

Chapter 04 Environment & Heritage

'The long term economic, social and environmental well being of County Monaghan requires its environment and heritage resources to be maintained and managed to the highest standards'



4.0 Introduction

The management and maintenance of the environment is considered critical if Monaghan is to fulfil its vision. Due to rapid growth in the local economy there is increasing pressure on the environment and our natural resources. It is with this in mind that the policies in this section have been created and will guide future development and protect the environment. These policies have been developed in line with both European and National legislation and guidelines. The policies contained within this section are based on the following principles:

- The natural and built environment, particularly those elements that are non renewable, need to be properly protected, managed and where possible enhanced
- The 'polluter pays' principle and the 'precautionary approach' principle are central to any planning policies that deal with the environment and heritage
- The long term economic, social and environmental well-being of County Monaghan requires its environment and heritage resources to be maintained and managed to the highest standard
- The conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, natural heritage, landscape, the built environment and archaeology should be promoted as important elements of the long term economic growth and development of the County

Landscape

4.1 Landscape background

The unique character of the Monaghan landscape is its intimate scale comprising drumlins, interspersed with lakes, trees and woodlands. This landscape of small enclosed fields with foreshortened horizons is different and indeed unique from that of the more open landscape found in many other parts of Ireland. It is a landscape that has evolved over time, its landform being moulded by glaciation and the landcover pattern being shaped largely by agricultural practices.

Today the demands being placed on our environment to satisfy the needs of farming, forestry, industry, housing, transport, leisure and urban growth are ever-changing and increasing. The spread of urban-generated housing⁷ with inappropriate siting, design and landscaping in rural areas represent a significant threat to the quality of our landscape.

In recognition of the increasing appreciation of the value of landscape, the European Landscape Convention has been ratified by Ireland. The rationale behind the Convention recognises that "the landscape is a key element of individual and social well-being and that its protection, management and planning, entail rights and responsibilities for everyone"⁸. The purpose of the convention is to encourage public authorities to adopt policies and measures at all levels for protecting, managing and planning landscapes so as to maintain and improve landscape quality and enable recognition of the value and importance of landscape.

The Convention requires that each party "integrate landscape into its regional and town planning policies and in its cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as in any other policies with possible direct or indirect impact on landscape". It is important to note that the European Landscape Convention applies to ordinary landscapes no less than to outstanding ones.

Whilst there is significant potential to accommodate sensitively designed development which respects the existing landform, one of the principal roles of the Planning Authority is to protect the most sensitive landscapes from intrusive and unsympathetic development which would irreversibly damage County Monaghan's environment and heritage. In order to conserve and preserve the county's landscape the Planning Authority shall co-operate with the appropriate bodies and individuals.



Monaghan's Drumlin Landscape

⁷ Housing in rural locations sought by people living and working in urban areas, including second homes

⁸ Council of Europe, 2000

4.1.1 Landscape Character Assessment

The Draft Guidelines for Planning Authorities for Landscape and Landscape Assessment, DOEHLG, June 2000, prescribe a particular approach to the assessment and protection of rural landscapes. These guidelines together with best available practice in other countries set out a methodology for identification and classification of landscape types.

This baseline analysis of landscape is the foundation knowledge used to inform judgements about capacity or sensitivity of any given landscape type to change. The guidelines recognise the requirement to assess and characterise all landscapes within the county. In this regard, studies of this kind that focus exclusively on the county's most scenic landscapes are no longer recommended as best practice.

It is intended that the county's landscape be identified and characterised. This process is to be undertaken using methodologies cited in the guidelines referenced above

together with other available best practice including that prepared by the Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage entitled 'Landscape Character Assessment, guidance for England and Scotland'. Each landscape character area identified in the assessment will be evaluated for its sensitivity. Particular landscapes assessed as being highly sensitive will be identified for each character area.

The Planning Authority has employed the services of Environmental Resources Management (ERM) Consultants to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) for County Monaghan. The LCA is currently in draft form and is expected to be adopted in early 2008.

In the interim, pending the publication of the Landscape Character Assessment, the Council proposes to apply controls on outstanding landscape quality areas, within the county, which require protection from insensitive or inappropriate development and to ensure as far as possible that all landscapes are respected and valued.

Landscape Policies	
ENV 1.	Prepare a County Landscape Character Assessment in accordance with the requirements of Landscape and Landscape Assessment Consultation Draft Guidelines for Planning Authorities, DOEHLG, June 2000.
ENV 2.	Protect the landscapes and natural environments of the county by ensuring that any new developments in designated sensitive rural landscapes do not detrimentally impact on the character, integrity, distinctiveness or scenic value of the area.
ENV 3.	Sustain, conserve, manage and enhance the landscape diversity, character and quality of the County for the benefits of current and future generations.
ENV 4.	Zone important landscape features and elevated lands within settlements as Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs) ⁹ , to ensure that developments do not detrimentally impact on the amenity of the landscape nor on the natural setting of settlements.

