



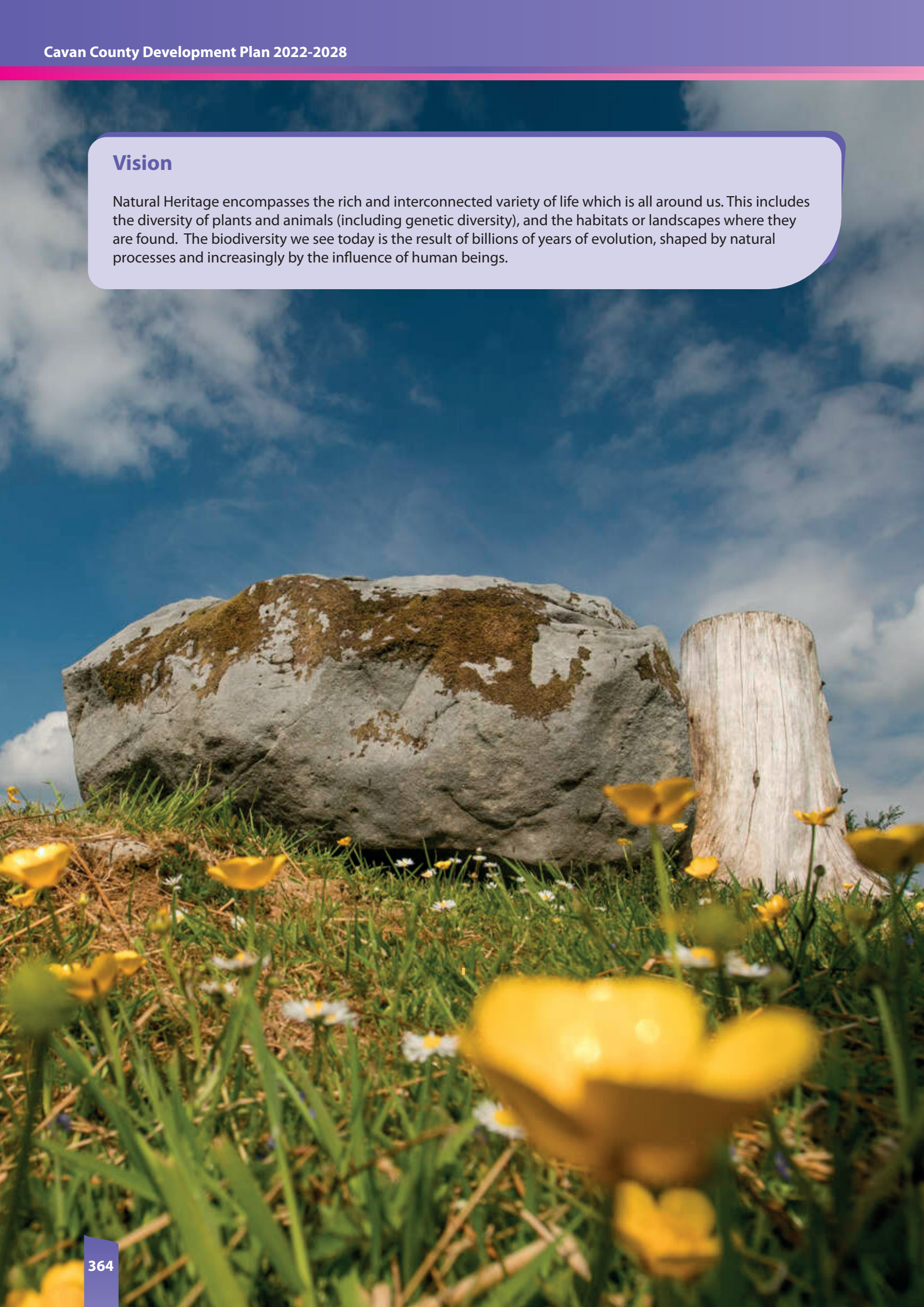
10

**Natural
Heritage**



Vision

Natural Heritage encompasses the rich and interconnected variety of life which is all around us. This includes the diversity of plants and animals (including genetic diversity), and the habitats or landscapes where they are found. The biodiversity we see today is the result of billions of years of evolution, shaped by natural processes and increasingly by the influence of human beings.





Policy

NHP 01

Protect conserve and enhance biodiversity, natural heritage, amenity and landscape in order to provide economic, social and well-being benefits for current and future generations of Cavan's citizens and its visitors.

10.1 Introduction

Cavan's natural heritage forms the rich tapestry of our landscape bogs, drumlins, lakes, wetlands, farmland and mature hedgerow networks. This natural heritage is of importance throughout the county. Our landscape continues to adapt and change in response to our needs as a society such as provisioning services and regulating services, supporting services and cultural services. It is important that in meeting our needs the natural heritage and biodiversity of our county is not negatively impacted upon. Cavan County Council will protect the natural heritage of the county in accordance with higher level national and regional policy.

10.2 Statutory and Policy Context

10.2.1 Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)

Development must include mandatory objectives for the conservation of the natural heritage and for the conservation of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed.

10.2.2 EU Birds and Habitats Directives (The Habitats Directive)

The Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna, better known as 'The Habitats Directive', provides legal protection for habitats and species of European Importance. It protects habitats and species of community interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of sites, known as Natura 2000; Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). The Habitats Directive sets out decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect European Sites and establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment (AA).

10.2.3 Wildlife Act 1976, (as amended)

The Wildlife Act 1976, as amended is the principal national legislation providing for the protection of

wildlife and the control of some activities which may adversely affect wildlife.

10.2.4 Flora (Protection) Order, 2015

This sets out the current list of plant species protected by Section 21 of the Wildlife Act, 1976, as amended.

10.3 National Policy Context

10.3.1 National Heritage Plan (2002) and the Draft National Heritage Plan (2019)

These Plans identify and recognise that heritage is a shared asset to be protected by the actions within.

