7 Heritage

7.1 Introduction

Heritage is defined in the Heritage Act, 1995 and includes the following:

- Monuments
- Archaeological Objects
- Heritage Objects
- Architectural Heritage
- Heritage Gardens and Parks
- Flora
- Fauna
- Wildlife Habitats
- Landscapes
- Seascapes
- Inland waterways
- Wrecks
- Geology

The most significant part of the built environment of Kilkenny is the quality of the city centre. This character comes from its unique setting and layout incorporating a number of distinctive elements. Firstly the dominant position of its great buildings – St. Canice’s Cathedral, Kilkenny Castle, and St. Mary’s Cathedral – which are linked by streets of different character and type, many of which are joined together by the narrow laneways (slips). Secondly there are buildings of different uses, architectural quality and historic backgrounds, including the historically important Shee Alms House, Rothe House, Bishops Palace, Black Abbey etc, but also many examples of traditional shopfronts and of domestic housing. The network of streets and laneways is complemented by the River Nore, which with its tree-lined banks and adjacent open spaces provides an important natural element in the overall townscape character of the city.

Along with this outstanding built heritage there is also a significant natural heritage which needs protecting. This includes some of the significant natural features around the City & Environs such as Newpark Marsh, the River Nore and its SAC and the lough at Loughmacask.

This Plan has been developed in tandem with the draft County Heritage Plan 2007-2011 which is currently being undertaken by the Heritage Forum, and which will provide practical actions to identify, protect, conserve and manage the heritage of the county.

By preserving characteristic features of the City & Environs, we seek to maintain and nurture our environment and cultural heritage as part of our identity.
POLICY

• To prepare and implement, in partnership with the Kilkenny Heritage Forum and relevant stakeholders, a County Heritage Plan and County Biodiversity Action Plan.

• To support and facilitate the Kilkenny Heritage Forum

• To continue and to develop the Council’s advisory/educational role with regard to Heritage matters through the Heritage Plan and to promote awareness and understanding of and access where appropriate to heritage.

Built Heritage

7.1.1 Urban Structure

Kilkenny, often referred to as the medieval capital of Ireland, offers an abundance of fascinating historical sites. The historic urban centre of Kilkenny City retains much of its medieval fabric. Prominent buildings such as the Shee Almshouse, Rothe House and the imposing Kilkenny Castle are some of the better-known secular buildings about the streetscape, while numerous medieval religious buildings, such as St Canice’s Cathedral, the Dominican Black Abbey and St Francis’s Abbey, also survive. Buildings such as these, and other less well-known later medieval structures hidden behind Georgian and Victorian façades, are a feature of the surviving medieval streetscape.

In principle, it will be the policy of Kilkenny Borough and County Councils to retain and enhance the essential character of the historic city, but at the same time, formulate policies to assist in its continued but controlled development, enhancement and maintenance.

The character of Kilkenny is the result of a combination of the natural features of river and topography, the street spaces, the fabric buildings and the numerous “special” buildings and artefacts of historical and archaeological value.

The Castle and St. Canice’s Cathedral are the opposing poles of the central area. The enclaves of these two buildings and the spaces, which link them – Irishtown, Parliament Street and High Street form the spine of the central area.

The main spine tends to run parallel to the contours while minor streets and lanes run across the contours, often forming “short cuts”. These narrow lanes or “slips” as they are locally known are a particular feature of Kilkenny’s townscape. Some are just pedestrian ways, which form short cuts across the width of particularly long city blocks and do not have frontage development. Others act as narrow streets with buildings fronting onto them.

Within the central area, the streets are typically narrow space channels enclosed on both sides by 18th and 19th century façades. Generally the façades are vertically proportioned, narrow fronted and divide into bays of alternate wall and window. The normal facades of the streets are occasionally interrupted by something more ornate or large scaled,
often the façade of a bank or other public institutions. Buildings of great public importance such as the Castle, City Hall and Courthouse, not only differ in scale and material from the “fabric buildings” but are either set back or brought forward in respect of the general building line.

Over the last two decades there have been many changes with the redevelopment of some of the larger remaining sites within the City centre such as The Market Yard (Dunnes Stores) the Presentation School (the Market Cross Shopping Complex), the River Court Hotel off John Street and more recently the multi-storey car park, hotel and apartments off Patrick Street. These large developments were generally on large extensive sites in backland areas where existing uses had become redundant. Although these have been large developments the essential townscape character of the city centre as described above is still clearly evident.

However, the centre cannot continually accommodate large-scale development, particularly if the result is the erosion of historic building plots.

### 7.2 Public Spaces

The architectural character of a city is determined not only by the importance of individual buildings and groups of buildings but also by the quality of the spaces formed by the buildings – i.e. the footpaths, streets, squares, parks, views and vistas all of importance, which are an integral part of the urban structure.

The public spaces in Kilkenny are many and varied, from the potentially grand civic space in the Parade, many smaller and incidental spaces and the numerous streets and slipways of the medieval city. The effects of proposed developments on the quality of the adjacent public spaces and the possibilities of creating new spaces will be an important factor in assessing planning applications. The City Centre Local Area Plan identified one such opportunity at County Hall, see Section 7.9.4. Pedestrians will be afforded priority in the use of the public realm throughout the historic city.

**POLICY**

- To protect, enhance, improve and extend where appropriate the public spaces throughout the city.
- To create new quality urban spaces in the City where opportunities arise.

### 7.3 View and Prospects

There are a number of sites, areas and vantage points within the City and in the Environs, from which fine views of the City can be had, see Map 7.1. There are also vantage points within the City from which particularly good views of the City’s most important public buildings and natural landscape features may be obtained. Of particular importance are views of and from the Castle, Cathedrals and the River Nore.

**POLICY**

In assessing development proposals the impact on existing views and prospects will be taken into account by the Borough Council and Kilkenny County Council.
7.4 City Presentation and Maintenance
The presentation and maintenance of the City’s buildings and public areas are an important aspect of the City’s tourism and social character.

POLICY
It is the intention of Kilkenny Borough Council and Kilkenny County Council to work closely with the “Keep Kilkenny Beautiful” Committee and other relevant organisations, community groups, business and private interests to maintain the traditional high standards in this regard.

7.5 Archaeology
The principles set out in the Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (1999) provide a framework for the policies to be included in relation to archaeological heritage. The archaeological heritage of an area includes structures, constructions, groups of buildings, developed sites, moveable objects, monuments of other kind as well as their contexts, whether situated on land or under water.

The National Monuments Acts 1930 – 2004 provide for the protection of the archaeological heritage. The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) was established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994 and structures, features, objects or sites listed in this Record are known as Recorded Monuments. As well as extending protection to all known sites, now identified as Recorded Monuments, the National Monuments Acts 1930 – 2004 extends protection to all previously unknown archaeological items and sites that are uncovered through ground disturbance or the accidental discovery of sites located underwater. Where necessary, the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will issue preservation orders to ensure protection is afforded to sites believed to be under threat.

Kilkenny City’s archaeological heritage is a valuable cultural and tourism asset. Dúchas – the Heritage Service - has carried out a survey of the City’s archaeological sites of interest.

