2. The Plan or project will have significant adverse effects on the integrity of any European site (that does not host a priority natural habitat type/and or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000; or 3. The Plan or project will have a significant adverse effect on the integrity of any European site (that hosts a natural habitat type and/or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, restricted to reasons of human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding</p>	<p>Development within the county may lead to pressures or adverse impacts on the Natura 2000 network.</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: CC5</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB12</b> <b>Obj: WS1</b> <b>Obj: WS2</b> <b>Obj: WW5</b> <b>Obj: WW7</b> <b>Obj: EQ1</b> <b>Obj: FL3</b> <b>Obj: NHB3</b> <b>Pol: EDT1</b> <b>Pol: TI1</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB4</b></p>

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential impact on the Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<p>public interest. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000.</p> <p><b>Objective DS 7 – Flood Risk Management and Assessment</b> Ensure that proposals for developments located within identified or potential flood risk areas, or which may exacerbate the risk of flooding elsewhere, are assessed in accordance with the provisions of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009 (or any updated/superseding document) the relevant policies, objectives and guidelines within this Plan and shall also take account of the National CFRAM Programme Flood Hazard Mapping and Flood Risk Management Plans when they become available.</p> <p><b>Objective DS 8 – Climate Change</b> Galway County Council shall support the <i>National Climate Change Strategy</i> and follow on document <i>National Climate Change Adaptation Framework Building Resilience to Climate Change 2012</i>, on an ongoing basis through implementation of supporting objectives in this Plan, particularly those supporting the use of alternative and renewable energy sources, sustainable transport, air quality, biodiversity, green infrastructure, coastal zone management, flooding and soil erosion.</p> <p><b>Objective DS 9 Projects/Associated Improvement Works/Infrastructure and Appropriate Assessment</b> Ensure that proposed projects and any associated improvement works or associated infrastructure relating to renewable energy projects; water supply and abstraction; wastewater and discharges; flood alleviation and prevention; roads, power lines and telecommunications; and amenity and recreation provision are subject to Appropriate Assessment where relevant.</p> <p><b>Objective DS10- Impacts of Developments on Protected Sites</b> Have regard to any impacts of development on or near existing and proposed Natural Heritage Areas, Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation, Nature Reserves, Ramsar Sites, Wildfowl Sanctuaries, Salmonoid Waters, Refuges for Flora and Fauna, Conamara National Park, shellfish waters, freshwater pearl mussel catchments and any other designated sites including future designations.</p> <p><b>Objective DS 11 – Strategic Development Corridors</b> Co-ordinate new growth within the key towns, villages and settlements along the strategic development corridors throughout the County in order to create more sustainable development patterns and to optimise public and private investment made within the County and support the appropriate development of the Strategic Economic Corridor.</p> <p><b>Objective DS12 – Service Led Development</b> Development shall only be permitted where there is satisfactory water and wastewater provision to service same, either existing or to be provided by the applicant in tandem with the development.</p> <p><b>Objective DS 13 - SEA Monitoring of the Plan</b> Carry out SEA monitoring of the Plan to ensure that any potential significant environmental effects of implementing the plan are identified and can be addressed accordingly.</p>		
<p><b>Core Aims of the Core Strategy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build on the regional level linkages between County Galway, the Gateway and other parts of the West Region by supporting the implementation of the regional spatial strategy, as set out in the West Regional Planning Guidelines. The regional spatial strategy aims to develop the Galway Gateway, the Tuam Hub and Castlebar-Ballina Linked Hub, supported by the development of the Athlone Gateway and Key Towns, encouraging the development of other settlement centres and appropriate development in the rural areas of the region.</li> <li>• Provide for the growth of the County towards a target population of up to 198,000 persons by 2022, as set out in the Regional Planning Guidelines for the West Region 2010-2022 and to distribute that part of the population growth anticipated up to 2021, in line with the Settlement Strategy and Hierarchy set out in this Plan.</li> <li>• Focus a greater growth in the Hub town of Tuam, the key towns, lower tier other towns and villages in a sequential manner, recognising the role that new infrastructure and public transport links will play in their future, while</li> </ul>	<p>Increasing population growth may potentially lead to adverse impacts on the Natura 2000 network. Habitats and sites which are surface water or groundwater dependant are particularly at risk.</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS9</b> <b>Obj: TI5</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: WS1</b> <b>Obj: WS2</b> <b>Obj: WS9</b> <b>Obj: WS11</b> <b>Obj: WS14</b> <b>Obj: WW1</b> <b>Obj: WW5</b> <b>Obj: WW6</b> <b>Obj: WW7</b> <b>Obj: FL3</b> <b>Obj: NHB3</b> <b>Pol: GH1</b></p>

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<p>maintaining the viability of rural communities in the hinterlands of these towns and villages.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure a high level of environmental protection in the implementation of the Core Strategy and strategic aims and objectives of the Plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>Objective CS 1 – Provision of a Settlement Hierarchy</b> Galway County Council shall ensure that the zoning of lands for residential use is in accordance with the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy in order to meet the development needs of the County, and ensure that the development of zoned lands is subject to adequate capacity being available in the relevant water and wastewater treatment facilities, prior to or in tandem with the development, in the interest of the protecting water resources in the area.</p> <p><b>Objective CS 2 – Development Consistent with the Core Strategy</b> Galway County Council shall ensure that developments permitted within the County are consistent with the County population allocations set out in the Regional Planning Guidelines.</p> <p><b>Objective CS 3 – Economic and Employment Development</b> Galway County Council shall encourage the development of mixed-use settlement forms, supporting economic and employment development at appropriate locations, ensuring the provision of a satisfactory quantum of zoned land for employment and industry purposes, and ensuring housing, employment uses and community facilities are located in close proximity to each other and to public transport corridors, where possible.</p> <p><b>Objective CS 4 – Development of Serviced Lands</b> Galway County Council shall ensure that the zoning of lands for residential use is in accordance with the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy in order to meet the development needs of the County, and ensure that the development of zoned lands is subject to adequate capacity being available in the relevant water and wastewater treatment facilities, prior to or in tandem with the development, in the interest of the protecting water resources in the area.</p> <p><b>Objective CS 5 – Phasing of Development of Lands</b> The zoning of residential zoned lands within the urban areas shall be based on a phased, sequential approach as set out within the Local Area Plans, with a strong emphasis placed on consolidating existing patterns of development, encouraging infill opportunities and promoting sustainable transport options.</p> <p><b>Objective CS 6 – Local Area Plans</b> Galway County Council shall seek to prepare Local Area Plans for all settlements which have a population in excess of 1,500 persons either on an individual basis or in an electoral area Local Area Plan, having regard to the <i>Local Area Plans Guidelines for Planning Authorities</i> (2013) and the associated <i>Local Area Plans Manual</i> (2013).</p> <p><b>Objective CS 7 – Core Strategy and the Countryside/Rural Areas</b> Galway County Council shall recognise the important role of the rural areas within the County and shall protect and support these areas through the careful management of its key assets, including its physical and environmental resources, while supporting appropriate development in a balanced and sustainable manner and in accordance with the relevant policies and objectives set out throughout the Plan.</p> <p><b>Objective CS 8 – Core Strategy and Demand for Development</b> Galway County Council is committed to ensuring that the overall population growth of the County complies with the level of growth set by the Regional Planning Guidelines and settlement hierarchy as outlined within the Core Strategy.</p>		<p><b>Pol: NHB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b> <b>Pol: RA2</b> <b>Pol: WS4</b> <b>Pol: NHB4</b></p>
<p><b>Objective SS 1 – Galway Gateway and Galway Metropolitan Area</b> Galway County Council shall support the important role of Galway City and the Galway Metropolitan Area (which includes the City area and the Electoral Divisions of Oranmore, Bearna, Galway Rural and Ballintemple which are inextricably linked to and function as part of a greater Galway City), as key drivers of social and economic growth in the County and in the wider Western Region and will support the sustainable growth of the strategic settlements, including the future development of Ardaun and Garraun, within the Galway Metropolitan Area.</p> <p><b>Objective SS 2 – Ardaun</b> Facilitate and support the development of Ardaun in conjunction with Galway City Council.</p> <p><b>Objective SS 3 – Hub Town : Tuam</b> Galway County Council shall promote and secure the development of Tuam, to enable it to fulfil its potential as a hub town, so that it obtains the critical mass necessary to sustain strong levels of economic growth and prosperity, while supporting improvements in connectivity between the Gateway and the Hub, enhancing their complementary status.</p>	<p>The development of towns and rural communities may potentially lead to pressures and adverse impacts on the Natura 2000 network.</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: CC5</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: HB12</b> <b>Obj: WS1</b> <b>Obj: WS2</b> <b>Obj: WW5</b> <b>Obj: WW7</b> <b>Obj: EQ1</b> <b>Obj: FL3</b> <b>Obj: NHB3</b> <b>Pol: EDT1</b> <b>Pol: TI1</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB4</b></p>

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<p><b>Objective SS 4 – County Town : Ballinasloe</b>                      Recognise the county town of Ballinasloe as an important driver of growth in the county and support its sustainable development in line with the Core Strategy, in order to sustain its commercial core, retain its population and accommodate additional population and commercial growth.</p> <p><b>Objective SS 5 – Development of Key Towns</b>                      Support the development of the key towns of the County as outlined in the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy in order to sustain strong, vibrant urban centres which act as important drivers for the local economies, reduces travel demand and supports a large rural hinterland, while providing a complementary role to the hub town of Tuam and the smaller towns and villages in the County.</p> <p><b>Objective SS 6 – Development of Other Villages</b>                      Protect and strengthen the economic diversity of the smaller towns, villages and small settlements throughout the County, enabling them to perform important retail, service, amenity, residential and community functions for the local population and rural hinterlands.</p> <p><b>Objective SS 7 – Development of Small Settlements</b>                      In the case of smaller settlements for which no specific plans are available, development shall be considered on the basis of its connectivity, capacity (including social, cultural, and economic, infrastructural and environmental capacity) and compliance with the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy, good design, community gain and proper planning and sustainable development.</p> <p><b>Objective SS 8 – Development of Rural Communities</b>                      Galway County Council shall recognise the important role of rural communities to the sustainable development of County Galway and shall ensure the careful management of development in these areas, having due regard to the relevant policies and objectives set out elsewhere in the Plan.</p>		

## Chapter 3: Urban and Rural Housing

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential Impact on the Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<p>The strategy for achieving quality housing is based on the following strategic aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that sufficient land is zoned to meet the projected population in line with the Core Strategy;</li> <li>• Promote mixed housing developments and minimise the extent of further social housing especially where there is a high concentration of social housing in a particular area;</li> <li>• Provide for changing household size and promote an appropriate mix of dwelling types, sizes and tenures to facilitate the creation of balanced communities;</li> <li>• Promote residential densities to ensure the efficient use of land at appropriate locations. The efficient use of lands for residential purposes shall not compromise the need for social inclusion and shall provide for an appropriate mix of housing types;</li> <li>• Support the implementation of the Council's Housing Strategy and Traveller Accommodation Programme;</li> <li>• Provide for changing housing needs and promote the provision of social and specialist housing and housing for groups with particular needs;</li> <li>• Promote the consolidation of existing built-up areas by facilitating good quality appropriate infill development, whilst protecting essential amenities; and</li> <li>• Support and maintain the rural population.</li> </ul>	<p>Development of lands may lead to habitat loss, runoff of pollutants, and/or disturbance of species.</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b>  <b>Obj: DS10</b>  <b>Obj: CC5</b>  <b>Obj: NHB1</b>  <b>Obj: NHB12</b>  <b>Obj: WS1</b>  <b>Obj: WS2</b>  <b>Obj: WW5</b>  <b>Obj: WW7</b>  <b>Obj: EQ1</b>  <b>Obj: FL3</b>  <b>Obj: NHB3</b>  <b>Pol: EDT1</b>  <b>Pol: GH1</b>  <b>Pol: TI1</b>  <b>Pol: NHB1</b>  <b>Pol: NHB4</b></p>
<p><b>Policy UHO 1- Land Use Availability</b>                      Ensure that sufficient and suitably located land is zoned for residential development to satisfy development needs within the period of this plan and in accordance with the Core Strategy/Settlement Strategy.</p> <p><b>Policy UHO 2 - Housing Strategy</b>                      Ensure, in accordance with Part V of the <i>Planning &amp; Development Act, 2000</i> (as amended) that arrangements for the provision of Housing are made in accordance with the current Housing Strategy 2015-2021. Secure the provision of social and specialist housing accommodation where possible, to meet the needs of all households and the disadvantaged sectors in the County, including older persons, first time buyers, those building their first homes, single person households on modest incomes, people with disabilities, special needs, Travellers etc.</p> <p><b>Objective UHO 1 - Housing Strategy</b>                      Secure the implementation of the Housing Strategy 2015-2021, including the implementation of its policies and objectives and requirement to reserve a minimum of 12% of residential development for social and specialist housing.</p> <p><b>Objective UHO 2 - Social and Specialist Housing</b>                      Implement Part V provisions as per the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and any subsequent amendments to the Part V provision to reflect Government policy.</p> <p><b>Objective UHO 3 - Special Needs</b>                      Facilitate the provision of suitable accommodation for those with special needs through existing and new Local Authority and voluntary housing as well as the upgrade of existing residences</p> <p><b>Objective UHO 4 - Homelessness</b>                      Facilitate the provision of suitable accommodation for the homeless and for those in need of emergency accommodation</p> <p><b>Objective UHO 5 - Traveller Accommodation</b>                      Support and implement the <i>Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018 for County Galway</i> (or any updated/superseding document).</p> <p><b>Objective UHO 6 - Older Persons Accommodation</b>                      Promote and support the development of housing for older people and those with disabilities, including the concept of independent living and the development of "life cycle housing" i.e. housing that is adaptable for people's needs as they change over their lifetime.</p> <p><b>Objective UHO 7 - High Quality/Mix and Sensitive Design</b>                      Ensure that new developments are responsive to their site context and in keeping with the character, amenity, heritage, environment and landscape of the area. New development proposals will be required to complement the existing character of the town centre/area in terms of scale, height, massing, building line, housing mix, urban grain and definition and through high quality design and layout proposals for buildings and structures.</p>	<p>Residential development of lands may potentially lead to habitat loss, runoff of pollutants, and/or disturbance of species.</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b>  <b>Obj: DS10</b>  <b>Obj: CC5</b>  <b>Obj: NHB1</b>  <b>Obj: NHB12</b>  <b>Obj: WS2</b>  <b>Obj: WW5</b>  <b>Obj: WW7</b>  <b>Obj: EQ1</b>  <b>Obj: FL3</b>  <b>Obj: NHB3</b>  <b>Pol: EDT1</b>  <b>Pol: GH1</b>  <b>Pol: TI1</b>  <b>Pol: NHB1</b>  <b>Pol: NHB4</b></p>



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<p><b>Objective UHO 8 – Urban Design</b> Promote the use of sustainable urban design principles and approaches that will help to create high quality built and natural environments appropriate to the context and landscape setting of the specific area, having regard to the guidance contained in the <i>Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas Guidelines 2009</i>, the accompanying <i>Urban Design Manual 2009</i> (or any updated version) and the <i>Design Manual for Urban Roads &amp; Streets</i> (2013) (including any superseding document).</p> <p><b>Objective UHO 9 - Vacant Properties/Unfinished Housing</b> Promoters of significant residential developments in urban areas where there are large numbers of vacant or unfinished houses will be required to substantiate the requirement for same, based on the individual circumstances of the area.</p> <p><b>Objective UHO 10 – Sequential Development</b> Endeavour to promote the orderly and phased development of residential development in accordance with the principles of the sequential approach and as set out in the <i>Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (Cities, Towns &amp; Villages) Guidelines 2009</i> (or as updated). This shall include a positive presumption in favour of the sequential development of suitably serviced Residential (Phase 1) lands in zoned towns and villages. In un-zoned towns and villages, the presumption shall be in favour of sequential development emanating from the town/village core outwards, subject to compliance with the principles of proper planning and sustainable development and the County Development Plan. This objective will not refer to single house build. Regarding the phasing of undeveloped residential zoned land, development on Residential – Phase 2 lands will normally only be considered where 50% of the lands in Residential Phase 1 are committed to development.</p> <p><b>Objective UHO 11 - Development Densities</b> Galway County Council shall ensure that the density of new development is appropriate to the particular land use zone and/or site context, is in keeping with the existing development pattern of the area, does not unduly impact on the amenities of the area and results in a positive relationship between existing development and any adjoining public spaces. The development of higher density development shall be promoted in appropriate locations, such as suitable sites within the town/village centre and adjacent to public transport facilities, where such development is compatible with heritage and urban design objectives, infrastructure capacity and environmental considerations. New development shall also have regard to the 'Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas' Guidelines (or any updated/superseding document).</p> <p><b>Objective UHO 12-Linguistic Impact Statements</b> Galway County Council shall require the submission of a Linguistic Impact Statement for housing proposals for two or more houses in the Gaeltacht area in order to protect and strengthen the Irish language and cultural heritage of the Galway Gaeltacht areas. A Language Enurement Clause of 15 years duration shall apply to approved developments, of two or more units.</p> <p><b>Objective UHO 13 – Urban Housing in Gaeltacht Settlements</b> Development of multiple residential units (2 or more) in the Gaeltacht settlements shall be subject to Galway County Council's linguistic and occupancy requirements in order to protect the linguistic and cultural heritage of the Gaeltacht including the promotion of Irish as the community language.</p>		
<p><b>Policy RHO 1 - Management of New Single Houses in the Countryside</b> It is a policy of the Council to facilitate the management of new single houses in the countryside in accordance with the Rural Housing Zones 1, 2, 3 &amp; 4 and to support the sustainable re-use of existing housing stock within the County.</p>	<p>Development of single houses in the countryside has the potential to lead to habitat loss, runoff of pollutants, and/or disturbance of species.</p>	<p><b>Pol: GH1</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b> <b>Pol: WS4</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB4</b> <b>Obj: NHB11</b> <b>Obj: WS1</b> <b>Obj: WS2</b> <b>Obj: WS14</b></p>
<p><b>Policy RHO 2 - Adherence to the Statutory Guidelines &amp; County Development Plan</b> It is a policy of the Council to ensure that future housing in rural areas complies with the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2005(DOEHLG), the Core/Settlement Strategies for County Galway, Rural Housing Objectives and the Development Management Standards &amp; Guidelines of this Plan.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>n/a</p>



Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential Impact on the Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<p><b>Objective RHO 1 - Rural Housing Zone 1 (Rural Area Under Strong Urban Pressure-GTPS)</b></p> <p>1.(a) Those applicants with Rural Links* to the area through long standing existing and immediate family ties seeking to develop their first home on existing family farm holdings. Documentary evidence shall be submitted to the Planning Authority to justify the proposed development and will be assessed on a case by case basis. OR</p> <p>1.(b) Those applicants who have no family lands but who wish to build their first home within the community in which they have long standing Rural links* and where they have spent a substantial, continuous part of their lives i.e. have grown up in the area, schooled in the area and have immediate family connections in the area e.g. son or daughter of longstanding residents of the area. Consideration shall be given to special circumstances where a landowner has no immediate family and wishes to accommodate a niece or nephew on family lands. Having established a Substantiated Rural Housing Need*, such persons making an application on a site within a 8km radius of their original family home will be accommodated, subject to normal development management criteria and provided the site does not encroach into the Urban Fringe* of the towns of Gort, Loughrea, Athenry or Tuam. Documentary evidence shall be submitted to the Planning Authority to justify the proposed development and will be assessed on a case by case basis. OR</p> <p>1.(c) Those applicants who can satisfy to the Planning Authority that they are functionally dependent on the immediate rural areas in which they are seeking to develop a single house as their Principal Family Residence in the countryside. Documentary evidence shall be submitted to the Planning Authority to justify the proposed development and will be assessed on a case by case basis. OR</p> <p>1.(d) Where applicants can supply land registry or folio details that demonstrate that the lands on which they are seeking to build their first home, as their permanent residence, in the area have been in family ownership for a period of 20 years or more, their eligibility will be considered. Where this has been established to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority, additional intrinsic links will not have to be demonstrated OR</p> <p>1.(e) In cases where all sites on the family lands are in a designated area, family members will be considered subject to the requirements of the Habitat's Directive and normal planning considerations</p> <p>2.(a) Those applicants who lived for substantial periods of their lives in the rural area, then moved away and who now wish to return and build their first house as their permanent residence, in this local area. Special consideration will be given to one member of the immediate family of emigrants returning to this local area to live near their immediate family. Documentary evidence shall be submitted to the Planning Authority to illustrate their links to the area in order to justify the proposed development and it will be assessed on a case by case basis.</p> <p>2. (b) To recognise that exceptional health circumstances, supported by relevant documentation from a registered medical practitioner and disability organisation, may require a person to live in a particular environment or close to family support. Documentary evidence shall be submitted to the Planning Authority to justify the proposed development and will be assessed on a case by case basis.</p> <p>3. An Enurement condition shall apply for a period of 7 years, after the date that the house is first occupied by the person or persons to whom the enurement clause applies. *See Definitions in accompanying Plan.</p>	<p>Development of rural housing in the countryside has the potential to lead to habitat loss, runoff of pollutants, and/or disturbance of species.</p>	<p><b>Pol: GH1</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b> <b>Pol: WS4</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB4</b> <b>Obj: NHB11</b> <b>Obj: WS1</b> <b>Obj: WS2</b> <b>Obj: WS14</b></p>
<p><b>Objective RHO 2 - Rural Housing Zone 2(Structurally Weak Area)</b></p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to facilitate the development of individual houses in the open countryside in "Structurally Weak Areas" subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the Development Management Standards laid down in Chapter 13 and other applicable standards with the exception of those lands contained in Landscape Categories 3, 4 &amp; 5 where objective RHO3 applies.</p>	<p>Development of rural housing in the countryside has the potential to lead to habitat loss, runoff of pollutants, and/or disturbance of species.</p>	<p><b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB4</b> <b>Obj: NHB11</b> <b>Obj: WS1</b> <b>Obj: WS2</b> <b>Obj: WS14</b> <b>Pol: GH1</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b> <b>Pol: WS4</b></p>

