

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Final Scoping Issues Paper

Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019



May 2012
Forward Planning Section
Wexford County Council

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1.0 Introduction

This is the Environmental Scoping Issues Paper in respect of the preparation of the new Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019. The purpose of this paper is;

- To identify the significant environmental issues to be taken into consideration in the making of the new plan
- To form a basis for consultation with the statutory bodies
 - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 - Department of Environment, Community and Local Government
 - Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
 - Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
 - Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
 - The Manager of Adjoining Planning Authorities ; Wexford borough Council, Enniscorthy Town Council, New Ross Town Council, Wicklow County Council, Waterford County Council, Kilkenny County Council, Carlow County Council,
 - Digital copy to sea@environ.ie

1.1 Statutory Context

The Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 & 2011, translate the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC into Irish law. SEA is a formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental impacts of a proposed plan or programme. The SEA is carried out prior to the adoption of the plan or programme.

The Department of Environment, Heritage and local Government has issued guidelines to Planning Authorities on the implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC). In summary these guidelines divide the SEA process into a number of stages

- Screening to determine whether an SEA is required
- Scoping to determine environmental issues

- Preparation of an Environmental Report
- SEA Statement
- Consultation process throughout the procedure

As SEA is mandatory for the County Development Plans, the screening process was not necessary.

1.2 County Wexford Profile

County Wexford is located in the south-east corner of the island of Ireland. Wexford is a maritime county with its 120km of coastline, bounded by the sea on two sides. The river Barrow forms the western boundary and the Blackstairs Mountains form part of the boundary to the north, as do the southern edges of the Wicklow mountains. The adjoining counties are Waterford, Kilkenny, Carlow and Wicklow. Wexford is known as the 'Model County' with largely low-lying fertile land being the characteristic landscape of the county. The county has experienced strong levels of population growth in recent years typically in close proximity to urban areas reflecting the extension of the Dublin commuter belt. Sizeable towns in County Wexford include; Wexford, Enniscorthy, New Ross and Gorey.

In 2011 the county had a population of 145, 273 which was an increase of 10.3% since the 2006 census figure of 131,749 people. In 2006, 65.4% (86,137 people) lived in rural areas and 34.6% (45,612 people) lived in urban areas. 35.5% of the county's population (46,768 people) were aged under 25 years and 11.6% of its population (15,324 people) were aged over 65 years. Between 2002 and 2006, the population of County Wexford increased by 13% (15,153 people).

1.3 Plan Context

The County Development Plan 2013-2019 will set out a vision and an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the County for a six year period. It

will also set out guiding policies and objectives for the development of the county in terms of physical growth and renewal, economic, social and cultural activity and environmental protection and enhancement. The management and provision of growth in a balanced, comprehensive and spatially sustainable manner in line with regional and national planning requirements is the central aim of the county development plan. Provision of educational, health, recreational, employment and transport facilities will be required in order to maintain the attractiveness of County Wexford as a place for future development and as a place to live and do business.

The central aim of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process is ensuring that the development and forward momentum proposed within the adopted Development plan does not erode or place undue pressure on the natural resources or amenities of the county. SEA should lead to more sustainable development through the systematic appraisal of policy options.

2.0 Policy Context

The review of the existing County Development Plan and the making of the new Plan must be considered within the context of a hierarchy of plans, policies and strategies which include international, EU, national, regional and local levels. The following are of relevance;

Table 2 - Legislation, Plans, Policies and Programmes		
EU and International Legislation		
	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. Requirement to carry out an Appropriate Assessment
	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.
	UN Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)	Objectives to seek the conservation of global biodiversity, as well as to ensure equitable access to the world's genetic resources.

OSPAR Convention (1992)	Aim to encourage international co-operation to protect the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic. Main objective is to prevent and eliminate marine pollution and protect the maritime area thereby safeguarding human health and conserving marine ecosystems.
Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979)	Aimed at ensuring conservation and protection of wild plant and animal species and their natural habitats
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention), 1979.	Aims to conserve terrestrial marine and avian migratory species throughout their range
Convention of Wetlands of International Importance (amended 1982 and 1987) (Ramsar Convention)	Requirement to protect sites from loss or damage by development.
Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020	Strategy to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020
European Biodiversity Strategy (1998)	Aimed at addressing the causes of significant reduction or loss of biodiversity at source.
EU Freshwater Fish Directive (78/659/EEC)	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.

	EC Environmental Objectives (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) 2009	Measures to protect the conservation status of Freshwater Pearl Mussels.
	EC Quality of Salmonid Waters Regulations (1998) (S.I. No. 293 of 1998)	Supports and protects designated salmonid 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.
	The Stockholm Convention (2001)	Objectives seek to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants (POPs).
	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.
	WHO Air Quality Guidelines (1999) and Guidelines for Europe (1987) Non Statutory	Seeks to eliminate or minimise certain airborne pollutants for the protection of human health.
	The EU CAFÉ Programme Commission communication of 4May 2001 "The Clean Air for	Seeks to prevent and reduce air pollution and impacts on human health from air pollution.

	Europe (CAFÉ) Programme: Towards a Thematic Strategy for Air Quality”.	
	The EU Environment and Health Strategy 2004-2010	Aimed at gaining a better understanding of the complex interactions between the environment and health in order to take action to reduce the impact of environmental factors on human health.
Air	Air Quality Directive 2008/50/EC	Sets standards and target dates for reducing concentrations of fine particles, which together with coarser particles known as PM ₁₀ already subject to legislation, are among the most dangerous pollutants for human health.
	EU Directive on National Emissions Ceilings for Certain Atmospheric Pollutants (2001/81/EC)	To improve air quality and control emissions of certain airborne pollutants for the protection of human health and the environment.
	EC Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe	Replaces the air framework directive and the first three daughter directives. Sets standards for reducing concentrations of fine particles, which are among the most dangerous pollutants for human health. Target dates for these objectives are also established.
	Directive 2004/107/EC relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.	Aims at reducing concentrations of specific airborne pollutants identified as having carcinogenic characteristics.

WHO Air Quality Guidelines (1999) and WHO Air Quality Guidelines- Global Update 2005	Recommends air quality levels and improvements
IPPC Directive (96/61/EC) as amended by Directive 2008/1/EC	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.
Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) 2005	Seeks to develop the necessary elements of a strategy to implement the Kyoto protocol.
Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC)	Sets targets for 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.

Landscape	European Landscape Convention 2000	Provides for the protection, management and planning of landscapes.
	The Pan- European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (1995)	Establishes an international framework for co-operation for consolidating and extending schemes and programmes in the conservation field.
Cultural Heritage	Granada Convention for protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe 1985	Sets out general objectives of all signatory states including Ireland to meet international standards in the identification and protection of architectural heritage including groups of buildings and monuments and their settings.
	European Convention on protection of Archaeological Heritage 1992	Provides the basic framework for policy on the protection of the archaeological heritage.
Water	The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	Objectives seek to maintain and enhance the quality of all surface waters in the EU.
	EU Groundwater Directive (80/68/EEC)	Requires member states to apply a system of investigation and authorisation to waste disposal and other activities in order to ensure that groundwater is not polluted by dangerous substances.
	EU Surface Water Directive (75/ 440/EEC)	Aims to protect public health by ensuring surface water abstracted for use as drinking water reaches

	<p>certain quality standards before it is supplied to the public. It requires member states to monitor the quality of surface waters from which drinking water is abstracted and to take measures to ensure that it complies with the minimum quality standards. This Directive has been integrated into the Water Framework Directive 2000.</p>
<p>EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) as amended by Directive 98/15/EEC</p>	<p>The primary objective is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of discharges of urban wastewater, by the provision of urban wastewater collecting systems (sewerage) and treatment plants for urban centres. The Directive also provides general rules for the sustainable disposal of sludge arising from wastewater treatment.</p>
<p>The Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Floods Directive 2007/60/EC</p>	<p>Its aim is to reduce and manage the risks that floods pose to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity.</p>
<p>EU Dangerous Substances Directive (76/464/EEC)</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)</p>	<p>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</p>

		practices. The Nitrates Directive forms integral part of the Water Framework Directive and is one of the key instruments in the protection of waters against agricultural pressures.
	Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) Repeals existing Directive (71/160/EEC) with effect from 31 December 2014	Aims to provide greater benefits in relation to improved health protection for bathers and a more pro-active approach to beach management including public involvement.
	The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC)	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	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".
	The "Landfill Directive" (99/31/EC)	Seeks to reduce the environmental impact from the landfilling of waste and divert certain quantities and types of waste from European landfills.
	The WEE Directive on waste electrical and electronic equipment (2002/96/EC)	Seeks more environmentally sensitive management of waste electric and electronic equipment.

Soil	EU Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection	Aims to protect and maintain soil quality in Europe and promote sustainable use of soil.
	Directive 2004/35/EC on Environmental Liability with regard to the prevention and remedying environmental damage	Prevention and remediation of environmental damage.
	Sewage Sludge Directive (86/278/EEC)	Seeks to encourage the use of sewage sludge in agriculture and to regulate its use in such a way as to prevent harmful effects on soil, vegetation , animals and man.
Sustainable Development	European Strategy for Sustainable development (2006)	Identifies key priorities for sustainable development.
	The Sixth Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community 2002-2012 Statutory	Seeks to make the future development of the EU more sustainable.
	“The Gothenburg Strategy” Communication from the Commission on sustainable Europe for a Better World” 2001	Promotes sustainable development.
	Agenda 21(1992)Action for Sustainable Development	Aims to promote sustainable development at a local and regional level by taking into account environmental protection in the development

		process.
National Legislation, Plans, Policies and Programmes		
	Title	Summary of Objectives
Planning	National Spatial Strategy 2002	The 20 year Framework Strategy seeks to unleash the potential for progress, growth and development in a more balanced way across the country supported by more effective planning.
	Planning and Development Acts 2000-2009 (Amendment 2010)	Sets National Policy.
Biodiversity	European Communities (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 -2011	Requirement for SEA of land-use plans.
	European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (SI No 435 of 2004).	Requirement for SEA of certain plans and programmes.
	Flora Protection Order 1980 (amended 1999)	Aimed at the protection of certain floral species.
	Tree Preservation Orders	Offers protection to individual trees or groups of trees.
	Forestry Act 1946	Protection of tree species and forests.
	Wildlife Act 1976	Main objective is the protection of wildlife and

		requirement to maintain biodiversity by designating nature reserves, protecting species, regulating hunting and controlling wildlife trading.
	Wildlife (Amendment Act) 2000	
	Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016	Second National Biodiversity Action Plan- aims to maintain and improve biodiversity at a national level.
	Draft Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sub-Basin Catchment Management Plans	Catchment based management plans for the protection and conservation of Freshwater Pearl Mussel populations.
Population & Human Health	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.
	Wind Energy Guidelines 2004	To ensure consistency of approach in the identification of suitable locations for wind farm development and the treatment of planning applications for wind farm developments
Cultural Heritage	The Heritage Act, 1995	Promote public interest in and knowledge, appreciation and protection of the Natural Heritage.
	National Heritage Plan 2002	Sets out a clear and coherent strategy and framework for the protection and enhancement of our heritage.
	Heritage Council Strategic Plan 2012-	Identifies 16 objectives aimed at supporting employment, education and awareness and heritage

	2016	based tourism.
	Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999	Makes provision for the carrying out of a National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH). The purpose of the NIAH is to identify, record, and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland, uniformly and consistently as an aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage. 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).
	National Monuments Acts 1930-1994 and National Monuments (Amendment) Act 2004	Sets National Policy on archaeological structures and sites.
	National Monuments Regulations 2005	Sets National Policy in addition to National Monuments Acts 1930-1994 and Amendment Act 2004.
	Architectural Heritage Protection-Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2004	Offers guidance to planning authorities regarding the protection of architecturally important sites in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000.
	Planning and Development Acts 2000-2010	Part IV applies to the protection of architectural heritage.
Water	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 2000 (SI 439 of 2000), as amended by SI 278 of 2007 and SI 106 of 2007	Prescribe quality standards to be applied in relation to certain supplies of drinking water, including requirements as to sampling frequency, methods of analysis, the provision of information to consumers and related matters.
European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations (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 (S.I. No. 527 of 2008)	Specifies that corrective action be taken to prevent wastage or excessive consumption of water.
The Planning System and Flood Risk Management : Guidelines for planning Authorities 2009	Requirement to incorporate flood risk assessment into the process of making plans and decisions on planning applications.

	The Local Government (Water Pollution) Act, 1977 (Water Quality Standards for Phosphorus) Regulations, 1998	Aims to retain rivers of good quality at that level and improve the quality of poor rivers.
	The Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1997 (amended 1990)	Aims to reduce pollution of water bodies.
Waste	National Water Prevention Programme	Seeks to separate waste generation from economic activity in Ireland.
Sustainable Development	Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Rural Housing 2005	Sets national policy on the issue of sustainable rural housing.
	Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (December 2008)	Addresses sustainable design and services in urban areas.
	National Development Plan (NDP) Transforming Ireland- A Better Quality of Life For All (2007-2013)	Sets national policy.
	Sustainable Development- A Strategy for Ireland (1997)	To promote the consideration of sustainable principles in drafting and implementation of the Guidelines.
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.
Biodiversity	Draft County Wexford Biodiversity Action Plan 2012-2017	33 actions for the protection of biodiversity at a local level
Water	River Basin Management Plan for the South Eastern River Basin District (2009-2015)	Achieve at least good water quality status by 2015 to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.
	Pollution Reduction Programmes for Waterford Harbour, Bannow Bay , Wexford Harbour Inner and Wexford Harbour Outer.	Compliance with the standards and objectives established by the Quality of Shellfish Waters Regulations 2006 for the designated shellfish growing waters at Waterford Harbour, Bannow Bay, Wexford Harbour Inner and Wexford Harbour Outer..
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.