POLICY
It is the policy of Kilkenny County Council and Kilkenny Borough Councils to preserve and conserve the archaeological heritage and all archaeological monuments included in the Record of Monuments as established under section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994.

Kilkenny City has been identified as an Historic Town and appears in the Record of Monuments and Places. Historic towns have been identified by the Minister for Arts, Heritage, the Gaeltacht and the Islands for general protection. The guideline boundaries for historic towns are illustrated within the Record of Monuments and Places as Zones of Archaeological Potential and are areas where intense archaeology is present.

The Zones of Archaeological Importance are outlined on the accompanying map (Zones of Archaeological Potential MAP 7.2). All development proposals within the zones of Archaeological Importance must be referred to the Heritage section of the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government for their perusal and recommendation.
POLICY

- Protect and enhance archaeological sites, monuments (including their setting), underwater archaeology, including those that are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places, and in the Urban Archaeological Survey of County Kilkenny or newly discovered sub-surface archaeological remains.
- Facilitate and where feasible create public rights of way to sites of archaeological and historical interest. The Council will also seek the preservation, maintenance and improvement of all existing right of ways to such areas where appropriate.
- Protect the setting of monuments and sites identified in the Record of Monuments and Places and in the Urban Archaeological Survey.
- Facilitate public access to the National Monuments in State care and Local Authority ownership in the county.
- Ensure that when an unrecorded archaeological object or site is discovered, any works that threaten the object or site are immediately suspended and that the appropriate Government agency is informed.
- To favour the preservation in-situ of archaeological remains or objects in their settings. Where preservation in-situ is not feasible, sites of archaeological interest shall be subject to archaeological investigations and recording according to best practice, in advance of redevelopment.
- Provide guidance to developers and property owners regarding the archaeological implications of a proposed development.
- Promote pre-planning consultations in relation to the archaeological heritage with the planning authority and with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in its capacity of being charged with the implementation of the National Monuments Acts.
- Endeavour to ensure the dissemination of the results of archaeological excavation in a timely and appropriate manner.
- To assist in the implementation of the conservation plans for City walls, Rothe House and St Mary’s Hall.

7.5.1 The Record of Monuments and Places

The record for the County was established under section 12.3 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994. It identifies sites and monuments and areas within the county which were known when this section of the Act became statutory in December 1997. The record consists of two documents i) a set of constraint maps and ii) a list. Previously unidentified monuments, sites and areas will come to light from time to time and will be included in updates of the record.

Underwater Archaeology

Wrecks and underwater archaeological objects do not appear on the record. However much archaeology exists underwater and it does form part of the archaeological heritage.
7.5.2 Historic Graveyards
The historic graveyards of Kilkenny, in addition to being the resting places of our ancestors, are an important part of the heritage of the county. They contain a wealth of architectural and archaeological features and are refuges for many species of plant and animal. A survey of historic graveyards was carried out in 2005, entitled The Historic Graveyards of the City and County of Kilkenny: An Inventory.

Most historic graveyards are afforded legal protection through the National Monuments (Amendment) Acts or the Planning and Development Acts.

POLICY

- Conserve and protect historic graveyards and churches within Kilkenny and to encourage their maintenance in accordance with conservation principles and as resources allow.
- To continue to support and assist communities in the care and conservation of historic graveyards through its Historic Graveyards Grants Scheme.

7.6 Architectural Heritage
Architectural heritage includes all structures, buildings and groups of buildings including streetscapes and urban vistas which are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific or technical interest together with their setting, attendant grounds, fixtures and fittings. Kilkenny City is rich in buildings, structures and places of historic and architectural value that are symbols of the social, economic and cultural development of the City, and which contribute to its essential character.

7.6.1 Record of Protected Structures
Each planning authority has a statutory responsibility, under the Planning and Development Act 2000, to include a Record of Protected Structures (RPS) in its Development Plan.

A Protected Structure, unless otherwise stated in the RPS, includes the interior of the structure, the land lying within its curtilage, any other structures and their interiors lying within that curtilage, plus all fixtures and features which form part of the interior or exterior of any of these structures. Structures, or parts of structures, can be added to the Record if they are deemed of special interest under one or more of the following headings:
- Architectural
- Artistic
- Historic
- Archaeological
- Cultural
- Scientific
- Social
- Technical
The effect of protected structure status is to ensure that any changes or alterations to the character of a structure are carried out in such a way that the existing character is retained and enhanced. Therefore, works which would, in the opinion of the Council, have material effect on the character of the structure, require planning permission.

There are now approximately 800 buildings, structures and features listed in the RPS and the Record will continue to be added to as structures, buildings and features of merit are identified and as resources permit. The Record of Protected Structures at the time of publication of the Draft Plan is listed in the Appendix D of this written statement. An up-to-date RPS, incorporating any additions or deletions within the lifetime of the current Development Plan, can be checked at the Planning Counter in City Hall.

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) has been completed for County Kilkenny including the City & Environs and descriptions and appraisals of over 2000 structures can be viewed at the NIAH website. The Councils will assess this survey with a view to revising the Record of Protected Structures and additions will be made to the RPS on a phased basis.

7.6.1.1 Retention and Re-use of Older Buildings of significance which are not protected

The retention, rehabilitation and re-use of older buildings can play a pivotal role in sustainable development. Kilkenny contains many examples of buildings, which although not protected, have artistic, architectural, historic or aesthetic merit. Many of these buildings are attractively designed, have stood the test of time and make a positive contribution to streetscapes and to quality of life.

POLICY

- Ensure the conservation and protection of the architectural heritage of Kilkenny City & Environs for future generations by including all structures considered to be of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest in the Record of Protected Structures.
- Protect structures contained in the Record of Protected Structures and features that contribute to the character of Architectural Conservation Areas.
- Seek, where appropriate, the conservation and enhancement of items in the Record of Protected Structures.
- Ensure that any development, modifications, alterations, or extensions affecting a protected structure, adjoining structure or structure within an ACA are sited and designed appropriately, and are not detrimental to the character of the structure or to its setting or the general character of the ACA.
- Encourage the sympathetic retention, reuse and rehabilitation of protected structures and their setting. Development concerning Protected Structures will only be permitted if it is consistent with conservation policies and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.
In certain cases, site zoning restrictions may be relaxed in order to secure the preservation and conservation of the protected structure.

- Promote by example the principles of best practice in conservation of the built heritage through the custodianship of Protected Structures in the Council's ownership/care.
- Seek the retention, re-use and refurbishment, using appropriate materials and techniques, of older buildings of architectural, cultural, historic and aesthetic merit which, though not protected structures, make a positive contribution to the character, appearance and quality of local streetscapes and to sustainable development.
- Encourage the retention of original windows, doors, renders, roof coverings and other significant features of older buildings of architectural, cultural, historic and aesthetic merit, whether protected or not.
- Promote principles of best practice in conservation in terms of use of appropriate materials and repair techniques through the administration of the National Conservation Grants Scheme funded by The Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government.
- Ensure the conservation, protection and prevention of endangerment of the architectural heritage through promoting the importance of regular maintenance of structures contained within the Record of Protected Structures.
- Provide assistance to owners of protected structures in undertaking essential repairs and maintenance by preparing and publishing a series of conservation guidance leaflets and by the provision of relevant information on the Council’s website.