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential Impact on the Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<p><b>Objective RHO 3 - Rural Housing Zone 3 (Landscape Category 3, 4 and 5)</b>                      Those applicants seeking to construct individual houses in the open countryside in areas located in Landscape Categories 3, 4 and 5 are required to demonstrate their <u>Rural Links</u>* to the area and are required to submit a <u>Substantiated Rural Housing Need</u>*. In addition an Applicant may be required to submit a visual impact assessment of their development, where the proposal is located in an area identified as "Focal Points/Views" in the Landscape Character Assessment of the County or in Class 4 and 5 designated landscape areas. Documentary evidence shall be submitted to the Planning Authority to justify the proposed development and will be assessed on a case by case basis. An Enurement condition shall apply for a period of 7 years, after the date that the house is first occupied by the person or persons to whom the enurement clause applies.                      *See Definitions in accompanying Plan.</p>	None	n/a
<p><b>Objective RHO 4 - Rural Housing Zone 4 (An Ghaeltacht)</b>                      It is an objective of the Council to facilitate Rural Housing in the open countryside subject to the following criteria:                      (a) Those applicants within the Gaeltacht which are located in Zone 1 (Rural Area Under Strong Urban Pressure-GTPS) and Zone 3 (Landscape Category 3, 4 and 5) shall comply with the objectives contained in RHO1 &amp; RHO3 as appropriate. Applicants, whose original family home is located on the coastal strip west of An Spidéal, will be permitted to move closer to the city but not more than 8 km from the original family home.                      OR                      (b) It is an objective of the Council that consideration will be given to Irish speakers who can prove their competence to speak Irish in accordance with Galway County Council's requirements and who can demonstrate their ability to be a long term asset to the traditional, cultural and language networks of vibrant Gaeltacht Communities. This consideration will apply to applicants seeking to provide their principal permanent residence, in landscape designations Class 1 &amp; 2 and 3. It will also extend to Class 4 areas that are not in prominent scenic locations. A Language Enurement Clause of 15 years duration will apply to approved developments in this category</p>	Development of rural housing in the countryside has the potential to lead to habitat loss, runoff of pollutants, and/or disturbance of species.	<p><b>Obj: NHB1</b>  <b>Obj: NHB4</b>  <b>Obj: NHB11</b>  <b>Obj: WS1</b>  <b>Obj: WS2</b>  <b>Obj: WS14</b>  <b>Pol: GH1</b>  <b>Pol: NHB1</b>  <b>Pol: NHB2</b>  <b>Pol: WS4</b></p>
<p><b>Objective RHO -5 Building Conversions in Gaeltacht Areas</b>                      It is an objective of the Council that building conversions in Gaeltacht areas will be considered for the purposes of advancing Gaeltacht Tourism and Gaeltacht Colleges provided the need is substantiated and the development complies with the requirements of the <i>EPA Code of Practice Manual 2009</i> or any superseding wastewater treatment manual. Documentary evidence shall be submitted to the Planning Authority to justify the proposed development and will be assessed on a case by case basis.</p>	Conversion works may lead to temporary impacts on the Natura 2000 network, such as the temporary run off of pollutants during construction works. In the long-term, increased visitor numbers to the Gaeltacht areas may result in pressures on the landscape and water treatment. This increase may potentially lead to runoff of pollutants and/or disturbance of species.	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b>  <b>Obj: DS9</b>  <b>Obj: DS10</b>  <b>Obj: NHB1</b>  <b>Obj: NHB2</b>  <b>Obj: WS1</b>  <b>Obj: WS2</b>  <b>Obj: WS14</b>  <b>Obj: WW1</b>  <b>Obj: WW5</b>  <b>Obj: WW6</b>  <b>Obj: FL3</b>  <b>Pol: NHB1</b>  <b>Pol: NHB2</b>  <b>Pol: WS4</b></p>
<p><b>Objective RHO 6- Replacement Dwelling</b>                      It is an objective of the Council that the refurbishment of existing habitable dwelling houses would be encouraged, as a more sustainable option than the demolition and construction of a new dwelling house, unless a conclusive case for demolition based on technical evidence is made for the Planning Authority's consideration on a case by case basis. It will be a requirement that any new dwelling house be designed in accordance with <i>Galway County Council's Design Guidelines for Rural Housing</i> in the countryside. Applicants, who require the demolition of an existing dwelling house shall be accommodated without the requirement to establish a Housing Need or proof of residence and will not be subject to an enurement clause.</p>	None	n/a

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential Impact on the Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<p><b>Objective RHO 7- Renovation of existing derelict dwelling/semi ruinous dwelling</b>                      It is an objective of the Council that proposals to renovate, restore or modify existing derelict or semi-derelict dwellings in the County are generally dealt with on their merits on a case by case basis, having regard to the relevant policies and objectives of this plan, the specific location and the condition of the structure and the scale of any works required to upgrade the structure to modern standards. The derelict/semi ruinous dwelling must be structurally sound, have the capacity to be renovated and/or extended and have the majority of its original features/walls in place. A structural report will be required to illustrate that the structure can be brought back into habitable use, without compromising the original character of the dwelling. Where the total demolition of the existing dwelling is proposed an Enurement Clause for seven years duration will apply.</p>	<p>Development of derelict/semi ruinous dwellings may lead to habitat loss and/or disturbance to species protected under Annex IV of the EU Habitats Directive.</p>	<p><b>Obj: NHB6</b>  <b>Obj:WS1</b>  <b>Obj: WS11</b>  <b>Obj: WS14</b>  <b>Pol: WS4</b>  <b>Pol: NHB4</b></p>
<p><b>Objective RHO 8 – Substantially Completed Single Dwelling</b>                      Where planning permission has elapsed on a previously permitted development that has been substantially completed and the dwelling remains unfinished it will not be a requirement to establish a Rural Housing Need if it were not a condition of the previously granted planning permission.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>n/a</p>
<p><b>Objective RHO 9- Design Guidelines</b>                      It is an objective of the Council to have regard to Galway County Councils’ Design Guidelines for the Single Rural House with specific reference to the following:                      (a) It is an objective to encourage new dwelling house design that respects the character, pattern and tradition of existing places, materials and built forms and that fit appropriately into the landscape.                      (b) It is an objective to promote sustainable approaches to dwelling house design and encouraging proposals to be energy efficient in their design and layout.                      (c) It is an objective to require the appropriate landscaping and screen planting of proposed developments by using predominately indigenous/local species and groupings</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>n/a</p>
<p><b>Objective RHO 10- Vacant/Unfinished Housing</b>                      Applicants for rural housing on lands other than family lands shall be encouraged to consider the option to avail of existing or permitted housing in areas where there are high levels of such stock available. A statement relating to same should be submitted as part of the application indicating that an examination of such stock was carried out and clear reasons for the unsuitability of any developments considered.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>n/a</p>
<p><b>Objective RHO11-Urban/Rural Demarcation</b>                      It is an objective of the Council to preserve and protect the open character of transitional lands outside of settlements in order to maintain a clear demarcation and distinction between urban areas and the countryside.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>n/a</p>
<p><b>Objective RHO 12-Waste Water Treatment Associated with Development in Un-Serviced Area</b>                      Permit development in un-serviced areas only where it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority that the proposed wastewater treatment system is in accordance with the Code of Practice Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses EPA (2009)/ EPA Wastewater Treatment Manuals – Treatment Systems for Small Communities, Business, Leisure Centres and Hotels (1999) (or any superseding documents) and subject to complying with the provisions and objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive.</p>	<p>Development of lands may lead to habitat loss, runoff of pollutants, and/or disturbance of species.</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b>  <b>Obj: DS10</b>  <b>Obj: CC5</b>  <b>Obj: NHB1</b>  <b>Obj: NHB12</b>  <b>Obj: WS1</b>  <b>Obj: WS2</b>  <b>Obj: WW5</b>  <b>Obj: WW7</b>  <b>Obj: EQ1</b>  <b>Obj: FL3</b>  <b>Obj: NHB3</b>  <b>Pol: EDT1</b>  <b>Pol: GH1</b>  <b>Pol: TI1</b>  <b>Pol: NHB1</b>  <b>Pol: NHB4</b></p>
<p><b>Objective RHO 13-Lifetime Enurement Clause</b>                      Lifetime enurement clauses will be considered to have expired after a period of seven years of full time occupancy by the applicant. Actual removal of the enurement clause will have to be established by a planning application.</p>	<p>Development of lands may lead to habitat loss, runoff of pollutants, and/or disturbance of species.</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b>  <b>Obj: DS10</b>  <b>Obj: CC5</b>  <b>Obj: NHB1</b>  <b>Obj: NHB12</b>  <b>Obj: WS1</b>  <b>Obj: WS2</b>  <b>Obj: WW5</b>  <b>Obj: WW7</b></p>

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential Impact on the Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
		<b>Obj: EQ1</b> <b>Obj: FL3</b> <b>Obj: NHB3</b> <b>Pol: EDT1</b> <b>Pol: GH1</b> <b>Pol: TI1</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB4</b>

## Chapter 4: Economic, Tourism and Retail Development

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential Impacts on the Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To seek to ensure that economic recovery is tangible and that economic growth is experienced in every part of the County and is shared amongst all inhabitants;</li> <li>• To safeguard and augment County Galway's extensive economic, tourism and employment base;</li> <li>• To facilitate large scale enterprise and development at strategic locations in the County;</li> <li>• To facilitate economic growth in the rural economy of the County in the form of appropriate farm diversification, green tourism and sustainable micro rural enterprise;</li> <li>• To ensure that the retail needs of the County's population are provided for, insofar as is possible, within County Galway;</li> <li>• To support the role of towns as critical drivers of economic growth in County Galway and identify town centres that require assistance and intervention, in order to attempt to address any commercial decline or stagnation and to strive to enable their retail cores to flourish;</li> <li>• To ensure that the public realm associated with towns and villages in the County are sufficiently pleasant, safe, accessible and vibrant to entice the public to live, work, shop and socialise there;</li> <li>• To be proactive in exploring methods to identify town centre sites including derelict/disused buildings that may be suitable for retail development and business or commercial purposes.</li> </ul>	<p>Increased tourism and land developments may potentially lead to habitat loss, runoff of pollutants and/or disturbance of species due to increased human activity.</p>	<b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: CC5</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: NHB5</b> <b>Obj: NHB10</b> <b>Pol: DT1</b> <b>Pol: GH1</b> <b>Pol: HB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b> <b>Pol: NHB7</b> <b>Pol: NHB8</b> <b>Pol: RA2</b> <b>Pol: WS4</b>
<p><b>Policy EDT 1 – Economic Development</b>                      Support sustainable economic development and employment creation in the County while simultaneously having regard to relevant planning legislation and guidance in order to ensure protection of the built and natural heritage, landscape/townscape/streetscape character of settlements and the rural countryside and general amenity.</p>	<p>Economic development may potentially cause adverse impacts on the Natura 2000 network if inappropriately developed. However the policy has regard for the protection of the natural environment.</p>	n/a
<p><b>Policy EDT 2 – Employment, Economy &amp; Enterprise Promotion &amp; Partnership</b>                      Proactively pursue economic growth, enterprise and employment in the County in conjunction with the relevant state agencies and government departments in a manner that synchronises with the policies and objectives as set out in national, regional and local strategies.</p>	None	n/a
<p><b>Policy EDT 3 – Regional Synergy</b>                      Forge partnerships with bordering local authorities and other local and regional agencies including the Western Regional Authority to optimise the benefits of combined resources in order to realise the full sustainable economic potential of the County and Western Region.</p>	<p>Developments within the Plan area may have adverse impacts on the Natura 2000 network in combination with other plans or projects. (Such plans and projects are outlined in Section 2.4 of the Natura Impact Report).</p>	<b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: CC5</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: NHB5</b> <b>Obj: NHB10</b> <b>Pol: DT1</b> <b>Pol: GH1</b> <b>Pol: HB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b> <b>Pol: NHB7</b> <b>Pol: NHB8</b>

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential Impacts on the Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
		<b>Pol: RA2</b> <b>Pol: WS4</b>
<b>Policy EDT 4 – Third Level/Research Institutions &amp; the Knowledge Economy</b> Garner and develop strategic links with third level institutions and industries/businesses in order to create an enhanced local knowledge based economy and in order to strengthen education, training and skills development in the workforce.	None	n/a
<b>Policy EDT 5 – County Tourism</b> Maintain the status of County Galway as a popular tourist destination, by striving to preserve the attributes and assets of the County that make it unique and by endeavouring to enrich the visitor experience by contributing to the fulfilment of appropriate additional tourist resources and facilities, throughout the County within the lifetime of the Plan.	The development of tourism within the county may lead to increased pressures on sensitive habitats within the county, such as increased activity on Lough Corrib, or amplified human activity which may lead to the disturbance of species within SPAs.	<b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: CC5</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: NHB5</b> <b>Obj: NHB10</b> <b>Pol: DT1</b> <b>Pol: GH1</b> <b>Pol: HB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b> <b>Pol: NHB7</b> <b>Pol: NHB8</b> <b>Pol: RA2</b> <b>Pol: WS4</b>
<b>Policy EDT 6 – Tourism Product</b> Support the development of an integrated tourism product for the County involving all the relevant stakeholders and the marketing of tourism initiatives at local, regional, national and international level.	The development of tourism within the county may lead to increased pressures on sensitive habitats within the county, such as increased activity on Lough Corrib, or amplified human activity which may lead to the disturbance of species within SPAs.	<b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: CC5</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: NHB5</b> <b>Obj: NHB10</b> <b>Pol: DT1</b> <b>Pol: GH1</b> <b>Pol: HB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b> <b>Pol: NHB7</b> <b>Pol: NHB8</b> <b>Pol: RA2</b> <b>Pol: WS4</b>
<b>Policy EDT 7 – Arts, Culture, Heritage, Food &amp; Crafts</b> Support the development and marketing of the Arts, culture, heritage, foods and crafts of the County through networking and developing trade links with regions, locally, nationally and internationally.	None	n/a
<b>Policy EDT 8-Cultural Tourism</b> Support the development of cultural tourism throughout the County and in particular in Irish speaking Gaeltacht areas	Increased tourism and land developments may potentially lead to habitat loss, runoff of pollutants and/or disturbance of species due to increased human activity.	<b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: CC5</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: NHB5</b> <b>Obj: NHB10</b> <b>Pol: DT1</b> <b>Pol: GH1</b> <b>Pol: HB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b> <b>Pol: NHB7</b> <b>Pol: NHB8</b> <b>Pol: RA2</b> <b>Pol: WS4</b>
<b>Policy EDT 9 – Barna Golf Club</b> Facilitate the development of an integrated tourism and recreational complex at Bearna Golf and Country Club, including the development of a hotel, leisure centre, conference centre, golf apartments, a part hotel and associated residential units.	Increased tourism and land developments may potentially lead to habitat loss, runoff of pollutants and/or disturbance of species due to increased human	<b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: CC5</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: NHB5</b> <b>Obj: NHB10</b>

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential Impacts on the Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
	activity.	<b>Pol: DT1</b> <b>Pol: GH1</b> <b>Pol: HB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b> <b>Pol: NHB7</b> <b>Pol: NHB8</b> <b>Pol: RA2</b> <b>Pol: WS4</b>
<b>Policy EDT 10 Tourism Developments</b> Tourism developments will be subject to appropriate assessment to safeguard the integrity of the Natura 2000 network of sites.	None	n/a
<b>Objective EDT 1 –Strategic Economic Corridor</b> The objectives for the Strategic Economic Corridor include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To upgrade, improve and maximise the infrastructural facilities available within the corridor.</li> <li>• To seek to reserve lands to support nationally and regionally significant activities and to attract specialist enterprise development that is large scale or high value.</li> <li>• To facilitate opportunities for science and technology based employment.</li> <li>• To ensure development is compatible with the enhancement, preservation and protection of the environment and cultural resources recognised within the corridor.</li> <li>• To identify sites of adequate size and location to accommodate necessary infrastructure or support activities which would not be appropriate in proximity to centres of population or sensitive environments or environmentally sensitive economic activities.</li> <li>• To inform and to aid the preparation of Local Area Plans for strategic areas and those surrounding immediate environs within the corridor.</li> </ul>	Development/upgrading up infrastructure may lead to habitat loss, fragmentation, runoff of pollutants and/or disturbance of species.	
<b>Objective EDT 2 – County Economic Development Strategy</b> Support the preparation of a County Economic Development Strategy and an Economic and Local Community Plan within the lifetime of the Plan.	Development/upgrading up infrastructure may lead to habitat loss, fragmentation, runoff of pollutants and/or disturbance of species.	<b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS9</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: TI5</b> <b>Obj: CC5</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Pol: EDT1</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b>
<b>Objective EDT 3 – Research, Innovation, Incubation &amp; Training</b> Support exploratory research, pioneering projects, new start up businesses/industries and retraining programmes in conjunction with the development agencies and educational/research institutions.	The development of new industries may cause an increase of pressures on European sites.	<b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS9</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Pol: EDT1</b>
<b>Objective EDT 4 – Provision of Land &amp; Infrastructure</b> Dedicate a sufficient amount of strategically located and serviced lands for the purposes of targeting economic development and employment creation activities.	Development of infrastructure may lead to an increase of pressures on waste water treatment within the county.	<b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS9</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: TI5</b> <b>Obj: CC5</b> <b>Pol: EDT1</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b>
<b>Objective EDT 5 – Infrastructural Investment</b> Assist in obtaining the maximum efficiency of zoned lands in the County through continued support for the installation, maintenance, upgrade and extension of key water, wastewater, communications, energy and transport infrastructural networks.	Wastewater development may lead to temporary pressures on groundwater/surface water dependant sites within the county. Upgrading of communications, energy and transport may lead to habitat loss, fragmentation, runoff of pollutants and/or disturbance of species.	<b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS9</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: ICT1</b> <b>Obj: CC5</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: NHB11</b> <b>Obj: WS1</b> <b>Obj: WW1</b> <b>Obj: WW5</b> <b>Obj: WW6</b> <b>Pol: GH1</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB8</b> <b>Pol: NHB4</b> <b>Pol: NHB3</b>

