

Valuation	Example / Typical Description
International	<p>Very high importance and rarity, international scale and very limited potential for substitution.</p> <p>Habitats</p> <p>Internationally designated sites or candidate sites (i.e. Special Protection Area (SPA), provisional SPA (pSPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), candidate SAC (cSAC), Ramsar site, Biogenetic/Biosphere Reserve, World Heritage Site or an area which meets the published selection criteria for such designation. A viable area of a habitat type listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive, or smaller areas of such habitat essential to maintain the viability of a larger whole.</p> <p>Species</p> <p>Regularly occurring populations of an internationally important species, where: The loss of these populations would adversely affect the conservation status or distribution of the species at this geographic scale or The population forms a critical part of a wider population at this scale or The species is at a critical phase of its life cycle at this scale.</p>
National	<p>High importance and rarity, national scale, and limited potential for substitution.</p> <p>Habitats</p> <p>A nationally designated site (i.e. NHA, pNHA, Statutory Nature Reserve, Refuge for Fauna and Flora protected under the Wildlife Acts, a National Park), or an area which meets the published selection criteria for national designation (e.g. NHA, Statutory Nature Reserve; Refuge for Fauna and Flora protected under the Wildlife Act; and/or National Park).</p> <p>Site containing ‘viable areas’ of the habitat types listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive</p> <p>Species</p> <p>Resident, or regularly occurring, populations of species which may be considered at an International, European or National level where: The loss of these populations would adversely affect the conservation status or distribution of the species at this scale or The population forms a critical part of a wider population at this scale or The species is at a critical phase of its life cycle at this scale.</p> <p>This may include regionally or county significant population/number of an internationally/nationally important species. A significant and regularly occurring population of a nationally important species which is threatened or rare in the region or county.</p>
County (Offaly)	<p>High or medium importance and rarity, regional scale, limited potential for substitution.</p> <p>Habitats</p> <p>Designated Sites that are recognised by local authorities, such as Special Amenity Area, Area subject to a Tree Preservation Order and Area of High Amenity, or equivalent, designated under the County Development Plan.</p> <p>Site containing area or areas of the habitat types listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive that do not fulfil the criteria for valuation as of International or National importance.</p>

Valuation	Example / Typical Description
	<p>County sites that the designating authority has determined meet the published ecological selection criteria for designation but which are not themselves designated as such including National or Local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and/or sites containing semi-natural habitat types with high biodiversity in a county context and a high degree of naturalness, or populations of species that are uncommon within the county.</p> <p>Sites containing habitats and species that are rare or are undergoing a decline in quality or extent at a national level.</p> <p>Species</p> <p>Resident, or regularly occurring populations of species which may be considered at an International, European or National level where:</p> <p>The loss of these populations would adversely affect the conservation status or distribution of the species at this scale or</p> <p>The population forms a critical part of a wider population at this scale or</p> <p>The species is at a critical phase of its life cycle at this scale.</p> <p>This may include:</p> <p>Locally significant populations of species that are listed in a National or Local BAP on account of its regional rarity or localisation.</p> <p>A regularly occurring, locally significant population of a county/district important species (particularly during a critical phase of its life cycle).</p>
<p>Local (Immediate local area importance; within 5 km)</p>	<p>Low or medium importance and rarity, local scale.</p> <p>Habitats</p> <p>Locally important populations of priority species or habitats or natural heritage features identified in the Local BAP.</p> <p>Areas of habitat considered to appreciably enrich the habitat resource within the local context (e.g. species-rich hedgerows, ponds etc.). It may also include sites that retain other elements of semi-natural vegetation that due to their size, quality or the wide distribution of such habitats within the local area are not considered for local designations.</p> <p>Species</p> <p>Populations/assemblages of species that appreciably enrich the biodiversity resource within the local context.</p>
<p>Site (Within the Proposed Development footprint and immediate vicinity of the Proposed Development)</p>	<p>Very low importance and rarity, local scale.</p> <p>Habitats and/or species that are of limited ecological importance due to their size, species composition or other factors.</p>