

Draft

2014 - 2020

ENNISCORTHY



**STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT**

Draft

Enniscorthy Town and Environs

Development Plan 2014-2020

Appendix 6: Strategic Environmental Assessment

September 2013



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List of Abbreviations

AFA	Areas for Further Assessment
BER	Building Energy Rating
CDB	County Development Board
CEB	County Enterprise Board
CFRAM	Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management
CGS	County Geological Sites
CSO	Central Statistics Office
DAHG	Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
DCENR	Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
DECLG	Department of Environment, Community and Local Government
DEHLG	Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government
IDA	Industrial Development Agency
EI	Enterprise Ireland
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FRMP	Flood Risk Management Plan
GSI	Geological Survey of Ireland
IFI	Inland Fisheries Ireland
IGH	Irish Geological Heritage
MUGA	Multi User Games Area
NBDC	National Biodiversity Data Centre
NDP	National Development Plan
NHA	Natural Heritage Area
NIAH	National Inventory or Architectural Heritage
NMS	National Monument Service
NPWS	National Parks & Wildlife Service
NRA	National Roads Authority
NREAP	National Renewable Energy Action Plan
NSS	National Spatial Strategy
OPW	Office of Public Works
OREDP	Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan
PFRA	Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment

PRP	Pollution Reduction Programme
RMP	Record of Monuments and Places
RPII	Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland
RPS	Record of Protected Structures
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEO	Strategic Environmental Objective
SERBD	South Eastern River Basin District
SERBMP	South Eastern River Basin Management Plan
SERPG	Regional Planning Guidelines for the South-East Region 2010-2022
SEZ	Sustainable Energy Zone
SFRA	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
SPA	Special Protection Area
SuDS	Sustainable urban Drainage Systems
UWWTD	Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive
WCC	Wexford County Council
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WTP	Water Treatment Plant
WWTP	Waste Water Treatment Plant

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Non-Technical Summary

Introduction and Background

This is the non-technical summary of the Environmental Report for the Draft Enniscorthy Town and Environs Development Plan 2014-2020. The Environmental Report forms part of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), which is required to be carried out in accordance with the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (as amended).

The purpose of the Environmental Report is to set out the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan and to identify mitigation measures which will reduce or offset those effects. The Environmental Report also sets out a monitoring programme which will be used to cross check significant effects which arise during the implementation stage of the Plan against those predicted during the plan preparation stage.

It should be noted that the Environmental Report forms only part of the SEA process. The SEA review process also comprises of a Scoping Report, which was carried out at the pre-draft stage, and an SEA Statement, which will be prepared after the plan is adopted. All stages of SEA and the plan preparation are outlined in Table 1 below.

The methodology devised to carry out the SEA of the Enniscorthy Town and Environs Development Plan 2014-2020 follows the requirements as set out in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (as amended) and the Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) guidelines published by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) in 2004.

Table 1: Development Plan and SEA Stages

Notice of review of Development Plan - determine whether SEA is required Pre-draft consultation with public and statutory prescribed authorities Notice of preparation of SEA to statutory environmental authorities
Preparation of Manager's Report on the submissions and observations received during the statutory consultation period for consideration by the Elected Members Members issue directions regarding the preparation of the Draft Plan
Preparation of Draft Plan and Environmental Report Consideration of Draft Plan and Environmental Report by the Elected Members Environmental Report takes account of any changes made to the Draft Plan
Draft Plan and Environmental Report go on public display
Preparation of Manager's Report on the submissions and observation received during the statutory consultation period for consideration by the Elected Members Members may make material alterations to the Draft Plan Material alterations are screened for SEA and Environmental Report updated if required
Material alterations to Draft Plan and SEA Screening Report or Environmental Report go on public display
Preparation of Manager's Report on the submissions and observations received during the statutory consultation period for consideration by Elected Members Members make the Plan with or without the material alterations Final Environmental Report prepared
Preparation of SEA Statement
Plan comes into effect four weeks after it is made

Overview of Development Plan

The Plan sets out policies and objectives for the proper planning and sustainable development of Enniscorthy Town and Environs for the period 2014-2020. The overall aim of the Plan is to set out a framework for the sustainable development of Enniscorthy so that growth may take place in a co-ordinated manner, whilst protecting and preserving the town's character, heritage and amenity and making a positive contribution to people's quality of life.

The Plan includes a Core Strategy, prepared in accordance with the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010, which provides relevant information to show that the development plan and the housing strategy are consistent with the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) and Regional Planning Guidelines (SERPGs), as well as any national and regional population targets set by the Minister. The Core Strategy also shows how the zoning proposals accord with national policy that development of land shall take place on a phased basis.

The plan area has been reduced significantly from that shown in the previous Enniscorthy Town and Environs Development Plan 2008-2014. This is because the Core Strategy requires the amount of residential zoned land to be aligned with population allocation. The approach to dealing with excess land is in accordance with 'Guidance Note on Core Strategies' issued by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) in November 2010, which requires 'excess' residential zoned lands to be addressed through: phasing of development, alternative zoning objectives and/or deletion of the zoning objective.

Relationship with Other Relevant Plans

The Plan and the Environmental Report must be considered within the context of a hierarchy of legislation, plans and policies at international, EU, national, regional and local levels. These are set out in Section 2.6 of the Report.

Current State of the Environment

In order to identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan, relevant aspects of the current state of the environment

and existing environmental problems relevant to the plan area need to be identified in the Environmental Report. Baseline information in relation to the current state of the environment is set out in Section 3 of the Report under the following headings:

- Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna
- Population and Human Health
- Geology and Soil
- Water
- Air and Noise
- Flooding and Climate Change
- Material Assets
- Cultural Heritage
- Landscape

Sources of baseline data include information from statutory agencies (e.g. CSO, GSI, NPWS, EPA, IRPII), internal departments within the Council, the internet, local publications, planning applications and Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) relating to major roads and infrastructure schemes.

Existing Environmental Problems/Threats

A number of existing environmental problems/threats were identified and are summarised as follows:

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

- Decreases in water quality and/or expansion of invasive species can impact on designated sites. Habitat loss through habitat destruction, degradation and fragmentation is also a concern.
- Wexford Harbour Inner and Wexford Harbour Outer Shellfish Areas could be impacted by wastewater, surface water and storm water from developments in Enniscorthy discharging to the Slaney River, given that the retention time in the river between the town and the designated areas is less than 24 hours.
- Decreases in water quality can impact on aquatic plants and animals.

- Development on greenfield sites often results in fragmentation and a loss of hedgerows which act as wildlife corridors, stepping stones and ecological networks.
- Global warming and its associated effects particularly in the form of increased flooding and extreme weather conditions could have impacts on the biodiversity of the habitats, flora and fauna surrounding Enniscorthy.
- The EIS for the preferred option for the proposed drainage scheme at Enniscorthy, which incorporates an Appropriate Assessment, anticipates short-term minor impacts on terrestrial habitats, aquatic flora and fauna, fish, otters and their habitats during construction. A short-term minor negative impact in relation to the qualifying species features of the cSAC is anticipated but no adverse impact on the integrity of the site is anticipated.

Population and Human Health

- The increase in the rate of unemployment presents a serious challenge for the future of the local economy. Challenges for the future include retaining the young working population by facilitating the provision of future employment and housing.
- Issues such as water and air quality, noise, flooding and climate change can all have direct impacts on human health.

Geology and Soil

- The physical, biological and/or chemical degradation of soils can cause direct loss of soil, reduce productive capacity and deplete soil quality and biodiversity.
- Threats to soil include land-use change, intensification of agriculture, erosion, overgrazing, disposal of organic wastes to soils, afforestation, industry and urbanisation.
- Flood risk can impact on soil through increased run-off and siltation in alluvial areas. Eroded soil washed into rivers during heavy rainfall causes an increase in nutrients which can lead to eutrophication of rivers and lakes. However, flooding can also have a positive impact on soils bringing nutrients and silt which good soils are composed of.

- Improved recycling performance has moved Ireland away from a position of almost total reliance on landfill for managing waste. Nevertheless, landfill remains the primary option used for municipal waste management. By 2016 Ireland is required to reduce its landfill of biodegradable municipal waste to 35% of the amount produced in 1995. This amount of waste can be reduced by prevention, minimisation, re-use and recycling.

Water

- The key issues for water are the provision of adequate waste water treatment infrastructure, maintenance of good quality drinking water for protection of human health, protection of groundwater, restoration and protection of surface water and protection and restoration of water quality for water dependent habitats and species. These are all required measures to meet objectives set out under the Water Framework Directive (WFD).
- Enniscorthy is one of eight urban areas with a P.E. greater than 10,000 which do not meet the requirements of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive to provide nutrient reduction in addition to secondary treatment for discharges to sensitive areas. It is vital that the proposed upgrade to the Waste Water Treatment Plan (WWTP) progresses to ensure compliance with the WFD.
- Although the planned upgrade to the Enniscorthy WWTP will improve water quality, the River Slaney and the Upper Slaney Estuary are identified as being at risk of not achieving good status by 2015. The Corbally, Tinnacross and Bann tributaries are all classified as 'moderate' while downstream the Boro River is classified as 'poor'. The Upper Slaney Estuary (transitional waterbody) is also identified as 'moderate'.

Air and Noise

- Emissions from the transport sector represent the greatest threat to air quality. Measures which help reduce congestion, promote fuel efficiency and the ongoing investment in public transport are of major assistance in addressing any potential air quality problems in the future.
- High levels of traffic, including HGVs, through the town generates noise and emissions which create a high sensory environment for pedestrians and the

people residing within the town. At present the busy N11 runs through the town. The proposed Enniscorthy Bypass, if constructed, will remove a large volume of traffic from the town centre.

- The Draft Noise Action Plan for County Wexford (2013) states that the Council will prepare a shortlist of areas where further assessment is required. The appropriate and most effective mitigation measures will be detailed in order of priority based on physical noise survey.
- There are likely to be temporary noise impacts during construction of the Flood Relief Scheme and the Bypass in the plan area.
- Part of Enniscorthy Town and Environs is identified as a High Radon area with 10-20% of homes estimated to be above the Reference Level.

Flooding and Climate Change

- Newer buildings have generally been designed to withstand the highest known flood levels. However, with expected sea level rise (associated with climate change) and the tidal influence present in the Slaney at Enniscorthy, these levels may be exceeded. Furthermore, with more extreme weather conditions and the predicted increase in precipitation, pluvial flooding may become more of an issue for the inhabitants of Enniscorthy.
- Flooding can have serious negative impacts for the environment including soil and bank erosion, damage to vegetation, impacts on water quality, habitats and flora. These can all have devastating knock-on effects for other negatively impacting environmental issues e.g. fish kills, spread of invasive species etc. Furthermore, the flooding of wastewater treatment plants can have serious adverse effects on the receiving environments.
- Development can exacerbate the problems of flooding by accelerating and increasing surface water run-off, altering watercourses and removing floodplain storage. It is now recognised that flood risk management must be treated as a central issue in planning and development. Floodplains have a valuable function in attenuating and/or storing floodwater and through their ability to convey floodwater in a relatively controlled and safe way. Areas of floodplain and wetlands should therefore be recognised and preserved as natural defences against flood risk.

- The proposed Flood Relief Scheme, if completed, will reduce the extent of flooding and its associated damage in Enniscorthy and its environs.

Material Assets

- Many public routes on the outskirts of the town which give access to significant residential developments are without public lighting. The absence of dedicated cycle lanes is also evident in the town.
- It is vital that the planned upgrade to the WWTP progresses to ensure compliance with the WFD.
- It is important as the town grows that adequate social infrastructure is in place to meet the needs of existing and future residents and that a variety of recreational facilities and open spaces are available and accessible to all members of the community.

Cultural Heritage

- Development of infrastructure, in addition to economic growth and increasing population, can impact on the integrity of sites or features of architectural, archaeological (including underwater archaeology) or cultural heritage interest. The historic character of the town may be compromised by increased development.
- Development which involves material alterations or additions to protected structures can detract from the special character of the structure and its setting and has the potential to result in the loss of features of architectural or historical interest.
- Vinegar Hill and its surrounding area should be granted protection from encroaching development to avoid any negative impact to the cultural landscape.

Landscape

- The view of Vinegar Hill has been somewhat compromised in the last 100 years with the construction of terraces of social housing back in the first half of the 1900s. There is potential for further gradual encroachment detracting from the character of the Vinegar Hill landscape. The existence of a

telecommunications mast on Vinegar Hill also detracts from this very sensitive historical landscape.

- Brownfield sites and derelict structures within the plan area could be perceived as having a negative impact on the landscape, most notably in the historic core and along the riverbank.

Strategic Environmental Objectives

Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are set out in Section 4 of the Environmental Report. The SEOs are used as a tool to cross check the objectives of the Plan in order to maximise the environmental sustainability of the Plan. The cross checking process helps to identify objectives that are likely to result in significant adverse impacts, so that alternatives may be considered or mitigation measures may be put in place. The SEOs are outlined in the table below.

Table 13: Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)

Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	B1	Ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive with regard to the protection of Natura 2000 sites and habitats and species listed under Annexes I and II of the Directive.
	B2	Ensure the protection of habitats and species outside of the designated ecological sites and prevent the loss of ecological networks and stepping stones or parts thereof which provide important connectivity for species, in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.
	B3	Protect aquatic and terrestrial habitats from the spread of invasive species.
Population & Human Health	P1	Protect and enhance people's quality of life based on high quality living, working and recreational environments.
	P2	Reduce the risk of flooding and harm to people, property and the environment.
	P3	Protect human health from hazards or nuisances arising from exposure to incompatible land uses/developments.

	P4	Improve travel choice and accessibility, reduce the need for travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys.
Soil & Geology	S1	Prevent pollution or contamination of soils.
	S2	Maximise the sustainable re-use of brownfield lands and give preference to the re-use of brownfield lands over development of greenfield lands.
	S3	Protect and conserve important geological sites.
	S4	Minimise the amount of waste to landfill.
Water	W1	Maintain or improve the quality of surface water to status objectives as set out in the Water Framework Directive and the South Eastern River Basin Management Plan (2009-2015).
	W2	Prevent pollution and contamination of ground water.
	W3	Promote sustainable water use based on long-term protection of available water resources.
	W4	Maintain and improve the quality of drinking water supplies.
Air	A1	Facilitate measures which aim to reduce all forms of air pollution and reduce dependence on travel by private car.
	A2	Promote energy conservation and the development of renewable energy sources.
Material Assets	MA1	Maintain the quality of, and access to, assets such as open spaces, water resources and all other physical and social infrastructure.
	MA2	Ensure that adequate infrastructure is in place prior to occupation of new development.
Cultural Heritage	C1	Promote the protection and conservation of the cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage.
Landscape	L1	Conserve, maintain and enhance the natural riverside landscape of Enniscorthy.
	L2	Protect and conserve the historical landscape, including Vinegar Hill.

Consideration of Alternatives

Article 5 of the SEA Directive requires the Environmental Report to consider reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the Plan. Each of the alternatives considered must also be evaluated for its likely significant environmental effects. Three alternatives were considered for the Enniscorthy Town and Environs Development Plan 2014-2020.

Alternative Scenario 1

The first scenario would see the zoning objectives of the Enniscorthy Town and Environs Development Plan 2008-2014 carried forward with approximately 380 ha. of undeveloped land zoned for residential use or a mixture of residential and other uses and approximately 89 ha. of undeveloped land zoned for industrial and commercial uses. This scenario could see further sporadic housing developments on the outskirts of the town with poor linkages to the town centre, community facilities and public transport nodes. Opportunities for infill development and renewal of derelict sites in the town centre might not be taken up as greenfield development would be likely pursued. There could also be significant and widespread deterioration of the character of the edges of the town. There is also a concern that existing industrial zoned land may not be sufficient for prospective investors wishing to locate in the town due to ownership/ configuration/ access issues.

Alternative Scenario 2

The second scenario involves the redevelopment and renewal of brownfield sites within the town centre and surrounding areas. These brownfield sites, together with the unfinished housing estates, would be used to accommodate future population growth in the town. Developments within flood risk areas would be subject to site specific flood risk assessment. This strategy promotes the development of a compact urban form that would maximise the efficient use of land and infrastructure. It also targets derelict sites and aims to improve the overall townscape. The drawback with this scenario is the availability and adequacy of these lands to accommodate a major employer if they looked to set up in the town. In addition, the majority of brownfield sites are located in the town centre area and are more suited to mixed use developments. This scenario could therefore result in an inadequate

supply of suitable and available land for new housing, industrial and commercial developments envisaged for the town.

Alternative Scenario 3

The third scenario involves the sequential development of greenfield lands but development of brownfield sites would also be encouraged. Enough residential land would be zoned to accommodate the population target. Greenfield lands in/adjacent to the centre of the plan area would be zoned over edge of town sites in order to create a compact urban form with efficient use of infrastructure and services. Enough land would also be zoned to accommodate a wide range of small, medium and large scale industrial and commercial activities at accessible locations. Existing circulation routes would be connected by a small number of new linking routes with pedestrian and cycle linkages a key consideration in any development. Only water compatible uses would be considered on greenfield lands within the flood risk zone. On brownfield sites, development proposals would be subject to a site specific flood risk assessment.

Evaluation of Alternatives

The SEOs were used to evaluate each of the three alternatives considered, to determine how the alternatives would likely affect the status of the SEOs. This evaluation was carried out in matrix format and is shown in Table 14 below. All potential conflicts and impacts identified are those which will occur if unmitigated.

Table 14: Evaluation of Alternatives

	No Significant Impact	Potential Positive Impact	Potential Negative Impact	Uncertain Impact
Alternative Scenario 1	P3, S1, S3, S4, W1, W2, W3, W4, A2, M1, M2, C1, L2		P2, P4, S2, A1, L1	B1, B2, B3, P1
Alternative Scenario 2	B2, P2, S1, S3, S4, W1, W2, W3, W4, A2, M1, M2, C1, L2	P4, S2, A1, L1	P3	B1, B3, P1
Alternative Scenario 3	P2, P3, S1, S3, S4, W1, W2, W3, W4, A2, M1, M2, C1, L2	P1, P4, S2, A1, L1		B1, B2, B3

Reason for Choosing the Preferred Alternative

It was considered that alternative scenario 1 would provide excess lands required to meet the population target for Enniscorthy Town and Environs. In addition it was considered to have the most potential negative impacts on the SEOs. Alternative scenario 2 would not provide sufficient lands to accommodate the projected growth during the plan period. Alternative 3 was therefore chosen as the preferred alternative and forms the basis of the development strategy for the Plan.

This strategy promotes the development of brownfield sites but also allows for the sequential development of greenfield lands subject to the provision of appropriate infrastructure on a planned and phased basis. Greenfield lands closest to the town centre are zoned in order to create a compact urban form with efficient use of infrastructure and services. Sufficient land is zoned to accommodate growth

allocated to the area. This is considered the most sustainable alternative having regard to the population targets for the area and the potential for economic growth in the town. It is also consistent with the SERPG's urban consolidation priorities for larger towns; where sufficient development opportunities within the urban area are not available, consider appropriate extension options having regard to infrastructural constraints and the availability of community services.

Likely Significant Effects of Implementing the Plan

Each objective in the Plan was assessed against the SEOs. The results are shown in matrix format in Section 5 of the Environment Report. Assessment of the key objectives shows that, in the main, these objectives will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Many of the objectives will have positive effects, setting out to manage and protect aspects of the environment such as landscape, water, human health, heritage resources and management of flood risk. Where uncertain impacts are identified, further project level assessment may be required.

No likely significant negative impacts have been identified in-combination with other plans and projects. Positive impacts have been identified in relation to air quality, noise, biodiversity, flora and fauna, water quality, flooding and human health.

Mitigation Measures

Section 7 of the Environmental Report sets out a number of mitigation measures to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse impacts on the environment of implementing the Plan. Where there are significant negative effects, consideration is given in the first instance to preventing such effects or, where this is not possible, to lessening or offsetting those effects. Where positive impacts have been identified, mitigation measures are designed to maximise the positive impacts. Table 16 below identifies the mitigation measures and the objectives in the Plan which have been influenced by the mitigation measures.

Table 16: Identification of Mitigation Measures and Incorporation into the Plan

SEOs	Mitigation Measures	Relevant Objectives in the Plan
<p>B1 - Ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive with regard to the protection of Natura 2000 sites and habitats and species listed under Annexes I and II of the Directive.</p>	<p>MM1 - Promote favourable conservation status of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>MM2 - Appropriate Assessment required for any proposed developments or plans likely to have an impact on the Natura 2000 site network.</p>	<p>Objective NH05 - To promote the maintenance, and as appropriate, the achievement of favourable conservation status of Natura 2000 sites and their associated habitats and species, in association with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).</p> <p>Objective NH08/AA01/T06 - To ensure that any plan or project and any associated works, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, are subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening to ensure that there are no likely significant effects on the integrity (defined by the structure and function) of any Natura 2000 site(s) and that the requirements of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive are fully satisfied. Where the plan/project is likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site or there is uncertainty with regard to effects, it shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment. The plan/project will proceed only after it has been ascertained that it will not be adversely affect the integrity of the site or where in the absence of alternative solutions, the plan/project is deemed imperative for reasons of overriding public interest, all in accordance with the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Objective NH18/FRM12 - To ensure riparian buffer zones, a minimum of 5.10m in width, are created between all and any future development.</p>
<p>B2 - Ensure the protection of habitats and species outside of the designated ecological sites and prevent the loss of ecological networks and stepping stones or parts thereof which provide important connectivity for species, in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</p>	<p>MM3 - Protect riparian zones by maintaining an appropriately sized buffer zone along all watercourses.</p> <p>MM4 - Include objectives for the protection of important habitats and species outside of the designated ecological sites.</p> <p>MM5 - Retain existing hedgerows, trees and traditional field boundaries which provide important ecological networks.</p>	<p>Objective NH12 - To work with local communities, groups, landowners, National Parks and Wildlife Service and other relevant parties to identify, protect, manage and, where appropriate, enhance and promote sites of local biodiversity value.</p> <p>Objective NH09 - To ensure the management of features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora. Such features are those, by virtue of their linear and continuous structure (such as rivers with their banks or the traditional systems for marking field boundaries) or their function as stepping stones (such</p>

SEOs	Mitigation Measures	Relevant Objectives in the Plan
<p>B3 - Protect aquatic and terrestrial habitats from the spread of invasive species.</p>	<p>MM6 – Control/prevent the spread of invasive species.</p>	<p>as ponds or small woods), are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species. These features are outlined as Ecological Corridors or Ecological Stepping Stones on Map 8(a). Where such features exist on land which is to be developed the applicant will be required to demonstrate that the design of the development has resulted in the retention of these features insofar as is possible and that the impact on the biodiversity of the site has been minimised and where possible enhanced.</p> <p>Objective NH16 - To promote best practice in the control of invasive species and support measures for the prevention and/or eradication of invasive species as appropriate and as opportunities and resources allow.</p> <p>Objective NH17 - To raise awareness in relation to invasive species, including making landowners and developers aware of best practice guidance in relation to the control of invasive species and encouraging them to adhere to same and, to ensure, in so far as possible, that proposals for development do not lead to the spread of invasive species.</p>
<p>P1 - Protect and enhance people's quality of life based on high quality living, working and recreational environments.</p>	<p>MM7 - Include objectives for the delivery of high quality infrastructure and community facilities to serve the existing and future population of the area.</p>	<p>Core Strategy Strategic Aim - Provide key infrastructure to facilitate development and investment, subject to compliance with national and international legislation on habitats and water quality.</p> <p>Core Strategy Strategic Aim - Develop a range of community facilities and amenities which are socially inclusive and accessible by all members of the community.</p> <p>Objective CF10 - To promote the development of sustainable communities on the basis of a high quality of life where people can live, work and enjoy access to a wide range of community, health and educational facilities suitable for all ages, needs and abilities.</p> <p>Objective ED03 - To ensure the provision of necessary infrastructure such as roads, sanitary services, housing, telecommunications,</p>

SEOs	Mitigation Measures	Relevant Objectives in the Plan
<p>P2 - Reduce the risk of flooding and harm to people, property and the environment.</p>	<p>MM8 – Identify flood risk areas, zone for compatible uses in these areas and mitigate the risk of flooding through layout and design of new developments.</p>	<p>energy supply, transport, waste management, community services and amenities on a planned and phased basis in advance of new development where feasible, along with the clearance of derelict land to facilitate new enterprises and existing enterprises wishing to expand subject to compliance with national and international legislation on habitats and water quality.</p> <p>Sequential and justification tests applied to land use zoning . .</p> <p>Objective FRM01 - To carry out flood risk assessment for the purpose of regulating, restricting and controlling development in areas at risk of flooding and to minimise the level of flood risk to people, business, infrastructure and the environment through the identification and management of existing and potential future flood risk.</p> <p>Objective FRM05 - To require planning applications for development proposals within, incorporating or adjoining areas at moderate (Flood Zone B) to high (Flood Zone A) risk of fluvial flooding or at extreme or indicative risk of pluvial flooding, to carry out a site-specific and appropriately detailed flood risk assessment. The site-specified flood risk assessment shall be carried out by a suitably qualified and indemnified professional and in accordance with the requirements of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG, OPW 2009).</p> <p>Objective FRM06 - To require the verification of Flood Zone maps and Flood Extent Maps at the edge of identified flood zone or extent areas given the broad-scale nature of the modelling which these maps are based on. In the event that it is concluded that the area is at moderate or high risk flooding, it will be necessary to carry out a site-specific and appropriately detailed flood risk assessment. The site-specified flood risk assessment shall be carried out by a suitably qualified and indemnified professional and in accordance with the requirements of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG, OPW 2009).</p> <p>Objective FRM13 - To ensure that development proposals in areas at</p>

SEOs	Mitigation Measures	Relevant Objectives in the Plan
<p>P3 - Protect human health from hazards or nuisances arising from exposure to incompatible land uses/developments.</p>	<p>MM9 - Require the provision of adequate storm water retention facilities in all new developments, including the use of soft landscaping and sustainable drainage techniques.</p> <p>MM10 - Ensure that development should not itself be subject to an inappropriate risk of flooding nor should it cause or exacerbate such a risk at other locations.</p> <p>MM11 – Support the implementation of the proposed Flood Relief Scheme.</p> <p>MM12 – Ensure adequate separation between conflicting land uses and have regard to any strategic noise maps/noise</p>	<p>moderate (Flood Zone B) or high (Flood Zone A) risk of fluvial flooding or at extreme or indicative risk of pluvial flooding, which are considered acceptable in principle in accordance with the Development Management Justification Test, demonstrate that appropriate mitigation measures can be put in place and that residual risks can be managed to acceptable levels.</p> <p>Objective SWM01 - To promote storm water retention facilities in new developments and require design solutions that provide for collection and recycling of surface water in accordance with Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems.</p> <p>Objective SWM02 - To ensure that all storm water generated in new developments is disposed of on-site or is attenuated and treated prior to discharge to an approved storm water system.</p> <p>Objective FRM07 - To require the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) to minimise the extent of hard surfacing and paving and require the use of sustainable drainage for new development or extensions to existing developments.</p> <p>Objective FRM14 - To ensure new development does not increase flood risk elsewhere including that which may arise from surface water run-off.</p> <p>Objective FRM10 - To support and facilitate the OPW's proposed flood relief scheme for the town, and to facilitate the provision of any other necessary appropriate flood risk management infrastructure by the Office of Public Works, the local authority or private developers subject to compliance with the requirements of the EU Habitats and Environment Impact Assessment Directives and associated national legislation.</p> <p>Land use zoning map includes transition zones between residential and general industry uses.</p>

SEOs	Mitigation Measures	Relevant Objectives in the Plan
	<p>Action plan prepared for the area.</p>	<p>Core Strategy Strategic Aim - Protect residential and amenity lands from encroachment by incompatible types of development.</p> <p>Objective ED16 - To seek to ensure that the impacts of any industry on adjoining uses and the environment are minimised.</p> <p>Objective N01 - To ensure new development does not cause an unacceptable increase in noise levels affecting noise sensitive properties. Proposals for new development with the potential to create excessive noise will be required to submit a construction and/or operation management plan to control such emissions.</p> <p>Objective N02 - To require activities likely to give rise to excessive noise to install noise mitigation measures and monitors. The provision of a noise audit may be required where appropriate.</p> <p>Objective N03 - To ensure that relevant planning applications comply with the provisions of any Noise Action Plan or noise maps relating to the area.</p>
<p>P4 - Improve travel choice and accessibility, reduce the need for travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys.</p>	<p>MM13 - Include objectives which aim to reduce the number and length of car journeys by encouraging cycling, walking and use of public transport and locate land uses having regard to their accessibility requirements.</p>	<p>Objective SH05 - To ensure that new housing development minimises the use of natural resources and impacts on natural assets. The location of residential developments should maximise the use of sustainable modes of transport such as walking, cycling and the use of public transport, so as to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.</p> <p>Objective T07 - To encourage walking and cycling by all sections of the community through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting walking and cycling as sustainable transport modes and healthy recreation activities; • Maximising pedestrian and cycle movements between residential areas, town centres, schools, commercial and industrial areas. • Promoting cycling and pedestrian friendly development layouts, provide facilities at public transport nodes, plan for and make provision for the integration of cyclist and

SEOs	Mitigation Measures	Relevant Objectives in the Plan
		<p>pedestrian needs when considering new development proposals;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that cycling and walking facilities are integral to the provision of vehicular traffic facilities; • Requiring the provision of drop kerbs at all junctions and central island refuges to facilitate ease of access for elderly and mobility restricted people; • Requiring that proposed developments are sited and designed in a manner which facilitates and encourages safe walking and cycling; • Supporting the installation of infrastructure measures (for example new/wider pavements, road crossings and cycle parking facilities), retrofitted if necessary, which facilitates and encourages safe walking and cycling; • Ensuring that the needs of walkers and cyclists are given full consideration in proposals to maintain and upgrade public roads, in undertaking traffic calming and proposals to maintain or change local speed limits. <p>Objective T12 - To support and facilitate proposals which facilitate and encourage increased public transport usage and to support the development of appropriately sited and designed facilities, such as additional stations, car and cycle parking, taxi ranks, bus parking facilities, bus shelters and bus lanes.</p> <p>Objective T23 - In retrofitting and developing new roadways the planning authority and developers shall have regard to Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (2013). Notwithstanding the detailed proposals as shown on Map 12 for public footpath/lighting improvements, the Council shall continue to examine the remainder of the existing street network within the town, to establish where and how enhancements for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users can be made. In particular the Council will seek to enhance linkages from existing and proposed residential areas to the town centre, to existing and proposed neighbourhood shopping, educational and recreational facilities and to existing and proposed</p>

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SEOs	Mitigation Measures	Relevant Objectives in the Plan
		<p>employment areas.</p> <p>Objective AQ04 - To encourage a modal change from private car use towards other types of travel and promote the use of public transport as a means of reducing vehicle emissions and improving air quality.</p> <p>The land use zoning has had regard to accessibility requirements e.g. industrial and commercial zoned lands are located adjacent to N11 main approach road and in close proximity to the proposed bypass for ease of access, while new residential zoned land is located close to the town centre and/or employment areas.</p>
<p>S1 - Prevent pollution or contamination of soils.</p>	<p>MM14 – Include objectives for the safe disposal of hazardous waste.</p>	<p>Objective WM03 - To ensure that hazardous waste is disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2008-2012 or any updated version published during the lifetime of the Plan.</p>
<p>S2 - Maximise the sustainable re-use of brownfield lands and give preference to the re-use of brownfield lands over development of greenfield lands.</p>	<p>MM15 – Promote the redevelopment of brownfield sites.</p>	<p>Core Strategy Strategic Aim - Enhance the urban environment by promoting the redevelopment of brownfield sites and ensuring high quality design in new developments.</p> <p>Objective ED18 - To encourage and facilitate the provision of office development within the town centre including in existing derelict buildings, brownfield sites and under-utilised sites and buildings where such services would not detract from the primary retail area and having regard to the objectives in relation to primary and secondary retail streets contained in Appendix 1 in the Retail Strategy. Those with requirements for large floorplates may be accommodated on appropriate zoned land elsewhere.</p>
<p>S3 - Protect and conserve important geological sites.</p>	<p>MM16 – Include objectives for the protection of geological sites.</p>	<p>Objective L05 - To actively encourage the redevelopment of brownfield sites in the town centre and promote good urban design in all new developments.</p> <p>Objective NH04 - To conserve and protect the integrity of sites designated for their habitat/wildlife or geological/geomorphological</p>

SEOs	Mitigation Measures	Relevant Objectives in the Plan
<p>S4 - Minimise the amount of waste to landfill.</p>	<p>MM17 - Promote waste prevention, minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery as methods of managing waste.</p>	<p>importance and prohibit development which would damage or threaten the integrity of these sites, including Special Areas of Conservation, candidate Special Areas of Conservations, Special Protection Areas, candidate Special Protections Areas, Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas.</p> <p>Objective NH06 - To recognise the importance of recommended proposed Natural Heritage Areas and County Geological sites as identified by the Geological Survey of Ireland, and protect the character and integrity of these sites, where appropriate.</p> <p>Objective AQ01 - To encourage sustainable industrial developments by promoting the use of cleaner technologies and production techniques, reducing waste production, conservation and recycling of materials.</p> <p>Objective WM01 - To implement the provisions of the Joint Waste Management Plan for the South East Region 2006-2011 or any updated version published during the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p>Objective WM02 - To implement the National Waste Prevention Programme and any updated version published during the lifetime of the Plan. The Council will continue to support initiatives such as the 'Green Business Initiative' and the 'Green Schools Programme' which promote waste prevention in businesses and schools.</p> <p>Objective WM04 - To continue to provide bring facilities throughout the town in easily accessible locations where population growth demands. Planning applications for significant developments, for example supermarkets, will be required to submit proposals for bottle-bank facilities.</p> <p>Objective WM05 - To encourage communities to become involved in environmental awareness activities and community-based recycling or environmental management initiatives that will lead to local sustainable waste management practices.</p>

SEOs	Mitigation Measures	Relevant Objectives in the Plan
<p>W1 - Maintain or improve the quality of surface water to status objectives as set out in the Water Framework Directive and the South Eastern River Basin Management Plan (2009-2015).</p> <p>W2 - Prevent pollution and contamination of ground water.</p>	<p>MM18 - Protect and improve water quality in accordance with the measures set out in the South Eastern River Basin Management Plan (2009-2015).</p> <p>MM19 - Protect existing groundwater aquifers and surface waters from pollution.</p>	<p>Objective WM06 - To require a Waste Management Plan to accompany planning applications for significant developments, where appropriate. The Waste Management Plan shall supply full details of all wastes generated (including topsoil/“clean fill”) and proposals for the prevention, re-use, minimisation and disposal of these wastes. The Plan shall be prepared in accordance with Best Practice Guidelines on the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Projects (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2006).</p>
<p>W1 - Maintain or improve the quality of surface water to status objectives as set out in the Water Framework Directive and the South Eastern River Basin Management Plan (2009-2015).</p> <p>W2 - Prevent pollution and contamination of ground water.</p>	<p>MM18 - Protect and improve water quality in accordance with the measures set out in the South Eastern River Basin Management Plan (2009-2015).</p> <p>MM19 - Protect existing groundwater aquifers and surface waters from pollution.</p>	<p>Objective WQ01 - To protect existing and potential water resources in accordance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended) • European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (as amended) • European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (as amended) • South-East River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 or any updated version of this document • Pollution Reduction Programmes for Designated Shellfish Areas • Groundwater Protection Scheme for County Wexford • Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2001 (as amended) • Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) and European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Waters) Regulations 2009 and 2010 • Any other protection plans for water supply sources or updates to the above regulations. <p>Objective WQ02 - To ensure that development would not have an unacceptable impact on water quality and quantity, including surface water, ground water, designated source protection areas, river corridors and associated wetlands, estuarine waters, coastal and</p>

SEOs	Mitigation Measures	Relevant Objectives in the Plan
		<p>transitional waters.</p> <p>Objective WQ03 - To ensure that all significant road projects/upgrades with surface water discharges to the Slaney River system and its tributaries, have petrol/oil interceptors installed to prevent hydrocarbon pollution of the river system.</p> <p>Objective WW01 - To provide adequate wastewater treatment facilities to serve the existing and future population of the town, subject to complying with the Water Framework Directive, the South-East River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 or any updated version of this document, Pollution Reduction Programmes for Designated Shellfish Areas, the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Objective WW05 - To ensure that adequate and appropriate waste water infrastructure is in place prior to the occupation of any new development.</p> <p>Objective BG01 - To provide and facilitate burial grounds or extensions to existing burial grounds at appropriate locations subject to adequate protection of groundwater. A site investigation and risk assessment will be required to be submitted with any planning application in accordance with Cemeteries, Burials and The Water Environment Guidance Notes (Northern Ireland Environmental Agency, 2009) or any other relevant guidance document.</p> <p>Objective WS02 - To conserve water supplies through the maintenance of mains and the elimination of leaks and to promote public awareness on the maintenance of water quality and its economic and sustainable use.</p> <p>Objective WS03 - To support and promote the use of water conservation measures in new development, for example, rainwater harvesting systems.</p>
<p>W3 - Promote sustainable water use based on long-term protection of available water resources.</p>	<p>MM20 - Promote public awareness on the maintenance of water quality and its economic and sustainable use.</p>	

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SEOs	Mitigation Measures	Relevant Objectives in the Plan
<p>W4 - Maintain and improve the quality of drinking water supplies.</p>	<p>MM21 – Provide good quality water supply.</p>	<p>Objective WS01 - To ensure an adequate, sustainable and economic supply of good quality water for domestic, commercial and industrial needs for the lifetime of this Plan, subject to compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, where appropriate.</p>
<p>A1 - Facilitate measures which aim to reduce all forms of air pollution and reduce dependence on travel by private car.</p>	<p>MM22 - Include objectives which aim to reduce the number and length of car journeys by encouraging cycling, walking and use of public transport.</p> <p>MM23 – Include objectives which will facilitate a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.</p>	<p>Objectives SH05, T07, T12, T23 and AQ04 as for SEO P4 above.</p>
<p>A2 - Promote energy conservation and the development of renewable energy sources.</p>	<p>MM24 – Include objectives which promote energy conservation and the development of renewable energy sources.</p>	<p>Objective CC03 - To minimise greenhouse gas emissions in order to contribute to a reduction of human induced climate change in accordance with the Kyoto agreement. The Council supports and is committed to the National Climate Change Strategy and in general to facilitating measures which seek to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.</p> <p>Objective CC05 - To adopt sustainable planning strategies through the integration of land use and transportation as a means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Objective EN05 - To promote energy conservation, decrease dependency on fossil fuels and support environmentally friendly methods of producing energy.</p> <p>Objective EN06 - To encourage and facilitate the development of renewable energy sources at appropriate locations provided that they do not negatively impact on residential amenity, biodiversity or landscape sensitivities.</p> <p>Objective EN07 - To support the development of Sustainable Energy Zones at suitable locations in the town.</p> <p>Objective EN11 - To investigate the potential for small-scale wind energy developments within the urban and industrial areas of the plan.</p>

SEOs	Mitigation Measures	Relevant Objectives in the Plan
	<p>MM23 - Require all new building developments to meet low energy performance targets.</p>	<p>Objective EN13 - To require all new building developments to meet low energy performance targets. Each building's energy performance, as calculated by the Building Energy Rating (BER), will have a minimum energy efficiency that meets the requirements of Part L of the Building Regulations. New buildings should incorporate renewable energy technologies in order to help achieve the rating required.</p> <p>Objective EN14 - To promote innovative building design and layout that demonstrates a high level of energy conservation, energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources.</p> <p>Objective EN15 - To encourage the integration of micro renewable energy sources into the design and construction of single and multiple housing developments.</p> <p>Objective CC07 - To encourage improved energy efficiency of the existing building stock, and promote energy efficiency and conservation in the design and development of all new buildings and residential schemes in particular.</p>
<p>MA1 - Maintain the quality of, and access to, assets such as open spaces, water resources and all other physical and social infrastructure.</p>	<p>MM24 – Ensure the provision of, and access to, high quality open spaces, play areas and community facilities.</p>	<p>Core Strategy Strategic Aim - Develop a range of community facilities and amenities which are socially inclusive and accessible by all members of the community.</p> <p>Objective CI41 - To maintain and, where possible, improve the provision of community facilities in the town, ensuring that these facilities are adequate to meet the needs of the communities they serve, are physically integrated with residential and employment areas and are provided concurrently with new residential development.</p> <p>Objective RS01 - To ensure that adequate amenity and recreational open space and facilities are available for all groups of the population at a convenient distance from their homes and places of work.</p> <p>Objective RS11 - To identify deficits in sports facilities within the town and to be proactive in the provision of the necessary facilities, subject</p>

SEOs	Mitigation Measures	Relevant Objectives in the Plan
		<p>to available resources.</p> <p>Objective RS13 - To carry out an audit of open space within the town to ensure all persons have access to a suitable level of appropriate open space including passive and active spaces at a local level.</p> <p>Objective RS15 - To require the provision of good quality, accessible, well located and functional open spaces in new residential developments in accordance with the standards recommended in Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas: Guidelines for Planning Authorities and its companion document Urban Design Manual (DEHLG, 2008).</p> <p>Objective RS17 - To develop the Orchard Eco Park Nature Zone as shown on Map 12 for the purposes of providing a high quality accessible recreational and educational open space for both the town's residents and visitors to the town.</p> <p>Objective RS19 - To ensure that high quality play and recreation facilities are incorporated into new housing developments over 75 dwellings. Play facilities may include playgrounds, basket ball courts, tennis courts, hurling walls or other facilities considered appropriate by the Council. This standard may be modified in any particular case where there are significant reasons for doing so. Criteria that may be taken into account include the existing geographical distribution of play facilities and the emerging demographic profile of the area.</p> <p>Objective RS20 - To encourage the development of Multi-User Games Areas (MUGAs) at appropriate locations and ensure that new community facilities and public open spaces are designed to allow flexibility in their use.</p> <p>Objective ED03 - To ensure the provision of necessary infrastructure such as roads, sanitary services, housing, telecommunications, energy supply, transport, waste management, community services and amenities on a planned and phased basis in advance of new development where feasible, along with the clearance of derelict land</p>
<p>MA2 - Ensure that adequate infrastructure is in place prior to occupation of new development.</p>	<p>MM25 - Ensure that adequate physical and social infrastructure is in place prior to the occupation of new development.</p>	

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SEOs	Mitigation Measures	Relevant Objectives in the Plan
<p>C1 - Promote the protection and conservation of the cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage.</p>	<p>MM26 – Include objectives for the protection of architectural, archaeological (including underwater archaeology) and natural heritage.</p>	<p>to facilitate new enterprises and existing enterprises wishing to expand subject to compliance with national and international legislation on habitats and water quality.</p> <p>Objective WW05 - To ensure that adequate and appropriate waste water infrastructure is in place prior to the occupation of any new development.</p> <p>Objective CF02 - To achieve a balanced spatial distribution of community and education facilities in the plan area and ensure that such facilities are provided in advance of, or in tandem with development.</p> <p>Objective CF16 - To ensure that no significant residential development proceeds without an assessment of existing schools capacity or the provision of new school facilities in tandem with the development.</p> <p>Objective AH01 - To protect the architectural heritage of Enniscorthy and to include structures considered to be of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest in the Record of Protected Structures.</p> <p>Objective ACA01 - To preserve the character of the three designated Architectural Conservation Areas in Enniscorthy.</p> <p>Objective G01 - To preserve and enhance Enniscorthy's historic graveyards through improved management and access and community stewardship and to provide historical information at each location and promote the unique character of each of the burial grounds to the surrounding residents and property owners.</p> <p>Objective ARH01 - To protect the archaeological heritage from damage.</p> <p>Objective ARH05 - To require an archaeological assessment for development that may, due to its size, location or nature, have a</p>

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SEOs	Mitigation Measures	Relevant Objectives in the Plan
		<p>significant effect upon archaeological heritage, including underwater archaeology, and to take appropriate measures to safeguard this archaeological heritage. In all such cases the Councils shall consult with the National Monuments Service in the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht on these matters. Any such assessments shall be carried out by a licensed archaeologist.</p> <p>Objective ARH07 - To promote a presumption in favour of "preservation in situ" of archaeological remains and settings, in accordance with government policy, when dealing with proposals for development that would impact upon archaeological sites and/or features. Where preservation in-situ is not possible the Council will consider preservation by record in appropriate circumstances.</p> <p>Objective ARH10 - To protect the historic and archaeological landscape of Vinegar Hill and to continue to promote access to and understanding of it.</p> <p>Objective NH04 - To conserve and protect the integrity of sites designated for their habitat/wildlife or geological/geomorphological importance and prohibit development which would damage or threaten the integrity of these sites, including Special Areas of Conservation, candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, candidate Special Protections Areas, Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas.</p>
<p>L1 – Conserve, maintain and enhance the natural riverside landscape of Enniscorthy.</p>	<p>MM27 - Promote high-quality developments along the riverfront and ensure that new development does not detract from important views and vistas.</p>	<p>Objective L06 - To promote brownfield and infill development along the river front which encourages a strong building line and uses that support vibrant activity along the River Slaney and associated streets.</p> <p>Objective PV01 - To protect views of special amenity value or special interest and ensure that new development does not detract from such views. In evaluating planning applications for development in the foreground of any protected views, consideration shall be given to the effect such development may have on the view or prospect.</p> <p>Objective TM01 - To protect and enhance those natural, built and</p>

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SEOs	Mitigation Measures	Relevant Objectives in the Plan
<p>L2 - Protect and conserve the historical landscape, including Vinegar Hill.</p>	<p>MM28 - Ensure that new development does not detract from the historical landscape of Vinegar Hill.</p>	<p>cultural features that form the basis of the town's tourism industry, including local scenic landscapes, protected views, areas of important wildlife interest and, historic buildings and structures.</p> <p>Objective TM09 - To protect the views and vistas from waterways from inappropriate development which would detract from the amenity of the waterways, except in circumstances where there is a reason of justifiable public interest.</p> <p>Vinegar Hill and surrounding undeveloped land zoned as Open Space.</p> <p>Objective ARH10 - To protect the historic and archaeological landscape of Vinegar Hill and to continue to promote access to and understanding of it.</p> <p>Objective TC05 - To encourage the removal of the telecommunications mast on Vinegar Hill having regard to the cultural, historic, tourism and scenic value of this site.</p>

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Monitoring Programme

Article 10 of the SEA Directive requires that monitoring be carried out in order to identify at an early stage any unforeseen adverse effects due to the implementation of the Plan and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action. Monitoring is a key element of the effective implementation of the Plan. Its purpose is to cross check significant effects which arise during the implementation stage of the Plan against those predicted during the plan preparation stage. Monitoring is based on indicators which measure changes to the environment. The monitoring programme is shown in Table 17 below.