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential Impacts on the Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<p><b>Objective EDT 6 – Optimise the Benefits of Serviced Lands</b> Safeguard lands that are designated for the creation of employment from inappropriate development that would stifle prospective economic activity.</p>	<p>Development at serviced lands has the potential to amplify pressures on water supply and waste water treatment plants.</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS9</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: NHB11</b> <b>Obj: WS1</b> <b>Obj: WW1</b> <b>Obj: WW6</b> <b>Obj: WW8</b> <b>Obj: NHB3</b> <b>Pol: EDT1</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b> <b>Pol: NHB4</b></p>
<p><b>Objective EDT 7 – Align Enterprise to Serviced Lands</b> Encourage industrial and enterprise development to operate from lands zoned for these purpose within the various Local Area Plans in the County, subject to an adequate consideration of the policies and objectives of this plan and the need to protect the vitality and amenities of the town or settlement.</p>	<p>The encouragement of industrial development may lead to increased pressures on water supply and/or waste water treatment.</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS9</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: NHB11</b> <b>Obj: WS1</b> <b>Obj: WW1</b> <b>Obj: WW6</b> <b>Obj: WW8</b> <b>Obj: NHB3</b> <b>Pol: EDT1</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b> <b>Pol: NHB4</b></p>
<p><b>Objective EDT 8 – Design Standards</b> Encourage the provision of high quality designs (including variations in design and scale), layout, boundary treatment and arrival views of development within Industrial, Business, Enterprise and Commercial/Mixed Use lands, in order to positively contribute to the character and visual amenity of the area.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>n/a</p>
<p><b>Objective EDT 9 – Small Scale Enterprise &amp; Community Services</b> Seek to provide a strategic economic balance countywide by encouraging the establishment of small scale enterprises and community services in the smaller rural villages and settlements of the County.</p>	<p>Developments in rural areas may lead to pressures on waste water treatment, water supply and services.</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS9</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: CC5</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB12</b> <b>Obj: WS1</b> <b>Obj: WS2</b> <b>Obj: WW5</b> <b>Obj: WW7</b> <b>Obj: EQ1</b> <b>Obj: FL3</b> <b>Obj: NHB3</b> <b>Pol: EDT1</b> <b>Pol: TI1</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB4</b></p>
<p><b>Objective EDT 10 – Former Galway Airport Site</b> Support the development of the former Galway airport site at An Carn Mór for the purposes of an economic hub/strategic development site or other strategic use.</p>	<p>Developments at Carnmore have the potential to impact on the Natura 2000 network of sites, sites within 5km of Carnmore include Lough Corrib and Galway Bay Complex cSAC</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: WS1</b> <b>Pol: GH1</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b></p>
<p><b>Objective EDT 11 – Rural Enterprise</b> Consider the establishment of small scale rural orientated enterprises in unserviced</p>	<p>Developments in rural areas may lead to</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b></p>



Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential Impacts on the Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<p>rural areas outside of town or village settings which can be accommodated in existing farm buildings or can be established on a brownfield site, subject to satisfying the following criteria:                      Compatibility and general suitability to an unserved rural area (primary consideration will be given to agriculture, renewable &amp; marine resources, forestry, tourism, recreation or food production related enterprise activities and services).                      Scale of development (assimilate appropriately into a rural setting).                      Nature of development (raw materials sourced locally).                      Consideration of social and environmental impacts (enterprise must not have a significant adverse impact on the environment or rural amenity).                      The Enterprise must not constitute a road safety hazard or have a major adverse impact on the road network, road capacity and traffic levels.                      Residential amenity (enterprise must not have a significant adverse impact on residential amenity).</p>	<p>infrastructural development and increased pressures on water supply and waste water treatment plants.</p>	<p><b>Obj: CC5</b>  <b>Obj: NHB1</b>  <b>Obj: NHB12</b>  <b>Obj: WS1</b>  <b>Obj: WS2</b>  <b>Obj: WW5</b>  <b>Obj: WW7</b>  <b>Obj: EQ1</b>  <b>Obj: FL3</b>  <b>Obj: NHB3</b>  <b>Pol: EDT1</b>  <b>Pol: TI1</b>  <b>Pol: NHB1</b>  <b>Pol: NHB4</b></p>
<p><b>Objective EDT 12 – Farm Diversification</b>                      Consider proposals for the integration of a retail/services use onto a farm where it can be demonstrated that the scale and extent of retailing proposed is ancillary and compatible to the ongoing agricultural use of the farm and will not compromise the vitality and viability of retail facilities in any nearby settlement or detract from the rural setting in which it is to operate.</p>	<p>Farming diversification may lead to an increase in farming methods which may negatively impact on the Natura 2000 network, leading to potential habitat loss, fragmentation, runoff of pollutants and/or disturbance of species.</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b>  <b>Obj: NHB1</b>  <b>Obj: NHB2</b>  <b>Obj: NHB11</b>  <b>Obj: AFF5</b>  <b>Obj: WS1</b>  <b>Obj: WS2</b>  <b>Obj: FL3</b>  <b>Pol: GH1</b>  <b>Pol: NHB1</b>  <b>Pol: WS4</b></p>
<p><b>Objective EDT 13 – Seveso II Directive</b>                      Refer planning applications concerning a proposed development within the buffer zone of an existing Seveso II site and any new proposal constituting a Seveso II designation to the Health &amp; Safety Authority.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>n/a</p>
<p><b>Objective EDT 14 – Tourism Infrastructure &amp; Services</b>                      Provide where feasible, and support the provision of tourism infrastructure and services including, greenway amenity and water based tourism infrastructure throughout the County in appropriate locations.</p>	<p>The development of tourism within the county may lead to increased pressures on sensitive habitats within the county, such as increased activity on Lough Corrib, or increased human activity which may lead to the disturbance of species within European sites.</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b>  <b>Obj: DS10</b>  <b>Obj: CC5</b>  <b>Obj: NHB1</b>  <b>Obj: NHB2</b>  <b>Obj: NHB5</b>  <b>Obj: NHB10</b>  <b>Pol: DT1</b>  <b>Pol: GH1</b>  <b>Pol: HB1</b>  <b>Pol: NHB2</b>  <b>Pol: NHB7</b>  <b>Pol: NHB8</b>  <b>Pol: RA2</b>  <b>Pol: WS4</b></p>
<p><b>Objective EDT 15 – ‘Connemara Infrastructure &amp; Interpretation Plan’</b>                      Support the delivery of the vision as set out in the ‘Connemara Infrastructure and Interpretation Plan 2012’ within the lifetime of the Plan.</p>	<p>The development of the Connemara Infrastructure and Interpretation Plan may lead to increased visitor numbers to the county, potentially amplifying pressures on water supply, waste water treatment, and waste services. The development of infrastructure in Connemara may potentially cause adverse impacts on the many Natura 2000 sites in the region.</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b>  <b>Obj: DS10</b>  <b>Obj: CC5</b>  <b>Obj: NHB1</b>  <b>Obj: NHB2</b>  <b>Obj: NHB5</b>  <b>Obj: NHB10</b>  <b>Pol: DT1</b>  <b>Pol: GH1</b>  <b>Pol: HB1</b>  <b>Pol: NHB2</b>  <b>Pol: NHB7</b>  <b>Pol: NHB8</b>  <b>Pol: RA2</b>  <b>Pol: WS4</b></p>

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<p><b>Objective EDT 16 –Teach an Phiarsaigh</b> Collaborate with relevant agencies and committees in the development of Teach an Phiarsaigh project at Rosmuc and assist in the delivery of its tourist potential as a historical and cultural centre within the lifetime of the Plan.</p>	<p>Development at this site may cause adverse impacts on the Connemara Bog Complex cSAC and SPA, and the Kilkieran Bay and Islands cSAC which occur within 1km of Teach an Phiarsaigh</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: CC5</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: NHB5</b> <b>Obj: NHB10</b> <b>Pol: DT1</b> <b>Pol: GH1</b> <b>Pol: HB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b> <b>Pol: NHB7</b> <b>Pol: NHB8</b> <b>Pol: RA2</b> <b>Pol: WS4</b></p>
<p><b>Objective EDT 17 Outdoor Pursuits</b> Support the provision of, sporting, sailing, boating, kayaking and angling facilities, pier and marina development, pony trekking routes, golf courses, adventure and interpretative centres and associated ancillary uses throughout the County in appropriate locations including former Quarry sites.</p>	<p>The development of such pursuits may lead to adverse impacts on Natura 2000 sites which are surface water dependant, such as Lough Corrib and Lough Derg.</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: CC5</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: NHB5</b> <b>Obj: NHB10</b> <b>Pol: DT1</b> <b>Pol: GH1</b> <b>Pol: HB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b> <b>Pol: NHB7</b> <b>Pol: NHB8</b> <b>Pol: RA2</b> <b>Pol: WS4</b></p>
<p><b>Objective EDT 18 Holiday Accommodation in Serviced Settlements</b> Encourage the proportionate development of new stand alone holiday homes/independent guest accommodation and short-stay accommodation within existing adequately serviced town and village settlements.</p>	<p>The development of holiday homes may lead to increased pressure on services, and the construction of which may lead to temporary runoff of pollutants, permanent habitat loss and disturbance of species.</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: CC5</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: NHB5</b> <b>Obj: NHB10</b> <b>Pol: DT1</b> <b>Pol: GH1</b> <b>Pol: HB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b> <b>Pol: NHB7</b> <b>Pol: NHB8</b> <b>Pol: RA2</b> <b>Pol: WS4</b></p>
<p><b>Objective EDT 19 – Holiday Accommodation in Open Countryside</b> (a) Consider the reuse of existing buildings for holiday homes/guest accommodation outside of settlements where it can be demonstrated that there is a justifiable tourist product/demand. Any renovation work shall be similar in scale and design to the existing building(s). In such cases, documentary evidence shall be submitted to substantiate the proposed development and each individual application will be assessed on its merits. (b) Consider the provision of short-stay accommodation (glamping/camping etc) outside of settlements where it can be demonstrated that there is a justifiable tourist product/demand. The need to develop in a particular area must be balanced against environmental, social and cultural impacts of the development and benefits to the local community. In such cases, documentary evidence shall be submitted to substantiate the proposed development and each individual application will be assessed on its merits.</p>	<p>The development of holiday homes may lead to increased pressure on services, and the construction of which may lead to temporary runoff of pollutants, permanent habitat loss and disturbance of species.</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: CC5</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: NHB5</b> <b>Obj: NHB10</b> <b>Pol: DT1</b> <b>Pol: GH1</b> <b>Pol: HB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b> <b>Pol: NHB7</b> <b>Pol: NHB8</b> <b>Pol: RA2</b> <b>Pol: WS4</b></p>
<p><b>Objective EDT 20-Rural Business</b> Bone fide applicants who are not considered eligible under the Rural Housing Categories in Chapter 3 may be considered as qualifying to build a permanent home</p>	<p>Developments in rural areas may lead to pressures on waste</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS9</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b></p>

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential Impacts on the Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<p>in the rural areas, which are not subject to strong urban influence, subject to being able to satisfy the Planning Authority that they operate an existing established full time business which they now propose to operate from their proposed home in a rural area, as part of their planning application, in order, for example, to discourage commuting to towns or cities. Applicants must be able to submit evidence that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Their business will contribute to and enhance the rural community in which they seek to live and</li> <li>• They can satisfy the Planning Authority that the nature of their employment or business is compatible with those specified in the local needs criteria for rural areas ie. That they are serving a predominantly local rural business need.</li> </ul>	<p>water treatment, water supply and services.</p>	<p><b>Obj: CC5</b>  <b>Obj: NHB1</b>  <b>Obj: NHB12</b>  <b>Obj: WS1</b>  <b>Obj: WS2</b>  <b>Obj: WW5</b>  <b>Obj: WW7</b>  <b>Obj: EQ1</b>  <b>Obj: FL3</b>  <b>Obj: NHB3</b>  <b>Pol: EDT1</b>  <b>Pol: TI1</b>  <b>Pol: NHB1</b>  <b>Pol: NHB4</b></p>
<p><b>Objective EDT 21 – Off Shore Island Tourism</b>  Facilitate the development of sustainable and green tourism which draws on the cultural, linguistic, archaeological, marine/coastal and ecological wealth of the off shore islands of County Galway while simultaneously safeguarding their integrity.</p>	<p>Tourism promotion on the islands of the county may cause adverse impacts on the Natura 2000 network, such as increased tourism on Omev Island, designated as cSAC for the presence of sensitive machair habitat.</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b>  <b>Obj: DS10</b>  <b>Obj: CC5</b>  <b>Obj: NHB1</b>  <b>Obj: NHB2</b>  <b>Obj: NHB5</b>  <b>Obj: NHB10</b>  <b>Pol: DT1</b>  <b>Pol: GH1</b>  <b>Pol: HB1</b>  <b>Pol: NHB2</b>  <b>Pol: NHB7</b>  <b>Pol: NHB8</b>  <b>Pol: RA2</b>  <b>Pol: WS4</b></p>
<p><b>Objective EDT 22 – Gaeltacht Tourism</b>  Facilitate the sustainable development of the Gaeltacht areas of County Galway as cultural and linguistic tourist destinations while simultaneously safeguarding their integrity.</p>	<p>The promotion of tourism in Gaeltacht areas may lead to increased pressures on the surrounding environment, potentially leading to habitat loss, disturbance of species and changes in key indicators of conservation value.</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b>  <b>Obj: DS10</b>  <b>Obj: CC5</b>  <b>Obj: NHB1</b>  <b>Obj: NHB2</b>  <b>Obj: NHB5</b>  <b>Obj: NHB10</b>  <b>Pol: DT1</b>  <b>Pol: GH1</b>  <b>Pol: HB1</b>  <b>Pol: NHB2</b>  <b>Pol: NHB7</b>  <b>Pol: NHB8</b>  <b>Pol: RA2</b>  <b>Pol: WS4</b></p>
<p><b>Objective EDT 23 - East Galway, Lough Derg and The Burren</b>  a) Facilitate the sustainable development of East Galway, Lough Derg and the Burren as cultural and tourist destinations while simultaneously safeguarding their integrity;  b) Galway County Council to explore with Clare County Council, the proposal to add Burren Lowlands areas to the Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark;  c) Promote active collaboration between all stakeholders both in Co.Galway and adjoining counties and region.</p>	<p>Development in these sensitive areas could lead to habitat loss, fragmentation, runoff of pollutants and/or disturbance of species.</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b>  <b>Obj: DS10</b>  <b>Obj: EDT22</b>  <b>Pol: EDT1</b></p>
<p><b>Objective EDT 24 – Arts, Culture, Heritage, Food and Crafts</b>  Support and facilitate the development of the Food and Craft sector including the formation of regularised farmers markets and support the development of the Arts, culture, and heritage festivals at appropriate locations throughout the County.</p>	<p>May lead to impacts on the Natura 2000 network of sites by encouraging more intensive farming/yeilding.</p>	<p><b>Obj: NHB1</b>  <b>Obj: NHB2</b>  <b>Obj: NHB6</b>  <b>Obj: NHB11</b>  <b>Obj: NHB12</b>  <b>Obj: AFF5</b>  <b>Obj: AFF6</b>  <b>Obj: WS1</b>  <b>Obj: WS2</b>  <b>Obj: WS11</b>  <b>Pol: NHB1</b>  <b>Pol: NHB2</b></p>

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential Impacts on the Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
		<b>Pol: WS4</b>
<p><b>Objective EDT 25 – Wild Atlantic Way</b> Support and facilitate the Wild Atlantic Way project in conjunction with the relevant stakeholders and Galway County Council will actively encourage the creation of spurs to link in with the Wild Atlantic Way as was intended, taking into account environmental sensitivities.</p>	<p>Direct and indirect development relating to this initiative may potentially lead to adverse impacts on the Natura 2000 network. Habitats and sites which are surface water or groundwater dependant are particularly at risk.</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS9</b> <b>Obj: TI5</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: WS1</b> <b>Obj: WS2</b> <b>Obj: WS9</b> <b>Obj: WS11</b> <b>Obj: WS14</b> <b>Obj: WW1</b> <b>Obj: WW5</b> <b>Obj: WW6</b> <b>Obj: WW7</b> <b>Obj: FL3</b> <b>Obj: NHB3</b> <b>Pol: GH1</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b> <b>Pol: RA2</b> <b>Pol: WS4</b> <b>Pol: NHB4</b></p>
<p><b>Policy R 1 – Retail Provision</b> Support &amp; facilitate existing retail and promote and facilitate appropriate new retailing in the significant role that it plays in providing local employment, sustaining local economies and enhancing the attractiveness of the County for residential, business and additional complementary services.</p> <p><b>Policy R2-Retail Vacancy</b> It is the policy of the Council to have regard to the vacancy rate of similar units when considering the provision of new retail facilities.</p> <p><b>Policy R3 – Large Scale Retail Proposals &amp; National Roads/Interchanges</b> There shall be a general presumption against large scale retail proposals adjacent to existing, new or planned national roads and interchanges in accordance with the provisions of the DoECLG Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities, (2012) (and any updated/superseding document).</p> <p><b>Objective R 1 – Retail Planning Guidelines &amp; the Sequential Approach</b> Support and promote the retail sector in the County and to ensure compliance with the Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities DoECLG (April 2012, including any updated/superseding document), including the need for a sequential approach to retail development, the policies and objectives of any future Retail Strategy for Galway and the guidance set out in the Retail Design Manual DoECLG (April 2012).</p> <p><b>Objective R 2 – Retail Hierarchy</b> Actively promote a hierarchy of retail functions in the County that complements the Settlement Hierarchy of this Plan: (a) To retain and further develop the higher order shopping functions in Tuam, Ballinasloe and Loughrea as the main retailing centres in the County. (b) To encourage appropriate retail provision in the other Key Towns of the County as per the settlement hierarchy in order for them to realise their potential. (c) To retain and further develop local shopping facilities in other towns, and villages and settlements in the County and encourage appropriate new retail development in centrally located sites.</p> <p><b>Objective R 3 – Retail Survey &amp; Strategy</b> a) To Engage with Galway City Council to produce a Retail Strategy within 3 years of the adoption of the Development Plan. b) To commence and complete retail surveys of all major towns listed in the Core Strategy Settlement Table which will inform the retail strategy.</p> <p><b>Objective R 4 – Retail Site Assembly</b> To facilitate site assembly in the Tuam hub, the County town of Ballinasloe and all key town centres of the County (having regard to existing historical plot and street patterns) to address issues such as vacancy, dereliction/decay and urban sprawl.</p> <p><b>Objective R 5 – Living over the Shop</b> Preserve and promote the tradition of living over the shop in all town and village</p>	<p>Although largely within town centres, retail development may lead to adverse impacts on the Natura 2000 network of sites if inappropriately located/developed. Threats include fragmentation, habitat loss and disturbance of species (light, noise pollution).</p>	<p><b>Pol: EDT1</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b></p>

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential Impacts on the Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<p>settlements throughout the County.</p> <p><b>Objective R 6 – Retail Diversity</b> Ensure that in the interests of vitality and viability, development proposals result in a balance of services and outlets thus avoiding an over-concentration of uses.</p> <p><b>Objective R 7 – Local Shops &amp; Services</b> Facilitate the development of small shops and services at peripheral locations within town settlements only where it can be demonstrated that they are of a scale to serve only localised demand and will not impact negatively on the vitality and viability of the existing town centre.</p> <p><b>Objective R 8 – Late Night &amp; Evening Uses</b> Support proposals for development involving off-peak evening and late night commercial, retail or leisure uses within or immediately adjacent to town centres, where it can be demonstrated that the development will enhance the character and function of the area and not detract from the residential and general amenity of the area.</p> <p><b>Objective R 9 – Regulation of Late Night &amp; Evening Uses</b> Seek to uphold environmental quality standards through the application of good practice principles in the management of late night uses, in the form of stipulating litter prevention measures and regulating hours of operation.</p> <p><b>Objective R 10 – Retailing Associated with Petrol Stations</b> Consider development proposals for shop facilities accompanying petrol stations on their individual merits, having regard to the Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012) and subject to traffic implications.</p> <p><b>Objective R 11 – Strategic Town Centre Development</b> Be supportive of existing marts and co-ops in the County which seek to relocate from prime town centre locations to edge of town locations subject to adherence to normal planning requirements and development control standards, thus allowing for the expansion of a town centre/core area for retail and commercial purposes.</p> <p><b>Objective R 12 – High Quality Retail Environment</b> Support the development of appropriate types, scales and patterns of retail development in suitable locations within the settlements of the County and with high quality design that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the vitality and viability of the existing settlement centre and associated main streets and/or do not undermine their vibrancy.</li> <li>• Protect investment in strategic roads and infrastructure and provide ease of accessibility to retail areas, particularly in terms of public transport.</li> <li>• Contribute to the creation of a high quality retail environment.</li> </ul>		

## Chapter 5: Roads and Transportation

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential Impact on the Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide a safe and efficient network of transport to serve the needs of the people and the movement of goods and services to and within County Galway;</li> <li>• To provide access for all in an integrated manner with an enhanced choice of transport options including the Rural Transport Programme;</li> <li>• To promote and encourage the use of alternative sustainable modes of transport and to promote the use of transport energy from renewable resources;</li> <li>• Promote development on serviced land in towns and villages, particularly those located along public transport corridors in accordance with the Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas Guidelines, having regard to existing settlement patterns;</li> <li>• To safeguard the strategic transport function and carrying capacity of the motorway and national road network and associated junctions in order to provide for the safe and efficient movement of interurban and inter-regional traffic;</li> <li>• To support the opening of the Western Rail Corridor route from Athenry, Tuam Hub Town, Claremorris to Collooney (4 sections) as an option for passenger train and cargo transportation;</li> <li>• To support the upgrade of air transportation infrastructure within the County including improved access and air services in order to enhance air connectivity to domestic and foreign markets,</li> </ul>	<p>The development of transport/infrastructure may lead to habitat loss, runoff of pollutants, fragmentation and disturbance of species.</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS9</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: TI5</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: NHB11</b> <b>Obj: WS1</b> <b>Obj: WS2</b> <b>Pol: TI1</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b></p>