10.3.2 Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities (2009) (revised 2010)

Appropriate Assessment guidance is intended to assist and guide planning authorities in the application of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive as it relates to their roles, functions and responsibilities in undertaking Appropriate Assessment of plans and projects. It applies to plans and projects for which public authorities receive an application for consent, and to plans or projects which a public authority wishes to undertake or adopt. It sets out different steps and stages that are needed in establishing whether a plan or project can be implemented without adversely impacting the integrity of a European Site. The guidance addresses issues of mitigation and avoidance of impacts, and also Article 6(4) derogation provisions for circumstances in which there are no alternatives and for which there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROP) requiring a plan or project to proceed.

10.3.3 All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020 and 2021-2025

The main objectives contained within:

- Making farmland, public land and private land in Ireland pollinator friendly
- Raising awareness of pollinators and how to protect them
- Managed pollinators – supporting beekeepers and growers
- Expanding our knowledge of pollinators and pollination service
- Collecting evidence to track change and measure success

10.3.4 National Peatlands Strategy 2016

The National Peatlands Strategy contains a comprehensive list of actions, necessary to ensure that Ireland's peatlands are preserved, nurtured and become living assets within the communities that live beside them.

10.3.5 National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017

The National Biodiversity Action Plan – Actions for Biodiversity 2017 – 2021 was developed in line with EU and International Biodiversity strategies and policies. The plan recognises that locally led action is crucial in protecting biodiversity and ecosystem services and sets out the measures Ireland should take to ensure its conservation.

10.3.6 National Planning Framework (NPF)

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out to protect and value our important and vulnerable habitats, landscapes, natural heritage and green spaces. It identifies the importance of interrelationships between biodiversity, natural heritage, landscape and our green spaces.

The following Relevant National Policy Objectives are noted:

NPO 58:

Integrated planning for Green Infrastructure and ecosystem services will be incorporated into the preparation of statutory land use plans;

NPO 59:

Enhance the conservation status and improve the management of protected areas and protected species by:

- *Implementing relevant EU Directives to protect Ireland's environment and wildlife;*
- *Integrating policies and objectives for the protection and restoration of biodiversity in statutory development plans;*
- *Developing and utilising licensing and consent systems to facilitate sustainable activities within European Sites;*
- *Continued research, survey programmes and monitoring of habitats and species;*

NPO 60:

Conserve and enhance the rich qualities of natural and cultural heritage of Ireland in a manner appropriate to their significance;

NPO 61:

Facilitate landscape protection, management and change through the preparation of a National Landscape Character Map and development of guidance on local landscape character assessments, (Including historic landscape characterisation) to ensure a consistent approach to landscape character assessment, particularly across planning and administrative boundaries.

10.4 Northern and Western Regional Assembly: Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032

The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy values the importance of the natural heritage asset and the importance of conserving, enhancing and protecting our biodiversity whilst sustainably managing it to safeguard for future generations. The strategy also addresses the need to build climate resilience in our local communities and transitioning to a low carbon economy by 2050.

10.5 Natural Heritage in County Cavan

The Natural Heritage and Biodiversity of County Cavan is a unique resource from the bogs of the Cuilcagh Mountains, to the scenic lakes, wetlands and grasslands within the rolling lowland drumlin landscape for which Cavan is famed. It also occurs in urban centres whether it is a fleeting glimpse of a robin foraging for earthworms in our gardens and town parks or lichens colonizing walls and gravestones in graveyards.

The Cavan County Heritage Plan and Cavan County Biodiversity Action Plan are currently being developed and will be agreed in partnership with Cavan County Heritage Forum and adopted by the elected members of Cavan County Council, following public consultation. Under the previous plans Cavan County Heritage Plan 2006 - 2011 and Cavan County Biodiversity Plan 2009-2014 a number of key actions have been delivered in terms of our natural heritage.



Through the implementation of these plans, Cavan County Council is engaging with the wider community to promote greater understanding of natural heritage in the county and encouraging greater public participation.

Cavan County Council is committed to working in close partnership with the Heritage Council, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Fisheries Boards, Fáilte Ireland, Office of Public Works, Geological Survey Ireland to deliver on the strategic actions of the above plans.



Natural Heritage Development Objectives

It is a development objective of Cavan County Council to:

NH
1

Conserve, protect and manage the County's natural heritage assets for future generations while encouraging appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of the amenity value for the present generation.

NH
2

Maximise the social, economic and environmental benefits that may be derived from the conservation and management of Cavan's Natural Heritage and green infrastructure.

NH
3

Support the implementation of relevant actions in the National Biodiversity Plan, the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and the National Peatlands Strategy.

NH
4

Implement, in partnership with Cavan County Heritage Forum, relevant stakeholders and the wider community, Cavan County Heritage and Biodiversity Plans and any revisions thereof.

NH
5

Integrate biodiversity consideration into all Cavan County Council activities through the County Biodiversity Action Plan process.

NH
6

Ensure the protection of species of flora and fauna afforded legal protection under Irish and European Legislation.

NH
7

Assess the impact on biodiversity of proposals for large developments, particularly those on greenfield sites, or in environmentally sensitive areas. Such developments must include measures for the enhancement and protection of biodiversity.

NH
8

Promote the conservation of biodiversity outside of designated areas, including features such as wetlands, woodlands, hedgerows and uplands.

NH
9

Working in close partnership with the Heritage Council, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Fisheries Boards, Fáilte Ireland, Office of Public Works, Geological Survey Ireland to deliver on the strategic actions of the current Cavan County Heritage Action Plan and the Cavan County Action Biodiversity Plan or subsequent plans adopted within the lifetime of the development plan.

10.6 Natura 2000 Sites

Together, Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's) make up a network of European Sites known as the Natura Network. Collectively, these sites are known as the Natura 2000 sites. Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are designated under the Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (79/409/ECC). Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are designated under the Habitats Directive and The National Parks and Wildlife Service website provides up-to-date information regarding these sites (www.npws.ie)

These sites are part of a pan-European network known as Natura 2000 internationally and nationally designated sites hosting habitats listed in Annex 1 of the Habitats Directive and sites hosting rare and protected species and their habitats. The boundaries of protected areas may change during the lifetime of the Plan and additional areas may be designated.