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Table 17: List of Monitoring Indicators and Targets

Environmental Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Data Source	Frequency
<p>B1: Ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive with regard to the protection of Natura 2000 sites and habitats and species listed under Annexes I and II of the Directive.</p>	<p>Maintenance of favourable conservation status for all habitats and species protected under national and international legislation.</p>	<p>Conservation status of the qualifying interests of Natura 2000 sites and protected habitats and species as reported by NPWS and other conservation organisations.</p>	<p>NPWS</p>	<p>Dependent on availability of information from relevant statutory authorities.</p>
<p>B2: Ensure the protection of habitats and species outside of the designated ecological sites and prevent the loss of ecological networks and stepping stones or parts thereof which provide important connectivity for species, in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</p>	<p>Minimal loss of Article 10 corridors/stepping stones as identified on Map 8(a) in the Plan. Minimal loss of habitats as identified on Map 8(b) in the Plan.</p>	<p>Percentage loss of Article 10 corridors/stepping stones as identified on Map 8(a) in the Plan. Percentage loss of habitats as identified on Map 8(b) in the Plan.</p>	<p>WCC</p>	<p>Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the Manager's Report and every two years thereafter.</p>
<p>B3: Protect aquatic and terrestrial habitats from the spread of invasive species.</p>	<p>Prevent introduction of new invasive species and manage current invasive species to prevent a spread in their distribution.</p>	<p>Change in no. and type of invasive species in the plan area as shown on map 3 of this report. Distribution of invasive species as listed on NBDC website and other invasive species related sites and organisations.</p>	<p>WCC NBDC</p>	<p>Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the Manager's Report and every two years thereafter (more frequently if it is apparent that invasive species are spreading).</p>
<p>P1: Protect and enhance people's quality of life based on high quality living, working and recreational environments.</p>	<p>Increased employment opportunities in the plan area. Increases and improvements in quality of services, amenities and green spaces.</p>	<p>Provision of employment. Decrease in no. of people on live register. Provision of services, amenities and green spaces.</p>	<p>WCC, CDB, FEB, IDA, EI, CSO WCC</p>	<p>Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the Manager's Report and every two years thereafter (dependent on availability of information from relevant agencies).</p>

Environmental Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Data Source	Frequency
P2: Reduce the risk of flooding and harm to people, property and the environment.	No highly vulnerable development to be permitted in Flood Zones A and B or where such development is permitted, to be mitigated through siting, layout and design.	No. of developments granted in Flood Zones A and B and mitigation measures deployed.	WCC	Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the Manager's Report and every two years thereafter.
P3: Protect human health from hazards or nuisances arising from exposure to incompatible land uses/developments.	Noise levels for new developments not to exceed 55dB during daytime hours or 45dB at night.	Noise monitoring as part of conditions of IPPC licences.	EPA	Yearly (where IPPC licence requires an annual environmental report to be submitted to EPA).
P4: Improve travel choice and accessibility, reduce the need for travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys.	Reduce road traffic in line with <i>Smarter Travel - A Sustainable Transport Future</i> . Increased investment in walkways and cycle paths.	No. of complaints/planning conditions breached with regard to noise. Average daily motor vehicle flows and proportion of travel by mode. Monetary investment in walking and cycling routes.	WCC	Complaints recorded as they are received (planning enforcement).
S1: Prevent pollution or contamination of soils.	Maintenance and conservation of soil quality. Filling of lands for development to be accompanied by waste permit licences where required. Waste management plans to be carried out for significant developments and/or demolition	EPA, Teagasc National Soils Mapping Project. No. of waste permit licences granted. No. of Waste Management Plans prepared.	NRA, CSO WCC EPA, Teagasc	Dependent on availability of information from relevant authorities/agencies. Annual Report.
Soil				Dependent on availability of information from relevant authorities/agencies. Waste permits recorded as they are granted. Waste Management Plans recorded as they are received (as part of a

Environmental Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Data Source	Frequency
	of structures which are likely to contain hazardous material.			planning application or as compliance).
S2: Maximise the sustainable re-use of brownfield lands and give preference to the re-use of brownfield lands over development of greenfield lands.	Brownfield land to be redeveloped by the end of the plan period.	Area of brownfield land developed.	WCC	Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the Manager's Report and every two years thereafter.
S3: Protect and conserve important geological sites.	Retain or increase the conservation status of important geological sites in the plan area.	Conservation status of geological sites.	DAHG, GSI, NPWS	Dependent on availability of information from relevant authorities/agencies.
S4: Minimise the amount of waste to landfill.	Reduce the amount of waste to landfill by increasing recycling and composting initiatives. Increase no. of bring banks in the plan area.	Amount and nature of waste going to landfill. No. of bring centres provided in the plan area.	EPA, WCC	Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the Manager's Report and every two years thereafter (depending on available information).
W1: Maintain or improve the quality of surface water to status objectives as set out in the Water Framework Directive and the South Eastern River Basin Management Plan (2009-2015).	Improvement or at least no deterioration in surface water quality by 2015.	Changes in receiving water quality as identified during water quality monitoring.	EPA, WCC	Depending on availability of relevant information from environmental authorities.
Water				

	Environmental Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Data Source	Frequency
W2: Prevent pollution and contamination of ground water.	Improvement or at least no deterioration in groundwater quality by 2015.	Changes in groundwater quality as identified during water quality monitoring.	EPA, WCC	Depending on availability of relevant information from environmental authorities.	
W3: Promote sustainable water use based on long-term protection of available water resources.	Implementation of Ground Water Protection Scheme for County Wexford.	Implementation of Ground Water Protection Scheme for County Wexford.	WCC		Annual
W4: Maintain and improve the quality of drinking water supplies.	Implement the Water Conservation Programme.	Results of Water Conservation Programme.	WCC		Annual
A1: Facilitate measures which aim to reduce all forms of air pollution and reduce dependence on travel by private car.	No deterioration in quality of drinking water.	EPA remedial action list.	EPA	Annual	10 check samples and two audit samples per year.
A2: Promote energy conservation and the development of renewable energy sources.	Maintain/improve air quality within Air Quality index bands.	Check and audit samples carried out on the Enniscorthy public water scheme in accordance with national drinking water regulations.	WCC		Dependent on availability of information from relevant authorities/agencies.
	Reduce road traffic in line with <i>Smarter Travel - A Sustainable Transport Future</i> .	Change in Air Quality Index Bands.	Average daily motor vehicle flows. Proportion of travel by mode.	EPA	Detailed in Annual Budget Report.
A3: Increase investment in walkways and cycle paths.	Increased investment in walkways and cycle paths.	Monetary investment in cycling and walking routes.	WCC		Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the Manager's Report and every two years thereafter.
	Require all new building developments to meet low energy performance targets.	Building Energy Ratings.	No. of developments which support the renewable energy industry.	WCC	

	Environmental Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Data Source	Frequency
Material Assets	M1: Maintain the quality of, and access to, assets such as open spaces, water resources and all other physical and social infrastructure.	Maintenance of walkways and public rights-of-way. Provision of adequate water and wastewater infrastructure. Provision of new/improvement of existing community facilities.	No. and SEZs in the plan area. Maintenance of walkways and public rights-of-way. Any upgrades to wastewater and water infrastructure. Provision of new/improvement of existing community facilities.	WCC WCC WCC WCC	Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the Manager's Report and every two years thereafter.
	M2: Ensure that adequate infrastructure is in place prior to occupation of new development.	No new development to be granted/occupied until the upgrade to the Enniscorthy WWTP is completed.	No. of developments granted/occupied prior to WWTP upgrade being completed.	WCC	Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the Manager's Report and every two years thereafter (until WWTP upgrade is complete).
Cultural Heritage	C1: Promote the protection and conservation of the cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage.	No development permitted during the lifetime of the Plan which will result in the loss/partial loss of protected structures or sites of archaeological importance.	Number of protected structures or archaeological monuments damaged due to development.	NMS, WCC	Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the Manager's Report and every two years thereafter.
Landscape	L1: Conserve, maintain and enhance the natural riverside landscape of Enniscorthy.	No diminution in the quality of the natural riverside landscape and no significant disruption of important views or vistas. Brownfield sites to be redeveloped and sensitively designed.	No. and type of developments granted along the riverside.	WCC (planning register and planners reports)	Monitoring at planning application stage for all new developments along the riverside.

	Environmental Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Data Source	Frequency
	L2: Protect and conserve the historical landscape, including Vinegar Hill.	No diminution in the quality of Vinegar Hill.	No. and type of developments permitted on or adjacent to Vinegar Hill.	WCC (planning register and planner's reports).	Monitoring at planning application stage for all new developments within ACAs or on or adjacent to Vinegar Hill.

Note: In all instances monitoring will be subject to availability of data and resources

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Section 1 – Introduction

1.1 Background to SEA

On the 5th June 2001, the European Council adopted Directive 2001/42/EC on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (SEA Directive). The Directive was transposed into Irish Law through two sets of Regulations:

- European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004), amended by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 200 of 2011); and
- Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 436 of 2004), amended by the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 201 of 2011).

The Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (as amended) require SEA to be carried out in respect of development plans where the population or the target population of the area is 10,000 persons or more. Where the population or target population of the area is less than 10,000, SEA must be carried out where it is considered that the plan would be likely to have significant effects on the environment. This is determined through a screening process. The screening process must be carried out before notice is given to review the Plan and must have regard to criteria set out in Schedule 2A of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (as amended).

1.2 What is SEA?

SEA is a formal process that is carried out in parallel with the preparation of the Plan. It is a valuable tool that influences decision-making at each stage in the plan process, to improve the environmental sustainability of the Plan and to raise awareness of the potential environmental consequences of its implementation so that these consequences may be mitigated or avoided altogether. It also gives the

public and other interested parties an opportunity to comment and be kept informed on decisions that may impact on the environment.

1.3 SEA Process

The steps involved in the SEA process for land-use plans include:

- Preparing an Environmental Report where the likely significant effects of implementing a Draft Plan are identified and evaluated
- Consulting the public, environmental authorities and any EU Member State affected on the Environmental Report and the Draft Plan
- Taking account of the findings of the report and the outcome of these consultations in deciding whether to adopt or modify the Draft Plan
- Making known the decision on adoption of the Plan and outlining how the SEA influenced its outcome in the form of an SEA Statement.

The methodology devised to carry out the SEA of the Enniscorthy Town and Environs Development Plan 2014-2020 follows the requirements as set out in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (as amended) and the Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) guidelines published by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) in 2004.

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Table 1: Development Plan and SEA Stages

<p>Notice of review of Development Plan - determine whether SEA is required</p> <p>Pre-draft consultation with public and statutory prescribed authorities</p> <p>Notice of preparation of SEA to statutory environmental authorities</p>
<p>Preparation of Manager's Report on the submissions and observations received during the statutory consultation period for consideration by the Elected Members</p> <p>Members issue directions regarding the preparation of the Draft Plan</p>
<p>Preparation of Draft Plan and Environmental Report</p> <p>Consideration of Draft Plan and Environmental Report by the Elected Members</p> <p>Environmental Report takes account of any changes made to the Draft Plan</p>
<p>Draft Plan and Environmental Report go on public display</p>
<p>Preparation of Manager's Report on the submissions and observation received during the statutory consultation period for consideration by the Elected Members</p> <p>Members may make material alterations to the Draft Plan</p> <p>Material alterations are screened for SEA and Environmental Report updated if required</p>
<p>Material alterations to Draft Plan and SEA Screening Report or Environmental Report go on public display</p>
<p>Preparation of Manager's Report on the submissions and observations received during the statutory consultation period for consideration by Elected Members</p> <p>Members make the Plan with or without the material alterations</p> <p>Final Environmental Report prepared</p>
<p>Preparation of SEA Statement</p>
<p>Plan comes into effect four weeks after it is made</p>

1.3.1 Screening

The Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (as amended) require SEA to be carried out in respect of development plans where the population or the target population of the area is 10,000 persons or more. Where the population or target population of the area is less than 10,000, SEA must be carried out where it is considered that the plan would be likely to have significant effects on the environment. This is determined through a screening process. The screening process must be carried out before notice is given to review the Plan and must have regard to criteria set out in Schedule 2A of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (as amended).

Prior to the publication of the 2011 Census results and the allocation of population for Enniscorthy Town and Environs, a screening report was prepared for the review of the Enniscorthy Town and Environs Development Plan and was placed on the Local Authority's website. The report concluded that the Plan has the potential to have significant effects on the environment and accordingly it was recommended that SEA should be carried out in conjunction with the preparation of the Plan.

In accordance with Section 11(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), notice was given on 10th April 2012 of the review of the Enniscorthy Town and Environs Development Plan 2008-2014 and the preparation of a new Plan for the area. The notice stated that the Planning Authority proposes to carry out an Environmental Assessment and for this purpose will prepare an Environmental Report of the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the new Plan. An eight week consultation period took place during which time members of the public, prescribed bodies, interest groups, stakeholders and infrastructure providers were invited to make submissions.

A submission was received from the EPA and was accompanied by a Scoping Guidance Document and an SEA pack to assist the Council in undertaking an environmental assessment of the Draft Plan. The submission stated that consideration should be given in the Environmental Report to the following:

- Provision of adequate and appropriate infrastructure (e.g. drinking water, wastewater, waste) prior to permission being granted for development
- Review of service infrastructure
- Protection of biodiversity and designated habitats and species
- Protection of nationally and internationally designated conservation sites
- Protection of surface water and ground water quality (and associated habitats and species)
- Inclusion of “green infrastructure” as appropriate into developments
- Promotion and incorporation of energy and water conservation measures
- Incorporation of Flood Risk Assessment and SUDS
- Protection of areas of significant landscape within and adjacent to the plan area.

1.3.2 Scoping and Consultation with Environmental Authorities

The purpose of scoping is to determine the level of detail to be included in the Environmental Report. It helps the SEA to become focused upon the important issues such as those relating to existing environmental problems, thus avoiding wasting resources on unnecessary data collection.

In accordance with Article 13D of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (as amended) the Environmental Authorities were notified on 2nd January 2013 of the preparation of an Environmental Report in tandem with the preparation of the Draft Enniscorthy Town and Environs Development Plan 2014-2020. A Draft Scoping Issues Paper was sent with the notification and the authorities were given four weeks to make submissions or observations in relation to the scope and level of detail of information to be included in the Environmental Report.

The Environmental Authorities include:

- Environmental Protection Agency
- Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government
- Where it appears to the planning authority that the plan might have significant effects on fisheries or the marine environment, the Minister for Agriculture,

Food and the Marine and the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources

- Where it appears to the competent authority that the plan might have significant effects in relation to the architectural or archaeological heritage or to nature conservation, the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
- Any adjoining planning authority whose area is contiguous to the area of a planning authority which prepared a draft plan

Five submissions were received and are summarised below.

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine have no comments to make in relation to the SEA Scoping of the Enniscorthy Town and Environs Development Plan 2014-2020.

Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources

The Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources brings to the attention of the planning authority a letter from Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI). The letter is summarised as follows:

- The River Slaney is a candidate Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and is a designated river under the European Communities (Quality of Salmonid Waters) Regulations 1978. The Slaney system is one of a handful of Multi Sea-Winter (Spring) Salmon Rivers in the Country.
- Apart from the Slaney main channel, a number of tributaries flow through the area covered by the Plan. The Urrin is not part of the SAC but is still an important salmonid water with excellent populations of salmon, trout and lamprey.
- All lands immediately bordering watercourses should be zoned as open space and amenity. Serious river bed and river bank erosion are an ongoing issue on the Urrin tributary.
- Adequate buffer zones (minimum 5-10m back from the river bank) should be maintained along all watercourses with no infilling or removal of vegetation within these buffer zones.

- Where houses are to be constructed in the vicinity of watercourses, they should overlook the watercourse to avoid anti-social behaviour in this area.
- It is important that flood alleviation measures take into account the spawning/recruitment and the migration of all fish species. Flood alleviation measures which minimise in-stream works and the length of time required for such in-stream works are preferable. Given the importance and sensitivity of the Slaney River through Enniscorthy, any flood alleviation measures should be “self cleaning” and any maintenance measures/ongoing in-stream works should be minimal.
- Comprehensive surface water management measures should be implemented at the construction and operational stage to prevent any pollution of local surface waters. SUDS mechanisms and class I petrol/oil interception should be in place on surface water discharges to protect receiving freshwaters in terms of water quality.
- The proposed upgrade of the Enniscorthy Wastewater Treatment Plant and the decommissioning of the Killagoeley Wastewater Treatment Plant are welcomed. IFI requests that the upgrade include associated infrastructure, specifically pumping stations, which in every case should include telemetry.

Environmental Protection Agency

The EPA acknowledges the comprehensive nature of the Draft Scoping Issues Paper and the integration of the issues raised in their previous submission. It should be ensured that all the issues identified are reflected in the preparation of the Draft Plan. In particular, a specific commitment to integrating the recommendations of the South Eastern (CFRAMS) study should be included in the Plan where relevant.

Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Two submissions were received from the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in relation to nature conservation and archaeology.

Nature Conservation

- It is recommended that the Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) for biodiversity cover habitats and species within and outside of designated sites.

- With regard to the SEOs for water, it is important that the needs of protected species such as crayfish, salmon and lamprey species, which are listed on annex II of the Habitats Directive, are considered in relation to water quality. The SEOs and targets should also be compatible with the relevant River Basin Management Plans.
- Flood plains should be left undeveloped to allow for the protection of these valuable habitats along river corridors and to provide areas for flood water retention. Account should be taken of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management guidelines. It is also important that ground and surface waters be protected from pollution and the Local Authority should ensure that adequate sewage treatment facilities are in place prior to any development. The Local Authority should also ensure that adequate water supplies are present prior to development and the impact of any proposed water abstraction schemes on the natural heritage should be fully assessed.
- The Plan should include a natural heritage section and all designated sites within the plan area should be listed and mapped. The Plan should take cognisance of boundary changes to sites made during the lifetime of the Plan and all such sites should be zoned appropriately and policies and objectives should be devised to ensure their protection.
- The Plan should recognise that protected species occur outside designated sites and should take note of the National Biodiversity Plan and the need to protect the County's biodiversity. Article 10 of the Habitats Directive outlines the need to include linear features and stepping stones for biodiversity in land use plans. Such features include hedges, rivers, canals and roadside verges. Examples of stepping stones include marshes and woodlands.
- Alien invasive species such Japanese Knotweed and giant Hogweed can be damaging to local biodiversity and a policy is needed to protect against the accidental introduction of such species during development.
- The importance of hedgerows as wildlife corridors, areas for birds to nest, badger setts and flight routes for bats is highlighted. Hedgerows should be maintained where possible. Where trees or hedges have to be removed there should be suitable planting of native species in mitigation.

- The Plan should recognise the importance of wetland habitats and ensure that such sites are protected.
- Negative impacts on biodiversity and designated sites, particularly along rivers, can occur as a result of development such as walking routes, cycleways, seating, lighting, loss of riparian zone and mowing of riparian zone and can lead to erosion and added disturbance by humans and dogs. Care needs to be taken to ensure that any proposed walkways along rivers are located a suitable distance from the waters edge and, where such proposed developments may impact on a Natura 2000 site, screening or appropriate assessment would be required prior to such a development taking place.
- The Planning Authority is reminded of the requirement to carry out appropriate assessment screening for the Plan. The appropriate assessment should examine the effects of policies, objectives and any indicative maps or zonings, as well as cumulative impacts with other plans and projects both within and outside of the plan area. Conservation objectives for Natura 2000 sites can be obtained from NPWS.

Archaeological Heritage

- The Department notes that cultural heritage is generally addressed in the Draft Scoping Issues Paper but recommends that it be dealt with in detail in the SEA and the Plan.
- The Department states that the SEA shall contain a detailed archaeological assessment of all potential impacts on known and potential archaeology, including underwater cultural heritage. Such an assessment should address the diversity of locales that may retain archaeological remains including for example: terrestrial, riverbank and intra-riverine (underwater), sites like the known and recorded, upstanding remains (e.g. castle and monastic sites) but also those that lie buried within the banks of the water courses, such as old quays, fishtrap remains, landing places, stone steps, logboats and wrecks.
- For specific programmes of works, for instance Flood Relief Schemes, it should be noted within the SEA that the Local Authority or OPW should allow for the assessment of cultural heritage as part of the process of informing on the impacts of such works. This should include engaging the services of a

suitably qualified archaeologist to carry out an assessment of potential impacts on heritage, to include the underwater heritage, in advance of any design for such works being finalised.

- The UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage should also be included in the section on relevant heritage, directives and conventions.
- The Plan should include a cultural heritage section. All recorded sites within the plan area should be listed and described. The potential for underwater cultural heritage and possible site types within watercourses should also form part of this section. All relevant sources, including the Record of Monuments and Places, Shipwreck Inventory of Ireland Archive, Ports and Harbours Archive shall be consulted for this section. The Topographical Files held in the National Museum of Ireland should also be looked at.
- Negative impacts on known and previously unrecorded cultural heritage, particularly along and in rivers, can occur as a result of works for developments like walking and cycle routes, public seating, lighting, general amenity areas, river dredging and bank augmentation, flood relief schemes and drainage works, landscaping and ground disturbance in sensitive areas. Potential for negative impacts on cultural heritage needs to be taken into account when considering works within such zones. Provision for screening for appropriate archaeological assessment would be required prior to such developments taking place.
- The appropriate assessment procedure, including that for the cultural heritage, should take place commencing with stage 1 screening to ensure all aspects of the Plan and SEA inform each other.

Following consideration of the above submissions, a Final Scoping Report was prepared. These submissions have also been considered in the preparation of the Draft Plan and Environmental Report and have been incorporated, where appropriate.

1.3.3 Environmental Report

The Environmental Report was prepared in tandem with the preparation of the Draft Plan. The purpose of the Environmental Report is to identify, evaluate and describe the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the Plan. The effects to be considered include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative. The purpose of the Environmental Report is to inform the Elected Members and the public of the environmental consequences of making the Plan and to make the environment a central focus of the decision-making process.

The contents of the report are specified in Article 5 and Annex 1 of the SEA Directive and include the following:

- An outline of the contents and main objectives of the Plan, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes
- A description of relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the evolution of the environment without implementation of the Plan
- A description of the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected
- Identification of any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the Plan, particularly those relating to European protected sites
- A list of the environmental protection objectives at international, EU and national level, which are relevant to the Plan and a description of how they have been taken into account in the formulation of the Plan
- A description of the likely significant effects on the environment (biodiversity, human health, cultural heritage, air, soil, water etc)
- Mitigation measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment caused by implementing the Plan
- An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives considered and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties
- A description of proposed monitoring measures
- A non-technical summary of the above information.

1.3.4 Consultation on the Environmental Report

Consultation on the Draft Plan and Environmental Report will take place with the Minister, the Board, the prescribed authorities (including the environmental authorities) and the public. Submissions or observations may be made during a period of not less than ten weeks on the Draft Plan and Environmental Report. Where material alterations are proposed to the Draft Plan there will be a further submission period of not less than four weeks during which time submissions and/or observations may be made on the proposed alterations. If material alterations are proposed they will need to undergo a screening process to determine if SEA is required. The proposed alterations, the screening document and SEA, where relevant, will be sent to the Minister, the Board and the prescribed authorities and will be made available for public inspection.

1.3.5 Making the Decision Public

Following adoption of the Plan an SEA Statement must be prepared and made available to the public. The SEA Statement will give a summary of how environmental considerations and the Environmental Report were factored into the Plan, how submissions and consultations were taken into account and the reasons for choosing the Plan as adopted in light of other reasonable alternatives considered. It will also outline a list of monitoring measures to be carried out during the plan period. The purpose of the SEA Statement is to provide accountability, by informing the public of how environmental effects were considered in the decision-making process.

1.3.6 Monitoring

Monitoring will be undertaken for the duration of the Plan up until its review. The overall objective of this stage is to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Plan so as “to identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action” (Article 10(1) of the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC). The monitoring programme for the Plan can be found in Section 8 of this report.

1.4 Integration of Development Plan, SEA, Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

The SEA guidelines indicate that there should be complete integration between the preparation of the Development Plan, the SEA process and Habitats Directive Assessment (Appropriate Assessment). The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines also state that there should be integration between the SEA and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA). In the interests of clarity it was decided to document each assessment separately. However, the findings of the Appropriate Assessment and SFRA have been incorporated into this report, where relevant. This Environmental Report should be read in conjunction with the Development Plan, Appropriate Assessment and SFRA.

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Section 2 – Overview of Development Plan

2.1 Introduction

The Plan sets out policies and objectives for the proper planning and sustainable development of Enniscorthy Town and Environs for the period 2014-2020. The overall aim of the Plan is to set out a framework for the sustainable development of Enniscorthy so that growth may take place in a co-ordinated manner, whilst protecting and preserving the town's character, heritage and amenity and making a positive contribution to people's quality of life.

In summary, the Plan will provide:

- A sustainable spatial development strategy to guide the location of development
- Clear guidance on the future use of land and the pattern of development over the next six years
- A framework for the future investment in physical and social infrastructure
- A framework for development the town's economy
- Ways to conserve and enhance the urban environment and to protect the diversity of the natural and cultural landscape
- Development Management Standards to be achieved in new developments

2.2 Structure of Plan

The Plan comprises of a written statement, a series of maps and a set of appendices. The written statement is the main document of the Plan. It sets out the aims and objectives for the town under a range of headings including housing, employment and economic activity, transport and infrastructure, community and educational facilities, recreation and open space, tourism and built heritage. The set of maps give visual representation to the objectives of the Plan.

The set of appendices includes the following documents:

- I. Retail Strategy
- II. Housing Strategy
- III. Record of Protected Structures
- IV. ACA Statement
- V. Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
- VI. Strategic Environmental Assessment (Environmental Report)
- VII. Appropriate Assessment Report (Screening)
- VIII. Statements prepared in accordance with Section 10(1D) and Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

2.3 Vision and Strategic Aims

The vision for the Plan is to create a compact town where people want to live, work and play. The town will offer:

- Employment opportunities to reduce the unsustainable levels of unemployment.
- Sustainable, attractive and quality residential developments.
- Sustainable physical and social infrastructure suitable to the needs of the town and of a quality which will enable it to compete with other large towns in the Region.
- A high quality urban environment in which the natural, built and cultural heritage are protected.

The Plan sets out a number of strategic aims for achieving this vision:

- Provide a strong and coherent town structure in which land uses are organised in a manner which is attractive, facilitates ease of movement and protects the amenities of residents.
- Ensure that sufficient and suitably located, serviced land is allocated to satisfy future housing and industry needs.
- Provide key infrastructure to facilitate development and investment, subject to compliance with national and international legislation on habitats and water quality.

- Develop a safe and comprehensive transport system capable of satisfying the requirements of motor traffic, cyclists and pedestrians and continue to implement traffic management measures in the town.
- Develop good transport links with other urban centres in the region and adjoining regions, taking account of and developing where practicable accessible transport links in conjunction with the Department of Transport.
- Promote sustainable economic development.
- Promote tourism development which builds on the unique characteristics and distinctive elements of the town's history, culture and environment.
- Promote accessible tourism development which builds on the strategy initiated within the town over the past number of years.
- Develop a range of community facilities and amenities which are socially inclusive and accessible by all members of the community.
- Enhance the urban environment by promoting the redevelopment of brownfield sites and ensuring high quality design in new developments.
- Protect residential and amenity lands from encroachment by incompatible types of development.
- Manage flood risk by actively pursuing flood risk management strategies and sustainable urban drainage systems.
- Protect the environment for a green future.

2.4 Consistency with National and Regional Planning Guidelines

The Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 requires development plans to include a core strategy which provides relevant information to show that the development plan and the housing strategy are consistent with the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) and Regional Planning Guidelines (SERPGs), as well as any national and regional population targets set by the Minister. The Core Strategy must also show how the zoning proposals accord with national policy that development of land shall take place on a phased basis.

The population allocation for Enniscorthy Town and Environs provides for an increase of 1,751 persons during the period 2013-2020. The population has been allocated having regard to the Settlement Strategy contained in the Wexford County

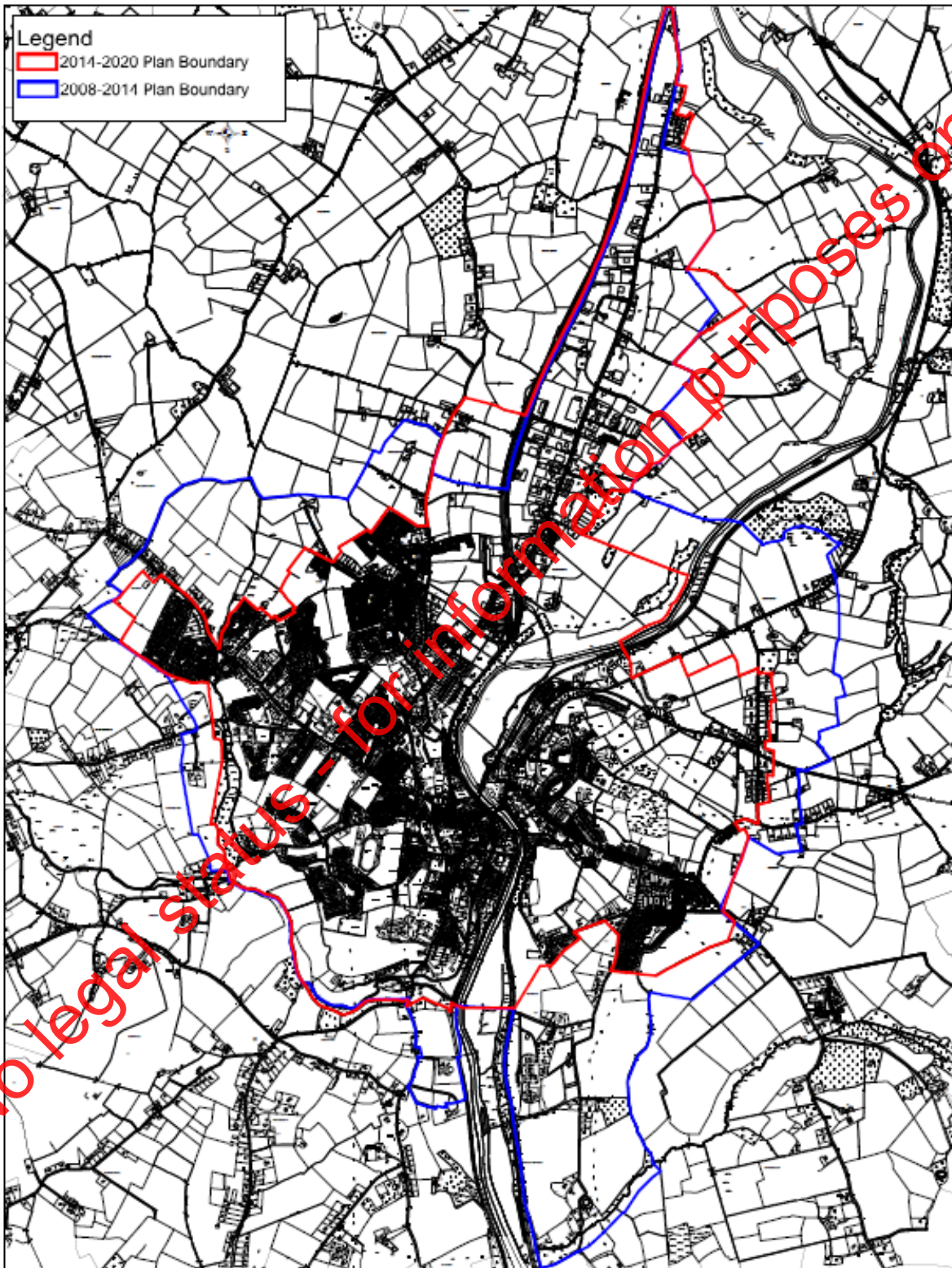
Development Plan 2013-2019 which allocates population to the various urban centres in the County. The allocation of population to the various settlements resulted from a detailed analysis of the County but was framed by the objectives of the NSS, the SERPGs and the vision and strategic aims set out for the County. The figures for Enniscorthy have been adjusted to correspond with the period of this Plan.

The Plan provides for 75 ha. of residential zoned land to accommodate the allocated population growth (based on average household size of 2.7, allowing for 75% over-zoning and having regard to extant planning permissions). A logical sequential approach has been taken in identifying lands to be zoned for future development, with emphasis on the utilisation of existing and planned infrastructure. Emphasis is also placed on the redevelopment of brownfield sites. This approach is consistent with the policy of the NSS and SERPGs to prioritise urban consolidation in larger towns and consider appropriate extension options only where sufficient development opportunities within the urban area do not exist.

2.5 Geographical Area of the Plan

Map 1 below shows the geographical extent of the plan area compared with the previous Plan. The plan area has been reduced significantly in the new Plan. This is because the Core Strategy requires the amount of residential zoned land to be aligned with population allocation. The approach to dealing with excess land is in line with 'Guidance Note on Core Strategies' issued by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) in November 2010, which requires the zoning objectives for 'excess' residential zoned lands to be addressed through phasing of development, alternative zoning objectives and/or deletion of the zoning objective.

Map 1: Plan Boundary



		Draft Enniscorthy Town and Environs Development Plan 2014 - 2020	New and Old Plan Boundary
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		Date: 01.08.2013	Map No:

2.6 Relationship with Other Plans

The Plan and the Environmental Report must be considered within the context of a hierarchy of legislation, plans and policies at international, EU, national, regional and local levels. The following are of relevance:

Table 2: International/EU Legislation, Plans and Policies

	Title	Summary of Objectives
SEA/EIA	Directive (2001/42/EC) - Assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the Environment.	Requires plan-makers to carry out an assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme before the plan or programme is adopted.
	EIA Directive (85/337/EEC, as amended)	Ensure that projects likely to have significant effects on the environment are made subject to an environmental assessment, prior to their approval or authorisation.
	Aarhus Convention (Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters)	Lays down a set of basic rules to promote citizen's involvement in environmental matters and improve enforcement of environmental law. Its provisions are broken down into three Pillars: Access to Information, Public Participation in Environmental Decision-making, and Access to Justice. Ireland ratified the Aarhus Convention on 20 June 2012.
Biodiversity	EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)	Seek to prevent and eliminate the causes of habitat loss and maintain and enhance current levels of biodiversity. Requirement to carry out an Appropriate Assessment.
	EU Birds Directive (as modified) (79/409/EEC)	Seek to prevent and eliminate the causes of bird species loss and maintain and enhance current levels of biodiversity.
	UN Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)	Seek the conservation of global biodiversity, as well as to ensure equitable access to the world's genetic resources.
	OSPAR Convention (1992)	Aims to encourage international co-operation to protect the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic. Main objective is to prevent and eliminate marine pollution

	and protect the maritime area, thereby safeguarding human health and conserving marine ecosystems.
Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979)	Aimed at ensuring conservation and protection of wild plant and animal species and their natural habitats.
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention), 1979.	Aims to conserve terrestrial marine and avian migratory species throughout their range.
Convention of Wetlands of International Importance (amended 1982 and 1987) (Ramsar Convention)	Requirement to protect sites from loss or damage by development.
Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020	Strategy to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020
European Biodiversity Strategy (1998)	Aimed at addressing the causes of significant reduction or loss of biodiversity at source.
EU Freshwater Fish Directive (78/659/EEC)	Seeks to protect those fresh water bodies identified by Member States as waters suitable for sustaining fish populations. For those waters it sets physical and chemical water quality objectives for salmonid waters and cyprinid waters.
EC Environmental Objectives (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) 2009	Measures to protect the conservation status of Freshwater Pearl Mussels.
EC Quality of Salmonid Waters Regulations 1998	Supports and protects designated salmonid waters.
EU Shellfish Waters Directive (2006/113/EC)	Seeks to protect or improve shellfish waters in order to support shellfish life and growth, therefore contributing to the high quality of shellfish products directly edible by man.

Population & Human Health	EU Environment and Health Strategy 2004-2010	Seeks to prevent and reduce the impacts of pollution on human health.
	The Stockholm Convention (2001)	Seeks to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.
	Major Accidents (Seveso) Directive (96/82/EC as amended)	Seeks to prevent major accidents involving dangerous substances and limit their consequences for man and the environment, with a view to ensuring high levels of protection throughout the Community.
	The Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	Main aim is to provide a common basis for tackling the noise problem across the EU.
	WHO Air Quality Guidelines (1999) and Guidelines for Europe (1987) Non Statutory	Seeks to eliminate or minimise certain airborne pollutants for the protection of human health.
	The Clean Air for Europe (CAFÉ) Programme: Towards a Thematic Strategy for Air Quality.	Seeks to prevent and reduce air pollution and impacts on human health from air pollution.
	The EU Environment and Health Strategy 2004-2010	Aimed at gaining a better understanding of the complex interactions between the environment and health in order to take action to reduce the impact of environmental factors on human health.
Air	Air Quality Directive 2008/50/EC	Sets standards and target dates for reducing concentrations of fine particles, which together with coarser particles known as PM ₁₀ already subject to legislation, are among the most dangerous pollutants for human health.
	EU Directive on National Emissions Ceilings for Certain Atmospheric Pollutants (2001/81/EC)	To improve air quality and control emissions of certain airborne pollutants for the protection of human health and the environment.

Directive 2004/107/EC relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.	Aimed at reducing concentrations of specific airborne pollutants identified as having carcinogenic characteristics.
WHO Air Quality Guidelines (1999) & WHO Air Quality Guidelines- Global Update 2005	Recommends air quality levels and improvements.
IPPC Directive (96/61/EC) as amended by Directive 2008/1/EC	Achieve a high level of protection of the environment through measures to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions to air, water and land. The Directive provides an integrated approach to establish pollution prevention from stationary "installations"
Kyoto Protocol	Agreement made under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, decided in December 1997 and entered into force on 16th February 2005. Its objective is to substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions in response to climate change. Following the Conference of Parties to the Climate Change Convention (COP) meeting in Copenhagen, 2009, the EU revised its commitment to reducing greenhouse gases by increasing the target to 20% reduction on 1990 levels by 2020.
Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) 2005	Seeks to develop the necessary elements of a strategy to implement the Kyoto protocol.
Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC)	Sets targets for Member States, such that the EU will reach a 20% share of energy from renewable sources by 2020 and a 10% share of renewable energy specifically in the transport sector.

Landscape	European Landscape Convention 2000	Provides for the protection, management and planning of landscapes.
	The Pan- European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (1995)	Establishes an international framework for co-operation for consolidating and extending schemes and programmes in the conservation field.
Cultural Heritage	Granada Convention for protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe 1985	Sets out general objectives of all signatory states including Ireland to meet international standards in the identification and protection of architectural heritage including groups of buildings and monuments and their settings.
	UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage 2001	International treaty aimed at saving the underwater cultural heritage. Underwater Cultural Heritage encompasses all traces of human existence that lie or were lying under water and have a cultural or historical character.
	European Convention on protection of Archaeological Heritage 1992	Provides the basic framework for policy on the protection of the archaeological heritage.
Water	The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	Seeks to maintain and enhance the quality of all surface waters in the EU.
	EU Groundwater Directive (80/68/EEC)	Requires member states to apply a system of investigation and authorisation to waste disposal and other activities in order to ensure that groundwater is not polluted by dangerous substances.
	EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) as amended by Directive 98/15/EEC	The primary objective is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of discharges of urban wastewater, by the provision of urban wastewater collecting systems (sewerage) and treatment plants for urban centres. The Directive also provides general rules for the sustainable disposal of sludge arising from wastewater treatment.
	The Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC	To protect the health of the consumers in the European Union and to make sure the water is wholesome and clean.
	Floods Directive 2007/60/EC	Aims to reduce and manage the risks that floods pose to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity.

	EU Dangerous Substances Directive (76/464/EEC)	The objective is to regulate potential aquatic pollution by thousands of chemicals produced in Europe. The Directive covers discharges to inland surface waters, territorial waters, inland coastal waters and groundwater.
	The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)	Aims to protect water quality across Europe by preventing nitrates from agricultural sources polluting ground and surface waters and by promoting the use of good farming practices. The Nitrates Directive forms integral part of the Water Framework Directive and is one of the key instruments in the protection of waters against agricultural pressures.
	Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) Repeals existing Directive (71/160/EEC) with effect from 31 December 2014	Aims to provide greater benefits in relation to improved health protection for bathers and a more pro-active approach to beach management including public involvement.
	The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC)	Requires Member States to achieve good environmental status in the marine environment by the year 2020 at the latest. Good environmental status in the marine environment means that the seas are clean, healthy and productive and that human use of the marine environment is maintained at a sustainable level.
	Waste Framework Directive 2006/12/EC (revised by 2008/98/EC)	Sets the basic concepts and definitions related to waste management and lays down waste management principles such as the "polluter pays principle" and the "waste hierarchy".
Waste	The Landfill Directive (99/31/EC)	Seeks to reduce the environmental impact from the landfilling of waste and divert certain quantities and types of waste from European landfills.
	The WEE Directive on waste electrical and electronic equipment (2002/96/EC)	Seeks more environmentally sensitive management of waste electric and electronic equipment.

Soil	EU Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection	Aims to protect and maintain soil quality in Europe and promote sustainable use of soil.
	Directive 2004/35/EC on Environmental Liability with regard to the prevention and remedying environmental damage	Prevention and remediation of environmental damage.
	Sewage Sludge Directive (86/278/EEC)	Seeks to encourage the use of sewage sludge in agriculture and to regulate its use in such a way as to prevent harmful effects on soil, vegetation, animals and man.
Sustainable Development	Renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy (2006)	Sets out a strategy on how the EU will more effectively live up to its long-standing commitment to meet the challenges of sustainable development. It recognises the need to gradually change our current unsustainable consumption and production patterns and move towards a better integrated approach to policy-making. It builds on the Gothenburg Strategy of 2001.
	The Sixth Community Environment Action Programme	Addresses environmental goals that have been classified as being of particular importance and requiring action by the Community. They include: climate change; nature and biodiversity; environment, health and quality of life; and natural resources and waste.
	Agenda 21 (1992) Action for Sustainable Development	Aims to promote sustainable development at a local and regional level by taking into account environmental protection in the development process.

Table 3: National Legislation, Plans and Policies

	Title	Summary of Objectives
SEA/EIA	European Communities (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004, as amended	Requirement for SEA to be carried out for land-use plans, ensuring that the environment is a central focus in the decision making process.
	European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, as amended	Requirement for SEA of certain plans and programmes, other than land-use plans.
Planning	National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020	The twenty year Strategy seeks to unleash the potential for progress, growth and development in a more balanced way across the country supported by more effective planning.
	Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended	National legislation in relation to land use planning.
Biodiversity	Flora Protection Order 1980 (amended 1999)	Aimed at the protection of certain floral species.
	Forestry Act 1946	Protection of tree species and forests.
	Wildlife Act 1976, as amended	Main objective is the protection of wildlife and requirement to maintain biodiversity by designating nature reserves, protecting species, regulating hunting and controlling wildlife trading.
	Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016	Second National Biodiversity Action Plan- aims to maintain and improve biodiversity at a national level.
	Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sub-Basin Catchment Management Plans	Catchment based management plans for the protection and conservation of Freshwater Pearl Mussel populations.
Population & Human Health	National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016	Adopts a lifestyle approach to the needs of children, people of working age, older people, people with disabilities and communities. The new strategic framework will facilitate greater co-ordination and integration of structures and procedures across

		Government at National and local levels, as well as improved reporting and monitoring mechanisms.
	Environmental Noise Regulations 2006	Require strategic noise mapping to be undertaken for main sources of environmental noise i.e. major roads, major railways, major airports and agglomerations; to make information on environmental noise available to the public; and the adopt action plans with a view to preventing and reducing environmental noise.
Air & Climatic Factors	Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011	Transpose the Directive on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe (CAFE) into Irish law.
	National Climate Change Adaptation Framework	Provides the policy context for a strategic national adaptation response to climate change in Ireland. Under the Framework, the relevant Government departments, agencies and local authorities have been asked to commence the preparation of sectoral and local adaptation plans and to publish drafts of these plans by mid-2014. Local authorities are required to integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation considerations in the preparation of development plans.
	Strategy for Renewable Energy 2012-2020	Recognises the importance of renewable energy for the delivery of a competitive, secure and sustainable energy supply and highlights the opportunities for job creation in the renewable energy sector. The Strategy sets out five strategic goals to progress the renewable energy sector.
	National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012	This strategy developed from the 2000 Climate Change Strategy, taking into account the review contained in Ireland's Pathway to Kyoto Compliance (2006). Its purpose is to demonstrate how Ireland is to meet its 2008-2012 Kyoto commitments and to identify further policy measures needed for the period from 2012 and after 2020.
	National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010	Sets out the Government's strategic approach and concrete measures to deliver on Ireland's 16% target under Directive 2009/28/EC.

	Draft Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan 2010	Examines the potential for offshore renewable energy.
	Wind Energy Guidelines 2006	Ensure consistency of approach in the identification of suitable locations for wind farm development and the treatment of planning applications for wind farm developments.
Cultural Heritage	The Heritage Act, 1995	Promote public interest in and knowledge, appreciation and protection of the Natural Heritage.
	National Heritage Plan 2002	Sets out a framework for the protection and enhancement of our heritage.
	Heritage Council Strategic Plan 2012-2016	Identifies 16 objectives aimed at supporting employment, education and awareness and heritage based tourism.
	Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999	Makes provision for the carrying out of a National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH). The purpose of the NIAH is to identify, record, and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland, uniformly and consistently as an aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage.
	National Monuments Acts 1930-2004	Sets National Policy on archaeological structures and sites.
	National Monuments Regulations 2005	Sets National Policy in addition to National Monuments Acts 1930-1994 and Amendment Act 2004.
	Architectural Heritage Protection-Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2004	Offers guidance to planning authorities regarding the protection of architecturally important sites in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000.
	Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended	Part IV applies to the protection of architectural heritage.
Water	Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008, as amended	Ensure that the quality of bathing water is maintained and, where necessary, improved so that it complies with specified standards designed to protect public health and the environment.
	Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems	Require registration by owners of their domestic wastewater treatment systems. The regulations set out

(Registration) Regulations 2012	<p>the performance standards that treatment systems must comply with. The basic standard to be met by all domestic wastewater treatment systems is that they do not cause a risk to human health or the environment. The regulations also provide for the operation and maintenance of treatment systems and set out de-sludging requirements.</p>
<p>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009, as amended</p>	<p>Apply to all surface waters and provide for the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of legally binding quality objectives for all surface waters and environmental quality standards for pollutants • Examination and where appropriate, review of existing discharge authorisations by Public Authorities to ensure that the emission limits laid down in authorisations support compliance with the new water quality objectives/standards • Classification of surface water bodies by the EPA for the purposes of the Water Framework Directive • Establishment of inventories of priority substances by the EPA • Drawing up of pollution reduction plans by coordinating local authorities (in consultation with the EPA) to reduce pollution by priority substances and to cease and/or phase out discharges, emissions or losses of priority hazardous substances.
<p>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010, as amended</p>	<p>Establish environmental objectives to be achieved in groundwater bodies, groundwater quality standards and threshold values for the classification of groundwater and the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration in groundwater quality.</p>
<p>European Communities (Quality of Shellfish Waters) Regulations 2006 (SI 268 of 2006), as amended by SI 55 of 2009</p>	<p>Give effect to Council Directive 79/923/EEC of 30 October 1979 on the quality required of shellfish waters and prescribe quality standards for shellfish waters and designate the waters to which they apply, together with sampling and analysis procedures to be used to</p>

Waste	and SI 464 of 2009	determine compliance with the standards.
	Water Services Act 2007, as amended	Provides the legislative context, governing functions, standards, obligations and practice in relation to the planning, management and delivery of water supply and wastewater collection and treatment services.
	Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007, as amended	These regulations govern the licensing and certification/authorisation process of sewage systems owned, managed and operated by Water Service Authorities.
	Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations, 2001, as amended	Prescribe requirements in relation to the provision of collection systems and treatment standards and other requirements for urban waste water treatment plants, generally and in sensitive areas.
	European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations 2000, as amended	Prescribe quality standards to be applied in relation to certain supplies of drinking water, including requirements as to sampling frequency, methods of analysis, the provision of information to consumers and related matters.
	European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003, as amended	Provide for the transposition into Irish national law of the provisions of the EU Water Framework Directive.
	Water Conservation Regulations 2008	Specifies that corrective action be taken to prevent wastage or excessive consumption of water.
	The Planning System and Flood Risk Management: Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009	Requirement to incorporate flood risk assessment into the process of making plans and decisions on planning applications.
	A Resource Opportunity: Waste Management Policy in Ireland (DECLG, 2012)	Sets out the measures through which Ireland will make the further progress necessary to become a recycling society, with a clear focus on resource efficiency and the virtual elimination of landfilling of municipal waste.
	National Waste Prevention Programme	Seeks to separate waste generation from economic activity in Ireland.

	Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery Activity) Regulations 2008	Provide for the certification of historic unlicensed waste disposal sites in operation between 1977 and 1996. The regulations require local authorities to register these facilities, to carry out risk assessments of the sites and to determine any remedial measures required.
Environmental Liability	European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations 2008, as amended	Transpose EU Directive 2004/35/CE on environmental liability. The purpose of these regulations is to establish a framework of environmental liability based on the 'polluter-pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water damage that has significant adverse effects on water status under the Water Framework Directive. • Land damage that creates a significant risk to human health as a result of the direct or indirect introduction, in, on or under land, of substances, preparations, organisms or micro-organisms. • Damage to protected species and natural habitats.
Sustainable Development	Our Sustainable Future: A Framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012	Sets out a medium to long-term framework for advancing sustainable development and the green economy in Ireland.
	Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Rural Housing 2005	Sets national policy on the issue of sustainable rural housing.
	Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (December 2008)	Addresses sustainable design and services in urban areas.
	National Development Plan (NDP) Transforming Ireland- A Better Quality of Life For All (2007-2013)	Sets out national policy and investment priorities in economic and social infrastructure over the seven year period aimed at delivering a better quality of life for all.

Table 4: Regional/Local Plans and Policies

	Title	Summary of Objectives
Planning	Regional Planning Guidelines for the South East Region 2010-2022	Provides for the implementation of the National Spatial Strategy at the regional level and sets out strategic planning guidance to Local Authorities and other bodies across the South-East Region.
Biodiversity	Draft County Wexford Biodiversity Action Plan 2012-2017	Outlines 33 actions for the protection of biodiversity at a local level.
Water	River Basin Management Plan for the South Eastern River Basin District (2009-2015)	Aims to achieve at least good water quality status by 2015 to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.
	Pollution Reduction Programmes for Waterford Harbour, Bannow Bay, Wexford Harbour Inner and Wexford Harbour Outer.	Compliance with the standards and objectives established by the Quality of Shellfish Waters Regulations 2006 for the designated shellfish growing waters at Waterford Harbour, Bannow Bay, Wexford Harbour Inner and Wexford Harbour Outer..
Bio-energy	South-East Region Bio-Energy Implementation Plan 2008-2013	The primary aim of this Plan is to promote the sustainable deployment of bioenergy within the region; to reduce the region's reliance on imported finite fossil fuels, thereby benefiting from reduced carbon emissions and creating opportunities to support employment creation and regional development.
Waste	Joint Waste Management Plan for the South East Region 2006-2011	Promotes waste prevention and minimisation through source reduction, producer responsibility and public awareness and to manage the recovery/ recycling/ disposal of waste arising on a regional basis.

The above legislation, plans, policies and strategies are critical in the derivation of environmental objectives for the plan area.

In addition, Planning Authorities are required to have regard to guidelines issued by the Minister under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) when preparing development plans. These guidelines include:

- Architectural Heritage Protection - Guidelines for Planning Authorities (December 2004)
- Architectural Heritage Protection for Places of Public Worship - Guidelines for Planning Authorities (November 2003)
- Childcare Facilities - Guidelines for Planning Authorities (June 2007)
- Development Contributions –Guidelines for Planning Authorities (January 2013)
- Development Management- Guidelines for Planning Authorities (June 2007)
- Development Plans – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (June 2007)
- Guidance for Planning Authorities on Drainage and Reclamation of Wetlands *consultation draft* (September 2011)
- Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (March 2013)
- Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas and Urban Design Manual – A Best Practice Guide (May 2009)
- Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Projects on the Environment-Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities (November 2004)
- Landscape and Landscape Assessment – Consultation Draft of Guidelines for Planning Authorities (June 2000)
- Local Area Plans –Guidelines for Planning Authorities and Manual for Local Area Plans (June 2013)
- Provision of Schools and the Planning System - A Code of Practice for Planning Authorities (July 2008)
- Quarries and Ancillary Activities - Guidelines for Planning Authorities (April 2004)
- Retail Planning -Guidelines for Planning Authorities and Retail Design Manual (April 2012)

- Section 261A of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and related provisions - Guidelines for Planning Authorities (January 2012)
- Spatial Planning and National Roads - Guidelines for Planning Authorities (January 2012)
- Sustainable Rural Housing - Guidelines for Planning Authorities (April 2005)
- Sustainable Urban Housing - Design Standards for New Apartments Guidelines for Planning Authorities (September 2007)
- Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (July 1996)
- The Planning System and Flood Risk Management - Guidelines for Planning Authorities (November 2009)
- Wind Energy Development -Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2006)

Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019

The Core Strategy contained in Section 3 of the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019 identifies Enniscorthy as a Larger Town with a population allocation of 12,939 by 2019. The Core Strategy states that there will be a focus on consolidating the existing pattern of development and on encouraging and facilitating the provision of physical and social infrastructure. The Plan notes that there are plans to upgrade the wastewater treatment facilities in Enniscorthy and that there is an adequate water supply to meet existing and future demands. The Plan includes an objective to support the development of the Enniscorthy Bypass (Objective T15).

Section 3 – Key Environmental Issues

3.1 Introduction

In order to identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan, relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and existing environmental problems relevant to the plan area need to be identified in the Environmental Report. This is set out under the following headings:

- Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna
- Population and Human Health
- Geology and Soil
- Water
- Air and Noise
- Flooding and Climate Change
- Material Assets
- Cultural Heritage
- Landscape

Sources of baseline data include information from statutory agencies (e.g. CSO, GSI, NPWS, EPA, IRPI), internal departments within the Council, the internet, local publications, planning applications and Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) relating to major roads and infrastructure schemes.

3.2 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

3.2.1 Baseline Description

Biodiversity has become an integral part of the conservation of our habitats and species and is a measure of the number, variety and variability of living organisms within a given area. The conservation of biodiversity in Ireland has been strengthened and expanded by EU law, most notably the EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) and the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). National legislation has also played a part in encouraging the conservation of Ireland's biodiversity through the implementation of the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2000. These important pieces of

legislation have collectively strengthened the ability of the nation to protect and conserve its biodiversity and natural heritage.

The Draft County Wexford Biodiversity Action Plan 2012-2017 signifies the need to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity at the county level. The overall aim of this Plan is to protect County Wexford's biodiversity through actions and raising awareness.

Designated Sites

There are two candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC), one Special Protection Area (SPA) and one proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA) within a 15km radius of Enniscorthy:

- Slaney River Valley cSAC (site code 000781)
- Wexford Harbour and Slobbs SPA (site code 004076)
- Blackstairs Mountains cSAC (site code 000770)
- Ballynabarney Wood pNHA (site code 000746)

Slaney River Valley cSAC 000781- The Slaney River Valley runs through the plan area and was first designated as a cSAC on 1st July 1999. It is selected for alluvial wet woodlands, a priority habitat listed under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. Other habitats that contribute to its selection for cSAC accreditation include old sessile oak woodlands, estuaries, tidal mudflats and floating river vegetation. These habitats are all listed under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. The Slaney River Valley is also selected for protection due to the presence of the following Annex II species: Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*), Sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*), Brook lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*), River lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*), Twaité Shad (*Alosa fallax*), Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), Otter (*Lutra lutra*) and Harbour Seal (*Phoca vitulina*).

Floating river vegetation is found along much of the freshwater stretches within the site. Species present here include Pond Water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus peltatus*), Water – crowfoot (*Ranunculus* spp.), Canadian pondweed (*Elodea Canadensis*), Broadleaved Pondweed (*Potamogeton natans*), Water Milfoil (*Myriophyllum* spp.),

Common club-rush (*Scirpus lacustris*), Water-starwort (*Callitriche* spp.), Hemlock Water-droplet (*Oenanthe aquatica*), Common Duckweed (*Lemna minor*), Yellow water-lily (*Nuphar lutea*), Unbranched Bur-reed (*Sparganium emersum*) and the moss *Fontinalis antipyretica*. Two rare aquatic plant species have been recorded in this site: Short-leaved Water starwort (*Callitriche truncate*), a very rare, small aquatic herb found nowhere else in Ireland; and Opposite-leaved Pondweed (*Groenlandia densa*) a species that is legally protected under the Flora Protection Order, 1999.¹

National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) published conservation objectives for the qualifying interests of the Slaney River Valley cSAC. The conservation objectives are available at:

<http://www.npws.ie/media/npwsie/content/images/protectedsites/conservationobjectives/CO000781.pdf>

Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA 004076 The site was first designated as an SPA on 21st November 2007. It is selected for a number of protected bird species and wetland habitats. This designated site lies adjacent to the south of the development plan area as its most northerly point is located at the confluence of the Slaney River with its tributary the River Urrin. The site is an SPA under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for the following species: Little Grebe, Great Crested Grebe, Cormorant, Bewick's Swan, Whooper Swan, Greenland White-fronted Goose, Lightbellied Brent Goose, Shelduck, Wigeon, Teal, Mallard, Pintail, Scaup, Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser, Hen Harrier, Coot, Oystercatcher, Golden Plover, Grey Plover, Lapwing, Knot, Sanderling, Dunlin, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Curlew, Redshank, Black-headed Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull and Little Tern. The site is also of special conservation interest for holding an assemblage of over 20,000 wintering waterbirds. The E.U. Birds Directive pays particular attention to wetlands, and as these form part of this SPA, the site and its associated waterbirds are of special conservation interest for Wetland & Waterbirds.²

¹ cSAC Site Synopsis

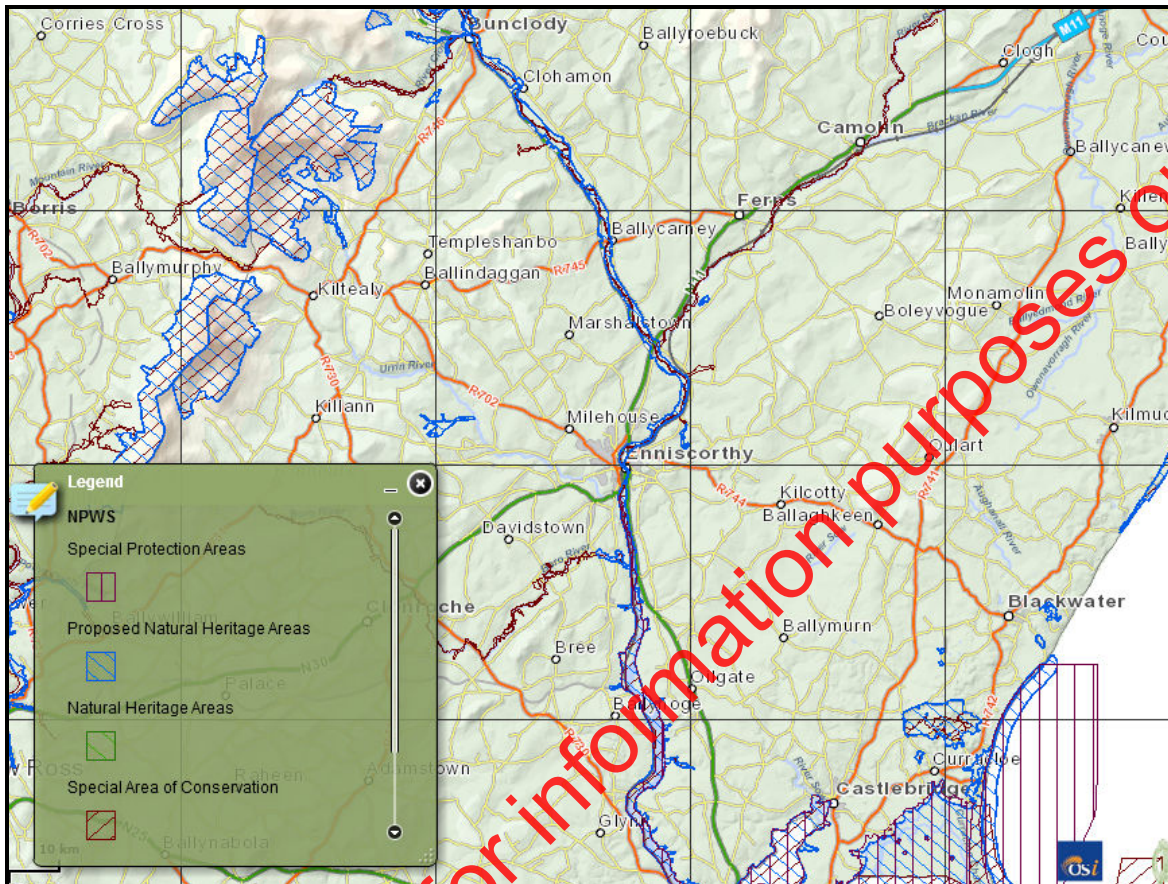
² SPA Site Synopsis

Blackstairs Mountains cSAC 000770 – This mountain range includes a number of peaks over 500m in height which are important for expanses of peat habitats including both wet and dry heath. They straddle the Carlow/Wexford border and are home to a number of plant and animal species that are scarce at a local or national level. It is considered that there is no pathway for impacts to occur to the Blackstairs Mountains cSAC from the implementation of the Plan.

Ballynabarney Wood pNHA 000746- The site was designated as a pNHA in 1995. It is located about 3km to the northeast of Enniscorthy, in a narrow river valley, cut across a complicated geology of beds of Felstone, Greenstone and Lower Silurian rocks. This is secondary woodland that to a large extent has been allowed to develop naturally and as such is a rare and valuable habitat in Ireland. Former felling of the larger trees has resulted in the majority of oaks being young and less than 12m in height. The clayey or shaley soil is acid in reaction limiting the variety of ground flora. However the silt that the river deposits on its banks enriches the soil here and allows for a huge diversity of herb species to exist in these parts. The range of species that occur here is vast and ranges from the commonly seen Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scriptus*) to rare species of myxomycete fungus.³

³ pNHA Site Synopsis

Map 2: Designated Sites



Source: <http://webgis.npws.ie/npwsviewer/>

Register of Protected Areas

Article 6 of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) requires the creation of a register of protected areas. Protected areas are identified as those requiring special protection under national or European legislation, either to protect their surface water or groundwater, or to conserve habitats or species that directly depend on those waters. They include:

- Waters used for the abstraction of drinking water
- Areas designated to protect economically significant aquatic species
- Recreational Waters
- Nutrient Sensitive Areas
- Areas designated for the protection of habitats or species

Protected Areas in the zone of influence of the Plan (15km) include the designated sites identified above. These are areas designated for the protection of habitats or species where the maintenance or improvement of the status of water is an important factor in their protection. They are designated under the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) and the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).

Shellfish Areas were designated in 2009 in accordance with the EU Shellfish Waters Directive (2006/113/EC) and the European Communities (Quality of Shellfish Waters) Regulations 2006 (SI No 268 of 2006). Pollution Reduction Programmes (PRPs) have been established to protect and improve water quality in the designated shellfish growing areas and to ensure compliance with the legislation. The Wexford Harbour Inner and Wexford Harbour Outer Shellfish Areas could potentially be impacted by wastewater, surface water and storm waters from developments in Enniscorthy discharging to the Slaney River, as the retention time in the river between the town and the designated areas is less than 24 hours. The key pressures affecting the Wexford Harbour Inner and Wexford Harbour Outer Shellfish Areas are: urban wastewater systems, on-site wastewater treatment systems and agriculture.

Wexford Harbour is also one of 11 designated Nutrient Sensitive Waters in the South Eastern River Basin District (SERBD). These waters comprise nitrate vulnerable zones designated under the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) and areas designated as sensitive under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC).

Flora

The mid and lower reaches of the Slaney are seen as a good example of the extreme upper reaches of an estuary and its riparian flora reflects this. Tidal reedbeds with wet woodland are present in places: Good examples of wet woodland are found associated with Macmine marshes (approximately 2km downstream of Edermine Bridge), along the banks of the Slaney and its tributaries and within reed swamps. Below Enniscorthy there are several areas of woodland with a mixed canopy of Oak (*Quercus* sp.), Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and a good diverse ground flora.

Within the cSAC boundary a number of floral species are found. These include Basil Thyme (*Clinopodium acinos*), Blue Fleabane (*Erigeron acer*), Small Cudweed (*Filago minima*), Summer Snowflake (*Leucojum aestivum*), and Yellow Archangel (*Lamiastum galeobdolon*) which is found just north of Enniscorthy town.

Furthermore, along the Urrin River a tributary of the Slaney there are patches of Mountain fern and Ivy-leaved Bellflower although these are scarce in abundance. Aquatic higher plants for which the cSAC is known to hold include species such as Opposite-leaved Pondweed (*Groenlandia densa*) and Short-leaved Water starwort (*Callitriche truncate*).⁴

Habitats

The qualifying interests for the Slaney River Valley cSAC include alluvial wet woodlands (a priority habitat on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive), floating river vegetation, estuaries, tidal mudflats and old oak woodlands. All of these habitats are listed under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.

Where the river valley sides are steep they are wooded and the great diversity of different habitats supports a wide range of wild flowers and interesting plants. The steep sides lend themselves to mixed woodland of Oak (*Quercus* sp.), Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). The rarest plant ever found in the Slaney Valley was the short-leaved water-starwort (*Callitriche truncate*). South of Enniscorthy where the river is subject to tidal influence, scattered stands of low willow and alder scrub associated with reed beds, and the occasional Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) are found. The Macmine marshes highlight fine examples of reedswamp and here the river is several hundred metres wide.⁵

Protected Mammal Species

A number of protected mammals can be found within the area of the Slaney River Valley cSAC. These include the Badger (*Meles meles*), Pine marten (*Martes martes*), Irish hare (*Lepus timidus hibernicus*) and Daubenton's bat (*Myotis daubentonii*) which are listed on the Irish Red Data Book. Moreover, the Otter (*Lutra*

⁴ cSAC Site Synopsis/EIS for Enniscorthy Wastewater Treatment Plant

⁵ cSAC Site Synopsis/EIS for Enniscorthy Wastewater Treatment Plant

lutra) is one of the conservation interests of the cSAC and is protected by EU legislation, as it is listed under Annex II of the Habitats Directive. The Badger, Pine marten, Irish hare and Daubenton's bat are all listed as being of "least concern" in the Irish Red Data Book (2009) while the Otter is considered as "near threatened". According to the National Biodiversity Data Centre maps there have been a number of recordings of Common frog (*Rana temporaria*) within the Enniscorthy area. This species is included in the Irish Amphibian, Reptile and Freshwater Fish Red List (2011). Its current status on this list is of "least concern".

Daubenton's Bat

A report on the All Ireland Daubenton's Bat Waterway Monitoring Scheme 2006-2011 showed that passes of Daubenton's bat (*Myotis daubentonii*) were recorded at Enniscorthy bridge in 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011. Furthermore, passes for the same bat species at nearby Scarawalsh bridge were recorded in 2006 and 2007. This shows that Enniscorthy and its surrounding areas are a significant location for this protected species and their population and riparian habitats in the area should be conserved. Good water quality is vital for the conservation of this species and it has been documented that a decrease in water quality from Q4 to Q3 can result in a reduction of up to 20% for this species.

Otter

The importance of the Slaney River for the conservation of otters at a national scale was highlighted in the Otter Survey of Ireland 2004/2005. Otter are known to inhabit sections of the Slaney River in and around the Enniscorthy area. Footprints in the mud at various locations downstream of Enniscorthy provide evidence that otter activity is present. The eastern bank just south of Enniscorthy has been identified as good potential habitat for holt and lie up sites in the roots of bank-side trees, while the western bank does not support suitable habitats for such sites. Other areas of potential habitats have been identified just upstream of Enniscorthy.⁶

⁶ EIS for Enniscorthy Wastewater Treatment Plant

Ornithology

The Slaney River Valley supports important numbers of birds in winter. Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) are found annually along the river. According to Birdwatch Ireland, Little Egret was considered rare in Ireland until it first started breeding here in 1997. It has since expanded and now occurs in almost every coastal county as well as at a number of inland sites and is resident in wetlands in the south and east. Nationally important numbers of Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*), Teal (*Anas crecca*), Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*), Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*), Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) and Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) are found along the estuarine stretch of the River Slaney.

The Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*), which is a scarce breeding species in Ireland, limited to a large extent to reed beds in the south and east, is regularly found in Macmine Marshes (approximately 2km south of Edermine Bridge). However it is not known whether or not it breeds in the site. The Dipper (*Cinclus cinclus*), a green listed bird of good conservation status, also occurs on the river.⁷

Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) and Sandmartins (*Riparia riparia*) could potentially inhabit the banks of the Slaney upstream of Enniscorthy. Here the left bank is steep and sandy and while no kingfisher nests have been recorded a small colony of sandmartins were found there in past years. Kingfisher are protected under Annex I of the EU Birds Directive. Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) have also been seen in the past along stretches of the Slaney River around Enniscorthy.⁸

Fish

The River Slaney is relatively fast flowing and has an estuary 12 miles long which begins just below Enniscorthy. It is recognised as one of the best spring salmon fisheries in the country and is an important river for angling. It supports populations of spring salmon (*Salmo salar*), Sea trout (*Salmo trutta*) and Brown trout (*Salmo trutta*). The fish swim upstream to spawn in winter and the young remain in the gravel after hatching for approximately six weeks. Between one and four years old

⁷ SPA Site Synopsis

⁸ EIS for Enniscorthy Bypass

(usually two years) the fish are ready to migrate to sea as smolts and run to sea between April and June.⁹ Although Brown trout are purely a freshwater species they follow the same life spawning and life stages as salmon and sea trout. The area around Enniscorthy can support all the life stages referred to above highlighting its importance for these fisheries.

The Enniscorthy area is considered to be a good habitat for lamprey species although a report commissioned by the NPWS in 2003¹⁰ showed concern for the longevity of sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*) populations within the main channel. Lamprey species were recorded in the main channel as far down as Edermine Bridge and previously upstream from Scarawalshe bridge. Most lamprey observed in this study were identified as River lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*) or Brook lamprey (*Lampetra planerii*). There are many areas identified around the main channel in the vicinity of Enniscorthy as being potential spawning grounds for lamprey species as well as Allis shad (*Alosa alosa*) and Twaite shad (*Alosa fallax fallax*). These are all classified as Annex II species. Spawning grounds (redds) were identified for all three species of lamprey both up and downstream of Enniscorthy, again highlighting the importance of this section of the Slaney main channel for these species. However, no Allis or Twaite shad were collected in the area around Enniscorthy and there is some concern for their populations.

Invasive Species

Invasive species pose a significant threat to biodiversity and are the second biggest direct threat to biodiversity after habitat loss and degradation. Enniscorthy and its environs has its fair share of invasive species including Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*), Cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*), Nutall's Waterweed (*Elodea nutalli*), Canadian Waterweed (*Elodea Canadensis*), Grey squirrel (*Sciurus*

⁹ Environmental Report for Enniscorthy Town and Environs Development Plan 2008-2014 / River Slaney (Enniscorthy) Drainage Scheme Environmental Impact Statement (OPW, 2009)

¹⁰ King J. J. and Linnane S. M. (2004) The status and distribution of lamprey and shad in the Slaney and Munster Blackwater SACs. *Irish Wildlife Manuals*, No. 14. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin, Ireland.

carolinensis) and American mink (*Mustela vison*). The vast majority of these invasive species follow the course of the River Slaney.

According to the National Biodiversity Data Centre, Japanese knotweed has been recorded both north and south of Enniscorthy town as has Himalayan balsam and Rhododendron. Cherry laurel has been recorded in the areas of Milehouse and Cherryorchard to the west and St. John's in the south of the plan area. Nuttall's Waterweed has been recorded south of Enniscorthy town as far south as Borrmount and Canadian Waterweed has been recorded just above the confluence of the River Slaney to its tributary the Urrin River.

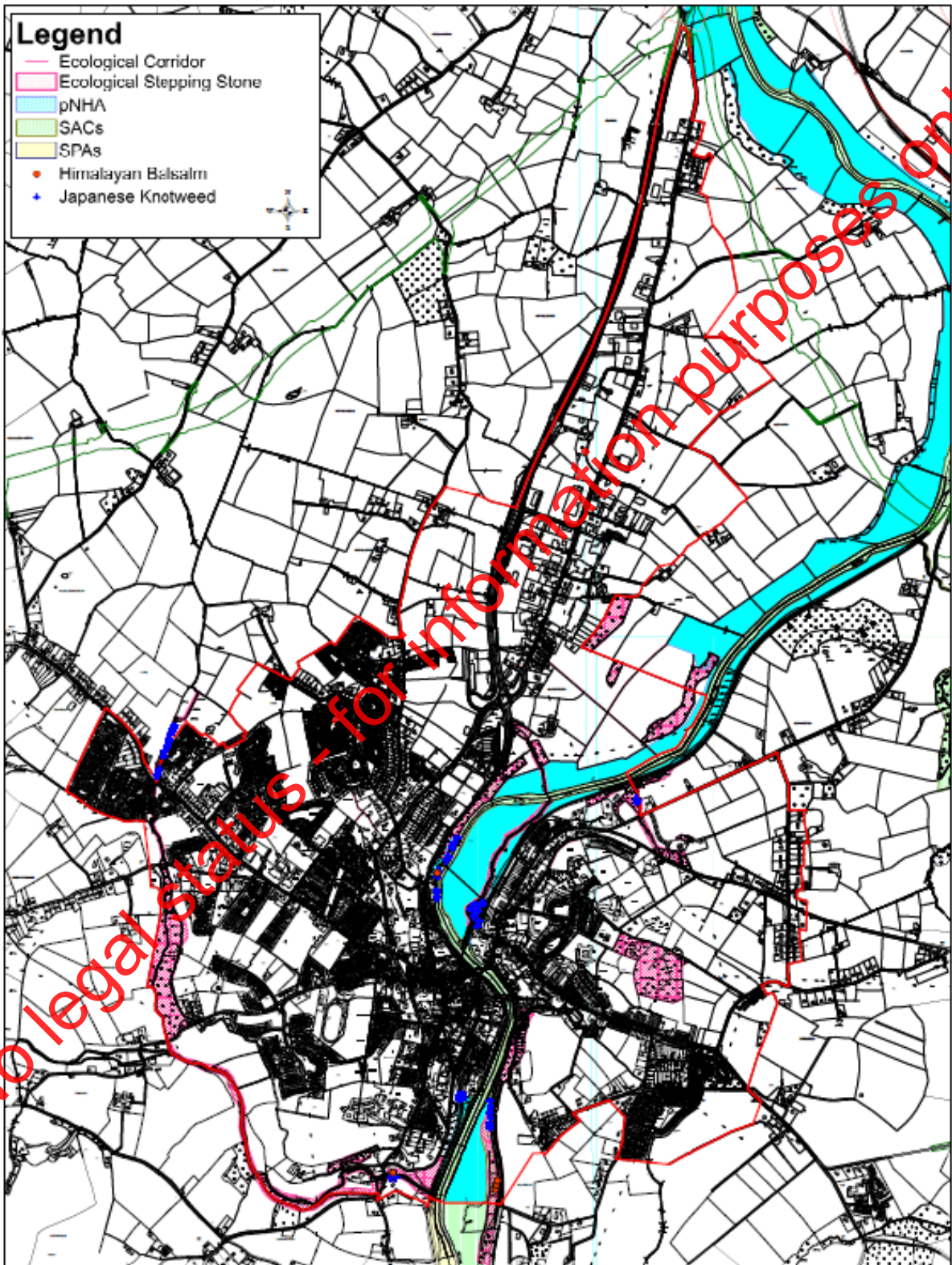
The Grey squirrel has been recorded in the area around Ballynabarney pNHA to the north-east of the town and Ballynapierce to the south-west. Also American mink has been recorded just south of Ballynabarney woods. It should be noted that this is not an exhaustive list of the extent of invasive species within the area and that their range may well be more widespread.

Non-Designated Habitats and Species

Non-designated habitats, species and local biodiversity features include rivers and their banks, wetlands, hedgerows, individual trees, woodlands, streams, grassland and coastal areas. These often provide wildlife corridors, ecological networks or stepping stones linking sites of prime conservation value. They are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species. The EU Habitats Directive recognises the importance of ecological networks as corridors and stepping stones for wildlife. The Directive requires that ecological connectivity and areas of ecological value are maintained and managed in land use planning and development policies, with a view to improving the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network.

An ecological survey was carried out by RPS Group on behalf of the Council as part of the preparation of the Plan, to identify those habitats which would improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network. The specific habitats identified include significant treelines, hedgerows, watercourses and semi-natural areas, like mixed broadleaved woodland, which were mapped and are shown in Map 3.

Map 3: Habitats and Invasive Species



Treelines

The species found within the treeline habitats mapped (see Map 3) include mature specimens of Oak, Ash, Beech and Sycamore. Although not all of these species are native to the area they are generally quite old and of such a long-established nature that they provide a valuable habitat for wildlife.

Hedgerows

Many of the hedgerows within and around Enniscorthy do not form long continuous linear pathways. However, some hedgerows as identified on the map are quite significant and include mature specimens of species such as Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Gorse and Bramble, which also provide a valuable habitat for wildlife.

Mixed Broadleaved Woodlands

There are areas of Mixed Broadleaved Woodland throughout the town, some of which are associated with watercourses. These woodlands are likely to have been planted and generally include a varied ground flora with the potential habitat for species such red squirrel and badger. Mature tree species in these areas include Oak, Ash, Sycamore, Sitka spruce and Larch. Ground flora in these woodlands is usually rich with Wild Garlic, Bluebells, Wood Anemone and Wood Sorrel.

Wet Willow-Alder-Ash Woodland and Riparian Woodland

Areas of Wet willow-alder-ash woodland and Riparian Woodland are found in areas which are wet for the majority of the year. Riparian woodland is found next to large streams and rivers which can frequently flood and are often dominated by Willow trees, with both Meadowsweet and Flag Iris found in the understory. The wet woodland is often dominated by Alder and Willow trees with Common Marsh-bedstraw and Creeping Bent Grass found in the understory.

Conifer Plantations

Patches of Conifer Plantation occur on the outskirts of the plan boundary. These plantations are usually dominated by species such as Sitka Spruce, Norway Spruce and Larch and although they provide limited wildlife value when compared to Broadleaved Woodland they do provide cover for mammals and birds.

Semi-Natural Grassland

There is a large area of semi-natural grassland with encroaching Gorse and Bracken located at Vinegar Hill. The area is made up of semi-improved grassland that occurs on the free-draining acid soils in the area and a variety of grasses including Bents, Fescues and Sweet Vernal-grass can be found here. There are also records for rare plant species including Sand Spurrey and Glabrous Whitlow grass on the hill.

Depositing/Lowland Rivers

Large streams and rivers within the plan area and along its boundary have the potential to provide important fisheries habitat and refuge for protected species such as Salmon, Lamprey and Otter. The River Urrin is the most significant watercourse running through the town which is not designated under the Habitats Directive. The River Urrin contains good salmonid (salmon and trout) habitat along its lower reaches prior to discharging to the River Slaney. Further, this river contains good salmonid spawning habitat in its upstream reaches and tributaries.

Floating river vegetation, an Annex I Habitat under the Habitats Directive, and one of the qualifying features of the Slaney River Valley SAC, is found throughout this river and connected streams, indicating good habitat quality.

Appropriate Assessment

In accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC an Appropriate Assessment of a plan or project must be carried out where it is likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects. The competent authority shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 site concerned.

Where adverse effects are identified through the Appropriate Assessment process, the plan or project should be refused, except in certain exceptional circumstances where there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI), including those of a social or economic nature. In such cases it must be demonstrated that there are no less damaging alternative solutions and compensatory measures have

been identified that can be put in place. The Commission must be informed of the compensatory measures and will review whether they are sufficient to ensure that the coherence of the network of Natura sites is maintained.

The Draft Enniscorthy Town and Environs Development Plan 2014-2020 was screened for Appropriate Assessment and the Screening Report is contained in Appendix 7 of the Plan. The Screening Report concludes that the objectives of the Plan would not adversely affect the integrity of a Natura 2000 site(s) having regard to the conservation objectives of the site(s) within the zone of influence of the Plan.

3.2.2 Current Issues and Threats

- Decreases in water quality and/or expansion of invasive species can impact on designated sites. Habitat loss through habitat destruction, degradation and fragmentation is also a concern.
- Wexford Harbour Inner and Wexford Harbour Outer Shellfish Areas could be impacted by wastewater, surface water and storm water from developments in Enniscorthy discharging to the Slaney River, given that the retention time in the river between the town and the designated areas is less than 24 hours.
- Himalayan balsam has the potential to threaten the alluvial woodlands of the Slaney River Valley. It also could contribute to a reduction in water quality of the river due to the threat of bank erosion during die-back in the winter months and associated soil exposure. In general, habitats are threatened both by existing and potentially new invasive species expanding in range and distribution.
- Japanese Knotweed is widespread along the riverbank of the Slaney.
- Loss of ecological corridors through the removal of hedgerows for more intensive agricultural practices results in a decrease in ecological connectivity between habitats including designated wildlife sites. Lack of hedgerow management within the area also impacts biodiversity, as does over and under-grazing. Excessive use of fertiliser and pesticides for more intensive agriculture has the potential to cause considerable pollution to watercourses.
- Decreases in water quality can impact on aquatic plants and animals. Otters and bats are examples of animals within the Enniscorthy area which require

good quality water, to provide food for them in the form of fish and macro-invertebrates. Many of the bird species mentioned above would also be negatively affected by any decrease in water quality.

- Building on previously undeveloped land, the construction of roads and the conversion of agricultural land for industry and other uses poses a potential risk to biodiversity within the Enniscorthy area. Development on greenfield sites often results in fragmentation and a loss of hedgerows which act as wildlife corridors, stepping stones and ecological networks. These corridors are essential in order for wildlife to move from one area to another for breeding or in search of food. The significance of this potential loss is dependent on the scale of development.
- Global warming and its associated effects particularly in the form of increased flooding and extreme weather conditions could have impacts on the biodiversity of the habitats, flora and fauna surrounding Enniscorthy.
- The EIS for the preferred option for the proposed drainage scheme at Enniscorthy, which incorporates an Appropriate Assessment,¹¹ anticipates short-term minor impacts on terrestrial habitats, aquatic flora and fauna, fish, otters and their habitats during construction. A short-term minor negative impact in relation to the qualifying species features of the cSAC is anticipated but no adverse impact on the integrity of the site is anticipated. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) states that a habitat survey is to be undertaken one year after construction is completed to ensure that habitat and flora species are responding and re-colonising appropriately. Monitoring of features related to the cSAC are focussed on the faunal species which exploit the habitat (namely fish species and otter).

3.2.3 Likely Evolution in the Absence of the Plan

In the absence of implementing the Plan pressures on biodiversity, flora and fauna would be likely to occur even though designated habitats and species are protected under EU and national legislation. Other important habitats currently not listed or proposed for statutory designation and their ecological connectivity would be

¹¹ River Slaney (Enniscorthy) Drainage Scheme Environmental Impact Statement (OPW, 2009)

susceptible to adverse changes through incompatible land uses and loss of ecological corridors such as hedgerows, stone walls and buffer zones along streams. Furthermore, the cumulative effects of individual developments would not be easily overseen or coordinated and assessed for their effects on habitats, species and their ecological connectivity.

3.3 Population and Human Health

3.3.1 Baseline Description

Population

The population of Enniscorthy Town and Environs increased by 1,300 persons or 13.6% during the period 2006-2011. The population growth was unevenly distributed with the Environs increasing by 27% and the Urban District decreasing by 12.3%. This reflects the national trend of movement out of inner urban areas to the environs and outskirts of towns. It may also be a reflection of the low number of residential schemes constructed in the urban district area during this period.

Table 5: Population Change 2006-2011

	2006	2011	Change 2006-2011	% Increase
Enniscorthy Town	3,241	2,842	-399	-12.31%
Enniscorthy Environs	6,297	7,996	1,699	26.98%
Total Town & Environs	9,538	10,838	1,300	13.63%

Source: Census 2011

The population allocation for Enniscorthy provides for an increase of 1,751 persons during the period 2013-2020. A seven year period is used to calculate population targets to account for housing development which may occur between the time of preparing the Draft Plan and the time at which the Plan is adopted. Based on the average household size of 2.7 for the period 2013-2016 and 2.55 for the period 2016-2020, a total of 935 households are required to accommodate this growth.

Age Profile

Table 6 below shows the age profile of the population in Enniscorthy and compares it with the age profile for the County and the State. The age profile for Enniscorthy generally aligns with that for the State, although Enniscorthy has a slightly higher proportion of population over the age of 65. When compared with the age profile for the County, Enniscorthy has a higher proportion of the population in the 19-24 and 25-44 age groups. The largest proportion of the population in Enniscorthy (31.5%) is in the 25-44 age group. The age profile suggests that there are high numbers of families living in the area. This has implications for the Plan in terms of housing provision and community facilities.

Table 6: Age Profile

	0-12	13-18	19-24	25-44	45-64	65+
Enniscorthy	2,024	820	879	3,417	2,318	1,380
%	18.7%	7.6%	8.1%	31.5%	21.4%	12.7%
Co. Wexford	28,944	11,570	9,375	42,705	34,359	18,367
%	19.9%	8.0%	6.5%	29.4%	23.6%	12.6%
State	860,596	344,931	354,313	1,450,140	1,042,879	535,393
%	18.8%	7.5%	7.7%	31.6%	22.7%	11.7%

Source: Census 2011

Employment

According to the 2011 Census, the total number of people at work in Enniscorthy is 3,393 with the remainder of the population over the age of 15 comprised of those who are unemployed, retired, student, looking after family or unable to work due to permanent sickness or disability. The figures show that 1,573 people were unemployed on the date of the Census, which represents 18.4% of the population over the age of 15. This has implications for the Plan in terms of provision of education/training facilities and economic development.

Table 7: Principal Economic Status

Economic Status	No.
Persons at work	3393
Unemployed looking for first regular job	203
Unemployed having lost or given up previous job	1370
Student or pupil	702
Looking after home/family	1052
Retired	1145
Unable to work due to permanent sickness or disability	661
Other economic status	15
All persons aged 15 years and over	8541

Human Health

A shortfall in amenities and infrastructure to serve the local community can all go towards decreasing the health of the general population. Enniscorthy Town is well serviced by community and recreation facilities including a range of sports clubs, parks and playgrounds, walking trails, schools, community centres, a library and a health centre. There are plans to upgrade the wastewater treatment system in Enniscorthy and that there is an adequate water supply to serve the town.

Another key area for the consideration of human health is the relationship between health and water quality, air quality and/or climatic factors such as flood risk. These issues are discussed in greater detail in Sections 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7 below.

Environmental noise can affect people in both physiological and psychological ways, interfering with basic activities such as sleep, rest, study and communication. Noise is associated with many human activities, but it is road, rail and air traffic noise that has the highest impact.¹² This is discussed further in Section 3.6 below.

¹² <http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/noise/intro> [accessed 15th March 2013]

3.3.2 Current Issues and Threats

- Pressure on existing drinking water, wastewater infrastructure and water quality can pose a threat to the health of the population. Care needs to be taken to ensure that the delivery of new housing is linked to the delivery of adequate public infrastructure.
- Enniscorthy has a good range of community and recreation facilities to serve the existing population. The provision of accessible community facilities should occur in tandem with future population growth and housing developments.
- The increase in the rate of unemployment presents a serious challenge for the future of the local economy. Challenges for the future include retaining the young working population by facilitating the provision of future employment and housing.
- Issues such as water and air quality, noise, flooding and climate change can all have direct impacts on human health.

3.3.3 Likely Evolution in the Absence of the Plan

In the absence of implementing the Plan, there would be a continued demand for housing in the area which would be likely to be satisfied in a piecemeal fashion with no specific guidance as to where development should take place. A lack of controlled development could lead to problems relating to infrastructural provision and more significant environmental impacts such as those relating to biodiversity, water quality and human health.

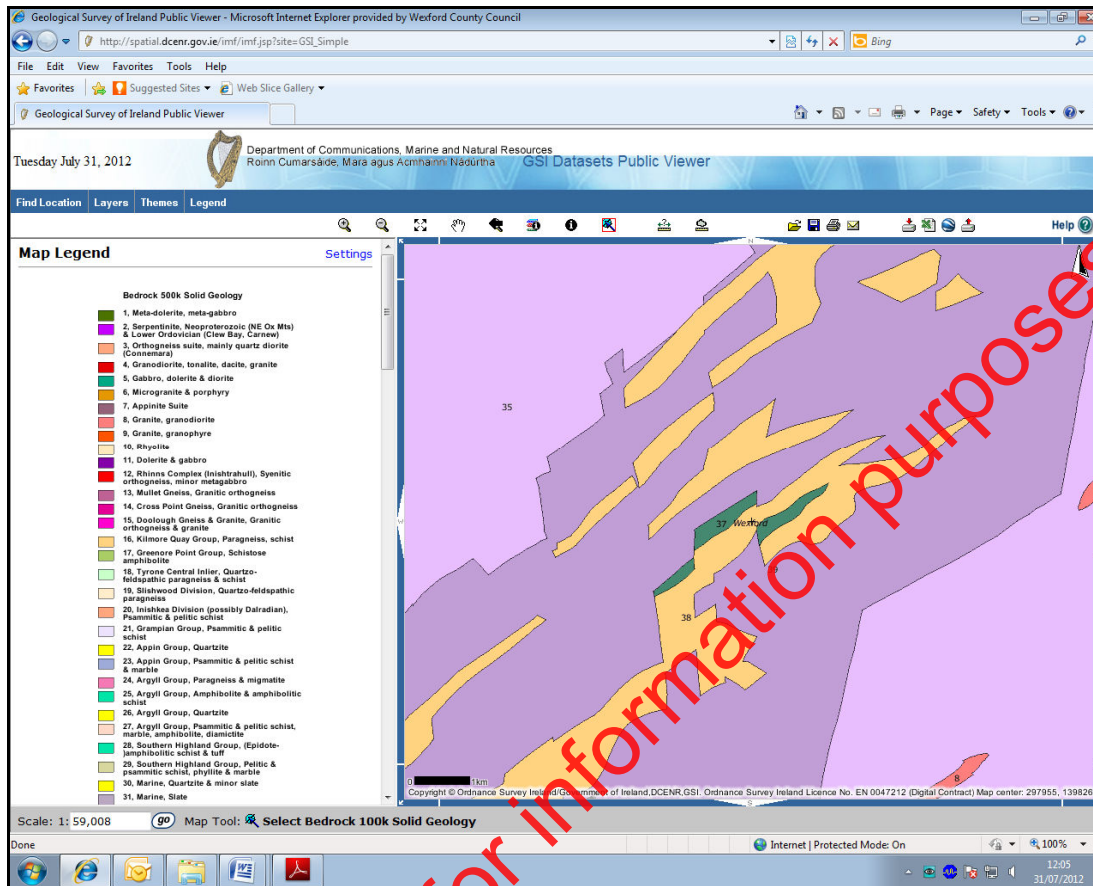
3.4 Geology and Soil

3.4.1 Baseline Description

Geology

The Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) maps show that the geology of the area around Enniscorthy Town and Environs generally comprises rocks of the Palaeozoic, Middle - Upper Ordovician period comprising mainly of Ordovician volcanics which form part of the Campile formation (a regionally important fractured bedrock aquifer). The bedrock 100k solid geology shows the dominant rock types are rhyolitic volcanics, grey and brown slates and felsic volcanics.

Map 4: Bedrock 100k solid geology



Source: http://spatial.dcenr.gov.ie/imf/imf.jsp?site=GSI_Simple

The GSI, in partnership with NPWS, is currently identifying important geological and geomorphological sites throughout the country for designation as NHAs. The Irish Geological Heritage (IGH) Programme is identifying and selecting the very best national sites for NHA designation, to represent the country's geology. It is also identifying many sites of national or local geological heritage importance, which are classed as County Geological Sites (CGS), although these will not receive the statutory protection of NHA sites. Some of these sites overlap with SACs and some are already pNHAs.

To date, the GSI have identified 38 geological heritage sites in County Wexford. Two of these are located in the vicinity of Enniscorthy:

Table 8: Geological Sites

Site Name	Summary description	Designation recommended
Greenville farmyard	A diverse mid Caradoc (Burrellian Stage) fauna of trilobites and brachiopods includes type specimens for three species and is an important site in the biostratigraphy of the Duncannon Group of Leinster.	NHA
Kiltrea	This site is of critical importance in the biostratigraphy of the Ordovician of southeast Ireland, as it is in the Oaklands Formation at the top of the lower Ordovician Ribband Group. Formerly, it was considered to be of Llanvirn age, but recent revision of the graptolites has shown it is actually of early Arenig age. This is of considerable importance for constraints on the development of the regional, Caledonide geology.	CGS
River Slaney	No description available	NHA

Map 5: Geological Sites



Soil

Soil can be considered as a non-renewable natural resource because it develops over very long timescales. Soil is defined as the top layer of the earth's crust. It is formed by mineral particles, organic matter, water, air and living organisms. Soil has a role as a habitat and gene pool. It serves as a platform for human activities, landscape and heritage and acts as a provider of raw materials. These functions are worthy of protection because of their socio-economic as well as environmental importance.¹³ The protection of other resources such as water has positive implications for soil, the quality of which is directly linked to that of ground and surface waters.

