



SEA Environmental Report

VOLUME 8



**WEXFORD COUNTY
DEVELOPMENT PLAN
2013 - 2019**

Volume 8

SEA Environmental Report

Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019

February 2013



Wexford County Council
Planning & Development



Abbreviations

AA Appropriate Assessment

ACAs Architectural Conservation Areas

AWS Automatic Weather Station

BER Building Energy Rating

CCGT Combined Cycle Gas Turbine

CFRAMS Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study

CWDP County Wexford Development Plan 2013-2019.

CGS County Geological Sites

CSO Central Statistics Office

DECLG Department of Environment, Communities and Local Government

DCENR Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources

DEHLG Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government

EIA Environmental Impact Assessment

EPA Environmental Protection Agency

EU European Union

GHGs Greenhouse Gases

GSI Geological Survey of Ireland

HFO Heavy Fuel Oil

ICPSS Irish Coastal Protection Strategy Study

IGH Irish Geological Heritage Programme

JWMP Joint Waste Management Plan

LCA Landscape Character Assessment

NHA Natural Heritage Area

NIAH National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

NPWS National Parks and Wildlife Service

NSS National Spatial Strategy

OPW Office of Public Works

OSPAR Oslo Paris Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic

ORED Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan

PFRA National Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment

POPs Persistent Organic Pollutants

PRP Pollution Reduction Programme (Shellfish Designated Areas)

RBD River Basin District

RIA Retail Impact Assessment

RMP Record of Monuments and Places

RPII Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland

RPS Record of Protected Structures

SERBMP South East River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015

SERPGs Regional Planning Guidelines for the South East Region

SAC Special Area of Conservation

SEA Strategic Environmental Assessment

SEO Strategic Environmental Objective

SFRA Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

SI No. Statutory Instrument Number

SPA Special Protection Area

SUDS Sustainable Urban Drainage System

UN United Nations

UNESCO United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organisation

WCC Wexford County Council

WFD Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)

WMO World Meteorological Organisation

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Non-Technical Summary

Introduction and Background

This is the Environmental Report for the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019 (CWDP). Its purpose is to set out the likely significant environmental effects of the proposed plan on County Wexford over the lifetime of the Plan. The report identifies the significant environmental effects of the Plan on the environment and discusses mitigation measures to reduce these effects.

What is SEA?

SEA is a valuable tool that influences decision-making at each stage in the plan process, to improve the environmental sustainability of the Plan and to raise awareness of the potential environmental consequences of its implementation so that these consequences may be mitigated or avoided altogether. It also gives the public and other interested parties an opportunity to comment and to be kept informed on decisions that may impact on the environment.

Plan & SEA Requirements

The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) requires the Planning Authority to prepare a development plan every six years for its jurisdiction. The Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004, as amended, require that SEA be carried out in respect of county development plans. There was no requirement therefore for screening the plan for SEA.

In accordance with S.12(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Article 14E(1) of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations, 2004 (as amended), the Plan and the Environmental Report were sent to the Minister, the Board and the prescribed authorities and placed on public display for a period of not less than ten weeks, during which time submissions or observations were made to the Planning Authority. All submissions and observations in relation to the Plan or Environmental Report

received during this period were taken into consideration before the making of the Plan.

Following consideration of the submissions, the Plan was amended by the Members. Notice of these material amendments were published in a newspaper and sent to the Minister, the Board and the prescribed authorities. The amendments were screened for SEA and it was determined that they did not require full SEA as the proposed amendments would not cause any significant environmental effects not previously identified or addressed in the Environmental Report. The proposed amendments were placed on public display for a period of not less than four weeks, during which time submissions or observations were made to the Planning Authority. Any submissions or observations in relation to the proposed amendments were taken into consideration before the making of any amendment.

Following consideration of the submissions on the amendments, the Plan was made with further modifications, by the Members of the Planning Authority. A further modification to the material alteration may be made where it is minor in nature and therefore not likely to have significant effects on the environment or adversely affect the integrity of a European site. The modifications were screened for SEA and it was determined to not require full SEA as the proposed modifications would not cause any significant environmental effects not previously identified or addressed in the Environmental Report. Following the making of the Plan a SEA Statement has been prepared in accordance with SEA Regulations and will be made available to the public. The SEA Statement outlines how environmental considerations were considered in the making of the Plan.

Methodology

The methodology devised to carry out the SEA of the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019 follows the requirements as set out in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004, as amended (S.I. No. 436 of 2004) and (S.I. No. 201 of 2011), and the Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) guidelines published by the Department of Environment,

Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) in 2004. The following provides a summary of the stages involved in SEA.

Table 1 Development Plan and SEA Stages

Scoping	The purpose of scoping is to determine the level of detail to be included in the Environmental Report. A Draft Scoping Report was sent to the Environmental Authorities and they were given a five week period to make submissions and observations. Two submissions were received and are summarised in Section 2.2 of the Environmental Report.
Baseline Data	This involved collating information on the current state of the environment and identifying any existing environmental problems relevant to the plan area. The baseline data is described in Section 4 of this Environmental Report.
Environmental Report	Next step was the preparation of the Environmental Report. The purpose of this report is to identify, evaluate and describe the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the Plan and identify appropriate mitigation measures.
Consultation on the Environmental report	The Minister, the Board, the prescribed authorities and the public was consulted on the Draft Plan. This was followed by a 10 week consultation period. Following the public consultation period, Material alterations were made to the Draft Plan and there followed a further submission period during which time submissions or observations were made on the proposed alterations. A number of further modifications were made which were screened.
Making the Decision Public	Following adoption of the Plan a SEA Statement must be prepared giving a summary of how

	environmental considerations were factored into the Plan, how submissions and consultations were taken into account and the reasons for choosing the Plan as adopted in light of other reasonable alternatives considered. It also outlined a list of monitoring measures to be carried out during the plan period.
Monitoring	Monitoring will be undertaken for the duration of the Plan up until its review. The overall objective of this stage is to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Plan so as to identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action.

County Development Plan

The plan has two main purposes, firstly to provide a framework of acceptable uses within the County defining acceptable forms of development and where it should be located and secondly to provide a detailed base for the promotion and management of development.

Thus the plan provides a framework for the development of County Wexford over the plan period 2013-2019, incorporating the relevant strategic objectives at a national and regional level into a County specific format while consolidating local level plans relating to issues such as biodiversity, heritage, community infrastructure and setting the context for the remaining local area plans.

The overall vision in the Plan seeks to develop a county;

- where people want to live, work and play
- which offers high quality sustainable employment opportunities and residential developments
- with high quality urban and rural environments supported by excellent sustainable physical and social infrastructure
- which values its natural environment, built and cultural heritage

The strategic aims for achieving this vision and which underpin the objectives of the Plan include to:

- Promote the balanced and sustainable development of the urban and rural areas of the County for a range of residential, services and employment opportunities.
- Broaden and strengthen the economic base of the County by encouraging the sustainable growth of employment, enterprise and economic activity, and in particular facilitate innovation and enterprise in indigenous industries.
- Continue to develop the role of tourism and the development of a high quality and diverse tourism product throughout the County in a balanced and sustainable manner.
- Develop an integrated Transport Plan for the County which will deliver local transport links, provide safe and efficient road and rail access within the County and to other regions. This, in turn, will facilitate improved public transport provision and reduce the distance that people need to travel to work, schools, services and recreational facilities.
- Promote the development of viable and vibrant town and village centres across the County that provide shopping services of appropriate scale to serve their communities and rural hinterlands, while supporting and enhancing the scale, mix and attractiveness of the retail offer in the Hub of Wexford Town and the Larger Towns of New Ross, Enniscorthy and Gorey.
- Facilitate the provision of high quality housing in a range of locations to meet the needs of the County's population, with particular emphasis on facilitating access to housing to suit different household and tenure needs in a sustainable manner and in appropriate locations.
- Protect and enhance the County's rural assets and recognise the housing, employment, social and recreational needs of those living and working in rural areas.
- Protect, conserve and enhance the County's built, natural and cultural environment through promoting awareness, and good quality urban and rural design.

- Protect and develop the County's water and wastewater infrastructure, integrating their provision with the County's overall land use strategies whilst having regard to environmental responsibilities and complying with European and National legislation.
- Facilitate the provision of, and improvements to, social and recreational infrastructure and provide access to new and existing community facilities throughout the County for all its residents.
- Promote the balanced and sustainable development of the urban and rural areas of the County for a range of residential, services and employment opportunities.
- Protect and enhance the County's unique natural heritage and biodiversity, while promoting and developing its cultural, educational and eco-tourism potential in a sustainable manner.
- Manage the challenges of climate change including flooding and sea level rise.
- Develop an integrated and coherent Green Infrastructure Strategy for the County which will allow for the protection, provision and management of the County's green spaces, in tandem with plans for growth and development.
- Harness the County's natural resources in a manner that is compatible with the sensitivity of rural areas, the existing quality of life, and the protection and enhancement of the County's natural heritage and biodiversity.

In summary, the Plan will provide:

- A sustainable spatial development strategy to guide the location of development;
- Clear guidance on the future use of land and the pattern of development over the next six years;
- A framework for the future investment in physical and social infrastructure;
- A framework for developing the County's economy;
- Management and control by indicating standards to be achieved in new developments;

- Ways to conserve and enhance the urban and rural environment and to protect the diversity of the natural and cultural landscape, and
- Guidance for public and private investors in relation to land use and development.

Relationship with Other Relevant Plans

The Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019 nestles within a clear hierarchy of spatial policy documents. International and national strategies and policies have a strong role to play in establishing higher level agendas such as climate change, while the County Plan objectives are more specific and localised in their orientation. The County Development Plan is important in terms of the development of the County, and it must also adhere to policy and strategic options which are predetermined by higher level plans and guidelines. The County Development Plan will be affected by, and will affect, a wide range of other relevant plans and programmes, and environmental legislation, policies and objectives. It is therefore important to identify relevant plans and programmes which will influence the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019 that must be reviewed in the context of SEA.

The County Development Plan must be consistent with national and regional legislation, plans, strategies and guidelines including the National Spatial Strategy 2002 – 2020 (NSS), planning guidelines issued under S.28 of the Planning and Development Acts, the Regional Planning Guidelines for the South-East Region 2010-2022 (SERPGs), the South-Eastern River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 (SERBMP), the Joint Waste Management Plan for the South East Region 2006-2011 (JWMP) and any relevant Pollution Reduction Programme (PRP) prepared for Shellfish Designated Areas. (See below Table 2: Legislation, Plans, Policies and Programmes)

Table 2 Legislation, Plans, Policies and Programmes

EU and International Legislation		
	Title	Summary of Objectives
SEA/EIA	SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) - Assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the Environment.	This Directive requires plan-makers to carry out an assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme before the plan or programme is adopted.
	EIA Directive (2001/42/EC)	Ensure that projects likely to have significant effects on the environment are made subject to an environmental assessment, prior to their approval or authorisation.
Biodiversity	EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)	Objectives to seek to prevent and eliminate the causes of habitat loss and maintain and enhance current levels of biodiversity. Requirement to carry out an Appropriate Assessment
	EU Birds Directive (as modified) (79/409/EEC)	Objectives seek to prevent and eliminate the causes of bird species loss and maintain and enhance current levels of biodiversity.
	UN Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)	Objectives to seek the conservation of global biodiversity, as well as to ensure equitable access to the world's genetic resources.
	OSPAR Convention (1992)	Aim to encourage international co-operation to protect the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic. Main objective is to prevent and eliminate marine pollution and protect the maritime area thereby safeguarding human health and conserving marine ecosystems.
	Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979)	Aimed at ensuring conservation and protection of wild plant and animal species and their natural habitats
	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention), 1979.	Aims to conserve terrestrial marine and avian migratory species throughout their range
	Convention of Wetlands of International Importance (amended 1982 and 1987) (Ramsar Convention)	Requirement to protect sites from loss or damage by development.
	Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020	Strategy to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020

	European Biodiversity Strategy (1998)	Aimed at addressing the causes of significant reduction or loss of biodiversity at source.
	EU Freshwater Fish Directive (78/659/EEC)	Objectives seek to protect those fresh water bodies identified by Member States as waters suitable for sustaining fish populations. For those waters it sets physical and chemical water quality objectives for salmonid waters and cyprinid waters.
	EC Environmental Objectives (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) 2009	Measures to protect the conservation status of Freshwater Pearl Mussels.
	Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sub-Basin Catchment Management Plans	Catchment based management plans for the protection and conservation of Freshwater Pearl Mussel populations.
Population & Human Health	EU Shellfish Waters Directive (2006/113/EC)	Objectives seek to protect or improve shellfish waters in order to support shellfish life and growth, therefore contributing to the high quality of shellfish products directly edible by man.
	EU Environment and Health Strategy 2004-2010	Objectives seek to prevent and reduce the impacts of pollution on human health.
	The Stockholm Convention (2001)	Objectives seek to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants (POPs).
	Major Accidents (Seveso) Directive (96/82/EC as amended)	Objectives seek to prevent major accidents involving dangerous substances and limit their consequences for man and the environment, with a view to ensuring high levels of protection throughout the Community.
	The Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	Main aim is to provide a common basis for tackling the noise problem across the EU.
	WHO Air Quality Guidelines (1999) and Guidelines for Europe (1987) Non Statutory	Seeks to eliminate or minimise certain airborne pollutants for the protection of human health.
	The EU CAFÉ Programme Commission communication of 4 May 2001 "The Clean Air for Europe (CAFÉ) Programme: Towards a Thematic Strategy for Air Quality".	Seeks to prevent and reduce air pollution and impacts on human health from air pollution.

	The EU Environment and Health Strategy 2004-2010	Aimed at gaining a better understanding of the complex interactions between the environment and health in order to take action to reduce the impact of environmental factors on human health.
Air	Air Quality Directive 2008/50/EC	Sets standards and target dates for reducing concentrations of fine particles, which together with coarser particles known as PM ₁₀ already subject to legislation, are among the most dangerous pollutants for human health.
	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1994	Aimed at reducing greenhouse gases
	EU Directive on National Emissions Ceilings for Certain Atmospheric Pollutants (2001/81/EC)	To improve air quality and control emissions of certain airborne pollutants for the protection of human health and the environment.
	EC Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe	Replaces the air framework directive and the first three daughter directives. Sets standards for reducing concentrations of fine particles, which are among the most dangerous pollutants for human health. Target dates for these objectives are also established.
	Directive 2004/107/EC relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.	Aims at reducing concentrations of specific airborne pollutants identified as having carcinogenic characteristics.
	WHO Air Quality Guidelines (1999) and WHO Air Quality Guidelines- Global Update 2005	Recommends air quality levels and improvements
	IPPC Directive (96/61/EC) as amended by Directive 2008/1/EC	Objective is to achieve a high level of protection of the environment through measures to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions to air, water and land. The Directive provides an integrated approach to establish pollution prevention from stationary "installations".
	Kyoto Protocol	The Kyoto Protocol is an agreement made under the United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change, decided in December 1997 and entered into force on 16th February 2005. Its objective is to substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions in response to climate change.

		Following the Conference of Parties to the Climate Change Convention (COP) meeting in Copenhagen, 2009, the EU revised its commitment to reducing greenhouse gases by increasing the target to 20% reduction on 1990 levels by 2020.
	Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) 2005	Seeks to develop the necessary elements of a strategy to implement the Kyoto protocol.
	Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC)	Sets targets for all Member States, such that the EU will reach a 20% share of energy from renewable sources by 2020 and a 10% share of renewable energy specifically in the transport sector.
Landscape	European Landscape Convention 2000	Provides for the protection, management and planning of landscapes.
	The Pan- European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (1995)	Establishes an international framework for co-operation for consolidating and extending schemes and programmes in the conservation field.
Cultural Heritage	Granada Convention for protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe 1985	Sets out general objectives of all signatory states including Ireland to meet international standards in the identification and protection of architectural heritage including groups of buildings and monuments and their settings.
	European Convention on protection of Archaeological Heritage 1992	Provides the basic framework for policy on the protection of the archaeological heritage.
Water	The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	Objectives seek to maintain and enhance the quality of all surface waters in the EU.
	EU Groundwater Directive (80/68/EEC)	Requires member states to apply a system of investigation and authorisation to

		waste disposal and other activities in order to ensure that groundwater is not polluted by dangerous substances.
	EU Surface Water Directive (75/ 440/EEC)	Aims to protect public health by ensuring surface water abstracted for use as drinking water reaches certain quality standards before it is supplied to the public. It requires member states to monitor the quality of surface waters from which drinking water is abstracted and to take measures to ensure that it complies with the minimum quality standards. This Directive has been integrated into the Water Framework Directive 2000.
	European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 S.I. No. 9 of 2010	Primary objective to protect groundwater
	EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) as amended by Directive 98/15/EEC	The primary objective is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of discharges of urban wastewater, by the provision of urban wastewater collecting systems (sewerage) and treatment plants for urban centres. The Directive also provides general rules for the sustainable disposal of sludge arising from wastewater treatment.
	The Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC	The objective of the Drinking Water Directive is to protect the health of the consumers in the European Union and to make sure the water is wholesome and clean.
	Floods Directive 2007/60/EC	Its aim is to reduce and manage the risks that floods pose to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity.
	EU Dangerous Substances Directive (76/464/EEC)	The objective is to regulate potential aquatic pollution by thousands of chemicals produced in Europe. The Directive covers discharges to inland surface waters, territorial waters, inland coastal waters and groundwater.
	The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)	The Nitrates Directive (1991) aims to protect water quality across Europe by preventing nitrates from agricultural sources polluting ground and surface waters and by promoting the use of good farming practices. The Nitrates Directive forms integral part of the Water

		Framework Directive and is one of the key instruments in the protection of waters against agricultural pressures.
	Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) Repeals existing Directive (71/160/EEC) with effect from 31 December 2014	Aims to provide greater benefits in relation to improved health protection for bathers and a more pro-active approach to beach management including public involvement.
	The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC)	The Marine Strategy Framework Directive is a major piece of EU legislation that requires Member States to achieve good environmental status in the marine environment by the year 2020 at the latest. Good environmental status in the marine environment means that the seas are clean, healthy and productive and that human use of the marine environment is maintained at a sustainable level.
Waste	Waste Framework Directive 2006/12/EC (revised by 2008/98/EC)	The revised sets the basic concepts and definitions related to waste management and lays down waste management principles such as the "polluter pays principle" or the "waste hierarchy".
	The "Landfill Directive" (99/31/EC)	Seeks to reduce the environmental impact from the landfilling of waste and divert certain quantities and types of waste from European landfills.
	The WEE Directive on waste electrical and electronic equipment (2002/96/EC)	Seeks more environmentally sensitive management of waste electric and electronic equipment.
Soil	EU Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection	Aims to protect and maintain soil quality in Europe and promote sustainable use of soil.
	Directive 2004/35/EC on Environmental Liability with regard to the prevention and remedying environmental damage	Prevention and remediation of environmental damage
	Sewage Sludge Directive (86/278/EEC)	Seeks to encourage the use of sewage sludge in agriculture and to regulate its use in such a way as to prevent harmful effects on soil, vegetation , animals and man.

