

Chapter 6: Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure

Strategic Aim:

Protect and enhance Birr Town and Crinkill village's natural assets of clean water, biodiversity, landscape, green infrastructure, natural heritage and agricultural land, while maintaining ecosystem services and improving resilience to climate change.

6.1 Introduction

The character of Birr Town and Crinkill can be described as a combination of urban and rural landscapes with a gentle topography apart from undulating areas at Burke's Hill, Seefin and Hillside. The historic core of the town centre is sensitively built into the surrounding landscape.

The natural landscape of the Birr Castle Demesne in the western part of the town comprises a mixture of woodland, arboretums, ponds and lakes, and formal gardens before transitioning to private gardens within the town centre and larger public open spaces in established residential areas such as Castle Court, Ashbrook Drive, Chesterfield Close, Avondale, Woodlands Park, Seefin and Woodlane.

The Camcor River, a tributary river of the Little Brosna, originates in the Slieve Bloom Mountains and flows east to west in the town. The areas around the Camcor River provide an important green infrastructure corridor, with the two largest spaces being the Mill Island Park and Camcor Park, which are situated in central Birr adjacent to the north bank of the Camcor. These spaces are composed mainly of undulating mown grassland with groups of deciduous trees, connected by a network of paths and seating areas. In addition, the banks of the river offer unobtrusive soft grassy surface walking trails from Elmgrove Bridge to Syngefield Bridge to the east of the town.

The most significant open space areas to the south of the town centre are in the ownership of Birr GAA and Birr Rugby Club as well as the private grounds of the County Arms Hotel and public open space areas serving established residential areas at Droombane, Seefin and Woodlane.

To the east of the town, the patterns of development changes into suburban and low density rural development with a large industrial estate at Syngefield Retail Park with the majority of open space in the form of pasture and deciduous woodland.

The village of Crinkill is separated from the town of Birr in the Plan Area by undulating agriculture land, the Fionaun River and a deciduous woodland area. The most significant open space areas in Crinkill are in the ownership of Crinkill GAA as well as public open space areas serving established developments at Cemetery Road, Hawthorne Drive and Grove Street.

Birr and Crinkill has an abundant stock of natural capital that in turn provide a wide range of ecosystem services to residents. In line with Regional Policy Objective (RPO) 3.4 of the Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, the Council promotes an ecosystem services approach in the preparation of this Local Area Plan. The four main types of ecosystem services are provisioning, regulating, habitat and cultural, each of which are defined in Table 6.1 below.

Table 6.1 Definition of Each Type of Ecosystem Service

Type of Ecosystem Services	Definition
Provisioning services	Products obtained from ecosystems such as food, fresh water, wood, fibre, genetic resources and medicines.
Regulating services	Benefits obtained from the regulation of ecosystem processes such as climate regulation, natural hazard regulation, water purification, waste management, pollination and pest control.
Habitat services	Provision of habitats for migratory species and to maintain the viability of gene-pools.
Cultural services	Non-material benefits that people obtain from ecosystems such as spiritual enrichment, intellectual development, recreation and aesthetic values.

6.2 National and European Designations

Whilst there are a number of designated sites near Birr Town, there currently are no Natura 2000 sites, Special Protection Areas or Special Areas of Conservation within the Plan Area. There are currently two proposed Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), within the Plan Area, which are Leister bat nursery roosts on domestic dwellings (see Figure 6.1 below). The ecological interest that underlies the proposed NHAs is taken into account in decisions on planning applications. The designation of sites within Birr and subsequent protection afforded to them does not always preclude development from occurring. However, the Council’s role is to ensure that development, when considered appropriate, is carried out in a manner that does not impede or disturb the biodiversity of the proposed/designated site.