Local Documents

- County Development Plan 2007-2013
- County Development Board, Action for Change, 2009-2012

- Remodelling the Model County, A Strategy for the Economic, Social, and Cultural Development of County Wexford 2002-2012
- Wexford Town Development Plan 2009-2015
- Enniscorthy Town & Environs Development Plan 2008-2014
- New Ross Town & Environs Development Plan 2011- 2017
- Local Area Plans: Gorey, Ferns, Taghmon, Bunclody, Clonroche.

The Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government has issued a number of guidelines to planning authorities regarding their functions. These are listed in the **Appendix 1**.

The above policies, plans and strategies and guidelines are critical in the derivation of Environmental Objectives for the County Development Plan area.

3.0 Specific Environmental Considerations

The County has a wide range of environmental resources, which need to be dealt with appropriately within the context of the County Development Plan. It is proposed to consider the environmental issues under the following headings;

- Population & Human Health
- Biodiversity (Flora/Fauna)
- Landscape/Geology
- Agriculture and Forestry
- Water Quality
- Air Quality
- Waste management
- Cultural and Material Assets
- Climate and Sustainability

The interaction between environmental topics will be considered in the Environmental Report as the Plan progresses. GIS mapping will be used to assist this process. Sources of baselines data will include information from statutory agencies, internal departments within the Council, the internet, local publications, planning applications and EIS relating to major roads and infrastructure improvements schemes.

3.1 Population & Human Health

Notwithstanding the current issues surrounding the economy and housing, projections still point to an increasing national population and demand for housing, given a stable birth rate and smaller household size.

Population Targets

The NSS does not allocate population at a county level. This is done by the Settlement Strategy in the RPGs which sets out the target population for the overall region, the counties and each of the main settlements in the region. The population targets in the

RPGs are based on the 'National Population Projections and Regional Population Targets 2010-2022' issued by the DEHLG in January 2009 and 'Gateway and Hub Population Targets' issued by the DEHLG in October 2009.

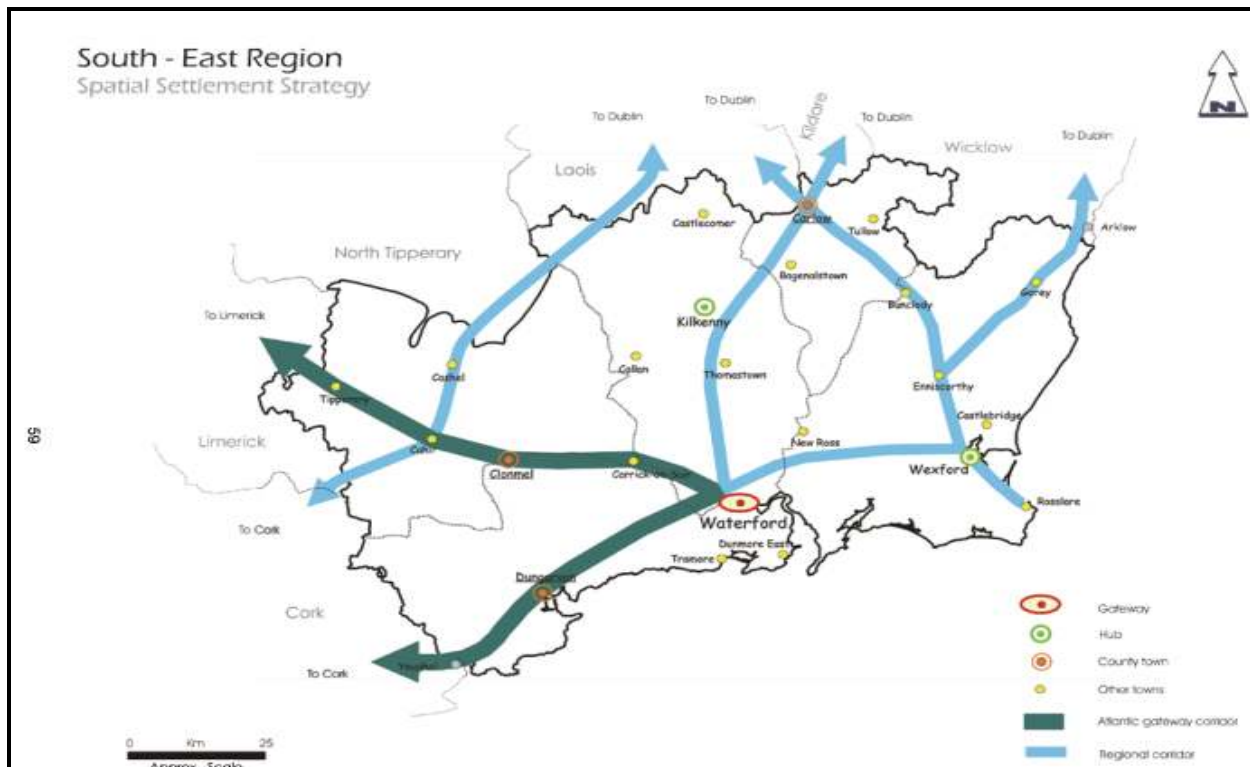


Figure 1 South East Region Settlement Strategy

Population Target as set out in the Regional Planning Guidelines and also contained in the Core Strategy adopted Dec 2011.				
Local Authority Area	2006	2010	2016	2022
Wexford	131,749	146,139	156,065	166,083

Core Strategy

Variation No. 1 of the County Wexford Development Plan 2007-2013, adopted 12th Dec 2011 set out an interim Core Strategy to align the Plan with the requirements of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010, the population targets for the County as set out in the Regional Planning Guidelines and as far as practical national

and regional development objectives as set out in the National Spatial Strategy and Regional Planning Guidelines.

Co. Wexford Population Change 2006- 2011

Within the South East region, County Wexford has grown to 145,273 persons and had the highest growth rate of 10.3% in the Census period to 2011. This is an increase of 13,524 on 2006 figures. Within the South East region, County Wexford experienced the highest natural increase between 2006-2011 and also the highest net migration, accounting for over half of the net migration to the entire South East region, interesting despite the economic situation. For County Wexford, 48.3% of the increase in population is due to net inward migration.

Many of the electoral divisions increased by more than 15% their 2006 figure, as shown below. With 10.3% the average increase across the county, the map below shows the above average increases experienced by many of the ED's.

Figure 2 Population Change 2006-2011

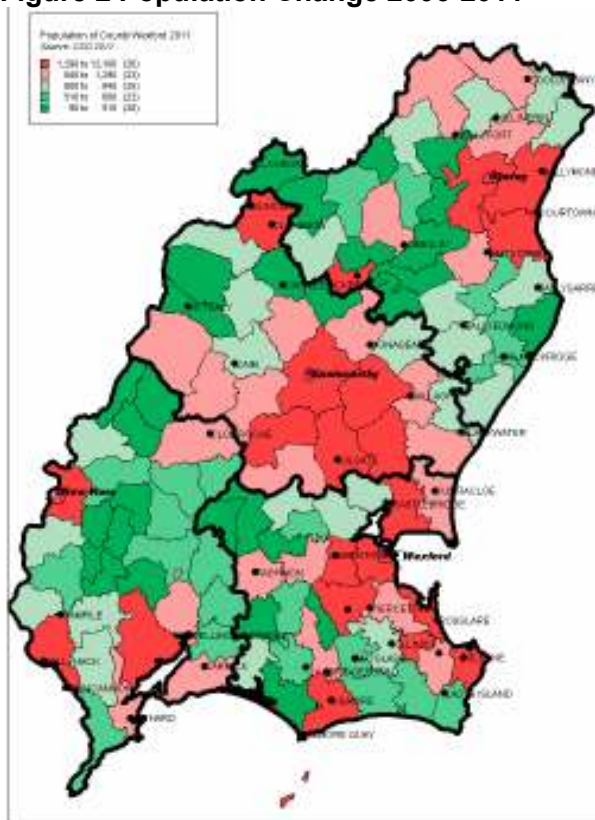
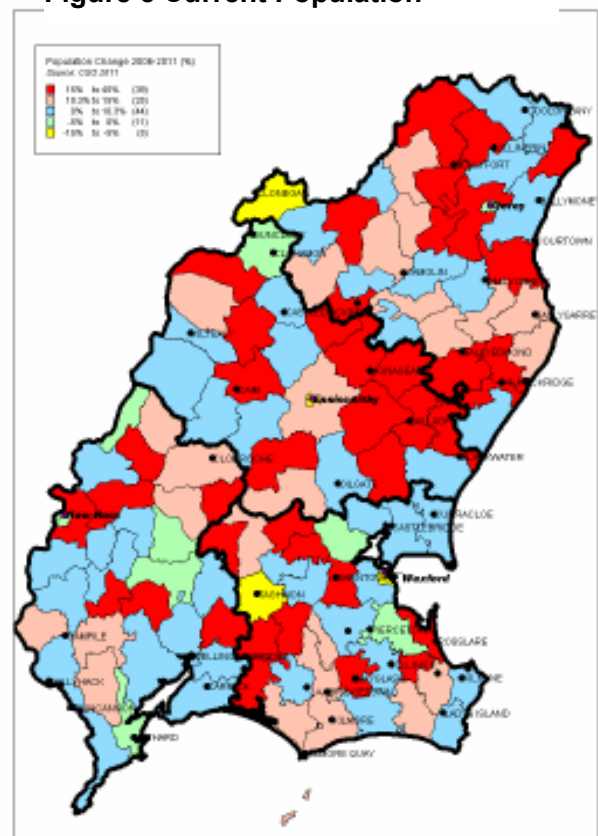


Figure 3 Current Population



Housing Stock

Housing Stock in County Wexford has increased from 58,970 in 2006 to 68,551 in 2011, increasing by 9581 or 16.2%. The vacancy rate in 2011 is 20.9% of total housing stock, a slight reduction from 21.5% in 2006. The number of vacant dwellings has increased to 14,359. In the South East region, County Wexford has the highest vacancy rate with the state average being 14.7%.

Population Issues: Existing problems/Environmental Considerations

- New and infrastructural developments are to be utilized to maximum effect.
- High vacancy rate of housing in some smaller serviced centres and an increase in demand for housing in the north of the county.
- Need to provide a variety of dwelling type and mix of tenure to reflect the needs of the population.

Human Health

The impacts relevant to the SEA in terms of human health are usually those which arise as a result of interactions with environmental components such as air, water or soil through which contaminants or pollutants have the potential to cause harm to human health. The impact of development on human health is also influenced by the extent to which new development is accompanied by appropriate infrastructure and the maintenance of the quality of water, air and soil.

Air

The impact of air related issues on human health can generally be divided into two categories, air pollution and noise pollution.

Radon Levels in County

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas caused by the breakdown of Uranium which is found in underground rock. It is a colourless and odourless gas which disperses in air but it has been shown to be carcinogenic with risks of contracting lung cancer.

Thirty-four homes in Wexford have been found to have high levels of radon gas, according to figures released by the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII). In Wexford, a total of 227 homes were measured by the RPII for radon gas between 1st September 2010 and 1st June 2011. Of these, 34 were above the acceptable level of 200 becquerels per cubic metre (Bq/m³). Two homes in Gorey and Ballymoney had more than 10 times the acceptable level with readings in excess of 2000 Bq/m³. Another home in Gorey had more than four times the acceptable level with readings in excess of 800 Bq/m³. The remaining 31 results had readings of between 200 and 800 Bq/m³ and were found throughout the county: Bunclody (3), Enniscorthy (15), Gorey (5), Killurin (1), New Ross (7). These figures show that Wexford has a significant radon problem.

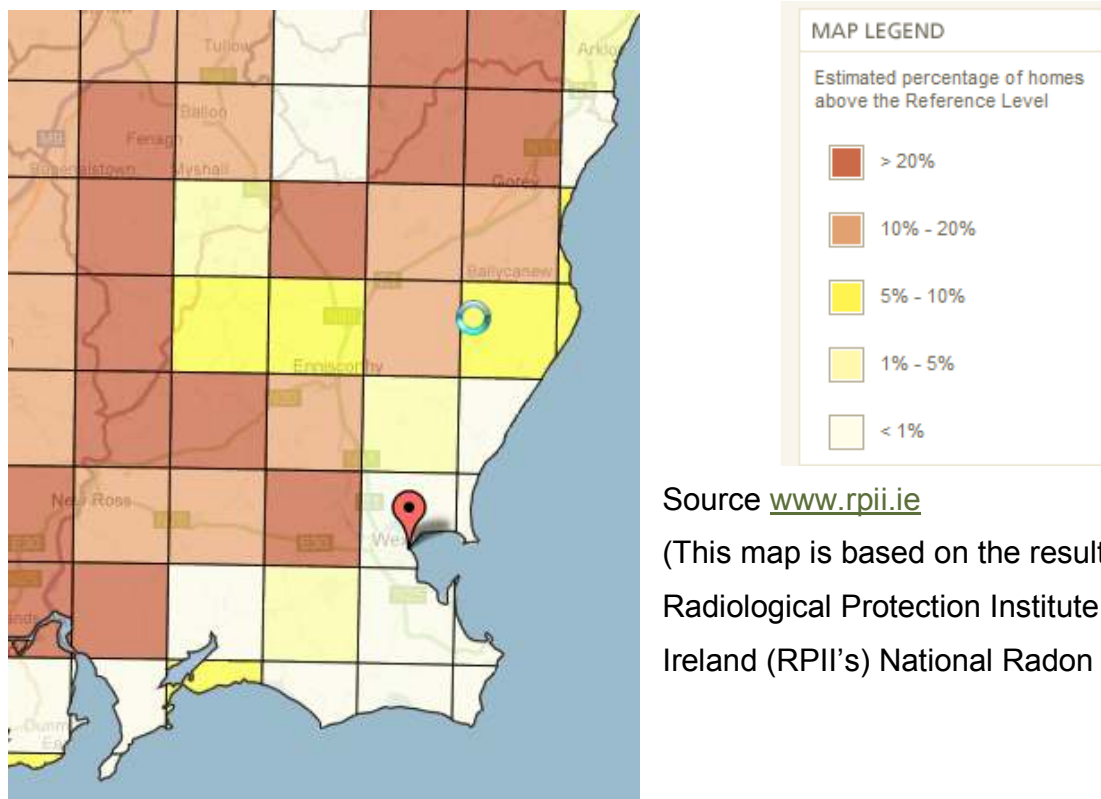


Figure 4 Radon levels in the County Wexford

Noise levels from Sampling stations

Both air and noise will be dealt with in greater detail in the Air Quality and Noise Pollution section of this scoping issues paper. Noise is not considered a major issue for

the population of Wexford as we don't have any significant urban centres within the county.