⁹ Local Landscape Policy Areas are those areas considered to be of greatest amenity value or of local significance and therefore worthy of protection from undesirable or damaging development

Geology

4.2 Geology of Monaghan

The landscape, soils and watercourses of Monaghan owe their unique expression to the underlying geology. The dominant topographical feature of Monaghan is its drumlins and lakes, the creation of which is linked to the last ice age. The high ground drumlins formed during the glaciation as ice moulded deposits of till¹⁰ to create the classic 'basket of eggs' topography. In the low ground, the till is rich in clay and was deposited under heavy ice pressures. This has made the till very dense and consequently water cannot easily penetrate through, making the land very wet and difficult to drain.¹¹

Underneath these glacial deposits lies bedrock. The bedrock of the County, is composed mainly of limestone and shale except for the area of sandstones under Sliabh Beagh.

Blanket bog deposition started 4,000 years ago as the climate warmed and where poor drainage caused the build up of oxygen starved biomass. There are extensive areas of blanket bog in north County Monaghan.

Geology is recognised as an intrinsic component of natural heritage and included in legislation relating to planning¹², heritage¹³ and conservation designations¹⁴. The Heritage Act and the Planning Regulations in particular, place responsibility upon Local Authorities to ensure that geological heritage is taken into consideration within Heritage Plans, as well as integrated into revised County Development Plans.

The Geological Survey of Ireland is developing a national list of County Geological Sites (CGS), and a list of sites to be designated as geological Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs). The GSI considers that CGS are the best way of addressing the responsibility of the local authority under the Planning and Development Act 2000 to protect sites of geological interest.

Policies for Geological Heritage

ENV 5.	To protect from inappropriate development geological heritage sites within the county
ENV 6.	To protect geological NHAs as they become designated and notified to Monaghan County Council, during the lifetime of this plan.
ENV 7.	Notify the Geological Survey of Ireland in advance of any significant ground excavations.



¹⁰ Till – unconsolidated, unsorted glacial deposits

¹¹ Geological Survey of Ireland (1997). Geology of Monaghan – Carlingford. Department of Transport, Energy and Communications

¹² Planning and Development Act, 2000, Planning and Development Regulations, 2001

¹³ Heritage Act, 1995

¹⁴ Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000

Amenity

4.3 Areas of Primary/Secondary/Visual Amenity Value

The highest levels of protection must be afforded to the most important areas of the county's landscape resources. The Planning and Development Act 2000 provides for the designation of Areas of Special Amenity for reasons of outstanding natural beauty or special recreational value. The Planning Authority proposes designating Areas of Primary Amenity Value because of their outstanding landscape quality. It also proposes designating Areas of Secondary Amenity Value because of their landscape quality and potential for recreation. These areas are important not only for their intrinsic value as places of natural beauty but because they provide a real asset for residents and visitors alike in terms of recreation, contemplation and tourism. All scenic views, primary and secondary amenity areas can be viewed on map 4.5.

Planning authorities are also empowered by the Planning and Development Act 2000 to designate landscape conservation areas. Development can be prescribed as non-exempted for these areas by the planning authority. While currently there are no such areas designated in County Monaghan it is proposed to review this on an ongoing basis during the life of this plan.

For the purpose of this Plan, County Monaghan contains Areas of Primary and Secondary Amenity Value as well as Visual Amenity..

4.3.1 Areas of Primary Amenity Value

County Monaghan has two principal areas of outstanding landscape quality which require protection from insensitive and inappropriate development. They are designated as Areas of Primary Amenity Value.

1. Lough Muckno and its Environs
2. Sliabh Beagh and Bragan Mountain Areas

Development will only be permitted in these areas in exceptional circumstances where the integrity of the landscape is not threatened. Any intrusive development, where such development would normally be exempt, is removed from the category of exempted development.

Whilst there is limited potential to accommodate sensitively designed development in these areas, any proposal which would threaten the existing landform, flora, fauna, scenic or environmental characteristics that distinguish these areas will be resisted. An Environmental Impact Assessment must accompany all planning applications, where the Planning Authority considers that new development may have a detrimental environmental impact on the area.

Tree planting and felling will be strictly controlled to ensure minimal disturbance of the landscape and environment.



Lough Muckno

Policies for Areas of Primary Amenity Value

ENV 8.

Limit development in Areas of Primary Amenity Value to those where the applicant has proven to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority that the proposed development would not threaten the integrity of these areas.

ENV 9.

Development within primary amenity areas that would normally be considered 'exempt development' will be removed from that category of exempted development.

4.3.2 Areas of Secondary Amenity Value

In addition to the areas designated above, County Monaghan has a number of other sensitive landforms and amenity areas that require protection from inappropriate development. These areas are designated as Areas of Secondary Amenity Value, by reason of their landscape quality and recreational potential. These areas have

significant potential to develop as centres for sustainable community recreational or tourism centres. Whilst these areas are to be kept free from intrusive development, sensitively designed proposals on unobtrusive sites and compatible amenity may be accommodated. The areas identified in Appendix 1 are designated as Secondary Amenity Areas.

