

8 Heritage

8.1 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

County Kilkenny has a rich and varied heritage. It includes our rivers, woodlands, landscape, hedgerows, our historic churches and abbeys, our medieval towns and villages and much more. Kilkenny's heritage is that which makes the county unique, what gives it its special character and its 'sense of place'. It is a reflection and expression of our values and traditions.

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

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.**

8.2 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 County Kilkenny's natural heritage and biodiversity, to include the diversity of habitats found in the county e.g watercourses and waterbodies; trees; woodlands and hedgerows; fens; marshes; estuaries and wetlands; geological and geomorphological sites/features; improved and semi-natural grasslands; etc.**

8.2.1 Designated Natural Heritage Sites of International and National Importance

Habitats in the county, of international and national importance, are designated under EU and national legislation. The four categories of designated site in effect in County Kilkenny 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.
- iii. **Statutory Nature Reserve**
Nature reserves, designated under the Wildlife Act 1976 and Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000, are wildlife habitats which meet certain scientific criteria, are worthy of conservation, and where nature conservation is the primary objective and takes precedence over all other activities.
- iv. **Wildfowl Sanctuary**
Wildfowl Sanctuaries are designated under the Wildlife Act 1976 and Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000 to protect ducks, geese and waders from hunting.

At present there are 36 designated natural heritage sites of international and national importance in County Kilkenny, covering approximately 4.5% of the county. See Table 8.1 and Figure 8-1 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.

Table 8.1 Designated Natural Heritage Sites of International & National Importance

Site Name	Site Code/Ref	cSAC	pNHA	SNR	WF
Cullahill Mountain	000831	✓			
Hugginstown Fen	000404	✓	✓		
Galmoy Fen	001858	✓	✓		
Lower River Suir	002137	✓			
River Barrow & River Nore/ Abbeyleix Wood Complex	002162/000698 002076	✓	✓ ✓		✓
Spa Hill & Clomantagh Hill	000849	✓			
The Loughans	000407	✓			
Thomastown Quarry	002252	✓			
Archersgrove	002051		✓		
Ardaloo Fen	000821		✓		
Ballykeeffe Woodland	000400		✓	✓	
Barrow River Estuary	000698		✓		
Brownstown Wood	000827		✓		
Clohastia	000830		✓		
Coan Bogs*	002382		✓		
Dunmore Cave	000401		✓		
Dunmore Complex	001859		✓		
Esker Pits	000832		✓		
Fiddown Island	000402		✓	✓	
Garryrickin Nature Reserve	000403		✓	✓	
Grannyferry	000833		✓		
Ice House near Inistioge, Co Kilkenny	002094		✓		
Inchbeg	000836		✓		
Inistioge	000837		✓		
Kilkeasy Bog	000839		✓		
Kyleadohir Wood Nature Reserve	000405		✓	✓	
Kylecorragh Wood	000842		✓		
Lough Cullin	000406		✓		✓
Lough Macask	001914		✓		
Mothel Church, Coolcullen	000408		✓		
Mount Juliet	000843		✓		
Murphy's of the River	000844		✓		
Newpark Marsh	000845		✓		
Rathsnagadan Wood	000409		✓		
Red Bog, Dungarvan	000846		✓		
Thomastown	000410		✓		
Tibberaghny Marshes	000411		✓		
Whitehall Quarries	000855		✓		

cSAC candidate Special Area of Conservation

pNHA Proposed Natural Heritage Area
* Designated Natural Heritage Area

SNR Statutory Nature Reserve

WF Wildfowl Sanctuaries

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.

8.2.2 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 of 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.

8.2.3 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 compensation measures are put in place, to conserve and enhance biodiversity and landscape character.**

8.2.4 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.**

8.2.5 County Geological Sites & Geological Heritage Areas

The predominant underlying bedrock geology of County Kilkenny is dominated by limestone. To the south of the county are older sedimentary and igneous rocks such as coarse red sandstone, mudstone and granite. Deposits of glacial materials such as clay, sand and gravel overlie much of this bedrock.