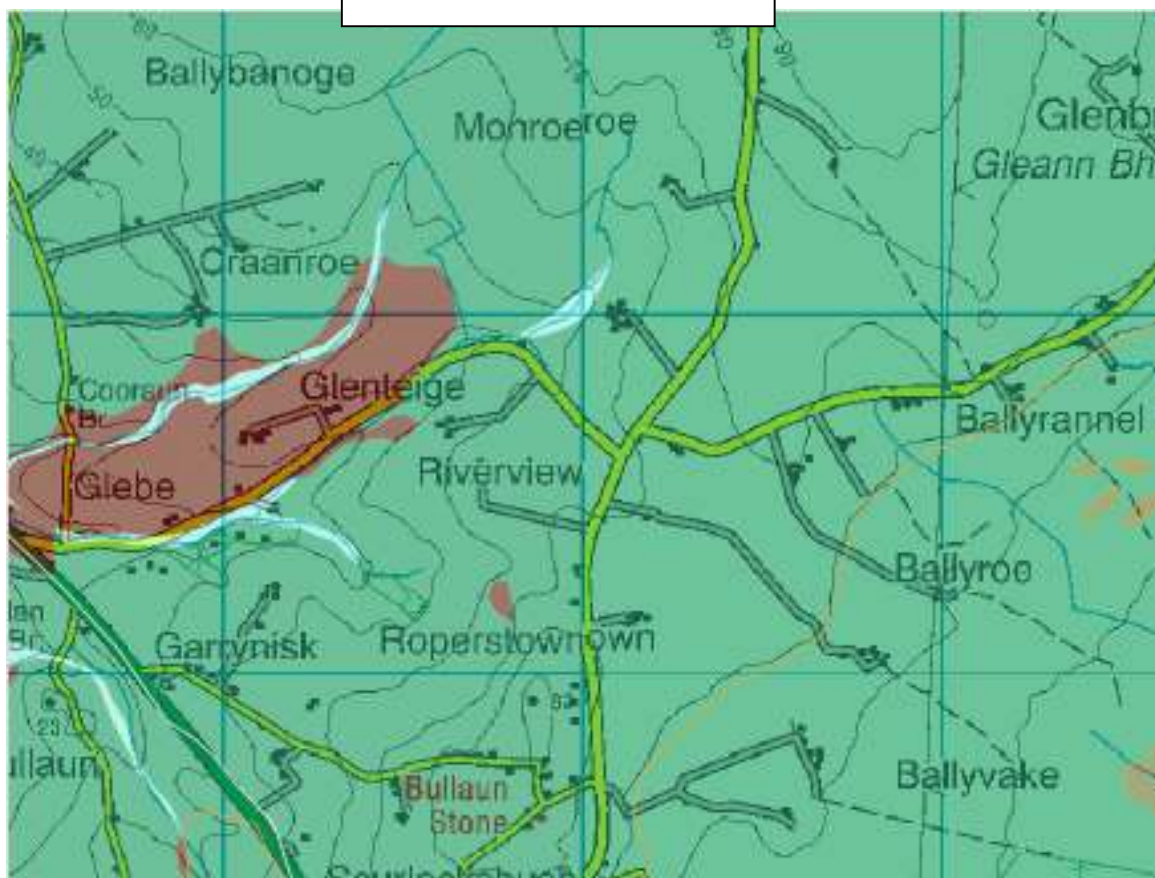
Water

The maintenance of a supply of clean drinking water is critical in terms of human health. Monitoring stations have been established around the county and are maintained by Wexford County Council for the EPA. The provision of drinking water is dealt with under the heading 'Material Assets'.

Soil

In some areas of the county soil has been polluted and contaminated by development which has not followed environmentally friendly practices. A number of sites are located in the county which may have a negative affect on the soil resource in which they are located. These include contaminated areas such as historic landfills, Seveso sites and old industrial sites.

Figure 4 County Soils Map



Seveso Sites

The European Communities (Control of major Accident hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) regulations 2006, S.I. No. 74 of 2006 are often referred to as COMAH Regulations or Seveso Regulations, which give effect to the European Directive 96/82/EC. They apply only to location where significant quantities of dangerous substances are stored. The legislation deals with the prevention of major accidents. We have five Seveso sites in County Wexford (3 upper tier and 2 lower tier):

Upper tier:

Atlantic Industries, IDA Business & Technology Park, Rosslare Road, Drinagh, Wexford.

Goulding Chemicals Ltd, Stokestown, New Ross, Co Wexford.

Nitrofert Ltd., Raheen, New Ross, County Wexford.

Lower Tier:

Esso Ireland Ltd, Joint Fuels Terminal New Ross, Marsh Meadows, New Ross.

Barrow Storage Co. Ltd T/A Campus Oil, Marsh Meadows, New Ross.

Human Health Issues: Existing Problems / Environmental Considerations

- Continued provision of clean drinking water for existing and proposed areas
- Development pressure and recreational impacts on natural resources and open spaces within and adjoining urban areas
- Continue the development of recreational and leisure facilities
- Ensure obsolete landfill sites do not affect water sources
- Need to identify all potential sources of soil pollution from old industrial sites
- Contaminated soils placing a financial and technical constraint on development as well as the threat they pose to the health of the population

3.2 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

Biodiversity is a contraction of the words 'biological diversity' and is used to describe the immense diversity of all living things on earth. This includes ecosystem diversity, species diversity and genetic diversity of species. Species, habitats and ecosystems, the planet's whole natural heritage, is under ever increasing threat. Many species and habitats are in decline and in some cases their future is endangered. Biodiversity has important direct and indirect health and economic benefits as well as being intrinsically bound up in the cultural heritage of Wexford. Wexford is a county rich in biodiversity. Habitat diversity includes reefs, sea caves, coastal dune systems, lagoons, lakes, rivers, grasslands, marshes, woodlands, and peatlands. Some of these areas are protected within the 15 cSACs, 1 SAC, 9 SPA's, 27pNHAs and 1 NHA.

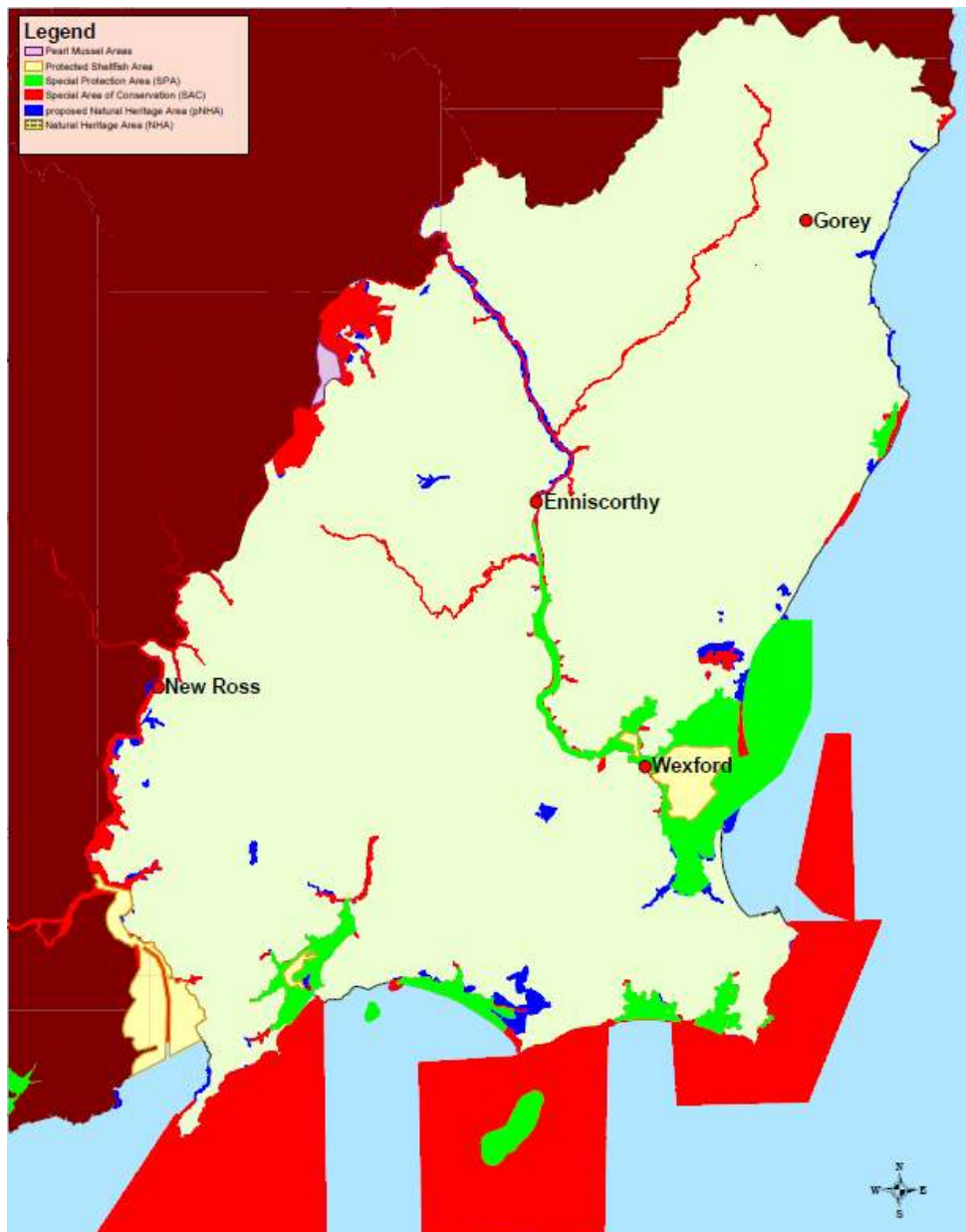
Natural heritage hotspots within the county include coastal systems of Bannow Bay and Ballyteige Burrow, The Raven Nature Reserve, the lagoons at Lady's island Lake and Tackumshin Lake and woodlands at Killoughrim, uplands of the Blackstairs mountains and river valleys of the Barrow and Slaney Rivers.

Other Nature Conservation Designations in Wexford

Nature Reserves – these are areas of importance for wildlife, which are protected under Ministerial Order. There are 3 Nature reserve in County Wexford; The Raven, Wexford Wildfowl Reserve, and Ballyteige Burrow.

Ramsar Sites – The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands came into force for Ireland on 15 March 1985. Ireland presently has 45 sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance, three are located in County Wexford with total area of 1741Ha ; The Raven, Bannow Bay and Wexford Wildfowl Reserve.

Refuge for Fauna – Lady's Island Lake. Areas where the specific protection of one or more species of animal is required, established under the Wildlife Acts.



**Figure 5:
Designated
Sites**

The County Biodiversity Action Plan is currently at Draft and open to public consultation until the end of June.

Article 10 of the Habitats Directive outlines the need to include linear features and stepping stones for biodiversity in land use plans. Such linear features, or corridors, include hedges, rivers, canals and roadside verges. Examples of stepping stones include marshes and woodlands.

Biodiversity (Flora / Fauna) : Existing Problems / Environmental Considerations

- Impacts of development and land-use change on habitats
- The need for identification of ecological networks within the county, prioritising the green corridors between designated sites and other important biodiversity hotspots
- Screen plan for Appropriate Assessment
- Biodiversity value of hedgerows to be evaluated through a county hedgerow survey as removal of hedgerows is an issue
- Biodiversity Action Plan is currently under preparation
- Recreational pressures in sensitive habitats
- Impact of invasive species
- Impacts of climate change such as coastal erosion and the pressure for sea defences and coastal protection

3.3 Landscapes /Geology

Landscape

County Wexford is known as the 'Model County' with largely low-lying fertile land being the characteristic landscape of the county. The Blackstairs Mountains form part of the boundary to the northwest, and the southern edges of the Wicklow Mountains form the northern boundary. The major rivers are the Slaney and the Barrow. The Barrow is 192 km (119.5 miles) in length, making it the second longest river on the island of Ireland. Small seaside lakes or lagoons exist at two locations, Lady's Island and Tacumshin Lake. Most, but not all, of the county was covered with an ice-sheet during the last Ice age. As the ice retreated, Co. Wexford would have been one of the first areas to be covered with glacial drift (a mixture of boulders, clay, sand and gravel) that blanketed the existing bedrock. This has led to high quality soils, suitable for a wide range of agriculture.