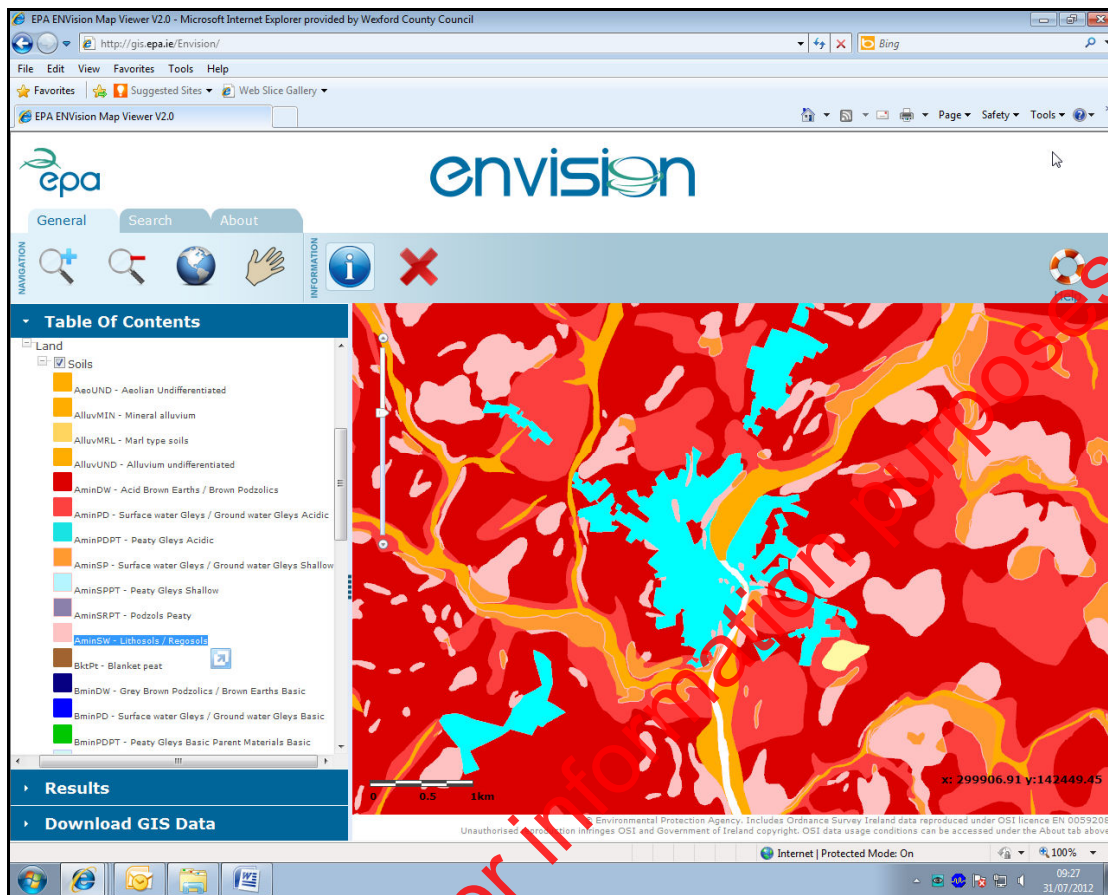
To date, there is no legislation which is specific to the protection of soil. However, an EU Directive on soil is currently proposed which will set out common principles for protecting soils across the EU. In 2002, the EPA recommended the development of a Soil Protection Strategy for Ireland, including the development of a National Soil Quality Monitoring Programme and the selection of a set of indicators which are representative of soil quality.¹⁴

The EPA maps classify the soil in the built up area of the town as 'made' while the rest of the plan area comprises of acid brown earths/brown podzolics, surface water or ground water gleys, lithosols/regosols and mineral alluvium.

¹³ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/index_en.htm

¹⁴ EPA (2002) Towards Setting Environmental Quality Objectives for Soil: Developing a Soil Protection Strategy for Ireland.





Map 6: Soil Map



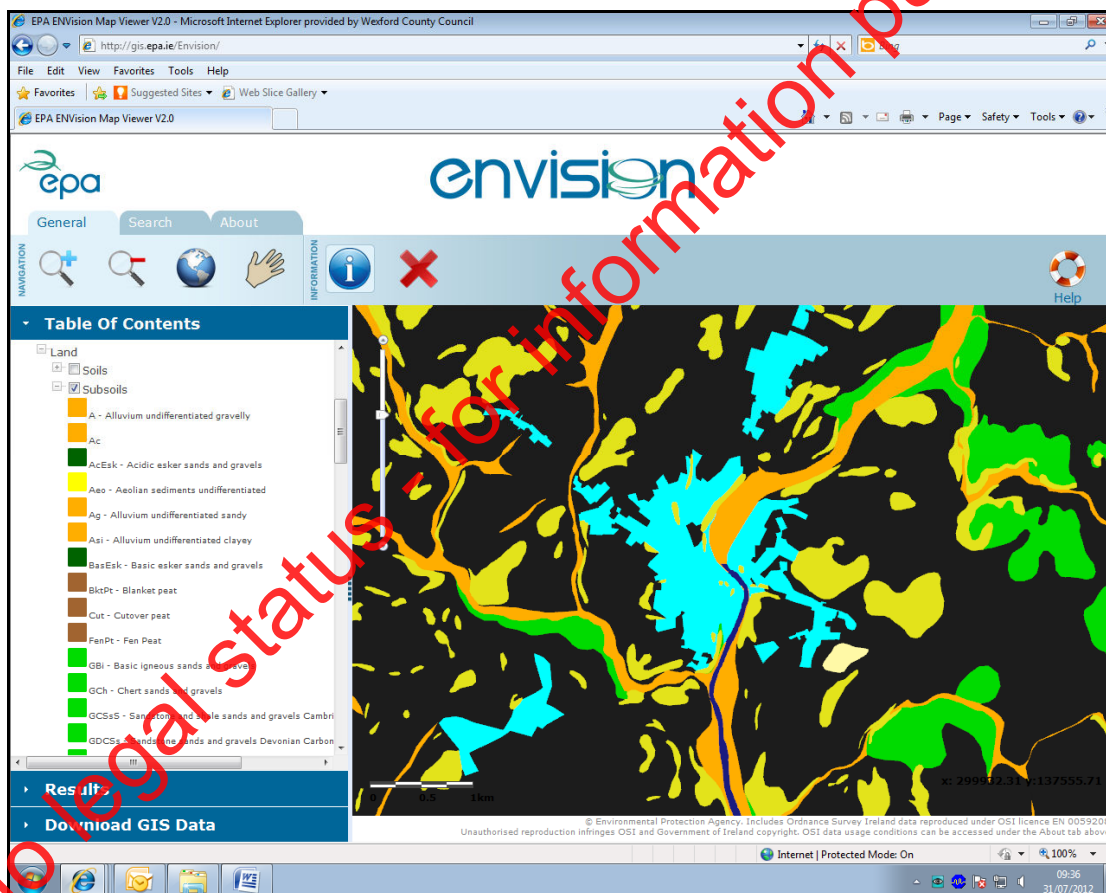
Source: <http://gis.epa.ie/Envision/>

- AminDW - Acid Brown Earths / Brown Podzolics
- AminPD - Surface water Gleys / Ground water Gleys Acidic
- AminSW - Lithosols / Regosols
- AlluvMIN - Mineral alluvium
- Made

Subsoils in the built up area are also identified as 'made' while the remainder of the area is a combination of:

-  TLPS - Shale till Lower Palaeozoic
-  Rck - Bedrock at surface
-  A - Alluvium undifferentiated gravelly
-  L - Lake sediments undifferentiated

Map 7: Subsoil Map



Source: <http://gis.epa.ie/Envision/>

Historic Landfills/Contaminated Sites

The Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery Activity) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No. 524 of 2008) provide for the certification of historic unlicensed waste disposal sites in operation between 1977

and 1996. The regulations require local authorities to register these facilities, to carry out risk assessments of the sites and to determine any remedial measures required.

The Council has identified 12 such historic unlicensed landfills in County Wexford. One of these is located adjacent to the south of the plan area at Lucas Park. This was the main municipal landfill used by Enniscorthy town until 1980. A Tier I risk assessment identified the landfill as high risk with known impacts on surface water, humans and groundwater. However, no emissions were observed during the Tier I assessment stage. The landfill is located 50 metres from the Urrin River, which is identified on EPA maps as having 'good' status.

Map 8: Historic Landfill



Quarries

One active quarry is identified adjacent to the south of the plan area at Brownswood (Roadstone) and another quarry is located adjacent to the east of the plan area at the foot of Vinegar Hill.

Waste Permits

There are no active waste permit licences within the plan area. Environmental Compaction Systems (ECS) Limited has a Certificate of Registration (Ref. COR-WX-

11-0027-01) for a Pay To Use Waste Compactor Unit (PTU) at Gahan's Supermarket, Chapel Lane, Enniscorthy. The Certificate is valid until June 2016.

Waste Management

Waste management is guided by the Joint Waste Management Plan for the South-East Region 2006-2011. The key focus of the Plan is on prevention, minimisation, re-use/recycle and disposal of waste using energy recovery methods. In accordance with the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC), transposed into Irish legislation through the European Communities (Waste Directive) Regulations 2011, the South-East Waste Management Region carried out an evaluation of the Plan in 2012 to determine whether the Plan should be revised or replaced as necessary to comply with the Directive. Following the evaluation it was recommended that the Plan be replaced. The 2006 will remain applicable until the new Plan is in place in early 2014.

A Resource Opportunity: Waste Management Policy in Ireland (DECLG, 2012) sets out policy measures and actions for the regulation of household waste in Ireland in addition to prevention, reuse, recycling, recovery and disposal of waste. The aim of the Plan is make further progress to enable Ireland to become a recycling society, with a clear focus on resource efficiency and the virtual elimination of landfilling of municipal waste.

The National Waste Prevention Programme also aims to deliver substantive results on waste prevention and minimisation. Prevention has been shown to reduce costs and improve competitiveness while encouraging innovation and the adoption of cleaner processes and products.

3.4.2 Current Issues and Threats

- Change in soils results from both natural processes and human activities. Of concern is the physical, biological and/or chemical degradation of soils, which can cause direct loss of soil, reduce productive capacity and deplete soil quality and biodiversity. Soil erosion can occur due to surface erosion resulting from construction works and agricultural/forestry operations.

- Threats to soil include land-use change, intensification of agriculture, erosion, overgrazing, disposal of organic wastes to soils, afforestation, industry and urbanisation.
- Flood risk can impact on soil through increased run-off and siltation in alluvial areas. Eroded soil washed into rivers during heavy rainfall causes an increase in nutrients which can lead to eutrophication of rivers and lakes. However, flooding can also have a positive impact on soils bringing nutrients and silt which good soils are composed of.
- Improved recycling performance has moved Ireland away from a position of almost total reliance on landfill for managing waste. Nevertheless, landfill remains the primary option used for municipal waste management. By 2016 Ireland is required to reduce its landfill of biodegradable municipal waste to 35% of the amount produced in 1995. This amount of waste can be reduced by prevention, minimisation, re-use and recycling.

3.4.3 Likely Evolution in the Absence of the Plan

The Plan includes a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) which deals with flood risk management and development of sites that are located in the flood zone. In the absence of implementing the Plan, there would be potential for development to occur on flood plains resulting in the loss of natural flood plain storage and increased surface water run-off. Increased flood risk could affect the protection of soil causing run off and siltation in alluvial areas.

In the absence of implementing the Plan, it is likely that development of greenfield sites would be favoured over brownfield sites. Any uncontrolled development would have a direct negative impact due to soil loss and run-off, directly impacting on water. Indirect impacts from potential contamination due to ancillary works associated with the development or lack of appropriate wastewater facilities may also occur.

Soil and geology is closely linked to biodiversity and landscape thus loss, fragmentation and/or deterioration of soils and geology would have a direct negative impact on biodiversity and the landscape.

3.5 Water

3.5.1 Baseline Description

Hydrology

The Boro, Urrin and Bann rivers are the principal tributaries of the Slaney in relation to the study area. The River Urrin and River Boro both drain the eastern flanks of the Blackstairs Mountains (approximately 18km west of Enniscorthy) and discharge into the River Slaney 1km and 4km downstream of Enniscorthy respectively. The River Bann drains an area north of Enniscorthy and discharges into the Slaney 6km north of Enniscorthy. The Slaney is tidal to Enniscorthy, with the tidal and freshwater boundary defined, under section 10 of the Fisheries (Consolidation) Act 1959, as the Old Bridge in Enniscorthy.

Hydrogeology

Hydrogeology is the study of groundwater, which is stored in the void spaces in underground layers of rock, or aquifers. These aquifers are permeable allowing both the infiltration of water from the soils above them and the yielding of water to surface and coastal waters. The GSI rates the aquifers of Ireland according to their productivity and their vulnerability to pollution. The plan area is located within a regionally important aquifer – fissured bedrock. Groundwater vulnerability in the area ranges from low to extreme.

Water Framework Directive

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) requires Member States to manage all of their waters and ensure that they achieve at least 'good status' by 2015. The WFD was adopted in 2000 and was transposed into Irish legislation through the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended). The European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (as amended) and European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (as amended) also place obligations on local authorities to prevent or limit inputs of pollutants into surface and ground waters and prevent deterioration in water quality.

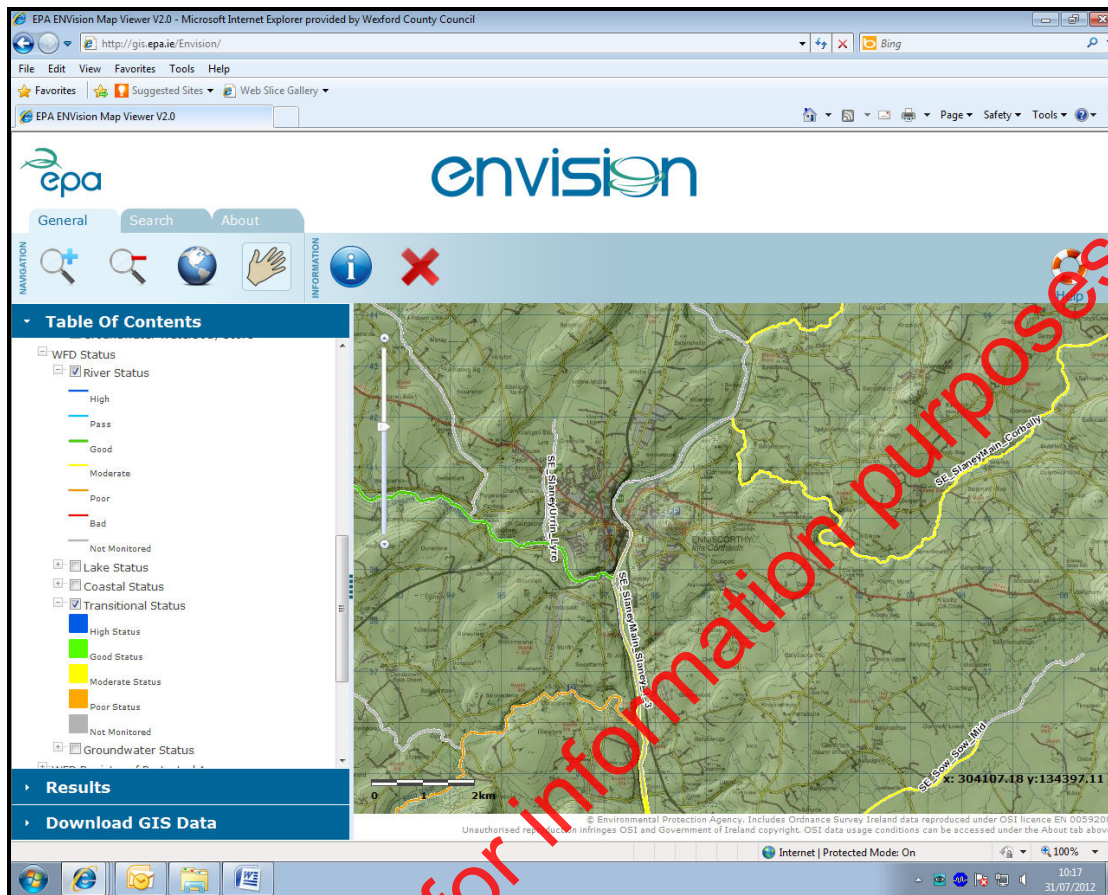
The South Eastern River Basin Management Plan (SERBMP) (2009-2015) includes a list of action plans and a programme of measures to achieve good water status in accordance with the WFD. The Plan estimates that implementation of the measures will result in good status being achieved in 59% of rivers, 100% of lakes, 76% of estuaries, 44% of coastal waters and 98% of groundwaters by 2015, with further improvements during the second and third planning cycles.

The WFD requires each Member State to establish a register of protected areas. These areas are considered to need greater protection because they contain sensitive habitats or wildlife species or the need to protect human health including drinking water sources, shellfish growing areas and bathing areas. It is an objective of the SERBMP to prioritise the protection of such areas and to prevent any further deterioration. Protected areas must, without exception, achieve good or high status to support their designations, with specific targets for protection of priority species.

The River Slaney is on the WFD Register of Protected Areas. It is identified as a Salmonid River and a River for drinking water (abstraction points at Clonhaston and Edermine). The Slaney Estuary is also identified as a Nutrient Sensitive Estuary.

EPA maps identify the WFD Status for Rivers and Transitional Waterbodies. The status for the Urrin tributary which flows into the River Slaney at Enniscorthy is identified as 'good' (shown in green on the map below). Upstream, the Corbally, Tinnacross and Bann tributaries are classified as 'moderate' (yellow) while downstream the Boro River is classified as 'poor' (orange). The Upper Slaney Estuary (transitional waterbody to Enniscorthy Old Bridge) is identified as 'moderate'. Both the River Slaney and the Upper Slaney Estuary are identified as being at risk of not achieving good status by 2015.

Map 9: River Status



Source: <http://gis.epa.ie/Envision/>

Table 9 below includes information on water quality taken from the 2011 Summary of River Water Quality in County Wexford contained in the EPA's Report on River Water Quality in County Wexford 2011.

Table 9: River Water Quality

River	Number of Sampling Stations in each category			Remarks	Change from 2010
	Generally Satisfactory	Moderately Polluted at times	Seriously Polluted at times		
Bann (12B01) Q value range 4-5 to 3 (2010)	8			Nitrate levels can be elevated in the lower reaches of this river, otherwise quality is satisfactory. Biological monitoring indicates only moderate quality at Station 0800 (cf/s Irish Country Meats).	No significant change.
Boro (12B02) Q 4 over length of river (2010)	5			Nitrate levels are elevated from Ballymackesy Br (Station 0200) downstream, otherwise quality is generally satisfactory.	Nitrate levels have reduced slightly since 2010.
Slaney (12S02) Q value range 3-4 to 4 (2010) The Slaney rises in the Wicklow mountains and flows through Carlow and Wexford, before meeting flowing into the sea at Wexford Harbour. This report deals with the freshwater stretches that flow through Carlow and Wexford.	9			BOD and o-Phosphate are elevated on occasion in Enniscorthy. Nitrate levels can also be slightly elevated in the lower reaches, otherwise quality is satisfactory.	No change from 2010.
Urrin (12U01) Q value range 3-4 to 4 (2010)	3			Satisfactory quality. However biological monitoring recorded slime growth at station 0500 in 2010.	No change.

Source: Report on River Water Quality in County Wexford (EPA, 2011)

According to EPA maps, WFD groundwater status in the plan area is 'good' but is identified as being at risk of not achieving good status by 2015.

Drinking Water

Water is abstracted from the River Slaney at Clonhaston and pumped to the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) at Templeshannon. The WTP has a design capacity of 4,300m³/day and current volume abstracted at Clonhaston is circa 3,700m³/day. The Council has a licence to abstract 9,090m³/day. A supplementary supply of ca. 600m³/day is abstracted from a borehole at Edermine.

The European Communities (Drinking Water) No. 2, Regulations, 2007 assign the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the role of supervisory authority over public drinking water supplies and provides powers of enforcement to ensure actions are taken where the quality of public drinking water is deficient. The EPA is required to be notified by local authorities of any failure to meet the microbiological and chemical standards or where there is a potential danger to human health and is responsible for ensuring that the cause of the failure is investigated and that appropriate corrective action is taken by the local authority.

Wexford County Council carries out check samples on public water schemes in accordance with national drinking water regulations. The results are available online at <http://www.wexford.microworks.ie/> A Protocol for dealing with microbiological/chemical exceedances in drinking water quality has been agreed by Wexford County Council and the Health Service Executive.

The EPA's Provision and Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland: A Report for the Year 2010 notes that chlorine monitors and alarms are now in place in all public water supplies in Wexford. The installation of chlorine monitors and alarms is required to ensure that the supply is adequately disinfected at all times.

Groundwater Protection Scheme

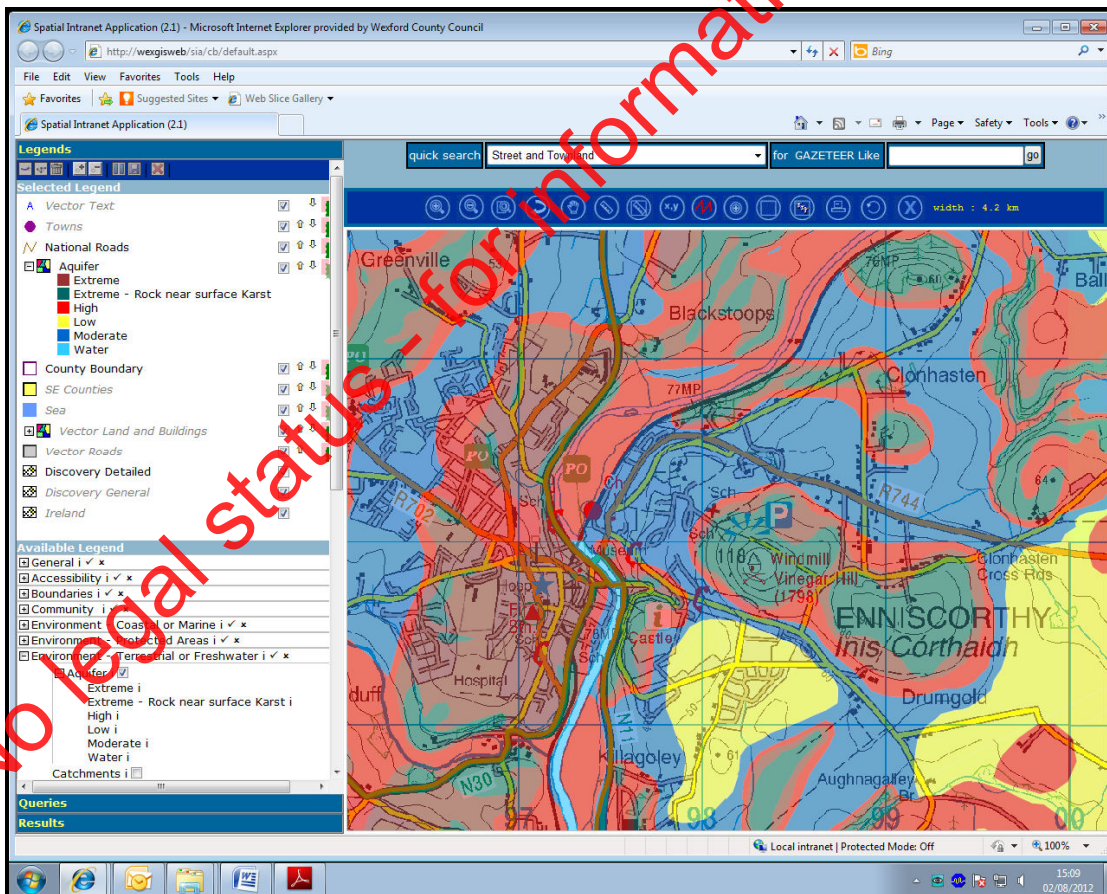
A Groundwater Protection Scheme for County Wexford was prepared by the GSI and Wexford County Council. The Groundwater Protection Scheme comprises two components:

- A land surface zoning map called the groundwater protection map (see Map 10 below). The Groundwater Protection Map delineates land areas in terms of

groundwater vulnerability to pollution and groundwater potential and is compiled by combining an Aquifer Map and a Groundwater Vulnerability Map. These, in turn, are derived from a series of primary maps: bedrock and subsoil geology, depth to bedrock, and hydrogeological data.¹⁵

- Groundwater protection responses for existing and new potentially polluting activities, including on-site wastewater treatment systems, landfills and land spreading of organic wastes (see matrix below for example of groundwater protection responses for on-site treatment systems).¹⁶ The responses outline the design and construction conditions and investigation requirements which may be appropriate.

Map 10: Groundwater Protection Map



¹⁵ Groundwater Protection Schemes (Department of the Environment and Local Government, Environmental Protection Agency and Geological Survey of Ireland, 1999)

¹⁶ As per Annex B of Code of Practice: Wastewater Treatment Systems for Single Houses (EPA, 2010)

Response Matrix for On-site Treatment Systems

VULNERABILITY RATING	SOURCE PROTECTION AREA *		RESOURCE PROTECTION Aquifer Category					
			Regionally Important		Locally Important		Poor Aquifers	
	Inner (SI)	Outer (SO)	Rk	Rf/Rg	Lm/Lg	Ll	Pl	Pu
Extreme (E)	R3 ²	R3 ¹	R2 ²	R2 ²	R2 ¹	R2 ¹	R2 ¹	R2 ¹
High (H)	R2 ⁴	R2 ³	R2 ¹	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1
Moderate (M)	R2 ⁴	R2 ³	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1
Low (L)	R2 ⁴	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1

In the example above, the groundwater protection response for on-site wastewater treatment systems in the area classed as moderate Rf (blue) is R1. This means that an on-site wastewater treatment system would generally be acceptable subject to normal good practice, i.e. system selection, construction, operation and maintenance in accordance with EPA (2000). The light red area is classified as extreme RF which means that an on-site wastewater treatment system would generally be acceptable subject to a minimum thickness of two metres unsaturated soil/subsoil beneath the invert of the percolation trench of a conventional septic tank system. Alternatively, a treatment system other than a conventional septic tank system must be installed with a minimum thickness of 0.6 metre unsaturated soil/subsoil with P/T values 1 from 1 to 50 (in addition to the polishing filter which should be a minimum depth of 0.6 m), beneath the invert of the polishing filter (i.e. 1.2 m in total for a soil polishing filter).

The overall aim of the Groundwater Protection Scheme is to preserve the quality of groundwater, particularly for drinking water purposes. The groundwater protection responses vary depending on the classification of aquifer and the type of activity.

Groundwater Source Protection Zone

The EPA has established a Groundwater Source Protection Zone at Edermine Borehole which is the groundwater source for Enniscorthy Public Water Supply. Groundwater Source Protection Zones are the surface and subsurface areas surrounding a groundwater source, i.e. a well, wellfield or spring, in which water and contaminants may enter groundwater and move towards the source. The protection zones are intended to provide a guide in the planning and regulation of development

and human activities to ensure groundwater quality is protected.¹⁷

Potential pollution sources to the Groundwater Source Protection Zone are identified as farming activities (grazing animals and landspreading of agricultural waste), wastewater treatment systems, hydrocarbons from the adjacent railway line and private home heating fuel tanks and hydrocarbons and metals resulting from surface water run-off from a nearby road.

The Groundwater Source Protection Zone is outside of the plan area, located approximately 5 km south of Enniscorthy Town at the edge of the floodplain of the River Slaney.

Wastewater

The Enniscorthy Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) is near capacity. The WWTP has a design capacity of 16,500 P.E. and provides secondary treatment with discharge to estuarine waters. Current loading is estimated at 16,000 P.E. A second treatment plant located at Killagoley has a design capacity of 800 P.E. and provides secondary treatment with discharge to freshwater. Current loading is estimated at 1,350 P.E.

The wastewaters discharged from the Enniscorthy and Killagoley WWTPs are licenced by the EPA under the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations, 2007. The licences impose limits taking account of the assimilative capacity of the River Slaney and the requirements of:

- European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009, as amended
- European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010, as amended
- European Communities (Quality of Shellfish Waters) Regulations 2006, as amended

¹⁷ EPA (2010): Establishment of Groundwater Source Protection Zones - Enniscorthy Public Water Supply Scheme - Edermine Borehole

An upgrade to the Enniscorthy WWTP is due to commence in 2014 and is expected to be completed in 2016 (subject to approval of contract documents from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government and funding being available). The new plant will have a design capacity of 30,000 P.E. and will provide secondary treatment with nitrogen and phosphorous removal which will have positive impacts for water quality and the Slaney River Valley SAC. The upgrade includes for the provision of thickening facilities for sludge generated at the WWTP and also for sludge imported from other smaller WWTPs in County Wexford. It is expected that the Killagoley plant will be decommissioned once the upgrade is completed. The flow which would have entered the Killagoley plant will be intercepted and brought via a flow pipe to the Spring Valley pumping station, from where it will be directed to the main Enniscorthy WWTP.

The Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2001-2010 and the 1991 Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD) set out requirements for the provision of waste water collection systems and treatment plants, provide for the monitoring of waste water discharges and specify limits for certain parameters in the discharges. The UWWTD requires nutrient reduction to be provided for discharges to sensitive areas¹⁸ from agglomerations with a population equivalent greater than 10,000. The Focus on Urban Waste Water Discharges in Ireland (EPA, 2012) identifies Enniscorthy as one of eight agglomerations (P.E. >10,000) which do not meet the UWWTD requirement to provide nutrient reduction in addition to secondary treatment for discharges to sensitive areas. The proposed upgrade to the Enniscorthy WWTP, once completed, will overcome this issue.

The EPA has published a Code of Practice: Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (p.e. ≤ 10) (EPA, 2009) which establishes an overall framework of best practice in relation to the development of wastewater treatment and disposal systems in unsewered rural areas. The Code of Practice is currently used by Wexford County Council when assessing planning applications in rural/unsewered areas. Owners of domestic wastewater treatment systems are

¹⁸ Slaney Estuary (Upper) — from Enniscorthy railway bridge to Macmine is identified as a sensitive area in the Urban Waste Water Treatment (Amendment) Regulations 2010

required to register their systems in accordance with the Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (Registration) Regulations 2012.

Surface Water Drainage

For the most part, surface water run-off in the plan area is discharged to the River Slaney or the River Urrin via surface water drains. However, some of the older estates, particularly on the eastern side of the town, have combined sewers for foul and storm water. The wastewater is pumped to the nearest treatment plant via pumping stations at Island Road, Spring Valley and the Promenade. All treatment plants and pumping stations operating in and around Enniscorthy town are governed by licence conditions laid down by the EPA. In periods of heavy rain/flooding these pumping stations can get an overflow of sewerage, which is discharged to the Slaney via an overflow pipe. It should be noted that all foul discharges are notified to the EPA.

All new housing estates and large scale developments are required to have surface water attenuation with hydro brakes, which control the flow rates in times of flooding. All new housing developments are required to have separated drainage systems.

Abstractions and Discharges

Wexford County Council has a licence to abstract water from the River Slaney at Clonhaston. There is also one active discharge licence for Roadstone Ltd. to discharge to surface water at Brownswood to the south of the plan area (washing of trucks/react mix facility, Ref. SS/W024/81). The Enniscorthy and Killagoley WWTPs both discharge into the River Slaney.

IPPC Licences

There is one IPPC licence noted within the plan area for Wexal International Ltd. at Moyne Lower (Ref. P0394-01). The 2011 Annual Environmental Report notes that Wexal is a closed, decommissioned former aluminium extrusion facility. Production at the facility ceased in 2001.

The current licensed area contains four groundwater abstraction wells and a compound containing a groundwater treatment facility. The site is currently implementing its Residual Management Plan (RMP) to address historical groundwater contamination and the provisions of the RMP superseded the original IPPC licence conditions.

Groundwater is abstracted from three active wells at a rate of 200 m³/day to limit migration off-site via groundwater of the chlorinated solvent trichloroethene (TCE) historically used as a degreaser by Wexal. The abstracted groundwater is processed via an unmanned, automated treatment plant, comprising an air stripping tower and granular activated carbon polishing to remove TCE, prior to being discharged under licence.

Soil gas is also vented to atmosphere from beneath the floor slab of the former Wexal production building.

Water Conservation

A Water Conservation Programme is in operation in County Wexford. The purpose of this is to promote the more effective utilisation of existing water resources and reduce the volume of potable water lost or wasted in the distribution system. Overall the County leakage has been reduced to 37% (from 51% in 2000).¹⁹

3.5.2 Current Issues and Threats

The key issues for water are the provision of adequate waste water treatment infrastructure, maintenance of good quality drinking water for protection of human health, protection of groundwater, restoration and protection of surface water and protection and restoration of water quality for water dependent habitats and species. These are all required measures to meet objectives set out under the WFD.

Enniscorthy is one of eight urban areas with a P.E. greater than 10,000 which do not meet the UWWTD requirement to provide nutrient reduction in addition to secondary

¹⁹ <http://www.wexford.ie/wex/Departments/WaterServices/WaterSupply/>

treatment for discharges to sensitive areas. It is vital that the proposed upgrade to the WWTP progresses to ensure compliance with the WFD.

Although the planned upgrade to the Enniscorthy WWTP will improve water quality, the River Slaney and the Upper Slaney Estuary are identified as being at risk of not achieving good status by 2015. The Corbally, Tinnacross and Bann tributaries are all classified as 'moderate' while downstream the Boro River is classified as 'poor'. The Upper Slaney Estuary (transitional waterbody) is also identified as 'moderate'.

3.5.3 Likely Evolution in the Absence of the Plan

The Plan includes policies and objectives that are consistent with the WFD and other European and national legislation for the protection of water quality. It also provides for the planned and phased development of appropriate infrastructure, including water and wastewater infrastructure, to meet the needs of the existing and future population of the area. In the absence of the Plan there would be no coordinated approach to the provision of infrastructure. An inadequate water supply would restrict industrial and economic growth, thus affecting employment opportunities. Inadequate waste water infrastructure could also result in a deterioration of water quality in the area.

3.6 Air and Noise

3.6.1 Baseline Description

Air

Air Quality in Ireland 2010 - Key Indicators of Ambient Air Quality (EPA, 2011) provides an overview of air quality in Ireland based on data obtained from 28 monitoring stations. The report notes that air quality in Ireland continues to be of good quality and remains the best in Europe. However, levels of particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) continue to remain of concern and levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) are a possible concern for the future in some areas. PAH arise from domestic fuel burning and vehicle exhaust emissions.

Traffic is the primary source of nitrogen dioxide and is also one of the main sources of particulate matter. Domestic solid fuel use is the other main source of particulate

matter in air in Ireland and particularly impacts air quality in areas where the sale of bituminous coal is permitted. As a result, levels of particulate matter in smaller towns are similar or higher than those in larger towns or cities, where bituminous coal is banned.

The Air Framework Directive deals with each EU member state in terms of 'Zones' and 'Agglomerations'. For Ireland, four zones are defined in the Air Quality Regulations (2002), amended by the Arsenic, Cadmium, Mercury, Nickel and Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons in Ambient Air Regulations (2009).²⁰ Enniscorthy and the surrounding area is located in Air Quality Zone D which represents rural Ireland. The nearest monitoring station is located at Johnstown Castle and monitoring results show that the current air quality is 'very good'.²¹ There are no coal restrictions within or surrounding the plan area.

Waste Licences

Greenstar Limited have a Waste Licence (Ref: W0241-01) for a Waste Transfer Station at Clavass, Enniscorthy. However, the facility has not commenced development to date. The licence sets down a number of conditions and sets limits for emissions to air and water. Emissions to air include noise, odours and dust deposition. The licensee is required to submit an Annual Environmental Report to the EPA each year which includes details of emissions from the facility for the previous calendar year. Roadstone Wood Limited has applied a Waste Licence (Ref: W0280-01) for a Soil Recovery Facility at Brownswood to the south of the plan area. No decision has been issued on this application to date (May 2013).

Radon

Radon is a radioactive gas which produces tiny radioactive particles. When inhaled, these particles are deposited in the airways and on the tissue of the lung. This results in a radiation dose that can cause lung cancer. A National Radon Survey carried out by the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII) shows that part of Enniscorthy Town and Environs is identified as a High Radon area with 10-20% of

²⁰ <http://www.epa.ie/whatwedo/monitoring/air/zones/> [accessed 17/08/2012]

²¹ <http://www.epa.ie/whatwedo/monitoring/air/data/jc/> [accessed 17/08/2012]

homes estimated to be above the Reference Level. The national Reference Level for homes in Ireland is 200 becquerels per cubic metre (Bq/m³).²² Home owners can apply to the RPII to have their home tested to determine the average level of radon in their home and seek advice on ways to reduce radon levels. This includes methods of radon remediation such as sealing floors and walls, increasing indoor and under-floor ventilation, positive pressurisation and installing a radon sump.

Noise

The EU Directive 2002/49/EC, otherwise known as the Environmental Noise Directive (END), was transposed into Irish legislation through the Environmental Noise Regulations, 2006. The Directive requires Member States to:

- Undertake strategic noise mapping for the main sources of environmental noise i.e. major roads, major railways, major airports and agglomerations;
- Ensure information on environmental noise and its effects is made available to the public; and
- Adopt action plans based upon the noise-mapping results with a view to preventing and reducing environmental noise where necessary and preserving environmental noise quality where it is good.²³

The first round of strategic noise mapping was required to be carried out for agglomerations with a population of more than 250,000 persons in 2007 and from major roads across Ireland. For the second round of strategic noise mapping, carried out in 2012, the population threshold for assessment of agglomerations was reduced from 250,000 to 100,000 persons and the traffic flow thresholds for major roads and major railways were reduced from 6 million to 3 million and 60,000 to 30,000 vehicle passages per year respectively.

The NRA carried out noise maps for annual average (Lden) and annual average night time (Lnight) road traffic noise levels in Co. Wexford. The maps represent the average environmental noise levels over one complete year and form part of a

²² <http://www.rpii.ie/Your-Home/Radon-in-your-home.aspx> [accessed 23/08/2012]

²³ EPA Guidance Note for Strategic Noise Mapping (EPA, 2011)

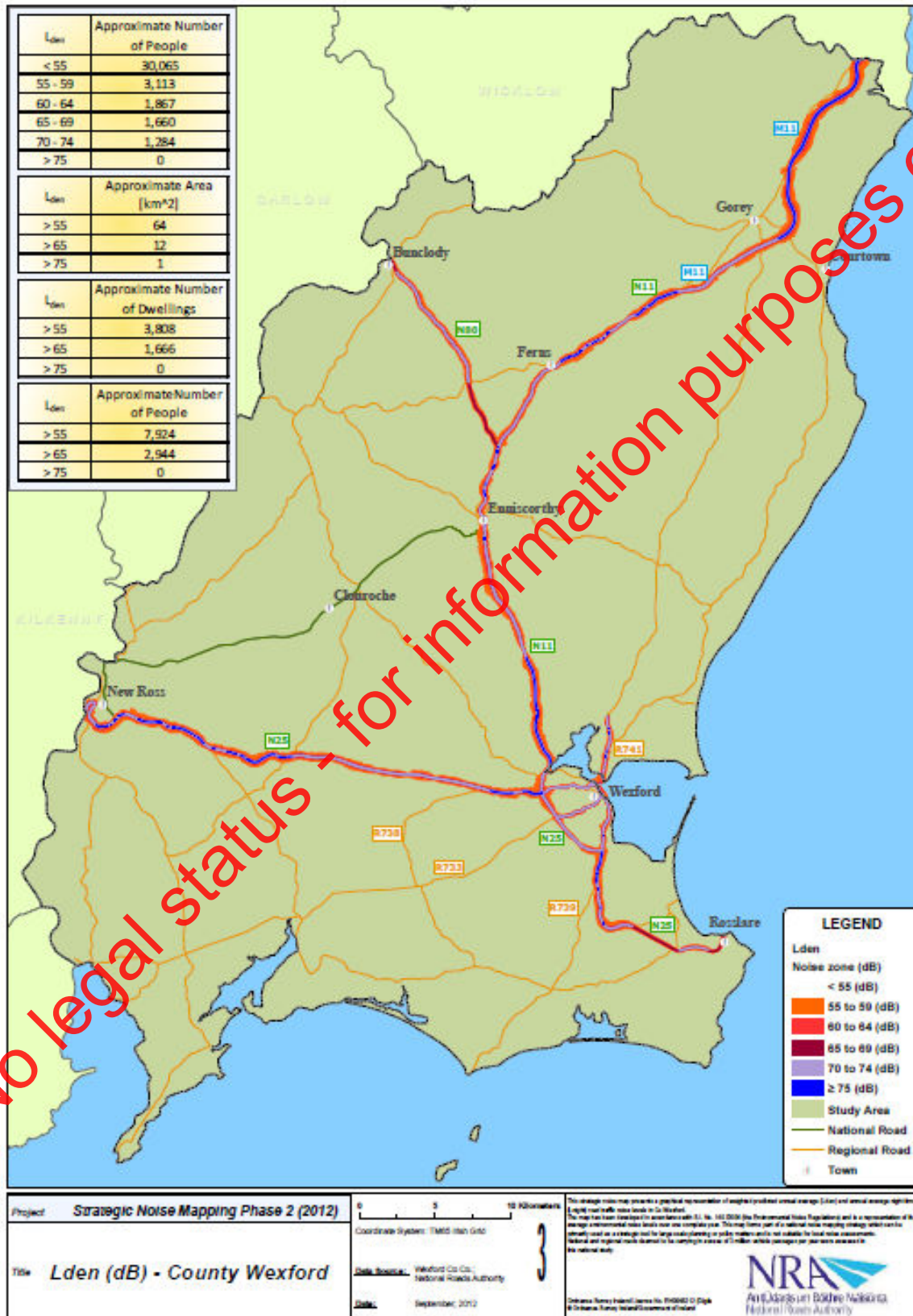
national noise mapping strategy which can be primarily used as a strategic tool for large scale planning or policy matters. National and regional roads deemed to be carrying in excess of 3 million vehicle passages per year were assessed in this national study. In the plan area, this includes a section of the N11 (see maps 11 and 12 below).

The local authority is the designated action planning authority for the purpose of making and approving action plans for major roads and railways within its functional area, in consultation with the EPA and the noise-mapping body (NRA). Wexford County Council has produced a Draft Noise Action Plan for public consultation. The Draft Plan was placed on public display for a period of six weeks during May and June of 2013. This was followed by a two week period (ending on 2nd July 2013) in which members of the public were invited to make submissions on the Draft Plan. The Council will have regard to any submissions received before finalising the Plan. The regulations require action plans to be made by 18th July 2013.

The purpose of the Noise Action Plan is to manage environmental noise from the major sources, to improve noise levels where necessary on a prioritised basis, to preserve satisfactory noise environments where they exist and to protect the future noise environment. The Plan includes a list of possible mitigation and protection measures for existing and future developments. Mitigation for existing developments includes the construction of the Enniscorthy Bypass, which will remove large traffic volumes away from the existing routes and reduce the current noise impact to acceptable levels.

The Council will carry out further analysis to identify hot spots (noise sensitive areas) using noise contour maps and Geodirectory and will prepare a shortlist of areas where further assessment is required. The appropriate and most effective mitigation measures will be detailed in order of priority based on physical noise survey.

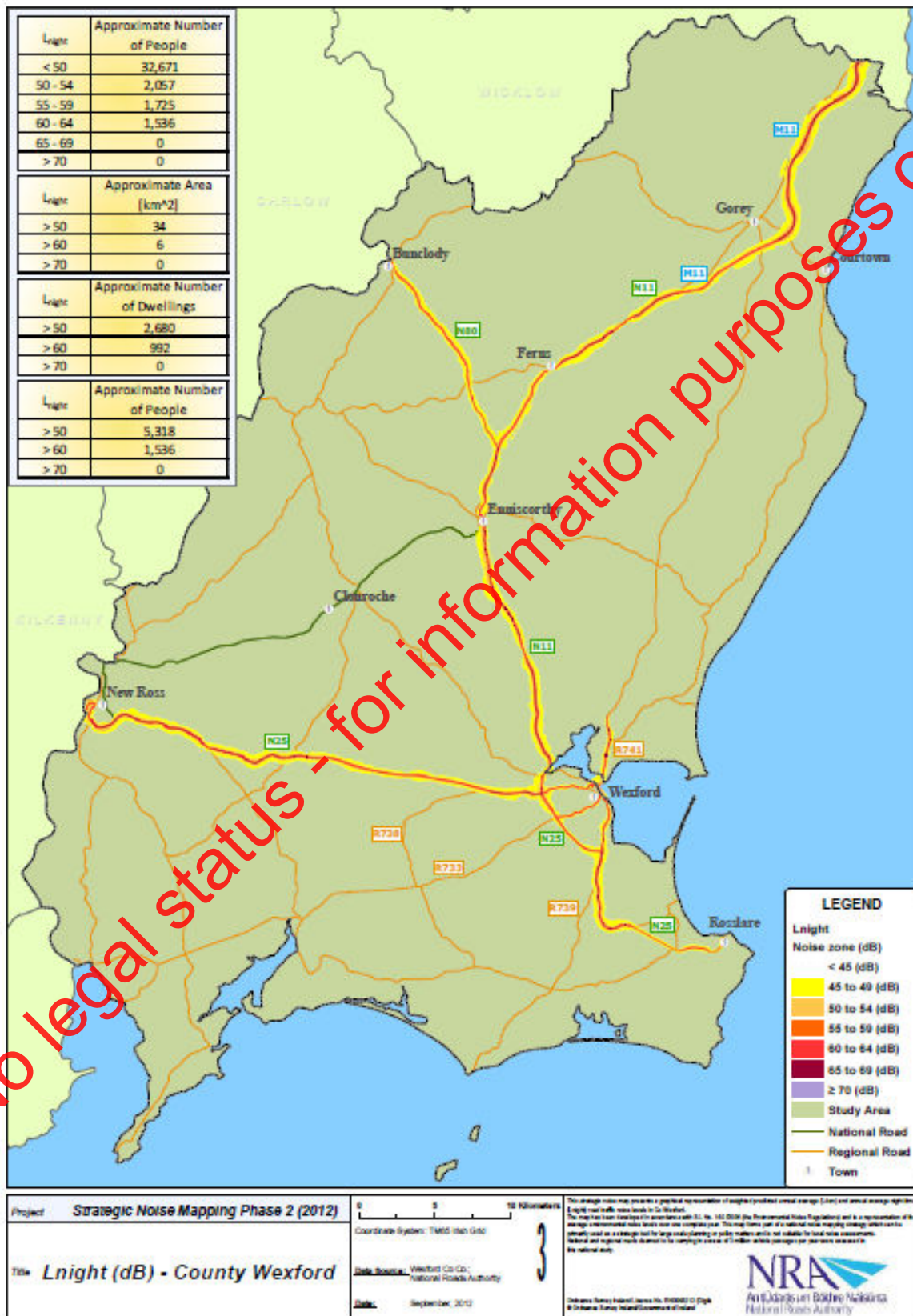
Map 11: Strategic Noise Mapping Lden (dB)



Source: <http://www.nra.ie/Environment/NoiseMaps/StrategicNoiseMaps/>

[accessed 15th March 2013]

Map 12: Strategic Noise Mapping Lnight (dB)



Source: <http://www.nra.ie/Environment/NoiseMaps/StrategicNoiseMaps/>

[accessed 15th March 2013]

3.6.2 Current Issues and Threats

- It is now evident that, due mainly to the very significant increase of vehicles on our roads, emissions from the transport sector represent the greatest threat to air quality. Measures which help reduce congestion, promote fuel efficiency and the ongoing investment in public transport are of major assistance in addressing any potential air quality problems in the future. Implications for the Plan include the promotion of a modal shift from private vehicles to public transport, cycling and walking as well as integrated land-use and transportation policies.
- High levels of traffic, including HGVs, through the town generates noise and emissions which create a high sensory environment for pedestrians and the people residing within the town. At present the busy N11 runs through the town. The proposed Enniscorthy Bypass, if constructed, will remove a large volume of traffic from the town centre.
- The Noise Action Plan for County Wexford states that the Council will prepare a shortlist of areas where further assessment is required. The appropriate and most effective mitigation measures will be detailed in order of priority based on physical noise survey.
- There are likely to be temporary noise impacts during construction of the Flood Relief Scheme and the Bypass in the plan area.
- Part of Enniscorthy Town and Environs is identified as a High Radon area with 10-20% of homes estimated to be above the Reference Level.