10.6.1 Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

These are sites of importance for birds (and often are also important for other types of wildlife). The EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) requires designation of SPAs for listed vulnerable species, regularly occurring migratory species and wetlands, especially those of international importance, which attract large numbers of migratory birds each year.

Development in or near an SPA should avoid any significant adverse impact on the features for which the site has been designated. There are three SPAs in Co. Cavan, see Appendix 8 Special Protection Areas Map and list below.

Site	Status	Site Code
Lough Oughter	SPA	004049
Lough Kinale / Derragh Lough	SPA	004061
Lough Sheelin	SPA	004065

10.6.2 Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's)

These are the prime wildlife conservation areas in the country, considered to be important on a European as well as national level. The EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) lists certain habitats and species that must be protected. Any development in or near an SAC should avoid any significant adverse impact on the features for which the site has been designated or proposed for designation. There are six SACs in County Cavan, see Appendix 9 Special Areas of Conservation and list below.

Site	Status	Code
Killyconny Bog (Cloghbally)	SAC	000006
Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs	SAC	000007
Cuilcagh-Anierin Uplands	SAC	000584
Corratirrim	SAC	000979
Boleybrack Mountain	SAC	002032
River Boyne and Blackwater	SAC	002299

Planning Authorities must ensure that Screening for Appropriate Assessment and if necessary Appropriate Assessment of the implications of proposals on designated Natura Sites is undertaken. This assessment is required for all

planning applications, plans or projects which have shown likely significant effects on these sites through a screening process.

Screening for Appropriate Assessment applies to all development proposals, either within or outside a Natura 2000 Site, see Appendix 9 Natura 2000 Appropriate Assessment Buffer Areas.

10.7 Natural Heritage Areas

Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) are designated under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act (2000) and encompass nationally important semi-natural and natural habitats, landforms and geomorphological features. The council will normally only grant permission where it is clearly demonstrated that a proposal will have no significant adverse impact on the habitats and species of interest in the designated area and its ecological integrity. There are two NHAs and eighteen proposed NHAs in Co. Cavan see Appendix 11: Natural Heritage Areas and list below.

Site	Status	Code
Dromore Lakes	pNHA	000001
Bruse Hill	pNHA	000002
Cootehill Church	pNHA	000003
Lough Ramor	pNHA	000008
Mullanacre Upper	pNHA	000009
Slieve Rushen Bog	NHA	000009
Annagh Lough (Ballyconnell)	pNHA	000974
Blackrocks Cross	pNHA	000976
Clonty Hill	pNHA	000977
Cordonaghy Bog	pNHA	000978
Drumkeen House Woodland	pNHA	000980
Glasshouse Lake	pNHA	000983
Lough Garrow and Lough Gubdoo	pNHA	000984
Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough	NHA	000985
Lough Macnean Upper	pNHA	000986
Lough Sheelin	pNHA	000987
Madabawn Marsh	pNHA	000988
Lough Gowna	pNHA	000992
Shannon Pot	pNHA	001531
Drumcor Lough	pNHA	001841



Development Objectives for Designated Sites

It is a development objective of Cavan County Council to:

**NHDS
1**

Protect and conserve Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas.

**NHDS
2**

Ensure an Appropriate Assessment is carried out in respect of any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary for the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of a European Site(s), either individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, in view of the site's conservation objectives.

**NHDS
3**

Ensure that any plan or project that could have an adverse impact on a NHA, pNHA, SAC, SPA (either by themselves or in combination with other plans and projects) or upon the conservation objectives of the site or would result in the deterioration of any habitat or any species reliant on that habitat will be subject to the requirements of Article 6(3) and Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive.

**NHDS
4**

Ensure an Appropriate Assessment (AA) in accordance with Article 6(3) and Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, and in accordance with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities, 2009* and relevant EPA and European Commission guidance documents, is carried out in respect of any Plan or Project likely to have significant effect on a Natura 2000 site(s), either individually or in combination.

**NHDS
5**

Require an ecological appraisal for development not directly connected with or necessary to the management of Natura Sites, or a proposed Natura Site and which are likely to have significant effects on that site either individually or cumulatively.

**NHDS
6**

Support the development of a Strategic Habitat Map for the Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark in consultation with National Parks and Wildlife Service and relevant stakeholders.

**NHDS
7**

Promote the maintenance and as appropriate, achievement of favourable conservation status of habitats and species and to improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network, by maintaining and where appropriate, developing features in the landscape which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora.

**NHDS
8**

Ensure that new development proposals affecting designated sites have regard to the sensitivities identified in the SEA Environmental Report prepared in respect of this plan.

**NHDS
9**

Have regard to the views of the National Parks and Wildlife Service in respect of proposed development where such development may have an impact on a designated National or European site or proposed site for designation.

**NHDS
10**

Consult with National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) in regard to any developments (those requiring planning permission and those not requiring planning permission) which the council proposes to carry out within pNHAs, NHAs, SACs, SPAs, SPAs and other important ecological sites.

**NHDS
11**

Maintain the conservation value of Council owned land within NHAs and pNHAs and promote the conservation value of Council owned land adjoining NHAs.

**NHDS
12**

Continue to undertake surveys and collect data that will assist Cavan County Council in building its knowledge base and meeting its obligations under Article 6 of the Habitat Directives.

**NHDS
13**

Projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz there must be: (a) no alternative solution available, (b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and (c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

**NHDS
14**

Contribute towards the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity where these form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors or stepping stones.

10.8 Local Sites of Biodiversity Value and Non-Designated Sites

Article 10 of the Habitats Directive states that Member States shall endeavour in their land use, planning and development policies, to encourage the management of features of the landscape which are of importance for wild flora and fauna.

Cavan County Council recognises that there are a number of wildlife habitats in County Cavan that do not meet requirements for NHA designations, but at a local level or county basis these habitats contribute to the wider ecological network, which contribute towards the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity.

These habitats include woods, trees, hedgerows, lakes, ponds, semi natural grasslands, rivers, streams, natural springs, wetlands, geological and geo-morphological systems, other landscape features, natural lighting conditions and associated wildlife all of which are essential to the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.

