

## Appendix IV Record of Protected Structures

RPS Reference	Name or Description of Structure	Location
WCC0001	St Peter's Church	Kilmore Quay
WCC0002	Stonie Cottage, two-storey thatched house	Crossfarnoge, Kilmore Quay
WCC0003	Three bay, two-storey, thatched house	Crossfarnoge, Kilmore Quay
WCC0004	An Teach Ban, single-storey thatched house	Crossfarnoge, Kilmore Quay
WCC0005	Five bay, single-storey, thatched house	Crossfarnoge, Kilmore Quay
WCC0006	Bag End, single-storey, thatched house	Nemestown, Kilmore Quay
WCC0007	Three bay, two-storey, thatched house	Nemestown, Kilmore Quay
WCC0008	Four bay, two-storey, thatched house	Crossfarnoge, Kilmore Quay
WCC0009	Three bay, two-storey, thatched house	Crossfarnoge, Kilmore Quay
WCC0010	Gaotí, Four bay single-storey, thatched house	Nemestown, Kilmore Quay
WCC0011	An Teach Oileann, Four bay, thatched house	Crossfarnoge, Kilmore Quay
WCC0012	Aisling, two-storey thatched house	Crossfarnoge, Kilmore Quay
WCC0013	Small three bay two storey, thatched house	Crossfarnoge, Kilmore Quay
WCC0015	Moylan Cottage, thatched house	Crossfarnoge, Kilmore Quay
WCC0016	Four bay, two-storey thatched house	Nemestown, Kilmore Quay
WCC0017	19th Century five bay single-storey house	Nemestown, Kilmore Quay
WCC0018	Four bay thatched house	Ballyteige, Kilmore Quay
WCC0019	Two Storey, four bay, thatch dwelling	Nemestown, Kilmore Quay
WCC0030	Star of the Sea Church	Ballinray Lwr., Courtown
WCC0031-34	No's 1 to 4 , Victorian Cottages	Seamount, Courtown
WCC0035	Maryville House	Ballinray Lwr., Courtown
WCC0036	Coast & Cliff Rescue HQ	Riverchapel Rd., Seamount, Courtown
WCC0037	Lifeboat House, RNLI	Ballinray, Courtown
WCC0038	The old well/fountain and post box adj. to community centre	Seamount, Courtown
WCC0039	Glen Richards Farmhouse & outbuildings	Ardamine-Pollshore Road, Parknacross, Courtown
WCC0101	Gateway at Avenue de Flanders	Mulgannon Road, Wexford
WCC0102	Park Cottage	Ballyboggan, Wexford
WCC0103	St John of God	Newtown Road, Townparks, Wexford
WCC0104-105 1 & 2	Tivoli Terrace	Spawell Rd., Townparks, Wexford
WCC0107	Paupers Graveyard	Coolcot Lane, Wexford
WCC0108	Graveyard	Maudlintown, Wexford
WCC0109	Former Hospital	Walnut Grove Park, Carricklawn, Wexford
WCC0110	Site of Church and Graveyard	Rocksborough, Wexford
WCC0111	Saint Fanres Well	Rocksborough, Wexford
WCC0112	Site of Castle	Drinagh, Wexford
WCC0113	Drinagh Church and Graveyard	Drinagh, Wexford
WCC0114	Breffini House	Clonard Road, Wexford
WCC0115	Prospect House	Clonard Road, Wexford
WCC0116	Ashfield House	Knockcumshin, Wexford
WCC0117	Glenville House	Glenville, Wexford
WCC0118	Site of St Nicolas Well	Newtown, Wexford
WCC0119	Carrick Church and Graveyard	Carrick, Wexford
WCC0120	Newtown House	Newtown, Wexford
WCC0121	Alma House	Park, Wexford
WCC0122	Park House	Ballyboggan, Wexford
WCC0123	Park Lodge	Ballyboggan, Wexford
WCC0124	Mount Henry House	Ballyboggan, Wexford
WCC0125	Brookville House	Ballyboggan, Wexford
WCC0126	Slaney Hill House	Ballyboggan, Wexford
WCC0127	Rocklands Cottage	Rocklands, Wexford
WCC0128	Oaklea	Rocksborough, Wexford
WCC0129	Rocksborough House	Rocksborough, Wexford
WCC0130	Kerlogue House & Gate Lodge	Rocksborough, Wexford
WCC0131	Drinagh House (North)	Drinagh North, Wexford

WCC0132	Drinagh House (South) & Lodge	Drinagh South, Wexford.
WCC0133	Chimney Stack	Drinagh South Wexford.
WCC0135	Carcur House	Spawell Rd., Townparks, Wexford
WCC0136	Ryans	Spawell Rd., Townparks, Wexford
WCC0137-140	1-4 Riverview Tce (1 Riverview Tce = WCC0137 etc)	Spawell Rd., Townparks, Wexford
WCC0141-144	1-4 Farnoge Tce	Stoneybatter, Wexford
WCC0145-157	1-13 Carcur Cottages (1 Carcur Cottage = WCC0145)	Carcur, Townparks, Wexford
WCC0158	Rocklands House	Rocksborough, Wexford
WCC0177a	Workmans Cottage 1	Maudlins, New Ross
WCC0177b	Workmans Cottage 2	Maudlins, New Ross
WCC0177c	Farmhouse and Outbuildings	Maudlins, New Ross
WCC0177d	Two storey, Two bay house (Hearne)	Maudlins, New Ross
WCC0178	The Store	Maudlins, New Ross
WCC0179	Brandon House	Southknock, New Ross
WCC0180	Roseville House	Hewlitsland, New Ross
WCC0181	St. Stephens Cemetry	Morrisseysland, New Ross
WCC0182	Brandon Well	Oaklands, New Ross
WCC0183	Deserted settlement	Clonmines, Wellingtonbridge
WCC0201	Church of Ireland	Main Street, Gorey
WCC0202	St Patrickís Roman Catholic Church	St. Michaelís Road, Gorey
WCC0204	Avenue House	The Avenue, Gorey
WCC0205	End of Avenue, Corner of Railway Road	The Avenue, Gorey
WCC0206	7 Church Street Gorey	
WCC0207	Late Victorian School	Main Street, Gorey
WCC0208	Frenches Bar	28 Main Street, Gorey
WCC0209	Court House	Main Street, Gorey
WCC0210	Brownes	45 Main Street, Gorey
WCC0211	Myles Doyle	67 Main Street, Gorey
WCC0212	Hugie Doyle	68 Main Street, Gorey
WCC0213	Market House	77 Main Street, Gorey
WCC0214	Pooles Porterhouse	79 Main Street, Gorey
WCC0215	Davis	88 Main Street, Gorey
WCC0216	P.J Conroy	92 Main Street, Gorey
WCC0217	House & outbuildings	Ramstown Lower, Gorey
WCC0218	St Michael's	St Michael's Road, Gorey
WCC0219	St Patrick's	St Michael's Road, Gorey
WCC0220	Loreto Convent	St Michael's Road, Gorey
WCC0221	Late Victorian Water Font	Church Street, Gorey
WCC0222	Clonatin House	Clonatin Upper, Gorey
WCC0223	Fire Hydrant	(outside No. 15) Esmond Street, Gorey
WCC0224	St Annes	Fort Road, Gorey
WCC0225	1798 Monument	Mac Curtain Street, Gorey
WCC0226	Merrion Lodge	Mac Curtain Street, Gorey
WCC0227	Lodge House	Mac Curtain Street, Gorey
WCC0228	Coach House	Main Street, Gorey
WCC0230	Funges	17 Main Street, Gorey
WCC0231-232	Maloccas	18/19 Main Street, Gorey
WCC0234	Bob's Lounge	25 Main Street, Gorey
WCC0235	A.D. Quinn Property Specialists	26 Main Street, Gorey
WCC0236	Donal's Superstore	27 Main Street Gorey
WCC0239	Eco Restaurant (Previously called Copper Kettle)	31 Main Street, Gorey
WCC0241	Whytes Newsagents	36 Main Street, Gorey
WCC0242	J.J. Whitmore	37 Main Street, Gorey
WCC0244	Sally West	42 Main Street
WCC0245	Tara Stores	43 Main Street
WCC0246	Golden Dragon	48 Main Street, Gorey
WCC0248	Garda Station	Main Street, Gorey