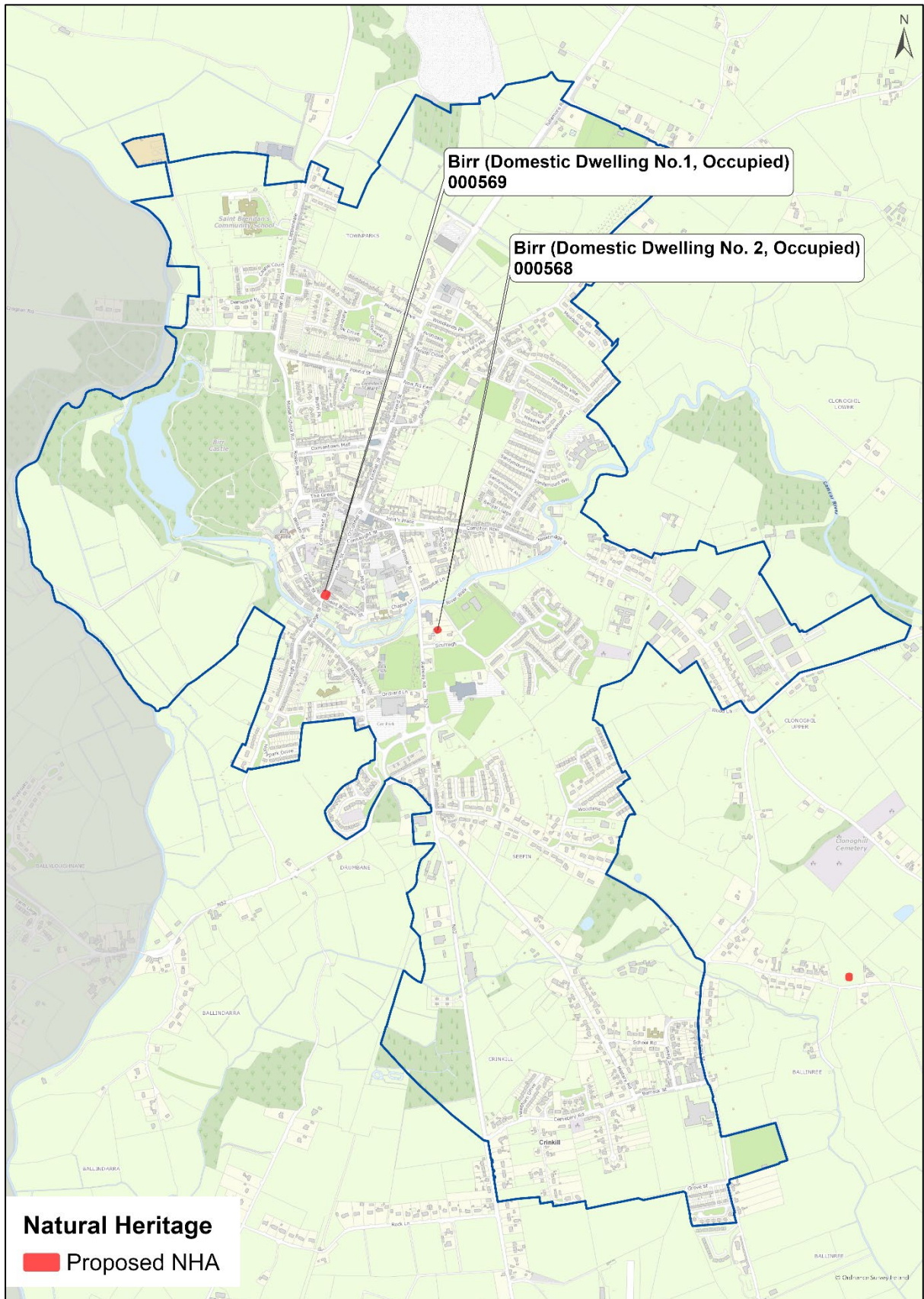


Figure 6.1 Proposed Natural Heritage Areas in Birr

6.3 Crinkill Mushroom Stone

The Crinkill Mushroom Stone is classed as a County Geological Site (CGS) identified for protection under the Irish Geological Heritage (IGH) Programme 2016. Mushroom stones are solitary sentinels of limestone, occasionally shaped like mushrooms from prolonged exposure to lapping waves at the edge of postglacial lakes, which have since vanished or retreated. This Plan recognises that this stone is an important geomorphological and archaeological feature, providing information about past landscapes and landscape change while ancient lichen communities continue to live on this stone also.

6.4 Landscape Sensitivity

The Offaly County Development Plan 2021-2027 contains a Landscape Classification for the County that classifies the different landscapes of the County in relation to their different characteristics and values and their degree of sensitivity to various kinds of development.

Much of Birr is classified as 'Low Sensitivity'. This class largely encompasses the Plan area's main urban and farming areas. These areas comprise natural enclosing features (e.g. topography, vegetation) which have the capacity to absorb a range of new development. These areas can effectively absorb appropriately designed and located development.

A number of worked-out esker systems within the town are classified as 'Medium Sensitivity'. These areas are generally 'open' in character with intrinsic quality and moderate capacity to absorb new development.

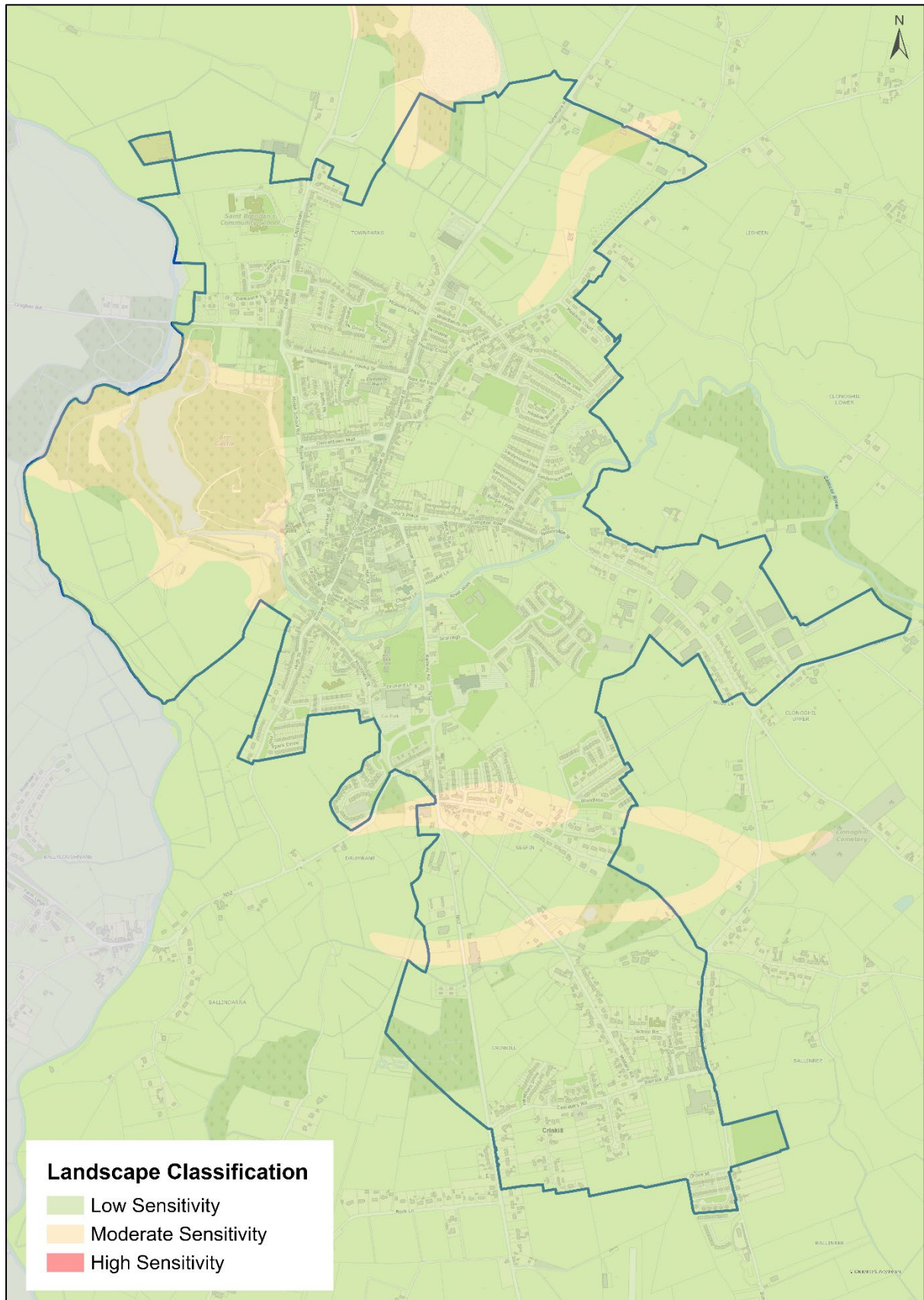


Figure 6.2 Landscape Classification

6.5 Green Infrastructure

The term Green Infrastructure (GI) can be broadly defined as integrated and interconnected networks of green space and water capable of delivering ecosystem services and quality of life benefits to people. It includes features such as parks, gardens, green roofs, green walls, rivers, lakes, canals, peatland, wetland landscapes, uplands, greenways, blueways, woodlands and farmlands in our countryside and settlements. This Local Area Plan takes a proactive approach towards planning and managing the GI network of Birr and Crinkill by seeking to maximise the benefits of the multi-functionality that GI provides. In protecting and enhancing the green infrastructure network of the town, important amenity and recreational spaces can be provided for communities, thereby contributing to the health and quality of life of residents and allowing for increased climate resilience within the town in the years ahead.

