

# Thomastown

C o u n t y   K i l k e n n y



## AAS Appropriate Assessment Screening

July 2008



Kilkenny County Council  
*Forward Planning*



## Appropriate Assessment Screening

This is an Appropriate Assessment Screening of the Draft Thomastown LAP, in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).

The Draft Thomastown LAP has been assessed to see if it needs to be subject to an 'Appropriate Assessment'. Based on the *Methodological guidance on the provision of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*, a 'Screening Matrix' and a 'Finding of No Significant Effects Matrix' have been completed. The conclusions are that the Draft LAP does not require an Appropriate Assessment.

The principal consideration for an Appropriate Assessment would be if the LAP were likely to have significant effects on a Natura 2000 site – SACs and SPAs are Natura sites. There are two SACs within the vicinity of the Thomastown LAP, but no SPAs. The LAP has been formulated to ensure that land uses, developments and effects arising from permissions based upon this Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) will not give rise to significant adverse impacts on the integrity of any Natura sites, having regard to their conservation objectives.

### 1.1 Screening Matrix

<b>Brief description of the project or plan:</b>
<p><i>This Draft LAP is intended to provide for the proper planning and sustainable development of Thomastown for a duration of six years, from adoption in 2008 until 2014, unless amended. The vision is aimed at the creation of a clean and safe, sustainable environment, in communities where people want to live, work or visit, and where residents have access to local job opportunities. The town should continue to develop as a good place to live, with high quality housing that meets local needs and with a good quality of life, and where leisure and recreational activities are available to all.</i></p> <p><i>The Council is committed to delivering the vision by working in partnership with local people and organisations so as to achieve a town that:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• Has a sustainable level of development appropriate to the character, heritage, amenity and strategic role of Thomastown as the main District Centre of the county, and that allows for the enhancement of the town character, services and amenities;</i></li><li><i>• Supports and protects the environment, heritage, character and amenity of the town, and in particular the River Nore floodplain and the medieval and industrial heritage of the town centre;</i></li><li><i>• Has a high quality built environment with a well developed public realm and appropriate building forms, materials, heights and associated landscaping that complement and enhance the distinctive character of the town;</i></li><li><i>• Has a suitable range of community facilities and amenities to serve all sections of the local community, the wider rural catchment area and visitors to the town;</i></li><li><i>• Is well connected to, but has a strong local identity separate from, nearby settlements, in particular Kilkenny City, Waterford City, Inistioge and New Ross;</i></li><li><i>• Has a pedestrian friendly town centre where conflict between the needs of pedestrian and motorist is minimised;</i></li><li><i>• Has a safe network of amenity walks within and through the town and linking the various natural and heritage features;</i></li><li><i>• Has a strong sense of community spirit, civic pride and social inclusiveness;</i></li><li><i>• Has an adequate level of service infrastructure to support existing and future populations in a manner that protects and complements the environment, including an adequate road network, traffic management and parking facilities, improved public transport and safe routes for pedestrians and cyclists, and adequate wastewater disposal, water supply and surface water drainage.</i></li></ul>
<b>Brief description of the Natura 2000 sites:</b>
<p><i>The River Barrow and River Nore cSAC (Site Code 002162)</i> <i>Thomastown Quarry cSAC</i></p>

**Describe the individual elements of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to impacts on the Natura 2000 site:**

*Zoning of Open Space within extent of the River Barrow and River Nore cSAC where it passes through Thomastown.*

*Retaining Established Residential and Mixed Use (formerly 'General Business' in 2002 LAP) for areas abutting the River Barrow and River Nore cSAC.*

*Introducing Open Space buffer (proposed new woodland) between Thomastown Quarry cSAC and new Residential and Established Residential zonings to east side of Bennetsbridge Road (R700).*

**Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the Natura 2000 site by virtue of:**

- **Size and scale;**

*No projects giving rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites having regard to their conservation objectives, arising from their size or scale will be allowed on the basis of this LAP (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects).*

- **Land-take;**

*No projects giving rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites having regard to their conservation objectives, arising from their land take will be allowed on the basis of this LAP (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects).*

- **Distance from Natura 2000 site or key features of the site;**

*Part of and abutting.*

- **Resource requirements (water abstraction etc);**

*No projects giving rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites having regard to their conservation objectives, arising from their resource requirements will be allowed on the basis of this LAP (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects).*

- **Emission ( disposal to land, water or air);**

*No projects giving rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites having regard to their conservation objectives, arising from their emissions will be allowed on the basis of this LAP (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects).*

- **Excavation requirements;**

*No projects giving rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites having regard to their conservation objectives, arising from their excavation requirements will be allowed on the basis of this LAP (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects).*

- **Transportation requirements;**

*No projects giving rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites having regard to their conservation objectives, arising from their transportation requirements will be allowed on the basis of this LAP (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects).*

- **Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning, etc;**

*No projects giving rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites having regard to their conservation objectives, arising from their duration of construction, operation or decommissioning will be allowed on the basis of this LAP (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects).*