Sustainable Development	European Strategy for Sustainable development (2006)	Identifies key priorities for sustainable development.
	The Sixth Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community 2002-2012 Statutory	Seeks to make the future development of the EU more sustainable.
	“The Gothenburg Strategy” Communication from the Commission on sustainable Europe for a Better World” 2001	Promotes sustainable development.
	Agenda 21(1992)Action for Sustainable Development	Aims to promote sustainable development at a local and regional level by taking into account environmental protection in the development process.
National Legislation, Plans, Policies and Programmes		
	Title	Summary of Objectives
Planning	National Spatial Strategy for Ireland 2002-2010	The Framework Strategy seeks to unleash the potential for progress, growth and development in a more balanced way across the country supported by more effective planning.
	Planning and Development Acts 2000-2009 (Amendment 2010)	Sets National Policy
	Smarter Travel-A Sustainable Transport Future-A new Transport Policy for Ireland 2009-2020	This document sets out proposals to reverse current unsustainable transport and travel patterns and reduce the health and environmental impacts of current trends and improve our quality of life
Biodiversity	European Communities (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 -2011	Requirement for SEA of land-use plans
	European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (SI No 435 of 2004).	Requirement for SEA of certain plans and programmes
	European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No.	Aimed at the conservation of natural habitats and habitats of species, protection of flora and fauna and Appropriate

	477 of 2011)	Assessment of plans and projects.
	Flora Protection Order 1980 (amended 1999)	Aimed at the protection of certain floral species
	Tree Preservation Orders	Offers protection to individual trees or groups of trees.
	Forestry Act 1946	Protection of tree species and forests.
	Wildlife Act 1976	Main objective is the protection of wildlife and requirement to maintain biodiversity by designating nature reserves, protecting species, regulating hunting and controlling wildlife trading.
	Wildlife (Amendment Act) 2000	
	Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016 National Biodiversity Plan 2002	Second National Biodiversity Action Plan- aims to maintain and improve biodiversity at a national level.
Population & Human Health	European Communities (Quality of Shellfish Waters) Regulations 2006 (SI 268 of 2006), as amended by SI 55 of 2009 and SI 464 of 2009	Give effect to Council Directive 79/923/EEC of 30 October 1979 on the quality required of shellfish waters and prescribe quality standards for shellfish waters and designate the waters to which they apply, together with sampling and analysis procedures to be used to determine compliance with the standards.
	National Action Plan for Social Inclusion, 2007-2016	The Government is committed to a coherent strategy for social inclusion based on the lifecycle approach set out in the National partnership agreement. This National Action Plan for Social Inclusion complemented by the social inclusion elements of the National Development Plan 2007-2013 sets out how the social inclusion strategy will be achieved over the period 2007-2016. The new strategic framework will facilitate greater co-ordination and integration of structures and procedures across Government at National and local levels, as well as improved reporting and monitoring mechanisms.
Air & Climatic Factors	Air Quality Standards Regulations 2002 (SI 271 of 2002)	Transposed the EU Air Quality Framework Directive 96/62/EC (superseded by Air Quality Directive 2008/50/EC) on ambient air quality assessment and management.
	National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012	This strategy developed from the 2000 Climate Change Strategy, taking into account the review contained in Ireland's

		Pathway to Kyoto Compliance (2006). Its purpose is to demonstrate how Ireland is to meet its 2008-2012 Kyoto commitments and to identify further policy measures needed for the period from 2012 and after 2020.
	National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP), 2010	Sets out the Government's strategic approach and concrete measures to deliver on Ireland's 16% target under Directive 2009/28/EC.
	Draft Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDPA), 2010	Examines the potential for offshore renewable energy.
	Wind Energy Guidelines 2004	To ensure consistency of approach in the identification of suitable locations for wind farm development and the treatment of planning applications for wind farm developments
Culture and Heritage	The Heritage Act, 1995	Promote public interest in and knowledge, appreciation and protection of the Natural Heritage.
	National Heritage Plan 2002	Sets out a clear and coherent strategy and framework for the protection and enhancement of or heritage.
	Heritage Council Strategic Plan 2012-2016	Identifies 16 objectives aimed at supporting employment, education and awareness and heritage based tourism.
	Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999	Makes provision for the carrying out of a National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH). The purpose of the NIAH is to identify, record, and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland, uniformly and consistently as an aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage. NIAH surveys provide the basis for the recommendations of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to the planning authorities for the inclusion of particular structures in their Record of Protected Structures (RPS).
	National Monuments Acts 1930-1994 and National Monuments (Amendment) Act 2004	Sets National Policy on archaeological structures and sites.
	National Monuments Regulations 2005	Sets National Policy in addition to National Monuments Acts 1930-1994 and Amendment Act 2004

	Architectural Heritage Protection-Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2004	Offers guidance to planning authorities regarding the protection of architecturally important sites in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000.
	Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended)	Part IV applies to the protection of architectural heritage.
	National Landscape Strategy, Public Consultation Paper 2011	Framework to achieve a balance between active management and protection of landscapes.
Water	Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008 (SI No. 79 of 2008)	Ensure that the quality of bathing water is maintained and, where necessary, improved so that it complies with specified standards designed to protect public health and the environment.
	Water Services Act 2007	Provides the legislative context, governing functions, standards, obligations and practice in relation to the planning, management and delivery of water supply and wastewater collection and treatment services.
	Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations, 2001 (SI 254 of 2001), as amended by SI 48 of 2010	Prescribe requirements in relation to the provision of collection systems and treatment standards and other requirements for urban waste water treatment plants, generally and in sensitive areas.
	European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations 2000 (SI 439 of 2000), as amended by SI 278 of 2007 and SI 106 of 2007	Prescribe quality standards to be applied in relation to certain supplies of drinking water, including requirements as to sampling frequency, methods of analysis, the provision of information to consumers and related matters.
	European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations (SI 722 of 2003), as amended by SI 413 of 2005 & SI No 219 of 2008	Provide for the transposition into Irish national law of the provisions of the EU Water Framework Directive.
	Water Conservation Regulations 2008 (S.I. No. 527 of 2008)	Specifies that corrective action be taken to prevent wastage or excessive consumption of water.
	The Planning System and Flood Risk Management : Guidelines for planning Authorities 2009	Requirement to incorporate flood risk assessment into the process of making plans and decisions on planning applications

	Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (S.I. No.272 of 2009) European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) (Amendment) Regulations 2012	Establish environmental objectives to be achieved in groundwater bodies, groundwater quality standards and threshold values for the classification of groundwater and the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration in groundwater quality.
	Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations, 2007, (S.I.No. 684 of 2007)	Govern the licensing and certification/authorisation process of sewage systems owned, managed and operated by Water Service Authorities
	The Local Government (Water Pollution) Act, 1977 (Water Quality Standards for Phosphorus)Regulations, 1998	Aims to retain rivers of good quality at that level and improve the quality of poor rivers.
	The Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1997 (amended 1990)	Aims to reduce pollution of water bodies
Waste	National Waste Prevention Programme	Seeks to separate waste generation from economic activity in Ireland.
Sustainable Development	Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Rural Housing 2005	Sets national policy on the issue of sustainable rural housing
	Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (December 2008)	Addresses sustainable design and services in urban areas
	National Development Plan (NDP) Transforming Ireland- A Better Quality of Life For All (2007-2013)	Sets national policy
	Sustainable Development- A Strategy for Ireland (1997)	To promote the consideration of sustainable principles in drafting and implementation of the Guidelines
	Our Sustainable Future, A Framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland (2012)	A framework for advancing sustainable development and the green economy in Ireland
Regional Plans, Policies and Programmes		
	Title	Summary of Objectives

Planning	Regional Planning Guidelines for the South East Region 2010-2022	Provides for the implementation of the National Spatial Strategy at the regional level and sets out strategic planning guidance to Local Authorities and other bodies across the South-East Region.
Sustainable Dev.	South East Region Bio-Energy Implementation Plan 2008-2013	Aimed at promoting the sustainable deployment of bio-energy within the region
Human Health	County Recreation Strategy	Aims to maximise the facilities and amenities available for recreational use across the county and ensure the sustainable development of the natural and built environment for recreational purposes
Biodiversity	Draft County Wexford Biodiversity Action Plan 2012-2017	Aimed at protecting the county's biodiversity through 33 actions and raising awareness
Water	River Basin Management Plan for the South Eastern River Basin District (2009-2015)	Achieve at least good water quality status by 2015 to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.
	The Freshwater Pearl Mussel Aughavaud Sub-Basin Management Plan (North-South Share 2 project, 2010).	Sets out specific measures that apply to the Aughavaud catchment
	Pollution Reduction Programmes for Waterford Harbour, Bannow Bay , Wexford Harbour Inner and Wexford Harbour Outer.	Compliance with the standards and objectives established by the Quality of Shellfish Waters Regulations 2006 for the designated shellfish growing waters at Waterford Harbour, Bannow Bay, Wexford Harbour Inner and Wexford Harbour Outer.
Waste	Joint Waste Management Plan for the South East Region 2006-2011	To promote waste prevention and minimisation through source reduction, producer responsibility and public awareness and to manage the recovery/ recycling/ disposal of waste arising on a regional basis.

Section 28 Guidelines

The preparation of the Plan must take account of the statutory obligations of Wexford County Council and any relevant policies or objectives of the Government or of any Minister of the Government. The Council is required to have regard to guidelines issued by the Minister of the Environment, Community and Local Government under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The preparation of the Plan has had regard to the following guidelines:

- Architectural Heritage Protection-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2004)
- Architectural Heritage Protection for Places of Public Worship-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2003)
- Childcare Facilities-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2001)
- Provision of Schools and the Planning System-A Code of Practice for Planning Authorities (2008)
- Sustainable Urban Housing-Design Standards for New Apartments, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2007)
- Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2008) and Best Practice Urban Design Manual (Companion document to the Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas Guidelines) (2009)
- Development Plans – Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2007)
- Development Management-Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2007)
- Retail Planning Guidelines-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2005)
- The Planning System and Flood Risk Management-Guidelines for Local Authorities (2009)
- Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Projects on the Environment-Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities (2004)
- Landscape and Landscape Assessment –Guidelines for Planning Authorities, (2000)
- Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures (1996)
- Wind Energy-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2006)

- Sustainable Rural Housing-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2005)
- Quarries and Ancillary Activities-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2004)
- Section 261A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 and related provisions-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012)
- Spatial Planning and National Roads-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012)
- Local Area Plans-Draft Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DECLG, 2012)
- Draft Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (DECLG, 2012)
- Development Contributions- Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DECLG, 2012)
- Guidance for Planning Authorities on Drainage and Reclamation of Wetlands-Draft (DECLG, 2011)

Current State of the Environment

The baseline data was collected on parameters of the environment and is detailed in Section 4 of this Environmental report. The baseline data outlines the environmental context within which the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019 will operate and the opportunities, constraints and issues that this context sets for the Plan.

Wexford is located in the south-east corner of Ireland adjoining counties; Waterford, Kilkenny, Carlow, Wicklow and is a constituent part of the South-East Regional Authority. The county has a land area of approximately 236,527 ha. It has four main towns. Wexford and New Ross are located in the south and west of the county, while the towns of Enniscorthy and Gorey support the northern part of the county. The results of Census of Population 2011 indicate that the population of County Wexford has grown to 145,320 persons.

County Wexford is a maritime county bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the south and the Irish Sea to the east, with a coastline that extends to approximately 246 km. Its distinctive landscape is one of rolling countryside to mountains; from the Hook Peninsula on the south-west coast, the slob lands in the east, the Slaney and Barrow river valleys to the foothills of the Blackstairs Mountains in north-west of the county.

Tourism plays an important economic and social role within the county of Wexford. It has traditionally been an area of strength in Wexford with its reputation as being at the heart of the 'Sunny South-East' where holidaymakers come to enjoy its extensive coastline, rich architecture, natural resources and cultural heritage.

Existing Environmental Problems

Annex I of Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27 June 2001, on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive) requires that information is provided on 'any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme', thus, helping to ensure that the proposed strategic action does not make existing environmental problems worse.

Environmental problems arise where there is a conflict between current environmental conditions and ideal targets. If environmental problems are identified at the outset they can help focus attention on important issues and geographical areas where environmental effects of the plan or programme may be likely.

Table 3 Existing Environmental Issues/Problems and evolution of the environment in absence of the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019

1. Biodiversity, Fauna, Flora,	
Existing problems	Within Wexford the protection of coastal areas, wetlands and the avoidance of the spread of invasive species are important issues. Invasive species pose a serious threat to biodiversity and are regarded as the second biggest threat to biodiversity after direct habitat destruction. There has been significant loss of species rich hedgerows, particularly in more intensively farmed areas and in periphery of urban centres. Other developments and activities such as forestry, agricultural activities, urban developments, windfarms, quarries, tourism, commercial fishing, ports and a wide range of infrastructural works can give rise to significant environmental pressures.
Evolution in	Developments near ecologically important sites may become

absence of the plan	more widespread due to the absence of strategic planning and development management. The ecological network throughout the county would become more and more fragmented and species range decrease as a result. Habitat loss would undoubtedly continue to be the leading cause of a decline in biodiversity in the county and habitats would be lost to development and its associated effects. Water pollution would continue to increase leading to eutrophication and damage to important wetland habitats and shellfish waters.
2. Population and Human Health,	
Existing problems	Pressure on the existing drinking water infrastructure and water quality poses a threat to the population of the county. The increase in the rate of unemployment presents a serious challenge for the future of both the national and local economy. Challenges for the future include retaining the young working population of County Wexford to prevent high levels of emigration by facilitating the provision of future employment and housing. Additionally there is an increasing trend of elderly age cohorts and their future needs must be planned for. A high vacancy rate for housing in smaller serviced centres, and an increase in demand for housing in the north of the county, needs to be balanced. A variety of dwelling types and mix of tenures is required to reflect the needs of the population and changes in household size.
Evolution in absence of the plan	In the absence of a County Development Plan for County Wexford, there will be no integrated framework for the provision of infrastructure and services within the county. A lack of controlled development could lead to imbalance in population distribution in particular areas within the county which would put pressure on adequate service provision and infrastructural facilities, thus affecting the natural environment in which the population lives leading to human health and quality of life

	<p>issues.</p> <p>In particular, increased pressure on water quality arising from pollution, and changes in the quality of the natural and built environment has the potential to impact to varying degrees on human health and wellbeing.</p>
3. Soil and Geology,	
Existing problems	<p>Of concern is the physical, biological and or/chemical degradation of soils, which can cause direct loss of soil, and indirectly impair ecologically essential soil processes, reduce productive capacity and deplete soil quality and biodiversity. Human activity can lead to soil degradation including loss of organic matter, decline in soil fertility, acidification, loss of soil stability, increasing soil erosion, soil compaction, contamination, loss of biodiversity and loss of soil to buildings and infrastructure.</p>
Evolution in absence of the plan	<p>In the absence of the Plan, there would be no framework for the control of development and direction of growth towards brownfield sites, where such development is appropriate. There would be no framework within which the cumulative effects of wind farm construction could be assessed against the potential for soil erosion. There would be potential for adverse environmental impacts from extractive industries, from both existing quarries and new quarry extensions if not appropriately managed.</p>
4. Water and Flooding	
Existing problems	<p>A number of water bodies within the county are under pressure from various sources of pollution. Urban and rural development including wastewater and surface water disposal, landfills, quarries, contaminated lands, illegal dumping, agricultural activity, water recreational activities and afforestation can have significant impacts on water quality. Many existing effluent systems provide inadequate treatment before discharge to</p>

	<p>surface waters. The cumulative effect of discharges from these is of most concern. Flood risk to residences is also of concern within the county.</p>
<p>Evolution in absence of the plan</p>	<p>In the absence of the plan river water quality would decline. Fish stocks within the county could become depleted without proper planning controls, which would have knock on effects for the wider biodiversity of the county. Ground water which is used by a number of smaller public supplies and a significant portion of rural dwellers in the county would also suffer a similar fate. In the absence of proper planning controls, significant negative impacts on both drinking water and biodiversity in the County would be expected to occur.</p>
<p>5. Air, Noise and Climatic factors,</p>	
<p>Existing problems</p>	<p>Air quality within the plan area is generally good. Increased greenhouse gas emissions have been linked with climate change resulting in increases in the intensity and frequency of flooding. Of particular concern is the high dependency on the use of the private car within the county.</p> <p>Climate change is a cross cutting issue which impacts on habitats, species, fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, water quality, water safety, flood risk and people. Of increasing concern is the issue of flooding of rivers, estuaries and coastal areas. Coastal erosion is an inevitable and necessary element of any healthy functioning beach and sand dune system. Coastal development and shoreline defences can pose a significant risk to the entire beach resulting in loss of important bird and wetland habitats.</p>
<p>Evolution in absence of the plan</p>	<p>In the absence of the Plan, there would be uncontrolled dispersed development resulting in increased reliance on the car which would increase emissions. There would also be missed opportunities relating to energy efficiency, renewable energy and reduction in local transport related emissions due to</p>

	a lack of integrated land-use and transportation policies and wind strategy, which would increase greenhouse gas emissions and impact on air quality. Uncontrolled coastal protection works would have negative impacts on biodiversity also.
6. Material Assets,	
Existing problems	There is currently a challenge to provide sufficient wastewater treatment infrastructure in the county to serve the existing and future population. The residents of County Wexford rely heavily on the use of private cars for transport. Travel patterns show that a high proportion of residents travel by car to school and work.
Likely significant effect in absence of the plan	In the absence of the Plan, issues such as future water demand, resource identification and protection will not be comprehensively assessed resulting in a poor level of service provision and possible degradation of important reserves. Also, the future investment in key infrastructure will not be targeted appropriately to key development areas. The result would be a haphazard, un-coordinated delivery of service, resulting in negative environmental impacts. Wind energy applications would be assessed on a case-by-case basis without an overall strategic framework to guide wind farm development, which would not facilitate an evaluation of cumulative impacts associated with wind farm development
7. Cultural Heritage (including Architectural and Archaeological Heritage)	
Existing problems	Development of infrastructure, in addition to development resulting from economic growth and increasing population, can potentially impact on the integrity of sites or features of architectural, archaeological or cultural heritage interest.
Evolution in absence of the plan	In absence of the Wexford County Development Plan there would be no framework within which to regulate, and control development which could lead to inappropriate developments within Architectural Conservation Areas and potential impacts

	on subsurface cultural heritage or built heritage.
8. Landscape	
Existing problems	In upland areas concentrations of one-off housing developments are have adverse visual impacts on the landscape due to its low capacity to absorb development. Recently constructed windfarms are becoming dominating features on the skyline. In the future it is likely that afforestation will become the dominant landuse in upland areas. The coastal area experiences greatest pressure for tourism and holiday homes development.
Likely significant effect in absence of the plan	In the absence of the Plan there would be inappropriate developments in Landscapes of Greater Sensitivity and along vulnerable coastal areas resulting in fragmentation and loss of landscape value.
Interrelationship between the above factors	
Impacts and interactions will vary in extent and nature. In particular, issues regarding water quality, climate change and flooding cross a number of environmental areas. Population increase and changes in human activities and settlement patterns can also impact on a wide range of environmental areas.	

In the first instance the Environmental Report details the current state of the environment of County Wexford within each of the sub headings set out above, and any relevant interrelationships between each of the environmental topics. Most of the data was extracted from existing data sources. The Environmental Report then examines significant environmental pressures and issues that may affect each of the environmental topics and the current baseline.

SEO's

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

adverse impacts, so that alternatives may be considered or mitigation measures may be put in place. The SEOs are outlined in the table 4 below

Table 4 Strategic Environmental Objectives

Environmental Parameter	SEO	Objective
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	B1	Conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats and species within the county, and support the sustainable management of these areas.
	B2	Ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive with regard to protection of Natura 2000 sites and habitats and species listed under Annexes I and II of the Directive and prevent the loss of ecological networks and stepping stones or parts thereof which provide important connectivity for species.
	B3	To ensure compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the protection of wildlife corridors and contiguous areas of habitat which are important on a County level for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.
	B4	Protect aquatic and terrestrial habitats from the spread of invasive species.
Population & Human Health	PH1	Protect and enhance peoples quality of life based on high quality residential, community, working and recreational environments.
	PH2	Protect human health through minimising the risk of polluting emissions including noise and vibrations from incompatible land-uses and emissions to air/water/soil from traffic, industrial processes and extractive industry.
Soil/Geology	S1	Prevent pollution or contamination of soils.