Policies for Areas of Secondary Amenity Value

ENV 10.	Limit development within Areas of Secondary Amenity Value to compatible amenity developments on unobtrusive sites.
ENV 11.	Maintain and improve public access to amenity areas while protecting the flora, fauna, heritage and character of the amenity area.
ENV 12.	Promote and encourage community initiatives in the provision of amenity facilities to improve access to amenity areas, where appropriate
ENV 13.	Tree planting and felling will be strictly controlled to ensure minimal disturbance of landscape and the environment

4.3.3 Areas of Visual Amenity

The Planning and Development Act 2000 recognises the importance of landscape and visual amenity. The Planning and Development Act 2000 requires the inclusion of a development plan objective for:

"The preservation of the character of the landscape where, and to the extent that, in the opinion of the Planning Authority, the proper planning and sustainable development of the area requires it, including the preservation of views and prospects and the amenities of places and features of natural beauty or interest".

Policies for Areas of Visual Amenity

ENV 14.	Protect the views from scenic routes listed in Appendix 2, Scenic Routes. Development will be strictly controlled along these routes and no development will be permitted that will be detrimentally impact on the visual character or amenity of these views. Particular emphasis will be placed on the preservation of views of lakes, rivers, unspoilt landscape or views of historical, heritage and/or cultural interest.
ENV 15.	Conserve the scenic and ecological quality of lakes by maintaining their environs free from intrusive development.
ENV 16.	Protect the areas between the public road and lakeshores by restricting development to essential buildings on unobtrusive sites. Such prohibition will also apply to high open landscape overlooking lakes and waterways.

Trees and Hedgerows

4.4 Trees and Hedgerows

Trees and hedgerows contribute significantly to biodiversity and landscape character in County Monaghan. They can add to a development's setting and in helping the

development to blend in with its surroundings. Hedgerows have significant ecological importance as wildlife habitats and historical importance as townland and field boundaries as well as providing visual screening. The identification of trees to be protected by Tree Preservation Orders will be based on the criteria set out in Tree Preservation, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG 1994)



Policies for the Protection of Trees and Hedgerows

ENV 17.	Protect trees and hedgerows from development that would impact adversely upon them.
ENV 18.	Preserve trees and/or groups of trees that form significant features in the landscape or have particular importance in setting the landscape character of an area or which contribute to the biodiversity of the area (Appendix 3, Trees of Special Amenity Value).
ENV 19.	Ensure that existing mature trees, woodlands and hedgerows are, as far as is practicable, preserved and incorporated into any new developments or where removal is unavoidable are replaced by new native planting.
ENV 20.	Seek to increase existing coverage, in conjunction with new development and encourage the establishment of native species.
ENV 21.	Where trees and/or hedgerows along a public road are set back/removed in order to provide sightlines for a new access, a new hedge containing natural species will be planted behind sight lines.



Dromore River

Natural Heritage

4.5 Natural Heritage

County Monaghan has a rich natural heritage, particularly in relation to its wide range of natural and semi-natural habitats including wetland, woodland, lake, river and upland habitats that support a wide range of plant and animal species. These areas are in the main extremely sensitive and are susceptible to any change that affects the ecological balance.

As well as its intrinsic value, Monaghan's natural heritage or biodiversity¹⁵ provides services to the people of Monaghan, by providing water filtration (through wetlands), buffering of floods (floodplains along rivers, and wetlands acting as sponges and stores), soil fertility, and resources for angling and tourism.

The government produced a National Biodiversity Plan in 2002, as part of their commitment under the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD). One of the principles in the National Biodiversity Plan states "All sectors and actors are responsible for advancing the conservation of biological diversity in their respective areas".

Policies for Biodiversity

ENV 22.	To protect, enhance and promote for current and future generations the rich biodiversity of County Monaghan..
ENV 23.	Protect and enhance, plant and animal species and their habitats, which have been identified under the EU Habitats Directive, EU Birds Directive, the Wildlife Act and the Flora Protection Order.
ENV 24.	Promote the management and development of wildlife features such as hedgerows, riparian corridors and wetlands that are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.

¹⁵ Biodiversity is the variability among living organisms from all sources, including ecosystems, species and genetic diversity (Convention of Biological Diversity)

Habitat Designation and Protection

4.6 Conservation Designations

The most important and valuable habitats are afforded protection under European and National legislation by way of designation as candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs),

The designation of these sites at national level is the responsibility of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG). The Planning Authority also has a clear responsibility to secure their protection for the future. The process of site designation is ongoing, with new sites being added and/or upgraded, in terms of their conservation status, and the boundaries of existing sites being adjusted, as better information becomes available.

4.6.1 Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC)

Sites which are of European conservation importance have been designated as candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs) under the European Habitats Directive.¹⁶ These have been chosen because they support habitat and plant and animal species that are rare or threatened and because of their uniqueness, representivity and size. The highest level of protection is given to these sites under national legislation¹⁷ and policy.¹⁸

Legislation requires that appropriate steps are taken to avoid the deterioration of natural habitats and species as well as the disturbance of species for which the areas have been designated. It is also a requirement that an Environmental Impact Assessment is undertaken for any plan or project proposed within or adjacent to SACs which may have a significant effect on the site. All development in these areas, including development which is considered exempted development, requires planning permission.