3.6.3 Likely Evolution in the Absence of the Plan

In the absence of the Plan there would be no framework for the location and scale of new development, which would be likely to continue in an ad hoc manner on the edge of the town resulting in an increase in car usage and therefore an increase in emissions. There would also be missed opportunities relating to energy efficiency, renewable energy and reduction in local transport related emissions due to a lack of integrated land-use and transportation planning.

3.7 Flooding and Climate Change

3.7.1 Baseline Description

Flooding

Enniscorthy is a town that has been subject to severe flooding over the last century. The reasons behind this are recalled in a report published by the OPW entitled Feasibility Report on the Enniscorthy Flooding Problem. This report explains that the reasons behind the floods experienced by inhabitants of Enniscorthy are due mostly to its geographical position along the course of the river. By the time the River Slaney reaches Enniscorthy its catchment has grown substantially to 1277km² as it has, over its course, picked up two large tributaries, namely the Derry and Dereen Rivers. The depths reached are due in part to the lack of floodplains at Enniscorthy; the high ground to the west is part of the foothills of the Blackstairs Mountains while the eastern part of Enniscorthy is partially built on Vinegar Hill. The depth of flooding is also due to the lack of a floodplain throughout most of the catchment- the floodplains of the Slaney and its various catchments are not wide enough and end abruptly in steep sided escarpments and hills. This is a characteristic that is not shared by most Irish rivers.

Historical Flooding in Enniscorthy

Significant flooding of Enniscorthy occurred a number of times in the last century; notably 1924, 1947, 1965 and November 2000. The 1965 flood was the largest, followed by the flood event in 2000. In 1965 the flood reached levels 1.25m higher upstream of Enniscorthy Bridge and 0.9m downstream of the Seamus Rafter Bridge than the flooding that occurred in 2000. Information relating to flooding that occurred in 1924, 1947 and 1965 is limited to photographs and levels that were noted by some property owners. The flooding in 2000 caused considerable damage to properties with many of them 1m deep in water. It is important to note that many of these properties were not flooded by rivers adjacent to them but by water that had exited the river further upstream from them and moved overland towards them. The flooding that occurred in 1965 is still regarded as the worst flooding event in

Enniscorthy and it is estimated that if a flood of the same magnitude happened today over 180 properties would be damaged.²⁴

More recently flooding also took place in 2009. This was a relatively minor event although it did result in the closure of both Abbey and Shannon Quays and the diversion of N11 and N30 traffic for a period of 24 hours. However, no residential properties were flooded and precautionary measures were in place before the flooding occurred.

Flood Points

The OPW flood database (www.floodmaps.ie) identifies three recurring flood points in plan area (see Map 13 below). These include the quays, Island Road and the Island. The entire area along the Slaney from the Island, approximately 500m north of Enniscorthy Bridge, to the promenade, approximately 725m to the south of Enniscorthy Bridge, flooded in 2000. The Urin River is a tributary of the Slaney which is also known to flood at Enniscorthy.

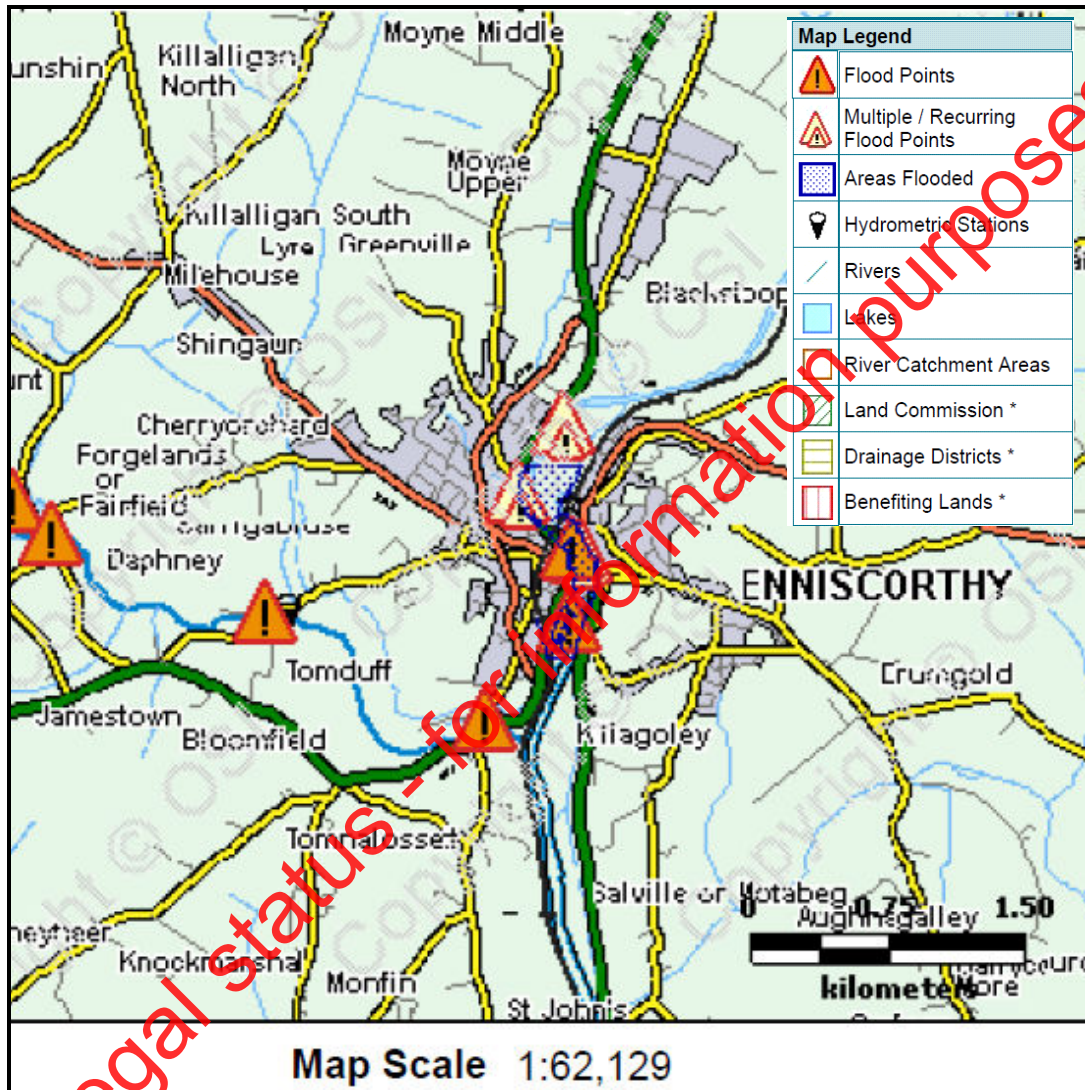
These locations are all within Flood Zones A and B on flood maps prepared by JBA Consulting Engineers and Scientists (see Map 14 below). Flood Zone A is defined as having high risk of flooding from rivers (i.e. more than 1% probability or more than 1 in 100). Flood Zone B is defined as having a moderate risk of flooding from rivers (i.e. 0.1% to 1% probability or between 1 in 100 and 1 in 1000). The draft Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) maps prepared by the OPW also include the areas where flooding occurs regularly in Enniscorthy within their predicted flood zones (see Map 14 below).

Enniscorthy is one of the Areas for Further Assessment (AFAs) identified by the OPW under the South Eastern Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) study. Flood risk maps and flood hazard maps for these areas will be drawn up in 2013 and Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) will be developed by 2015. FRMPs will include measures in relation to flood prevention, protection and

²⁴ River Slaney (Enniscorthy) Drainage Scheme Environmental Impact Statement (OPW, 2009)

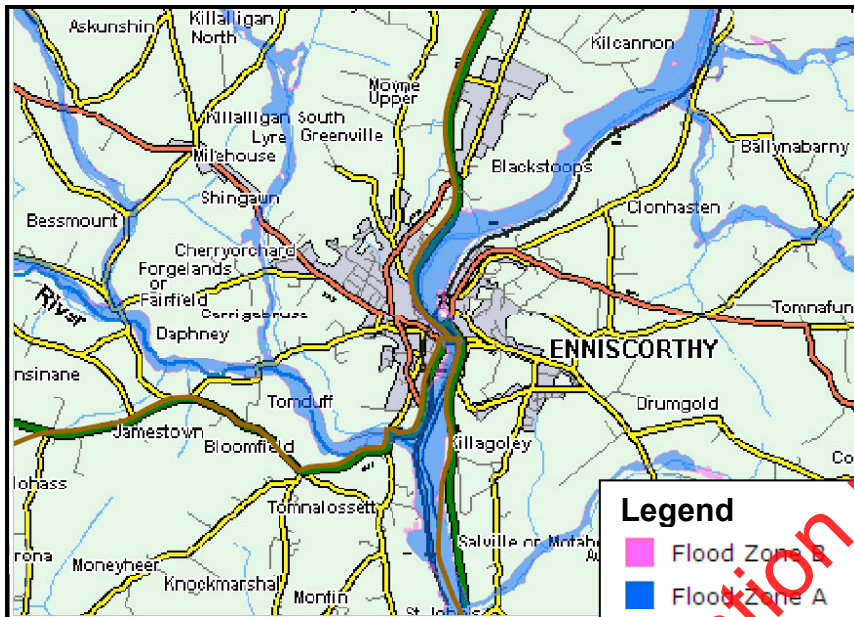
preparedness. Issues such as climate change, land use practices and future development will also be addressed in the FRMPs.

Map 13: Flood Points in the Plan Area

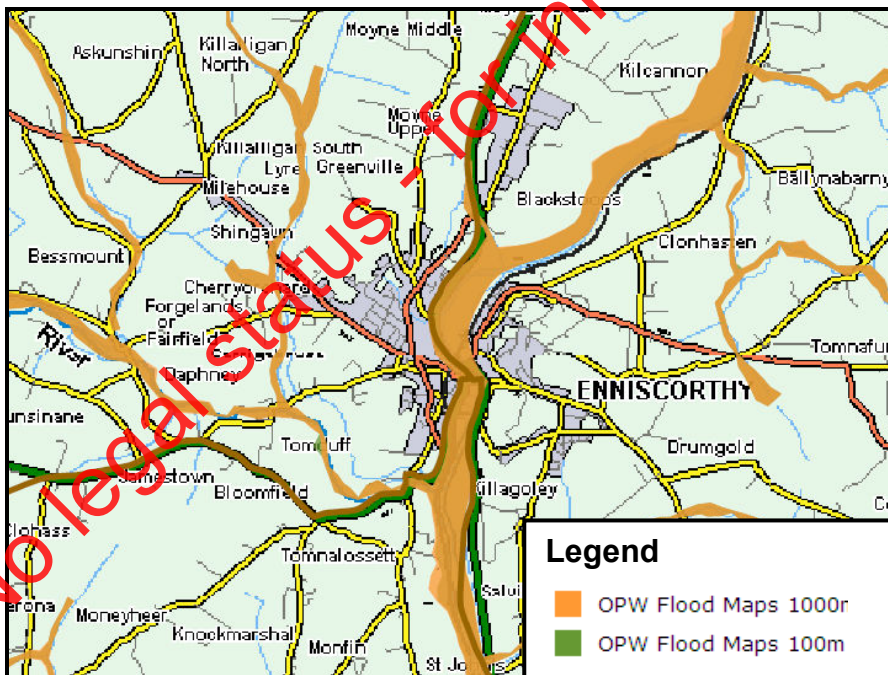


Source: www.floodmaps.ie

Map 14: Flood Zones in the Plan Area (JBA Maps)



Map 15: Flood Zones in the Plan Area (draft PFRA Maps)



Flood Relief Scheme

An EIS was carried out by Royal Haskoning on behalf of the OPW on the preferred design for the Flood Relief Scheme in 2009. The EIS incorporated an Appropriate Assessment, which concluded that sufficient mitigation measures should ensure that

only a minor short-term impact occurs and this would not adversely affect the integrity of the cSAC. In the long term the Scheme will provide additional habitat for many of the cSAC interest species.

An addendum to the EIS was prepared in 2012 following revisions to the proposed Scheme. The revisions included incorporating glass walls into the scheme in order to reduce the adverse visual and landscape character impacts associated with the proposed scheme and other minor design amendments.

The scheme now requires detailed design, the procurement of consultants for which is due to commence shortly (March 2013). Once detailed design is complete the EIS will be finalised and submitted to the Minister as appropriate.

The Flood Relief Scheme, if implemented, will reduce the extent of flooding and its associated damage in Enniscorthy and its environs. Although a number of minor negative short-term impacts are identified, there are significant positive impacts for many elements of the human and natural environment that would arise from the proposed scheme being implemented.

Key aspects of the scheme include:

- Excavation measures (dredging, widening and diverting)
- Installation of dedicated flood-debris trap
- Construction of flood defence walls
- Raising of road and/or ground levels
- Removal of specific obstructions including the removal of Seamus Rafter Bridge and its replacement with a bridge downstream of the Riverside Park Hotel
- Flood defence measures
- Lowering the river bed under the bridges
- Pumping storm waters from behind flood defences

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) was carried out in conjunction with the preparation of the Plan in accordance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG & OPW, 2009). The SFRA includes a justification test for the selected land uses in identified flood zone areas. Applications for development in the flood zone areas, where relevant, will be required to be accompanied by an appropriate site specific flood risk assessment.

Climate Change

Climate Change is recognised as the most serious and threatening global environmental problem. The changes are not limited to increased average temperatures or warmer weather – they also mean more extreme and unstable weather conditions, more storms and floods, more droughts and more coastal erosion - as well as warmer weather in parts of the world.

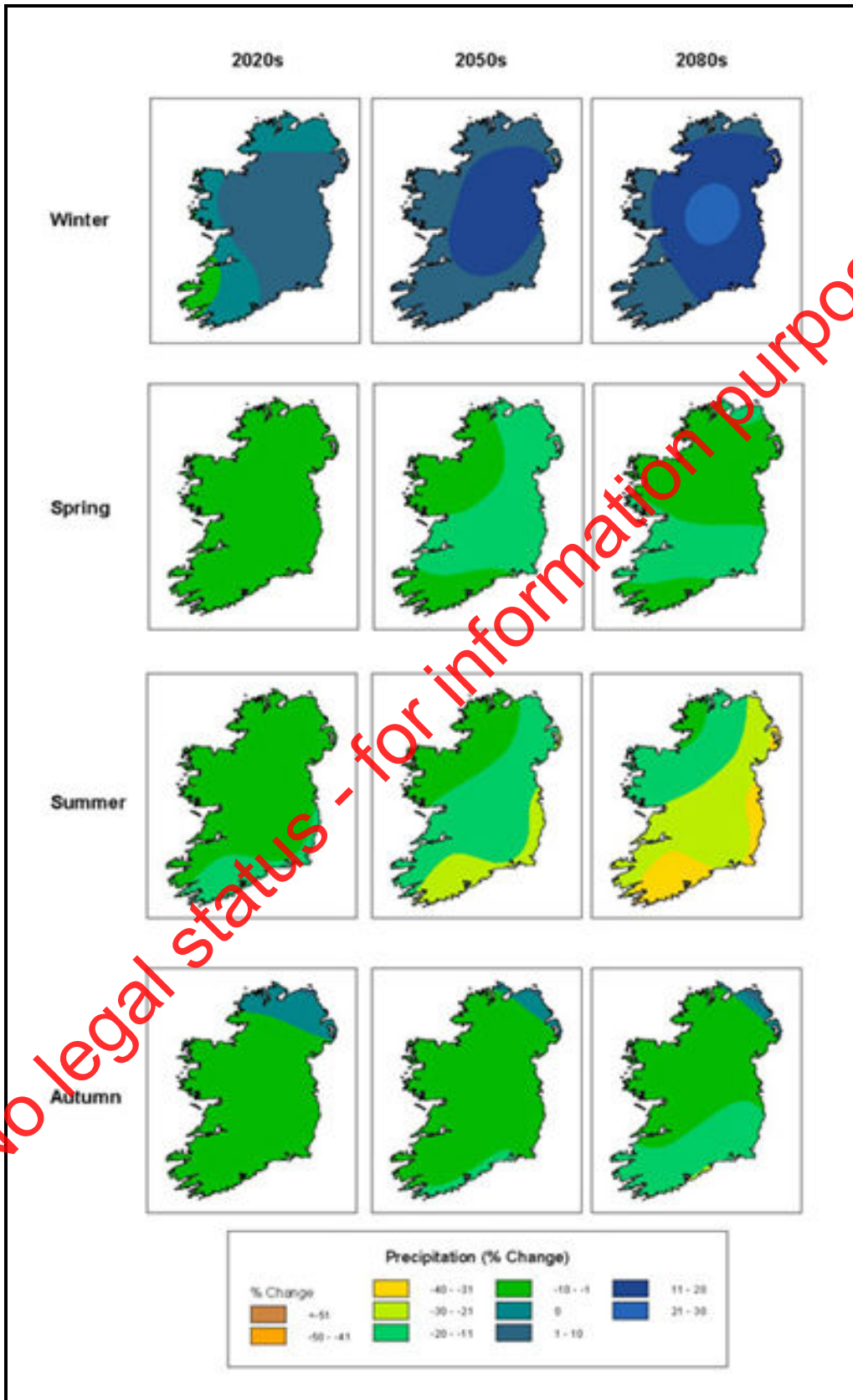
Maps produced by the Irish Climate Analysis and Research Units at National University Ireland Maynooth (Maps 16 and 17 below) show that, if predicted climate change occurs, we can expect increases in precipitation for winter and decreases for all other seasons. Ireland can also expect changes in temperature with seasonal increases of 0.5-1°C within the coming years. This trend will continue for the coming century and it is important that policies and plans take this into account. This may have considerable effects on Enniscorthy, not just the direct effects like increases in flooding, but also indirect effects e.g. changes in agriculture in the surrounding area due to changes in the growing season and impacts on biodiversity.

The River Slaney (Enniscorthy) Drainage Scheme Environmental Impact Statement (OPW, February 2009) states that the OPW took account of climate change by taking an estimated 15% expected increase in flood peaks. The EIS presents the calculated flood area for the 2050 (design year incorporating climate change) 100 Year flood event. The EIS states that present conditions in the south-east of Ireland would be significantly impacted if the expected 2050 Climate Change Scenario actually occurs. The frequency of flooding within Enniscorthy will increase from about once in 15 years to once in 7 years (i.e. from an expected three to seven events in a

50-year period). There would also be an increased likelihood of very severe events. This implies a corresponding increase in both the frequency and magnitude of extreme flow velocities both within the river and along the floodplain.

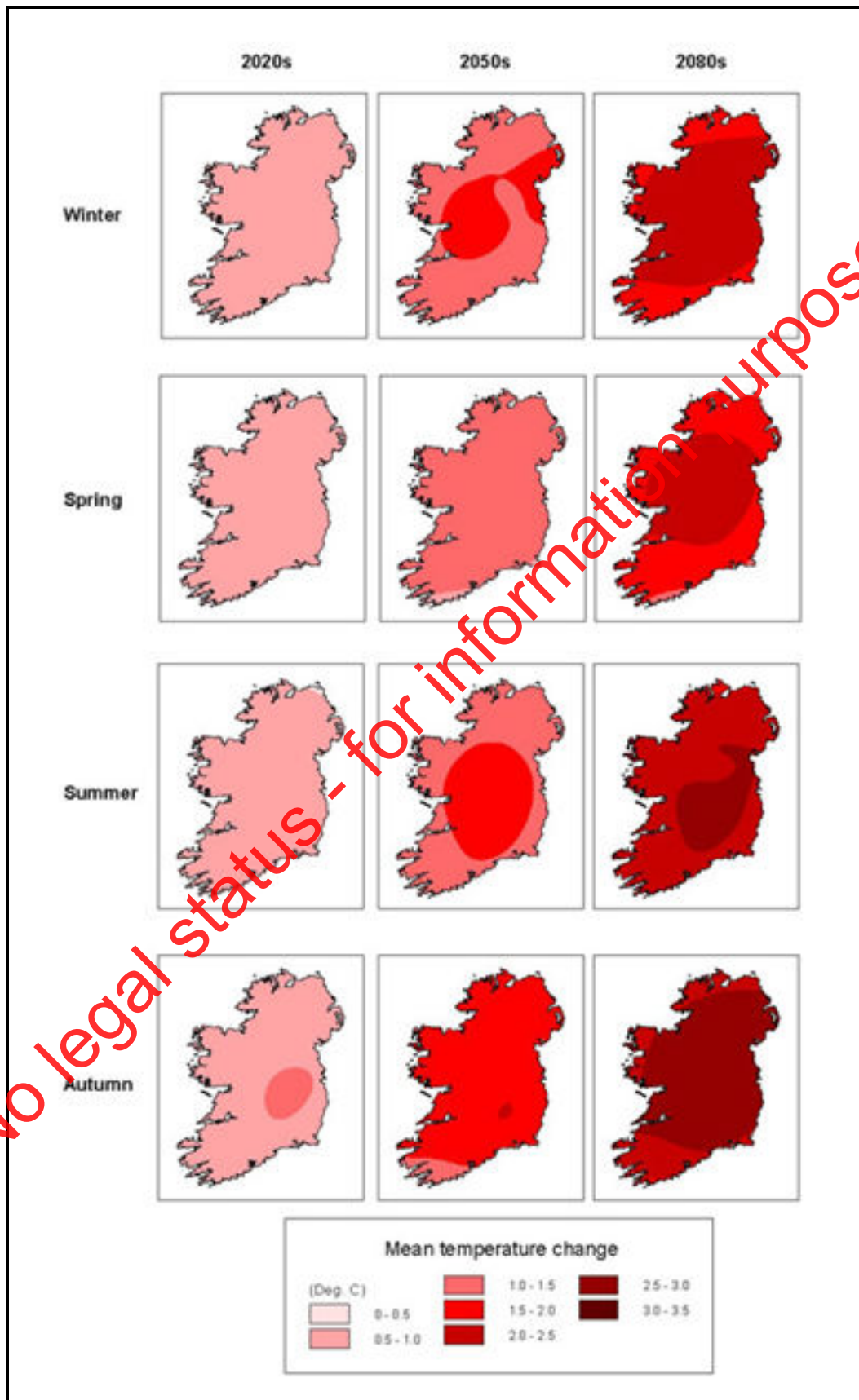
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Map 16: Precipitation Change



Source: <http://icarus.nuim.ie/data>

Map 17: Temperature Change



Source: <http://icarus.nuim.ie/data>

Ireland ratified the Kyoto Protocol on the 31st May, 2002 and agreed to a target of limiting its greenhouse gas emissions to 13% above 1990 levels by the first commitment period 2008–2012. A National Climate Strategy 2007-2012 was published which showed, sector by sector, how the 2008-2012 commitment was to be met by a range of measures which collectively would cause a reduction in Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions. This included measures to increase energy supply from renewable energy sources, improved energy efficiency in buildings and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in the transport sector as well as measures for the agricultural, forestry and waste sectors.

The National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (DECLG 2012) provides the policy context for a strategic national adaptation response to climate change in Ireland. Under the Framework, the relevant Government departments, agencies and local authorities have been asked to commence the preparation of sectoral and local adaptation plans and to publish drafts of these plans by mid-2014. Local authorities are required to integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation considerations in the preparation of development plans. Existing development plans must also be varied if climate change is not adequately addressed. The Government is currently preparing guidelines for integrating adaptation into development plans as well as guidance on adaptation proofing of Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Renewable Energy

The development of renewable energy is central to overall energy policy in Ireland. In 2007 the EU agreed new climate and energy targets 20-20-20 by 2020. This includes a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 levels, 20% energy efficiency and 20% of the EU's energy consumption to be from renewable sources by 2020. In 2009, the Renewables Directive (2009/28/EC) was implemented to establish the basis for the achievement of the 20% renewable energy target across the electricity, transport and heat sectors. Under the terms of the Directive each Member State is set a target which will contribute to the overall EU goal. Ireland's target is that 16% of all energy consumed across the three sectors is to be from renewable sources by 2020.

The National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP)(DCENR, 2010) sets out Ireland's strategic approach and measures to achieve this target which includes:

- 40% electricity consumption from renewable sources by 2020.
- 10% electric vehicles by 2020.
- 12% renewable heat by 2020.

The Government is also looking beyond 2020 in terms of the significant opportunities to develop Ireland's abundant offshore renewable energy resources, including offshore wind, wave and tidal energy, recognising that these offer rich (export) potential over the coming decades. A Draft Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDP) has been published. East Coast - South is identified for wind and tidal development.

A Strategy for Renewable Energy 2012-2020 was also published in May 2012. This Strategy recognises the importance of renewable energy for the delivery of a competitive, secure and sustainable energy supply and highlights the opportunities for job creation in the renewable energy sector. The Strategy sets out a number of measures and actions to maximise the economic potential of renewables: increasing onshore and offshore wind, building a sustainable bio-energy sector, fostering research and development in renewables such as wave and tidal, growing sustainable transport and building robust and efficient smart energy networks.

The Wind Energy Strategy for County Wexford, contained in Volume 5 of the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019, identifies areas of the county where wind farm developments are permitted in principle or open for consideration based on wind speed, access to the electricity and transmission grids and avoidance of adverse impacts on designated sites. This does not include land within or adjacent to the plan area. However, the Strategy does include an objective to facilitate, where appropriate, small scale wind energy development projects in urban areas, industrial estates, business parks and small community-based proposals, subject to compliance development management standards.

The Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019 also includes objectives to promote the development of bioenergy, wave and tidal energy, solar power, hydro energy, geothermal energy and micro renewable energy.

3.7.2 Current Issues and Threats

- A number of properties within Enniscorthy town centre that suffer damage when flooding occurs are old buildings in the form of terraced residential streets or commercial properties, some of which are included on the Record of Protected Structures. Newer buildings have generally been designed to withstand the highest known flood levels. However, with expected sea level rise (associated with climate change) and the tidal influence present in the Slaney at Enniscorthy, these levels may be exceeded. Furthermore, with more extreme weather conditions and the predicted increase in precipitation, pluvial flooding may become more of an issue for the inhabitants of Enniscorthy.
- Flooding can have serious negative impacts for the environment including soil and bank erosion, damage to vegetation, impacts on water quality, habitats and flora. These can all have devastating knock-on effects for other negatively impacting environmental issues e.g. fish kills, spread of invasive species etc. Furthermore, the flooding of wastewater treatment plants can have serious adverse effects on the receiving environments.
- Development can exacerbate the problems of flooding by accelerating and increasing surface water run-off, altering watercourses and removing floodplain storage. It is now recognised that flood risk management must be treated as a central issue in planning and development. Floodplains have a valuable function in attenuating and/or storing floodwater and through their ability to convey floodwater in a relatively controlled and safe way. Areas of floodplain and wetlands should therefore be recognised and preserved as natural defences against flood risk.
- The proposed Flood Relief Scheme, if completed, will reduce the extent of flooding and its associated damage in Enniscorthy and its environs.

3.7.3 Likely Evolution in the Absence of the Plan

In the absence of the Plan, flood risk could be increased through inappropriate development on flood plains, the removal of natural flood plain storage and the absence of adequate drainage systems in new developments. Increased flood risk would pose a significant threat to water quality, biodiversity and human health.

The Plan encourages the integration of land use and transport in order to minimise the use of road transport and promote the use of alternative forms of transport such as bus, rail, cycling and walking. In the absence of the Plan, sustainable mobility objectives which contribute to Ireland's target for reduced greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector may not be implemented in the area.

3.8 Material Assets

Material assets are taken to include infrastructure and utilities including railways, roads, water supply and wastewater treatment facilities. They may also include social infrastructure (e.g. schools and hospitals) and cultural, sports and recreational infrastructure (e.g. parks, museums and libraries).

3.8.1 Baseline Description

Rail

Enniscorthy is strategically located on the Dublin to Rosslare railway line which operates daily passenger services. The retention of the railway service is essential in contributing to a sustainable transportation strategy and providing an alternative form of transport to the private car.

Road

Enniscorthy is strategically located on the N11 and N30 national primary roads. The N11 forms part of the developing Euroroute E01 (Larne-Belfast-Dublin-Rosslare Harbour). The N30 connects the town to New Ross where it joins with the N25. The N80 also connects the town to Carlow, while the R702 connects the town with Kilkenny City. The Council recognises that the provision of roads infrastructure is an essential element of transport provision providing inter-urban links.

The Enniscorthy Bypass Scheme comprises approximately 28 km of new motorway from the end of the Gorey Bypass to the townland of Scurlockbush, south of Enniscorthy. The scheme also includes an 8 km N30 bypass to the west of Enniscorthy and a 4 km N80 link road which will connect the N80 at Scarawalsh to the new M11. The Scheme will bypass Ferns, Camolin and Enniscorthy and will incorporate a new bridge crossing of the River Slaney north of Enniscorthy. The Government announced an infrastructure stimulus package in 2012 which includes the construction of this route. It is expected to proceed in 2014.

Water Supply

Water is abstracted from the River Slaney at Clonhaston and pumped to the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) at Templeshannon. The WTP has a design capacity of 4,300m³/day and current volume abstracted at Clonhaston is circa 3,700m³/day. The Council has a licence to abstract 9,090m³/day. A supplementary supply of ca. 600m³/day is abstracted from a borehole at Edermine.

Wastewater Treatment

The Enniscorthy WWTP is near capacity. The WWTP has a design capacity of 16,500 P.E. with current loading estimated at 16,000 P.E. A second treatment plant at Killagoley has a design capacity of 800 P.E. with current loading estimated at 1,350 P.E. Both WWTPs are licenced by the EPA.

An upgrade to the Enniscorthy WWTP is due to commence in 2014 and is expected to be completed in 2016 (subject to approval of contract documents from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government and funding being available). The new plant will have a design capacity of 30,000 P.E. and will provide secondary treatment with nitrogen and phosphorous removal which will have positive impacts for water quality and the Slaney River Valley SAC. The upgrade includes for the provision of thickening facilities for sludge generated at the WWTP and also for sludge imported from other smaller WWTPs in County Wexford. It is expected that the Killagoley plant will be decommissioned once the upgrade is complete.

Social Infrastructure

There are currently nine schools in the town: four primary schools, one special primary school and four secondary schools. Existing facilities at St. John's Community Hospital include a 116 bed nursing home, a day care centre and a high support rehabilitation facility. A further high support rehabilitation facility and an intellectual disability facility are due to be completed in early 2013. Enniscorthy Health Centre currently provides primary care. A 'primary medical centre' has also recently been granted permission at Blackstoops.²⁵ The centre, if completed, will provide a one-stop shop for a range of medical and social care services, comprising of facilities for GP's, psychologists, physiotherapists, social workers, occupational therapists and speech and language therapists.

Cultural, Sports and Recreational Infrastructure

Such infrastructure includes the 1798 Centre, Enniscorthy Castle, the town library and a range of open spaces and sporting facilities. An Audit of Community, Arts and Sports Facilities carried out by Wexford County Development Board in 2008 identified a lack of concentration of sports facilities along with community facilities in Enniscorthy. However, significant progress has been made since then with developments including the Presentation Centre, Fair Green, Country Walk, Astro Active Centre at Bellefield and a MUGA at Cluain Dara. The town library was also refurbished and now provides free WiFi. A further MUGA, Eco Park Nature Zone and running track are planned for the town.

3.8.2 Current Issues and Threats

- Many public routes on the outskirts of the town which give access to significant residential developments are without public lighting. The absence of dedicated cycle lanes is also evident in the town.
- It is vital that the planned upgrade to the WWTP progresses to ensure compliance with the WFD.

²⁵ The Government has announced plans for €115 million for two bundles of primary care centres which will be progressed by way of Public Private Partnership. Enniscorthy is not one of the 35 potential locations for a primary care centre which has been identified by the Minister for Health.

- It is important as the town grows that adequate social infrastructure is in place to meet the needs of existing and future residents and that a variety of recreational facilities and open spaces are available and accessible to all members of the community.

3.8.3 Likely Evolution in the Absence of the Plan

In the absence of the Plan, issues such as future water demand, wastewater treatment and waste management would not be comprehensively assessed resulting in a poor level of service provision. Inadequate infrastructure and service provision would restrict industrial and economic growth, thus affecting employment opportunities. The effects of wastewater generated as a result of future developments, if unmitigated, could also cause the deterioration of water quality and adversely impact on biodiversity and human health.

Future demand for additional water supply and associated infrastructure would be difficult to determine in the absence of industrial zoning objectives. The zoning objectives give an idea of the likely future uses and their location. Adequate water supply and the provision of necessary infrastructure to deliver this supply are vital to attract new industry to the town.

In the absence of the Plan, there would be no policies and objectives for the provision/upgrading of junctions, footpaths and public lighting along existing routes and for the provision of new link roads which are necessary to serve new greenfield development and improve permeability in the area.

There would also be no policies and objectives for the provision of community facilities in tandem with new development.

3.9 Cultural Heritage

3.9.1 Baseline Description

The heritage of County Wexford is a unique resource providing us with a cultural identity and defining the society which we live in. Heritage not only helps form our identity but also teaches us lessons from the past and brings economic benefits to

the region by providing scenic landscapes, vernacular architecture and historic monuments for the tourist. Enniscorthy is an historic town and is fortunate in that many aspects of its cultural heritage have been retained over time. As a town steeped in history it boasts a number of both regionally and nationally important archaeological sites. The great variety of architecture found throughout the town and its environs highlights its strategic importance throughout different periods in history.

Archaeology

The National Monuments Acts 1930-2004 provide for the protection of the archaeological heritage in Ireland. Monuments protected under the Act include prehistoric monuments, and any monuments and places associated with commercial, cultural, economic, industrial, military, religious or social history. The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), which was established under Section 12 of the National Monuments Act 1994, is a statutory list of all known archaeological monuments in Ireland. Table 10 shows Recorded Monuments within and up to ca. 100 metres from the plan boundary.

Table 10: Recorded Monuments within and up to 100 metres of the Plan Area

RMP No.	Description	Townland
WX020-008	Moated site	Clavass
WX020-017	Moated site	Moyne Upper
WX020-018	Enclosure	Moyne Upper
WX020-030	Cist	Enniscorthy
WX020-033001	Enclosure	Clonhasten
WX020-033002	Excavation – miscellaneous	Clonhasten
WX020-033003	Burnt mound	Clonhasten
WX020-066	Ring-ditch	Clavass
WX020-031	Historic town	Enniscorthy, Templeshannon

Within the Historic Town Recorded Monument (WX020-031) there are a number of archaeological sites/features/objects which are identified on www.archaeology.ie.

These are shown in Table 11 below.

Table 11: Archaeological Sites/Features/Objects within the Historic Town

Ref. No.	Description	Notes
WX020-031001	Church	Romanesque parish church of Templeshannon
WX020-031002	Religious House – Fransican Friars	
WX020-031003	Castle-tower	Rectangular building with three circular corner towers originally
WX020-031004	Church	St. Mary's
WX020-031005	Graveyard	St. Mary's
WX020-031006	Bullawn Stone	Located in the nave of St. Senan's Church
WX020-031007	Well	Stone-lined well (diam. 0.92m) to a depth of c. 18m Preserved in situ beneath a modern structure (Treacy's Hotel)
WX020-031008	Tannery	Preserved in situ beneath a modern structure
WX020-031009	Graveyard	St. Senan's Church
WX020-031010	Tannery	Post-medieval tannery
WX020-031011	Cross (present location)	Latin cross from Raheenlusk
WX020-031012	Cross (present location)	Latin cross from Killanduff
WX020-031013	Cross –slab (present location)	From the Church at Begerin
WX020-031014	Ogham Stone (present location)	Recovered from an unknown location on the Great Saltee Island
WX020-031015	Font (present location)	Font from Killabeg Church
WX020-031016	Cross – inscribed stone	From the Killell Church (WX036-012003) now at County Museum

There are also some newly identified sites within and adjacent to the plan area which are not yet included on the RMP. These are shown in Table 12 below.

Table 12: Newly Identified Sites

RMP No.	Monument	Townland
WX020-070	Architectural feature	Enniscorthy
WX020-074	Burnt Mound	Clonhaster
WX020-075	Burnt Mound	Clonhaster

The windmill on Vinegar Hill (WX 020-032) is marked 'delisted' on the RMP. However, it is identified as a National Monument in State guardianship (National Monument No. 392) which means it is afforded protection under the National Monuments Acts. 'National Monument' is defined as a monument or the remains of a monument, the preservation of which is a matter of national importance by reason of its historical, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest. The windmill is situated on the summit of Vinegar Hill overlooking the River Slaney approximately 700m to the west of Enniscorthy Town. It is described as a cylindrical tower surviving to the first floor with a single doorway, rebuilt in brick, and three slit windows on the first floor.²⁶ The Windmill has huge cultural and historical significance to the town of Enniscorthy as it is seen as the nucleus of the Battle at Vinegar Hill in the 1798 Rebellion.

Table 13: National Monuments in State Ownership of Guardianship

No.	Monument	Townland	Status	RMP No.
392	Windmill on Vinegar Hill	Templeshannon	Guardianship	WX020-032

The battlefield at Vinegar Hill is hugely important in terms of Enniscorthy's cultural heritage. It had a strategic military role in the 1798 Rebellion and was the location of the largest battle in the rebellion. Battlefields are recognised as having great potential to enable us to better understand momentous occasions in our country's

²⁶ National Monuments Service (www.archaeology.ie)

past. Vinegar Hill is seen to be of high archaeological potential in this regard given the survival of many of the hedgerows and stone walls that were used as protection by the rebels. It is thought that if archaeological surveys were undertaken here there would be a high probability of discovering bullets and material fire from artillery which would enhance our understanding of the location of different troop types and lines of the battle. The probability of discovering mass graves is also high and this could add to our understanding of the aftermath of the battle. Clearly the great potential knowledge gain that the battlefield at Vinegar Hill can offer highlights the importance of its protection and preservation.

The DAHG has also highlighted the potential for terrestrial, riverbank and intra-riverine (underwater) archaeological remains in the plan area. The nature and extent of the archaeological heritage that may be contained within the River Slaney includes fishtraps, quays, landing places, stone steps, logboats and wrecks.

According to Samuel Lewis *A Topographical Directory of Ireland 1837* (Enniscorthy extract), there were two quays in existence along the River Slaney at Enniscorthy, at Templeshannon measuring 450 feet and on the opposite side of the river measuring 500 feet in length. The trade principally consisted of the exportation of agricultural produce, and the importation of coal, timber, slates, iron, salt, and various other commodities, for which its central situation and river navigation to the port of Wexford were very favourable. Large quantities of corn and butter were sent hence by lighters to Wexford, and also by land carriage, by way of New Ross, to Waterford. Several industries are referenced along the river system in and around the town, including a manufactory for coarse pottery at Carley's bridge and a distillery, three breweries, two flour-mills, three tanyards and a rope-factory in the town.

Historic maps and aerial photographs suggest that the area around St. John's Mill has high potential for underwater archaeology. The Urrin River was a vital element for industrial development in that area. However, very little excavation has been carried out in this area to date.



Photo 1: French, Robert. General View Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford. The Lawrence Collection. c. 1865 – 1914. NLI L_CAB_02039

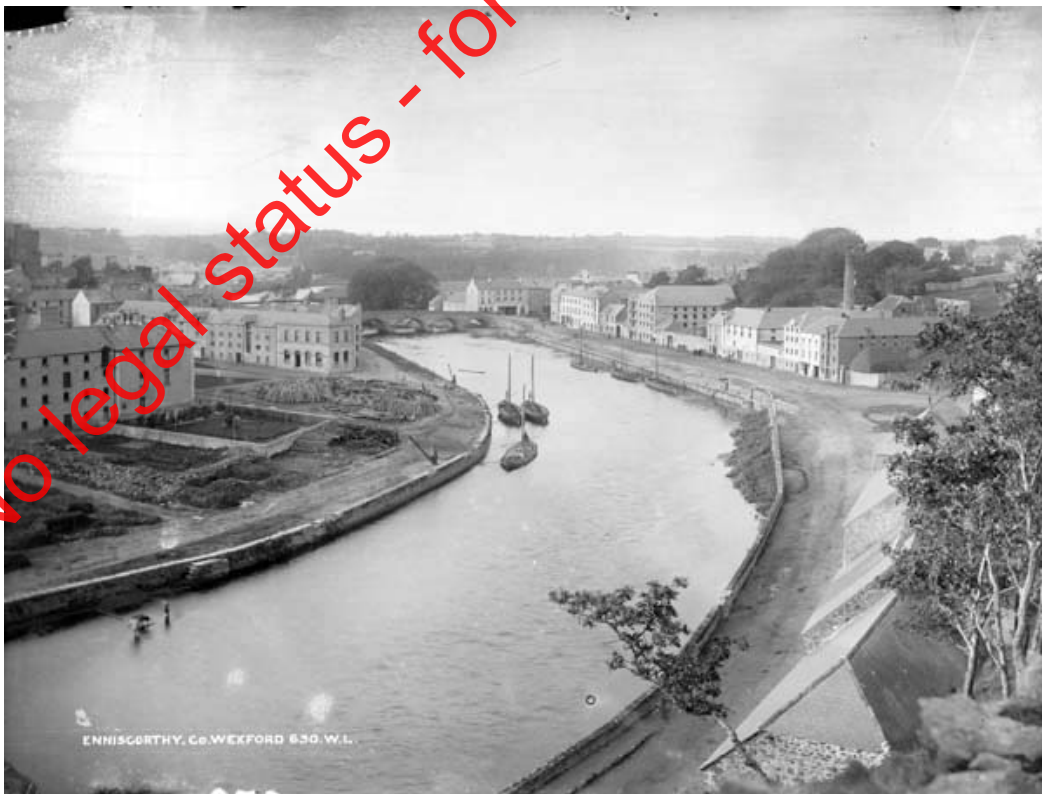


Photo 2: French, Robert. General View Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford. The Lawrence Collection. c. 1865 – 1914. NLI L_ROY_00630



Photo 3: General View Enniscorthy, Enniscorthy, Wexford. Eason Photographic Collection. c. 1900-1940. NLI EAS_3672



Photo 4: The Bridge, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford. Eason Photographic Collection. c. 1900-1940. NLI EAS_3688



Photo 6: French, Robert. Bridge & Vinegar Hill, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford. The Lawrence Collection. c. 1880 – 1900. NLI L_GAB_02050



Photo 7: French, Robert. The River Slaney, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford. The Lawrence Collection. c. 1865 – 1914. NLI L_ROY_00643

A search of the Excavations Bulletin (1970 – 2009) published on www.excavations.ie has revealed several excavations carried out in proximity to the riverbanks in Enniscorthy.²⁷ These are shown in Table 14 below.

Table 14: Excavations in Proximity to Riverbank

Licence No.	Year/ Location	Findings
93E0180	1993:223 Abbey Square	No archaeological strata were encountered during excavation of four test trenches. The overburden consisted largely of loose rubble made up of stone and red brick. Foundation walls of red brick reached a level of 2.64m OD in places. The level at which boulder clay was met was an average of 2.72m OD. The site, despite its name, is situated further north than the Abbey established in 1459. The Abbey site is located in the area of Lett's Brewery where the original bell is said to remain today.
94E129	1994:221 St. Johns	The site was tested prior to construction of eleven houses. It falls within an area of high archaeological potential as demarcated by the OPW. The excavation did not uncover any archaeological stratigraphy.
95E266	1995:274 Templeshannon	Archaeological testing, in the form of machine-dug trial-trenching, was carried out at this site on 25 November 1995. The area in question, the former site of Buttle's bacon factory, falls within the zone of archaeological potential for Enniscorthy town as outlined in the Urban Archaeological Survey for County Wexford. Planning permission for a swimming pool and leisure complex has been obtained for the site, with a condition that archaeological testing take place. Three trenches in all were dug, concentrating on the area where the pool and the service trenches would be located

²⁷ Excluded excavations carried out on Irish Street, Parnell Street, Court Street, Castle Hill, Rafter Street, Main Street, The Shannon and excavations carried out at St Senan's Primary School, Templeshannon

Licence No.	Year/ Location	Findings
		<p>since the vast majority of the building would be constructed at a higher level than the present ground level owing to the danger of flooding, as the site is right beside the Slaney.</p> <p>In each trench difficulties were encountered with breaking through surviving concrete floors, but enough material was removed in each case (to a depth of 1.2m) to show that the underlying material on the site was extremely disturbed, consisting of extant concrete floors and mixed rubble below them (all containing fragments of red brick). In one area in Trench 1 an apparently undisturbed soil was encountered at the very base of the trench, at a depth of 1.2m. It consisted of a soft yellow clay and the rubble layers lay directly on top of it. There were no finds (apart from very modern material) from the site.</p>
96E52	1996:400 Templeshannon	Archaeological testing was carried out on the site of the former Portsmouth Arms Hotel, Enniscorthy, prior to its development as a cinema complex. Nothing of archaeological interest was found in any of the areas opened.
97E0059	1997:596 Railway Square	Three test-trenches were opened on this site. Nothing of an archaeological nature was noted.
97E0374	1997:598 16/17 Templeshannon	<p>Test excavations at this development site revealed nothing of archaeological interest in the vast proportion of the site. In the south-western portion of the site, however, a series of at least 21 pits was noted, regularly laid out, obviously at the same time, and surrounded by grey marl, apparently a waterproofing material. They lay only a few centimetres under the cleared present ground level.</p> <p>Three rows of seven pits ran east–west. Each was lined with well-cut timber planks, four on edge on top of one another, c. 25mm thick. The pits measured c. 1.1m east–west by 1.4m north–south, with 165mm of the marl material between each one running north to south, and</p>

Licence No.	Year/ Location	Findings
		<p>150mm east to west. They were 1.1m deep and completely full of wood-chip-type material which smelt quite strongly, apart from a few stones on top. They also had timber plank bases. When one was completely removed, it was seen to have been dug into the natural soil. It was also noted that once they were disturbed, water began seeping out of them. This site is only c. 120m distant from the River Slaney to the south-west, which can cause flooding after rain, although not usually to the height of this site, which is only barely c. 3m above sea-level at its highest point.</p> <p>The pits were in line with stone walls running along the southern and western boundaries of the site, and may have been tanning pits. It is known that the site had been used as a funeral undertakers until the middle of this century, but it is not known what industry took place here before that. A sawmill was situated to the west of this portion of the site.</p> <p>No artefacts were found in association with the pits, and their presence within a building, parts of whose walls are still in use, indicates that they are probably not of any great antiquity.</p>
97E0202	1997:599 126-29 Templeshannon	<p>The site is situated to the east of Enniscorthy's town centre, in the small suburb of Templeshannon, on the east bank of the River Slaney. It is believed that the earliest settlement in Enniscorthy occurred at Templeshannon, which derived its name from the genitive form of Seanan, an Irish saint. St Seanan founded the first church on the site in the early 6th century. A small village grew up around the church. The present ruined church is a later representation of the earlier church and was only 120m from the site of the proposed development.</p> <p>Test-trenches were opened to establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains in advance of</p>

Licence No.	Year/ Location	Findings
		<p>the commencement of any construction works. There were no stratified archaeological deposits in the test-trenches. Naturally deposited sands and gravels occurred over bedrock, which occurred very close to modern ground level. In some instances the bedrock was only 0.3m below the level of the street. In three test-trenches there was a build-up of some modern rubble and stone fill above the naturally deposited sands and boulder clay.</p> <p>The only find of interest was the presence of a deep circular well. Local residents were previously aware of its presence. The well, circular in shape, was built of subrectangular pieces of shale, had an internal diameter of 0.92m and extended to a depth of c. 18m. It was preserved in situ.</p>
97E0049	1997:600 Templeshannon	Test excavations at this development site revealed nothing of archaeological significance.
03E0434	2003:2017 The Maltings, Barrack Street	<p>A series of trenches was excavated at the site of a former maltings and corn yard previously owned by the Minch Norton company. The site straddles the northern limit of the zone of urban archaeological potential for Enniscorthy town.</p> <p>The excavation uncovered nothing of archaeological significance. The testing exercise suggested that almost the entire site, except those areas occupied by substantial stone-built structures, had been subjected to extensive ground reduction in the past and that reinforced concrete grain bins extended to a depth of 4m below the existing ground level in several areas.</p> <p>The only point of note is that the natural ground level appeared to drop sharply along a north-south line towards the middle of the site. This drop, combined with a change from shale and bedrock in the western half of the site to mixed clayey sands reminiscent of riverbed material in the east, appeared to suggest that at one time in the past the</p>

Licence No.	Year/ Location	Findings
		western bank of the River Slaney may have extended as far inland as the centre of the proposed development site.
05E0150	2005:1633 Barrack Street	The excavation of test-trenches within the proposed development site uncovered no features or deposits of archaeological significance. The testing suggested that the majority of the site had been disturbed during the development and use of the site as a grain store and malting house.
05E0982	2005:1636 Slaney Place	Monitoring of groundworks was carried out. Nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered.
05E0982	2006:2102 Slaney Place	Monitoring of groundworks was undertaken by Catherine McLoughlin at this site in 2005 (Excavations 2005, No. 1636); nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered. In 2006 a small terraced area above and to the rear of the site of the monitoring was tested. The terraced area is adjacent to Enniscorthy Castle. Four trenches were excavated within the footprint of proposed construction impact in the lower of two garden terraces. Bedrock was uncovered at the northern and southern limits of the area excavated. A quarry face appears to have been uncovered at the northern end of Trench 3. The evidence suggests that a quarry pit occupies much of the area excavated. The quarry pit is largely filled with an extensive deposit of metallic quarry waste. Fragments of 16th–17th-century pottery recovered from above the furnace waste suggest an early post-medieval date for the quarry waste. The large quantity of furnace waste suggests extensive industrial activity. The apparent dating of this activity suggests that the quarry pit and the furnace waste are associated with Sir Henry Wallop's extensive rebuild of Enniscorthy Castle in 1587.