	S2	Give preference to the use and regeneration of derelict, disused and infill sites, rather than greenfield sites.
	S3	Minimise the amount of waste to landfill.
	S4	Protect and conserve important geological sites.
Water	W1	To ensure the protection from pollution/contamination and/or improvement of all drinking water, surface water and ground water quality throughout the county.
	W2	Ensure new development will not be permitted within flood zones other than development which satisfies the justification test, as outlined in the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009 for Planning Authorities.
Air & Climate	AC1	Facilitate measures which seek to reduce all forms of air pollution and reduce dependence on travel by private car.
	AC2	Promote use of renewable energy sources and support energy conservation initiatives.
	AC3	Avoid development within flood risk areas and protect the marine and coastal environment from inappropriate works or development, and promote Integrated coastal zone management strategies.
Material Assets	MA1	Ensure that zoned land within town plans will not be developed if such development will lead to overcapacity of Wastewater Treatment Plants in order to ensure protection of the water resources within the plan area.
	MA2	Maintain and improve the quality of, and access to, material assets such as open spaces, drinking water supply, and all other physical and social infrastructure.
Cultural Heritage	C1	Promote the protection and conservation of the county's cultural heritage including the built

		environment and settings; archaeological (Recorded Monuments and archaeological zones), architectural (Protected Structures, vernacular buildings, materials and urban fabric), and manmade landscape features (e.g. field walls, footpaths, gate piers).
Landscape	L1	To avoid adverse impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscapes which are the most valuable and sensitive to change, including seascapes, coastal scapes, and landscapes of historical and cultural importance.

Alternatives

At the outset of the County Development Plan review process a number of development scenarios were highlighted based on the current and predicted needs for the future development of the County. In broad terms the scenarios were grouped into three planning strategies. Each scenario had a different outcome and is discussed further on. The alternatives considered are broadly described as follows;

On the basis of the above analysis, the ‘do nothing’ Scenario was not included as it was not considered a “reasonable alternative”.

Scenario 1 ‘Market Driven Planning Approach’ involves minimal intervention in terms of any planning with a short-term economic, and social benefits. This is a non planned approach and allows development in all areas dictated by the market, with little control there would be potential for significant impacts on the environment of County Wexford. This approach would not allow for the orderly and sustainable development of the County and is therefore not considered a desirable option for the county.

Scenario 2 ‘Dispersed Settlement Led Planning Approach’ places more emphasis on growing existing settlements with less protection offered to the wider environment, but very restricted rural development. This approach would lead to an unbalanced growth of the more attractive settlements in the more desirable locations

with stagnation or population decline in the more remote or less attractive settlements. There would be a poor settlement structure or hierarchy within which public service provision could be planned and provided which could lead to impacts on the environment. The housing needs of rural communities would not be met which would have wider social implications.

Scenario 3 ‘Strategic Planning Approach’ allows for a planned sustainable development approach to planning in the county. Development will be focused within zoned and serviced areas. Significant controls will be put in place for development in environmentally sensitive areas and designated sites such as SACs, SPAs and NHAs as well as areas of archaeological potential or where threats to natural resources prevail such as groundwater protection zones and surface water.

Table 5 Evaluation of Plan Alternatives

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	No likely Interaction	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - would be mitigated
Strategic Plan Options				
Scenario 1 Market Driven Planning		AC2, S3, MA1	L1, AC1, S2, PH1, PH2, MA2,	B1, B2, B3,B4 PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, C1
Scenario 2 Dispersed Settlement Led Planning	AC1, S2	S3, MA1, AC2	L1, MA2	B1, B2, B3,B4, PH1, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, C1
Scenario 3 Strategic Planning Approach	B1, B2, B3,B4, PH1, PH2, S1, S4, W1,	S3, MA1, AC2		

	W2, AC1, AC3, S2, L1, MA2, C1			
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In conclusion a strategic planned approach 'Scenario 3' to the future development of the County incorporating principles of sustainable development emerges as the most environmentally sustainable option for County Wexford for the period of 2013-2019.

Wind Strategy Scenarios

Different scenarios or approaches were explored for the Wind Strategy also. These 9 scenarios are described in detail in Section 6.5 of this report. The preferred alternative is a combination of Option 6 Strategic Approach to Onshore Wind Energy Development and Option 7 Consolidate Wind Energy Development in a Single Large Cluster. Together these options form the basis for the Wind Energy Strategy, allowing for the strategic development of wind in areas where there are high wind speeds and grid connections while seeking to avoid or reduce impacts on the environment and ensuring the protection of residential and visual amenity.

Table 6 Evaluation of Wind Alternatives

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	No likely Interaction	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - would be mitigated
Strategic Energy Options				
Option 1: Do Nothing Scenario	AC1, AC2	B4, S2, S3, MA1	L1	B1, B2, B3, PH1, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA2, C1
Option 2: Ad-hoc	AC1, AC2	B4, S2, S3, MA1	L1	B1, B2, B3, PH1, PH2, S1, S4, W1,

Planning for Wind Farm Development				W2, AC3, MA2, C1
Option 3: Alternative Renewable Energy Sources	AC1, AC2	B4, S2, S3, MA1		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH1, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA2, C1, L1
Option 4: Offshore Wind Energy Development	AC1, AC2	B4, PH1, PH2, S1, S2, S3, W1, W2, MA1, MA2, C1		B1, B2, B3, S4, AC3, L1
Option 5: Alternative Targets and Alternative Timeframes	AC1, AC2 (depending on targets and timeframes)	B4, S2, S3, MA1	AC1, AC2 (depending on targets and timeframes)	B1, B2, B3, PH1, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA2, C1, L1
Option 6: Strategic Approach to Onshore Wind Energy Development	AC1, AC2	B4, PH1, PH2, S2, S3, MA1		B1, B2, B3, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA2, C1, L1
Spatial Wind Energy Options				
Option 7: Consolidate Wind Energy Development in a Single Large Cluster	AC1, AC2	B4, PH1, PH2, S2, S3, MA1		B1, B2, B3, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA2, C1, L1
Option 8:	AC1, AC2	B4, PH1,	L1	B1, B2, B3, S1,

Disperse Wind Energy Development throughout County		PH2, S2, S3, MA1		S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA2, C1
Option 9: Larger Wind Farm Clusters in Suitable Areas and Smaller Wind Farm Developments in Potentially Suitable Areas	AC1, AC2	B4, PH1, PH2, S2, S3, MA1	L1	B1, B2, B3, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA2, C1

Environmental Assessment

The development of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is an iterative process, carried out in conjunction with the County Development Plan 2013-2019. The principal reason for doing this is to ensure that the negative environmental impacts are highlighted at an early stage enabling them to be effectively designed out as soon as possible. The result is a county development plan which has had due regard to environmental issues pertaining within the County and any resulting negativity is shown to be minimal.

The long term future development of County Wexford is framed within the County Development Plan 2013-2019. The Council has adopted a planned approach and consequently the policies and objectives contained within the Plan have been devised in accordance with the strategy.

The assessment matrix found in Section 7.3 of this report has assessed each policy and objective and has demonstrated that the plan has overall a sustainable

development approach – the Plan will ensure the orderly development of the county without adversely affecting the quality of the built and natural environment.

Mitigation Measures

It has been shown in the assessment that the overall impact of the proposed development strategy for the county will have a neutral to positive impact on the environment generally.

It must also be stated that Wexford County Council is the planning authority with responsibility for development management within its functional area. The planning process is the principal mechanism available to the local authority to control development and ultimately to prevent adverse environmental impacts.

In general terms, all proposals for development will be required to have due regard to the environmental considerations outlined in the County Development Plan 2013-2019. Proposals for development which are deemed contrary to the policies and objectives contained within the plan will not normally be permitted.

Incorporation of Mitigation Measures into the Plan

The mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Plan and the policies and objectives refined and refocused where necessary.

Table 7 Mitigation Measures

Environmental Parameter	Mitigation Measure	Plan Policy/Objective
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	MM1	Objective NH01 - To conserve and protect the integrity of sites designated for their habitat/wildlife or geological/geomorphological importance and prohibit development which would damage or threaten the integrity of these sites, including SACs, cSAC, SPAs, NHAs, pNHAs, Nature Reserves, and Refuges for Fauna.

	MM2	<p>Objective NH03 - To ensure that any plan or project and any associated works, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, are subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity (defined by the structure and function) of any Natura 2000 site(s) and that the requirements of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive are fully satisfied. Where the plan/project is likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site it shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment. The plan/project will proceed only after it has been ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site or where in the absence of alternative solutions, the plan/project is deemed imperative for reasons of overriding public interest, all in accordance with the provisions of article 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive.</p>
	MM3	<p>Objective NH04 - To ensure the protection and conservation of areas, sites and species and ecological networks/corridors of local biodiversity value outside the designated sites throughout the County.</p>
	MM4	<p>Objective NH08 - To ensure, where appropriate, applications for development include proposals for native planting and leave a suitable ecological buffer zone between the development works and areas or features of ecological importance. Where hedgerows are required to be removed require the applicant/developer to reinstate the hedgerows with a suitable replacement of native species to the satisfaction of the Council.</p>

Population and Human Health	MM5	Objective CF09 - To promote the development of sustainable communities on the basis of a high quality of life where people can live, work and enjoy access to a wide range of community, health and educational facilities suitable for all ages, needs and abilities.
	MM6	Mitigation also included in objectives under Water, Air and Climate Sections which will address any potential impacts on air, and water quality.
Soil and Geology	MM7	Objective WM01 - To implement the provisions of the Joint Waste Management Plan for the South-East Region 2006-2011, and any updated version published during the lifetime of the Plan, subject to compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.
	MM8	Objective NH02 - To recognise the importance of recommended proposed NHAs and County Geological sites identified by the Geological Survey of Ireland and protect the character and integrity of these sites where appropriate.
	MM9	Objective WM04 - To encourage the development of waste minimisation strategies for domestic, commercial and industrial waste.
Water and Flooding	MM10	Objective WQ05 - To ensure that development permitted would not have an unacceptable impact on water quality and quantity, including surface water, ground water, designated source protection areas, river corridors and associated wetlands, estuarine waters, coastal and transitional waters.

	MM11	Objective FRM01 - To carry out flood risk assessment for the purpose of regulating, restricting and controlling development in areas at risk of flooding and to minimise the level of flood risk to people, business, infrastructure and the environment through the identification and management of existing and potential future flood risk.
Air , Noiseand Climate	MM12	Objective CC04 - To minimise emissions greenhouse gases in order to contribute to a reduction and avoidance of human induced climate change in accordance with the Kyoto agreement. The Council supports and is committed to the National Climate Change Strategy and in general to facilitating measures which seek to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.
	MM13	Objective AQ05 - To encourage a modal change from private car use towards other types of travel and to promote the use of public transport as a means of reducing vehicle emissions and improving air quality.
	MM14	Objective EN07 - To encourage and favourably consider proposals for renewable energy developments and ancillary facilities in order to meet national, regional and county renewable energy targets and to facilitate a reduction in CO ₂ emissions and the promotion of a low carbon economy, subject to development management standards and compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.
	MM15	Objective EN22 - To promote innovative building design and layout that demonstrates a high level of energy conservation, energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources.

	MM16	Objective CZM04 - To prohibit development within areas liable to coastal flooding, other than in accordance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Office of Public Works, 2009).
Material Assets	MM17	Objective SS07 - To ensure the zoning of lands for residential use is in accordance with the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy. The development of this zoned land is subject to adequate capacity being available in the relevant wastewater treatment facilities in the interests of the protecting water resources in the area.
	MM18	Objective WS05 - To ensure the delivery of an adequate and reliable public water supply which serves the domestic, commercial and industrial needs of the County.
Cultural Heritage	MM19	Objective PS01 - To protect the architectural heritage of County Wexford 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
	MM20	Objective AH01 - To conserve and protect archaeological sites, monuments (including their settings), underwater archaeology and objects within the jurisdiction of Wexford County Council including those listed on the Record of Monuments and Places, the Register of Historic Monuments or newly discovered sub-surface archaeological remains.

Landscape	MM21	<p>Objective RH07 - To minimise the individual or cumulative adverse visual impacts that local concentrations of one-off housing, outside of settlements, may have on Upland, River Valley and Coastal landscape character units or Landscapes of Greater Sensitivity. In this regard, in locations where the Council considers that there is a risk of individual or cumulative adverse impacts, the Council will only consider proposals for housing developments where the applicant has demonstrated an overriding need to reside in the particular location in accordance with the criteria contained in Table No. 12.</p>
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Monitoring

It is proposed in accordance with the Directive to base monitoring on a series of indicators which measure changes in the environment, particularly changes which are critical in terms of environmental quality such as water quality, air pollution levels, etc. The indicators aim to simplify complex interrelationships and provide information about environmental issues which are easy to understand. Section 9 outlines the proposed SEA monitoring with Table 8 below detailing indicative indicators, targets and relevant bodies responsible for the monitoring.

CDB – County Development Board

CSO – Central Statistics Office

DAHG – Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

DECLG – Department of Environment, Communities and Local Government

DoT – Department of Transport

EPA – Environmental Protection Agency

Failte – Failte Ireland

GSI – Geological Survey of Ireland

HC – Heritage Council

MI – Marine Institute

NTA – National Transport Authority

NPWS – National Parks & Wildlife Service

NBDC – National Biodiversity Data Centre

NRA – National Roads Authority

WCC – Wexford County Council (Various Sections)

WEMA - Wexford Energy Management Agency

Table 8 Monitoring

Strategic Environmental Objectives, Indicators and Targets				
Objective		Target	Indicative Indicators	Responsible Authority and frequency
Biodiversity	B1 Conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats, species within the county, and support the sustainable management of these areas.	No reduction in habitat diversity or loss of species in non-designated sites.	Conservation status of habitats and species as reported by NPWS.	WCC (Planning & Environment Sections), NPWS. Dependant on the availability of information from relevant statutory authorities
	B2 Ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive with regard to protection of Natura 2000 sites and habitats and species listed under Annexes I and II of the Directive and prevent the loss of ecological networks, and stepping stones or parts there of which provide important connectivity for species.	Protect Natura 2000 sites and habitats and species under Annex I and II of Habitats Directive. No ecological networks or parts there of which provide significant connectivity between local areas of biodiversity to be lost without remediation by implementation of the CWDP.	Conservation status of the Qualifying Interests of Natura 2000 sites and protected habitats and species as reported by NPWS and other conservation organisations.	WCC (Planning & Environment Sections), NPWS. Dependant on the availability of information from relevant statutory authorities.
	B3 To ensure compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the protection of wildlife corridors and contiguous areas of habitat which are important on a County level for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.	No ecological networks or parts there of which provide significant connectivity between local areas of biodiversity to be lost, once mapping complete, without remediation by implementation of the CWDP.	Percentage loss of mapped ecological networks.	WCC (Planning & Environment Sections), HC Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the County Manager's Report on progress (subject to available resources)
	B4 Protect aquatic and terrestrial	Prevent introduction of new	Number and types of	WCC (Planning & Environment

	habitats from the spread of invasive species	invasive species. Control or manage current invasive species to prevent a spread in their distribution.	invasive species identified. Number of submissions or observations. Distribution of invasive species as listed on National Biodiversity Data Centre website and updates from other invasive species related sites and organisations.	Sections), NPWS,NBDC Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the County Manager's Report on progress (subject to available resources)
Population and Human Health	PH1 Protect and enhance peoples quality of life based on high quality residential, community, working and recreational environments.	Increased employment opportunities. Increases and improvements in quality of services, amenities and 'green spaces' available to the public.	Provision of employment. Provision of services, amenities and 'green spaces'.	Central Government, IDA, Enterprise Ireland, County Enterprise Board, WCC (Housing, Planning, Enterprise, Community Sections) Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the County Manager's Report on progress (subject to available resources)
	PH2 Protect human health through minimising the risk of polluting emissions including noise and vibrations from incompatible land-uses and emissions to air/water/soil from traffic, industrial processes and extractive industry	No significant deterioration in human health as a result of environmental factors. No spatial concentrations of health problems resulting from incompatible land-uses. No designated Shellfish Growing Areas to be of Class C standard and implementation of Pollution Reduction Programmes for designated areas.	Number of occurrences of declines in human health relating to environmental issues in County Wexford. Occurrence (if any) of spatial concentrations of deterioration of human health. Quality of designated Shellfish Growing areas in the County as listed by DEHLG.	WCC(Planning, Environment Sections) CSO MI Water Quality Section of DECLG Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the County Manager's Report on progress (subject to available resources)

Soil and Geology	S1 Prevent pollution or contamination of soils	Maintenance and conservation of soil quality, especially in regard to organic matter content.	EPA/ Teagasc National Soils Mapping Project.	EPA/Teagasc Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the County Manager's Report on progress (subject to available resources)
	S2 Give preference to the use and regeneration of derelict, disused and infill sites, rather than greenfield sites.	Develop as many derelict, disused and infill sites as appropriate and possible.	Location and area of developed derelict, disused and infill sites over the duration of the plan.	WCC (Planning Section) Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the County Manager's Report on progress (subject to available resources)
	S3 Minimise the amount of waste to landfill	Reduce the amount of waste to landfill by increasing recycling and composting initiatives.	Amount and nature of waste going to landfill sites.	WCC (Environment Section) Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the County Manager's Report on progress (subject to available resources)
	S4 Protect and conserve important geological sites	Retain or increase the conservation status of important geological sites throughout the county	Conservation status of important geological sites mapped by gsi.ie.	GSI Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the County Manager's Report on progress (subject to available resources)

Water and Flooding	W1 To ensure, the protection from pollution/contamination and/or improvement of all drinking water, surface water and ground water quality throughout the county	Protect and restore areas identified in River Basin District Management plan required to achieve “good” status i.e. 4+ for water quality by 2015 in line with WFD Objectives. No deterioration of quality of drinking water in the County. No deterioration of good quality surface waters and ground waters. Improvements in quality of those waters failing to reach WFD objectives.	Water quality monitoring results from the EPA for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinking water quality • Surface water ecological and chemical status • Status of estuarine and coastal waters • Bathing water quality • Ground water quality • Number of Public Water Supplies on EPA Remedial Action List. • Number of Discharge Licences granted by EPA. 	EPA WCC(Water Services/Irish Water, Environment Section) Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the County Manager’s Report on progress (subject to available resources)
	W2 Ensure new development will not be permitted within flood zones other than development which satisfies the justification test, as outlined in the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009 for Planning Authorities.	In accordance with OPW/ DEHLG Risk Assessment, require all applications within designated Flood Risk zones A and B to undertake a flood risk assessment as part of the planning application.	Number of permitted development in flood risk zones A and B.	WCC (Planning Section) OPW Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the County Manager’s Report on progress (subject to available resources)

Air, Noise and Climate	AC1 Facilitate measures which seek to reduce all forms of air pollution and reduce dependence on travel by private car.	20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2020. Increase investment in cycle-ways and footpaths	Results of local Air Quality monitoring. Proportion of public travel modes used.	EPA, DoT, NTA, WCC (Environment Section) Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the County Manager's Report on progress (subject to available resources)
	AC2 Promote use of renewable energy sources and support energy conservation initiatives	Increase in renewable energy development and research and development in the county. Address the county's contribution to the national targets on renewable energy set out in policy documents.	Installed capacity from renewable energy resources. Number of renewable energy developments granted planning permission. Meet or exceed county's contribution to national targets on renewable energy.	WCC (Planning Section, Energy Officer) Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the County Manager's Report on progress (subject to available resources)
	AC3 Avoid development within flood risk areas and protect the marine and coastal environment from inappropriate works or development, and promote Integrated coastal zone management strategies	In accordance with OPW/ DoEHLG Risk Assessment, require all applications within designation Flood Risk zones A and B to undertake a flood risk assessment as part of the planning application. No vulnerable development in flood risk or areas risk of coastal flooding.	Number of permitted developments in flood risk or coastal zones.	WCC (Planning Section) OPW Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the County Manager's Report on progress (subject to available resources)

Material Assets	MA1 Ensure that zoned land within town plans will not be developed if such development will lead to overcapacity of Wastewater Treatment Plants in order to ensure protection of the water resources within the plan area.	New development should be served by a public wastewater treatment system or an approved on site wastewater treatment plant designed, constructed and managed in accordance with the EPA Guidelines.	Number of permissions granted without connection to a public wastewater treatment system or an approved on site wastewater treatment plant designed, constructed and managed in accordance with the EPA Guidelines.	WCC (Planning, Environment Sections) EPA Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the County Manager's Report on progress (subject to available resources)
	MA2 Maintain and improve the quality of, and access to, material assets such as open spaces, drinking water supply, and all other physical and social infrastructure.	Increase numbers of visitors to cultural heritage sites and other public amenities. Maintain or enhance access to public amenities. No deterioration in public water supplies.	Quality of access to public amenities and visitor numbers. Quality and accessibility of public water supply.	WCC (Community, Water Services) OPW Fáilte Ireland Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the County Manager's Report on progress (subject to available resources)

Cultural Heritage	C1 Promote the protection and conservation of the county's cultural heritage including the built environment and settings; archaeological (Recorded Monuments and archaeological zones), architectural (Protected Structures, vernacular buildings, materials and urban fabric), and manmade landscape features (e.g. field walls, footpaths, gate piers)	No damage occurring to structures or monuments due to development. Maintain and increase the number of archaeological features recorded and protected. To increase the number and range of ACAs in the county to conserve both townscapes and demesne landscapes. To increase the number of protected structures in line with Ministerial recommendations arising from NIAH surveys.	Number of structures or monuments damaged due to development. Number of monuments on the RPS and areas of archaeological potential recorded or subject to exploration as a result of development. Number and range of ACAs designated in the county (townscape and demesne landscape). Number of structures in RPS in relation to Ministerial recommendations arising from NIAH county inventory.	DAHG National Monuments Service DAHG NIAH, WCC (Planning Section) Owners Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the County Manager's Report on progress (subject to available resources)
Landscape	L1 To avoid adverse impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscapes which are the most valuable and sensitive to change, including seascapes, coastal scapes, and landscapes of historical and cultural importance	No diminution in the quality of important landscapes	The number of permissions granted in "Landscapes of Greater Sensitivity".	WCC (Planning Section) Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the County Manager's Report on progress (subject to available resources)
	In all instances monitoring will be subject to availability of data and resources.			