WCC0249	Gibbons	60 Main Street, Gorey
WCC0252	John OíLoughlin & Co.	71 Main Street, Gorey
WCC0253	McGoverns	72 Main Street, Gorey
WCC0254	M. Leacy & Sons	75 Main Street, Gorey
WCC0255	Wades Pharmacy	76 Main Street, Gorey
WCC0256	Kool Kidz	81 Main Street, Gorey
WCC0257	Alders	86 Main Street, Gorey
WCC0258	Loch Garman Arms	90 Main Street, Gorey
WCC0259	Mayfield	North Parade, Gorey
WCC0261	Snowdrop Cottage	Gorey Hill (R725), Gorey
WCC0263	Railway Station	Railway Road, Gorey.
WCC0264	Furlong House	Ramstown Lwr, Gorey
WCC0265	John Boland Carpets	St. Michaels Rd., Gorey
WCC0266	Property Formerly Christian Brothers	
	St. Vincent de Paul	St. Michaels Rd., Gorey.
WCC0267	Station Goods Buildings	St. Michaels Rd., Gorey.
WCC0301	Former Alms House	Old Church Rd., Templeshannon, Enniscorthy
WCC0302	Old Rectory	Old Church Rd., Templeshannon, Enniscorthy
WCC0303	Clonhasten House	Old Church Rd., Templeshannon, Enniscorthy
WCC0304	Windmill Tower	Vinegar Hill, Enniscorthy
WCC0501	Outbuildings and kitchen garden	Churchtown, Carne.
WCC0502	Thatched cottage	Bog Road, Coolamain, Oilgate
WCC0503	Three bay, single storey with corrugated iron roof	Primestown, Broadway
WCC0504	Pillar House	Courtown Demesne Courtown, Wexford
WCC0505.	Clougheast Cottage	Clougheast, Carne, Wexford
WCC0506	Monfin House	Monfin, Enniscorthy
WCC0508	Edenvale Cottage	Ballyboggan, Castlebridge
WCC0509	Ballymore School House	Ballymore, Ferns, Wexford
WCC0510	Monaseed House	Monaseed Demense, Gorey, Wexford
WCC0511	Former RIC Barracks	Main Street, Fethard, Wexford
WCC0512	Two Storey, five bay, thatched House	Polrane, Kilmore, Wexford
WCC0513	St. Ruanes Church	Kilrane, Wexford
WCC0514	Stone Bridge, St Helens	St.Helens, Rosslare, Wexford
WCC0515	Ceann Tu	Lady's Island Wexford
WCC0516	Two story, three bay house	Kilbraney, Gusserane, New Ross, Wexford
WCC0517	Tintern Church of Ireland Church	Saltmills, Wexford
WCC0518	Limekiln	St.Kearns, Saltmills, Wexford
WCC0519	Coal Quay	St Kearns, Saltmills, Wexford
WCC0520	Styles House	Saltmills, Wexford
WCC0521	Tintern House	Saltmills, Wexford
WCC0522	Waterpump	Saltmills, Wexford
WCC0523	Colclough Memorial Hall	Saltmills, Wexford
WCC0524	Finn's Shop	Saltmills, Wexford
WCC0525	The Hollow	Cullenstown, Wexford
WCC0526	St. Maryís Church	Cushinstown, New Ross
WCC0527	Thatched house, Four Bay, Two Storey	Ardnagh Little, Foulkesmills, Wexford
WCC0528	Corn Mill	Cloughmills, Davidstown
WCC0529	Curraclloe House	Curraclloe, Wexford

WCC0530	Three bay two storey house, Landscape	Landscape, New Ross, Wexford
WCC0531	Free standing outbuilding, two storey, gable fronted	Duncormick Village Wexford
WCC0532	Castellated stone building	Pollsallagh, Piercestown Village, Wexford
WCC0533	Star of the Sea Church	Duncannon, Wexford
WCC0534	Duncormick Church	Duncormick, Wexford
WCC0535	Thatched Cottage, five bay, single storey	Grange, Kilmore
WCC0536	Pair of cottages, three bay two storey cottages	Barrystown, Wellingtonbridge
WCC0537	Salt Bridge	Seafield, Duncormick
WCC0538	Redmondstown Church	Rathaspick, Wexford
WCC0539	St John Of God's Convent	Sarshill, Kilmore, Wexford
WCC0540	Quigleys Bar & Residence	Sarshill, Kilmore, Wexford
WCC0541	Farmhouse	Ballask, Kilmore, Wexford
WCC0542	Three bay, two storey house	Mauldlintown, Wellingtonbridge
WCC0543	Crefogue House	Enniscorthy
WCC0544	Castlebridge Reading Rooms	Castlebridge. Wexford.
WCC0545	Stewards House	Kilann, Enniscorthy
WCC0546	Two storey house, four bay, corrugated iron roof	Stonepark, Davidstown
WCC0547	Newbay House	Newbay, Wexford
WCC0548	Three bay, single storey, thatched dwelling	Main Street, Ballask, Kilmore
WCC0549	Three bay, single storey, thatched dwelling (wooden door)	Main Street, Ballask, Kilmore
WCC0560	Sweet Briar Cottage	Curracloe, Wexford
WCC0561	Single storey, thatched cottage	Balinesker, Curracloe, Wexford
WCC0562	Teach Samhran	Ballask, Carne (ED Lady's Island)
WCC0563	Three bay, two story thatch with back to road,.	Newown, Kilmore
WCC0565	Martello Tower	Duncannon, Wexford
WCC0566	Martello Tower Tower	Duncannon, Wexford
WCC0567	Ramsfort	Ballyteganpark, Gorey
WCC0568	Bannow House	Grange, Bannow
WCC0569	The Deeps	The Deeps, Crossabeg
WCC0570	Thatched Public, Real Unyoke	Castle Ellis, Castle Ellis
WCC0571	Three bay, thatched two story farmhouse	Polmanagh Little
WCC0572	Thatched Lodge	Kiltunnel Village, Courtown, Wexford
WCC0573	Rowesmount House	Bogganstown Upr, Drinagh
WCC0601	Ballycarney Bridge	Ballycarney
WCC0602	Corbally Bridge	Corbally
WCC0603	Courtown House	Courtown
WCC0604	Doran's Bridge	Ferns
WCC0605	Edermine	Edermine
WCC0606	Garrylough Mill	Garrylough
WCC0607	Hill Castle	Tagoat
WCC0608	Hook Head Lighthouse	Hook Head
WCC0609	Kilcarbry Bridge	Kilcarbry
WCC0610	Kyle Cross Roads	Kyle Cross
WCC0611	The Leap	The Leap
WCC0612	Ballinatray Bridge	Ballinatray
WCC0613	Round Tower	Ferrycarrig
WCC0614	House	Ramstown Lower
WCC0615	Bridge and Causeway	Saltmills

WCC0616	Scarawalsh Bridge	Enniscorthy
WCC0617	Solsborough	Solsborough
WCC0618	Bridge	Clonegall
WCC0619	Wellington Bridge	Wellington Bridge
WCC0620	Bellevue	Bellevue
WCC0621	Broadford	Ferns
WCC0622	Browne Clayton Column	Carrigbyrne
WCC0623	Camolin Park	Camolin
WCC0624	Carrigmannon Bridge	Carrigmannon
WCC0625	Clohamon Bridge	Clohamon
WCC0626	Coolattin Bridge	Coolattin
WCC0630	Adamstown Church	Adamstown
WCC0631	Clonroche Church	Clonroche
WCC0632	Courtnacuddy Church	Courtnacuddy
WCC0633	Davidstown Church	Davidstown
WCC0634	Glenbrien Church	Glenbrien
WCC0635	Glynn Church	Glynn
WCC0636	Hilltown Church	Hilltown
WCC0637	Killinierin Church	Killinierin
WCC0638	Killmyshall Church	Killmyshall
WCC0639	Lady's Island Church	Lady's Island
WCC0640	Old Ross Church	Old Ross
WCC0641	Ballindaggin Church	Ballindaggin
WCC0642	Oulart Church	Oulart
WCC0643	Piercetown Church	Piercetown
WCC0644	Ramsgrange Church	Ramsgrange
WCC0645	Rathangan Church	Rathangan
WCC0646	Rathnure Church	Rathnure
WCC0647	Tagoat Church	Tagoat
WCC0648	Taylorstown Church	Taylorstown Bridge
WCC0649	Ballygarrett Church	Ballygarrett
WCC0650	Ballymore Church	Ballymore
WCC0651	Ballymurn Church	Ballymurn
WCC0652	Barntown Church	Barntown
WCC0653	Bellevue Church	Ballyhogue
WCC0654	Bree Church	Bree
WCC0655	Clongeen Church	Clongeen
WCC0660	Artramon House	Crossabeg
WCC0661	Ballystraw (Palladian House)	Ballystraw
WCC0662	Neo-classical house	Ballytrent
WCC0663	Italianate House	Ballywater
WCC0664	Bargy Castle	Bargy
WCC0665	Neo-classical house	Berkeley
WCC0666	Neo-Tudor House	Bloomfield
WCC0667	Late Classical House	Borleagh
WCC0668	Borohill	Borohill
WCC0669	Italianate House	Borrmount
WCC0670	Italianate House	Ballinkeel
WCC0671	Brookhill House	Brookhill
WCC0672	Brownswood House	Brownswood
WCC0673	Castleboro	Castleboro
WCC0674	Castle Talbot	Talbot
WCC0675	Clobemon Hall	Bunclody
WCC0676	House	Clohamon
WCC0677	Palladian House	Clonard Great
WCC0678	Ruin of a Tudor-Gothic	Coolbawn
WCC0679	The Deanery	Ferns
WCC0680	Neo-Classical Entrance	Ballyanne
WCC0681	Italianate House	Dunbrody
WCC0682	Edermine	Enniscorthy
WCC0683	House	Horetown
WCC0684	Neo-Classical House	Hyde Park