The River Slaney (Enniscorthy) Drainage Scheme EIS (OPW, 2009) identifies a number of potential environmental impacts on cultural heritage during construction of the preferred Flood Relief Scheme, for example river widening could expose archaeological horizons or earlier quay structures due to the depth of excavations. Mitigation measures include digging trial pits along the line of the river widening locations prior to construction to identify whether any archaeological features or finds or preservational horizons are present. If structures or archaeological horizons are recorded, excavation and recording may be specified. If no features or archaeological horizons are identified during trial pits, the EIS recommends that a watching brief should be carried out during river widening works. A watching brief would enable chance archaeological finds to be recorded, and if such finds are significant, to provide appropriate flexibility in the scheme construction to enable more detailed archaeological recording (i.e. excavation) to be carried out. All archaeological material would be recorded and its historic context made publicly available. The EIS will be finalised during the detailed design stage of the Flood Relief Scheme.

Architectural Heritage

There are 122 entries on the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) in the Enniscorthy Town and Environs Development Plan 2008-2014; some of these include multiple structures. The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) includes approximately 169 structures in the plan area that are not included on the RPS. The Minister has recommended that these structures be included on the RPS as they are considered to be of special interest. The Council propose to add approx. 87 of the 169 structures in the Draft Plan and an additional 3 structures not identified in the NIAH survey. The remaining 82 of these 169 structures are not proposed for addition at this time, for numerous reasons, including a) they have lost special interest since the time of the Minister's survey, b) they no longer exist, c) they are considered to have sufficient protection in the Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) designated, and d) they are already protected as they are within the curtilage of existing protected structures.

Three ACAs are included in the Draft Plan: Enniscorthy Town Historic Core, Templeshannon and Vinegar Hill and surrounding environs. The protection afforded by the ACA designation includes the exterior of structures – elevations, roof slopes, chimneys and curtilage buildings – not just facades. ACA designation does not give protection to the interior of a building, (although the building may also be a Protected Structure). This protection includes the public domain and features therein.

The so-called "Enniscorthy shopfront" has been recognised as a characteristic particular to the town and is identified by the series of elliptical-headed or round-headed openings, or a combination thereof, defining the commercial frontispiece of a property at street level. In some instances, such as 19-20 Market Square (1844), the shopfronts display a refined construction in a silver-grey granite while further frontages, such as in Mary Street (1790) or 3 Court Street (c.1800) exhibit a simple rendered finish. Although many examples have been lost over time, with the earliest documented redevelopment taking place with the introduction of the Munster and Leinster Bank (between 1905-31) in Market Square, the outlines of further "Enniscorthy shopfronts" remain discernible behind modern frontages such as at the Ulster Bank (c.1900 possibly with pre-1840) in Rafter Street, thereby ensuring the survival of some of this valuable and unique heritage.²⁸

St. Aidan's Cathedral was designed by A.W.N. Pugin. It was built in 1843 and underwent an award winning restoration project in 1994. It is recognised as the largest Irish church designed by Pugin, the outstanding exponent of the Gothic revivalist style of Church architecture.²⁹

The Slaney

The River Slaney is a defining feature of Enniscorthy in that it bisects the town and many of the towns well known features are located on the banks of the river or its tributaries. On the east bank the imposing figure of St. Senans Hospital can be seen while on the west bank the Urrin River joins the Slaney just above St John's House, built on the a medieval monastic site. The castle in Enniscorthy was built by de

²⁸ National Inventory of Architectural Heritage website (www.buildings.ie)

²⁹ www.enniscorchy-chamber.ie

Prendergast in 1240, on a rocky outcrop overlooking the Slaney and it was around this site that the town developed. The castle has recently been restored by Wexford County Council with funding from OPW and is open as a tourist attraction. The 1798 Centre is located just up from the river and tells the story of the Rebellion in Co. Wexford and surrounding counties. The presence of these sites and their location within close proximity to the River Slaney reflects the huge cultural significance the river has for the town.

3.9.2 Current Issues and Threats

- Development of infrastructure, in addition to economic growth and increasing population, can impact on the integrity of sites or features of architectural, archaeological (including underwater archaeology) or cultural heritage interest. The historic character of the town may be compromised by increased development.
- Development which involves material alterations or additions to protected structures can detract from the special character of the structure and its setting and has the potential to result in the loss of features of architectural or historical interest.
- Vinegar Hill and its surrounding area should be granted protection from encroaching development to avoid any negative impact to the cultural landscape.

3.9.3 Likely Evolution in the Absence of the Plan

In the absence of the Plan there would be no framework within which to regulate and control development. Uncontrolled development could lead to soil excavation in areas of archaeological potential, inappropriate developments in Architectural Conservation Areas or inappropriate redevelopment of protected structures. Such developments would not be easily monitored or assessed for potential impacts on subsurface cultural heritage or built heritage. This may result in losses and/or deterioration in cultural heritage. Indirectly, this could impact upon the cultural amenity resource and tourism potential for the town.

3.10 Landscape

3.10.1 Baseline Description

According to the European Landscape Convention (2000), landscapes are parts of the land, as perceived by local people or visitors, which evolve through time as a result of being acted upon by natural forces and human beings. Given the dynamic nature of its compositional factors (natural forces and human interactions with the land) landscapes are ever-changing. A feature that contributes to the overall character of the landscape is human values resulting from historical, cultural, religious and other understandings associated with the landscape.

The Landscape Character Assessment contained in Volume 3 of the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019 identifies Enniscorthy as being located in the 'Lowlands' and 'River Valleys' of County Wexford. Some parts of the town and environs could also be classified as 'Landscapes of Greater Sensitivity.'

Lowlands

The lowlands are characterised by gently undulating lands and high levels of intensive agriculture. The lowlands, in comparison to the uplands, are generally accepted as having a higher capacity to absorb development without it causing significant visual intrusion. However, there are still some areas within the lowlands that are particularly sensitive.

River Valleys

The Slaney River Valley has a very scenic appearance due to the presence of the river and its associated riparian and woodland habitats. It is subject to a number of wildlife designations including its designation as a cSAC and pNHA. River Valleys are identified a separate landscape character unit in the Landscape Character Assessment, which highlights their significant impact on the wider landscape. This landscape character unit is very sensitive to development.

Landscapes of Greater Sensitivity

Vinegar Hill is one of Enniscorthy's greatest assets. It provides extensive views of Enniscorthy, the River Slaney and the surrounding area. It is recognised as having a

significant presence on a county level due to its huge historical reference and its notable punctuation on the lowlands. Due to its exposed, elevated nature and visibility from an extensive surrounding area, Vinegar Hill is deemed as being highly sensitive to development.

On a more general note, the topographical nature of Enniscorthy, with the river valley and its steeply sloping valley sides to the east and west enclosing the historic town centre, make it a landscape of high visual sensitivity. The lands to the west from the Moyne, Greenville, Milehouse and Cherryorchard are located on relatively level land in comparison to the remainder of the town. These lands are bounded by the River Urrin and its tributaries. The area is dominated by housing estates, roads, schools and commercial buildings. The more even level of the land is less sensitive to development within the Enniscorthy area than previously mentioned landscapes.

Views and Prospects

Enniscorthy has a number of views and prospects which contribute to its unique character. These include views along the Slaney River Valley as well as views of streetscapes and the town centre/historic core. There are a number of viewpoints from the west side of the town towards Vinegar Hill. The hill itself also offers extensive views of the surrounding area with the Blackstairs Mountains and the dominant figure of Mount Leinster on the horizon.

It is important as the town is developed that certain views and vistas be protected and enhanced where possible. Inevitably as towns within Ireland develop they change and certain buildings within a streetscape are lost. Enniscorthy is in the unique position of having retained most of its original streetscape. This is one of the towns' greatest assets.

3.10.2 Current Issues and Threats

- The view of Vinegar Hill has been somewhat compromised in the last 100 years with the construction of terraces of social housing back in the first half of the 1900s. There is potential for further gradual encroachment detracting from the character of the Vinegar Hill landscape. The existence of a

telecommunications mast on Vinegar Hill also detracts from this very sensitive historical landscape.

- Brownfield sites and derelict structures within the plan area could also be perceived as having a negative impact on the landscape, most notably in the historic core and along the riverbank.

3.10.3 Likely Evolution in the Absence of the Plan

In the absence of implementing the Plan, future uncoordinated development along the quays would be likely to negatively impact upon the character of the town and riverscape views. Uncoordinated development could also have a significant impact on the landscape of Vinegar Hill and could detract from important views and vistas.

3.11 Difficulties Encountered and Data Gaps

A considerable amount of data was gathered and collated in preparing this Environmental Report. However, there were a number of areas where data did not exist or was not freely available. Specific problems encountered in compiling individual baseline parameters include the following:

- Management Plans for the Natura 2000 Sites in the Zone of Influence of the Plan are not available.
- Detailed information on health problems and issues in the area are not available.
- Extent of GSI sites is not known; no boundaries are available.
- The CERAMs flood risk maps and management plans are not yet available.
- The Noise Action Plan for County Wexford states that further assessment is required in 'hotspot areas' before mitigation measures are identified.
- Information on discharges is limited. Audits are carried out by the Council on a priority basis to monitor compliance of existing licences against their permitted discharge.
- There is no monitoring of air quality in the plan area and the information provided is based on the nearest monitoring station at Johnstown Castle, which is located in a rural area. Although monitoring results show that the current air quality there is 'very good' it is likely that levels of particulate matter in the town are much higher.

- It is uncertain that the Enniscorthy Bypass, which could have significant positive and negative environment effects both during the construction and operation phases, will be completed within the lifetime of the Plan.
- It is uncertain that the Flood Relief Scheme, which could have short term negative impacts on biodiversity but long term positive impacts on flooding, will be completed within the lifetime of the Plan.
- The presence and extent of underwater archaeological features in the River Slaney is uncertain.

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Section 4 – Strategic Environmental Objectives

4.1 Introduction

Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are distinct from the objectives of the Plan although they will often overlap. They are developed from international, national and regional policies which generally govern environmental protection (a list of relevant legislation, plans, policies and programmes is outlined in Section 2). SEOs are used as standards against which the objectives of the Plan can be evaluated in order to highlight those with the potential for environmental impact. They are used as a tool to cross check the objectives of the Plan in order to maximise the environmental sustainability of the Plan. The cross checking process helps to identify objectives that are likely to result in significant adverse impacts, so that alternatives may be considered or mitigation measures may be put in place.

4.2 Strategic Environmental Objectives

The primary source used in formulating the SEOs was Table 4B of the SEA Guidelines (DEHLG, 2004). This list has been amended to give effect to objectives that are considered relevant to the Plan. The use of SEOs fulfils obligations set out in Schedule 2B of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (as amended).

Table 15: Strategic Environmental Objectives

Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	B1	Ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive with regard to the protection of Natura 2000 sites and habitats and species listed under Annexes I and II of the Directive.
	B2	Ensure the protection of habitats and species outside of the designated ecological sites and prevent the loss of ecological networks and stepping stones or parts thereof which provide important connectivity for species, in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.
	B3	Protect aquatic and terrestrial habitats from the spread of invasive species.
Population & Human Health	P1	Protect and enhance people's quality of life based on high quality living, working and recreational environments.
	P2	Reduce the risk of flooding and harm to people, property and the environment.
	P3	Protect human health from hazards or nuisances arising from exposure to incompatible land uses/developments.
	P4	Improve travel choice and accessibility, reduce the need for travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys.
Soil & Geology	S1	Prevent pollution or contamination of soils.
	S2	Maximise the sustainable re-use of brownfield lands and give preference to the re-use of brownfield lands over development of greenfield lands.
	S3	Protect and conserve important geological sites.
	S4	Minimise the amount of waste to landfill.
Water	W1	Maintain or improve the quality of surface water to status objectives as set out in the Water Framework Directive and the South Eastern River Basin Management Plan (2009-2015).
	W2	Prevent pollution and contamination of ground water.
	W3	Promote sustainable water use based on long-term protection of available water resources.
	W4	Maintain and improve the quality of drinking water supplies.

Air	A1	Facilitate measures which aim to reduce all forms of air pollution and reduce dependence on travel by private car.
	A2	Promote energy conservation and the development of renewable energy sources.
Material Assets	MA1	Maintain the quality of, and access to, assets such as open spaces, water resources and all other physical and social infrastructure.
	MA2	Ensure that adequate infrastructure is in place prior to occupation of new development.
Cultural Heritage	C1	Promote the protection and conservation of the cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage.
Landscape	L1	Conserve, maintain and enhance the natural riverside landscape of Enniscorthy.
	L2	Protect and conserve the historical landscape, including Vinegar Hill.

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Section 5 – Alternatives Considered

5.1 Introduction

Article 5 of the of the SEA Directive requires the Environmental Report to consider reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the Plan. Each of the alternatives considered must also be evaluated for its likely significant environmental effects. This section identifies the alternative development strategies considered for the Enniscorthy Town and Environs Development Plan 2014-2020, taking into account higher level strategic policy and the geographical scope of the plan area. The alternative development strategies are evaluated in this section and the preferred development strategy is subsequently outlined. The Core Strategy and objectives of the Plan are based upon the preferred development strategy.

5.2 The 'do-nothing' scenario

The 'do-nothing' scenario is not one of the reasonable alternatives which is required to be considered under the SEA Directive but forms the basis of comparison against which the environmental effects of the Plan will be measured. The do-nothing scenario involves the continuation of existing trends, and identifying the likely effects that this will have on needs and on the environment. Section 3 of this Environmental Report considers the evolution of the environment in the absence of implementing the Enniscorthy Town and Environs Development Plan 2014-2020.

5.3 Development of Alternatives

The SEA Directive requires that reasonable alternatives, taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme are identified, described and evaluated for their likely significant effects on the environment. The alternatives should be reasonable, realistic and capable of implementation. They should achieve the SEA objectives, be able to solve existing environmental problems and aim to avoid or mitigate potential environmental issues. In some cases the preferred strategy will combine elements from the various alternatives considered.

The population targets for Enniscorthy Town and Environs are set by the SERPGs and the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019. As such, strategic options are limited and the alternatives that were considered for the Plan generally focus on the location of new development.

5.3.1 Alternative Scenario 1

The first scenario would see the zoning objectives of the Enniscorthy Town and Environs Development Plan 2008-2014 carried forward with approximately 380 ha. of undeveloped land zoned for residential use or a mixture of residential and other uses and approximately 89 ha. of undeveloped land zoned for industrial and commercial uses. This scenario could see further sporadic housing developments on the outskirts of the town with poor linkages to the town centre, community facilities and public transport nodes. Opportunities for infill development and renewal of derelict sites in the town centre might not be taken up as greenfield development would be likely pursued. There could also be significant and widespread deterioration of the character of the edges of the town. There is also a concern that existing industrial zoned land may not be sufficient for prospective investors wishing to locate in the town due to ownership/ configuration/ access issues.

5.3.2 Alternative Scenario 2

The second scenario involves the redevelopment and renewal of brownfield sites within the town centre and surrounding areas. These brownfield sites, together with the unfinished housing estates, would be used to accommodate future population growth in the town. Developments within flood risk areas would be subject to site specific flood risk assessment. This strategy promotes the development of a compact urban form that would maximise the efficient use of land and infrastructure. It also targets derelict sites and aims to improve the overall townscape. The drawback with this scenario is the availability and adequacy of these lands to accommodate a major employer if they looked to set up in the town. In addition, the majority of brownfield sites are located in the town centre area and are more suited to mixed use developments. This scenario could therefore result in an inadequate supply of suitable and available land for new housing, industrial and commercial developments envisaged for the town.

5.3.3 Alternative Scenario 3

The third scenario involves the sequential development of greenfield lands but development of brownfield sites would also be encouraged. Enough residential land would be zoned to accommodate the population target. Greenfield lands in/adjacent to the centre of the plan area would be zoned over edge of town sites in order to create a compact urban form with efficient use of infrastructure and services. Enough land would also be zoned to accommodate a wide range of small, medium and large scale industrial and commercial activities at accessible locations. Existing circulation routes would be connected by a small number of new linking routes with pedestrian and cycle linkages a key consideration in any development. Only water compatible uses would be considered on greenfield lands within the flood risk zone. On brownfield sites, development proposals would be subject to a site specific flood risk assessment.

5.4 Outline of the Reasons for Selecting the Alternatives

The population target for Enniscorthy is consistent with the population targets set out in the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019 and the SERPGs. It is the responsibility of the Planning Authority to ensure that sufficient land is zoned to accommodate growth associated with this target. Enniscorthy is also identified as a Larger Town in the SERPGs. These towns are targeted for growth and are considered to be good locations for economic development. For this reason adequate lands must be made available for future economic activity. Hence the zoning of greenfield lands was considered in alternative scenarios 1 and 3.

There are a number of under-utilised/brownfield sites in Enniscorthy Town. National and regional guidelines prescribe that towns should develop in a consolidated manner and renewal of under-utilised sites should be encouraged. For this reason the redevelopment of brownfield sites was considered in alternative scenario 2.

5.5 Evaluation of Alternatives

The SEOs set out in Section 4 were used to evaluate each of the three alternatives considered, to determine how the alternatives would likely affect the status of the SEOs. This evaluation was carried out in matrix format and is shown in Table 16

below. All potential conflicts and impacts identified are those which will occur if unmitigated.

Table 16: Evaluation of Alternatives

	No Significant Impact	Potential Positive Impact	Potential Negative Impact	Uncertain Impact
Alternative Scenario 1	P3, S1, S3, S4, W1, W2, W3, W4, A2, M1, M2, C1, L2		P2, P4, S2, A1, L1	B1, B2, B3, P1
Alternative Scenario 2	B2, P2, S1, S3, S4, W1, W2, W3, W4, A2, M1, M2, C1, L2	P4, S2, A1, L1	P3	B1, B3, P1
Alternative Scenario 3	P2, P3, S1, S3, S4, W1, W2, W3, W4, A2, M1, M2, C1, L2	P1, P4, S2, A1, L1		B1, B2, B3

5.6 Reason for Choosing the Preferred Alternative

It was considered that alternative scenario 1 would provide excess lands required to meet the population target for Enniscorthy Town and Environs. In addition it was considered to have the most potential negative impacts on the SEOs. Alternative scenario 2 would not provide sufficient lands to accommodate the projected growth during the plan period. Alternative 3 was therefore chosen as the preferred alternative and forms the basis of the development strategy for the Plan.

This strategy promotes the development of brownfield sites but also allows for the sequential development of greenfield lands subject to the provision of appropriate infrastructure on a planned and phased basis. Greenfield lands closest to the town centre are zoned in order to create a compact urban form with efficient use of infrastructure and services. Sufficient land is zoned to accommodate growth allocated to the area. This is considered the most sustainable alternative having regard to the population targets for the area and the potential for economic growth in the town. It is also consistent with the SERPG's urban consolidation priorities for larger towns; where sufficient development opportunities within the urban area are not available, consider appropriate extension options having regard to infrastructural constraints and the availability of community services.

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Section 6 – Likely Significant Effects of Implementing the Plan

6.1 Introduction

SEA legislation requires the Environmental Report to include the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the Plan. This includes secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects. The effects should be shown on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above. This section identifies the effects on the environment of implementing the objectives of the Enniscorthy Town and Environs Development Plan 2014-2020.

6.2 Methodology for Assessment and Determination of Significance of Effects

This section provides an evaluation of the objectives of the Plan against the SEOs contained in Section 4 of this report. The results are shown in a matrix format in Table 17. The likely significant effects of implementing the Plan were established through the identification of conflicts between the two sets of objectives. Where conflicts arose, opportunities to prevent, reduce or offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the Plan were examined and readdressed, and if necessary, some objectives were improved with measures to mitigate the effects on the environment.

The assessment of each objective is assigned a symbol:

- + Significant beneficial impact
- ? Uncertain impact
- X Significant adverse impact
- O No relationship, or insignificant impact

6.3 Likely Significant Effects

Assessment of the key objectives shows that, in the main, these objectives will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Many of the objectives will have positive effects, setting out to manage and protect aspects of the environment such as landscape, water, human health, heritage resources and management of flood risk.

Where uncertain impacts are identified, further project level assessment may be required. Such assessments cannot be made at the strategic level, as the type, scale and location of development which may be proposed within the lifetime of the Plan is uncertain.

The finding of no significant impacts or significant beneficial impacts for individual objectives does not preclude the requirement for AA and EIA screening, architectural and archaeological impact assessment and/or visual assessment at the project level.

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Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)								Comments
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1	L1-L2	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote sustainable economic development. Promote sustainable tourism development which builds on the unique characteristics and distinctive elements of the town's history, culture and environment. Develop a range of community facilities and amenities which are socially inclusive and accessible by all members of the community. Enhance the urban environment by promoting the redevelopment of brownfield sites and ensuring high quality design in new developments. Protect residential and amenity lands from encroachment by incompatible types of development. Manage flood risk by actively pursuing flood risk management strategies and sustainable urban drainage systems. Protect the environment for a green future. 	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	
	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	
	O	+	O	O	O	+	O	O	
	O	+	+	O	O	O	O	+	
	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	
	+	+	+X	+	O	O	O	O	
	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	Flood risk can negatively impact on soil through increased run-off and siltation in alluvial areas. Eroded soil washed into rivers during heavy rainfall causes an increase in nutrients which can lead to eutrophication of rivers and lakes. Therefore, flood risk management would have likely positive effects on the SEOs for soil. However, flooding can also have a positive impact on soils bringing nutrients and silt which good soils are composed of. Therefore, flood risk management could also have likely negative effects on SEOs for soil.
Chapter 4 Sustainable Housing									
Objective SH01 To ensure that all new housing developments represent 'Sustainable Neighbourhoods' which are inclusive and responsive to the physical or cultural needs of those who use them, are well located relative to the social, community, commercial and administrative services which sustain them and are integrated with the community within which the development will be located.	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	
Objective SH02 To ensure, in so far as possible, that all households have access to good quality housing which is appropriate to the circumstances	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)								Comments	
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1	L1-L2		
of the household and is located in their particular community of choice.										
Objective SH03 To facilitate and assist with the provision of services for the community in tandem with new residential development, in particular, schools, crèches and other education and childcare facilities.	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	
Objective SH04 To ensure that new housing developments contribute to the social and recreation infrastructure of the community in which they will be located either through the provision of amenities or through financial contribution.	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Objective SH05 To ensure that new housing development minimises the use of natural resources and impacts on natural assets. The location of residential developments should maximise the use of sustainable modes of transport such as walking, cycling and the use of public transport so as to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	
Objective SH06 To encourage individual dwellings and their associated services to maximise the use of natural energy sources and reduce the use of water, through good design and layout.	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	
Objective SH07 To implement the objectives of the Wexford Joint Housing Strategy 2013-2019 and any subsequent strategy in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the Housing (Miscellaneous) Act 2009 and having regard to the amendments to Government policy outlined in the Housing Policy Statement issued in June 2011.	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Objective SH08 To require that 20% of all land zoned for residential use, or for a mixture of residential and other uses, be reserved for the purposes of Section 94(4)(a)(i) and 94 (4)(a)(ii) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) with the exception of the exemption(s) provided for in Section 4 of the Wexford Joint Housing Strategy 2013-2019 and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Objective SH09 To review the Wexford Joint Housing Strategy 2013-2019 when Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) is revised to take account of new economic and policy contexts.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)								Comments	
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1	L1-L2		
<p>Objective SH10 To ensure that housing is available for people of different income types. This shall be achieved through the housing support system and through the planning system which will ensure that an appropriate mix of units is provided in appropriate locations.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
<p>Objective SH11 To ensure that sufficient and suitably located land is zoned to satisfy the housing requirements as set out in the Core Strategy and the Wexford Joint Housing Strategy 2013-2019.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
<p>Objective SH12 To encourage the occupation of vacant houses, in particular in the town centre, by facilitating works to modernise such houses and where appropriate, consider on a case-by-case basis, the application of relaxed development management standards.</p>	○	+	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	
<p>Objective SH13 To have regard to the Managing and Resolving Unfinished Housing Development: Guidance Manual (DECLG, 2011) when assessing planning applications relating to unfinished housing developments.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
<p>Objective SH14 To adopt a flexible approach to the consideration of planning applications which seek to resolve issues in unfinished housing developments where the proposal would result in substantial environmental or community gain. Such flexibility may include the reconfiguration of open spaces, roads and circulation requirements in these housing developments.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
<p>Objective SH15 To restrict apartment developments generally to town centre locations or suitably located sites adjoining public transport connections. Apartments will not be permitted where there is an over provision of this type of development.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
<p>Objective SH16 To require new apartments to have a minimum internal floor area of 75 sq.m and to comply with all normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 16.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
<p>Objective SH17 To ensure that the specific housing needs of older people are accommodated in a manner appropriate to their specific needs.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)								Comments	
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1	L1-L2		
<p>Objective SH18 To support independent living for older people, to facilitate the provision of specific purpose built accommodation and to facilitate the provision of nursing/care facilities for older people at appropriate locations.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
<p>Objective SH19 To require that accommodation for older people should be located in residential areas or in an area zoned for community well serviced by infrastructure and amenities such as footpath networks, local shops, public transport in order to not to isolate residents and allow better care in the community, independence and access.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
<p>Objective SH20 To have regard to the National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability 2011-2016 and, insofar as possible, having regard to budgetary constraints, implement the strategic aims of this strategy.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
<p>Objective SH21 To ensure that a minimum of 20% of dwellings in all new housing estates of five dwellings or more are suitable to accommodate or are adaptable to provide accommodation for people with disabilities. Planning applications will be required to demonstrate compliance with this objective and to show an accessible route to the residential units from the boundary of the property. Proximity and access to local services must also be considered relative to the units which are accessible.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
<p>Objective SH22 To require an Access Statement to be carried out for significant developments in accordance with Appendix 6 of Buildings for Everyone: A Universal Design Approach (National Disability Authority, 2012).</p>	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
<p>Objective SH23 To support independent living for people with disabilities, to facilitate the provision of specific purpose built accommodation and to facilitate the provision of residential care facilities at appropriate locations.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
<p>Objective SH24 To require that accommodation for people with disabilities be located in residential areas or in an area zoned for community well serviced by infrastructure and amenities such as footpath networks, local shops, public transport in order not to isolate residents and allow better care in the community, independence</p>	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)								Comments	
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1	L1-L2		
and access.										
Objective SH25 To provide for Traveller accommodation in accordance with the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013 and any subsequently adopted programme insofar as possible having regard to budgetary constraints.	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
Objective SH26 To implement, insofar as possible and having regard to budgetary constraints, the actions contained in the South-East Homeless Action Plan 2010-2013 and any subsequently adopted plan.	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
Objective SH27 To ensure the density of residential development is appropriate to the location of the proposed development having regard to the benefits of ensuring that land is efficiently used and is in accordance with the Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas and the accompanying Urban Design Manual-A Best Practice Guide (DEHLG, 2008).	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
Objective SH28 To encourage higher residential densities in the town centre, on brownfield and infill sites close to existing/potential connections to public transport.	○	+	○	○	+	○	○	○	○	
Objective SH29 To ensure that all new housing developments provide a high quality living environment with attractive and efficient buildings which are located in a high quality public realm and which are serviced by well designed and located open spaces.	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
Objective SH30 To promote Universal Design and Lifetime Housing in accordance with best practice and the policies and principles contained in Building for Everyone: A Universal Design Approach (National Disability Authority, 2012) and Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas: Guidelines for Planning Authorities and its companion document Urban Design Manual (DEHLG, 2008).	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
Objective SH31 To require all planning applications for residential development of 10 houses or more to contain a mix of house types. The mix of house types should be appropriate for the housing needs identified in the area where the scheme will be located. This will not apply where it can be demonstrated that there is a need for a particular type of unit and the proposed development meets this need.	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)								Comments		
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1	L1-L2			
<p>Objective SH32 To require all developments over 10 houses to be accompanied by an Urban Design Statement showing how the matters detailed in Chapter 14 Design and Chapter 16 Development Management Standards have been taken into account in the design of the development.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○		
<p>Objective SH33 To encourage infill housing development on appropriate sites subject to compliance with the relevant development management standards in Chapter 16 Development Management Standards.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○		
<p>Objective SH34 To ensure that proposals for infill residential development enhance the character of the area, protect the amenities of adjoining properties, and where relevant, protect the setting of the original building on the site.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○		
<p>Objective SH35 To facilitate the provision of a self contained residential unit for use by a family member in circumstances where the Planning Authority is satisfied that there is a valid case and where the proposal complies with the relevant development management standards in Chapter 16.</p>	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○		
<p>Objective SH36 To consider backland development on appropriate sites where the proposed development will be carried out in manner which will allow for the comprehensive redevelopment of backland so as to secure a co-ordinated scheme. Each planning application for backland development will be considered on its merit and will be subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the relevant development management standards set out in Chapter 16.</p>	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○		
<p>Objective SH37 To consider the development of corner sites or wide side gardens for infill housing. Each planning application will be considered on its merit and will be subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the relevant development management standards set out in Chapter 16.</p>	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○		
Chapter 5 Economic Development											
<p>Objective ED01 To ensure that sufficient and appropriately located lands are zoned for enterprise and employment related development uses and to</p>	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	

No legal status - for information purposes only

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)								Comments	
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1	L1-L2		
<p>protect such land from inappropriate development that would undermine future economic activity or the sustainable development of such areas.</p> <p>Objective ED02 To recognise the different business needs of employees in terms of their site sizes, their requirement for high profile sites, the nature of their activity and their compatibility with adjacent areas. To identify the specific needs of growth industries and to seek to address specific infrastructural or landuse requirements.</p> <p>Objective ED03 To ensure the provision of necessary infrastructure such as roads, sanitary services, housing, telecommunications, energy supply, transport, waste management, community services and amenities on a planned and phased basis in advance of new development where feasible, along with the clearance of derelict land to facilitate new enterprises and existing enterprises wishing to expand subject to compliance with national and international legislation on habitats and water quality.</p> <p>Objective ED04 To promote the town of Enniscorthy with potential investors by highlighting the town's strengths and facilities that are available.</p> <p>Objective ED05 To support and encourage links to education and educational facilities in order to improve access to education, training and skills development and to encourage linkages between educational facilities and industries and economic uses to ensure that skills fostered will match the needs of such business.</p> <p>Objective ED06 To encourage and support research development and innovation in collaboration with educational institutions and development agencies.</p> <p>Objective ED07 To facilitate the provision, in conjunction with other agencies, of enterprise centres and training infrastructure.</p> <p>Objective ED08 To support the provision of an accessible and free WiFi zone in the town centre.</p> <p>Objective ED09 To facilitate and participate in the provision of an adequate and efficient transportation system within the town.</p>	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○		
	○	+	○	○	○	+	○	○	○	Subject to project level screening for AA and EIA
	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	An efficient public transport system would have positive

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)								Comments	
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1	L1-L2		
<p>Objective ED10 To ensure the development of buildings and land for enterprise and employment related uses are of a high standard in terms of their design, layout, siting and the associated signage and infrastructure. Established building lines and boundary treatments should be respected where appropriate and where no apparent building line exists the applicant should discuss the appropriate location for the building with the planning authority.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	impacts on air quality but development of roads, without an efficient public transport system and promotion of cycling and walking, may encourage use of the private car. Both to be provided in tandem.
<p>Objective ED11 To develop the public realm and amenities of Enniscorthy, and to facilitate the provision of adequate and attractive housing so that the quality of life of employees and residents will act as a selling point for investors in the town.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	+	+	
<p>Objective ED12 To promote improvements in the telecommunications infrastructure and broadband facilities in order to attract and facilitate enterprise and employment related uses in the town.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	+	○	○	○	
<p>Objective ED13 To work with state agencies to attract new industries to Enniscorthy and facilitate the expansion of existing industries in Enniscorthy.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
<p>Objective ED14 To promote the development of knowledge based enterprises in the town by ensuring suitable sites are available to facilitate the carrying out of research and development/innovation.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
<p>Objective ED15 To promote the development of incubator units for start up entrepreneurs which provide support and shared facilities in a nurturing environment.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
<p>Objective ED16 To seek to ensure that the impacts of any industry on adjoining uses and the environment are minimised.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
<p>Objective ED17 To work in conjunction with the occupiers of companies along the Old Dublin Road to carry out environmental improvements including the rationalisation of the existing signage, in order to enhance the visual attractiveness of the area.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	+	
<p>Objective ED18 To encourage and facilitate the provision of office development</p>	○	+	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)							Comments		
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1		L1-L2	
<p>within the town centre including in existing vacant buildings, brownfield sites and under-utilised sites and buildings where such services would not detract from the primary retail area and having regard to the objectives in relation to primary and secondary retail streets contained in Appendix 1 in the Retail Strategy. Those with requirements for large floorplates may be accommodated on appropriate zoned land elsewhere.</p> <p>Objective ED19 To promote and encourage the continued development of food production and processing within the town.</p> <p>Objective ED20 To promote and facilitate the development of food incubator units for start up food producers.</p> <p>Objective ED21 To facilitate new development and/ or the conversion of part of a dwelling to an appropriate home-based economic activity, where the dwelling remains as the main residence of the practitioner and the economic use is ancillary to the residential use.</p> <p>Objective ED22 To develop and maximise the tourism potential of Enniscorthy by facilitating the expansion of existing and the provision of new sustainable tourism products, facilities and infrastructure and by protecting and improving the existing heritage and natural assets of the town.</p>	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○		
Chapter 6 Tourism										
<p>Objective TM01 To protect and enhance those natural, built and cultural features that form the basis of the town's tourism industry, including local scenic landscapes, protected views, areas of important wildlife interest and, historic buildings and structures.</p> <p>Objective TM02 To work with Fáilte Ireland, Visit Wexford, the Arts Council and other relevant bodies including National Parks and Wildlife Service to promote and maximise the tourism potential of Enniscorthy, while ensuring the protection of the natural, cultural and built heritage of the area.</p> <p>Objective TM03 To develop and maximise the tourism potential of Enniscorthy by facilitating the expansion of existing and the provision of new diversified sustainable tourism products, facilities and</p>	+	+	○	○	○	○	+	+	○	Subject to project level screening for AA and EIA

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)								Comments	
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1	L1-L2		
Objective TM12 To encourage the provision of indoor and activity based tourism facilities and events which extend the tourism season.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
Objective TM13 To promote and encourage accessible tourism by applying universal design principles, where practicable, to any work or activities.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
Chapter 7 Transport										
Objective T01 To support sustainable transport principles as outlined in Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future: A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009-2020.	○	+	○	○	+	○	○	○	○	
Objective T02 To integrate land use policies and transportation in a manner which reduces reliance on car based travel and promotes more sustainable transport choices.	○	+	○	○	+	+	○	○	○	
Objective T03 To participate and implement any Transport Plan for the county or region.	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	Subject to SEA and AA screening
Objective T04 To guide development to ensure that it is positioned in a location which minimises the need to travel and co-ordinates particular land uses with their accessibility requirements.	○	+	○	○	+	+	○	○	○	
Objective T05 To prepare a Traffic Management Plan for the town and support and implement, where appropriate and subject to resources and funding being available, the recommendations incorporated into the plan.	○	+	○	○	+	+	○	○	○	
Objective T06 To ensure that all proposed plans or projects relating to transportation (including walking, cycling, rail, bus, ports and roads) and any associated improvement works, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, are subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity (defined by the structure and function) of any Natura 2000 site(s) and that the requirements of Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive are fully satisfied. Where the plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site or there is uncertainty with regard to effects, it shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment. The plan or project will	+	○	○	○	○	○	+	○	○	

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)						Comments	
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2		C1
<p>proceed only after it has been ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site or where in the absence of alternative solutions, the project is deemed imperative for reasons of overriding public interest, all in accordance with the provisions of Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Objective T07 To encourage walking and cycling by all sections of the community through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting walking and cycling as sustainable transport modes and healthy recreation activities; Maximising pedestrian and cycle movements between residential areas, town centre, schools, commercial and industrial areas. Promoting cycling and pedestrian friendly development layouts, provide facilities at public transport nodes, plan for and make provision for the integration of cyclist and pedestrian needs when considering new development proposals; Ensuring that cycling and walking facilities are integral to the provision of vehicular traffic facilities; Requiring the provision of drop kerbs at all junctions and central island refuges to facilitate ease of access for elderly and mobility restricted people; Requiring that proposed developments are sited and designed in a manner which facilitates and encourages safe walking and cycling; Supporting the installation of infrastructure measures (for example new/wider pavements, road crossings and cycle parking facilities), retrofitted if necessary, which facilitates and encourages safe walking and cycling; Ensuring that the needs of walkers and cyclists are given full consideration in proposals to maintain and upgrade public roads, in undertaking traffic calming and proposals to maintain or change local speed limits. <p>Objective T08 To prepare a walking and cycling audit and strategy; which shall examine the existing street network within the town and establish where and how enhancements for pedestrians and cyclists can be made. In particular the Council will seek to enhance pedestrian linkages and create dedicated cycle lanes from existing and proposed residential areas to the town centre, neighbourhood shopping areas, educational and recreational facilities along with employment areas.</p>	O	+	O	O	+		O	O

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)								Comments
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1	L1-L2	
<p>Objective T09 To encourage the provision of secure bicycle parking facilities in the town centre, at public facilities such as schools, libraries, train station and in all new developments in accordance with the standards set out in the development management standards contained in Chapter 16 of this Plan.</p>	O	+	O	O	+	+	O	O	
<p>Objective T10 To secure the provision in tandem with new developments, or provide subject to available resources, new public lighting and footpaths at the locations detailed on Map 10</p>	O	+	O	O	+	+	O	O	
<p>Objective T11 To promote the provision of shared surface streets within residential areas.</p>	O	+	O	O	+	+	O	O	
<p>Objective T12 To support and facilitate proposals which facilitate and encourage increased public transport usage and to support the development of appropriately sited and designed facilities, such as additional stations, car and cycle parking, taxi ranks, bus parking facilities, bus shelters and bus lanes.</p>	O	+	O	O	+	+	O	O	
<p>Objective T13 To support and promote the provision of a well-functioning public transport system, which enhances competitiveness, sustains economic progress, improves quality of life and accessibility of transport for all, in particular, for people with reduced mobility and those who may experience isolation due to lack of transport.</p>	O	+	O	O	+	+	O	O	
<p>Objective T14 To ensure that public transport set-down and pick-up points are located such that the safety of passengers and road users is ensured. The Council will work with operators in identifying set-down and pick-up points required for the operation of their businesses and the provision of associated facilities.</p>	O	+	O	O	O	+	O	O	
<p>Objective T15 To prohibit proposed development which would impede the safe operation of current and future rail services on existing operational lines.</p>	O	+	O	O	+	+	O	O	
<p>Objective T16 To encourage and facilitate the development of rail freight services and infrastructure and associated logistic centres in Enniscorthy.</p>	O	+	O	O	+	+	O	O	
<p>Objective T17 To investigate the feasibility of providing a taxi rank within the town</p>	O	+	O	O	+	O	O	O	

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)							Comments		
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1		L1-L2	
<p>centre.</p> <p>Objective T18 To encourage and facilitate the provision of an intra-town bus service to connect central areas to residential areas, schools and other facilities.</p> <p>Objective T19 To secure the provision in tandem with new developments, or provide subject to available resources, the roads objectives detailed on Map 12.</p> <p>Objective T20 To promote and encourage road safety having regard to the National Roads Safety Strategy (RSA, 2007) and to exercise the Councils functions with regard to the maintenance and improvement of all National, Regional and Local roads in a manner which has regard to the safety of all potential users of those roads including agricultural vehicles, cyclists, pedestrians and public transport.</p> <p>Objective T21 To restrict advertising or lighting proposals in the proximity of roads having due regard to safety and amenity issues and the development management standards in Chapter 16 of the Plan.</p> <p>Objective T22 To ensure that traffic noise levels are considered in the assessment of all significant development proposals. This assessment should have regard to strategic noise maps for national and major non-national roads prepared by the NRA and the Draft Noise Action Plan 2013 prepared by Wexford County Council in accordance with Environmental Noise Regulation S.I. No. 140 of 2006.</p> <p>Objective T23 In retrofitting and developing new roadways the planning authority and developers shall have regard to Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (2013). Notwithstanding the detailed proposals as shown on Map 12 for public footpath/lighting improvements, the Council(s) shall continue to examine the remainder of the existing street network within the town, to establish where and how enhancements for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users can be made. In particular the Council will seek to enhance linkages from existing and proposed residential areas to the town centre, to existing and proposed neighbourhood shopping, educational and recreational facilities and to existing and proposed employment areas.</p>	○	+	○	○	+	○	○	○		
	○	+	○	○	+	○	○	○	○	
	○	+	○	○	○	+	○	○	○	
	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)							Comments	
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1		L1-L2
<p>Objective T24 To ensure that the Council's own development and those of other developers and agencies has regard to the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DTTS and DECLG, 2013). Proposals shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users ahead of the needs of private car drivers; • Seek to create more attractive places on roads/streets which communities can understand and enjoy; • Seek to ensure that the design of the road/street is influenced by its function and the contexts of the places that road/street passes through, and that permeable and legible street networks are promoted; • Have regard to the detailed advice and standards within in the Manual including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speed limits and traffic and congestion management; • Street landscaping; • Active street edges; • Control of traffic noise and pollution; • Signage and line marking; • Street furniture and lighting; • Material and finishes; • Historical contexts; • Pedestrianised and shared surface areas; <p>Objective T25 To ensure that all significant road projects/upgrades with surface water discharges to the Slaney River system and its tributaries, have petrol/oil interceptors installed to prevent hydrocarbon pollution of the river system.</p> <p>Objective T26 To review the speed limits in areas where existing employers or zoned land exists with the intention of reducing, where appropriate, the speed limits and subject to the appropriate statutory process.</p> <p>Objective T27 To require the submission of a Traffic and Transport Assessment including mobility management plans in accordance with the guidelines in the Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines 2007 and the Traffic Management Guidelines 2003, for developments with the potential to create significant additional demands on the traffic network by virtue of the nature of their activity, the number of employees, their location or a combination of these factors and for significant developments affecting the national and non-national road network.</p>	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
	+	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)							Comments	
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1		L1-L2
<p>Objective T28 To require a Road Safety Audit for developments that require a new access to a national road or significant changes to an existing access in accordance with the guidance included in the NRA Design Manual for Roads and Bridges.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	
<p>Objective T29 To enhance the biodiversity and amenity value of roadsides, where possible, subject to operational maintenance, road safety and road improvements.</p>	+	○	○	○	○	○	+	○	
<p>Objective T30 To ensure that all developments permitted along national roads are in accordance with the Spatial Planning and National Roads – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012) or any updated version.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	
<p>Objective T31 To support the development of the M11 Enniscorthy Bypass.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	+	○	○	Mitigated at project level. Appropriate Assessment for Bypass (Appendix 9.5 of EIS) concludes that the proposed scheme will not have a significant negative impact on the Slaney River Valley cSAC after mitigation measures are implemented.
<p>Objective T32 To prevent inappropriate development on lands adjacent to the existing national road network, which would adversely affect the safety, current and future capacity and function of national roads and having regard to possible future upgrades of the national roads and junctions.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	
<p>Objective T33 To avoid the creation of any new direct access points from development or the generation of increased traffic from existing direct access/egress points to the national road network to which speed limits greater than 60km/h apply. A less restrictive approach may be applied in the vicinity of the land identified on Map No. 5. However, the applicant must adhere to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It must be demonstrated by the applicant that the development is compliant with proper planning and sustainable development, that there is no appropriate alternative access/egress point available other than to the national road network at a location where a speed limit greater than 60km/h applies and that the envisaged usage of the access/egress point will not compromise the safety, capacity and efficient operation of national roads. The applicant will be responsible for preparing a Road Safety Audit, prepared in accordance with the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (NRA, 2010) and a Transport and Traffic Assessment. The applicant will be required to provide satisfactory details 	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)							Comments		
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1		L1-L2	
<p>of proposed demand management measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant will be required to provide the appropriate funding to provide any capacity enhancements or traffic management measures identified as required. <p>Objective T34 To facilitate a limited level of new accesses or the intensified use of existing accesses to the national road network on the approaches to or exit from urban centres that are subject to a speed limit zone between 50 kmh and 60 kmh otherwise known as the transition zone. Such accesses will be considered where they facilitate orderly urban development and would not result in a proliferation of such entrances, leading to a diminution in the role of these transitional zones. The Council will have regard to the nature of the proposed development and the volume of traffic to be generated by it and the implications for the safety, capacity and efficient operation of the national road. A Road Safety Audit, prepared in accordance with the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (NRA, 2010), shall be submitted where appropriate.</p> <p>Objective T35 To control the signage on and adjoining national roads in accordance with the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Spatial Planning and National Roads (DECLG, 2012) and the National Roads Authority's policy statement on the Provision of Tourist and Leisure Signage on National Roads (March 2011) and any updated versions of these documents.</p> <p>Objective T36 To prevent new or the significant intensification of existing, access/egress points from/to Class I Regional Roads. This objective will not apply in the following locations and circumstances, but only in locations and for developments which will not give rise to public safety hazards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within the development boundaries/built up areas of Enniscorthy, where a speed limit of 50 – 60 k.p.h. applies and where a safe access, avoiding undue proliferation of access points, can be achieved. For developments of a commercial nature, where a clear need for the development is established, which could not be met in other locations, and where there is no suitable alternative access to a local road possible. The Council will have regard to the likely number and type of traffic movements associated with proposed development in the assessment of such proposals. The above criteria also apply where a shared access/egress from/to the Class 1 regional road is proposed (including with an existing access) and where access/egress from/to the 	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○		
	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	+	
	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)							Comments	
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1		L1-L2
<p>Class 1 regional road is proposed via a private lane.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farmers and their sons or daughters proposing to build a dwelling house for their own use provided that a need for that dwelling has been clearly established and where there is no suitable alternative access possible from the family landholding onto a local road. The sub-division of dwelling house sites to provide a dwelling for the use of a son or daughter of the original site owner, where a need for that dwelling has been clearly established and where there is no suitable alternative access possible from the family landholding onto a local road. Proposals for granny flat type developments at such properties will be considered on their merits having regard to the characteristics of the site and the anticipated level of intensification of use of existing access point <p>Objective T37 To control new and significant intensification of existing, access/egress points from/to Class 2 regional roads except for circumstances where a need for the development at that location has been clearly established and where there is no suitable alternative access possible onto a local road. This shall also apply where a shared access to the non- class 1 regional road is proposed and where access to the non- class 1 regional road is proposed via a private lane.</p> <p>Objective T38 To seek to improve parking provision in the town centre and require all new developments to provide accessible parking in accordance with the standards set out in the development management section of this Plan</p> <p>Objective T39 To retain, maintain and provide appropriately sited and designed parking facilities for cars, buses, motorcycles and cycles where required and as resources allow.</p> <p>Objective T40 To improve access to the train station in particular in relation to car and bicycle parking, to optimise the use of the rail service and liaise with Irish Rail and adjoining land owners to examine options for increasing the amount of car parking at the train station.</p> <p>Objective T41 To support the provision of charging points for Electric Vehicles at appropriate locations.</p>	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
	○	+	○	○	○	+	○	○	
	○	+	○	○	+	+	○	○	
	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
	○	○	○	○	+	○	○	○	
	○	○	○	○	+	○	○	○	