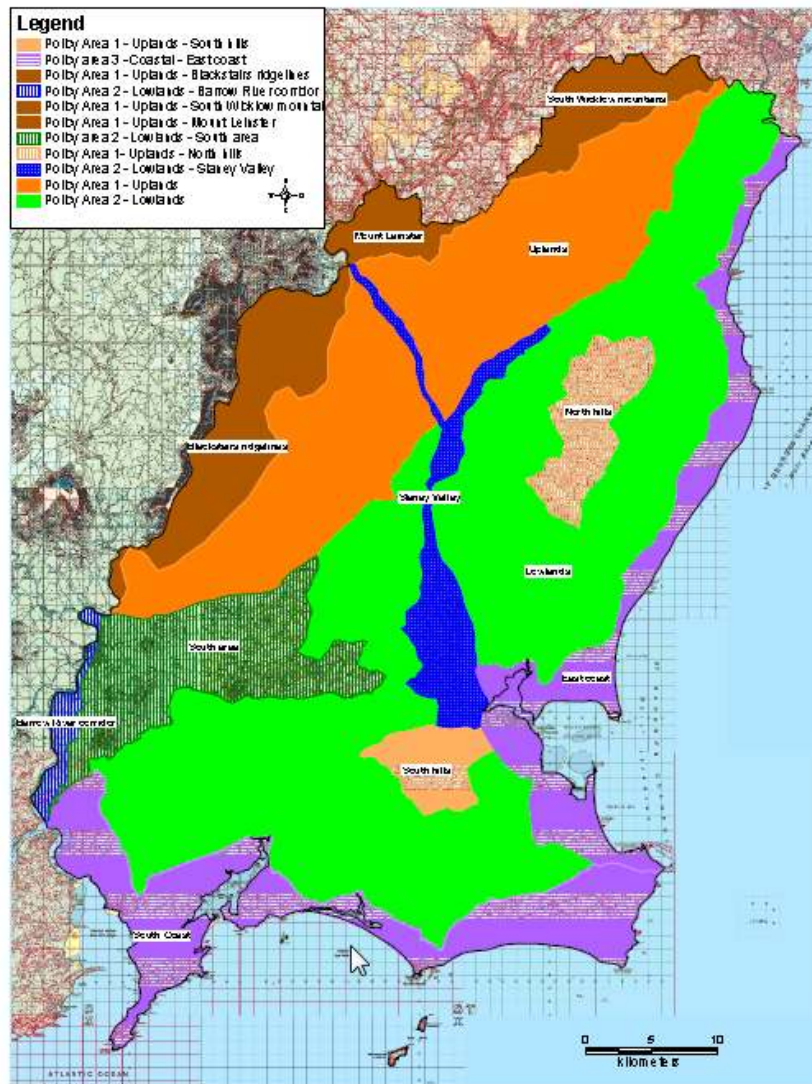


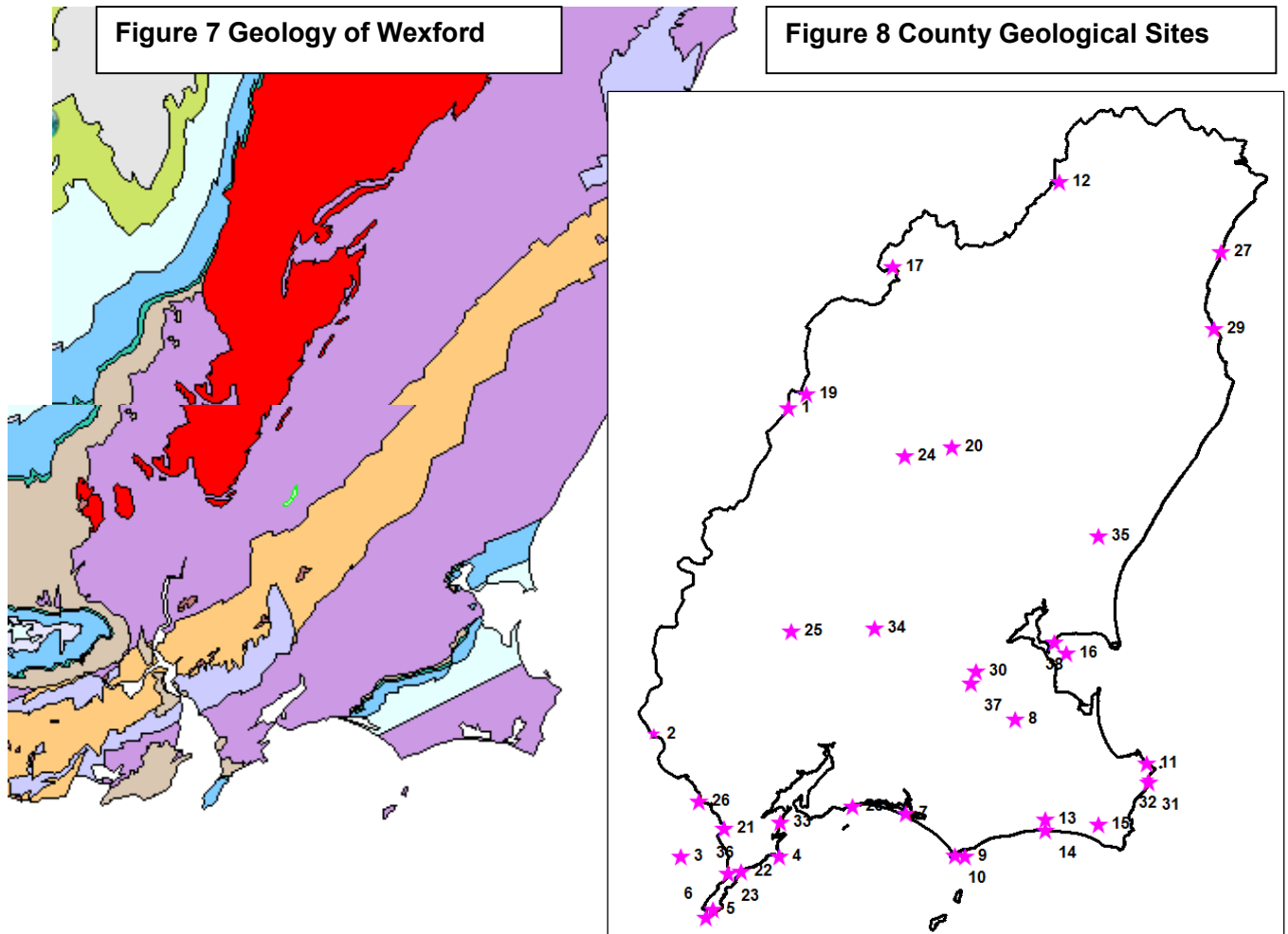
Figure 6 Landscape Character Assessment 2007

Landscape: Existing Problems / Environmental Considerations

- Identification of historic landscapes
- Impact of quarrying operations on the landscape
- Impacts of wind farm developments on the landscape
- Impacts of commercial forestry on the landscape
- Siting and design of new development individually and cumulatively adversely affecting the landscape character

Geology / Soils

County Wexford has a unique geodiversity: from rocks as old as 620million years to exceptionally preserved fossils recording a teeming tropical sea life to volcanic rocks, glacial features and present coastal processes.

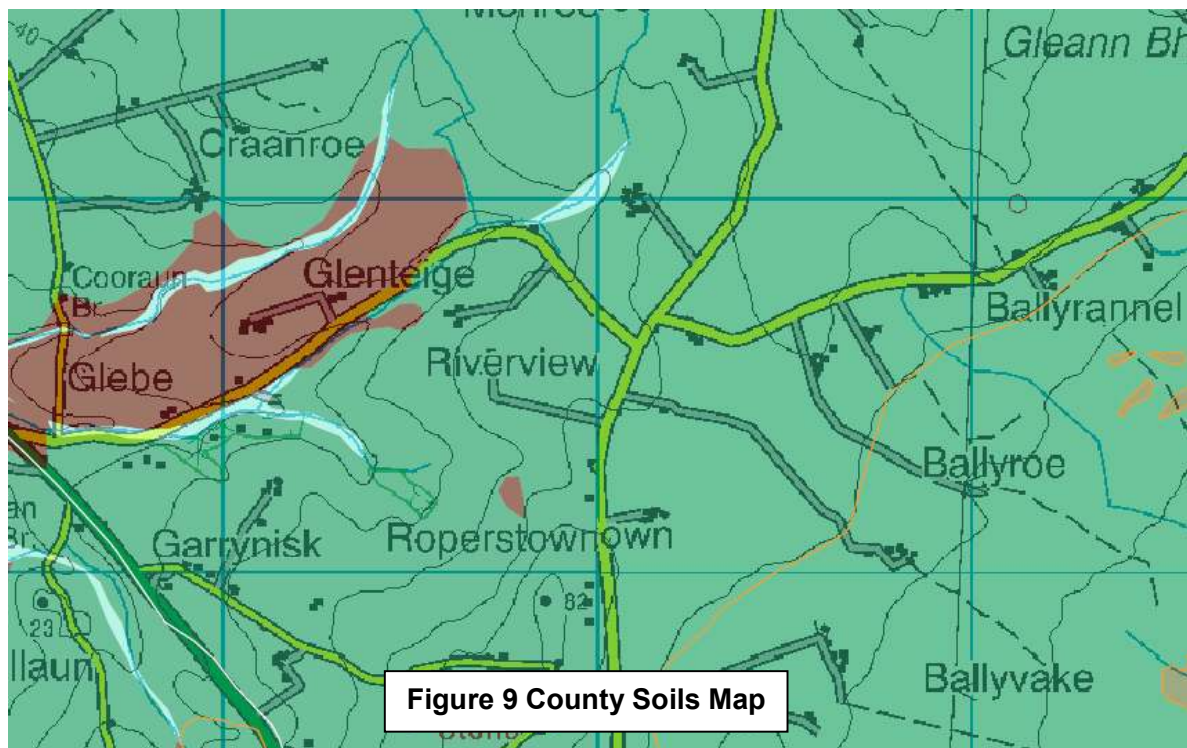


The Geological Survey of Ireland in partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government is currently identifying important geological and geomorphological sites throughout the country for designation as Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs). The Irish Geological Heritage (IGH) Programme is identifying and selecting the very best national sites for NHA designation, to represent the country's geology. It is also identifying many sites of national or local geological heritage importance, which are classed as County Geological Sites (CGS),

although these will not receive the statutory protection of NHA sites. Some of these sites overlap with Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and some are already pNHAs. There are 38 geological heritage sites for Wexford identified to date by GSI.

Soils

Most but not all of the county was covered with the ice sheet during the last Ice Age. As the ice retreated, Wexford was one of the first areas to be covered with glacial drift that blanketed the existing bedrock. This has led to high quality soils, suitable for a wide range of agriculture. Most of the county is covered with soil called Brown earths, described as well drained and having a wide use range. The next major soil type is Gleys (poorly to imperfectly drained with a limited use range), primarily located in the



south east of the county and east of Gorey, along the coast. Gleys are dotted elsewhere around the county in small areas, and where they occur they generally form bogland. The last major soil type is Brown Podzolics, located mainly near the edges of the Blackstairs Mountain range and around Bunclody, Shelmalier and south Ballaghkeen. Though there are areas covered with other soil types these are of limited extent.

Geology/Soils: Existing Problems / Environmental Considerations

- Protection of sites of geological importance within the county
- The protection of soil and the need for a Soil Protection Strategy
- Contaminated soils placing a financial and technical constraint on development as well as the threat they pose to the health of the population
- Inadequate natural drainage in areas of Gleys which create an issue for rural housing and on site waste water treatment and also for surface water drainage.
- Pressure on soil from land-use change, intensification of agriculture, erosion, overgrazing, disposal of organic wastes to soils, afforestation, industry and urbanisation

3.4 Agriculture and Forestry

The county's long and prosperous agriculture foundation is due to the combination of a favourable climate and soil plus the proximity to mainland Europe. It was in the 17th Century that Wexford became known as the 'Model County'. Wheat, barley, rapeseed and oats are grown as are potatoes. Dairy farming forms an important part of the agricultural industry.

Forestry

Evergreen tree species are extensively cultivated, especially in more recent years, Norway Spruce and Sitka Spruce are the most common varieties planted. These are generally sown on poorer quality soils (bogs and hillsides). A small number of deciduous trees are also planted, though these require better soils.

Agriculture/Forestry: Existing Problems / Environmental Considerations

- Impact of forestry on sensitive areas such as salmonid rivers
- Impacts arising from aquaculture
- Damage from inappropriate fishing
- Drainage of wetlands

- Silting of lagoons
- Excessive nutrient enrichment from agricultural sources in combination with domestic effluents

3.5 Waste Management

Waste Management Plan 2006-2011

The current Joint Waste Management Plan for the South East Region (consisting of Carlow County Council, Kilkenny County Council, South Tipperary County Council, Waterford City Council, Waterford County Council and Wexford County Council) was made on June 2006. The life of the plan is 5 years and it was expected that a review of the plan would have commenced prior to 01 June 2011 with the publication of a public notice, pursuant to Section 22(5) of the Waste Management Act 1996.

The European Communities (Waste Directive) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 126 of 2011) were made on 31 March 2011. They transpose into Irish law Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives (commonly called the Waste Framework Directive). The Regulations, inter alia, make changes to the manner in which waste management plans are prepared and to the contents thereof and introduce revised arrangements in this regard.

The effect of this amendment is that any waste management plan, which was in existence on 31 March 2011, continues in existence but must be evaluated not later than 31 December 2012; it must then, consequent on the evaluation, where appropriate, be revised to be brought into line with the requirements of the Waste Directive. As the Joint Waste Management Plan for the South East Region 2006 was in existence on 31 March 2011, it is now not necessary to commence the review process prior to 01 June 2011 as the above amendment extends the life of the plan until the completion of the evaluation (not later than 31 December 2012).

Waste Licences

A waste licence is a single integrated licence dealing with emissions to all environmental media and the environmental management of the facility.

