



**Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane  
Local Area Plan  
2012 – 2018**



**Appendix 1  
Strategic Environmental Assessment  
Final Environmental Report**



Wexford County Council  
Planning & Development



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## Acronyms

AA	Appropriate Assessment
CDP	County Development Plan
cSAC	Candidate Special Area of Conservation
CSO	Central Statistics Office
DoE	Department of Environment
DCENR	Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
DECLG	Department of Environment, Community and Local Government
DEHLG	Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
END	Environmental Noise Directive
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
GSI	Geological Survey of Ireland
HDA	Habitats Directive Assessment
ICPSS	Irish Coastal Protection Strategy Study
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IPPC	Integrated Pollution Prevention Control
IROPI	Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest
JWMP	Joint Waste Management Plan for the South East Region 2006-2011
LAP	Local Area Plan
NBDC	National Biodiversity Data Centre
NHA	Natural Heritage Area
NIAH	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
NMS	National Monuments Service
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
NRA	National Roads Authority
NREAP	National Renewable Energy Action Plan
NSS	National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020
OPW	Office of Public Works
OREDPP	Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan
pNHA	Proposed Natural Heritage Area
PRP	Pollution Reduction Programme
RMP	Record of Monuments and Places
RPGs	Regional Planning Guidelines for the South East Region 2010-2022
RPPI	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 (2009-2015)
SFRA	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
SPA	Special Protection Area
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WTP	Water Treatment Plant
WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant

# **Non-Technical Summary**

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## **Introduction and Background**

The Local Area Plan (LAP) sets out a spatial planning framework and overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane. Due to the potential environmental impacts of implementing the Plan, a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required to be carried out in parallel with its formulation. The purpose of the Environmental Report is to provide the Elected Members with a clear understanding of the likely environmental consequences of implementing the Plan and to make the environment a central focus of the decision-making process.

## **What is SEA?**

SEA 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 to be kept informed on decisions that may impact on the environment.

## **Local Area Plan & SEA Requirements**

In accordance with Section 20(3) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Article 14E(1) of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004) (as amended), copies of the LAP and the Environmental Report were sent to the Minister, the Board and the prescribed authorities and were placed on public display for a period of six weeks, during which time 22 submissions were made to the Planning Authority. These submissions were taken into consideration by the Elected Members.

Following consideration of the submissions, the Elected Members proposed to make material alterations to the Draft Plan in accordance with Section 20(3)(d) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). A copy of the Proposed Alterations was sent to the Minister, the Board and the prescribed authorities and was placed on public display for a period of four weeks. The Proposed Alterations were accompanied by an SEA Screening Report. The SEA Screening Report determined that the alterations would not have any likely significant effects on the environment in addition to those identified in the Environmental Report for the Draft Plan.

During the four week public display period, seven submissions were made to the Planning Authority. Four of these submissions related to the proposed alterations and were taken into consideration by the Elected Members. The Draft Plan was made with the material alterations on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2012.

In addition to this Environmental Report, an SEA Statement has been prepared in accordance with Article 14I(1) of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (as amended) and is available to the public. The SEA Statement outlines how environmental considerations were considered in the making of the Plan.

### **Methodology**

The methodology devised to carry out the SEA of the Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane LAP 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. The following provides a summary of the stages involved in SEA.



### Summary of SEA Stages

<b>Screening</b>	Screening was undertaken before the preparation of the Draft LAP. This concluded that the Plan would be likely to have significant environmental effects and SEA was therefore required to be carried out in parallel with its formulation.
<b>Scoping</b>	The purpose of scoping is to determine the level of detail to be included in the Environmental Report. A Draft Scoping Report was sent to the Environmental Authorities and they were given a five week period to make submissions and observations. Three submissions were received and are summarised in Section 2.3 of the Environmental Report.
<b>Baseline Data</b>	This involved collating information on the current state of the environment and identifying any existing environmental problems relevant to the plan area. The baseline data is described in Section 4 of the Environmental Report.
<b>Environmental Report</b>	Next step was the preparation of the Environmental Report. The purpose of this report is to identify, evaluate and describe the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the Plan and identify appropriate mitigation measures.
<b>Consultation on the Environmental report</b>	Consultation on the Draft LAP and Environmental Report, and the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft LAP and SEA Screening Report, took place with the Minister, the Board, the prescribed authorities and the public. There were two public display periods during which time submissions and observations were received by the planning authority. The submissions were taken into consideration before the making of the Plan.

<b>Making the Decision Public</b>	Following adoption of the Plan an SEA Statement was prepared. This gives a summary of how environmental considerations 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 also outlines a list of monitoring measures to be carried out during the plan period.
<b>Monitoring</b>	Monitoring will be undertaken for the duration of the Plan. 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.

### **Local Area Plan**

The LAP sets out a strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane. This strategy facilitates the planned, integrated and sustainable development of the area so that growth can take place in a co-ordinated manner, while protecting and preserving the area's character, heritage and amenity and making a positive contribution to the population's quality of life. The LAP comprises of a Written Statement, a series of maps and a set of Appendices.

### **Key Objectives of the Plan**

- To support the sustainable development of Rosslare Europort, including the extension and deepening of the port, where feasible, in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive;
- To ensure that sufficient serviced lands are provided to facilitate international investment and enterprises in the vicinity of Rosslare Europort;
- To improve transport infrastructure and services in the area;
- To create a compact and vibrant town centre;

- To accommodate infill development in the undeveloped areas and pockets created in the existing development pattern;
- To sustain and enhance the role of the town as a service centre for the surrounding rural hinterland;
- To ensure that sufficient lands are provided to meet the identified housing needs in the area over the lifetime of the Plan;
- To facilitate the provision of employment opportunities;
- To ensure a sufficient water supply, wastewater treatment and disposal infrastructure to serve existing and future development in the area;
- To provide opportunities for appropriate landmark buildings in the Rosslare Harbour area;
- To provide opportunities for improved urban design and form;
- To successfully integrate Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane through the provision of road, pedestrian and cycle linkages;
- To facilitate the provision of high quality public open spaces within the plan area;
- To promote the sustainable development of tourism and recreational facilities in the plan area;
- To conserve and protect the environment including the archaeological and natural heritage and EU designated sites;
- To have regard to coastal zone areas designated under the CDP;
- To facilitate coastal protection works provided that such works do not give rise to significant adverse impacts on the integrity of any Natura 2000 site.

### **Relationship with Other Relevant Plans**

The Wexford County Development Plan 2007-2013 is the overarching Plan for the area and the LAP must be consistent with the policies and objectives of that Plan. In addition the LAP must be consistent with national and regional plans, strategies and guidelines including the National Spatial Strategy (NSS), National Planning Guidelines issued under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the Regional Planning Guidelines for the South-East Region 2010-2022 (RPGs), the South-Eastern River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 (SERBMP), the Joint Waste Management Plan

for the South East Region 2006-2011 (JWMP) and any relevant Pollution Reduction Programme (PRP) prepared for Shellfish Designated Areas.

### **Current State of the Environment and Existing Problems**

In order to identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the LAP, relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and existing environmental problems relevant to the plan area are identified. This is summarised under the headings below.

#### *Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna*

There are a number of designated sites within the zone of influence (15km) of the Plan, including six Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), four Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and four proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs). Wexford Harbour Outer Shellfish Area is also located within the zone of influence of the Plan.

SACs and SPAs are collectively known as Natura 2000 sites. SACs are established under the EU Habitats Directive and provide for the protection and conservation of habitats and species listed in Annex I (habitats) and Annex II (species – not birds) of the Habitats Directive. SPA's are established under the EU Birds Directive for the protection and conservation of Annex I (rare and threatened bird species), and regularly occurring migratory species, and for bird habitats (particularly wetlands). Together these Natura 2000 sites form part of the network of sites of highest biodiversity importance in the EU.

There are also a number of areas protected under the Water Framework Directive (WFD). 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. In the zone of influence of the Plan protected areas include the SACs and SPAs, Rosslare Strand (bathing waters), Wexford Harbour (Nutrient Sensitive Waters) and Wexford Harbour Outer Designated Shellfish Waters.

Protected flora in the plan area include the Lotus Subbiflorus/ Hairy Birdsfoot Trefoil. This is a flowering plant which is identified as a rare and threatened species. Non-designated habitats, species and local biodiversity features include rivers, wetlands, hedgerows, individual trees, streams, grassland and coastal areas. These often provide wildlife corridors, ecological networks or stepping stones linking sites of prime conservation value.

The Black Guillemot, which is included on the amber list of Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland, has been found nesting within Rosslare Europort. Red Book Data species, including the Bee Orchid and Round-leaved Crane's-bill, have also been identified in the Rosslare Harbour area.

Habitat loss, fragmentation, and disturbance to wildlife are probably the greatest threats to biodiversity, flora and fauna. Invasive alien species are rated globally as the second biggest threat to biodiversity after habitat loss. Other issues include uncertainty in relation to impacts of dredging on the designated sites, the impacts of climate change, sea level rise and coastal flooding.

In the absence of the Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane LAP pressures on biodiversity, flora and fauna would occur. Important habitats currently not listed or proposed for statutory designation and their ecological connectivity would be susceptible to adverse changes through incompatible uses, resulting in a diminished natural environment and loss of biodiversity, flora and fauna. 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. The effects of wastewater generated as a result of future developments, if unmitigated, could also cause the deterioration of the quality of surface water within the designated sites.

#### *Population and Human Health*

The population of Ballygerry and Kilrane increased by 126 persons or 9.4% during the four year period 2002-2006. The growth was unevenly distributed with Kilrane increasing by 39.8% during this period, while Ballygerry increased

by just 0.3%. This reflects the significant number of new residential developments constructed and occupied in the Kilrane area during the four year period with little residential development having occurred in the Harbour. The age profile for St. Helens E.D shows relatively even numbers of people within each age bracket but the largest proportion of the population is between the ages of 45 and 49. The age profile suggests that there are high numbers of families living in the area but there are also relatively high numbers of elderly people with 15.6% of the population over the age of 65. This has implications for the LAP in terms of housing provision and facilities for the elderly. The population of Rosslare Harbour has been estimated at 1,639 persons in 2011 and is projected to grow by 20% or 328 persons by 2021.

A shortfall in amenities and infrastructure to serve the local community can all go towards decreasing the perceived health of the population. The provision of community facilities, amenities and infrastructure to support new developments within and surrounding Kilrane, in particular, has struggled to keep up with the pace at which development has occurred. Challenges for the future include retaining the young working population to prevent high levels of emigration by encouraging them to live and work in the area. Additionally, there is an increasing trend of elderly age cohorts and their needs also must be catered for. A key area for the consideration of human health is the relationship between health and water quality/ air quality/ climatic factors such as flood risk.

In the absence of 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 regard to existing vacant housing stock or specific guidance as to where new 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. Seasonal pressures must also be considered and planned for.

### *Geology and Soil*

GSI maps show that the geology of the area around Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane generally comprises rocks of the Neoproterozoic era, comprising mainly of Foliated amphibolites with minor schists. These form part of the Greenore Point Group which is classified as a poorly productive aquifer. EPA Maps identify a range of soil types with the majority of the undeveloped area characterised by surface water and ground water gleys, which are described as deeply, poorly drained minerals derived from mainly acidic parent materials. A significant area around Kilrane Business Park is classified as 'Lac', which is defined as a shallow, poorly drained mineral derived from mainly non-calcareous parent material. Subsoils are classified as sandstone and shale till in the majority of the undeveloped area with the area around Kilrane Business Park identified as having bedrock at the surface.

There is one pre-1977, unauthorised landfill (1.62 ha.) in the plan area at Tuskarmore. An initial assessment (Tier I) carried out by Wexford County Council has classified the landfill as low risk to the environment.

Existing environmental problems relating to soil include the building upon and thereby sealing off of soil, with contamination of soil resulting from surface and ground water pollution. 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. Flooding can also have a positive impact on soils bringing nutrients and silt which good soils are composed of.

In the absence of implementing the Plan, development would be likely to occur on flood plains resulting in the loss of natural flood plain storage and increased surface water run-off. Any uncontrolled development would have a direct negative impact due to soil loss and run-off, directly impacting on water and also causing indirect impacts from potential contamination due to ancillary works associated with the development or lack of appropriate wastewater facilities. 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.

### *Water*

Groundwater vulnerability in the area is mainly classified as high to low, with a sizeable area in Ballygillane Big classified as having extreme groundwater vulnerability. A Groundwater Protection Scheme for County Wexford has recently been compiled by the GSI and Wexford County Council. The overall aim of the Groundwater Protection Scheme is to preserve the quality of groundwater, particularly for drinking water purposes.

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 South Eastern River Basin Management Plan (SERBMP) (2009-2015) identifies the condition of waters in the South Eastern River Basin District (SERBD) and includes a programme of measures to achieve good water status in accordance with the WFD. It is estimated 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.

Rosslare Strand is a designated bathing area and is one of four Blue Flag beaches in County Wexford. Rosslare Strand is included on the Register of Protected Areas and water quality status is recorded as being 'good' during the period 2003 to 2010. The bathing areas at Rosslare Harbour and St. Helen's are not included on the EPA's assessment of Bathing Areas.

Rosslare Harbour and the surrounding area is serviced by the Fardystown Regional Water Supply Scheme which supplies the entire south east corner of the county. Water is treated at the Mayglass Water Treatment Plant (WTP) to conform to EU/national drinking water quality standards. The plant has 4,000m<sup>3</sup> spare capacity, sufficient to supply a population equivalent of approximately 17,000.



The public wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) was commissioned in 2008. The plant has a design capacity of 9,383 P.E. and treats wastewater to a secondary standard. Taking into consideration planning permissions granted in the area and the likelihood of these permissions being implemented, future loading is predicted at 5,252 P.E. This leaves a spare capacity of 4,131 P.E. which is considered sufficient to accommodate development within the lifetime of the Plan. It should be noted that the Europort is not presently connected to the public WWTP. CIE have stated that there is a private treatment plant treating discharge from the site with an outfall point to sea. The Council have no record of a discharge licence for this.

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 39% (from 51% in 2000).

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 groundwaters, 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.

In the absence of the Plan ad hoc development would continue to occur on the edge of the town resulting in the inefficient use of infrastructure. Inadequate infrastructure provision would restrict industrial and economic growth, thus affecting employment opportunities and human health. Failure to plan for the projected population growth and seasonal pressures, as well as industrial growth associated with the Europort, may result in an inadequate water supply and depleted capacity in the public WWTP with potential negative impacts on water quality.

### *Flooding*

The OPW flood database identifies two recurring flood points in the Ballygerry area. This area is also partially located within Flood Zones A and B as identified in an assessment carried out in accordance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG & OPW, 2009) by JBA Consulting Engineers and Scientists LTD. The area around the port is also identified as Flood Zone A and B with risk of flooding from tides. A further set of flood maps have recently been obtained from the OPW. No areas of flood risk within the plan area are identified on the OPW maps.

There is an increased risk of flooding due to development, climate change and rainfall patterns. Development can exacerbate the problems of flooding by accelerating and increasing surface water runoff, altering watercourses and removing floodplain storage. In the absence of the Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane LAP 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.

### *Air, Noise and Climatic Factors*

The EPA's report *Air Quality in Ireland 2009 - Key Indicators of Ambient Air Quality* notes that air quality in Ireland is generally of a high standard across the country due to prevailing Atlantic airflows, relatively few large cities and the lack of widespread heavy industries. However, levels of particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide remain of concern. 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 particularly in areas where the sale of bituminous coal is permitted. The nearest monitoring stations to Rosslare Harbour are located at Carnsore Point and Johnstown Castle which both show 'good' air quality.

Under EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise Local Authorities are required to prepare a Noise

Action Plan and strategic noise maps for the main sources of environmental noise, i.e. major roads, major railways, major airports and agglomerations. No such plans or maps have been prepared for the plan area to date but future plans and maps will have implications for new development which will be required to incorporate appropriate noise reduction procedures.

Climate Change is recognised as the most serious and threatening global environmental problem. Under Kyoto Protocol, Ireland agreed to a target of limiting its greenhouse gas emissions to 13% above 1990 levels by the first commitment period 2008–2012. The National Climate Strategy 2007-2012 shows how the 2008-2012 commitment is to be met. In 2007 the EU agreed new climate and energy targets 20-20-20 by 2020. This includes a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, 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.

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 (OREDPA) has been published by the DCENR. East Coast – South is identified for wind and tidal development.

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. The RPGs recognise the potential for rail freight and increased rail passenger movements to and from Rosslare Europort. The recent closure of the Rosslare Harbour-Waterford rail service presents challenges in this regard.

In the absence of the Plan development would be likely to continue in an ad hoc manner on the edge of the town resulting in increase in car usage and therefore an increase in emissions, causing air pollution and the associated knock-on effects on human health. The absence of zoned land to accommodate port-related industry close to the Europort would also result in a lost opportunity to reduce the number of HGVs on the region's roads.

#### *Material Assets*

Material assets are defined as critical infrastructure essential for the functioning of society such as: electricity generation and distribution, water supply, wastewater treatment and transportation. Issues in relation to material assets include the potential reduction in the capacity in the WWTP should the Europort be connected in the future. Any extension to the Europort would also need to be considered in terms of wastewater treatment and capacity.

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, reuse and recycling.

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.

### *Cultural Heritage*

The National Monuments Acts 1930-2004 provide for the protection of archaeological heritage. There are six recorded monuments in the plan area none of which are identified as being within state ownership or guardianship. The Shipwreck Inventory of Ireland includes all known wrecks for the years up to and including 1945. Thirty wrecks are recorded as being lost in Wexford Harbour with a further nine recorded as lost in Rosslare Harbour.

There are two structures within the plan area which are listed on the Record of Protected Structures (RPS). The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) includes approximately 16 structures in the plan area which are considered by the Minister of the Environment, Community and Local Government to be of intrinsic interest. The inclusion of these structures on the RPS will be considered as part of the CDP review. Aside from protected structures there are other distinctive elements of the built heritage which make a positive contribution to the character of the area and help to achieve a sense of place. This includes elements of the older settlement of Rosslare Harbour, such as the railway houses on Gouldings Street and Colvill Street. The Council is committed to the protection, appreciation and appropriate re-use of this built heritage and recognises the contribution it makes in creating a familiar place to trade, visit and reside.

The rapid expansion of the area over the last decade, particularly around Kilrane, has somewhat diluted the established character of the area. The opportunity exists in making a new Plan to consolidate the built form of Rosslare Harbour and its association with Kilrane and reinforce its sense of place and identity within the County. In the absence of the Plan development in the area would be guided by the CDP which is the overarching plan for the area and includes policies and objectives for the protection of archaeological and architectural heritage.

### *Landscape*

Much of Ireland's scenic amenity value is located in its coastal zone. The Draft OREDP includes a Seascape Assessment in which Rosslare Harbour is identified as a Low Lying Coastal Plain. Typical of this seascape type are wide vistas with extensive sea views and a high degree of intervisibility between land and sea. The CDP also includes a Landscape Character Assessment which defines the county according to its uplands, lowlands and coasts. The East Coast, which includes Rosslare Harbour, is characterised by long, relatively straight coasts of sand or shingle backed up by low cliffs.

Rosslare Harbour forms part of County Wexford's coastline which is characterised in the CDP as a vulnerable and sensitive landscape. Any new development is likely to result in significant visual impacts. Brownfield sites and derelict structures within the plan area are having a negative impact on the landscape. Barriers to public rights-of-way, including the wooden steps to the beach, could also be considered to be detracting from the landscape. Coastal erosion and flooding could also result in loss or degradation of landscape.

In the absence of the Plan development would be guided by the CDP which is the overarching plan for the area. However, development would likely continue on the edge of the town and surrounding areas. This could have a direct adverse impact on the scenic views and vistas in the area, and affect the overall quality and character of the landscape.

### **Strategic Environmental Objectives**

Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are developed from international, national and regional policies which generally govern environmental protection. SEOs are used as a tool to cross check the policies and objectives of the Plan in order to maximise the environmental sustainability of the Plan. The cross checking process helps to identify policies and 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.

## Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)

Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	B1	To avoid loss of habitats and flora and fauna in designated wildlife sites.
	B2	To avoid significant adverse impacts, including direct, cumulative and indirect impacts, by development within and outside designated wildlife sites to habitats and flora and fauna within these sites.
	B3	Conserve, protect and avoid loss of diversity and integrity of non-designated habitats, species or their sustaining resources in non-designated ecological sites.
	B4	To prevent the loss of ecological corridors, networks or parts there of which provide significant connectivity between areas of local biodiversity.
Population & Human Health	P1	To improve people's quality of life based on high quality living environments, working and recreational facilities.
	P2	To reduce the risk of flooding and harm to people, property and the environment.
	P3	To protect human health from hazards or nuisances arising from exposure to incompatible land uses/developments.
	P4	To improve travel choice and accessibility, reduce the need for travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys.
Soil	S1	To maintain the quality of soils.
	S2	To maximise the sustainable re-use of brownfield lands and give preference to the re-use of brownfield lands.
	S3	To minimise the amount of waste to landfill.
Water	W1	To maintain or improve the quality of surface water (including coastal and estuarine) to status objectives as set out in the Water Framework Directive and the South Eastern River Basin Management Plan (2009-2015).
	W2	To prevent pollution and contamination of ground water.
	W3	To promote sustainable water use based on long-term protection of available water resources.
	W4	To maintain and improve the quality of drinking water supplies.

Air & Climatic Factors	A1	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	M1	Maintain the quality of, and access to, assets such as open spaces, water resources and all other physical and social infrastructure.
Cultural Heritage	C1	To promote the protection and conservation of the cultural, including architectural and archaeological, heritage.
Landscape	L1	To conserve and enhance valued natural landscapes, including seascape, and features within them.
	L2	To protect and enhance town and village character.

### Alternatives

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. Three alternatives were considered for the Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane LAP.

The first scenario would see the zoning objectives of the Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane LAP 2002 carried forward. 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 would not be taken up as greenfield development would be likely pursued. There would also be significant and widespread deterioration of the character of the edges of the town.

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 growth in the town. This strategy promotes the development of a compact urban form that would maximise the efficient use of land. 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 and industrial developments /port-related activity envisaged for the town.

The third scenario involves the sequential development of greenfield lands but development of brownfield sites would also be encouraged. Enough greenfield land would be zoned to accommodate the population targets set for the area under the CDP, as well as growth associated with the Europort. Greenfield lands in 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. Sufficient town centre sites would be reserved for the provision of community facilities and public open spaces. 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.

#### *Outline of the Reasons for Selecting the Alternatives*

Rosslare Harbour is identified in the CDP as a District Town. The population targets for the area are set by the CDP which projects a 20% growth in the area over the next ten years. This will bring the population to 1,967 by 2021. It is the responsibility of the Planning Authority to ensure that sufficient land is zoned to accommodate this growth. In addition it is a policy of the RPGs and the CDP to maximise the potential of the Europort. For this reason adequate lands must be made available for future port related/ shore based economic activity. Hence the zoning greenfield lands was considered in alternatives 1 and 3. There are a number of under-utilised/brownfield sites in Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane. 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 2.

### *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 the table below. All potential conflicts and impacts identified are those which will occur if unmitigated.

### **Evaluation of Alternatives**

	<b>No Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potential Positive Impact</b>	<b>Potential Negative Impact</b>	<b>Uncertain Impact</b>
<b>Alternative Scenario 1</b>	B1, S3, W2, W3, W4, A2 , M1, L2		P1, P2, P3, P4, S1, S2, A1	B2, B3, B4, W1, C1, L1
<b>Alternative Scenario 2</b>	B1, B2, B3, B4, P2, S3, W2, W3, W4, A2, M1, L1	P1, P3, P4, S1, S2, A1, L2		W1, C1
<b>Alternative Scenario 3</b>	B1, B3, S1, S3, W2, W3, W4, A2, M1	P1, P3, P4, S2, A1, L2	P2	B2, B3, B4, W1, C1, L1

### *Reason for Choosing the Preferred Alternative*

It was considered that alternative scenario 1 would provide excess lands required to meet the population targets assigned to the area under the CDP. In addition it was considered to have the most potential negative impacts on the SEOs. Alternative scenario 2, although providing the most beneficial impacts on the SEOs, would not provide sufficient lands to accommodate the projected growth during the plan period. Alternative 3 was therefore chosen as the preferred development strategy.

### **Likely Significant Effects of implementing the Plan**

Each policy and objective in the LAP was assessed against the SEOs. The results are shown in a matrix format in section 5 of the Environment Report. Assessment of the key objectives in the LAP shows that, in the main, these objectives will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Many of the objectives are considered positive, setting out to manage and protect aspects of the environment such as landscape, water, human health, heritage resources and management of flood risk.

#### *Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna*

The preferred development strategy is identified as having uncertain impacts on SEOs B2, B3 and B4. This is because impacts of implementing the Plan on habitats, flora and fauna within the designated sites, as well as non-designated habitats, species and their sustaining resources are uncertain in the absence of detailed information on the type and scale of developments which may be proposed during the lifetime of the Plan.

#### *Population & Human Health*

The implementation of the LAP would have positive impacts for population and human health in terms of improved water quality and provision of high quality residential, recreational and working environments. However, there is a risk of flooding through development of flood zones.

#### *Soil*

The Plan prioritises the redevelopment of brownfield sites and therefore has a positive impact on SEO S2. No significant impacts are identified on SEO S1 and S3.

#### *Water*

The Plan is identified as having uncertain impacts on SEO W1 due to morphological pressures on the marine environment, including coastal defence, built structures (urbanisation and ports and harbours) and dredging. Impacts on water are also uncertain as a result of flood risk in the area. Since the construction of the WWTP in Rosslare Harbour impacts on water quality

have been reduced. There is also an adequate water supply for the area and a countywide Water Conservation Programme is in operation.

#### *Air*

The preferred development alternative is identified as having potentially positive impacts on SEO A1 as it facilitates the growth of the town in a compact manner and promotes alternative modes of travel to the private car. Locating port-related industry close to the Europort has obvious benefits in terms of reducing the number of HGVs on the region's roads. Negative impacts may result from the proposed N11/25 Road Scheme in terms of promoting use of the private car and temporary impacts which may occur during the construction stage. However these can be offset against by positive impacts such as a decrease in journey time, improved accessibility to the Europort and reducing congestion in the town centre.

#### *Material Assets*

The preferred development alternative is identified as having no significant impacts on SEOs M1 and M2. One of the main aims of the Plan is to ensure adequate infrastructural provision for development within the lifetime of the Plan. It also seeks to protect existing resources.

#### *Cultural Heritage*

The preferred development strategy is identified as having uncertain impacts on SEO C1. In the absence of appropriate mitigation measures, new development could potentially impact on the architectural, archaeological and natural heritage of the area.