4.6.2 Special Protection Areas (SPA)

SPAs are sites of European importance for the protection of bird populations. They are designated under the 1979 European Birds Directive and the same protections afforded to SACs apply to SPAs.



Bragan Mountain, Proposed SPA

¹⁶ Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and wild flora and fauna

¹⁷ European Communities (Natural Habitat) Regulations, 1997. (S.I. No 94 of 1997)

¹⁸ Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (2002). National Biodiversity Plan

4.6.3 Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs)

In 1996, the Department of Arts, Culture and Heritage designated forty one sites in County Monaghan for inclusion in the Register of Natural Heritage Sites. In order to protect these areas, the DoEHLG has designated the areas contained in Appendix 4 as Proposed Natural Heritage Areas with the object of conserving natural and semi-natural habitats and

species of flora and fauna. It is important that the conservation of these assets is maintained.

Development will only be permitted in these areas where the integrity of these sensitive areas is not threatened. All development in these areas, including development that is considered exempted development, requires planning permission. A full list of cSACs, SPAs and proposed NHAs are contained in appendix 4 and can be viewed on map 4.5.

Policies for the Protection of Designated Sites

ENV 25.

Protect the cSACs, SPA and pNHAs, listed in Appendix 4 by resisting development which would detrimentally impact on the conservation status of those sites. Development in these areas will only be permitted where it has been clearly demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority that any such development will have no significant adverse effects..

ENV 26.

Promote development in these areas for recreational or educational purposes where it would not conflict with the preservation and protection of these sites.

Architectural And Built Heritage

4.7 Architectural Heritage

Architectural Heritage¹⁹ includes all structures, buildings and groups of buildings including streetscapes and urban vistas which are of special architectural, historical, Archeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest together with their setting, attendant grounds, fixtures, fittings and contents.

In recent years it is acknowledged that there has been a general shift both at European, national and local level towards a more active approach towards ensuring the future of historic buildings. The Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Architectural Heritage states *“that for the purpose of precise identification of the monuments, groups of structures and sites to be protected, each member state will undertake to maintain inventories of that architectural heritage.”*

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage was established in 1990 and brought under the remit of the DoEHLG in 1999.



Boardroom, Clones

¹⁹ Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Architectural Heritage (Granada Convention) Article 1 defines architectural heritage under three categories: monuments, groups of buildings and sites. Three structures or areas are of conspicuous historical, Archeological, artistic, scientific, social or technical interest

The following objectives will apply to the conservation and protection of all heritage features in County Monaghan.

- to secure the preservation (in situ or by record) of all sites and features of historical interest
- to secure the preservation (in situ or by record) of town walls, embankments, town gates, bastions or ancillary fortifications or portions thereof
- to preserve the integrity of existing archaeological monuments in their settings, including the integrity of town defences
- to ensure that development in the vicinity of a site of archaeological interest shall not be detrimental to the character of the archaeological site or its setting by reason of its location, scale, bulk, detailing or visual impact.
- When considering development in the vicinity of archaeological monuments, the planning authority will aim to achieve a satisfactory buffer area between the development and the monument in order to ensure the preservation and enhancement of the amenity associated with the monument. This should be achieved in consultation with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Buffer areas should not be included within the required open space area of any development but should be in addition to such requirements.
- to retain the existing street layout, historic building lines and traditional plot width within towns and villages, where these derive from medieval or earlier origins.
- In securing such preservation the Planning Authority will have regard to the advice and recommendations of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, both in the respect of whether or not to grant planning permission and in respect of the conditions to which permission, if granted, should be subject.
- When considering development in the vicinity of all monuments, including town defences, the Planning Authority will require the preparation and submission of an archaeological assessment, detailing the potential impact of any development on both upstanding and buried structures and deposits. The report shall also include a visual assessment to ensure adequate consideration of any potential visual impact.
- to designate and prepare ACAs in accordance with the requirements of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Governments, Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities.
- Planning permission for the demolition of any protected structure shall not be granted except in exceptional circumstances, as required by Section 57(10)(b) of the Planning and Development Act 2000.
- to promote the reuse and development of structures of architectural heritage merit.

4.7.1 Record of Protected Structures (RPS)²⁰

The principle mechanism for the statutory protection of the architectural heritage is through inclusion of buildings on the Record of Protected Structures (Appendix 5). This provides positive recognition of structures of importance, gives a very high level of protection and gives potential access to the Conservation Grants Scheme on foot of the provisions of Part ivy of the Planning and Development Act 2000. The RPS may be amended by the addition or deletion of entries independently of the development plan review process. The identification of buildings and structures for inclusion on the Record will be based on the criteria set out in the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities

For a protected structure or a proposed protected structure, normal planning exemptions do not apply. An owner or occupier of a protected structure may make a written request to the Planning Authority to issue a Declaration as to the types of works, which it considers would or would not materially affect the character of the structure or any element of the structure that contributes to its special interest.