Section 1: SEA Introduction and Background

1.1 Introduction and Terms of Reference

This is the environmental report for the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019 (CWDP). Its purpose is to set out the likely significant environmental effects of the proposed plan on County Wexford over the lifetime of the plan. The report identifies the significant environmental effects of the Plan on the environment and discusses mitigation measures to reduce these effects.

It should be noted that this Environmental Report forms only part of the SEA process carried out in parallel with the review of the Development Plan. The SEA review process also comprises a Scoping Report, a Non Technical Summary and a SEA Statement. The Scoping report determined the baseline environmental parameter data and issues to be considered in the Environmental Report. The purpose of this Environmental Report is to document the process that has been followed in carrying out the SEA.

1.2 Legislative Background

The EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC) which was transposed into Irish Law in 2004 states;

(Article 1) ‘The objective of this Directive is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development...’

Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers, of 27 June 2001, on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, referred to hereafter as the SEA Directive, introduced the requirement that SEA be carried out on plans and programmes which are prepared for a number of sectors, including land use planning. The SEA Directive was transposed into Irish Law through the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain

Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (Statutory Instrument Number (SI No. 435 of 2004) and the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004). Both sets of Regulations became operational on 21st July 2004. These Regulations have now been amended by European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No.200 of 2011) and by European Communities (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 201 of 2011).

Reference is also made to the recent Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (DoECLG) Circular (PSSP 6/2011) issued on the 26th July 2011 to each County/City Manager, Director of Services and Town Clerk in relation to *'Further Transposition of the EU Directive 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)'*.

In 2003, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published "Development of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Methodologies for Plans and Programmes in Ireland". In 2004, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government published "Guidelines to Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities on the implementation of the SEA Directive". These documents together with the above legislation have been used to guide this review process.

1.3 SEA Process

The SEA process is being undertaken as part of the preparation of a new Development Plan for County Wexford which replaces the existing 2007-2013 Plan. The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) requires the Planning Authority to prepare a 'Development Plan' every six years for its jurisdiction. The Wexford County Development Plan 2007– 2013 was adopted on the 30th April 2007 and its review began with the first phase of public consultation on 08th April 2011. A 'Scoping Issues Paper' (on the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the Development Plan) was prepared and sent to the prescribed Environmental Authorities.

Table 9 Development Plan and SEA Stages

Wexford County Development Plan Review Process began on 08 th April 2011 SEA was considered mandatory Consultations with the public and Statutory Environmental Authorities Issues Paper and SEA Scoping Issues Paper
Draft County Wexford Development Plan 2013-2019 prepared SEA Environmental Report prepared Evaluation of Draft Plan objectives and policies (included in Environmental Report) Evaluation of submissions and observations
Consideration of Draft County Development Plan and Draft Environmental Report by the Elected Members
Draft Environmental Report takes account of any changes made to the Draft County Development Plan
Draft County Development Plan and Draft Environmental Report put on public display
Members considered the Manager's report on the public submissions and recommended changes to the Draft County Development Plan and Environmental Report
Draft Environmental Report was amended to take account of the changes made to the Draft County Development Plan
Member's decided to propose amendments (which redquired further consultation)

Amendments to Draft County Development Plan and Environmental Report put on public display

Members consider the Manager's Report on the submissions on the amendments to the Draft Plan and Environmental Report

Adoption of the County Development Plan and Final Environmental Report, SEA Statement

Plan comes into effect 4 weeks after adoption

1.4 International and National Policy Framework

The County Development Plan sits within a larger framework of spatial policy documents. This hierarchy of strategies, policies and plans include high level international and/or EU documents feeding progressively downwards into site specific local plans and policies. As this is a County Development Plan, it is an important level in terms of the development of County Wexford, though it must adhere to policy and strategic options which are pre-determined by higher level plans and guidelines. The Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019 will be affected by, and will affect a wide range of other relevant plans and programmes, and environmental objectives. It is therefore important to identify relevant plans and programmes which will affect the Plan that must be examined in the context of the SEA.

Table 10 below lists all of the relevant plans, programmes and strategies containing environmental protection objectives, indicators and targets that must be considered within the County Development Plan making process. (See also Section 3.5)

Table 10 Legislation, Plans, Policies and Programmes

EU and International Legislation		
	Title	Summary of Objectives
SEA/EIA	SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) - Assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the Environment.	This Directive requires plan-makers to carry out an assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme before the plan or programme is adopted.
	EIA Directive (2001/42/EC)	Ensure that projects likely to have significant effects on the environment are made subject to an environmental assessment, prior to their approval or authorisation.
Biodiversity	EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)	Objectives to seek to prevent and eliminate the causes of habitat loss and maintain and enhance current levels of biodiversity. Requirement to carry out an Appropriate Assessment
	EU Birds Directive (as modified) (79/409/EEC)	Objectives seek to prevent and eliminate the causes of bird species loss and maintain and enhance current levels of biodiversity.
	UN Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)	Objectives to seek the conservation of global biodiversity, as well as to ensure equitable access to the world's genetic resources.
	OSPAR Convention (1992)	Aim to encourage international co-operation to protect the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic. Main objective is to prevent and eliminate marine pollution and protect the maritime area thereby safeguarding human health and conserving marine ecosystems.
	Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979)	Aimed at ensuring conservation and protection of wild plant and animal species and their natural habitats
	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention), 1979.	Aims to conserve terrestrial marine and avian migratory species throughout their range
	Convention of Wetlands of International Importance (amended 1982 and 1987) (Ramsar Convention)	Requirement to protect sites from loss or damage by development.
	Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020	Strategy to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020

	European Biodiversity Strategy (1998)	Aimed at addressing the causes of significant reduction or loss of biodiversity at source.
	EU Freshwater Fish Directive (78/659/EEC)	Objectives seek to protect those fresh water bodies identified by Member States as waters suitable for sustaining fish populations. For those waters it sets physical and chemical water quality objectives for salmonid waters and cyprinid waters.
	EC Environmental Objectives (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) 2009	Measures to protect the conservation status of Freshwater Pearl Mussels.
	Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sub-Basin Catchment Management Plans	Catchment based management plans for the protection and conservation of Freshwater Pearl Mussel populations.
Population & Human Health	EU Shellfish Waters Directive (2006/113/EC)	Objectives seek to protect or improve shellfish waters in order to support shellfish life and growth, therefore contributing to the high quality of shellfish products directly edible by man.
	EU Environment and Health Strategy 2004-2010	Objectives seek to prevent and reduce the impacts of pollution on human health.
	The Stockholm Convention (2001)	Objectives seek to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants (POPs).
	Major Accidents (Seveso) Directive (96/82/EC as amended)	Objectives seek to prevent major accidents involving dangerous substances and limit their consequences for man and the environment, with a view to ensuring high levels of protection throughout the Community.
	The Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	Main aim is to provide a common basis for tackling the noise problem across the EU.
	WHO Air Quality Guidelines (1999) and Guidelines for Europe (1987) Non Statutory	Seeks to eliminate or minimise certain airborne pollutants for the protection of human health.
	The EU CAFÉ Programme Commission communication of 4 May 2001 "The Clean Air for Europe (CAFÉ) Programme: Towards a Thematic Strategy for Air Quality".	Seeks to prevent and reduce air pollution and impacts on human health from air pollution.

	The EU Environment and Health Strategy 2004-2010	Aimed at gaining a better understanding of the complex interactions between the environment and health in order to take action to reduce the impact of environmental factors on human health.
Air	Air Quality Directive 2008/50/EC	Sets standards and target dates for reducing concentrations of fine particles, which together with coarser particles known as PM ₁₀ already subject to legislation, are among the most dangerous pollutants for human health.
	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1994	Aimed at reducing greenhouse gases
	EU Directive on National Emissions Ceilings for Certain Atmospheric Pollutants (2001/81/EC)	To improve air quality and control emissions of certain airborne pollutants for the protection of human health and the environment.
	EC Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe	Replaces the air framework directive and the first three daughter directives. Sets standards for reducing concentrations of fine particles, which are among the most dangerous pollutants for human health. Target dates for these objectives are also established.
	Directive 2004/107/EC relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.	Aims at reducing concentrations of specific airborne pollutants identified as having carcinogenic characteristics.
	WHO Air Quality Guidelines (1999) and WHO Air Quality Guidelines- Global Update 2005	Recommends air quality levels and improvements
	IPPC Directive (96/61/EC) as amended by Directive 2008/1/EC	Objective is to achieve a high level of protection of the environment through measures to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions to air, water and land. The Directive provides an integrated approach to establish pollution prevention from stationary "installations".
	Kyoto Protocol	The Kyoto Protocol is an agreement made under the United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change, decided in December 1997 and entered into force on 16th February 2005. Its objective is to substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions in response to climate change.

		Following the Conference of Parties to the Climate Change Convention (COP) meeting in Copenhagen, 2009, the EU revised its commitment to reducing greenhouse gases by increasing the target to 20% reduction on 1990 levels by 2020.
	Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) 2005	Seeks to develop the necessary elements of a strategy to implement the Kyoto protocol.
	Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC)	Sets targets for all Member States, such that the EU will reach a 20% share of energy from renewable sources by 2020 and a 10% share of renewable energy specifically in the transport sector.
Landscape	European Landscape Convention 2000	Provides for the protection, management and planning of landscapes.
	The Pan- European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (1995)	Establishes an international framework for co-operation for consolidating and extending schemes and programmes in the conservation field.
Cultural Heritage	Granada Convention for protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe 1985	Sets out general objectives of all signatory states including Ireland to meet international standards in the identification and protection of architectural heritage including groups of buildings and monuments and their settings.
	European Convention on protection of Archaeological Heritage 1992	Provides the basic framework for policy on the protection of the archaeological heritage.
Water	The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	Objectives seek to maintain and enhance the quality of all surface waters in the EU.
	EU Groundwater Directive (80/68/EEC)	Requires member states to apply a system of investigation and authorisation to

		waste disposal and other activities in order to ensure that groundwater is not polluted by dangerous substances.
	EU Surface Water Directive (75/ 440/EEC)	Aims to protect public health by ensuring surface water abstracted for use as drinking water reaches certain quality standards before it is supplied to the public. It requires member states to monitor the quality of surface waters from which drinking water is abstracted and to take measures to ensure that it complies with the minimum quality standards. This Directive has been integrated into the Water Framework Directive 2000.
	European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 S.I. No. 9 of 2010	Primary objective to protect groundwater
	EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) as amended by Directive 98/15/EEC	The primary objective is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of discharges of urban wastewater, by the provision of urban wastewater collecting systems (sewerage) and treatment plants for urban centres. The Directive also provides general rules for the sustainable disposal of sludge arising from wastewater treatment.
	The Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC	The objective of the Drinking Water Directive is to protect the health of the consumers in the European Union and to make sure the water is wholesome and clean.
	Floods Directive 2007/60/EC	Its aim is to reduce and manage the risks that floods pose to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity.
	EU Dangerous Substances Directive (76/464/EEC)	The objective is to regulate potential aquatic pollution by thousands of chemicals produced in Europe. The Directive covers discharges to inland surface waters, territorial waters, inland coastal waters and groundwater.
	The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)	The Nitrates Directive (1991) aims to protect water quality across Europe by preventing nitrates from agricultural sources polluting ground and surface waters and by promoting the use of good farming practices. The Nitrates Directive forms integral part of the Water

		Framework Directive and is one of the key instruments in the protection of waters against agricultural pressures.
	Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) Repeals existing Directive (71/160/EEC) with effect from 31 December 2014	Aims to provide greater benefits in relation to improved health protection for bathers and a more pro-active approach to beach management including public involvement.
	The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC)	The Marine Strategy Framework Directive is a major piece of EU legislation that requires Member States to achieve good environmental status in the marine environment by the year 2020 at the latest. Good environmental status in the marine environment means that the seas are clean, healthy and productive and that human use of the marine environment is maintained at a sustainable level.
Waste	Waste Framework Directive 2006/12/EC (revised by 2008/98/EC)	The revised sets the basic concepts and definitions related to waste management and lays down waste management principles such as the "polluter pays principle" or the "waste hierarchy".
	The "Landfill Directive" (99/31/EC)	Seeks to reduce the environmental impact from the landfilling of waste and divert certain quantities and types of waste from European landfills.
	The WEE Directive on waste electrical and electronic equipment (2002/96/EC)	Seeks more environmentally sensitive management of waste electric and electronic equipment.
Soil	EU Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection	Aims to protect and maintain soil quality in Europe and promote sustainable use of soil.
	Directive 2004/35/EC on Environmental Liability with regard to the prevention and remedying environmental damage	Prevention and remediation of environmental damage
	Sewage Sludge Directive (86/278/EEC)	Seeks to encourage the use of sewage sludge in agriculture and to regulate its use in such a way as to prevent harmful effects on soil, vegetation , animals and man.

Sustainable Development	European Strategy for Sustainable development (2006)	Identifies key priorities for sustainable development.
	The Sixth Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community 2002-2012 Statutory	Seeks to make the future development of the EU more sustainable.
	“The Gothenburg Strategy” Communication from the Commission on sustainable Europe for a Better World” 2001	Promotes sustainable development.
	Agenda 21(1992)Action for Sustainable Development	Aims to promote sustainable development at a local and regional level by taking into account environmental protection in the development process.
National Legislation, Plans, Policies and Programmes		
	Title	Summary of Objectives
Planning	National Spatial Strategy for Ireland 2002-2010	The Framework Strategy seeks to unleash the potential for progress, growth and development in a more balanced way across the country supported by more effective planning.
	Planning and Development Acts 2000-2009 (Amendment 2010)	Sets National Policy
	Smarter Travel-A Sustainable Transport Future-A new Transport Policy for Ireland 2009-2020	This document sets out proposals to reverse current unsustainable transport and travel patterns and reduce the health and environmental impacts of current trends and improve our quality of life
Biodiversity	European Communities (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 -2011	Requirement for SEA of land-use plans
	European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (SI No 435 of 2004).	Requirement for SEA of certain plans and programmes
	European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No.	Aimed at the conservation of natural habitats and habitats of species, protection of flora and fauna and Appropriate

	477 of 2011)	Assessment of plans and projects.
	Flora Protection Order 1980 (amended 1999)	Aimed at the protection of certain floral species
	Tree Preservation Orders	Offers protection to individual trees or groups of trees.
	Forestry Act 1946	Protection of tree species and forests.
	Wildlife Act 1976	Main objective is the protection of wildlife and requirement to maintain biodiversity by designating nature reserves, protecting species, regulating hunting and controlling wildlife trading.
	Wildlife (Amendment Act) 2000	
	Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016 National Biodiversity Plan 2002	Second National Biodiversity Action Plan- aims to maintain and improve biodiversity at a national level.
Population & Human Health	European Communities (Quality of Shellfish Waters) Regulations 2006 (SI 268 of 2006), as amended by SI 55 of 2009 and SI 464 of 2009	Give effect to Council Directive 79/923/EEC of 30 October 1979 on the quality required of shellfish waters and prescribe quality standards for shellfish waters and designate the waters to which they apply, together with sampling and analysis procedures to be used to determine compliance with the standards.
	National Action Plan for Social Inclusion, 2007-2016	The Government is committed to a coherent strategy for social inclusion based on the lifecycle approach set out in the National partnership agreement. This National Action Plan for Social Inclusion complemented by the social inclusion elements of the National Development Plan 2007-2013 sets out how the social inclusion strategy will be achieved over the period 2007-2016. The new strategic framework will facilitate greater co-ordination and integration of structures and procedures across Government at National and local levels, as well as improved reporting and monitoring mechanisms.
Air & Climatic Factors	Air Quality Standards Regulations 2002 (SI 271 of 2002)	Transposed the EU Air Quality Framework Directive 96/62/EC (superseded by Air Quality Directive 2008/50/EC) on ambient air quality assessment and management.
	National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012	This strategy developed from the 2000 Climate Change Strategy, taking into account the review contained in Ireland's

		Pathway to Kyoto Compliance (2006). Its purpose is to demonstrate how Ireland is to meet its 2008-2012 Kyoto commitments and to identify further policy measures needed for the period from 2012 and after 2020.
	National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP), 2010	Sets out the Government's strategic approach and concrete measures to deliver on Ireland's 16% target under Directive 2009/28/EC.
	Draft Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDPA), 2010	Examines the potential for offshore renewable energy.
	Wind Energy Guidelines 2004	To ensure consistency of approach in the identification of suitable locations for wind farm development and the treatment of planning applications for wind farm developments
Culture and Heritage	The Heritage Act, 1995	Promote public interest in and knowledge, appreciation and protection of the Natural Heritage.
	National Heritage Plan 2002	Sets out a clear and coherent strategy and framework for the protection and enhancement of or heritage.
	Heritage Council Strategic Plan 2012-2016	Identifies 16 objectives aimed at supporting employment, education and awareness and heritage based tourism.
	Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999	Makes provision for the carrying out of a National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH). The purpose of the NIAH is to identify, record, and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland, uniformly and consistently as an aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage. NIAH surveys provide the basis for the recommendations of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to the planning authorities for the inclusion of particular structures in their Record of Protected Structures (RPS).
	National Monuments Acts 1930-1994 and National Monuments (Amendment) Act 2004	Sets National Policy on archaeological structures and sites.
	National Monuments Regulations 2005	Sets National Policy in addition to National Monuments Acts 1930-1994 and Amendment Act 2004