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential Impact on the Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote and enhance access (including ferry/cargo services) in a sustainable manner to and between the existing network of ports, harbours, piers and slipways within the County and offshore islands in support of tourism and the local economy.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Policy TI 1 – Transportation Strategy and Compliance with Legislation</b> It is the overarching policy of Galway County Council to comply with all relevant Irish and European planning and environmental legislation in implementing its Transportation Strategy.</p> <p><b>Policy TI 2 – Development of an Integrated &amp; Sustainable Transport System</b> It is the policy of the Council to promote the development of an integrated and sustainable high quality transport system that shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote closer co-ordination between land use and sustainable transportation;</li> <li>Continue the provision of a range of transport options within the County in collaboration with other statutory agencies and transport providers, including a safe road network, a range of bus and rail services, adequate facilities for walking and cycling and opportunities for air and water-based travel.</li> </ol> <p><b>Policy TI 3 – Sustainable Travel Measures</b> Support the Government’s commitment under the EU Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC) to achieve agreed national targets in relation to sustainable transport to include those for electric vehicles to constitute 10% of the Irish transport fleet by 2020 and a bio-fuel obligation, which will incrementally increase on a sustainable basis to 2020, to meet the renewable energy target of 10% in 2020.</p> <p><b>Policy TI 4 – Land Use Integration and Transportation</b> Ensure that land use planning is integrated with transportation planning and reduces the need to travel, particularly by private transport, by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoting the consolidation of development through the implementation of the Core Strategy/Settlement Strategy as outlined within this Plan;</li> <li>Encouraging intensification and mixed use development at public transport hubs and nodes identified within the County;</li> <li>Prioritise walking, cycling and public transport alternatives within, and providing access to, new development proposals, as appropriate.</li> </ol> <p><b>Objective TI 1 – Sustainable Transportation</b> Support and facilitate any ‘Smarter Travel’ initiatives that will improve sustainable transportation within the County including public transport, electric and hybrid vehicles, car clubs, public bike schemes, park and ride/park and stride facilities, improved pedestrian and cycling facilities, as appropriate.</p> <p><b>Objective TI 2– Sustainable Travel Measures</b> In order to help meet the agreed national targets set for the Transport sector under the EU Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC), Galway County Council shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate improvements to existing public transport infrastructure and services through the pursuit of a variety of mode options including new/additional Quality Bus Corridors, commuter rail and park and ride facilities;</li> <li>Collaborate with service providers in the improvement of fuel efficiency of motorized transport;</li> <li>Encourage the use of electric vehicles and bicycles, in line with Council and National Policy;</li> <li>The Council shall continue to promote/implement the cycle to work scheme for all employees;</li> <li>Support the provision of suitable infrastructure to encourage an increase in the use of electric vehicles including the piloting of charging points on-street at key areas subject to the availability of resources and the provision of charging spaces in non-residential developments;</li> </ol> <p><b>Objective TI 3 - Mobility Management Plans</b> Require Mobility Management Plans for all large scale residential, commercial, mixed use, business/enterprise or industrial developments, as appropriate.</p> <p><b>Objective TI 4 - Transportation Hub Development</b> Investigate the potential for the development of integrated transportation hubs at Tuam, Ballinasloe, Athenry, Gort, Clifden, Loughrea and at Garraun within the lifetime of this Plan and as resources permit. Seek to maximise the strategic integration of transport and rational land uses within the emerging transportation and economic corridors. Over the lifetime of this Plan, emphasis will be placed on the provision of bus facilities adjacent to rail stations, where appropriate.</p>	<p>Development of transport and transport hubs may lead to increased pressures on the Natura 2000 network of sites, though this development is to be carried out in a sustainable manner, therefore impacts may be short-term.</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS9</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: TI5</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Pol: TI1</b> <b>Pol: GH1</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b></p>



Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential Impact on the Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<p><b>Policy TI 5 – Roads, Streets and Parking</b> It is the policy of Galway County Council in conjunction with all relevant statutory agencies and infrastructure providers to provide road and street networks that are safe and convenient, that have adequate capacity to accommodate motorised traffic and non-motorised movements, that have a high environmental quality with appropriate adjacent development and built form, particularly in the case of urban streets and streetscapes, and that adequate parking facilities are provided to serve the needs of towns and villages within the County. In this regard, the principles, approaches, and standards set out in the <i>Design Manual for Urban Roads &amp; Streets</i> (2013) (including any superseding document) shall be applied to new development as appropriate.</p> <p><b>Policy TI 6 – Protection of Strategic Transportation Infrastructure</b> Seek to protect and safeguard the significant investment made in strategic transportation infrastructure, in particular the network of national roads, the existing rail lines and the Western Rail Corridor.</p> <p><b>Policy TI 7– Protection of National Road Network</b> Protect the motorway and national road network and national road junctions in line with Government policies. Safeguard the carrying capacity, operational efficiency, safety and significant investment made in motorway, national road network within the County including the M6 Dublin to Galway Motorway, the M18 Gort to Crusheen Motorway and the M17/M18 Galway to Tuam when completed.</p> <p><b>Policy TI8 –Transportation Infrastructure Requirements for the Gateway and West of the County</b> It is the policy of Galway County Council to work with Galway City Council and all relevant statutory bodies to develop an appropriate infrastructural response to the transportation needs of the Galway Gateway, its environs and the west of the county, with a view to relieving congestion, improving travel times, increased safety of all road users and enhancing connectivity and access within the region and enhanced accessibility of the Western region in a national and international context. Any such solution shall have due regard to the necessity to protect the environment and will comply fully with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p><b>Policy TI 9 –Road Network Improvements &amp; Western Rail Corridor/Greenway</b> It shall be the policy of Galway County Council to ensure that any works to be carried out by Galway County Council or other statutory authority to any part of the road network which may affect the delivery of either the Western Rail corridor or any Greenway proposal shall be carried out in such a way so as not to compromise the longer term delivery of such alternative transportation proposals or any interim objectives to use the railway as a greenway.</p> <p><b>Policy TI 10-Reclassification of Restricted Routes</b> It is a policy of Galway County Council to liaise with the National Roads Authority on the reclassification of Restricted Routes as a result of the construction of motorways</p> <p><b>Policy TI11-Signage</b> It is a policy of Galway County Council to liaise with the National roads Authority in relation to increased signage for rural towns adjacent to motorways in order to promote service availability.</p> <p><b>Objective TI 5 – Road and Transportation Network Improvements</b> Facilitate the progression of and implement improvements to the existing National Road and Regional/Local Road networks including the priority transportation schemes, listed in Table 5.1: Priority Transportation Infrastructure Projects for Co. Galway 2015-2021 and those listed within Table 5.2: Regional/Local Projects Proposed 2015-2021 subject to relevant Irish planning and European environmental legislation including Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and/or other environmental assessment, where appropriate.</p> <p><b>Objective TI 6 – Protection of National Routes &amp; Strategically Important Regional Road Networks</b> It is an objective of the Council to protect the capacity and safety of the National Road Network and Strategically Important Regional Road network (listed in DM Standard 19) in the County and ensure compliance with the Spatial Planning and National Roads Planning Guidelines (2012). Galway County Council will not normally permit development proposals for future development that include direct access or intensification of traffic from existing accesses onto any national primary or secondary</p>	<p>Development of transport and transport hubs may lead to increased pressures on the Natura 2000 network of sites, though this development is to be carried out in a sustainable manner, therefore impacts may be short-term.</p> <p>The development of roads and car parks may lead to permanent impacts on the Natura 2000 network, potential for habitat loss, fragmentation, runoff of pollutants and disturbance of species.</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS9</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: TI5</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Pol: TI1</b> <b>Pol: GH1</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b></p>



Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential Impact on the Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<p>road outside of the 50-60 kph speed limit zone for towns and villages.</p> <p><b>Objective TI7 Service/Rest Areas &amp; Scenic Viewpoints</b>                      A) Support the National Roads Authority in the provision of service and rest area facilities that may be proposed by the NRA and have regard to the provisions of Section 2.8 of the DoECLG Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines and the NRA Service Policy (August 2014) with regard to any other proposals for roadside service facilities or off-line service facilities along National Roads and junctions that may be promoted by private developers                      B) Support the development of scenic viewpoints on existing road infrastructure where appropriate, minimizing environmental impact and having full regard to the DoECLG guidance documents on development along national roads</p> <p><b>Objective TI 8 – Traffic Management Plans</b>                      Consider the review of Traffic Management Plans in Ballinasloe, Portumna, Gort, Athenry, Oranmore, Loughrea, Cill Rónain, Oughterard, Tuam and Cleggan. Carry out Traffic Management Plans for Craughwell, Headford, Kinvara, Bearna, Baile Chláir, Maigh Cuilinn, Leenane and Dunmore.</p> <p><b>Objective T 9 – Car Parking</b>                      Provide/improve parking facilities in towns and villages as development and traffic demand. The requirements for car parking shall be in accordance with the standards and guidelines as set out within Chapter 13 Development Management Standards and Guidelines of this Plan under Guidelines for Transportation, Roads, Parking, Loading and Storage.</p> <p><b>Objective TI 10 - Traffic and Transport Assessment (TTA) and Road Safety Audits (RSA)</b>                      Require all proposed new significant development proposals to be accompanied by a TTA and RSA, carried out by suitably competent consultants, which are assessed in association with their cumulative impact with neighbouring developments on the road network, in accordance with the requirements contained within the NRA's Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines, having regard and with respect to <i>RSA in NRA DMRB HD19/12 Road Safety Audit</i> (including any updated superseding document).</p> <p><b>Objective TI 11 – Urban Street Network and the Design Manual for Urban Roads &amp; Streets</b>                      Support the treatment of the route network within the built areas of towns as urban streets that prioritise the needs of pedestrians, that facilitate cyclists wherever possible and that support public and private transport movements, stopping and parking, as appropriate. In this regard, the principles, approaches, and standards set out in the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets 2013 (including any updated/superseding document) shall be applied to new development as appropriate.</p> <p><b>Objective TI 12 – Noise</b>                      Require all new proposed development, which is considered to be noise sensitive within 300m of existing, new or planned national roads, or roadways with traffic volumes greater than 8,200AADT, to include a noise assessment and mitigation measures if necessary with their planning application documentation. The cost of mitigation measures shall be borne by the developer. Mitigation measures in order to protect the noise environment of existing residential development will be facilitated or enforced as necessary.</p> <p><b>Objective TI 13 – Signage on or Visible from all Roads</b>                      Avoid the proliferation of non-road traffic signage on and adjacent to all roads in the interest of traffic safety and visual amenity, in accordance with the Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2012. The NRA document Policy and Provision of Tourist and Leisure Signage on National Road March 2011 (including any updated/superseding document) shall also be considered in the assessment of relevant developments.</p> <p><b>Objective TI 14 – Road Safety Schemes</b>                      Provide a safe road system throughout the County through Road Safety Schemes, which will include the continuation of the low cost safety measure programme, signage and delineation, traffic calming, and liaison with the school authorities to ensure that the schools provide safety features as required.</p> <p><b>Objective TI 15-Transportation Infrastructure Requirements for the Gateway and West of the County</b>                      It is an objective of Galway County Council to work with all other relevant bodies to deliver the necessary improvements to transportation infrastructure, including new infrastructure if necessary, to help secure the medium and long term economic and</p>		

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential Impact on the Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<p>social development of Galway Gateway and the west of the County. Any such investment or project shall be carried out with due regard to the necessity to protect the environment and in full compliance with the provision of relevant legislation, including the Habitats Directive.</p>		
<p><b>Objective TI 16 – The Sustainable Development of the Western Rail Corridor</b>                      Maintain the Western Rail Corridor as an option for passenger train and cargo transportation and support the opening of the remainder of the Western Rail Corridor route from Athenry to Collooney.</p> <p><b>Objective TI 17 – Bus Services and the Rural Transport Programme (RTP)</b>                      (a) Support the provision of public and private bus services and ancillary infrastructure including bus shelters, park and ride facilities at appropriate locations;                      b) Support and help implement the Rural Transport Initiative including any revisions to same. Work with the HSE/local communities including the Galway Transport Co-ordination Unit (TCU) in order to encourage and promote a sustainable community-based public transport scheme;                      c) Ensure that all bus services and ancillary infrastructure including bus shelters, park and ride facilities at appropriate locations have appropriate regard to the needs of the disabled in line with regulatory requirements. Galway County Council supports shall be subject to there being prior compliance before being provided.</p> <p><b>Objective TI 18 – Public Transport Plan</b>                      The Council shall prepare a Public Transport Plan in consultation and co-operation with the National Transport Authority, the Galway Transportation Co-ordination Unit (TCU) and other relevant agencies.</p> <p><b>Objective TI 19 – Galway County Walking and Cycling Strategy</b>                      Implement the recommendations and proposals within the <i>The National Cycle Network Scoping Study (2010)</i> and the Galway County Walking and Cycling Strategy 2013 as outlined within Table 5.1: Priority Transportation Infrastructure Projects for Co. Galway 2015-2021.</p> <p><b>Objective TI20-Dualing of Rail Tracks</b>                      Support the proposal for the dualing of the rail line from Galway-Athenry-Ballinasloe, subject to relevant Irish planning and European environmental legislation including Article 6 of the habitats Directive and/or other environmental assessment.</p>	<p>The support and development of the western rail corridor may lead to habitat loss, fragmentation and disturbance of species.</p> <p>The development of a walking and cycling route may cause adverse effects on the Natura 2000 network; these impacts are likely to be short-term as the development will benefit the county's ecology in the long term.</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b>  <b>Obj: DS9</b>  <b>Obj: DS10</b>  <b>Obj: TI5</b>  <b>Obj: NHB1</b>  <b>Obj: NHB2</b>  <b>Obj: WS1</b>  <b>Obj: WS2</b>  <b>Pol: GH1</b>  <b>Pol: NHB1</b>  <b>Pol: NHB2</b></p>
<p><b>Objective TI 21 – Local Airstrips</b>                      The Council shall safeguard the current and future operational, safety, technical and development requirements of local airstrips within its functional area by having regard to the advice of the Irish Aviation Authority with regard to the effects of any development proposals in the vicinity of local air strips.</p> <p><b>Objective TI 22 – Helipad Facilities</b>                      The Council shall facilitate the provision of helipad facilities in industrial/commercial areas, strategic development sites or in areas in close proximity to hospitals, medical services facilities or emergency facilities where feasible and appropriate.</p> <p><b>Objective TI 23 - Sustainable Development of Ros an Mhíl Sea Port &amp; Galway Harbour</b>                      Galway County Council shall continue to recognise the strategic importance of Ros an Mhíl and Galway Harbour and shall promote and facilitate their continued sustainable development including the following:                      a) The Council shall undertake improvement works to the existing road infrastructure servicing Ros an Mhíl as resources permit;                      b) Collaborate with Galway City Council and with the Galway Harbour Company in the promotion of interconnectivity between Galway Harbour and Ros an Mhíl.</p> <p><b>Objective TI 24 - Sustainable Development of Ports, Harbours, Piers and Slipways</b>                      The Council shall –                      1) Support the development of Ros an Mhíl Harbour as a deep water port and support and facilitate improvements the and maintenance to other harbours including Inis Oirr and Inis Meáin, piers and slipways and consider any new marine infrastructure where appropriate;                      2) Facilitate the safe and convenient access to the water for the purpose of public transport, industry, commerce, sea rescue, tourism, aquaculture and recreation where appropriate and as resources allow.</p> <p><b>Objective TI 25 – Harbour Bye-Laws</b>                      Facilitate the implementation of harbour bye – laws for the regulation and control of</p>	<p>Developments of aviation infrastructure can potentially lead to habitat loss, runoff of pollutants (temporary), and disturbance of species.</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b>  <b>Obj: DS9</b>  <b>Obj: DS10</b>  <b>Obj: NHB1</b>  <b>Obj: NHB2</b>  <b>Obj: WS1</b>  <b>Obj: WS2</b>  <b>Pol: NHB1</b>  <b>Pol: NHB2</b>  <b>Pol: WS4</b></p>

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential Impact on the Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
harbour activities. <b>Objective TI 26 – Water-Borne Transport</b> Support and facilitate the operation of ferry/cargo services between the mainland and the offshore islands within County Galway and those serving Galway Gateway and County Clare. Facilitate the sustainable expansion of such services/facilities over the lifetime of the Plan in collaboration with service providers and other local authorities as appropriate, minimising environmental impact. Land use proposals that would prejudice the sustainable operation of these services will not normally be permitted.		

## Chapter 6: Water and Wastewater, Waste Management and Extractive Industry

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential impact on the Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To protect, preserve and conserve the County’s water resources and comply with the standards of the Western River Basin Management Plan and the Shannon International River Basin Management Plan.</li> <li>• To facilitate in a sustainable manner the provision of necessary water and waste water infrastructure.</li> <li>• To minimise the amount of waste creation within the County and promote a practice of reduce, reuse and recycle where possible.</li> <li>• To safeguard the environment of the County by seeking to ensure that residual waste is disposed of in an appropriate and environmentally friendly fashion.</li> <li>• To ensure that aggregate material is appropriately managed and sustainably developed in the County.</li> </ul>	The development of water and waste water infrastructure may lead to temporary adverse impacts on the Natura 2000 network.	<b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS9</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: WS1</b> <b>Obj: WS2</b> <b>Obj: WS11</b> <b>Obj: WW6</b> <b>Obj: WW8</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b> <b>Pol: NHB4</b>
<p><b>Policy WS 1– Irish Water</b> Galway County Council will work in close co-operation with Irish Water in its new role as the lead authority for water services.</p> <p><b>Policy WS 2 – Irish Water and Rural Towns and Villages</b> Galway County Council will work with Irish Water to provide Water and Waste water facilities in rural towns and villages.</p> <p><b>Policy WS 3- Irish Water’s Proposed Capital Investment Plan</b> Support Irish Water in the implementation of their Proposed Capital Investment Plan 2014-2016 and any subsequent Investment Programmes.</p> <p><b>Policy WS 4- Water Conservation</b> Continue the commitment to water conservation and leakage reduction within the County and promote water conservation campaigns.</p> <p><b>Policy WS 5 - Water Quality</b> Promote public awareness of water quality issues and the measures required to protect all waters including all surface water and groundwater bodies.</p> <p><b>Policy WS 6 - Water Supply on the Islands</b> That Galway County Council work with Irish Water to address the existing inadequacy of water supply on Oileáin Árann.</p> <p><b>Objective WS 1 – Protection of Ground Waters</b> Support the protection of groundwater resources and dependent wildlife/habitats in accordance with the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC, the European Communities Environmental Objectives (groundwater) Regulations, 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) or any updated legislation and the Groundwater Protection Scheme and source protection plans for water supplies.</p> <p><b>Objective WS 2 – EU Policies and Directives</b> Protect, conserve and enhance all existing and potential water resources of the County, in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive, the River Basin Management Plans, the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (SI No. 272 of 2009), the EU Bathing Water Directive (Directive 2006/7/EC) implemented by the Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008 (S.I. No. 79) of 2008 and implement the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations (No. 2) 2007 and ensure that water supplies comply with the parameters in these regulations.</p>	These policies and objectives will benefit the Natura 2000 network in the long run, however, the network may potentially impacted upon by upgrades, or new water/wastewater services.	<b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS9</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: WS1</b> <b>Obj: WS2</b> <b>Obj: WS11</b> <b>Obj: WW6</b> <b>Obj: WW8</b> <b>Pol: NHB4</b>