There are currently 647 Protected Structures (including 6 additions) on the five Registers of Protected Structures in County Monaghan including the four Town Council areas of Monaghan, Carrickmacross, Castleblayney and Clones (table 4.1). The continued conservation of these buildings and their settings is of considerable importance in retaining the quality of the built environment.

A full list of protected structures and monuments in the county are laid out in appendices 5, 6, MN 1, CK1, CY1 and C1 of this plan



Top: Cahans Presbyterian Church

Bottom: Greystone's Equestrian Centre

Table 4.1. Record of Protected Structures - Monaghan Planning Authorities

Area	Private Owned	Public Owned	Total
Monaghan Rural	291*	34	325*
Carrickmacross	74	1	75
Monaghan	132	19	151
Castleblayney	42	9	51
Clones	43	2	45
Total	582*	65	647*

* Includes 6 additions to the RPS

²⁰ A Protected Structure is considered to be of special architectural, historical, Archeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or cultural interest that is worthy of statutory protection under Part IV of the Planning and Development Act, 2000

Policies for the Protection of Structures

ENV 27.	Protect and / or conserve, as appropriate, all structures included in the Register of Protected Structures set out in Appendix 5
ENV 28.	Resist development which is likely to adversely affect the setting of a structure included in the RPS, where the setting is considered of importance.
ENV 29.	Prevent loss of architectural heritage, by requiring an owner of a protected structure to carry out works if Monaghan County Council considers that the structure is, or may become, endangered. ²¹
ENV 30.	Promote and improve the understanding of the architectural heritage of County Monaghan by encouraging public access to the RPS, and providing signage / information for the most significant structures and Architectural Conservation Areas.

4.7.2 Protection of the Built Fabric of Great Northern Railway

In order to protect the built fabric of the former Great Northern Railway, the following objectives will be implemented:

- Monaghan County Council aims to conserve the built fabric of the GNR bridges and other structures throughout the county and planning permission will be required for their removal or alteration.
- Monaghan County Council will proactively conserve the built fabric of the GNR by using appropriate techniques and materials when repair works are being undertaken during the life of this plan.



Glaslough Village, Proposed ACA

4.7.3 Architectural Conservation Area (ACA)

An Architectural Conservation Area is a place, area, group of structures or townscape, which is of special architectural, historical, Archeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or contributes to the appreciation of a protected structure. An Architectural Conservation Area may or may not include Protected Structures.

The main consequence of an ACA designation is the control of inappropriate development for the purpose of preserving and enhancing the character of the area concerned.

Planning Permission must be obtained before significant works can be carried out to the exterior of a structure in an ACA, which might alter the character of the structure, or the ACA.

There are a number of ACAs in the towns of Monaghan, Carrickmacross and Clones, and these can be viewed in appendices MN 2, CK 2 and C2 respectively. It is also proposed to designate additional ACAs in the towns of Castleblayney and Ballybay and the villages of Glaslough, Inniskeen and Rockcorry during the life of this plan.

²¹ Power given to Local Authorities under the Planning and Development Act, 2000

Policies for the Protection of ACAs

ENV 31.

Protect the built heritage fabric of the county within the main urban areas and the larger rural centres through designation of appropriate Architectural Conservation Areas. It is proposed to designate ACAs in the villages of Glaslough, Inniskeen, Rockcorry and Mullan during the life of this Plan

ENV 32.

Preserve and where possible enhance the character and appearance of Architectural Conservation Areas.

ENV 33.

Establish, where appropriate, Special Planning Controls for ACAs if it is considered that all or part of an ACA is of significant importance to the character of the town in which it is situated.

Archaeology

4.8 Archaeological Heritage

Archaeology can be considered as the material remains left by past societies and the evidence of their environment. This resource consists of material remains in the form of sites and monuments, artefacts and environmental evidence. Archaeological remains are fragile and vulnerable to destruction. They are a finite resource and once lost, cannot be replaced. Great weight should consequently be attached to the protection, preservation and where appropriate, the enhancement of sites of archaeological interest and their settings

Monaghan County's rich archaeological heritage includes a collection of ring forts, cairns, crannogs, burial grounds, headstones, as well as industrial archaeology including mills, the dismantled Great Northern Railway and the Ulster Canal.

4.8.1 Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)

The RMP is a statutory inventory of known archaeological sites and areas with accompanying maps, on which sites and monuments are marked and numbered. The RMP also includes Areas of Archaeological Potential (AAPs), also known as Zones of Archaeological Potential (ZAPs), which indicate

areas of extensive archaeological remains over a given area. The RMP and AAPs are identified by the DoEHLG. Monaghan County is richly endowed with sites and monuments of archaeological importance with the strongest concentration in the south and west of the county. These sites are an important non-renewable component of Monaghan's heritage, culture and landscape and range from substantial monuments to fragile traces of human activity and settlement.

Sites occur in two forms:

1. Visible structures such as earthworks, stone monuments etc. and
2. Subterranean features such as house foundations, burials and buried earthen or stone features.