	Architectural Heritage Protection-Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2004	Offers guidance to planning authorities regarding the protection of architecturally important sites in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000.
	Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended)	Part IV applies to the protection of architectural heritage.
	National Landscape Strategy, Public Consultation Paper 2011	Framework to achieve a balance between active management and protection of landscapes.
Water	Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008 (SI No. 79 of 2008)	Ensure that the quality of bathing water is maintained and, where necessary, improved so that it complies with specified standards designed to protect public health and the environment.
	Water Services Act 2007	Provides the legislative context, governing functions, standards, obligations and practice in relation to the planning, management and delivery of water supply and wastewater collection and treatment services.
	Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations, 2001 (SI 254 of 2001), as amended by SI 48 of 2010	Prescribe requirements in relation to the provision of collection systems and treatment standards and other requirements for urban waste water treatment plants, generally and in sensitive areas.
	European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations 2000 (SI 439 of 2000), as amended by SI 278 of 2007 and SI 106 of 2007	Prescribe quality standards to be applied in relation to certain supplies of drinking water, including requirements as to sampling frequency, methods of analysis, the provision of information to consumers and related matters.
	European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations (SI 722 of 2003), as amended by SI 413 of 2005 & SI No 219 of 2008	Provide for the transposition into Irish national law of the provisions of the EU Water Framework Directive.
	Water Conservation Regulations 2008 (S.I. No. 527 of 2008)	Specifies that corrective action be taken to prevent wastage or excessive consumption of water.
	The Planning System and Flood Risk Management : Guidelines for planning Authorities 2009	Requirement to incorporate flood risk assessment into the process of making plans and decisions on planning applications

	Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (S.I. No.272 of 2009) European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) (Amendment) Regulations 2012	Establish environmental objectives to be achieved in groundwater bodies, groundwater quality standards and threshold values for the classification of groundwater and the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration in groundwater quality.
	Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations, 2007, (S.I.No. 684 of 2007)	Govern the licensing and certification/authorisation process of sewage systems owned, managed and operated by Water Service Authorities
	The Local Government (Water Pollution) Act, 1977 (Water Quality Standards for Phosphorus)Regulations, 1998	Aims to retain rivers of good quality at that level and improve the quality of poor rivers.
	The Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1997 (amended 1990)	Aims to reduce pollution of water bodies
Waste	National Waste Prevention Programme	Seeks to separate waste generation from economic activity in Ireland.
Sustainable Development	Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Rural Housing 2005	Sets national policy on the issue of sustainable rural housing
	Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (December 2008)	Addresses sustainable design and services in urban areas
	National Development Plan (NDP) Transforming Ireland- A Better Quality of Life For All (2007-2013)	Sets national policy
	Sustainable Development- A Strategy for Ireland (1997)	To promote the consideration of sustainable principles in drafting and implementation of the Guidelines
	Our Sustainable Future, A Framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland (2012)	A framework for advancing sustainable development and the green economy in Ireland
Regional Plans, Policies and Programmes		
	Title	Summary of Objectives

Planning	Regional Planning Guidelines for the South East Region 2010-2022	Provides for the implementation of the National Spatial Strategy at the regional level and sets out strategic planning guidance to Local Authorities and other bodies across the South-East Region.
Sustainable Dev.	South East Region Bio-Energy Implementation Plan 2008-2013	Aimed at promoting the sustainable deployment of bio-energy within the region
Human Health	County Recreation Strategy	Aims to maximise the facilities and amenities available for recreational use across the county and ensure the sustainable development of the natural and built environment for recreational purposes
Biodiversity	Draft County Wexford Biodiversity Action Plan 2012-2017	Aimed at protecting the county's biodiversity through 33 actions and raising awareness
Water	River Basin Management Plan for the South Eastern River Basin District (2009-2015)	Achieve at least good water quality status by 2015 to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.
	The Freshwater Pearl Mussel Aughavaud Sub-Basin Management Plan (North-South Share 2 project, 2010).	Sets out specific measures that apply to the Aughavaud catchment
	Pollution Reduction Programmes for Waterford Harbour, Bannow Bay , Wexford Harbour Inner and Wexford Harbour Outer.	Compliance with the standards and objectives established by the Quality of Shellfish Waters Regulations 2006 for the designated shellfish growing waters at Waterford Harbour, Bannow Bay, Wexford Harbour Inner and Wexford Harbour Outer.
Waste	Joint Waste Management Plan for the South East Region 2006-2011	To promote waste prevention and minimisation through source reduction, producer responsibility and public awareness and to manage the recovery/ recycling/ disposal of waste arising on a regional basis.

Section 28 Guidelines

The preparation of the Plan must also take account of the statutory obligations of Wexford County Council, and any relevant policies or objectives of the Government or of any Minister of the Government. The Council are required to have regard to guidelines issued by the Minister of the Environment, Community and Local Government under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The preparation of the Plan has had regard to the following guidelines:

- Architectural Heritage Protection-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2004)
- Architectural Heritage Protection for Places of Public Worship-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2003)
- Childcare Facilities-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2001)
- Provision of Schools and the Planning System-A Code of Practice for Planning Authorities (2008)
- Sustainable Urban Housing-Design Standards for New Apartments, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2007)
- Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2008) and Best Practice Urban Design Manual (Companion document to the Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas Guidelines) (2009)
- Development Plans – Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2007)
- Development Management-Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2007)
- Retail Planning Guidelines-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2005)
- The Planning System and Flood Risk Management-Guidelines for Local Authorities (2009)
- Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Projects on the Environment-Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities (2004)
- Landscape and Landscape Assessment –Guidelines for Planning Authorities, (2000)
- Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures (1996)
- Wind Energy-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2006)

- Sustainable Rural Housing-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2005)
- Quarries and Ancillary Activities-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2004)
- Section 261A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 and related provisions-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012)
- Spatial Planning and National Roads-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012)
- Local Area Plans-Draft Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DECLG, 2012)
- Draft Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (DECLG, 2012)
- Development Contributions- Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DECLG, 2012)
- Guidance for Planning Authorities on Drainage and Reclamation of Wetlands-Draft (DECLG, 2011)

1.5 Integration of the County Development, SEA and AA

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

This Environmental Report, which identifies the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the CWDP was submitted to the Elected Members for their consideration and should be read in conjunction with the CWDP, AA, and SFRA. The results of the Environmental Report, AA Screening Report and SFRA have been taken into account in the consideration and adoption of the Plan.

1.6 Implications of SEA for the Plan

This Environmental Report, which identifies the likely significant effects on the

environment of implementing the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019 was submitted to the Elected Members for their consideration and should be read in conjunction with the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019 and the Appropriate Assessment. The results of the Environmental Report and Appropriate Assessment must be fully taken into account before the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019 is adopted.

Section 2: SEA Methodology and Process

2.1 Legislative Requirement for SEA

The preparation of a County Development Plan requires a full Strategic Environmental Assessment. Accordingly, the preparation of this Environmental Report is a statutory requirement. The SEA process can be divided into a number of stages as outlined in Table 11. The methodology devised to carry out the SEA of the County Development Plan follows the requirements as set out in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 as amended and the Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) guidelines published by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) in 2004.

Table 11 SEA Process

SEA Stage	
Screening	SEA is mandatory for a County Development Plan therefore this stage was not undertaken.
Scoping	Scoping was conducted to determine the baseline environmental parameter data and issues to be considered in the Environmental Report.
Consultation on the Plan and Environmental Report	Submissions received and a Scoping Meeting held with Environmental Protection Agency.
Scoping Report	Submissions received from Environmental Authorities were incorporated into the Scoping Report and baseline data was amended.
Preparation of Environmental Report and the County Development Plan.	Environmental Objectives established. Development Objectives established. Consultation with EPA, etc. Assessment of Alternative Scenarios. Mitigation measures detailed. Monitoring measures detailed.
Monitoring the County	Monitoring significant environmental effects

Development Plan	over the lifetime of the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019.
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2.2 Scoping the Environmental Report

The scoping report was prepared in accordance with the SEA guidelines prepared by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government under Sections 23(5) and 28(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), and the SEA Regulations 2004, as amended. The purpose of the Scoping report was to ensure the identification of relevant environmental issues at this early stage. It helps the SEA to become focused upon the important issues such as those relating to existing environmental problems, thus avoiding wasting resources on unnecessary data collection. Initial scoping took place with the prescribed Environmental Authorities in March 2012. A Draft Scoping Report was sent to the Authorities and they were given a four week period to make submissions and observations.

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

1. The Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht, submission is summarised as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The submissions have been summarised in the Final Scoping Report which is available for public inspection at the Planning Authority's offices and is also available to download at www.wexford.ie. The content of the submissions along with Cian O'Mahony (EPA) comments during the course of the Scoping meeting, have also been considered and incorporated into this Environmental Report, where appropriate.

2.3 Consultation for the Development Plan & SEA Processes

Wexford County Council complied with the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, (as amended), in relation to informing the prescribed bodies for the purposes of preparing and making a Development Plan. The prescribed bodies were initially provided with the Issues Paper and subsequently invited to submit submissions/observations in relation to the Draft Development Plan, AA and SEA. The Planning Authority was required to formally consult with the designated Environmental Authorities during Scoping. The designated authorities for the purposes of the County Development Plan are as follows:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Minister for the Environmental, Community and Local Government
- Minister for Agriculture, Food and Marine
- Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
- Minister for Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs
- The Manager of Adjoining Planning Authorities ; Wexford Borough Council, Enniscorthy Town Council, New Ross Town Council, Wicklow County Council, Waterford County Council, Kilkenny County Council, Carlow County Council,

2.4 Environmental Baseline and Data Collection

It is necessary to achieve an understanding of the relevant existing conditions, before impacts on the environment can be predicted. This stage of the SEA process requires the description of the existing environmental baseline and from this; information on the likely effects of implementing the Plan can be identified and evaluated.

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

Baseline data was collected based on the information included in the scoping report as well as having regard to the requirements of the SEA Directive. The various factors used to describe the current state of the environment included, biodiversity, flora and fauna, population and human health, soil and geology, water and flooding, air , noise & climate, material assets, cultural heritage, and landscape. Most of the data was extracted from existing data sources.

2.5 Environmental Report

The purpose of the Environmental Report is to identify, evaluate and describe the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the Plan and the alternatives are predicted and their significance evaluated with regard to the environmental baseline. The effects to be considered include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative. The Environmental Report provides the decision-makers, the Elected Members of Wexford County Council, as well as the public, with a clear understanding of the likely environmental consequences of decisions regarding the future accommodation of growth in County Wexford. Mitigation measures are proposed to prevent or reduce significant adverse effects posed by the Plan, or to maximise any benefits arising. The alternatives are also presented in this report, as are measures concerning monitoring. The purpose of the Environmental Report is to make the environment a central focus of the decision-making process.

The Environmental Report has been altered to take account of amendments and modifications to the original Draft Plan, and have been evaluated by the SEA.

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

- (a) an outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan and relationship with other relevant plans;
- (b) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan;
- (c) the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;

- (d) any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to the Birds Directive or Habitats Directive;
- (e) the environmental protection objectives, established at international, European Union or national level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;
- (f) the likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors;
- (g) the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan;
- (h) an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information;
- (i) a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring of the significant environmental effects of implementation of the plan;
- (j) a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.

2.6 Consultation on the Environmental Report

Consultation on the Draft Plan and Draft Environmental Report took place with the Minister, the Board, the prescribed authorities (including the environmental authorities) and the public. This Environmental Report takes account of submissions or observations which were made during the consultation period on the Draft CWDP and Environmental Report. As material alterations were proposed to the Draft Plan there was a further submission period during which time submissions and/or observations were made on the proposed amendments. Further modifications were proposed which underwent a screening process and determined SEA was not required. The proposed amendments, the SEA screening documents and SEA

Environmental Report, have been sent to the Minister, the Board and the prescribed authorities and were made available for public inspection.

2.7 Making the Decision Public

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

2.8 Monitoring

Monitoring of the implementation of the Wexford County Development Plan will be undertaken for the duration of the Plan. The overall objective of this stage is to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Plan so as “to identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action” (Article 10/1; SEA Directive 2001/42/EC). The monitoring programme for the Plan can be found in Section 9 of this report.

Section 3: The County Development Plan

3.1 Introduction

Under Section 11 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), a Planning Authority is required to review its existing Development Plan and commence the preparation of a new one, not later than 4 years after the adoption of the Development Plan.

The Development Plan is the principal policy document of the planning authority which sets out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of its functional area over a 6 year period. The Plan comprises a written statement supported by maps indicating the development goals and objectives for the county, including a number of mandatory objectives. The Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019 sets out Wexford County Council's overall strategy and policies for the proper planning and sustainable development of the County up to 2019.

In preparing the new county development plan the County Council must have regard to relevant national and regional plans, policies, strategies, best-practice guidelines and codes of practice which relate to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. It must also have regard to the development plans of adjoining authorities. The Plan must also take account of the mandatory requirements which must be included in development plans as set out in the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

3.2 Structure of the County Development Plan

The Plan consists of a written statement, a series of maps and Appendices. The following outlines the broad structure of the written plan.

Volume 1

- Chapter 1 Introduction and Context
- Chapter 2 Demographic profile
- Chapter 3 Core Strategy

Chapter 4	Housing
Chapter 5	Climate Change
Chapter 6	Employment, Economy and Enterprise
Chapter 7	Tourism
Chapter 8	Transport
Chapter 9	Infrastructure
Chapter 10	Environmental Management
Chapter 11	Energy
Chapter 12	Flood Risk Management
Chapter 13	Coastal Zone Management
Chapter 14	Heritage (built, natural, green infrastructure and landscape)
Chapter 15	Recreation, Sport and Public Rights of Way
Chapter 16	Social Inclusion and Community Facilities
Chapter 17	Design Guide
Chapter 18	Development Management Standards
Appendix A	Rosslare Strand and Castlebridge Objectives
Appendix B	Statement of Compliance
Volume 2	Record of Protected Structures
Volume 3	Landscape Character Assessment
Volume 4	Retail Strategy
Volume 5	Wind Energy Strategy
Volume 6	Joint Housing Strategy 2013-2019
Volume 7	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
Volume 8	SEA Environment Report
Volume 9	Appropriate Assessment Screening

3.2 Plan Vision and Goals of the Plan

The overall vision in the Plan seeks to develop a county;

- where people want to live, work and play
- which offers high quality sustainable employment opportunities and residential developments
- with high quality urban and rural environments supported by excellent sustainable physical and social infrastructure

- which values its natural environment, built and cultural heritage

In summary, the Plan will provide:

- A sustainable spatial development strategy to guide the location of development;
- Clear guidance on the future use of land and the pattern of development over the next six years;
- A framework for the future investment in physical and social infrastructure;
- A framework for developing the County's economy;
- Management and control by indicating standards to be achieved in new developments;
- Ways to conserve and enhance the urban and rural environment and to protect the diversity of the natural and cultural landscape, and
- Guidance for public and private investors in relation to land use and development.

3.3 Geographical Area of the Plan

County Wexford is situated in the very south-east of Ireland adjoining counties; Waterford, Kilkenny, Carlow and Wicklow. County Wexford has a land area of approximately 236,527 ha, with a population of 145,320 (Census 2011). County Wexford's geographical position bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the south and the Irish Sea to the east, results in a length of coastline at high water and including all inlets and estuaries, estimated to be 246km.

The County. It has four main towns; Wexford and New Ross are located in the south and west of the County, while the towns of Enniscorthy and Gorey support the northern part of the County. The County has a strong network of smaller towns, villages and rural settlements throughout the county which support the County's rural population. (See Map 1 for County Geographical Area located in the Appendix)

3.4 Key Objectives of the Plan

The strategic aims for achieving this vision for the Plan and which underpin the objectives of the Plan include to:

- Promote the balanced and sustainable development of the urban and rural areas of the County for a range of residential, services and employment opportunities.
- Broaden and strengthen the economic base of the County by encouraging the sustainable growth of employment, enterprise and economic activity, and in particular facilitate innovation and enterprise in indigenous industries.
- Continue to develop the role of tourism and the development of a high quality and diverse tourism product throughout the County in a balanced and sustainable manner.
- Develop an integrated Transport Plan for the County which will deliver local transport links, provide safe and efficient road and rail access within the County and to other regions. This, in turn, will facilitate improved public transport provision and reduce the distance that people need to travel to work, schools, services and recreational facilities.
- Promote the development of viable and vibrant town and village centres across the County that provide shopping services of appropriate scale to serve their communities and rural hinterlands, while supporting and enhancing the scale, mix and attractiveness of the retail offer in the Hub of Wexford Town and the Larger Towns of New Ross, Enniscorthy and Gorey.
- Facilitate the provision of high quality housing in a range of locations to meet the needs of the County's population, with particular emphasis on facilitating access to housing to suit different household and tenure needs in a sustainable manner and in appropriate locations.
- Protect and enhance the County's rural assets and recognise the housing, employment, social and recreational needs of those living and working in rural areas.
- Protect, conserve and enhance the County's built, natural and cultural environment through promoting awareness, and good quality urban and rural design.

- Protect and develop the County's water and wastewater infrastructure, integrating their provision with the County's overall land use strategies whilst having regard to environmental responsibilities and complying with European and National legislation
- Facilitate the provision of, and improvements to, social and recreational infrastructure and provide access to new and existing community facilities throughout the County for all its residents.
- Promote the balanced and sustainable development of the urban and rural areas of the County for a range of residential, services and employment opportunities.
- Protect and enhance the County's unique natural heritage and biodiversity, while promoting and developing its cultural, educational and eco-tourism potential in a sustainable manner.
- Manage the challenges of climate change including flooding and sea level rise.
- Develop an integrated and coherent Green Infrastructure Strategy for the County which will allow for the protection, provision and management of the County's green spaces, in tandem with plans for growth and development.
- Harness the County's natural resources in a manner that is compatible with the sensitivity of rural areas, the existing quality of life, and the protection and enhancement of the County's natural heritage and biodiversity.

3.5 Relationship with Other Relevant Plans

The Wexford County Development Plan is situated within a hierarchy of national and regional policies. The plan must be consistent with the objectives of these higher-level strategic actions, whilst any programmes and projects must in turn be driven by the county development plan. The following provides a summary of the national, regional and local plans which are relevant to the Plan. These plans have influenced the policies contained in the Plan and within which the plan is consistent.

3.5.1 National Policy Framework

National Spatial Strategy for Ireland 2002-2020

The National Spatial Strategy (NSS) is a twenty year planning framework designed to achieve a better balance of social, economic, physical development and population growth between regions. The strategy aims to develop the full potential of each region so as to contribute to the optimal performance of the State as a whole-economically, socially and environmentally. The NSS outlines the spatial development framework for the Country. It focuses on a system of Gateway cities supported by Hub towns. In the South East Region Waterford City is the designated Gateway and will be supported by the Hubs of Wexford Town and Kilkenny City.

The NSS designated Wexford Town as a Hub as it is strategically located close to Rosslare Port and on the national road and railway networks. The larger towns of Enniscorthy and New Ross are recognised as important urban centres. The NSS identifies Gorey as a town that traditionally served a prosperous agricultural hinterland, and is considered an ideal location for residential and small and medium enterprise developments. The NSS also recognises the long tradition of people living in rural parts of Ireland and identifies sustainable rural settlement as a key component of delivering more balanced regional development.

Implementing the National Spatial Strategy: 2010 Update and Outlook

Given the serious economic and environmental challenges now facing Ireland, a review of the implementation of the NSS was considered necessary. This document is not a replacement of the original NSS policy document, rather it reaffirms the Government's commitment to the NSS as the national spatial and forward planning framework to guide more balanced regional development and inform capital investment priorities.

The update sets out new priorities and objectives, taking account of experience since 2002 and the new environmental, budgetary and economic challenges. These are:

- Supporting employment and a return to an enterprise-led 'Smart Economy';
- Completing a sustainable transport network, building on sustained investment in recent years;

- Promoting environmental sustainability with sustained investment in water services and energy efficiency together with habitat protection as a particular focus;
- Delivering sustainable communities through sustained investment in regeneration of existing disadvantaged areas and catching up on infrastructural deficits in areas that have developed rapidly in recent years; and
- Harnessing the potential of rural areas including a more diversified rural economy and the potential of such areas to develop productive local economies and to deliver sustainable energy alternatives towards a less carbon intensive economy.

National Development Plan 2007-2013 Transforming Ireland-A Better Quality of Life for All.

The National Development Plan provides a fiscal investment programme in the areas of infrastructure, enterprise, human capital and social inclusion over the Plan period. The Plan focuses investment around the National Spatial Strategy, the regions, Gateways and Hubs. The objective of the Plan is to deliver a better quality of life for all within a strong and vibrant economy that maintains our international competitiveness and promotes regional development, social justice and environmental sustainability.

