

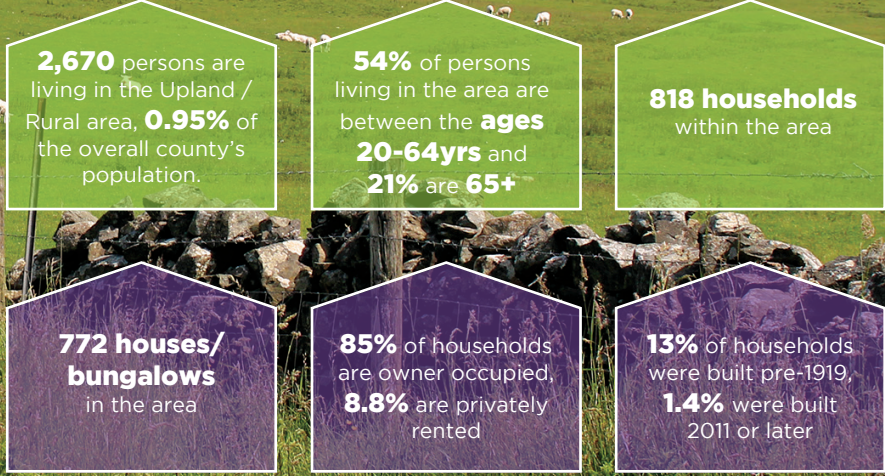


## RURAL UPLANDS



What are the key Issues and Opportunities in YOUR Area?

### Population Growth & Housing



### Built Environment & Placemaking

The rural/upland area can be identified by its **agricultural** and **rural/upland** setting and associated environmental, economic and amenity values. The built environment in this area consists primarily of the villages of **Brittas** and **Glenasmole**, farmhouses and agricultural buildings, clusters and single rural housing and other economic/tourism enterprises. The rural sense of place is rooted in the community, through families and community connections, through the long-standing experience of meitheal, and in the local history and heritage of the area and the people who formed it. It will be important to retain and strengthen the strong sense of place that already exists in

the communities in this neighbourhood, and support them by providing the necessary physical and community supports that are needed to ensure these communities thrive, and that their unique contribution to the landscape character of this area continues into the future.



### Introduction & Context

The **Rural Uplands Neighbourhood** is generally known as the **Dublin Mountains**, extends from Rockbrook in the east, adjacent to the M50, to Badgerhill in the west. The southernmost point of the county stretches to the southern slopes of Kippure, 27km from Dublin City. The area consists of small rural cluster settlements such as Glenasmole and Redgap and the larger settlement of Brittas. The **N81** national secondary route dissects the county from Brittas to link with the **M50** main orbital route.

The rural landscape features places of **scenic** and **natural beauty** alongside **popular amenity areas**. This rural upland area provides a green belt buffer between the built-up area of Dublin and the rural settlements.

The Dublin Mountains have a **high landscape value and sensitivity** being partially designated as a **Special Area of Conservation (SAC)**, **Special Protection Area (SPA)** and **proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA)**.



### Community Services

This area of the county is **bolstered by its people** and the communities that live there. The remoteness and isolated locations draw communities **closer together** to give a sense of camaraderie. Community centres contribute towards this. It is an objective to work towards **improving the quality of life** of these communities and residents and to encompass **social inclusion and integration** in all current and future plans.

**Education Facilities** play a key role in the creation of sustainable communities. The Department of Education is responsible for delivery of educational facilities throughout the county, facilitated by the Council.

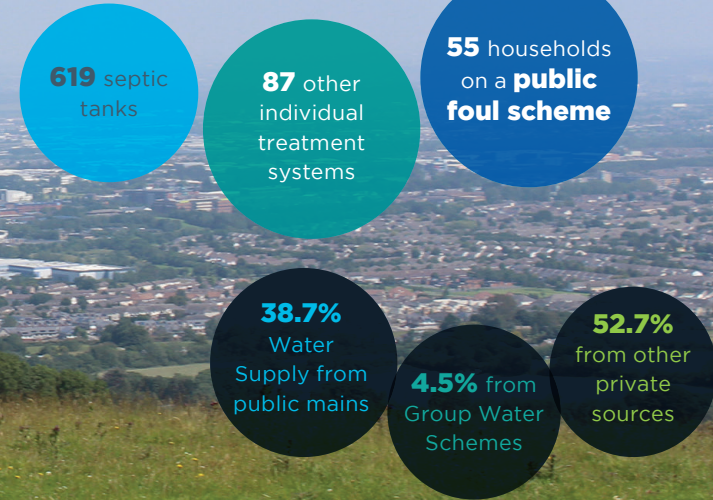
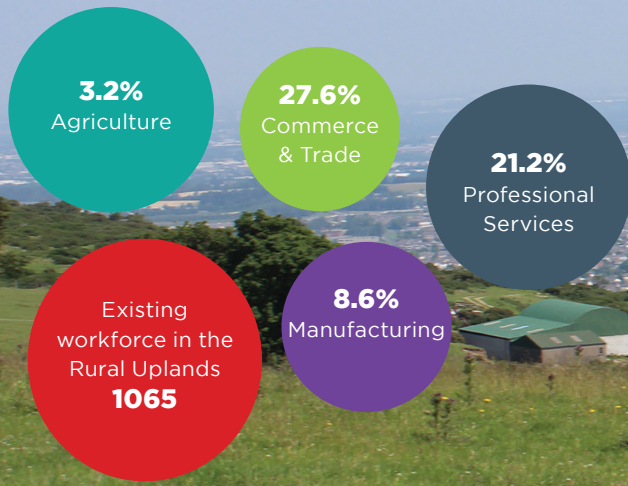