**ACTION**

- To respond to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage recommendation to include in the Record of Protected Structures, structures which have been identified as being of Regional, National or International significance in the survey of the city and county carried out in 2005.
- Consider the designation of Architectural Conservation Areas where appropriate and provide a local policy framework for the protection of these areas.

### 7.7 Architectural Conservation Areas

The City and Environs contain a number of areas of special interest, whose overall character, form and layout it is desirable to preserve and enhance. Part IV of the Planning and Development Act 2000 provides for the preservation of the character of a place, area, group of structures or townscape where the planning authority is of the opinion that such an area:

- (a) is of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest of value, or
- (b) contributes to the appreciation of protected structures.
Kilkenny’s urban environment is formed by a number of distinctive areas and building types which give the city its interest, charm and character. It is an aim of this Plan to seek the enhancement and preservation as appropriate of the distinctive characteristics of each of these areas.

In formulating the following policies and objectives, Kilkenny Borough and County Councils have had regard to the 2004 Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines and the 2005 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage for Kilkenny, both produced by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

7.7.1.1 Development in an Architectural Conservation Area

It is the purpose of the Architectural Conservation Area designation to protect the general character of areas in regard to building scales, proportions, historical plot sizes, materials, building lines and height, historic street paving and street furniture, as well as general use.

Any works which are undertaken to the exterior of buildings should respect the historic character of the building in regard to the use of material and design. If works are carried out to any building in an ACA, the opportunity should be used to enhance the overall presentation of the building by the use of appropriate materials and designs.

In general all historical buildings should be retained. Any replacement of buildings should be of the same scale and respecting the historical plot. New infill buildings should preferably be modern expressions and interpretation of the historic rather than cautious pastiche. Alterations and extensions within the architectural conservation areas should be in scale with the buildings and its particular setting. Original features, which are important to the character of the buildings such as front entrances, chimney stacks, doors and windows should be retained. Generally, the Borough and County Councils will encourage the repair rather than replacement of these elements. Windows constructed in aluminium, PVC or other similar modern materials will not be acceptable as replacements for original timber windows. Where replacements are necessary, these should be designed and finished to match the original pattern or design.

In considering proposals for development in an Architectural Conservation Area, it is the policy of the Borough Council and the County Council to have regard to:

1. Compatibility of the proposed design, layout and intensity of use with the character of the area.
2. The impact of the development on the existing amenities and character of the area, inter alia the scale of building, its form and materials.

7.7.1.2 Street Furniture

Items of street furniture can be important elements in establishing the character and interest of an Architectural Conservation Area. Such items could include lamp standards, seats and benches, bollards, railings, street signs, freestanding or wall mounted post boxes, telephone kiosks, horse troughs, water pumps, drinking fountains, jostle stones, milestones, paving, kerbstones, cobbles and setts, pavement lights, coal hole covers, weighbridges, statues, plaques and other monuments.
POLICY

- To retain historic items of street furniture wherever possible.
- Protect and enhance historic items of street furniture and roadside features, as appropriate.

7.7.1.3 Features of Cultural Heritage Interest

Features of cultural heritage interest such as mass rocks, mass paths, rag trees etc are locally significant and add to the distinctive character and sense of place of an area.

POLICY

To preserve, protect and where necessary enhance, significant heritage objects such as mass rocks and/or other significant cultural features, that’s form part of the cultural heritage of the City and Environs.

7.8 Conservation Principles

Conservation is the process of caring for buildings and places, and of managing change to them in such a way as to retain their character and special interest. Good conservation practice allows a structure to evolve and adapt to meet changing needs while retaining its particular significance. The following conservation principles are highlighted in the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines as being vitally important when proposing works to protected structures and within ACA’s:

i. Keeping a building in use
ii. Researching and analysing
iii. Using expert conservation advice
iv. Protecting the special interest
v. Promoting minimum intervention
vi. Respecting earlier alterations of interest
vii. Repairing rather than replacing
viii. Promoting honesty of repairs and alterations
ix. Using appropriate materials and methods
x. Ensuring reversibility of alterations
xi. Avoiding incremental damage
xii. Discouraging the use of architectural salvage from other buildings
xiii. Complying with the Building Regulations

POLICY

While this chapter of the Development Plan designates nine Architectural Conservation Areas in the city and environs, the following policies in relation to townscape, buildings, alterations to historic building, new buildings within the historic context, civic spaces, views and prospects are applicable to all ACA’s.

Townscape

- To retain and enhance as appropriate the historic overall character of the townscape.
- To retain and enhance the historic street pattern, in particular the medieval structure within the city centre.
To preserve and enhance all historic buildings.
To retain and protect the narrow historic building plots.
To retain and protect the historic town silhouette.
To retain the specific building lines and heights in the different areas.
To encourage small-scale developments in the city centre.
To protect and where necessary enhance the general character of the conservation areas in regard to building scales, proportions, historical plot sizes, material, building lines and height as well as general land use.

Non-Protected Structures within an ACA

- To ensure that any alterations and extensions carried are in scale with the building and its particular setting.
- To ensure the retention, and the repair rather than replacement of original features which are important to the character of buildings such as entrances, chimney stacks, doors and windows.
- To promote the regular maintenance of original features which are important to the character of buildings such as entrances, chimney stacks, doors and windows.
- To ensure the use of traditional building materials and techniques when works are being undertaken to the exterior of non-protected structures.
- To ensure that inappropriate materials such as windows, doors and fascias constructed in aluminium or uPVC are not introduced to buildings within an ACA when alterations are being made.
- To facilitate the preparation of guidelines for owners or occupiers undertaking structural changes or alterations to the exterior of non-protected structures within an ACA.
- To ensure the conservation of all historic shopfronts and pub fronts. Where replacement is necessary, to encourage the introduction of shopfronts and pub fronts of contemporary high quality design and materials into the ACA.

New development within an ACA

- To encourage the introduction of buildings of high quality contemporary and vernacular design and materials, as appropriate to the character of the existing streetscape.
- To encourage the retention of the historic scale and plot size when new buildings are being introduced into an ACA.
- To minimise the impact of new development on existing amenities, including residential and land uses.
- To seek the retention of mature trees (those in good condition) which contribute to the character of the areas where appropriate.

Civic Spaces

- To protect, enhance, improve, extend and where appropriate create new public/civic spaces throughout the city.
- To maintain important historic details within the civic spaces such as historic paving, cobblestones, post boxes, spur stones etc.
- To reduce on-street parking in the historic areas and to give the pedestrian shopper more priority.
• To reduce the impact of traffic congestion in the historic centre by traffic calming measures, more efficient signage and pedestrianisation.
• To ensure the protection of the essential visual qualities of an ACA when assessing proposals for advertising.
• To ensure the avoidance of visual clutter when introducing street signage and new street furniture.
• To conserve and enhance biodiversity in new and existing civic spaces

Views and Prospects
• To protect views and prospects identified on Map 7.1 (to be informed by SEA) by requiring new development or extensions to existing development to be designed and located so as to minimise the interruption of these views.
• To encourage street layouts in newly developed areas which create new vistas to existing and new landmarks, in particular within the Western Environs and the Loughmacask Local Area Plan lands.