The Plan sets out an investment programme in the South-East Gateway of Waterford City, which includes investment in improving road, rail and public transport links to the Hub and other areas in the region and to other regions.

In the Hub towns, which include Wexford Town, investment is prioritised in areas including transport, broadband, water services infrastructure, education and training and economic linkages with surrounding rural areas.

National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012

Under the Kyoto Protocol and as part of its contribution to the overall EU target, Ireland agreed to a target limiting its greenhouse gas emissions to 13% above 1990 levels over the period 2008-2012.

- The National Climate Change Strategy 2007 - 2012 sets out a range of measures, building on those already in place under the first National Climate Change Strategy (2000), to ensure Ireland reaches its target under the Kyoto Protocol. The Strategy provides a framework for action to reduce Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions in the areas of energy, transport, housing, industrial and commercial and agriculture and waste as well as cross-sectoral actions. Local Authorities are key agents for change at local level in achieving target reductions.

National Renewable Energy Action Plan

The EU Renewables Directive 2009/28/EC promotes the use of energy from renewable sources. It establishes the basis for the achievement of the EU's 20% renewable energy target by 2020. Under the terms of the Directive, each Member State was set an individual binding renewable energy target, which will contribute to the achievement of the overall EU goal. Ireland was set a 16% target. The National Renewable Energy Action Plan sets out the Government's strategic approach and concrete measures to deliver this target. The Government has set the following targets:

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

The Government is also looking beyond 2020 in terms of the significant opportunities to develop Ireland's abundant offshore renewable energy resources, including offshore wind, wave and tidal energy.

Smarter Travel-A Sustainable Transport Future-A new Transport Policy for Ireland 2009-2020

This document sets out proposals to reverse current unsustainable transport and travel patterns and reduce the health and environmental impacts of current trends and improve our quality of life. The five key goals of this policy document are to reduce overall travel demand, maximise the efficiency of the transport network, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, reduce transport emissions and improve accessibility to transport.

National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016

This Plan sets out a wide-ranging and comprehensive programme of action to address poverty and social exclusion. The overall goal of this Plan is to reduce the number of those experiencing consistent poverty to between 2% and 0% by 2012, with the aim of eliminating consistent poverty by 2016.

National Heritage Plan 2002

The National Heritage Plan sets out a clear and coherent strategy and framework for the protection and enhancement of Ireland's national heritage. The core objective of the Plan is to protect the national heritage as well as promoting it as a resource to be enjoyed by all.

National Biodiversity Plan 2002 & Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016

The National Biodiversity Plan sets out actions for the promotion and delivery of biodiversity conservation at both national and local levels. Local Authorities have a key role in promoting biodiversity conservation and coordinating biodiversity issues at a local level. The Plan requires the preparation of Local Biodiversity Action Plans. These Action Plans aim to meet national and international targets for the conservation of biodiversity, address local priorities, provide a framework for the conservation of biodiversity at the local level and coordinate new and existing local biodiversity initiatives.

The second National Biodiversity Plan entitled "Actions for Biodiversity 2011-2016" aims to build upon the achievements of the previous plan, focuses on actions that were not fully completed and addresses emerging issues. It includes further substantial actions to conserve biodiversity on a countrywide scale.

National Landscape Strategy

The European Landscape Convention, also known as the Florence Convention, promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscapes. The Convention was adopted by the Council of Europe in October 2000 and came into

force in March 2004. Ireland signed and ratified the Convention and must now implement some policy changes and objectives relating to landscape.

The preparation of a National Landscape Strategy is central to the implementation of the Convention. The Strategy is currently being prepared by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG). In September 2011 a public consultation paper on the issues to be considered in the preparation of the Strategy was published. It is intended that the Strategy be put forward for consideration by the Government in 2012.

The aim of the Strategy will be to put in place a framework to achieve a balance between active management, forward planning and the protection of Ireland's internationally renowned landscape as a physical, economic and cultural asset. It will facilitate the development of:

- a) landscape character assessment within a national landscape framework, which will provide objective and consistent descriptions of Ireland's landscapes within a standardised format
- b) landscape planning and landscape management guidance and facilitatory tools for use with Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) to improve land-use policies, forward planning and development management policies
- c) methods to establish the current state of the landscape through baseline research.

A core objective of the Strategy is the sustainable management of change affecting landscape and not the preservation of the landscape at a particular point in its continuing evolution¹.

Section 28 Guidelines

The preparation of the Plan must take account of the statutory obligations of Wexford County Council, and any relevant policies or objectives of the Government or of any

¹ Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (2011), A National Landscape Strategy-Strategy Issues Paper for Consultation

Minister of the Government. The Council are required to have regard to guidelines issued by the Minister of the Environment, Community and Local Government under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The preparation of the Plan has had regard to the following guidelines:

- Architectural Heritage Protection-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2004)
- Architectural Heritage Protection for Places of Public Worship-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2003)
- Childcare Facilities-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2001)
- Provision of Schools and the Planning System-A Code of Practice for Planning Authorities (2008)
- Sustainable Urban Housing-Design Standards for New Apartments, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2007)
- Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2008) and Best Practice Urban Design Manual (Companion document to the Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas Guidelines) (2009)
- Development Plans – Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2007)
- Development Management-Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2007)
- Retail Planning Guidelines-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2005)
- The Planning System and Flood Risk Management-Guidelines for Local Authorities (2009)
- Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Projects on the Environment-Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities (2004)
- Landscape and Landscape Assessment –Guidelines for Planning Authorities, (2000)
- Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures (1996)
- Wind Energy-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2006)
- Sustainable Rural Housing-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2005)
- Quarries and Ancillary Activities-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2004)

- Section 261A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 and related provisions-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012)
- Spatial Planning and National Roads-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012)
- Local Area Plans-Draft Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DECLG, 2012)
- Draft Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (DECLG, 2012)
- Development Contributions- Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DECLG, 2012)
- Guidance for Planning Authorities on Drainage and Reclamation of Wetlands-Draft (DECLG, 2011)

3.5.2 Regional Policy Framework

Regional Planning Guidelines for the South-East Region 2010-2022

The South-East Region covers counties Wexford, Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Waterford and Waterford City. The South-East Regional Authority is the statutory authority covering these areas. The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) requires Regional Authorities to make planning guidelines for their region and to review the guidelines at least every 6 years. The current guidelines for the South-East Region were adopted on the 26 July 2010 and are operational for the period 2010-2022.

The Regional Planning Guidelines (SERPGs) provide a strategic planning framework for the South-East Region with the objective of implementing the NSS at regional level and achieving balanced development. The SERPGs incorporate high level policies which will inform and advise local authorities in the preparation and review of their respective Development Plans and provide clear integration of planning and development policy at national, regional and local level.

The SERPGs have taken account of key issues affecting the development of the region, such as population and settlement, economic and employment trends, industrial and commercial development, transportation, water supply and waste

water facilities, energy and communications, education, healthcare, retail and community facilities and environmental protection.

The key objectives of the SERPGs are:

- Combine the strengths of the cities and towns in the region to achieve sufficient critical mass to compete with larger urban centres in other regions;
- Progress towards an accessible region with efficient and fully integrated transport systems;
- Broaden and strengthen the economic base of the region and seek to achieve innovation and enterprise in indigenous and emerging industry sectors, such as green/renewable energy, and greater economic competitiveness and growth;
- Provide for world class higher education, research and development and links to the knowledge economy;
- Tackle inequality, educational disadvantage and social deprivation by providing improved public services and social and community infrastructure;
- Maintain the character and vitality of rural areas and conserve the region's characteristic landscape and heritage assets; and
- Promote and support the creation of a more sustainable self-sufficient region with greater use of renewable resources and development of regional food supplies.

The Settlement Strategy in the SERPGs sets out the target population for the region and each of its main settlements. The strategy also sets out the settlement hierarchy for the region, reinforcing the NSS designation of Waterford City as the Regional 'Gateway' and Wexford Town and Kilkenny City as the Hubs. The RPGs designate the towns of New Ross, Enniscorthy and Gorey as 'Larger Towns'. The SERPGs suggest that these larger towns should be either

- a) targeted for growth, or
- b) where the towns have already experienced high levels of population growth, the objective should be more measured growth in a manner that allows community, social and retail development to catch up with recent rapid phases of mainly residential development.

These towns are also considered to be good locations for economic development.

The SERPGs also designate Bunclody/Carrickduff and Castlebridge as District Towns, as these towns perform an important role in driving the development of particular spatial components of the overall region. The Region has a high proportion of its population living in rural areas. Whilst seeking to achieve balanced regional development, the SERPGs support sustainable rural settlement. The SERPGs acknowledge that there are different issues facing rural areas across the region and within counties. It recommends that each of the constituent county councils categorise different rural areas types within their counties and adopt housing policies specifically designed to address local issues rather than adopting a single policy of the county as a whole.

Joint Waste Management Plan for the South-East 2006-2011

The purpose of this plan is to promote waste prevention and minimisation through source reduction, producer responsibility and public awareness and to manage the recovery/recycling/disposal of waste arising on a regional basis. In accordance with the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC), transposed into Irish legislation through the European Communities (Waste Directive) Regulations 2011, the South East Waste Management Region carried out an evaluation of the Plan in 2012 to determine whether the Plan should be revised or replaced as necessary to comply with the Directive. Following the evaluation it was recommended that the Plan be replaced. The 2006 will remain applicable until the new Plan is in place in early 2014.

South-East River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015

The Water Framework Directive aims to improve water quality within the region. The Directive sets very strict deadlines for meeting water quality objectives.

Ireland is committed to managing its waters through a catchment based process. This Management Plan has been developed by the local authorities of counties Carlow, Wexford, Kilkenny, Waterford County, South Tipperary, Laois, North Tipperary, Kildare, Offaly, Wicklow, Waterford City, Limerick and Cork.

The Plan aims to protect all waters within the South-East river basin district, and where necessary, improve waters and achieve sustainable water use. Wexford

County Council, through this plan, is committed to achieving the aims and objectives of the Water Framework Directive by implementing the specified measures.

The Plan will also be compliant with any Pollution Reduction Programme (PRP) prepared for Shellfish Designated Areas relevant to the plan area.

South-East Region Bio-Energy Implementation Plan 2008-2013

The South-East Regional Authority, in conjunction with Sustainable Energy Ireland and a wide range of local stakeholders in the Region, prepared a Bioenergy Implementation Plan. The primary aim of this plan is to promote the sustainable deployment of Bioenergy within the region. The implementation of the plan will significantly increase the production and consumption of energy from biomass in the region. The achievement of the targets will reduce the region's reliance on imported finite fossil fuels, and thereby will benefit from reduced carbon emissions and create opportunities to support employment creation and regional development.

3.5.3 Local Policy Framework

Wexford County Development Board

Wexford County Development Board has been recognised as a key mechanism for the development of the County since its establishment in 2000. The Board's members are from a variety of sectors including local government, the state sector, local development agencies and the community and voluntary sectors.

The role of the Board is to:

- increase co-operation between members
- highlight issues of concern within the County
- avoid duplication in service delivery
- improve services in areas where there are gaps
- implement an economic and social plan for the County.

The work of the Board is underpinned by two strategies:

1. "Action for Change-Wexford County Development Board Strategy 2009-2012"

This is the third strategy in the Board's ten-year plan for the economic, social and cultural development of the County. The strategy is based on three core themes:

- Action for Employment
- Action for People
- Action for Living

It includes objectives to encourage business development and job creation, to promote civic participation, to co-ordinate County Wexford's response to climate change and develop a Recreation Strategy.

2. "Positioning Wexford for the Upturn - Towards Sustainable Growth and Development"

The Board produced this report in April 2010; the objective of which is to set out an economic strategy to position Wexford for the upturn in the economy. The report was drawn up with the full engagement of local stakeholders and focuses on initiatives and actions that can be taken by people living and working in Wexford towards sustainable growth and development of Wexford's economy.

The strategy is structured in five pillars covering those sections where Wexford has the greatest potential to grow sustainable jobs:

- Tourism
- Financial Services
- Health Life Sciences (a collective term used to describe the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical devices and diagnostics sectors)
- Food
- Sustainable Construction.

In the case of each of these pillars both medium term measures and immediate actions have been identified. Underlying these pillars are four enabling measures intended to under-pin the success of the strategy:

- Greening Wexford
- Giving Wexford a face-lift
- Improving and exploiting the County's transport infrastructure

- Telling Wexford's story more effectively

Recreational Strategy-Wexford County Development Board (June 2011)

This strategy aims to maximise the facilities and amenities available for recreational use across the county and ensure the sustainable development of the natural and built environment for recreational purposes.

Draft County Wexford Biodiversity Action Plan 2012-2017

This is the first biodiversity Plan prepared for the County. Its aim is to protect the County's biodiversity through actions and raising awareness. The five key objectives of the Plan are to:

1. Identify biodiversity information and fill data gaps for the County, prioritise habitats and species for protection and inform conservation action and decision making.
2. Make information on biodiversity available.
3. Raise awareness across all sectors, groups and ages, of Wexford's biodiversity, its value, the issues facing it and encourage people through various media, training and innovative initiatives to support biodiversity conservation
4. Promote and support best practice in biodiversity conservation taking in account national and local priorities
5. Incorporate and raise the profile of biodiversity conservation issues in the local authority's actions and policies.

3.6 Compliance with the NSS and SERPGs

The Plan is consistent with the development objectives of the NSS and the SERPGs, as follows:

- The settlement objectives and population targets for the County come directly from the NSS and the SERPGs.
- The Plan focuses on developing the role of Wexford Town as a Hub through the targeted investment in transport links and other socio-economic infrastructure such as water services and education and serviced business locations will be required to facilitate the achievement of critical mass in the

Hub.

- The Settlement Strategy focuses on developing population centres along the County's existing transportation network so as to provide critical mass to support the maintenance and further development of the network, and in the case of the Rosslare-Waterford railway, provide the critical mass and demand for re-opening of the railway line in the future, which would be to the benefit of the County and the Region.
- The critical enabling investment priorities for the Region identified by the SERPGs have been incorporated into the Plan. These are to:
 - develop the smart economy
 - improve transport infrastructure and services
 - deliver first class energy and communications
 - foster urban regeneration and improved quality of life
 - fully implement the Joint Waste Management Plan for the South-East Region.

Section 4: Environmental Baseline of County Wexford

4.1 Introduction

The environmental baseline of County Wexford is described in this section. This baseline information sets out the environmental context within which the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019 will operate and the opportunities, constraints and targets that this context puts on the Plan. This environmental data is described in line with the legislative requirements of the SEA Directive and Regulations under the following environmental parameter headings;

1. Biodiversity, Fauna, Flora,
2. Population, Human Health,
3. Soil and Geology,
4. Water, Flooding
5. Air, Noise and Climate,
6. Material Assets,
7. Cultural Heritage including Architectural and Archaeological Heritage,
8. Landscape and
 - the interrelationship between the above factors

The purpose of this Section is to provide baseline information for each environmental parameter to:

- Support the process of assessing significant environmental effects;
- Support the identification of existing environmental problems including data gaps;
- Provide a baseline against which future monitoring programmes can be set up and data can be compared.

4.2 Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna

This section looks at biodiversity and includes flora and fauna. The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) circular SEA 1/8 and NPWS 1/8 requires that under the Habitats Directive an Appropriate Assessment of

the ecological implications of a plan is conducted. An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report of the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019 was conducted by RPS Consultants and is contained in Volume 9 of the County Wexford Development Plan 2013-2019.

4.2.1 Baseline description

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

The EU Birds Directive 79/409/EEC is the oldest piece of EU law focused on the conservation of migratory and resident wild birds within the EU and sets out a scheme by which all wild birds and their habitats and resting places are afforded a degree of protection. Special Protection Areas (SPAs) have been established across the EU which form a network of conservation sites for the protection of wild birds. These sites cover territories that are most suitable for the conservation of wild birds, such as wetlands and estuaries which attract large numbers of migratory and resident wild birds.

The Habitats Directive (1992) is another piece of European legislation which focuses on the conservation of biodiversity. It was transposed into Irish national law in 1997. The Habitats Directive is unlike the Birds Directive in that it focuses entirely on the protection of flora and fauna, other than birds, that are important, rare or vulnerable within the EU. Protection is given at different degrees for certain species and their habitats that reach the ecological criteria required. These species are listed in a set of Annexes within the legislation. Under the Habitats Directive member

states are required to establish Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for the protection of these species. Since 1994 all SPAs and SACs form an ecological network known as the Natura 2000 network. Ireland is required to take appropriate steps to maintain and restore a favourable conservation status of these areas.

There are a total of 26 Natura 2000 sites within the area of the Plan and 6 sites contained within a 15km inclusion zone in surrounding counties. There are 9 SPAs, 1 SAC and 15 candidate SACs (which are afforded the same level of protection as fully designated SACs) in County Wexford. The Natura 2000 sites within the area of the plan are listed in Table 12 below. (See Map 2: Designated Sites in Appendix)

Table 12 List of Natura 2000 sites within area of County Wexford Development

Site Name	SAC	SPA
Ballyteige Burrow	000696	004020
Bannow Bay	000697	004033
Cahore Polders and Dunes	000700	
Ladys Island Lake	000704	004009
Saltee Islands	000707	004002
Screen Hills	000708	
Tacumshin lake	000709	004092
Raven Point	000710	004019
Hook Head	000764	
Blackstairs Mountains	000770	
Slaney River Valley	000781	
Kilmuckridge-Tinnabearna Sandhills	001741	
Kilpatrick Sandhills	001742	
Long Bank	002161	
River Barrow and River Nore	002162	
Wexford Harbour and Slob		004076
Keeragh Islands		004118
Cahore Marshes		004143

There are 61 Annex I habitats listed under the Habitats Directive which occur naturally in Ireland, there are 40 of these habitats located in County Wexford. Of the 16 priority habitats listed in the directive that occur in Ireland, nine of these are found in County Wexford. According to a report published by the NPWS (2008) all nine of these priority habitats are given bad conservation status at a national level (See Table 14 for status of habitats in County Wexford).

Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs)

There is one designated NHA, Keeragh Islands, and 27 proposed NHAs.

Table 13 Natural Heritage Areas

Natural Heritage Areas and Site Code			
000703	Keeragh Islands	000754	Carrhill Wood
000698	Barrow River Estuary	000755	Clone Fox Covert
000699	Boley Fen	000757	Courtown Dunes and Glen
000702	Leskinfere Church, Clogh	000761	Forth Mountain
000706	Mountgarrett Riverbank	000765	Killoughrim Forest
000711	Tintern Abbey	000774	Oaklands Wood
000712	Wexford Slob and Harbour	000782	St Helen's Burrow
000741	Ballyconnigar Sandpits	000812	Pollmounty River Valley
000742	Ballyconnigar Upper	001733	Ardamine Woods
000744	Ballykelly Marsh	001736	Cahore Point North Sandhills
000745	Ballymoney Strand	001737	Donaghmore Sandhills
000746	Ballynabarney Wood	001738	Duncannon Sandhills
000747	Ballyroe Fen and Lake	001834	Kilgorman River Marsh
000750	Bunclody Slate Quarries	001930	Ballyteige Marsh

Nature Reserves

Ballyteige Burrow: (227 ha.) is a 9 km long shingle spit running north west from the coastal village of Kilmore Quay in south County Wexford and adjoining foreshore.

The Raven: comprising 589 ha., situated 8 km north-east of Wexford town is a large, well developed sand dune ecosystem, foreshore and seabed.

The Wexford Wildfowl Reserve: 194 ha. situated on the sloblands north of Wexford Harbour.

Refuges for Fauna

Under the Wildlife Acts, the Minister may designate Refuges for wild birds or wild animals or flora and impose protective measures to conserve both the species and their habitats. Seven such refuges already exist in Ireland; they are mainly islands or cliff faces. There is one located in County Wexford; Refuge for Fauna (Lady's Island) Designation Order, 1988 – designated for Artic tern, common tern, roseate tern, sandwich tern and little tern.