The geology of the county has influenced the landscapes, soils, habitats, economic activities such as quarrying and features of local cultural interest such as stonewalls, limekilns etc

The Council recognises the need to identify sites of geological and geomorphological interest within the county 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 (see Table 8.2). 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 8.2 Sites of County Geological Interest

Site Name	Summary	Townland(s)/district
Archersgrove Quarry	One of the original Kilkenny Black Marble Quarries	Archersgrove, Kilkenny
Ahenny	Disused Quarries Exposing Slate	Ahenny
Ballyfoyle Channels	Glacial Meltwater Channels	Ballyfoyle
Ballykeefe Quarry	Disused Quarry Exposing Limestone	Ballykeefe
Ballyraggett Quarry	Working Quarry Exposing Limestone	Ballyragget (town)
Bennettsbridge	Working Quarry Exposing Dolomite	Bennettsbridge (town)
Coolbaun Hill	Working Open-Cast Quarry	Coolbaun, Castlecomer
Coolbaun Valley	Disused Coal Mines	Coolbaun, Castlecomer

Deer Park Mine	Disused Coal Mines	Deer Park
Dunmore Cave	Glacially Derived Caves	Mohil
Granny Quarries	Disused Quarry Exposing Limestone	Granny
Inistioge	Glacial Meltwater Channels	Inistioge
Threecastles Quarry	Working Quarry Producing Kilkenny Black Marble	Threecastles
Kiltorcan New Quarry,	Fossil Locality	Kiltorcan
Kiltorcan Old Quarry	Fossil Locality	Kiltorcan
Piltown	Boreholes. Jurassic -Cretaceous Geology	Piltown
Windgap Artesian Borehole	Artesian Well	Windgap
Swan, Castlecomer	Braided River Channel and Meanders	Swan
Galmoy [Zn, Pb]	Pb-Zn	Galmoy
Springs along Nore River	Springs	Numerous
River Barrow, Lower and River Suir, Lower	Meanders	Numerous

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.

8.2.6 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:

- 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 are 4 TPOs in County Kilkenny.

Table 8.3 Tree Preservation Orders in County Kilkenny

Site	TPO Ref No.
Oldcourt, Inistioge	1/85
Keatingstown	1/84
Barna, Freshford	1/92
Sawney's Wood, Castlecomer	1/67
Castle Gardens, Castle Road	1/2006

- 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.
- 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).
- Retain hedgerows, and other distinctive boundary treatment such as stone walls, when undertaking, authorising or approving development, where possible.
- 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. (See Appendix C.)
- Where the loss of stone wall is unavoidable, for health and safety reasons, as part of a development, to ensure that the wall is re-built using local stone and local design.
- 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.
- Continue to co-operate with Coillte and other forestry bodies to seek an increase in appropriate afforestation, particularly of native species, and maintain and improve access to woodlands for recreational purposes.
- 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.
- Kilkenny County Council 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 County Council property.

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

- **To develop and implement a Hedgerow Management Awareness and Conservation Strategy in consultation with all relevant agencies as part of the Heritage Plan.**

8.2.7 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.

The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG), through the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) carried out a preliminary survey of historic gardens and designed landscapes in 2003-2005. A total of 196 potential historic gardens and designed landscape sites in County Kilkenny were identified. Further work is required to be undertaken to determine the actual heritage significance of each of these sites, and to determine appropriate protection and conservation measures.

POLICY

- **Co-operate with the (Heritage Section) DEHLG and other interested parties to facilitate the protection, promotion and enhancement of significant historic gardens and designed landscapes in the county and to support public awareness, enjoyment of and access to these sites.**
- **Have regard to the historic gardens and designed landscape sites in County Kilkenny, identified in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage.**
- **Discourage development that would lead to a loss of, or cause damage to, the character, the principal components of, or the setting of parks, gardens and demesnes of special historic interest.**
- **Preserve, protect and where necessary encourage the use of, heritage/traditional varieties of plants and trees that form part of the local/regional biodiversity resource, and that contribute to local identity.**

8.2.8 Woodstock Gardens

In the Victorian era Woodstock was regarded as one of the great gardens of Ireland and it has been identified in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH). It suffered from years of neglect, vandalism and indifference but the main framework of the gardens remained intact. The Woodstock garden restoration project is an example in environmental partnership between Kilkenny County Council, Coillte, the Tighe Estate, Great Gardens of Ireland Restoration Programme, Inistioge Heritage Society, FAS and the local community.

In order to secure a long term strategy for Woodstock Gardens and the Demense the Council commissioned the preparation of a Local Area Plan for Woodstock. The preparation of a draft plan is nearing completion.