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)										Comments
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1	L1-L2			
<p>Objective T42 To provide adequate arrangements for vehicles servicing and making deliveries which meet best practice standards, having regard to the need to promote good urban design and to protect public safety.</p>	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	
Chapter 8 Infrastructure and Energy											
<p>Objective WS01 To ensure an adequate, sustainable and economic supply of good quality water for domestic, commercial and industrial needs for the lifetime of this Plan, subject to compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, where appropriate.</p>	O	+	O	+	O	+	O	O	+	O	
<p>Objective WS02 To conserve water supplies through the maintenance of mains and the elimination of leaks and to promote public awareness on the maintenance of water quality and its economic and sustainable use.</p>	O	+	O	+	O	+	O	O	+	O	
<p>Objective WS03 To support and promote the use of water conservation measures in new development, for example, rainwater harvesting systems.</p>	O	+	O	+	O	+	O	O	+	O	
<p>Objective WW01 To provide adequate wastewater treatment facilities to serve the existing and future population of the town, subject to complying with the Water Framework Directive, the South-East River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 or any updated version of this document, Pollution Reduction Programmes for Designated Shellfish Areas, the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and the Habitats Directive.</p>	+	+	O	+	O	+	O	O	+	O	
<p>Objective WW02 To ensure that all wastewater generated is collected, treated and discharged after treatment in a safe and sustainable manner, having regard to the standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation.</p>	+	+	O	+	O	+	O	O	+	O	
<p>Objective WW03 To encourage and facilitate the connection of existing developments served by private wastewater treatment facilities to connect to the town's wastewater treatment system once the upgrade is complete.</p>	+	+	O	+	O	+	O	O	+	O	
<p>Objective WW04 To maintain a 'sterilisation zone' around the Killagoley Waste Water Treatment Plant as shown on Map 12. No residential</p>	O	+	O	O	O	+	O	O	+	O	

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)							Comments		
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1		L1-L2	
development will be permitted within the exclusion zone.										
Objective WW05 To ensure that adequate and appropriate waste water infrastructure is in place prior to the occupation of any new development.	+	+	+	+	○	+	○	○	○	
Objective SWM01 To promote storm water retention facilities in new developments and require design solutions that provide for collection and recycling of surface water in accordance with Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems.	+	+	○	+	○	+	○	○	○	
Objective SWM02 To ensure that all storm water generated in new developments is disposed of on-site or is attenuated and treated prior to discharge to an approved storm water system.	+	+	○	+	○	+	○	○	○	
Objectives SWM03 To require the separation of foul and surface water discharges in new developments through the provision by the developer of separate networks.	+	+	○	+	○	+	○	○	○	
Objective TC01 To facilitate the delivery of high-capacity telecommunications infrastructure in the town.	○	+	○	○	○	+	○	○	?	Masts subject to visual assessment
Objective TC02 To have regard to Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (Department of the Environment and Local Government, 1996), Circular Letter PL07/12 and or any updated guidelines published during the lifetime of the Plan.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
Objective TC03 To require services, including electricity, telephone and TV cabling, to be located underground unless it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority that this is not feasible, and to encourage the progressive undergrounding of existing overhead cables and associated equipment in association with any other underground works being carried out.	○	○	○	○	○	+	○	○	+	
Objective TC04 To maximise the use of existing masts by sharing installations for antennae and support structures, with the exception of the mast on Vinegar Hill.	○	○	○	○	○	+	○	○	+	

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Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)								Comments
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1	L1-L2	
<p>Objective TC05 To encourage the removal of the telecommunications mast on Vinegar Hill having regard to the cultural, historic, tourism and scenic value of this site.</p>	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	+	
<p>Objective TC06 To adopt a presumption against the erection of antennae in proximity to residential areas, schools and community facilities, structures of historical or architectural interest, areas and sites of archaeological importance, protected views and natural heritage areas.</p>	O	+	O	O	O	O	+	+	
<p>Objective TC07 To support the development of wide access to high speed broadband.</p>	O	+	O	O	O	+	O	O	
<p>Objective TC08 To support the rollout of the National Broadband Scheme and the Broadband to School Scheme.</p>	O	+	O	O	O	+	O	O	
<p>Objective TC09 To ensure that ducting for broadband fibre connections is installed in all new commercial and housing schemes and during any work to road or rail lines.</p>	O	+	O	O	O	+	O	O	
<p>Objective TC10 To facilitate the provision of an accessible and free WiFi zone in the town centre.</p>	O	+	O	O	O	+	O	O	
<p>Objective EN01 To facilitate the achievement of a secure and efficient energy supply and storage for the town.</p>	O	+	O	O	O	+	O	O	
<p>Objective EN02 To facilitate the development of energy sources which achieve low carbon outputs provided that they do not have a detrimental impact on residential amenity.</p>	O	+	O	O	O	+	O	O	
<p>Objective EN03 To facilitate the provision of and improvements to energy networks in principle, provided that it can be demonstrated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development is required in order to facilitate the provision or retention of significant economic or social infrastructure The route proposed has been identified with due consideration for social, environmental and cultural impacts The design is such that will achieve least environmental 	O	+	O	O	O	+	O	O	

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)								Comments		
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1	L1-L2			
<p>impact consistent with not incurring excessive cost</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where impacts are inevitable, adequate mitigation features have been included Proposals for energy infrastructure should be assessed in accordance with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. 											
<p>Objective EN04 To promote and facilitate the expansion of the gas network to Enniscorthy Town.</p>	?	+	○	○	○	+	○	○	○	○	Subject to project level AA and EIA.
<p>Objective EN05 To promote energy conservation, decrease dependency on fossil fuels and support environmentally friendly methods of producing energy.</p>	○	+	○	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	
<p>Objective EN06 To encourage and facilitate the development of renewable energy sources at appropriate locations provided that they do not negatively impact on residential amenity, biodiversity or landscape sensitivities.</p>	○	+	○	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	
<p>Objective EN07 To support the development of Sustainable Energy Zones at suitable locations in the town.</p>	○	+	○	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	
<p>Objective EN08 To support the implementation of the South-East Region Bio-Energy Implementation Plan 2008-2013 or any updated version of this document published during the lifetime of the Plan.</p>	○	+	○	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	
<p>Objective EN09 To participate in the preparation of and implement any Renewable Energy Strategy adopted for the County.</p>	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
<p>Objective EN10 To participate in the preparation of and implement any Climate Change Action Plan adopted for the South-East Region or any Climate Change Strategy adopted for County Wexford.</p>	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	Subject to SEA and AA screening
<p>Objective EN11 To investigate the potential for small-scale wind energy developments within the urban and industrial areas of the plan.</p>	○	○	○	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	
<p>Objective EN12 To consider appropriate wind energy developments on a case by case basis and to ensure that such developments do not</p>	○	○	○	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	Subject to visual impact assessment

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)								Comments	
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1	L1-L2		
negatively impact on residential amenity, biodiversity or landscape sensitivities.										
Objective EN13 To require all new building developments to meet low energy performance targets. Each building's energy performance, as calculated by the Building Energy Rating (BER), will have a minimum energy efficiency that meets the requirements of Part L of the Building Regulations. New buildings should incorporate renewable energy technologies in order to help achieve the rating required.	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	
Objective EN14 To promote innovative building design and layout that demonstrates a high level of energy conservation, energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources.	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	
Objective EN15 To encourage the integration of micro renewable energy sources into the design and construction of single and multiple housing developments.	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	
Chapter 9 Social Inclusion and Community Facilities										
Objective CF01 To support local development agencies and structures in responding to social exclusion issues and creating a more inclusive environment for all members of the community.	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Objective CF02 To achieve a balanced spatial distribution of community and education facilities in the plan area and ensure that such facilities are provided in advance of, or in tandem with development.	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Objective CF03 To support the entitlement of all members of the community to enjoy a high quality living environment and to support local communities, the Health Authorities and other bodies involved in the provision of facilities for groups with specific design/planning needs.	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Objective CF04 To promote Universal Design and Lifetime Housing in accordance with best practice and the policies and principles contained in Building for Everyone: A Universal Design Approach (National Disability Authority, 2012) and Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas: Guidelines for Planning Authorities and its companion document Urban Design Manual (DEHLG,	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)								Comments	
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1	L1-L2		
<p>2008).</p> <p>Objective CF05 To ensure that a minimum of 20% of dwellings in all new housing estates of five dwellings or more are suitable to accommodate or are adaptable to provide accommodation for people with disabilities. Developers will be required to show an accessible route to the residential units from the boundary of the property. Proximity and access to local services must also be considered relative to the units which are accessible.</p> <p>Objective CF06 To require an Access Statement to be carried out for significant developments in accordance with Appendix 6 of Buildings for Everyone: A Universal Design Approach (National Disability Authority, 2012).</p> <p>Objective CF07 To continue to carry out improvements to the public realm to create a safe and barrier free environment that can be accessed by all members of the community.</p> <p>Objective CF08 To require level access to buildings, dished kerbs, parking for people with disabilities, parent and child parking facilities and baby changing and feeding facilities to be incorporated into the design of buildings and the layout of developments to which the public could be expected to have frequent access.</p> <p>Objective CF09 To implement the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2007-2013 and any subsequent Programme adopted by the Council and continue to address the provision of accommodation appropriate to the particular needs of travellers.</p> <p>Objective CF10 To promote the development of sustainable communities on the basis of a high quality of life where people can live, work and enjoy access to a wide range of community, health and educational facilities suitable for all ages, needs and abilities.</p> <p>Objective CF11 To maintain and, where possible, improve the provision of community facilities in the town, ensuring that these facilities are adequate to meet the needs of the communities they serve, are physically integrated with residential and employment areas and are provided concurrently with new residential development.</p>	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	
	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)								Comments
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1	L1-L2	
<p>Objective CF12 To carry out within the lifetime of the Plan, a Social Infrastructure Audit to identify areas where social, community and recreational infrastructure is lacking and the facilities which require further development/expansion.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	+	○	○	
<p>Objective CF13 To consult with the Department of Education and Skills in the identification and facilitation of suitable sites for new educational facilities.</p>	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
<p>Objective CF14 To restrict new development adjacent to existing schools where such development would have the potential to restrict the expansion of that school.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	
<p>Objective CF15 To encourage the multi-use of school buildings and facilities provided this does not conflict with the delivery of the education service.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	+	○	○	
<p>Objective CF16 To ensure that no significant residential development proceeds without an assessment of existing schools capacity or the provision of new school facilities in tandem with the development.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	+	○	○	
<p>Objective CF17 To support the ongoing development of adult and further education facilities in the town and continue and improve the development of third level education links with Carlow and Waterford Institutes of Technology.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	+	○	○	
<p>Objective CF18 To encourage and facilitate the provision of childcare facilities, in accordance with Childcare Facilities: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2001), within new or existing places of work, residential areas, educational establishments, town centres and adjacent to public transport nodes. Where childcare facilities are proposed to be located within established residential areas, applications for such uses will be assessed having regard to the likely effect on the amenities of adjoining properties, the availability of space for off-street parking and/or suitable drop-off and collection points and outdoor playspace. In some cases, it may be necessary to attach a condition that would require some residential content to be maintained in the premises.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	+	○	○	
<p>Objective CF19 To require the provision of purpose-built childcare facilities in new</p>	○	+	○	○	○	+	○	○	

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)								Comments
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1	L1-L2	
residential developments in accordance with Childcare Facilities: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2001) and Live Like This Place: Guidelines for Best Practice in the Design of Childcare Facilities (2005). The indicative standard is one childcare facility accommodating 20 children, for approximately 75 dwellings. This standard may be modified in any particular case where there are significant reasons for doing so. Criteria that may be taken into account in such an assessment include the existing geographical distribution of childcare facilities and the emerging demographic profile of the area.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Objective CF20 To support the Wexford County Childcare Committee/Wexford County Development Board in carrying out an audit of childcare facilities.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Objective CF21 To encourage the multi-use of purpose built crèche facilities for appropriate community uses provided this does not conflict with the delivery of the childcare service.	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	
Objective CF22 To promote the improvement and expansion of health and medical care facilities in the town which meet the needs of and are easily accessible to local service users.	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	
Chapter 10 Recreation, Sport and Public Rights of Way									
Objective RS01 To ensure that adequate amenity and recreational open space and facilities are available for all groups of the population at a convenient distance from their homes and places of work.	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	
Objective RS02 To promote and where possible provide universally accessible recreational activities which support an inclusive, flexible and adaptable approach to recreation provision.	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	
Objective RS03 To facilitate and promote the development of indoor and outdoor recreational facilities, which can be shared with schools, on suitable sites where resources are available.	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	
Objective RS04 To encourage the use of school grounds and associated recreational facilities outside of school hours by all members of the community provided that this does not conflict with the delivery of the education service.	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)								Comments	
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1	L1-L2		
<p>Objective RS05 To manage to a high standard all of the Local Authority's public parks, playing fields and public open space in the town subject to the availability of resources.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	+	○	○	○	
<p>Objective RS06 To promote recreation based tourism and associated employment opportunities in Enniscorthy.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
<p>Objective RS07 To facilitate the development of private lands for recreational purposes, having regard to the amenities of residents in vicinity and the environmental impact of the development.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	+	○	○	○	
<p>Objective RS08 To consult with communities in indentifying deficits and to be proactive in the provision of the necessary facilities, subject to available resources. To investigate avenues of funding and support local groups.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	+	○	○	○	
<p>Objective RS09 To promote and encourage a vibrant and active sports sector, with increased participation levels, good quality sustainable facilities and opportunities for people to play an active role in sport.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	+	○	○	○	
<p>Objective RS10 To develop sport, recreation and amenity facilities consistent with proper planning and sustainable development in appropriate locations, in partnership with local community and sports groups and/or private parties.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	+	○	○	○	
<p>Objective RS11 To identify deficits in sports facilities within the town and to be proactive in the provision of the necessary facilities, subject to available resources.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	+	○	○	○	
<p>Objective RS12 To ensure that all residents have reasonable access to a range of different types of open space and that new open spaces are integrated with good access for pedestrians, cyclists and persons with specific design needs.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	+	○	○	○	
<p>Objective RS13 To carry out an audit of open space within the town to ensure all persons have access to a suitable level of appropriate open space including passive and active spaces at a local level.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	+	○	○	○	

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Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)								Comments
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1	L1-L2	
<p>Objective RS14 To avoid loss of public and private recreational open space and facilities unless alternative recreational facilities are provided in a suitable location.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	+	○	○	
<p>Objective RS15 To require the provision of good quality, accessible, well located and functional open spaces in new residential developments in accordance with the standards recommended in Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas: Guidelines for Planning Authorities and its companion document Urban Design Manual (DEHLG, 2008).</p>	○	+	○	○	○	+	○	○	
<p>Objective RS16 To ensure a detailed landscaping plan accompanies all applications for housing estates, significant industrial and commercial developments, prepared by a suitably qualified person demonstrating that the planting is appropriate to the site and the surrounding areas.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	+	○	○	
<p>Objective RS17 To develop the Orchard Eco Park Nature Zone as shown on Map 12 for the purposes of providing a high quality accessible recreational and educational open space for both the town's residents and visitors to the town.</p>	+	+	○	○	○	+	○	○	
<p>Objective RS18 To maximise the range of play opportunities available to all children and young people, particularly children who are marginalised, disadvantaged or persons with disabilities.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	+	○	○	
<p>Objective RS19 To ensure that high quality play and recreation facilities are incorporated into new housing developments over 75 dwellings. Play facilities may include playgrounds, basket ball courts, tennis courts, hurling walls or other facilities considered appropriate by the Council. This standard may be modified in any particular case where there are significant reasons for doing so. Criteria that may be taken into account include the existing geographical distribution of play facilities and the emerging demographic profile of the area.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	+	○	○	
<p>Objective RS20 To encourage the development of Multi-User Games Areas (MUGAs) at appropriate locations and ensure that new community facilities and public open spaces are designed to allow flexibility in their use.</p>	○	+	○	○	○	+	○	○	

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)							Comments	
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1		L1-L2
<p>Objective RS21 To identify deficits in the spatial distribution of facilities and to be proactive in the provision of the necessary facilities subject to available resources and investigate available funding.</p> <p>Objective RS22 To promote the development of allotments or community gardens on suitable sites within Enniscorthy, taking into consideration the demand for such facilities.</p> <p>Objective RS23 To promote arts and cultural activities and facilities in the town.</p> <p>Objective RS24 To preserve public rights of way in accordance with Section 10 (2)(o) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). These public rights of way shall be identified both by marking them on at least one of the maps forming part of the Development Plan and by indicating their location on a list appended to the Development Plan during the life of the Plan and the Enniscorthy Development Plan will be varied accordingly.</p> <p>Objective RS25 To identify public rights of way within the plan area which give access to places of natural beauty or recreational utility both within and outside the plan area. Such areas may include riverbanks, seashores, mountains, lakeshores or other places of natural beauty or recreational utility and will be identified using the following methodology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place an advert in local papers seeking submissions from the public to identify public rights of way which give access to seashore, mountain, lakeshore, riverbank or other places of natural beauty or recreational utility. Identify existing rights of ways, paths, and access points to seashore, mountain, lakeshore, riverbank or other places of natural beauty or recreational activity within the town. Carry out a desktop analysis of public records, maps, aerial photographs and newspaper accounts to identify reputations of public rights of way. Once the list is compiled, advertise and put on display the proposed list of public rights of way. The public will be invited to make submissions on the validity of the public rights of way. Endeavour to verify and list the public rights of way and begin the formal process for designating rights of way under Section 14 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). 	○	+	○	○	○	+	○	○	○
	○	+	○	○	○	+	○	○	○
	○	+	○	○	○	+	○	○	○
	○	+	○	○	○	+	○	○	○

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)								Comments
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1	L1-L2	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vary the Plan to include the list and map showing the public rights of way. <p>Objective RS26 To ensure that development does not impinge on public walking routes and public rights of way.</p>	O	+	O	O	O	+	O	O	
Chapter 11 Heritage									
<p>Objective HT01 To ensure that the use of the town's heritage assets is managed in a manner that does not adversely impact on the intrinsic value of the assets.</p>	+	O	O	O	O	+	+	+	Positive impact on landscape features such as Vinegar Hill, River Slaney, etc.
<p>Objective HT02 To support the preparation of a Heritage Plan for County Wexford which will assist the sustainable management and promotion of the county's and town's valuable heritage.</p>	+	O	O	O	O	+	+	+	Management of natural heritage will have positive impacts on biodiversity, flora and fauna
<p>Objective HT03 To ensure that development proposals do not have an unacceptable impact on the town's heritage unless there is a reason of overriding public interest for such development. Any such development shall be compliance with all other planning and environmental criteria.</p>	+	O	O	O	O	+	+	+	
<p>Objective AH01 To protect the architectural heritage of Enniscorthy and to include structures considered to be of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest in the Record of Protected Structures.</p>	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	O	
<p>Objective AH02 To protect the curtilage of Protected Structures or Proposed Protected Structures from any works which would cause loss of, or damage to, the character and special interest of the structure and loss of or damage to, any structures of heritage value within the curtilage or any specified features in the attendant grounds of the structure.</p>	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	O	
<p>Objective AH03 To encourage development within the curtilage of a Protected Structure that is compatible with its character in terms of siting, building lines, proportions, scale, massing, height, roof treatment and materials. This does not preclude putting forward innovative and accessible contemporary designs that respect the context of the Protected Structure.</p>	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	O	

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)							Comments	
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1		L1-L2
<p>Objective AH04 To promote the maintenance and appropriate reuse of Protected Structures, and older buildings of architectural heritage merit which are not protected but which make a positive contribution to the character, appearance and quality of local areas and the sustainable development of the county.</p>	○	○	○	○	○	○	+	○	
<p>Objective AH05 To promote the retention of original or early building fabric including timber sash windows, stonework, brickwork, joinery, render and slate. Likewise, the Council will encourage the reinstatement of historically correct traditional features.</p>	○	○	○	○	○	○	+	○	
<p>Objective AH06 To encourage the retention of those elements that give a Protected Structure its special interest where the structure has suffered damage by fire or other accidental causes and where those elements have survived either in whole or in part.</p>	○	○	○	○	○	○	+	○	
<p>Objective AH07 To ensure that applications in relation to Protected Structures include an architectural heritage assessment/architectural impact assessment report, prepared by a suitably-qualified person. This report should assess the implications of the development on the character of the structure and the area in which it is located and propose mitigatory measures for any negative impacts. This should be prepared in accordance with Appendix B of Architectural Heritage Protection - Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG, 2004) and any subsequent publications.</p>	○	○	○	○	○	○	+	○	
<p>Objective AH08 To ensure that all applications for Protected Structures are assessed by taking into consideration the advice contained in Architectural Heritage Protection - Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG, 2004), the advice contained in Access Improving the Accessibility of Historic Buildings and Places Advice Series (NDA, 2011) and any subsequent guidelines.</p>	○	○	○	○	○	○	+	○	
<p>Objective AH09 To encourage the repair and retention of traditional timber, stone, rendered, tiled and/or vitrolite shop fronts and pub fronts, including those which may not be Protected Structures.</p>	○	○	○	○	○	○	+	○	
<p>Objective AH10 To facilitate the continued use of Protected Structures and the retention of older buildings of heritage value, the Planning Authority will give consideration to the relaxation of zoning, car</p>	○	○	○	○	○	○	+	○	

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)								Comments
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1	L1-L2	
<p>Objective NH02 To recognise that the Council plays an important role in the management of the landscape and ensure that considerations of natural heritage inform the Council's own decisions, actions and methods of operation.</p>	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	
<p>Objective NH03 To assist in the implementation of the actions identified in the Draft County Wexford Biodiversity Action Plan 2012-2017, or any subsequent plan, in partnership with all relevant parties and stakeholders.</p>	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	
<p>Objective NH04 To conserve and protect the integrity of sites designated for their habitat/wildlife or geological/geomorphological importance and prohibit development which would damage or threaten the integrity of these sites, including Special Areas of Conservation, candidate Special Areas of Conservations, Special Protection Areas, candidate Special Protections Areas, Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas.</p>	+	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	
<p>Objective NH05 To promote the maintenance, and as appropriate, the achievement of favourable conservation status of Natura 2000 sites and their associated habitats and species, in association with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).</p>	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	
<p>Objective NH06 To recognise the importance of recommended proposed Natural Heritage Areas and County Geological sites as identified by the Geological Survey of Ireland, and protect the character and integrity of these sites, where appropriate.</p>	+	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	
<p>Objective NH07 To recognise and afford appropriate protection to any new NHAs, SPAs or SACs or other designations as appropriate (e.g. Refuges) which are designated within the lifetime of the Plan.</p>	+	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	
<p>Objective NH08 To ensure that any plan or project and any associated works, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, are subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening to ensure that there are no likely significant effects on the integrity (defined by the structure and function) of any Natura 2000 site(s) and that the requirements of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive are fully satisfied. Where the plan/project is likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site or there is uncertainty with regard to effects, it shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment.</p>	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)							Comments		
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1		L1-L2	
<p>The plan/project will proceed only after it has been ascertained that it will not be adversely affect the integrity of the site or where in the absence of alternative solutions, the plan/project is deemed imperative for reasons of overriding public interest, all in accordance with the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Objective NH09 To ensure the management of features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora. Such features are those, by virtue of their linear and continuous structure (such as rivers with their banks or the traditional systems for marking field boundaries) or their function as stepping stones (such as ponds or small woods), are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species. These features are outlined as Ecological Corridors or Ecological Stepping Stones on Map 8(a). Where such features exist on land which is to be developed the applicant will be required to demonstrate that the design of the development has resulted in the retention of these features insofar as is possible and that the impact on the biodiversity of the site has been minimised and where possible enhanced.</p> <p>Objective NH10 To complete the mapping of ecological networks/corridors of local biodiversity value outside of designated sites.</p> <p>Objective NH11 To ensure, where appropriate, applications for development include proposals for native planting and leave a suitable ecological buffer zone between the development works and areas or features of ecological importance. Where hedgerows are required to be removed, the applicant/developer may be required to reinstate the hedgerows with a suitable replacement of native species to the satisfaction of the Council.</p> <p>Objective NH12 To work with local communities, groups, landowners, National Parks and Wildlife Service and other relevant parties to identify, protect, manage and, where appropriate, enhance and promote sites of local biodiversity value.</p> <p>Objective NH13 To protect individual or groups of trees and woodlands of particular amenity and nature conservation value and make Tree Preservation Orders where appropriate.</p> <p>Objective NH14 To avoid where possible loss of trees on sites for new</p>	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	+	
	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	+	
	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	+	
	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	+	
	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	+	
	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	+	
	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	+	
	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	+	
	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	+	

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)								Comments	
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1	L1-L2		
development and promote the planting of native trees and plants as part of any development proposals.										
Objective NH15 To protect existing woodlands, trees and hedgerows which are of amenity or biodiversity value and/or contribute to landscape character and ensure that proper provision is made for their protection and management.	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+		
Objective NH16 To promote best practice in the control of invasive species and support measures for the prevention and/or eradication of invasive species as appropriate and as opportunities and resources allow.	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0		
Objective NH17 To raise awareness in relation to invasive species, including making landowners and developers aware of best practice guidance in relation to the control of invasive species and encouraging them to adhere to same and, to ensure, in so far as possible, that proposals for development do not lead to the spread of invasive species.	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Objective NH18 To ensure riparian buffer zones, a minimum of 5-10m in width, are created between all watercourses and any future development.	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+		
Objective NH19 The Planning Authority will closely examine all developments within proximity to the watercourses shown on Map 8(c). Where appropriate, the Planning Authority may require the preparation of an ecological assessment detailing the impacts on Annexed Habitats and Species. Such an assessment should identify a suitably sized buffer zone of undisturbed vegetation which shall be retained to mitigate against pollution risks, reduce flooding potential, maintain habitats and provide for an ecological corridor.	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+		
Objective GI01 To ensure the protection, enhancement and maintenance of the natural environment and recognise the economic, social, environmental and physical value of green spaces through the integration of Green Infrastructure planning and development in the planning process.	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+		
Objective GI02 To develop and implement a Green Infrastructure Strategy for the town, in consultation with key stakeholders and the public, subject to compliance with Articles 6 and 10 of the Habitats Directive. The Strategy will integrate policies and objectives under a number of	+	+	0	+	0	+	+	+		

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)								Comments	
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1	L1-L2		
<p>headings including; natural heritage, parks and open spaces, built heritage and archaeology, water management, flooding and climate change allowing for a strategic approach to green space planning in the town.</p> <p>Objective GI03 To ensure the principles of Green Infrastructure and the Green Infrastructure Strategy are used to inform the development management process in terms of design and layout of new residential schemes, business and industrial developments and other relevant projects, for example, through the integration of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) into the overall site concept and layout.</p> <p>Objective GI04 To require new developments to contribute to the protection and enhancement of existing Green Infrastructure, and the provision of new Green Infrastructure where appropriate, in an integrated and coherent manner.</p> <p>Objective GI05 To require proposals for significant development to submit a Green Infrastructure Plan as part of the planning application as set out in Chapter 16 Development Management Standards.</p> <p>Objective L01 To implement any published National Landscape Strategy and any Ministerial Guidelines concerning the protection, management and planning of the landscape.</p> <p>Objective L02 To raise awareness of the values of landscapes and actively involve the public in all policy decisions affecting the landscape.</p> <p>Objective L03 To require a landscape-centred approach to new development with good spatial layout, high quality landscape design and green infrastructure linkages.</p> <p>Objective L04 To require that any necessary assessments, including visual impact assessments, are made when undertaking, authorising or approving applications for significant development located within or adjacent to sensitive landscapes or streetscapes. This assessment should provide details of proposed mitigation measures to address any negative impacts.</p>	+	+	○	○	○	○	○	○		
	+		○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
	+		○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	+	
	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	+	
	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	+	

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)								Comments	
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1	L1-L2		
<p>Objective L05 To actively encourage the redevelopment of brownfield sites in the town centre and promote good urban design in all new developments.</p> <p>Objective L06 To promote brownfield and infill development along the river front which encourages a strong building line and uses that support vibrant activity along the River Slaney and associated streets.</p> <p>Objective L07 To continue to carry out environmental improvements in the town centre and encourage the undergrounding of wires in association with any other underground works being carried out.</p> <p>Objective PV01 To protect views of special amenity value or special interest and ensure that new development does not detract from such views. In evaluating planning applications for development in the foreground of any protected views, consideration shall be given to the effect such development may have on the view or prospect.</p>	O	+	+	O	O	O	O	O	+	
<p>Chapter 12 Environmental Management</p> <p>Objective WQ01 To protect existing and potential water resources in accordance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended) • European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (as amended) • European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (as amended) • South-East River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 or any updated version of this document • Pollution Reduction Programmes for Designated Shellfish Areas • Groundwater Protection Scheme for County Wexford • Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2001 (as amended) • Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) and European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Waters) Regulations 2009 and 2010 • Any other protection plans for water supply sources or updates to the above regulations. 	+	+	+	+	O	+	+	O		

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)								Comments
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1	L1-L2	
<p>Objective WQ02 To ensure that development would not have an unacceptable impact on water quality and quantity, including surface water, ground water, designated source protection areas, river corridors and associated wetlands, estuarine waters, coastal and transitional waters.</p>	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	
<p>Objective WQ03 To ensure that all significant road projects/upgrades with surface water discharges to the Slaney River system and its tributaries, have petrol/oil interceptors installed to prevent hydrocarbon pollution of the river system.</p>	+	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	
<p>Objective AQ01 To encourage sustainable industrial developments by promoting the use of cleaner technologies and production techniques, reducing waste production, conservation and recycling of materials.</p>	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	
<p>Objective AQ02 To manage development to provide the efficient use of land and infrastructure, thereby controlling and limiting air emissions.</p>	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	
<p>Objective AQ03 To require the submission of measures to prevent and reduce dust and airborne particulate emissions for activities that may have a negative effect on air quality.</p>	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	
<p>Objective AQ04 To encourage a modal change from private car use towards other types of travel and promote the use of public transport as a means of reducing vehicle emissions and improving air quality.</p>	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	
<p>Objective N01 To ensure new development does not cause an unacceptable increase in noise levels affecting noise sensitive properties. Proposals for new development with the potential to create excessive noise will be required to submit a construction and/or operation management plan to control such emissions.</p>	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<p>Objective N02 To require activities likely to give rise to excessive noise to install noise mitigation measures and monitors. The provision of a noise audit may be required where appropriate.</p>	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<p>Objective N03 To ensure that relevant planning applications comply with the provisions of any Noise Action Plan or noise maps relating to the</p>	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)								Comments	
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1	L1-L2		
<p>area.</p> <p>Objective EL01 To ensure that external lighting and lighting schemes are designed so that light spillage is minimised, thereby protecting the amenities of nearby properties and wildlife, including protected species. The use of LED lighting will be encouraged.</p> <p>Objective WM01 To implement the provisions of the Joint Waste Management Plan for the South East Region 2006-2011 or any updated version published during the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p>Objective WM02 To implement the National Waste Prevention Programme and any updated version published during the lifetime of the Plan. The Council will continue to support initiatives such as the 'Green Business Initiative' and the 'Green Schools Programme' which promote waste prevention in businesses and schools.</p> <p>Objective WM03 To ensure that hazardous waste is disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2008-2012 or any updated version published during the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p>Objective WM04 To continue to provide bring facilities throughout the town in easily accessible locations where population growth demands. Planning applications for significant developments, for example supermarkets, will be required to submit proposals for bottle-bank facilities.</p> <p>Objective WM05 To encourage communities to become involved in environmental awareness activities and community-based recycling or environmental management initiatives that will lead to local sustainable waste management practices.</p> <p>Objective WM06 To require a Waste Management Plan to accompany planning applications for significant developments, where appropriate. The Waste Management Plan shall supply full details of all wastes generated (including topsoil/'clean fill') and proposals for the prevention, re-use, minimisation and disposal of these wastes. The Plan shall be prepared in accordance with Best Practice Guidelines on the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Projects (Department of Environment,</p>	+	+	○	○	○	○	○	○		
	○	+	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	
	○	+	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	
	○	+	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	
	○	+	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	
	○	+	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	
	○	+	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)								Comments	
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1	L1-L2		
Heritage and Local Government, 2006).										
Objective LM01 To implement the provision of the Litter Management Plan 2010-2013 for County Wexford and any updated version of this Plan.	O	+	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	
Objective BG01 To provide and facilitate burial grounds or extensions to existing burial grounds at appropriate locations subject to adequate protection of groundwater. A site investigation and risk assessment will be required to be submitted with any planning application in accordance with Cemeteries, Burials and The Water Environment: Guidance Notes (Northern Ireland Environmental Agency, 2009) or any other relevant guidance document.	O	O	?	?	O	O	O	O	O	Subject to project level site investigation and risk assessment on groundwater.
Objective BG02 To ensure that burial grounds are managed and maintained in a manner that respects their associated culture and heritage.	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	O	O	
Objective COMAH01 To control the following for the purposes of reducing the risk or limiting the consequences of a major accident (regard will be had to the provisions of the Major Accidents Directive and any regulations, under any enactment, giving effect to that Directive): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The siting of new establishments • The modification of an existing establishment • Development in the vicinity of such an establishment as specified in Othe Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). 	+	+	+	+	+	O	O	O	O	
Objective COMAH02 To consult with and have regard to the technical advice of the Health and Safety Authority when assessing planning applications where the Major Accidents Directive and any associated regulations are relevant.	O	+	+	+	+	O	O	O	O	
Chapter 13 Climate Change and Flood Risk Management										
Objective CC01 To have regard to the National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012, the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework-Building Resilience to Climate Change (DECLG, 2012) and any other National climate policy and legislation during the lifetime of the Plan.	O	+	O	O	+	O	+	O	O	O
Objective CC02 To have regard to any future Climate Change Action Plan for the	O	+	O	O	+	O	+	O	O	O

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)								Comments	
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1	L1-L2		
South-East Region and any future Climate Change Strategy for County Wexford.										
Objective CC03 To minimise greenhouse gas emissions in order to contribute to a reduction of human induced climate change in accordance with the Kyoto agreement. The Council supports and is committed to the National Climate Change Strategy and in general to facilitating measures which seek to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	
Objective CC04 To participate in the preparation of, and have regard to, any future Renewable Energy Strategy for County Wexford, and have regard to the National Renewable Energy Action Plan (Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, 2010).	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Objective CC05 To adopt sustainable planning strategies through the integration of land use and transportation as a means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	
Objective CC06 To raise awareness of climate change and its potential impacts, and encourage businesses, local communities and people to be as self-sustaining as possible.	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	
Objective CC07 To encourage improved energy efficiency of the existing building stock, and promote energy efficiency and conservation in the design and development of all new buildings and in residential schemes in particular.	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	
Objective CC08 To promote and encourage new developments to mitigate against, and adapt to where possible, the impacts of climate change through the location, layout and design of the development.	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	
Objective FRM01 To carry out flood risk assessment for the purpose of regulating, restricting and controlling development in areas at risk of flooding and to minimise the level of flood risk to people, business, infrastructure and the environment through the identification and management of existing and potential future flood risk.	+	+	+X	+	0	0	0	0	0	Flood risk can negatively impact on soil through increased run-off and siltation in alluvial areas. Eroded soil washed into rivers during heavy rainfall causes an increase in nutrients which can lead to eutrophication of rivers and lakes. Therefore, flood risk management would have likely positive effects on the SEOs for
Objective FRM02 To have regard to any future flood hazard maps, flood risk maps and flood risk management plans for the plan area prepared as part of the South-East Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)								Comments	
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1	L1-L2		
<p>Management Study (CFRAM).</p> <p>Objective FRM03 To apply the sequential approach which is based on the principles of avoidance, reduction and mitigation of flood risks when preparing town development plans, variations and when assessing planning applications for development proposals.</p> <p>Objective FRM04 To ensure that all development proposals comply with the requirements of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management-Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DEHLG and OPW 2009) and to ensure that the Justification Test for Development Management is applied to required development proposals and in accordance with methodology set out in the guidelines.</p> <p>Objective FRM05 To require planning applications for development proposals within, incorporating or adjoining areas at moderate (Flood Zone B) to high (Flood Zone A) risk of fluvial flooding or at extreme or indicative risk of pluvial flooding, to carry out a site-specific and appropriately detailed flood risk assessment. The site-specified flood risk assessment shall be carried out by a suitably qualified and indemnified professional and in accordance with the requirements of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines For Planning Authorities (DEHLG, OPW 2009).</p> <p>Objective FRM06 To require the verification of Flood Zone maps and Flood Extent Maps at the edge of identified flood zone or extent areas given the broad-scale nature of the modelling which these maps are based on. In the event that it is concluded that the area is at moderate or high risk flooding, it will be necessary to carry out a site-specific and appropriately detailed flood risk assessment. The site-specified flood risk assessment shall be carried out by a suitably qualified and indemnified professional and in accordance with the requirements of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines For Planning Authorities (DEHLG, OPW 2009).</p> <p>Objective FRM07 To require the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) to minimise the extent of hard surfacing and paving and require the use of sustainable drainage for new development or extensions to existing developments.</p> <p>Objective FRM08 To require the separation of foul and surface water discharges in</p>	+	+	+X	+	0	0	0	0	0	<p>soil. However, flooding can also have a positive impact on soils bringing nutrients and silt which good soils are composed of. Therefore, flood risk management could also have likely negative effects on SEOs for soil.</p>
	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	
	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	
	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	
	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	
	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)							Comments		
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1		L1-L2	
new developments through the provision by the developer of separate networks. Objective FRM09 To protect and enhance the town's floodplains and wetlands as 'green infrastructure' which provide space for storage and conveyance of floodwater, enabling flood risk to be more effectively managed and reducing the need to provide flood defences in the future.	+	+	○	+	○	○	○	○		
Objective FRM10 To support and facilitate the OPW's proposed flood relief scheme for the town, and to facilitate the provision of any other necessary appropriate flood risk management infrastructure by the Office of Public Works, the local authority or private developers subject to compliance with the requirements of the EU Habitats and Environment Impact Assessment Directives and associated national legislation.	+	+	○	+	○	○	○	○	?	Mitigated at project level. Appropriate Assessment for proposed Flood Relief Scheme includes mitigation measures and concludes that there would be no significant adverse impact on the integrity of the Slaney River Valley SAC. Further monitoring is required regarding underwater archaeology prior to and/or during construction works.
Objective FRM11 To ensure that where flood protection or alleviation works take place that the natural and cultural heritage and rivers, streams and watercourses are protected and enhanced.	+	+	○	+	○	○	○	○	+	
Objective FRM12 To ensure riparian buffer zones, a minimum of 5-10m in width, are created between all watercourses and any future development.	+	○	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	
Objective FRM13 To ensure that development proposals in areas at moderate (Flood Zone B) or high (Flood Zone A) risk of fluvial flooding or at extreme or indicative risk of pluvial flooding, which are considered acceptable in principle in accordance with the Development Management Justification Test, demonstrate that appropriate mitigation measures can be put in place and that residual risks can be managed to acceptable levels.	+	+	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	
Objective FRM14 To ensure new development does not increase flood risk elsewhere including that which may arise from surface water run-off.	+	+	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	
Objective FRM15 To ensure that screening for Environmental Impact Assessment is undertaken of planning applications in areas at risk of flooding as a flood risk could constitute a significant environmental effect of a proposal, a sub-threshold Environmental Impact Statement may be triggered.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	

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Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)								Comments	
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1	L1-L2		
Chapter 14 Design										
Objective UD01 To require a design response brief in accordance with Section 14.2 of the Plan; the level of detail required shall be appropriate to the location of the site and the scale of development.	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	
Objective UD02 To encourage architectural creativity in the creation of good places.	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	
Objective UD03 To encourage innovation in the built environment and to ensure that high quality urban design and architecture is carried out in accordance with the guidelines contained in this chapter along the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas, its companion document Urban Design Manual (DEHLG 2009), the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Street (DTTS & DCLG 2013), the Architectural Heritage Protection - Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DAHG, 2011) and the National Disability Authority (NDA) Buildings for Everyone: A Universal Design Approach.	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	
Objective UD04 To ensure high quality design and architectural treatment of key landmark sites.	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	
Objective UD05 To ensure that high quality urban design contributes to the creation of urban regeneration in the town.	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	
Objective UD06 To have regard to the 1500+ Public Realm Plan for the town, and where appropriate and subject to the necessary resources and funding being available, implement selected appropriate elements.	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	
Chapter 15 Land Use Zoning										
Objective MP01 To prepare, or require the preparation of, a Design Frameworks for lands zoned as General Industry, Commercial and Retail (Bulky Goods) and Leisure Park. The Design Framework will show individual buildings of a high quality modern design surrounded by highly landscaped areas, pedestrian ways, cycle ways, areas of passive open space, landscaped buffer zones along public roads and car parking areas which are screened by appropriate landscaping. The Frameworks shall also show an integrated	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)										Comments	
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1	L1-L2				
approach to signage.												
Objective MP02 To investigate the feasibility of redeveloping Abbey Square following the completion of the Flood Relief Scheme.	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	+
Chapter 16 Development Management Standards												
No objectives												
Retail Strategy												
Objective R01: The Council shall ensure that all retail developments permitted are in accordance with the Guidelines for Planning Authorities Retail Planning (DECLG, 2012) and the objectives of this Strategy.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Objective R02: To ensure that retail development proposals have regard to the Retail Design Manual: A companion document to the Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2012.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Objective R03: The Council will permit retail development of a scale which is appropriate to Enniscorthy's position within the Wexford County Retail Hierarchy and the population of the catchment.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Objective R04: The Council's preferred location for retail development is within the primary retail area. Any retail development outside of this area will be subject to the sequential test ³⁰ . The Council will prohibit new retail developments if they would either by themselves, or cumulatively with other developments and proposals, damage the vitality and viability of the primary retail area.	○	+	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Objective R05: The Council shall promote and protect the designated 'primary' and 'secondary' retail streets shown on Map 1 as the key locations for retail development.	○	+	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Objective R06: The Council will discourage applications for planning permission which would result in net loss of convenience and comparison shopping floorspace at ground level on primary retail streets where this would affect the vitality and viability of these streets.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

³⁰ With the exception to the requirement for the sequential test for retail development located on land zoned neighbourhood centre (subject to the planning authority being satisfied that the development will have no impact on the vitality and vibrancy of the primary retail centre).

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)								Comments	
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1	L1-L2		
<p>Objective R07: On primary retail streets, permission will be favourably considered for banks and other professional services, office uses, restaurants, bars, off licenses, takeaways and other cultural uses provided:</p> <p>i) The proposals would not individually or cumulatively, cause demonstrable harm to the prime retail function of the street or the character or appearance of the street concerned or to the town centre as a whole.</p> <p>ii) There would be no significant loss of residential accommodation at upper floor levels. While residential use is the preferred use upstairs, it is accepted that it is not always possible to accommodate appropriate units in these buildings. Therefore, other commercial uses will be considered but the Planning Authority will have regard to the amount of residential uses retained in the area to ensure that a balance of residential and commercial uses is maintained in the town centre.</p> <p>Objective R08: The Council will generally require a Retail Impact Assessment (RIA) to be carried out for proposals for development; (a) greater than 1000m² of net floorspace for both convenience and comparison type developments, (b) or where the Planning Authority considers the development may impact on the vitality and viability of the primary retail.</p> <p>The Retail Impact Assessment shall include, at minimum, the criteria set out in the Retail Planning Guidelines (2012) or as amended and those outlined in 8.1.2.</p> <p>Objective R09: The Council will consider retail development at edge-of-centre or out-of-centre locations only where they have satisfied the sequential approach in accordance with the Guidelines for Planning Authorities Retail Planning (DECLG, 2012) or as amended³¹.</p> <p>Objective R10: The Council will have regard to the findings of the capacity assessment contained in this Retail Strategy in assessing planning applications. However, when considering any individual planning proposal the applicant will be required to demonstrate in a Retail Impact Assessment that the floor space is appropriate having regard to the quantum of floor space required in the town. The Retail Impact Assessment shall take account of the population of the catchment, extant permissions and their likelihood of being implemented and vacancies. Information with regard to extant</p>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

³¹ With the exception to the requirement for the sequential test for retail development located on land zoned neighbourhood centre (subject to the planning authority being satisfied that the development will have no impact on the vitality and vibrancy of the primary retail area).

Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)							Comments	
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1		L1-L2
<p>permissions can be provided by the Council. The quantitative need for the quantum of floor space will not be the only deciding factor; the Council will also consider whether any given planning application will be better located sequentially than permitted developments or whether it would be required for quantitative reasons such as strengthening Enniscorthy's retail profile (subject to land use zoning provisions).</p> <p>Objective R11: It is an objective of the Council that the neighbourhood centres identified should serve the needs of the neighbouring residential areas and complement, rather than compete with Enniscorthy's town centre to ensure its vitality and viability is maintained.</p> <p>Objective R12: It is an objective of the Council to consider retail warehousing (bulky goods) on the land zoned for retail and leisure having regard to the capacity assessment contained in the Retail Strategy. All drawings should clearly delineate the floorspace attributed to bulky goods and ancillary non-bulky goods which shall not exceed 20%. This shall be restricted by condition. Retail development shall not adversely affect the efficiency of the national road network and key junctions and interchanges, it must be demonstrated that traffic volumes can be accommodated within the design assumptions for such roads.</p> <p>Objective R13: It is an objective of the Council that convenience stores involving the sale of a significant amount of comparison goods, should delineate clearly the different floorspace and the amount of floorspace that will be considered significant will be determined against the size of the floorspace provision relative to itself and relative to the existing comparison floorspace in the town centre. The Council will restrict the floorspace for comparison retailing in convenience stores by way of condition.</p> <p>Objective R14: The Council will consider tourism related retail developments in the town centre or at appropriate existing established tourist attractions, subject to the appropriate land use zoning. The retail facility shall be suitably designed, sited and of a scale that does not detract from the tourism feature. The Council will restrict the change of use of tourism related retail developments to other forms of retail through the use of conditions attached to permissions.</p> <p>Objective R15: The Council will discourage betting offices on the primary retail streets, conditions will be placed on planning permissions granted for class 2 developments to remove the planning exemption which would allow for the change of use of offices to use as a betting shop.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

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Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)								Comments
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1	L1-L2	
<p>Objective R16: It is an objective of the Council to prohibit amusement/gaming arcades within the primary retail area. These uses are not considered a valuable use of primary retail space and can have a negative impact on the character and attractiveness of the town centre.</p> <p>Objective R17: The Council will consider retailing on greenfield sites currently used for agriculture where the retail unit is ancillary to activities arising from farm diversification. The Council by way of condition will restrict the change of use from retail associated with farm diversification to other forms of retail through the use of conditions attached to the permission.</p> <p>Objective R18: It is an objective of the Council that proposals for large scale retail development will be favourably considered at appropriate locations where they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide safe and easy access for motorists, pedestrians, cyclists and people with specific design needs; will not adversely affect the efficiency of the national road network and key junctions and interchanges, and that it can be demonstrated that traffic volumes can be accommodated within the design standards/assumptions for such roads; are of a high design standard and satisfactorily integrate with the surrounding built environment; do not negatively impact on the flow of vehicular traffic either in the immediate vicinity or the wider area of development; are of a scale appropriate to their location; are in accordance with other objectives in this Strategy and the land-use zoning. <p>Objective R19: The Council will promote the reuse of vacant and derelict buildings in the town centre for uses including retail development subject to being in accordance with other objectives in this Strategy and the land-use zoning.</p> <p>Objective R20: The Council will encourage 'living over the shop' whereby the upper storeys of buildings have a residential function with the ground floor used for commercial or retail purposes.</p> <p>Objective R21: The Council will promote and encourage the use of vacant units for artistic and sensitive advertising display purposes to create continuity of the retail streetscape.</p> <p>Objective R22: It is an objective of the Council to investigate the feasibility of establishing a pop-up shop initiative to make use of</p>	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

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Development Plan Objectives	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)							Comments	
	B1-B3	P1-P4	S1-S4	W1-W4	A1-A2	MA1-MA2	C1		L1-L2
empty appropriate commercial property and provide retailers with an opportunity to try out retail space.	○	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	
Objective R23: It is an objective of the Council to work with local property owners by maintaining a vacant space register in order to introduce property owners to potential retailers or artists looking for property in the town.	○	○	○	○	○	+	○	○	
Objective R24: It is the objective of the Council to continue to make environmental improvements to the town centre through high quality civic design, provision of attractive street furnishing, lighting and effective street cleaning.	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	
Objective R25: It is the objective of the Council to investigate the feasibility and work with retailers in establishing a Business Improvement District (BID) ³² scheme to improve areas or to provide for enhanced services or new facilities.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
Objective R26: It is an objective of the Council to improve accessibility of the town centre by developing a pedestrian and cyclist friendly urban environment and promoting vibrant street life and accessibility generally.	○	+	○	○	○	○	○	○	
Objective R27: It is an objective of the Council that development contributions in respect of retail development within the town centre will be discounted. Provisions in this regard will be set out in the revised Development Contribution Schemes.	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	

³² A BID scheme is an organisational and financing mechanism through which businesses can develop and implement initiatives in defined areas to improve those areas for betterment of the trading environment.

6.4 Cumulative and Indirect Effects

In order to identify cumulative and indirect effects it is necessary to consider if the objectives of the Plan will have potential cumulative/ in-combination effects in relation to other Plans, Programmes or Strategies. The objectives of the Plan have been formulated having regard to the SERPGs, JWMP and SERBMP. The Plan seeks to implement the objectives of these higher tier plans and, as such, it is envisaged that there will be positive cumulative /in-combination effects in relation to those Plans.

The potential impacts of the proposed Enniscorthy Bypass on air quality and human health are positive and negative, short-term and long-term. There are likely to be temporary negative impacts during the construction stage. However, it is considered that these negative impacts can be offset by positive impacts. Positive impacts include reducing journey times and relieving traffic congestion and associated emissions within the plan area. This will have positive in-combination effects with the climate change objectives of the Plan which seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Positive cumulative impacts are also envisaged on air quality and human health from the transport objectives in the Plan which seek to promote alternative modes of transport to the private car.

The Plan includes objectives to have regard to the Draft Noise Action Plan for County Wexford and as such it is considered that there will be positive in-combination effects with that Plan. Both plans seek to reduce environmental noise and exposure to incompatible land uses.

In-combination effects from objectives which facilitate the proposed Flood Relief Scheme on the conservation objectives for Natura 2000 sites are uncertain until the scheme design details are finalised. An Appropriate Assessment was carried out for the preferred design scheme as part of the EIS prepared in 2009, which concluded that sufficient mitigation measures should ensure that only a minor short-term impact occurs and this would not adversely affect the integrity of the cSAC. It is stated that, in the long term, the Scheme will provide additional habitat for many of the cSAC

interest species. The scheme now requires detailed design, the procurement of consultants for which is due to commence shortly (March 2013). Once detailed design is complete the EIS will be finalised and submitted to the Minister as appropriate.

The natural heritage objectives in the Plan will have significant positive impacts on biodiversity both inside and outside of the plan boundary through the protection of designated sites and ecological corridors. This policy is consistent with the conservation objectives for the Natura 2000 sites, the Pollution Reduction Programmes for Wexford Harbour Inner and Outer Shellfish Areas, the SERBMP and the Draft County Biodiversity Plan. Its implementation will therefore have positive in-combination effects with those Plans and Programmes.

The Enniscorthy Main Drainage Scheme Stage 3 will improve water quality in the area and increase wastewater capacity for new development. This will have positive in-combination effects in relation to water quality and economic development.

In-combination effects with the Groundwater Protection Scheme are difficult to predict at the Plan level. The upgrade to the Enniscorthy WWTP will provide ample capacity to accommodate development during the lifetime of the Plan. It is therefore not anticipated that private WWTPs will be constructed in the plan area. Any proposals for private WWTPs will be assessed in accordance with the Groundwater Protection Scheme and the EPA Code of Practice.

The CFRAM Programme is central to the medium to long-term strategy for the reduction and management of flood risk in Ireland. Enniscorthy is one of the Areas for Further Assessment (AFAs) identified by the OPW under the CFRAM study. Flood risk maps and flood hazard maps for these areas will be drawn up in 2013 and Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) will be developed by 2015. FRMPs will include measures in relation to flood prevention, protection and preparedness. The Plan includes an objective to have regard to any future flood hazard maps, flood risk maps and flood risk management plans for the plan area prepared as part of the

CFRAM Study. It is therefore envisaged that the Plan will have positive in-combination effects with the CFRAM Programme.

It is considered that the flood risk management objectives in the Plan will have positive cumulative/ in-combination impacts on water quality, biodiversity and human health. The objectives seek to ensure that new development avoids or mitigates against flooding in the town and surrounding areas and provide that development will not be approved where it would cause or exacerbate flooding elsewhere, either within or outside of the plan boundary. The objectives also require the provision of adequate storm water retention facilities in new developments. This will have positive cumulative impacts throughout the plan area in terms of reducing/mitigating against flood risk.

Positive in-combination effects are also envisaged with the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019. The population targets in the Draft Enniscorthy Town and Environs Development Plan 2014-2020 were informed by the population targets set out in Section 3 (Core Strategy) of the County Development Plan and the Plan has also had regard to the Settlement Strategy with regard to the development of larger towns. The Plan has also had regard to the Wind Energy Strategy contained in Volume 5 of the County Development Plan in terms of investigating the potential for small-scale wind energy developments within urban and industrial areas.

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Section 7 – Mitigation

7.1 Introduction

Mitigation measures are measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse impacts on the environment of implementing the Plan. Where there are significant negative effects, consideration is given in the first instance to preventing such effects or, where this is not possible, to lessening or offsetting those effects. Where positive impacts are identified, mitigation measures are designed to maximise the positive impacts.

Mitigation measures can be roughly divided into those that:

- a) Avoid effects;
- b) Reduce the magnitude or extent, probability, and/or severity of effects;
- c) Repair effects after they have occurred, and
- d) Compensate for effects, balancing out negative impacts with other positive ones.

The assessment of the likely significant effects of implementing the objectives of the Plan in Section 6 identified mainly neutral or positive effects on the environment. However, in the absence of detailed information on the type and scale of developments which may be proposed within the lifetime of the Plan, it is necessary to mitigate any uncertainty. Therefore, mitigation measures have been included for all of the SEOs.

The mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Plan and the objectives refined and refocused where necessary. Table 18 below shows the mitigation measures for each SEO and identifies the objectives in the Plan which have been influenced by the mitigation measures. Post-mitigation or 'residual' impacts will be addressed through monitoring during the implementation of the Plan.

Table 18: Identification of Mitigation Measures and Incorporation into the Plan

SEOs	Mitigation Measures	Relevant Objectives in the Plan
<p>B1 - Ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive with regard to the protection of Natura 2000 sites and habitats and species listed under Annexes I and II of the Directive.</p>	<p>MM1 - Promote favourable conservation status of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>MM2 - Appropriate Assessment required for any proposed developments or plans likely to have an impact on the Natura 2000 site network.</p>	<p>Objective NH05 - To promote the maintenance, and as appropriate, the achievement of favourable conservation status of Natura 2000 sites and their associated habitats and species, in association with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).</p> <p>Objective NH08/AA01/T06 - To ensure that any plan or project and any associated works, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, are subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening to ensure that there are no likely significant effects on the integrity (defined by the structure and function) of any Natura 2000 site(s) and that the requirements of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive are fully satisfied. Where the plan/project is likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site or there is uncertainty with regard to effects, it shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment. The plan/project will proceed only after it has been ascertained that it will not be adversely affect the integrity of the site or where in the absence of alternative solutions, the plan/project is deemed imperative for reasons of overriding public interest, all in accordance with the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Objective NH13/FORM12 - To ensure riparian buffer zones, a minimum of 5-10m in width, are created between all and any future development.</p>
<p>B2 - Ensure the protection of habitats and species outside of the designated ecological sites and prevent the loss of ecological networks and stepping stones or parts thereof which provide important connectivity for species, in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</p>	<p>MM3 - Protect riparian zones by maintaining an appropriately sized buffer zone along all watercourses.</p> <p>MM4 - Include objectives for the protection of important habitats and species outside of the designated ecological sites.</p> <p>MM5 - Retain existing hedgerows, trees and traditional field boundaries which provide important ecological networks.</p>	<p>Objective NH12 - To work with local communities, groups, landowners, National Parks and Wildlife Service and other relevant parties to identify, protect, manage and, where appropriate, enhance and promote sites of local biodiversity value.</p> <p>Objective NH09 - To ensure the management of features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora. Such features are those, by virtue of their linear and continuous structure (such as rivers with their banks or the traditional systems for</p>

SEOs	Mitigation Measures	Relevant Objectives in the Plan
		<p>marking field boundaries) or their function as stepping stones (such as ponds or small woods), are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species. These features are outlined as Ecological Corridors or Ecological Stepping Stones on Map 8(a). Where such features exist on land which is to be developed the applicant will be required to demonstrate that the design of the development has resulted in the retention of these features insofar as is possible and that the impact on the biodiversity of the site has been minimised and where possible enhanced.</p>
<p>B3 - Protect aquatic and terrestrial habitats from the spread of invasive species.</p>	<p>MM6 – Control/prevent the spread of invasive species.</p>	<p>Objective NH16 - To promote best practice in the control of invasive species and support measures for the prevention and/or eradication of invasive species as appropriate and as opportunities and resources allow.</p> <p>Objective NH17 - To raise awareness in relation to invasive species, including making landowners and developers aware of best practice guidance in relation to the control of invasive species and encouraging them to adhere to same and, to ensure, in so far as possible, that proposals for development do not lead to the spread of invasive species.</p>
<p>P1 - Protect and enhance people's quality of life based on high quality living, working and recreational environments.</p>	<p>MM7 - Include objectives for the delivery of high quality infrastructure and community facilities to serve the existing and future population of the area.</p>	<p>Core Strategy Strategic Aim - Provide key infrastructure to facilitate development and investment, subject to compliance with national and international legislation on habitats and water quality.</p> <p>Core Strategy Strategic Aim - Develop a range of community facilities and amenities which are socially inclusive and accessible by all members of the community.</p> <p>Objective CF10 - To promote the development of sustainable communities on the basis of a high quality of life where people can live, work and enjoy access to a wide range of community, health and educational facilities suitable for all ages, needs and abilities.</p> <p>Objective ED03 - To ensure the provision of necessary infrastructure such as roads, sanitary services, housing, telecommunications,</p>

SEOs	Mitigation Measures	Relevant Objectives in the Plan
<p>P2 - Reduce the risk of flooding and harm to people, property and the environment.</p>	<p>MM8 – Identify flood risk areas, zone for compatible uses in these areas and mitigate the risk of flooding through layout and design of new developments.</p>	<p>energy supply, transport, waste management, community services and amenities on a planned and phased basis in advance of new development where feasible, along with the clearance of derelict land to facilitate new enterprises and existing enterprises wishing to expand subject to compliance with national and international legislation on habitats and water quality.</p> <p>Sequential and justification tests applied to land use zoning . .</p> <p>Objective FRM01 - To carry out flood risk assessment for the purpose of regulating, restricting and controlling development in areas at risk of flooding and to minimise the level of flood risk to people, business, infrastructure and the environment through the identification and management of existing and potential future flood risk.</p> <p>Objective FRM05 - To require planning applications for development proposals within, incorporating or adjoining areas at moderate (Flood Zone B) to high (Flood Zone A) risk of fluvial flooding or at extreme or indicative risk of pluvial flooding, to carry out a site-specific and appropriately detailed flood risk assessment. The site-specified flood risk assessment shall be carried out by a suitably qualified and indemnified professional and in accordance with the requirements of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG, OPW 2009).</p> <p>Objective FRM06 - To require the verification of Flood Zone maps and Flood Extent Maps at the edge of identified flood zone or extent areas given the broad-scale nature of the modelling which these maps are based on. In the event that it is concluded that the area is at moderate or high risk flooding, it will be necessary to carry out a site-specific and appropriately detailed flood risk assessment. The site-specified flood risk assessment shall be carried out by a suitably qualified and indemnified professional and in accordance with the requirements of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG, OPW 2009).</p> <p>Objective FRM13 - To ensure that development proposals in areas at</p>

SEOs	Mitigation Measures	Relevant Objectives in the Plan
<p>P3 - Protect human health from hazards or nuisances arising from exposure to incompatible land uses/developments.</p>	<p>Require the provision of adequate storm water retention facilities in all new developments, including the use of soft landscaping and sustainable drainage techniques.</p> <p>MM9 - Require the provision of adequate storm water retention facilities in all new developments, including the use of soft landscaping and sustainable drainage techniques.</p> <p>MM10 - Ensure that development should not itself be subject to an inappropriate risk of flooding nor should it cause or exacerbate such a risk at other locations.</p> <p>MM11 – Support the implementation of the proposed Flood Relief Scheme.</p> <p>MM12 – Ensure adequate separation between conflicting land uses and have regard to any strategic noise maps/noise</p>	<p>moderate (Flood Zone B) or high (Flood Zone A) risk of fluvial flooding or at extreme or indicative risk of pluvial flooding, which are considered acceptable in principle in accordance with the Development Management Justification Test, demonstrate that appropriate mitigation measures can be put in place and that residual risks can be managed to acceptable levels.</p> <p>Objective SWM01 - To promote storm water retention facilities in new developments and require design solutions that provide for collection and recycling of surface water in accordance with Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems.</p> <p>Objective SWM02 - To ensure that all storm water generated in new developments is disposed of on-site or is attenuated and treated prior to discharge to an approved storm water system.</p> <p>Objective FRM07 - To require the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) to minimise the extent of hard surfacing and paving and require the use of sustainable drainage for new development or extensions to existing developments.</p> <p>Objective FRM14 - To ensure new development does not increase flood risk elsewhere including that which may arise from surface water run-off.</p> <p>Objective FRM10 - To support and facilitate the OPW's proposed flood relief scheme for the town, and to facilitate the provision of any other necessary appropriate flood risk management infrastructure by the Office of Public Works, the local authority or private developers subject to compliance with the requirements of the EU Habitats and Environment Impact Assessment Directives and associated national legislation.</p> <p>Land use zoning map includes transition zones between residential and general industry uses.</p>

SEOs	Mitigation Measures	Relevant Objectives in the Plan
	<p>Action plan prepared for the area.</p>	<p>Core Strategy Strategic Aim - Protect residential and amenity lands from encroachment by incompatible types of development.</p> <p>Objective ED16 - To seek to ensure that the impacts of any industry on adjoining uses and the environment are minimised.</p> <p>Objective N01 - To ensure new development does not cause an unacceptable increase in noise levels affecting noise sensitive properties. Proposals for new development with the potential to create excessive noise will be required to submit a construction and/or operation management plan to control such emissions.</p> <p>Objective N02 - To require activities likely to give rise to excessive noise to install noise mitigation measures and monitors. The provision of a noise audit may be required where appropriate.</p> <p>Objective N03 - To ensure that relevant planning applications comply with the provisions of any Noise Action Plan or noise maps relating to the area.</p>
<p>P4 - Improve travel choice and accessibility, reduce the need for travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys.</p>	<p>MM13 - Include objectives which aim to reduce the number and length of car journeys by encouraging cycling, walking and use of public transport and locate land uses having regard to their accessibility requirements.</p>	<p>Objective SH05 - To ensure that new housing development minimises the use of natural resources and impacts on natural assets. The location of residential developments should maximise the use of sustainable modes of transport such as walking, cycling and the use of public transport, so as to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.</p> <p>Objective T07 - To encourage walking and cycling by all sections of the community through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting walking and cycling as sustainable transport modes and healthy recreation activities; • Maximising pedestrian and cycle movements between residential areas, town centres, schools, commercial and industrial areas. • Promoting cycling and pedestrian friendly development layouts, provide facilities at public transport nodes, plan for and make provision for the integration of cyclist and

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SEOs	Mitigation Measures	Relevant Objectives in the Plan
		<p>pedestrian needs when considering new development proposals;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that cycling and walking facilities are integral to the provision of vehicular traffic facilities; • Requiring the provision of drop kerbs at all junctions and central island refuges to facilitate ease of access for elderly and mobility restricted people; • Requiring that proposed developments are sited and designed in a manner which facilitates and encourages safe walking and cycling; • Supporting the installation of infrastructure measures (for example new/wider pavements, road crossings and cycle parking facilities), retrofitted if necessary, which facilitates and encourages safe walking and cycling; • Ensuring that the needs of walkers and cyclists are given full consideration in proposals to maintain and upgrade public roads, in undertaking traffic calming and proposals to maintain or change local speed limits. <p>Objective T12 - To support and facilitate proposals which facilitate and encourage increased public transport usage and to support the development of appropriately sited and designed facilities, such as additional stations, car and cycle parking, taxi ranks, bus parking facilities, bus shelters and bus lanes.</p> <p>Objective T23 - In retrofitting and developing new roadways the planning authority and developers shall have regard to Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (2013). Notwithstanding the detailed proposals as shown on Map 12 for public footpath/lighting improvements, the Council shall continue to examine the remainder of the existing street network within the town, to establish where and how enhancements for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users can be made. In particular the Council will seek to enhance linkages from existing and proposed residential areas to the town centre, to existing and proposed neighbourhood shopping, educational and recreational facilities and to existing and proposed</p>

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SEOs	Mitigation Measures	Relevant Objectives in the Plan
		<p>employment areas.</p> <p>Objective AQ04 - To encourage a modal change from private car use towards other types of travel and promote the use of public transport as a means of reducing vehicle emissions and improving air quality.</p> <p>The land use zoning has had regard to accessibility requirements e.g. industrial and commercial zoned lands are located adjacent to N11 main approach road and in close proximity to the proposed bypass for ease of access, while new residential zoned land is located close to the town centre and/or employment areas.</p>
<p>S1 - Prevent pollution or contamination of soils.</p>	<p>MM14 – Include objectives for the safe disposal of hazardous waste.</p>	<p>Objective WM03 - To ensure that hazardous waste is disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2008-2012 or any updated version published during the lifetime of the Plan.</p>
<p>S2 - Maximise the sustainable re-use of brownfield lands and give preference to the re-use of brownfield lands over development of greenfield lands.</p>	<p>MM15 – Promote the redevelopment of brownfield sites.</p>	<p>Core Strategy Strategic Aim - Enhance the urban environment by promoting the redevelopment of brownfield sites and ensuring high quality design in new developments.</p> <p>Objective ED18 - To encourage and facilitate the provision of office development within the town centre including in existing derelict buildings, brownfield sites and under-utilised sites and buildings where such services would not detract from the primary retail area and having regard to the objectives in relation to primary and secondary retail streets contained in Appendix 1 in the Retail Strategy. Those with requirements for large floorplates may be accommodated on appropriate zoned land elsewhere.</p>
<p>S3 - Protect and conserve important geological sites.</p>	<p>MM16 – Include objectives for the protection of geological sites.</p>	<p>Objective L05 - To actively encourage the redevelopment of brownfield sites in the town centre and promote good urban design in all new developments.</p> <p>Objective NH04 - To conserve and protect the integrity of sites designated for their habitat/wildlife or geological/geomorphological</p>

SEOs	Mitigation Measures	Relevant Objectives in the Plan
<p>S4 - Minimise the amount of waste to landfill.</p>	<p>MM17 - Promote waste prevention, minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery as methods of managing waste.</p>	<p>importance and prohibit development which would damage or threaten the integrity of these sites, including Special Areas of Conservation, candidate Special Areas of Conservations, Special Protection Areas, candidate Special Protections Areas, Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas.</p> <p>Objective NH06 - To recognise the importance of recommended proposed Natural Heritage Areas and County Geological sites as identified by the Geological Survey of Ireland, and protect the character and integrity of these sites, where appropriate.</p> <p>Objective AQ01 - To encourage sustainable industrial developments by promoting the use of cleaner technologies and production techniques, reducing waste production, conservation and recycling of materials.</p> <p>Objective WM01 - To implement the provisions of the Joint Waste Management Plan for the South East Region 2006-2011 or any updated version published during the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p>Objective WM02 - To implement the National Waste Prevention Programme and any updated version published during the lifetime of the Plan. The Council will continue to support initiatives such as the 'Green Business Initiative' and the 'Green Schools Programme' which promote waste prevention in businesses and schools.</p> <p>Objective WM04 - To continue to provide bring facilities throughout the town in easily accessible locations where population growth demands. Planning applications for significant developments, for example supermarkets, will be required to submit proposals for bottle-bank facilities.</p> <p>Objective WM05 - To encourage communities to become involved in environmental awareness activities and community-based recycling or environmental management initiatives that will lead to local sustainable waste management practices.</p>

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SEOs	Mitigation Measures	Relevant Objectives in the Plan
<p>W1 - Maintain or improve the quality of surface water to status objectives as set out in the Water Framework Directive and the South Eastern River Basin Management Plan (2009-2015).</p> <p>W2 - Prevent pollution and contamination of ground water.</p>	<p>MM18 - Protect and improve water quality in accordance with the measures set out in the South Eastern River Basin Management Plan (2009-2015).</p> <p>MM19 - Protect existing groundwater aquifers and surface waters from pollution.</p>	<p>Objective WM06 - To require a Waste Management Plan to accompany planning applications for significant developments, where appropriate. The Waste Management Plan shall supply full details of all wastes generated (including topsoil/'clean fill') and proposals for the prevention, re-use, minimisation and disposal of these wastes. The Plan shall be prepared in accordance with Best Practice Guidelines on the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Projects (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2006).</p>
<p>W1 - Maintain or improve the quality of surface water to status objectives as set out in the Water Framework Directive and the South Eastern River Basin Management Plan (2009-2015).</p> <p>W2 - Prevent pollution and contamination of ground water.</p>	<p>MM18 - Protect and improve water quality in accordance with the measures set out in the South Eastern River Basin Management Plan (2009-2015).</p> <p>MM19 - Protect existing groundwater aquifers and surface waters from pollution.</p>	<p>Objective WQ01 - To protect existing and potential water resources in accordance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended) • European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (as amended) • European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (as amended) • South-East River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 or any updated version of this document • Pollution Reduction Programmes for Designated Shellfish Areas • Groundwater Protection Scheme for County Wexford • Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2001 (as amended) • Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) and European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Waters) Regulations 2009 and 2010 • Any other protection plans for water supply sources or updates to the above regulations. <p>Objective WQ02 - To ensure that development would not have an unacceptable impact on water quality and quantity, including surface water, ground water, designated source protection areas, river corridors and associated wetlands, estuarine waters, coastal and</p>

SEOs	Mitigation Measures	Relevant Objectives in the Plan
<p>W3 - Promote sustainable water use based on long-term protection of available water resources.</p>	<p>MM20 - Promote public awareness on the maintenance of water quality and its economic and sustainable use.</p>	<p>transitional waters.</p> <p>Objective WQ03 - To ensure that all significant road projects/upgrades with surface water discharges to the Slaney River system and its tributaries, have petrol/oil interceptors installed to prevent hydrocarbon pollution of the river system.</p> <p>Objective WW01 - To provide adequate wastewater treatment facilities to serve the existing and future population of the town, subject to complying with the Water Framework Directive, the South-East River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 or any updated version of this document, Pollution Reduction Programmes for Designated Shellfish Areas, the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Objective WW05 - To ensure that adequate and appropriate waste water infrastructure is in place prior to the occupation of any new development.</p> <p>Objective BG01 - To provide and facilitate burial grounds or extensions to existing burial grounds at appropriate locations subject to adequate protection of groundwater. A site investigation and risk assessment will be required to be submitted with any planning application in accordance with Cemeteries, Burials and The Water Environment: Guidance Notes (Northern Ireland Environmental Agency, 2009) or any other relevant guidance document.</p> <p>Objective WS02 - To conserve water supplies through the maintenance of mains and the elimination of leaks and to promote public awareness on the maintenance of water quality and its economic and sustainable use.</p> <p>Objective WS03 - To support and promote the use of water conservation measures in new development, for example, rainwater harvesting systems.</p>

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SEOs	Mitigation Measures	Relevant Objectives in the Plan
<p>W4 - Maintain and improve the quality of drinking water supplies.</p>	<p>MM21 – Provide good quality water supply.</p>	<p>Objective WS01 - To ensure an adequate, sustainable and economic supply of good quality water for domestic, commercial and industrial needs for the lifetime of this Plan, subject to compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, where appropriate.</p>
<p>A1 - Facilitate measures which aim to reduce all forms of air pollution and reduce dependence on travel by private car.</p>	<p>MM22 - Include objectives which aim to reduce the number and length of car journeys by encouraging cycling, walking and use of public transport.</p> <p>MM23 – Include objectives which will facilitate a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.</p>	<p>Objectives SH05, T07, T12, T23 and AQ04 as for SEO P4 above.</p>
<p>A2 - Promote energy conservation and the development of renewable energy sources.</p>	<p>MM24 – Include objectives which promote energy conservation and the development of renewable energy sources.</p>	<p>Objective CC03 - To minimise greenhouse gas emissions in order to contribute to a reduction of human induced climate change in accordance with the Kyoto agreement. The Council supports and is committed to the National Climate Change Strategy and in general to facilitating measures which seek to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.</p> <p>Objective CC05 - To adopt sustainable planning strategies through the integration of land use and transportation as a means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Objective EN05 - To promote energy conservation, decrease dependency on fossil fuels and support environmentally friendly methods of producing energy.</p> <p>Objective EN06 - To encourage and facilitate the development of renewable energy sources at appropriate locations provided that they do not negatively impact on residential amenity, biodiversity or landscape sensitivities.</p> <p>Objective EN07 - To support the development of Sustainable Energy Zones at suitable locations in the town.</p> <p>Objective EN11 - To investigate the potential for small-scale wind energy developments within the urban and industrial areas of the plan.</p>

SEOs	Mitigation Measures	Relevant Objectives in the Plan
	<p>MM23 - Require all new building developments to meet low energy performance targets.</p>	<p>Objective EN13 - To require all new building developments to meet low energy performance targets. Each building's energy performance, as calculated by the Building Energy Rating (BER), will have a minimum energy efficiency that meets the requirements of Part L of the Building Regulations. New buildings should incorporate renewable energy technologies in order to help achieve the rating required.</p> <p>Objective EN14 - To promote innovative building design and layout that demonstrates a high level of energy conservation, energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources.</p> <p>Objective EN15 - To encourage the integration of micro renewable energy sources into the design and construction of single and multiple housing developments.</p> <p>Objective CC07 - To encourage improved energy efficiency of the existing building stock, and promote energy efficiency and conservation in the design and development of all new buildings and residential schemes in particular.</p>
<p>MA1 - Maintain the quality of, and access to, assets such as open spaces, water resources and all other physical and social infrastructure.</p>	<p>MM24 – Ensure the provision of, and access to, high quality open spaces, play areas and community facilities.</p>	<p>Core Strategy Strategic Aim - Develop a range of community facilities and amenities which are socially inclusive and accessible by all members of the community.</p> <p>Objective CI41 - To maintain and, where possible, improve the provision of community facilities in the town, ensuring that these facilities are adequate to meet the needs of the communities they serve, are physically integrated with residential and employment areas and are provided concurrently with new residential development.</p> <p>Objective RS01 - To ensure that adequate amenity and recreational open space and facilities are available for all groups of the population at a convenient distance from their homes and places of work.</p> <p>Objective RS11 - To identify deficits in sports facilities within the town and to be proactive in the provision of the necessary facilities, subject</p>

SEOs	Mitigation Measures	Relevant Objectives in the Plan
		<p>to available resources.</p> <p>Objective RS13 - To carry out an audit of open space within the town to ensure all persons have access to a suitable level of appropriate open space including passive and active spaces at a local level.</p> <p>Objective RS15 - To require the provision of good quality, accessible, well located and functional open spaces in new residential developments in accordance with the standards recommended in Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas: Guidelines for Planning Authorities and its companion document Urban Design Manual (DEHLG, 2008).</p> <p>Objective RS17 - To develop the Orchard Eco Park Nature Zone as shown on Map 12 for the purposes of providing a high quality accessible recreational and educational open space for both the town's residents and visitors to the town.</p> <p>Objective RS19 - To ensure that high quality play and recreation facilities are incorporated into new housing developments over 75 dwellings. Play facilities may include playgrounds, basket ball courts, tennis courts, hurling walls or other facilities considered appropriate by the Council. This standard may be modified in any particular case where there are significant reasons for doing so. Criteria that may be taken into account include the existing geographical distribution of play facilities and the emerging demographic profile of the area.</p> <p>Objective RS20 - To encourage the development of Multi-User Games Areas (MUGAs) at appropriate locations and ensure that new community facilities and public open spaces are designed to allow flexibility in their use.</p> <p>Objective ED03 - To ensure the provision of necessary infrastructure such as roads, sanitary services, housing, telecommunications, energy supply, transport, waste management, community services and amenities on a planned and phased basis in advance of new development where feasible, along with the clearance of derelict land</p>
<p>MA2 - Ensure that adequate infrastructure is in place prior to occupation of new development.</p>	<p>MM25 - Ensure that adequate physical and social infrastructure is in place prior to the occupation of new development.</p>	

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SEOs	Mitigation Measures	Relevant Objectives in the Plan
		<p>to facilitate new enterprises and existing enterprises wishing to expand subject to compliance with national and international legislation on habitats and water quality.</p> <p>Objective WW05 - To ensure that adequate and appropriate waste water infrastructure is in place prior to the occupation of any new development.</p> <p>Objective CF02 - To achieve a balanced spatial distribution of community and education facilities in the plan area and ensure that such facilities are provided in advance of, or in tandem with development.</p> <p>Objective CF16 - To ensure that no significant residential development proceeds without an assessment of existing schools capacity or the provision of new school facilities in tandem with the development.</p>
<p>C1 - Promote the protection and conservation of the cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage.</p>	<p>MM26 – Include objectives for the protection of architectural, archaeological (including underwater archaeology) and natural heritage.</p>	<p>Objective AH01 - To protect the architectural heritage of Enniscorthy and to include structures considered to be of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest in the Record of Protected Structures.</p> <p>Objective ACPA01 - To preserve the character of the three designated Architectural Conservation Areas in Enniscorthy.</p> <p>Objective G01 - To preserve and enhance Enniscorthy's historic graveyards through improved management and access and community stewardship and to provide historical information at each location and promote the unique character of each of the burial grounds to the surrounding residents and property owners.</p> <p>Objective ARH01 - To protect the archaeological heritage from damage.</p> <p>Objective ARH05 - To require an archaeological assessment for development that may, due to its size, location or nature, have a</p>

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SEOs	Mitigation Measures	Relevant Objectives in the Plan
<p>L1 – Conserve, maintain and enhance the natural riverside landscape of Enniscorthy.</p>	<p>MM27 - Promote high-quality developments along the riverfront and ensure that new development does not detract from important views and vistas.</p>	<p>significant effect upon archaeological heritage, including underwater archaeology, and to take appropriate measures to safeguard this archaeological heritage. In all such cases the Councils shall consult with the National Monuments Service in the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht on these matters. Any such assessments shall be carried out by a licensed archaeologist.</p> <p>Objective ARH07 - To promote a presumption in favour of “preservation in situ” of archaeological remains and settings, in accordance with government policy, when dealing with proposals for development that would impact upon archaeological sites and/or features. Where preservation in-situ is not possible the Council will consider preservation by record in appropriate circumstances.</p> <p>Objective ARH10 - To protect the historic and archaeological landscape of Vinegar Hill and to continue to promote access to and understanding of it.</p> <p>Objective NH04 - To conserve and protect the integrity of sites designated for their habitat/wildlife or geological/geomorphological importance and prohibit development which would damage or threaten the integrity of these sites, including Special Areas of Conservation, candidate Special Areas of Conservations, Special Protection Areas, candidate Special Protections Areas, Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas.</p> <p>Objective L06 - To promote brownfield and infill development along the river front which encourages a strong building line and uses that support vibrant activity along the River Slaney and associated streets.</p> <p>Objective PV01 - To protect views of special amenity value or special interest and ensure that new development does not detract from such views. In evaluating planning applications for development in the foreground of any protected views, consideration shall be given to the effect such development may have on the view or prospect.</p> <p>Objective TM01 - To protect and enhance those natural, built and</p>

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SEOs	Mitigation Measures	Relevant Objectives in the Plan
<p>L2 - Protect and conserve the historical landscape, including Vinegar Hill.</p>	<p>MM28 - Ensure that new development does not detract from the historical landscape of Vinegar Hill.</p>	<p>cultural features that form the basis of the town's tourism industry, including local scenic landscapes, protected views, areas of important wildlife interest and, historic buildings and structures.</p> <p>Objective TM09 - To protect the views and vistas from waterways from inappropriate development which would detract from the amenity of the waterways, except in circumstances where there is a reason of justifiable public interest.</p> <p>Vinegar Hill and surrounding undeveloped land zoned as Open Space.</p> <p>Objective ARH10 - To protect the historic and archaeological landscape of Vinegar Hill and to continue to promote access to and understanding of it.</p> <p>Objective TC05 - To encourage the removal of the telecommunications mast on Vinegar Hill having regard to the cultural, historic, tourism and scenic value of this site.</p>

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Section 8 – Monitoring Programme

8.1 Introduction

Article 10 of the SEA Directive requires that monitoring be carried out in order to identify at an early stage any unforeseen adverse effects due to the implementation of the Plan and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action. Monitoring is a key element of the effective implementation of the Plan. Its purpose is to cross check significant effects which arise during the implementation stage of the Plan against those predicted during the plan preparation stage. Monitoring can also be used to fill gaps identified at the baseline, impact prediction and evaluation stages.

8.2 Monitoring Indicators

Monitoring is based on indicators which measure changes to the environment. Several kinds of indicators may be used to fulfil particular functions and measure the quality/quantity of environmental resources:

- ‘State of the environment’ indicators reflect environmental quality, or quantity of physical and biological or chemical phenomenon;
- ‘Stress indicators’ reflect development effects;
- ‘Performance indicators’ may be used to evaluate long-term achievements in environmental management and protection; and
- ‘Sustainable development indicators’ introduce a new dimension to the provision of information in that they seek to describe and measure key relationships between economic, social and environmental factors.

In all cases, indicators should both quantify and simplify information, thereby making it more accessible to policy-makers and the public.

Table 19 lists indicators which may be amended depending on availability of resources and relevance of the indicators to monitor the environmental baseline. The indicators allow quantitative measures of trends and progress over time relating to the SEOs used in the evaluation. Focus is given to

indicators which are relevant to the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan and existing monitoring arrangements are used in order to monitor the selected indicators where possible.

Data Source

CDB – County Development Board

CEB – County Enterprise Board

CSO – Central Statistics Office

DAHG – Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

IDA – Industrial Development Agency

EI – Enterprise Ireland

EPA – Environmental Protection Agency

GSI – Geological Survey of Ireland

NBDC – National Biodiversity Data Centre

NMS – National Monument Service

NPWS – National Parks & Wildlife Service

NRA – National Roads Authority

WCC – Wexford County Council

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Table 19: List of Monitoring Indicators and Targets

Environmental Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Data Source	Frequency
B1: Ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive with regard to the protection of Natura 2000 sites and habitats and species listed under Annexes I and II of the Directive.	Maintenance of favourable conservation status for all habitats and species protected under national and international legislation.	Conservation status of the qualifying interests of Natura 2000 sites and protected habitats and species as reported by NPWS and other conservation organisations.	NPWS	Dependent on availability of information from relevant statutory authorities.
B2: Ensure the protection of habitats and species outside of the designated ecological sites and prevent the loss of ecological networks and stepping stones or parts thereof which provide important connectivity for species, in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.	Minimal loss of Article 10 corridors/stepping stones as identified on Map 8(a) in the Plan. Minimal loss of habitats as identified on Map 8(b) in the Plan.	Percentage loss of Article 10 corridors/stepping stones as identified on Map 8(a) in the Plan. Percentage loss of habitats as identified on Map 8(b) in the Plan.	WCC	Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the Manager's Report and every two years thereafter.
B3: Protect aquatic and terrestrial habitats from the spread of invasive species.	Prevent introduction of new invasive species and manage current invasive species to prevent a spread in their distribution.	Change in no. and type of invasive species in the plan area as shown on map 3 of this report. Distribution of invasive species as listed on NBDC website and other invasive species related sites and organisations.	WCC NBDC	Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the Manager's Report and every two years thereafter (more frequently if it is apparent that invasive species are spreading).
P1: Protect and enhance people's quality of life based on high quality living, working and recreational environments.	Increased employment opportunities in the plan area. Increases and improvements in quality of services, amenities and green spaces.	Provision of employment. Decrease in no. of people on live register. Provision of services, amenities and green spaces.	WCC, CDB, CEP, TDA, EI, CSO WCC	Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the Manager's Report and every two years thereafter (dependent on availability of information from relevant agencies).

Environmental Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Data Source	Frequency
P2: Reduce the risk of flooding and harm to people, property and the environment.	No highly vulnerable development to be permitted in Flood Zones A and B or where such development is permitted, to be mitigated through siting, layout and design.	No. of developments granted in Flood Zones A and B and mitigation measures deployed.	WCC	Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the Manager's Report and every two years thereafter.
P3: Protect human health from hazards or nuisances arising from exposure to incompatible land uses/developments.	Noise levels for new developments not to exceed 55dB during daytime hours or 45dB at night.	Noise monitoring as part of conditions of IPPC licences.	EPA	Yearly (where IPPC licence requires an annual environmental report to be submitted to EPA).
P4: Improve travel choice and accessibility, reduce the need for travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys.	Reduce road traffic in line with <i>Smarter Travel - A Sustainable Transport Future</i> . Increased investment in walkways and cycle paths.	No. of complaints/planning conditions breached with regard to noise. Average daily motor vehicle flows and proportion of travel by mode. Monetary investment in walking and cycling routes.	WCC	Complaints recorded as they are received (planning enforcement).
S1: Prevent pollution or contamination of soils.	Maintenance and conservation of soil quality. Filling of lands for development to be accompanied by waste permit licences where required. Waste management plans to be carried out for significant developments and/or demolition	EPA, Teagasc National Soils Mapping Project. No. of waste permit licences granted. No. of Waste Management Plans prepared.	NRA, CSO WCC EPA, Teagasc	Dependent on availability of information from relevant authorities/agencies. Annual Report.
Soil			EPA, Teagasc	Dependent on availability of information from relevant authorities/agencies. Waste permits recorded as they are granted. Waste Management Plans recorded as they are received (as part of a

Environmental Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Data Source	Frequency
	of structures which are likely to contain hazardous material.			planning application or as compliance).
S2: Maximise the sustainable re-use of brownfield lands and give preference to the re-use of brownfield lands over development of greenfield lands.	Brownfield land to be redeveloped by the end of the plan period.	Area of brownfield land developed.	WCC	Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the Manager's Report and every two years thereafter.
S3: Protect and conserve important geological sites.	Retain or increase the conservation status of important geological sites in the plan area.	Conservation status of geological sites.	DAHG, GSI, NPWS	Dependent on availability of information from relevant authorities/agencies.
S4: Minimise the amount of waste to landfill.	Reduce the amount of waste to landfill by increasing recycling and composting initiatives. Increase no. of bring banks in the plan area.	Amount and nature of waste going to landfill. No. of bring centres provided in the plan area.	EPA, WCC	Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the Manager's Report and every two years thereafter (depending on available information).
W1: Maintain or improve the quality of surface water to status objectives as set out in the Water Framework Directive and the South Eastern River Basin Management Plan (2009-2015).	Improvement or at least no deterioration in surface water quality by 2015.	Changes in receiving water quality as identified during water quality monitoring.	EPA, WCC	Depending on availability of relevant information from environmental authorities.

Water

	Environmental Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Data Source	Frequency
W2: Prevent pollution and contamination of ground water.	Improvement or at least no deterioration in groundwater quality by 2015.	Changes in groundwater quality as identified during water quality monitoring.	EPA, WCC	Depending on availability of relevant information from environmental authorities.	
W3: Promote sustainable water use based on long-term protection of available water resources.	Implementation of Ground Water Protection Scheme for County Wexford.	Implementation of Ground Water Protection Scheme for County Wexford.	WCC		Annual
W4: Maintain and improve the quality of drinking water supplies.	Implement the Water Conservation Programme.	Results of Water Conservation Programme.	WCC		Annual
A1: Facilitate measures which aim to reduce all forms of air pollution and reduce dependence on travel by private car.	No deterioration in quality of drinking water.	EPA remedial action list.	EPA	Annual	10 check samples and two audit samples per year.
A2: Promote energy conservation and the development of renewable energy sources.	Maintain/improve air quality within Air Quality index bands.	Check and audit samples carried out on the Enniscorthy public water scheme in accordance with national drinking water regulations.	WCC		Dependent on availability of information from relevant authorities/agencies.
	Reduce road traffic in line with <i>Smarter Travel - A Sustainable Transport Future</i> .	Change in Air Quality Index Bands.	EPA		Detailed in Annual Budget Report.
	Increased investment in walkways and cycle paths.	Average daily motor vehicle flows. Proportion of travel by mode.	Monetary investment in cycling and walking routes.	WCC	Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the Manager's Report and every two years thereafter.
	Require all new building developments to meet low energy performance targets.	Building Energy Ratings.	WCC		
	Increase in renewable energy development and research and development.	No. of developments which support the renewable energy industry.	WCC		

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	Environmental Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Data Source	Frequency
Material Assets	M1: Maintain the quality of, and access to, assets such as open spaces, water resources and all other physical and social infrastructure.	Maintenance of walkways and public rights-of-way. Provision of adequate water and wastewater infrastructure. Provision of new/improvement of existing community facilities.	Maintenance of walkways and public rights-of-way. Any upgrades to wastewater and water infrastructure. Provision of new/improvement of existing community facilities.	WCC WCC WCC WCC	Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the Manager's Report and every two years thereafter.
	M2: Ensure that adequate infrastructure is in place prior to occupation of new development.	No new development to be granted/occupied until the upgrade to the Enniscorthy WWTP is completed.	No. of developments granted/occupied prior to WWTP upgrade being completed.	WCC	Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the Manager's Report and every two years thereafter (until WWTP upgrade is complete).
Cultural Heritage	C1: Promote the protection and conservation of the cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage.	No development permitted during the lifetime of the Plan which will result in the loss/partial loss of protected structures or sites of archaeological importance.	Number of protected structures or archaeological monuments damaged due to development.	NMS, WCC	Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the Manager's Report and every two years thereafter.
Landscape	L1: Conserve, maintain and enhance the natural riverside landscape of Enniscorthy.	No diminution in the quality of the natural riverside landscape and no significant disruption of important views or vistas. Brownfield sites to be redeveloped and sensitively designed.	No. and type of developments granted along the riverside.	WCC (planning register and planners reports)	Monitoring at planning application stage for all new developments along the riverside.

	Environmental Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Data Source	Frequency
	L2: Protect and conserve the historical landscape, including Vinegar Hill.	No diminution in the quality of Vinegar Hill.	No. and type of developments permitted on or adjacent to Vinegar Hill.	WCC (planning register and planner's reports).	Monitoring at planning application stage for all new developments within ACAs or on or adjacent to Vinegar Hill.

Note: In all instances monitoring will be subject to availability of data and resources.

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