



Wexford County Council

**New Ross Town and Environs
Development Plan 2011-2017
Appropriate Assessment**

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background and Legislative Context

Wexford County Council is currently preparing a revised New Ross Town and Environs Development Plan 2011-2017. The Plan is being prepared under the provisions of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2007. The revised Development Plan will set out the long, medium and short-term vision of the future development of New Ross and Environs. It will set out a framework for the sustainable development of the town and environs that co-ordinates the needs and aspirations of its people, maximising the best-use of its resources, promoting its economic and social development, while preserving its natural and built environment.

The review of the New Ross Town and Environs Development Plan presents an opportunity to reinforce the planning strategies identified in the National Spatial Strategy (NSS), to promote and implement national strategy/policy/guidelines on sustainable development and environmental protection (*e.g.* Climate Change Strategy, Biodiversity Plan, Transport 21 and South East Regional Planning Guidelines).

The Development Plan and the objectives and policies contained within it will be developed (i) to facilitate the sustainable economic and social development of the town, through the promotion of a positive climate for development initiative within the plan area, (ii) to support and protect the environment, heritage, character and amenity of the town including the River Barrow and its environs (SAC), (iii) to upgrade and expand the towns physical infrastructure to accommodate existing and projected needs, (iv) to provide for a range of community facilities and amenities to serve the local community, including the educational, recreational, religious, civic needs of children, adolescents, adults and the elderly, (v) to promote a strong sense of community spirit, civic pride and social inclusion, (vi) to ensure that it has a vibrant and accessible town centre with a well developed public realm (vii) to conserve the natural and built environment of the town where it is recognised as having special value and (viii) to strengthen the urban structure in the County through the planned orderly development of New Ross.

The Development Plan will adopt a facilitative approach to development in New Ross while ensuring that this development does not result in any adverse impacts on environmental, heritage and cultural assets.



An important part in the development of the Draft Plan is how the Plan may impact on Natura Sites designated for nature conservation (*i.e.* Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas). The Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna – the ‘Habitats Directive’ provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive require an Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects likely to have a significant impact on the “integrity” of a European site. This means that the effects of such plans/projects on Natura 2000 sites need to be assessed to ensure that the integrity of these sites is maintained. Natura 2000 sites are those identified as sites of Community importance designated under the Habitats Directive (Special Areas of Conservation) or the Birds Directive (Special Protection Areas) and are also referred to as European sites.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive sets out the decision-making tests for Plans or Projects affecting Natura 2000 sites.

Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment:

“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public”

Article 6(4) of the Directive deals with alternative solutions, the test of “imperative reasons of overriding public interest” (IROPI) and compensatory measures:

“If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of social or economic nature, the Member State shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted”.

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The Appropriate Assessment of the Development Plan will:

- Reinforce the knowledge of the areas of high quality conservation and protected species present,
- Address potential impacts of planning and infrastructure policies on the Natura 2000 sites,
- Formulate policies that can be implemented to protect the sites.

Overall the Appropriate Assessment, and indeed the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Plan, will facilitate the implementation of sustainable and environmental protection policies at the highest level of planning for New Ross Town and its Environs.

This document forms part of the Appropriate Assessment of the Draft New Ross Town and Environs Development Plan 2011-2017, and in line with the recently published DoEHLG guidance, is called a **Natura Impact Statement** (formally Appropriate Assessment or Habitats Directive Assessment).



2 Methodology

2.1 Introduction

The Article 6 Assessment has been prepared taking cognisance of the following legislation and guidelines:

- Circular Letter SEA 1/087 & NPWS 1/08 Appropriate Assessment of Land Use Plans.
- Methodological Guidance on the Provision of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites.
- Council Directive 92/43/EEC Appropriate Assessment of Plans, Scott Wilson, Levett-Therivel Sustainability Consultants, Treweek Environmental.
- MANAGING NATURA 2000 SITES. The provisions of Article 6, of the 'Habitats' Directive 92 / 43 / CEE
- Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG) Circular letter SEA 1 / 08 & NPWS 1 / 08 dated 15 February, 2008.
- Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG) Appropriate Assessment Guidance for Planning Authorities (December 2009) and amended in March 2010.

Information and data gathered during the Appropriate Assessment process has fed into the SEA where appropriate and *visa versa*.

2.2 Brief Overview of Methodology

The Appropriate Assessment process follows four stages as outlined below:

Stage 1 – Screening of the New Ross Town & Environs Development Plan 2011-2017

The Screening Process will identify the likely impacts upon the Natura 2000 sites of the Draft New Ross Town & Environs Development Plan, either alone or in combination with other Plans and Projects and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant.

Ultimately, this process determines whether or not an Appropriate Assessment is required *i.e.* whether the objectives and policies of the Draft Plan are likely to negatively affect the conservation objectives of Natura



2000 sites. This will be done by examining the policies and objectives of the Draft Plan and determining if there are any potential impacts on the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 sites.

Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment of the New Ross Town & Environs Development Plan 2011-2017

The Appropriate Assessment determines the potential impacts of the Draft Plan on the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 sites (including Natura 2000 sites within a 15km radius of the Plan's boundary) and where necessary, mitigation or avoidance measures to preclude negative effects are recommended. The impacts assessed include the indirect and cumulative impacts of approving the Draft Plan, considered with any current or proposed activities, developments or policies impacting on the site(s). The potential impacts of policies and objectives outside the Natura 2000 sites but that potentially may impact upon them (known as 'ex situ' impacts) must also be included in the assessment.

Stage 3 – Assessment of Alternative Solutions

Stage 3 involves the examination of alternative ways of achieving the policies and objectives of a Plan that avoids adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site(s). This stage, along with Stage 4 below, was not required to be completed for the Draft New Ross Town & Environs Development Plan 2011-2017.

Stage 4 – Assessment of Compensatory Measures

Stage 4 is an assessment of compensatory measures, where, in the light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest, it is deemed that the Plan should proceed.

Stage 1 and 2 above relate to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and Stages 3 and 4 relate to Article 6(4).

2.3 Cumulative Effects

The National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020, the National Development Plan 2007-2013 and the Wexford County Development Plan 2007-2013, set the planning framework within which this Draft Plan has been prepared with the objective of achieving an optimal balance of social, economic and physical development in the Plan area. The effects of higher level Strategies and Plans are considered insofar as they inform the Draft Plan. Subsidiary plans and projects will be subject to separate assessment procedures in accordance with all applicable Regulations and Directives.



3 Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment Screening

3.1 Introduction

The Appropriate Assessment Screening process will determine whether the Draft New Ross Town and Environs Development Plan 2011-2017 is likely to have a significant effect on the conservation objectives of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC and designated sites within 15km of the Plan boundary.

This process requires an initial review of the Draft Plan in order to identify any policies or objectives within the Plan that may potentially impact upon the above Natura 2000 sites.

The Appropriate Assessment Screening Process will identify the likely impacts upon the Natura 2000 sites of the Draft New Ross Town and Environs Development Plan, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects and will consider whether these impacts are likely to be significant. Ultimately, this process determines whether or not an Appropriate Assessment is required *i.e.* whether the objectives and policies of the Draft Development Plan are likely to negatively affect the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites. This will be done by examining the policies and objectives of the Draft Plan and determining any potential impacts on the conservation objectives of the above Natura 2000 sites. The principal trigger for an Appropriate Assessment would be if there are any policies or objectives contained within the Draft Plan which are likely to have significant effects on the Natura 2000 sites.

3.2 Management of the Site

The Draft New Ross Town & Environs Development Plan is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the Natura 2000 sites. However, it does include, *inter alia*, measures to protect, conserve and manage the natural heritage in a prudent and sustainable manner, including Natura 2000 sites, and to seek its enhancement where appropriate and feasible.

3.3 Description of the Plan

3.3.1 Background of the Plan

The Draft Development Plan represents the main public statement of planning policies for the development of New Ross Town and its Environs. The Plan will seek to provide a vision and direction for the Town in order to facilitate and encourage continuous growth, and to provide a statutory context for guiding

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development. The Draft Plan has been prepared jointly by New Ross Town Council and Wexford County Council and continues the tradition of planning the Town and its Environs as a single entity.

New Ross is one of the four main towns in the urban hierarchy of Wexford County. It is identified in the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) as a key urban resource which will attract investment and employment activities additional to those that need to be located between the gateway of Waterford City and the designated hub of Wexford Town. The NSS envisages a high level of employment activity, high order shopping and a full range of social and educational facilities so that New Ross can become self sufficient and not develop into a dormer satellite for Wexford Town or Waterford City.

The Regional Planning Guidelines for the South East Region identifies New Ross as a 'Larger Town' under its settlement strategy. The guidelines envisages continued growth in New Ross but cautions that *'care must be taken to ensure that community, social and retail developments keep pace with recent rapid phases of mainly residential development'*.

The concept of sustainable development is embedded at the heart of all the proposed policies and objectives. The production of an Environmental Report, (as part of the mandatory Strategic Environmental Assessment) in parallel with the preparation of the Draft Town Plan and this Appropriate Assessment document, will all aid in achieving the objective of sustainable development.

3.3.2 Aims of the Plan

The proposed Plan will set out the overall proper planning and sustainable development of the town over a six year period 2011 – 2017. The main aims of the Draft New Ross Town & Environs Development Plan will be:

- To facilitate the sustainable economic and social development of the town, through the promotion of a positive climate for development initiative within the plan area;
- To support and protect the environment, heritage, character and amenity of the town including the River Barrow and its environs (SAC);
- To upgrade and expand the towns physical infrastructure to accommodate existing and projected needs;
- To provide for a range of community facilities and amenities to serve the local community, including the educational, recreational, religious, civic needs of children, adolescents, adults and the elderly;
- To promote a strong sense of community spirit, civic pride and social inclusion;



- To ensure it has a vibrant and accessible town centre with a well developed public realm;
- To conserve the natural and built environment of the town where it is recognised as having special value;
- To strengthen the urban structure in the County through the planned orderly development of New Ross.
- To promote tourism development which builds on the unique characteristics and distinctive elements of the town's history, culture and environment.

3.3.3 Structure and Content of the Plan

The Draft Plan comprises of a Written Statement, a volume of Appendices and a set of Maps. The Written Statement contains the strategies, policies and objectives for the Plan area and also includes the development standards which are used to assess planning applications. It must be noted that each chapter is not a stand-alone chapter, but should be read in conjunction with all other chapters and policies. In assessing any development proposed in the Plan area, the overall context will be informed by all relevant policies. The Maps provide a visual representation of the proposals contained in the Written Statement, indicating land use zoning and other control standards together with various objectives of the Councils.

The Written Statement is divided into the following sections:

- Chapter 1 outlines the background, legislative requirements and policy context for the development plan;
- Chapter 2 sets out the town profile using latest available census information. This section also identifies the main functions of the town, how it has evolved to date and the main challenges it faces;
- Chapter 3 sets out the overall Core Strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the town and environs for the plan period;
- Chapters 4–12 set out detailed policies and objectives under a range of specific topic headings which the Councils seek to achieve over the plan period and beyond;
- Chapter 13 sets out a series of Land Use Zoning Objectives – and accompanying definitions - which are given graphic representation on the Zoning Objectives Map. The Masterplan Zones are also identified in this section and the specific local objectives and development criteria that apply to each area are outlined;
- Chapter 14 contains the Urban Design Guide;



- Chapter 15 sets out Development Management Standards to be applied to future development proposals in the plan area. Their purpose is to help guide and assist the formulation of development proposals and to regulate the impact of development on the environment in pursuance of policies.

The Volume of Appendices contains supporting and background data/documents that help inform and clarify the broad context of the Written Statement. The Appendices include:

- I. Retail Strategy
- II. Housing Strategy
- III. Record of Protected Structures
- IV. New Ross Town Walls Conservation Plan
- V. Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
- VI. Strategic Environmental Assessment
- VII. Appropriate Assessment**
- VIII. Statement of how the Planning Authority has implemented Ministerial Guidelines

3.4 Natura 2000 Sites in and within 15 km of the Plan Area

The European Communities (Habitats) Directive 1992, established a network of sites throughout Europe, which are of international importance. It is comprised of Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) which together are known as Natura 2000 sites. Special Protection Areas aim to protect birds and this designation originates from the Birds Directive. There is no SPA's in the Plan Area (see **Figure 1** below). Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) protect habitats and species.

The River Barrow and River Nore is a Special Area of Conservation and a significant portion of this designated area is located within the Draft Plan area (see **Figure 1**). A summary of this designated site is outlined in the following sub-sections below and the site is discussed with respect to the requirement, or not, for an Appropriate Assessment.

Following guidance from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, all Natura 2000 sites within both the Plan area and an area extending 15km around it are considered. However, in this

regard there are no SPA's or SAC's within 15km radius of the Plan boundary. They are mapped on **Figure 1** and listed on the following table.

Table 1: Natura 2000 Sites (SPA and SAC's) within the Development Plan Area and within 15km of the Plan Area

Designation	Site Name & Code	Qualifying Interest	Threats
Designation within Development Plan Area			
Special Area of Conservation	River Barrow and River Nore SAC (002162)	<p>ANNEX I</p> <p>Alluvial Wet Woodlands, Petrifying Springs, Old Oak Woodlands, Floating Vegetation, Estuary, Tidal mudflats, Salicornia mudflats, Atlantic salt meadows, Mediterranean salt meadows, dry heath and eutrophic tall herbs.</p> <p>ANNEX II</p> <p>Sea Lamprey, River Lamprey, Brook Lamprey, Crayfish, Twaite Shad, Atlantic Salmon, Otter, <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>, Killarney Fern.</p>	Agricultural Run-Off; Discharges; Overgrazing; Invasion by Non-Native Species, Capital and Maintenance dredging; Land Reclamation.

The site synopsis for the River Barrow and River Nore SAC (002162) is appended at **Appendix A**.

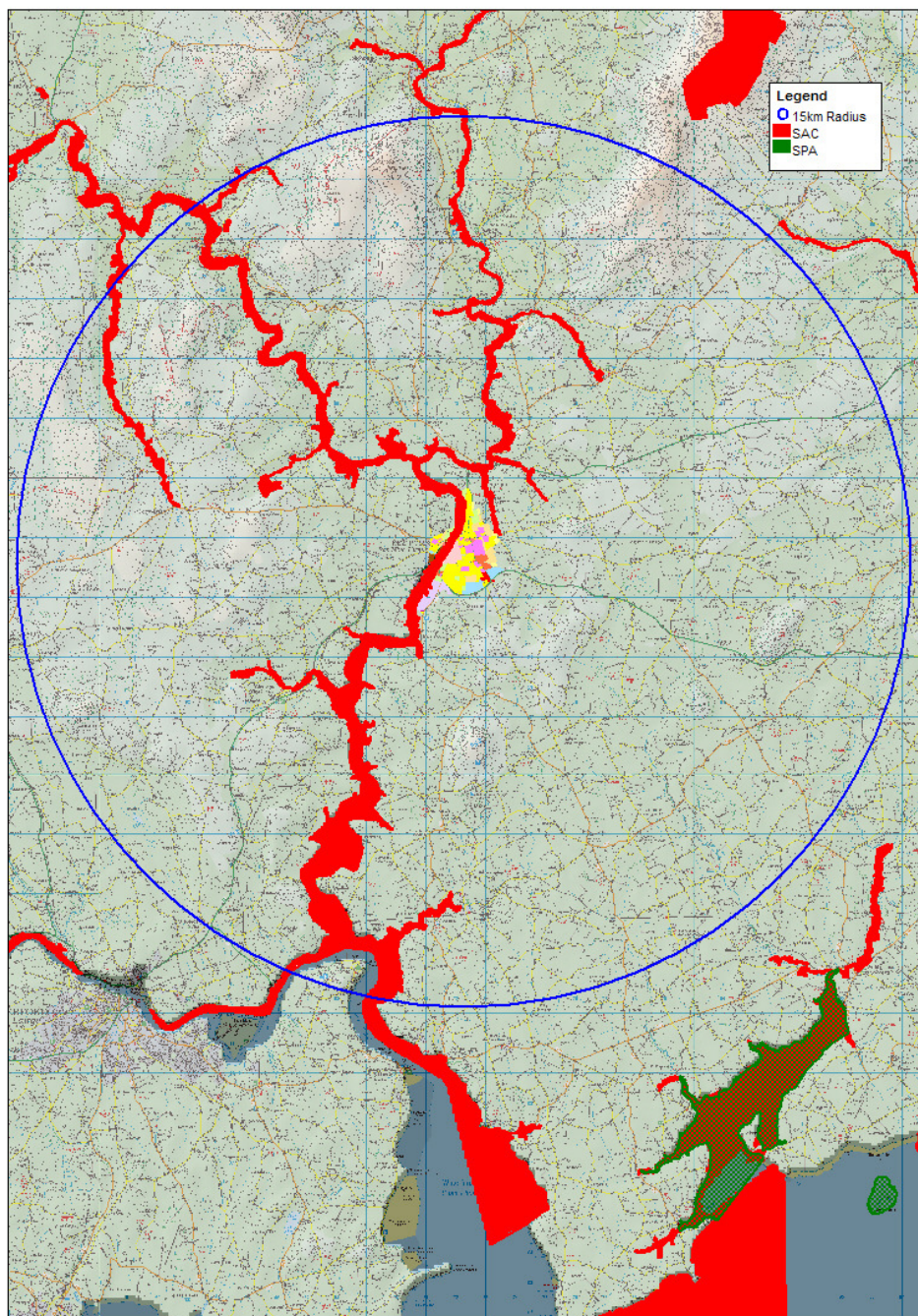


Figure 1: Natura 2000 Sites within the Development Plan Area and within 15km of the Plan Area



3.5 Conservation Objectives

Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include:

- To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site;
- To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest;
- To describe the site and its management;
- To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site;
- To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives.

Generic conservation objectives have been compiled for some SACs and SPAs. These are based on the sites' qualifying features. In time, specific conservation objectives will be written for the features of interest within each Designated Site.

3.5.1 River Barrow and River Nore SAC (002162),

With regard to the River Barrow and River Nore SAC (002162), there are no site specific conservation objectives. Therefore, the generic SAC conservation objectives apply to this site.

These are outlined below:

- To maintain the Annex I habitats for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: Estuaries; Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; *Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*); Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*); Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculus fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation; European dry heaths; Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels; Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*); Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in British Isles; Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*);
- To maintain the Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status: *Vertigo moulinsiana*; *Margaritifera margaritifera*; *Austropotamobius pallipes*; *Petromyzon marinus*; *Lampetra planeri*; *Lampetra fluviatilis*; *Alosa fallax*; *Salmo salar*; *Lutra lutra*; *Trichomanes speciosum*; *Margaritifera durrovensis*;



- To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site;
- To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.