Article 10 of the Habitats Directive recognises the importance of ecological networks as corridors and stepping-stones for wildlife, including for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of species of flora and fauna. The Directive requires that ecological connectivity and areas of ecological value outside the Natura 2000 network of designated ecological sites are maintained and it recognises the need for the management of these areas through land use planning and development policies. Ecological networks are important in connecting areas of local biodiversity with each other and with nearby designated sites to prevent islands of habitat from being disconnected entities. Ecological networks are composed of linear features, such as treelines, hedgerows, waterways, which provide corridors or stepping-stones for wildlife species moving within their normal range. They are particularly important for mammals, especially for bats and small birds.

6.5.1 Existing Green Infrastructure Network

As can be observed from Figure 6.3 below which maps the town's GI Network, Birr benefits from a significant level of GI assets that creates an attractive setting for residents and visitors alike. The primary GI assets in the town are the extensive grounds of the Birr Castle Demesne to the west of the town, the Camcor River and associated linear parks, and large tracts of agricultural land serving as a Green Belt between the town of Birr and the village of Crinkill. These primary assets are supported by a wide range of playing pitches, public open spaces, agricultural grassland, woodlands and grassy strips between footpaths and road surfaces, all of which perform different GI functions.

Table 6.2 Typologies of Green Infrastructure in Birr and Crinkill

Category	Examples in Plan Area
Agricultural land/Green Belts	Land managed for agriculture, including grazing lands and crop production fields, to the south of the Plan Area at Clonoghill, Crinkill, Roscrea Road and Military Road allow for food production, act as ecological corridors and stepping-stones while also acting as an important green belt to preserve the separate identity of Crinkill village from Birr Town.
Green areas for water management	Lands designated Constrained Land Use to protect urban areas from flood damage and help adapt to changing climate patterns. These areas are also suitable for important walkways for local residents.
Blue Areas	The Little Brosna River, Camcor River and the lake at Birr Castle Demesne comprise the town's most significant water bodies providing many benefits; supporting tourism, forming part of storm surge and flood management providing recreation and exercise space and biodiversity.
Parks, gardens and public open space	Birr Castle Demesne, Camcor Linear Park, Mill Island Park, Syngesfield Demesne, playing pitches, public open spaces within residential and business park developments, woodlands, and shrub lands efficiently bring biodiversity into the town and provide recreation space for residents improving quality of life.

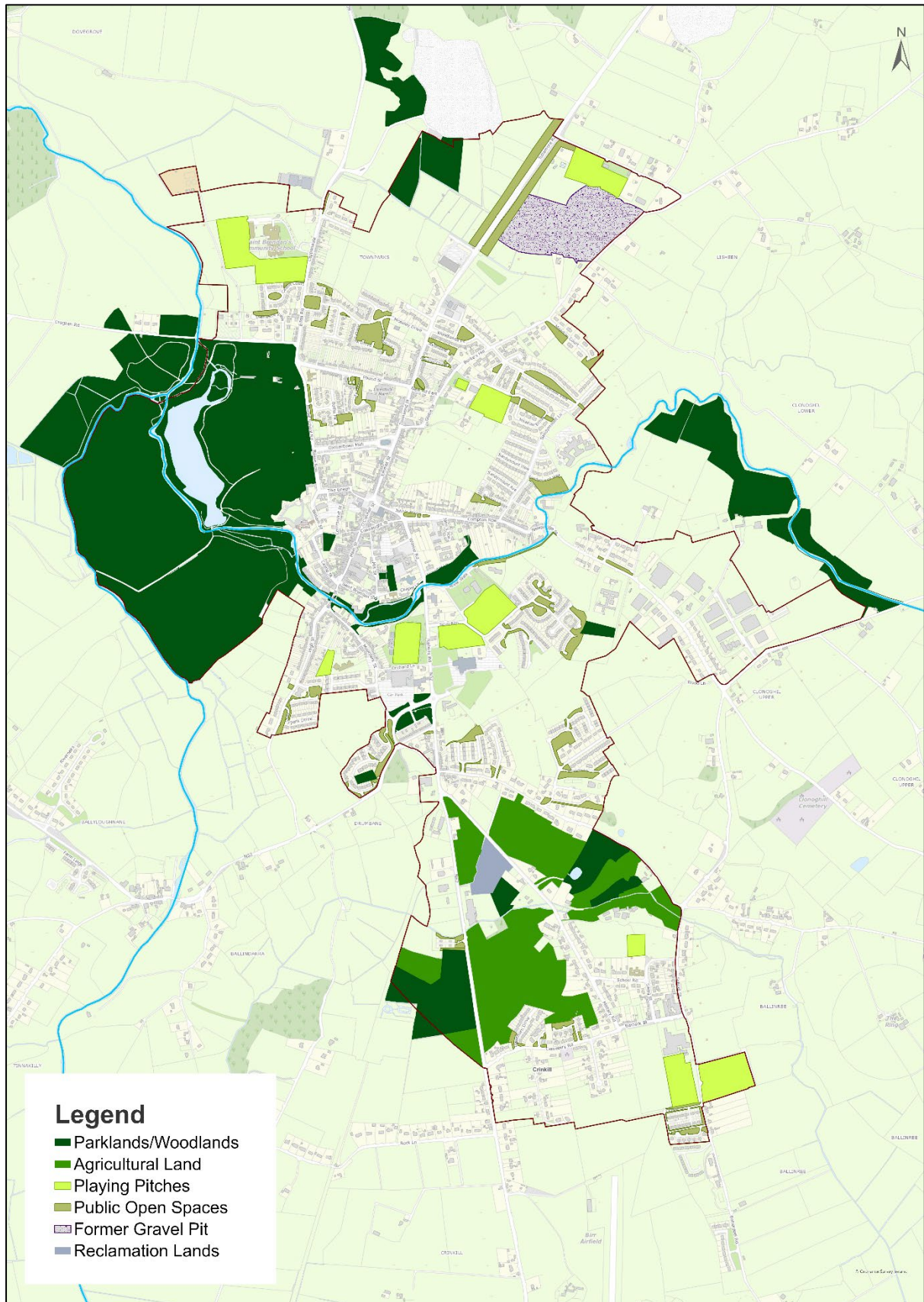


Figure 6.3 Existing Green Infrastructure in Birr and Crinkill

6.5.2 Birr Castle Demesne

The Birr Castle Demesne, in addition to being home to significant tracts of woodland and wild flower meadows in an extensive 18th and 19th century parklands setting, contains award-winning gardens, which are home to the world's tallest box hedges and have a worldwide plant collection of rare flower and plant species, including over 40 champion trees. Champion trees are individual trees that are exceptional examples of their species because of their enormous size, great age or historical significance.