In order to inform this process, the Council commissioned surveys of geological sites, wetlands and hedgerows. To date Cavan County Council has commissioned a wetlands survey, hedgerow survey, audit of biological meta datasets to identify gaps in information on habitats and species in County Cavan.





Development Objectives for Non-Designated Sites It is a development objective of Cavan County Council to:

**NHND
1**

Support the protection of non-designated sites and acknowledge the need to protect non-designated habitats and landscapes and to conserve biological diversity.

**NHND
2**

Conserve the existing wide range of flora, fauna and wildlife habitats in the county through the preservation of ecological corridors and networks vital to the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species. To designate County Biodiversity Sites within the lifetime of this plan and to protect the ecological integrity of these sites.

**NHND
3**

Implement the actions of Cavan County Biodiversity Plan and any subsequent revisions in fulfilment of the requirements of the National Biodiversity Plan.

**NHND
4**

Continue habitat mapping of the county to enable planning for the future development in a sensitive and sustainable manner and this mapping to inform the development management policy.

**NHND
5**

Require an Ecological Impact Assessment (EiA) for any proposed development which have a significant impact on rare, threatened and or protected species and non-designated habitats of biodiversity value.

10.9 Geological Heritage

County Cavan's rich and diverse geological heritage is recognised by both national and international communities. Cavan County Council's support for the world's first ever UNESCO designated cross-border Geopark (2008), encompassing Cuilcagh and the Marble Arch Caves in County Fermanagh, has served to raise the profile of the geological heritage of the county. Whilst Global Geopark is not a legislative designation, the key heritage sites within a Geopark must be protected under, local, regional and national legislation as appropriate.

An UNESCO endorsed Global Geopark does not imply restrictions on economic activity inside a Geopark where that activity complies with local, regional or national legislation.

A Geological Audit of Cavan was completed in 2013. The audit details sites currently understood by the Irish Geological Heritage Programme (IGH) of the Geological Survey Ireland to be the most important sites in Cavan and proposes these sites as County Geological Sites (CGS). Many of the CGS fall within existing pNHA's and SAC'S where the ecological interest is founded upon the underlying geodiversity. A list of the Geological Sites can be found in the Appendix 12 Geological Heritage Sites.



Development Objectives for Geological Heritage It is a development objective of Cavan County Council to:

**GH
1**

Protect and enhance the County Geological Heritage Audit of Cavan.

**GH
2**

Support the implementation of recommendations in the Geological Audit of Cavan

**GH
3**

Provide safe and sustainable access to geological sites where appropriate and subject to requirements of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive.

**GH
4**

Consult Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) when undertaking, authorising developments likely to impact on the County Geological Sites or involve significant ground excavations.

**GH
5**

Continue to promote the unique geological heritage of the Cuilcagh Lakelands Global Geopark (UNESCO Geopark). Individual notable sites within the Cuilcagh Lakelands Global Geopark include Cuilcagh Mountain and Mid-Cavan Drumlinised Ribbed Moraines. These sites should be valued for their scientific and educational value to the community.

**GH
6**

Have regard to the geological and geomorphological heritage values of County Cavan geological heritage sites and to avoid inappropriate development, through consultation with the Geological Survey Ireland.

10.10 Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark

A Geopark is an area with a particular geological heritage and a sustainable development strategy. It must have clearly defined boundaries and sufficient area to allow for economic development. A Geopark must contain geological sites of special significance in terms of scientific quality, rarity, aesthetic appeal and educational value. In 2008, the Cuilcagh Geopark expanded across the border into West Cavan to become the first international Global Geopark. A shared geological heritage consisting of dramatic cliffs, rugged rocky outcrops and upland blanket bog dominated the north west of the Geopark, whilst the landscape to the south east of the Geopark gives way to gentle rolling drumlins and flooded hollows. These are married together by the presence of the major lake systems of the Erne, MacNeen and Oughter. The sites within the Marble Arch Cavan Global Geopark are contained in Appendix 13.

Marble Arch Caves (now Cuilcagh Lakelands) UNESCO Global Geopark, Development Plan 2020-2030 sets out to elevate the operations and impact of the Geopark over a ten-year period. The five strategic pillars include:

- » Cross-Border Governance
- » Stakeholder Engagement
- » Education
- » Tourism
- » Community
- » Conservation & Recreation



Development Objectives for Marble Arch Caves, UNESCO Global Geopark
It is a development objective of Cavan County Council to:

GP 1

Conserve and manage the geological resources of a discrete area to develop sustainable tourism, enterprise and community life.

GP 2

Build on the existing progress and achievements of the Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark in supporting the ten-year Development Plan 2020-2030.

GP 3

Support the development of geotourism and the recreational potential of Cavan Burren, the Shannon Pot, Killykeen, Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs, Cuilcagh and other Geopark sites through increased social use of the landscape, with attendant conservation, economic, social and community benefits within the region.

GP 4

Support the continuing development of strategic walking routes, trails and other countryside recreational opportunities within the Geopark such as the cross-border 'Smuggler's Route'.

GP 5

Continue to support the CANN cross-border environmental project restoring blanket bog habitat on Cuilcagh summit.

GP 6

Enhance the geodiversity, biodiversity and natural environments of the region including additional measures to conserve geosites and natural habitats where appropriate.

GP 7

Develop knowledge and understanding of geology, related Earth Sciences, endangered habitats and associated environmental issues through education and research programmes.

GP 8

Encourage enquiry through fieldwork and inspire scientific research through education and research programmes.

GP 9

Recognise the strategic location of Blacklion at the heart of the Geopark and other Geopark towns, villages and communities and seek to promote the development of appropriate ancillary facilities like interpretation, accommodation and social outlets.

GP 10

Support Swanlinbar and other Geopark towns, villages and communities as hubs for appropriate outdoor recreational activities.



10.11 Invasive Species

Invasive non-native plant and animal species are a major threat to biodiversity (www.invasivespeciesireland.com). They can negatively impact on native species, can transform habitats and threaten whole ecosystems causing serious problems to the environment and the economy. Invasive species may be spread during excavation and construction works.



Development Objectives for Invasive Species

It is a development objective of Cavan County Council to:

IN
1

Support initiatives, which reduce the risk of invasions, help control and manage new and established invasive species, monitor impacts and raise public awareness.