- **Other**

*None.*

**Describe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of :**

- **reduction of habitat area:**

*No projects giving rise to reduction of habitat areas for Natura 2000 sites will be permitted on the basis of this LAP (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects).*

- **disturbance to key species;**

*No projects giving rise to disturbance to key species for Natura 2000 sites will be permitted on the basis of this LAP (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects).*

- **habitat or species fragmentation;**

*No projects giving rise to habitat or species fragmentation for Natura 2000 sites will be permitted on the basis of this LAP (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects).*

- **reduction in species density;**

*No projects giving rise to reduction in species density for Natura 2000 sites will be permitted on the basis of this LAP (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects).*

- **changes in key indicators of conservation value**

*No projects giving rise to significant adverse changes in key indicators of conservation value for Natura 2000 sites will be permitted on the basis of this LAP (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects).*

- **Climate change:**

*No projects giving rise to significant adverse changes in climatological conditions affecting Natura 2000 sites will be permitted on the basis of this LAP (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects).*

**Describe any likely impacts on the Natura 2000 site as a whole in terms of:**

- **interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the site;**

*No projects giving rise to significant, adverse interference with the key relationships that define the structure of Natura 2000 sites, having regard to their conservation objectives, will be permitted on the basis of this LAP (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects).*

- **interference with key relationships that define the function of the site;**

*No projects giving rise to significant, adverse interference with the key relationships that define the function of Natura 2000 sites, having regard to their conservation objectives, will be permitted on the basis of this LAP (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects).*

**Provide indicators of significance as a result of the identification of effects set out above in terms of:**

- **loss;**

*Not applicable.*

- **Fragmentation;**

*Not applicable.*

- **Disruption;**

*Not applicable.*

- **Disturbance;**

*Not applicable.*

- **change to key elements of the site (eg water quality etc);**

*Not applicable.*

**Describe from the above those elements of the project or plan, or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale or magnitude of impacts are not known.**

*Not applicable.*

## 1.2 Finding of No Significant Effects Matrix

<b>Name of Project or Plan:</b>	<i>Draft Thomastown LAP.</i>
<b>Name and location of Natura 2000 sites:</b>	<i>The River Barrow and River Nore cSAC (Site Code 002162) Thomastown Quarry cSAC</i>
<b>Description of the Project or Plan</b>	<i>As given in Screening Matrix above.</i>
<b>Is the Project or Plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (provide details) ?</b>	<i>The Draft LAP is intended to provide for the proper planning and sustainable development of Thomastown and includes policies and objectives to protect and manage in a suitable manner the natural heritage of the town, including its Natura 2000 sites, and to seek the enhancement of these resources where appropriate and feasible.</i>
<b>Are there other projects or plans that together with the project of plan being assessed could affect the site (provide details)?</b>	<i>The Draft LAP has been formulated to ensure that the uses, developments and effects arising from proposals and/or permissions based upon the policies and objectives of the Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) will not give rise to significant adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites, having regard to their conservation objectives.</i>
<b>The Assessment of Significance of Effects</b>	
<b>Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) is likely to affect the Natura 2000 sites:</b>	<i>The Draft LAP has been formulated to ensure that the uses, developments and effects arising from proposals and/or permissions based upon the policies and objectives of the Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) will not give rise to significant adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites, having regard to their conservation objectives.</i>
<b>Explain why these effects are not considered significant:</b>	<i>The policies, objectives and proposals of the LAP have been devised to anticipate and avoid any likely adverse significant impacts on the integrity of the Natura 200 sites, having regard to their conservation objectives. Furthermore, such developments as may be permitted on the basis of this Plan will be required to conform with the relevant regulatory provisions, including those set out in the Draft CDP (2008), for the prevention of pollution, nuisance or other environmental effects likely to significantly and adversely affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites.</i>
<b>List of Agencies Consulted: Provide contact name and telephone or email address:</b>	<i>SEA Screening and Main Issues Reports were sent to: The Manager, Development Applications Unit DoEHLG Dun Sceine, Harcourt Lane Dublin 2 (T: 01 833 3190)  John Wynne, Co-Ordination Unit Dept. of Communications, Marine &amp; Natural Resources</i>

	<p><i>Leeson Lane          Dublin 2          (T: 01 678 3051)</i></p> <p><i>Tadhg O'Mahony          Environmental Protection Agency          Regional Inspectorate          Inniscarra          County Cork          (T: 021 487 5540)</i></p>		
<b>Response to consultation</b>	<i>Awaited.</i>		
<b>Data Collected to Carry out the Assessment</b>			
<b>Who carried out the Assessment?</b>	<b>Sources of Data</b>	<b>Level of assessment completed</b>	<b>Where can the full results of the assessment be accessed and viewed</b>
<i>Nicholas de Jong          Associates          Landscape Planning &amp;          Urban Design</i>	<i>Existing NPWS Site          Synopses</i>	<i>Desktop study.</i>	<i>On display with Draft          LAP.</i>