Figure 6.4 Grounds of Birr Castle Demesne

6.5.3 Little Brosna River and Camcor River

The Little Brosna River, which rises in County Tipperary near Moneygall, forms the western boundary of the Plan area. The Camcor River, the primary tributary of the Little Brosna River, rises on the western slopes of the Slieve Bloom Mountains and flows to the west until it meets the Little Brosna River within the Birr Castle Demesne at the River Walk. The banks of both the Little Brosna River and the Camcor River are important ecological networks that provide habitats for flora and fauna and facilitate linkages to the surrounding countryside.



Figure 6.5 Significant water bodies in Birr

Table 6.3 Examples of flora and fauna at the Little Brosna River and Camcor River

Birds and Bats	Blackbird	Flowers and Insects	Brimstone
	Blue Tit		Butterbur
	Bullfinch		Cow parsley
	Daubenton's Bat		Cowslip
	Dipper		Cuckoo Flower
	Grey Heron		Fairy Foxglove
	Grey Wagtail		Holly Blue
	Mistle Thrush		Lesser Celandine
	Rook		Red-tailed Bumblebee
	Song Trush		Small Tortoiseshell
	Swift		Yellow or Flag Iris
	Treecreeper		



Figure 6.6 Cuckoo Flower

In addition, the Croneen trout, a rare breed of brown trout, is unique to the Birr area, travelling in shoals from Lough Derg to the Little Brosna and Camcor Rivers in May/June every year before spawning in November and returning to Lough Derg in November.

This Plan recognises the importance of protecting and enhancing water quality and the multitude of benefits to the local community in Birr that good water quality supports.

Existing linear public parks in Birr follow the meandering course of the Camcor River running through the town with a river walk stretching from Mill Island to Elmgrove Bridge. There exists an opportunity to extend the town's river walk with an eco-friendly walkway or nature trail along the Camcor River running from Elmgrove Bridge to Springfield Bridge. An eco-friendly walkway or nature trail has the potential to:

- Greatly contribute to the town's green infrastructure providing vital amenity and recreational space for the local community, while also contributing to the health and quality of life of residents and visitors to the town; and
- Support the tourism and economic development of Birr, in conjunction with existing tourism assets such as Birr Castle and the town's cultural heritage.

The planting of appropriate and suitable native trees along riverbanks is important as they provide shade and shelter for fish, help stabilise riverbanks, and help regulate floods while their leaves provide food for aquatic creatures.

River restoration is required in a number of places on the Camcor River to reduce riverbank and instream erosion and increase overall channel instability but also to reduce flood risk. River restoration

works during the plan period could take the following forms; river bank or instream habitat rehabilitation (improving existing impacted conditions), restoring riparian areas (bringing the physical and ecological conditions of the river bank back to what it once was), reintroducing instream habitat (adding specific instream habitat formerly lost) and reconnecting fragmented habitat.

6.5.4 Public Parks

The existing public park network in Birr follows the meandering course of local rivers and streams running through the town. This Plan supports the extension of the Camcor Linear Park and Mill Island Park with the overall aim of creating a park network throughout the town and environs with high accessibility to the public. The Council will continue to improve the quality of this park as resources permit and will investigate the feasibility in conjunction with the appropriate prescribed bodies of establishing a Wetlands Park on Little Brosna Flood Plain.



Figure 6.7 Mill Island Park

6.5.5 Pocket Parks, Community Gardens and Allotments

Pocket parks, community gardens and allotments utilise small spaces efficiently to bring biodiversity into urban areas, provide high-quality recreation spaces for residents and improving quality of life for all. The Council considers that there exists potential for the provision of pocket parks, community gardens and allotments in the Plan Area at the following locations;

1. To the east of the Tullamore Road at Woodlands;
2. To the south of the River Camcor at Syngefield;
3. To the west of the Main Street; and
4. Adjacent to Mill Street and Birr Civic Offices at Wilmer Road.
5. To the north east of Moorpark Street

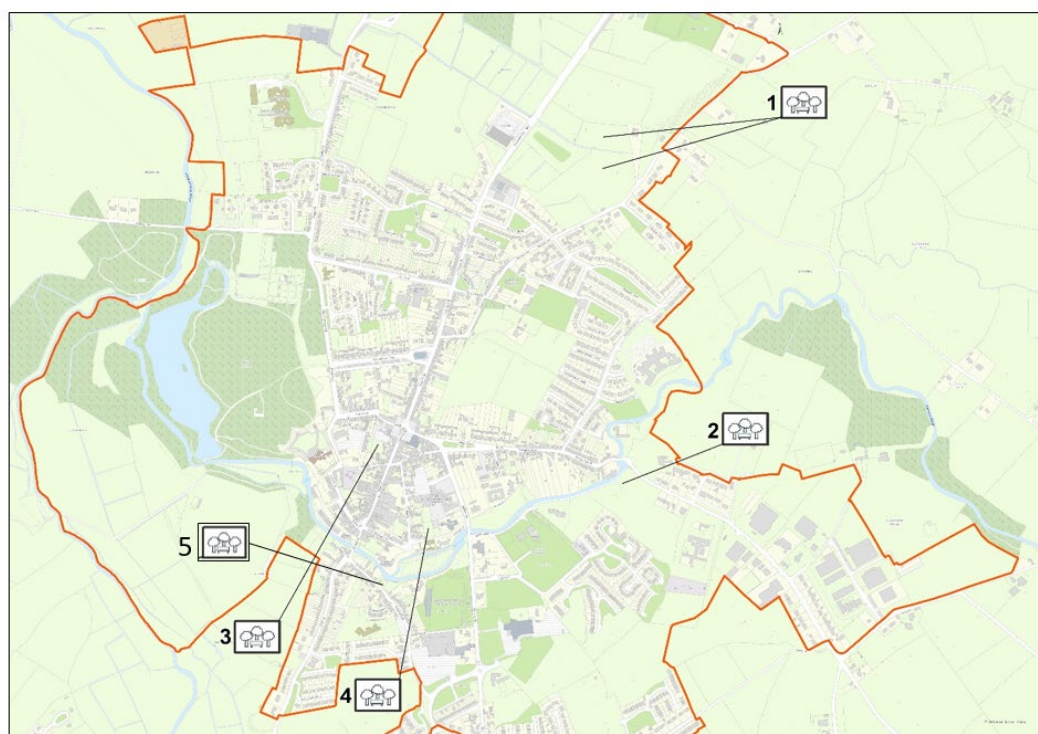


Figure 6.8 Potential locations for pocket parks, gardens and allotments

6.5.6 Pollination Zones/Biodiversity Zones

The Council supports pollinator friendly planting and wildlife strips or Biodiversity Zones to enhance biodiversity at approaches to the town, roundabouts, peripheral open space areas in residential areas, and areas connected to woodlands/farmlands/riparian zones throughout the plan area in accordance with the recommendations of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan. In this regard, the Plan promotes the use of pesticide-free and pollinator friendly fertilisers and other treatments used by the Council on public land and will seek to progress the reduction, and ultimate cessation, of use of such pesticides and treatments. A number of potential locations for pollination zones/biodiversity zones are identified in Figure 6.14 below.