WCC0684	Neo-Classical House	Hyde Park
WCC0685	Johnstown Castle	Rathaspick
WCC0686	Killiane Castle	Killiane
WCC0687	House	Killowen
WCC0688	Kilmannock	Kilmannock
WCC0689	Kyle House	Kyle
WCC0690	Ballycarney Cottage	Ballycarney
WCC0691	Litterbeg	Litterbeg
WCC0692	Loftus Hall	Templetown
WCC0693	Macmine Castle	Macmine
WCC0694	Neo-Classical House	MacMurrough
WCC0695	House	Marfield
WCC0696	Monart	Enniscorthy
WCC0697	Palladian Composition	Monksgrange
WCC0698	Mount Anna	Crossabeg
WCC0699	Nevillescourt	Nevillescourt
WCC0700	Newbay House	Carrick
WCC0701	Ballymore	Camolin
WCC0702	Italianate House	Newtownbarry
WCC0703	Rubble-Stone House	Parknashoge
WCC0704	Peppard's Castle	Peppard
WCC0705	House	Pilltown
WCC0706	Rathaspick	Rathaspick
WCC0707	Towerhouse and House	Richfield
WCC0708	Lodge	Rockspring
WCC0709	House	Rosegarland
WCC0710	Ballymore	Screen
WCC0711	Rosemount	Rosemount
WCC0712	Error	
WCC0713	St. John's	Enniscorthy
WCC0714	St Waleran's	Gorey
WCC0715	Saunder's Court	Crossabeg
WCC0716	Stokestown	Stokestown
WCC0717	Slaney Lodge	Bunclody
WCC0718	Stokestown Folly	Stokestown
WCC0719	Stokestown Castle	Stokestown
WCC0720	Talbot Hall	Talbot
WCC0721	Country House	Ballynestragh
WCC0722	Verona	Verona
WCC0723	Wells	Gorey
WCC0724	Wilton	Wilton
WCC0725	Woodbrook	Woodbrook
WCC0726	Woodview	Ferns
WCC0727	Ballinatray Bridge	Courtown
WCC0728	Lodge	Ballyrankin
WCC0740	Ardamine Church	Riverchapel
WCC0741	Kilscoran Church	Kilscoran
WCC0742	Kyle Church	Kyle
WCC0743	Wells Church	Wells
WCC0744	Whitechurch Church	Whitechurch
WCC0745	Ballyboro Church	Killegney
WCC0746	Ballybuckley	Ballybuckley
WCC0747	Ballycanew Church	Ballycanew
WCC0748	Ballycarney Church	Ballycarney
WCC0749	Carrick Church	Carrick
WCC0750	Hollyfort Church	Hollyfort
WCC0751	Killann Church	Killann
WCC0752	Killurin Church	Killurin
WCC0765	Baginbun Earthwork	Ramstown
WCC0766	Rectilinear	Courtallyedmond
WCC0767	Barrow Loftus Hall	

WCC0768	Old Ross Motte	Springpark
WCC0769	Ringfort	Muchrath
WCC0770	Castle	Ballyhack
WCC0771	Castle	Slade
WCC0772	Abbey (Cist.)	Tintern
WCC0773	Motte	Ballymoty More
WCC0774	Ferns Castle	Castleland
WCC0775	Castle	Coolhull
WCC0776	Abbey (Cist)	Dunbrody
WCC0777	Tacumshane Windmill	Fence
WCC0778	Monastery (Aug.)	Ferns Upper
WCC0779	Castle	Rathmacknee Great
WCC0780	Castle	Rathumney
WCC0790	Artramon Castle	Atramon
WCC0791	Clough Castle	Carne
WCC0792	Coolhull Castle	Coolhull
WCC0793	Deeps	Deeps
WCC0794	House	Dunbrody
WCC0795	Towerhouse	Ferrycarrig
WCC0796	Hilltown House	Hilltown
WCC0797	Mount Garrett Castle	Mount Garrett
WCC0798	Mylerspark	Mylerspark
WCC0799	Baldwinstown Castle	Baldwinstown
WCC0800	Tower House	Ballyhack
WCC0801	Ballyteigue Castle	Ballyteigue
WCC0802	Butlerstown Castle	Butlerstown
WCC0803	Castleboro	Castleboro
WCC0804	Castletown House	Castletown
WCC0805	Tower House	Carne
WCC0806	Tower House	Sigginstown
WCC0820	J. Bowe	Kiltealy
WCC0821	First Fruits Type Church	Kiltannel
WCC0822	Pedimented Entrance Arch	Kiltannel
WCC0823	Old National School	Kiltannel
WCC0824	Catholic Church	Oilgate
WCC0825	Artisan Houses	Oilgate
WCC0826	Thatched Cottage	Screen
WCC0827	Patrick Fortune	Screen
WCC0828	Catholic Church	Taghmon
WCC0829	Church of Ireland Church	Taghmon
WCC0830	Three Storey House	Taghmon
WCC0831	Whelan's	Taghmon
WCC0832	House	Taghmon
WCC0833	Taghmon Castle	Taghmon
WCC0834	Small First Fruits Church	Templescoby (Jamestown)
WCC0835	Sexton's House and School	Templescoby (Jamestown)
WCC0836	First Fruits Church and Tower	Templeshambo
WCC0837	Former School House	Templeshambo
WCC0838	House	Tomhaggard
WCC0839	Mass House	Tomhaggard
WCC0840	N/K Thatched House	Ballyedmond
WCC0841	Thatched Cottage	Ballyedmond
WCC0842	Ballyedmond	
WCC0843	Thatched Cottage	Ballyedmond
WCC0844	Shell Cottage	Blackwater
WCC0845	Bridge	Blackwater
WCC0846	Thatched House	Blackwater
WCC0847	Catholic Church	Blackwater
WCC0848	Church of Ireland Church	Bunclody
WCC0850	J. Furlong	Bunclody
WCC0851	Bridge over the Slaney	Bunclody
WCC0852	Catholic Church Castlebridge	

WCC0852	Catholic Church	Castlebridge
WCC0853	Church of Ireland Church	Castlebridge
WCC0854	Conservatory	Castlebridge
WCC0855	Mill Buildings	Castlebridge
WCC0856	House	Castlebridge
WCC0857	Mill Buildings	Castlebridge
WCC0858	Como Lodge	Castlebridge
WCC0859	Thatched House	Castlebridge
WCC0860	Barn Church	Craanford
WCC0861	Thatched House	Craanford
WCC0862	Mill Building	Craanford
WCC0863	The Fort	Duncannon
WCC0864	Duncannon Church of Ireland Church	Duncannon
WCC0865	Lighthouse and other buildings	Duncannon
WCC0866	Church of Ireland	Ferns
WCC0867	Well	Ferns
WCC0868	The Old Mill	Ferns
WCC0869	Church of Ireland Church	Fethard
WCC0870	Fethard Castle	Fethard
WCC0871	Mill Building	Foulkesmill
WCC0872	Polldoon House	Foulkesmill
WCC0880	Mulrankin Castle	Bridgetown
WCC0881	Ballyhealy Castle	Kilmore
WCC0882	Kilmokea House	Campile
WCC0883	Dunmain House	New Ross
WCC0884	Polehore House	Wexford
WCC0890	Thatched House	Allenstown Little
WCC0891	Thatched Farmhouse	Carne
WCC0892	Thatched Cottage	Ballygarran
WCC0893	Thatched Cottage	Ballygarrett
WCC0894	Thatched House	Ballygarrett Little
WCC0895	Thatched Farmhouse	Ballygillane Little
WCC0896	Thatched Cottage	Ballymitt
WCC0897	Thatched Cottage	Ballymitt
WCC0898	Thatched House	Ballymoty Beg
WCC0899	Thatched Farmhouse	Ballynamire
WCC0900	Thatched Cottage	Bolaboy More
WCC0901	Thatched Farmhouse	Ballysheen
WCC0902	Thatched Farmhouse	Ballysimon
WCC0903	Thatched Cottage	Ballyvaloo
WCC0904	Farmhouse	Ballyvergin
WCC0905	Thatched House Chapel	
WCC0906	Cottage	Lady's Island
WCC0907	Thatched Gentleman's Residence	Lady's Island
WCC0908	Thatched House	Coddstown Great
WCC0909	Thatched House	Coddstown Little
WCC0910	Thatched Cottage	Coolgarrow
WCC0911	Cottage	Coolhull
WCC0912	Thatched House	Coolrainey
WCC0913	Thatched Cabin	Coolrainey
WCC0914	Thatched House	Coolroe
WCC0915	Farmhouse	Coolattin
WCC0916	Thatched House	Courtough Lower
WCC0917	Thatched Cottage	Cullenstown
WCC0918	Thatched Roof	Cullenstown
WCC0919	Cottage (Ballask)	Kilmore
WCC0920	Sinnotts	Duncormick
WCC0921	Thatched House	Eardownes Great
WCC0922	Thatched House	Gerry
WCC0923	Thatched House	Gibberwell
WCC0924	Thatched Cottage	Glebe Blackwater

WCC0925	Thatched Cottage	Johnstown
WCC0926	Thatched Cottage	Killenagh
WCC0927	Thatched Cottage	Kilmacoe
WCC0928	Thatched Cottage	Lannagh
WCC0929	Thatched Cottage	Libgate
WCC0930	Thatched House	Ballinesker
WCC0931	Thatched Cottage	ED Kilsoran
WCC0932	Whitewashed House	ED Kilsoran
WCC0933	House	Nemestown
WCC0934	Cottage	Nemestown
WCC0935	Thatched House	Newtown
WCC0936	Thatched House	ED Kilmore
WCC0937	Thatched Cottage	ED Kilmore
WCC0938	Cottage	ED Kilmore
WCC0939	Thatched Cottage	Orristown
WCC0940	Thatched Cottage	Richfield
WCC0941	Thatched Farmhouse	Rickardstown
WCC0942	Farmhouse	St. Awaries
WCC0943	House	St. Iberius
WCC0944	Thatched Cottage	St. Iberius
WCC0945	Thatched House	Sarshill
WCC0946	Thatched House	Whitefort
WCC0947	Thatched Cottage	Whitefort
WCC0948	Thatched House	Ballinesker
WCC0949	Thatched House	ED Tacumshane
WCC0950	Thatched Farmhouse	Ballyconnigar
WCC0951	Rubble Stone Lodge	Ballyduff Lower

## 1.- TERMS OF REFERENCE

CAAS Environmental Services have been commissioned by Wexford County Council to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment Report. This has arisen from the earlier involvement of CAAS Ltd. in the evaluation of landscape sensitivity in the County.