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential impact on the Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<p><b>Objective WS 3 – Irish Water</b> Liaise with and advise Irish Water in identifying, prioritising and progressing the implementation of water projects throughout County Galway over the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p><b>Objective WS 4 - Provision of water services in unserviced towns &amp; villages</b> Support the provision of water services infrastructure in unserviced towns and villages to assist in the proper planning and sustainable development of the County.</p> <p><b>Objective WS 5 – Water Safety Plan</b> Support the preparation of water safety plans for the protection of the major public water supply schemes in County Galway within the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p><b>Objective WS 6 – Regional Water Supply Networks</b> Develop in conjunction with Irish Water the supply of water through the Regional Water Supply Networks including the interlinking of networks to ensure continuity and security of supply throughout the expanded network.</p> <p><b>Objective WS 7 – Source Management &amp; Protection Zones</b> Liaise with Irish Water and seek to establish source management and protection zones around drinking water supply (ground and surface) sources and develop appropriate management and maintenance for same.</p> <p><b>Objective WS 8 – Water Conservation</b> Support efficiency in the operation and demand management of the water supply infrastructure, promote water conservation and reduce the overall level of water loss in the public water supply.</p> <p><b>Objective WS 9 –River Basin Management Plans 2009 - 2015</b> Support the implementation of the relevant recommendations and measures as outlined in the Shannon International &amp; Western River Basin Management Plans 2009 – 2015, and associated Programmes of Measures, or any such plans that may supersede same during the lifetime of this County Development Plan. Development shall only be permitted where it can be clearly demonstrated that the proposal would not have an unacceptable impact on the water environment, including surface waters, groundwater quality and quantity, river corridors and associated wetlands, estuarine waters and coastal waters. Cognisance shall be taken where relevant of the EU’s Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 which provides guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p><b>Objective WS 10 – Investment in Water Services Infrastructure</b> Support the extension or upgrading of existing water infrastructure facilities in the County through the implementation of the Irish Water’s Proposed Capital Investment Plan 2014-2016 and any subsequent Investment Programmes.</p> <p><b>Objective WS 11 – Regionally &amp; Locally Important Aquifers</b> Protect the regionally and locally important aquifers within the County from risk of pollution and ensure the satisfactory implementation of the groundwater protection schemes and groundwater source protection zones, where data has been made available by the Geological Survey of Ireland.</p> <p><b>Objective WS 12 – Adequate Provision &amp; Supply of Drinking Water</b> Ensure that new developments are adequately serviced with a suitable quantity and quality of drinking water supply and require that all new developments intending to connect to a public water supply liaise with Irish Water with regard to the water (and waste water) infrastructure required.</p> <p><b>Objective WS 13 – Private Water Supply</b> It is an objective of the Council that where there is no public water supply the existing supply does not have sufficient capacity, or where the property owner wishes not to consume the water from the public supply, then the provision of a private water supply will be permitted, only where it can be demonstrated that the proposed water supply meets the standards set out in the EU and national legislation and guidance including adherence to <i>Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive</i>, and would not be prejudicial to public health or would not significantly impact negatively on the source or yield of an existing supply.</p> <p><b>Objective WS 14 – Provision &amp; Quality of Drinking Water</b> Have regard to the EPA (2013) publication <i>The Provision and Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland – A Report for the year 2012</i> (and any subsequent update) in the establishment and maintenance of water sources in the County.</p> <p><b>Objective WS 15 – Water Services Plan</b> Support the preparation and implementation of a Water Services Plan in accordance with Section 36 of the Water Service Act 2007.</p>		

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential impact on the Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<p><b>Policy WW 1 – Collaborative Provision of Wastewater Collection &amp; Treatment Systems</b> Co-operate with Irish Water in the delivery of the Proposed Capital Investment Plan 2014-2016 (or updated plan) and to increase capacity to service settlements, to jointly investigate proposals for future upgrades of treatment plants; and participate in the provision of a long term solution for wastewater treatment in the West Region.</p> <p><b>Objective WW 1 - EU Policies and Directives</b> Ensure that all wastewater generated is collected, treated and discharged after treatment in a safe and sustainable manner, having regard to the standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation and guidance and subject to compliance with the provisions and objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive, relevant River Basin Management Plans, Urban Waste Water Directive and the EU Habitats Directive.</p> <p><b>Objective WW 2 - Provision of Wastewater Collection &amp; Treatment Systems</b> Support, in conjunction with Irish Water, during the lifetime of the Plan the provision, extension and upgrading of wastewater collection and treatment systems in all towns and villages of the County to serve existing and planned future populations, including Clarinbridge, Corofin &amp; Lackagh.</p> <p><b>Objective WW 3 – East Galway Main Drainage Scheme</b> Seek to accelerate progress on delivery of the East Galway Main Drainage Scheme, in particular Phase 3 as a key piece of strategic infrastructure, in conjunction with the Department of the Environment, Community &amp; Local Government, Irish Water and Galway City Council.</p> <p><b>Objective WW 4 – Sludge Management Plan</b> Implement the objectives as outlined in the Galway City Council &amp; County Council Operational Sludge Management Plan (January 2011) throughout the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p><b>Objective WW 5 – Waste Water Treatment Associated with Development in Un-Serviced Areas</b> Permit development in un-serviced areas only where it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority that the proposed wastewater treatment system is in accordance with the Code of Practice Treatment and Disposal systems serving Single House EPA (2009)/ EPA Wastewater Treatment Manuals – Treatment Systems for Small Communities, Business, Leisure Centres and Hotels (1999) (or any superseding documents) and subject to complying with the provisions and objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive.</p> <p><b>Objective WW 6 – Adherence to Environmental Standards</b> Promote the provision of safe and secure wastewater infrastructure to ensure that the public is protected and that permitted development, is within the environmental carrying capacity and does not negatively impact on habitat quality or species diversity.</p> <p><b>Objective WW 7 – Surface Water Drainage &amp; Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)</b> Maintain and enhance, as appropriate, existing surface water drainage systems in the County, ensure that new developments are adequately serviced with surface water drainage infrastructure and promote the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems in all new developments.</p> <p><b>Objective WW 8 – Substandard Wastewater Treatment Plants</b> Support and facilitate as appropriate the upgrading of substandard public wastewater treatment plants in order to comply with the provisions of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2001 and 2004, the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007 and implement the relevant recommendations set out in the EPA document <i>Focus on Urban Waste Water Discharges in Ireland</i> (and any subsequent update).</p> <p><b>Objective WW9 – Integrated Constructed Wetlands</b> Galway County Council shall support the use of Integrated Constructed Wetlands (ICW) as a low cost and environmentally sustainable alternative having regard to the “Integrated Constructed Wetlands-Guidance Document for Farmyard Soiled Water and Domestic Wastewater Applications” as appropriate.</p> <p><b>Objective WW10 - Connection to Public Wastewater Services</b> Where public waste water services are available new developments shall be required to connect to same.</p>	<p>The potential impacts arising from Policy WW1 and subsequent objectives are addressed by the recognition of compliance with the EU Habitats Directive in Objective WW1. The upgrading of wastewater treatment works is essential where necessary to safeguard the Natura 2000 network, however impacts may arise during the construction phase of these works.</p>	<p>n/a</p>
<p><b>Policy WM 1 – Waste Prevention &amp; Reduction</b> Promote campaigns to meet the long-term challenge of waste prevention and minimisation at household and business level.</p>	<p>Although largely beneficial to the maintenance of the natural heritage,</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS9</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b></p>



Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential impact on the Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<p><b>Policy WM 2 – Polluter Pays Principle</b> Implement the application of the polluter pays principle to the provision of all waste management services.</p> <p><b>Objective WM 1 – Replacement Connacht Waste Management Plan 2006 – 2011</b> Implement the Replacement Connacht Waste Management Plan 2006 – 2011 or any updated version of this document within the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p><b>Objective WM 2 - National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2008 – 2012</b> Implement the provisions of the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2008 – 2012 or any updated version of this document within the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p><b>Objective WM 3 – Provision of Recycling Centres</b> Strive to provide and maintain an equitable distribution of recycling centres throughout the County and support the provision of additional recycling centres in the south Connemara and south Galway areas of the County.</p> <p><b>Objective WM 4 – User friendly Waste Management Services</b> Seek to provide a high standard of customer service provision in regard to waste management and maintain user friendly opening hours at recycling centres throughout the County.</p> <p><b>Objective WM 5 – Bring Bank facilities</b> Support the provision of additional bring bank facilities at appropriate and strategic locations throughout the County in an effort to reach the overall regional ratio per head of population target for such infrastructure as set out in the Evaluation Report 2012 of the Replacement Connacht Waste Management Plan for the Connacht Region 2006 – 2011.</p> <p><b>Objective WM 6 – Provision of Voluntary Waste Management Infrastructure</b> Encourage and support community and voluntary groups in the establishment of waste services and facilities on the off shore islands and in sparsely populated areas of the County.</p> <p><b>Objective WM7 – On Site Provision for Waste Storage &amp; Segregation</b> Seek to ensure on-site provision for waste storage and segregation (bio-waste/dry recyclables/residual waste) pending collection at all new domestic and non-domestic premises, in order to comply with the Replacement Waste Management Plan for the Connacht Region (or updated document).</p>	<p>should construction be required to develop recycling centres in south Connemara and south Galway, adverse impacts on the Natura 2000 network of sites may arise, particularly given the abundance of Natura 2000 sites in the Connemara region.</p>	<p><b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: WS1</b> <b>Obj: WS2</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b></p>
<p><b>Policy EQ 1 – Environmental Management Practice</b> Have regard to evolving best environmental management practice as set out in Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Guidelines 'Environmental Management in the Extractive Industry: Non Scheduled Minerals' and to the recommendations of the EU guidance document <i>Undertaking Non-Energy Extractive Activities in Accordance with Natura 2000 Requirements</i>.</p> <p><b>Policy EQ 2 – Adequate Supply of Aggregate Resources</b> Ensure adequate supplies of aggregate resources to meet future growth needs within County Galway, facilitate the exploitation of such resources where there is a proven need and market opportunity for such minerals or aggregates, and ensure that this exploitation of resources does not adversely affect the environment or adjoining existing land uses.</p> <p><b>Objective EQ1 – Protection of Natural Assets</b> Protect areas of geo-morphological interest, groundwater and important aquifers, important archaeological features, Natural Heritage Areas and European Sites from inappropriate development.</p> <p><b>Objective EQ 2 – Management of Aggregate Extraction</b> The Council shall require the following in relation to the management of authorised aggregate extraction -</p> <p>a) All quarries shall comply with the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive, The Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 and by the guidance as contained within the DoEHLG Quarries and Ancillary Facilities Guidelines 2004, the EPA Guidelines 'Environmental Management in the Extractive Industry: Non Scheduled Minerals 2006 (including any updated/superseding documents) and to DM Standard 37 of this Development Plan;</p> <p>b) Require development proposals on or in the proximity of quarry sites, to carry out appropriate investigations into the nature and extent of old quarries (where applicable). Such proposals shall also investigate the nature and extent of soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development works together with appropriate mitigation;</p> <p>c) Have regard to the Landscape Character Assessment of the County and its</p>	<p>These policies and objectives are beneficial to the Natura 2000 network of sites.</p>	<p><b>n/a</b></p>

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential impact on the Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<p>recommendations including the provision of special recognition to the esker areas as referenced in GCC Galway's Living Landscapes – Part 1: Eskers;</p> <p>d) Ensure that any quarry activity has minimal adverse impact on the road network;</p> <p>e) Ensure that the extraction of minerals or aggregates does not adversely impact on residential or environmental amenity;</p> <p>f) Protect all known un-worked deposits from development that might limit their scope for extraction.</p> <p><b>Objective EQ 3 – Sustainable Reuse of Quarries</b> Encourage the use of quarries and pits for sustainable management of post recovery stage construction &amp; demolition waste, as an alternative to using agricultural land, subject to normal planning and environmental considerations.</p> <p><b>Objective EQ 4 – Compliance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive</b> Ensure that projects associated with the mineral extractive industry carry out screening for Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, where required.</p>		

### 1.1.1 Chapter 7: Energy/Renewable Energies & Communications Technology

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential impact on the Natura 2000 network.	Mitigation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To reduce County Galway's dependency on imported fossil fuels and to provide alternative energy sources by harnessing the County's potential for renewable energy sources;</li> <li>• To ensure security of energy supply throughout the County and to collaborate with relevant sectors in strengthening the grid transmission networks for the provision of the energy sector including renewable energy;</li> <li>• To reduce the County's CO2 emissions by achieving national, regional and any potential County targets for achieving a low carbon economy by 2020 and increase energy efficiency in local authority activities and through its development management functions; and</li> <li>• To promote and facilitate the provision and continued development of broadband and ICT infrastructure within the County in order to further enhance economic/social development, particularly in the more peripheral and coastal areas of the County.</li> </ul>	<p>The harnessing of renewable sources of energy may potentially lead to negative impacts on the Natura 2000 network of sites.</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS9</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: NHB12</b> <b>Obj: AFF11</b> <b>Obj: WS1</b> <b>Obj: WS2</b> <b>Obj: WS11</b> <b>Obj: FL3</b> <b>Obj: NHB3</b> <b>Obj: NHB10</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b> <b>Pol: NHB4</b></p>
<p><b>Policy ER 1 – Sustainable Energy Policy and Targets</b> Promote the implementation of the Government's White Paper 'Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland, Energy Policy Framework 2007-2020' (or any updated or superseding document) over the lifetime of the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021 to assist in ensuring that the energy efficiency target is realised by 2020 from renewable sources.</p>	<p>The harnessing of renewable sources of energy may potentially lead to negative impacts on the Natura 2000 network of sites.</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS9</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: NHB12</b> <b>Obj: AFF11</b> <b>Obj: WS1</b> <b>Obj: WS2</b> <b>Obj: WS11</b> <b>Obj: FL3</b> <b>Obj: NHB3</b> <b>Obj: NHB10</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b> <b>Pol: NHB4</b></p>
<p><b>Policy ER 2 – Development of Renewable Energy</b> The Council shall support proposals for renewable energy developments at appropriate scale (including ocean energy/wave and tidal technologies and ancillary facilities including associated grid connection) at appropriate locations within the County having regard to residential amenities, biodiversity and landscape sensitivities, where such proposals are in compliance with the County Development Plan 2015- 2021 and the principles of proper planning and sustainable</p>	<p>The harnessing of renewable sources of energy may potentially lead to negative</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS9</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: NHB12</b></p>



<b>Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021</b>	<b>Potential impact on the Natura 2000 network.</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
development. Where possible the Council will develop its own micro generation projects to facilitate its own energy requirements.	impacts on the Natura 2000 network of sites.	<b>Obj: AFF11</b> <b>Obj: WS1</b> <b>Obj: WS2</b> <b>Obj: WS11</b> <b>Obj: FL3</b> <b>Obj: NHB3</b> <b>Obj: NHB10</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b> <b>Pol: NHB4</b>
<b>Policy ER 3 – Security of Supply</b> Facilitate the strategic goal of effective balanced regional development through the implementation of policies that will deliver reliable and effective energy networks and electricity grid for the West Region including County Galway, minimising environmental impact by: a) Promoting and supporting the provision of secure and efficient energy supply and storage including electricity, gas, and renewable energy including wind, wave/tidal, solar, bio-energy and heat energy distribution; b) Supporting infrastructural renewal, strengthening and development of strategic electricity networks within the County, as provided for under EirGrid’s Grid25 Strategy, including EirGrid’s Grid West Project; c) Facilitating the extension of a natural gas distribution network to serve both the County and West Region	The development of electricity, gas, and renewable energy supply may lead to significant adverse impacts on the Natura 2000 network of sites.	<b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS9</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: NHB12</b> <b>Obj: AFF11</b> <b>Obj: WS1</b> <b>Obj: WS2</b> <b>Obj: WS11</b> <b>Obj: FL3</b> <b>Obj: NHB3</b> <b>Obj: NHB10</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b> <b>Pol: NHB4</b>
<b>Policy ER 4 - Sustainable Development and Energy Efficiency</b> Promote more sustainable development through energy end use efficiency, increasing the use of renewable energy and improved energy performance of all new building developments throughout the County.	The development of electricity, gas, and renewable energy supply may lead to significant adverse impacts on the Natura 2000 network of sites.	<b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS9</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: NHB12</b> <b>Obj: AFF11</b> <b>Obj: WS1</b> <b>Obj: WS2</b> <b>Obj: WS11</b> <b>Obj: FL3</b> <b>Obj: NHB3</b> <b>Obj: NHB10</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b> <b>Pol: NHB4</b>
<b>Objective ER 1 – Electricity and Renewable Energy Infrastructure</b> Support the development and expansion of infrastructure for the generation, storage, transmission and distribution of electricity, renewable energy and other renewable energy proposals in suitable locations in County Galway.	The development of electricity, gas, and renewable energy supply may lead to significant adverse impacts on the Natura 2000 network of sites.	<b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS9</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: NHB12</b> <b>Obj: AFF11</b> <b>Obj: WS1</b> <b>Obj: WS2</b> <b>Obj: WS11</b> <b>Obj: FL3</b> <b>Obj: NHB3</b> <b>Obj: NHB10</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b> <b>Pol: NHB4</b>
<b>Objective ER 2 – Priority Transmission Infrastructure Projects</b> Facilitate the progression of and implement improvements to the existing electricity networks and facilitate the development of new transmission infrastructure projects in accordance with EirGrid’s Grid25 Strategy that might be brought forward during the lifetime of this Plan subject	This objective addresses potential adverse impacts	n/a

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential impact on the Natura 2000 network.	Mitigation
to relevant Irish planning and European environmental legislation including Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and/or other environmental assessment. Map ER1 outlines existing and proposed energy transmission infrastructure corridors.	on the Natura 2000 network.	
<p><b>Objective ER 3 – Low Carbon County</b>                      Promote County Galway as a low carbon County by 2020 having regard to the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Bill (2013) when adopted. Encourage and favourably consider proposals for renewable energy developments and ancillary facilities in order to meet national, regional, county energy targets and to facilitate a reduction in CO2 emissions.</p>	The development of renewable energies may potentially cause adverse impacts on the Natura 2000 network.	Obj: DS6 Obj: DS9 Obj: DS10 Obj: NHB1 Obj: NHB2 Obj: NHB12 Obj: AFF11 Obj: WS1 Obj: WS2 Obj: WS11 Obj: FL3 Obj: NHB3 Obj: NHB10 Pol: NHB1 Pol: NHB2 Pol: NHB4
<p><b>Objective ER 4 – Renewable Energy</b>                      1. Support and facilitate the sustainable development and use of appropriate renewable energy resources and associated infrastructure within the County, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wind Energy;</li> <li>• Wave/Tidal Energy;</li> <li>• Hydro-Power;</li> <li>• Solar Energy;</li> <li>• Bio-Energy,</li> <li>• Geo-Thermal</li> <li>• Combined Heat Power (CHP);</li> <li>• Heat Energy Distribution (such as District Heating/Cooling Systems); and</li> <li>• Other renewable energy sources, as appropriate and in line with national guidelines for sustainable development.</li> </ul> <p>2. The Council shall commence a County Renewable Energy Strategy within the lifetime of the plan as resources permit. This document will also take micro-generations options into account and will recognise that Renewable Energy Projects are not just limited to large scale infrastructural projects</p>	The development of renewable energies may potentially cause adverse impacts on the Natura 2000 network.	Obj: DS6 Obj: DS9 Obj: DS10 Obj: NHB1 Obj: NHB2 Obj: NHB12 Obj: AFF11 Obj: WS1 Obj: WS2 Obj: WS11 Obj: FL3 Obj: NHB3 Obj: NHB10 Pol: NHB1 Pol: NHB2 Pol: NHB4
<p><b>Objective ER 5 - Wind Energy Developments</b>                      Promote and facilitate wind farm developments in suitable locations, having regard to areas of the County designated for this purpose in the <i>County Galway Wind Energy Strategy</i>. The Planning Authority will assess any planning application proposals for wind energy production in accordance with the <i>County Galway Wind Energy Strategy, the DoEHLG Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Wind Energy Development, 2006</i> (or any updated/superseded documents), having due regard to the Habitats Directive and to the detailed policies, objectives and Development Standards set out in the Wind Energy Strategy</p> <p><b>Objective ER 6 – Wind Energy Strategy</b>                      The policies, objectives and development management guidelines/standards set out in the <i>County Galway Wind Energy Strategy</i> shall be deemed to be the policies, objectives and development management guidelines/standards for the purpose of the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021.</p>	The development of wind energy has the potential to have negative effects on the Natura 2000 network.	Obj: DS6 Obj: DS9 Obj: DS10 Obj: NHB1 Obj: NHB2 Obj: NHB12 Obj: AFF11 Obj: WS1 Obj: WS2 Obj: WS11 Obj: FL3 Obj: NHB3 Obj: NHB10 Pol: NHB1 Pol: NHB2 Pol: NHB4
<p><b>Objective ER 7 – Energy Efficiency Technology in Buildings</b>                      The Planning Authority will have regard to the DoEHLG Guidelines on Sustainable Residential Developments in Urban Areas: Guidelines for Planning Authorities, 2009 and the accompanying guidance document Urban Design Manual in the assessment of any proposals for residential development, including inter alia those in respect of energy efficiency, passive solar design and renewable energy sources.                      The Council shall:</p> <p>a) Encourage and actively promote innovative housing design, energy efficient technologies and layout solutions that address concerns of environmental sustainability with regard to matters such as energy efficiency and the use of materials;</p>	None	n/a