6.5.7 Killaun Bog

Killaun Bog, located to the north east of the town, leased long term to St. Brendan's Community School, Birr, with its newly replaced boardwalk produced from recycled plastic by local company, Irish Recycled Products, offers significant potential for rewilding and recolonisation as a new wilderness area, with significant benefits for educational, amenity and recreational purposes for visitors.

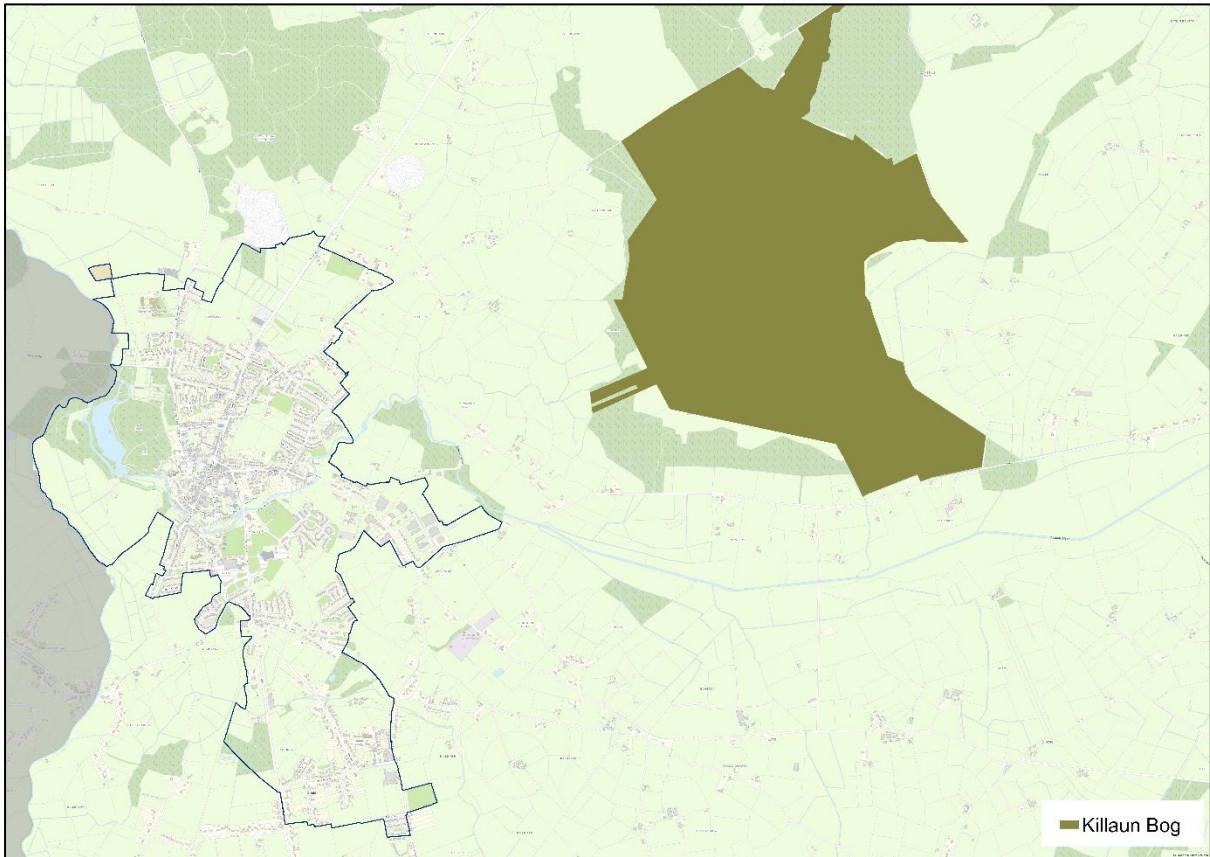


Figure 6.9 Location of Killaun Bog

There is also potential for a future linkage between Killaun Bog and a River Camcor Walk in the townlands of Syngefield and Clonohill Upper through the Rath Road on the east and west of the bog.



Figure 6.10 Killaun Bog Boardwalk

6.6 Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS)

The impact of extreme rainfall events is increasing with climate change and this is significantly increasing both the level of pollution from urban runoff and the flood risk arising from the greater volume of that runoff from the largely impermeable urban area.

A fundamental part of SuDS is the provision of adequate levels of treatment of surface water prior to discharging to a watercourse. SuDS aims to address both quality and quantity of runoff whereby both the rate and volume of discharge are reduced.

Whilst Irish Water maps for Birr show that the town is mainly served by combined foul-surface water networks, this Plan encourages new developments to consider nature-based solutions to the management of rainwater and surface water runoff to reduce pollution and reduce flood risk as well as to improve biodiversity and provide a greener more pleasant urban environment. Developers are advised to consult with the Nature-based Solutions to the Management of Rainwater and Surface Water Runoff in Urban Areas – Water Sensitive Urban Design Best Practice Interim Guidance Document (DHLGH, 2021) which seeks to mimic the natural water balance of rural areas through water sensitive urban design. This can be achieved through the replacement of impermeable surfacing with nature-based planted areas that are designed to absorb, retain, store and treat urban runoff prior to discharge back into the environment.

SuDS proposals for Birr town could include the:

- Replacement of impervious surfacing in car parks with pervious pavements;
- Incorporation of rain gardens into traffic calming measures or upstream/in place of existing gullies. Rain gardens allow runoff to pond temporarily on the surface before filtering through vegetation and underlying soils;
- Replacement of gullies with tree pits;
- Use of swales and linear wetlands to slow the flow of water and where infiltration characteristics of the soil are favourable, reduce the quantity of surface water runoff. They are ideal for use alongside car parks and roadways;
- Provision of planted channels which can provide conveyance routes and intercept flows and which can be incorporated into the landscape design to form boundaries;
- Provision of storage areas within public open spaces. These can include landscaped depressions, ponds and wetlands; and
- Provision of green roofs on bus shelters, bicycle shelters and on roof space on all large commercial, industrial, institutional and large apartment blocks.

Whilst there is scope for limited attenuation capacity within the SuDS measures listed above, there are better opportunities to provide storage areas within public open spaces in the form of landscaped depressions, ponds and wetlands where possible. Where space constraints apply, underground modular attenuation structures should be considered.