POLICY

- **To continue and complete the Woodstock Gardens Restoration Project.**
- **To complete the Woodstock Local Area Plan.**
- **To have regard to the policies regarding historic gardens and designed landscapes outlined in section 8.2.7 of this plan.**

8.2.9 Mount Juliet Estate

Mount Juliet Estate and the adjoining Ballylynch estate are situated in the Nore Valley to the east of Thomastown. Mount Juliet is generally recognised as a high quality tourism and sporting resource of significant local, national and international importance. It is also a significant built, natural and cultural heritage resource. An action plan was developed for the estate in 2000 to set out the guiding principles and overall future direction for the development of the estate. The relevant elements of this action plan have been updated to provide guidance for the estate during the period of this development plan.

8.2.9.1 Mount Juliet Action Plan Strategy

The strategy was based on the following principles:

- The entire Action Area is a sensitive environment. Any development must have regard to the capacity of the estate to absorb development without detracting from the estate's landscape character and built and natural heritage context
- Some degree of future development was anticipated and the objective was to regulate and order development rather than presume against development.
- Development trends at that time (2000), either planned or constructed, were taken as indicators and the basis on which predictions of future growth and development patterns were made.
- Where particular development trends or intentions were identified, areas and site specific proposals were made.
- Existing planning permissions on the estate were incorporated into the plan and where appropriate further measures were proposed to integrate previously approved development.

For this development plan period a review of the policies and objectives contained in the 2002 to 2008 Development Plan took place and the following Development Policies and Objectives are proposed.

Table 8.4 Mount Juliet Development Policies

Zone	Objectives	Permissible uses/Developments	Uses open for consideration
A	To protect and enhance the Protected Structure, its curtilage and attendant grounds, existing woodlands, individual trees, gardens, built and other environmental amenities.	Sport and leisure facilities such as croquet, tennis putting or bowling lawns.	Temporary tented or other temporary enclosures.
B	River Barrow/River Nore Special Area of Conservation: To protect and enhance existing landscape, ecological and other environmental amenities. To provide for the protection of water quality and the ecological integrity of the watercourse.		
C	To provide for the maintenance and enhancement of tourism, sporting, leisure and related uses.		
D	To provide for the maintenance and enhancement of existing golf course uses.	Planting and ground works related to golf course uses.	Temporary tented or other temporary enclosures.
E	To provide for the creation of facilities related to grounds upkeep and maintenance activities	Stores, machinery storage/repair & office uses related to maintenance of estate lands.	
F	To provide for the maintenance and enhancement of existing agricultural lands in an area of sensitive landscape.		
G	To protect and maintain and reinstate existing parkland character of the estate.		
H	To provide for the maintenance and enhancement of existing agricultural and related buildings.		
I	Woodlands to be protected and maintained in accordance with the woodland management strategy.		
J	To protect the residential amenity of existing dwellings		

Table 8.5 Mount Juliet Site-specific Objectives

Area	Objective
1	To protect and enhance Mount Juliet House (protected structure), its curtilage and attendant grounds and allow for its extension as appropriate.
2	To protect and enhance existing archaeological features: 2a Ecclesiastical Remains 2b Castle and Mansion 2c Enclosure 2d Enclosure
3	To protect and enhance the existing south western entrance to the estate, gate lodges, boundary walls and road frontage.
4	To protect and enhance the existing Thomastown entrance to the estate, gate lodges, boundary walls and road frontage.
5	To provide for the enhancement of the cricket pavilion facilities.
6	To provide for the development of a health spa/wellness centre at the Walled Gardens as approved in planning permission 04/1153.
7	To provide for the development of an extension at Hunters Yard to cater for health spa requirements, golf reception, members area, restaurant, bar, additional bedroom accommodation, and conference facilities.
8	To provide for the creation of equestrian facilities as approved in planning permission 06/1455.
9	To provide for the development of 6 no. apartments adjoining the existing Rose Garden apartments associated with the estate's sporting and recreational functions permission 02/1632
10	Provide for the development of 10 no. two storey houses previously approved in planning permission 06/1134, associated with the estate's sporting and recreational functions.
11	Provide for wet sand and dry sand storage areas to facilitate the on-going maintenance of the golf course uses.
12	Provide for an extension to the existing golf maintenance facility to include changing area and other associated staff uses.
13	Provide for the development of a tennis court, pavilion and croquet lawn.
14	Provide for 2 no. helipads
15	Provide for the development of 3 no. detached houses associated with the estate's sporting and recreational functions.
16	Provide for a house at the maintenance facility building previously approved under planning permission 05/925
17	Provide for an administration building for the on-going management of the estate
18	Provide for the abstraction of water from the River Nore for fire fighting purposes in line with the Chief Fire Officer's requirements.
19	Provide for Mount Juliet staff offices at an appropriate location to replace the existing temporary facility
20	Provide for estate maintenance/administration area at an appropriate location to replace existing maintenance facility building
21	Provide for refurbishment works within the Walled Gardens
22	Provide for the development of 9 no. houses at the Kennels site similar to those at the Gallops subject to the capacity of the estate to absorb development without detracting from the estate's landscape character and built and natural heritage context.