#### *Landscape*

The preferred development strategy is identified as having uncertain impacts on SEO L1 due to the absence of design details such as height, scale and material selection for new developments during the lifetime of the Plan.

### *Cumulative and Indirect Effects*

The policies and objectives of the LAP have been formulated having regard to the RPGs, JWMP, SERBMP and the CDP. The LAP 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. Positive cumulative impacts are also envisaged from the natural heritage policy in the LAP and the conservation objectives for the Natura 2000 sites, the PRP for the Wexford Harbour Outer Shellfish Area and the SERBMP.

In-combination effects from policies which facilitate the expansion and deepening of the Europort and coastal protection works on the conservation objectives for Natura 2000 sites are uncertain. Such works will only be permitted where it is shown that they will not adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 site, unless there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI). Any proposals for the expansion of the Europort are also likely to be subject to EIA and will be assessed having regard to all policies and objectives for the area including any Environmental Management Plan, Traffic Management Plan or Noise Action Plan that may be in place for the area.

Potential impacts of the proposed N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour Scheme are both positive and negative. The proposed road will promote the use of the private car over public transport but it will also reduce journey times and relieve traffic congestion and associated emissions within the plan area. The LAP should have positive cumulative impacts as it will facilitate the location of port-related industry close to the Europort thus reducing the number of HGVs on the region's roads. Positive cumulative impacts are also envisaged on air quality and human health from the transport policy which seeks to promote alternative modes of transport to the private car.

### **Mitigation Measures**

Mitigation measures are measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse impacts on the environment of implementing the LAP. 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. The mitigation measures are summarised in the table below.

### Mitigation Measures

<b>Biodiversity</b>	MM1	Land within the plan area which is adjacent to the Carnsore Point SAC to be zoned as open space prohibiting non-compatible developments.
	MM2	HDA required for any proposed developments likely to have an impact on the Natura 2000 site network.
	MM3	Include policies for the protection of important habitats and species outside of the designated ecological sites.
	MM4	Include policies to retain existing hedgerows, trees and traditional field boundaries which provide important ecological networks.
	MM5	Protect riparian zones and natural land drains by maintaining an appropriately sized buffer zone (minimum 5-10m) along all watercourses and land drains, with no infilling or removal of vegetation within these buffer zones.
<b>Population and Human Health</b>	MM6	Include policies and objectives for the delivery of high quality infrastructural, social and community facilities to serve the existing and future population of the area.
	MM7	Zone for compatible uses in areas identified as having high probability of flooding (Zone A) and mitigate the risk of flooding through layout and design of new developments.
	MM8	Provide appropriate buffer zones/open space between potentially conflicting land uses and have regard to any strategic noise maps for the area.
	MM9	Include policies 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.
<b>Soil</b>	MM10	To give preference to the development of brownfield sites.
	MM11	Promote the implementation of the Joint Waste Management Plan for the South-East 2006-2011 together with any future Waste Management Plans. This includes waste prevention, minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery as methods of managing waste.
<b>Water</b>	MM12	Protect and improve water quality in accordance with the measures set out in the South Eastern River Basin Management Plan (2009-2015) and the Pollution Reduction Programme for the Waterford Harbour Shellfish Area.
	MM13	Protect existing groundwater aquifers and surface waters from pollution.
	MM14	Promote public awareness on the maintenance of water quality and its economic and sustainable use.
	MM15	Zone for compatible uses in areas identified as having high probability of flooding (Zone A) and mitigate the risk of flooding through layout and design of new developments.
	MM16	Protect and improve natural drainage systems where possible and in the case of development works require the provision of acceptable mitigation measures in order to minimise the risk of flooding and negative impacts on water quality.
	MM17	Require the provision of adequate storm water retention facilities in all new developments, including the use of soft landscaping and sustainable drainage techniques.
	MM18	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.
<b>Air</b>	MM19	Require all new building developments to meet low energy performance targets.
<b>Material Assets</b>	MM20	Ensure that adequate infrastructure is available to serve the existing and future population of the area.
	MM21	Ensure the provision of, and access to, high quality open spaces, play areas and community facilities.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	MM22	Prohibit development that would negatively impact of the architectural, archaeological and natural heritage of the area.
<b>Landscape</b>	MM23	Promote high-quality developments along the seafront and ensure that new development does not detract from important views and vistas.
	MM24	Ensure that new development does not detract from the character and heritage of the town.



### *Incorporation of Mitigation Measures into the Plan*

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

### **Incorporation of Mitigation Measures into the Plan**

	<b>Mitigation Measure</b>	<b>LAP Policies &amp; Objectives</b>
<b>Biodiversity, Flora &amp; Fauna</b>	MM1	Zoning Map and Land Use Zoning Matrix contained in Section 4.6
	MM2	Section 1.8 – Appropriate Assessment Section 5.8 – Amenity, Recreation & Open Space - Objectives ARO2, ARO4, ARO5, ARO6 Section 5.9 – Tourism - Policy 8 Section 5.10.3 - Natural Heritage - Policy 3 Section 5.11 - Transport - Policy 3
	MM3	Section 5.10.3 – Natural Heritage – Policy 2 & 6
	MM4	Section 5.3 – Housing – Objective H5 Section 5.8 – Amenity, Recreation & Open Space – Policy 6 Section 5.10.3 – Natural Heritage – Policy 5
	MM5	Section 5.10.3 – Natural Heritage – Policy 4
<b>Population &amp; Human Health</b>	MM6	Section 5.3.2 – Housing – Objective H4 Section 5.7 – Community Facilities – Policies 1 & 2, Objective C1 Section 5.7.1 – Educational Facilities – Policy 1 Section 5.7.2 – Childcare Facilities – Policies 1 & 2 Section 5.8 – Amenity, Recreation & Open Space – Policies 1, 2, 3 & 9, Objectives ARO2 – ARO8 Section 5.11 – Transport – Policies 6 & 7, Objectives T1-T6 Section 5.12 – Wastewater Treatment & Water Supply – Policy 1

	MM7	Appendix 3 - Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Zoning Map and Land Use Zoning Matrix contained in Section 4.6 Section 5.14 – Flooding & Surface Water Disposal – Policies 1-4
	MM8	Zoning Map and Land Use Zoning Matrix contained in Section 4.6
	MM9	Section 5.11 – Transport – Policies 6, 7 & 9, Objectives T4 & T5
Soil	MM10	Section 4.4.3 - Phasing of Development Section 5.5 - Retail and Commercial – Policy 5 Section 5.6 – Town Centre – Policy 3
	MM11	Section 5.15 – Waste Management – Policies 1 & 2
Water	MM12	Section 5.10.3 - Natural Heritage – Policy 6 Section 5.11 – Transport – Policy 3
	MM13	Section 5.12 - Wastewater Treatment and Water Supply – Policy 2
	MM14	Section 5.12 - Wastewater Treatment and Water Supply – Policy 4
	MM15	Appendix 3 - Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Zoning Map and Land Use Zoning Matrix contained in Section 4.6 Section 5.14 - Flooding and Surface Water Disposal – Policy 3
	MM16	Section 5.14 - Flooding and Surface Water Disposal – Policy 2
	MM17	Section 5.14 - Flooding and Surface Water Disposal – Policy 4
	MM18	Section 5.14 - Flooding and Surface Water Disposal – Policy 1
Air	MM19	Section 5.2 - Sustainable Development – Policies 1, 2 & 3 Section 5.3.3 - Residential Density – Policy 1

<b>Material Assets</b>	MM20	Section 5.12 - Wastewater Treatment and Water Supply – Policy 1
	MM21	Section 5.3.2 - Future Residential Development – Objective H4 Section 5.7 – Community Facilities – Policies 1 & 2, Objective C1 Section 5.7.1 – Education Facilities – Policy 1 Section 5.7.2 – Childcare Facilities – Policy 1 & 2 Section 5.8 – Amenity, Recreation & Open Space -Policies 1-4, 7 & 9, Objectives ARO1-ARO8
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	MM22	Section 5.10.1 – Architectural Heritage – Policies 1, 2 & 3 Section 5.10.2 – Archaeological Heritage – Policies 1 & 2 Section 5.10.3 – Natural Heritage – Policies 1-6
<b>Landscape</b>	MM23	Section 3.2.7 – Views to Protect Section 5.8 – Amenity, Recreation & Open Space – Policy 8
	MM24	Section 3.2.3 – Buildings in the town Section 3.2.5 – Infill Development Opportunities Section 3.2.6 – Other Urban Design Elements Section 5.3.4 – Infill and Backland Development Section 5.5 - Retail and Commercial – Policies 4 & 5

### 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 LAP. 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 section 9 of the Environmental Report.



## **1.0 - Introduction**

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### **1.1 Introduction**

The Local Area Plan (LAP) sets out a spatial planning framework and overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane. Due to the potential environmental impacts of implementing the Plan, a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required to be carried out in parallel with its formulation. This section provides a background to SEA and outlines the requirement for SEA in the plan process.

### **1.2 Background to SEA**

On the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2001, the European Council adopted Directive 2001/42/EC on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (the SEA Directive) which took effect in member states on the 21<sup>st</sup> July 2004. 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 an LAP where the population of the area is 5,000 persons or more, where the area covered by the Plan is greater than 50 square kilometers or where the Plan is being prepared for a town and its environs area. Otherwise, SEA must be carried out where it is considered that the Plan would be likely to have

significant effects on the environment.

Following an assessment of the key objectives of the Plan against the criteria set out in Schedule 2A of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (as amended), it was concluded that the implementation of the proposed Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane LAP has the potential to have significant effects on the following elements of the receiving environment:

- Human Beings
- Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna
- Water Quality

Accordingly, it was recommended that SEA be carried out in conjunction with the preparation of the LAP.

### **1.3 What is SEA?**

SEA is a formal process that is carried out in parallel with the preparation of the LAP. 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 to be kept informed on decisions that may impact on the environment.

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

- Preparation of an Environmental Report where the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a Draft Plan are identified and evaluated;
- Consultation with 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.

#### **1.4 Local Area Plan & SEA Requirements**

In accordance with Section 20(3) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Article 14E(1) of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (as amended), a copy of the Draft LAP and Environmental Report was sent to the Minister, the Board and the prescribed authorities and was placed on public display for six weeks, during which time 22 submissions were made to the Planning Authority. These submissions were taken into consideration by the Elected Members.

Following consideration of the submissions, the Elected Members proposed to make material alterations to the Draft Plan in accordance with Section 20(3)(d) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). A copy of the Proposed Alterations was sent to the Minister, the Board and the prescribed authorities and was placed on public display for a period of four weeks. The Proposed Alterations were accompanied by an SEA Screening Report. The SEA Screening Report determined that the alterations would not have any likely significant effects on the environment in addition to those identified in the Environmental Report for the Draft Plan.

During the four week public display period, seven submissions were made to the Planning Authority. Four of these submissions related to the proposed alterations and were taken into consideration by the Elected Members. The Draft Plan was made with the material alterations on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2012.

In addition to this Environmental Report, an SEA Statement has been prepared in accordance with Article 14I(1) of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (as amended) and is available to the public. The SEA Statement outlines how environmental considerations were considered in the making of the Plan.

## **1.5 Integration of LAP, SEA, Habitats Directive Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment**

The SEA guidelines indicate that there should be complete integration between the preparation of the Plan, the SEA process and Habitats Directive Assessment (HDA). 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 HDA and SFRA have been incorporated into this report, where relevant. This Environmental Report should be read in conjunction with the LAP, HDA, and SFRA.



## **2.0 - SEA Process**

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### **2.1 Legislative Requirements**

The methodology devised to carry out the SEA of the Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane LAP 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.

### **2.2 Screening**

The Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (as amended) require SEA to be carried out in respect of LAPs where the population of the area is 5,000 persons or more, where the area covered by the Plan is more than 50 square kilometres or where the Plan is for a town and its environs. Where the population is less than 5,000 SEA must be carried out where it is considered that the Plan would be likely to have significant environmental effects. This is determined through a screening process.

A screening process was undertaken before the preparation of the Draft Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane LAP. The screening process concluded that the Plan would be likely to have significant environmental effects and therefore SEA was required to be carried out in parallel with its formulation. A copy of the Screening Report is available for public inspection at the Planning Authority's offices and is also available to download at [www.wexford.ie](http://www.wexford.ie).

### **2.3 Scoping & 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. Initial scoping took place with the prescribed Environmental Authorities in February/March 2011. A Draft Scoping Report was sent to the Authorities and

they were given a five week period to make submissions and observations. Three submissions were received and are summarised as follows:

**1. Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR)**

The DoECNR have no comments or observations to make at this time. This is without prejudice to any comments/observations Inland Fisheries Ireland may have in this regard.

**2. Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG)**

The DEHLG made a comprehensive submission broken down under the following headings:

*Architectural Heritage*

The Department recommends that an architectural framework is developed which will guide development within the plan area and ensure good quality urban design which enhances the public realm. The contribution of the built heritage to the locality in terms of achieving a sense of place and identity is emphasised. The Plan should make full use of this heritage to engender an evolving identity as a familiar place to trade, visit and reside. If Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane is seen as an attractive place to trade, visit or reside, it will encourage inward investment in terms of commercial, manufacturing, retail and service industries.

The Department makes reference to the definition of the term “architectural heritage” which is defined in the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments Act, 1999. Further reference is made in the submission to the guidance on architectural heritage contained in section 2.5 of the ‘Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities’.

The Department highlights the opportunity, in collating the Plan, to determine if other structures of architectural heritage merit exist beyond those already included in the Record of Protected Structures.

### *Archaeological Heritage*

The Department makes reference to the International Conventions, national policies, plans and programmes in relation to protecting the archaeological heritage. Reference is also made to the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) for County Wexford and the National Monuments Service (NMS) monuments data on [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie). The Department recommends that the following should be identified in the Plan:

- Monuments that are National Monuments in State ownership or guardianship and their zones of visual amenity
- Monuments subject to Preservation Orders and their zones of visual amenity
- National Monuments in ownership or guardianship of Local Authorities
- Areas of high archaeological potential including subsurface archaeological structures
- The archaeological potential of the coastal and inter-tidal zone and potential impacts on riverine archaeology

### *Nature Conservation*

It is stated in the submission that the Plan and any development proposals should take into account the need to protect, retain and enhance biodiversity generally in accordance with the National Biodiversity Plan. The Department recommends that all designated sites in the plan area should be listed and mapped, including candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs), Nature Reserves and Refuges for fauna. Such sites should be zoned appropriately and policies and objectives should be devised to ensure their protection. The LAP should also ensure the protection of wetland habitats.

The Planning Authority is advised of the need to protect ground and surface waters from pollution and to ensure that adequate sewage treatment facilities and water supplies are in place prior to any development proposed in the

Plan. The impact of any proposed water abstraction schemes on the natural heritage should be fully assessed.

The Department also states that care needs to be taken to ensure that any proposed walkways along rivers and at coastal sites are located a suitable distance from the waters edge to avoid negative impacts on biodiversity and designated sites. Any such proposal should be screened for appropriate assessment where it has the potential to impact on a Natura 2000 site.

The Department recommends that the environmental objectives in the SEA should cover habitats and species both within and outside of the designated sites. With regard to environmental objectives for water consideration should be given to the needs of protected species, the relevant River Basin Management Plan and 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management' Guidelines. For collating baseline data on flora and fauna the Planning Authority is advised to use data provided by National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC).

The Planning Authority is also 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.

### **3. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

The EPA made a comprehensive submission which includes an SEA Pack and reference to various EU Directive, legislation, guidelines and publications which may be used in the preparation of the Environmental Report. The SEA Pack provides a checklist for completing the Environmental Report. The main body of the submission is summarised as follows:

- The Agency's submission in relation to the Wexford County Development Plan and associated SEA Environmental Report should be taken into consideration, as relevant and appropriate for the Plan.
- You are referred to a number of key significant Plans / Programmes / Strategies which should be included as appropriate in the Plan such as the Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan. Your attention is also brought to the *Transportation Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area* which is also currently undergoing SEA.
- Clarify the extent to which the Plan will need to take into account a Core Strategy in relation to the development of the plan area, and how the development and zoning of lands would be influenced by such a Strategy.
- In the zoning and development of lands, it should be ensured that land use is appropriate for the identified flood risk, and that the Flood Risk Management Guidelines (2009) are integrated as appropriate into the Plan.
- An assessment of local considerations should also include the following: Water Quality, Landscape Character (including Seascape and Coastscape) and Flood Risk. With the increased intensification of land-use zoning / development associated with this Plan, the pressures on infrastructure and existing environmental sensitivities and vulnerabilities should be adequately assessed - potential impacts of dredging, adequacy of infrastructure to meet the pressures of population targets and seasonal pressures on services within the plan area, and harbour area in particular.
- It is noted that there is a historic landfill site located within the plan area. In the development and zoning of lands, it should be ensured that suitable mitigation / monitoring and land uses are established adjacent to this location.
- The potential for air and noise pollution should be assessed through the establishment and implementation of noise action plans and traffic management plans with respect to potential increase in vehicular traffic throughput, where not already established.

- There would be merits in the inclusion of a commitment to incorporate the findings / recommendations of the “*Study of the Wexford & Rosslare area in relation to coastal erosion*” and the “*Irish Coastal Protection Strategy Study*” referred to in the Scoping Report into the Plan upon completion of these Studies.
- It should be ensured that a requirement under the Habitats Directive to carry out Appropriate Assessment Screening is committed to and implemented in the Plan, and that any projects also adhere to these requirements.

The submissions were considered and incorporated into the Environmental Report, where appropriate.

## **2.4 Baseline Study**

Before impacts on the environment can be predicted, it is necessary to achieve an understanding of the relevant existing conditions. This involves collating information on the current state of the environment and identifying any existing environmental problems relevant to the plan area. This data is not only used to identify impacts on the environment arising from the implementation of the Plan, but also provides a baseline for monitoring during the lifetime of the Plan.

Baseline data should allow the state of the environment to be identified in objective terms. Often this will mean quantitative measures of environmental conditions, but will also include qualitative descriptions of environmental features. The baseline data should encompass the environment as it is now, as well as the environment as it would be expected to change in the absence of the Plan (i.e. the do nothing approach). The baseline data is described in Section 4 of the Environmental Report.

## **2.5 Environmental Report**

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.

## **2.6 Consultation on the Environmental Report**

In accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (as amended), consultation took place with the Minister, the Board, the prescribed authorities (including environmental authorities) and the public. Copies of the Draft Plan and Environmental Report were sent to the Minister, the Board and prescribed authorities and were placed on display for a period of six weeks. During this time 22 submissions were made to the Planning Authority. The submissions were taken into account and material alterations to the Draft Plan were subsequently proposed by the Members. The proposed alterations were screened for SEA. The SEA Screening Report concluded that the proposed alterations would not have any likely significant effects on the environment in addition to those identified in the Environmental Report for the Draft LAP.

Copies of the proposed alterations and SEA Screening Report were sent to the Minister, the Board and prescribed authorities and were placed on public display for a period of four weeks. During this time seven submissions were made to the Planning Authority. Four of these submissions related to the proposed alterations and were taken into consideration. Following consideration of these submissions the Plan was adopted with all of the material alterations on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2012.

## **2.7 Making the Decision Public**

Following adoption of the Plan an SEA Statement was prepared and is available to the public. The SEA Statement gives 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 also outlines 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.



## **2.8 Monitoring**

Monitoring of the implementation of the Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane LAP will be undertaken for the duration of the Plan. 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 9 of this report.

## **3.0 – Local Area Plan**

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### **3.1 Introduction**

The LAP sets out a strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane. This strategy facilitates the planned, integrated and sustainable development of the area so that growth can take place in a co-ordinated manner, while protecting and preserving the area's character, heritage and amenity and making a positive contribution to the population's quality of life.

### **3.2 Structure of Local Area Plan**

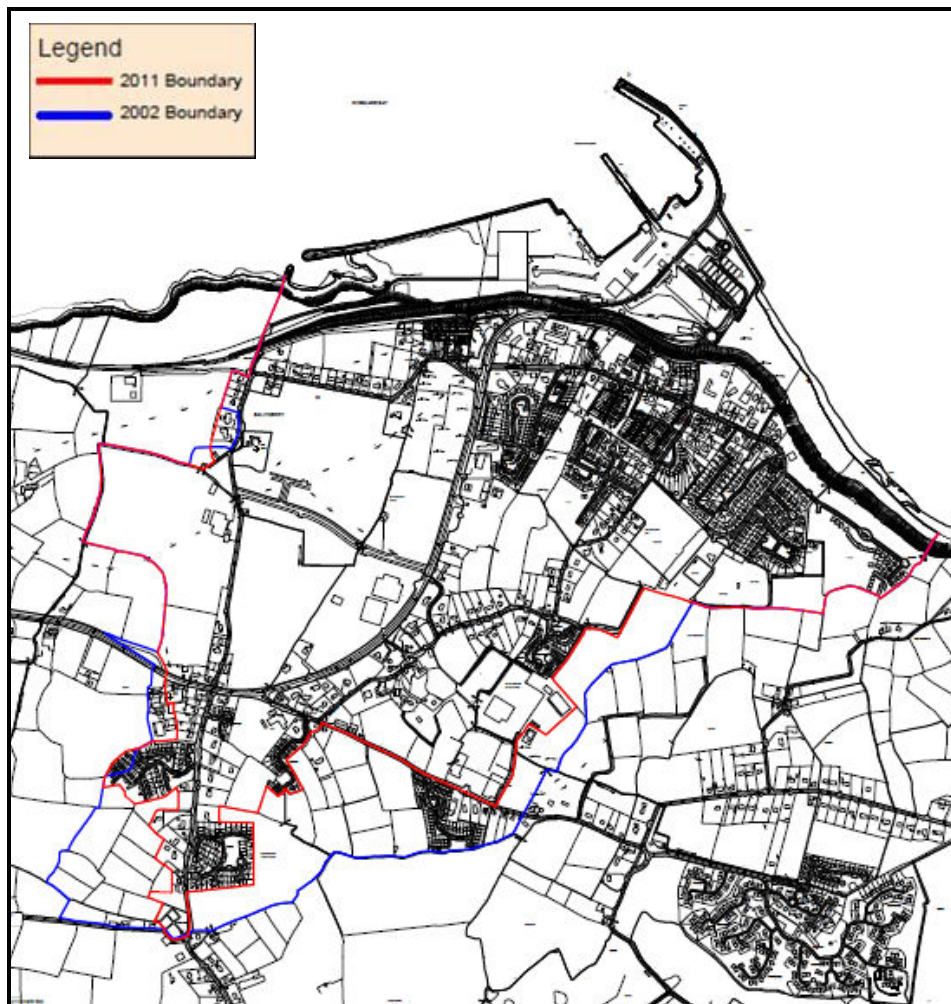
The LAP comprises of a Written Statement, a series of maps and a set of Appendices. The Written Statement is the main document of the Plan. It sets out the aims and objectives for the town under a range of headings including housing, employment and economic activity, retail and commercial development, town centre development, community and educational facilities, recreation and open space, tourism and built heritage, transport and infrastructure. The policies and objectives of the LAP are consistent with the Wexford County Development Plan 2007-2013 (CDP) which is the overarching Plan for the area. The set of maps give visual representation to the policies and objectives of the Plan. The Environmental Report, HDA and SFRA are contained in the Appendices.

### **3.3 Geographical Area of the Plan**

The Map below compares the boundary of the LAP to the boundary of the Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane LAP 2002, which has now expired. The plan area has been reduced significantly in line with Guidance Note on Core Strategies issued by 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: Boundary of LAP compared with 2002 LAP**



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 (RPGs), as well as any national and regional population targets set by the Minister. Variation No. 1 of the CDP includes a Core Strategy which sets out population targets and land requirements for each settlement in the County. This is in line with the RPGs for the South-East Region 2010-2022. The population projections in the Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane LAP have been informed by the Core Strategy contained in the Variation.

### **3.4 Key Objectives of the Plan**

The LAP is based on a number of key objectives as follows:

- To support the sustainable development of Rosslare Europort, including the extension and deepening of the port, where feasible, in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive;
- To ensure that sufficient serviced lands are provided to facilitate international investment and enterprises in the vicinity of Rosslare Europort;
- To improve transport infrastructure and services in the area;
- To create a compact and vibrant town centre;
- To accommodate infill development in the undeveloped areas and pockets created in the existing development pattern;
- To sustain and enhance the role of the town as a service centre for the surrounding rural hinterland;
- To ensure that sufficient lands are provided to meet the identified housing needs in the area over the lifetime of the Plan;
- To facilitate the provision of employment opportunities;
- To ensure a sufficient water supply, wastewater treatment and disposal infrastructure to serve existing and future development in the area;
- To provide opportunities for appropriate landmark buildings in the Rosslare Harbour area;
- To provide opportunities for improved urban design and form;
- To successfully integrate Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane through the provision of road, pedestrian and cycle linkages;
- To facilitate the provision of high quality public open spaces within the plan area;
- To promote the sustainable development of tourism and recreational facilities in the plan area;
- To conserve and protect the environment including the archaeological and natural heritage and EU designated sites;
- To have regard to coastal zone areas designated under the CDP;

- To facilitate coastal protection works provided that such works do not give rise to significant adverse impacts on the integrity of any Natura 2000 site.

### **3.5 Relationship with Other Relevant Plans**

The CDP is the overarching Plan for the area and the LAP must be consistent with the policies and objectives of that Plan. The Settlement Strategy contained in Variation No. 1 of the Wexford County Development Plan 2007-2013 identifies Rosslare Harbour as a one of four District Towns. These towns are being targeted for growth as centres that can perform an important role in driving the spatial development of the County and the Region. These towns have well developed services, good transport links and community facilities and have the capacity to accommodate additional growth subject to certain physical infrastructural investments. The CDP also includes a policy (TP14), to maximise the economic potential of Rosslare port facilities and promote the development of associated port related employment.

In addition to the CDP, the LAP must be consistent with national and regional plans, strategies and guidelines including the NSS, National Planning Guidelines issued under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the RPGs, the South-Eastern River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 (SERBMP), the Joint Waste Management Plan for the South East Region 2006-2011 (JWMP) and any Pollution Reduction Programme (PRP) prepared for Shellfish Designated Areas relevant to the plan area.