7.9 Designated Architectural Conservation Areas
The areas designated as Architectural Conservation Areas are based on the criteria set out in the 2000 Planning and Development Act, and guided by the Architectural Protection Guidelines and the 2005 National Inventory Architectural Heritage for Kilkenny. The ACA’s located in the City and Environs are:

1. City Centre
2. Kilkenny Castle
3. St. Canice’s
4. John Street
5. Patrick Street
6. Michael Street and Wolfe Tone Street
7. St. Mary’s
8. Lacken
9. Talbotsinch

7.9.1 City Centre Architectural Conservation Area
The City Centre Architectural Conservation Area is the medieval core of Kilkenny, characterised by its tight urban grain, colourful streetscapes and network of lanes dating mainly from the 16th, 17th and 18th century (See Map 7.3). This district includes the triangle of High Street/Parliament Street, Kieran Street and Rose Inn Street, which comprises of the core retail area of the city. The area is characterised by the almost continuous enclosure of the streets with mainly three storey 18th and 19th century buildings built on medieval plots and foundations. The area also includes sections of the medieval Kilkenny City Walls (Hightown Circuit). The stepped lanes running from High Street to Kieran Street and from St. Mary’s Lane to Rose Inn Street are one of the most notable features of Kilkenny. There are numerous notable Protected Structures in this area, including Shee Alms House on Rose Inn Street, the Tholsel on High Street, Smithwicks Brewery and Rothe House on Parliament Street to name but a few.
This district derives its special character from the bustle of trading and shopping. High Street remains the premier shopping street in the city, characterised by its colourful buildings and shopfronts. Kieran Street is developing into an ambient canopy-covered street of coffee shops and retail uses. The 2005 City Centre Local Area Plan aims to protect and ensure the continued vitality and viability of the core retail area to protect this important retail function. The pedestrianisation of High Street and Kieran Street will help protect this special character.

St. Mary’s Church and Graveyard is a walled enclosure hidden behind High Street and St. Kieran Street and wrapped on three sides by St. Mary’s Lane. The site comprises of the impressive St. Mary’s Church, with its origins in the 13th Century, almshouses, graveyard and tombs. In 2005 The Heritage Council published a Heritage Conservation Plan for St. Mary’s Church and Graveyard which brought forward policies to encourage the protection of the integrity of the church and the opening up of the site to greater public access and integrated civic usage.

Smithwicks Brewery is a long-standing industrial presence in the city. The silos and chimneys of the brewery have become part of the Kilkenny skyline and represent an important part of Kilkenny’s economic past and present.

It is an objective of the 2005 City Centre Local Area Plan to redevelop the Market Yard car park and Dunnes Stores shopping complex for mixed town centre and complementary uses (Bateman’s Quay). This site is located in the city centre Architectural Conservation Area and it occupies a substantial site adjacent to the River Nore. The consolidation of this site is intrinsic to the continued successful economic performance of the core retail area and a high standard of architectural design will be required.

Policies for the City Centre Architectural Conservation Area

- See also policies which are applicable to all ACAs listed above.
- To retain the existing scales of building heights of three and four storey buildings.
- To limit large scale developments within the historic centre which may necessitate the assimilation of smaller historic building plots.
- To encourage the renovation and re-use of any vacant or derelict buildings.
- To retain the medieval street pattern.
- To protect and retain the historic integrity of the city walls, in accordance with the Kilkenny City Walls Conservation Plan (Heritage Council, 2005).
- To protect the tight urban grain and rhythm of existing streetscapes.
- To encourage well presented ground floor spaces and facades and to avoid pastiche shopfronts and pubfronts.
- To control the size, number and composition of advertisements on facades to prevent visual clutter in the main streets.
- To control lighting and the colour of lighting on the external façade of buildings.
- To promote timber painted signage and to prevent plastic and neon signs.
- To facilitate the removal of overhead cables throughout the ACA.
- To support the implementation of the St. Mary’s Church and Graveyard Conservation Plan.
To support the implementation of the Rothe House Conservation Plan.
To support the implementation of the Kilkenny City Walls Conservation Plan.
To improve the visual appearance of the car parking area at the Market yard, and ensure a high standard of architectural design for any development at Bateman Quay.
To ensure pedestrian permeability is paramount in any future redevelopment of Bateman Quay.
To ensure a high standard of paving and street furniture on High Street and St. Kieran Street following pedestrianisation.

7.9.2 Kilkenny Castle Architectural Conservation Area
The primary characteristic of the area is the dominance of Kilkenny Castle, see Map 7.4. The Castle is an impressive National Monument, not only due to its size and scale, but also its elevated location and its relationship to 'The Parade, the city’s most prominent civic space. The Castle itself is located in the spacious setting of the Castle Gardens and parkland, which cover an area of over 50 acres. This is a very valuable recreational amenity resource for the City. This conservation area also includes the millrace buildings located on the Castle Grounds adjacent to the River Nore. This area also includes sections of the medieval Kilkenny City Walls (Hightown Circuit).

The Parade is an impressive urban space which stretches from the Castle Grounds to High Street. It is defined by its high buildings including the Design Centre workshops, 18th century townhouses and the former Bank of Ireland building. The Mayors Walk and the mature trees of the Rose Garden line the north eastern side of The Parade. The reinstatement of The Parade as a civic place is an objective of the 2005 City Centre Local Area Plan.

The Castle Road runs south from the Castle to the Bennettsbridge Road. The residential area of Castle Gardens comprises of detached dwellings, typical of 1950’s and 1960’s construction with some modern infill development. A mature giant redwood tree which was once part of the Castle grounds is located in this area, for which a tree preservation order is in place. All these factors combine to create an attractive residential setting in close proximity to the castle and the city centre.

Switzers Almshouses are located adjacent to the Castle Road and consist of a terrace of five two-storey houses, each of three bays, with a clock pediment over the central house and facing an enclosed lawn. The group is of significant architectural importance.

Policies for Kilkenny Castle Architectural Conservation Area
- See also policies which are applicable to all ACAs listed above.
- To protect the historic and architectural character of the Castle and its unique setting.
- To enhance and reinstate the character of The Parade as an important historic civic space by implementing appropriate design and uses, an objective of the City Centre Local Area Plan.
- To protect the natural amenity of the Castle Park as an important recreational area and wildlife habitat.
- To protect the structures of Ormonde Mill and its setting on the bank of the River Nore.
- To protect and retain the historic integrity of the city walls, in accordance with the Kilkenny City Walls Conservation Plan (Heritage Council, 2005).
- To protect the special low-density residential character of the Castle Gardens residential area.
- To ensure appropriate uses for the buildings on The Parade, which will not detract from the civic character of the area.

7.9.3 St. Canice’s Architectural Conservation Area

This district is located in Irishtown at the northern end of the city, and is dominated by many impressive landmark stone buildings (See Map 7.5). Most impressive is the 13th century St. Canice’s Cathedral (the site dates back to 6th C), which is surrounded by the remnants of its close, including Canice’s tower, the Bishop’s Palace, the Deanery, St. Canice’s library and other buildings.