Table 8.6 Mount Juliet Protected views

View	Description
V1	From Mt Juliet House to Ballylinch Stud
V2	Approach from Thomastown gate towards Mt. Juliet House and the Inch
V3	River valley from White bridge.
V4	River valley from Ballylinch bridge.

8.2.10 Inland Waters, Rivers, Streams and Wetlands

The waterways and wetlands of Kilkenny are of great importance, in terms of their influence on the landscape, as a wildlife habitat and as an amenity resource.

The River Nore, and its many tributaries runs from the north to the south of the county; the River Suir and its tributaries flows along the south west county boundary and the Barrow Navigation System runs along the eastern border with Counties Carlow and Wexford. In addition, to the main waterways there are a number of smaller wetland areas of significance.

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.**

8.3 Landscape

The landscape of County Kilkenny is a dynamic and valuable resource which incorporates all aspects of the natural, built and cultural heritage. Landscapes provide a sense of place and characterise the county for local residents and visitors alike both in terms of a place to live and also for recreational and tourism purposes.

Developments by their nature are likely to have some varying degree of visual impact on a landscape's character profile depending on the type, use and scale of development proposed. It is important that Kilkenny's landscape as a resource is sensibly managed and protected. Consequently, the onus shall be on the developer to satisfactorily

demonstrate that such new development can be adequately absorbed into its surrounding landscape without significant adverse visual impacts to its overall landscape value.

Ireland has signed and ratified the European Landscape Convention which means that we are committed to introducing policies to effect landscape protection and management. The Planning and Development Act, 2000 includes both mandatory and discretionary development plan objectives in relation to landscape.

The management of the county's landscapes involves:

- Sustaining, conserving and enhancing the landscape diversity, character and quality; and
- Protecting sensitive areas from injurious development, while providing for development and change that will benefit the rural community.

8.3.1 Areas of High Amenity

The Planning Authority established Areas of Special Control within the County in the 1986 Development Plan and this designation was continued in the 1994 Development Plan. The 2002 Plan amended this designation by defining these areas as Areas of High Amenity.

It is intended that the Landscape Character Assessment will be the main guiding force into the future for the assessment of developments within County Kilkenny. However it is intended to retain the designation of Areas of High Amenity within the Draft Plan. This is to allow the development of the Landscape Character Assessment policies in a historical policy context. As with all areas of the county a high standard of design and siting will be required for all development in the Areas of High Amenity.

8.3.2 Views and Prospects

There is a need to protect and conserve views and prospects adjoining public roads and river valleys throughout the county where these views are of high amenity value. In conserving views, it is not proposed that this should give rise to the prohibition of development along these routes but development, where permitted, should not seriously hinder or obstruct these views and should be designed and located to minimize their impact. The views and prospects to be preserved and protected are contained in Appendix D to the Plan and are shown on Figure 8.1.

POLICY

- **To preserve and improve places or areas from which views or prospects of high amenity exist, as identified in Appendix D.**

8.3.3 Landscape Character Assessment:

A Landscape Character Assessment report was prepared for County Kilkenny in 2003 (in accordance with the Landscape and Landscape Assessment Guidelines for Planning

Authorities, 2000). This complete document is attached in Appendix E. In summary, the Landscape Character Assessment divided the county into four broad categories of landscape unit types – i.e. the identified landscape character areas with similar physical and visual characteristics were combined to define the major landscape areas in the County. These broad landscape areas are:

- 1) Upland Areas,
- 2) Lowland Areas,
- 3) River Valleys, and
- 4) Transitional Areas.

These are identified in Map 1 of the Landscape Character Assessment (Document 3) which is incorporated into this Draft Development Plan as Figure 8.2.