3.5.2 Threats to Natura 2000 Sites

The main threats to the River Barrow and Nore SAC and current damaging activities, as outlined in the NPWS Site Synopsis, include high inputs of nutrients into the river system from agricultural run-off and several sewage plants, overgrazing within the woodland areas, and invasion by non-native species, for example, Cherry Laurel and Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*).

The water quality of the site remains vulnerable. Good quality water is necessary to maintain the populations of the Annex II animal species listed above. Good quality is dependent on controlling fertilisation of the grasslands, particularly along the Nore. It also requires that sewage be properly treated before discharge. Drainage activities in the catchment can lead to flash floods which can damage the many Annex II species present.

Capital and maintenance dredging within the lower reaches of the system pose a threat to migrating fish species such as lamprey and shad. Land reclamation also poses a threat to the salt meadows and the populations of legally protected species therein.

3.6 Assessment of Likely Effects

3.6.1 Effects of the Plan that are likely to be Significant

Effects of any Draft Plan that are likely to cause significant impacts on the integrity and conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites include:

- Any impact on an Annex I habitat.
- Reduction in the area of the habitat or Natura 2000 site.
- Direct or indirect damage to the physical quality of the environment (*e.g.* water quality) in the Natura 2000 site.
- Serious or ongoing disturbance to species or habitats for which the Natura 2000 site is selected (*e.g.* increased noise, illumination and human activity).

- Direct or indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations on the Natura 2000 site.
- Interfering with mitigation measures put in place for other Plans or Projects.

3.6.2 Elements of the Plan with Potential to Give Rise to Significant Effects

Individual elements of the Draft Plan were examined in terms of their potential impacts on the Natura 2000 sites in the context of a number of factors that could potentially affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites *e.g.* reductions in habitat area, disturbance to key species, habitat loss etc (see **Appendix B**).

Appendix B shows the elements of the Draft Plan (pre-draft of policies and objectives) which were identified to have the potential to impact on the integrity of the River Barrow and Nore SAC. A summary of this exercise is contained in **Table 2** below.

Table 2 Potential Impacts on Natura 2000 Sites

Site Name	Habitat Loss	Habitat Species Fragmentation or	Disturbance to Key Species	Reduction in Species Richness and Density	Changes in key indicators of Conservation Value
River Barrow and River Nore SAC	X	X	X	X	X

(X = Potential Impact; O = No Impact)

3.6.3 Screening Conclusion

The potential impacts that may arise from the implementation of the Draft Plan have been examined in terms of factors that may adversely impact on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites.

As outlined in **Table 2** and **Appendix B** there is the potential for the elements of the Draft Plan to negatively impact on the conservation objectives and/or integrity of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC. Therefore, an Appropriate Assessment of the Draft New Ross Town and Environs Development Plan 2011-2017, in relation to the potential for negative impacts on the River Barrow and River Nore SAC, is required.

4 Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment

4.1 Introduction

The Screening Assessment examined each individual policy and objective in the Draft Plan with respect to the Natura 2000 site (*i.e.* River Barrow and Nore SAC) and determined if possible impacts might arise from the Draft Plan in the context of a number of factors (*e.g.* habitat loss, habitat fragmentation, habitat and species disturbance *etc.*) that could potentially affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites.

The Screening Stage has concluded that an Appropriate Assessment of the Draft New Ross Town and Environs Development Plan 2011-2017 is required and identified the policies and objectives of the Plan that might potentially impact negatively, including potential impacts in combination with other plans or projects, on the conservation objectives of the following Natura 2000 Site:

Site Name & Code	Designation
River Barrow and River Nore SAC (002162)	Special Area of Conservation

The aim of Stage 2, the Appropriate Assessment, is to identify likely impacts of the Draft Plan and where necessary identify necessary changes to the Draft Development Plan that will avoid and mitigate any negative impacts on the Natura 2000 site and thereby avoid the need to progress to Stage 3, which would effectively constitute a rejection of the Plan in its current form and require the Town Council to implement compensatory measures for impacts on the Natura 2000 site.

4.2 Consultation

During the Strategic Environmental Assessment statutory consultation process, comments and submissions were received from the following statutory bodies:

- Environmental Protection Agency;
- Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources (DCMNR);
- Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Cognisance has been taken of their comments and recommendations during the preparation of this report.

4.3 Description of River Barrow and Nore SAC

The River Barrow and River Nore is a SAC selected for alluvial wet woodlands and petrifying springs, priority habitats on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. The site is also selected as a SAC for old oak woodlands, floating river vegetation, estuary, tidal mudflats, Salicornia mudflats, Atlantic salt meadows, Mediterranean salt meadows, dry heath and eutrophic tall herbs, all habitats listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. The site is also selected for the following species listed on Annex II of the same directive – Sea Lamprey, River Lamprey, Brook Lamprey, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Nore Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Crayfish, Twaite Shad, Atlantic Salmon, Otter, *Vertigo moulinsiana* and the plant Killarney Fern.

Details of the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the Natura 2000 site has been designated and details of the environmental factors which support these features (*i.e.* conservation objectives of the site) are dealt with in **Section 3.4** and **Section 3.5** of this report. Main threats to the site are outlined in **Table 1** of **Section 3.4** and **Section 3.5.3**. The full Site Synopsis for this Natura 2000 sites is appended at **Appendix A**.

4.4 Impact Avoidance Measures

The Draft Development Plan includes a number of individual policies and objectives that have the potential to impact adversely on the River Barrow and River Nore SAC (see **Section 4.5**). However, it also includes policies and objectives that would ensure the protection and enhancement of natural habitats. It is essential that at least equal weight is given to environmental protection policies as to “Development Policies” to ensure the protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC and biodiversity in general in the Development Plan area.

The Draft Plan contains the following environmental protection policies or policies which directly or indirectly will protect the River Barrow and River Nore SAC:

Policy IN03: To seek to ensure that the impacts of any industry on adjoining uses and the environment are minimised.

Policy SW01: To safeguard floodplains from inappropriate development. By retaining open spaces for storage and conveyance of floodwater, flood risk to both upstream and downstream areas can be more effectively managed without reliance on flood defences.



Policy SW02: To 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.

Policy SW03: Proposals for new developments in Flood Zone A and B for developments that are vulnerable to flooding shall 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 (DoEHLG, OPW November 2009). The assessment must detail how the Development Management Justification Test has been met.

Policy SW04: To facilitate the provision of suitable flood risk management infrastructure, for example flood defences, by the OPW, the local authority or private developers whilst ensuring the protection of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC through Appropriate Assessment.

Policy SW05: To require the provision of adequate storm water retention facilities in new developments, including the use of soft landscaping and sustainable drainage techniques. The Councils 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 stormwater management policy.

Policy NH01: To secure the conservation and the sustainable use of natural heritage in New Ross Town and Environs and ensure that it is taken into account at the earliest possible stage in the development process.

Policy NH02: To conserve and protect the ecological integrity of designated sites of international and national importance and sites proposed for designation, in particular, European sites (including Natura 2000 sites), and Ramsar sites, NHAs and statutory nature reserves.

Policy NH03: To carry out an Appropriate Assessment, in accordance with 'Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DoEHLG, 2010), for any plan or project which has the potential to damage the integrity of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC.



Policy NH04: To protect riparian zones and natural land drains by maintaining an adequate buffer zone (minimum 5-10m) along all watercourses and land drains, with no infilling or removal of vegetation within these buffer zones.

Policy NH06: To protect and enhance surface water and groundwater resources and associated habitats and species which are essential to ensure the highest water quality into the future, as set out in the Water Framework Directive with the aim of achieving "good status" by 2015.

Policy NH07: To strive to achieve the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan for the South Eastern River Basin District (SERBD) to achieve high water quality status for the River Barrow River Nore SAC and to support its special habitats and species contained within this designated site.

Policy NH08: To ensure the continued reduction in pollution of the New Ross Port and Barrow Nore Estuary Upper waterbodies, through the Pollution Reduction Programme, to improve water quality in this area of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC and ensure compliance with the Quality of Shellfish Waters Regulations 2006.

Objective NH01: To implement the policies and objectives of the National Biodiversity Plan and any Local Biodiversity Plan and/or Heritage Plan that is adopted for the County.

Landuse Zoning Objective (NA): To protect areas of high natural amenity.

4.5 The Likely Effects of the Draft Plan on Natura 2000 Sites

The key potential environmental impacts on the River Barrow and River Nore SAC likely to arise from the implementation of the review of the New Ross & Environs Development Plan are summarised below.

Key environmental impacts on the River Barrow and River Nore SAC include:

- Habitat loss, habitat or species fragmentation, disturbance to key species and reduction in species richness and density resulting from residential and commercial developments.
- Habitat loss, habitat or species fragmentation, disturbance to key species and reduction in species richness and density resulting from land reclamation.



- Removal or alteration of natural, semi-natural or man-made habitats have the potential to negatively impact on the biodiversity potential and conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 site
- General recreational and amenity development which promotes the use of the natural environment for leisure activities and proposes the development of walkways and other recreational uses in natural areas have the potential to impact on the integrity and conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 site.
- The most significant potential threats to the surface water environments are from urban drainage, unattenuated discharges to ground and landuse activities and discharges upstream of the town.

Elements of the Draft Plan which could give rise to impacts on the River Barrow and River Nore SAC include the following:

Policies & Objectives Relating to Transport

All ecosystems and their habitats and species are sensitive to disturbance, and an absence of excessive disturbance constitutes a key environmental factor for some of the species and habitats associated with the above River Barrow and Nore SAC. Development along the River Barrow should not result or contribute to any deterioration in the quality of the ecosystem and the design of structures (*e.g.* river crossings) should be sympathetic to nearby natural environments.

Objective TM09: Facilitate the construction of a third river crossing (A second bridge crossing forms part of the proposed New Ross Bypass) has the potential to impact negatively on the River Barrow and Nore SAC.

Policies & Objectives Relating to Infrastructure

Waste Water & Urban Discharges

The most significant potential threats to the surface water environments of New Ross Town and Environs (*e.g.* River Barrow and River Nore SAC) are from wastewater discharges, urban drainage, unattenuated discharges to ground and landuse activities and discharges upstream of the town.

The upgrading of the WWTP will have a positive impact on water quality in the River Barrow. However, a number of existing developments are still discharging directly to the River Barrow and other freshwater



sources. All efforts should be made to ensure that these developments are connected to public mains as soon as possible after the upgrading of the WWTP to optimise water quality status in accordance with the Water Framework Directive (WFD). Implementation of Policy WW02 "To require and facilitate the connection of existing developments in the Mountgarrett area that are served by private wastewater treatment facilities to connect to the town's wastewater treatment system" will contribute positively to optimising water quality status in accordance with the Water Framework Directive (WFD). However, all additional waste water discharges (*e.g.* SWO's) must be in line with the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations, 2001 and be in compliance with the EPA Waste Water Discharge Licence conditions.

The Water Quality Status of the New Ross Port and Barrow Nore Estuary Upper waterbodies significantly impacts upon the biodiversity, flora and fauna of the River Barrow River Nore SAC. The SAC is classified as a Protected Site under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and it is an objective of the River Basin Management Plan for the South Eastern River Basin District (SERBD) to achieve high water quality status for this site to support its special habitats and species.

It was deemed prudent to include a policy in the Draft Plan to ensure that the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan for the South Eastern River Basin District (SERBD), to achieve high water quality status for the SAC and to support the special habitats and species contained within this designated site, are realised. After discussions with the Planning Team, the following policy was included in the Draft Plan "**Policy NH07** To strive to achieve the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan for the South Eastern River Basin District (SERBD) to achieve high water quality status for the River Barrow River Nore SAC and to support its special habitats and species contained within this designated site".

The water quality status of the New Ross Port and Barrow Nore Estuary Upper waterbodies impacts on the Waterford Harbour Shellfish Area downstream. The results of monitoring for this Shellfish Area have indicated faecal contamination and elevated levels of dissolved inorganic nitrogen. A Pollution Reduction Programme is currently underway to protect and improve water quality in the area and ensure compliance with the Quality of Shellfish Waters Regulations 2006. It was deemed prudent to include a policy in the Draft Plan to ensure the continued reduction in pollution of the New Ross Port and Barrow Nore Estuary Upper waterbodies, through the Pollution Reduction Programme, to improve water quality in this area of the SAC and ensure compliance with the Quality of Shellfish Waters Regulations 2006. After discussions with the Planning Team, the following policy was included in the Draft Plan "**Policy NH08:** To ensure the continued reduction in pollution of the New Ross Port and Barrow Nore Estuary Upper waterbodies, through



the Pollution Reduction Programme, to improve water quality in this area of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC and ensure compliance with the Quality of Shellfish Waters Regulations 2006”.

Other recommendations relating to infrastructure policies and objectives which have been taken on board by the Planning Team prior to finalising the Draft policies and objectives for public consultation include the following:

Policy SW04: To facilitate the provision of suitable flood risk management infrastructure, for example flood defences, by the OPW, the local authority or private developers.

was amended to:

Policy SW04: To facilitate the provision of suitable flood risk management infrastructure, for example flood defences, by the OPW, the local authority or private developers *whilst ensuring the protection of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC through Appropriate Assessment.*

Policy SW05: To require the provision of adequate storm water retention facilities in new developments, including the use of soft landscaping and sustainable drainage techniques. The Councils will seek to ensure that all proposed drainage systems are consistent with Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS).

was amended to:

Policy SW05: To require the provision of adequate storm water retention facilities in new developments, including the use of soft landscaping and sustainable drainage techniques. The Councils 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 stormwater management policy.*

Policy WW01: To provide optimum Wastewater Treatment facilities and infrastructure to serve the existing and future population of New Ross Town and Environs.

was amended to:

Policy WW01: To provide optimum Wastewater Treatment facilities and infrastructure to serve the existing and future population of New Ross Town and Environs *whilst ensuring waste water discharge effluent standards are in line with the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations, 2001 and*



functioning of the facilities are in compliance with EPA Waste Water Discharge Licence conditions.

Policies & Objectives Relating to Recreation & Open Space and Tourism, Arts and Culture

A number of policies are included in the Draft Development Plan in relation to maximising rivers as amenity areas. Inappropriate uses or over use of these areas may have the potential to impact on water quality of the designated areas, hence impacting on Annex I and Annex II species and habitats.

After discussions with the Planning Team the **Policy OS02:** To facilitate the continued enhancement of the quayside and riverfront areas in accordance with the New Ross Urban Design Waterfront Study 2006 adopted by New Ross Town Council" was amended to "**Policy OS02:** To facilitate the continued enhancement of the quayside and riverfront areas in accordance with the New Ross Urban Design Waterfront Study 2006 adopted by New Ross Town Council, *whilst ensuring the protection of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC through Appropriate Assessment Screening" to ensure protection of the integrity and conversation objectives of the SAC*".

Other policies amended after discussions with the Planning Team include the following:

The **Policy PRW03:** To promote the development of river-side walking routes and foster the enjoyment of the natural amenities of the area including the River Barrow whilst protecting areas of ecological value was amended to "**PRW03:** To promote the development of river-side walking routes and foster the enjoyment of the natural amenities of the area including the River Barrow *whilst protecting areas of ecological value and ensuring that any development take cognisance of the aims and objectives of the Water Framework Directive and achieving "good status" by 2015 and ensures protection of designated sites through Appropriate Assessment Screening*".

The **Policy T06:** To ensure the full recreational potential of the River Barrow and its estuary is realised" was amended to "**Policy T06:** To ensure the full recreational potential of the River Barrow and its estuary is realised *whilst taking cognisance of the aims and objectives of the Water Framework Directive River Basin District Management Plan and achieving "good status" by 2015*".

Following consideration by the elected members, the **Objective T03** To develop the potential of the River Barrow for inland navigation, in association with Waterways Ireland, the Regional Authority and other Local Authorities and to facilitate the development of appropriate facilities in the vicinity of the Marina and the



Boat Club was amended to **"Objective T03:** To develop the potential of the River Barrow for inland navigation and appropriate facilities, such as a river taxi, in association with Waterways Ireland, the Harbour Master and other relevant authorities. *Any such development should take cognisance of the aims and objectives of the Water Framework Directive and should ensure the protection of designated sites through Appropriate Assessment Screening".*

Zoning Objectives

Lands immediately adjacent to the River Barrow and River Nore SAC are zoned for "Town centre (TC), Existing Residential & Infill (R), Industry (I), New Residential (NR), Neighbourhood Centre (NC), Community & Educational (CE), Amenity & Open Space (OSA), Mixed Use (MU), Commercial (C) and Natural Amenity (NA)". These draft zoning objectives, apart from Natural Amenity, when considered alone, have the potential to impact on the integrity and conservation of the Natura 2000 site. However, it is considered that the Council's commitment to Appropriate Assessment *i.e. "To carry out an Appropriate Assessment, in accordance with 'Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DoEHLG, 2010), for any plan or project which has the potential to damage the integrity of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC"*, and the recommendations already taken on board, along with the amendments proposed in **Section 5 Mitigation Measures** of this report will be sufficient to prevent inappropriate development from occurring within the boundary of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC, thereby protecting (directly and/or indirectly) the integrity and conservation objectives of this Natura 2000 sites.

Revised/New Draft Policies and Objectives

The revised Draft policies and objectives, as detailed above, were examined in terms of their potential impacts on the River Barrow and River Nore SAC. It was deemed that the revised Draft policies and objectives would negate any previously indicated potential impacts, thereby giving no significant negative effects on the River Barrow and River Nore SAC (see **Appendix C**).

A number of additional new draft policies and objectives were examined (subsequent to the initial screening exercise) in terms of their potential to impact negatively on the River Barrow and River Nore SAC (see **Appendix C**). It was deemed that **Objective OS04:** To examine the feasibility of providing a woodland walk along the eastern bank of the river to north of the town and to facilitate the development of new

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pedestrian linkages from Craywell Road to the proposed woodland walk, has the potential to negatively affect the integrity and conservation objectives of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC.

5 Mitigation Measures

This section of the report details the proposals for amendments/inclusion of objectives and policies to the Draft Plan. This mitigation will ensure that no negative impacts arise on the River Barrow and River Nore SAC as a result of implementation of the Plan.

Amendments to policies and objectives, which have been taken on board to date, during this planning process are tabled below. After the Screening process (Stage 1) of the initial pre-draft policies and objectives (**Appendix B**), it was deemed an Appropriate Assessment was required. During the early stages of the Appropriate Assessment process, the Development Plan Team amended policies and objectives, as per recommendations in earlier Draft versions of this Appropriate Assessment report in order to avoid potentially damaging plan objectives, policies or spatial allocations.