It should be noted that this report is an assessment of the landscape character of the county and is not intended to address rural housing policy strategies or to guide the location of rural housing within the county.

## 2.- INTRODUCTION

### 2.1.- LEGISLATION, GUIDELINES, PRECEDENT

Landscapes in Ireland combine important economic, social and cultural roles. Changes due to human activities are seen as an integral part of the landscape, as the cycles of agriculture, housing and history have shaped the Irish landscape. Similarly, the landscapes of County Wexford have co-evolved over thousands of years and continue to evolve and change today as a result of human actions and natural forces.

Landscapes evolve as landuses constantly change in response to economic demands. This interaction is made more complex because the aesthetic response of viewers can vary according to their cultural background and indeed may change over time, as a society's cultural sensibilities develop and change.

Part IV (7) of the 1<sup>st</sup> schedule (S10) of the Local Government Planning & Development Act 2000, aims: ***“Preserving the character of the landscape, including views and prospects, and the amenities of places and features of natural beauty or interest”***.

At the heart of this effort lies a highly complex interaction between the landuses which take place in the countryside; the appearance of those landuses when viewed from certain locations and the reaction of viewers to their appearance.

Consequently, the objective of this legislation is faced with difficulties because

- It seeks to “preserve” (prevent change) in a dynamic landscape, which has always changed, and will presumably will always change.
- It assumes that there are fixed reference points as to what constitutes “features of natural beauty” when in fact these vary from individual to individual and from time to time. This analysis also highlights the legal insecurity of any development control measure - such as designations on account of “natural beauty” -, which could limit the development rights. It is inappropriate to think that landscape designations could be legally justified on the grounds of “natural beauty” alone.

The “*Guidelines on Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*<sup>1</sup>” give a clear definition of the relationship between visual and landscape impacts given that visual issues are only one small part of a wide range of issues, which contribute to the character or distinctiveness of a landscape. It is stated in the Guidelines that:

*“The landscape is not a purely visual phenomenon; it relies heavily on other influences for its character (see map1) including the underlying geology, the soils, the topography, archaeology, land use, ecology, cultural associations, all of which influence the ways in which landscape is experienced and valued”*

Similarly, the EPA Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements highlight the fact that visual issues are only one small part of a wide range of issues, that contribute to the character of a landscape: -

*“The topic has two separate but closely related aspects. The first aspect to be considered is visual impacts, focusing on the extent to which new development can be seen. The second aspect considers impacts on the character of the landscape, examining responses that are felt towards the combined effects of the new development. This topic is complex because it encompasses many other impacts such as noise, odours, ecology and history, because attempts to scientifically measure feelings and perceptions are not reliable. Cross references with appropriate specialist topics such as ecology, archaeology and architectural history are very important.”*

As a result - and to solve some of the identified difficulties - the Department of the Environment has prepared **Landscape and Landscape Assessment Guidelines**<sup>2</sup>. The aim of the Guidelines is to heighten awareness of the importance of landscape in all aspects of physical planning and recommends a Landscape Character Assessment method that would help in formulating general Landscape Protection Policies.

The principle behind Landscape Character Assessment is a systematic approach that concentrates, in the initial stages, on identifying homogenous physiographic areas and gradually introduces the more evaluative elements of landscape sensitivity. The guidelines move away from concepts such as factual, sublime, beautiful, etc. and set objective, replicable and equitable criteria for landscape character area designations (see methodology in Section 1.2.2 below and detailed methodology extracted from the Guidelines in Section 2.2.2).

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<sup>1</sup> The Landscape Institute, Institute of Environmental Assessment, *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*, 1995.

<sup>2</sup> **Landscape and Landscape Assessment Guidelines**, Department of the Environment, 2001

Landscape and scenery are often important considerations in making planning decisions. It is vital therefore, to define clear and objective landscape character areas that would help to provide fair and easily anticipated landscape policies to guide applications and decisions so as to generally protect our surrounding environs. In this way potential landscape impacts can be anticipated and avoided while also ensuring that decisions are more easily understood and accepted. The identification of landscape character areas provides guidance to planners as to how landscape considerations should be dealt with and presents a tool for decision-making.

It is worth noting that the Guidelines **do not directly address specific considerations of streetscape in towns and cities**. The guidelines do not address the issues of layout, height or design of towns and cities.

## **2.2. PURPOSE, OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY**

The purpose of this document is to identify and describe the landscape character of each part of the County. Therefore, the approach to this project has been to assess the landscape in terms of its inherent physical and visual characteristics in close accordance with that recommended in the **Landscape and Landscape Assessment Guidelines** prepared by the Department of the Environment.

Following this, the capacity of each area to accept change – without disproportionate environmental and visual effects in particular– is evaluated and a series of policies to guide developments in each type of landscape are proposed. In other words, Landscape Protection Policies are formulated, so as to protect the general landscape of the County and help in the development plan, control and decision-making process.

The approach to this project has been to assess the landscape in terms of its *inherent* physical and visual characteristics, whilst taking into account some concepts of *hierarchical* or *subjective* value. This systematic approach, follows that suggested in the guidelines where:

‘Values attributed to landscapes and judgments involved in the resolution of conflicts or establishment of priorities can be rationally debated and defended with arguments based on evidence, reasons, precedents and consensus.’ ( Pg. 14)

The four-phase methodology used in this project follows the following stages<sup>3</sup>:-

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<sup>3</sup> Note: stages may overlap during the appraisal process

1. Identification of **Landscape Character Units** through the mapping and integration of;

- Physical units & features (landcover and landform; i.e. soils, geology, landuses, topography, etc.)
- Appearance (i.e. visual units recognised from site visits and mapping)
- Characterisation (i.e. historic cultural values, settlement patterns and public perception).

The resultant *Character Units* are then described in terms of their defining landscape characteristics. Boundary determinant factors are then assembled for each boundary of the character unit, and finally, *Critical Landscape Factors* that have a bearing on the relative sensitivities or robustness to development within the unit are identified.

2. Determination of **Landscape Sensitivities** , through the classification of physical features such as landuse (based in CORINE land cover) and topography (e.g. ridge lines).

3. Designation of **Principle Policy Areas** is achieved by grouping the Landscape Character Units that have similarity of landscape types. In County Wexford these 3 principle policy areas have been preliminary identified as shown below:

Main Units	Subdivisions	Landscapes within Landscapes
1.Uplands		
		Blackstairs Range
		South Wicklow Mountains
2. Lowlands		
	South Hills	
	North Hills	
		Slaney/Bann River Corridor
		Barrow River Corridor
3. Coasts		
	East Coastal	
	South Coastal	

**Table 1 Main Character Units, Subdivisions and Landscapes of County Wexford**

4. **Policy Responses** are then provided for each Principle Policy Area, which recognises the inherent sensitivities and robustness of each area to development.

The precise methodology for each phase it is detailed in Section 2.2.

The methodology used for the evaluation involved reference to the following information:-

1. Ordnance Survey Maps scale 1:50,000 (Discovery Series) and 6 inch Maps
2. Areas of Scenic Amenity and Areas of Scientific Interest included in the County Development Plan
3. The CORINE Land Cover Project.
4. 10m Contours Map
5. Slopes of Wexford Map
6. Geology of Wexford Map
7. Subsoils of Wexford Map
8. Soils of Ireland Map
9. Dúchas register of NHAs, SACs, and Sites and Monuments Record (National Monuments Service).
10. Forest Inventory Maps (Coillte)
11. Administrative Boundary Maps
12. Photographic Views (from site visits)
13. Other information such as landmarks, designated walking routes and tourist attractions.

### **2.3. LIMITATIONS AND GUIDANCE**

The approach applied in this study allows an evaluation of the capacity to accommodate development within a landscape, indicating which developments may be most suited, under what conditions and using what design criteria. The objective is to allow the Planning Authority to indicate particular landscape areas which would be suitable for one kind of development while not being considered so for another. These policy responses will correspond to the degree of sensitivity of a particular landscape. The protection of landscape and visual amenities should be suitable for reference in decision making at all levels from countywide policy to site level and may be included in the County Development Plan.

However, it must be noted that the present study is not specific to rural housing and that the Landscape Character Assessment Report neither includes housing strategies nor policies.

The criteria applied in this study form the basis of an open-ended system of protection, which can be updated as the mapping of critical resources improves.