Statutory protection is conferred on archaeological sites and is included in the RMP for County Monaghan Appendix 6. This Record includes sites that have previously been identified but many more remain to be recorded and may only be discovered by chance. Although only a percentage of the archaeological heritage will ever be discovered, the ultimate aim is to maximise the information that is available and to protect and conserve the heritage for future generations. This heritage is not only a valuable resource for the local population but can also form a valuable sustainable tourism resource.

In the past the main threat to archaeological sites was from land clearance and agricultural activity but in recent years large scale developments such as quarrying, road construction, industrial development and afforestation have posed a new threat to rural archaeology. It is therefore vitally important that the archaeological heritage be protected, particularly at a time of increasing development resulting from economic success.

Policies for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage

ENV 34.	Safeguard the value of archaeological sites listed in the RMP, Appendix 6 by strictly controlling any development that may prove injurious to the historical, Archeological, scientific and/or educational value of any monument or place.
ENV 35.	Protect the monuments and places listed in Appendix 6 to ensure that the importance of the setting of the monument or site, and its interrelationship with other archaeological sites is not materially injured, and that no development will impinge directly on any monument or site or on any associated archaeological material.
ENV 36.	Co-operate with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and all other relevant bodies in providing maximum protection to any monument or place of archaeological importance not listed in Appendix 6 and discovered within the lifetime of this plan.
ENV 37.	Encourage archaeological investigations at pre-approval stage where development is proposed on areas of archaeological potential.
ENV 38.	Consider archaeological value when considering proposals for public service schemes, electricity, sewage, telecommunications, water supply and proposed road schemes where these impinge on or are in close proximity to Recorded Monuments and Places and/or Areas of Urban Archaeology.



Water Quality

4.9 Water Resources and Quality

The increase in population, development pressures and intensification of agriculture over recent decades has led to increased risk of environmental pollution, particularly of our natural water systems. We depend on our water resources for drinking water, as a raw material for agriculture and industry and as an important element for amenity and recreation. The quality of water is also important for fisheries, tourism, wildlife conservation and habitat protection.

Apart from its practical uses, water is an integral part of our natural and cultural heritage. There is a wealth of aquatic habitats such as bogs, wetlands, lakes, rivers and streams in County Monaghan. An often-undervalued aspect of our water resources are wetlands which provide buffering against flood waters and natural purification by entrapment of sediments and nutrients. The quality of water (both surface and groundwater) can be easily damaged and is difficult to restore. As the demand on water increases, so too does the need to protect the quality and quantity of our water resources for public health, economic development and ecological protection.

4.9.1 Surface Water Quality (Rivers and Lakes)

Rivers and lakes in County Monaghan contain salmonid, pike and coarse fish species. The quality of many rivers and lakes are under pressure due to human activities. Factors such as the drumlin topography, soil types, hydrology, and low river assimilative capacity, increase the risk of river and lake water pollution in areas of the county. Eutrophication of waters (i.e. excess enrichment by phosphorus) is a widespread problem in the county. Under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act, 1977 (Water Quality Standards for Phosphorus) Regulations 1998, a number of measures are currently being implemented by Monaghan County Council to address water quality problems in the county.

All sensitive surface waters in County Monaghan can be viewed on map 4.2.

4.9.2 Groundwater Quality

An unseen element of water is groundwater, moving beneath us, feeding surface waters and wells. Currently about 30% of the county's public water supply comes from groundwater with new supply sources located at Monaghan, Carrickmacross and Clones towns. Groundwater

quality in County Monaghan is generally good, but there are some local contamination problems. Recent years have seen increasing public concern about the risk of contamination from, for example, intensive agriculture, industries, septic tank systems and landfills. All ground water quality information should be read in conjunction with maps 4.2 (oversize map), 4.3 and 4.4

4.9.3 Groundwater Protection Scheme for County Monaghan

It is national and EU policy that contamination should be prevented at source. To assist in this the Geological Survey of Ireland in collaboration with the council has drawn up the Groundwater Protection Scheme for County Monaghan (www.gsi.ie). The Groundwater Protection Scheme includes a methodology for the assessment of activities impacting on groundwater resources. The Planning Authority endorses the employment of this methodology.

4.9.4 River Basin Management - Water Framework Directive (WFD)

The EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) sets out a comprehensive approach to water quality management based on River Basin Management. The directive places an onus on local authorities to achieve "good status" for all natural waters by 2015. County Monaghan is situated within two International River Basin Districts (RBD), namely the Northwest and Neagh Bann River Basin Districts. Consultants have been appointed to prepare River Characterisation Reports and to assist in the development of River Basin District Management Plans.

Under the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 Monaghan County Council is designated as the "co-ordinating local authority" for the Neagh Bann RBD. The roll out of the Water Framework Directive will focus increased attention on water related issues.

4.9.5 The Phosphorus Regulations

In 1999, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required each local authority to prepare a Measures Report outlining proposals for the implementation of the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act, 1977 and Water Quality (Standards for Phosphorous) Regulations, 1998, which specify water quality standards to be achieved by 2007. Under the Phosphorous Regulations, it is the policy of Monaghan County Council to adopt a catchment management approach to the protection of all waters in the county.