Planning Guidelines issued under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) include the following:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland
- Architectural Heritage Protection
- Architectural Heritage Protection for Places of Worship
- Best Practice Urban Design Manuals
- Childcare Facilities Guidelines
- Design Standards for New Apartments

- Development Management Guidelines
- Development Plans Guidelines
- Planning Guidelines on Spatial Planning and National Roads
- Landscape and Landscape Assessment
- Provision of Schools and the Planning System
- Quarries and Ancillary Activities
- Retail Planning Guidelines
- Spatial Planning and National Roads
- Strategic Environmental Assessment
- Sustainable Rural Housing
- Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas
- Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures
- The Planning System and Flood Risk Management
- Wind Energy Development

## **4.0 Current State of the Environment**

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### **4.1 Introduction**

In order to identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the LAP, relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and existing environmental problems relevant to the plan area need to be identified. This information is outlined under the headings below. The information has been devised from statutory agencies including the Office of Public Works (OPW), Central Statistics Office (CSO), Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI), EPA, NPWS, the NMS and NBDC. Information was also sourced from Wexford County Council's GIS, Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) submitted as part of planning applications and from officials from the various sections within the Council including Planning, Environment, Water Services and Transport.

### **4.2 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna**

#### **4.2.1 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 primary mechanism for conserving, protecting and enhancing biodiversity in the wider countryside is through the National Biodiversity Plan 2002 and Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016, Ireland's second National Biodiversity Plan, a key concept of which is that Local Authorities and other Agencies share responsibility for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. A County Biodiversity Plan is currently being prepared by Wexford County Council and is expected to be completed in 2012.

#### *Designated Sites*

In accordance with guidelines and best practice the zone of influence for the LAP is taken to be 15km. There are a number of designated sites within this zone of influence. Such sites include Long Bank SAC, Carnsore Point SAC, Lady's Island Lake SAC, SPA and pNHA, Wexford Harbour and Slobbs SPA,

Wexford Slobs and Harbour pNHA and St. Helen's Burrow pNHA. Wexford Harbour (Nutrient Sensitive Water) and Wexford Harbour (Designated Shellfish Water) also form part of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) Register of Protected Areas.

### *Natura 2000 Sites*

Natura 2000 is a European network of important ecological sites. The EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) placed an obligation on Member States of the EU to establish the Natura 2000 network. The network is made up of SPAs established under the EU Birds Directive and SACs established under the Habitats Directive itself. SPA's are established under the EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC), which was implemented in Ireland through the Conservation of Wild Birds Regulations (S.I. No. 291 of 1985). These sites are established for the protection and conservation of Annex I (rare and threatened bird species), and regularly occurring migratory species, and for bird habitats (particularly wetlands). SACs are established under the EU Habitats Directive, enacted into Irish Law by the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. 94 of 1997) (as amended by S.I. 233 of 1998 and S.I. 378 of 2005). These sites provide for the protection and conservation of habitats and species listed in Annex I (habitats) and Annex II (species – not birds) of the Habitats Directive.

Together these Natura 2000 sites form part of the network of sites of highest biodiversity importance in the EU. The Habitats Directive presumes against plans and projects that adversely affect the integrity of a Natura 2000 site from being allowed to proceed except in exceptional circumstances, i.e. where:

1. No reasonable alternatives exist, and
2. There are IROPI - Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (in the case of all Annex I habitats and Annex II species). In the case of priority habitats, the only IROPI that may be raised are matters of Human Health and Public Safety.

NPWS are in the process of preparing Conservation Management Plans for all areas designated for nature conservation. Plans are currently not available for



the sites identified in the zone of influence but generic conservation objectives have been compiled for SACs and SPAs. These are based on the sites' qualifying features. The generic conservation objectives for SACs are to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected. The generic conservation objectives for SPAs are to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for the SPA. The habitats/species/birds for each SAC and SPA are listed in Table 1 below. Full site synopses and conservation objectives for these sites can be found at <http://www.npws.ie/protectedsites/>.

**Table 1: Natura 2000 Sites within the Zone of Influence of the Plan**

Name	Site Code	Description*	Protected Habitats/Species**
Carnsore Point SAC	002269	The site is of considerable conservation significance for the presence of intertidal mud/sand flats and of reefs, both habitats that are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</li> <li>• Reefs</li> </ul>
Long Bank SAC	002161	The site is of conservation importance for its submerged sandbanks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sandbanks slightly covered by sea water all the time</li> </ul>
Lady's Island Lake SAC	000704	This site is of high conservation importance, having three habitats which are listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive and one of these (lagoons) with priority status. The site also has important ornithological interests.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal lagoons</li> <li>• Reefs</li> <li>• Perennial vegetation of stony banks</li> </ul>
Tacumshin Lake SAC	000709	The site is of particular conservation significance for its lagoon, which is an excellent example of a sedimentary lagoon with a gravel/sand barrier that supports a wide variety of plants and animals, including many lagoonal specialist species. It is one of the largest examples of a lagoon in the country. This habitat, which is both threatened and declining throughout Europe, is listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive with priority status. Good examples of four other habitats that are listed on Annex I of this directive occur within the site, i.e. drift lines, perennial vegetation of stony banks, embryonic shifting dunes and Marram dunes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal lagoons</li> <li>• Annual vegetation of drift lines</li> <li>• Perennial vegetation of stony banks</li> <li>• Embryonic shifting dunes</li> <li>• Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes")</li> </ul>
Raven Point Nature Reserve SAC	000710	An excellent example of a dynamic dune system that contains a suite of coastal habitats listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive including five dune types and drift lines. It also provides a roosting site for an	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</li> <li>• Annual vegetation of drift lines</li> </ul>

		internationally important flock of Greenland White-fronted Geese, a species listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)</li> <li>• Embryonic shifting dunes</li> <li>• Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes")</li> <li>• Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")</li> <li>• Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salix arenariae</i>)</li> <li>• Humid dune slacks</li> </ul>
Slaney River Valley SAC	000781	The site supports populations of several species listed on Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive, and habitats listed on Annex I of this directive, as well as important numbers of wintering wildfowl including some species listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive. The presence of wet and broad-leaved woodlands increases the overall habitat diversity and the occurrence of a number of Red Data Book plant and animal species adds further importance to the site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i></li> <li>• <i>Petromyzon marinus</i></li> <li>• <i>Lampetra planeri</i></li> <li>• <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i></li> <li>• <i>Alosa fallax</i></li> <li>• <i>Salmo salar</i> (only in fresh water)</li> <li>• Estuaries</li> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</li> <li>• <i>Lutra lutra</i></li> <li>• Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitans</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation</li> </ul>

Lady's Island Lake SPA	004009	<p>This site supports one of the best examples of a lagoonal bird fauna in the country. Of particular note is that several of the species which occur regularly are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive, including Marsh Harrier, Ruff and Wood Sandpiper, as well as Whooper Swan and Golden Plover in winter. The site is important both for breeding and wintering birds and is one of the top sites in the country for Gadwall.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles</li> <li>• Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>)</li> <li>• <i>Anas strepera</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Larus ridibundus</i> [breeding ]</li> <li>• <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> [breeding ]</li> <li>• <i>Sterna dougallii</i> [breeding ]</li> <li>• <i>Sterna hirundo</i> [breeding ]</li> <li>• <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> [breeding ]</li> </ul>
Tacumshin Lake SPA	004092	<p>This is one of the most important ornithological sites in the country. The occurrence of internationally important populations of Whooper Swan and Bewick's Swan is of especial note, as is the presence of nationally important populations of an additional 13 wintering waterfowl species. It is one of the top sites in the country for species such as Pintail and Gadwall. It is also of importance for its summer visitors, including such rare and localised species as Marsh Harrier, Garganey and Reed Warbler. The site is also notable for a range of passage waders. Also of note is that a number of the species that occur regularly are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive, i.e. Whooper Swan, Bewick's Swan, Golden Plover, Ruff, Wood Sandpiper and Marsh Harrier. Greenland White-fronted Goose which uses the site on occasions is also listed on Annex I of this directive.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Cygnus columbianus</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Anas penelope</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Anas strepera</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Anas crecca</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Anas acuta</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Anas clypeata</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Aythya fuligula</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Fulica atra</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> [wintering]</li> </ul>

Wexford Slobs & Harbour SPA	004076	<p>Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA is one of the most important ornithological sites in the country. It is of world importance for Greenland White-fronted Goose, and supports internationally important populations of a further four species (Mute Swan, Light-bellied Brent Goose, Black-tailed Godwit and Bar-tailed Godwit). In addition, it has 25 species of wintering waterbirds with populations of national importance. Also of significance is that several of the species which occur regularly are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive, i.e. Little Egret, Whooper Swan, Bewick's Swan, Greenland White-fronted Goose, Hen Harrier, Golden Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit, Ruff, Wood Sandpiper, Little Tern and Short-eared Owl. The site is an important centre for research, education and tourism.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Limosa limosa</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Ardea cinerea</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Cygnus columbianus</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Cygnus cygnus</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Branta bernicla hrota</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Anas penelope</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Anas crecca</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Anas acuta</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Aythya marila</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Bucephala clangula</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Mergus serrator</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Circus cyaneus</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Fulica atra</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> [wintering]</li> </ul>
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Calidris canutus</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Calidris alba</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Calidris alpina</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Limosa limosa</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Limosa lapponica</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Numenius arquata</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Tringa totanus</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Larus ridibundus</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Larus fuscus</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Sterna albifrons</i> [breeding ]</li> <li>• <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> [wintering]</li> </ul>
The Raven SPA	004019	<p>This site is of international ornithological importance as it provides crucial roosting habitat for the Wexford Harbour flock of Greenland White-fronted Geese. The site also provides habitat for a range of other species, including six which have populations of National Importance; the Raven is probably the most regular site in the country for Slavonian Grebe. Of particular significance is that six of the wintering species are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive, i.e. Red-throated Diver, Great Northern Diver, Slavonian Grebe, Golden Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit and Greenland White-fronted Goose. Little Tern, a species breeding in the site, is also listed on Annex I of this directive. Owing to the recognised importance of the area, Raven Point is a statutory Nature Reserve and a Ramsar site.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Gavia stellata</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Melanitta nigra</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Calidris alba</i> [wintering]</li> <li>• <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> [wintering]</li> </ul>

\* Taken from Site Synopses available from <http://www.npws.ie/protectedsites/>

\*\*Taken from Conservation Objectives available from <http://www.npws.ie/protectedsites/>

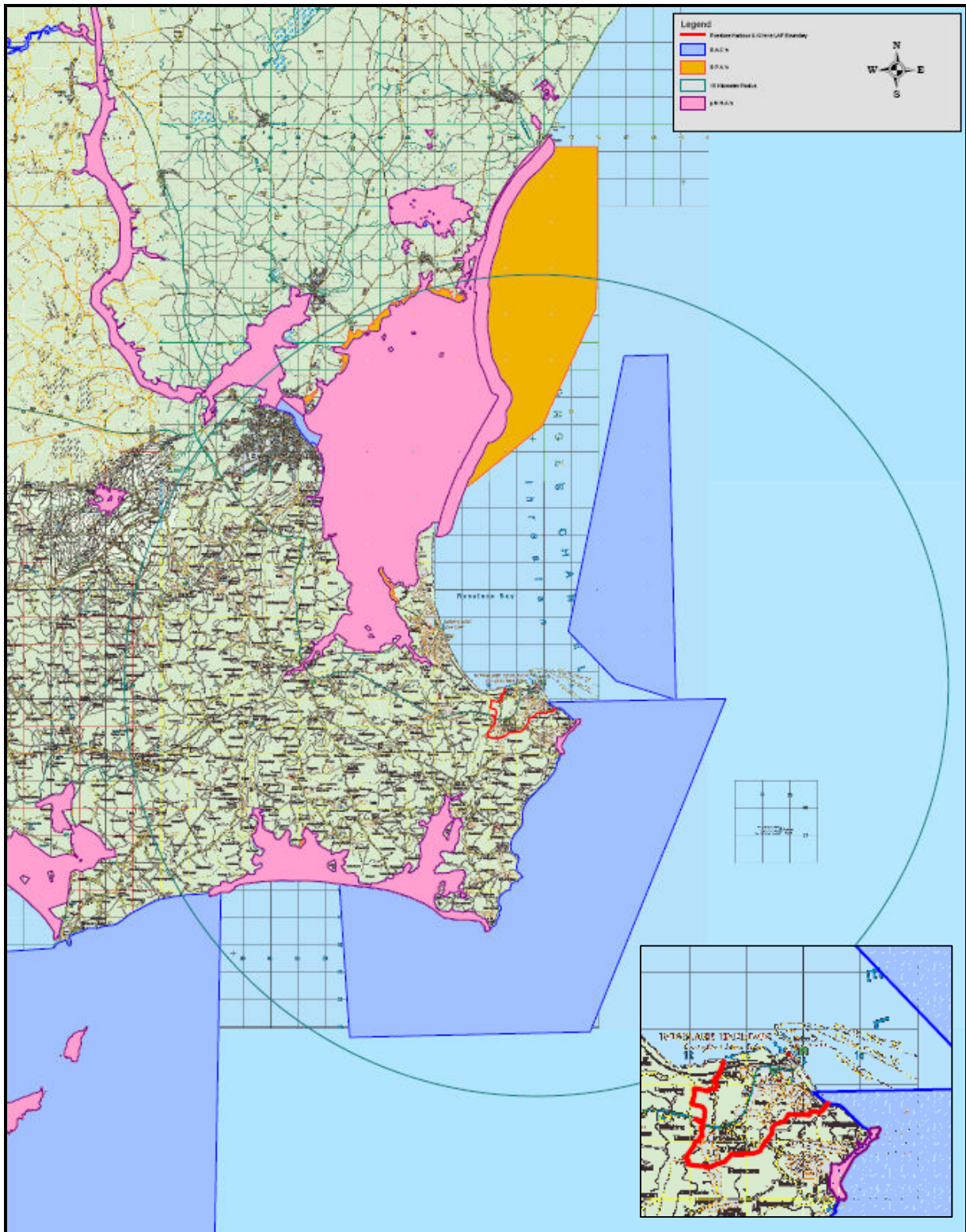
### *Natural Heritage Areas*

NHAs and pNHAs are sites of national importance for their flora, fauna, geological or physiographic interest, the designation and protection of which are nationally mandated under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000. In cases where SAC and NHA boundaries overlap, the SAC designation always takes precedence. The pNHAs within the zone of influence of the Plan include St. Helen's Burrow, Lady's Island, Tacumshine Lake and Wexford Slobs and Harbour. There are no site synopses available for pNHAs. However all four sites overlap with SACs.

The designated sites within a 15km radius of Rosslare Harbour are shown on Map 2.



**Map 2: Designated Sites in Proximity to the Plan Area**





### *WFD Register of Protected Areas*

Article 6 of the 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 SACs and SPAs. 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).

Rosslare Strand is a designated recreational water which is included on the Register of Protected Areas. These are bathing waters designated under the Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC).

Wexford Harbour is 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).

Wexford Harbour Outer Designated Shellfish Waters is also located within the zone of influence of the Plan. Shellfish Waters 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 key pressures affecting the Wexford Harbour Outer Shellfish Area are urban wastewater systems, on-site wastewater treatment systems and agriculture. Secondary pressures are also identified from port activities. Local Authorities must perform their functions in a manner that will promote compliance with the objectives of the pollution reduction programme.

**Map 3: Wexford Harbour Outer Shellfish Area**



Source: [www.environ.ie](http://www.environ.ie)

### *Protected Species*

The NPWS database lists protected flora within each 10km grid in Ireland. The plan area is located within grid T11 in which the Lotus Subbiflorus/ Hairy Birdsfoot Trefoil is shown to be present. The Hairy Birdsfoot Trefoil is a flowering plant which is identified as a rare species. It is also identified on the NBDC Mapping System as a threatened species with 44 species recorded between the counties of Wexford and Cork.<sup>1</sup>

The NBDC provides information on all aspects of biodiversity including a full inventory of the principal sources of biodiversity data in Ireland. The Data Centre has developed an online mapping system, *Biodiversity Maps*, which provides access to data on the distribution of Ireland's biological diversity. The maps enable protected, threatened and invasive species to be identified geographically by the type of species. Wexford County Council is currently uploading data provided by NBDC onto its GIS system. Once completed, the user will be able to search spatially for all species identified within 10km grids.

### *Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland*

National Parks and Wildlife Service carried out a Black Guillemot Survey in 2011 which identified nesting grounds at Rosslare Europort. The Black Guillemot is included on the amber list of Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland, due to concerns over the European population, which is currently regarded as depleted due to a moderate historical decline.<sup>2</sup> The survey states that a small breeding colony nests in holes in the harbour wall and it seems likely that the species has been breeding within Rosslare Harbour since the 1990's at least. Black Guillemots usually nest as single pairs or in small groups scattered along the coastline.

### *Red Book Data Species*

BSBI (Botanical Society of the British Isles) Recording Information from 2010 identifies a total of 61 Bee Orchids (*ophrys apifera*), a Red Data Book species,

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<sup>1</sup> <http://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/>

<sup>2</sup> South Wexford Black Guillemot Survey 2011

on the lawn of St. Helen's Hotel at Rosslare Harbour. The Red Data Book includes rare and threatened species. The Round-leaved Crane's-bill (*Geranium rotundifolium*) has also been recorded in the Rosslare Harbour area.

### *Invasive Species*

Invasive species are species that have been introduced (deliberately or accidentally) by humans and have a negative impact on the economy, wildlife or habitats. After habitat loss, invasive species are the second biggest threat to biodiversity worldwide, and the biggest threat on islands.<sup>3</sup> In Ireland the most prominent of the negative impacts from invasive species appears to be direct competition with native biota, whilst alteration to habitats and the influence of parasites and pathogens are also important. Specific habitat types currently under threat in Ireland from invasive species include freshwater river systems, ponds, mesotrophic lakes, native woodland, lowland heath, coastal floodplain, coastal saltmarsh and coastal sand dunes. A variety of native species are also threatened by invasives, including red squirrels, whiteclawed crayfish, red deer and earthworms.<sup>4</sup>

Invasive Species Ireland's website provides information on management of invasive species and includes Invasive Species Action Plans for prioritised high impact invasive species. The National Biodiversity Data Centre also contains online maps and information on the distribution of 93 identified invasive species in Ireland.

### *Non-Designated Habitats and Species*

Non-designated habitats, species and local biodiversity features include rivers, wetlands, hedgerows, individual trees, streams, grassland and coastal areas. These often provide wildlife corridors, ecological networks or stepping stones linking sites of prime conservation value. Hedgerows have been an

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<sup>3</sup> <http://invasivespeciesireland.com/background/>

<sup>4</sup> 'Invasive Species in Ireland' available at <http://invasivespeciesireland.com/background/environmental-impacts/> [15 April 2011]

important feature of the landscape in most parts of Ireland for centuries. They provide a habitat for many species and also function as wildlife corridors for animals to move through. Riparian zones and field margins can provide food, shelter, breeding areas and corridors for insects such as beetles and ground nesting birds. Fragmentation or obstruction of these corridors will impact negatively on the protection of habitats and species. Buffer zones around a number of streams provide essential linkages and ensure ecological connectivity between all habitats, including designated wildlife sites.

#### **4.2.2 Current Issues and Problems**

##### *Rosslare Europort*

The Europort is not currently connected to the public Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Rosslare Europort (Iarnród Éireann) has stated that there is a private treatment plant treating effluent from the site with an outfall to sea. The Council have no record of a discharge licence for this and impacts of discharging effluent from the Europort to the water body are therefore uncertain. In addition, any future expansion of the Europort will involve dredging and the impacts of this on the designated sites (e.g. movement of sandbanks, disturbance of breeding grounds, etc.) are uncertain.

Cumulative impacts will have to be considered in-combination with other plans and projects such as the N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour Scheme, Irish Coastal Protection Strategy Study (ICPSS), Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDPA), SFRA, County Biodiversity Plan and Wind Energy Development Strategy, as well as any Traffic Management Plan and/or Noise Action Area Plan for the area that is adopted by the Council. Any proposed development of the Europort will be subject to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) at the project level and will be assessed having regard to all of the strategies, policies and objectives for the area.

##### *Designated Sites and Habitats Loss*

Site designations and wildlife legislation are key concerns for the protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna. Habitat loss, fragmentation, and disturbance to

wildlife are probably the greatest threats. Natural heritage is not confined to statutory designated sites, but is found throughout the countryside and in built-up areas. When development occurs on greenfield sites, natural and semi-natural habitats are replaced with artificial surfaces and there is inevitably an impact on existing flora and fauna. Developments 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, in search of food, etc. The significance of this potential loss is dependant on the scale of development and the cumulative and in-combination effects.

#### *Climate Change and Flooding*

Climate change is a global issue and is fundamental to sustainable development. In 2007, the EU agreed new climate and energy targets 20-20-20 by 2020 which involves 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, 20% energy efficiency and 20% of the EU's energy consumption to be from renewable sources all by 2020. Most greenhouse emissions are related to energy generation, transport, agriculture and industry sectors. Focus is being put on predicting how a changing climate will impact on some of our most threatened species. Sea level rise is another issue of concern. A significant threat posed by flooding is by way of coastal flooding particularly during storm surges. This is discussed further in section 4.6.

#### *Invasive Species*

Invasive alien species are rated globally as the second biggest threat to biodiversity after habitat loss. In Ireland the scale of impacts is immense not just on biodiversity but also on agriculture, forestry, fisheries, water quality, tourism, infrastructure, etc.

### **4.2.3 Likely Evolution in the Absence of LAP**

In the absence of the Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane LAP development in the area would be guided by the CDP which is the overarching plan for the area. The policies and objectives of the LAP are consistent with the CDP however the LAP provides more detailed policies and objectives for the area and a

framework within which to regulate, aid and/or manage development. In particular the LAP provides regulation and guidance in relation to the location and scale of new development.

In the absence of the Plan pressures on biodiversity, flora and fauna would 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 susceptible to adverse changes through incompatible uses, resulting in a diminished natural environment and loss of biodiversity, flora and fauna. 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.

The effects of wastewater generated as a result of future developments, if unmitigated, could also cause the deterioration of the quality of surface water within the designated sites and adversely impact upon biodiversity, flora and fauna.

## **4.3 Population and Human Health**

### **4.3.1 Baseline Description**

#### *Population*

The population of Ballygerry and Kilrane increased by 126 persons or 9.4% during the four year period 2002-2006. The growth was unevenly distributed with Kilrane increasing by 39.8% during this period, while Ballygerry increased by just 0.3%. This reflects the significant number of new residential developments constructed and occupied in the Kilrane area during the four year period with little residential development having occurred in the Harbour.

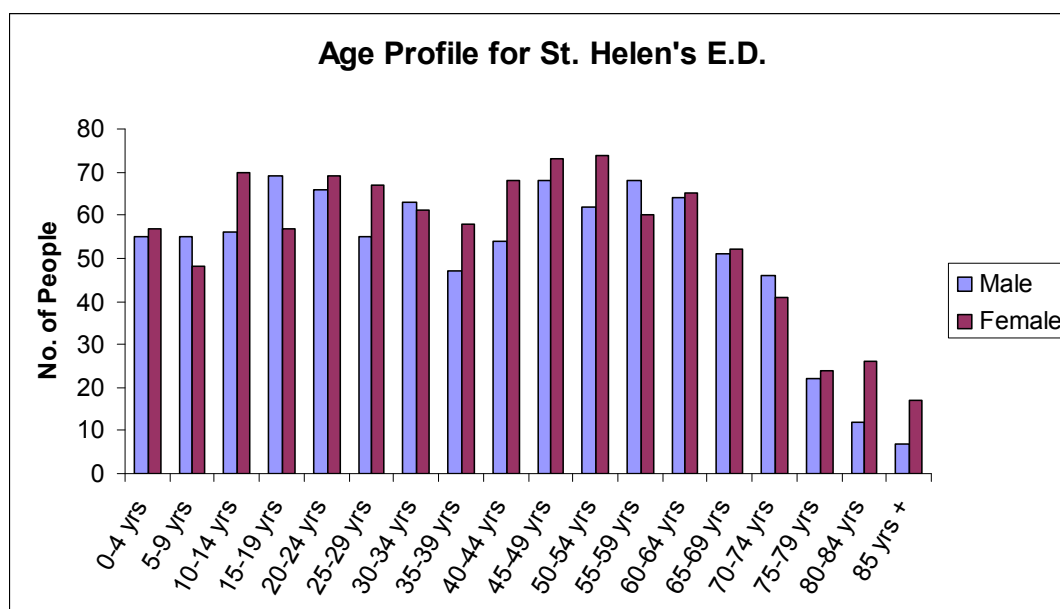
**Table 2: Population Change 2002-2006**

Area	Persons 2002	Persons 2006	Change 2002-2006	% Change 2002-2006
Ballygerry (Rosslare Harbour)	1,038	1,041	3	0.3%
Kilrane	309	432	123	39.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,347</b>	<b>1,473</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>9.4%</b>

**Source: CSO Census 2006**

The age profile for St. Helens E.D shows relatively even numbers of people within each age bracket but the largest proportion of the population is between the ages of 45 and 49. The age profile suggests that there are high numbers of families living in the area but there are also relatively high numbers of elderly people with 15.6% of the population over the age of 65. This has implications for the LAP in terms of housing provision and facilities for the elderly.

**Chart 1: Age Profile for St. Helen's E.D.**



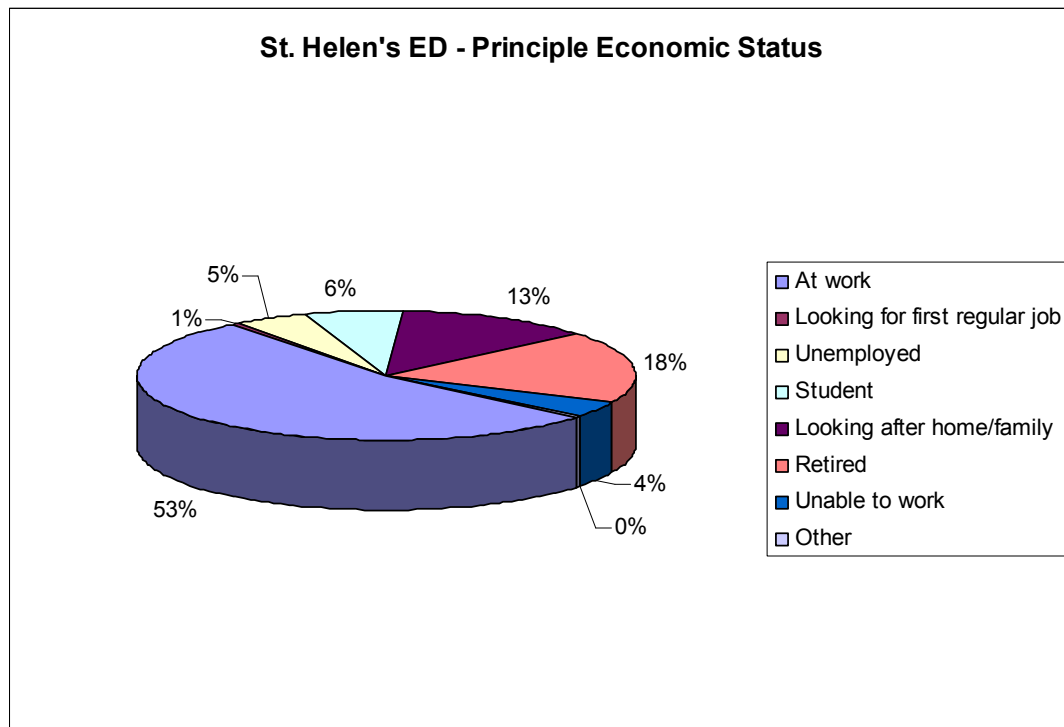
**Source: CSO Census 2006**



### *Employment*

The employment profile for St. Helen's E.D. is similar to that for the county, however a higher proportion of the workforce in the E.D. are classified as retired (18%) compared to the average for the county (12.3%). 53% of the population in St. Helen's E.D. were classified as being 'at work' in 2006 while 5% were classified as being unemployed in the same year. The remainder of the population is spread between those classified as students (6%), those looking for first regular job (1%), those looking after the home or a family member (13%) and those who are unable to work due to illness or disability (4%).