### **3.0 THE LANDSCAPE**

*'The Landscape'* is a general term used to describe the appearance of the physical environment. It is composed of a complex mixture of natural and man-made elements that can also be an important part of the identity of an individual or a community. The pattern that these elements create can be distinctive to particular areas. It combines important economic, social and cultural roles – as the location of agriculture, housing and history.

The landscape is also the sum of its geophysical parts – the underlying geology, soils, archaeology, topography and ecology have all shaped the landscape. As the natural resource base for flora and fauna, and as the location for towns and villages and as a cultural and quality of life indicator, the landscape is an important and often underestimated resource.

#### **3.1.- DYNAMIC LANDSCAPES**

The landscape is a dynamic, constantly evolving entity which also provides a rich record of both past activities. Over time, new components are added to the landscape, whilst older features are modified or replaced. The patterns of archaeology, settlement, ecology, agriculture, industry, forestry and tourism all reflect this dynamism. The Irish landscape is the product of a dynamic interaction between culture and nature, where human progress has led to change. The landscapes of County Wexford have similarly co-evolved over thousands of years and continue to evolve and change today as a result of human and natural interaction.

#### **3.2.- LANDSCAPES AND LANDUSES**

Landuse and the landscape are intertwined. The landscape will shape the type of uses that can be accommodated on the land, whilst land use practices can also shape the landscape. Both landuses and landscapes combine to produce differing character areas. In a mountainous area, for example, the raw physical features of climate and geology will dominate the character of the area. In lowland areas, on the other hand, landuses will typically arise from a wider range of different factors and different uses. Landuse is often characterised by a dominant surface, structural and/or historical and vegetation pattern. By examining landuses throughout a region it is possible to distinguish areas such as peat, grass and/or tillage lands.

#### **3.3.- LANDSCAPE STABILITY**

It has been established that County Wexford's landscapes are dynamic and will continue to change (see Section 3.1). However, these changes will be more definite in some areas than in others. It is anticipated that there will be centres of change and centres of stability throughout the County.

Coastal Areas are likely to continue to experience the most significant development pressures of the county for holiday and second home development as well as associated developments for sports, recreation, amenities and retail developments.

The Uplands' landcover is also likely to change due to the secondary and marginal character of much of the character of existing agriculture. Afforestation is likely to become a more dominant landuse in these areas in the future – with occasional windfarms – some very large creating significant landscape change. Hill areas will experience similar pressure – but this will be mixed with other development pressures for housing and agricultural diversification.

The lowland areas are anticipated to continue in use as agricultural lands due to the high quality and fertility of the soils and the importance of agriculture in these areas. Slight changes are anticipated due to intensification of agricultural practices and expansion of urban settlements. Within these areas river corridors are likely to change as a result of management strategies for nature protection, amenity, water sports, tourism, etc.

### **3.4.- MANAGING CHANGE**

Landscape policies generally try to control the type and pace of these changes, to maintain the distinctiveness and character of each part of the landscape – either ancient or modern. It is important to note that ***human activities - and the changes that they necessitate - are integral parts of the landscape and that landscapes are continuously evolving.*** Therefore, landscape policies do not seek to prevent new uses or changes. Instead the policies attempt to manage the change to ensure that the effects of change are fair and proportionate – balancing individual needs against public rights; ensuring that the past remains visible to the future.

### 3.5.- LANDSCAPE IMPACTS

To accommodate development that is indispensable – while protecting landscape resources – it is necessary to establish standard descriptors of impact. The following list addresses the significance of landscape impacts caused by different types of developments:

Typical Degree of Impact	Landuses Types
SIGNIFICANT	Powerlines; Windfarms; Transmission Masts; Quarries; Industrial Buildings; Coniferous Forestry; Housing Estates
NORMAL	Roads; Dwellings; Farm Buildings; Infrastructure; Retail; Commercial; Institutions; Educational; Tourism Projects
BENEFICIAL	Deciduous Planting; Amenity and Conservation Projects; Restoration Projects.

Table 2 Degrees of Impact arising from types of Landuses

The capacity of each landscape character area to absorb new development will largely depend on the sensitivity of the landscape factors within each unit. The types of developments listed above will be best suited when considering the robustness and vulnerability of the environmental factor.

Developments that are likely to create a significant environmental, and particularly visual impact, will be best absorbed in areas where the landscape is robust, i.e. has the capacity to absorb development.

Normal type of developments can be located in **robust** and **normal** landscape areas where the landscape has the capacity to absorb developments, which potentially do not entail significant environmental and visual impacts.

Conversely, developments that are beneficial in environmental terms, will be readily absorbed by any landscape type, although these will be most appropriately suited to sensitive landscape areas where the quality of the landscape would be enhanced.

All developments should however be assessed on a site-by-site basis to avoid, remedy or minimise any potential environmental impact entailed, as the sensitivity of the landscape will vary within the landscape character units.

## 4.- THE LANDSCAPES OF THE COUNTY

The varied landscapes in County Wexford are very much a product of their past. This landscape has been moulded by the first settlers and hunter-gatherer people and continues to do so today. In order to evaluate the present landscapes, it is necessary to examine their formation and origins.

### 4.1.- SHAPING THE LANDSCAPE: NATURAL ORIGINS AND HUMAN INFLUENCE

There have been seven major periods in early Irish history, which have influenced and shaped our modern landscapes:

The Mesolithic Period, approximately 9000 years ago, was the first settlement period in Ireland. These hunter/gatherer people encountered a landscape rich in woodlands with hazel scrub, oak, ash and pine and made little disturbance to the natural landscape. The spread of farming occurred then, with the Neolithic Period (4000 BC). The first farmers introduced mass forest clearance (pines and elms) and the establishment of tillage and animal rearing land – i.e. new agricultural methods. This clearance led in turn to the spread of blanket bog (heath) throughout the Country.

In the Bronze Age settlement expanded in lowland areas. During the Iron Age, climate deterioration led to a scarcity of food sources and the spread of upland bogs; poor/wet soils and a pause in tree regeneration. The landscape once again underwent a dramatic change with the consolidation of settlements defended by hilltop fortifications and linear earthworks, which consisted of defensive banks and ditches, stretching across the landscape.

During the Early Christian era there was a huge increase in grasses and weeds associated with pasture and arable farming. Agricultural improvements with the introduction of the horizontal mill and plough allowed for extensive land tillage. Such improvements in turn led to increased populations and settlements. Ringforts [such as Muchrath] enclosing single farmsteads and irregular crop fields were predominant man-made landscape features. Many of the Ecclesiastical settlements of this era developed into large monasteries (e.g. Ferns, Dunbrody and Tintern) and some became proto-urban centres involved in specialist industries. These prestigious monasteries performed the functions of incipient towns, as early central places with cult, market and political functions.

During the Medieval period the construction of defensive earthworks – **mottes** [such as Balymoty] across the landscape was widespread. As arable farming increased, the landscape reflected the commercial importance of farming with new field pattern systems. Such landscape origins are evident today on the landscapes of County Wexford.

## **4.2. HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPES**

Historical settlement of the County has induced landscape changes through the clearance of vegetation, the enlargement of settlements and the establishment of communication routes as detailed in Section 4.1

The plantation towns and estate systems also physically and culturally affected the landscape of the County as a whole. Even today, the field patterns throughout the County reflect large estate land holdings originated in the Viking and Norman times.

## **4.3. THE LANDSCAPE TODAY**

The landscape of Wexford today may be thought of as being three parallel bands running roughly north-east to south-west. Most settlement and agriculture occur in a broad coastal plain between the Blackstairs Mountains and the Irish Sea. Within this broad pattern smaller topographic features – hills and river corridors – create distinctive localised landscapes within landscapes. Traditional urbanised settlement centres – that were centred around ports and markets – are now being augmented by strong patterns of dense new settlement that concentrated along coasts.

## **4.4 FUTURE LANDSCAPES**

Older patterns of agriculture are undergoing significant change in response to changes in the Common Agricultural Policy of farm subsidies. These are leading to sharp differences between the future prospects of agriculture in the smaller sheep farms of the eastern uplands of the county and those of the larger tillage and dairy farms of the south lowlands. The former is likely to continue to change rapidly as farmers seek income from new or more diverse enterprises. The lowlands will remain more stable – though there may be an increase in the size of farm holdings – either by purchase or leasing – with associated enlargement of fields and loss of hedges.

New patterns of protecting environmental resources on account of their scenic, ecological or amenity value are likely to increase – especially along coasts, major river corridors and on the uplands.

Because of underlying demographic and economic processes all of these landscape changes are likely to continue to be affected by continuing increases in the amount and extent of areas experiencing pressure for rural housing – particularly within the catchments of existing employment centres and their main transportation corridors.

These same processes are also likely to create additional pressure to upgrade and increase the capacity of all types of infrastructure for transportation, energy, water services and communications – as well as now new social infrastructure – such as developments for recreation, health, education and administration.

## 5.0 EVALUATION

### 5.1.0 INTRODUCTION

Landscape appraisal entails the assessment of the factors or features which characterise different areas of the countryside. These include cultural and physical factors – the latter of which include geology, landform (e.g. topography and slope), landcover (e.g. vegetation and land use) as well as landscape history (e.g. archaeology and settlement patterns). These factors help in identifying boundaries of Landscape Character Areas (see Section 3) and define those characteristics of a landscape that make it distinctive.

