

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Appropriate Assessment:** An Appropriate Assessment is an evaluation of the potential impacts of a plan on the conservation objectives of a Natura 2000 site, and the development, where necessary, of mitigation or avoidance measures to preclude negative effects.

**Affordable Housing:** Housing or lands made available by the planning authority to persons who need accommodation but whose income would not be adequate to meet the payments on a mortgage for the purchase of a house to meet his or her accommodation needs.

**Architectural Conservation Area:** Architectural Conservation Area's are places, areas, groups of structures or townscapes, that are of special architectural, historic, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical character, or that contribute to the appreciation of a protected structure.

**Biodiversity:** The variety of life (wildlife and plant life) on earth.

**Brownfield Sites:** A site that has been previously built on but is currently unused.

**Building Line:** A visual line created by existing development along a street or roadway.

**Building Regulations:** The Building Control Act 1990 – 2007 and the Building Regulations 1997 - 2008 constitutes a system for regulating building works and lays down the minimum standards for design, construction, workmanship, materials etc. Different standards apply depending on the use of the building.

**Carrying Capacity:** This is the largest volume of traffic that a particular road or route can carry.

**Catchment Area:** An area from which a place draws its population (i.e. a town, hospital or school) or the area served by a water/sewerage scheme.

**Community Facilities:** Facilities which are open to and provided for the benefit of the public.

**Comparison Goods:** The Retail Planning Guidelines 2005 define Comparison Goods as clothing and footwear, furniture, furnishings and household equipment (excluding non-durable household goods), medical and pharmaceutical products, therapeutic appliances and equipment, educational and recreation equipment and accessories, books, newspapers and magazines, goods for personal care and goods not elsewhere classified.

**Convenience Goods:** The Retail Planning Guidelines 2005 define convenience goods as food, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, tobacco and non-durable household goods.

**Development Contribution Scheme:** Scheme which allows a Planning Authority to levy financial contributions for the provision of public infrastructure, facilities, project or service as a condition of planning.

**District Centre:** Either a traditional or purpose built group of shops, separate from the town centre and either located within the built up urban area or in a suburban location on the edge of an urban area, usually containing at least one food supermarket or superstore and non-retail services, such as banks, building societies and restaurants (Retail Planning Guidelines 2005). District Centres should not be confused with District Service Centres.

**District Electoral Division:** Low level territorial division.

**Emissions:** Carbon Dioxide, greenhouse gas or other noxious emissions.

**EU Water Framework Directive:** Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council established a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy or the E.U. Water Framework Directive was adopted on 23 October 2000. The following are key aims of the Directive:

- expanding the scope of water protection to all waters, surface waters and groundwater
- Achieving "good status" for all waters by a set deadline
- Water management based on river basins
- "Combined approach" of emission limit values and quality standards
- Getting the prices right
- Getting the citizen involved more closely
- Streamlining legislation.

**Gateway City:** Five Gateways Cities have been identified in the National Spatial Strategy (NSS). It is expected that the Gateways will drive development across the urban and rural areas they influence and support more balanced patterns of national level development.

**Groundwater Protection:** Protection of underground sources of water (groundwater aquifer).

**Hedgerows:** A natural or semi-natural row of bushes, shrubs and/or trees forming a boundary. Hedgerows help define places, act as shelterbelts, and add to biodiversity. They also offer significant wildlife habitat, including wildlife corridors which allow wild animals to move across open countryside, and provide food, nesting and roosting places.

**Infrastructure:** Drainage, water supplies, sewage treatment plants, sewerage networks, lighting, communication lines, electricity supply, gas supply, rail, roads, buildings, schools, community facilities and recreational facilities.

**Landscape Plans:** A detailed plan illustrating hard and/or soft landscaping on a site.

**Local Agenda 21:** The UN Conference on Environment and Development took place in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. This has become known as the Earth Summit. The summit produced a blueprint for sustainable development policies towards the 21<sup>st</sup> Century known as Agenda 21. Agenda 21 indicates how countries can work towards sustainable development. The Irish Government endorsed Agenda 21 at the summit.