**Chart 2: Principle Economic Status for St. Helen's E.D.**



**Source: CSO Census 2006**

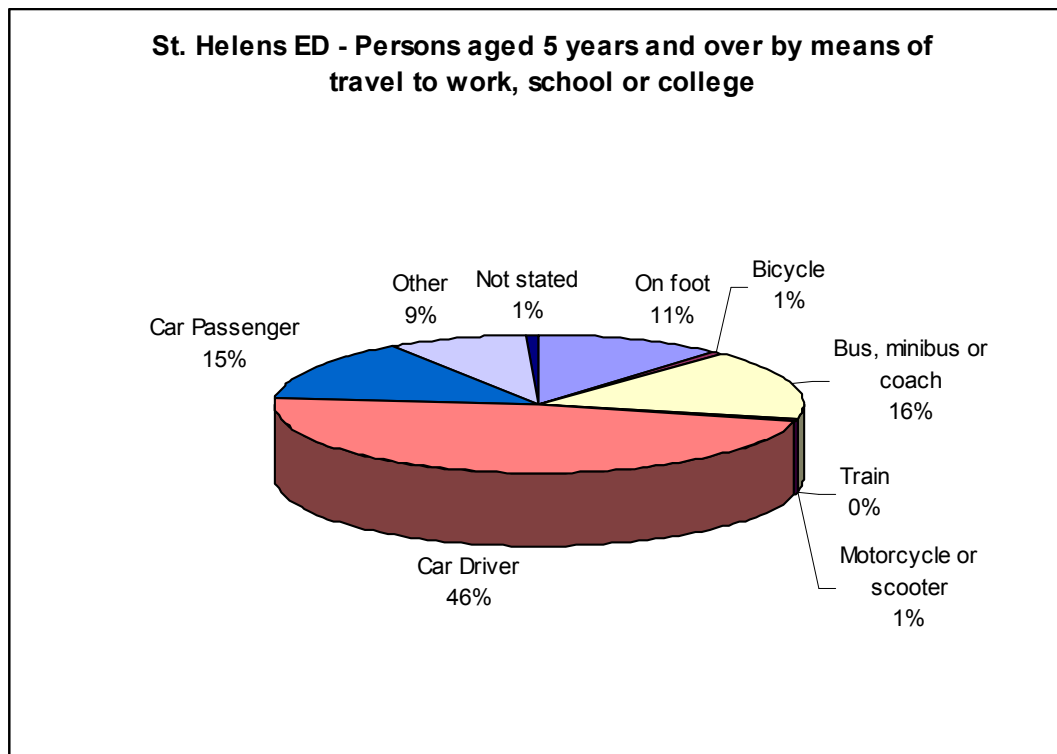
According to the 2006 Census St. Helens E.D. has a high proportion of its population employed in the services sector, accounting for 154 people or 18% of the workforce. There are also high numbers of people employed in the sales (14%), clerical (13%) and transport (12%) sectors. Very few people in

St. Helens E.D. are employed in agriculture with only 2% of the population representing this sector.

### *Distance to Work*

While a persons' journey to work time and place of work is a factor in determining one's quality of life, it is also a measure of the sustainability of settlements. 1121 people in St. Helens E.D. were surveyed on their travel patterns by the CSO in 2006. The preferred mode of transport was the private car with 46% of the population travelling as a car driver and a further 15% as a car passenger. The next most popular mode of transport is by bus, minibus or coach with 16% of the population choosing this type of travel. The most common stated distance travelled is 15-24 kilometres (21.6%) which suggests that a significant proportion of the population of St. Helens commute to Wexford Town for work, school or college on a daily basis. 35.7% of the population are based locally within 2-4km of their home.

**Chart 3: Distance travelled to work, school or college**



**Source: CSO Census 2006**

### *Unoccupied Housing*

While the Census does not provide data on holiday homes, it does provide information on unoccupied houses which gives an indication of vacant houses in the area. The percentage of vacant dwellings in St. Helen's E.D. on the night of the census was 43.3% (529 houses out of a total housing stock of 1,245). This is high compared to the County average of 23.1% and the State average of 16.7%. This pattern coincides with the fact that St. Helen's E.D. is situated on the coast and many of the houses are holiday home developments which are located outside of the plan area. Nevertheless, this has an effect on the provision of services in the area and how the future population growth is planned.

### *Population Projections*

The population projections are consistent with the Core Strategy contained in Variation no. 1 of the CDP. The Core Strategy has been prepared in accordance with the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010, to incorporate the population targets for the County as set out in the RPGs. Rosslare Harbour, which is identified as a district town, is projected to growth by 20% over the plan period. The population of Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane has been estimated at 1,639 persons in 2011. This estimate assumes that the average growth rate for County Wexford as set out in the RPGs has occurred in Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane during the period 2006-2011. With 20% growth over the plan period this will result in an increase of 328 persons by 2021.

**Table 3: Population Projections to 2021**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Persons 2006</b>	<b>Persons 2011</b>	<b>Persons 2021</b>
Ballygerry (Rosslare Hbr.)	1,041	1,158	1,390
Kilrane	432	481	577
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,473</b>	<b>1,639</b>	<b>1,967</b>

### *Human Health*

A shortfall in amenities and infrastructure to serve the local community can all go towards decreasing the perceived health of the general population.

Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane are well serviced by a range of community facilities, a good water supply and wastewater treatment infrastructure.

However, a number of local roads are in poor condition and without footpaths/cycle lanes and public lighting. The community centre is also small in size to serve the needs of the local population. There is scope to improve these facilities with positive implications for human health.

Another key area for the consideration of human health is the relationship between health and water quality/ air quality/ climatic factors such as flood risk. These issues will be discussed further in sections 4.5, 4.6 & 4.7 below.

The construction of the N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour Scheme has the potential for short and long term effects on human health. The Scheme entails major improvements to the N11 and N25 National Routes with improved access to Rosslare Europort a priority. The Scheme is currently at the planning stage. The preferred route has been identified. Lands will be reserved under the LAP for the provision of road improvements within the plan area. New link roads and widening/upgrading of existing roads will also be required which will, in the short and long term, give rise to increased traffic in the plan area.

#### **4.3.2 Current Issues and Problems**

The provision of community facilities, amenities and infrastructure to support new developments within and surrounding Kilrane, in particular, has struggled to keep up with the pace at which development has occurred. The oversupply of holiday or second homes within an area can contribute to the reduction in amenity for the permanent population and can impact negatively on the proper planning and sustainable development of an area. Challenges for the future include retaining the young working population to prevent high levels of emigration by encouraging them to live and work in the area. Additionally, there is an increasing trend of elderly age cohorts and their needs also must

be catered for. Population health and quality of life are very much influenced by the presence and state of the other environmental parameters. Thus, all of the issues raised under the other environmental parameters are important issues for human health.

#### **4.3.3 Likely Evolution in the Absence of LAP**

In the absence of 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 regard to existing vacant housing stock or specific guidance as to where new 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.

In order to properly plan for the sustainable development of Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane, the assigned target population of 1,967 to 2021 must be taken into account when formulating objectives and policies for the area. In the absence of an agreed target population and appropriate zoning of land all of the environmental parameters would be adversely affected to varying degrees. Issues affecting the current population in addition to the population increase may not be realised and could result in deterioration of the environment and mismanaged resources. Seasonal pressures must also be considered and planned for.

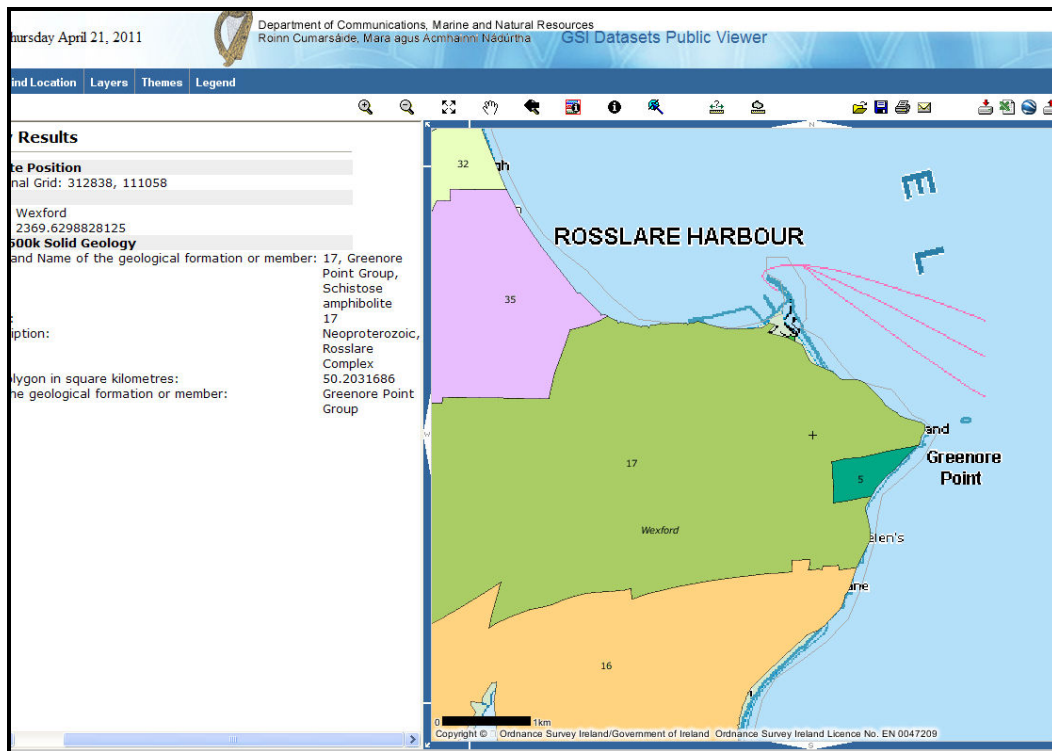
### **4.4 Geology and Soil**

#### **4.4.1 Baseline Data**

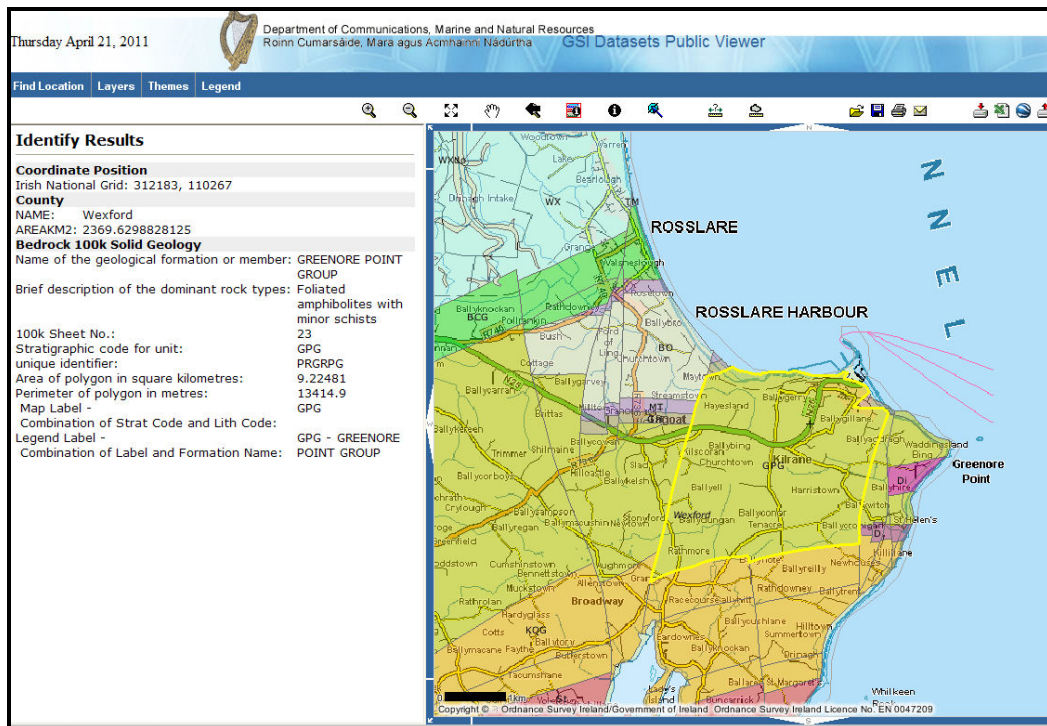
##### *Geology*

GSI maps show that the geology of the area around Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane generally comprises rocks of the Neoproterozoic era, comprising mainly of Foliated amphibolites with minor schists. These form part of the Greenore Point Group which is classified as a poorly productive aquifer.

## Map 4: Bedrock 500k Solid Geology



## Map 5: Bedrock 100k Solid Geology



Source: <http://www.gsi.ie/Mapping.htm>

## *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, 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.<sup>5</sup>

To date, there is no legislation which is specific to the protection of soil resources however an EU Directive on soil is currently proposed which will set out common principles for protecting soils across the EU. The EPA has also published a document 'Towards Setting Environmental Quality Objectives for Soil' which recommends 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.<sup>6</sup> 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.

EPA Maps identify a range of soil types within the plan area. The built-up areas are classified as 'made' while the soil in the majority of the undeveloped area is characterised by surface water and ground water gleys, which are described as deeply, poorly drained minerals derived from mainly acidic parent materials. A significant area around Kilrane Business Park is classified as 'Lac', which is defined as a shallow, poorly drained mineral derived from mainly non-calcareous parent material. Subsoils are classified as sandstone and shale till in the majority of the undeveloped area with the area around Kilrane Business Park identified as having bedrock at the surface.

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<sup>5</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/soil/index_en.htm)

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.epa.ie/whatwedo/advice/soils/>

### *Historic Landfills/Contaminated Sites*

All historic/closed landfills must be authorised by the EPA and Local Authorities are obliged under Section 22 of the Waste Management Acts 1996-2010 to carry out an inventory and risk assessment of all non-licensed closed landfills. There is one pre-1977 unauthorised landfill in the plan area at Tuskarmore. The site area is 1.62ha, overgrown with briars and furze and landlocked on all sides. The waste area extends over the whole site and is no more than 1.2m deep. The surface falls from the north to the south with open channels along either side and some ponding along the southern boundary. The operation of the landfill pre dates the 1975 Waste Framework Directive (75/442/EEC) and thus was not subject to any licensing system.

An initial assessment (Tier I) carried out by Wexford County Council has classified the landfill as low risk to the environment. Tier II exploratory investigations of the landfill were also carried out which involved trial pitting and classification of the waste types present. The Council intends to undertake the main Tier II investigation in 2012. This may include checking surface water and groundwater quality and recommendations for any remediation measures required.

The Protection of New Buildings and Occupants from Landfill Gas (DoE, 1994) provides guidance for land uses adjacent to landfills.

### *Quarries*

No active quarries are identified in or adjacent to the plan area. OSI maps identify two quarries at Ballygillane Big, which appear to have been restored to agricultural use.

### *Waste Permits*

Three waste permits have been granted by Wexford County Council within the plan area. Two of these were granted to Goff Recycling Ltd. at Ballygillane Big/Ballyknockan (WP/04/12 & WP06/45) while the third was granted to Priority Construction Ltd. at Ballygillane Little (WP/05/21). Advanced Environmental Solutions (Ireland) Ltd. (Goffs Recycling Ltd.) has also



obtained an EPA Waste Licence (W0229-01) for the Waste Transfer Station at Kilrane.

#### **4.4.2 Current Issues and Problems**

Pressures on soil as a result of urbanisation can lead to soil degradation including loss of organic matter, decline in soil fertility, industrial contamination, salinisation, loss of soil stability, increased soil erosion, soil compaction, contamination, loss of biodiversity, loss of soil to buildings and infrastructure and flooding. Existing environmental problems relating to soil include the building upon and thereby sealing off of soil, with contamination of soil resulting from surface and ground water pollution.

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. Flooding can also have a positive impact on soils bringing nutrients and silt which good soils are composed of.

#### **4.4.3 Likely Evolution in the Absence of LAP**

The Plan includes a 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, development would be likely 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 and coastal areas.

In the absence of a Plan greenfield sites may be developed over existing brownfield sites resulting in the accumulation of non-renewable soil and subsoil resources. Furthermore development would have no specific policy regulation or guidance over where, or to what extent, it could occur leading to a significant deterioration in the soil and geology environment. Any uncontrolled development would have a direct negative impact due to soil loss and run-off, directly impacting on water and also causing indirect impacts from potential contamination due to ancillary works associated with the

development or lack of appropriate wastewater facilities.

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.

## **4.5 Water**

### **4.5.1 Baseline Description**

#### *Hydrology*

There are two streams which run in or adjacent to the plan area. The first runs along the west boundary of the plan and forms part of a network of watercourses which discharge to the sea between Raven Point and Greenore Point. The second stream runs from Kilrane to St. Helen's Bay. There is no water quality status information available for either of these streams at present.<sup>7</sup>

#### *Hydrogeology*

Hydrogeology is the study of groundwater and the prevention of hazards within the groundwater system. Groundwater 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 identified as being within the Draft Aquifer: Precambrian Quartzites, Gneisses and Schists which is classified as a poorly productive bedrock aquifer. Groundwater vulnerability in the area is mainly classified as high to low, with a sizeable area in Ballygillane Big classified as having extreme groundwater vulnerability.

A Groundwater Protection Scheme for County Wexford has recently been compiled by the GSI and Wexford County Council. The Scheme comprises two components:

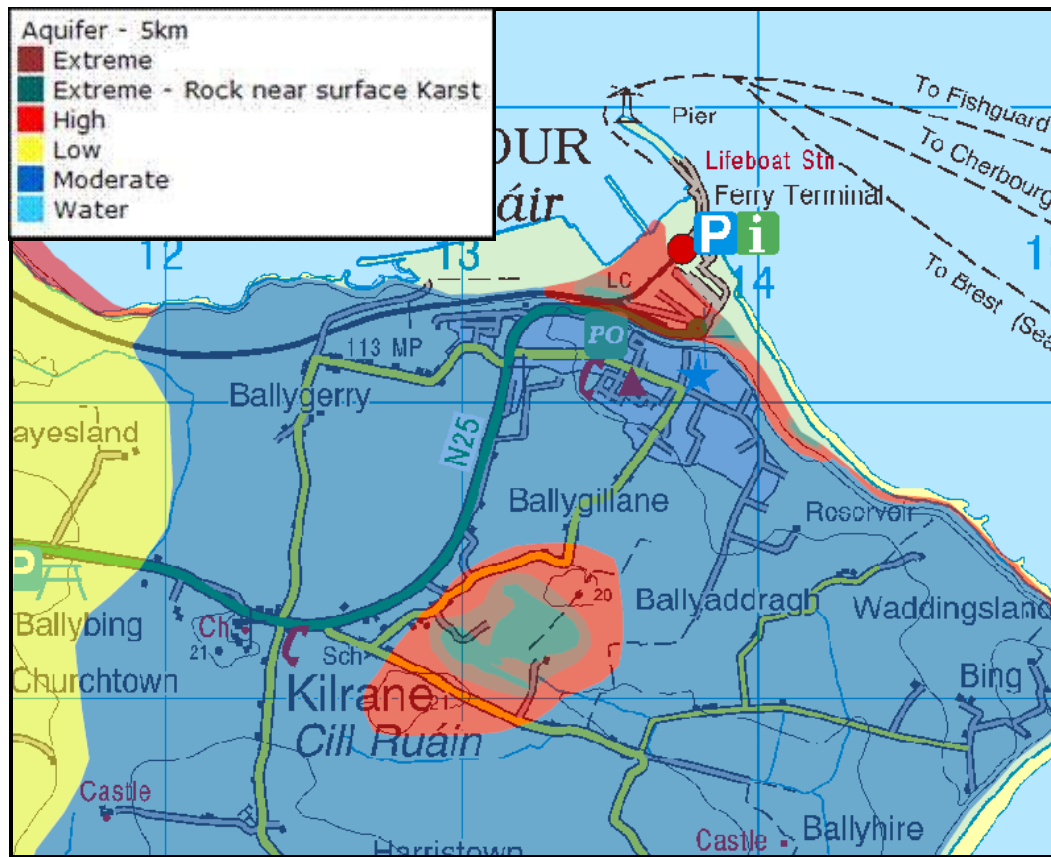
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<sup>7</sup> <http://maps.epa.ie/internetmapviewer/mapviewer.aspx>

- i. Land surface zoning map called the groundwater protection zone map.
- ii. Groundwater protection responses for existing and new potentially polluting activities (including on-site wastewater treatment systems, landfills and land spreading of organic wastes).

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. For example, in the aquifers classified as moderate and high on Map 6 below the groundwater protection response for on-site wastewater treatment systems 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). In the aquifer classified as extreme, the groundwater protection response is R2<sup>1</sup> which means that an on-site wastewater treatment system would generally be acceptable subject to normal good practice, but where domestic water supplies are located nearby particular attention should be given to the depth of subsoil over bedrock such that the minimum depths required (EPA, 2000) are met and that the likelihood of microbial pollution is minimised.

**Map 6: Aquifer Classification/Groundwater Protection Zone**



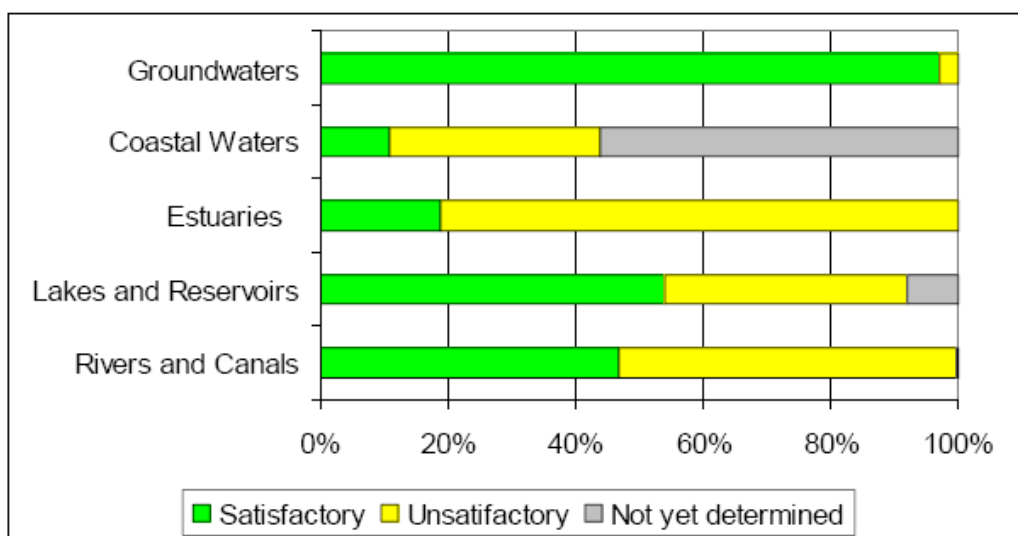
#### *Water Framework Directive*

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) was adopted in 2000 and transposed into Irish legislation in 2003 through the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations, 2003 (S.I. No. 722), as amended by the European Communities (Water Policy) (Amendment) Regulations 2005 (S.I. No. 413 of 2005). The WFD requires Member States to manage all of their waters and ensure that they achieve at least 'good status' by 2015.

The South Eastern River Basin Management Plan (SERBMP) (2009-2015) identifies the condition of waters in the South Eastern River Basin District (SERBD). This is in the form of an interim status assessment carried out by the EPA, which is based on the results of monitoring up to 2008. The interim assessment classifies the surface waters according to their ecological and chemical status, while groundwater is classified based on a system combining chemical and quantitative status. The results of this interim assessment are

summarised in Chart 4 below.

**Chart 4: Interim Status Assessment of Waters in SERBD**



**Source: South Eastern River Basin Management Plan (2009-2015)**

In addition to identifying water quality status, the SERBMP includes a list of sustainable objectives and a programme of measures to achieve good water status in accordance with the WFD. It is estimated 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.

Work undertaken for the purpose of the WFD Article 5 risk assessments concludes that 35% of transitional water bodies and 18% of coastal water bodies are at risk or probably at risk of failing to meet the WFD objective of good status due to physical alteration. Morphological pressures on the marine environment include coastal defence, built structures (urbanisation and ports and harbours) and dredging. Rosslare Harbour is identified as heavily modified waters for use as navigation. The objective for heavily modified waters is to achieve good ecological potential generally by 2015.