4.9.6 Water Bodies Requiring Protection

The WFD and the Phosphorus Regulations requires the Council to take measures to protect and improve water quality in all water bodies in the county. However some sensitive water bodies will require additional protection measures. Surface waters particularly sensitive to contamination have been identified on Map 4.1 and in conjunction with table 4.2. These waters include:

1. Public and private surface water supply sources
2. Large lakes in excess of 50 Ha. including Lough Muckno, Drumlona Lough, Inner Lough, White Lough, Lough Avaghon and Lough Egish.
3. Hollywood Lake (recreational and bathing area)

Special protection measures including the establishment of safeguard zones, restrictions on development and activities within the catchments of sensitive waters will be needed to protect and improve these waters. It is the intention to Council to develop a Source Water Protection Plan.

Maps 4.3 and 4.4 identify major groundwater abstraction points and the major aquifers in Co Monaghan. Development restrictions will apply to potentially polluting land use activities in the sensitive zones identified in these maps, and to activities that may impact on the county's important aquifers.

4.9.7 Potentially Polluting Activities

A list of development types likely to impact on water quality are included in Appendix 7. Developers and their agents should ensure adequate site assessment and design to minimise environmental impacts of proposed developments. They should also ensure sufficient information is submitted at planning application stage to identify the production, handling, storage, containment, treatment and disposal of raw materials, by-products, waste materials and emissions in a manner to prevent water pollution.

Monaghan Co Council will utilise Groundwater Protection Scheme and Soils and Subsoil Class maps to identify areas where land use activities may require restriction to prevent damage to surface or groundwater.



top: Rahans Lough

bottom: Lough Major

4.9.8 Diffuse Sources of Pollution

Diffuse sources of pollution such as sediment and nutrient runoff from agricultural land, contaminated runoff from hard surface areas and siltation from construction activities are difficult to control.

Monaghan County Council will encourage the use of "Best Practice" in the relevant sectors and encourage developers to take the necessary measures to minimise adverse environmental impacts at all stages of development. Monaghan County Council will require the use of S.U.D.S (Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems) for all large-scale housing, infrastructure, industrial and commercial developments.

Policies for Protection of Water










ENV 39.	Protect and improve County Monaghan's water resources. In assessing applications for developments Monaghan County Council will consider the impact on the quality of surface waters and will have regard to the Councils Measures and Implementation Reports under the Water Quality (Standards for Phosphorous) Regulations, 1998.
ENV 40.	Cooperate with other local authorities in designated river basin districts to develop a comprehensive and integrated approach to water management.
ENV 41.	Protect known and potential groundwater reserves in the county. In assessing applications for developments Monaghan County Council will consider the impact on the quality of water reserves and will have regard to the recommended approach in the Groundwater Protection Scheme for County Monaghan. The employment of the methodology identified in the Groundwater Protection Scheme for County Monaghan (www.gsi.ie) will be required where appropriate.
ENV 42.	Require best practice in the design, construction and operation of expanding and new developments to ensure minimum effects on the aquatic environment.
ENV 43.	Provide information on environmental issues, promote sustainable development and encourage a high standard of environmental protection. The precautionary principle will be applied where a significant risk to the environment exists.
ENV 44.	Ensure Certification of Wastewater Treatment Systems and Soil Percolation Installation Works.
ENV 45.	Ensure that all new septic tank systems and treatment systems comply with the relevant EPA wastewater manuals.
ENV 46	No development shall be permitted within 200 metres of any lake that is the source of a water supply, where that development has the potential to pollute the lake.



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Sensitive Surface Waters
 Map 4.1

-  Lake Catchment Areas
-  Water Framework Directive /Amenity Lakes
-  River Water Supply Source
-  Public/Private Surface Water Supplies
-  Industrial Water Abstraction Points
-  National Primary Route
-  National Secondary Route
-  Regional Roads
-  Town Villages

All development proposals must not be indicated on this map. It is the developer's responsibility to ensure that all development proposals are included/considered on the basis set out in development

Table 4.2 - Sensitive Surface Waters - Refer to map 4.1

Map ID No.	Name	Scheme/User
1	Lough More	Truagh GWS
2	Emy Lough	Glaslough/Tyholland GWS
3	Grove Lough	Emyvale PWS
4	Glaslough	Glaslough PWS
5	Lough Antraicer	Tydavnet GWS
6	Hollywood Lake	Bathing Area
7	Kilcorran Lough	Aughnashelvy
8	Corconolly Lough	Clones PWS
9	Carnroe Reservoir	Clones PWS
10	Skerrick Reservoir	Clones PWS
11	Feagh Lough	Newbliss PWS
12	Annamakerrig Lough	Drumgole GWS
13	Greagh Lough	Monaghan PWS
14	Corcaghan Lough	Monaghan PWS
15	Inner Lough	WFD lake
16	Drumlona Lough	WFD lake
17	White Lough	Stranooden GWS
18	Crinkill Lough	Doohamlet GWS
19	Milltown L / Muckno Mill L	Churchill/Oram GWS
20	Lough Muckno	WFD lake
21	Ross Lough	Newry PWS
22	Lough Egish	WFD lake
23	Avaghon Lough	WFD lake
24	Baraghy Lough	Baraghy GWS
25	Lough Bawn System	LERWS PWS
26	Lough Namachree	Corduff GWS
27	Lough Nagarnam	Donaghmoyne GWS
28	Greaghlon L	Magheracloone GWS
29	Spring L	Carrickmacross PWS
30	Monalty L	Killaney GWS
31	Lough Naglack	Carrickmacross (WFD lake)
32	Fane River	Inniskeen WSS