Invasive Species

Invasive species pose a serious threat to biodiversity and are regarded as the second biggest threat to biodiversity after direct habitat destruction. They threaten the existence of our native species by out-competing them, preying upon them and altering their natural habitats.

There are a number of invasive species present in County Wexford. These are both flora and fauna and can be found in terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments. Invasive alien species are non-native species that as a result of human activity, have been transported further than they could naturally travel and have subsequently disrupted their newly colonised environments. Invasive species in County Wexford include:

1. Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*)
2. Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)
3. Sea buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*)
4. Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*)
5. Waterfern (*Azolla filliculoides*)
6. Canadian waterweed (*Elodea Canadensis*)
7. Nuttall's waterweed (*Elodea nuttallii*)
8. Curly waterweed (*Lagrosiphon major*)
9. Cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*)
10. Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*)
11. Cord grass (*Spartina anglica*)
12. Least duckweed (*Lemna minuta*)
13. Hottentot fig (*Carpobrotus edulis*)

14. Dace (*Leuciscus leuciscus*)
15. American mink (*Mustela vison*)
16. Grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*)
17. Asian clam (*Corbicula fluminea*)
18. Ruddy duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*)
19. Wire weed (*Sargassum muticum*)

Table 14 Habitats in County Wexford and Conservation Status

(*indicates priority habitat) Source: The Status of Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland (NPWS, 2008).		
Code	Habitat name	Status
1110	Sandbanks	Poor
1130	Estuaries	Poor
1140	Tidal Mudflats and Sandflats	Poor
1150	Coastal Lagoons*	Bad
1160	Large Shallow Inlets and Bays	Poor
1170	Reefs	Poor
1210	Annual Vegetation of Drift Lines	Poor
1220	Perrenial Vegetation of Stony Banks	Poor
1230	Vegetated Sea Cliffs	Poor
1310	Salicornia Mud	Poor
1320	Spartina Swards	Poor
1330	Atlantic Salt Meadows	Poor
1410	Mediterranean Salt Meadows	Poor
1420	Haliphilous Scrub	Bad
2110	Embryonic Shifting Dunes	Poor
2120	Marram Dunes (White Dunes)	Bad
2130	Fixed Dunes(Grey Dunes)*	Bad
2150	Decalcified Dune Heath*	Bad
2170	Dune with Creeping Willow	Poor
2190	Humid Dune Slacks	Bad
3110	Lowland Oligotrophic Lakes	Bad
3130	Upland Oligotrophic Lakes	Bad

3140	Hard Water Lakes	Bad
3160	Dystrophic Lakes	Bad
3260	Floating River Vegetation	Bad
4010	Wet Heath	Bad
4030	Dry Heath	Poor
4060	Alpine and Subalpine Heath	Poor
6210	Orchid-Rich Grassland/ Calcareous Grassland*	Bad
6230	Species Rich Nardus Upland Grassland*	Bad
6410	Molinia Meadows	Bad
6430	Hydrophilous Tall Herb	Poor
7130	Blanket Bog (Active)*	Bad
7140	Transition Mires	Bad
7210	Cladium Fens*	Bad
7220	Petrifying Springs*	Bad
7230	Alkaline Fens	Bad
8330	Sea Caves	Good
91A0	Old Oak Woodlands	Bad
91E0	Residual Alluvial Forests*	Bad

Hedgerows

Hedgerows, particularly those with a variety of plant and tree species are of particular importance for biological diversity in the countryside. The most species rich hedgerows are usually the oldest ones and townland boundary and roadside hedgerows are particularly important for this reason. Species-rich hedgerows are important habitats in their own right, and they also act as wildlife corridors for many species, allowing dispersal and movement between other habitats. Hedgerows are not only important for biodiversity, but have farming, landscape, archaeology and cultural value.

Townland boundary loss has occurred but the rate of loss is not known. There has, however, been significant loss of species rich hedgerows, particularly in more intensively farmed areas and in periphery of urban centres. The ecological quality has probably deteriorated due to neglect, inappropriate management, lack of maintenance, use of herbicides and increased livestock densities, (particularly of sheep) and removal for one-off rural housing. Under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000, cutting of hedgerows, except for reasons of public safety, is prohibited from 1st March to 31st August. The Draft County Wexford Biodiversity Action Plan 2012-2017 contains the following action No.1.5 'To address the lack of information on hedges in the county by production of a county wide hedgerow survey', which will assist in this data gap. A recent introduction of a consent system for agricultural hedgerow removal will also restrict removal of this important habitat and ecological corridor.

Ecological networks, wildlife corridors and stepping stones

The EU Habitats Directive recognises the importance of ecological networks as corridors and stepping stones for wildlife. These areas are particularly important for the successful migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of species. The Habitats Directive requires that ecological connectivity and areas of ecological value outside the Natura 2000 network are maintained and managed in land use planning and development policies. Ecological networks are important in connecting sites of local biodiversity with each other and with designated sites. This will serve to prevent islands of habitats becoming isolated and hence reducing species range in the county. Ecological networks are composed of linear features such as treelines, hedgerows, rivers and streams. These provide corridors or stepping stones for wildlife species which allow them to move within their normal range. Ecological networks are very important for many mammal species particularly bats and also for fish of both marine and freshwater systems that use them for spawning and breeding at certain times of the year (e.g. salmonid species).

Woodland areas are also very important ecological stepping stones for species in the County. As well as the Annex I woodlands there are three other types of woodland in the County that are of conservation interest. These are Oak-Ash-Hazel, mixed Broadleaved woodland and mixed Broadleaved/Conifer woodland. A great number of

these occur in areas with no designated protection and their conservation as ecological corridors is significant.

Fisheries and Aquaculture

The EU Shellfish Waters Directive (2006/113/EC) aims to protect and improve shellfish waters in order to support shellfish life and growth. It is designed to protect the aquatic habitat of bivalve and gastropod molluscs, which includes mussels, scallops, clams, oysters and cockles. The European Communities (Quality of Shellfish Waters) Regulations 2006 (S.I No 268 of 2006) (as amended by SI No 55 of 2009 and SI No 464 of 2009) gives effect to the Directive in Ireland.

The Directive requires Member States to designate waters that need protection in order to support shellfish life and growth, and then establish pollution reduction programmes (PRPs) for the designated waters. There are four designated waters relevant to Wexford: Bannow Bay, Wexford Harbour Outer, Wexford Harbour Inner and Waterford Harbour. Pollution reduction programmes are in operation for these areas. The identified pressures on these designated waters include urban wastewater systems, on-site wastewater treatment systems agriculture and port activities.

Under Article 4 of the Quality of Shellfish Waters Regulations 2006 (as amended), the Council is required to ensure that the performance of its functions promotes compliance with the objectives of these pollution reduction programmes and with the objectives of the Shellfish Waters Directive. Such functions include waste water treatment, waste management, effluent discharge licences, planning and development and building control.

Salmonid Waters

There is one designated Salmonid Water in County Wexford as prescribed under the European Communities (Quality of Salmonid Waters) Regulations, 1988. This is the River Slaney main channel. Salmonid waters must reach water quality standards set out in the second schedule of these regulations to ensure that they have the capability to support salmonid fish- Salmon (*Salmo salar*), Trout (*Salmo trutta*), Char

(*Salvelinus*) and Whitefish (*Coregonus*). Under these regulations, designated salmonid waters must be sampled once per month for the parameters set out in Schedule Two.

Freshwater Pearl Mussel - *Margaritifera margaritifera*

Unlike many other molluscs this mussel requires clean, cool, well-oxygenated water free from mud and suspended matter. Also unusual for a mollusc, it is found chiefly in soft water. It is a declining species throughout Europe and has become extinct in some places in Ireland. The causes are various and include destruction by pearl fishers, physical changes to the habitat and pollution. The species is particularly vulnerable because of its longevity (one hundred years or more) and slow reproduction. In rivers where it is present, there may be no juveniles. It lives on gravel in high quality, low nutrient streams and rivers.

The pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera* (L., 1758) is protected under the Wildlife Acts, 1976 and 2000 and the Habitats Directive. It is included on the red data list for Ireland as being critically endangered.

Under the Water Framework Directive, River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) have been prepared for each River Basin District in Ireland. The RBMPs include a programme of measures for the protection and improvement of water quality. These include objectives for designated pearl mussel rivers to ensure that the quality of the water environment is adequate to support freshwater pearl mussel habitat and populations.

The European Communities Environmental Objectives (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) Regulations 2009 (S.I. No. 296 of 2009) also require that Sub-basin Management Plans are prepared for each of the 27 designated populations of freshwater pearl mussel areas in Ireland. Sub-basin Management Plans have been prepared by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) for each of the 27 areas. The plans identify critical local pressures and impacts on the freshwater pearl mussel and provide possible measures for restoration to favourable conservation status.

The Freshwater Pearl Mussel Aughavaud Sub-Basin Management Plan (North-South Share 2 project, funded by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010) sets out specific measures that apply to the Aughavaud catchment. The key objective is to achieve favourable conservation status for the freshwater pearl mussel population.

There are five recognised catchment areas of Freshwater Pearl Mussel populations that occur within SACs that are found within or near to the county boundary. The Freshwater Pearl Mussel populations are listed as Ballymurphy, Aughavaud, Aughnabrisk Mountain, Derreen River, and the Nore River.

Flora

County Wexford is home to a number of nationally and internationally important floral species. The extremely rare Cottenweed (*Otanthus maritium*) has its main Irish population at Lady's Island Lake in the south of the county. The only known Irish location for Scrambled Egg Lichen (*Fulgensia fulgens*) is in Ballyteige Burrow cSAC. This protected species is listed under the Floral (Protection) Order 1999. Along the Urrin River within the Blackstairs Mountains cSAC two other scarce plants are found- the Ivy-leaved Bellflower (*Wahlenbergia hederacea*) and Mountain Fern (*Thelypteris limbosperma*). A rare hybrid, Moore's Horsetail (*Equisetum x moorei*), is confined to the coasts of Wicklow and Wexford and it has been recorded in three protected sites in Wexford- Kilmuckridge-Tinnaberna Sandhills cSAC, Cahore Polders and Dunes cSAC and the Raven Point Nature Reserve. Another rare species, Summer Snowflake (*Leucojum aestivum*) is located within the Slaney cSAC. The rare species Perennial Glasswort (*Sarcocornia perennis*) is listed on the Flora Protection Order and in the Red Data Book and is found in only four 10km grid squares in Ireland confined to Bannow Bay, Ballyteige and Fethard Bay in Wexford.

A number of Annex V floral species as listed in the Habitats Directive are also found in Wexford. These include; *Sphagnum* sp., White cushion moss (*Leucobryum glaucum*), *Lycopodium* and *Cladonia* subgenus *Cladina* (NPWS, 2008). These are all protected by EU legislation. Also the rare red algae *Schizymenia dubyi* occurs within

the Hook Head cSAC. Wild Asparagus (*Asparagus officinalis* ssp. *prostratus*) is a locally important species

Fauna

A number of internationally, nationally and locally important species are found in the County.

There are currently 13 molluscs of conservation concern in County Wexford. Thirty-two butterfly species have been recorded in Wexford including the Marsh Fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia*), the Small Blue (*Cupido minimus*), Gatekeeper (*Pyronia tithonus*) and Dark-green Fritillary (*Argynnis aglaja*). In 'The Lepidoptera of County Wexford' (O'Donnell and Wilson, 2009) it lists 362 macro-moth species and 312 micro-moth species. There are 16 species of dragonflies and damselflies listed in The Red Data Book for Dragonflies and Damselflies that are likely to be seen in County Wexford. There are 19 species of waterbeetles that are listed in the Red Data Book that occur in county Wexford, including the Waterplantain Sloth Weevil (*Bagous alismatis*), the Horsetail Sloth Weevil (*Bagous lutulentus*), the Breached Waterbeetle (*Plateumaris braccata*), the Saltmarsh Crawler Beetle (*Halplus apicalis*) and the Spattered Diver (*Agabus conspersus*). There are 102 species listed in the checklist of Irish Bees of which 25 occur in County Wexford. The bumble bees, *Bombus distinguendus* and *Bombus sylvarum*, have been recorded from Ballyteige Burrow cSAC. Other invertebrates recorded in County Wexford include the Jewel Wasp (*Hedychridium ardens*) and the ant (*Tetramorium caespitum*) in Ballyteige Burrow cSAC and at Boley Fen pNHA a number of nationally important rare species of diptera occur.

Six fish species of conservation concern occur in the county including ; Sea Lamprey, River Lamprey and Brook Lamprey, Allis Shad, Twaite Shad and Atlantic Salmon. All of these are listed under Annex II and V except Sea and Brook lamprey which are only listed under Annex II. Also Sea bass, a locally important species, is protected under the Sea Fisheries Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006.

The Natterjack toad (*Bufo calamita*) is listed in Annex IV of the Habitats Directive. It is found in the Raven Nature Reserve in Wexford after being translocated there from Kerry in the 1990s. The Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*) is listed in Annex V of the same Directive and is commonly seen in Ireland. The Common Lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*) occurs at Forth Mountain pNHA as well as the Raven Nature Reserve where the Smooth Newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*) has also been recorded.

The Irish Hare (*Lepus timidus hibernicus*) is a distinct, endemic subspecies of the mountain hare. It is common throughout the county, particularly on the Wexford Slob. It is an Annex V and Red Data Book Species and the hunting of hares is prohibited on the lands of the North East Slob, North West Slob, Big Island, Beggerin Island and the Raven.

The Otter (*Lutra lutra*) is listed in Annex II and IV of the Habitats Directive and is found within the River Barrow and River Nore cSAC and the Slaney River Valley cSAC in the county. There have been recent declines in numbers due to water pollution and a decline in the quality of habitats.

The Pine Marten (*Martes martes*) is found in northern parts of the county. It is protected under Annex II and IV of the Habitats Directive and is currently expanding its range in Ireland.

The Red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*) has two strongholds in County Wexford; The Raven Nature reserve and John F. Kennedy Arboretum. This species is highly protected under national legislation such as the Wildlife Act 1976 and the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000 and its status in Ireland is 'Near Threatened'. It has disappeared from bordering counties Carlow and Kilkenny.

The Grey Seal (*Halichoerus grypus*) is found widely on Irish coastlines throughout the breeding season. In Wexford it is found in large numbers on the Saltees and the Raven. It is protected under Annex II and V of the EU Habitats Directive. The Common Harbour Seal (*Phoca vitulina*) is found around Wexford harbour.

A number of cetacean species are seen off the Wexford Coast including; Humpback Whale, Bottlenosed Dolphin, Common Dolphin, Harbour Porpoise, Killer Whale, Long-finned Pilot Whale, Risso's Dolphin, White Beaked Dolphin, Striped Dolphin, Minke Whale, Fin Whale and Sperm Whale. All of these are protected under Annex IV and Bottlenosed Dolphin and Harbour Porpoise are also listed under Annex II of the Habitats Directive.

The rare sea anemone *Cataphellia brodricii* is found in shallow waters around the Saltee Islands and Carnsore Point. The rare sponge *Tethyspira spinosa* occurs at Carnsore Point, Hook Head and the Saltees. The Orange sea squirt (*Stolonica socialis*) is recorded in the Saltees and Carnsore Point. Other sea squirts *Sidnyum elegans* and *Diistoms variolosus* are also found here. A single Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) was seen off the Saltee Islands in July 2011.

4.2.2 Current Issues and Problems

Habitat loss through habitat destruction, degradation and fragmentation is a major concern throughout the country. Habitat loss has led to a decline in native species in the recent past in Ireland and is regarded as the biggest threat to biodiversity at a national level. It is of primary importance to manage and protect a wide variety of habitats within the county, not just those within designated sites. Maintaining the ecological network is crucial to conserving our high level of biodiversity.

Anthropogenic associated activities which pose a threat to biodiversity and its conservation include:

- Current agricultural practices (the excessive use of fertiliser and pesticides, hedgerow removal and lack of hedgerow management, overgrazing and undergrazing).
- Land use change such as building on previously undeveloped land, the construction of roads and the conversion of farmland for industry and retail also poses a potential risk to biodiversity within the County.
- Water pollution within the county is an area of concern, particularly the density of on-site waste water treatment systems in the vicinity of significant water

bodies and shellfish waters. Leachate from landfills, eutrophication and acidification from forestry are also areas that need to be addressed.

- Coastal erosion, sea defence works and the development of floodplains can also lead to habitat loss.
- Infilling of wetlands, drainage works and peat extraction.
- Construction of windfarms, afforestation, and infrastructural works (water abstraction, roads, and wastewater disposal)
- Increasing recreational pressure

Environmental issues that have detrimental effects on biodiversity include:

- Global warming and its associated effects (elevated sea level, extreme weather conditions, increases in flooding events, changes in precipitation levels and temperatures, increases in invasive species) will pose a significant threat to native species and habitats in the future.
- Invasive species through their ability to directly alter their new environment both physically and chemically, out competing native species and disrupting the existing food-web structure. Invasive species pose a serious threat to biodiversity and are regarded as the second biggest threat to biodiversity after direct habitat destruction

4.2.3 Likely Evolution in the absence of the CWDP

In the absence of the Wexford County Development Plan it is likely that developments near ecologically important sites may become more widespread due to the absence of strategic planning and development management. This may be more of an issue for areas outside designated sites rather than NHAs, SACs and SPAs that are protected by legislation. The ecological network throughout the county would become more and more fragmented and species range decrease as a result. Habitat loss would undoubtedly continue to be the leading cause of a decline in biodiversity in the county and habitats would be lost to development and its associated effects.

Water pollution would increase and it is likely that on-site waste water treatment systems draining into already saturated water bodies would increase leading to

further eutrophication and damage to important wetland habitats and shellfish waters.

4.3 Population and Human Health

In this section data on population and human health is reviewed. Other potential impacts on human beings such as water and air quality and waste management are covered later on in this document.

Baseline description

Notwithstanding the current issues surrounding the economy and housing, projections still point to an increasing national population and demand for housing, given a stable birth rate and smaller household size. The preliminary Census 2011 results indicate that the population of County Wexford has grown to 145,320 persons. This represents an increase of 13,571 persons on the Census 2006 population figures and signifies the highest growth rate (10.3%) in the South-East Region.

Population Targets

The NSS does not allocate population at a county level. This is done by the Settlement Strategy in the SERPGs which sets out the target population for the overall region, the counties and each of the main settlements in the region. The population targets in the SERPGs are based on the 'National Population Projections and Regional Population Targets 2010-2022' issued by the DEHLG in January 2009 and 'Gateway and Hub Population Targets' issued by the DEHLG in October 2009.

Table 15 Population Targets set out in the RPG's also contained in the Core Strategy

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

The SERPGs have set population and growth targets for the county for the period 2010-2022. The Plan period falls mid-way in this period. All figures and targets have been calculated based on Census 2006, Census 2011 figures where available and are forecasted to 2013, 2016, 2019 and 2022.

Table 16 Populations Targets

Settlement Type	Settlement Name	2011	2013	2016	2019	2022
County		145,320	149,618	156,065	161,074	166,083
Hub	Wexford Town	20,072	21,443	23,500	25,100	26,700
Larger Town	Enniscorthy	10,838	11,411	12,271	12,939	13,607
	New Ross	7,887	8,460	9,320	9,988	10,656
	Gorey	9,114	9,687	10,547	11,215	11,883
District Towns	Bunclody	1,570	1,633	1,727	1,821	1,915
	Castlebridge	1,726	1,760	1,813	1,860	1,908
	Courtown and Riverchapel	4,570	4,661	4,801	4,925	5,053
	Rosslare Harbour	1,662	1,723	1,815	1,906	1,998

	and Kilrane					
	Wellingtonbridge	219	241	274	307	340
Strong Villages, Smaller Villages and Rural Areas		87,662	88,599	89,997	91,013	92,023

Age Profile

The age profile of a County places varying demands on public service provision including childcare, education facilities and healthcare. The analysis of the age profile of the County's population is used to focus the delivery of these services and other services such as housing. Table No. 17 below compares the age profile in the County recorded by Census 2006 and Census 2011. The majority of the age groups have increased. There is a notable exception in the 20-24 age group and males in the 25-29 age group. These groups have experienced noticeable declines, which is being largely attributed to outmigration in search of work.