**Map 7: Surface Water Quality Status**



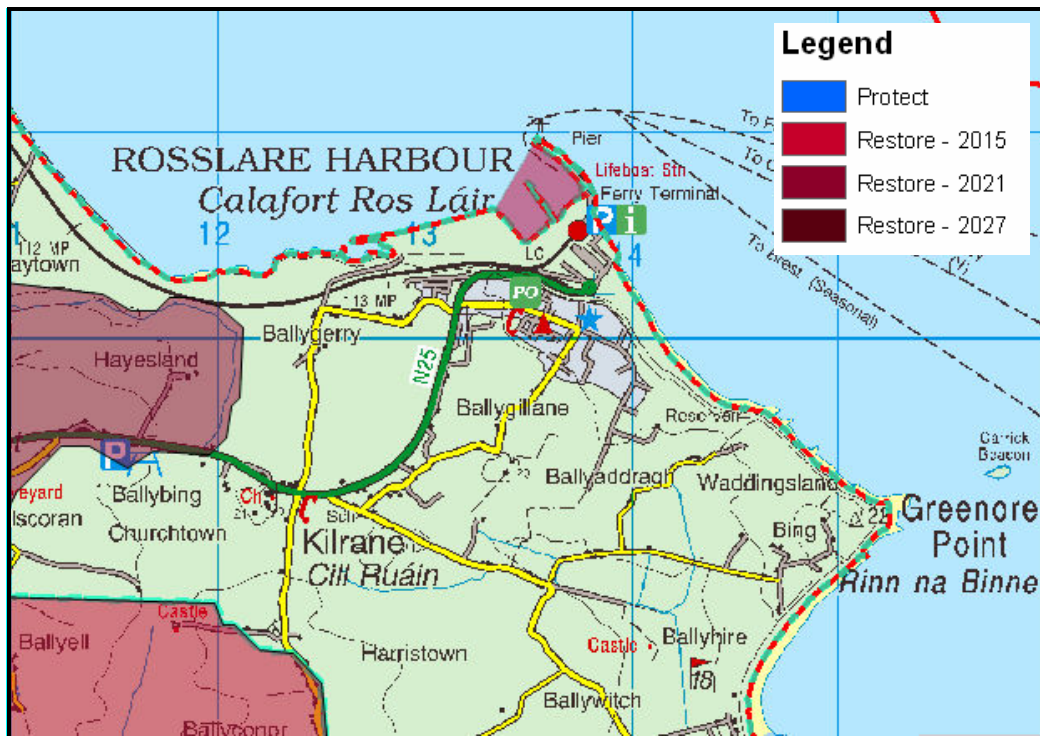
**Map 8: Surface Water Risk Results**



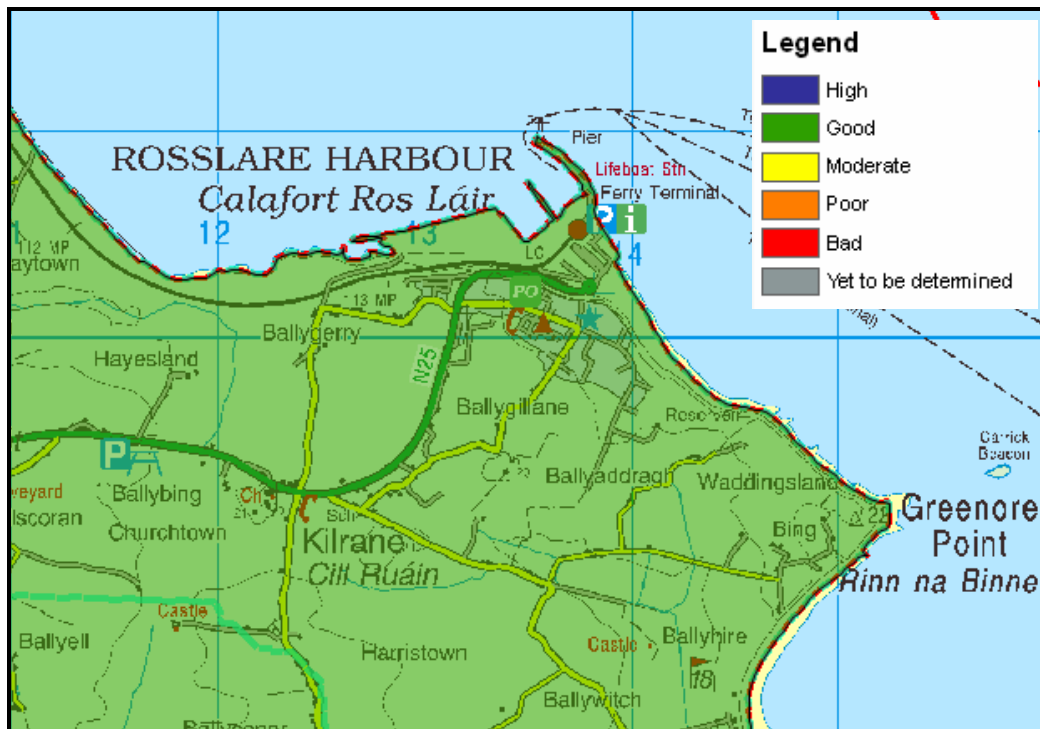
Source: [www.wfdireland.ie/maps.html](http://www.wfdireland.ie/maps.html)



**Map 9: Surface Water Objectives**

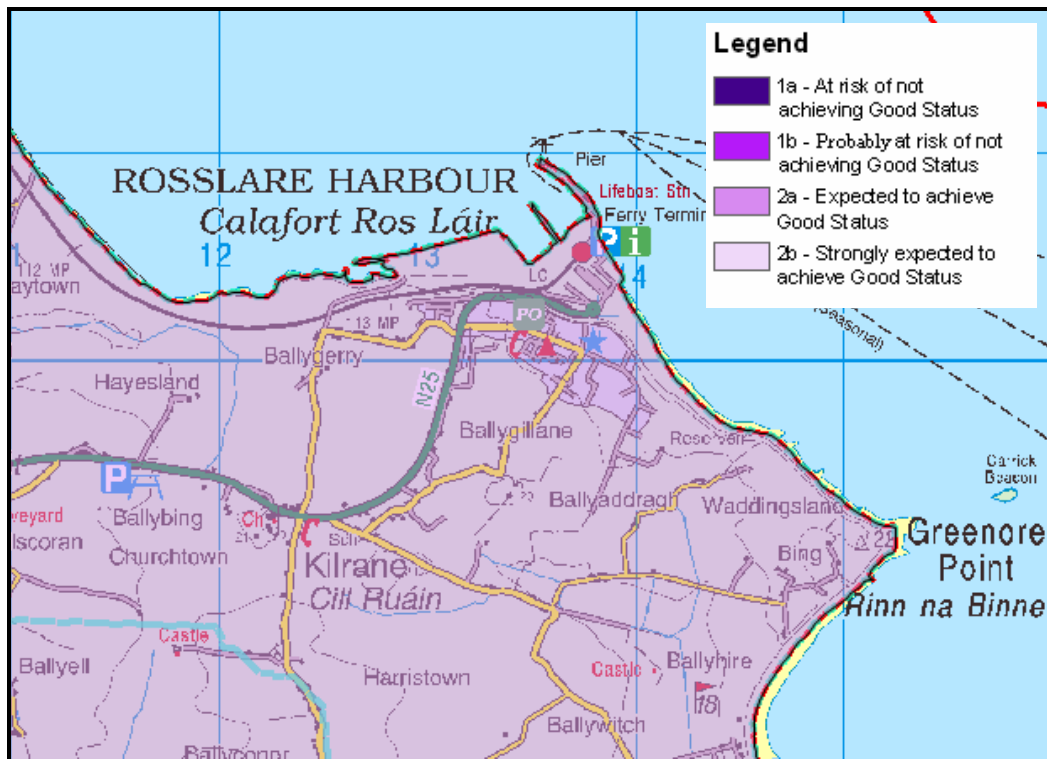


**Map 10: Groundwater Quality Status**

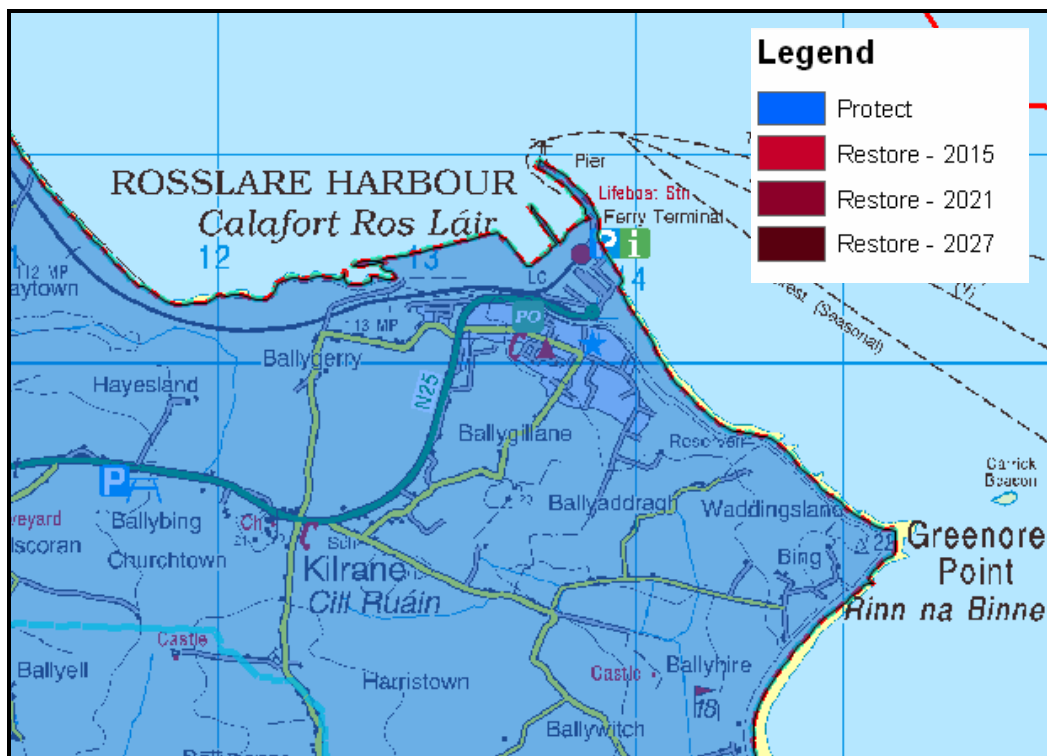


Source: [www.wfdireland.ie/maps.html](http://www.wfdireland.ie/maps.html)

**Map 11: Groundwater Risk Results**



**Map 12: Groundwater Objectives**



Source: [www.wfdireland.ie/maps.html](http://www.wfdireland.ie/maps.html)



The EPA's report *Water Quality in Ireland 2007-2009* presents a review of Irish ambient water quality for the years 2007 to 2009. The findings of the report show that in the assessment of overall groundwater status (chemical and quantitative) 84.7% of water bodies were at good status and 15.3 per cent were at poor status (all of County Wexford is identified as having good groundwater status). In excess of 1,550 river water bodies were directly assessed, with 20.1% showing high, 48.8% good, 20.7% moderate, 10% poor and 0.4% bad water quality status. In the SERBD there was a slight increase in the number of unpolluted rivers. Of the 89 estuarine (or transitional) and coastal waters assessed, 9 (10.1%) were classed as eutrophic, 5 (5.6%) as potentially eutrophic, 31 (34.8%) as intermediate and 44 (49.5%) were unpolluted. The report outlines a number of measures required to improve water quality in accordance with the WFD.

#### *Protected Areas*

The WFD requires each Member State to establish a register of protected areas. These areas are considered to require 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. The protected areas in the zone of influence of the Plan are outlined in section 4.2 above. To comply with the WFD protected areas must, without exception, achieve good or high status to support their designations, with specific targets for protection of priority species.

#### *Bathing Water*

The EPA's *The Quality of Bathing Water in Ireland – An Overview for the Year 2010* reports that the quality of Ireland's bathing waters remains high, with 97% of designated bathing areas meeting the EU mandatory standards, and classed as being of 'sufficient' water quality status. In addition, 90% of bathing waters meet higher guideline standards and are classified as 'good' status. This is an 8% increase compared to the previous bathing season.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> <http://www.epa.ie/news/pr/2011/name.30820.en.html>

Rosslare Strand, located approximately 4km northwest of Rosslare Europort, is a designated bathing area and is one of four Blue Flag beaches in County Wexford. Rosslare Strand is included on the Register of Protected Areas and water quality status is recorded as being 'good' during the period 2003 to 2010.<sup>9</sup> The bathing areas at Rosslare Harbour and St. Helen's are not included on the EPA's assessment of Bathing Areas.

### *Drinking Water*

The Rosslare Harbour and surrounding area is serviced by the Fardystown Regional Water Supply Scheme. The Fardystown scheme supplies the entire south east corner of the county. It extends to the west to Kilmore Quay, north to the Murrintown area and east to the industrial area in Drinagh/Rocklands on the edge of Wexford Town. A series of 10 boreholes are utilised to abstract water and pump it to Mayglass Water Treatment Plant (WTP) for the reduction of iron and manganese concentrations to conform to EU/national drinking water quality standards. The Mayglass WTP has a design capacity of 12,000m<sup>3</sup>/day but with maximum production from all boreholes can produce up to 14,000m<sup>3</sup>/day. Currently the average daily demand is 10,000m<sup>3</sup>/day, which services a population of approx 15,000.

At this stage the plant has 4,000m<sup>3</sup> spare capacity, sufficient to supply a population equivalent of approximately 17,000. This spare capacity is to facilitate further development in the area currently serviced by the scheme and also to provide additional capacity for development within the Wexford Town and Environs development plan area. Therefore, in terms of available capacity the scheme has considerable spare capacity.

The local pipe network in the Rosslare Harbour/Kilrane area is adequately sized and only in certain areas would there be a requirement for mains upgrade in the long term.

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<sup>9</sup> <http://bathingwater.ie/epa/history.htm>

Should there be a significant demand for additional water in the area such as for further port development at Rosslare Harbour there are plans for a future upgrade of the Mayglass plant to bring the capacity up to 21,000 m<sup>3</sup>/day, but as there is not a requirement for this additional water at this stage it is not included in the current Water Services Investment Plant.

The Water Services Assessment of Needs is reviewed annually with the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG) and if circumstances change the upgrade of Mayglass can be put on the Assessment of Needs.

### *Wastewater*

The EPA report *Urban Waste Water Discharges in Ireland for Population Equivalents Greater than 500 Persons – A Report for the Years 2006 and 2007* identifies Rosslare Harbour WWTP under the list of agglomerations without secondary treatment in 2007. However, a new treatment plant was commissioned in 2008. The plant has a design capacity of 9,383 P.E. and treats wastewater to a secondary standard using biological treatment with 25mg/l (BOD) 125mg/l (COD) and 35mg/l (Total suspended solids). The plant effluent results are well within the plant design standard. The treated effluent is discharged into the sea through an outfall located to the west of the Harbour.

Wexford County Council has obtained a WWTP discharge licence from the EPA. An AA was carried out as part of the licence application. It concludes that there will be no significant impacts on the Carnsore Point, Long Bank and Slaney River Valley SACs.

The estimated current loading is 3,938P.E. Taking into consideration planning permissions granted in the area and the likelihood of these permissions being implemented, future loading is predicted at 5,252 P.E.<sup>10</sup> This leaves a spare capacity of 4,131 P.E. which is considered sufficient to accommodate

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<sup>10</sup> Likelihood of permission being implemented is based on the age of the permission

development within the lifetime of the Plan. However, it should be noted that the Europort is not presently connected to the public WWTP.<sup>11</sup> Should the Europort connect to the WWTP in the future capacity will be reduced.

Under the Prevention of Pollution at Sea Acts no ship is allowed to discharge within 3 miles of Wexford Harbour. The disposal of ship generated waste (including sewage and bilge water) is covered by the European Communities (Port Reception Facilities for Ship Generated Waste and Cargo Residues) Regulations 2003 (S.I 117/2003) (as amended). The disposal of ship generated waste is facilitated by the making of an application to the Competent Authority, disposal is arranged by the ships agent and conformity checking is carried out by the competent authority.<sup>12</sup>

#### *Dumping at Sea (DaS permits)*

The Dumping at Sea Acts 1996 to 2009 prohibit the dumping at sea from vessels, aircraft or offshore installation of a substance or material unless permitted by the EPA. Any person who wishes to dispose of material at sea is required to apply for a Dumping at Sea permit. The Foreshore and Dumping at Sea (Amendment) Act 2009 empowers the EPA to decide on an application for a permit to dispose of material at sea.

#### *Foreshore Licences*

The Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government is responsible for certain foreshore activities including foreshore projects in respect of port companies and harbour authorities governed by the Harbours Acts, 1946, 1996, and 2000 and foreshore projects in respect of any other harbour and harbour-related developments intended for commercial trade. A Lease is generally issued for a development that requires exclusive occupation of the foreshore. Developments requiring a Foreshore Lease would include for example: jetties, bridges, piers, marinas, offshore wind farms and reclamation of any foreshore. A Licence is generally issued for a

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<sup>11</sup> CIE have stated that effluent from the Europort is treated and discharged to sea

<sup>12</sup> Wexford Harbour Outer Pollution Reduction Programme

development that does not require exclusive occupation of the foreshore. Examples would include repair work, some coastal protection work, undersea pipelines, cables, site investigation works and dredging works.<sup>13</sup>

Iarnród Éireann was granted a Foreshore Licence to conduct limited dredging and deposition of the dredged materials as beach nourishment at Rosslare Harbour (dumping at sea). The licence is valid from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2010 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 and is limited to the removal of not more than 160,000m<sup>3</sup> of sand during maintenance dredging from the outside (east) of the main breakwater at Rosslare Europort and the placement of that sand at a specified location close to Rosslare Strand.

#### *Abstractions and Discharges*

National Vehicles Deliveries (NVD) has a discharge licence for vehicle washing and discharging into the sea at Ballygerry (Ref. SS/W033/83).

#### *IPPC Licences*

There are no Integrated Pollution Prevention Control (IPPC) licences noted within or adjoining the plan area.

#### *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 39% (from 51% in 2000).<sup>14</sup>

### **4.5.2 Current Issues and Problems**

The key issues for water are the provision of adequate waste water treatment infrastructure, maintenance of good quality drinking water for protection of

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<sup>13</sup> <http://www.environ.ie/en/Foreshore/>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.wexford.ie/wex/Departments/WaterServices/WaterSupply/>

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.

Work undertaken for the purpose of the WFD Article 5 risk assessments concludes that 35% of transitional water bodies and 18% of coastal water bodies are at risk or probably at risk of failing to meet the WFD objective of good status due to physical alteration. Morphological pressures on the marine environment include coastal defence, built structures (urbanisation and ports and harbours) and dredging. Rosslare Harbour is identified as heavily modified waters for use as navigation. The objective for heavily modified waters is to achieve good ecological potential generally by 2015.

Rosslare Europort is not connected to the public WWTP at present. Should the Europort be connected in the future capacity in the public WWTP will be reduced. Any extension to the Europort would also need to be considered in terms of wastewater treatment and capacity.

#### **4.5.3 Likely Evolution in the Absence of LAP**

The Plan includes policies and objectives for the protection of water quality in accordance with the WFD and other European and national legislation. 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 ad hoc development would continue to occur on the edge of the town resulting in the inefficient use of infrastructure. Inadequate infrastructure provision would restrict industrial and economic growth, thus affecting employment opportunities and human health. Failure to plan for the projected population growth and seasonal pressures, as well as industrial growth associated with the Europort, may result in an inadequate water supply and depleted capacity in the public WWTP with potential negative impacts on water quality.

## **4.6 Flooding**

### **4.6.1 Baseline Description**

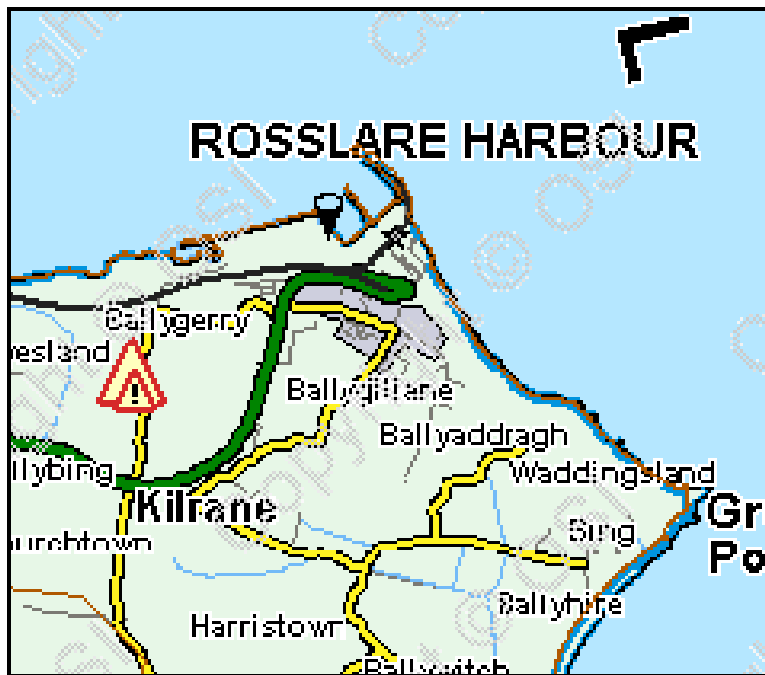
The OPW flood database identifies two recurring flood points (code 4) in the Ballygerry area as shown on Map 13 below. This area is also partially located within Flood Zones A and B as identified in an assessment carried out in accordance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG & OPW, 2009) by JBA Consulting Engineers and Scientists LTD (Map 14). Flood Zone A is defined as having a high risk of flooding from rivers (i.e. more than 1% probability or more than 1 in 100), while 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 area around the port is also identified as Flood Zone A and B with risk of flooding from tides. Flood Zone A is defined as having a high risk of flooding from the coast (i.e. more than 0.5% probability or more than 1 in 200) while Flood Zone B defines areas with a moderate risk of flooding from the coast (i.e. 0.1% to 0.5% probability or between 1 in 200 and 1 in 1000).

A further set of flood maps have recently been obtained from the OPW. No areas of flood risk from rivers are identified on the OPW maps within the plan area. The Irish Coastal Protection Strategy Study (ICPSS) Phase II (OPW, June 2010) further identifies coastal flood hazard in County Wexford. The Strategy does not identify coastal flood hazard in Rosslare Harbour.

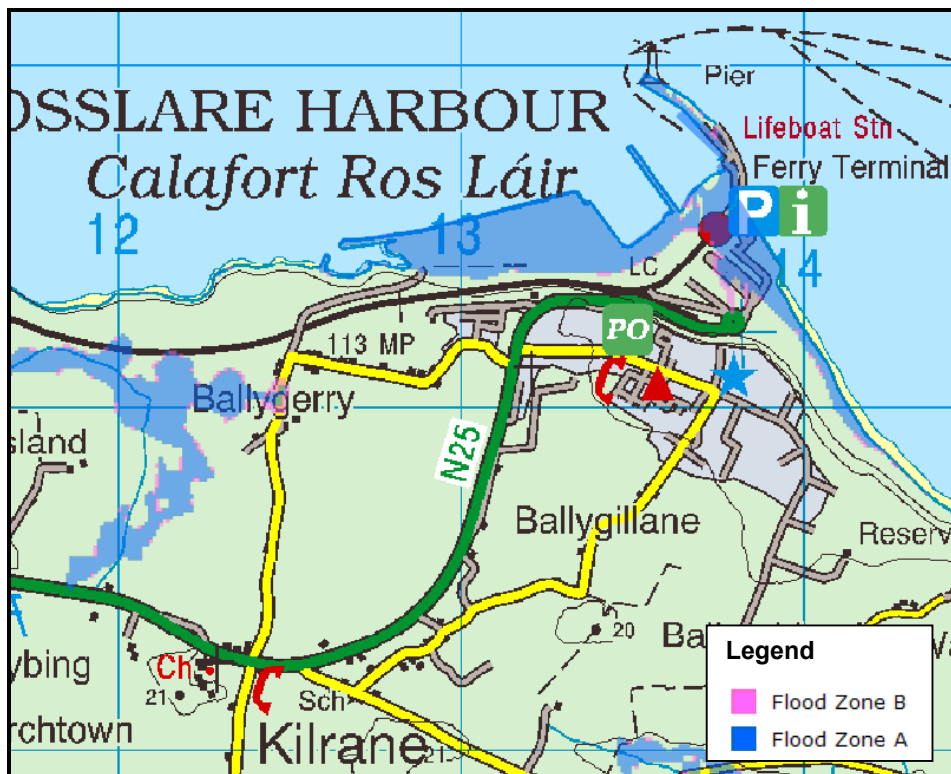
The Planning Authority is currently using both the JBA and OPW sets of maps for the consideration of land uses and assessment of planning applications.

Map 13: Recorded Flood Events in the Plan Area



Source: [www.floodmaps.ie](http://www.floodmaps.ie)

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





An SFRA was carried out as part of the LAP process. This demonstrates how the justification test was applied in the selection of appropriate land uses in the 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 carried out in accordance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines.

The ICPSS Phase II shows erosion extents in County Wexford. A strategic level erosion hazard assessment for the study coastline has been completed and predictive erosion maps prepared for the years 2030 and 2050. These are shown in Maps 15 and 16 below.

Wexford County Council has also commenced a tendering process for a separate Study of the Wexford and Rosslare areas in relation to coastal erosion and necessary development works. It is anticipated that the study will take 12-15 months to complete.

[illegible]

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Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) is a process for the management of the coast using an integrated approach, regarding all aspects of the coastal zone, including geographical and political boundaries, in an attempt to achieve sustainability. The concept of ICZM was born in 1992 during the Earth Summit of Rio de Janeiro. A European Parliament and Council Recommendation concerning the implementation of ICZM in Europe was adopted on 30 May 2002. It outlines steps which the Member States should take to develop national strategies for ICZM. At present there is no Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Plan for Ireland.

In 2003 the Heritage Council carried out a review of ICZM and principals of best practice in Ireland. This states that the most important step to be taken towards integrated management for the coastline of Ireland is the development of a national policy based on best practice, involving public participation and facilitating integration. The European Commission has now launched a review of the EU ICZM Recommendation, with a view to a follow-up proposal by the end of 2011.<sup>15</sup>

#### **4.6.2 Current Issues and Problems**

There is an increased risk of flooding due to development, climate change and rainfall patterns. Development can exacerbate the problems of flooding by accelerating and increasing surface water runoff, 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.

Coastal erosion is another environmental issue relevant to the plan area. Coastal protection works may be required to the west and/or southeast of the

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<sup>15</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/iczm/home.htm>

Harbour. These works are likely to be subject to Habitats Directive Assessment which will determine their impacts on Natura 2000 sites.

#### **4.6.3 Likely Evolution in the Absence of LAP**

In the absence of the Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane LAP development in the area would be guided by the CDP which is the overarching plan for the area. However, the LAP contains a flood risk assessment and specific zoning objectives which are appropriate to the area. 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.

### **4.7 Air, Noise and Climatic Factors**

#### **4.7.1 Baseline Description**

The EPA's report *Air Quality in Ireland 2009 - Key Indicators of Ambient Air Quality* provides an overview of air quality in Ireland for 2009 based on data obtained from 28 monitoring stations. The report notes that air quality in Ireland is generally of a high standard across the country due to prevailing Atlantic airflows, relatively few large cities and the lack of widespread heavy industries. However, levels of particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide remain of concern.