The Cathedral district is bounded by narrow lanes and streets, which surround the base of the mound on which the Cathedral is built – Dean Street, St. Canice’s Place, Vicar Street and Troys Lane. This area also includes sections of the medieval Kilkenny City Walls (Irishtown Circuit).

The district is also traversed by a number of small ambient laneways, which are enclosed by high stone walls. The building types in the area have traditionally been institutional, housing and small scale shopping and these have given the district its special quiet character. Dean Street was redeveloped in the 1990’s as part of the Inner Relief Road project with a mixture of residential and commercial uses.

St. Canice’s Catholic Church is another impressive landmark building in the area which occupies a visually prominent position. Located nearby is Thomas Square, a charming cul-de-sac of single storey terraced early social housing in the city.

Green Street is an area of mixed uses bounded between Vicar Street and the River Nore. This street has witnessed some dereliction in the recent past, however there is potential for renovation in this area, particularly the Brian Stone building and the site immediately opposite, currently occupied by Classic Furniture. Part of the Brewery extends into the southern section of this area, including the remnants of St. Francis Abbey.

The line of the Inner Relief Road for the city runs through this ACA. A new bridge across the Nore is proposed at the south-eastern most section of this ACA.

Policies for St. Canice’s Conservation Area

- See also policies which are applicable to all ACAs listed above.
- To protect the historic and architectural character of St. Canice’s Cathedral and its unique setting.
- To protect the grouping of the Cathedral, Library, Deanery and other adjacent buildings.
- To respect and retain established building lines.
To protect and retain the historic integrity of the city walls, in accordance with the Kilkenny City Walls Conservation Plan (Heritage Council, 2005).

- To enhance the character of Vicar Street and Troy’s Lane.
- To seek the conservation of St. Francis Abbey and its setting
- To ensure that any development occurring along the River Nore will be sensitive in its design and mindful of its proximity to the river.
- To facilitate the upgrading and visual improvement of the Classic Furniture site on Green Street.
- To facilitate the restoration of the Brian Stone building located on Green Street.
- To protect the character and setting of the residential terraces of Thomas Square and Troys Gate.
- Any new roads in this area should be designed in a manner so as not to detract from the special character of the area, and should be sensitive to the existing scale of development within the area.

### 7.9.4 John Street Architectural Conservation Area

John Street is a busy link road which connects the core retail area and the east of the city (See Map 7.6). It is one of only two streets which cross the River Nore in the city in an east-west direction. The primary use of John Street is a retail function, an extension of the retail shopping area on the other side of John’s Bridge. The scale of buildings on John Street decreases as one moves northwards, from three storey buildings along John Street Lower to two storey on John Street Upper. It is envisaged that the opening of McDonagh Junction will increase footfall along John Street, and subsequently have a positive impact on the vitality of buildings on the street.

This district includes many Protected Structures, some of which are characterised by their setting on attendant grounds, such as St. John’s Church, Carnegie Library, County Hall and the Evans Almshouses. This area also includes sections of the medieval Kilkenny City Walls (St. John’s Circuit). As identified in the City Centre Local Area Plan, opportunities exist at County Hall for the enhancement of the public realm through the creation of a new park and new urban space.

Maudlin Street is predominantly residential with houses of different types and eras, which add to its overall character, and also contains a number of Protected Structures, including Magdalen Castle.

### Policies for John Street Architectural Conservation Area

- See also policies which are applicable to all ACAs listed above.
- To encourage well presented ground floor spaces.
- To control the size, number and composition of advertisements on facades to prevent visual clutter in the main streets.
- To control lighting and the colour of lighting on the external façade of buildings.
- To promote timber painted signage and to prevent plastic and neon signs.
• To reduce advertisement on facades.
• To encourage the renovation and re-use of any vacant or derelict buildings.
• To protect historic plot sizes along Johns Street Upper and Lower and to avoid the amalgamation of sites for new buildings.
• To avoid pastiche shopfronts and pubfronts.
• To facilitate the removal of overhead cables throughout the ACA.
• To protect and retain the historic integrity of the city walls, in accordance with the Kilkenny City Walls Conservation Plan (Heritage Council, 2005).
• To protect St. John’s Church and its setting.
• To ensure that any new developments to the south of Maudlin Street are sensitive in scale to the existing residential buildings.
• To ensure any future re-development of the petrol station and adjoining sites on the Dublin Road is sensitive in scale to the surrounding buildings.
• To expand the role of County Hall as a civic amenity for Kilkenny through the creation of a new park and investigate the creation of a new urban square to Johns Street, in accordance with the Kilkenny City Centre Local Area Plan.
• To protect residential uses along Maudlin Street.
• To protect the setting of St. John’s Place, including their front gardens and railings, and to facilitate the restoration of these houses.
• To consider the balance of uses on John Street when dealing with change of use planning applications.

7.9.5 Patrick Street Architectural Conservation Area

Patrick Street is a mixed residential and commercial street with many good quality classical buildings. It leads from The Parade Junction to the Waterford Road, through the former St. Patrick’s Gate, see Map 7.7. The curve of the street provides a pleasant sweep into the city when entering from the west.

Religious and educational institutions dominate the western section of this area. The grounds of St. Kieran’s College, the John of God Convent and St. Patrick’s Catholic Church are each impressive buildings in their own rights. Each of these is accessed from the College Road, which is a wide tree-lined avenue. The area also includes sections of the medieval Kilkenny City Walls (Hightown Circuit).

Policies for Patrick Street Architectural Conservation Area

• See also policies which are applicable to all ACAs listed above.
• To enhance the character of Ormonde Road and College Road as an approach to the city centre.
• To protect important protected structure such as St. Patrick’s Church, St. Kieran’s College, the former Presbyterian Church, the City Vocational School and Talbots Castle.
• To ensure any future developments along Jacob Street adhere to a formal building line and are predominantly residential in nature.
• To protect the visual relationship between Butler House, the Design Centre and Kilkenny Castle.
• To protect and retain the historic integrity of the city walls, in accordance with the Kilkenny City Walls Conservation Plan (Heritage Council, 2005).
• To avoid backland development which would impact negatively on the character of the area.

7.9.6 Michael Street/Wolfe Tone Street Architectural Conservation Area
Michael Street is located to the east of the city centre and the special character of this area is residential in nature. It is a residential street of two storey terraced houses which overlooks the River Nore and the linear Park. The houses date from the late 1880s and have long gardens running to the rear. The houses on Wolfe Tone Street are predominantly dormer style terraced houses, which also have long back gardens. The backlands of these two residential streets form a substantial undeveloped urban landbank.

This ACA contains John’s Terrace, an attractive red brick terrace of two storey dwellings located adjacent to Carnegie Library and the River Nore. The terrace fronts onto the River Walk, which leads to Green’s Bridge, a Protected Structure.