Table 3 Recommendations for Pre-Draft Policies and Objectives
Transportation Strategy
<p>Policy TM09: Support New Ross Port Authority in developing the commercial port by facilitating the future development of the portal estate at Marshmeadows, including the facilitation of an additional wharf and construction of warehousing and open storage.</p> <p>was amended to:</p> <p>Policy TM09: Support New Ross Port Authority in developing the commercial port by facilitating the future development of the portal estate at Marshmeadows, including the facilitation of an additional wharf and construction of warehousing and open storage, <i>whilst ensuring the protection of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC integrity and conservation objectives through Appropriate Assessment Screening of any proposed development.</i></p>
<p>Policy WS01: Ensure an adequate, sustainable and economic supply of good quality water for domestic, commercial and industrial needs for the lifetime of this plan.</p> <p>was amended to:</p> <p>Policy WS01: Ensure an adequate, sustainable and economic supply of good quality water for domestic, commercial and industrial needs for the lifetime of this plan, <i>whilst ensuring the protection of the</i></p>

Table 3 Recommendations for Pre-Draft Policies and Objectives

River Barrow and River Nore SAC through Appropriate Assessment of any proposed development and ensuring the maintenance of adequate flows within these rivers if water abstraction(s) are required.

Policy SW04: To facilitate the provision of suitable flood risk management infrastructure, for example flood defences, by the OPW, the local authority or private developers.

was amended to:

Policy SW04: To facilitate the provision of suitable flood risk management infrastructure, for example flood defences, by the OPW, the local authority or private developers *whilst ensuring the protection of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC through Appropriate Assessment.*

Policy SW05: To require the provision of adequate storm water retention facilities in new developments, including the use of soft landscaping and sustainable drainage techniques. The Councils will seek to ensure that all proposed drainage systems are consistent with Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS).

was amended to:

Policy SW05: To require the provision of adequate storm water retention facilities in new developments, including the use of soft landscaping and sustainable drainage techniques. The Councils 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 stormwater management policy.*

Policy WW01: To provide optimum Wastewater Treatment facilities and infrastructure to serve the existing and future population of New Ross Town and Environs.

was amended to:

Policy WW01: To provide optimum Wastewater Treatment facilities and infrastructure to serve the existing and future population of New Ross Town and Environs *whilst ensuring waste water discharge effluent standards are in line with the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations, 2001 and functioning of the facilities are in compliance with EPA Waste Water Discharge Licence conditions.*

Table 3 Recommendations for Pre-Draft Policies and Objectives

Recreation & Open Space

Policy OS02: To facilitate the continued enhancement of the quayside and riverfront areas in accordance with the New Ross Urban Design Waterfront Study 2006 adopted by New Ross Town Council.

was amended to:

Policy OS02: To facilitate the continued enhancement of the quayside and riverfront areas in accordance with the New Ross Urban Design Waterfront Study 2006 adopted by New Ross Town Council, *whilst ensuring the protection of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC through Appropriate Assessment Screening.*

Policy PRW03: To promote the development of river-side walking routes and foster the enjoyment of the natural amenities of the area including the River Barrow whilst protecting areas of ecological value.

was amended to:

Policy PRW03: To promote the development of river-side walking routes and foster the enjoyment of the natural amenities of the area including the River Barrow whilst protecting areas of ecological value and *ensuring that any development takes cognisance of the aims and objectives of the Water Framework Directive and achieving "good status" by 2015 and ensures protection of designated sites through Appropriate Assessment Screening.*

Tourism, Arts and Culture

Policy T06: To ensure the full recreational potential of the River Barrow and its estuary is realised.

was amended to:

Policy T06: To ensure the full recreational potential of the River Barrow and its estuary is realised *whilst taking cognisance of the aims and objectives of the Water Framework Directive River Basin District Management Plan and achieving "good status" by 2015.*

Objective T03: To develop the potential of the River Barrow for inland navigation, in association with Waterways Ireland, the Regional Authority and other Local Authorities and to facilitate the development of appropriate facilities in the vicinity of the Marina and the Boat Club.

was amended to:

Objective T03: To develop the potential of the River Barrow for inland navigation and appropriate

Table 3 Recommendations for Pre-Draft Policies and Objectives

facilities, such as a river taxi, in association with Waterways Ireland, the Harbour Master and any other relevant authorities. **Any such development should take cognisance of the aims and objectives of the Water Framework Directive and should ensure the protection of designated sites through Appropriate Assessment screening.**

It was deemed prudent to include the following additional policies in the Draft Plan to ensure that the integrity and conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 site are protected:

Policy NH05: Protect and enhance surface water and groundwater resources and associated habitats and species which are essential as part of an integrated approach to the management of water resources, necessary to ensure the highest water quality into the future, as set out in the Water Framework Directive with the aim of achieving “good status” by 2015.

Policy NH06: To strive to achieve the objective of the River Basin Management Plan for the South Eastern River Basin District (SERBD) to achieve high water quality status for the River Barrow and River Nore SAC and to support its special habitats and species contained within this designated site.

Policy NH07: To ensure the continued reduction in pollution of the New Ross Port and Barrow Nore Estuary Upper waterbodies, through the Pollution Reduction Programme, to improve water quality in this area of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC and ensure compliance with the Quality of Shellfish Waters Regulations 2006.

Policy NH08: To strive to ensure that existing developments that are still discharging directly to the River Barrow and other freshwater sources are connected to public mains as soon as possible to optimise water quality status in accordance with the Water Framework Directive (WFD) with the aim of achieving “good status” by 2015.

Further mitigation measures which should be taken on board include the following:

Transportation Strategy

Objective TM09: Facilitate the construction of a third river crossing, as indicated on Map 10, (A second bridge crossing forms part of the proposed New Ross Bypass).

Should be amended to:

Objective TM09: Facilitate the construction of a third river crossing, as indicated on Map 10, (A second bridge crossing forms part of the proposed New Ross Bypass), *whilst ensuring the protection of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC through Appropriate Assessment Screening.*

Infrastructure

Policy WW02: To require and facilitate the connection of existing developments in the Mountgarrett area that are served by private wastewater treatment facilities to connect to the town's wastewater treatment system.

Should be amended to:

Policy WW02: To require and facilitate the connection of existing developments in the Mountgarrett area that are served by private wastewater treatment facilities to connect to the town's wastewater treatment system, *whilst ensuring that all additional waste water discharges (SWO's) are in line with the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations, 2001 and are in compliance with the EPA Waste Water Discharge Licence conditions.*

Recreation & Open Space

Objective OS04: To examine the feasibility of providing a woodland walk along the eastern bank of the river to north of the town and to facilitate the development of new pedestrian linkages from Craywell Road to the proposed woodland walk

Should be amended to:

Objective OS04: To examine the feasibility of providing a woodland walk along the eastern bank of the river to north of the town and to facilitate the development of new pedestrian linkages from Craywell Road

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to the proposed woodland walk, *whilst ensuring the protection of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC through Appropriate Assessment Screening.*



6 Conclusion

After completing the Appropriate Assessment, it can be concluded that, once the mitigation measures of **Section 5** have been incorporated into the Draft Plan, no significant negative effects on the River Barrow and River Nore SAC are likely to arise as a result of the implementation of the New Ross Town and Environs Development Plan 2011-2017.



Appendix A

River Barrow and River Nore SAC Site Synopsis





SITE NAME: RIVER BARROW AND RIVER NORE SAC

SITE CODE: 002162

This site consists of the freshwater stretches of the Barrow/Nore River catchments as far upstream as the Slieve Bloom Mountains and it also includes the tidal elements and estuary as far downstream as Creadun Head in Waterford. The site passes through eight counties – Offaly, Kildare, Laois, Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Wexford and Waterford.

Major towns along the edge of the site include Mountmellick, Portarlinton, Monasterevin, Stradbally, Athy, Carlow, Leighlinbridge, Graiguenamanagh, New Ross, Inistioge, Thomastown, Callan, Bennettsbridge, Kilkenny and Durrow. The larger of the many tributaries include the Lerr, Fushoge, Mountain, Aughavaud, Owenass, Boherbaun and Stradbally Rivers of the Barrow and the Delour, Dinin, Erkina, Owveg, Munster, Arrigle and King's Rivers on the Nore. Both rivers rise in the Old Red Sandstone of the Slieve Bloom Mountains before passing through a band of Carboniferous shales and sandstones. The Nore, for a large part of its course, traverses limestone plains and then Old Red Sandstone for a short stretch below Thomastown. Before joining the Barrow it runs over intrusive rocks poor in silica. The upper reaches of the Barrow also runs through limestone. The middle reaches and many of the eastern tributaries, sourced in the Blackstairs Mountains, run through Leinster Granite. The southern end, like the Nore runs over intrusive rocks poor in silica. Waterford Harbour is a deep valley excavated by glacial floodwaters when the sea level was lower than today. The coast shelves quite rapidly along much of the shore.

The site is a candidate SAC selected for alluvial wet woodlands and petrifying springs, priority habitats on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. The site is also selected as a candidate SAC for old oak woodlands, floating river vegetation, estuary, tidal mudflats, Salicornia mudflats, Atlantic salt meadows, Mediterranean salt meadows, dry heath and eutrophic tall herbs, all habitats listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. The site is also selected for the following species listed on Annex II of the same directive - Sea Lamprey, River Lamprey, Brook Lamprey, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Nore Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Crayfish, Twaite Shad, Atlantic Salmon, Otter, *Vertigo moulinsiana* and the plant Killarney Fern.

Good examples of Alluvial Forest are seen at Rathsnagadan, Murphy's of the River, in Abbeyleix estate and along other shorter stretches of both the tidal and freshwater elements of the site. Typical species seen include Almond Willow (*Salix triandra*), White Willow (*S. alba*), Grey Willow (*S. cinerea*), Crack Willow (*S. fragilis*), Osier (*S. viminalis*), with Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), Hemlock Water-dropwort (*Oenanthe crocata*),

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Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*), Thin-spiked Wood-sedge (*Carex strigosa*), Pendulous Sedge (*C. pendula*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*) and the Red Data Book species Nettle-leaved Bellflower (*Campanula trachelium*). Three rare invertebrates have been recorded in this habitat at Murphy's of the River. These are: *Neoascia obliqua* (Diptera: Syrphidae), *Tetanocera freyi* (Diptera: Sciomyzidae) and *Dictya umbrarum* (Diptera: Sciomyzidae).

A good example of petrifying springs with tufa formations occurs at Dysart Wood along the Nore. This is a rare habitat in Ireland and one listed with priority status on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. These hard water springs are characterised by lime encrustations, often associated with small waterfalls. A rich bryophyte flora is typical of the habitat and two diagnostic species, *Cratoneuron commutatum* var. *commutatum* and *Eucladium verticillatum*, have been recorded.

The best examples of old Oak woodlands are seen in the ancient Park Hill woodland in the estate at Abbeyleix; at Kyleadohir, on the Delour, Forest Wood House, Kylecorragh and Brownstown Woods on the Nore; and at Cloghristic Wood, Drummond Wood and Borris Demesne on the Barrow, though other patches occur throughout the site.

Abbeyleix Woods is a large tract of mixed deciduous woodland which is one of the only remaining true ancient woodlands in Ireland. Historical records show that Park Hill has been continuously wooded since the sixteenth century and has the most complete written record of any woodland in the country. It supports a variety of woodland habitats and an exceptional diversity of species including 22 native trees, 44 bryophytes and 92 lichens. It also contains eight indicator species of ancient woodlands. Park Hill is also the site of two rare plants, Nettle-leaved Bellflower and the moss *Leucodon sciuroides*. It has a typical bird fauna including Jay, Long-eared Owl and Raven. A rare invertebrate, *Mitostoma chrysomelas*, occurs in Abbeyleix and only two other sites in the country. Two flies *Chrysogaster virescens* and *Hybomitra muhlfeldi* also occur. The rare *Myxomycete* fungus, *Licea minima* has been recorded from woodland at Abbeyleix.

Oak woodland covers parts of the valley side south of Woodstock and is well developed at Brownsford where the Nore takes several sharp bends. The steep valley side is covered by Oak (*Quercus* spp.), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Birch (*Betula pubescens*) with some Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). All the trees are regenerating through a cover of Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) Wood Rush (*Luzula sylvatica*) and Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*).



On the steeply sloping banks of the River Nore about 5 km west of New Ross, in County Kilkenny, Kylecorragh Woods form a prominent feature in the landscape. This is an excellent example of a relatively undisturbed, relict Oak woodland with a very good tree canopy. The wood is quite damp and there is a rich and varied ground flora. At Brownstown a small, mature Oak-dominant woodland occurs on a steep slope. There is younger woodland to the north and east of it. Regeneration throughout is evident. The understorey is similar to the woods at Brownsford. The ground flora of this woodland is developed on acidic, brown earth type soil and comprises a thick carpet of Bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*), Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Hard Fern (*Blechnum spicant*), Cowwheat (*Melampyrum* spp.) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*).

Borris Demesne contains a very good example of a semi-natural broad-leaved woodland in very good condition. There is quite a high degree of natural re-generation of Oak and Ash through the woodland. At the northern end of the estate Oak species predominate.

Drummond Wood, also on the Barrow, consists of three blocks of deciduous woods situated on steep slopes above the river. The deciduous trees are mostly Oak species. The woods have a well established understorey of Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), and the herb layer is varied, with Brambles abundant. Whitebeam (*Sorbus devoniensis*) has also been recorded.

Eutrophic tall herb vegetation occurs in association with the various areas of alluvial forest and elsewhere where the flood-plain of the river is intact. Characteristic species of the habitat include Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Marsh Ragwort (*Senecio aquaticus*), Ground Ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*) and Hedge Bindweed (*Calystegia sepium*). Indian Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), an introduced and invasive species, is abundant in places.

Floating River Vegetation is well represented in the Barrow and in the many tributaries of the site. In the Barrow the species found include Water Starworts (*Callitriche* spp.), Canadian Pondweed (*Elodea canadensis*), Bulbous Rush (*Juncus bulbosus*), Milfoil (*Myriophyllum* spp.), *Potamogeton x nitens*, Broad-leaved Pondweed (*P. natans*), Fennel Pondweed (*P. pectinatus*), Perfoliated Pondweed (*P. perfoliatus*) and Crowfoots (*Ranunculus* spp.). The water quality of the Barrow has improved since the vegetation survey was carried out (EPA, 1996).



Dry Heath at the site occurs in pockets along the steep valley sides of the rivers especially in the Barrow Valley and along the Barrow tributaries where they occur in the foothills of the Blackstairs Mountains. The dry heath vegetation along the slopes of the river bank consists of Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) species with patches of acidic grassland vegetation. Additional typical species include Heath Bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*), Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*), Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*) and Bent Grass (*Agrostis stolonifera*). On the steep slopes above New Ross the Red Data Book species Greater Broomrape (*Orobancha rapum-genistae*) has been recorded.

Where rocky outcrops are shown on the maps Bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*) and Wood Rush (*Luzula sylvatica*) are present. At Ballyhack a small area of dry heath is interspersed with patches of lowland dry grassland. These support a number of Clover species including the legally protected Clustered Clover (*Trifolium glomeratum*) - a species known from only one other site in Ireland. This grassland community is especially well developed on the west side of the mud-capped walls by the road. On the east of the cliffs a group of rock-dwelling species occur, i.e. English Stonecrop (*Sedum anglicum*), Sheep's-bit (*Jasione montana*) and Wild Madder (*Rubia peregrina*). These rocks also support good lichen and moss assemblages with *Ramalina subfarinacea* and *Hedwigia ciliata*.

Dry Heath at the site generally grades into wet woodland or wet swamp vegetation lower down the slopes on the river bank. Close to the Blackstairs Mountains, in the foothills associated with the Aughnabriskey, Aughavaud and Mountain Rivers there are small patches of wet heath dominated by Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*) with Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), Carnation Sedge (*Carex panicea*) and Bell Heather (*Erica cinerea*).

Saltmeadows occur at the southern section of the site in old meadows where the embankment has been breached, along the tidal stretches of in-flowing rivers below Stokestown House, in a narrow band on the channel side of Common Reed (*Phragmites*) beds and in narrow fragmented strips along the open shoreline. In the larger areas of salt meadow, notably at Carrickcloney, Ballinlaw Ferry and Rochestown on the west bank; Fisherstown, Alderton and Great Island to Dunbrody on the east bank, the Atlantic and Mediterranean sub types are generally intermixed. At the upper edge of the salt meadow in the narrow ecotonal areas bordering the grasslands where there is significant percolation of salt water, the legally protected species Borrer's Saltmarsh-grass (*Puccinellia fasciculata*) and Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*) (Flora Protection Order, 1987) are found. The very rare Divided Sedge (*Carex divisa*) is also found. Sea Rush (*Juncus maritimus*) is also present. Other plants recorded and associated with salt



meadows include Sea Aster (*Aster tripolium*), Sea Thrift (*Armeria maritima*), Sea Couch (*Elymus pycnanthus*), Spear-leaved Orache (*Atriplex prostrata*), Lesser Sea-spurrey (*Spergularia marina*), Sea Arrowgrass (*Triglochin maritima*) and Sea Plantain (*Plantago maritima*). Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand are found in the creeks of the saltmarshes and at the seaward edges of them. The habitat also occurs in small amounts on some stretches of the shore free of stones.

The estuary and the other Habitats Directive Annex I habitats within it form a large component of the site. Extensive areas of intertidal flats, comprised of substrates ranging from fine, silty mud to coarse sand with pebbles/stones are present. Good quality intertidal sand and mudflats have developed on a linear shelf on the western side of Waterford Harbour, extending for over 6 km from north to south between Passage East and Creadaun Head, and in places are over 1 km wide. The sediments are mostly firm sands, though grade into muddy sands towards the upper shore. They have a typical macro-invertebrate fauna, characterised by polychaetes and bivalves. Common species include *Arenicola marina*, *Nephtys hombergii*, *Scoloplos armiger*, *Lanice conchilega* and *Cerastoderma edule*.

The western shore of the harbour is generally stony and backed by low cliffs of glacial drift. At Woodstown there is a sandy beach, now much influenced by recreation pressure and erosion. Behind it a lagoonal marsh has been impounded which runs westwards from Gaultiere Lodge along the course of a slow stream. An extensive reedbed occurs here. At the edges is a tall fen dominated by sedges (*Carex spp.*), Meadowsweet, Willowherb (*Epilobium spp.*) and rushes (*Juncus spp.*). Wet woodland also occurs. This area supports populations of typical waterbirds including Mallard, Snipe, Sedge Warbler and Water Rail.