IN
2

Encourage the use of native species in amenity planting and stocking and related community actions to reduce the introduction and spread of non-native species.

IN
3

Prevent the spread of invasive species within the plan area, including requiring landowners and developers to adhere to best practice guidance in relation to the control of invasive species.

IN
4

Ensure proposals for development do not lead to the spread or introduction of invasive species. If developments are proposed on sites where invasive species are or were previously present, the applicant will be required to submit a control and management programme for the particular invasive species as part of the planning process and to comply with the provisions of the European Communities Birds and Habitats Regulations 2011 (S.I 4777/2011)

IN
5

Support the National Parks and Wildlife Service's efforts to seek to control and manage the spread of non-native invasive species on land and water.



10.12 Wetlands

A wetland is an area that is frequently saturated by water for periods of time. These diverse ecosystems are generally characterised by extreme conditions and contain species which have specially adapted for survival in saturated soil and low oxygen conditions. Wetland can be applied to a variety of habitats including bogs, river flood plains, wet meadows, riparian wetlands along streams and rivers.

The ecological importance of wetlands has been recognised by the European Union, with several wetland types listed under Annex 1 of the EU Habitats Directive (CEC,1992). Several Wetland types are listed under Annex 1 of the EU Habitats Directive (CEC,1992). These wetland types include “priority” habitats, such as lagoons, turloughs (in Ireland), active raised bogs and calcareous fens.

Increased drainage or flooding can cause significant change in habitat value and species diversity. The Water Framework Directive and Ramsar Convention provide for the protection and wise use of wetlands. Cavan County Council will work to manage, enhance and protect wetlands throughout the lifetime of this plan.

Cavan has a broad range of wetlands with a diversity of species and habitats. Lough Oughter is regarded the finest example of a flooded drumlin landscape in the country and is included on the Ramsar List of wetlands of International Importance.

List of wetland sites in Cavan

CN05 Annaghirein Lough	CN10 Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs	CN11 Slieve Rushen Bog / Mullancre
CN12 Cuilcagh / Anierin Uplands (SAC)	CN14 Lough Sheelin (SPA)	CN16 Kilconny Bog (Cloghbally SAC)
CN18 Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough NHA	CN19 Annagh Lough p(NHA)	CN22 Clonty Lough p(NHA)
CN30 Glasshouse Lake p(NHA)	CN25 Lough Ramor p(NHA)	CN31 Lough McNear Upper p(NHA)
CN38 Oghill Lough	CN42 Garvagh Lough	CN49 Tullydermot
CN51 Corralmeel drum lough	CN56 Killymehan	CN68 Lough Mashlin
CN75 Tonyduff Lough	Cn76 Gortnaleg Bog	CN82 Boleybrack Mountain (SAC)
CN83 Fartrin Bog (NHA)	CN86 Clontygrigny Bog	CN87 Drummany Bog (NHA) - Lough Oughter
CN88 Derrywinny Bog – Lough Oughter	CN91 Round Lough Oughter and associated	CN92 Tully Lough – Lough Oughter
CN93 Deraik Lough – Lough Oughter	CN96 Annagh Lough – Lough Oughter	CN98 Derrynagan Lough – Lough Oughter
CN99 Lough Inchin – Lough Oughter	CN100 Town Lough – Lough Oughter	CN103 Gartindress Lough
CN104 Lough Oughter	CN105 Shannon Pot	CN107 Swan Lake, Gowna
CN108 Commons Lough	CN109 Bellavalley Mountain	CN111 Baileborough Lough – Town Park
CN127 Carrigan	CN155 Tullguide Lough – Lough Oughter	CN160 Lough Sillan
CN161 Moneen Lough – Unshinagh	CN162 Tullynamoyle Lough	CN163 Ardlougher Lough – Unshinagh



CN165 Moneen – Boleybrack Mountain (SAC)	CN166 Legnagrow	CN169 Gubrawilly
CN173 Cashelbane	CN180 Greaghclough	CN182 Correvan Lake
CN183 Tullygobban Lough	CN185 Derrylahan East Lake	CN188 Lough Aglaur
CN189 Carrickacluaddy Lough	CN191 Tullynafreave West	CN192 Tullynafreave East
CN193 Drumhurrin Lough	CN194 Legangrow Lough	CN196 Drumakever Lough
CN197 Tully Lough	CN200 Altachullion Lower	CN201 Belavalley Upper
CN203 Bunerky Lough	CN204 Lakefield Lough	CN205 Drumlougher Straadarragh
CN212 Greenville Lough	CN223 Templeport Lake and Wetlands	CN224 Bellaboy Lough
CN226 Carrowmore Lecharrownahon	CN228 Derrylane Lough	CN241 Adara Lough
CN242 Corisbratten Lough	CN251 Grousehall Bog	CN256 Clonloaghan Bog
CN259 Bracklagh Lough	CN260 Gallonreagh Lough	CN286 Mullagh Lough
CN297 Cuilcagh Lough	CN300 Rahardrum Lake	CN321 Milltown Lake
CN360 Drumbess Lough	CN371 White Lough	CN391 Cormaddyduff East & West
CN393 Killydream Lough & Bog	CN396 Urbal Bog	CN399 Drummoy Corlaghal Bog
CN405 Drumeena Lough	CN426 Corfeehane Lough	CN430 Drumgola Lough

CN435 Couterny Lough	CN436 Lisnanagh Lough	CN443 Greelagh
CN491 Nadreagal Lough West	CN519 Lough Acurry and Wetlands	CN534 Lavey Lough
CN509 Lough Acahon	CN556 Drumherriff	CN557 Lisannon
CN575 Fintarnagh	CN596 Galbolie Lough	CN603 Drumakerry Lough
CN608 Garvagh Lough	CN609 Corndvody Lough	CN611 Skeagh Lough Upper
CN615 Lisgar Lough	CN618 Lough Beg	CN628 Fartagh Lough
CN631 Roosky Lough	CN632 Corraneary Lough	CN637 Cullies Lough
CN638 Druminnick Lough	CN641 Lough Tacker	CN646 Barrnagrow Lough
CN647 Mullan Lake	CN649 Pound Lough	CN653 Killakee Dernakesh
CN658 Keeghan Annaghard	CN661 Annaghard Lough	CN681 Drumhose
CN690 Longfield Corcraff	CN691 Devally	CN693 Lettacappie Tullynacross
CN689 Cornagararrow Wetland	CN699 Carrickalwy Wetland	CN700 White Lough
CN702 Cortober Carricalwy	CN703 Killyhenagh Lough	CN706 Portanure Bog NHA Lough Gowna
CN713 Slieve Russell Golf Course Pond		





Development Objectives for Wetlands It is a development objective of Cavan County Council to:

**WL
1**

Development that would negatively impact upon any wetland including fragmentation or degradation will be resisted in the County.