Policies for the Michael Street/Wolfe Tone Street ACA
• See also policies which are applicable to all ACAs listed above.
• To protect and enhance existing residential uses and to avoid change of use of habitable dwellings to commercial purposes. Bed and Breakfast developments will be considered on their own merits.
• To avoid the demolition of existing habitable dwellings, and promote restoration of derelict buildings.
• To protect the amenity along the River Nore as an environmental, recreational and residential area.
• To ensure a high standard of architectural design to any development to the rear of Michael Street and Wolfe Tone Street, and ensure it is sensitive in scale and materials to the existing area.
• To protect the setting of dwellings at Johns Quay Terrace, including retention of all front railings and gardens.
• Any proposals for new development along the River should be of a contemporary design and address its waterfront location.
7.9.7 St. Mary’s Architectural Conservation Area

St. Mary’s Cathedral dominates this Architectural Conservation Area, see Map 7.9. St. Mary’s is an impressive 19th century early gothic style catholic cathedral built on a cruciform plan, and exhibiting expert stone masonry throughout. Occupying an important corner site, the cathedral makes a strong visual impression in the streetscape of James' Street and James’ Green while the stout tower punctuating the skyline produces a highly identifiable landmark in the locality.

The area surrounding the Cathedral is largely comprised of institutional uses and early twentieth century local authority housing estates. The Black Abbey was founded in 1225 and is an important element in the archaeological heritage of Kilkenny. The delicate stained glass panels of artistic design distinction enhance the aesthetic appeal of this Dominican Abbey. Attractive residential terraces in this area include Dominic Street, Rothe Terrace, Parnell Street, James’ Green, Kickham Street and Stephens Street. The area also includes sections of the medieval Kilkenny City Walls (Hightown Circuit).

The River Breagagh passes though this ACA, a tributary of the Nore.

Policies for St. Mary's Architectural Conservation Area

- See also policies which are applicable to all ACAs listed above.
- To protect and enhance the setting of St. Mary’s Cathedral.
- To protect the residential character, setting and appearance of dwellings on Parnell Street, James’ Green, Kickham Street, Dominick Street, Stephens Street, Rothe Terrace and the Kennyswell Road.
- To protect Kenny’s Well and its setting and adjacent open space along the Breagagh River.
- To protect and retain the historic integrity of the city walls, in accordance with the Kilkenny City Walls Conservation Plan (Heritage Council, 2005).
- To protect the visual amenity of the Breagagh River, and ensure that any future developments adjacent to it address its riverside location.

7.9.8 Lacken Conservation Area

This is a residential area and commands an important entrance to the historic City, see Map 7.10. It is mainly residential in character with substantial houses in their own grounds. The old Lacken Corn Mills located on the river are an important group of old industrial structures. They are now, however, in an increasingly derelict condition. The views over the River Nore are an important element in the character of this area.

This ACA includes the viewing terrace adjacent to the river from which views of the castle and the city can be enjoyed.

Policies for Lacken Architectural Conservation Area

- See also policies which are applicable to all ACAs listed above.
• To protect the character of the area, in particular the setting of substantial houses in their own grounds which contain mature trees.
• To protect the industrial archaeology of the Lacken Corn Mill and its setting on the banks of the River Nore, adjacent to the Dublin Road.

7.9.9 Talbotsinch Conservation Area
This is a unique example of residential planning. The model village was built in 1904 for Lady Desart, by Professor William A. Scot. It consists of distinctively styled houses built around an open space, see Map 7.11. Influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement, it has generally retained its special qualities of design and craftsmanship and it is predominantly in residential use.

Policies for Talbotsinch ACA
• See also policies which are applicable to all ACAs listed above.
• To protect the character of Talbotsinch Village as a model Village.
• To protect and enhance the architectural features of the buildings.
• To protect and enhance the grouping of buildings and their setting.

7.10 Floodlighting
The floodlighting of buildings and structures is often regarded as a means of highlighting the significance of a structure and reflects the substantial pride that communities have in individual heritage sites and structures. Notwithstanding this, floodlighting has the potential to negatively impact on both natural and built heritage. It can contribute to light pollution, impinge on protected species such as bats, and affect the architectural and archaeological significance of a site.

A successful lighting scheme will relate to the architectural form of the building and will sensitively utilise the detailing and features of such buildings with low wattage light sources and discreet light fixtures. It will also minimise the spillage of potential obtrusive light to adjacent areas and will avoid unnecessary over lighting, which can alter the appearance of a building or area. Successful schemes may also combine exterior lighting with interior lighting; however, in certain cases interior lighting only may be appropriate.

Proposals for lighting schemes should include details of the size, type, siting and number of fixtures, as well as wattage, colour of light source, light pattern and potential impact on the building material.

To avoid conflict, proposals should demonstrate how lighting schemes would enhance and protect the character of an area or group of protected structures and/or co-ordinate with any adjacent lighting schemes. Powerful wide angled over lighting which can diminish the architectural features of a building or area will be discouraged.
POLICY
- To require an appropriate assessment of the potential impacts of proposals to floodlight buildings and structures.
- To ensure the protection of the special character and setting of protected structures and of an ACA when considering proposals for floodlighting.
- To ensure the avoidance of the spillage of potential obtrusive light to adjacent areas and to avoid unnecessary over lighting.
- To provide guidance to developers and others in relation to floodlighting.

7.11 Place names
Place names are a very important part of our cultural heritage. They provide a link to the past and reflect the natural, built and cultural heritage of a locality. It is important that place names of all new developments reflect the local topography, history, culture, ecology or significant people and events and incorporate traditional and Irish language place names from the locality.

POLICY
- To preserve historic place names and historic street names.
- To ensure that the names of all new developments shall reflect local historical, heritage or cultural associations.
- To encourage the use of bi-lingual and Irish-Language place names and signs.
- To place a condition on grants of planning permission requiring the agreement of place names between the developer and the Planning Authority.

ACTION
- To provide guidance to developers and others in relation to naming of new developments.
Natural Heritage

7.12 Natural Heritage & Biodiversity

Natural heritage includes flora and fauna, wildlife habitats, inland waterways, landscapes and geology. There is a great variety of natural heritage in County Kilkenny, including our rivers and woodlands, hedgerows, mammals, birds, plants, and diverse landscapes and geological features.

Biodiversity is the variety of life. It includes all aspects of natural heritage.

POLICY

• To protect, conserve and enhance Kilkenny's natural heritage and biodiversity.

7.12.1 Designated Natural Heritage Sites of International and National Importance

Habitats in the city, of international and national importance, are designated under EU and national legislation. The two categories of designated site in effect in Kilkenny City and Environs are:

i. Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

SAC’s have been, and are being designated, under the EU Habitats Directive to conserve habitats and species of European importance.

ii. Natural Heritage Areas (NHA)

NHA’s have been, and are being, designated to conserve habitats and species of national importance and sites of geological interest, under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000.

At present there are five designated natural heritage sites of international and national importance in the city and environs. See Table 7.1 and Map 7-12 for further information.