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential impact on the Natura 2000 network.	Mitigation
<p>b) Actively encourage the integration of micro renewable energy sources into the design and construction of single and multiple housing developments throughout the County.</p> <p>c) The Council shall work with local and relevant departments to identify where there is poor energy infrastructure and low penetration of renewable energy. The Council shall promote the use of district heating/cooling and combined heat and power in new single and multiple housing developments, within schools, commercial and public buildings throughout the County.</p> <p>d) Galway County Council shall require the provision of energy efficient street lighting in all private developments.</p>		
<p><b>Objective ER 8 – Promoting Energy Hubs</b> Galway County Council shall promote Tuam Hub Town, Athenry and Gort and their environs as energy hubs, to take account of opportunities to develop suitable sustainable enterprises due to their proximity to electricity and gas transmission networks and minimising environmental impact.</p>	<p>The promotion of these towns as energy hubs may lead to potential impacts on the Natura 2000 network, Tuam and Gort are within 1km of a European site, whereas Athenry is located ca 12km upstream of the Galway Bay Complex cSAC to which the town is hydrologically linked.</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS9</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: NHB12</b> <b>Obj: AFF11</b> <b>Obj: WS1</b> <b>Obj: WS2</b> <b>Obj: WS11</b> <b>Obj: FL3</b> <b>Obj: NHB3</b> <b>Obj: NHB10</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b> <b>Pol: NHB4</b></p>
<p><b>Objective ER 9 – Oileáin Árann an Energy Transition Community</b> The Council shall continue to support Comharchumann Fuinnimh Oileáin Árann (Aran Islands Energy Cooperative), SEAI and Údarás na Gaeltachta in their objective to develop the Islands as being energy independent by 2022 and becoming Ireland’s first energy transition community.</p>	<p>Energy developments on the islands may lead to negative impacts on the Natura 2000 network, particularly as each island is designated as a cSAC and Inishmoor also an SPA.</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS9</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: NHB12</b> <b>Obj: AFF11</b> <b>Obj: WS1</b> <b>Obj: WS2</b> <b>Obj: WS11</b> <b>Obj: FL3</b> <b>Obj: NHB3</b> <b>Obj: NHB10</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b> <b>Pol: NHB4</b></p>
<p><b>Policy ICT 1 – Information &amp; Communications Technology Infrastructure</b> It is a policy of the Council to achieve a balance between facilitating the provision of telecommunications infrastructure, in the interests of social and economic progress, and sustaining residential amenity and the protection of the built and natural environment.</p> <p><b>Policy ICT 2 – Installation of Information &amp; Communications Technology Infrastructure in High Amenity Areas</b> It is a policy of the Council that where feasible proposed developments pertaining to the installation of potentially obtrusive information and communications technology infrastructure shall be located in landscape categories 1-3. Where they must be located on sensitive landscapes (those being a Class 4 (Special) or 5 (Unique) landscape category areas or in proximity to a National Monument, Protected Structure/Architectural Conservation Areas or within a focal point/view) shall be accompanied by visual impact assessments as part of the planning application process.</p> <p><b>Policy ICT 3-Broadband Infrastructure</b> Galway County Council will regularly audit existing broadband infrastructure in Galway County and will highlight areas which are structurally weak in the availability of the infrastructure. Galway County Council in recognition of ICT infrastructure as being socially and economically</p>	<p>These policies and objectives have addressed potential adverse impacts on the Natura 2000 network. Additional objectives and policies to further safeguard the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS9</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: WS1</b> <b>Obj: WS2</b> <b>Obj: WS11</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: NHB10</b></p>

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential impact on the Natura 2000 network.	Mitigation
<p>vital will endeavour to promote the use of existing infrastructure that is underutilized and make the promotion of ICT related activity in the County a priority for all Council development related forums.</p> <p><b>Objective ICT 1 – Facilitate the Delivery of Telecommunications, Broadband and Digital Infrastructure</b> Support and facilitate the delivery of high capacity ICT infrastructure, Broadband Networks and Digital Broadcasting in the County having regard to the Government Guidelines Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures-Guidelines for Planning Authorities 1996 (DoEHLG) and Circular Letter PL 07/12 (including any updated/superseding documents) 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.</p> <p><b>Objective ICT 2 – Assimilation of Telecommunications Infrastructure into the Landscape</b> Seek to locate telecommunication masts in non scenic amenity areas, having regard to the Landscape Sensitivity Rating Assessment of the County. In instances where their location is essential in a Class 4 (Special) or 5 (Unique) landscape category areas or in proximity to a National Monument, Protected Structure/Architectural Conservation Area or within a focal point/view, it shall be necessary to minimise their obtrusiveness in as far as is practically possible.</p> <p><b>Objective ICT 3 – Co-Location of Telecommunications Infrastructure</b> Avoid a proliferation of communications masts and antennae in the open countryside and facilitate the potential for future mast sharing and co-location.</p> <p><b>Objective ICT 4 – Open Access Fibre Ducting</b> Support and promote the installation of connections for high speed technologies, where practicable, in accordance with the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources documents including 'Recommendations for Open Access Fibre Ducting and Interior Cabling for New Residential Buildings 'Making Homes Fibre Ready', 2011, the National Broadband Plan for Ireland 2012, 'Delivering a Connected Society' and the National Digital Strategy for Ireland 2013, 'Doing more with Digital – Phase 1 Digital Engagement'</p>		

## Chapter 8: Climate Change & Flooding

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential impact on the Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To increase awareness of the potential impacts of climate change to enable people to adapt and manage future extreme weather events such as flooding within the county and region;</li> <li>• To promote the sustainable development of the County by ensuring that future development is considered and managed against the risk of flooding;</li> <li>• To support an iterative process to flood risk management as data and analysis become available;</li> <li>• To minimise the level of flood risk to people, businesses, infrastructure and the environment.</li> <li>• Ensure major emergency planning takes account of climate change adaptation;</li> <li>• Increase resilience of buildings and infrastructure networks to extreme weather events;</li> <li>• To support and manage a healthy and diverse natural environment with capacity to adapt within the county and region;</li> <li>• To apply an ecosystem-based approach to adaptation including the promotion of green infrastructure within county and region.</li> </ul>	<p>These points are beneficial to the Natura 2000 network.</p>	<p>n/a</p>
<p><b>Policy CC 1 – Climate Change Policy</b> It is Council policy to have regard to EU and national Legislation and Strategies on climate change in its decision making process, in order to contribute to a reduction and avoidance of human induced climate change, in accordance with national targets under the Kyoto Protocol and the EU Roadmap.</p> <p><b>Policy CC 2 - Climate Change Adaptation Plans</b> Support the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework 2012 by implementing relevant measures in any forthcoming adaptation plans. Such plans shall be in accordance with national</p>	<p>The policy for Galway County Council to develop renewable energy may potentially lead to habitat loss,</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS9</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: NHB12</b> <b>Obj: AFF11</b> <b>Obj: WS1</b></p>

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential impact on the Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<p>guidance issued by the DoECLG and EPA and undertaken in collaboration with the West Regional Authority, Galway City Council, Mayo County Council and Roscommon County Council.</p> <p><b>Policy CC 3 – Increase Awareness of Climate Change</b> The Council shall work collaboratively with regional/local authorities and other agencies to adapt to climate change and to increase the awareness of the impacts of climate change to enable people to understand and respond to the challenges that they face as a result of current and future climate change.</p> <p><b>Policy CC 4 – Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation</b> Galway County Council shall mainstream climate change adaptation into land use planning, building layouts, energy, transport, natural resource management, forestry, agriculture and marine waters.</p> <p><b>Policy CC 5 – Climate Change and the Natural Environment</b> The Council shall support a healthy and diverse natural environment with capacity to adapt by promoting the role of green networks in helping the county/region to mitigate and adapt to climate change by strengthening habitat networks, reducing habitat fragmentation and providing opportunities for species to migrate.</p> <p><b>Policy CC 6 – Adapting Infrastructure to Climate Change</b> The Council shall be guided by the EU document Adapting Infrastructure to Climate Change (SWD /2013/ 137) which sets out how climate change will affect energy, water supply, transport, communications infrastructure and buildings. All critical infrastructure proposals shall be 'Climate proofed' which shall not only consider the resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change but shall also minimise the emission of greenhouse gases over the lifespan of the physical asset in question.</p> <p><b>Policy CC 7 – Local Authority Action Regarding Climate Change</b> It is a policy of the Council to be a leader in the action against climate change. The Council will strive to reduce energy consumption and increase the use of renewable energy in line with international, national and any forthcoming regional targets.</p> <p><b>Policy CC 8 – Human Health</b> The Council shall continue to collaborate with the HSE and other relevant agencies in relation to the potential spread of water, food or vector borne pathogens.</p> <p><b>Objective CC 1 – Climate Change Adaptation Plan</b> Galway County Council shall collaborate with the West Regional Authority and other local authorities in the preparation of a climate change adaptation plan, subject to guidance from the DoECLG and the EPA.</p> <p><b>Objective CC 2 – Greenhouse Gas Emissions</b> Galway County Council shall implement measures which seek to establish a low carbon economy and society by 2050 and which seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions including the adoption of sustainable planning strategies through integrating land use and transportation.</p> <p><b>Objective CC 3 – Green Infrastructure</b> Galway County Council shall promote the benefit of open spaces and implement the integration of green infrastructure/networks (e.g. interconnected network of green spaces (including aquatic ecosystems) and other physical features on land) into new development and regeneration proposals in order to mitigate and adapt to climate change.</p> <p><b>Objective CC 4 – Climate Proofing Critical Infrastructure</b> Galway County Council shall have regard to climate change in assessing all critical transport and energy infrastructure developments, so as to ensure the viability of such developments into the future.</p> <p><b>Objective CC 5 - An Ecosystems Approach and Land Use</b> Galway County Council shall implement an ecosystems approach (holistic approach) to land use and land use change and ensure that climate change adaptation measures are taken into account in planning decisions. The Council shall also a) Have regard to any recommendations and forthcoming recommendations as outlined in the proposed National Raised Bog SAC Management Plan and the National Biodiversity Plan; b) Integrate climate risk into the review of the Biodiversity Action Plan for County Galway 2008 - 2013; c) Seek to control the spread of non-native and alien invasive species on land and water using new regulatory powers.</p>	<p>fragmentation and/or disturbance of species.</p>	<p><b>Obj: WS2</b> <b>Obj: WS11</b> <b>Obj: FL3</b> <b>Obj: NHB3</b> <b>Obj: NHB10</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b> <b>Pol: NHB4</b></p>
<p><b>Air Quality Objectives</b></p>		
<p><b>Objective CC 6 – Air Quality</b> Galway County Council shall promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development in accordance with the EU Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>n/a</p>

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential impact on the Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<p>for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/50/EC) and by ensuring that all air emissions associated with new developments are within Environmental Quality Standards as out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (SI No. 180 of 2011) (or any updated/superseding documents).</p> <p><b>Objective CC 7– Air Purification</b> The Council shall encourage landscaping and deciduous tree planting in an environmentally sensitive manner within towns and villages as a means of air purification, the filtering of suspended particles and the improvement of their micro-climate.</p>		
<p><b>Radon Objective</b></p>		
<p><b>Objective CC8 – Radon</b> The Council shall have regard, to the specific guidance on radon prevention measures for new homes as contained within the existing Building Regulations (including any updated/superseding regulations that may be published within the lifetime of this Development Plan).</p>	None	n/a
<p><b>Policy FL 1 - Flood Risk Management Guidelines</b> It is the policy of Galway County Council to support, in co-operation with the OPW, the implementation of the EU Flood Risk Directive (2007/60/EC), the Flood Risk Regulations (SI No. 122 of 2010) and the DEHLG/OPW publication <i>The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines (2009)</i> (and any updated/superseding legislation or policy guidance). Galway County Council will also take account of the Shannon International and Western Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Studies.</p> <p><b>Policy FL 2 – Catchment Planning</b> The Council will actively work with the CFRAM Programme and catchment based Flood Planning Groups, especially in the east of the County where catchments go beyond the Council’s administrative boundary, in the development and implementation of catchment-based strategies for the management of flood risk - including those relating to storage and conveyance.</p> <p><b>Policy FL 3 – Improvement and/or Restoration of Natural Flood Risk Management Functions</b> Where resources are available and subject to compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives, the Council will contribute towards the improvement and/or restoration of the natural flood risk management functions of flood plains.</p> <p><b>Policy FL 4 – Principles of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines</b> The Council shall implement the key principles of flood risk management set out in the Flood Risk Management Guidelines as follow: 1) Avoid development that will be at risk of flooding or that will increase the flooding risk elsewhere, where possible; 2) Substitute less vulnerable uses, where avoidance is not possible; and 3) Mitigate and manage the risk, where avoidance and substitution are not possible. Development should only be permitted in areas at risk of flooding when there are no alternative, reasonable sites available in areas at lower risk that also meet the objectives of proper planning and sustainable development. Development in areas which have the highest flood risk should be avoided and/or only considered in exceptional circumstances (through a prescribed Justification Test) if adequate land or sites are not available in areas which have lower flood risk.</p> <p><b>Policy FL 5 – SFRA of Lower Tier Plans</b> Lower tier plans shall undertake SFRA (Strategic Flood Risk Assessment) in compliance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines and in consultation with the OPW. Flood Risk Management Objectives</p> <p><b>Objective FL 1 - Flood Risk Management and Assessment</b> Comply with the requirements of the DoEHLG/OPW The Planning System and Flood Risk Management-Guidelines for Planning Authorities and its accompanying Technical Appendices document 2009 (including any updated/superseding documents). This will include the following: a) Avoid, reduce and/or mitigate, as appropriate in accordance with the Guidelines; b) Development proposals in areas where there is an identified or potential risk of flooding or that could give rise to a risk of flooding elsewhere will be required to carry out a Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment, and justification test where appropriate, in accordance with the provisions of The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009 (or any superseding document). c) Development that would be subject to an inappropriate risk of flooding or that would cause</p>	Beneficial to the Natura 2000 network in the long term, temporary impacts on European sites may occur during flood risk/drainage enhancement works.	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS9</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: WS1</b> <b>Obj: WS2</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b></p>



Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential impact on the Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<p>or exacerbate such a risk at other locations shall not normally be permitted;                      d) Galway County Council shall work with other bodies and organisations, as appropriate, to help protect critical infrastructure, including water and wastewater, within the County, within the County, from risk of flooding.</p> <p><b>Objective FL 2 – Surface Water Drainage and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs)</b>                      Maintain and enhance, as appropriate, the existing surface water drainage system in the County.                      Ensure that new developments are adequately serviced with surface water drainage infrastructure and promote the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems in all new developments. Surface water runoff from development sites will be limited to pre-development levels and planning applications for new developments will be required to provide details of surface water drainage and Sustainable Drainage Systems proposals.</p> <p><b>Objective FL 3 - Protection of Waterbodies and Watercourses</b>                      Protect waterbodies and watercourses within the County from inappropriate development, including rivers, streams, associated undeveloped riparian strips, wetlands and natural floodplains. This will include protection buffers in riverine, wetland and coastal areas as appropriate.</p> <p><b>Objective FL 4 – Flood Risk Assessment for Planning Applications &amp; CFRAMS</b>                      Site-specific Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) is required for all planning applications in areas at risk of flooding, even for developments appropriate to the particular Flood Zone. The detail of these site-specific FRAs will depend on the level of risk and scale of development. A detailed site-specific FRA should quantify the risks, the effects of selected mitigation and the management of any residual risks.                      The Council shall have regard to the results of any CFRAM Studies in the assessment of planning applications.</p> <p><b>Objective FL 5 – SFRA/FRA &amp; Climate Change</b>                      SFRA and site-specific FRAs shall provide information on the implications of climate change with regard to flood risk in relevant locations. The 2009 OPW Draft Guidance on 'Assessment of Potential Future Scenarios for Flood Risk Management' (or any superseding document) shall be consulted with to this effect.</p> <p><b>Objective FL 6 – FRA &amp; Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</b>                      Flood risk may constitute a significant environmental effect of a development proposal that in certain circumstances may trigger a sub-threshold EIS. FRA should therefore be an integral part of any EIA undertaken for projects within the County.</p>		

## Chapter 9: Heritage, Landscape and Environmental Management

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential impacts on Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<p><b>Strategic Aims</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To promote appropriate enhancement of the built and natural environment as an integral part of any development;</li> <li>• To promote a reasonable balance between conservation measures and development needs in the interests of promoting orderly and sustainable development.</li> <li>• To protect the landscape categories within the county and avoid negative impacts upon the natural environment;</li> <li>• To promote appropriate enhancement of the natural environment as an integral part of any development.</li> </ul>	None	n/a
<p><b>Policy GH 1</b> - Conserve, protect and enhance the special character of the County as defined by its natural heritage and biodiversity, its built environment, landscape and cultural, social and sporting heritage.</p> <p><b>Policy GH 2</b> - Ensure that heritage protection is an integral part of coherent policies on economic and social development and of urban and rural planning.</p> <p><b>Policy GH 3</b> – Implement the legislative provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), which offers protection to the architectural, archaeological and natural heritage.</p> <p><b>Policy GH 4</b> – Engage with all relevant stakeholders (and in particular local communities) in matters relating to the protection of natural, built and cultural heritage.</p>	None	n/a



Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential impacts on Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<p><b>Policy AH 1 – Architectural Heritage</b> Protect the Architectural Heritage of County Galway which is a unique and special resource.</p> <p><b>Policy AH 2 – Traditional Skills</b> Maintain a database of traditional building skills, and promote training and awareness of the use of appropriate materials and skills within the local authority, community groups and owners and occupiers of traditionally built structures.</p> <p><b>Objective AH 1 – Legislative Context</b> Ensure the protection of the Architectural Heritage of County Galway which is a unique and special resource, in particular by implementing the legislative provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) in relation to architectural heritage and the policy guidance contained in the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines 2011 (and any updated/superseding document).</p> <p><b>Objective AH 2 – Protected Structures</b> (Refer to Appendix 2) Ensure the protection and sympathetic enhancement of structures included and proposed for inclusion in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) that are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest, together with the integrity of their character and setting.</p> <p><b>Objective AH 3 - Architectural Conservation Area</b> Protect, conserve and enhance the essential character of any Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) through the appropriate management and control of the design, location and layout of new development, alterations or extensions to existing structures, surviving historic plots and street patterns and/or modifications to the character or setting of the Architectural Conservation Area. The identification of Architectural Conservation Areas may be considered during the lifetime of the Plan in either urban or rural settings.</p> <p><b>Objective AH 4 – Works relating to Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas</b> Ensure that any development, modifications, alterations, or extensions materially affecting the character of a Protected Structure, or a structure adjoining a Protected Structure, or a structure within or adjacent to an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA), is sited and designed appropriately and is not detrimental to the character or setting of the Protected Structure or of the ACA. This will include the following: a) Works materially affecting the character of a Protected Structure or the exterior of a building/ structure within an ACA will require planning permission. b) Any works carried out to a Protected Structure or the exterior of a building/structure within an ACA shall be in accordance with best conservation practice and use sustainable and appropriate materials. Works within the ACA shall ensure the conservation of traditional features and building elements that contribute to the character of the area. New proposals shall have appropriate regard to scale, plot, form, mass, design, materials, colours and function.</p> <p><b>Objective AH 5 – Demolition</b> Prohibit development proposals, either in whole or in part, for the demolition of Protected Structures, save in exceptional circumstances, or the demolition of a structure within an Architectural Conservation Area that contributes to the special character of the area.</p> <p><b>Objective AH 6 – Vernacular Architecture</b> Recognise the importance of the contribution of vernacular architecture to the character of a place and ensure the protection, retention and appropriate revitalisation and use of the vernacular built heritage, including structures that contribute to landscape and streetscape character and resist the demolition of these structures.</p> <p><b>Objective AH 7 – Local Place Names</b> Protect local place names as an important part of the cultural heritage and unique character of an area. Support the use of appropriate names for new developments that reflect the character and heritage of the area and that contribute to the local distinctiveness of a place.</p> <p><b>Objective AH 8 – Energy Efficiency and Traditionally Built Structures</b> Ensure that measures to upgrade the energy efficiency of Protected Structures and traditionally built historic structures are sensitive to traditional construction methods and use appropriate materials and do not have a detrimental impact on the material, aesthetic or visual character of the building.</p> <p><b>Objective AH 9 - Local Landscape and Place Assessment</b> To support proposals from local communities including Tidy Town Committees, Chambers of Commerce and residents groups in analysing the character of their place and promoting its regeneration for their own use and enjoyment and that of visitors to the area.</p>	None	n/a