Reg No.	Name	Documents?
W0016-01	Wexford County Council	Yes
W0016-02	Wexford County Council	Yes
W0111-01	South East Recycling Company Limited	Yes
W0111-02	South East Recycling Company Limited	Yes
W0111-03	South East Recycling Company Limited	Yes
W0123-01	Custom Compost	Yes
W0191-01	Wexford County Council	Yes
W0191-02	Wexford County Council	Yes
W0202-01	Seamus Kelly & Sons	Yes
W0220-01	Greenstar Limited	Yes
W0229-01	Advanced Environmental Solutions (Ireland) Limited	Yes
W0241-01	Greenstar Limited	Yes
W0258-01	Murray Waste Recycling	Yes
W0280-01	Roadstone Wood Limited	Yes

Figure 10 Waste licences in County Wexford (source www.epa.ie)

Historic Landfills

There are thirty-two historical landfills in County Wexford. Wexford County Council (WCC) have completed a Tier 1 assessment for all 12 pre 1977 historical landfill sites that were identified as municipal sites and operated by WCC. Eight post 1997 sites are now subject to enforcement and/or regularisation under the 2008 Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery Activity) Regulations.

Waste Management Issues: Existing Problems / Environmental Considerations

- Evaluation of the Waste Management Plan to be completed by December 31st 2012.
- Waste Management to be based on prevention, minimization, re-use and recycle.
- Mapping of historic landfill on our GIS

3.6 Water Quality

Water Quality from Rivers

The principal legislation governing water quality protection in Ireland is the European Communities (Water policy) regulations 2003 (S.I. 722 of 2003), which transposed Directive 2000/60/EC (the Water Framework Directive, WFD) into Irish law.

South East River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015

The South Eastern River Basin District has a land area of 14,000 km², including 1,000 km² of marine waters. The District incorporates all or part of thirteen local authority areas: Waterford City and County, Wexford, Wicklow, Carlow, Kilkenny, Kildare, Offaly, Laois, North Tipperary, South Tipperary and a small part of Limerick and Cork. The District includes the Gateway City of Waterford and the Hub cities/towns of Kilkenny and Wexford, as described in the National Spatial Strategy.

- 47% of rivers, 54% of lakes, 24% of estuaries and 11% of coastal waters have high or good ecological status (percentage calculated by number);
- 53% of rivers, 38% of lakes, 76% of estuaries and 33% of coastal waters are less than good (moderate, poor or bad);
- 0.3 % of rivers, 8% of lakes and 56% of coastal waters are yet to have status assigned;

The majority of the surface waters tested so far has good chemical status (**one estuary fails chemical status**);

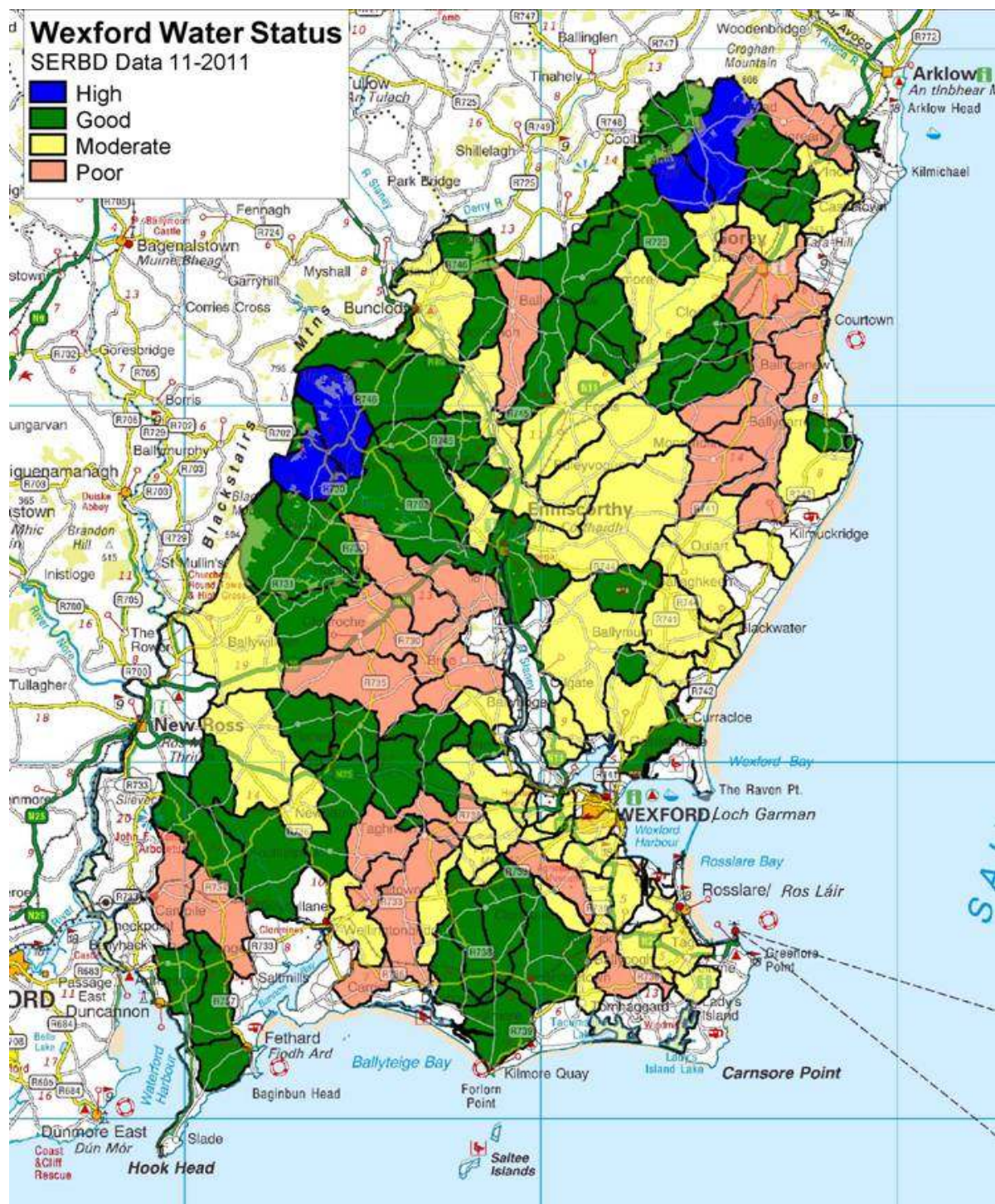


Figure 11 SERBD Wexford Water Status

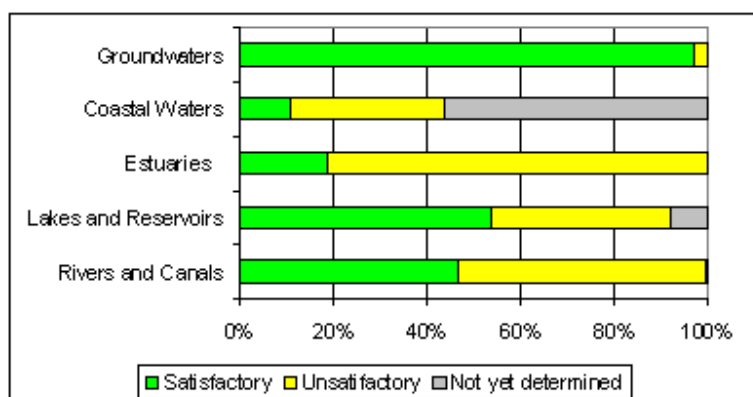
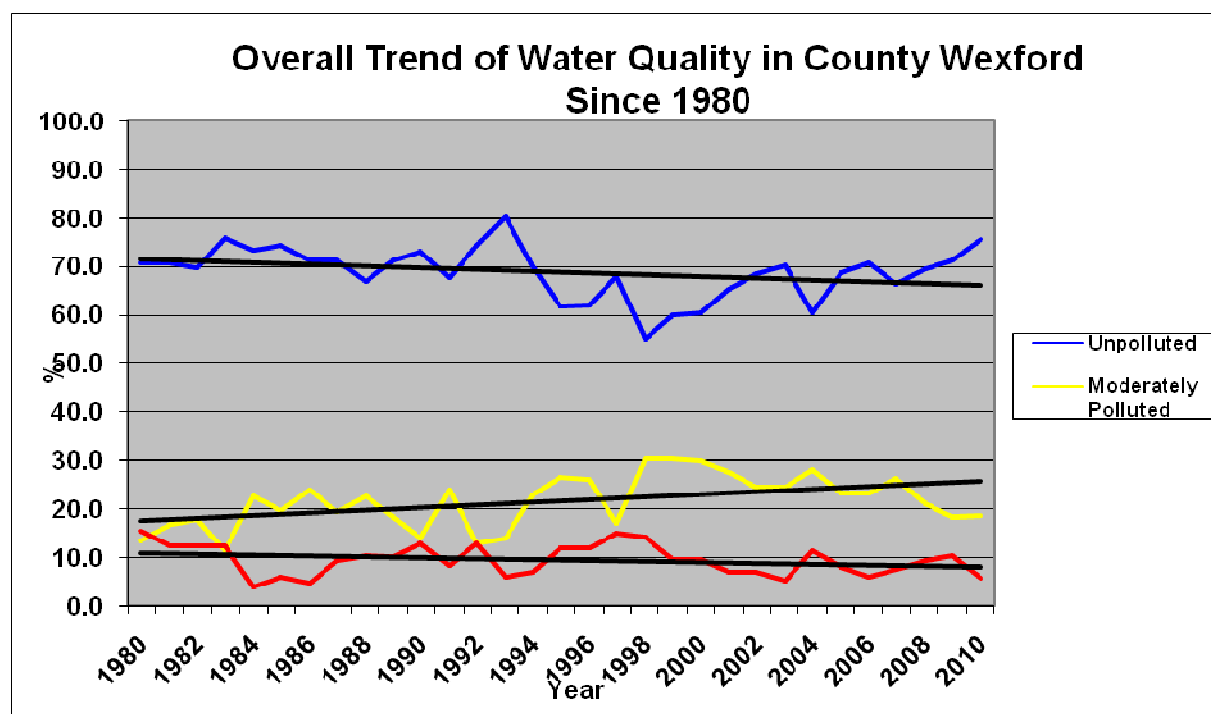


Figure 10 Water Quality taken from SERB Management Plan 2009-2015



The EPA are currently compiling the data for 2011

It is important that the needs of protected species such as salmon, lamprey species and freshwater pearl mussels, which are listed on annex II of the Habitats Directive, are also considered in relation to water quality. It is also important that water SEOs are compatible with the relevant River Basin Management Plans.