The designation of these sites at a national level is the responsibility of the National Parks and Wildlife Division of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. The designation of these sites is an ongoing process as boundaries are revised and adjusted and new sites added. The Council will take cognisance of any change in boundaries that may occur in designated sites within the life of this plan. Please consult with the National Parks and Wildlife Service for further details and for the most up to date data.
POLICY

- To protect natural heritage sites designated in National and European legislation. This includes sites proposed to be designated or designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Natural Heritage Areas (NHA), Nature Reserves and Wildfowl Sanctuaries. This protection will extend to any additions or alterations to sites that may arise during the lifetime of this plan.

- To assess all proposed developments (individually or in combination with other proposals, as appropriate) which are likely to impact on designated natural heritage sites or those sites proposed to be designated.

- To consult with the prescribed bodies and relevant government agencies when assessing developments which are likely to impact on designated natural heritage sites or those sites proposed to be designated.

- To ensure that any development in or near a designated natural heritage site will avoid any significant adverse impact on the features for which the site has been designated.

- To require an appropriate environmental assessment in respect of any proposed development likely to have an impact on a designated natural heritage site, or those sites proposed to be designated.

ACTION

- To provide Supplementary Planning Guidance, in relation to conserving and enhancing biodiversity in the context of development.

Table 7.1 Designated Natural Heritage Sites of International and National Importance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Site Code/Ref.</th>
<th>cSAC</th>
<th>pNHA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>River Nore</td>
<td>002162</td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archersgrove</td>
<td>002051</td>
<td></td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunmore complex</td>
<td>001895</td>
<td></td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lough Macask</td>
<td>001914</td>
<td></td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newpark Marsh</td>
<td>00845</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

cSAC candidate Special Area of Conservation  pNHA proposed Natural Heritage Area

7.12.2 Protected Species

Certain plant, animal and bird species are protected by National and European law. This includes plant species listed in the Flora Protection Order 1999 (or other such Orders) and animals and birds listed in the Wildlife Act, 1976 and subsequent statutory instruments, those listed in Annex IV if the Habitats Directive, and those listed in Annex 1 of the Birds Directive.
POLICY

• To protect and, where possible, enhance to the plant and animal species and their habitats that have been identified under EU Habitats Directive, EU Birds Directive, the Wildlife Act and the Flora Protection Order.

• Ensure that development does not have a significant adverse impact on plant, animal or bird species protected by national or European legislation.

• Consult with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, and take account of any licensing requirements, when undertaking, or approving development which is likely to affect plant, animal or bird species protected by national or European legislation.

7.12.3 Nature Conservation Outside of Designated Areas

Much of the biodiversity and many of our landscape features of importance in the county occur in areas outside of sites which are subject to legal protection under National or EU law. These habitats and features are particularly important in contributing to the biodiversity, landscape value and sense of place of the county. These features include: hedgerows, ditches and banks, stone walls, woodlands, estates and parklands, rivers, streams and associated riparian zones, reservoirs, ponds and canals.

Habitats and landscape features have an important role to play as ecological “corridors” or “stepping stones” i.e. they allow for the movement of species, and help to sustain the habitats, ecological processes and functions necessary to enhance and maintain biodiversity. It is important that these areas are conserved and managed well.

POLICY

• Identify, in co-operation with the relevant statutory authorities and other relevant groups, sites of local nature conservation interest, not otherwise protected by legislation.

• To protect and enhance wildlife habitats and landscape features which form part of habitat networks, such as river corridors and associated habitats.

• To ensure that any development in or near sites of local conservation interest will minimise any significant adverse impact on the features for which the site has been designated.

• Minimise the loss of habitats and features of the wider countryside (hedgerows, ponds, streams, wetlands, trees etc) through the planning process, which are not within designated sites.

• Where the loss of habitats and features of the wider countryside is unavoidable as part of a development, to ensure that appropriate mitigation and/or compensatory measures are put in place, to conserve and enhance biodiversity and landscape character.
7.12.4 Local Biodiversity Action Plan

Biodiversity, or biological diversity, is the variety of life on earth. The term refers to the diversity of ecosystems, individual species of flora and fauna, and also genetic diversity. The National Biodiversity Plan (2002) sets out the framework for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and requires local authorities to prepare and implement a Local Biodiversity Action Plan. The Kilkenny Biodiversity Plan will be prepared in association with the Kilkenny Heritage Forum, using guidelines produced by the Heritage Council and Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

POLICY

- Prepare a County Bio-Diversity Plan, in accordance with the National Bio-diversity Plan (2002), and to liaise with all relevant agencies and community groups in its preparation and implementation.

- Integrate bio-diversity considerations into Council plans, programmes and activities.

7.12.5 Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes

Historic gardens and designed landscapes are of natural heritage, architectural, landscape, cultural and historical importance. In addition, they are often the important setting of a Protected Structure.

Rothe House is a nationally significant 17th century merchant’s house. The Rothe House Conservation Plan outlines the significance of Rothe House, and details proposals for its conservation, protection and management.

The recreation of the medieval gardens at Rothe House is a project of national significance, which is being undertaken by a number of partner organizations including Kilkenny Borough Council, Office of Public Works, Department of the Environment Heritage and Local government (Architectural Heritage advisory Unit), Failte Ireland, Kilkenny Civic Trust, Kilkenny Archaeological Society and Rothe House Trust. The aim of the project is to recreate the authentic medieval garden and to open the garden to the public.

POLICY

- Discourage development that would lead to a loss of, or cause damage to, the character, the principal components of, or the setting gardens designed landscapes of special historic interest.

- Preserve, protect and where necessary enhance, heritage varieties of plants and trees that form part of the local/regional biodiversity resource, and that contribute to local identity.
• To continue to assist in the implementation and management of the recreation of the medieval garden at Rothe House, as part of the Rothe House Conservation Plan.

7.12.6 Inland Waters, Rivers, Streams and Wetlands
The River Nore (cSAC) and its tributaries; the Breagagh and Pococke, are of great importance, in terms of their influence on the landscape, as a wildlife habitat and as an amenity resource. Newpark Marsh and Loughmacask are also significant wetland habitats, and both are designated as Natural Heritage Areas.

POLICY

• Protect and enhance the natural heritage and landscape character of waterway corridors and wetlands and to maintain them free from inappropriate development.

• In partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Waterways Ireland and other relevant stakeholders to facilitate public access to, and understanding of, waterways corridors and wetlands where feasible and appropriate.

• Protect items of architectural heritage and industrial archaeological interest associated with waterways corridors.

• To consult with the Southern Regional Fisheries Board and the National Parks and Wildlife Service prior to undertaking, approving or authorising any works or development which may have an impact on rivers, streams and waterways.

7.12.7 County Geological Sites & Geological Heritage Areas
The Councils recognise the need to identify sites of geological and geomorphological interest and to protect these sites, or parts of these sites, in the interest of protecting our geological heritage. The Geological Survey of Ireland, in partnership with Kilkenny County Council, has developed a list of County Geological Sites (CGS), as part of the Irish Geological Heritage Programme and in accordance with the National Heritage Plan, 2002. These are sites of local geological and geomorphological interest, or sites which contain a feature of local geological and geomorphological interest and include Archersgrove Quarry, one of the original Kilkenny Black Marble Quarries and some springs along the River Nore. See Table 7.2 below. Some of these sites, which are of national significance, may in the future, be proposed by the Geological Survey of Ireland and the National Parks and Wildlife Service, as geological Natural Heritage Areas (NHA’s).
Table 7.2: Sites of County Geological Interest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>Townland(s)/district</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Archersgrove Quarry</td>
<td>One of the original Kilkenny Black Marble Quarries</td>
<td>Archersgrove, Kilkenny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springs along Nore River</td>
<td>Springs</td>
<td>Numerous</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**POLICY**

- Maintain, and where necessary facilitate, the enhancement of the conservation values of those features or areas of county geological and or geomorphological importance.