Traffic is the primary source of nitrogen dioxide and is also one of the main sources of particulate matter. Despite cleaner vehicle emissions technology decreasing the impact of individual vehicles, there has been an increase in the number of vehicles which has offset any benefit in air quality. Domestic solid fuel use is the other main source of particulate matter in air particularly in areas where the sale of bituminous coal is permitted. As such it is important to note the impact that the choice in domestic heating fuel can have on the environment and air quality.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> [http://www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/air/quality/name\\_30440,en.html](http://www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/air/quality/name_30440,en.html)

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).<sup>17</sup> Rosslare Harbour and the surrounding area is located in Air Quality Zone D which represents Rural Ireland. The nearest monitoring stations are located at Carnsore Point and Johnstown Castle which both show 'good' air quality. There are no coal restrictions within or surrounding the plan area and there are no registered IPPC licences (which generally include conditions regarding air quality monitoring).

Advanced Environmental Solutions (Ireland) Ltd. have a Waste Licence (Ref: W0229-01) for a Waste Transfer Station at Kilrane. The conditions of the licence impose emission limits (no emissions to air or water of environmental significance) and require regular monitoring and control of emissions. An environmental report is required to be submitted to the EPA each year. The Annual Environmental Report for 2010 records some elevated noise levels above the limit set out in the Waste License of 55 dB(A) caused mainly by machinery and trucks. Some of the results for dust deposition were also elevated above the EPA limit of 350 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/day, with reasons cited as traffic accessing adjoining industrial facilities and a loading bay located within 10m of the monitoring source.

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 (RPRI) shows that Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane are not located within a High Radon Area. Less than one per cent of the homes in the plan area are estimated to be above the Reference Level.<sup>18</sup> Home owners can apply to the RPRI to have their home tested to determine the average level of radon in their

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<sup>17</sup> <http://www.epa.ie/whatwedo/monitoring/air/zones/>

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.rpii.ie/radon-map.aspx>

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*

Under EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise, otherwise known as the Environmental Noise Directive (END) and the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006, which give direct effect to the Directive, Local Authorities are required to prepare a Noise Action Plan to manage the existing noise environment and protect the future noise environment within the action plan area. No Noise Action Plan has been prepared for the plan area to date.

The END also requires Member States to produce strategic noise maps for the main sources of environmental noise, i.e. major roads, major railways, major airports and agglomerations with a population of more than 250,000 persons in 2007 and those with a population of more than 100,000 persons in 2012 and subsequent rounds. The National Roads Authority (NRA) has mapped traffic sound levels for major roads which carry more than six million vehicles per annum. In County Wexford this includes a section of the N25 at New Ross and the N11 at Enniscorthy.

For the second round of strategic noise mapping and action planning under the END the population threshold for assessment of agglomerations is reduced from 250,000 to 100,000 persons, and the traffic flow thresholds for major roads and major railways are reduced from 6 million to 3 million and 60,000 to 30,000 vehicle passages per year respectively. This change in assessment thresholds will result in a significant increase in the coverage of the strategic noise mapping and will mean that many more local authorities will become designated noise mapping bodies for the second round of the END.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> Guidance Note for Strategic Noise Mapping For the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 (EPA, July 2009)

Any strategic noise mapping or Noise Action Plan prepared for the area will have implications for new development which will be required to incorporate appropriate noise reduction procedures.

### *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.<sup>20</sup>

Ireland ratified the Kyoto Protocol on the 31st May, 2002. Under Kyoto Protocol, Ireland agreed to a target of limiting its greenhouse gas emissions to 13% above 1990 levels by the first commitment period 2008–2012 as part of its contribution to the overall EU target. The National Climate Strategy 2007-2012 shows, sector by sector, how the 2008-2012 commitment is to be met by a range of existing and additional measures which collectively will cause Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions to reduce by over 17 million tones of carbon dioxide equivalent. This includes 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. For the period from 2012 to 2020, the strategy describes a number of possible avenues to respond to the EU's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% of the 1990 level.

### *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, 20% energy efficiency and 20% of the EU's energy consumption to be from

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<sup>20</sup> <http://www.environ.ie/en/Environment/Atmosphere/ClimateChange/>

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 the following:

- 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 (OREDPP) has been published by the DCENR. East Coast – South is identified for wind and tidal development. This is subject to a number of qualifications and caveats including that:

- The potential areas identified for development exclude all known technical constraints (aquaculture sites, oil and gas infrastructure, pipelines and cables, disposal sites and dredging areas).
- The high scenario of 4,500MW from offshore wind and 1,500MW from wave and tidal energy is based on developing areas outside all designated nature conservation site, however this does not exclude *per se* these sites from development in the future subject to a number of surveys, extensive monitoring and research in order to provide sufficient evidence that a particular development would not have a significant adverse effect on the integrity of that site.
- Further surveys/monitoring is likely to be required in certain locations in order to determine whether there would be a significant adverse effect



on the distribution of key benthic habitats and species outside designated sites and interactions between offshore renewable energy developments on mobile species such as marine mammals, seabirds, reptiles and fish.

The Wind Energy Development Strategy for County Wexford identifies areas of the County where wind farm developments are 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. The nearest zoning for wind energy is Ballycogly, approximately 10 km west of Kilrane (as the crow flies).

#### **4.7.2 Current Issues and Problems**

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.<sup>21</sup> Implications for the Plan include the promotion of a modal shift from private vehicles to public transport, cycling and walking. The RPGs recognise the potential for rail freight and increased rail passenger movements to and from Rosslare Europort. The recent closure of the Rosslare Harbour-Waterford rail service presents challenges in this regard.

High levels of traffic, including HGVs, through the plan area generates noise and emissions which create a high sensory environment for pedestrians and the people residing within the town. At present the busy N25 runs through the village centres of Kilrane and Rosslare Harbour. The proposed N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour Scheme, which is currently at route selection stage, will comprise of a new access road to the Europort. If constructed, this will remove a large volume of traffic from the village centre.

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<sup>21</sup> <http://www.environ.ie/en/Environment/Atmosphere/ClimateChange/>

### **4.7.3 Likely Evolution in the Absence of LAP**

In the absence of the Plan development in the area would be guided by the CDP which is the overarching plan for the area and includes policies and objectives for sustainable transport and building sustainability. However the LAP provides regulation and guidance in relation to the location and scale of new development. In the absence of the Plan development 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, causing air pollution and the associated knock-on effects on human health. The absence of zoned land to accommodate port-related industry close to the Europort would also result in a lost opportunity to reduce the number of HGV's on the region's roads. Air pollution would impact on the health of sensitive populations or groups and eco systems.

## **4.8 Material Assets**

### **4.8.1 Baseline Description**

Material assets are defined in the EPA's SEA Pack as critical infrastructure essential for the functioning of society such as: electricity generation and distribution, water supply, wastewater treatment and transportation.

#### *Rosslare Europort*

Rosslare Europort is a major port in the south-east region providing international access for passenger and Roll on Roll off (RoRo) freight services. It is currently the second largest RoRo port in the country. Rosslare Europort is of strategic importance to the region for the development of industry, commerce and tourism. There is considerable potential to develop the port infrastructure in terms of value-added shore based economic activity, particularly in the logistics and renewable energy sectors.

#### *Roads*

Rosslare Harbour is strategically located on the N25 national primary road connecting Rosslare with Waterford and Cork. The N25 connects with the N11 Wexford to Dublin road outside Wexford Town, approximately 15km northwest

of the Harbour. Both the N11 and N25 form part of the developing Euroroutes E01 (Larne-Belfast-Dublin-Rosslare Harbour) and E30 (Rosslare Harbour–Wexford–New Ross–Waterford-Cork) respectively. The Councils recognise that the provision of roads infrastructure is an essential element of transport provision providing essential inter-urban links for the economic and cultural development of the region.

The N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour Scheme is currently at the planning stage. The preferred route has been identified. The Scheme entails a major improvement to both the N11 and N25 with improved access to Rosslare Europort a priority. The Scheme will enhance links between the port and the Gateway cities of Dublin and Waterford. By enhancing the links to these Gateways, there is an indirect enhancement of access to the Atlantic Corridor, through Waterford, and the Border Regions, through Dublin. Rosslare Europort is an alternative access to Britain and continental Europe and improving the links will open up the port to the West and North West of the island, relieving the bottlenecks currently experienced through Dublin Port.<sup>22</sup>

#### *Public Transport*

Rosslare Harbour serves as the terminus of the Dublin-Rosslare Harbour rail line and is also part of the Rosslare Europort–Waterford–Limerick railway line. Unfortunately the Rosslare Europort–Waterford service closed in September 2010. Iarnród Éireann is obliged to maintain the line to enable services to resume at some future date, while Bus Éireann has undertaken to develop a network of replacement bus services for displaced rail passengers. Bus Éireann operates services from Dublin every hour and from Waterford (via New Ross) five times a day. The Eurolines Service offers connections from all parts of Ireland to over 1,500 locations in Britain. A School Transport Scheme is also in operation in the area.

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<sup>22</sup> N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour Road Improvement Scheme Constraints Study Report

### *Water Supply*

The Rosslare Harbour and surrounding area is serviced by the Fardystown Regional Water Supply Scheme as outlined in section 4.5 above.

### *Wastewater Treatment*

The Rosslare Harbour and surrounding area is serviced by a secondary treatment plant as outlined in section 4.5 above.

### *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. The South East Waste Management Region commenced an evaluation of the Plan in January 2012. Consequent to this evaluation, the Plan will be revised or replaced as necessary to comply with the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) transposed through the European Communities (Waste Directive) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 126 of 2011). The evaluation process must be completed by the end of December 2012.

Rosslare Harbour currently has a recycling facility that caters for the recycling of glass and cans. This service will need to be expanded to accommodate the additional waste recycling needs for the projected population growth during the plan period. There are a number of private operators in the area. There is also a Waste Transfer Station located at Kilrane. A historic landfill is located in the plan area as discussed in section 4.4 above.

### *Renewable Energy*

Renewable energy is discussed in section 4.7 above.

## **4.8.2 Current Issues and Problems**

Rosslare Europort is not connected to the public WWTP at present. Treated effluent from the port is being discharged to the sea through a separate outfall. Should the Europort be connected in the future capacity in the public

WWTP will be reduced. Any extension to the Europort would also need to be considered in terms of wastewater treatment and capacity.

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.<sup>23</sup> This amount of waste can be reduced by prevention, minimisation, reuse and recycling. Recycling reduces the use of raw materials, lowers energy costs and results in less waste going to landfill.

#### **4.8.3 Likely Evolution in the Absence of LAP**

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 and human health. 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. Furthermore, 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.

### **4.9 Cultural Heritage**

#### **4.9.1 Baseline Description**

Cultural heritage, for the purposes of SEA, includes archaeological and architectural heritage. The protection of our heritage is a key objective of the National Heritage Plan 2002.

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<sup>23</sup> Ireland's Environment 2008 - State of the Environment Report (EPA)

## Archaeology

The National Monuments Acts 1930-2004 provide for the protection of archaeological heritage. Monuments include any artificial or partly artificial building, structure, or erection whether above or below the surface of the ground and whether affixed or not affixed to the ground. Areas of archaeological potential are designated under the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) which was established under Section 12 of the National Monuments Act 1994.

**Map 17: National Monuments**



Source: [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)

There are six recorded monuments in the plan area as shown in Map 17 above. Two of these are located at Ballygerry (windmill and ruins of castle) and four at Churchtown (Two ring-ditches, a Church and graveyard). None of the six monuments are identified as being within state ownership or guardianship. There are no details recorded for any of these sites on [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie). The site of the castle at Ballygerry and the site of the

Church at Kilrane are also included on the Archaeological Inventory of County Wexford, published in 1996, which states that there are no visible remains of the castle at ground level while only a gable of the church survives.

There are no details available for underwater archaeology in the area. The Underwater Archaeology Unit of NMS is currently engaged in the preparation of an inventory of recorded shipwrecks in Irish waters. The Shipwreck Inventory of Ireland includes all known wrecks for the years up to and including 1945 and approximately 10,000 records have been compiled and integrated into the shipwreck database thus far.<sup>24</sup> Thirty wrecks are recorded as being lost in Wexford Harbour with a further nine recorded as lost in Rosslare Harbour.<sup>25</sup>

### *Architectural Heritage*

There are two structures within the plan area which are listed on the Record of Protected Structures (RPS). These are a thatched farmhouse at Ballygilliane Little (RPS Ref. WCC0895) and St. Ruane's Church at Kilrane (RPS Ref. WCC0513). The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) includes approximately 16 structures in the plan area which are considered by the Minister of the Environment, Community and Local Government to be of intrinsic interest. The inclusion of these structures on the RPS will be considered as part of the CDP review.

Aside from protected structures there are other distinctive elements of the built heritage which make a positive contribution to the character of the area and help to achieve a sense of place. This includes elements of the older settlement of Rosslare Harbour, such as the railway houses on Gouldings Street and Colvill Street. The Council is committed to the protection, appreciation and appropriate re-use of this built heritage and recognises the contribution it makes in creating a familiar place to trade, visit and reside.

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<sup>24</sup> <http://www.archaeology.ie/ShipwreckDatabase/>

<sup>25</sup> N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour Road Improvement Scheme Constraints Study Report

#### **4.9.2 Current Issues and Problems**

The rapid expansion of the area over the last decade, particularly around Kilrane, has somewhat diluted the established character of the area. The opportunity exists in making a new Plan to consolidate the built form of Rosslare Harbour and its association with Kilrane and reinforce its sense of place and identity within the County. The present built form and open spaces within the plan area is the context within which new development will take place. In order to enhance local distinctiveness new development needs to respond to local character and respect the visual context of the plan area.

Works to protected structures may affect their character especially where they are not reversible. Often windows and other important features are removed and/or replaced without planning permission. This is in part due to a lack of public knowledge about the restrictions on exemptions which apply to protected structures. The replacement of features, such as windows, can have a detrimental impact on the character of a building as well as the overall streetscape.

#### **4.9.3 Likely Evolution in the Absence of LAP**

In the absence of the Plan development in the area would be guided by the CDP which is the overarching plan for the area and includes policies and objectives for the protection of archaeological and architectural heritage. Protected Structures are afforded protection under the CDP and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The legislation includes measures to prevent protected structures from falling into disrepair. Monuments are protected under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004. Other distinctive elements in the area which contribute to sense of place and identity may not be afforded protection in the absence of the Plan.



## **4.10 Landscape**

### **4.10.1 Baseline Description**

Landscapes are areas which are perceived by people and are made up of a number of layers: landform, which results from geological and geomorphological history; landcover, which includes vegetation, water, human settlements; and human values which are the result of historical, cultural religious and other understandings and interactions with landform and landcover. Ireland has a worldwide reputation as a country with areas of high landscape/seascape and scenic amenity value. Much of Ireland's scenic amenity value is located in its coastal zone. The value of high scenic landscape/seascape amenity value to human well being, in addition to its value to tourism, cannot be over estimated.

The SEA for the Draft OREDP includes a Seascape Assessment which identifies nine seascape types. Rosslare Harbour is identified as a Low Lying Coastal Plain and Coastal Estuarine Landscape. Typical of this seascape type are wide vistas with extensive sea views and a high degree of intervisibility between land and sea. A seascape can be defined as the coastal landscape and adjoining areas of open water, including views from land to sea, from sea to land and along the coastline. Seascape character is made up of physical characteristics of hinterland, coast and sea as well as a range of perceptual responses to the seascape.<sup>26</sup>

The CDP includes a Landscape Character Assessment which defines the county according to its uplands, lowlands and coasts. Coastal areas are likely to continue to experience the most significant development pressures of the county for holiday and second home development as well as associated developments for sports, recreation, amenities and retail developments. The East Coast, which includes Rosslare Harbour, is characterised by long, relatively straight coasts of sand or shingle backed up by low cliffs.

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<sup>26</sup> SEA of the Draft Off-Shore Renewable Energy Development Plan

Further areas of landscape sensitivity are identified in the Landscape Character Assessment. These include vulnerable, sensitive, normal and robust landscapes. Vulnerable landscapes are defined by linear environmental features such as shores of water bodies and ridges of mountains, hills, promontories and headlands. These are all conspicuous features of the landscape to which the eye is drawn because of strong contrasts or form and colour where there is contact between the land and sky or water. Therefore, they represent vulnerable features on the landscape as any development on or in the vicinity of shores or skylines has the potential to affect the visual integrity of the surrounding environment.

Sensitive areas include beaches, dunes, sands and coastal lagoons. These areas are described as being open and exposed with sparse or low lying vegetation cover which is insufficient to provide screening. Thus any development would be visible over a wide area. The Landscape Character Assessment states that the principle role of development control in these areas should be to heighten awareness of the potential for additional or disproportionate visual prominence.

Lands adjacent to the plan area are designated as Coastal Policy Areas under the CDP. These areas are designated for their intrinsic natural and special amenity value and have limited capacity to absorb development. The CDP contains policies to protect these areas from inappropriate development.

#### **4.10.2 Current Issues and Problems**

Rosslare Harbour forms part of County Wexford's coastline which is characterised in the CDP as a vulnerable and sensitive landscape. Any new development is likely to result in significant visual impacts. There is no specific building design framework for new development in the plan area and visual impacts are assessed at the project level. Brownfield sites and derelict structures within the plan area are having a negative impact on the landscape. Barriers to public rights-of-way, including the wooden steps to the beach, could also be considered to be detracting from the landscape. Coastal erosion and flooding could also result in loss or degradation of landscape.

#### **4.10.3 Likely Evolution in the Absence of LAP**

In the absence of the Plan development would be guided by the CDP which is the overarching plan for the area. However, the LAP includes zoning objectives and specified densities for development in the plan area. In the absence of the Plan development would likely continue on the edge of the town and surrounding areas. This would have a direct adverse impact on the scenic views and vistas in the area, and affect the overall quality and character of the landscape.

#### **4.11 Difficulties Encountered and Information 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. Whilst certain information is readily and easily accessible, such as data relating to water quality, other information is more difficult to ascertain or is not yet available, such as complete ecological coverage, e.g. habitats, trees and hedgerows and coastal sea-level rise data.

Significant gaps in the environmental parameters data include:

- 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;
- Lack of landslide or soil erosion data;
- Noise Action Plans and Strategic Noise Mapping not available;
- Uncertainties in relation to future capacity of WWTP (connection of Europort), extent of coastal protection works required to combat coastal erosion, extent of works at Europort (deepening of port, maintenance dredging, etc.);
- 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;
- Coastal water quality status has yet to be determined.

## **5.0 Strategic Environmental Objectives**

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### **5.1 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 Appendix 1). SEOs are used as standards against which the policies and 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 policies and objectives of the Plan in order to maximise the environmental sustainability of the Plan. The cross checking process helps to identify policies and objectives that are likely to result in significant adverse impacts, so that alternatives may be considered or mitigation measures may be put in place.

### **5.2 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 4: Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)**

Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	B1	To avoid loss of habitats and flora and fauna in designated wildlife sites.
	B2	To avoid significant adverse impacts, including direct, cumulative and indirect impacts, by development within and outside designated wildlife sites to habitats and flora and fauna within these sites.
	B3	Conserve, protect and avoid loss of diversity and integrity of non-designated habitats, species or their sustaining resources in non-designated ecological sites.
	B4	To prevent the loss of ecological corridors, networks or parts there of which provide significant connectivity between areas of local biodiversity.
Population & Human Health	P1	To improve people's quality of life based on high quality living environments, working and recreational facilities.
	P2	To reduce the risk of flooding and harm to people, property and the environment.
	P3	To protect human health from hazards or nuisances arising from exposure to incompatible land uses/developments.
	P4	To improve travel choice and accessibility, reduce the need for travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys.
Soil	S1	To maintain the quality of soils.
	S2	To maximise the sustainable re-use of brownfield lands and give preference to the re-use of brownfield lands.
	S3	To minimise the amount of waste to landfill.
Water	W1	To maintain or improve the quality of surface water (including coastal and estuarine) to status objectives as set out in the Water Framework Directive and the South Eastern River Basin Management Plan (2009-2015).
	W2	To prevent pollution and contamination of ground water.
	W3	To promote sustainable water use based on long-term protection of available water resources.
	W4	To maintain and improve the quality of drinking water supplies.

Air & Climatic Factors	A1	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	M1	Maintain the quality of, and access to, assets such as open spaces, water resources and all other physical and social infrastructure.
Cultural Heritage	C1	To promote the protection and conservation of the cultural, including architectural and archaeological, heritage.
Landscape	L1	To conserve and enhance valued natural landscapes, including seascape, and features within them.
	L2	To protect and enhance town and village character.

## **6.0 Alternatives**

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### **6.1 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 Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane LAP, 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 Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane LAP 2012-2018 is based upon this preferred development strategy.

### **6.2 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. The likely evolution of the environment without the implementation of a LAP for Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane has already been discussed in section 4.

Although Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane has a population which is significantly lower than that for which a LAP is mandatory (5,000) it was determined that there is a need for a plan in order to accommodate growth allocated to the area under the CDP, as well as to provide for necessary community facilities, amenities and infrastructure, commercial, tourism and other uses in a way that prevents any future environmental problems. The RPGs (PPO 5.16) also recommend that planning authorities consider the need to develop LAPs for larger commercial ports, through which their development can be coordinated.

## **6.3 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 LAP is framed in the policy context of the CDP, RPGs and NSS and, as such, strategic options are limited. The population targets, and therefore future land requirements, are set by the Core Strategy contained in the CDP. Hence the alternatives that were considered for the Plan generally focus on the location of new development.

### **6.3.1 Alternative Scenario 1**

The first scenario would see the zoning objectives of the Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane LAP 2002 carried forward with approx. 65 hectares of undeveloped land zoned for residential use and approx. 37 hectares of undeveloped land zoned for employment and enterprise 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 would not be taken up as greenfield development would be likely pursued. There would also be significant and widespread deterioration of the character of the edges of the town.

### **6.3.2 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 growth in the town. This strategy promotes the development of a



compact urban form that would maximise the efficient use of land. 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 and industrial developments /port-related activity envisaged for the town.

### **6.3.3 Alternative Scenario 3**

The third scenario involves the sequential development of greenfield lands but development of brownfield sites would also be encouraged. Enough greenfield land would be zoned to accommodate the population targets set for the area under the CDP, as well as growth associated with the Europort. Greenfield lands in 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. Sufficient town centre sites would be reserved for the provision of community facilities and public open spaces. 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.

## **6.4 Outline of the Reasons for Selecting the Alternatives**

Rosslare Harbour is identified in Variation No. 1 of the CDP as a District Town. The population targets for the area are set by the CDP which projects a 20% growth in the area over the next ten years. This will bring the population to 1,967 by 2021. It is the responsibility of the Planning Authority to ensure that sufficient land is zoned to accommodate this growth. In addition it is a policy of the RPGs and the CDP to maximise the potential of the Europort. For this reason adequate lands must be made available for future port related/shore based economic activity. Hence the zoning greenfield lands was considered in alternatives 1 and 3. There are a number of under-utilised/brownfield sites in Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane. 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 2.

## 6.5 Evaluation of Alternatives

The SEOs set out in section 5 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 5 below. All potential conflicts and impacts identified are those which will occur if unmitigated. Where such conflicts or impacts occur, mitigation measures to avoid or reduce the impacts arising from the selected development alternative are outlined in section 8.

**Table 5: Evaluation of Alternatives**

	<b>No Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potential Positive Impact</b>	<b>Potential Negative Impact</b>	<b>Uncertain Impact</b>
<b>Alternative Scenario 1</b>	B1, S3, W2, W3, W4, A2 , M1, L2		P1, P2, P3, P4, S1, S2, A1	B2, B3, B4, W1, C1, L1
<b>Alternative Scenario 2</b>	B1, B2, B3, B4, P2, S3, W2, W3, W4, A2, M1, L1	P1, P3, P4, S1, S2, A1, L2		W1, C1
<b>Alternative Scenario 3</b>	B1, S1, S3, W2, W3, W4, A2, M1	P1, P3, P4, S2, A1, L2	P2	B2, B3, B4, W1, C1, L1

## 6.6 Reason for Choosing the Preferred Alternative

It was considered that alternative scenario 1 would provide excess lands required to meet the population targets assigned to the area under the CDP. In addition it was considered to have the most potential negative impacts on the SEOs. Alternative scenario 2, although providing the most beneficial

impacts on the SEOs, would not provide sufficient lands to accommodate the projected growth during the plan period. Alternative 3 was therefore chosen as the preferred development strategy.

This strategy promotes the development of brownfield sites and allows for the sequential development of greenfield lands subject to the provision of appropriate infrastructure on a planned and phased basis. Greenfield lands in the centre of the plan area are zoned over edge of town sites 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 under the CDP. This is considered the most sustainable alternative having regard to the population targets for the area and the potential growth associated with the Europort.

This strategy forms the basis for the LAP. Mitigation measures which attempt to prevent, reduce, and as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the preferred alternative are recommended in Section 8 following evaluation of the plan's policies and objectives in Section 7.

## **7.0 Likely Significant Effects of Implementing Plan**

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### **7.1 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. The following section identifies the effects on the environment of implementing the policies and objectives of the Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane LAP 2012-2018.

### **7.2 Methodology for Assessment and Determination of Significance of Effects**

This section provides an evaluation of the policies and objectives of the LAP against the SEOs contained in section 5 of this report. The results are shown in a matrix format. 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 LAP were examined and readdressed, and if necessary, some objectives were improved with measures to mitigate the effects on the environment.

Each policy and objective in the LAP is assessed against the SEO objectives identified in section 5. The assessment of each is assigned a symbol:

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

Evaluation of significance requires consideration of various questions to establish the importance, or “significance”, of the predicted impact:

1. Will the policy or objective, individually or cumulatively, lead to a risk of environmental standards being breached?
2. Could it lead to failure to achieve environmental policies or targets?
3. Will it affect environmental resources, which are protected by laws or policies, e.g. Natura 2000 habitats, species, landscapes, water resources and cultural heritage sites?
4. Could it lead to impacts on environmental resources, which, although not legally protected, are important or valuable?

### **7.3 Likely Significant Effects**

Assessment of the key objectives in the LAP shows that, in the main, these objectives will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment.

Many of the objectives are considered positive, setting out to manage and protect aspects of the environment such as landscape, water, human health, heritage resources and management of flood risk.