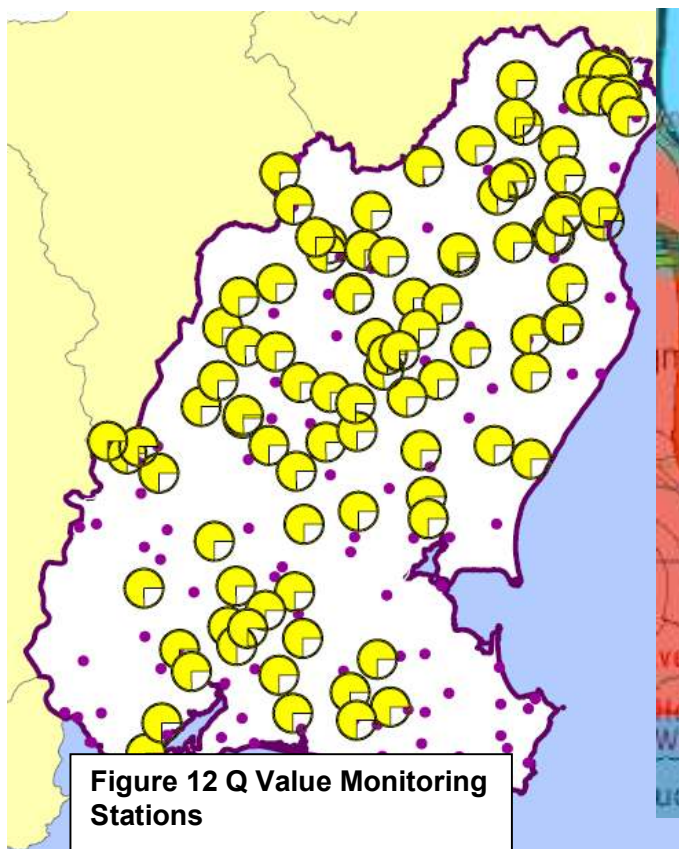


Figure 12 Q Value Monitoring Stations

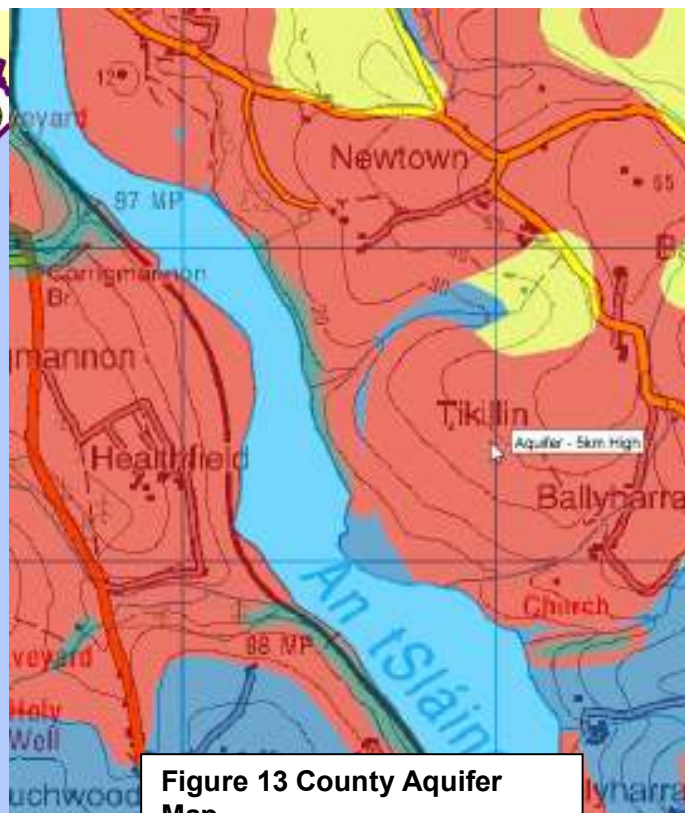


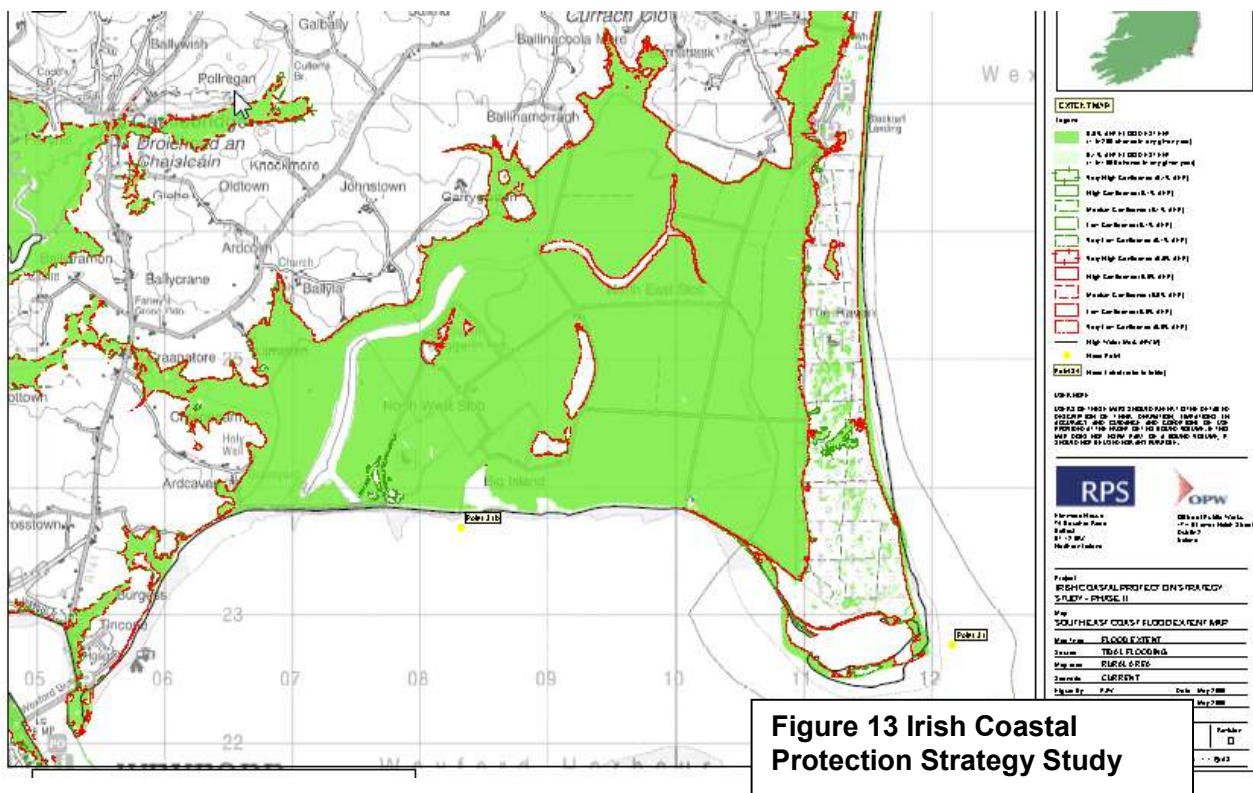
Figure 13 County Aquifer Map

Groundwater and Aquifer Vulnerability

Groundwater is an important source of drinking water but also makes an important contribution to river flows. All ground water is at 'Good' water quality status.

Flooding

Flood plains should be left undeveloped to allow for the protection of these valuable habitats along the river corridors and to provide areas for floodwater retention. Account should be taken of the guidelines for Planning Authorities entitled "*The Planning System and Flood Risk Management*" (DoEHLG, OPW, 2009). Cognisance shall also be paid to the '*Irish Coastal Protection Strategy Study (ICPSS) – Phase 2 – South East Coast*' published by the OPW in 2011, and comprises of a strategic assessment of coastal flooding and erosion extents from Dalkey Island to Carnsore Point.



The National Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA), OPW, July 2011, is a national screening exercise, based on available and readily-derivable information, to identify areas where there may be a significant risk associated with flooding.

CFRAM is Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management. The national CFRAM programme commenced in Ireland in 2011. The CFRAM Programme is central to the medium to long-term strategy for the reduction and management of flood risk in Ireland.

The Programme delivers on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Flood Directive. The Irish CFRAM programme is being carried out in parallel with similar programmes across the European Union.

The CFRAM Programme comprises three phases:

- The Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA): 2011
- The CFRAM Studies and parallel activities: 2011-2015
- Implementation and Review: 2016 onwards

Water Quality Issues: Existing Problems/Environmental Considerations

- Septic tanks and on-site wastewater treatment systems pose a threat to groundwater and surface water
- Restriction of development in areas identified as flood zones.
- Incorporate Flood Risk Identification and Assessment for developments plans, Local Area Plans and developments in accordance with the ‘ Planning System and Flood Risk Management, Guidelines for Planning Authorities, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and OPW’, 2009.
- Implementation of Sustainable Drainage Systems
- Flood Risk to be considered in Development Plan SEA documents as a key environmental criteria.
- Impact of Quarrying on the level of the water-table.

3.7 Air Quality and Noise Pollution

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).

An EPA air quality assessment was carried out in Wexford town from 10th March 2005 until 31st March 2006. No limit values were exceeded during the assessment.

Concentrations of carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, benzene and lead were below their respective lower assessment thresholds. Levels of PM10 exceeded the upper assessment threshold for this parameter.

IPPC Licences

IPPC licences aim to prevent or reduce emissions to air, water and land, reduce waste and use energy/resources efficiently. An IPPC licence is a single integrated licence which covers all emissions from the facility and its environmental management.

Table 1: IPPC License Facilities in County Wexford

Reg. No.	Name and Location	Type of Industry
P0047-03	Slaney Foods International Limited and Slaney Proteins Ryland, Bunclody, Co Wexford	Food production
P0062-02	Carl Zeiss Vision Ireland Limited Whitemill Industrial Estate, Clonard, Wexford	Chemicals
P0177-03-	Irish Country Meats (Sheepmeat) Limited Bayland, Camolin, Enniscorthy	Slaughter of animals
P0256 – 01 –	Wexford Weaving of Ireland Limited Drinagh, Wexford	Textile (ceased operating but licence still active due to ongoing monitoring)
P0394-01 –	Wexal International Old Dublin Road, Enniscorthy	(ceased operating but licence still active due to ongoing monitoring)
P0429-01 -	Rennard Pig Farms Limited South Slobs, Wexford	Intensive Agriculture
P0453-02/03 –	Rennard Pig Farms Limited The Deeps/Cornwall, Crossabeg, Co. Wexford,	Intensive Agriculture
P0606 – 03 –	Endesa Ireland Limited (Great Island)	Energy Production
P0622 – 01 –	Hogg Enterprises Limited Clohamon Mills, Bunclody	Intensive Agriculture
P0704-01 –	Rosedale Ltd Corbally, Enniscorthy	Intensive Agriculture Withdrawn
P0794 – 01 –	Wexford Creamery Limited	Creamery

	Rocklands, Wexford	
P0829 – 01 –	Green Biofuels Ireland Limited Marshmeadows, New Ross	Production of Chemicals
P0840 – 01 –	Adamstown Engineering Limited Adamstown, County Wexford	Metals

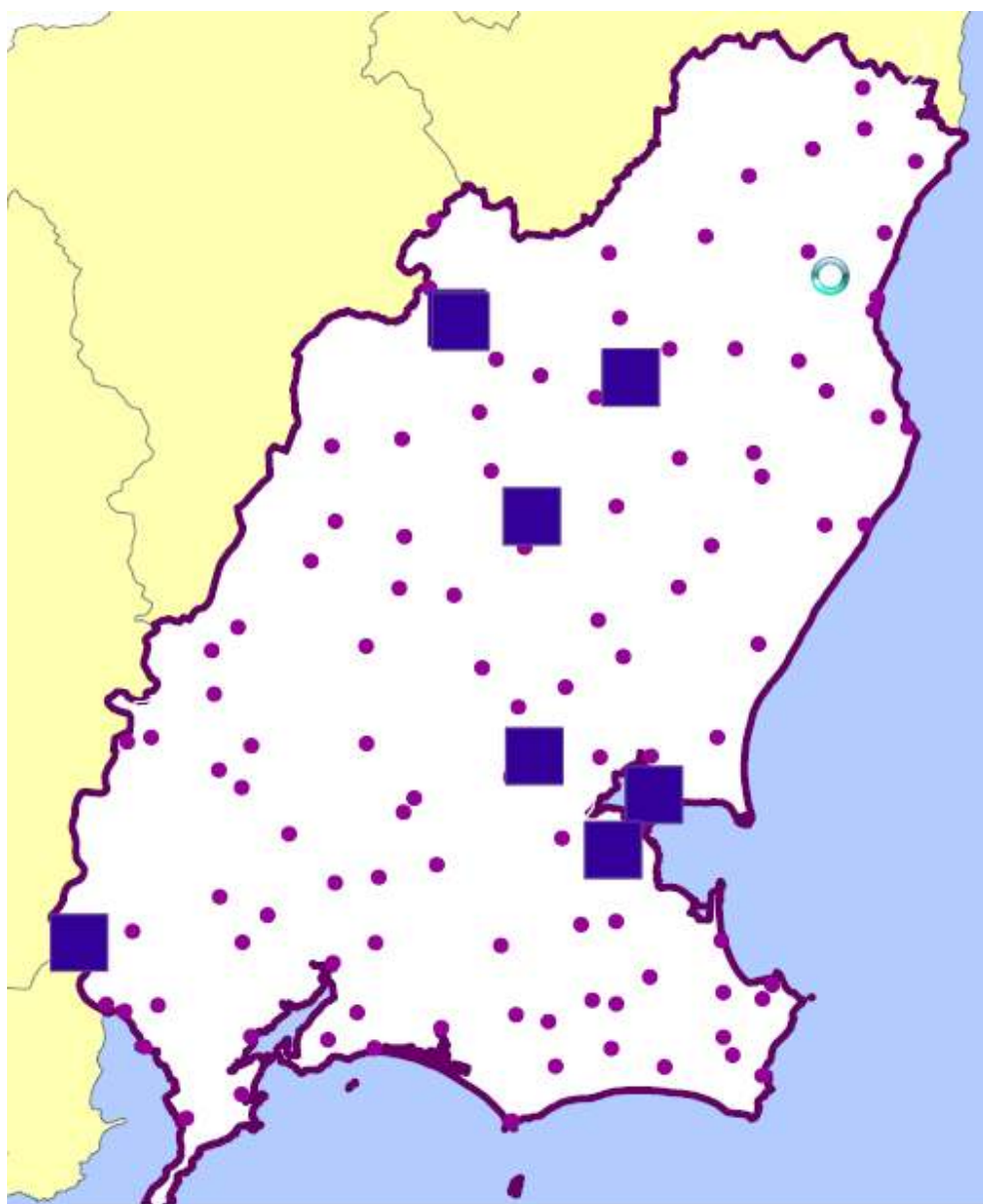


Figure 14 IPPC Discharge Licence

Air Quality Issues: Existing Problems/Environmental Considerations

- Monitoring of air quality within the county
- Reduction of private car based movements
- Encourage sustainable commuting patterns.

3.8 Material Assets & Cultural Heritage

Material Assets

Material assets are taken to include infrastructure and utilities including Rosslare Europort, railways, roads, water supply and wastewater treatment facilities.

Water Services Investment Programme

The future development of the Council's water and wastewater treatment infrastructure is largely dependent on the Government's Water Services Investment Programme, and the availability of funding therein. The current programme, which covers the period 2010-2012, prioritised projects relevant to:

- achieving EU and national environmental objectives, in particular works required to deal with drinking water standards, wastewater treatment standards, authorisation of wastewater discharge, bathing waters, Pollution Reduction Programme for Shellfish Waters and compliance with the Water Framework Directive
- water conservation proposals to meet environmental and economic goals
- works to support economic objectives, such as the development of gateways and hubs
- employment creation.