**Local Area Plan:** A Plan prepared and adopted in accordance with Section 10 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 - 2007. These plans must be prepared for designated towns with a population in excess of 2,000 persons within the functional area of the Authority. They may also be prepared for areas which the Authority considers require economic, physical and social renewal and for areas likely to be subject to large scale development within the lifetime of the plan.

**Monument (Recorded Monument):** An archaeological monument protected under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendments) Act, 1994.

**Master Plan:** A Master Plan establishes some broad strategic principles relative to an area of land such as access and circulation, permeability and sustainable modes of transport, identification of infrastructure and service requirements and natural heritage and amenity features. Guidance on the manner in which the Local Authority will assess a Master Plan is set out under Section 9.9 of this Plan.

**Natural Heritage Area (NHA):** The basic designation for wildlife is the Natural Heritage Area (NHA) as provided for under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000. This is an area considered important for the habitats present or which holds species of plants and animals whose habitat needs protection.

**National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020:** National framework for spatial development over a 20 year period to achieve balanced and sustainable regional development.

**Population Density:** The number of people per unit area (hectare, square kilometre, acre, square mile) determined by dividing the number of people in an area by the size of the area.

**Protected Structure:** A building, feature, site, or structure identified in the Development Plan as worthy of protection or preservation in accordance with Part IV of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 - 2007.

**Recorded Monuments and Places:** The Record of Monument and Places (RMP) is a statutory list of all known archaeological monuments provided for in the National Monuments Acts. There are over 120,000 Recorded Monuments included in the national RMP. The RMP consists of a published county-by-county set of Ordnance Survey maps on which monuments are marked by a circle and an accompanying book which specifies the type of monuments. It should be borne in mind that the circle does not necessarily define the extent of the site or monument. An archaeological monument is protected under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendments) Act, 1994.

**Residential Densities:** The number of residential units per area unit (hectare, acre).

**Serviced Land Initiative:** A special fund, set up by the Minister for the Environment and Local Government, to part – finance local authority water and sewerage schemes providing services to open up development land.

**Service Sector:** This is the employment sector, which involves the provision of services, frequently referred to as the tertiary sector.

**Set Back:** This relates to the distance a building line, or a portion of a building line, should be set back from a street, roadway or watercourse.

**Seveso Site:** A Major Accident Hazard Site (Seveso site) is a site where the occupier has notified the Health and Safety Authority that they meet a specified threshold for quantities of hazardous substances as outlined by the European Communities (Control of Major Accident Hazards involving Dangerous Substances) Regulations 2000.

**Social Housing:** This is housing provided for persons who are registered with the Local Authority on the Social Housing Waiting List, and assessed as being eligible for social housing. The broad categories of households who are eligible for social housing are set out in Section 9(2) of the 1988 Housing Act and include the homeless, travellers; persons living in unfit or overcrowded accommodation, the elderly, persons with disabilities, persons who cannot reasonable afford to provide their own accommodation.

**Sustainable Development:** Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

**Special Areas of Conservation (SAC):** Special Areas of Conservation (Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) - the directive was transposed into Irish law by S.I. 94 of 1997, the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997. SACs are marine and terrestrial areas of international importance that have been designated for the protection of wildlife habitats and species (other than birds), which form part of EU Natura 2000 network of ecologically significant sites throughout Europe.

**Special Protection Areas (SPA):** Sites designated to protect internationally important and rare bird species and their associated habitats. The legal basis for their designation is the EU Birds directive. The designation is required for listed rare and vulnerable species, migratory species such as wildfowl and for wetlands which attract large numbers of wildfowl every year.

**Topography:** Features of a place or district, the position of its rivers, mountains, roads, buildings etc.

**Tree Preservation Orders:** T.P.O. or Tree Preservation Order is used to protect selected trees and woodlands if their removal would have a significant impact on the environment or amenity. Trees, which are the subject of a TPO, cannot be felled unless the owner applies for planning permission to the local authority.