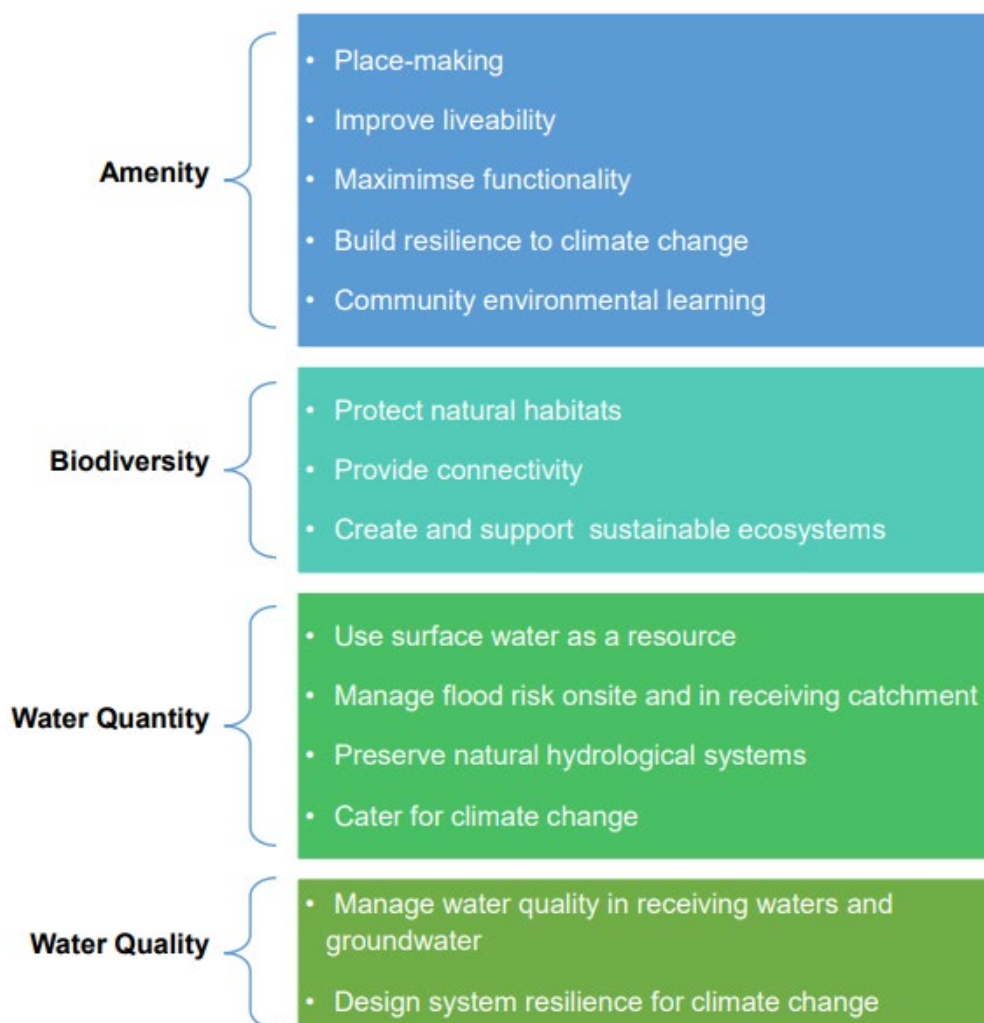


Figure 6.11 Purpose of SuDs

(Source: Nature-based Solutions to the Management of Rainwater & Surface Water Runoff in Urban Areas, DHLGH, 2021)

SuD is also addressed in Chapter 3 Town Centre and Regeneration, Chapter 8 Climate Action and Chapter 9 Critical Infrastructure.

6.7 Constructed Wetlands and Community Ponds

There is considerable potential to develop wetlands near the rivers that flow through the Plan Area to provide extra water storage in the countryside, habitat for wildlife and help reduce flood risk. Wetlands have been shown to be effective at removing pollutants from water and can double up as nature reserves as they attract a range of wildlife species. In addition, constructed wetlands can be used in the treatment of polluted water which otherwise may contaminate a local watercourse. They can be used where water treatment has not been fully effective, for a variety of reasons, (e.g., where tertiary treatment is not available) and can ‘polish’ the water by removing contaminants. Small ponds can also be crucial habitats for a range of wildlife from dragonflies and water hens to frogs and newts. These in turn, support other species of wildlife such as grey heron, otters and bats. Figure 6.14 below shows a number of specific areas where wetlands could potentially be developed during the life of this Plan.

6.8 Building Green

This Plan recognises the ability of green walls, green roofs, green terraces and facades to lower temperatures in urban areas, absorb carbon from the atmosphere, as well as make buildings more habitable through noise reduction, air filtration and creating attractive places.

A green roof or terrace is one that is planted with different types of vegetation, which can include grasses, flora, herbs and vegetables. Green roofs can be incorporated into new developments and installed on older buildings in order to secure a variety of benefits. They can contribute to climate change resilience, helping to improve air quality and temperature while also retaining and filtering storm water to alleviate pressure on drainage infrastructure. Depending on the mix of plants used green roofs can also help contribute to local biodiversity, as well as provide new public and private amenity spaces and increase property values. Green walls, also known as plant walls, living walls or vertical gardens, are vertical structures that have different types of plants or other greenery attached to them.

The Dublin City Green and Blue Guide 2021 is an effective guide on the technical specifications and design considerations for such structures in this regard.

6.9 Burial Grounds and Gardens of Remembrance

This Plan recognises that burial grounds while providing culturally sensitive space for burial and remembrance also have significant value as recreational spaces similar to parks for nature conservation and the promotion of biodiversity. Grass cutting management and planting programmes will be considered for each site to provide access to the burial grounds while also allowing for the flowering of plants in certain areas.



Figure 6.12 Military Cemetery at Crinkill

Grounds such as (1) the Garden of Tranquillity, (2) the Workhouse Cemetery, (3) the Military Cemetery at Crinkill, (4) Bully's Acre, (5) Quakers Burial Ground and (6) St. Brendan's Graveyard are considered a type of green infrastructure in Birr. The locations of these cemeteries and gardens of remembrance are shown below in Figure 6.13.