The following outlines the wastewater and water supply projects proposed for the County

Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2012: Water Supply Projects

Project	Works
Scheduled to commence by the end of 2012	
Gorey Regional Water Supply Scheme	Contract 4 Water treatment plant upgrade, reservoir and pumps
New Ross Water Supply Scheme	Water treatment plant upgrade
Water Conservation	Stage 3 Works-water mains rehabilitation project Phase 1
Schemes at planning stage up to 2012	
Enniscorthy and Sow Regional Water Supply Scheme	
Water Conservation Stage 3 Works	

Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2012: Wastewater Projects

Project	Works
Scheduled to commence by the end of 2012	
Enniscorthy Sewerage Scheme	Phase 3 Wastewater treatment plant upgrade and network
Gorey Sewerage Scheme	Wastewater treatment plant upgrade
Castlebridge Sewerage Scheme (SLI)	Network and wastewater treatment plant upgrade
Taghmon Sewerage Scheme (SLI)	Wastewater treatment plant
Fethard-on-Sea Sewerage Scheme (SLI)	Wastewater treatment plant and network
Piercestown Sewerage Scheme (SLI)	Wastewater treatment plant
Schemes at planning stage up to end of 2012	
Wexford Sewerage Scheme	
Villages Sewerage Scheme, which applies to the following settlements: Arthurstown, Ballycanew, Ballyhack, Campile, Clonroche, Duncannon and Wellington	

Council Wastewater Treatment Plants			
WWTP/Agglomeration	Size	Design	PE/Load
Enniscorthy	10,000+ PE	30000	16500
Gorey/Courtown	10,000+ PE	30000	16000
New Ross	10,000+ PE	14000	9000
Wexford	10,000+ PE	45000	29000
Bunclody	2,001 - 10,000 PE	6500	6500
Castlebridge	2,001 - 10,000 PE	2404	2404
Coolgreany	2,001 - 10,000 PE	2400	2400
Ferns	2,001 - 10,000 PE	2250	2250
Rosslare Harbour	2,001 - 10,000 PE	9600	9600
Rosslare Strand	2,001 - 10,000 PE	7500	7500
Blackwater	1,001 - 2,000 PE	2000	2000
Kilmuckridge	1,001 - 2,000 PE	2000	2000
Bridgetown	1,001 - 2,000 PE	2000	2000
Duncannon	1,001 - 2,000 PE	0	1112
Fethard	1,001 - 2,000 PE	100	1291
Kilmore Quay	1,001 - 2,000 PE	0	1386
Ballagh	500 - 1,000 PE	650	650
Ballycannew	500 - 1,000 PE	150	700
Ballymurn	500 - 1,000 PE	600	600
Camolin	500 - 1,000 PE	150	590
Campile	500 - 1,000 PE	250	650
Clonroche	500 - 1,000 PE	600	900
Piercetown	500 - 1,000 PE	950	950
Taghmon	500 - 1,000 PE	600	980
Tagoat	500 - 1,000 PE	650	650
		160354	117613
Adamstown	<500 PE	900	488
Arthurstown	<500 PE	0	404
Ballindaggin	<500 PE	100	95
Ballycullane	<500 PE	75	239
Ballygarret	<500 PE	56	56
Ballygoman (Barntown)	<500 PE	32	32
Ballyhack	<500 PE	0	331
Ballyhine	<500 PE	80	88
Ballyhoge	<500 PE	125	120
Ballymoney	<500 PE	120	120
Ballywilliam	<500 PE	200	195
Boleyvogue	<500 PE	56	56
Bree	<500 PE	300	322
Carna	<500 PE	125	112
Carrick	<500 PE	600	371
Castledockrell	<500 PE	125	125
Clohamon	<500 PE	50	39
Clongeen	<500 PE	220	327
Crossabeg	<500 PE	30	32
Davidstown	<500 PE	120	121

Duncormick	<500 PE	150	148
Duncormick Lough	<500 PE	20	20
Glenbrien	<500 PE	150	140
Hollyfort	<500 PE	100	108
Killann	<500 PE	16	16
Killinierin	<500 PE	250	281
Kilmyshall	<500 PE	250	250
Kiltealy	<500 PE	75	87
Lady's Island	<500 PE	180	215
Marshallstown	<500 PE	160	164
Marshmeadows	<500 PE	80	80
Monagear	<500 PE	150	152
Monamolin	<500 PE	175	169
Morriscastle	<500 PE	50	50
Murrtown	<500 PE	175	206
Newbaun	<500 PE	60	56
Oilgate	<500 PE	148	148
Oulart	<500 PE	100	133
Rathnure	<500 PE	175	175
Roches Garden (Ballyconnigar)	<500 PE	16	16
Tellarought (Terrarath)	<500 PE	24	24
Tomhaggard	<500 PE	105	124
Wellingtonbridge	<500 PE	25	71
		5948	6506
		<u>166302</u>	<u>124119</u>

Transport Infrastructure

Improvements to quality of life and economic competitiveness in County Wexford are dependent on a range of transport options being available which are effective, efficient, safe, appealing to use and sustainable.

In compiling the Draft County Plan regard shall be paid to the Department of Transport document 'Smarter Travel, A Sustainable Transport Future' (2009), which sets out the Government's future transportation policy for the country. The primary objectives within 'Smarter Travel' are:

- Reduction in overall travel demand;
- Maximisation of the efficiency of the transport network;
- Reduction in reliance on fossil fuels;

- Reduction in transport emissions;
- Improvements to accessibility to transport to improve quality of life.

The consolidation and expansion of the designated hub, larger towns, district towns and strategic growth areas can encourage the use and development of a range of transport options and can reduce absolute reliance on the private car.

The Regional Planning Guidelines for the South East 2010-2020 had regard to the 'Smarter Travel' document in proposing that local authorities prepare a Local Transport Plan, to include a programme of measures to achieve targets regarding modal change to more sustainable means of travel. Wexford County Council's functional ability to deliver many aspects of the transportation mix may be limited, for example, the Council does not directly run bus services. However, in co-operation with other agencies, transport providers, and lobby groups, the Council will support the preparation of a Local Transport Plan for the county.

Major National Road Proposals in County Wexford

- Scheme: N11 / N25: Oilgate – Rosslare. Official Status at February 2012: Phase 2 Route Selection
- Scheme: New Ross Bypass. Official status at February 2012: Phase 5 (Advance Works & Construction Documents Preparation, Tender and Award) (Jointly with N11 Gorey to Enniscorthy)
- Scheme: N11 Gorey to Enniscorthy Official status at February 2012: Phase 5 (Advance Works & Construction Documents Preparation, Tender and Award) (Jointly with N11 Gorey to Enniscorthy)
- Scheme: N30 Clonroche to New Ross Official status at February 2012: Suspended

Rail

The Rosslare Harbour - Dublin line is now the only operating rail service in the county and is designated as a Strategic Radial Corridor in the National Spatial Strategy. Recent improvements to the rolling stock on this service are welcomed.

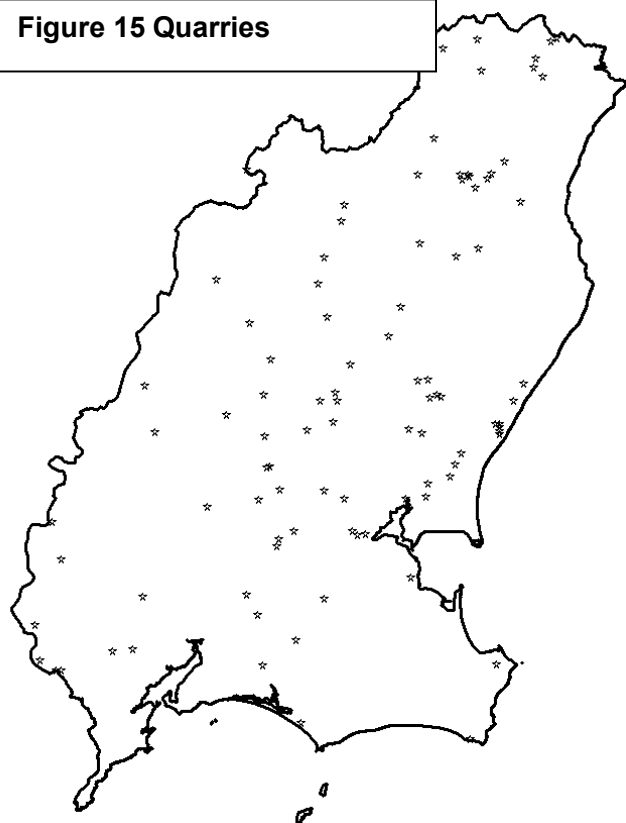
The Council regrets that services on the Rosslare Harbour / Waterford line closed in 2010 and will continue to support campaigns to restore the service. The County Council will also encourage and facilitate the re-opening of the New Ross - Waterford line for passengers and freight. There is significant potential for more freight traffic to be carried by rail in the county and the Council will encourage the development of the infrastructure required to facilitate this, such as a rail cargo depot at Rosslare.

Quarry and Mining sites

Modern mineral exploration commenced in the 1960s and continues today. The principal commodities being sought were copper, lead, zinc and gold in the volcanic rocks along the centre of the county. In the 19th Century lead was obtained from the Caim mine, near Enniscorthy. There are no active mines within the county.

Within the county there are 114 quarries in total; some active and some now disused, ranging in sizes, with 20 to 30 larger operating quarries.

Figure 15 Quarries



Material Assets: Existing Problems/Environmental Considerations

- Lack of adequate public transport in rural areas
- Air and noise pollution from heavily trafficked routes

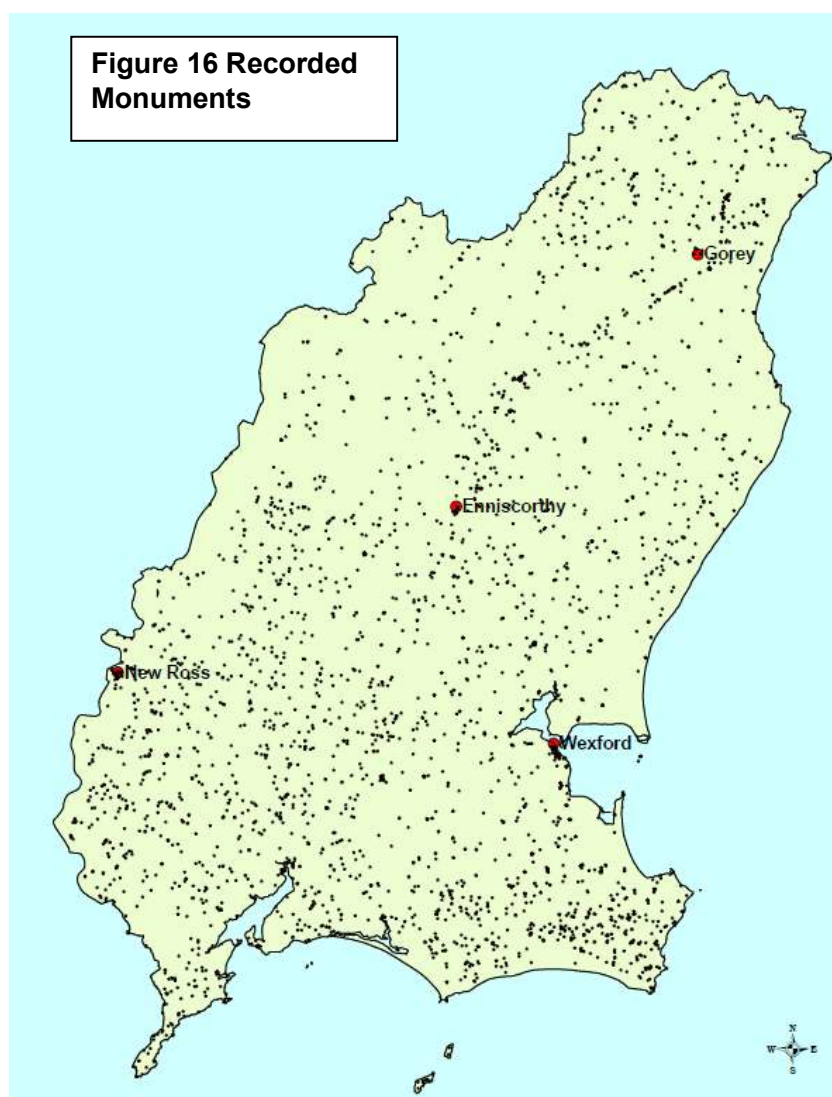
- Development of pedestrian and cycle routes within the county to encourage safe commuting and leisure
- Requirement for Hedgerow survey and management practices within the council having regard to Article 10 of the Habitats Directive
- Reduction of private car based movements
- Encourage sustainable commuting patterns.
- Impact of quarrying activities in areas of high environmental sensitivities

Cultural Heritage

The County Development Plan 2007-2013, in line with the Planning and Development Act (2010-2010) and government policy seeks to protect and conserve buildings, areas, structures and features of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.

Archaeology

Archaeological sites and monuments are protected under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004. The Record of Monuments and Places, which was established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994,



provides a statutory list of all known archaeological monuments in Ireland. It includes a set of maps and a list of monuments and places for each County. These are known as Recorded Monuments. Zones of archaeological potential are also included. There are more than 120,000 monuments on the Record of Monuments and Places in Ireland. Approximately 1,700 of these are located in County Wexford.

The Register of Historic Monuments was established under Section 5 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1987. Historic Monuments include all monuments in existence before 1700 AD or such later date as the Minister may appoint by regulations. There are 57 historic monuments registered for County Wexford. The majority of these are included on the Record of Monuments and Places.

A Preservation Order may be made by the Minister where a monument, which in his opinion is a national monument, is in danger of being or is actually being destroyed, injured or removed, or is falling into decay through neglect. 'National Monument' is defined as a monument or the remains of a monument, the preservation of which is a matter of national importance by reason of the historical, architectural, traditional, artistic, or archaeological interest. National Monuments in State guardianship or ownership have a notice on the site which states that the monument is a National Monument and is protected under the National Monuments Acts.