**WL
2**

Review and update the 2008 Wetlands Survey for County Cavan with a view to mapping the extent and condition of wetland sites in the county as a comprehensive GIS Layer. This review will also identify information gaps and inform future wetland policy.

**WL
3**

Where it is intended to fill or reclaim or carry out a development proposal on a wetland area, the minimum level of assessment on a site above 0.1ha shall be an ecological impact assessment and an Appropriate Assessment where necessary.

**WL
4**

Protect wetlands, floodplains and watercourses for biodiversity and flood protection value.

**WL
5**

Ensure land zonings carefully consider appropriate riparian setback distances that support high ecological status of water bodies, the conservation of biodiversity, healthy ecosystems and buffer zones from flood plains.

**WL
6**

Implement 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 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.

10.13 Woodlands, Trees, Hedgerows and Stonewalls

Woodlands and Trees contribute to our natural landscape and are an important environmental and economic resource. They provide visual amenity in the rural and urban environment, shelter and clean air and play a significant role in carbon storage. Woodlands are scattered throughout the County.

Trees were measured by the Tree Council of Ireland in County Cavan.

Hedgerows and stone walls are an important amenity, contributing to the historic character of the landscape and as features of traditional farming practices. They act as field boundaries and townland boundaries. In 2006, the Heritage Office commissioned a Hedgerow Survey of County Cavan. Careful management and enhancement of hedgerows and the planting of new ones will have a lasting benefit for everyone in County Cavan.



Development Objectives for Woodlands, Trees, Hedgerows and Stonewalls It is a development objective of Cavan County Council to:

**WTHS
1**

Continue to co-operate with relevant stakeholders to improve public access to State forests for amenity purposes and consider development which will enhance the amenity provided by existing trees and woodlands.

**WTHS
2**

Promote awareness, understanding and best practice in the management of Cavan's woodland, tree, hedgerow and stone wall resource.

**WTHS
3**

Encourage the retention of mature trees and the use of tree surgery rather than felling where possible when undertaking, approving or authorising development.

**WTHS
4**

Protect Champion and Heritage Trees where identified on the Tree Register of Ireland and Heritage Tree Database, when undertaking, approving, or authorising development.

**WTHS
5**

Encourage the use of native species wherever possible in Cavan County Council's own landscaping work, and on Council property.

**WTHS
6**

Promote and encourage planting of native hedgerow species of local provenance.

**WTHS
7**

Encourage the retention of hedgerows and stone walls and other distinctive boundary treatments in rural areas and prevent loss and fragmentation, where possible. Where removal of a hedgerow or stone wall is unavoidable, mitigation by provision of the same type of boundary will be required and where removal is proposed which may affect bat species it shall be subject to regime of protection under the EC (Birds and Habitats) Regulations, 2011, as amended.

**WTHS
8**

Carry out a review of the Cavan Hedgerow Survey undertaken in 2006 during the lifetime of this plan.

10.14 Landscape & Amenity Areas

County Cavan is commonly known as the Drumlin and Lakeland County, however, there are a number of landscape types all of which contribute to the uniqueness and local distinctiveness of the county from the Cuilcagh-Anierin Uplands of West Cavan to the Highlands of East Cavan. The range of landscape types found in County Cavan have varying visual and amenity values, topography and contain a variety of habitats. Each landscape type has a varying capacity to absorb development related to its overall sensitivity.

10.15 Policy Context

The European Landscape Convention 2002, was ratified by Ireland in 2002 and strives to have landscape integrated into planning policies and promotes interaction between local and central authorities, and trans frontier co-operation to protect landscapes. This co-operation aims to maintain and improve landscape quality and recognise the value and sensitivity of landscape. The convention also outlines the importance of landscape as a resource that when managed and protected can contribute to job creation.

Section (10) (2) (e) of the Planning and Development Act, as amended, requires the preservation of the character of the landscape, where, in the opinion of the planning authority, the proper planning and the sustainable development of the area requires it. This includes the preservation of views and prospects and the amenities of places and features of natural beauty or interest.

The Landscape and Landscape Assessment Consultation Draft of Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2000), recognise that all landscapes need to be evaluated in accordance with their local distinctiveness, differing kinds of landscapes and how various types of landscapes can be integrated into them.

10.16 Landscape Categorisation – Analysis of County Cavan

To date Cavan County Council has not prepared a Landscape Character Assessment. Within 6 months of the adoption of the plan, Cavan County Council will undertake to commence a comprehensive Landscape Character Assessment building on the existing Landscape Categorisation contained in Appendix 14.

The characteristics of the landscape and the forces of change affecting them has being analysed by Cavan County Council. This has been combined with an assessment of landscape value judgements of the people of Cavan and various interest groups. The following categories may form part of a landscape character assessment in the future, it includes Character Areas and Character Types.

10.16.1 Landscape Categories

There are five main Landscape Character Areas within the County. These areas have been chosen mainly due to their physical geological and geomorphological features which make them distinctive in the County.

1. Cuilcagh-Anierin Uplands of West Cavan;
2. The Lakelands;
3. Lake Catchments of South Cavan;
4. Drumlin Belt and Uplands of East Cavan;
5. Highlands of East Cavan.



Development Objectives for Landscape Character Areas It is a development objective of Cavan County Council to:

LC
1

Ensure the preservation of the unique landscape character type by having regard to the character, value and sensitivity of a landscape when determining a planning application.