The following sections describe generally the landscape factors of County Wexford:-

### 5.2.0 Natural Landscape Factors

Natural landscape factors and features include physical aspects such as geology, soils and topography. These are intrinsic factors of the natural environment which consequently provide solid and objective evaluation tools for landscape assessment. The sections below describe major aspects of the various natural landscape factors:

#### 5.2.1. Topography, Slope and Ridges

##### ***Topography***

The landscape consists of mountain, hills and other higher places that define and enclose valleys, rivers, and streams. Collectively these changes in the shape and elevation of the ground are known as ‘topography’ and are very important factors in defining how much of the surrounding countryside feels enclosed. Important topographic factors that affect how a landscape is perceived include Ridge Lines, Slope and Altitude.

##### ***Ridge Lines***

***Primary ridgelines*** are linear landscape features that define mountain/hill tops and appear directly against the sky when viewed from most directions or distances. ***Secondary ridgelines*** are often associated with spurs on mountainsides, and when viewed from certain directions or distances would have a backdrop of a primary ridgeline above, which forms the skyline.

Ridge lines perform the important roles of providing an area with its identity, acting as dominant landscape focal points, and defining the extent of visual catchments. Due to the relatively flat nature of County Wexford, prominent ridgelines are not of a significant factor, except in the west of the County where the Blackstairs and south Wicklow mountains provide significant enclosure and character definition.

##### ***Slope and Altitude***

The slope line used in this project indicates the transition point at which the gradient of the land is 10%. This gradient has been chosen as previous survey work showed it to be the slope below which, existing houses had

generally been constructed (possibly due to the greater earthwork and engineering requirements needed for structures on steeper slopes). Developments on steeper lands are generally more conspicuous.

Altitude constitutes another significant landscape factor because lands at high elevations will be visible over long distances particularly in a lowland dominated county like Wexford. Steeper slopes and higher altitudes have a major bearing on visual impacts of development in the landscape and will, therefore, be a major consideration at the policy response stage.

### *The Coast*

The line where the land and sea meet is a very important landscape feature because of the recreational and scenic amenities that it creates. Wexford's coasts are, generally, very low and create few direct landscape effects that are evident at distances more than 300m from the shore. However the emergence of coastal tourism has stimulated the emergence of a significantly different and distinctive pattern of settlement and resultant landscape character within 2 – 3 kms of the shore throughout the county. For this reason the landscape between the coast and the nearest parallel road has been recognized as an important and distinct landscape unit.

### **5.2.2. Geology and Soils**

The diversity of landscapes that can be encountered in County Wexford reflects variations in the rock at or beneath the surface. These rocks record a geological history spanning the last 530 million years. The Geology of the County has a strong clear pattern that gives rise to the landscape pattern of the county. A major transition between the rocks that cause the difference between the lowlands and the uplands almost exactly follows the line of the N 11 and the N30. It has been used to confirm the line location of the line between Uplands and the Lowlands for this report.

### **5.2.3. Vegetation and Land cover**

The lowlands and most of the coastal areas of County Wexford are generally very fertile and of high quality, as a result of soil and drainage conditions. However, some areas to the north and upland areas to the west such develop into poor to average quality land, due to their soil characteristics, drainage, climate and topography. The main land use in the County is grassland and tillage in these areas. There is a significant level of tillage farming, more concentrated on the southern part of the County. Patches of wheat and crop fields intertwine with well-defined grass and pasturelands forming a mosaic pattern on the lowland areas

Bog type grasses are common to the north and north-west where large areas of peatland can be encountered along with increasing areas of coniferous forestry.

Thus, County Wexford is generally characterised by low vegetation (e.g. grassland and bog type grasses) and low, well trimmed hedgerows (around large fields of pasture and tillage lands mostly), which are commonly

interrelated to soil attributes. This type of vegetation is generally uniform in appearance, failing to break up vistas, and allowing long distance visibility, and therefore presenting an inability to absorb new development.

Although well-trimmed low hedgerows are a characteristic of the Wexford landscapes, trees are found in overgrown hedgerows around small fields and local roads in some areas of the County. These hedgerows partially interrupt long-distance visibility, providing some screening and therefore, absorption capacity.

State and privately own conifer plantations, as well as small deciduous woodlands occur through the County, especially on hilltops and foothills. Due to the evergreen character of conifer trees, height and to the adopted plantation locations, conifer forests screen the visibility over wide areas and present a significant feature on certain areas of the County. They generally offer an abrupt edge effect on the skyline intruding on the general outline of the land.

### **5.3.0 HUMAN LANDSCAPE FACTORS**

The landscape is largely the result of its geophysical parts. Underlying geology, soils, archaeology, topography and ecology have all shaped the visual landscape. As the natural resource base, i.e. flora and fauna habitat, settlement area for towns and villages and the cultural and quality of life indicator, etc., the landscape is an important element of the physical environment. In general terms, the landscape combines the inherent natural factors such as topography and soils with several important economic, social and cultural roles – as the location of agriculture, housing and history.

#### **5.3.1. Heritage and Scientific Factors**

Though not intrinsic landscape factors, ecological, scenic and amenity designations reflect areas of elevated public awareness and as such may be considered also to have a significant landscape value.

The current County Development Plan lists a number of areas of natural scientific heritage, according to their designation as proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA's), candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC's), Areas of Scientific Interest and Areas of Scenic Interest. Policies for these areas relate to their protection and conservation, to ensure the preservation of their essential characteristics.

NHAs are national designations introduced by the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000. Although these designations are not yet in force, as the relevant legislation has not yet been enacted, the County Council policies in regard to these areas relate to their protection and conservation.



Special Areas of Conservation have been created by the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) to enable the protection, conservation and, where possible and necessary, the restoration of certain habitats and/or species. Designated SACs are compiled within a framework of protected areas – i.e. *Natura 2000*. The County also contains areas of scientific interest. It is also an objective of the Council to preserve and protect these areas designated as of significant scientific interest.

### **5.3.2. Cultural Heritage**

Historical settlements throughout the County have induced landscape changes through the clearance of vegetation, the enlargement of settlements and the establishment of communication routes

The sites and monuments distribution shows the spread of historic settlement. This historic pattern of settlement influences the cultural landscape features of the County.

## **6.0 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER**

### **6.1. Introduction**

The landscape is generally characterised by physical factors such as landform and landcover – topography, water, vegetation, settlements, etc.- which result from geological and geomorphological history, and by intrinsic values such as historical, cultural or religious.

Thus, the landscape character areas refer to units of similar landscape characteristics and features with distinctive and uniform landscape quality and integrity.

### **7.2.- Methodology Landscape Types**

The methodology approach used in this study comprises 3 major phases, described as follows:-

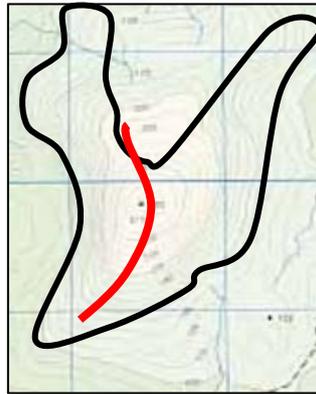
#### **• Phase 1 Identifying Physical Units**

This is an initial desktop phase, which involves the collation of the following map data for the County;

- Topography (Contours, Slopes & Ridge Lines)
- Soils and Subsoils
- Geology
- CORINE Land Cover
- Forestry & Field Boundaries
- Settlement Patterns

Topography provides valuable information for landscape assessment. Primary and secondary ridgelines and slope are identified from 10m contour topographic maps. These also prove to be helpful in identifying landscape character areas.

The slope line to be used in this project indicates the transition point at which the gradient of the land is 10% (see Section 2.1.2.). Slope has a major bearing on visual impacts of development in the landscape and will, therefore, be a major consideration at the policy response stage. An example of the slope and ridgeline and slope mapping technique is indicated in Fig. 6 below.



*Figure 6. Slope and Ridge Line Mapping Technique*

Although geology and soils' visual representation at ground level is often not obvious, they represent a significant factor in landscape evaluation. Using this data helps to confirm boundaries already identified by visual analysis and other map data.

The CORINE Land Cover map shows the surface covering of the County using a European standard methodology, dividing land cover into 19 subcategories under the following categories;

- Artificial Surfaces
- Agricultural Areas
- Forest and Semi-Natural Areas
- Wetlands
- Water Bodies

The land cover identified in the CORINE Project provides valuable information on the land uses which helps identify visual units or zones of land use uniformity on the landscape. It also provides information with regards to the sensitivity of landscapes (see Section 4).

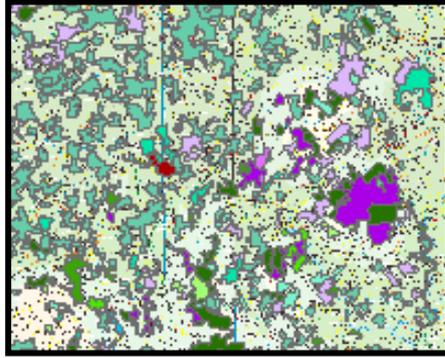


Figure . CORINE Land Cover Map

All of the maps will be overlaid to examine repeated occurrences of transitional boundaries between physical characteristics. The final output of the first part of this phase is a physical map.