POLICY

- **Seek to preserve and protect the landscape character, quality and distinctiveness of County Kilkenny.**
- **Assess developments having regard to the guidance set out in the Landscape Character Assessment. Proposed developments should be consistent with the various landscape policies outlined for each landscape character area specified in the this draft plan whilst also seeking to minimise their visual impact, particularly in areas designated as sensitive and vulnerable landscapes.**
- **To require that any necessary assessments, including visual impact assessments, are made when undertaking, authorising or approving development.**

In the process of reviewing the recommendations of the Landscape Character Assessment, the Council has incorporated the following policies into the draft plan for assessing development proposals in each of the broad landscape area types.

8.3.3.1 Policies for Upland Areas

To consider development on steep slopes, ensuring that it will not have a disproportionate or dominating visual impact on the surrounding environment as seen from areas of the public realm.

To ensure that development will not have a disproportionate visual impact (due to excessive bulk, scale or inappropriate siting) and will not significantly interfere or detract from scenic upland vistas, as identified in the Development Plan, when viewed from areas nearby scenic routes, viewpoints or settlements.

To facilitate developments that have a functional and locational natural resource requirement to be situated on steep or elevated sites (e.g. reservoir, telecommunications or wind energy structures) with reference to the appropriate County strategies currently in place, which ensure that any residual adverse visual impacts are minimised or mitigated.

To maintain the visual integrity of areas, which have retained a predominantly undisturbed upland character.

To have particular regard to potential impacts of new development on any sensitive upland areas.

To facilitate appropriate development that reflects the scale, character and sensitivities of the local landscape.

The difficulty of establishing and maintaining screening vegetation shall be a material consideration when evaluating proposals for development within sensitive areas of the uplands.

8.3.3.2 Policies for Lowland Areas

To recognise that the lowlands are made up of a variety of working landscapes that are critical resources for sustaining the economic and social well-being of the County.

To recognise that this policy area contains the majority of the County's population. These also incorporate most of the major national primary and regional roads.

To continue to permit development that can utilise existing infrastructure, whilst taking account of local absorption opportunities provided by the landscape and prevailing vegetation.

To continue to facilitate appropriate development in a manner that respects the scale, character and sensitivities of the landscape, recognising the need for sustainable settlement pattern and economic activity within the County.

To recognise that in this low lying open environment, tall and bulky development sometimes can have a disproportionate impact against the landscape particularly when viewed from the predominantly low lying areas of the public realm. Visually obtrusive and/or insensitive development shall be discouraged in such instances.

8.3.3.3 Policies for River Valleys

To direct new development whenever possible towards the vicinity of existing structures and mature vegetation.

To ensure that development will not detract from scenic vistas, especially from bridges, as identified in the development plan, and visible from relevant scenic routes and settlements.

To continue to permit development that can utilise existing structures, settlement areas and infrastructure, whilst taking account of the visual absorption opportunities provided by existing topography and vegetation.

To control development that will adversely affect distinctive linear sections of river valleys, especially open floodplains, when viewed from relevant scenic routes and settlements.

To facilitate appropriate development that reflects the scale, character and sensitivities of the local landscape.

8.3.3.4 Policies for Transitional Areas

To maintain the visual integrity of areas, which have retained a predominantly undisturbed upland character.

To facilitate appropriate development that reflects the scale, character and sensitivities of the local landscape recognising the need for sustainable patterns and economic activity within the County.

To recognise that the lowlands are made up of a variety of working landscapes that are critical resources for sustaining the economic and social well-being of the County.

To continue to permit development that can utilise existing infrastructure, whilst taking account of local absorption opportunities provided by the landscape and prevailing vegetation

8.4 Built Heritage

Built heritage includes all built features, buildings, archaeological sites, industrial archaeology, and structures such as stone walls and bridges.

POLICY

- **To conserve and enhance the built heritage of County Kilkenny.**

8.4.1 Archaeological Heritage

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. (Please consult the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government's Record of Monuments and Places for the location of Recorded Monuments and Zones of Archaeological Potential in County Kilkenny.)

8.4.1.1 Zones of Archaeological Potential

Kilkenny has a rich archaeological heritage which ranges from megalithic tombs, to early ecclesiastical enclosures, medieval earthworks and buildings, and industrial archaeology. Ballyragget, Callan, Castlecomer, Dungarvan, Freshford, Gowran, Graignamanagh, Inistioge, Kells, Knocktopher, Thomastown are of particular archaeological significance with very important medieval structures surviving intact above ground and the potential of archaeological finds below ground.