LC
2

Ensure development reflects and reinforces the distinctiveness and sense of place of the landscape character areas. This should include the retention of important features or characteristics which contribute to their distinctiveness such as geology and landform, habitats, settlement patterns, historic and vernacular heritage.

LC
3

Resist development such as houses, forestry, masts, extractive operations, landfills, caravan parks and large agricultural /horticulture units which would interfere with the character of highly sensitive areas or with a view or prospect of special amenity value.

LC
4

Ensure that new development does not impinge in any significant way on the character, integrity and distinctiveness of highly sensitive areas and does not detract from the scenic value of the area such as visual harm, not in keeping elements of the landscape, causes loss or disturbance of the landscape elements contributing to the local distinctiveness, historic elements that contribute to landscape character and quality, vegetation which is characteristic of a particular landscape and visual conditions of a landscape.

LC
5

Ensure new development meets high standards of siting and design.

LC
6

Protect skylines and ridgelines from development

LC
7

Ensure necessary assessments including visual impact assessments are prepared prior to approving development in highly sensitive areas.

LC
8

Commence the preparation of a Landscape Character Assessment within 6 months of the adoption of the development plan.

10.17 Landscape Features

The following are areas of County Cavan's landscape which are not protected under European or National Legislation. They are identified as requiring special landscape policies and are listed in the Landscape Categorisation for each Character Area.

The Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, provides for the designation of Areas of Special Amenity for reasons of outstanding natural beauty or special recreational value. Planning Authorities are also empowered to designate landscape conservation areas. Development can be prescribed as non-exempted development for these areas by the planning authority. Whilst there are currently no such designations in County Cavan, it is proposed to review this during the lifetime of this plan.

10.18 Special Landscape Policy Areas

10.18.1 Areas of High Landscape Value or Special Landscape Interest

The following sections set out the unique special landscape areas in the County which include County Heritage Sites, Scenic Views and Viewing Points, Scenic Routes, Forest parks and other Parks, Major Lakes and Lake Environ, Lakeside Amenity Areas and Riverside Amenity Areas. The scenery and landscape of the County are of enormous amenity value to residents and visitors to the County. The protection of this asset is vitally important when considering the development of the county.



Development Objectives for Areas of High Landscape Value or Special Landscape Interest It is a development objective of Cavan County Council to:

SLPA
1

Maintain the scenic and recreation value of these areas by restricting all adverse uses and negative visual impacts.

10.19 County Heritage Sites

These are sites with an important value. These values form a synergy to create an area of exceptional heritage- see Appendix 15: County Heritage Sites.



Development Objectives for County Heritage Sites
It is a development objective of Cavan County Council to:

CHS 1

Restrict incompatible development in order to protect the amenity, scientific and historical values of these areas.



Development Objectives for Scenic Viewing Points
It is a development objective of Cavan County Council to:

SVP 1

Restrict development that would obstruct views and to minimise visual intrusion by only permitting compatible uses.

SVP 2

Ensure the location, design and visual prominence of developments are examined, including possible effects on views from the public realm towards sensitive or vulnerable landscape features.

10.20 Scenic Views and Viewing Points

There are 17 scenic viewing points in the County which are of significant landscape value as per Appendix 16. The protection of these viewing points is important when considering proposals for development.





10.21 Scenic Routes

There are three scenic routes in Cavan which are an important part of the landscape asset of the county as per Appendix 16. This landscape asset should be protected.



Development Objectives for Scenic Routes
It is a development objective of Cavan County Council to:

SR 1 Regulate development that would seriously obstruct and detract from views of high scenic value from designated Scenic Routes.

SR 2 Maintain and protect the natural landscapes visual character which is recognised to be of an exceptional high amenity value.

10.22 Forest Parks and Other Parks

There are 4 Forest Parks and other Parks in the County. These amenities must be valued and protected for citizens and visitors to the county -see Appendix 17 Riverside/Lakeside Amenities and Parks.




Development Objectives for Forest Parks and Other Parks
It is a development objective of Cavan County Council to:

FP 1 Regulate development within Forest Parks and other Parks to maximise recreational, amenity and community uses.

10.23 Major Lakes and Lake Environs

There are 9 major lakes and environs in the County. These lakes have amenity value due in part to their size and location within a scenic landscape and their recreational value -see Appendix 18 High Landscape Areas and Major Lakes.



Development Objectives for Major Lakes and Lake Environs
It is a development objective of Cavan County Council to:

ML&LE
1


Maintain major lake and lake environment amenity value within a landscape recreational and ecological context by restricting and regulating development that would prejudice use and enjoyment of the areas, give rise to adverse visual impacts or threaten habitats through disposal of effluents.

ML&LE
2

Maintain and protect shorelines of lakes and their immediate area adjoining including skyline development on surrounding hill crests.

10.23.1 Lakeside Amenity Areas

There are 17 lakeside amenity areas in the County (refer to Appendix 17). These amenity areas should be protected and developed in a sustainable manner for the benefit of citizens and visitors to the county.



Development Objectives for Lakeside Amenity Areas
It is a development objective of Cavan County Council to:

LAA
1

Regulate development of adjoining lands to Lakeside Amenity Areas to ensure that public use is not prejudiced by incompatible use or adverse visual impact.

10.23.2 Riverside Amenity Areas

There are six riverside amenity areas in the County, (refer to Appendix 17 Riverside/Lakeside Amenities and Parks). These areas should be protected for their biodiversity and amenity value.



Development Objectives for Riverside Amenity Areas
It is a development objective of Cavan County Council to:

RAA
1

Regulate all development on lands adjoining Riverside Amenity Areas in order to maintain their amenity value.

10.24 Inland Waterways

Inland waterways, which include lakes, rivers, canals and streams are living systems, that are home to a wide variety of habitats and species and which also contribute significantly to the character and amenity of the county and support tourism, recreation and quality of life for those living and visiting the county. These elements also function as ecological corridors, that connect related habitats and designated sites which enable species to move from place to place.