The findings of the Appropriate Assessment – Natura Impact Report (NIR) shows that there are unknown impacts to important marine habitats arising from key objectives of the Plan which facilitate the expansion of Rosslare Europort and coastal protection measures. The NIR also states that objectives to increase the accessibility of the coastal area to the west of the Rosslare Harbour could result in damage to coastal habitats and in particular sand dune systems in this area, while impacts of discharge from the Europort are unknown in the absence of detailed information and monitoring. The NIR concludes that the requirement for project level screening for appropriate assessment provides for adequate mitigation to ensure that implementing key objectives of the Plan do not result in significant effects to the Natura 2000 network. The policies and objectives of the Plan have been carefully considered to ensure that adequate mitigation is in place. A full assessment of all policies and objectives in the LAP is shown in Table 6 below.

**Table 6: Likely Significant Effects**

Plan Policies & Objectives	SEOs								Comments
	B1-B4	P1-P4	S1-S3	W1-W4	A1-A2	M1	C1	L1-L2	
<b>Key Objectives</b>									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To support the sustainable development of Rosslare Europort, including the extension and deepening of the port, where feasible, in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive;</li> </ul>	?	?	+	?	O	O	O	O	Uncertain impacts on B1-B4, mitigated by natural heritage and transport policy. Uncertain impacts on P2, P3 & W1 mitigated by flooding policy and land use zoning objectives.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure that sufficient serviced lands are provided to facilitate international investment and enterprises in the vicinity of Rosslare Europort;</li> </ul>	?	?	O	O	O	O	O	O	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To improve transport infrastructure and services in the area;</li> </ul>	O	+	O	O	O	+	O	O	Uncertain impacts on B4, mitigated by natural heritage policy. Uncertain impacts on P2 & P3 mitigated by flooding policy and land use zoning objectives.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To create a compact and vibrant town centre;</li> </ul>	O	+	+	O	O	O	O	O	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To accommodate infill development in the undeveloped areas and pockets created in the existing development pattern;</li> </ul>	O	+	+	O	O	O	O	O	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To sustain and enhance the role of the town as a service centre for the surrounding rural hinterland;</li> </ul>	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure that sufficient lands are provided to meet the identified housing needs in the area over the lifetime of the plan;</li> </ul>	O	O	O	O	O	+	O	O	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To facilitate the provision of employment opportunities;</li> </ul>	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	

Plan Policies & Objectives	SEOs								Comments
	B1-B4	P1-P4	S1-S3	W1-W4	A1-A2	M1	C1	L1-L2	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To ensure a sufficient water supply, wastewater treatment and disposal infrastructure to serve existing and future development in the area;</li></ul>	O	O	O	+	O	+	O	O	Uncertain impacts on B1-B4 mitigated by amenity, recreation & open space policy and natural heritage policy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To provide opportunities for appropriate landmark buildings in the Rosslare Harbour area;</li></ul>	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To provide opportunities for improved urban design and form;</li></ul>	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To successfully integrate Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane through the provision of road, pedestrian and cycle linkages;</li></ul>	O	+	O	O	+	+	O	+	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To facilitate the provision of high quality public open spaces within the plan area;</li></ul>	O	+	O	O	O	+	O	+	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To promote the sustainable development of tourism and recreational facilities in the plan area;</li></ul>	O	+	O	O	O	+	O	O	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To conserve and protect the environment including the archaeological and natural heritage and EU designated sites;</li></ul>	+	O	O	+	O	O	+	+	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To have regard to coastal zone areas designated under the County Development Plan 2007-2013;</li></ul>	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To facilitate coastal protection works provided that such works do not give rise to significant adverse impacts on the integrity of any Natura 2000 site.</li></ul>	?	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	

Plan Policies & Objectives	SEOs								Comments
	B1-B4	P1-P4	S1-S3	W1-W4	A1-A2	M1	C1	L1-L2	
<b>Sustainable Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require all new building developments to meet low energy performance targets. Each buildings 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 2008 and any subsequent amendment to those regulations. New buildings should incorporate renewable energy technologies in order to help achieve the rating required.</li> <li>Have regard to the Guidelines on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (DEHLG, 2008) in the assessment of any proposals for residential development, including inter alia those in respect of energy efficiency, passive solar design and renewable energy sources.</li> <li>Support the implementation of the National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012 (DEHLG, 2007) and any Regional Climate Change Action Plan prepared for the region.</li> </ul>	O	+	O	O	+	O	O	O	
	O	+	O	O	+	O	O	O	
	O	+	O	O	+	O	O	O	
<b>Unfinished Housing Developments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek to ensure that unfinished housing estates are made safe under Health and Safety at Work Legislation, through consultation with the Health and Safety Authority or under the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act 1964.</li> </ul>	O	+	+	O	O	O	O	O	



Plan Policies & Objectives	SEOs								Comments
	B1-B4	P1-P4	S1-S3	W1-W4	A1-A2	M1	C1	L1-L2	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek to ensure that site-specific environmental infrastructure such as wastewater treatment systems comply with water pollution, public health and environmental protection legislation.</li> <li>Require the preparation of Site Resolution Plans for unfinished housing developments which will outline the key issues for the site and options for resolution within a specified timescale.</li> </ul>	+	+	O	+	O	+	O	O	
	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	
<b>Future Residential Development</b>									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage a mix of housing type, tenure and size in order to meet changing and household size and composition and to provide a social and demographic balance in the town.</li> <li>Ensure that 20% of any land zoned solely for residential use or for a mixture of residential and other uses shall be reserved for the provision of social and affordable housing in accordance with the requirements of Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and the County Housing Strategy 2007-2013, or as required in any subsequent amendment to the Act or revision of the County Housing Strategy.</li> <li>Seek to ensure that at least 20% of all new housing estates of 10 dwellings or more are adaptable to provide accommodation for persons with a disability.</li> </ul>	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	
	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	
	O								

Plan Policies & Objectives	SEOs								Comments
	B1-B4	P1-P4	S1-S3	W1-W4	A1-A2	M1	C1	L1-L2	
H1 - Implement the County Housing Strategy 2007-2013 and any subsequent strategy adopted by the Council and to integrate housing provided under Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, into private development in a layout that prevents segregation and promotes good design and layout.	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	
H2 - Carry out the Council's responsibilities under the Housing Acts and to provide Local Authority dwellings, affordable units and voluntary co-operative housing as need arises and as finances permit.	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	
H3 - Ensure the necessary infrastructural investment to facilitate the overall level of housing output required to meet the current and anticipated levels of demand in a planned and coherent fashion.	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	
H4 - Actively promote the provision of community, educational, social and recreational facilities in parallel with future housing development.	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	
H5 - Ensure that any mature hedgerow, trees or old stone walls are retained where possible in new developments.	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	
<b>Residential Density</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that densities and design in residential developments are in accordance with 'Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas' and its companion document 'Best Practice Urban Design Manual' (DEHLG, 2008).</li> </ul>	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	

Plan Policies & Objectives	SEOs								Comments
	B1-B4	P1-P4	S1-S3	W1-W4	A1-A2	M1	C1	L1-L2	
<b>Infill and Backland Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage infill housing and backland development on appropriate sites where such development respects the existing scale and character of the area and does not negatively impact on residential amenity.</li> </ul>	O	+	+	O	+	O	O	O	
<b>Traveller Accommodation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate the provision of appropriate accommodation for the local traveller community in Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane in accordance with the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013 adopted by Wexford County Council.</li> </ul>	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	
<b>Employment &amp; Economic Activity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide sufficient and suitably zoned land to promote economic activity in the area and assist in the realisation of the economic potential of Rosslare Europort.</li> <li>Support the development of Rosslare Europort as a Sustainable Energy Zone (SEZ) and to provide the necessary infrastructure to facilitate its development.</li> <li>Co-operate with state and semi-state employment agencies and local organisations in promoting, marketing and encouraging enterprises to locate suitable activities in the distribution, logistics and other related sectors in the Rosslare Harbour area.</li> <li>Facilitate home-based employment activities subject to the protection of the</li> </ul>	?	?	O	O	+	O	O	O	Uncertain impacts on B1-B4 mitigated by natural heritage policy. Uncertain impacts on P2 & P3 mitigated by flooding policy.
	O	+	O	O	+	O	O	O	
	O	+	O	O	+	O	O	O	
	O	+	O	O		O	O	O	

Plan Policies & Objectives	SEOs								Comments
	B1-B4	P1-P4	S1-S3	W1-W4	A1-A2	M1	C1	L1-L2	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>amenities of residential areas.</li> <li>Ensure that existing residential areas and areas of sensitive environmental character are safeguarded from inappropriate uses.</li> <li>Ensure that new development is designed to a high standard and that unsightly areas of operation are screened through the careful placement of buildings and appropriate landscaping.</li> <li>Support the development of wide access to high speed broadband.</li> </ul>	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that new development is designed to a high standard and that unsightly areas of operation are screened through the careful placement of buildings and appropriate landscaping.</li> <li>Support the development of wide access to high speed broadband.</li> </ul>	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the development of wide access to high speed broadband.</li> </ul>	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	
<b>Retail &amp; Commercial</b>									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain and foster the role of Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane as an important service centre for the surrounding rural hinterland.</li> <li>Encourage the expansion of retail and commercial services and facilities sufficient to meet the local needs of the existing and future population of the area, as well as the needs of tourists and port users.</li> <li>Ensure that proposals for retail development conform to the requirements of the County Retail Strategy, the Retail Planning Guidelines 2005 and any subsequent review of these guidelines.</li> <li>Ensure that new retail/commercial developments are designed to the highest standard and located to ensure safe, sustainable and convenient access.</li> </ul>	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	

Plan Policies & Objectives	SEOs							Comments
	B1-B4	P1-P4	S1-S3	W1-W4	A1-A2	M1	C1	L1-L2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage development of infill and brownfield sites in the town centre, including the former supermarket site, as locations for a mix of retail, commercial and residential uses having regard to the surrounding building uses in the area. All new development should be to the highest design standards with safe and convenient access.</li> </ul>	O	+	+	O	+	O	O	O
<b>Town Centre</b>								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage a vibrant town centre with a mix of residential, retail, commercial and civic uses.</li> </ul>	O	+	O	O	+	O	O	O
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide for anticipated car parking and commercial delivery demands within the town centre.</li> </ul>	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage the development of infill and brownfield sites to create a compact and vibrant town centre.</li> </ul>	O	+	+	O	+	O	O	O
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage amenity and environmental improvements in the town centre so as to enhance its overall appearance.</li> </ul>	O	+	O	O	O	+	O	O
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure strict control of advertising and encourage the removal of signage which is visually obtrusive or out of scale with the character of the area.</li> </ul>	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O
<b>Community Facilities</b>								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate and co-operate with other organisations in the provision of services for the community including, in particular, schools, crèches and other education and</li> </ul>	O	+	O	O	O	+	O	O

Plan Policies & Objectives	SEOs								Comments
	B1-B4	P1-P4	S1-S3	W1-W4	A1-A2	M1	C1	L1-L2	
<p>childcare facilities in parallel with future housing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate the provision of accessible health services and social facilities at suitable locations in the town.</li> </ul> <p>C1 – Facilitate the provision of a new community centre to serve the needs of the local population at a suitable location which is accessible to residents of both Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane village.</p>	O	+	O	O	O	+	O	O	
	O	+	O	O	O	+	O	O	
<p><b>Education Facilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate the development of educational facilities to meet the required needs of the existing and future population, in co-operation with the Department of Education and Skills and school management boards, in accordance with 'The Provision of Schools and the Planning System: A code of practice for Planning Authorities (DES &amp; DEHLG, July 2008).</li> <li>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.</li> </ul> <p>E1 - Require all applications for significant residential development to be accompanied by an assessment of existing schools capacity.</p>	O	+	O	O	O	+	O	O	
	O	+	O	O	O	+	O	O	

Plan Policies & Objectives	SEOs								Comments
	B1-B4	P1-P4	S1-S3	W1-W4	A1-A2	M1	C1	L1-L2	
<b>Childcare Facilities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require the provision of childcare facilities in accordance with the guidelines 'Childcare Facilities: Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2001' and the Wexford County Development Plan 2007-2013.</li> <li>Facilitate the development of childcare facilities where demand arises subject to satisfying applicable planning and engineering criteria. Such facilities should be located within or in close proximity to new developments with convenient and safe access for all. Where possible such facilities should be located adjacent to or close by other facilities i.e. employment or neighbourhood centres.</li> </ul>	O	+	O	O	O	+	O	O	
	O	+	O	O	O	+	O	O	
<b>Amenity, Recreation &amp; Open Space</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek the provision of additional recreational facilities and public open spaces within the plan area to serve the needs of the existing and future population.</li> <li>Ensure that all new housing developments incorporate high quality, useable open space, having regard to the open space standards as set out in the guidelines for planning authorities 'Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas' (DEHLG, 2008).</li> <li>Co-operate with sports clubs, schools and community organisations in the provision of sports and recreational facilities in the area</li> </ul>	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	
	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	
	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	

Plan Policies & Objectives	SEOs								Comments
	B1-B4	P1-P4	S1-S3	W1-W4	A1-A2	M1	C1	L1-L2	
and encourage the development of Youth Clubs and Organisations in the town.									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid loss of public and private recreational open space unless alternative recreational facilities are provided at a suitable location.</li> </ul>	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that a detailed landscaping plan accompanies all applications for housing estates and significant industrial and commercial developments.</li> </ul>	+	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that any mature hedgerow, trees or old stone walls are retained in new developments, where possible. Where the removal of existing hedgerows is required, compensatory green infrastructures should be incorporated into the design of new developments as appropriate.</li> </ul>	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect and preserve, where possible, those existing rights of way which contribute to general amenity.</li> </ul>	+	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibit the development or siting of structures so close to beaches or the coastline as to intrude on the enjoyment of the beach by the public or which detract from views, prospects and the special amenity value of the coastline.</li> </ul>	+	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop all year round recreational and tourist facilities which do not detract from the natural amenities of the area.</li> </ul>	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	



Plan Policies & Objectives	SEOs								Comments
	B1-B4	P1-P4	S1-S3	W1-W4	A1-A2	M1	C1	L1-L2	
ARO1 – Ensure, through the development management process, that new recreational facilities provide good accessibility to local residents, pedestrians, cyclists and those affected by reduced mobility and that such facilities enhance the character of the surrounding area, particularly residential areas.	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	
ARO2 – Investigate the feasibility of developing the beach as an amenity area with access for persons with a disability and signage/information boards, subject to the findings of an Appropriate Assessment in compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, where appropriate.	?	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	Uncertain impacts on B1-B4 – development will only be permitted where Appropriate Assessment shows that there would be no significant adverse impacts on any Natura 2000 site, unless there are IROPI.
ARO3 – Facilitate the provision of a town park within the plan area which is accessible to residents of both Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane.	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	
ARO4 – Investigate the feasibility of upgrading and making accessible the cliff walk and coastal path from Best Western Hotel to County Council lands adjacent to St. Brendan's Estate and beyond, subject to the findings of an Appropriate Assessment in compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, where appropriate.	?	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	Uncertain impacts on B1-B4 – development will only be permitted where Appropriate Assessment shows that there would be no significant adverse impacts on any Natura 2000 site, unless there are IROPI.
ARO5 – Continue to seek funding and undertake/facilitate coastal protection works ensuring that all such works are undertaken in compliance with Articles 6 and 10 of the Habitats Directive and subject to an Appropriate Assessment, if required.	?	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	Uncertain impacts on B1-B4 – development will only be permitted where Appropriate Assessment shows that there would be no significant adverse impacts on any Natura 2000 site, unless there are IROPI.
ARO6 - Seek the retention and enhancement of the marina/boat lagoon unless an alternative	?	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	Uncertain impacts on B1-B4 – development will only be

Plan Policies & Objectives	SEOs							Comments
	B1-B4	P1-P4	S1-S3	W1-W4	A1-A2	M1	C1	L1-L2
<p>marina/boat lagoon is provided at a more suitable location, subject to the findings of an Appropriate Assessment in compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, where appropriate.</p> <p>ARO7 – Facilitate the development of a public park/allotments on the old landfill site adjacent to La Rochelle housing development, subject to appropriate remediation works being carried out.</p> <p>ARO8 – Maintain the viewing area adjacent to Rosslare Shopping Centre.</p>	O	+	+	O	O	O	O	O
	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O
<p><b>Tourism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with Failte Ireland and the County Tourist Board to develop and maximise the tourism potential of Rosslare Harbour while ensuring the protection of natural and built heritage of the area.</li> <li>Encourage and facilitate improvements to the built environment around the Europort to create an attractive gateway to the South-east Region.</li> <li>Promote the integration rail and ferry services.</li> <li>Facilitate tourism activities including eco-tourism, health centres, fishing, horse-riding, walking and cycling and facilities that relate to the special qualities of the surrounding natural environment.</li> </ul>	+	+	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

Plan Policies & Objectives	SEOs								Comments
	B1-B4	P1-P4	S1-S3	W1-W4	A1-A2	M1	C1	L1-L2	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the development and use of the coastal path between Rosslare Harbour and St. Helen's as a tourist and recreational facility.</li> <li>Improve signage and avoid signage 'cluttering' in the area.</li> <li>Promote the development of small and medium enterprises such as restaurants, pubs, craft shops, fishing boat trips, bicycle hire and bus tours in the area.</li> <li>Promote the implementation of the objectives contained in the 'Development Strategy for Marine and Leisure Infrastructure' (Marine Institute, 2002) subject to the findings of an Appropriate Assessment in compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, where appropriate.</li> </ul>	?	+	O	O	O	+	O	O	Uncertain impacts on B1-B4 mitigated by natural heritage policy.
	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	
	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	
	?	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	Uncertain impacts on B1-B4 mitigated by natural heritage policy.
<b>Architectural Heritage</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect the architectural heritage of Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoting the maintenance, continued use or and appropriate reuse of its Protected Structures;</li> <li>Encouraging development which would enhance the setting, integrity or character of any Protected Structure; and</li> <li>Promoting the retention, adaptation and reuse as appropriate, of other structures of architectural heritage merit within the town that make a positive contribution to the character, appearance and quality of local</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	O	

Plan Policies & Objectives	SEOs								Comments
	B1-B4	P1-P4	S1-S3	W1-W4	A1-A2	M1	C1	L1-L2	
<p>streetscapes and assist in its sustainable development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have regard to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) in the assessment of applications for new development.</li> <li>Require an Architectural Impact Assessment to accompany planning applications for works to a protected structure. This should be prepared in accordance with Appendix B of the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG, 2004).</li> </ul>	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	O	
	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	O	
<b>Archaeological Heritage</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have regard to the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) when assessing planning applications for development or threats to recorded items.</li> <li>Control development in the vicinity of all Recorded Monuments to ensure that it does not detract from their setting or seriously injure their cultural or educational value. In all such cases the Council shall consult with the National Monuments Section of the DEHLG.</li> </ul>	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	+	
	O	O	O	O	O	O	+	+	
<b>Natural Heritage</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conserve and protect the ecological integrity of designated sites of international and national importance and sites proposed for designation, in particular,</li> </ul>	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	



Plan Policies & Objectives	SEOs							Comments
	B1-B4	P1-P4	S1-S3	W1-W4	A1-A2	M1	C1	L1-L2
<b>Transport</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reserve land for the proposed N25/N11 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour Scheme and prohibit development which would compromise the construction of this route.</li> <li>Encourage and facilitate the reopening of the Rosslare Harbour – Waterford railway line and prohibit development which would prejudice the reopening of this line.</li> <li>Support and facilitate the extension and deepening of Rosslare Europort to allow larger ships to dock, subject to the findings of an Appropriate Assessment in compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, compliance with the Water Framework Directive and the Programme of Measures contained in the South Eastern River Basin Management Plan (2009-2015) and ensuring the protection of the Wexford Harbour Outer Shellfish Area.</li> <li>Facilitate improved access to the port and promote integrated access arrangements in accordance with Guidelines for Accessible Maritime Passenger Transport (Department of Transport, March 2010).</li> <li>Promote the integration of road, rail and maritime services as part of trans-European combined transport network.</li> <li>Work closely with public transport providers to enhance the provision of public transport services and to support rural community transport initiatives.</li> </ul>	O	+X	O	O	+X	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

Positive and negative impacts on P4 & A1 - proposed road will promote use of private car but reduce journey times and relieve traffic congestion and associated emissions within the plan area.

Uncertain impacts on B1-B4 – development will only be permitted where Appropriate Assessment shows that there would be no significant adverse impacts on any Natura 2000 site, unless IROPI.

Plan Policies & Objectives	SEOs							Comments
	B1-B4	P1-P4	S1-S3	W1-W4	A1-A2	M1	C1	L1-L2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage the development of a safe and efficient movement and accessibility network that will cater for the needs of all users and to prioritise alternative modes of transport including public transport, cycling and walking.</li> </ul>	O	+	O	O	+	+	O	O
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limit the number of junctions onto the existing National Road Network in accordance with Section 10.11.1 of the Wexford County Development Plan 2007-2013 and the Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities and restrict access onto the new proposed National Road Network in the plan area.</li> </ul>	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximise pedestrian and cycle movements between residential areas, town centre, schools and employment centres.</li> </ul>	O	+	O	O	+	O	O	O
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require all new developments to provide accessible, off-street parking in accordance with the development management standards set out in the County Development Plan.</li> </ul>	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require the submission of a Traffic and Transport Assessment and/or Road Safety Audit for developments with the potential to create significant additional demands on the transport 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 National roads.</li> </ul>	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O

Plan Policies & Objectives	SEOs								Comments
	B1-B4	P1-P4	S1-S3	W1-W4	A1-A2	M1	C1	L1-L2	
T1 – Facilitate the provision of a new link road to Rosslare Harbour as part of the N25/N11 Oligate to Rosslare Harbour Scheme.	O	+	O	O	O	+	O	O	
T2 – Upgrade the following road sections, to include re-surfacing and the provision of accessible footpaths and energy efficient public lighting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>L-3064 from junction with N25 at Kilrane to junction with N25 at Rosslare Harbour;</li> <li>L-3064 from junction with N25 at Kilrane to St. Aidan's Cemetery;</li> <li>L-7102 from junction with N25 at Kilrane to Kilrane Business/Enterprise Park; and</li> <li>L-3059 from Kilrane to Ballygillane Big.</li> </ul>	O	+	O	O	O	+	O	O	
T3 – Provide new link roads at the following locations as shown on Map No. 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Between Ros Mór/La Rochelle and Portside;</li> <li>Between St. Brendan's Estate and the L-3059 (adjacent to Ascal Ruain) including junction improvements; and</li> <li>Between the L-7102 at Ballyknockan and the L-3059 at Ballygillane Big.</li> </ul>	O	+	O	O	O	+	O	O	
T4 – Complete the footpath and cycle lane between Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane.	O	+	O	O	+	+	O	O	
T5 – Identify, improve and maintain public rights-of-way.	O	+	O	O	O	+	O	O	
T6 – Facilitate the development of additional car parking facilities at suitable locations in the town centre, including parking for persons with a disability.	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	



Plan Policies & Objectives	SEOs							Comments
	B1-B4	P1-P4	S1-S3	W1-W4	A1-A2	M1	C1	L1-L2
T7 – Facilitate the development of a Transport Compound Facility for overnighting lorries which is within walking distance of amenities.	O	+	O	O	O	+	O	O
T8 – Facilitate the development of a rail cargo depot at Rosslare Harbour.	O	+	O	O	+	O	O	O
T9 – Support the local community in developing a 'community rail partnership' with Iarnród Éireann and assist in promoting and marketing the Rosslare Harbour-Waterford rail service.	O	+	O	O	+	O	O	O
<b>Wastewater Treatment &amp; Water Supply</b>								
▪ Ensure the provision of adequate water and wastewater treatment infrastructure to serve the needs of the existing and future population.	O	+	O	+	O	+	O	O
▪ Protect existing groundwater aquifers and surface waters from pollution.	+	+	O	+	O	O	O	O
▪ Conserve water supplies through the maintenance of the mains and the elimination of leakages.	O	+	O	+	O	O	O	O
▪ Promote public awareness on the maintenance of water quality and economic and sustainable use.	O	+	O	+	O	O	O	O
<b>Flooding &amp; Surface Water Disposal</b>								
▪ 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. The planning authority will have regard to the guidelines for planning authorities 'The Planning	+	+	+	+	O	+	O	O

Plan Policies & Objectives	SEOs							Comments
	B1-B4	P1-P4	S1-S3	W1-W4	A1-A2	M1	C1	L1-L2
<p>System and Flood Risk Management' when assessing applications for new development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carefully consider the alteration of natural drainage systems and in the case of development works require the provision of acceptable mitigation measures in order to minimise the risk of flooding and negative impacts on water quality.</li> <li>Require all applications for new development in Flood Zones A and B for developments that are vulnerable to flooding to be accompanied by an appropriate site specific flood risk assessment carried out in accordance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG, OPW November 2009). The assessment must detail how the Development Management Justification Test has been met.</li> <li>Require the provision of adequate storm water retention facilities in new developments, including the use of soft landscaping and sustainable drainage techniques. The Council will seek to ensure that all proposed drainage systems are consistent with Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) and will ensure that the rate of discharge into the public surface water system are restricted in line with storm water management policy.</li> </ul>	+	+	+	+	O	+	O	O
	+	+	+	+	O	+	O	O
	+	+	+	+	O	+	O	O

Plan Policies & Objectives	SEOs								Comments
	B1-B4	P1-P4	S1-S3	W1-W4	A1-A2	M1	C1	L1-L2	
<b>Waste Management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require the provision of recycling facilities and adequately screened waste storage areas for new residential and commercial developments.</li> <li>Encourage the recycling of materials from all waste sources and promote the principles of waste prevention and minimisation with local businesses, schools and residents' associations.</li> </ul>	O	+	+	O	O	O	O	O	
	O	+	+	O	O	O	O	O	

## **7.4 Cumulative and Indirect Effects**

In order to identify cumulative and indirect effects it is necessary to consider if the policies and objectives of the Plan will have potential cumulative/ in-combination effects in relation to other Plans, Programmes or Strategies. The policies and objectives of the LAP have been formulated having regard to the RPGs, JWMP, SERBMP and the CDP. The LAP 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 proposed N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour Scheme is a major project. The potential impacts of the proposed road on air quality and human health are both positive and negative. The proposed road will promote the use of the private car over public transport. There are also likely to be temporary impacts during the construction stage. However, it is considered that these negative impacts can be offset by positive impacts. For example, the proposed road will reduce journey times and relieve traffic congestion and associated emissions within the plan area. The LAP should have positive cumulative impacts as it will facilitate the location of port-related industry close to the Europort thus reducing the number of HGVs on the region's roads. Positive cumulative impacts are also envisaged on air quality and human health from the transport policy in the LAP which seeks to promote alternative modes of transport to the private car.