These towns have Zones of Archaeological Potential delineated by the National Monuments Section of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG), around their cores to protect their significant archaeological heritage. The location of these zones will be demarcated in the Local Area Plans for each of these towns. For areas with no Local Area Plan the Record of Monuments and Places should be consulted.

8.4.1.2 Industrial Archaeology

Kilkenny has a wealth of industrial archaeological sites, sites of past industrial activity. This includes sites and machinery relating to extractive industries (e.g. mines and quarries), manufacturing (e.g. corn and textile mills), service industries (e.g. main drainage, water supply, gas, electricity), power (windmills, watermills, steam engines) and transport and communications (e.g. roads, bridges, railways, canals, harbours, airfields). Although some of this heritage extends back to prehistoric times, most of what now survives relates to the last 250 years, the period during which Ireland became progressively industrialised.

An Industrial Archaeology Survey of County Kilkenny (1990) was commissioned by Kilkenny County Council and this identified significant sites which were added to the Record of Protected Structures.

The Draft County Heritage Plan has identified an action to undertake a review of mining heritage structures and features, and to use this as a pilot for the review of the Industrial Archaeological Survey.

ACTION

In partnership with the Kilkenny Heritage Forum, to carry out a review of mining heritage, structures and features and to use this as a pilot for the review of the Industrial Archaeological Survey.

8.4.1.3 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.

POLICY

- Protect archaeological sites, monuments (including their setting), underwater archaeology, and objects within the jurisdiction of Kilkenny County Council, 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. 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 with respect to archaeology, (individually or in combination with other proposals, as appropriate) which are likely to impact on a Recorded Monument, a Zone of Archaeological Potential, or their settings.
- To require an appropriate archaeological assessment in respect of any proposed development likely to have an impact on a Recorded Monument, a Zone of Archaeological Potential, or their settings.
- 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.
- 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.
- To ensure that development in the vicinity of a Recorded Monument or Zone of Archaeological Potential does not seriously detract from the setting of the feature, and is sited and designed appropriately.
- To facilitate and where feasible enhance access to, and understanding of, sites of archaeological and historical interest.
- To seek the preservation, maintenance and improvement of all existing right of ways to sites of archaeological and historical interest, where appropriate.
- Facilitate and where feasible enhance public access to and understanding of the National Monuments in State care and Local Authority ownership in the county.
- Require the retention of surviving medieval plots and street patterns in the villages and towns of Kilkenny and to facilitate the recording of evidence of ancient boundaries, layouts etc in the course of development.
- Provide guidance regarding the archaeological implications of a proposed development.

- **Facilitate the dissemination of information on archaeological excavations.**
- **To facilitate the implementation of conservation plans for St. Lachtain's Church, Freshford and other Conservation Plans prepared with the support of the Council over the lifetime of this plan.**
- **To seek the conservation of sites of cultural significance including mass rocks and holy wells.**

8.4.2 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 the Historic Graveyards Grants Scheme.**

8.4.3 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. *An Introduction to the Architectural Heritage of County Kilkenny* was published by the NIAH in 2006, and this offers an illustrated introduction to the architecture of the county.

8.4.3.1 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 Appendix F of this written statement. An up-to-date RPS, incorporating any additions or deletions within the lifetime of the current development plan, will be maintained on the Council's website or can be checked at the Planning counter in County Hall.

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) has been completed by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, for County Kilkenny. Descriptions and appraisals of over 2000 structures can be viewed at the NIAH website.

8.4.3.2 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

Seek the retention, re-use and refurbishment where feasible, 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 rural areas.

8.4.3.3 Architectural Conservation Areas

The Planning and Development Act, 2000 provides for the inclusion of objectives for preserving the character of places, areas, groups of structures or townscapes of special interest. Such areas are designated as Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA's). There

are ACA's within Gowran, Freshford, Inistioge and Ballyragget which were identified during the preparation of Local Area Plans for these villages. There are also 9 ACA's in Kilkenny City and Environs. These are listed in Appendix G.

Most structures in an ACA are important in the context of their contribution to the streetscape or character of an area. ACAs could encompass, for example, a terrace of houses, a whole streetscape, town centre or a small cluster of structures associated with a specific building such as a mill or country house. In ACA's, protection is placed on the external appearance of such areas or structures. Any works that would have a material affect on the character of an ACA would require planning permission.