The dunes which fringe the strand at Duncannon are dominated by Marram grass (*Ammophila arenaria*) towards the sea. Other species present include Wild Sage (*Salvia verbenaca*), a rare Red Data Book species. The rocks around Duncannon ford have a rich flora of seaweeds typical of a moderately exposed shore and the cliffs themselves support a number of coastal species on ledges, including Thrift (*Armeria maritima*), Rock Samphire (*Crithmum maritimum*) and Buck's-horn Plantain (*Plantago coronopus*). Other habitats which occur throughout the site include wet grassland, marsh, reed swamp, improved grassland, arable land, quarries, coniferous plantations, deciduous woodland, scrub and ponds. Seventeen Red Data Book plant species have been recorded within the site, most in the recent past. These are Killarney Fern (*Trichomanes speciosum*), Divided Sedge (*Carex divisa*), Clustered Clover (*Trifolium glomeratum*), Basil Thyme (*Acinos arvensis*), Hemp nettle (*Galeopsis angustifolia*), Borrer's Saltmarsh Grass (*Puccinellia fasciculata*), Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*), Opposite-leaved Pondweed (*Groenlandia densa*), Autumn



Crocus (*Colchicum autumnale*), Wild Sage (*Salvia verbenaca*), Nettle-leaved Bellflower (*Campanula trachelium*), Saw-wort (*Serratula tinctoria*), Bird Cherry (*Prunus padus*), Blue Fleabane (*Erigeron acer*), Fly Orchid (*Ophrys insectifera*), Broomrape (*Orobancha hederæ*) and Greater Broomrape (*Orobancha rapum-genistæ*). Of these the first nine are protected under the Flora Protection Order 1999. Divided Sedge (*Carex divisa*) was thought to be extinct but has been found in a few locations in the site since 1990. In addition plants which do not have a very wide distribution in the country are found in the site including Thin-spiked Wood-sedge (*Carex strigosa*), Field Garlic (*Allium oleraceum*) and Summer Snowflake (*Leucojum aestivum*). Six rare lichens, indicators of ancient woodland, are found including *Lobaria laetevirens* and *L. pulmonaria*. The rare moss *Leucodon sciurioides* also occurs.

The site is very important for the presence of a number of EU Habitats Directive Annex II animal species including Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera* and *M. m. durrovensis*), Freshwater Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*), Salmon (*Salmo salar*), Twaite Shad (*Alosa fallax fallax*), three Lamprey species - Sea (*Petromyzon marinus*), Brook (*Lampetra planeri*) and River (*Lampetra fluviatilis*), the marsh snail *Vertigo moulinsiana* and Otter (*Lutra lutra*). This is the only site in the world for the hard water form of the Pearl Mussel *M. m. durrovensis* and one of only a handful of spawning grounds in the country for Twaite Shad. The freshwater stretches of the River Nore main channel is a designated salmonid river. The Barrow/Nore is mainly a grilse fishery though spring salmon fishing is good in the vicinity of Thomastown and Inistioge on the Nore. The upper stretches of the Barrow and Nore, particularly the Owenass River, are very important for spawning.

The site supports many other important animal species. Those which are listed in the Irish Red Data Book include Daubenton's Bat (*Myotis daubentoni*), Badger (*Meles meles*), Irish Hare (*Lepus timidus hibernicus*) and Frog (*Rana temporaria*). The rare Red Data Book fish species Smelt (*Osmerus eperlanus*) occurs in estuarine stretches of the site. In addition to the Freshwater Pearl Mussel, the site also supports two other freshwater Mussel species, *Anodonta anatina* and *A. cygnea*. The site is of ornithological importance for a number of E.U. Birds Directive Annex I species including Greenland White-fronted Goose, Whooper Swan, Bewick's Swan, Bartailed Godwit, Peregrine and Kingfisher. Nationally important numbers of Golden Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit are found during the winter. Wintering flocks of migratory birds are seen in Shanahoe Marsh and the Curragh and Goul Marsh, both in Co. Laois and also along the Barrow Estuary in Waterford Harbour. There is also an extensive autumnal roosting site in the reedbeds of the Barrow Estuary used by Swallows before they leave the country.

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Landuse at the site consists mainly of agricultural activities – many intensive, principally grazing and silage production. Slurry is spread over much of this area. Arable crops are also grown. The spreading of slurry and fertiliser poses a threat to the water quality of the salmonid river and to the populations of Habitats Directive Annex II animal species within the site. Many of the woodlands along the rivers belong to old estates and support many non-native species. Little active woodland management occurs. Fishing is a main tourist attraction along stretches of the main rivers and their tributaries and there are a number of Angler Associations, some with a number of beats. Fishing stands and styles have been erected in places. Both commercial and leisure fishing takes place on the rivers. There is net fishing in the estuary and a mussel bed also. Other recreational activities such as boating, golfing and walking, particularly along the Barrow towpath are also popular. There is a golf course on the banks of the Nore at Mount Juliet and GAA pitches on the banks at Inistioge and Thomastown. There are active and disused sand and gravel pits throughout the site. Several industrial developments, which discharge into the river, border the site. New Ross is an important shipping port. Shipping to and from Waterford and Belview ports also passes through the estuary.

The main threats to the site and current damaging activities include high inputs of nutrients into the river system from agricultural run-off and several sewage plants, overgrazing within the woodland areas, and invasion by non-native species, for example Cherry Laurel and Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*). The water quality of the site remains vulnerable. Good quality water is necessary to maintain the populations of the Annex II animal species listed above. Good quality is dependent on controlling fertilisation of the grasslands, particularly along the Nore. It also requires that sewage be properly treated before discharge. Drainage activities in the catchment can lead to flash floods which can damage the many Annex II species present. Capital and maintenance dredging within the lower reaches of the system pose a threat to migrating fish species such as lamprey and shad. Land reclamation also poses a threat to the salt meadows and the populations of legally protected species therein.

Overall, the site is of considerable conservation significance for the occurrence of good examples of habitats and of populations of plant and animal species that are listed on Annexes I and II of the E.U. Habitats Directive respectively. Furthermore it is of high conservation value for the populations of bird species that use it. The occurrence of several Red Data Book plant species including three rare plants in the salt meadows and the population of the hard water form of the Pearl Mussel which is limited to a 10 km stretch of the Nore, add further interest to this site.



Appendix B

Screening Assessment of Pre-Draft Policies & Objectives

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SCREENING ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF PRE-DRAFT POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES ON THE RIVER BARROW AND RIVER NORE SAC USING SIGNIFICANCE INDICATORS AS OUTLINED IN THE 2009 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT DoEHLG GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

X Potential Significant Negative Impact on Natura 2000 sites	0 No Significant Environmental Impacts on Natura 2000 sites
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Economic Development

	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy ED01: To ensure that sufficient and appropriately located lands are zoned for industrial and commercial development.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy ED02: To ensure the provision of necessary infrastructure such as roads, sanitary services, housing, telecommunications, energy supply and generation and the clearance of derelict land where feasible to facilitate new enterprises and existing enterprises wishing to expand.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy ED03: To facilitate the provision, in conjunction with other agencies, of enterprise centres and training infrastructure related to small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).	0	0	0	0	0
Policy ED04: To ensure the zoning of adequate residential lands and the creation of an attractive urban environment to facilitate residency of the projected labour force.	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy ED05: To develop the public realm and amenities of New Ross so that the quality of life of employees and residents can be improved.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy ED06: To ensure the provision of an adequate and efficient transportation system.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy IN01: To ensure that sufficient land is zoned to meet the differing requirements of industries.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy IN02: To encourage and facilitate the development of warehousing and distribution uses on the lands zoned for industrial use.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy IN03: To seek to ensure that the impacts of any industry on adjoining uses and the environment are minimised.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy IN04: To encourage and facilitate the industries located in the town centre to move to land that is zoned for industrial development so as to free up town centre lands for more appropriate mixed commercial and residential uses.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective IN01: To implement, through the Development Management process, a transition zone between industrial zones and adjoining non-industrial zones.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective IN02: To work with state agencies to create strategies which will attract new industries to and facilitate the expansion of existing industries in New Ross.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy OPS01: To encourage business, office and professional services to locate in the town centre in existing derelict buildings, brownfield sites and under-utilised sites and buildings where such services would not detract from the retail core.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy R01: To ensure that the majority of retail development shall be located within the town centre. The areas designated as Primary and Secondary Retail frontages shall be retained as key locations for retail development.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy R02: On Primary Shopping Frontages permission will be favourably considered for banks and other professional services, office uses,	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
restaurants, bars, off licences, takeaways and other entertainment uses provided: (i) The proposals would not individually or cumulatively cause demonstrable harm to the function, character or appearance of the frontage concerned or to the town centre as a whole. (ii) There would be no significant loss of residential accommodation at upper floor levels. While residential use is the preferred use upstairs it is accepted that it is not always possible to accommodate appropriate units in these buildings. Therefore other commercial uses will be considered but the Planning Authority will have regard to the amount of residential uses retained in the area to ensure that a balance of residential and commercial uses are maintained in the town centre. The use, taken together with existing or permitted uses would not result in an unacceptable multiplicity of such uses in any one area.					
Policy R03: On Primary Shopping Frontages, applications for planning permission which will result in net loss of convenience and comparison shopping floorspace at ground level will be resisted as this would affect the vitality and viability of these streets.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy R04: To encourage the use of ground floors of buildings fronting onto The Quay for retail and related uses. Proposals which result in uses other than retail and related uses at ground floor level will be resisted. New buildings should integrate such uses at ground floor level and provide for active frontages.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy R05: To continue the environmental improvement of the town centre in order to enhance its attractiveness, vitality and viability.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy R06: To require a Retail Impact Assessment to be carried out for large scale developments or for developments, which the Planning Authority considers may impact on the vitality and viability of the town centre. Such statements shall include, at minimum, the criteria set out in Annex 4 of the Retail Planning Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2005).	0	0	0	0	0
Policy R07: To ensure that retail development in neighbourhood centres shall be for convenience goods only.	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Objective R01: To provide for and encourage high levels of access and good quality pedestrian facilities to connect neighbourhood centres to their surrounding neighbourhoods. Facilities for cycling shall also be provided.	0	0	0	0	0

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Transportation Strategy

	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy TM01: Develop a safer, more efficient and integrated transport system within New Ross with improvements to the road network, public transport which will encompass accessible public transport, cycle ways and to create a pedestrian friendly environment.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TM02: Support the implementation of the New Ross Bypass Scheme.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TM03: Guide development to ensure that it is positioned in a location which minimises the need to travel and co-ordinates particular landuses with their accessibility requirements.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TM04: Seek to improve parking provision in the town centre and require all new developments to provide accessible parking in accordance with the standards set out in the development management standards section of this plan.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TM05: Maximise pedestrian and cycle movements between residential areas, town centre, schools and industrial estates.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TM06: Encourage the provision of secure bicycle parking facilities in the town centre, at public facilities such as Schools, New Ross Library and in all new developments in accordance with the standards set out in the development management standards section of this plan.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TM07: Ensure that roads and footpaths are designed and constructed to allow ease of access for persons with disabilities.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TM08: Require the submission of traffic management and mobility plans for developments with the potential to create significant additional demands on the traffic network by virtue of the nature of their activity, the number of employees, their location or a combination of these factors.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TM09: Support New Ross Port Authority in developing the commercial port by facilitating the future development of the portal estate at	X	X	X	X	X

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Marshmeadows, including the facilitation of an additional wharf and construction of warehousing and open storage.					
Policy TM10: Encourage and facilitate the reopening of the existing railway line. Development which would prejudice the reopening of this line will be prohibited, however temporary uses may be considered where appropriate.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TM11: Facilitate the construction of a third river crossing. (A second bridge crossing forms part of the proposed New Ross Bypass).	X	X	X	X	X
Policy TM12: Support the provision of charging points for Electric Vehicles at appropriate locations.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective TM01: To upgrade the existing ring road, including the provision of accessible footpaths and energy efficient public lighting, from O'Hanrahan Bridge along South Quays (N25), The Wexford Road (N25) as far as Kent's Cross (N25/N30), The Ring Road (N30) as far as Mannion's Cross (N30/R700), Cherries Road, John Street, Bridge Street and North Quay (all R700).	0	0	0	0	0
Objective TM02: To upgrade the following road sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> R733 from N25 junction to end of development boundary; L-8042 road (Redhouse) from junction with N30 to junction with N25; L-8037 road (Knockavilla) from junction with N30 to junction with L-8038. L-8038 road (Knockavilla) from junction with L-8037 to junction at Irishtown. 	0	0	0	0	0
Objective TM03: To provide roundabouts/junction improvements at the following locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> N25/R733 junction; N25/Hospital Road junction; N25/Ballylane East junction; N25/L-8042 junction; N30/Wexford Street junction; N30/Mountgarrett Road junction; N30/L-8037 junction; 	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> L-8037/L-8038 junction; L-8038/Irishtown junction; N30/R700 junction (Mannion's Cross); N25/R704 junction (Rosbercon); N25/Millbanks Road (county road at Albatross) junction (Rosbercon). 					
Objective TM04: To provide a traffic control/junction improvements at the Junction of N25/R733 to facilitate the development of the Industrial and General Business Use Zonings on the R733. The Council shall apply a special levy to applications on these lands as the works are required to facilitate the development of these lands.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective TM05: To provide signal controlled pedestrian facilities, which have an audible signal and dished kerbs with tactile paving to assist visually and mobility-impaired persons in crossing roads.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective TM06: To improve and expand coach/bus parking facilities adjacent to the town centre.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective TM07: To provide additional public and private car parking in the town centre.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective TM08: To provide new link roads between Pigotts or Tanyard and Irishtown/ Morrissysland and Redhouse.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective TM09: To facilitate, in co-operation with public transport providers, the provision of accessible bus shelters on all routes.	0	0	0	0	0

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Infrastructure

	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy WS01: Ensure an adequate, sustainable and economic supply of good quality water for domestic, commercial and industrial needs for the lifetime of this plan.	X	X	X	X	X
Policy WS02: Conserve supplies through the maintenance of the mains and the elimination of leakages.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy WS03: Promote public awareness on the maintenance of water quality and economic and sustainable use.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy WW01: To provide optimum Wastewater Treatment facilities and infrastructure to serve the existing and future population of New Ross Town and Environs.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective WW01: To provide a gravity sewer along the R733 to service industrial zoned lands at Marshmeadows.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective WW02: To maintain a 'sterilisation zone' around the Wastewater Treatment Plant. No residential development will be permitted within 150 metres of the Treatment Plant.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy SW01: Require planning applications for new developments in areas at a high or moderate risk of flooding that include types of development that are vulnerable to flooding to be accompanied by a Flood Risk Assessment in accordance with 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management: Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DoEHLG 2009). The Flood Risk Assessment must detail how the Development Management Justification Test has been met.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy SW02: To safeguard floodplains from inappropriate development. By retaining open spaces for storage and conveyance of floodwater, flood risk to both upstream and downstream areas can be more effectively managed without reliance on flood defences.	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy SW03: To 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.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy SW04: To facilitate the provision of suitable flood risk management infrastructure, for example flood defences, by the OPW, the local authority or private developers.	X	X	X	X	X
Policy SW05: To require the provision of adequate storm water retention facilities in new developments, including the use of soft landscaping and sustainable drainage techniques. The Councils will seek to ensure that all proposed drainage systems are consistent with Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS).	0	0	0	0	0
Policy WM01: To implement the specific objectives contained in the Joint Waste Management Plan for the South East 2006-2011.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy WM02: To encourage waste minimisation strategies for domestic, industrial and commercial wastes. The Councils will support initiatives such as the 'Green Business Initiative' and the 'Green Schools Programme' which promote waste prevention in businesses and schools.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy WM03: To encourage communities to become involved in environmental awareness activities and community-based recycling initiatives or environmental management initiatives that will lead to local sustainable waste management practices.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy WM04: To require a waste management plan to accompany planning applications for significant developments where appropriate. The waste management plan shall supply full details of all wastes generated (including topsoil/clean fill) and proposals for the prevention, re-use, minimisation and disposal of these wastes. The plan shall be prepared in accordance with Best Practice Guidelines on the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction & Demolition Projects (DoEHLG, 2006).	0	0	0	0	0
Objective WM01: To continue to provide bring facilities throughout the town in easily accessible locations where population growth demands.	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Planning applications for significant developments, for example supermarkets, will be required to submit proposals for bottle-bank facilities.					
Objective WM02: To support the roll out of a three-bin system for domestic and commercial developments within the town and environs area.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TE01: To support the improvement of energy generation and transmission infrastructure and to ensure the security of energy supply for the existing and future population of the town and environs.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TE02: To locate services, including electricity, telephone and TV cabling underground, where possible, with future capacity considered and appropriate ducting put in place.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TE03: To provide orderly development of telecommunications infrastructure throughout the town in accordance with the requirements of the "Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures, Guidelines for Planning Authorities" July 1996.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TE04: To maximise the use of existing masts by sharing installations for antennae support structures.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TE05: To support the development of wide access to broadband telecommunications.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TE06: To adopt a presumption against the erection of antennae in proximity to residential areas, schools or community facilities, structures of historical or architectural interest and areas and sites of archaeological importance.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy RE01: To promote energy conservation, decrease dependency on fossil fuels and support environmentally friendly methods of producing energy.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy RE02: To facilitate the continual development of renewable energy sources having regard to residential amenities, biodiversity and landscape sensitivities.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy RE03: To encourage the participation of local residents, community and schools groups in sustainable energy projects and awareness campaigns.	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy RE04: To engage in consultation with other agencies regarding the development of an Energy Master Plan for the town to allow for a maximisation of energy efficiency.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective RE01: To promote the extension of the Natural Gas network to New Ross Town and Environs.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective RE02: To investigate the potential for small-scale wind energy developments within the urban and industrial areas.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy EN01: 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.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy EN02: To promote the prioritisation of energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy in the design, layout and operation of new developments.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy EN03: Promote innovative housing design and layout solutions that address concerns of environmental sustainability with regard to matters such as energy efficiency and use of materials.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy EN04: Encourage the integration of micro renewable energy sources into the design and construction of single and multiple housing developments.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy EN05: Have regard to the Guidelines on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (DoEHLG, 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.	0	0	0	0	0