- Protect from inappropriate development, County Geological Sites, or parts thereof, and geological Natural Heritage Areas that become designated during the lifetime of this plan.

- To consult with the Geological Survey of Ireland when assessing developments which are likely to impact on County Geological Sites, or geological Natural Heritage Areas which may be designated during the lifetime of this plan.

- To assess all proposed developments with respect to geology (individually or in combination with other proposals, as appropriate) which are likely to impact on County Geological Sites, or geological Natural Heritage Areas that become designated during the lifetime of this plan.

- Ensure that any development in or near County Geological Sites will avoid any significant adverse impact on the features for which the site is considered important.

- To consult with the Geological Survey of Ireland in advance of any proposals for major developments that will entail significant ground excavation, such as quarrying, road cuttings, major drainage works and foundations for major buildings/building complexes.

7.12.8 Woodlands, Trees and Hedgerows

Woodlands, trees and hedgerows are an environmental, economic, amenity and landscape resource of great importance. Trees, hedgerows and woodlands are an integral part of the county’s biodiversity, as they form part of a network of habitats, ecological ‘corridors’ and ‘stepping stones’ essential for wildlife to flourish and move between and within habitats. In some cases, trees within the curtilage and/or attendant grounds of a Protected Structure can be important to the character and special interest of the structure and could contribute to its landscape setting. Hedgerows also have historical significance as townland and field boundaries.
The Tree Register of Ireland (TROI) is a database of outstanding trees in Ireland compiled by the Tree Council of Ireland. The TROI identified approximately 180 significant trees in the county, based on characteristics such as age, height, diameter, historical or folklore connections.

A Woodland Survey of Kilkenny, undertaken in 1997, identified the amenity potential of woodlands in the county.

There are a number of legislative measures which recognise the importance of trees and woodlands and provide for their protection. These include:

i. Tree Preservation Orders (TPO)
Under the Planning and Development Act 2000, TPOs allow for the protection of trees, groups of trees and woods of amenity value. Trees, which are the subject of a TPO, cannot be felled unless the owner also obtains planning permission. At present there is one TPO in the city, in Castle Gardens (TPO 1/2006).

ii. Forestry Act, 1946
Under the 1946 Forestry Act, with certain exceptions, it is illegal to uproot a tree over ten years of age or cut down a tree of any age unless notice of intention to do so has been given in accordance with the Act.

iii. Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000
The Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000 seeks to prohibit the cutting of hedges within the bird nesting period (1st March until September 1st).

POLICY

- To protect existing woodlands, trees and hedgerows which are of amenity or biodiversity value and/or contribute to landscape character of the county, and to ensure that proper provision is made for their protection and management, when undertaking, approving or authorising development.
- To ensure that when undertaking, approving or authorising development that sufficient information is provided to enable an assessment of impacts on woodlands, trees, and hedgerows.
- To conserve important trees, groups of trees or woodlands, using Tree Preservation Orders, as appropriate.
- In partnership with the Forest Service, to provide guidance to developers and others on requirements and procedures in relation to tree felling.
- Have regard to sites of significance identified in the Kilkenny Woodland Survey 1997 in the assessment of planning applications.
- Have regard to, and seek the conservation of, the trees of County Kilkenny identified in the Tree Register of Ireland.
- Support the provisions of Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000, which seeks to prohibit the cutting of hedges within the bird nesting period (1st March until September 1st).
- Seek the retention of hedgerows, and other distinctive boundary treatment such as stone walls, when undertaking, authorising or approving development.
• Where the loss of hedgerows is unavoidable, for health and safety reasons, as part of a development, to ensure that a new hedgerow is planted using native species, and species of local provenance, as appropriate.
• Discourage the felling of mature trees to facilitate development and encourage tree surgery rather than felling, where possible.
• Ensure that new development incorporates the planting of native broadleaved species, and species of local provenance, as appropriate.
• Seek, where appropriate and feasible, the extension of existing woodlands and/or creation of new woodlands, based on planned planting and management schemes, and favouring the use of native species.
• The Councils will promote the planting of native tree and shrub species, by committing to using native species (of local provenance wherever possible) in its landscaping work and on Council property.
• Seek the conservation of trees of cultural importance e.g mass bushes, rag bushes and other trees marking areas of cultural significance

**ACTION**

• To carry out surveys of significant trees and hedgerows in the county during the lifetime of this plan, as appropriate and feasible.
• Investigate the possibility of updating the Woodland Survey of Kilkenny, in partnership with relevant stakeholders.

A list of the more valuable trees in the City and Environs is contained in the 2002 – 2008 Kilkenny City & Environs Development Plan. As part of the preparation of this draft plan a new survey of trees has been carried out with a view to revising and enhancing the existing list of noteworthy trees, see Appendix F.
• Where the loss of hedgerows is unavoidable, for health and safety reasons, as part of a development, to ensure that a new hedgerow is planted using native species, and species of local provenance, as appropriate.
• Discourage the felling of mature trees to facilitate development and encourage tree surgery rather than felling, where possible.
• Ensure that new development incorporates the planting of native broadleaved species, and species of local provenance, as appropriate.
• Seek, where appropriate and feasible, the extension of existing woodlands and/or creation of new woodlands, based on planned planting and management schemes, and favouring the use of native species.
• The Councils will promote the planting of native tree and shrub species, by committing to using native species (of local provenance wherever possible) in its landscaping work and on Council property.
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Fig 7.2 Areas of Archaeological Potential

Legend
- Areas of Archaeological Interest

Based on Ordnance Survey of Ireland Map Licence No. "Kilkenny/CCMA/0307"
Fig. 7.5: St. Canices Architectural Conservation Area

Legend

Architectural Conservation Area

Based on Ordnance Survey of Ireland Map, Licence No "Kilkenny/CCMA/03/07"
Based on Ordnance Survey of Ireland Map, Licence No "Kilkenny/CCMA/03/07"
Fig 7.8: Michael Street
Architectural Conservation Area

Legend
 Architectural Conservation Area
Fig 7.10: Lacken Architectural Conservation Area

Legend

Architectural Conservation Area

Based on Ordnance Survey of Ireland Map, Licence No "Kilkenny/CCMA/03/07"
Fig 7.11 Talbotsinch
Architectural Conservation Area

Legend

Architectural Conservation Area

Based on Ordnance Survey of Ireland Map,
Licence No “Kilkenny/CCMA/03/07”
Fig 7.12: Environmental Features - Kilkenny City

Legend
- Special Area of Conservation: River Nore
- Kilkenny Park
- Natural Heritage Areas
- NHA Sitecode and Name
- Development Plan Boundary
- Sites of County Geological Interest