A detailed survey, character appraisal, and set of policies and objectives have been produced for each ACA. The appraisal identifies works which would and would not affect the character of each ACA. The identification of new ACA's and the modification of existing ACA's may be proposed during the lifetime of the Plan. The re-assessment of existing or the designation of new ACA's will form part of each Local Area Plan.

8.4.3.4 Farm Villages of South Kilkenny

A number of villages in South Kilkenny can be considered distinctive on a national level due to their nucleated and clustered settlement pattern. These are collectively known as the farm villages of South Kilkenny. An essay by Jack Burtchaell entitled "The South Kilkenny Farm Villages" published in 1988 in the collection of historical geography essays entitled *New Ground* (Smyth *et al*, 1988), identifies these villages and provides detail on their origins and significance. A cultural heritage assessment of the farm village of Listrolin was undertaken in 2004. The aim of the study was to establish an understanding of the cultural heritage of the village, assess its significance, analyse the factors affecting its significance, and make recommendations for the future.

Although Burtchaell identified a total of 57 such villages, six have been identified as being worthy of further study, namely: Listrolin, Licketstown, Glengrant, Luffany, Corludy, and Portnahully located in the parish of Mooncoin.

The Council will examine measures to protect the importance of these farm villages, possibly through the designation of Architectural Conservation Areas.

POLICY

- **Ensure the conservation and protection of the architectural heritage of County Kilkenny 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.

Architectural Conservation Area policies:

- To retain and enhance as appropriate the special character of each ACA.
- To retain and enhance the historic street pattern, in particular historic structures and plot divisions within the ACA.

- To ensure the conservation of all buildings which contribute to the special character of the ACA.
- To retain the specific building lines and heights which contribute to the character of each ACA..
- To protect and where necessary enhance the general character of ACAs with regard to building scales, proportions, historical plot sizes, materials, building lines and height as well as general land use.
- To protect historic street furniture and paving within each ACA.

Non-Protected Structures within an ACA

- To ensure that any alterations and extensions carried out 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, roofing materials, chimney stacks, doors and windows.
- To promote the regular maintenance of original features which are important to the character of buildings in each ACA such as entrances, roofing materials, 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 design and materials, as appropriate.
- 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 each ACA where appropriate.

Civic Spaces

- To retain and maintain important historic details within the civic spaces such as historic paving, cobblestones, post boxes, spur stones etc.
- 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.**

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.**
- **To prepare an Architectural Conservation Area Plan for the villages of Licketstown, Glengrant, Luffany, Corludy, and Portnahully (located in the parish of Mooncoin) and Listrolin (Mullinavat parish), and to be proactive in encouraging the restoration and rehabilitation of these unique village settlements.**
- **Consider the designation of Architectural Conservation Areas where appropriate and provide a local policy framework for the protection of these areas.**

8.4.3.5 Townscapes

Formal townscape is about placing the everyday parts of a town in a layout of relationships which we can identify, understand and enjoy. The formal layout of some towns is easily readable. However there are also, in other towns, carefully composed arrangements of buildings and spaces placed in such a way that their roles are much less obvious but equally effective.

The use of Local Area Plans (LAP's), Village Design Statements, or other appropriate mechanisms, will be encouraged to integrate new development within the existing built fabric.

POLICY

To protect, conserve and where necessary restore or enhance, the quality, character and distinctiveness of the townscapes of the county.

8.4.3.6 Street Furniture and Roadside Features

Items of street furniture are an important part of our built and cultural heritage. They are also important elements in establishing the character and interest of an Architectural Conservation Area. Such items could include the following; 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

- **Protect and enhance historic items of street furniture and roadside features, as appropriate.**

8.4.3.7 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 form part of the cultural heritage of the County.

8.4.4 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**

8.4.5 Village Design Statements

A Village Design Statement (VDS) is a document which describes the character of the village and provides broad design guidelines for the future development of the area. Kilkenny County Council, in association with the Heritage Council, BNS Rural Development, and the local communities is undertaking VDSs for Tullaroan, Hugginstown/Newmarket.