Industrial Water Supply Abstraction Points

Map ID Number	Name
33	Abbott Ireland River Abstraction
34	Lakeland Dairies Lake Abstraction

Table 4.3 - Sensitive Groundwaters - Refer to Maps 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4.

Map ID Number	Borehole Name	Scheme/User
1	Bragan	Bragan Water
2	Well at Packie McCaffrey's	Tydavnet GWS
3	Well at Eamon McKenna's	Tydavnet GWS
4	Forge	Tydavnet GWS
5	Well at Jimmy McElwaine's	Tydavnet GWS
6	Well at Eddie McKenna's	Tydavnet GWS
7	Well at Vinny McCaffery's	Tydavnet GWS
8	Well at Freddy Carban's	Tydavnet GWS
9	Well at Pat Woods	Tydavnet GWS
10	Cappog Bridge	Monaghan PWS
11	Drumbenagh	Monaghan PWS
12	Crosses	Monaghan PWS
13	Lambes Lake/Telaydan	Monaghan PWS
14	Mullaghmore East	Monaghan PWS
15	Coolkill East	Monaghan PWS
16	St. Macartens	Monaghan PWS
17	Silverstream	Monaghan PWS
18	Corhollan	Grove Turkeys
19	Templetate	Smithboro PWS
20	Largy	Feldhues
21	Teehill	A.I.B.P.
22	Coolnacarte	Clones/Scotshouse PWS
23	Cavanreagh	Clones/Scotshouse PWS
24	Killyvaghon	Eugene Hillis
25	Tullybuck	Clontibret PWS
26	Corcreeghagh	Celtic Pure Water
27	Monaney	Carrickmacross PWS
28	Nafferty	Carrickmacross PWS
29	Nafferty	Rye Valley Foods
30	Spring Lake	Carrickmacross PWS
31	Roosky	Monaghan PWS
32	Donaghmoynce	Carrickmacross PWS

Landfills

Map ID No.	Location	Operator
A	Killycronaghan	Monaghan Co.Council (Closed)
B	Derryarrilly	Monaghan Co.Council (Closed)
C	Letterbane	Monaghan Co.Council (Active)
D	Corrybrannan	Ballybay Tanners (Closed)
E	Killycard	Castleblayney Town (Closed)
F	Annahia	McNallys (Closed)
G	Tiragarvan	Carrickmacross Town (Closed)

Note: Refer to Co Monaghan Groundwater Protection Scheme or Vulnerability Mapping and Groundwater Response Matrix

View Map 4.3 Groundwater Protection Scheme Vulnerability Map.

Download a detailed copy below:

http://www.monaghan.ie/websitev2/download/pdf/planning/developmentplan2007-2013/FinalPrintedVersion/map_4.3Reduced.pdf

View Map 4.4 Groundwater Protection Scheme Aquifer Map

Download a detailed copy below:

http://www.monaghan.ie/websitev2/download/pdf/planning/developmentplan2007-2013/FinalPrintedVersion/map_4.4Reduced.pdf

Air and Noise

4.10 Noise

In Irish law, noise is dealt with under the EPA Act, 1992 and the Noise Regulations 1994. Most large-scale activities that result in high noise levels are subject to an Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) licence from the EPA.

Policy for Noise Control	
ENV 47.	The Planning Authority will seek to protect the amenity of individuals, dwellings, businesses, community facilities and other existing development, when assessing proposals for development that are likely to generate significant levels of noise.

4.11 Air

Monaghan County at present is fortunate in enjoying a high quality environment with very little industry contributing to problems of air pollution. However, emissions caused by increased traffic, the burning of fossil fuels for heating and the operation of businesses is likely to have a detrimental impact on our environment.

Policy for Air Quality	
ENV 48.	In conjunction with the EPA, ensure that all existing and proposed developments are operated in a manner that does not permit them to contribute to any deterioration in air quality.
ENV 49.	Encourage a more energy efficient approach to the design and servicing of buildings for residential, commercial, industrial and other uses, including public buildings.
ENV 50.	Promote the retention of trees, hedgerows and other vegetation, and encourage afforestation and tree planting as a means of air purification and filtering.
ENV 51.	The Planning Authority shall seek to protect the amenity of individuals, dwellings, businesses, community facilities and other existing development, together with the safety of road users, when assessing proposals that have the potential to create light pollution / nuisance.