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Housing

	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy HS01: To promote a high standard of architecture in the design of new housing developments and to encourage a variety of house types, sizes and tenure in all new housing developments.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HS02: All new housing estates of 10 dwellings or more shall seek to ensure that at least 20% of the proposed dwellings are adaptable to provide accommodation for people with disabilities.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective HS01: To implement the County Housing Strategy 2007-2013 and any subsequent strategy adopted by the Councils and to integrate housing provided under Part V of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2007 into private development in a layout that prevents segregation and promotes good design and layout.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective HS02: To carry out the Councils' 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.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective HS03: To 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.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective HS04: To actively promote the provision of community, educational, social and recreational facilities in parallel with future housing development.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HS03: To ensure that there is a sufficient amount of zoned land within New Ross Town and Environs to meet residential needs up to 2019.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HS04: To co-ordinate and facilitate the release of new residential development, giving priority to locations that enhance the existing urban structure (sequential test) and which can be integrated into existing public services. Development of greenfield sites will therefore be encouraged to occur in a sequential manner with the lands nearest the town centre being developed first.	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy HS05: To continue to meet social housing needs in the town and to integrate housing provided under Part V of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2007 into private developments in small schemes so as to prevent segregation and promote good design and layout.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HS06: To 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 Acts 2000-2007 and the County Housing Strategy 2007-2013.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HS07: To support and facilitate the expansion of the role played by the voluntary sector in meeting social housing need.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective HS05: To regenerate the Councils' current housing stock as required.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HS08: To provide for Traveller accommodation in halting sites, individual dwellings or in-group housing schemes in accordance with the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013 and any subsequent programme adopted by the Councils.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HS09: To facilitate and co-operate with other organisations in the provision of services for the community including, in particular, schools, crèches and other education and childcare facilities in parallel with future housing.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HS10: To facilitate the provision of additional primary and second level schools in appropriate locations where residential expansion is planned.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HS11: To ensure that the provision of recreational areas and the development of residential areas (where both form part of the same development boundary), are undertaken concurrently.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HS12: To require the provision of Childcare Facilities in new residential developments as appropriate. The indicative standard is one childcare facility, accommodating 20 children, for approximately 75 dwellings. This standard may be modified in any particular case where there are significant reasons for doing so. Criteria that may be taken into account in	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
such an assessment include the existing geographical distribution of childcare facilities and the emerging demographic profile of the area.					
Policy HS13: To retain existing open space areas within housing estates.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HS14: To require diversity in the density of development and in the form, size and type of dwelling within residential areas.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HS15: To ensure that a high standard of design is incorporated into structures and layout of housing developments, to facilitate pedestrian safety and restrict vehicular traffic speeds.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HS16: To promote energy conservation and renewable energy technologies in developments. Such measures shall be consistent with other policies in this plan.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HS17: To require that all new residential accommodation meets the necessary standards of accessibility, health, sanitation and design, and are carried out generally in accordance with principles of good design.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HS18: To encourage strong frontages onto the main thoroughfares creating definite building lines and continuity of the town structure.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HS19: To encourage equal access housing in accordance with the standards set out in section 15 of this plan.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HS20: To encourage infill development on appropriate sites where the proposals respect the existing scale and character of the area.	0	0	0	0	0

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Community and Education

	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy C01: To promote the development of sustainable communities on the basis of a high quality of life where people can live, work and enjoy access to a wide range of community, cultural, health and educational facilities suitable for all ages and needs.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy C02: To support and facilitate the provision of new and the improvement of existing community, health and educational facilities. The Councils will, where possible, protect and improve cultural assets in the interests of public enjoyment and for the education of residents and visitors alike.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy C03: To facilitate the provision of adequate community facilities in accordance with the County Development Board strategy as outlined in the document "Remodelling the Model County 2002 – 2012", and any future revision of this document, in relation to the provision of childcare, play, sports and the arts.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective C01: To carry out within the lifetime of the plan, a 'Social Audit' which will identify the areas within the town where community and social facilities are lacking and the facilities which require further development/expansion.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy C04: To encourage and assist the formation, development, direction and coordination of community organisations, local interests and self help groups, with an emphasis on areas of special needs within the town.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective C02: To co-operate with private and commercial interests, community and voluntary groups and state agencies in ensuring an equitable distribution of facilities at locations convenient to where people live and work.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy C05: To support the entitlement of all members of the community to enjoy a decent living environment in the town and to support local communities, the Health Authorities and other bodies involved in the provision of facilities for groups with specific design/planning needs.	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy C06: To ensure that all new developments within the town are easily accessible by people with specific design/planning needs.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy C07: To seek to ensure that a minimum of 20% of all new residential development of 10 or more dwelling units are adaptable to provide accommodation for people with disabilities.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective C03: To carry out within the lifetime of the plan a 'Town Accessibility Audit' which will identify the physical obstacles to accessibility and inform a programme for achieving greater accessibility for all members of the community.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy C08: To require childcare facilities in new housing developments at a rate of one childcare facility providing for a minimum 20 childcare places for each 75 residential units in accordance with Childcare Facilities: Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2001 and We Like This Place: Guidelines for Best Practice in the Design of Childcare Facilities 2005, or any subsequent revisions to these guidelines and regulations. In appropriate cases the Councils will support the provision of these spaces off site provided they serve the inhabitants of the development.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy C09: To encourage and facilitate the provision of crèches and play-schools where feasible within new or existing places of work or in proximity thereof, e.g. in light industrial estates.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy C10: To facilitate the development of childcare facilities where demand arises subject to satisfying applicable planning and engineering criteria.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective C04: To work with and support the Wexford County Childcare Committee in developing a programme for the development of childcare services and facilities in New Ross.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy ED01: To facilitate the provision of education facilities by zoning suitable lands.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy ED02: To consult with the Department of Education regarding the location and provision of adequate educational facilities and identification of suitable sites.	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy ED03: To restrict new development adjacent to existing schools where such development may have the potential to restrict the expansion of that school.	0	0	0	0	0

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Recreation & Open Space

	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy OS01: To ensure that adequate amenity and recreational open space and facilities, including community facilities and centres, are available for all groups of the population at a convenient distance from their homes and places of work.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy OS02: To facilitate the continued enhancement of the quayside and riverfront areas in accordance with the New Ross Urban Design Waterfront Study 2006 adopted by New Ross Town Council.	X	X	X	X	X
Policy OS03: To ensure that a detailed landscaping plan accompanies all applications for housing estates and significant industrial and commercial developments.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy OS04: To avoid loss of public and private recreational open space unless alternative recreational facilities are provided in a suitable location.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy OS05: To support the implementation of the New Ross Allotments Programme in conjunction with the RAPID scheme.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy OS06: To facilitate the development of a walkway/green corridor adjacent to the east of the R733 Road and linking the Town Park with Oaklands Lake and the surrounding area.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective OS01: To carry out, in conjunction with the County Development Board, an Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study for New Ross Town and Environs.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective OS02: To examine the feasibility of providing a walkway adjacent to the disused railway line between Rosbercon and Annefield. The long-term objective to reopen this railway line should not be jeopardised.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy OS09: To secure the development of indoor and outdoor recreational facilities, which can be shared with schools, on suitable sites where resources are available.	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy OS10: To facilitate the development of private lands for recreational purposes, having regard to the amenities of residents in vicinity, and to the environmental impact of the development.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective OS03: To facilitate the re-location of swimming pool to Irishtown.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy PRW01: To protect and preserve those existing rights of way which contribute to general amenity and are not a source of anti-social behaviour.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy PRW02: To create new rights-of-way in the interest of amenity as opportunities or need arise.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy PRW03: To promote the development of river-side walking routes and foster the enjoyment of the natural amenities of the area including the River Barrow whilst protecting areas of ecological value.	X	X	X	X	X
Policy PRW04: To encourage the provision of access routes to amenity areas in co- operation with landowners and protect amenity areas from infringement by inappropriate development.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy PRW05: To protect and enhance, through the development management process, existing town centre laneways which add to the character and permeability of the town.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective OS04: To examine existing rights of way, paths and access points to the river and other amenity areas to determine where public rights-of-way exist and where public-rights-of-way should be created, either by agreement or by compulsion, for the provision of walking routes.	0	0	0	0	0

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Tourism, Arts and Culture

	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy T01: To ensure that future development of tourism is carried out in a sensitive and sustainable manner.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy T02: To work with Fáilte Ireland, the County Wexford Tourist Board, the Arts Council and other relevant bodies to promote and develop the arts and tourism sector in New Ross.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy T03: To encourage the development of primary tourist attractions and secondary support facilities (such as transport/ accommodation) in the town.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy T04: To support product clustering with other sites and attractions in the area.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy T05: To realise the tourism potential of existing archaeological and natural heritage features within the town, while also ensuring their protection.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy T06: To ensure the full recreational potential of the River Barrow and its estuary is realised.	X	X	X	X	X
Policy T07: To support the expansion of a diversified range of tourist and business related accommodation, including developments to cater for tour groups.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy T08: To encourage and facilitate the development of craft and design shops in the town centre.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy T09: To encourage the redevelopment of under-utilised and derelict sites in the town centre and to create an attractive public realm.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy T10: To encourage the provision of indoor and activities based tourism facilities and events which extend the tourism season.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy T11: To promote collective public and private sector marketing of	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
New Ross as a short break and activity break destination.					
Policy T12: To promote the development of eco-tourism and other leisure activities in the environs of New Ross Town, outside the proposed urban edge (development limit boundary), such as equestrian centres, outdoor recreational centres, bird watching and boating clubs.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective T01: To promote and upgrade the historic walking trail to include interpretative signs and information boards at important sites of archaeological interest, heritage and nature conservation.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective T02: To improve the attractiveness of the riverside area in accordance with the New Ross Urban Design Waterfront Study 2006 and to carry out other environmental improvements to the town centre.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective T03: To develop the potential of the River Barrow for inland navigation, in association with Waterways Ireland, the Regional Authority and other Local Authorities and to facilitate the development of appropriate facilities in the vicinity of the Marina and the Boat Club.	X	X	X	X	X
Objective T04: To maintain and improve tourist infrastructure through the provision of attractive, useful, informative signage methods and by carrying out environmental improvements along tourist routes.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective T05: To maintain and improve viewing points and the main entrances to the town.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective T06: To provide coach parking for tour groups at a suitable location in the town centre.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy A&C01: To promote arts and cultural activities and facilities in the town.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy A&C02: To continue to promote the Dunbrody Festival, the Piano Festival and other cultural events, as well as supporting other multi-cultural initiatives.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy A&C03: To promote the development of arts/crafts and farmers/organic markets in the town.	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy PA01: To encourage and facilitate the development, creation and display of works of art in public areas.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy PA02: To encourage major new commercial and private residential developments to incorporate works of public art into the overall scheme in order to enhance the amenities of the local environment.	0	0	0	0	0

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Conservation and Natural Heritage

	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy UF01: To ensure that the Town's street pattern, public spaces and laneways, retain its medieval layout and is preserved in any future developments and to protect and seek to maintain the remaining sections of the Town Wall.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy UF02: To ensure the preservation of historic urban spaces in the Town Centre, retain traditional building lines and heights around their edges so as to maintain their 'sense of enclosure'.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TW01: To protect, conserve and enhance access to the Town Wall in accordance with the "New Ross Town Walls Conservation Plan".	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TW02: No further demolition of nineteenth century, or earlier, property built against, overlooking, or opening onto the Town Wall should be permitted unless a compelling case is presented to demonstrate that the outcome will be to the ultimate benefit to the Town Walls.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TW03: Within new developments means shall be devised to indicate the location of the Walls and the Town Wall Gates where such structures no longer exist or where sections remain below ground.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy GY01: To preserve and enhance the Towns Graveyards through improved management and access. To provide historical information at each location and promote the unique character of each of the burial grounds to the surrounding residents and property owners.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy AH01: To have regard to the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), and the Urban Archaeological Survey prepared for New Ross Town when dealing with planning applications for development or threats to recorded items. Development shall be controlled in the vicinity of a recorded feature where it detracts from the setting of the feature or where it is a feature seriously injurious to its cultural or educational value. In all such cases the Councils shall consult with the National Monuments Section of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG).	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy AH02: To protect and preserve archaeological sites which have been identified subsequent to the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP).	0	0	0	0	0
Policy AH03: To have regard to the Zone of Archaeological Potential within New Ross Town when dealing with planning applications for all development, including public sector development. This may involve the employment of a licensed archaeologist at the expense of the developer to record any archaeological remains uncovered and to supervise all excavation works.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy AH04: To promote a presumption in favour of "preservation in situ" of archaeological remains and settings when dealing with proposals for development that would impact upon archaeological sites and/or features.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy AH05: To recognise that under the National Monuments Acts 1930-1994 all underwater archaeological structures, features and objects are protected and ensure that any development proposals within or along the banks of the River Barrow with the potential to impact on the river will require consultation with the Heritage and Planning Division of the DoEHLG.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy AH06: To require an archaeological assessment for development that may, due to its size, location or nature, have a significant effect upon archaeological heritage and to take all appropriate measures to safeguard this archaeological heritage. In all such cases the Planning Authority shall consult with the National Monuments Section of the DoEHLG. [Any such assessments shall be carried out by a licensed archaeologist.]	0	0	0	0	0
Policy AH07: To protect and record heritage objects such as walls, bridges and street furniture within the Town.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy AH08: To protect the burial grounds within New Ross Town identified in the Record of Monuments and Places, in co-operation with the National Monuments Section of the DoEHLG.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy BH01: To protect the architectural heritage of New Ross Town and to include structures considered to be of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest in the Record of Protected Structures.	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy BH02: To protect the curtilage of Protected Structures or proposed Protected Structures from any works which would cause loss of or damage to the special character of the structure and loss of or damage to, any structures of heritage value within the curtilage or attendant grounds of the structure.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy BH03: To encourage development within the curtilage of a protected structure that is compatible with its character in terms of siting, building lines, proportions, scale, massing, height, roof treatment and materials. This does not preclude putting forward innovative contemporary designs that respect the context of the protected structure.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy BH04: To promote the maintenance and appropriate reuse of Protected Structures and older buildings of architectural heritage merit that make a positive contribution to the character, appearance and quality of local streetscapes and the sustainable development of the County and Town.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy BH05: To promote the retention of original or early building fabric including timber sash windows, stonework, brickwork, joinery, render and slate. Likewise the Council will encourage the re-instatement of historically correct traditional features.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy BH06: To encourage the retention of those elements that give a protected structure its special interest where the structure has suffered damage by fire or other accidental causes and where those elements have survived either in whole or in part.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy BH07: To ensure that applications in relation to Protected Structures include an architectural heritage assessment/architectural impact assessment report. This report should assess the implications of the development on the character of the structure and the area in which it is located. This should be prepared in accordance with appendix B of the "Architectural Heritage Protection, Guidelines for Planning Authorities".	0	0	0	0	0
Policy BH08: To ensure that all applications for Protected Structures will be assessed by taking into consideration the advice contained in "Architectural Heritage Protection, Guidelines for Planning Authorities" (December 2004), and any subsequent drafts.	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy BH09: To encourage the repair and retention of traditional timber, rendered and/or tiled shop fronts and pub fronts, including those, which may not be Protected Structures.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy BH10: To facilitate the retention of older buildings the Planning Authorities will give consideration to the relaxation of car parking and other Development Management requirements in appropriate circumstances.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy BH11: To protect elements of the architectural heritage of the Town, such as historic gardens, stone walls, ditches and street furniture that make a positive contribution to the built heritage, are retained.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy ACA01: To consider designating Architectural Conservation Areas within New Ross Town Centre.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy ACA02: To preserve the special character of the Architectural Conservation Areas and to ensure that all future development will enhance this character and contribute to the creation of a distinctive sense of place.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy ACA03: To review the boundaries, aims and objectives of the proposed Architectural Conservation Areas within the life time of the Development Plan. Prepare detailed statements for the area, in consultation with stakeholders and local interest groups, including guidance regarding new development and exempted development relevant to the specific character of the area.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy ACA04: To ensure that all proposed developments are carried out to the highest architectural standards within designated areas.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy ACA05: To ensure a high standard of urban design within proposed Architectural Conservation Area.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy ACA06: To promote improvements to the streetscape and the spaces between buildings to enhance the quality of these areas.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy NH01: To secure the conservation and the sustainable use of natural heritage in New Ross Town and Environs and ensure that it is taken into account at the earliest possible stage in the development process.	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy NH02: To conserve and protect the ecological integrity of designated sites of international and national importance and sites proposed for designation, in particular, European sites (including Natura 2000 sites), and Ramsar sites, NHAs and statutory nature reserves.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy NH03: To carry out an Appropriate Assessment, in accordance with 'Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DoEHLG, 2010), for any plan or project which has the potential to damage the integrity of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy NH04: To protect riparian zones and natural land drains by maintaining an adequate buffer zone (minimum 5-10m) along all watercourses and land drains, with no infilling or removal of vegetation within these buffer zones.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy NH05: To retain, where possible, and protect traditional field boundaries, ponds or small woods which provide important ecological networks.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective NH01: To implement the policies and objectives of the National Biodiversity Plan and any Local Biodiversity Plan and/or Heritage Plan that is adopted for the County.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy PV01: To ensure that important views and vistas are protected and enhanced where possible.	0	0	0	0	0

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Pre-Draft Land Use Zoning Objectives

	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
To provide for, protect and strengthen the vitality and viability of the town centre through consolidating development, maximising the use of lands and encouraging a mix of uses.	X	X	X	X	X
To protect and enhance the residential amenity of existing and developed communities.	X	X	X	X	X
To provide for new residential development, associated residential services and community facilities.	X	X	X	X	X
To provide for a Neighbourhood Centre and associated facilities.	X	X	X	X	X
To protect, provide for and improve community, educational and, ecclesiastical facilities.	X	X	X	X	X
To provide for, protect and improve the provision, attractiveness, accessibility and amenity value of public open space and amenity areas.	X	X	X	X	X
To provide for industry, transport and utility providers.	0	0	0	0	0
To provide for light industry and office related developments.	0	0	0	0	0
To make provision for mixed uses.	X	X	X	X	X
To make provision for commercial developments.	X	X	X	X	X
To provide for a retail park for the sale of bulky goods only	0	0	0	0	0
To provide a transition zone between conflicting land uses so as to protect the amenities of more sensitive land uses.	0	0	0	0	0



Appendix C

Assessment of Draft Policies & Objectives



APPENDIX C

ASSESSMENT OF DRAFT POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES ON THE RIVER BARROW AND RIVER NORE SAC USING SIGNIFICANCE INDICATORS AS OUTLINED IN THE 2009 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT DoEHLG GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

(Note = Text in **Orange** equated to amended or recommended policies & objectives;
Text in **Red** equates to new policies or objectives)

X Potential Significant Negative Impact on Natura 2000 sites	0 No Significant Environmental Impacts on Natura 2000 sites
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Economic Development