POLICY

- **In partnership with relevant stakeholders and local communities, to facilitate and support the preparation and implementation of Village Design Statements for appropriate villages in the county, as the need arises and resources allow.**
- **Have regard to Village Design Statements that have been prepared in consultation with the local community, and with the relevant agencies, as supplementary planning guidance documents.**

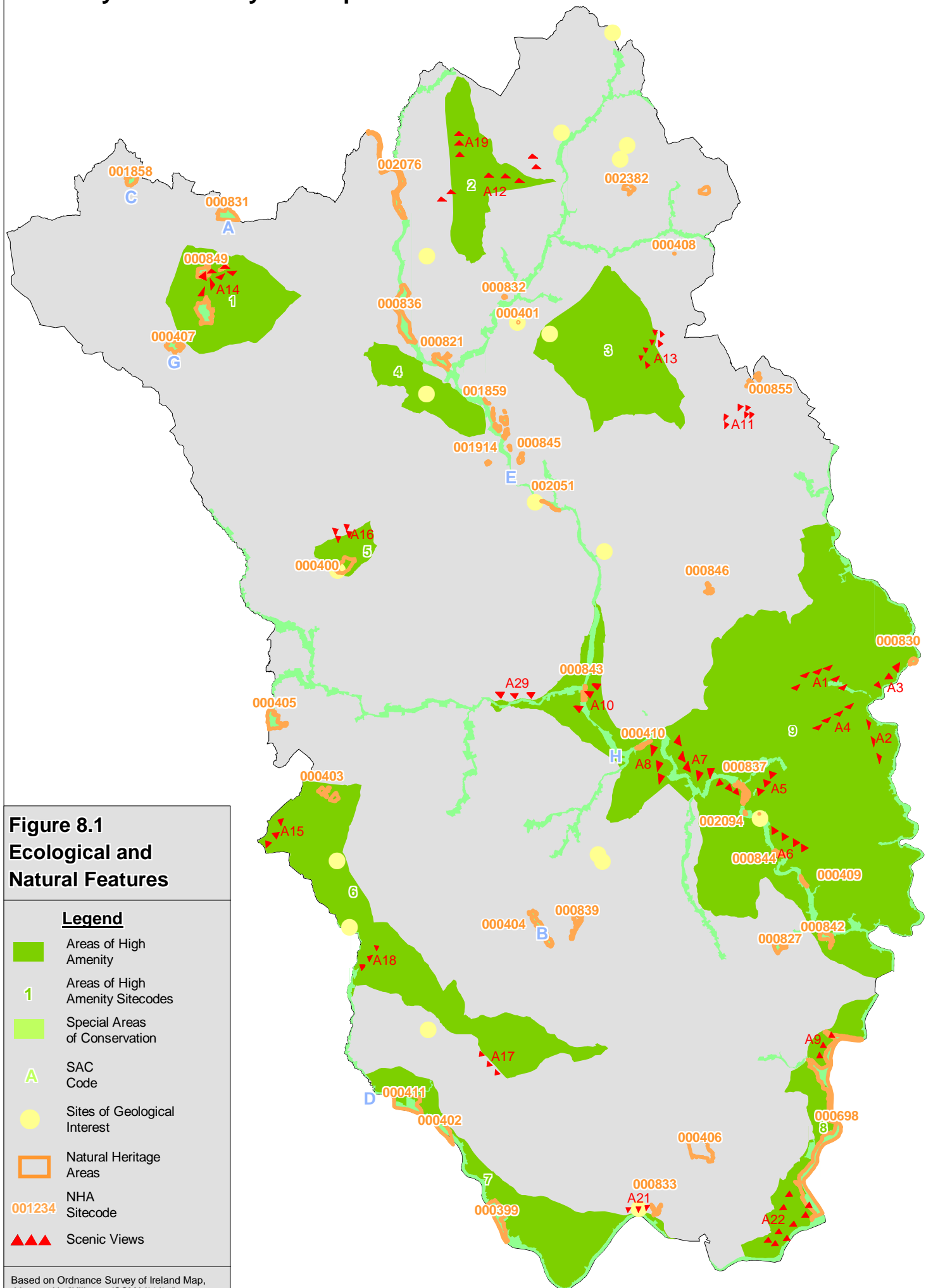
8.4.6 Place names

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.**
- **To provide guidance to developers and others in relation to naming of new developments.**

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**Figure 8.1
Ecological and
Natural Features**

Legend

- Areas of High Amenity
- 1 Areas of High Amenity Sitecodes
- Special Areas of Conservation
- A SAC Code
- Sites of Geological Interest
- Natural Heritage Areas
- NHA Sitecode
- 001234
- Scenic Views

Based on Ordnance Survey of Ireland Map, Licence No "Kilkenny/CCMA/03/07"

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