County Cavan has a number of important water bodies such as Lough Oughter and Associated Lakes, which includes the River Erne. These form part of the Erne Catchment and support the Erne-Shannon Waterway. Running between Leitrim Village and just north of Belturbet, the Shannon-Erne Waterway links the two great waterways on the island, the Erne System and the Shannon Navigation.

The Dromore/Annalee system dominates the middle of the county and the upper River Boyne system located to the east of the County. These lakes and water systems have good stocks of Bream, Roach, Rudd, Perch and Pike, which provide an important tourism resource for the county and should be managed and protected from inappropriate or damaging development. Many of these water resources have also been afforded protection as NHAs, SACs and SPAs.



Development Objectives for Inland Waterways

It is a development objective of Cavan County Council to:

**IW
1**

Protect and enhance the natural heritage and landscape character of the County's Waterways and maintain them free from inappropriate development and provide for public access, where feasible, acknowledging the existence of contiguous Natura 2000 sites.

**IW
2**

Protect the biodiversity of rivers, streams and other water courses and maintain them in an open state and to discourage the culverting or realignment thereof.

**IW
3**

Consult with, as appropriate, the Inland Fisheries Ireland in relation to any development that could have a potential impact on the aquatic ecosystems and associated riparian habitats.

**IW
4**

Consult with Waterways Ireland and the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the DECLG and the Inland Waterways Association on the development proposals that may affect inland waterways, rivers, lakes, canals or watercourses.

**IW
5**

Ensure that the County's watercourses are retained for their biodiversity and flood protection values and conserve and enhance, where possible, the wildlife habitats of the county's rivers and riparian zones, lakes, canals and streams which occur outside of designated areas to provide for a network of habitats and biodiversity corridors throughout the county.

**IW
6**

Support the development of blueways in County Cavan.

10.25 Landscape Character/ Natural Heritage Climate Context and Associated Development Objectives

In accordance with the format set out in Chapter 5: Climate Change of this Plan the following is an assessment of the content of this chapter in a Climate Context and associated Development Objectives.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) the greatest environmental risk to health is ambient air pollution, causing more than three million premature deaths worldwide every year. In Ireland, this figure is an estimated at 1,180 persons, aided by above average levels of air pollutants, despite the country meeting EU air quality standards. Ireland's 2020 target is to achieve a 20% reduction of non-Emission Trading Scheme (non-ETS) sector emissions (i.e. agriculture, transport, built environment, waste and non-energy intensive industry) against 2005 levels.

In early May 2019, Ireland became only the second country in the world to declare a climate and biodiversity emergency. Biodiversity is, essentially, the foundation of all plant and animal life, so this declaration is an important, formal recognition by the State of the seriousness of the threat that exists to that life. The National Biodiversity Data Centre has calculated that approximately 20% of all species, and one in every three bee species are threatened with extinction as a direct result of our eroding biodiversity. From the food we eat, water we drink, raw materials we use for fuel, construction and medicine, to the creation of space for our leisure, these biodiverse ecosystems help to regulate our climate. Healthy, intact ecosystems trap and sequester carbon, retain water, prevent soil erosion and provide protection from extreme weather. Habitats such as wetlands, woodlands and peatlands are particularly high in biodiversity value and are key for both climate mitigation and adaptation measures, providing important carbon sinks, water attenuation and flooding protection, and pollinators for crops.

Worldwide, peatlands account for 3% of all land cover, and 21% in Ireland alone¹³, and stores twice as much carbon as all standing forests, aided by the ability of a 15cm, thick layer storing more carbon per hectare than tropical rainforests¹⁴. Yet these habitats are extremely vulnerable to climate change and Ireland is set to lose 31% of this asset, by 2055, if immediate rewetting action is not taken¹⁵.



Landscape Character/ Natural Heritage Climate Change Development Objectives It is a development objective of Cavan County Council to:

**LCC
01**

Within the lifetime of the plan, undertake a survey and vector mapping exercise to identify exemplar wetlands, bogs, individual trees and/or stands of trees and/or woodlands throughout the county worthy of protection and preservation.

**LCC
02**

Encourage the potential community woodlands areas in urban/urban fringe areas and the development of community woodlands throughout rural Cavan.

**LCC
03**

Promote the use in public spaces of hot water, foam stream, flame weeding and/or concentrated vinegar in favour of glyphosate weedkillers.

**LCC
04**

Prepare a Peatland Strategy that shall encourage the rewilding, restoration and protection of peat bogs after turf cutting and/or peat extraction has ceased.

**LCC
05**

Support the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme 2017 – 2022.

**LCC
06**

Promote the roll-out of renewables and stringent protection and enhancement of carbon pools, such as forests, peatlands and permanent grasslands.

**LCC
07**

Explore the opportunity of engaging the services of a full-time Ecologist on a shared basis amongst neighbouring Local Authorities.

**LCC
08**

Install and promote the installation of bird, bat, and owl boxes, and bee bricks and insect hotels or equivalent, at all relevant locations and developments, where possible.

**LCC
09**

Actively participate and seek to adopt recommendations originating out of the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) and Northern and Western Climate Action Region.

**LCC
10**

Fracking and the industrial extraction of fossil fuels will not be encouraged within Cavan's functional area.

**LCC
11**

Develop a strategy to support an active native Tree Planting programme in the context of climate adaptation.

**LCC
12**

Support the aims of the National Peatlands Strategy and the implementation of the National Raised Bog SAC Management Plan 2017-2022 and Peatlands Climate Action Scheme

13 Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (2015), 'National Peatlands Strategy 2015 – Managing Ireland's Peatlands', National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).

<https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/NationalPeatlandsStrategy2015EnglishVers.pdf>

14 Ramsar (2015), 'Guidelines for inventories of tropical peatlands to facilitate their designation as Ramsar Sites', Ramsar Briefing Note 9, Ramsar – Convention on Wetlands.

https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/bn9_peatland_inventory_e.pdf

15 Sweeney, J. (et. Al) (2008), 'Climate Change – Refining the Impact for Ireland: Strive Report', Strive Programme 2007-2013, Environmental Protection Agency, University of Ireland, Maynooth.

<https://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/research/climate/sweeney-report-strive-12-for-web-low-res.pdf>