- *Phase Two Identifying Visual Units*

In this phase the County is surveyed in order to establish homogenous visual units, the boundaries for which, may be the result of either the extent of visual fields, the transition from one landscape type to another, or the image unit associated with a particularly dominant feature, which acts as a focal point.

The first method is applied to areas that are particularly visually enclosed by a series of primary ridgelines for example. The second method is used most commonly in areas where a precise boundary is not obvious and would require map data for final determination.

The visual units will provide the basis for the final *Landscape Character Units* with the physical map data providing confirmation of the precise or transitional boundaries. In some instances, where several elements indicate a transitional boundary, a dotted line of conservative best fit is used with a bias toward the more visually obvious elements. This conservative best fit is usually supported by visual characteristics of the area perceived during fieldwork visits. An example is illustrated below.

- *Phase Three Identifying Landscape Values*

In addition to the physical and visual characteristics of the landscape, communities or individuals attach certain values to the landscape. Landscape values can be described as the environmental or cultural benefits (including services and functions) derived from various landscape attributes. In some cases, the character of a given landscape makes it representative of its kind, providing identity based on uniqueness or rarity.

The more frequent values attributed to a landscape are as follows:

- 
- Aesthetic
  - Ecological
  - Historical (Archaeological)
  - Socio-cultural
  - Religious
  - Mythological

### 6.3. Principal Identification

The landscapes in County Wexford are varied, ranging from complex agricultural patterns in the low lands to upland ridges with limited vegetation and diverse/vegetation-rich river valleys.

Desk studies and site investigations have revealed the main Landscape Character Units of the County. Character Units are distinguished throughout the landscape where there is visual distinctiveness and identity through a continuation of similar characteristics (such as slope, landuse and vegetation). As the landscape appearance and sensitivity within each Character Unit are similar, the units are very useful for the consistent and clear application of policy, as the effects of development will be relatively consistent within each of these areas.

The landscape of the County Wexford has been divided into **9** Character Units as outlined previously.

Main Units	Subdivisions	Landscapes within Landscapes
1. Uplands		
		Blackstairs Range
		South Wicklow Mountains
2. Lowlands		
	South Hills	
	North Hills	
		Slaney/Bann River Corridor
		Barrow River Corridor
3. Coasts		
	East Coastal	
	South Coastal	

**Main Character Units, Subdivisions and landscapes of County Wexford**

## 7.0 PRINCIPAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS & POLICIES

This section gives a brief description of the main *Landscape Zones* identified at preliminary stages. For landscape vulnerability clarification refer to **Section 7**.

A set of indicative policies relating to the landscape attributes, robustness, and sensitivities have been prepared and are provided below for each landscape Character Unit. The *indicative* policies below should always be read in conjunction with the critical landscape factors of each character unit, detailed in the previous section.

Landscape Character Assessments should also be read in conjunction with the *Landscape Sensitivity* described in the next chapter.

### 7.1. Lowland

The Lowland Character Area contains predominately fertile lands with high levels of population and intensive land management (agriculture). The slope and topography in the area occurs in a shallow/gradual transition. Agricultural lands tend to be characterized by extensive views across large fields as a result of the generally low well-trimmed hedges. This character unit may be generally classified **robust to normal**, however **sensitive** areas or landscape factors can be found at specific locations.

Within the Lowlands there are a number of important sub-divisions – and ‘landscape within landscape’ – as follows;-

There are two areas of elevated lands – the *North and South Hills* – which contain concentrations of elevated areas that enclose or visually dominate the local countryside. Within these areas there are higher than normal concentrations of potentially conspicuous sites where additional vigilance will be required when evaluating planning applications.

In contrast to the elevated areas there are two highly scenic major River Corridors – The Slaney and the Barrow – that transect the lowlands of the County. Of these the Slaney is the most exceptional on account of its extent, its centrality to the County and its unspoilt character. This is another area where additional vigilance will be required when evaluating planning applications.

- Recognise that these areas are made up of a variety of working landscapes and contain the vast proportion of the County’s population within principle towns and on rural holdings. These also incorporate all of the major national primary and regional roads, and railways.
- Continue to permit development that can utilise existing infrastructure, whilst taking account of absorption opportunities provided by the landscape and prevailing vegetation.

- Encourage development that will not unduly result in detrimental impacts on the landscape at a local or micro level as viewed from areas of the public realm.
- Consider development on steep slopes, ensuring that it will not have a disproportionate or dominating visual impact on the surrounding environment as seen from areas of the public realm.
- Recognise the substantial pockets of residential and rural landuses in some locations and the emerging pressures for differing landuses of industry, wind energy and residential development in this policy area.
- Continue to facilitate appropriate development in a progressive manner that respects the scale character and sensitivities of the landscape.
- Recognise that in this low lying open environment, tall and bulky development sometimes can have a disproportionate impact against the landscape particularly when viewed from the predominantly low lying areas of the public realm.
- Encourage development that will not have a disproportionate effect on the existing character of the landscape in terms of location, design, and visual prominence.

## 7.2. Upland areas

The Upland Character Area is characterised by low intensity agriculture and stock rearing, coniferous forestry plantations and some areas of transitional vegetation (e.g. heath, gorse, scrub woodland).

Within the upland areas the ridgelines and peaks are of prominence. These hilltop areas are characterised by poor drainage and higher wind/rainfall, with limited range of vegetation and land use. Stunted or absent trees are very conspicuous on account of the elevation.

It must also be taken into account that some areas within this unit have concentrations of quarries. This character unit can generally be classified as *sensitive* to *normal*. However, the ridgelines are considered *sensitive* to *vulnerable*.

Transitional areas are those located between lowland and upland areas. They contain relatively large fields with low hedges and scattered smaller trees. The land is mostly used for stock rearing or some mixed agricultural use. Coniferous forestry, some deciduous forestry and some transitional woodland on steep slopes can be found within these areas. The transition between the two character areas may be mostly classified *normal* to *robust*, although *sensitive* at specific locations.

## ***POLICIES***

The indicative policies below should always be read in conjunction with the critical landscape factors of each character unit, detailed in the previous section.

- This distinctive and extensive area of the County forms a policy unit due to the similar visual characteristics of steep slopes, prominent ridge lines and limited shelter vegetation, rendering the area within a similar suitability to absorb new development.
- Encourage development that will not have a disproportionate visual impact (due to excessive bulk, scale or inappropriate siting) and will not significantly interfere or detract from scenic upland vistas, when viewed from areas of the public realm.
- Facilitate developments that have a locational requirement to be situated on elevated sites (e.g. telecommunications and wind energy structures). It is necessary however to ensure that adverse visual impacts are avoided or mitigated wherever possible.
- Encourage development that will not interrupt or penetrate distinct sections of primary ridgelines when viewed from areas of the public realm.
- Preserve the character of any areas that have not already been subject to development, which have retained a dominantly undisturbed upland/moorland character.
- Consider development on steep slopes, ensuring that it will not have a disproportionate or dominating visual impact on the surrounding environment as seen from areas of the public realm.

### ***7.3 COASTS***

Coastal Areas of County Wexford are have a distinctive character that often overlaps abruptly with the Lowland Character of which is abundant. In general the flat topography and the absence of rock shores means that the character of the coastal areas is different for only a short distance from the shore. This generalisation has an important exception that leads to the definition of two different types of Coastal Landscape within the County;-

#### **East Coastal**

This coast is characterised by long, relatively straight coasts of sand or shingle backed up by low cliffs

## South Coastal

This coast is characterised by significant areas of enclosure – such as Bannow Bay, Ballyteige, Tacumshin and Lady’s Island. These features mean that the coastal character penetrates much further inland than on the east coast.

### ***POLICIES***

The lowland coast is considered a separate core policy area [See Map 8 also] as it has significantly different landscape attributes, sensitivities and robustness.

The Assessment recognises that substantial residential development exists in some locations and that further pressures for residential development in this policy area will remain

- Facilitate appropriate tourism and amenity development in a progressive manner, where feasible, that reflects the scale, character and sensitivities of the landscape
- Encourage development that will not have a disproportionate effect on the existing character of the coastal environment in terms of location, design, and visual prominence.
- Encourage development that will not interrupt or penetrate distinct linear sections of primary ridge lines and coastlines when viewed from areas of the public realm.
- Preserve any areas that have not been subject to recent or prior development and have retained a dominantly undisturbed coastal character.

## 8.0 LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY

### 8.1 INTRODUCTION - LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACTS

The **Landscape** is described as embracing:

***“All that is visible when one looks across an area of land”***

Every landscape evolves and can be affected to some degree by new developments. For the purpose of development control and to avoid disproportionate visual impacts and effects on the landscape and the community as a whole, it is important to work out the extent of the land visually affected by any proposed development. Nevertheless, it is as important to assess the landscape capacity to absorb change.

Consequently, and for the purpose of this document, landscape features are classified with regards to their degree of sensitivity, i.e. the capacity of the landscape to absorb new development without causing disproportionate visual impacts. The landscape is made up of a series of compartments each of which has a distinctive character. Each unit of character is assigned an indicator of sensitivity, which indicates the extent to which the landscape will be vulnerable to change in its character. The categories will reflect the criteria of the capacity to absorb new development as well as the potential to create disproportionate visual impacts.