	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy ED01: To ensure that sufficient and appropriately located lands are zoned for industrial and commercial development.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy ED02: To ensure the provision of necessary infrastructure such as roads, sanitary services, housing, telecommunications, energy supply and generation and the clearance of derelict land where feasible to facilitate new enterprises and existing enterprises wishing to expand.	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy ED03: To facilitate the provision, in conjunction with other agencies, of enterprise centres and training infrastructure related to small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).	0	0	0	0	0
Policy ED04: To ensure the zoning of adequate residential lands and the creation of an attractive urban environment to facilitate residency of the projected labour force.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy ED05: To develop the public realm and amenities of New Ross so that the quality of life of employees and residents can be improved.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy ED06: To ensure the provision of an adequate and efficient transportation system.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy ED07: To facilitate the development of an accessible WiFi zone in the Town Centre.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy IN01: To ensure that sufficient land is zoned within the functional areas of the planning authorities to meet the differing requirements of industries.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy IN02: To encourage and facilitate the development of warehousing and distribution uses on the lands zoned for industrial use.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy IN03: To seek to ensure that the impacts of any industry on adjoining uses and the environment are minimised.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy IN04: To encourage and facilitate the industries located in the town centre to move to land that is zoned for industrial development so as to free up town centre lands for more appropriate mixed commercial and residential uses.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy IN05: To support New Ross Port Authority in developing the commercial port by facilitating the future development of the port at Marshmeadows, including the facilitation of an additional wharf and construction of warehousing and open storage, whilst ensuring the protection of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC integrity and conservation objectives through Appropriate	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Assessment screening of any proposed development.					
Objective IN01: To implement, through the Development Management process, a transition zone between industrial zones and adjoining non-industrial zones.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective IN02: To work with state agencies to create strategies which will attract new industries to and facilitate the expansion of existing industries in New Ross.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy OPS01: To encourage business, office and professional services to locate in the town centre in existing derelict buildings, brownfield sites and under-utilised sites and buildings where such services would not detract from the retail core.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy R01: To ensure that the majority of retail development shall be located within the town centre. The areas designated as Primary and Secondary Retail frontages shall be retained as key locations for retail development.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy R02: On Primary Shopping Frontages permission will be favourably considered for banks and other professional services, office uses, restaurants, bars, off licences, takeaways and other entertainment uses provided: (i) The proposals would not individually or cumulatively cause demonstrable harm to the function, character or appearance of the frontage concerned or to the town centre as a whole. (ii) There would be no significant loss of residential accommodation at upper floor levels. While residential use is the preferred use upstairs it is accepted that it is not always possible to accommodate appropriate units in these buildings. Therefore other commercial uses will be considered but the Planning Authority will have regard to the amount of residential uses retained in the area to ensure that a balance of residential and commercial uses are maintained in the town centre. The use, taken together with existing or permitted uses would not result in an unacceptable multiplicity of such uses in any one area.	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy R03: On Primary Shopping Frontages, applications for planning permission which will result in net loss of convenience and comparison shopping floorspace at ground level will be resisted as this would affect the vitality and viability of these streets.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy R04: To prioritise the reuse of vacant and derelict buildings in the town centre for uses including retail development.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy R05: To encourage the use of ground floors of buildings fronting onto The Quay for retail and related uses. Proposals which result in uses other than retail and related uses at ground floor level will be resisted. New buildings should integrate such uses at ground floor level and provide for active frontages.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy R06: To continue the environmental improvement of the town centre in order to enhance its attractiveness, vitality and viability.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy R07: To require a Retail Impact Assessment to be carried out for large scale developments or for developments, which the Planning Authority considers may impact on the vitality and viability of the town centre. Such statements shall include, at minimum, the criteria set out in Annex 4 of the Retail Planning Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2005).	0	0	0	0	0
Policy R08: To provide pedestrian facilities in the prime retail area.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy R09: To ensure that new retail development in the neighbourhood centres shall be convenience shopping with suitable comparison shopping open for consideration to meet the day to day shopping needs of the local community.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective R01: To provide for and encourage high levels of access and good quality pedestrian facilities to connect neighbourhood centres to their surrounding neighbourhoods. Facilities for cycling shall also be provided.	0	0	0	0	0

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Transportation Strategy

	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy TM01: Develop a safer, more efficient and integrated transport system within New Ross with improvements to the road network, public transport which will encompass accessible public transport, cycle ways and to create a pedestrian friendly environment.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TM02: Support the implementation of the New Ross Bypass Scheme.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TM03: Guide development to ensure that it is positioned in a location which minimises the need to travel and co-ordinates particular landuses with their accessibility requirements.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TM04: Seek to improve parking provision in the town centre and require all new developments to provide accessible parking in accordance with the standards set out in the development management standards section of this plan.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TM05: Maximise pedestrian and cycle movements between residential areas, town centre, schools and industrial estates.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TM06: Encourage the provision of secure bicycle parking facilities in the town centre, at public facilities such as Schools, New Ross Library and in all new developments in accordance with the standards set out in the development management standards section of this plan.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TM07: Ensure that roads and footpaths are designed and constructed to allow ease of access for persons with disabilities.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TM08: Require the submission of traffic management and mobility plans for developments with the potential to create significant additional demands on the traffic network by virtue of the nature of their activity, the number of employees, their location or a combination of these factors.	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy TM09: Support New Ross Port Authority in developing the commercial port by facilitating the future development of the portal estate at Marshmeadows, including the facilitation of an additional wharf and construction of warehousing and open storage, whilst ensuring the protection of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC integrity and conservation objectives through Appropriate Assessment Screening of any proposed development.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TM10: Encourage and facilitate the reopening of the existing railway line. Development which would prejudice the reopening of this line will be prohibited, however temporary uses may be considered where appropriate.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TM11: Support the provision of charging points for Electric Vehicles at appropriate locations.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective TM01: To upgrade the existing ring road, including the provision of accessible footpaths and energy efficient public lighting, from O'Hanrahan Bridge along South Quays (N25), The Wexford Road (N25) as far as Kent's Cross (N25/N30), The Ring Road (N30) as far as Mannion's Cross (N30/R700), Cherries Road, John Street, Bridge Street and North Quay (all R700).	0	0	0	0	0
Objective TM02: To provide a traffic control/junction improvements at the Junction of N25/R733 to facilitate the development of the Industry Use Zoning on the R733. The Council shall apply a special levy to applications on these lands as the works are required to facilitate the development of these lands	0	0	0	0	0
Objective TM03: To provide roundabouts/junction improvements at the following locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> N25/R733 junction; N25/Hospital Road junction; N25/Ballylane East junction; N25/L-8042 junction; N30/Wexford Street junction; 	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N30/Mountgarrett Road junction; N30/L-8037 junction; L-8037/L-8038 junction; L-8038/Irishtown junction; N30/R700 junction (Mannion's Cross); N25/R704 junction (Rosbercon); N25/Millbanks Road (county road at Albatross) junction (Rosbercon). 					
Objective TM04: To upgrade the following road sections: R733 from N25 junction to end of development boundary; L-8042 road (Redhouse) from junction with N30 to junction with N25; L-8037 road (Knockavilla) from junction with N30 to junction with L-8038. L-8038 road (Knockavilla) from junction with L-8037 to junction at Irishtown.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective TM05: To provide signal controlled pedestrian facilities, which have an audible signal and dished kerbs with tactile paving to assist visually and mobility-impaired persons in crossing roads.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective TM06: To improve and expand coach/bus parking facilities adjacent to the town centre.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective TM07: To provide additional public and private car parking in the town centre.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective TM08: To provide new link roads at the following locations: (a) Between Pigotts or Tanyard and Irishtown/Morrisysland and Redhouse (b) From the junction of Mary Street Upper, Haughton Place and Nunnery Lane through lands at Mount Carmel to the N30.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective TM09: Facilitate the construction of a third river crossing, as indicated on Map 10 (A second bridge crossing forms part of the proposed New Ross Bypass).	X	X	X	X	X
Objective TM10: To facilitate, in co-operation with public transport providers, the provision of accessible bus shelters on all routes.	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Objective TM11: To carry out a Footpath Audit which will identify the areas where existing footpaths require completion/upgrading and new footpaths should be constructed.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective TM12 To carry out an audit which will identify areas where cycling facilities can be developed and inform a programme for promoting and encouraging cycling in the plan area.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy N01: To seek to ensure that new development does not cause an unacceptable increase in noise levels affecting surrounding properties.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective N01: In considering planning applications to have regard to any Noise Maps and Noise Action Plans relating to the site location in accordance with the EU Directive on Assessment and Management of Environmental Noise.	0	0	0	0	0

Infrastructure

	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy WS01: Ensure an adequate, sustainable and economic supply of good quality water for domestic, commercial and industrial needs for the	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
lifetime of this plan, whilst ensuring the protection of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC through Appropriate Assessment of any proposed development and ensuring the maintenance of adequate flows within these rivers if water abstraction(s) are required.					
Policy WS02: Conserve supplies through the maintenance of the mains and the elimination of leakages.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy WS03: Promote public awareness on the maintenance of water quality and economic and sustainable use.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy WS04: Strive to ensure that existing developments that are still discharging directly to the River Barrow and other freshwater sources are connected to public mains as soon as possible to optimise water quality status in accordance with the Water Framework Directive (WFD) with the aim of achieving "good status" by 2015.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy WW01: To provide optimum Wastewater Treatment facilities and infrastructure to serve the existing and future population of New Ross Town and Environs	0	0	0	0	0
Policy WW02: To require and facilitate the connection of existing developments in the Mountgarrett area that are served by private wastewater treatment facilities to connect to the town's wastewater treatment system.	0	X	X	X	X
Objective WW01: To provide optimum Wastewater Treatment facilities and infrastructure to serve the existing and future population of New Ross Town and Environs whilst ensuring waste water discharge effluent standards are in line with the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations, 2001 and functioning of the facilities are in compliance with EPA Waste Water Discharge Licence conditions.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective WW02: To maintain a 'sterilisation zone' around the Wastewater Treatment Plant. No residential development will be permitted within 150 metres of the Treatment Plant.	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy SW01: To safeguard floodplains from inappropriate development. By retaining open spaces for storage and conveyance of floodwater, flood risk to both upstream and downstream areas can be more effectively managed without reliance on flood defences.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy SW02: To 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.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy SW03: Proposals for new developments in Flood Zone A and B for developments that are vulnerable to flooding shall 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 (DoEHLG, OPW November 2009). The assessment must detail how the Development Management Justification Test has been met.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy SW04: To facilitate the provision of suitable flood risk management infrastructure, for example flood defences, by the OPW, the local authority or private developers. whilst ensuring the protection of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC through Appropriate Assessment.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy SW05: To require the provision of adequate storm water retention facilities in new developments, including the use of soft landscaping and sustainable drainage techniques. The Councils 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 stormwater management policy..	0	0	0	0	0
Policy WM01: To implement the specific objectives contained in the Joint Waste Management Plan for the South East 2006-2011.	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy WM02: To require a waste management plan to accompany planning applications for significant developments where appropriate. The waste management plan shall supply full details of all wastes generated (including topsoil/clean fill) and proposals for the prevention, re-use, minimisation and disposal of these wastes. The plan shall be prepared in accordance with Best Practice Guidelines on the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction & Demolition Projects (DoEHLG, 2006).	0	0	0	0	0
Policy WM03: To encourage communities to become involved in environmental awareness activities and community-based recycling initiatives or environmental management initiatives that will lead to local sustainable waste management practices.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy WM04: To encourage waste minimisation strategies for domestic, industrial and commercial wastes. The Councils will support initiatives such as the 'Green Business Initiative' and the 'Green Schools Programme' which promote waste prevention in businesses and schools.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective WM01: To continue to provide bring facilities throughout the town in easily accessible locations where population growth demands. Planning applications for significant developments, for example supermarkets, will be required to submit proposals for bottle-bank facilities.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective WM02: To support the roll out of a three-bin system for domestic and commercial developments within the town and environs area.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TE01: To support the improvement of energy generation and transmission infrastructure and to ensure the security of energy supply for the existing and future population of the town and environs.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TE02: To locate services, including electricity, telephone and TV cabling underground, where possible, with future capacity considered and appropriate ducting put in place.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TE03: To provide orderly development of telecommunications infrastructure throughout the town in accordance with the requirements of the "Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures, Guidelines for	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Planning Authorities" July 1996.					
Policy TE04: To maximise the use of existing masts by sharing installations for antennae support structures.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TE05: To support the development of wide access to broadband telecommunications.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TE06: To adopt a presumption against the erection of antennae in proximity to residential areas, schools or community facilities, structures of historical or architectural interest and areas and sites of archaeological importance.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TE07: To facilitate the development of an accessible WiFi zone in the Town Centre".	0	0	0	0	0
Policy RE01: To promote energy conservation, decrease dependency on fossil fuels and support environmentally friendly methods of producing energy.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy RE02: To facilitate the continual development of renewable energy sources having regard to residential amenities, biodiversity and landscape sensitivities.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy RE03: To encourage the participation of local residents, community and schools groups in sustainable energy projects and awareness campaigns.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy RE04: To engage in consultation with other agencies regarding the development of an Energy Master Plan for the town to allow for a maximisation of energy efficiency.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective RE01: To promote the extension of the Natural Gas network to New Ross Town and Environs.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective RE02: To investigate the potential for small-scale wind energy developments within the urban and industrial areas.	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy EN01: 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.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy EN02: To promote the prioritisation of energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy in the design, layout and operation of new developments.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy EN03: Promote innovative housing design and layout solutions that address concerns of environmental sustainability with regard to matters such as energy efficiency and use of materials.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy EN04: Encourage the integration of micro renewable energy sources into the design and construction of single and multiple housing developments.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy EN05: Have regard to the Guidelines on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (DoEHLG, 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.	0	0	0	0	0

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Housing

	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy HS01: To promote a high standard of architecture in the design of new housing developments and to encourage a variety of house types, sizes and tenure in all new housing developments. Consideration will be given to the existing stock and occupancy levels in the plan area of the type of residential unit that is proposed.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HS02: All new housing estates of 10 dwellings or more shall seek to ensure that at least 20% of the proposed dwellings are adaptable to provide accommodation for people with disabilities.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HS03 Applications for residential developments with the potential to create significant demands on the traffic network by virtue of the location and/or scale of the development shall be accompanied by a Traffic Management and Mobility Plan.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective HS01: To implement the County Housing Strategy 2007-2013 and any subsequent strategy adopted by the Councils and to integrate housing provided under Part V of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2007 into private development in a layout that prevents segregation and promotes good design and layout.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective HS02: To carry out the Councils' 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.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective HS03: To 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.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective HS04: To actively promote the provision of community, educational, social and recreational facilities in parallel with future housing	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
development.					
Policy HS04: To ensure that there is a sufficient amount of zoned land within New Ross Town and Environs to meet residential needs up to 2019.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HS05: To co-ordinate and facilitate the release of new residential development, giving priority to locations that enhance the existing urban structure (sequential test) and which can be integrated into existing public services. Development of greenfield sites will therefore be encouraged to occur in a sequential manner with the lands nearest the town centre being developed first.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HS06: To continue to meet social housing needs in the town and to integrate housing provided under Part V of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2007 into private developments in small schemes so as to prevent segregation and promote good design and layout.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HS07: To 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 Acts 2000-2007 and the County Housing Strategy 2007-2013.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HS08: To support and facilitate the expansion of the role played by the voluntary sector in meeting social housing need.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective HS05: To regenerate the Councils' current housing stock as required.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HS09: To provide for Traveller accommodation in halting sites, individual dwellings or in-group housing schemes in accordance with the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013 and any subsequent programme adopted by the Councils.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HS10: To facilitate and co-operate with other organisations in the provision of services for the community including, in particular, schools, crèches and other education and childcare facilities in parallel with future	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
housing.					
Policy HS11: To facilitate the provision of additional primary and second level schools in appropriate locations where residential expansion is planned.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HS12: To ensure that the provision of recreational areas and the development of residential areas (where both form part of the same development boundary), are undertaken concurrently.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HS13: To require the provision of Childcare Facilities in new residential developments as appropriate. The indicative standard is one childcare facility, accommodating 20 children, for approximately 75 dwellings. This standard may be modified in any particular case where there are significant reasons for doing so. Criteria that may be taken into account in such an assessment include the existing geographical distribution of childcare facilities and the emerging demographic profile of the area.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HS14: To retain existing open space areas within housing estates.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HS15: To require diversity in the density of development and in the form, size and type of dwelling within residential areas.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HS16: To ensure that a high standard of design is incorporated into structures and layout of housing developments, to facilitate pedestrian safety and restrict vehicular traffic speeds.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HS17: To promote energy conservation and renewable energy technologies in developments. Such measures shall be consistent with other policies in this plan.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HS18: To require that all new residential accommodation meets the necessary standards of accessibility, health, sanitation and design, and are carried out generally in accordance with principles of good design.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HS19: To encourage strong frontages onto the main thoroughfares creating definite building lines and continuity of the town structure.	0	0	0	0	0

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Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy HS20: To encourage equal access housing in accordance with the standards set out in section 15 of this plan.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HS21: To encourage infill development on appropriate sites where the proposals respect the existing scale and character of the area.	0	0	0	0	0

Community and Education

	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy C01: To promote the development of sustainable communities on the basis of a high quality of life where people can live, work and enjoy access to a wide range of community, cultural, health and educational facilities suitable for all ages and needs.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy C02: To support and facilitate the provision of new and the improvement of existing community, health and educational facilities. The Councils will, where possible, protect and improve cultural assets in the interests of public enjoyment and for the education of residents and visitors alike.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy C03: To facilitate the provision of adequate community facilities in	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
accordance with the County Development Board strategy as outlined in the document "Remodelling the Model County 2002 – 2012", and any future revision of this document, in relation to the provision of childcare, play, sports and the arts.					
Objective C01: To carry out within the lifetime of the plan, a 'Social Audit' which will identify the areas within the town where community and social facilities are lacking and the facilities which require further development/expansion.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy C04: To encourage and assist the formation, development, direction and coordination of community organisations, local interests and self help groups, with an emphasis on areas of special needs within the town.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective C02: To co-operate with private and commercial interests, community and voluntary groups and state agencies in ensuring an equitable distribution of facilities at locations convenient to where people live and work.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy C05: To support the entitlement of all members of the community to enjoy a decent living environment in the town and to support local communities, the Health Authorities and other bodies involved in the provision of facilities for groups with specific design/planning needs.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy C06: To ensure that all new developments within the town are easily accessible by people with specific design/planning needs.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy C07: To seek to ensure that a minimum of 20% of all new residential development of 10 or more dwelling units are adaptable to provide accommodation for people with disabilities.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective C03: To carry out within the lifetime of the plan a 'Town Accessibility Audit' which will identify the physical obstacles to accessibility and inform a programme for achieving greater accessibility for all members of the community.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy C08: To require childcare facilities in new housing developments at a rate of one childcare facility providing for a minimum 20 childcare places for each 75 residential units in accordance with Childcare Facilities: Guidelines	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
for Planning Authorities 2001 and We Like This Place: Guidelines for Best Practice in the Design of Childcare Facilities 2005, or any subsequent revisions to these guidelines and regulations. In appropriate cases the Councils will support the provision of these spaces off site provided they serve the inhabitants of the development.					
Policy C09: To encourage and facilitate the provision of crèches and play-schools where feasible within new or existing places of work or in proximity thereof, e.g. in light industrial estates.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy C10: To facilitate the development of childcare facilities where demand arises subject to satisfying applicable planning and engineering criteria.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective C04: To work with and support the Wexford County Childcare Committee in developing a programme for the development of childcare services and facilities in New Ross.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy ED01: To facilitate the provision of education facilities by zoning suitable lands.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy ED02: To consult with the Department of Education regarding the location and provision of adequate educational facilities and identification of suitable sites.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy ED03: To restrict new development adjacent to existing schools where such development may have the potential to restrict the expansion of that school.	0	0	0	0	0