Table 2: National Monuments which are the subject of Preservation Orders

PO No.	Monument	Townland	Effective Date of Order	RMP No.
7/1956	Rectilinear	Courtballyedmond	22/02/56	WX016-022001-
3/1958	Barrow	Loftushall	15/10/58	WX049-015----
1/1979	Ringfort	Muchrath	11/01/79	WX048-019----
192	Baginbun Earthworks	Ramstown	18/07/52	WX050-015001- WX050-015002-
2/1974	Old Ross Motte	Springpark	11/10/74	WX030-052001-

Table 3: National Monuments in State Ownership or Guardianship

No.	Monument	Townland	Status	RMP No.
516	Ballyhack Castle	Ballyhack	Ownership	WX044-009001-
375	Motte	Ballymoty More	Ownership	WX020-041----
521	Ferns Castle	Castleland	Guardianship	WX015-003001-
665	Clone Church	Clone	Ownership	WX015-023001-
644	Coolhull Castle	Coolhull	Ownership	WX046-028---
192	Dunbrody Abbey (Cist.)	Dunbrody	Ownership	WX039-030001
668	Duncannon Fort	Duncannon	Guardianship	WX044-015001-
457	Tacumshane Windmill	Fence	Guardianship	WX053-006----
133	Ferns Abbey	Ferns Upper	Ownership	WX015-003004-
133	Ferns (St. Peters) Church	Ferns Upper	Ownership	WX015-003005-
133	Ferns Cathedral & Crosses	Ferns Upper	Ownership	WX015-003002- WX015-003009- WX015-003010- WX015-003011- WX015-003012- WX015-003013- WX015-003017- WX015-003018-
443	St. Mary's Church	New Ross	Guardianship	WX029-013002-
434	Rathmackee Castle	Rachmackee Great	Guardianship	WX042-029001-
229	Rathumney Castle	Rathumney	Ownership	WX040-028001-
429	Slade Castle	Slade	Guardianship	WX054-008001-
392	Windmill on Vinegar Hill	Templeshannon	Guardianship	WX020-032----
506	Tintern Abbey (Cist. Abbey, Church & bridge)	Tintern	Ownership	WX045-027001- WX045-028001- WX045-029001-
445	St. Selsker's Priory Church (Aug.)	Wexford Town	Guardianship	WX037-032009-

Architectural Heritage

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) includes approximately 1500 structures in the plan area which are considered by the Minister of the Environment,

Heritage and Local Government to be of intrinsic interest. The inclusion of these structures on the Record of Protected Structures will be considered as part of the County Development Plan review. There are currently 354 protected structures listed in the County Development Plan 2007-2013, which will be reviewed during the course of the plan review.

There are no Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA's) within the County Plan area. However there are ACA's proposed under the Town plans and Local Area Plans.

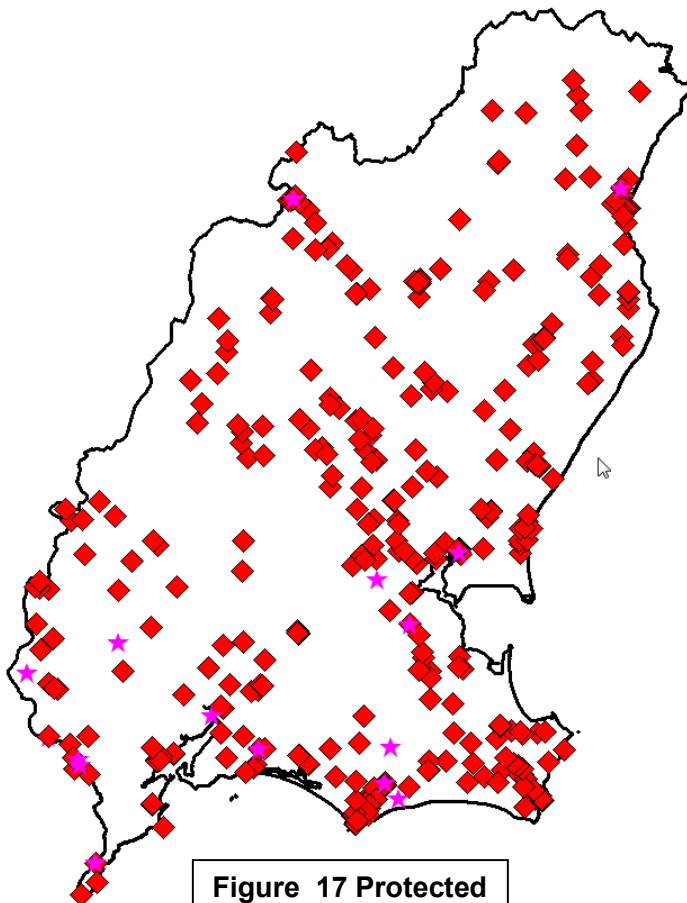


Figure 17 Protected Structures

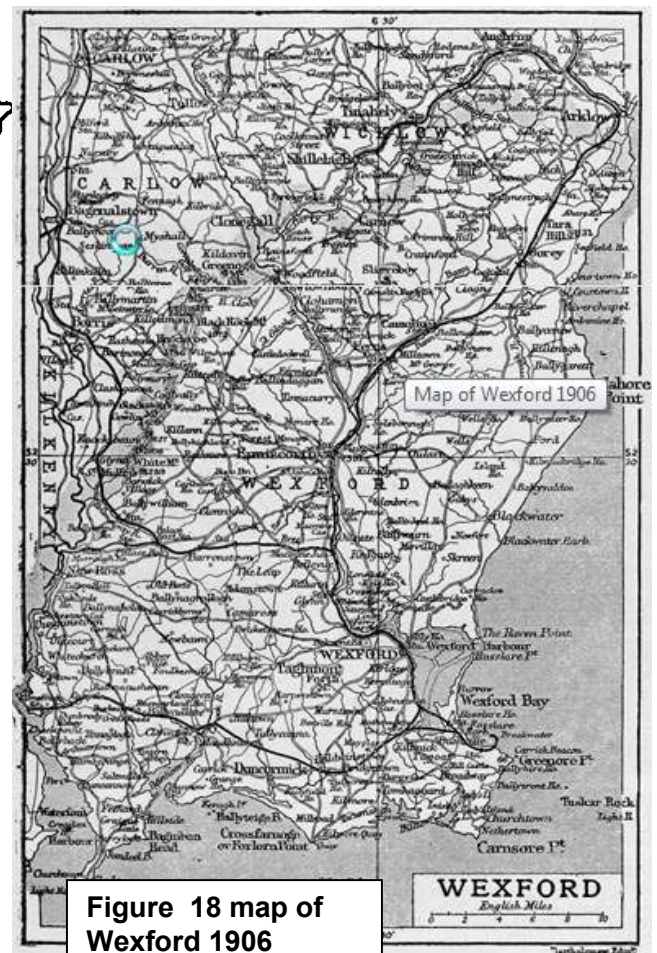


Figure 18 map of Wexford 1906

Cultural Assets Issues: Existing Problems/Environmental Considerations

- Identification of culturally important landscapes

- Absence of a County Heritage Plan
- Protection of thatched buildings within the county
- Impact of farming practices and development on recorded monuments
- Abandonment, vacancy and neglect of protected structures in current difficult economic times.

3.9 Climate Change and Sustainability

Climate Change is a transboundary issue affecting the entire globe and is fundamental to social stability and sustainable development. It is widely recognised that the build up of atmospheric Greenhouse gases (GHG) such as carbon dioxide is threatening global climate stability. The most recent greenhouse gas emissions for Ireland relate to 2009. The figures show that agriculture is the single largest contributor to the overall emissions, at 29.2% of the national total, followed by energy (power generation and oil refining) at 21% and transport at 21%. The remainder is made up by the residential sector at 12%, industry and commercial at 14.8%, and waste at 2%¹. The 2009 estimates of greenhouse gas emissions show a considerable annual reduction compared with 2008 emissions, which is largely attributed to the downturn in economic activity during 2009. It is important therefore greenhouse gas emissions are separated from economic growth in the interests of environmental sustainability.

Sustainable development within the county requires an integrated approach regarding sustainability and environmental performance. The decisions taken for the design and management of each component of the urban and rural system will give rise to the potential for individual and cumulative environmental effects.

Renewable Energy

Renewable energy sources have an important role to play in achieving national targets in relation to reductions in fossil fuel dependency and greenhouse gas emissions. The Council recognises the importance of developing renewable energy sources in the

¹ www.epa.ie

interest of delivering on the National Climate Change Strategy, of achieving a low carbon economy and security of energy supply. The term renewable energy generally refers to electricity supplied from renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar power, geothermal, hydropower and various forms of biomass.

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

Delivery of sustainable expansion of renewable energy is essential to reduce the scale of climate change. Careful and sensitive location of renewable energy developments, including wind farms, is key to minimising effects on nature conservation interests.

Climate Change & Sustainability: Existing Problems/Environmental Considerations

- How to link development to sustainable transport locations
- Reduction of transport movements
- Reduction of energy needs for building heating
- Creation of renewable energy
- Inclusion of a Wind strategy within the plan
- Ensure strict compliance with Article 6(4) of Habitats Directive

4.0 Consultation with Environmental Authorities

Wexford County Council is obliged under the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 as amended, to consult with the following prescribed environmental authorities in relation to the scope and level of detail to be included in the environmental report:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (DoECLG)
- Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht
- Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR)
- Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Food
- Adjoining Planning Authorities - County Manager of Waterford County Council, County Manager of Kilkenny County Council, County Manager of Carlow County Council and County Manager of Wicklow County Council.

The Environmental Authorities were given a period of not less than 4 weeks to make submissions or observations in relation to the initial Draft Scoping Report.

4.1 Submissions

Two submissions were received; The EPA and the Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht.

Submission 1

The Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht, submission is summarised as follows: Underwater Archaeological Heritage: The Department makes reference to the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004 and the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Resource. The Department makes reference to the rich coastal, freshwater and maritime heritage associated with Wexford and any Development Plan should include looking into the diversity of underwater cultural heritage found in lakes, rivers and coastal waters. Wexford's maritime heritage means that there is an extremely high potential for shipwreck archaeology along the coastline, with the record of shipwrecks being significant for this county.

Submission 2

EPA, Cian O'Mahony, submission is summarised as follows;

The identification of existing environmental issues under each of the SEA topics was noted and acknowledged. There was also reference made to the integration of the following:

- Provision of adequate and appropriate water service infrastructure including drinking water and waste water treatment infrastructure.
- Protection of ground and surface water quality.
- Protection of biodiversity including Natura 2000 sites, pNHAs and local biodiversity features.
- Protection of designated shellfish waters designated salmonid waters, freshwater pearl mussel catchments and bathing water quality.

In addition, there was enclosed an SEA Scoping Guidance Document and SEA Pack.

A SEA Scoping meeting was also held with the EPA on the 02nd March 2012 during the Environmental Authorities consultation period, and various items were discussed in relation to the scope of the Environmental report and baselines data sources and can be summarised as follows;

- Reference made to Floods Directive and South Eastern Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (CFRAMS)
- Integrated Biodiversity Action Impact Assessment on Draft for consultation
- Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine as a data source
- Compare previous baselines with the new baseline data on infrastructure and water quality for example.
- Alternatives for the county plan where there is no zoning of lands involved.
- Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sub Basin Management Plans still at draft.

5.0 Next Steps

This Final SEA Scoping Report along with the 2 submissions will be made available for public inspection at the Planning Authority's offices and will also be available to download at www.wexford.ie. The content of the submissions along with Cian O'Mahony (EPA) comments during the course of the Scoping meeting, will be considered and incorporated into the Environmental Report, where appropriate.

5.1 Preparation of Environmental Report

Following consultation with the Environmental Authorities an Environmental Report shall be carried out in parallel with the preparation of the plan. In addition to broadening the baseline information contained in Section 3 above, the Environmental Report will include:

- A list of Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) relevant to the plan, derived from international and national policy documents, strategies, guidelines, directives and conventions;
- An outline of the reasonable alternatives considered taking into account the higher level strategic policy and the geographical scope of the plan, an evaluation of these alternatives against the SEOs, and the reason for choosing the preferred alternative in light of the other alternatives considered;
- A description of the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the policies and objectives of the Draft County Development Plan;
- A description of any measures envisaged to prevent, reduce or offset any significant adverse environmental effects of implementing the plan;
- A description of the proposed monitoring measures; and
- A non-technical summary.

5.2 Public Consultation

In accordance with S.12(1) 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 the Draft County Development Plan and

the Environmental Report will be placed on public display for a period of not less than 10 weeks during which time submissions or observations may be made to the Planning Authority. Any submissions or observations in relation to the Draft County Development Plan or Environmental Report received during this period will be taken into consideration before the final adoption of the plan.

5.3 SEA Statement

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

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APPENDIX 1

Guidelines for Planning Authorities

- Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines, 2010
- Architectural Heritage Protection for Places of Worship, 2003
- Best Practice Urban Design Manual, 2008
- Childcare Facilities Guidelines, 2004
- Design Standards for New Apartments, 2007
- Development Contribution Scheme for Planning Authorities - Circular PD 5/2007
- Development Contribution Scheme for Planning Authorities - Circular PD4/2003
- Development Management Guidelines -June 2007
- Development Plan Guidelines -June 2007
- Draft Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines (June 2010)
- Implementing Regional Planning Guidelines- Best Practice Guidance, 2010
- Implementation of new EPA Code of Practice on WasteWater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses - Circular PSSP1/10
- Landscape and Landscape Assessment, 2000
- Planning & Development(Amendment)(No2)Regulations 2011 - Circular PSSP 7/11
- Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 (Circular PPL 1/2010)
- Provision of Schools and the Planning System, 2008
- Quality Housing for Sustainable Communities, 2007
- Quarries and Ancillary Activities, 2004
- Retail Planning Guidelines, 2012
- Rural Housing Policies and Local Need Criteria in Development Plans - Circular Letter SP/5/08
- Strategic Environmental Assessment Guidelines, 2004
- Sustainable Rural Housing Development Guidelines, 2005
- Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas, 2009
- Taking in Charge of Housing Estates / Management Companies, 2008

- Taking in Charge of Residential Developments Circular Letter PD 1/08
- Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures, 2004
- The Planning System and Flood Risk Management - Guidelines for Local Authorities, 2009
- Tree Preservation Guidelines
- Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations - Circular PD 7/09
- Wind Energy Development Guidelines, 2006

Guidelines issued by National Parks and Wildlife

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities, 2009
- Guidance on compliance with Regulation 23 of the Habitats regulations 1997, 2007
- Guidance for Planning Authorities on Drainage and Reclamation of Wetlands - consultation draft 2011