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential impacts on Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<p><b>Objective AH 10– Designed Landscapes</b> Identify and evaluate the surviving historic designed landscapes in the County and promote the conservation of their essential character, both built and natural.</p> <p><b>Objective AH 11 - Custodianship</b> Promote an inter-disciplinary approach demonstrating best practice with regard to the custodianship of Protected Structures, Recorded Monuments and elements of built heritage.</p>		
<p><b>Policy ARC 1 – Legislative Context</b> It is the policy of Galway County Council to support and promote the conservation and appropriate management and enhancement of the county's archaeological heritage within the Plan area. Galway County Council will ensure the implementation of the legislative, statutory and policy provisions relevant to the conservation of the archaeological heritage.</p> <p><b>Policy ARC 2 – Archaeological Sites</b> Seek to promote awareness of and access to archaeological sites in the county where appropriate.</p> <p><b>Policy ARC 3 – Consultation</b> Consult with the National Monuments Service of the Department of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht in relation to proposed developments adjoining archaeological sites.</p> <p><b>Policy ARC 4 – Management of Archaeological Sites and Monuments</b> Support the preservation, conservation and management of archaeological sites and monuments, together with the settings of these monuments.</p> <p><b>Policy ARC 5 – Archaeological Heritage</b> Ensure the protection and sympathetic enhancement of Archaeological Heritage in the Plan Area, in particular by implementing the relevant provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), The National Monuments Act, 1930 (as amended), and The National Policy on Town Defences 2008 (Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government).</p> <p><b>Policy ARC 6-Archaeological Landscapes</b> To facilitate where possible the identification of important Archaeological Landscapes in the county.</p> <p><b>Objective ARC 1 – Protection of Archaeological Sites</b> Protect archaeological sites and monuments, their settings and visual amenity, archaeological objects and underwater archaeological sites that are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places, in the ownership/guardianship of the State, or that are subject of Preservation Orders or have been registered in the Register of Historic Monuments and seek to protect important archaeological landscapes.</p> <p><b>Objective ARC 2 – Development Management</b> All planning applications for new development, redevelopment, any ground works, refurbishment, and restoration, etc. within areas of archaeological potential or within close proximity to Recorded Monuments or within the historic towns of County Galway (Ardrahan, Athenry, Dunmore, Eyrecourt, Loughrea and Tuam) will take account of the archaeological heritage of the area and the need for archaeological mitigation.</p> <p><b>Objective ARC 3 – Protection of new Archaeological Sites</b> Protect and preserve archaeological sites, which have been identified subsequent to the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places.</p> <p><b>Objective ARC 4 – Burial Grounds</b> Protect the burial grounds, identified in the Record of Monuments and Places, in co-operation with the National Monument Service of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Encourage the local community to manage burial grounds in accordance with best conservation and heritage principles.</p> <p><b>Objective ARC 5 – Battlefield Sites</b> Protect the Battle of Aughrim site and other battlefield sites and their settings. Refer all planning applications within the battlefield sites and their environs to the Monument Service of The Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for their consideration.</p> <p><b>Objective ARC 6 – Underwater Archaeological Sites</b> To protect and preserve the underwater archaeological sites in rivers, lakes, intertidal and sub-tidal locations.</p> <p><b>Objective ARC 7 – Recorded Monuments</b> Ensure that any development in the immediate vicinity of a Recorded Monument is sensitively designed and sited and does not detract from the Monument or its visual amenity.</p>	<p>Preservation works to archaeological structures may potentially cause adverse impacts on European sites, such as disturbance of species, and runoff of pollutants</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS9</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: NHB3</b> <b>Obj: NHB6</b> <b>Obj: NHB11</b> <b>Obj: WS1</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b></p>
<p><b>Policy NHB 1 – Natural Heritage and Biodiversity</b> It is the policy of Galway County Council to support the protection, conservation and enhancement of natural heritage and biodiversity, including the protection of the integrity of</p>	<p>Beneficial to the Natura 2000 network</p>	<p>n/a</p>

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential impacts on Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<p>European sites, that form part of the Natura 2000 network, the protection of Natural Heritage Areas proposed Natural Heritage Areas Ramsar Sites, Nature Reserves, Wild Fowl Sanctuaries and Conamara National Park (and other designated sites including any future designations) and the promotion of the development of a green/ecological network within the Plan Area, in order to support ecological functioning and connectivity, create opportunities in suitable locations for active and passive recreation and to structure and provide visual relief from the built environment.</p> <p><b>Policy NHB 2 – Non-Designated Sites</b> Recognise that nature conservation is not just confined to designated sites and acknowledge the need to protect non-designated habitats and landscapes and to conserve the biological diversity in the county.</p> <p><b>Policy NHB 3 – Green Infrastructure</b> Protect existing green infrastructure and provide additional green infrastructure where possible such as green roof technology and energy efficiency pumps.</p> <p><b>Policy NHB 4– Water Resources</b> Protect, conserve and enhance the water resources of the county, including, rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, springs, turloughs, surface water and groundwater quality, as well as surface waters, aquatic and wetland habitats and freshwater and water dependant species and seek to protect and conserve the quality, character and features of inland waterways by controlling developments close to navigable and non-navigable waterways.</p> <p><b>Policy NHB 5 – Geological and Geo-Morphological Systems</b> Protect, conserve and enhance important geological and geo-morphological systems in the county and seek to promote access to such sites where possible.</p> <p><b>Policy NHB 6 – National Biodiversity Plan, Galway County Heritage Plan and Galway County Biodiversity Plan</b> It is the policy of the Council to support the implementation of the <i>National Biodiversity Plan</i> and <i>Galway County Biodiversity Plan</i> and <i>Galway County Heritage Plan</i> in partnership with relevant stakeholders subject to available resources.</p> <p><b>Policy NHB 7 - Invasive Species</b> It is a policy of the Council to support measures for the prevention and eradication of invasive species. This will include the dissemination of information to raise public awareness, the adoption of codes of practices/standard biosecurity measures in normal Local Authority activities consultation with relevant stakeholders, the promotion of the use of native species in amenity planting and landscaping and the recording of invasive/native species as the need arises and resources permit.</p> <p><b>Policy NHB 8 – National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Management Plans</b> It shall be the policy of the Council to ensure that development takes into account relevant Management Plans prepared by NPWS for SACs and SPAs.</p> <p><b>Objective NHB 1 – Protected Habitats and Species</b> Support the protection of habitats and species listed in the Annexes to and/or covered by the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) (as amended) and Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), and regularly occurring-migratory birds and their habitats, and species protected under the Wildlife Acts 1976-2000 and the Flora Protection Order.</p> <p><b>Objective NHB 2– Biodiversity and Ecological Networks</b> Support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity within the Plan Area, including woodlands, trees, hedgerows, semi-natural grasslands, rivers, streams, natural springs, wetlands, stone walls, geological and geo-morphological systems, other landscape features and associated wildlife where these form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors or stepping stones in the context of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p><b>Objective NHB 3 – Water Resources</b> Protect the water resources in the Plan Area, including rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, springs, turloughs, surface water and groundwater quality, as well as surface waters, aquatic and wetland habitats and freshwater and water dependant species in accordance with the requirements and guidance in the EU <i>Water Framework Directive 2000 (2000/60/EC)</i>, the <i>European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2003</i> (as amended), the <i>Western River Basin District Management Plan 2009- 2015</i>, <i>Shannon International River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015</i> and other relevant EU Directives, including associated national legislation and policy guidance (including any superseding versions of same) and also have regard to the Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sub-Basin Management Plans.</p> <p><b>Objective NHB 4 – Geological and Geo-Morphological Systems</b> Protect and conserve geological and geo-morphological systems, sites and features from</p>		

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential impacts on Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<p>inappropriate development that would detract from their heritage value and interpretation and ensure that any Plan or project affecting karst formations, eskers or other important geological and geo-morphological systems are adequately assessed with regard to their potential geophysical, hydrological or ecological impacts on the environment.</p> <p><b>Objective NHB 5 – Control of Invasive and Alien Invasive Species</b> Where the potential for spread of invasive species are identified as part of a development proposal the developer will be required to submit an invasive species management plan. A landscaping plan will be required for developments near water bodies and ensure that such plans do not include alien invasive species.</p> <p><b>Objective NHB 6 – Protection of Bats and Bats Habitats</b> Seek to protect bats and their roosts, their feeding areas, flight paths and commuting routes. Ensure that development proposals in areas which are potentially important for bats, including areas of woodland, linear features such as hedgerows, stone walls, watercourses and associated riparian vegetation which may provide migratory/foraging uses shall be subject to suitable assessment for potential impacts on bats. This will include an assessment of the cumulative loss of habitat or the impact on bat populations and activity in the area and may include a specific bat survey. Any assessment shall be carried out by a suitably qualified professional and where development is likely to result in significant adverse effects on bat populations or activity in the area, development will be prohibited or require mitigation and/or compensatory measures, as appropriate.</p> <p><b>Objective NHB 7 – Eskers</b> Assess applications for quarrying and other proposed developments that are in close proximity to eskers that have the potential to impact on their landscape, scientific or amenity value.</p> <p><b>Objective NHB 8 – Coastal Zone</b> It is an objective to protect the coastal zone through the following measures: a) Ensure that conservation works undertaken in coastal areas are in accordance with best practice and measures to protect the coast, the coastal edge and coastal habitats are supported; b) Seek to prevent the unauthorised removal of sand and related beach material; c) Protect, enhance and conserve beaches in the County from inappropriate development and seek to maintain the current status of the designated Blue Flag beaches and Green Coasts and to increase the number of beaches and coasts holding this status in the future; d) Facilitate an Integrated Coastal Zone Management approach to ensure the conservation, management and protection of man-made and natural resources of the coastal zone; e) Support the preparation of an Integrated Galway Bay Framework Management Plan by all relevant stakeholders to provide for the sustainable and integrated development of the Galway Bay Area in a co-ordinated manner.</p> <p><b>Objective NHB 9 – Inland Waterways</b> Protect the amenity and recreational value of navigable and non-navigable waterways.</p> <p><b>Objective NHB 10 – Protection of the Coastal Zone</b> Protect the amenity, character, visual, recreational, economic potential and environmental values of the coast. Ensure that natural coastal defences including sand dunes, beaches and coastal wetlands are not compromised by inappropriate development. Conserve the character, quality and distinctiveness of seascapes.</p> <p><b>Objective NHB 11 – Trees, Parkland/Woodland, Stone Walls and Hedgerows</b> a) Protect important trees, tree clusters and hedgerows within the county and ensure that development proposals take cognisance of significant trees/tree stands. Ensure that all planting schemes use suitable native variety of trees, of Irish provenance. b) Seek to retain natural boundaries, including stone walls, hedgerows and tree boundaries, wherever possible and replace with a boundary type similar to the existing boundary where removal is unavoidable. Discourage the felling of mature trees to facilitate development and encourage tree surgery rather than felling where possible. All works to be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Forestry Act, 1946.</p> <p><b>Objective NHB12 - Soil/Ground Water Protection</b> Developments shall ensure that adequate soil protection measures are undertaken, where appropriate, including investigations into the nature and extent of any soil/groundwater contamination.</p> <p><b>Objective NHB 13 – NPWS &amp; Integrated Management Plans</b> Galway County Council shall seek to engage with and support the National Parks &amp; Wildlife Service to ensure Integrated Management Plans are prepared for all Natura 2000 sites and ensure that that such plans are fully integrated with all land use and water management plans in the county, with the intention that such plans are practical, achievable and sustainable and</p>		

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential impacts on Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<p>have regard to all relevant ecological, cultural, social and economic considerations and with special regard to local communities.</p> <p><b>Objective NHB 14 – Protection of Riparian Zones</b> Protect the riparian zones of watercourse systems throughout the county, recognising the benefits they provide in relation to flood risk management and their protection of the ecological integrity of watercourse systems and ensure they are considered in the land use zoning in Local Area Plans.</p>		
<p><b>Policy LCM 1 – Preservation of Landscape Character</b> Preserve and enhance the character of the landscape where, and to the extent that, in the opinion of the Planning Authority, the proper planning and sustainable development of the area requires it, including the preservation and enhancement, where possible of views and prospects and the amenities of places and features of natural beauty or interest.</p> <p><b>Objective LCM 1 - Landscape Sensitivity Classification</b> The Planning Authority shall have regard to the Landscape Sensitivity Classification of sites in the consideration of any significant development proposals and, where necessary, require a Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment to accompany such proposals. This shall be balanced against the need to develop key strategic infrastructure to meet the strategic aims of the Plan, and having regard to the zoning objectives of serviced Development Land within the Galway Metropolitan Areas.</p> <p><b>Objective LCM 2 – Landscape Sensitivity Ratings</b> Consideration of Landscape Sensitivity Ratings shall be an important factor in determining development uses in areas of the County. In areas of high Landscape sensitivity, the design and the choice of location of proposed development in the landscape will also be critical considerations.</p> <p><b>Objective LCM 3 – Open/unfenced landscape</b> Preserve the status of traditionally open/unfenced landscape. The merits of each case will be considered in light of landscape Sensitivity Ratings and views of amenity importance.</p> <p><b>Objective LCM4–Review of the Landscape Character Assessment</b> On adoption of the National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025, the Planning Authority shall facilitate the development of the National Landscape Character Assessment prior to reviewing the county Landscape Character Assessment.</p> <p><b>Focal Point and Views Objective</b></p> <p><b>Objective FPV 1 – Development Management</b> Preserve the focal points and views as listed in Map FPV1 from development that in the view of the Planning Authority would negatively impact on said focal points and views. This shall be balanced against the need to develop key infrastructure to meet the strategic aims of the plan, and have regard to the zoning objectives of serviced Development land within the Galway Metropolitan Area.</p> <p><b>Objective WH 1 - Tentative World Heritage Sites</b> Protect the outstanding universal value of the tentative World Heritage Sites in County Galway namely the Western Stone Forts and the Burren that are included in the UNESCO Tentative List, Ireland 2010 and engage with other national and international initiatives which promote the special built, natural and cultural heritage of places in the county.</p>	<p>Enhancement of landscape character may potentially cause adverse impacts on the Natura 2000 network, such as habitat loss, runoff of pollutants, and disturbance of species.</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS9</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: NHB6</b> <b>Obj: NHB11</b> <b>Obj: WS1</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b> <b>Pol: RA2</b></p>

## Chapter 10: Cultural, Social and Community Development

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential impact on Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<p><b>Strategic Aims</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To promote and facilitate the development of the Gaeltacht &amp; Island communities in County Galway;</li> <li>• To promote and facilitate sustainable communities through land use planning, by providing for land uses capable of accommodating community, leisure, recreational, amenity and cultural facilities;</li> <li>• To ensure that the needs of all individuals and local community groups are delivered in tandem with the residential and physical infrastructure, in order to create a quality, built environment in which to live.</li> </ul>	<p>Infrastructural developments and tourism development on the islands may potentially lead to adverse impacts on European sites, potentially causing habitat</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS9</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: WS9</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: NHB10</b> <b>Pol: EDT1</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b> <b>Pol: NHB4</b></p>

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential impact on Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
	loss, runoff of pollutants, fragmentation and disturbance of species.	
<p><b>Policy G 1 – Preserving and Promoting the Gaeltacht in the Planning Process</b> The Council through the Gaeltacht Local Area Plan 2008-2018 has outlined Policies and Objectives to protect and encourage the social, cultural and linguistic heritage of the Gaeltacht, whilst seeking to realise the economic and development potential of the Gaeltacht in a balanced and sustainable manner over the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p><b>Policy G 2 – Economic Development in the Gaeltacht</b> Galway County Council, through its Economic Development role, is committed to working closely with all the statutory development agencies, especially Údarás na Gaeltachta, to achieve sustainable development in the Galway Gaeltacht while protecting and promoting the Irish language as the first community language of the area.</p> <p><b>Policy G 3 – The Irish Language as an asset</b> Recognise the economic, social and cultural importance of Irish in the Gaeltacht and throughout the county.</p> <p><b>Policy G 4 – Official Languages Act 2003</b> Support and implement the recommendations of the Official Languages Act 2003 (or any superseding or updated version of same).</p> <p><b>Objective G 1 – Linguistic and Cultural Heritage of the Gaeltacht</b> It shall be an objective of the Council to protect the linguistic and cultural heritage of the Gaeltacht and to promote Irish as the community language</p>	None	n/a
<p><b>Policy IS 1 – Supporting the Islands</b> Support the inhabited islands in County Galway and to recognise the special planning and development needs of islands and islands communities, particularly access, infrastructure and services.</p> <p><b>Objective IS 1 – Economic and Tourism Development on the Islands</b> Support the economic and tourism development of the islands for the benefit of island communities generally and to encourage the development of speciality or niche economic sectors that might be appropriate to different islands.</p> <p><b>Objective IS 2 – Development Proposals on the Islands</b> (a) Support sustainable development proposals that contribute to the long term economic and social development of the islands (b) Priority shall be given to development that contributes to retention of the year-round population on the islands, has a clear and identifiable economic and social benefit and that is compatible with the capacity of the local community to accommodate it. (c) Ensure that new development of any kind is sympathetic to the individual form and character of the islands landscapes and traditional building patterns.</p> <p><b>Objective IS 3 – Framework Plan for the Islands</b> As resources permit, support the island communities in the preparation of a framework plan for the islands.</p>	Infrastructural developments and tourism development on the islands may potentially lead to adverse impacts on European sites, potentially causing habitat loss, runoff of pollutants, fragmentation and disturbance of species.	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS9</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: WS9</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: NHB10</b> <b>Pol: EDT1</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b> <b>Pol: NHB4</b></p>
<p><b>Policy CF 1 – Community Facilities</b> Assist where possible the development of community facilities and services within the county. Encourage and facilitate, where feasible the provision and extension of integrated community facilities to serve the needs of communities in the County.</p> <p><b>Policy CF 2 – Community &amp; Voluntary Sector</b> Support the strengthening of the Community and Voluntary sector throughout the County.</p> <p><b>Policy CF 3 – Education &amp; Childcare Facilities</b> Promote the provision of education opportunities for all groups in the County and the provision of day care and childcare facilities by both the public and private sectors in settlements and communities throughout the County</p> <p><b>Policy CF 4 – Library Services</b> Continue to promote the use of the library service and further develop each library as a community gathering place and learning hub.</p> <p><b>Policy CF 5 – Community &amp; Cultural Needs</b> Recognise the community and cultural needs of new communities in the county and promote the sharing of facilities in our towns and villages.</p> <p><b>Policy CF 6 – Burial Grounds</b> Implement the ongoing programme for the provision and extension of burial grounds within available resources. The planning authority will seek to acquire lands where the extension of</p>	The potential extension of community facilities and burial grounds, as well as the development of sport/play/recreational facilities may cause adverse impacts on European sites if located inappropriately.	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: NHB11</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b></p>



Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential impact on Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<p>public burial grounds in the ownership or charge of the Council which is necessary or likely to be necessary during the Plan period. Archaeologically significant medieval burial grounds will not be considered for extension if such an extension would constitute a proven risk to the archaeological heritage.</p> <p><b>Policy CF 7 – Art, Sports &amp; Social Inclusion</b> Support the implementation of the Council’s Art’s, Sports, Social Inclusion, the ‘Integration and Diversity Strategy 2013-2015’, ‘Galway Age Friendly Strategy 2014-2019’, and a Youth Support Programme and other appropriate plans and programmes that may be developed during the lifetime of this Plan.</p> <p><b>Policy CF 8 – Cultural Development in the County</b> Actively encourage and support Arts organisations to achieve their full potential, while enhancing the artistic life of County Galway. The Council supports and develops organisations and individuals working in the Cultural and Creative Services.</p> <p><b>Objective CF 1 - Universal Accessibility, Universal Design and Social Inclusion</b> Promote and support where possible the concept of universal accessibility, universal design and facilitate social inclusion through high standards of design in projects and plans.</p> <p><b>Objective CF 2 - Education Provision &amp; Facilities</b> Work closely with the Department of Education and Skills and the Office of Public Works to identify and protect suitable sites for new educational facilities. Site reservations for primary and post primary schools shall be considered when developing Local Area Plans and this may include campus arrangements.</p> <p><b>Objective CF 3 - Crèche Facilities</b> Require the provision of crèche facilities in mixed use/residential developments in accordance with the ministerial guidelines for Planning Authorities on Childcare Facilities published in 2001. The Planning Authority shall encourage the development of a broad range of childcare facilities, i.e. part-time, full day-care, after-school care, etc., including those based in residential areas, in employment areas and in areas close to where users of such facilities live. In general, childcare facilities outside of established settlements shall only be permitted adjacent to or in close proximity to existing educational or social facilities (national schools, rural shops/post offices, etc).</p> <p><b>Objective CF 4 - Sport, Amenity and Recreation</b> Support and facilitate local communities, sporting organisations in the development of sport and recreational facilities. Support the modest expansion of existing and authorised sporting facilities throughout the County. Seek to develop open spaces throughout the county which will support a range of recreational and amenity activities that provides for active and passive needs.</p> <p><b>Objective CF 5 - Play Facilities</b> Support the development of Play facilities at suitable locations in the county in accordance with the National Play Strategy ‘Ready Steady Play!’.</p> <p><b>Objective CF 6 – Burial Grounds</b> Acquire lands where the extension of public burial grounds in the ownership or charge of the Council which is necessary or likely to be necessary during the Plan period. Archaeologically significant medieval burial grounds will not be considered for extension if such an extension would constitute a proven risk to the archaeological heritage.</p> <p><b>Objective CF 7 – Older Persons Services</b> Consider favourably projects throughout the County that deliver services for the older persons or that integrate services for older persons and children.</p> <p><b>Objective CF 8 – Health Services</b> Promote the continued improvement and expansion of health and medical care facilities within the county in a planned and co-ordinated way, by accommodating projects that assist in providing such medical care facilities, including mental health services, together with their necessary support services and developments, as well as their infrastructural requirements.</p> <p><b>Objective CF 9 – Support the development of the unique culture of the County</b> Facilitate the development of cultural infrastructure within communities throughout the County that will further enhance the cultural vibrancy of the County.</p> <p><b>Objective CF 10 – Fire Service in the Conamara Area</b> Support the development of Fire Service(s) in the Conamara Area</p>		
<p><b>Policy RA 1 – Promotion of Recreation &amp; Amenity</b> Co-operate with various stakeholders in promoting and developing the recreational and amenity potential of the County and carry out appropriate development as and when resources permit.</p>	<p>The policies and objectives in this section have the potential to lead</p>	<p>n/a</p>

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential impact on Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<p><b>Policy RA 2 – Protection of sensitive areas</b> Protect the amenity of scenic and environmentally sensitive areas and promote the knowledge and appreciation of the natural amenities of the County.</p> <p><b>Policy RA 3 – Walking and Cycle Routes</b> Support cycling and walking and other such recreational groups and organisations in promoting their disciplines and developing routes and facilities.</p> <p><b>Policy RA 4 – Sports, Recreation, Amenity and Play Policy</b> Develop and implement a Sports, Recreation, Amenity and Play Policy for the County within the lifetime of the Plan based on the recommendations of the Recreational Needs Study being undertaken by Galway County Council.</p> <p><b>Policy RA 5-Bridleways</b> Galway County Council will support and promote programmes and initiatives that will help to develop Bridleways in County Galway.</p> <p><b>Objective RA 1 – Swimming Facilities</b> It is an objective of the Council to enhance the provision of swimming facilities throughout the county ensure the quality of bathing water is maintained and to contribute towards the achievement of the requirements of the EU Bathing Water Directive and to transposing Bathing Water Quality Regulations (SI No. 79 of 2008) and EU Mandatory Values, as a minimum, and EU Guide Values, where possible.</p> <p><b>Objective RA 2 – Recreation Outlets</b> It is an objective of the Council to support the provision of age friendly recreation outlets, including public parks, play areas, community allotments and walkways.</p> <p><b>Objective RA 3 – Recreation Facilities</b> It is an objective of the Council to develop sport, recreation and amenity facilities in appropriate locations consistent with proper planning and sustainable development in the County and in partnership with local community and sports groups and/or private parties. The modest expansion of existing and authorised sporting facilities throughout the County will be supported.</p> <p><b>Objective RA 4 – Allotments</b> It is an objective of the Council to consider positively the provision of, or permission for, the development of allotments within rural and agricultural areas where they are accessible from the built-up area of the County, to be available to the community.</p> <p><b>Objective RA 5 – Clifden Greenway</b> It is an objective of the Council to protect the alignment of the Clifden Railway Line as a Greenway and to support its completion.</p> <p><b>Objective RA 6 – Walking Routes/Rights of ways</b> Prohibit the intrusion of development along public walking routes and public rights of way, particularly those in scenic areas, the sea coast and along inland waterways.</p> <p><b>Objective RA 7 – Walking and Cycle Routes</b> Support and promote programmes to develop walking and cycle routes including the Irish Trails Strategy, the <i>Galway County Council Walking and Cycling Strategy (2013)</i> and <i>The National Cycle Network Scoping Study (2010)</i></p> <p><b>Policy PRW 1 – Preservation of Public Rights of Way</b> It is the Policy of the Council to preserve and protect verified public rights of way which give access to seashore, mountain, lakeshore, riverbank or other place of natural beauty or recreational utility.</p> <p><b>Objective PRW 1 – Identification of existing Public Rights of Way</b> Seek to identify, map and protect verified existing public rights of way that give access to seashore, mountain, lakeshore, riverbank or other place of natural beauty or recreational utility as they become available to the Planning Authority over the lifetime of the Plan.</p>	<p>to significant negative impacts on the Natura 2000 network, however, the development of these policies and objectives will be carried out with sufficient protection afforded to the Natura 2000 network, as per Policy RA2.</p>	
<p><b>Policy SI 1 - Social Inclusion and Universal Access</b> Support the principles of social inclusion and universal access and ensure that all individuals have access to goods, services, facilities and buildings and in light of these principles recognise the social and economic disadvantages in areas of East Galway and Conamara and assist individuals to participate in and contribute to social and cultural life within County Galway as a whole.</p> <p><b>Policy SI 2 – Social Inclusion Programmes/Interventions</b> Support the implementation of the requirements and provisions as set out in the Disability Act 2005, the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016 (including any updated or superseding document), including RAPID and CLÁR which support locally-based social inclusion interventions with emphasis on supporting people and communities suffering disadvantage and exclusion through a wide spectrum of locally –promoted actions.</p>	<p>The development of new rural transport networks may lead to habitat loss, runoff of pollutants, fragmentation and disturbance of species.</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS9</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: NHB11</b> <b>Obj: WS1</b> <b>Pol: TI1</b> <b>Pol: TI5</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b></p>

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential impact on Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<p><b>Policy SI 3 - Implementation of Policy</b>                      Implement the provisions of the County Galway Local Authorities Disability Action Plan 2007-2015 and the Social Inclusion Strategy (including any updated/superseding documents), Galway Age Friendly Strategy 2014-2019, Integration and Diversity Strategy 2013-2015, Galway Traveller Interagency Strategy, Galway LGBT Diversity Strategy ; Irish National Positive Ageing Strategy.</p> <p><b>Policy SI 4 – Lifelong Learning</b>                      Galway County Council shall support the concept of lifelong learning.</p> <p><b>Policy SI 5 – Ageing &amp; the Family</b>                      Work with NUI Galway and other partners to make County Galway a flagship for the integration of research and practice in the areas of ageing and family needs.</p> <p><b>Objective SI 1 – Recognised Special Needs</b>                      Consideration shall be given to individuals with recognised special needs in the location layout and design of housing developments, communal facilities, public spaces and transport services.</p> <p><b>Objective SI 2 – Housing for the Older Person and People with Other Special Needs</b>                      Ensure that appropriate units are developed in the housing market for the elderly, people with disabilities and other special needs households.</p> <p><b>Objective SI 3 – Proofing of Traffic Management Infrastructure</b>                      Ensure that traffic management infrastructure is developed in accordance with road design manuals and in accordance with the DM Standards and Guidelines of this Plan to cater for all needs.</p> <p><b>Objective SI 4 – Services and Rural Transport Networks</b>                      The Council will support the development of new rural transport networks where gaps in services are identified.</p> <p><b>Objective SI 5 – Priorities for Traffic Management Policies in Urban Areas</b>                      Progress traffic management policies that facilitates pedestrians and cycle users in conjunction with vehicular movement in urban centres and towns and villages.</p> <p><b>Objective SI 6 – Integrated Transport Strategy and Older Residents</b>                      Develop a transport policy and integrated transport strategy to address the transport concerns of all residents and the broader community.</p> <p><b>Objective SI 7 – Community Safety and Infrastructure</b>                      Promote and support the development of infrastructure that improves community safety.</p> <p><b>Objective SI 8 – World Health Organisation and Age Friendly Cities</b>                      Consider the World Health Organisation (WHO) Checklist of Essential Features of Age Friendly Cities when implementing the County Development Plan.</p> <p><b>Objective SI 9 – Life Long Communities</b>                      Facilitate all members of the community living at home in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.</p>		

## Chapter 11: Agriculture, Fishing Marine Resources and Forestry

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential impact on Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To maintain and support into the future the County's rural/coastal communities including the traditional family farm;</li> <li>• To harness a pride of place and to assist rural communities to promote their natural resources including the sustainable stewardship and management of natural ecosystems within land and sea;</li> <li>• To support existing local rural economies, promote diversification, improve conditions of local farms and rural enterprises and to help develop local markets within the County;</li> <li>• To help foster 'green growth/ management practices'(including food security, quality and diversity) in primary food production methods within the agri- food, fisheries and forestry sectors within the County;</li> <li>• To pursue climate change mitigation and adaptation actions thus enabling agriculture to respond to climate change particularly to the effects of extreme weather fluctuations.</li> </ul>	Promotion of increased fishing and intensification of agriculture may lead to habitat loss and runoff of pollutants.	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b>  <b>Obj: DS9</b>  <b>Obj: DS10</b>  <b>Obj: NHB1</b>  <b>Obj: NHB2</b>  <b>Obj: NHB11</b>  <b>Obj: AFF5</b>  <b>Obj: AFF6</b>  <b>Obj: AFF7</b>  <b>Pol: NHB1</b>  <b>Pol: NHB2</b>  <b>Pol: AFF7</b></p>

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential impact on Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<p><b>Agriculture, Fishing/Marine Resources and Forestry Policies</b>  <b>Policy AFF 1 –Agri-Food Sector, Fisheries/Marine Resources and Forestry</b>                      The Council shall recognise innovative strategies in the agri-food sector, fisheries/marine resources and forestry within the County  <b>Policy AFF 2 – Sustainable Management of Natural Resources</b>                      Support the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Report titled 'Food Harvest: A Vision for Agri - Food and Fisheries 2020'.</p>		
<p><b>Policy AFF 3 – Sustainable Development of the Countryside</b>                      Facilitate the sustainable development of the countryside. The Council recognises that the diversification of appropriate uses on rural landholdings may be necessary in order to ensure the continued viability of agriculture.  <b>Policy AFF 4 – Organic Farming and Rural Tourism</b>                      The Council shall promote and support the organic farm sector (including the development of niche markets) and rural tourism initiatives including appropriate infrastructure to support such initiatives.  <b>Objective AFF1 – Sustainable Agriculture</b>                      The Council shall support the sustainable development of agriculture, with an emphasis on a high quality, traceable primary production methods, the promotion of local food supply and agriculture diversification  <b>Objective AFF 2 – Rural Diversification</b>                      Galway County Council shall support those who live and work in agriculture and /or related activities in rural areas and who wish to remain on their land holding. Accordingly the Council will favourably consider rural diversification intended to supplement farm income where the activity remains ancillary and compatible to the ongoing agricultural use of the farm and does not have an adverse impact on residential amenity:                      a) Specialist farming practices e.g. specialised animal breeding, equine facilities, poultry, mushroom growing, vegetable and fruit growing;                      b) Farm enterprises such as processing, animal pet farms/horse riding schools with an element of retail activity;                      c) The production of organic and speciality foods to meet the increase in demand for such products;                      d) The conversion of disused buildings/existing farm buildings for appropriate owner run, rural orientated enterprises, as a way of supporting a viable rural community, subject to proper planning and sustainable development of the area;                      Support the development of appropriate agri-tourism activities and eco-tourism development proposals and promote the County as a green tourist destination.  <b>Objective AFF 3 – Farmer’s Markets</b>                      Support the establishment or facilitation of regularised local farmers markets within the towns and villages as outlined in the Core/Settlement Strategy in accordance with best practice and in a manner that is complementary to the existing market and retail activities of those towns and villages.  <b>Objective AFF 4 – Intensive Agriculture Developments</b>                      Have regard to S256 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) which amends the EPA Act 1992 regarding the control of emissions when assessing intensive agricultural developments.  <b>Objective AFF 5 - Compliance with the EU Habitats Directive</b>                      New agricultural projects that may potentially affect Natura 2000 Sites, individually or in combination with other plans and projects shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment to ensure that there are no likely significant effects on the integrity of any Natura 2000 Sites in the County.  <b>Objective AFF 6 - Drainage or Reclamation of Wetlands</b>                      The Council will implement the relevant parts of the Planning and Development (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2011 and the European Communities (Amendment to Planning and Development) Regulations 2011 which require planning permission to be applied for where the area impacted by works relating to the drainage or reclamation of a wetland exceeds 0.1 hectares or where such works may have a significant effect on the environment. Such planning applications would need to be supported by an Appropriate Assessment where necessary.</p>	<p>Objectives AFF6 and AFF7 provide recognition for the protection of the Natura network, however, policies promoting rural tourism and development in the countryside may lead to adverse impacts on European sites. Intensive agricultural developments will also cause amplified pressures on these sites.</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b>  <b>Obj: DS9</b>  <b>Obj: DS10</b>  <b>Obj: CC5</b>  <b>Obj: NHB1</b>  <b>Obj: NHB2</b>  <b>Obj: NHB4</b>  <b>Obj: NHB5</b>  <b>Obj: NHB10</b>  <b>Obj: NHB11</b>  <b>Obj: WS1</b>  <b>Obj: WS2</b>  <b>Obj: WS14</b>  <b>Pol: GH1</b>  <b>Pol: NHB1</b>  <b>Pol: NHB2</b>  <b>Pol: NHB7</b>  <b>Pol: RA2</b>  <b>Pol: WS4</b>  <b>Pol: DT1</b></p>
<p><b>Policy AFF 5 – Implementation of the Shellfish Waters Directive</b>                      Galway County Council will continue to work with local communities, relevant stakeholders and with the Department of Agriculture Food and Marine to ensure the</p>	<p>The provision of infrastructure in maritime areas may</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b>  <b>Obj: DS9</b>  <b>Obj: DS10</b></p>

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential impact on Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<p>proper and successful implementation of the Shellfish Waters Directive along County Galway's coastline.</p> <p><b>Policy AFF 6 –Sustainable Growth within Fishing and Marine Resource Sectors</b> The Council shall support the sustainable development of fishing, marine resource enterprises and marine/eco tourism that is consistent with other policies of this Plan, so as to maximise their contribution to jobs and growth within the coastal and rural communities of the County and to the growth of the National economy.</p> <p><b>Policy AFF 7 – Integrated Approach</b> The Council shall promote County Galway as a coastal County and shall seek to increase our awareness of the value, opportunities and social benefits of the sea. Galway County Council shall also support an integrated or ecosystem approach as outlined within the document 'An Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland Harnessing our Ocean's Wealth 2012' regarding future maritime development proposals in ensuring that ecological limits are respected and that development will not have significant adverse effects on the environment both on land and sea.</p> <p><b>Policy AFF 8 – Marine Research</b> Promote and collaborate with NUIG and with the Galway Marine Institute in their Research and Development initiatives in harnessing employment opportunities in the marine sector (e.g. SmartBay Project).</p> <p><b>Objective AFF7 – Commercial Sea Fishing</b> Galway County Council shall encourage and facilitate the sustainable development and expansion of the fishing industry while providing for the management and conservation of coastal habitats and ecosystems.</p> <p><b>Objective AFF 8 – Aquaculture</b> The Council shall support and promote the sustainable development of the aquaculture sector in order to maximize its contribution to employment creation and growth in coastal communities whilst balancing environmental considerations. Special consideration should be made to gradually enforce a policy that would encourage onshore fish farming practices and special consideration would be given when granting planning for on shore farms to areas that are already involved in the fish farming industry.</p> <p><b>Objective AFF9 – Inland Fishery Resources</b> The Council shall support the County's valuable inland fishery resource and support its sustainable development and expansion through the protection of water and habitat quality and facilitation of ancillary infrastructure and improvements at appropriate locations.</p> <p><b>Objective AFF10 – Marine Research</b> Continue to support the further development of the existing NUIG marine research station at Maínis having regard to its long established land use on the site and its importance to the aquaculture industry to the local community and to the development of scientific knowledge.</p> <p><b>Objective AFF 11 – Development of Offshore Resources</b> Galway County Council shall promote and support the development of sustainable off-shore resources such as offshore energy generating sites subject to the provisions of EU Directives including the Habitats Directive and Shellfish Directive.</p> <p><b>Objective AFF12 – Marina Developments</b> The Council shall support proposals for sustainable marina developments and associated amenities that are located at both existing marinas and at other appropriate and fully justified locations</p> <p><b>Objective AFF13 – Water Borne Transport</b> Support the continued operation of ferry services between the islands and mainland in order to support coastal communities and to increase access for the tourism sector.</p> <p><b>Objective AFF 14 – Provision of Infrastructure</b> Facilitate the provision of infrastructure, which is necessary for the development of the fishing, seaweed and Mari-culture industry. The provision of infrastructure, which is necessary for the development of the fishing and Mari-culture industry, should be located in proximity to established landing facilities.</p> <p><b>Objective AFF 15 – Aquaculture, Marine Enterprise and Biotechnology</b> The Council shall encourage and support an integrated approach to marine enterprise as set out within the national Integrated Marine Plan titled 'Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth 2012'. The Council shall consider appropriately located marine resourced enterprises within the</p>	<p>lead to negative impacts on the Natura 2000 network, inappropriate development of such infrastructure may potentially cause habitat loss, runoff of pollutants, fragmentation and/or disturbance of species.</p>	<p><b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: NHB10</b> <b>Obj: FL3</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b></p>

Policies / Objectives from the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021	Potential impact on Natura 2000 network	Mitigation
<p>County subject to proper planning and in compliance with environmental legislation. Ros An Mhíl shall be promoted as a location for a 'maritime/marine cluster'</p> <p><b>Objective AFF 16 – Marine Tourism</b> The Council will support, subject to meeting the requirements of relevant Irish planning and European environmental legislation including the Habitats Directive, the sustainable development of the necessary infrastructure and amenities to support marine tourism such as deep sea angling, sailing, canoeing, surfing, island exploration and cruise ship passengers.</p>		
<p><b>Policy AFF 9 – Forestry Recreation</b> Co-operate with Coillte Teoranta, the Forest Service and private landowners in promoting greater public access and recreational use in the County. Support and promote the Forest Service 'Neighbourwood Scheme' which seeks to provide public access, recreation and enjoyment on such land in or near villages, towns within the country.</p> <p><b>Policy AFF 10 – Forestry and Climate Change</b> In accordance with the National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012 (including any updated/superseding Strategy) Galway County Council shall promote sustainable forestry development of appropriate scale within the County in order to address climate change directly through sequestration and indirectly through the displacement of fossil fuel.</p> <p><b>Objective AFF 17 – Sustainable Management</b> Encourage sustainable forestry, development and related management activities, including the promotion of mixed species forestry particularly deciduous forestry as an alternative agriculture use. Encourage phased and selective rather than clear felling and the promotion of green infrastructure networks.</p> <p><b>Objective AFF18 – Sustainable Afforestation</b> Facilitate afforestation in appropriate locations, in co-operation with Coillte and the Forest Service and in line with EU environmental and national legislation and policy.</p> <p><b>Objective AFF 19 – Afforestation and Landscape</b> Consider the likely impact of forestry on landscape quality and visual amenity in any afforestation proposals brought before the Local Authority for comment. Refer to the Landscape Character Assessment and to the DM Standards and Guidelines of this Plan when considering such proposals.</p> <p><b>Objective AFF 20 – Bio-Energy</b> Support the development of the bio-energy sector as an alternative agricultural use and have regard to the Bio-Energy Action Plan for Ireland 2007 (including any updated or superseding document), to the Department of Agriculture and Food Best Practice Manuals and Guidelines and to the Landscape Character Assessment when considering significant planting of bio-energy crops.</p>	<p>The promotion of forestry may lead to negative impacts on the Natura 2000 network of sites, potentially resulting in habitat loss, fragmentation, runoff of silt, and/or disturbance of species.</p>	<p><b>Obj: DS6</b> <b>Obj: DS9</b> <b>Obj: DS10</b> <b>Obj: NHB1</b> <b>Obj: NHB2</b> <b>Obj: NHB5</b> <b>Obj: NHB11</b> <b>Pol: NHB1</b> <b>Pol: NHB2</b></p>