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Recreation & Open Space

	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy OS01: To ensure that adequate amenity and recreational open space and facilities, including community facilities and centres, are available for all groups of the population at a convenient distance from their homes and places of work.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy OS02: To facilitate the continued enhancement of the quayside and riverfront areas in accordance with the New Ross Urban Design Waterfront Study 2006 adopted by New Ross Town Council, whilst ensuring the protection of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC through Appropriate Assessment Screening.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy OS03: To ensure that a detailed landscaping plan accompanies all applications for housing estates and significant industrial and commercial developments.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy OS04: To avoid loss of public and private recreational open space unless alternative recreational facilities are provided in a suitable location.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy OS05: To support the implementation of the New Ross Allotments Programme in conjunction with the RAPID scheme.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy OS06 To seek to enhance existing areas of public open space	0	0	0	0	0
Objective OS01: To carry out, in conjunction with the County Development Board, an Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study for New Ross Town and Environs.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective OS02: To examine the feasibility of providing a walkway adjacent to the disused railway line between Rosbercon and Annefield. The long-term objective to reopen this railway line should not be jeopardised.	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Objective OS03: To examine the feasibility of providing a walkway/green corridor adjacent to the east of the R733 Road linking the Town Park with Oaklands Lake and the surrounding area.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective OS04: To examine the feasibility of providing a woodland walk along the eastern bank of the river to north of the town and to facilitate the development of new pedestrian linkages from Craywell Road to the proposed woodland walk.	X	X	X	X	X
Policy OS07: To secure the development of indoor and outdoor recreational facilities, which can be shared with schools, on suitable sites where resources are available.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy OS08: To facilitate the development of private lands for recreational purposes, having regard to the amenities of residents in vicinity, and to the environmental impact of the development.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy OS09: To facilitate sports clubs and their expansion in a practical manner.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective OS05: To facilitate the re-location of swimming pool to Irishtown.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy PRW01: To protect and preserve those existing rights of way which contribute to general amenity.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy PRW02: To create new rights-of-way in the interest of amenity as opportunities or need arise.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy PRW03: To promote the development of river-side walking routes and foster the enjoyment of the natural amenities of the area including the River Barrow whilst protecting areas of ecological value, whilst protecting areas of ecological value and ensuring that any development take cognisance of the aims and objectives of the Water Framework Directive and achieving "good status" by 2015 and ensures protection of designated sites through Appropriate Assessment Screening.	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy PRW04: To encourage the provision of access routes to amenity areas in co- operation with landowners and protect amenity areas from infringement by inappropriate development.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy PRW05: To protect and enhance, through the development management process, existing town centre laneways which add to the character and permeability of the town. Regard shall be had to the New Ross Laneway Study 1999 and any future amendments/revisions of this document.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective PRW01: To examine existing rights of way, paths and access points to the river and other amenity areas to determine where public rights-of-way exist and where public-rights-of-way should be created, either by agreement or by compulsion, for the provision of walking routes.	0	0	0	0	0

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Tourism, Arts and Culture

	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy T01: To ensure that future development of tourism is carried out in a sensitive and sustainable manner.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy T02: To work with Fáilte Ireland, the County Wexford Tourist Board, the Arts Council and other relevant bodies to promote and develop the arts and tourism sector in New Ross.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy T03: To encourage the development of primary tourist attractions and secondary support facilities (such as transport/ accommodation) in the town.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy T04: To support product clustering with other sites and attractions in the region.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy T05: To realise the tourism potential of existing archaeological and natural heritage features within the town, while also ensuring their protection.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy T06: To ensure the full recreational potential of the River Barrow and its estuary is realised, whilst taking cognisance of the aims and objectives of the Water Framework Directive River Basin District Management Plan and achieving "good status" by 2015.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy T07: To support the expansion of a diversified range of tourist and business related accommodation, including developments to cater for tour groups.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy T08: To encourage and facilitate the development of craft and design shops in the town centre.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy T09: To encourage the redevelopment of under-utilised and derelict sites in the town centre and to create an attractive public realm.	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy T10: To encourage the provision of indoor and activities based tourism facilities and events which extend the tourism season.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy T11: To promote collective public and private sector marketing of New Ross as a short break and activity break destination.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy T12: To promote the development of eco-tourism and other leisure activities in the environs of New Ross Town, outside the proposed urban edge (development limit boundary), such as equestrian centres, outdoor recreational centres, bird watching and boating clubs.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective T01: To promote and upgrade the historic walking trail to include interpretative signs and information boards at important sites of archaeological interest, heritage and nature conservation.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective T02: To improve the attractiveness of the riverside area in accordance with the New Ross Urban Design Waterfront Study 2006 and to carry out other environmental improvements to the town centre.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective T03: To develop the potential of the River Barrow for inland navigation and appropriate facilities, such as a river taxi, in association with Waterways Ireland, the Harbour Master and any other relevant authorities. Any such development should take cognisance of the aims and objectives of the Water Framework Directive and should ensure the protection of designated sites through Appropriate Assessment screening.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective T04: To maintain and improve tourist infrastructure through the provision of attractive, useful, informative signage methods and by carrying out environmental improvements along tourist routes.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective T05: To maintain and improve viewing points and the main entrances to the town.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective T06: To provide coach parking for tour groups at a suitable location in the town centre.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy A&C01: To promote arts and cultural activities and facilities	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
in the town and continue to promote local cultural events such as the Dunbrody Festival and the Piano Festival and other multi-cultural initiatives.					
Policy A&C02: To promote the development of arts/crafts and farmers/organic markets in the town.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy PA01: To encourage and facilitate the development, creation and display of works of art in public areas.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy PA02: To encourage major new commercial and private residential developments to incorporate works of public art into the overall scheme in order to enhance the amenities of the local environment.	0	0	0	0	0

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Conservation and Natural Heritage

	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy UF01: To ensure that the Town's street pattern, public spaces and laneways, retain its medieval layout and is preserved in any future developments and to protect and seek to maintain the remaining sections of the Town Wall.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy UF02: To ensure the preservation of historic urban spaces in the Town Centre, retain traditional building lines and heights around their edges so as to maintain their 'sense of enclosure'.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TW01: To protect, conserve and enhance access to the Town Wall in accordance with the "New Ross Town Walls Conservation Plan".	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TW02: No further demolition of nineteenth century, or earlier, property built against, overlooking, or opening onto the Town Wall should be permitted unless a compelling case is presented to demonstrate that the outcome will be to the ultimate benefit to the Town Walls.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TW03: Within new developments means shall be devised to indicate the location of the Walls and the Town Wall Gates where such structures no longer exist or where sections remain below ground.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy GY01: To preserve and enhance the Towns Graveyards through improved management and access. To provide historical information at each location and promote the unique character of each of the burial grounds to the surrounding residents and property owners.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy AH01: To have regard to the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), and the Urban Archaeological Survey prepared for New Ross Town when dealing with planning applications for development or threats to recorded items. Development shall be controlled in the vicinity of a recorded feature where it detracts from the setting of the feature or where it is a feature seriously injurious to its cultural or educational value. In all such	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
cases the Councils shall consult with the National Monuments Section of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG).					
Policy AH02: To protect and preserve archaeological sites which have been identified subsequent to the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP).	0	0	0	0	0
Policy AH03: To have regard to the Zone of Archaeological Potential within New Ross Town when dealing with planning applications for all development, including public sector development. This may involve the employment of a licensed archaeologist at the expense of the developer to record any archaeological remains uncovered and to supervise all excavation works.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy AH04: To recognise that under the National Monuments Acts 1930-1994 all underwater archaeological structures, features and objects are protected and ensure that any development proposals within or along the banks of the River Barrow with the potential to impact on the river will require consultation with the Heritage and Planning Division of the DoEHLG.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy AH05: To require an archaeological assessment for development that may, due to its size, location or nature, have a significant effect upon archaeological heritage and to take all appropriate measures to safeguard this archaeological heritage. In all such cases the Planning Authority shall consult with the National Monuments Section of the DoEHLG. [Any such assessments shall be carried out by a licensed archaeologist.]	0	0	0	0	0
Policy AH06: To promote a presumption in favour of "preservation in situ" of archaeological remains and settings when dealing with proposals for development that would impact upon archaeological sites and/or features.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy AH07: To protect and record heritage objects such as walls, bridges and street furniture within the Town.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy AH08: To protect the burial grounds within New Ross Town identified in the Record of Monuments and Places, in co-operation with the National Monuments Section of the DoEHLG.	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy BH01: To protect the architectural heritage of New Ross Town and to include structures considered to be of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest in the Record of Protected Structures.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy BH02: To protect the curtilage of Protected Structures or proposed Protected Structures from any works which would cause loss of or damage to the special character of the structure and loss of or damage to, any structures of heritage value within the curtilage or attendant grounds of the structure.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy BH03: To encourage development within the curtilage of a protected structure that is compatible with its character in terms of siting, building lines, proportions, scale, massing, height, roof treatment and materials. This does not preclude putting forward innovative contemporary designs that respect the context of the protected structure.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy BH04: To promote the maintenance and appropriate reuse of Protected Structures and older buildings of architectural heritage merit that make a positive contribution to the character, appearance and quality of local streetscapes and the sustainable development of the County and Town.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy BH05: To promote the retention of original or early building fabric including timber sash windows, stonework, brickwork, joinery, render and slate. Likewise the Council will encourage the re-instatement of historically correct traditional features.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy BH06: To encourage the retention of those elements that give a protected structure its special interest where the structure has suffered damage by fire or other accidental causes and where those elements have survived either in whole or in part.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy BH07: To ensure that applications in relation to Protected Structures include an architectural heritage assessment/architectural impact assessment report. This report should assess the implications of the development on the character of the structure and the area in which it is located. This should be	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
prepared in accordance with appendix B of the "Architectural Heritage Protection, Guidelines for Planning Authorities".					
Policy BH08: To ensure that all applications for Protected Structures will be assessed by taking into consideration the advice contained in "Architectural Heritage Protection, Guidelines for Planning Authorities" (December 2004), and any subsequent drafts.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy BH09: To encourage the repair and retention of traditional timber, rendered and/or tiled shop fronts and pub fronts, including those, which may not be Protected Structures.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy BH10: To facilitate the retention of older buildings the Planning Authorities will give consideration to the relaxation of car parking and other Development Management requirements in appropriate circumstances.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy BH11: To ensure that elements of the architectural heritage of the Town, such as historic gardens, stone walls, ditches and street furniture that make a positive contribution to the built heritage, are retained.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective BH01 To investigate the possibility of New Ross being designated as a 'Heritage Town'.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective BH02 To seek and support the development, for the purposes of culture and tourism, of a Museum encompassing all aspects of the history of New Ross Town.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy ACA01: To consider designating Architectural Conservation Areas within New Ross Town Centre.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy ACA02: To preserve the special character of the Architectural Conservation Areas and to ensure that all future development will enhance this character and contribute to the creation of a distinctive sense of place.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy ACA03: To review the boundaries, aims and objectives of the proposed Architectural Conservation Areas within the life time of the Development Plan. Prepare detailed statements for the area, in consultation with stakeholders and local interest groups, including guidance regarding	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
new development and exempted development relevant to the specific character of the area.					
Policy ACA04: To ensure that all proposed developments are carried out to the highest architectural standards within designated areas.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy ACA05: To ensure a high standard of urban design within proposed Architectural Conservation Area.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy ACA06: To promote improvements to the streetscape and the spaces between buildings to enhance the quality of these areas.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy NH01: To secure the conservation and the sustainable use of natural heritage in New Ross Town and Environs and ensure that it is taken into account at the earliest possible stage in the development process.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy NH02: To conserve and protect the ecological integrity of designated sites of international and national importance and sites proposed for designation, in particular, European sites (including Natura 2000 sites), and Ramsar sites, NHAs and statutory nature reserves.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy NH03: To carry out an Appropriate Assessment, in accordance with 'Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DoEHLG, 2010), for any plan or project which has the potential to damage the integrity of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy NH04: To protect riparian zones and natural land drains by maintaining an adequate buffer zone (minimum 5-10m) along all watercourses and land drains, with no infilling or removal of vegetation within these buffer zones.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy NH05: To retain, where possible, and protect traditional field boundaries, ponds or small woods which provide important ecological networks.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy NH06: To protect and enhance surface water and groundwater resources and associated habitats and species which are essential to ensure the highest water quality into the future, as	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
set out in the Water Framework Directive with the aim of achieving "good status" by 2015.					
Policy NH07: To strive to achieve the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan for the South Eastern River Basin District (SERBD) to achieve high water quality status for the River Barrow River Nore SAC and to support its special habitats and species contained within this designated site.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy NH08: To ensure the continued reduction in pollution of the New Ross Port and Barrow Nore Estuary Upper waterbodies, through the Pollution Reduction Programme, to improve water quality in this area of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC and ensure compliance with the Quality of Shellfish Waters Regulations 2006.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective NH01: To implement the policies and objectives of the National Biodiversity Plan and any Local Biodiversity Plan and/or Heritage Plan that is adopted for the County.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy L01: Seek to enhance the landscape character, quality and distinctiveness of New Ross and ensure that new development will contribute to scenic vistas	0	0	0	0	0
Policy L02: Recognise landscape as an essential component of people's surroundings, an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and as a foundation of their identity	0	0	0	0	0
Policy L03: Raise awareness of the values of landscapes and actively involve the public in all policy decisions affecting the landscape	0	0	0	0	0
Policy L04: Require a landscape-centred approach to new development with good spatial layout, high quality landscape design and green infrastructure linkages	0	0	0	0	0
Policy L05: Identify and protect historic landscapes	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Objective L01: Implement the impending National Landscape Strategy and any Ministerial Guidelines concerning the protection, management and planning of the landscape.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective L02: Require that any necessary assessments, including visual impact assessments, are made when undertaking, authorising or approving applications for significant development.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy PV01: To ensure that important views and vistas are protected and enhanced where possible.	0	0	0	0	0



Section 12 - Major Accidents Directive

	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy MA01: To co-operate with the Health and Safety Authority and to have full regard to technical advice received from that organisation	0	0	0	0	0
Objective MA01: To consult with the Health and Safety Authority when any development, referred to in Schedule 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, is proposed within 300m of the ESSO Joint Fuels Terminal	0	0	0	0	0
Objective MA02: To consult with the Health and Safety Authority when any development, referred to in Schedule 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, is proposed within 400m of the Campus Fuels Terminal	0	0	0	0	0
Objective MA03: To consult with the Health & Safety Authority when any development, referred to in Schedule 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, is proposed within a distance specified by the Health and Safety Authority of any future seveso sites in or adjacent to the plan area.	0	0	0	0	0

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Land Use Zoning Objectives

	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
To provide for, protect and strengthen the vitality and viability of the town centre through consolidating development, maximising the use of lands and encouraging a mix of uses.	X	X	X	X	X
To protect and enhance the residential amenity of existing and developed communities.	X	X	X	X	X
To provide for new residential development, associated residential services and community facilities.	X	X	X	X	X
To provide for a Neighbourhood Centre and associated facilities.	X	X	X	X	X
To protect, provide for and improve community, educational and, ecclesiastical facilities.	X	X	X	X	X
To provide for, protect and improve the provision, attractiveness, accessibility and amenity value of public open space and amenity areas.	X	X	X	X	X
To provide for industry, transport and utility providers.	0	0	0	0	0
To provide for light industry and office related developments	0	0	0	0	0
To make provision for mixed uses.	X	X	X	X	X
To make provision for commercial developments.	X	X	X	X	X
To provide for a retail park for the sale of bulky goods only	0	0	0	0	0
To provide a transition zone between conflicting land uses so as to protect the amenities of more sensitive land uses.	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
To protect areas of high natural amenity	0	0	0	0	0



Wexford County Council

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Addendum**

Date: December 2010



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1 Introduction

Wexford County Council is currently preparing a revised New Ross Town and Environs Development Plan 2011-2017. The Plan is being prepared under the provisions of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2010. The revised Development Plan will set out the long, medium and short-term vision of the future development of New Ross and Environs. It will set out a framework for the sustainable development of the town and environs that co-ordinates the needs and aspirations of its people, maximising the best-use of its resources, promoting its economic and social development, while preserving its natural and built environment.

The review of the New Ross Town and Environs Development Plan presents an opportunity to reinforce the planning strategies identified in the National Spatial Strategy (NSS), to promote and implement national strategy/policy/guidelines on sustainable development and environmental protection (*e.g.* Climate Change Strategy, Biodiversity Plan, Transport 21 and South East Regional Planning Guidelines).

The Development Plan and the objectives and policies contained within it will be developed (i) to facilitate the sustainable economic and social development of the town, through the promotion of a positive climate for development initiative within the plan area, (ii) to support and protect the environment, heritage, character and amenity of the town including the River Barrow and its environs (SAC), (iii) to upgrade and expand the towns physical infrastructure to accommodate existing and projected needs, (iv) to provide for a range of community facilities and amenities to serve the local community, including the educational, recreational, religious, civic needs of children, adolescents, adults and the elderly, (v) to promote a strong sense of community spirit, civic pride and social inclusion, (vi) to ensure that it has a vibrant and accessible town centre with a well developed public realm (vii) to conserve the natural and built environment of the town where it is recognised as having special value and (viii) to strengthen the urban structure in the County through the planned orderly development of New Ross.

The Development Plan will adopt a facilitative approach to development in New Ross while ensuring that this development does not result in any adverse impacts on environmental, heritage and cultural assets.

An important part in the development of the Draft Plan is how the Plan may impact on Natura Sites designated for nature conservation (*i.e.* Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas). The Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna – the 'Habitats

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Directive' provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive require an Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects likely to have a significant impact on the "integrity" of a European site. This means that the effects of such plans/projects on Natura 2000 sites need to be assessed to ensure that the integrity of these sites is maintained. Natura 2000 sites are those identified as sites of Community importance designated under the Habitats Directive (Special Areas of Conservations) or the Birds Directive (Special Protection Areas) and are also referred to as European sites.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive sets out the decision-making tests for Plans or Projects affecting Natura 2000 sites.

Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment:

"Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public"

Article 6(4) of the Directive deals with alternative solutions, the test of "imperative reasons of overriding public interest" (IROPI) and compensatory measures:

"If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of social or economic nature, the Member State shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted"

Overall the **aim** of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) and indeed the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Plan is to facilitate the implementation of sustainable and environmental protection policies at the highest level of planning for New Ross Town and its Environs.