The South Dublin Climate Action & Energy Plan recognises that agriculture is an important aspect of life, playing a vital role in the livelihoods of some residents within this area.

The Rural Uplands neighbourhood has a **challenging task** to develop sustainable modes of transport.

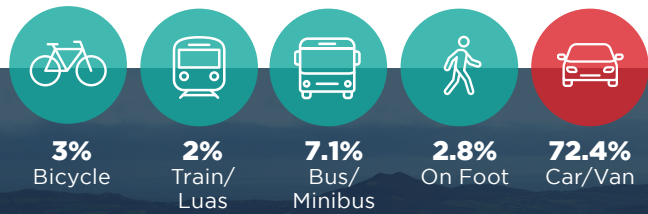


### Climate Action & Energy

The new Plan will support sensitive rural diversification responsive to the surrounding environment. Diversification, such as tourism around new forestry plantations can play a role in the transition to a low carbon, climate-resilient economy and society. Green Infrastructure will also have a role to play in climate mitigation and adaptation in this area.

### Sustainable Movement

The **N81** is the national secondary route traversing the western part of this area connecting to Dublin City via **Dublin Bus**. The Dublin Bus Service has been enhanced to Brittas. The promotion of public transport initiatives such as the **Local Link Kildare South Dublin** which delivers rural public transport services on behalf of the National Transport Authority will be **key** to the delivery of more **sustainable movement patterns** within this area.



### Economic Development

Employment opportunities in the rural/uplands area are centred around **rural enterprises, extractive industries, agricultural developments and amenity facilities**.

Two of the key pillars of **Realising our Rural Potential: The Action Plan for Rural Development 2017** relate to supporting rural enterprise/employment and maximising rural tourism and recreational potential. **Rural diversification** opportunities are vital for **sustaining a viable rural economy**.

The Development Plan will be required to include policy and objectives to ensure that this area **capitalises** on its **potential** while **protecting** the **environmental assets** that define its character and value.



### Built Heritage

The rural uplands area provides a rich and diverse architectural and historic environment, comprising of a number of protected structures and identified national monuments/places. Within the rural uplands there are a number of farmhouses, demesne, agricultural buildings and vernacular structures which provide varied building styles and richness to the architectural quality of the area.

Existing Clachans and vernacular structures within this area are important to the architectural development of the rural landscape and also in providing an understanding to traditional building methods and materials. Any new development should be sensitive to the existing landscape and should reflect the local vernacular quality and materials of the area.

### Natural Heritage & Biodiversity

The River Dodder and Glenasmole Valley is **designated as a Landscape Character Area** within the Landscape Character Assessment of South Dublin County (2015). This area is highly scenic with extensive views over Dublin and has a rich biodiversity with high ecological value. The area has significant archaeological clusters dating from Neolithic and Bronze Age.

The Rural Uplands boasts European Designations in **Glenasmole Valley SAC** for its Orchid-rich Calcareous Grassland, Molinia Meadows and Petrifying Springs and **Wicklow Mountain SPA** which is an important breeding and foraging ground for Merlin and Peregrine. The area is also partially designated as a **pnha**.

### Infrastructure & Utilities

Mountain water run-off is a critical challenge facing this neighbourhood which requires a Water Management Scheme. The **Glenasmole Valley** is sensitive to this **water run-off** and potential impacts for **ground water contaminants**, due to the location of **Bohernabreena waterworks**. Developing the **Green Infrastructure network** will aid in this challenge.



Shape | Explore | Experience