The capacity of an area to visually absorb development is influenced by a combination of the following factors:-

- 1) **Topography**- development in elevated areas will usually be visible over a wide area; development in enclosed areas will not.
- 2) **Vegetation**- areas which support (or which have the potential to support) trees, tall hedges and woody vegetation can screen new development from view. Areas which cannot easily sustain such vegetation will be unlikely to screen new development.
- 3) **Development** - New development is less likely to be conspicuous in the context of existing development in the landscape.

In Summary:-

- Areas where enclosing topography, screening vegetation and/or existing development are present should have a **high potential** to absorb new development.

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<sup>4</sup> Guidelines for Landscape and Landscape Assessment, Department of the Environment, 2001

- Areas of elevated topography, with low growing or sparse vegetation and little existing development should have a low potential to absorb new development.

The landscape factors for each of the Landscape Character Units described in Section 4, help to identify the landscape sensitivity and development absorption capacity of County Wexford, landscapes.

To further define the extent and location of sensitive landscape areas and features within each of the Character Units, the occurring landuses area analysed.

The categories in the *Sensitivity Zoning Key* are as follows:

<i>KEY</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>
1 = Degraded	Areas characterised by breakdown of natural processes or pollution (e.g. cut over bogs, old mineral waste areas)
2 = Robust	Areas of existing development and infrastructure. New development reinforces existing desirable landuse patterns.
3 = Normal	A common character type with a potential to absorb a wide range of new developments.
4 = Sensitive	Distinctive character with some capacity to absorb a limited range of appropriate new developments while sustaining its existing character.
5 = Vulnerable	Very distinctive features with a very low capacity to absorb new development without significant alterations of existing character over an extended area.

Table 7. *Sensitivity Zoning Key*

## **8.2. VULNERABLE LANDSCAPES**

Vulnerable landscapes are defined by linear environmental features such as the shores of the main water bodies (lakes, large rivers, coasts, estuaries) and the ridges or skylines of mountains, hills, promontories and headlands. Major skylines are visible over a wide area (any area will be visible against the skyline if viewed from a lower elevation).

These are all conspicuous features of the natural landscape to which the eye is drawn because of strong contrasts of form and colour where there is contact between the land and sky or water. Therefore, they represent vulnerable features on the landscape as any development on or in the vicinity of shores or skylines has the potential to affect the visual integrity of the surrounding environment.

### 8.3. SENSITIVE LANDSCAPES

Sensitive landscape areas are determined by combining the following landuse categories from the CORINE Land Cover\* Project:-

Natural grassland	Bare rocks	Sparsely vegetated areas
Moors and heathland	Transitional woodland scrub	Beaches, dunes, sands
Estuaries	Broad leaved forest	Inland marshes
Water courses	Water bodies	Coastal lagoons
Mixed forest	Agricultural land with significant areas of natural vegetation	

These landuse categories include areas which are open and exposed with sparse or low growing vegetation cover which is insufficient to provide screening. Even if planting is introduced, the exposed nature of these areas will not support any significant tall vegetation. Due to this, any development would be visible over a wide area. The exception to this are broadleaved, mixed forest and transitional woodland scrub areas which do support tall vegetation with potential to screen development. However these categories are sensitive due to their natural character and their longevity in the landscape; any loss to their structure would have a visual impact over a wide area.

### 8.4. NORMAL LANDSCAPES

Areas included in this category are determined by combining the following landuse categories from the CORINE Land Cover\* Project:-

Pasture lands	Non irrigated arable land	Annual crops associated with permanent crops
Complex cultivation pattern	Coniferous forest	

**Table 9. Normal landuse categories**

These landuse categories include the main areas of farming and rural residences. These tend to be confined to low lying or gently undulating areas where conditions are relatively fertile and therefore suitable to support tall vegetation, which could screen and therefore absorb development. The vegetation is often in the form of small copses of trees or mature hedgerows which sub-divide fields.

### 8.5. ROBUST LANDSCAPES

Areas included in this category are determined by combining the following landuse categories from the CORINE Land Cover\* Project:-

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\* The CORINE 1996 mapping data does not include units below 25 hectares in extent. Due to this, many small villages and areas of ribbon development are not recorded on the land cover map.

Continuous urban fabric	Discontinuous urban fabric	Industrial or commercial units
Airports	Sports and Leisure Facilities	

**Table 10. Robust landuse categories**

These landuse categories include towns and built up areas, suburban and other developed areas. These areas can support new development, as it is less likely to be conspicuous in the context of existing development in the landscape.

Degraded areas can be considered part of the robust areas as new development in degraded areas is desirable as a means to improve the existing character of the site. Degraded areas are characterised by the breakdown of natural processes or pollution, including the following landuse categories from the CORINE Land Cover Project:-

Mineral extraction sites	Construction sites	Dump sites
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**Table 11. Degraded landuse categories**

## **8.6. Landscapes Sensitivity Mapping**

Topographical and land cover information are used to determine the categories of landscape sensitivity for County Wexford(i.e. *Vulnerable, Sensitive, Normal and Robust*).

Topographic, contour and raster maps are used to determine vulnerable features, whilst the determination of the limits of the other categories is based upon existing data (i.e. CORINE), which is mapped using objective, established and systematic techniques.

### **8.7 VULNERABLE LANDSCAPES**

Primary (visible only against the sky from any prospect) and secondary ridge lines (visible at least from some prospects below a distant primary ridge line) perform the important roles of providing an area with its identity, acting as dominant landscape focal points, and defining the extent of visual catchments.

Due to the dominating influence of ridge lines, in particular in a county dominated significantly by lowlands, development can appear insubordinate to the landscape in which it sits. Therefore, it is important that development does not interrupt the integrity of ridge lines.

### **8.8 SENSITIVE LANDSCAPES**

Where an area has been classified by the CORINE land cover classification systems into groupings that are deemed to be indicative of a low potential to absorb significant development without significant change of character then the area has the potential to be sensitive. These areas are indicative and prone to localised change over time where vegetative cover or agriculture management practices are the principal determinants.

The sensitivity to change may arise from very different sources e.g. woodlands may be sensitive to development that requires tree felling while peat bogs may be sensitive to development that requires tree planting.

A 0.25km buffer area has been applied to the identified sensitive landscape regions, to improve the accuracy of the boundaries defined by satellite imagery (CORINE Land Cover). The transition zone is likely to have similar characteristics to the adjacent area in landscape terms.

The principal role in Development Control of the landscape sensitivity mapping should be to heighten awareness (and scrutiny) of the potential for additional or disproportionate visual prominence. Project by project evaluation, for development control purposes will be required to ascertain the presence and significance of sensitivity and its relevance to the specifics of the proposed development (if any).

### **8.9 NORMAL LANDSCAPES**

The majority of the map comprises the low-lying gently sloping, countryside of Wexford. These areas generally have dense networks of fields, roads and settlements and are interspersed with rural landuses that include agribusiness, tourism, light engineering, infrastructure, quarrying and more recently wind farms.

Most areas have a capacity to readily absorb developments of 5 - 10 m in height - such that significant visual impacts or changes of landscape character will rarely occur over distances in excess of 0.5Kms. Notwithstanding this there will be highly localised variations of topography (prominences, ridges) or variations of vegetation (very large fields and/or extensive areas of low hedges) that will cause localised increases in landscape sensitivity. Project by project, evaluation for development control purposes will identify and assess these smaller scale issues.

### **8.10 ROBUST LANDSCAPES**

Urban areas, towns and the environs of larger villages and lands that are intensively used for non agricultural activities (such as quarrying) all have the capacity to readily absorb a wide range of types and scales of further development without significant change of landscape character. Note that there may still be issues of urban and architectural design or cultural context to be taken account of.

### **8.11 SLOPES > 15%**

Contiguous areas with an area greater than 50ha and a slope of 15% (1 in 15) or greater are mapped (see Fig.2). These provide an indication of elevated areas that are likely to be more conspicuous than the surrounding

countryside. Such areas are also likely to form the context for larger vulnerable features such as ridge lines.

Actual sensitivity will be highly variable - principally on account of the local height, density and proximity of mature vegetation and trees. Therefore while such areas may have a general potential for vulnerability and sensitivity, they will also consistently contain areas with the same potential to absorb development as landscapes that are classified as 'normal'.

Localised areas of steep topography also occur throughout the countryside at a smaller scale than this mapping will reveal, particularly along water courses and at the coast. This may create significant local prominence that will require project-by-project evaluation for Development Control purposes.

## **8.12 POLICY AREAS**

### **Landscape Character Areas**

A Map has been prepared clustering landscape physical and topographical features - scenic landscape areas, slopes and ridge lines -. It illustrates areas with similar visual landscape elements and comparable potential to absorb new development. Boundaries are not accurate or definite but indicative. These will help to formulate landscape policies to prevent that future developments will alter the landscape character of the described units.

More detailed and smaller-scaled landscape Character Areas can also be described. However widespread landscape homogeneity and very gradual transitions of character are typical of Wexford. In these circumstances it is not likely to be appropriate or practical to prepare "Landscape Character Units" that cover the whole County. The majority of the peripheral landscape character units consist of smaller scale units - particularly river and stream corridors as well as highly localised coastal and hilltop features. These could be mapped and described as a series of separate self-contained (and brief) maps and reports of each area. They cannot be mapped at a county-wide scale.