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The AA Report of the Draft New Ross Town and Environs Development Plan was completed in July 2010. This Report along with the Draft Plan and SEA Environmental Report went on public display on Wednesday 21st July 2010 to Friday 1st October 2010. Written observations and submissions regarding the Draft Development Plan, SEA Environmental Report and AA Report were invited from members of the public and other interested parties during this statutory time period.

This document forms an **Addendum of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) Report** of the Draft New Ross Town and Environs Development Plan 2011-2017. Reference should be made to the Appropriate Assessment Report (July, 2010) when reading this document.



2 Screening Assessment

Following the public display of the Draft Plan, SEA Environmental Report and AA Report, all responses/submissions received were assessed and responses to these submissions were incorporated into a Manager's Report. During this process, a number of policies and objectives were amended and strengthened.

Following discussions with the Members on the Manager's Report, a further four changes to policy and objective text has been proposed.

A Screening Assessment of the new/amended policies and objectives arising from the statutory consultation process and the discussions with the Members, was carried out using significance indicators as outlined in the 2009 Appropriate Assessment DoEHLG Guidelines (see **Table 1** below).

As outlined in **Table 1** overleaf, there is the potential for the zoning objective "*To provide for Port-Related Activities and other appropriate related developments*" to negatively impact on the conservation objectives and/or integrity of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC, as a standalone objective. However, the Draft Development Plan includes policies and objectives that will ensure the protection and enhancement of natural habitats (*e.g.* **Policy NH02**: To conserve and protect the ecological integrity of designated sites of international and national importance and sites proposed for designation, in particular, European sites (including Natura 2000 sites), and Ramsar sites, NHAs and statutory nature reserves; and **Policy NH03**: To carry out an Appropriate Assessment, in accordance with '*Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidelines for Planning Authorities*' (DoEHLG, 2010), for any plan or project which has the potential to damage the integrity of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC).

Implementation of the Mitigation Measures of Section 5 of the Appropriate Assessment Report (July 2010) will prevent inappropriate development from occurring within the boundary of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC, thereby protecting (directly and/or indirectly) the integrity and conservation objectives of this Natura 2000 sites.

It is imperative that at least equal weight is given to Environmental Protection Policies as to "Development Policies" to ensure the protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC and biodiversity in general in the Development Plan area.



As noted above, following discussions with the Members on the Manager's Report, four changes have been proposed to policy and objective text. As outlined in **Table 1**, there is no potential for the proposed changes to the text in **Policies ED07, WS04** and **Objectives TM09** and **OPS01** to negatively impact on the conservation objectives and/or integrity of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC. In fact, Policy WS04 has been strengthened further.

3 Conclusion

In summary the proposed amendments, resulting from the consultation process and discussions with the Members, will not impact on the integrity and conservation objectives of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC. However, this is reliant on that at least equal weight is given to Environmental Protection Policies as to "Development Policies", and the implementation of mitigation measures as outlined in Section 5 of the Draft Development Plan Appropriate Assessment Report (July 2010).



TABLE 1

ASSESSMENT OF NEW POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES, ARISING FROM THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION PROCESS & FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE MEMBERS ON A MANAGERS REPORT'S, ON THE RIVER BARROW AND RIVER NORE SAC USING SIGNIFICANCE INDICATORS AS OUTLINED IN THE 2009 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT DoEHLG GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

(Note = Text in **Orange** equated to amended or recommended policies & objectives;
Text in **Red** equates to new policies or objectives)

X Potential Significant Negative Impact on Natura 2000 sites	0 No Significant Environmental Impacts on Natura 2000 sites
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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy ED02: To ensure the provision of necessary infrastructure such as roads, sanitary services, housing, telecommunications, energy supply and generation and the	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
clearance of derelict land where feasible to facilitate new enterprises and existing enterprises wishing to expand. <i>The Councils shall seek to ensure the provision of adequate and appropriate wastewater treatment, water supply, surface and storm water drainage, transport, waste management, community services and amenities on a planned and phased basis to facilitate economic development in the town.</i>					
Policy ED07: To facilitate the provision of an accessible <i>and free</i> WiFi zone in the town centre.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy IN05: To support New Ross Port Authority in developing the commercial port by facilitating the future development of the port at Marshmeadows, including the facilitation of an additional wharf and construction of warehousing and open storage <i>subject to the findings of an Appropriate Assessment in compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. Any development of the port and/or wharf shall ensure the protection of the Waterford Harbour Shellfish Area and shall be monitored and assessed to ensure compliance with the Water Framework Directive.</i>	0	0	0	0	0
Objective OPS01: Planning applications for office developments on lands zoned for Commercial and Light Industry and Office shall be accompanied by a sequential	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
analysis which clearly demonstrates that there are no alternative/suitable sites available for the proposed development in the Town Centre.					
Policy R09: To encourage and facilitate the use of unoccupied retail outlets in the town centre as Retail Incubation Centres.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy R10: To ensure that new retail development in the neighbourhood centres shall be convenience shopping with suitable comparison shopping open for consideration to meet the day to day shopping needs of the local community.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TM08: Require the submission of a <i>Traffic and Transport Assessment and/or Road Safety Audit</i> for developments with the potential to create significant additional demands on the traffic network by virtue of the nature of their activity, the number of employees, their location or a combination of these factors <i>and for significant developments affecting national roads.</i>	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TM09: To support New Ross Port Authority in developing the commercial port by facilitating the future development of the port at Marshmeadows, including the facilitation of an additional wharf and construction of warehousing and open storage, <i>subject to the findings of an Appropriate Assessment in compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. Any development of the</i>	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
<i>port and/or wharf shall ensure the protection of the Waterford Harbour Shellfish Area and shall be monitored and assessed to ensure compliance with the Water Framework Directive.</i>					
Policy TM12: To support the implementation of the National Climate Change Strategy and any Regional Climate Change Action Plan or Climate Change Strategy adopted for the County.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective TM06: To improve and expand coach/bus parking facilities adjacent to the town centre <i>and provide parking for buses including disabled access.</i>	0	0	0	0	0
Objective TM08: To provide a new link <i>road between Irishtown/ Morrissysland and Redhouse as shown on Map No. 10.</i>	0	0	0	0	0
Objective TM09: Facilitate the construction of a river crossing <i>between Marshmeadows and Raheen</i> , as indicated on Map 10, <i>subject to the findings of an Appropriate Assessment in compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</i>	0	0	0	0	0
Objective TM13: To improve cycling facilities in the town to enable New Ross to be linked to the National Cycle Network.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective N01: In considering planning applications to have regard to any Noise Action Plan <i>prepared for the area</i> in	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
accordance with the EU Directive on Assessment and Management of Environmental Noise.					
Policy WS01: Ensure an adequate, sustainable and economic supply of good quality water for domestic, commercial and industrial needs for the lifetime of this plan, <i>subject to the findings of an Appropriate Assessment in compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, where appropriate.</i>	0	0	0	0	0
Policy WS04: Ensure that existing developments that are still discharging directly to the River Barrow and other freshwater sources are connected to public mains as soon as possible to optimise water quality status in accordance with the Water Framework Directive (WFD) <i>and the environmental standards and objectives of the South Eastern River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015.</i>	0	0	0	0	0
Policy SW04: To facilitate the provision of suitable flood risk management infrastructure, for example flood defences, by the OPW, the local authority or private developers, <i>subject to the findings of an Appropriate Assessment in compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, where appropriate.</i>	0	0	0	0	0
Policy SW06: Any proposal for new development on lands zoned for Port-Related Activities at Marshmeadows for developments that are vulnerable	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
<p>to flooding must be accompanied by an appropriate site specific flood risk assessment carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment contained in Appendix V of the Development Plan and the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG, OPW November 2009). The assessment must detail how the Development Management Justification Test has been met, clearly demonstrating that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the development is for a use that complies with the Port-Related Activities land use zoning, (ii) the development proposed will not increase flood risk elsewhere, and if practicable, will reduce overall flood risk, (iii) the development proposal includes measures to minimise flood risk to people, property, the economy and the environment as far as reasonably possible and; (iv) the development proposed includes measures to ensure that residual risks to the area and/or development can be managed to an acceptable level as regards the adequacy of existing flood protection measures or the design, implementation and funding of any future flood 					

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
risk management measures and provisions for emergency services					
Policy RE05: To support the implementation of the South-East Region Bioenergy Implementation Plan 2008-2013.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy RE06: To support the implementation of the National Climate Change Strategy and any Regional Climate Change Action Plan or Climate Change Strategy adopted for the County.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy TE05: To support the development of wide access to <i>high speed</i> broadband.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy C08: To promote and encourage Universal Design and Lifetime Housing in all new developments in accordance with the policies and principles contained in Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas: Guidelines for Planning Authorities and its companion document Urban Design Manual (DoEHLG, 2008).	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HS13 & C08: <i>To require the provision of Childcare Facilities in new residential developments in accordance with Childcare Facilities: Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2001 and We Like This Place: Guidelines for Best Practice in the Design of Childcare Facilities 2005. The indicative standard is one childcare</i>	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
<i>facility, accommodating 20 children, for approximately 75 dwellings. This standard may be modified in any particular case where there are significant reasons for doing so. Criteria that may be taken into account in such an assessment include the existing geographical distribution of childcare facilities and the emerging demographic profile of the area.</i>					
Policy OS02: To facilitate the continued enhancement of the quayside and riverfront areas in accordance with the New Ross Urban Design Waterfront Study 2006 adopted by New Ross Town Council <i>subject to the findings of an Appropriate Assessment in compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, where appropriate.</i>	0	0	0	0	0
Objective OS04: To examine the feasibility of providing a woodland walkway along the eastern bank of the river to north of the town and to facilitate the development of new pedestrian linkages from Craywell Road to the proposed woodland walk <i>subject to the findings of an Appropriate Assessment in compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, where appropriate.</i>	0	0	0	0	0
Objective OS06: To facilitate the development of a Skate Park at an appropriate location in the Town.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy T02: To work with Fáilte Ireland, the County Wexford Tourist Board, the Arts Council and other relevant bodies to	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
promote <i>the sustainable development of</i> the arts and tourism sector in New Ross.					
Policy T06: To ensure the full recreational potential of the River Barrow and its estuary is realised whilst taking cognisance of the aims and objectives of the South Eastern River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 and achieving "good status" by 2015 <i>and shall be undertaken in compliance with Articles 6 and Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</i>	0	0	0	0	0
Policy T09: To encourage the <i>sustainable</i> redevelopment of under-utilised and derelict sites in the town centre and to create an attractive public realm.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy T12: To promote the <i>sustainable</i> development of eco-tourism and other leisure activities in the environs of New Ross Town, outside the proposed urban edge (development limit boundary), such as equestrian centres, outdoor recreational centres, bird watching and boating clubs.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective T07: To promote and develop the Norman heritage of the town.	0	0	0	0	0
Objective T03: To develop the potential of the River Barrow for inland navigation and appropriate facilities, such as a river taxi, in association with Waterways Ireland, the Harbour Master and other relevant authorities. Any such development should take cognisance of the aims and objectives of the Water Framework Directive and <i>be undertaken in</i>	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
<i>compliance with Articles 6 and Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</i>					
Policy PRW03: To promote the development of river-side walking routes and foster the enjoyment of the natural amenities of the area including the River Barrow whilst protecting areas of ecological value and ensuring that any development take cognisance of the aims and objectives of the Water Framework Directive and achieving "good status" by 2015 and <i>that all development is undertaken in compliance with Articles 6 and Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</i>	0	0	0	0	0
Policy NH04: To 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.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy NH07: <i>Implement the Programme of Measures</i> and strive to achieve the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan for the South Eastern River Basin District (SERBD) to achieve high water quality status for the River Barrow River Nore SAC and to support <i>the favourable conservation status of habitats and species contained within the designated site.</i>	0	0	0	0	0

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	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Policies/Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy NH08: To ensure the continued reduction in pollution of the New Ross Port and Barrow Nore Estuary Upper waterbodies, through the Pollution Reduction Programme, to improve water quality in this area of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC and ensure <i>protection of the designated Waterford Harbour Shellfish Area downstream of New Ross through</i> compliance with the Quality of Shellfish Waters Regulations 2006.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy NH09: To ensure full compliance with the requirements of Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment and the associated Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations, 2004.	0	0	0	0	0
Policy NH10: To work with the relevant authorities in developing and implementing any Oil Spill Contingency Plan for the protection of the River Barrow, designated areas and the general environment.	0	0	0	0	0

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Land Use Zoning Objectives

	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
Objectives	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
To provide for Port-Related Activities and other appropriate related developments.	X	X	X	X	X



Wexford County Council

**New Ross Town and Environs
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Addendum 2**

Date: February 2011



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1 Introduction

Wexford County Council is currently preparing a revised New Ross Town and Environs Development Plan 2011-2017. The Plan is being prepared under the provisions of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2010. The revised Development Plan will set out the long, medium and short-term vision of the future development of New Ross and Environs. It will set out a framework for the sustainable development of the town and environs that co-ordinates the needs and aspirations of its people, maximising the best-use of its resources, promoting its economic and social development, while preserving its natural and built environment.

An important part in the development of the Draft Plan is how the Plan may impact on Natura Sites designated for nature conservation (*i.e.* Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas). The Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna – the 'Habitats Directive' provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive require an Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects likely to have a significant impact on the "integrity" of a European site. This means that the effects of such plans/projects on Natura 2000 sites need to be assessed to ensure that the integrity of these sites is maintained. Natura 2000 sites are those identified as sites of Community importance designated under the Habitats Directive (Special Areas of Conservations) or the Birds Directive (Special Protection Areas) and are also referred to as European sites.

Overall the **aim** of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) and indeed the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Plan is to facilitate the implementation of sustainable and environmental protection policies at the highest level of planning for New Ross Town and its Environs.

The AA Report of the Draft New Ross Town and Environs Development Plan was completed in July 2010. This AA Report along with the Draft Plan and SEA Environmental Report went on public display on Wednesday 21st July 2010 to Friday 1st October 2010. Written observations and submissions regarding the Draft Development Plan, SEA Environmental Report and AA Report were invited from members of the public and other interested parties during this statutory time period.

Following this public display period, all responses/submissions received were assessed and responses to these submissions were incorporated into a Manager's Report. During this process, a number of policies

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and objectives were amended and strengthened. Following discussions with the Members on the Manager's Report, a further four changes to policy and objective text were proposed.

A Screening Assessment of the new/amended policies and objectives arising from this statutory consultation process and the discussions with the Members was carried out using significance indicators as outlined in the 2009 Appropriate Assessment DoEHLG Guidelines was carried out in December 2010.

In accordance with Section 12 (7) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), as the proposed amendments to the Plan were material in nature, they were placed on public display, along with the AA and SEA Screening Assessments of the proposed amendments, from Wednesday 22nd December 2010 to Friday 28th January 2011.

A number of submissions have been received from this consultation process.

This report forms Addendum 2 to the Appropriate Assessment of the Plan and screens the amendment to Policy ED02 arising from this statutory consultation and submission received.



2 Screening Assessment

Following the public display of the proposed amendments to the Draft Plan and the SEA and AA Screening Reports for these amendments, SEA Environmental Report and AA Report, all responses/submissions received were assessed and responses to these submissions were incorporated into a Manager's Report. During this process, **Policy ED02** was amended as follows:

Policy ED02: To ensure the provision of necessary infrastructure such as roads, sanitary services, housing, telecommunications, energy supply and generation and the clearance of derelict land where feasible to facilitate new enterprises and existing enterprises wishing to expand. The Councils shall seek to ensure the provision of adequate and appropriate wastewater treatment, water supply, surface and storm water drainage, transport, waste management, community services and amenities on a planned and phased basis to facilitate economic development in the town.

Amended to:

Policy ED02: To ensure the provision of necessary infrastructure such as roads, sanitary services, housing, telecommunications, energy supply and generation and the clearance of derelict land where feasible to facilitate new enterprises and existing enterprises wishing to expand. The Councils shall seek to ensure the provision of adequate and appropriate wastewater treatment, water supply, surface and storm water drainage, transport, waste management, community services and amenities on a planned and phased basis to facilitate economic development in the town, **in advance of new development where feasible.**

A Screening Assessment of this amended policy has been carried out using significance indicators as outlined in the 2009 Appropriate Assessment DoEHLG Guidelines (see **Table 1** below).

As outlined in **Table 1** overleaf, there is no potential for the slight rewording of Policy ED02 to negatively impact on the conservation objectives and/or integrity of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC, as a standalone objective. The Draft Development Plan includes policies and objectives that will ensure the protection and enhancement of natural habitats (*e.g.* **Policy NH02:** To conserve and protect the ecological integrity of designated sites of international and national importance and sites proposed for designation, in



particular, European sites (including Natura 2000 sites), and Ramsar sites, NHAs and statutory nature reserves; and **Policy NH03:** To carry out an Appropriate Assessment, in accordance with '*Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidelines for Planning Authorities*' (DoEHLG, 2010), for any plan or project which has the potential to damage the integrity of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC).

It is imperative that at least equal weight is given to Environmental Protection Policies as to "Development Policies" to ensure the protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC and biodiversity in general in the Development Plan area.

3 Conclusion

In summary the proposed amendment to Policy ED02, resulting from the consultation process, will not impact on the integrity and conservation objectives of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC. However, this is reliant on that at least equal weight is given to Environmental Protection Policies as to "Development Policies", and the implementation of mitigation measures as outlined in Section 5 of the Draft Development Plan Appropriate Assessment Report (July 2010).

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TABLE 1

ASSESSMENT OF THE AMENDED POLICY ED02, ARISING FROM THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION PROCESS ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT (22nd DECEMBER 2010 - 28th JANUARY 2011), ON THE RIVER BARROW AND RIVER NORE SAC

(SIGNIFICANCE INDICATORS AS OUTLINED IN THE 2009 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT DoEHLG GUIDANCE DOCUMENT)

(Note = Text in *Orange* equated to amended text and crossed text (*i.e.* ~~text~~) indicates the deletion of text)

X Potential Significant Negative Impact on Natura 2000 sites	0 No Significant Environmental Impacts on Natura 2000 sites
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Policies/Objectives	River Barrow & River Nore SAC				
	Reduction in Habitat Area	Disturbance to Key Species	Fragmentation of Habitats & Species	Reduction in Species Density	Changes in Water Quality
Policy ED02: To ensure the provision of necessary infrastructure such as roads, sanitary services, housing, telecommunications, energy supply and generation and the clearance of derelict land where feasible to facilitate new enterprises and existing enterprises wishing to expand. The Councils shall seek to ensure the provision of adequate and appropriate wastewater treatment, water supply, surface and storm water drainage, transport, waste management, community services and amenities on a planned and phased basis to facilitate economic development in the town, <i>in advance of new development where feasible.</i>	0	0	0	0	0