In-combination effects from policies which facilitate the expansion and deepening of the Europort and coastal protection works on the conservation objectives for Natura 2000 sites are uncertain. Such works will only be permitted where it is shown that they will not adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 site, unless 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. Any proposals for the expansion of the Europort are also likely to be subject to EIA and will be assessed having regard to all policies and objectives for the

area including any Environmental Management Plan that may exist for the area as well as any Biodiversity Plan, Traffic Management Plan or Noise Action Plan that is adopted by the Council. Development should only proceed where it does not conflict with any adopted plans, programmes or strategies for the area.

The natural heritage policy will have significant positive cumulative impacts on biodiversity both inside and outside of the plan boundary through the protection of designated sites, ecological corridors and non-designated habitats and species. This policy is consistent with the conservation objectives for the Natura 2000 sites, the PRP for the Wexford Harbour Outer Shellfish Area and the SERBMP. Its implementation will therefore have positive in-combination effects.

It is not envisaged that there will be any significant in-combination effects with the Draft OREDP and the Wind Strategy Development Strategy for County Wexford. Impacts of the OREDP on the coastline and seascape will be considered as part of the review of the CDP. The Wind Strategy will also form part of the CDP review.

In-combination effects with the Groundwater Protection Scheme are difficult to predict at the LAP level. It is considered that there is sufficient capacity in the public WWTP to accommodate development during the lifetime of the Plan and 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.

It is considered that the flood control policy in the Plan will have positive cumulative/ in-combination impacts on water quality, biodiversity and human health. The flood control policy seeks to ensure that all new development avoids or mitigates against flooding in the town and surrounding areas. It provides that development will not be approved where it would cause or exacerbate flooding elsewhere, either within or outside of the plan boundary. The policy also requires the provision of adequate storm water retention

facilities in new developments. This will have cumulative impacts throughout the plan area in terms of reducing/mitigating against flood risk.

## **8.0 Mitigation Measures**

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### **8.1 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 LAP. 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. 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.

Depending on the level of significance, which is determined based on the scale and cumulative nature of the potential impact and the sensitivity/ importance of the receiving environment, measures to offset or mitigate significant negative environmental effects are provided. For those with a higher level of significance, a recommendation is made to remove or alter the policy so as to prevent or reduce the impact if possible. Where positive impacts have been identified, mitigation measures are designed to maximise the positive impacts.

### **8.2 Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna**

The preferred development strategy is identified as having uncertain impacts on SEOs B2, B3 and B4. This is because impacts of implementing the Plan on habitats, flora and fauna within the designated sites, as well as non-designated habitats, species and their sustaining resources are uncertain in the absence of detailed information on the type and scale of developments which may be proposed during the lifetime of the Plan. Development of greenfield lands could potentially destroy ecological network corridors to these areas through loss of hedgerows and trees, while development along the

beach or cliff top could encroach on the Carnsore Point SAC. Works at the Europort and coastal protection works could also cause disturbance to marine habitats.

SEO B1	To avoid loss of habitats and flora and fauna in designated wildlife sites.
SEO B2	To avoid significant adverse impacts, including direct, cumulative and indirect impacts, by development within and outside designated wildlife sites to habitats and flora and fauna within these sites.
SEO B3	Conserve, protect and avoid loss of diversity and integrity of non-designated habitats, species or their sustaining resources in non-designated ecological sites.
SEO B4	To prevent the loss of ecological corridors, networks or parts there of which provide significant connectivity between areas of local biodiversity.

MM1	Land within the plan area which is adjacent to the Carnsore Point SAC to be zoned as open space prohibiting non-compatible developments.
MM2	HDA required for any proposed developments likely to have an impact on the Natura 2000 site network.
MM3	Include policies for the protection of important habitats and species outside of the designated ecological sites.
MM4	Include policies to retain existing hedgerows, trees and traditional field boundaries which provide important ecological networks.
MM5	Protect riparian zones and natural land drains by maintaining an appropriately sized buffer zone (minimum 5-10m) along all watercourses and land drains, with no infilling or removal of vegetation within these buffer zones.



### 8.3 Population and Human Health

The implementation of the LAP would have positive impacts for population and human health in terms of improved water quality and provision of high quality residential, recreational and working environments. However, in the absence of appropriate mitigation measures, there is potential conflict with SEO P2. There is a risk of flooding through redevelopment of reclaimed land around the Europort which is identified as being at risk from coastal flooding. Greenfield land at Ballygerry is also identified as being at risk of fluvial flooding.

SEO P1	To improve people's quality of life based on high quality living environments, working and recreational facilities.
SEO P2	To reduce the risk of flooding and harm to people, property and the environment.
SEO P3	To protect human health from hazards or nuisances arising from exposure to incompatible land uses/developments.
SEO P4	To improve travel choice and accessibility, reduce the need for travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys.

MM6	Include policies and objectives for the delivery of high quality infrastructural, social and community facilities to serve the existing and future population of the area.
MM7	Zone for compatible uses in areas identified as having high probability of flooding (Zone A) and mitigate the risk of flooding through layout and design of new developments.
MM8	Provide appropriate buffer zones/open space between potentially conflicting land uses and have regard to any strategic noise maps for the area.
MM9	Include policies 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.

## 8.4 Soil

The Plan encourages the redevelopment of brownfield sites and therefore has a positive impact on SEO S2. No significant impacts are identified on SEO S1 and S3.

SEO S1	To maintain the quality of soils.
SEO S2	To maximise the sustainable re-use of brownfield lands and give preference to the re-use of brownfield lands.
SEO S3	To minimise the amount of waste to landfill.

MM10	To give preference to the development of brownfield sites.
MM11	Promote the implementation of the Joint Waste Management Plan for the South-East 2006-2011 together with any future Waste Management Plans. This includes waste prevention, minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery as methods of managing waste.

## 8.5 Water

The Plan is identified as having uncertain impacts on SEO W1 due to morphological pressures on the marine environment identified in the SERBDMP, including coastal defence, built structures (urbanisation and ports and harbours) and dredging. The SERBDMP states that Rosslare Harbour is identified as heavily modified waters for use as navigation. The objective for heavily modified waters is to achieve good ecological potential generally by 2015. The Plan facilitates the expansion and deepening of the Europort as well as coastal protection works where they are required. Impacts on water are also uncertain as a result of flood risk in the area. Mitigation measures are therefore required to ensure that the implementation of the LAP does not have a negative impact on water.

No significant impacts are identified on SEOs W2-W4. Since the construction of the WWTP in Rosslare Harbour impacts on water quality have been

reduced. There is also an adequate water supply for the area and a countywide Water Conservation Programme is in operation.

SEO W1	To maintain or improve the quality of surface water (including coastal and estuarine) to status objectives as set out in the Water Framework Directive and the South Eastern River Basin Management Plan (2009-2015).
SEO W2	To prevent pollution and contamination of ground water.
SEO W3	To promote sustainable water use based on long-term protection of available water resources.
SEO W4	To maintain and improve the quality of drinking water supplies.

MM12	Protect and improve water quality in accordance with the measures set out in the South Eastern River Basin Management Plan (2009-2015) and the Pollution Reduction Programme for the Waterford Harbour Shellfish Area.
MM13	Protect existing groundwater aquifers and surface waters from pollution.
MM14	Promote public awareness on the maintenance of water quality and its economic and sustainable use.
MM15	Zone for compatible uses in areas identified as having high probability of flooding (Zone A) and mitigate the risk of flooding through layout and design of new developments.
MM16	Protect and improve natural drainage systems where possible and in the case of development works require the provision of acceptable mitigation measures in order to minimise the risk of flooding and negative impacts on water quality.
MM17	Require the provision of adequate storm water retention facilities in all new developments, including the use of soft landscaping and sustainable drainage techniques.
MM18	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.

## 8.6 Air & Climatic Factors

Impacts on air quality arising from travel by car have been discussed under population and human health above. The preferred development alternative is identified as having potentially positive impacts on SEO A1 as it facilitates the growth of the town in a compact manner and promotes alternative modes of travel to the private car. Locating port-related industry close to the Europort has obvious benefits in terms of reducing the number of HGVs on the region's roads. Negative impacts may result from the proposed N11/25 Road Scheme in terms of promoting use of the private car and temporary impacts which may occur during the construction stage. However these will be balanced out/ outweighed by positive impacts such as decreasing journey time, improved accessibility to the Europort and reducing congestion in the town centre. The preferred development alternative is identified as having no significant impacts on SEO A2 but mitigation measures are included to promote renewable energy.

SEO A1	Reduce all forms of air pollution and reduce dependence on travel by private car.
SEO A2	Promote energy conservation and the development of renewable energy sources.

MM19	Require all new building developments to meet low energy performance targets.
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## 8.7 Material Assets

The preferred development alternative is identified as having no significant impacts on SEOs M1 and M2. It is envisaged that all new development will connect to the public WWTP. One of the main aims of the Plan is to ensure adequate infrastructural provision for development within the lifetime of the Plan. It also seeks to protect existing resources.

SEO M1	Maintain the quality of, and access to, assets such as open spaces, water resources and all other physical and social infrastructure.
MM20	Ensure that adequate infrastructure is available to serve the existing and future population of the area.
MM21	Ensure the provision of, and access to, high quality open spaces, play areas and community facilities.

## 8.8 Cultural Heritage

The preferred development strategy is identified as having uncertain impacts on SEO C1. In the absence of appropriate mitigation measures, new development could potentially impact on the architectural, archaeological and natural heritage of the area. New development will be required to respect the character of the existing built environment. Archaeological Impact Assessments may be required to be carried out for works which have the potential to impact on a Recorded Monument, while an Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment will be required to be carried out where significant works are proposed to a protected structure. Appropriate Assessments will be required to be carried for any proposed works which have the potential to adversely affect the integrity of a Natura 2000 site.

SEO C1	To promote the protection and conservation of the cultural, including architectural and archaeological, heritage.
MM22	Prohibit development that would negatively impact of the architectural, archaeological and natural heritage of the area.

## 8.9 Landscape

The preferred development strategy is identified as having uncertain impacts on SEO L1 due to the absence of design details such as height, scale and material selection for new developments during the lifetime of the Plan.

Mitigation measures are therefore required to ensure that new development does not negatively impact on the landscape.

SEO L1	To conserve and enhance valued natural landscapes, including seascape, and features within them.
SEO L2	To protect and enhance town and village character.

MM23	Promote high-quality developments along the seafront and ensure that new development does not detract from important views and vistas.
MM24	Ensure that new development does not detract from the character and heritage of the town.

## 8.10 Incorporation of Mitigation Measures into the Plan

The mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Plan and the policies and objectives refined and refocused where necessary. Table 7 below identifies the policies in the LAP which have been influenced by the mitigation measures contained in this Environmental Report. Post-mitigation or 'residual' impacts will be addressed through monitoring during the implementation of the LAP.

**Table 7: Incorporation of Mitigation Measures into the Plan**

	<b>Mitigation Measure</b>	<b>Policies &amp; Objectives in LAP</b>
<b>Biodiversity, Flora &amp; Fauna</b>	MM1	Zoning Map and Land Use Zoning Matrix contained in Section 4.6
	MM2	Section 1.8 – Appropriate Assessment Section 5.8 – Amenity, Recreation & Open Space - Objectives ARO2, ARO5, ARO6, ARO7 & ARO8 Section 5.9 – Tourism - Policy 8 Section 5.10.3 - Natural Heritage - Policy 3 Section 5.11 - Transport - Policy 3
	MM3	Section 5.10.3 – Natural Heritage – Policy 2 & 6
	MM4	Section 5.3 – Housing – Objective H5 Section 5.8 – Amenity, Recreation & Open Space – Policy 6 Section 5.10.3 – Natural Heritage – Policy 5
	MM5	Section 5.10.3 – Natural Heritage – Policy 4
<b>Population &amp; Human Health</b>	MM6	Section 5.3.2 – Housing – Objective H4 Section 5.7 – Community Facilities – Policies 1 & 2, Objective C1 Section 5.7.1 – Educational Facilities – Policy 1 Section 5.7.2 – Childcare Facilities – Policies 1 & 2 Section 5.8 – Amenity, Recreation & Open Space – Policies 1, 2, 3 & 9, Objectives ARO2 – ARO8 Section 5.11 – Transport – Policies 6 & 7, Objectives T1-T6 Section 5.12 – Wastewater Treatment & Water Supply – Policy 1
	MM7	Appendix 3 - Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Zoning Map and Land Use Zoning Matrix contained in Section 4.6 Section 5.14 – Flooding & Surface Water Disposal – Policies 1-4
	MM8	Zoning Map and Land Use Zoning Matrix contained in Section 4.6

	MM9	Section 5.11 – Transport – Policies 6, 7 & 9, Objectives T4 & T5
Soil	MM10	Section 4.4.3 - Phasing of Development Section 5.3.2 - Future Residential Development – Policy 3 Section 5.5 - Retail and Commercial – Policy 5 Section 5.6 – Town Centre – Policy 3
	MM11	Section 5.15 – Waste Management – Policies 1 & 2
Water	MM12	Section 5.10.3 - Natural Heritage – Policy 6 Section 5.11 – Transport – Policy 3
	MM13	Section 5.12 - Wastewater Treatment & Water Supply – Policy 2
	MM14	Section 5.12 - Wastewater Treatment & Water Supply – Policy 4
	MM15	Appendix 3 - Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Zoning Map and Land Use Zoning Matrix contained in Section 4.6 Section 5.14 - Flooding and Surface Water Disposal – Policy 3
	MM16	Section 5.14 - Flooding and Surface Water Disposal – Policy 2
	MM17	Section 5.14 - Flooding and Surface Water Disposal – Policy 4
	MM18	Section 5.14 - Flooding and Surface Water Disposal – Policy 1
Air	MM19	Section 5.2 - Sustainable Development – Policies 1, 2 & 3 Section 5.3.3 - Residential Density – Policy 1
	MM20	Section 5.12 - Wastewater Treatment & Water Supply – Policy 1



<b>Material Assets</b>	MM21	<p>Section 5.3.2 - Future Residential Development – Objective H4</p> <p>Section 5.7 – Community Facilities – Policies 1 &amp; 2, Objective C1</p> <p>Section 5.7.1 – Education Facilities – Policy 1</p> <p>Section 5.7.2 – Childcare Facilities – Policy 1 &amp; 2</p> <p>Section 5.8 – Amenity, Recreation &amp; Open Space -Policies 1-4, 7 &amp; 9, Objectives ARO1-ARO8</p>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	MM22	<p>Section 5.10.1 – Architectural Heritage – Policies 1, 2 &amp; 3</p> <p>Section 5.10.2 – Archaeological Heritage – Policies 1 &amp; 2</p> <p>Section 5.10.3 – Natural Heritage – Policies 1-6</p>
<b>Landscape</b>	MM23	<p>Section 3.2.7 – Views to Protect</p> <p>Section 5.8 – Amenity, Recreation &amp; Open Space – Policy 8</p>
	MM24	<p>Section 3.2.3 – Buildings in the town</p> <p>Section 3.2.5 – Infill Development Opportunities</p> <p>Section 3.2.6 – Other Urban Design Elements</p> <p>Section 5.3.4 – Infill and Backland Development</p> <p>Section 5.5 - Retail and Commercial – Policies 4 &amp; 5</p>

## **9.0 Monitoring Programme**

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### **9.1 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 LAP. 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. Monitoring is based on indicators which measure changes to the environment. Indicators aim at simplifying complex interrelationships and provide information on environmental issues which are relatively easy to understand.

### **9.2 Monitoring Indicators**

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.

The following list of indicators has been devised following on from discussions with the Environmental Authorities and having regard to the 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.

**Monitoring Sources**

CDB – County Development Board

CSO – Central Statistics Office

EPA – Environmental Protection Agency

GSI – Geological Survey of Ireland

MI – Marine Institute

NMS – National Monument Service

NPWS – National Parks & Wildlife Service

NRA – National Roads Authority

WCC – Wexford County Council

WEMA - Wexford Energy Management Agency

**Table 8: List of Monitoring Indicators and Targets**

	Environmental Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Monitoring Source
<b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b>	B1: To avoid loss of habitats and flora and fauna in designated wildlife sites.	Maintenance of favourable conservation status for all habitats and species protected under national and international legislation.	Conservation status of habitats and species as assessed under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive.	NPWS, WCC
	B2: To avoid significant adverse impacts, including direct, cumulative and indirect impacts, by development within and outside designated wildlife sites to habitats and flora and fauna within these sites.	No significant impacts by development within and outside designated wildlife sites to habitats and flora and fauna within these sites during lifetime of the Plan.	Number of significant impacts by development within and outside designated wildlife sites to habitats and flora & fauna within these sites.	NPWS, WCC
	B3: Conserve, protect and avoid loss of diversity and integrity of non-designated habitats, species or their sustaining resources in non-designated ecological sites.	No/reduced loss of hedgerows.	Number of significant impacts by development to non-designated habitats and species.	NPWS, WCC
	B4: To prevent the loss of ecological corridors, networks or parts thereof which provide significant connectivity between areas of local biodiversity.	No ecological networks or parts thereof which provide significant connectivity between areas of local biodiversity to be lost without remediation as a result of implementation of the Plan.	Percentage loss of connectivity between areas of local biodiversity as a result of implementation of the Plan.	NPWS, WCC
	P1: To improve people's quality of life based on high quality living environments, working and recreational facilities.	No significant deterioration in human health as a result of environmental factors. Increase employment opportunities in the plan area. Increase in the number of green spaces and amenities available to the public. Bonds to ensure the completion of developments until taken in charge.	Occurrence of any decline in human health in or adjacent to the plan area. Employment rates over the lifetime of the Plan. No. or area of green spaces and amenities available to the public. Completion/no. of developments taken in charge.	WCC, CDB, CSO
<b>Population and Human Health</b>				

	Environmental Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Monitoring Source
	P2: To reduce the risk of flooding and harm to people, property and the environment.	Reduction in incidents of flood damage to properties. 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.	Properties at risk of flooding. Type of development in Flood Zones A and B.	WCC
	P3: To protect human health from hazards or nuisances arising from exposure to incompatible land uses/developments.	Conflicting land uses (if any) to be separated by appropriately sized buffer zones. Noise levels for new developments not to exceed 55 dB.	Distance between conflicting land uses. Noise monitoring.	EPA, WCC
	P4: To 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.	Average daily motor vehicle flows. Proportion of travel by mode. Monetary investment in bus and rail travel, walking and cycling routes.	WCC, NRA, CSO
	S1: To maintain the quality of soils.	Filling of lands for development to be accompanied by waste permit licences where required. Historic landfill to undergo a full risk assessment and any necessary remedial actions to be carried out. Waste management plans to be carried out for large developments and/or demolition of structures which are likely to contain hazardous material.	Waste permit licences granted. Remediation works carried out on landfill. Waste Management Plans.	EPA, WCC
Soil	S2: To maximise the sustainable re-use of brownfield lands and give preference to the re-use of brownfield lands.	All brownfield land to be redeveloped by the end of the plan period.	Area of brownfield land available.	WCC

	Environmental Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Monitoring Source
	S3: To minimise the amount of waste to landfill.	Reduction in the quantities of waste sent to landfill. Increase in the quantities of waste sent for recycling. Increase no. of bring banks in the plan area.	Quantity of household waste sent to landfill. Quantity of household waste sent for recycling. No. of bring centres provide in the plan area.	EPA, WCC
Water	W1: To maintain or improve the quality of surface water (including coastal and estuarine) 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 for WFD, SERBD & POMS.	EPA, MI, WCC
	W2: To prevent pollution and contamination of ground water.	Improvement or at least no deterioration in groundwater quality by 2015. Implementation of Ground Water Protection Scheme for County Wexford.	Changes in groundwater quality.	EPA, GSI, WCC
	W3: To promote sustainable water use based on long-term protection of available water resources.	Implement the Water Conservation Programme.	Water Conservation Programme.	EPA, WCC
	W4: To maintain and improve the quality of drinking water supplies.	Improvement in levels of compliance with drinking water quality standards.	Any WTP upgrade.	EPA, WCC
Air & Climatic Factors	A1: Reduce all forms of air pollution and reduce dependence on travel by private car.	Maintain/improve air quality within Air Quality index bands; Reduce road traffic in line with <i>Smarter Travel - A Sustainable Transport Future</i> ; Increased investment in walkways.	Change in Air Quality; Average daily motor vehicle flows; Proportion of travel by mode; Monetary investment in bus and rail travel, and walking routes.	EPA, WCC, NRA, CSO
	A2: Promote energy conservation and the development of renewable energy sources.	Require all new building developments to meet low energy performance targets.	Increased use of Building Energy Rating (BER).	WCC

	Environmental Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Monitoring Source
		Develop Rosslare Europort as a centre to support the renewable energy industry with potential for wind, wave, tidal and electric vehicles development.	No. of developments which support the renewable energy industry.	
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. Integration of road, rail and maritime services. Provision of adequate water and wastewater infrastructure.	Maintenance of walkways and public rights-of-way. Integration of road, rail and maritime services. WWTP & WTP upgrades.	WCC
Cultural Heritage	C1: To 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
Landscape	L1: To conserve and enhance valued natural landscapes, including seascape, and features within them.	Ensure no significant disruption of important views or vistas. Brownfield sites along cliff-top to be redeveloped and enhanced, ensuring that seascape views are not adversely affected.	Design, height, scale and no. of new developments along the cliff-top.	WCC
	L2: To protect and enhance town and village character	Ensure that new development in the town centre does not detract from the character of the area.	No. and type of developments permitted in the town centre.	WCC

## Appendix 1: Legislation, Plans, Policies & Programmes

### EU Legislation, Plans, Policies and Programmes

	Title	Summary of Objectives
SEA/EIA	SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) - Assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the Environment.	This Directive 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 (2001/42/EC)	Ensure that projects likely to have significant effects on the environment are made subject to an environmental assessment, prior to their approval or authorisation.
Biodiversity	EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)	Objectives to seek to prevent and eliminate the causes of habitat loss and maintain and enhance current levels of biodiversity.
	EU Birds Directive (as modified) (79/409/EEC)	Objectives seek to prevent and eliminate the causes of bird species loss and maintain and enhance current levels of biodiversity.
	EU Freshwater Fish Directive (78/659/EEC)	Objectives seek 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.
Population & Human Health	EU Shellfish Waters Directive (2006/113/EC)	Objectives seek 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.
	EU Environment and Health Strategy 2004-2010	Objectives seek to prevent and reduce the impacts of pollution on human health.
	Major Accidents (Seveso) Directive (96/82/EC as amended)	Objectives seek 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.



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 <sub>10</sub> already subject to legislation, are among the most dangerous pollutants for human health.
	IPPC Directive (96/61/EC) as amended by Directive 2008/1/EC	Objective is to 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	The Kyoto Protocol is an 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.
	Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC)	Sets targets for all 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.
Cultural Heritage	European Landscape Convention 2000	Provides for the protection, management and planning of landscapes.
	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.
	European Convention on protection of Architectural Heritage 1992	Provides the basic framework for policy on the protection of the archaeological heritage.
Water	The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	Objectives seek to maintain and enhance the quality of all surface waters in the EU.
	Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) as amended	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

	by Directive 98/15/EEC	(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	The objective of the Drinking Water Directive is 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	Its aim is 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)	The Nitrates Directive (1991) 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)	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.
Waste	The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC)	The Marine Strategy Framework Directive is a major piece of EU legislation that 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)	The revised sets the basic concepts and definitions related to waste management and lays down waste management principles such as the "polluter pays principle" or the "waste hierarchy".

Source: Adapted from SEA of PRPs for Designated Shellfish Waters –Waterford & Wexford and additional information from [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/policies\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/policies_en.htm)

## National Legislation, Plans, Policies and Programmes

	Title	Summary of Objectives
Biodiversity	EU (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011	Consolidate the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 to 2005 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats)(Control of Recreational Activities) Regulations 2010. The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) against Ireland, notably cases C-418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law.
Population & Human Health	European Communities (Quality of Shellfish Waters) Regulations 2006 (SI 268 of 2006), as amended by SI 55 of 2009 and SI 464 of 2009	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 determine compliance with the standards.
	National Action Plan for Social Inclusion, 2007-2016	The Government is committed to a coherent strategy for social inclusion based on the lifecycle approach set out in the National partnership agreement. This National Action Plan for Social Inclusion complemented by the social inclusion elements of the National Development Plan 2007-2013 sets out how the social inclusion strategy will be achieved over the period 2007-2016. 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.
Air & Climatic Factors	Air Quality Standards Regulations 2002 (SI 271 of 2002)	Transposed the EU Air Quality Framework Directive 96/62/EC (superseded by Air Quality Directive 2008/50/EC) on ambient air quality assessment and management.
	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 (NREAP), 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 (OREDPP), 2010	Examines the potential for offshore renewable energy.
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 clear and coherent strategy and framework for the protection and enhancement of or heritage.
	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. NIAH surveys provide the basis for the recommendations of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to the planning authorities for the inclusion of particular structures in their Record of Protected Structures (RPS).
	Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)	Part IV applies to the protection of architectural heritage.
Water	Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations S.I. No. 684 of 2007	These regulations govern the licensing and certification/authorisation process of sewage systems owned, managed and operated by Water Service Authorities.
	Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007 (as amended)	Brought into effect a system for the licensing or certification of waste water discharges from areas served by local authority sewer networks.
	Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008 (SI No. 79 of 2008)	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.
	Water Services Act 2007	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.
	Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations, 2001 (SI 254 of 2001), as amended by SI 48 of 2010	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	Prescribe quality standards to be applied in relation to certain supplies of drinking water, including

	2000 (SI 439 of 2000), as amended by SI 278 of 2007 and SI 106 of 2007	requirements as to sampling frequency, methods of analysis, the provision of information to consumers and related matters.
	European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations (SI 722 of 2003), as amended by SI 413 of 2005 & SI No 219 of 2008	Provide for the transposition into Irish national law of the provisions of the EU Water Framework Directive.
	Water Conservation Regulations 2008 (SI No. 527 of 2008)	Specifies that corrective action be taken to prevent wastage or excessive consumption of water.

**Source: Adapted from SEA of PRPs for Designated Shellfish Waters –Waterford & Wexford and additional information from [www.environ.ie](http://www.environ.ie) and [www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie)**

## Regional Plans, Policies and Programmes

	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.
Water	River Basin Management Plan for the South Eastern River Basin District (2009-2015)	Achieve at least good water quality status by 2015 to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.
	Waterford Harbour Pollution Reduction Programme	Compliance with the standards and objectives established by the Quality of Shellfish Waters Regulations 2006 for the designated shellfish growing waters at Waterford Harbour.
Waste	Joint Waste Management Plan for the South East Region 2006-2011	To promote 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.