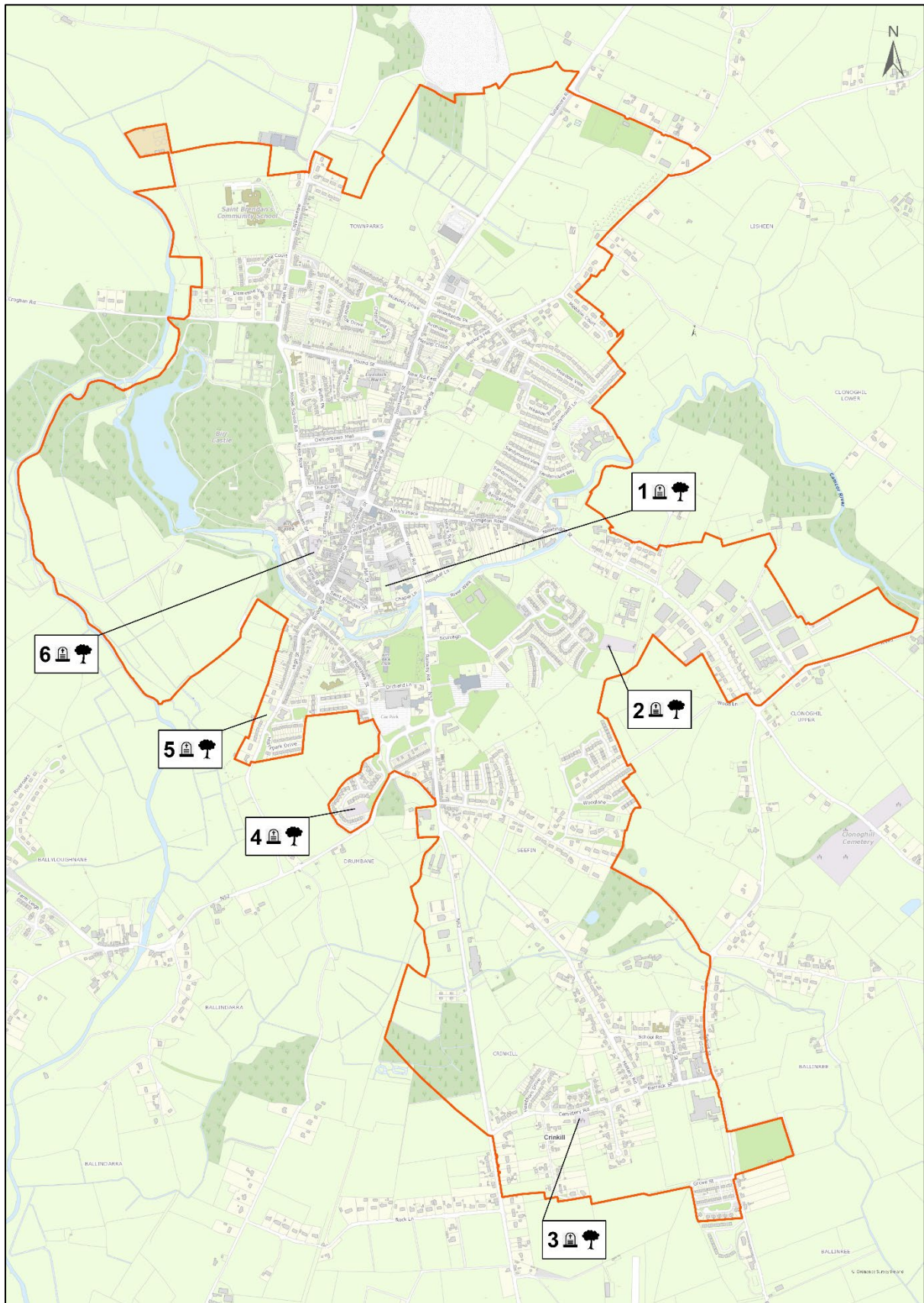


Figure 6.13 Location of existing cemeteries and gardens of remembrance within Plan Area

6.10 Control of Invasive Species

Invasive species such as Himalayan Balsam are a particular problem along rivers leading to a loss of biodiversity and even destabilised riverbanks through increased erosion. The Council will seek to continue the implementation of non-native invasive species control within Birr including along the Camcor River and the Little Brosna and to co-ordinate control measures with other stakeholders, wherever possible, to ensure a collaborative approach in relation to removal and monitoring.

6.11 Potential Green Infrastructure Projects

There is an opportunity to enhance the green links and ecological connectivity between open spaces throughout Birr. This Plan seeks to establish a coherent, integrated and evolving green infrastructure network which extends from Killaun Bog, through the town along the Camcor River all the way to Birr Castle Demesne, in addition to numerous ecological corridors providing habitats for wildlife, air and water filtration, surface water management, recreational and tourism opportunities and 'greener' neighbourhoods. Figure 6.14 below shows the potential GI projects that could be developed in the town in the Plan Period.

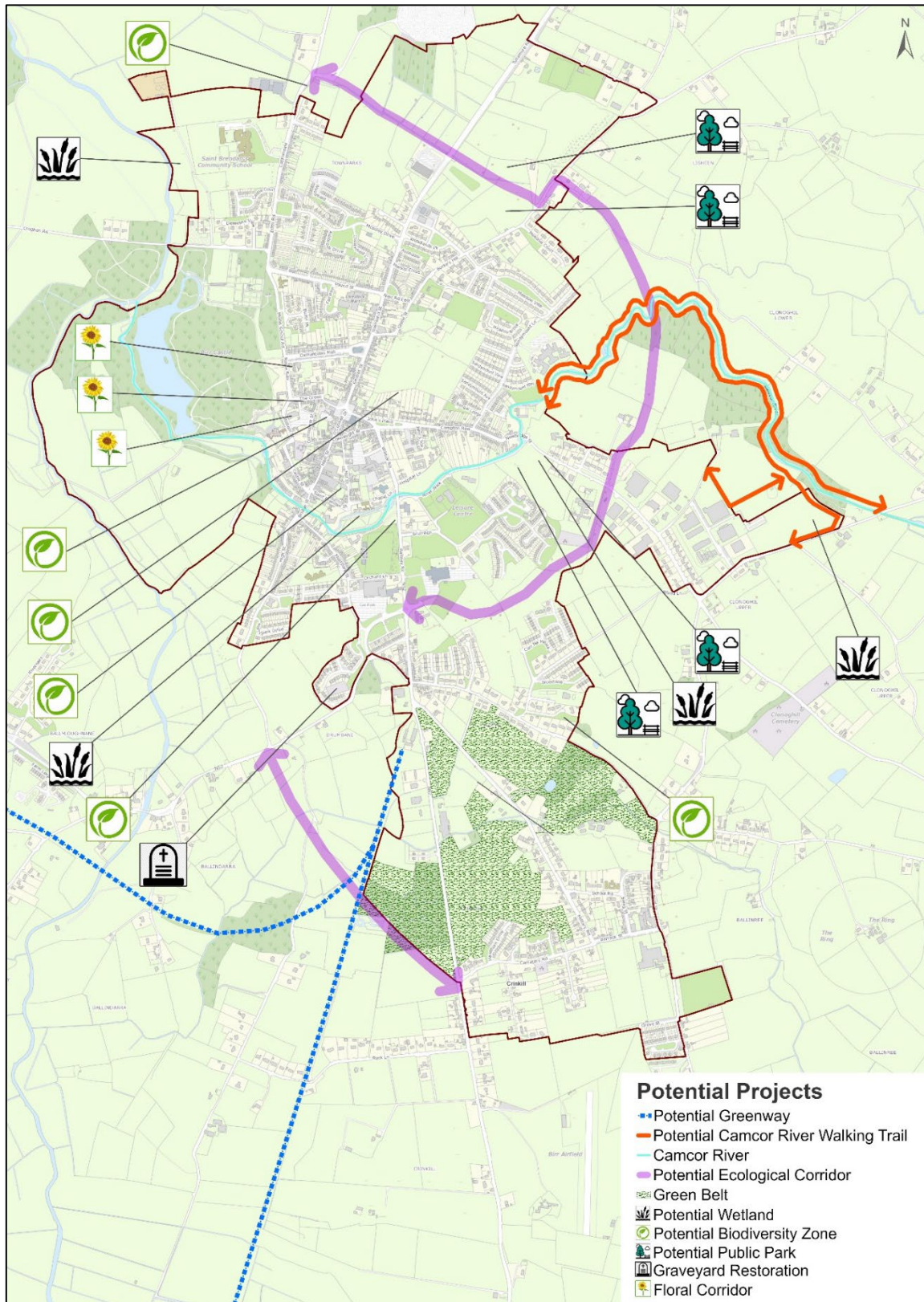


Figure 6.14 Potential Green Infrastructure projects.

6.12 Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure Policies

It is Council policy to:

Overarching

BGIP-01 Protect, conserve and enhance Birr's biodiversity and natural heritage that includes wildlife (flora and fauna), habitats and landscapes of importance to wildlife, especially along the Camcor and Little Brosna Rivers and the Birr Castle Demesne, which in-turn can contribute to climate action.

BGIP-02 Prohibit any development that would be harmful to or that would result in a significant deterioration of habitats and/or disturbance of protected species within Birr and to support/co-operate with statutory authorities and others in support of measures taken to manage proposed or designated sites in order to achieve their conservation objectives.

BGIP-03 Support the role that biodiversity and green infrastructure plays in the Plan Area in relation to ecosystem services along with climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Native Hedgerow and Tree Species

BGIP-04 Promote the protection and preservation of existing hedgerows and to encourage planting of native hedgerow and tree species.

BGIP-05 Support the development of a Floral Corridor concept that involves designing and constructing, through the coordinated planting of trees, flowers, and shrubs, a physical linkage of scale between the Castle grounds and the centre of the town taking into account local traffic safety.

Camcor River and the Little Brosna River

BGIP-06 Support the following restoration and conservation works to protect and enhance water quality of the Camcor River and the Little Brosna River and the biodiversity value of riverbanks during the Plan Period;

- Planting of trees and riparian plants;
- Riparian management work;
- Techniques to manage rainwater or soiled water ingress to rivers;
- River restoration works;
- Fish passage – e.g. modification of weirs;
- Invasive species control;
- Silt trapping;
- Nature-based Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) – e.g. natural flood retention measures (NFRM), bio-swales, raingardens, water butts;
- Pond creation and biodiversity habitats;
- Constructed wetlands;
- Wild flower meadows; and
- Rare species conservation initiatives.

Crinkill Mushroom Stone

BGIP-07 Protect from inappropriate development, the Crinkill Mushroom Rocks, a county geological site, which is identified by the Irish Geological Heritage Programme for Protection in County Offaly.

6.13 Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure Objectives

It is an objective of the Council to:

Networks

BGIO-01 Further develop an integrated and coherent Green Infrastructure network for the Plan Area by requiring the retention of substantial networks of green space in urban, urban fringe and adjacent countryside areas to serve the needs of communities now and in the future including the need to adapt to and mitigate climate change.

BGIO-02 Integrate existing green infrastructure as shown in Figure 6.3 and potential GI projects as shown in Figure 6.14 as an essential component of all new developments and to discourage development that would fragment, damage or prejudice the integrity of the green infrastructure network.

BGIO-03 Promote a network of pedestrian and cycle paths to enhance accessibility to the green infrastructure network, while ensuring that the design and operation of the routes responds to the ecological protection needs of each site, including the undertaking of Appropriate Assessment where relevant.

Camcor River Eco-Friendly Walkway or Nature Trail

BGIO-04 Provide an eco-friendly walkway or nature trail along the Camcor River running from Elmgrove Bridge to Springfield Bridge.

Wetland Amenity Area

BGIO-05 In conjunction with the appropriate prescribed bodies, to investigate the feasibility of providing a Wetland Amenity Area at Syngefield and on the Little Brosna Flood Plain taking into account the environmental sensitivities of the site and Inland Fisheries Guidance document, Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment.

Syngefield Demesne Conservation Masterplan

BGIO-06 Support the preparation of a Conservation Management Plan for the Syngefield Demesne, Woodlands and the section of the Camcor River that passes the Demesne.

Cultural and Heritage Assets

BGIO-07 Provide attractive and safe routes linking parks, open spaces and other related features such as cultural sites and heritage assets as an integral part of Green Infrastructure provision, where appropriate and feasible including taking into account the findings of Appropriate Assessment.

Green Belts

BGIO-08 Protect the Green Belt Public Open Space Areas as shown on Figure 6.14 to preserve the separate identity of Crinkill village.

Pocket Parks, Community Gardens and Allotments

BGIO-09 Provide opportunities for Birr residents to engage in food production through allotments, community gardens and the provision of food foraging areas in new parks and Green Infrastructure proposals where appropriate.

BGIO-10 Support the provision of pocket parks, community gardens and allotments as outlined in Figure 6.8.

Biodiversity Zones/Pollination Zones, Mini-Woodlands and Wildlife Strips

BGIO-11 Continue to promote and support re-wilding and pollinator initiatives within the Plan Area in support of the National Pollinator Plan and ensure that the management of the Council's open spaces and parks is pollinator-friendly, provides more opportunities for biodiversity, and is carried out without the use of pesticides where possible.

BGIO-12 Develop linked corridors of small urban 'Miyawaki' native mini woodlands, a minimum of 100 m² in size, to capture carbon and encourage biodiversity in suitable existing built-up areas, in low grade public open space areas and other areas of zoned lands where deemed suitable and appropriate.

BGIO-13 Encourage the provision of Biodiversity Zones/Pollination Zones in the locations outlined in Figure 6.14.

Pedestrian Linkages/Permeability and Accessibility

BGIO-14 Further develop and extend the following network of pedestrian route ways in Birr and Crinkill to allow greater linkages between the Green Infrastructure assets in the area in the locations outlined in Figure 6.14.

Control of Invasive Species

BGIO-15 Continue the control programs of invasive species with all relevant stakeholders and landowners to control the key invasive species.