Table 17 Age Profile of County Wexford's Population in 2006 and 2011

Age Group	Census 2006			Census 2011		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
All ages	66,070	65,679	131,749	71,909	73,411	145,320
0-4	5,191	4,834	10,025	5,877	5,662	11,539
5-9	4,999	4,859	9,858	5,728	5,297	11,025
10-14	4,707	4,648	9,355	5,318	5,182	10,500
15-19	4,512	4,310	8,822	4,500	4,526	9,026
20-24	4,462	4,246	8,708	3,811	3,988	7,799

25-29	4,947	4,890	9,837	4,565	5,064	9,629
30-34	5,086	4,994	10,080	5,380	5,792	11,172
35-39	5,206	5,028	10,234	5,516	5,573	11,089
40-44	4,870	4,898	9,768	5,420	5,395	10,815
45-49	4,388	4,330	8,718	4,997	5,105	10,102
50-54	3,859	3,753	7,612	4,503	4,502	9,005
55-59	3,670	3,515	7,185	3,984	3,922	7,906
60-64	3,128	3,095	6,223	3,690	3,656	7,346
65-69	2,562	2,478	5,040	3,084	3,088	6,172
70-74	1,966	2,069	4,035	2,382	2,403	4,785
75-79	1,333	1,547	2,880	1,651	1,819	3,470
80-84	767	1,193	1,960	917	1,273	2,190
85+	417	992	1,409	586	1,164	1,750

Age Dependency Ratio

Age dependency ratio is a useful indication of the age structure of a population with young (aged 0-14) and old (aged 65 and over) as a percentage of the population of working age (aged 15-64).

- The young dependency ratio refers to the number of persons aged 0-14 years as a percentage of those aged 15-64 years.
- The old dependency ratio refers to the number of persons aged 65 years and over as a percentage of those aged 15-64 years.
- The total dependency ratio is the sum of the young and old ratios.

The total age dependency ratio is 54.8% which has increased from 51.1% in Census 2006. The age dependency ratio is important because as it increases there is an increased requirement on the working population to support the upbringing, pensions

and care of the economically dependent population. It is also important when planning for services such as childcare and healthcare.

Household Patterns

The changing nature of household patterns is an important consideration for the Plan. In 2002, there were 38,011 households in County Wexford and the average household size was 3 persons per household. In 2006, the number of households had increased to 45,566 but the average household size was 2.85 persons per household. This trend was repeated in Census 2011 with the number of households increasing to 52,652 and a continuing decrease in the average household size to 2.7 persons. The continuing trend towards smaller household size has implications for the type, location and size of housing units required.

Persons on the live register in County Wexford

The Live Register is not a measure of unemployment as it includes those working on reduced hours or casual workers. However, it can be used to indicate current employment trends and areas of unemployment in the County. Table No. 18 below illustrates the numbers signing on the Live Register in April 2007 (when the last Development Plan was made) and April 2012. The figures in this table present the enormity of the economic challenges now facing the County.

Table 18 Live Register for County Wexford

Office of Registration	Number of People signing on the Live Register	
	April 2007	April 2012
Wexford	2,463	6,891
New Ross	1,189	3,346
Enniscorthy	1,721	4,782
Gorey	1,214	4,110
Total	6,587	19,129

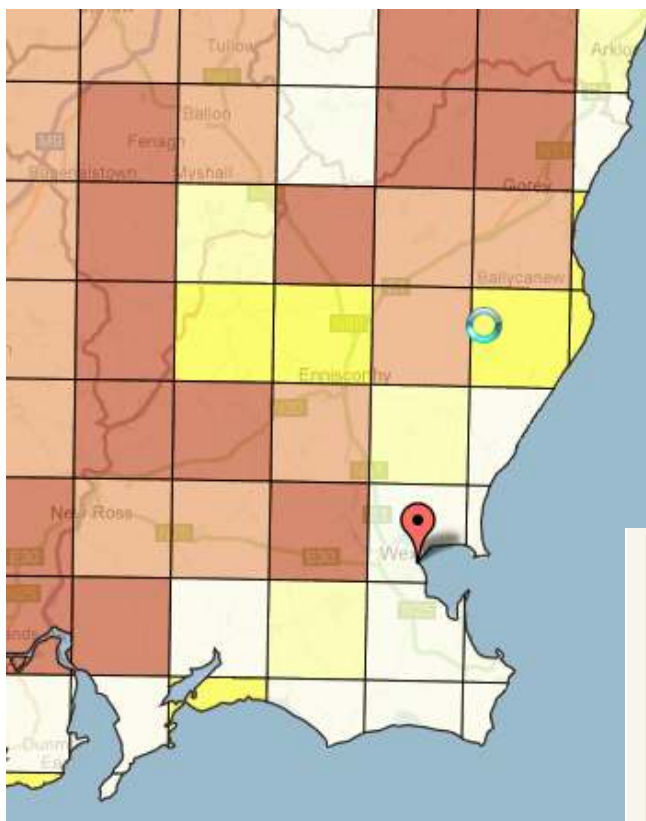
Housing Stock

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

Radon Levels in County

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas caused by the breakdown of Uranium which is found in underground rock. It is a colourless and odourless gas which disperses in air but it has been shown to be carcinogenic with risks of contracting lung cancer. Thirty-four homes in Wexford have been found to have high levels of radon gas, according to figures released by the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (RPII). In Wexford, a total of 227 homes were measured by the RPII for

radon gas between 1st September 2010 and 1st June 2011. Of these, 34 were above the acceptable level of 200 becquerels per cubic metre (Bq/m³). Two homes in Gorey and Ballymoney had more than 10 times the acceptable level with readings in excess of 2000 Bq/m³. Another home in Gorey had more than four times the acceptable



MAP LEGEND

Estimated percentage of homes above the Reference Level

- > 20%
- 10% - 20%
- 5% - 10%
- 1% - 5%
- < 1%

level with readings in excess of 800 Bq/m³. The remaining 31 800 Bq/m³ Bunclody (3),

results had readings of between 200 and and were found throughout the county:

Figure 3 Radon Levels

Enniscorthy (15), Gorey (5), Killurin (1), New Ross (7). These figures show that Wexford has a significant radon problem.

Education and Childcare in County Wexford

The provision of a range of services and facilities including education, healthcare, childcare facilities and access to entertainment and amenity facilities can affect the quality of life in an area and the attractiveness of that area for people to live and work. There have been major population increases in the past 10 years in County Wexford and this has put considerable pressure on all services within the county, including, education, healthcare, housing and childcare. The number of children born in the county has also increased considerably as a result of these population increases and the young age profile of the migratory population.

The third level Wexford Campus of Carlow Institute of Technology offers a range of full and part time courses ranging from higher certificate to masters level. Nine hundred students are currently enrolled in the Wexford Campus. A range of further education courses are also run in a number of Vocational Colleges throughout the County.

Health Care in County Wexford

In 2006, County Wexford had a higher than average proportion of older adults with 11.6% of the population in the County aged 65 or over, compared to the national average of 11%. The Council recognises that the demand for nursing homes, residential care homes and sheltered housing accommodation is continuing to grow

Noise

Both air and noise will be dealt with in greater detail in the Air, Noise & Climatic Factors section of this report. Noise is not considered a major issue for the population of Wexford as we do not have any significant urban centres within the county.

Transport and Infrastructure

Wexford sits at the confluence of two Euro-routes, has two commercial ports and a rail line which gives it strategic advantages in terms of the transport network.

There are Bus Eireann services running daily from Rosslare Harbour to Dublin and Waterford, Wexford Bus service operates from Rosslare Harbour to Dublin Airport, and a daily train service running from Rosslare Harbour to Dublin, which provides good intra-regional services nationwide. This level of national and regional service is augmented by a number of private operators which provide bus services to Dublin, Limerick, Kilkenny and Carlow, and student orientated services to third level colleges. There are also rural bus services serving the local towns.

Huge improvements have been made in recent years in road infrastructure such as the Gorey bypass, N30 Enniscorthy-Moneytucker bypass and N25 Camross bypass. This greatly improves inter-regional connectivity. The routes of the Enniscorthy and New Ross bypasses have also been selected.

Seveso Sites

The Seveso II Directive (European Directive 96/82/EC) and the European Communities (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) Regulations, 2000 (S.I. No. 476 of 2000) apply to companies where dangerous substances are present in quantities equal to or above specified thresholds. There are two thresholds, a lower one of 50 tonnes ("Lower-tier sites") and a higher one of 200 tonnes ("Top-tier sites"). Lower tier sites are required to have a Major Accidents Prevention Policy and a Safe Work Systems Plan. Top tier sites are required to carry out, in conjunction with the local competent authority (which includes the Health Service Executive, the Local Authority, An Garda Siochana and in the case of New Ross, New Ross Port Company) a Major Accidents External Emergency Plan. Emergency plans must take full account of objectives established for nearby waters in river basin plans. Seveso regulations also impose planning restrictions both within and adjacent to seveso sites. The legislation deals with the prevention of major accidents. We have six Seveso sites in County Wexford (3 upper tier and 2 lower tier).

Table 19 Seveso site

Upper Tier	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Atlantic Industries, Drinagh, Wexford.• Nitrofert Ltd., Raheen Port, New Ross, Co. Wexford.• Endesa Ireland Ltd., Great Island Power Station, Campile, New Ross, Co. Wexford• Roche Freight, Rosslare Harbour, County Wexford
Lower Tier	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Goulding Chemicals Ltd., Strokestown, New Ross, Co. Wexford.

Current Issues and Problems

Pressure on the existing drinking water infrastructure and water quality poses a threat to the population of the County. The increase in the rate of unemployment presents a serious challenge for the future of both the national and local economy. Challenges for the future include retaining the young working population of County Wexford to prevent high levels of emigration by facilitating the provision of future employment and housing. Additionally, there is an increasing trend of elderly age cohorts and their future needs must be planned for. A high vacancy rate of housing in smaller serviced centres, and an increase in demand for housing in the north of the county, needs to be balanced. A variety of dwelling types and mix of tenures is required to reflect the needs of the population and changes in household size.

Likely Evolution in the absence of the CWDP

In the absence of a County Development Plan for County Wexford, there will be no integrated framework for the provision of infrastructure and services within the County. A lack of controlled development could lead to imbalance in population distribution in particular areas within the County which would put pressure on adequate service provisions and infrastructural facilities, thus affecting the natural environment in which the population lives leading to human health and quality of life issues.

4.4 Soil and Geology

This Section discusses soils which are the result of the interaction of various factors, such as parent material, climate, vegetation and human action, and geology which is defined as 'all natural materials underlying a development, from the ground surface to an appropriate depth underground'. This includes bedrock, subsoils, topsoils, and geological features such as fossils and kettle holes.

Baseline description

County Wexford has a unique geodiversity: from rocks as old as 620 million years to exceptionally preserved fossils recording a teeming tropical sea life to volcanic rocks, glacial features and present coastal processes. Numerous natural factors influence the composition of soils, notably bedrock, climate and topography. This has implications for overall land use and the appropriateness for differing land use practices.

Soils

Soil is a biologically active mixture of weathered minerals, organic matter, organisms and water which provides the foundation of life in terrestrial ecosystems. Soil can be considered a non-renewable natural resource because it develops over very long timescales. During the last glaciation an ice sheet moving in from the Irish Sea deposited a blanket of till and fluvioglacial materials over the solid rocks in south Wexford. These now constitute the soil parent materials in most of the area. The characteristic till deposits consist of marine clays, clay loams and loams; fluvioglacial deposits are composed of sands and gravels. In places the depositional pattern is complex and intricate areas of alternating sands and loams may occur.

County Wexford contains a range of soils which support various habitats and lands uses and provide valuable mineral resource potential. These soils can be impacted upon by development, land use changes and water quality. Soils derived from the underlying rock are mainly found on Forth Mountain and in a few other areas where the bedrock comes close to the surface. Mud flats at Kilmore and in the Wexford Harbour have been converted into productive soils following reclamation during the last century. Sand dunes occur along many parts of the coast.

Hydrogeology

The hydrogeology characteristics of the strata of the South Wexford area are very variable. The water table is generally within 10m of the surface. Aquifer strata can be developed to provide reasonably large water supplies. South Wexford covers one of the driest parts of Ireland and potential recharge to the aquifers ranges from 400-600 mm/yr. The bulk of recharge normally occurs between late October and early March. The volcanic rocks of the Duncannon Group are considered to be a major aquifer. This aquifer has been developed to provide part of the regional water supply in County Wexford and around Waterford city.

Geology

The Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) in partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government is currently identifying important geological and geomorphological sites throughout the country for designation as Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs). The Irish Geological Heritage (IGH) Programme is identifying and selecting the very best national sites for NHA designation, to represent the country's geology. It is also identifying many sites of national or local geological heritage importance, which are classed as County Geological Sites (CGS), although these will not receive the statutory protection of NHA sites. Some of these sites overlap with Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and some are already pNHAs. There are 38 geological heritage sites for Wexford identified to date by GSI. (See Map 4: County Geological Sites located in Appendix)

Table 20 County Geological Sites (Source Geological Survey Ireland)

Site No.	Site Name	Summary description	Designation recommendation
1	Blackstairs	Tors. Protalus ramparts.	NHA
2	River Barrow, Lower and River Suir, Lower	The offshore discharges indicated by meanders underfit the present landscape	NHA
3	Dunmore East (coastal section)	Coastal section from Brownstown Head to Templetown	NHA
4	Baginbun Head	Cambrian Stratigraphy	CGS

5	Hook Head to Templetown to contact with Baginbun Head	Devonian stratigraphy	NHA
6	Hook Head	<p>IGH8: Coastal exposures of L Carb succession from Devonian up.</p> <p>IGH 3: Extensive and almost continual coastal outcrop of the Hook Head peninsula together with the rich and abundant fauna.</p> <p>IGH 10&13: A low limestone peninsula at Hook Head, with cliffs of Ordovician rock dissected into clefts and stacks, then sandy beaches on either side of the mouth of Bannow Bay, a large estuarine inlet with wide mudflats exposed at low tide in the estuary of Cadock River.</p>	International
7	Ballyteige Bay	In Ballyteige Bay a long dune-capped barrier spit encloses a lagoon, which is backed by a lowland of Carboniferous Limestone.	NHA
8	Milltown	Duncormick Formation. Conglomerate outcrops around Wexford town.	NHA
9	Kilmore Quay - St Patrick's Bridge	East of Forlorn Point, Kilmore Quay is sheltered by an unusual spit, St Patrick's Bridge, which projects southward.	NHA
10	Kilmore Quay	gneisses, cross-cutting dykes. Rosslare complex. Proterozoic migmatites and dolerites. Threat from the Marina	NHA
11	Greenore Point	Proterozoic amphibolitic gneisses, gabbros, dolerites	NHA
12	Cummer	Cummer Serpentine, as yet not fully understood. Chromite and talc in serpentinite along major shear zone: important indicator of the tectonic assemblage of Leinster. Significant evidence lies in 1980s GSI Borehole.	NHA & CGS
13	Tacumshin Lake	coastal lake	NHA
14	Tacumshin Lake - Lady's Island Lake	On the coast of South Wexford are low cliffs in Cambrian rocks which decline to a sand and gravel beach fringing the long gently-curving south-facing coast, becoming a barrier in front of Tacumshin Lake and Lady's Island Lake. There is evidence of landward migration of the barrier.	NHA
15	Lady's Island Lake	Large, shallow lake with interesting communities-aquatic, marsh and maritime. Long shingle spit which encloses the lake.	NHA
16	Wexford Harbour	Rosslare Bay is backed by a low coast, and north of Rosslare a spit of sand and gravel extends to Rosslare Point. Wexford Harbour is a bay narrowing to the estuary of the River Slaney, with	NHA

		wide intertidal sand and mud banks, running S-N offshore. There are marshes, cliffs in glacial drift, beaches with foreshore ridge and runnel, and occasional dunes. On the northern side the coast runs east to The Raven Point, a recurved spit that has been widened by the addition of sandy beach ridges and dunes along its eastern shore. It implies southward drift, but Rosslare Point has grown northward.	
17	River Slaney, Bunclody	discordant river pattern	NHA
18	River Slaney, Enniscorthy		NHA
19	Cullentragh [Qtz-pitchblende veins]	Radiocative quartz-pitchblende veins noted here (Maugh Ltd report). Veins strike northeast in aureole schists close to contact with the Blackstairs Granite.	CGS
20	Greenville farmyard	A diverse mid Caradoc (Burrellian Stage) fauna of trilobites and brachiopods includes type specimens for three species and is an important site in the biostratigraphy of the Duncannon Group of Leinster.	NHA
21	Booley Bay	IGH 2: Occurrence of Ediacaran biota. IGH 4: Turbidite structures and Ediacaran-type faunas in the Upper Cambrian Booley Bay Formation of the Ribband Group. Excellent for Cambrian sedimentary structures. Some well-developed conglomerates at Bagaden Head.	International
22	Sandeel Bay	This site is a coastal cliff section through the upper part of the Old Red Sandstone Harrylock Formation, and has yielded an important petrified Late Devonian macroflora. This site is the type locality for the arborescent lycopod <i>Wexfordia hookense</i> Matten, 1989	NHA
23	Oldtown to Harrylock Bay	<i>Beaconites</i> locality, plants. 6 localities	NHA
24	Kiltrea	This site is of critical importance in the biostratigraphy of the Ordovician of southeast Ireland, as it is in the Oaklands Formation at the top of the lower Ordovician Ribband Group. Formerly, it was considered to be of Llanvirn age, but recent revision of the graptolites has shown it is actually of early Arenig age. This is of considerable importance for constraints on the development of the regional, Caledonide geology.	CGS
25	Carrigadaggan	Mid Caradoc, diverse shelly fauna in volcaniclastics	NHA
26	Duncannon	Type section of the Duncannon Group; sequences of tuffs, volcaniclastic breccias, lahars, lavas and	CGS

		intrusives emplaced in fossil – bearing Caradocian mudrocks. Also graptolitic shales	
27	Ballymoney Strand	Section includes unconformity between Lower Ordovician Ribband Group and Upper Ordovician Duncannon Group (include Courtown Limestone), major contact in geology of Leinster. Rocky shoreline.	NHA
28	Cullenstown	Stratigraphy and structure of a well-exposed coastal section of the Cambrian- Ordovician of South County Wexford.	NHA
29	Pollshone - Cahore	Stratigraphy and structure of the Cahore and Ribband Groups (Cambrian - Arenig) of a well exposed coastal section in NE Co.Wexford.	NHA
30	Shelmaliere Commons Quarry	The floor of the disused quarry is now flooded and the east side has been landscaped, though the red and green slates which formed its former east face (tightly folded with the quartzite on a large scale) may still be seen as float. The west face of the quarry stands as a thick wall, excavated on both sides. The west side of this wall is formed by the base of the lowest quartzite of the Shelmaliere Formation, which is steeply overturned here, and displays large-scale loaded flute casts. A quarry pool run-off channel at the southern end of the west wall shows loaded base of the quartzite passing down through a purple phyllite (as the base of the Shelmaliere Fm) into penetratively cleaved metagreywackes of the Cullentra Fm.	CGS
31	St. Helen's Harbour	gabbro; hornfels, only pre-camb. Intrusion in SE; pre-Caledonian basement section?	CGS
32	St. Helens Glaciomarine Mud	Coastal section showing massive to laminated muds with sandy beds. Contains a well-preserved marine microfauna.	CGS
33	Wood Village	A coastal section of a raised beach; unusual because it can be dated relative to the till above it.	CGS
34	Camaross Crossroads	Well-preserved fossil pingos, giving evidence of seasonal freezing and thawing during the Ice Age, similar to conditions now found near the Arctic Circle. The site comprises over two hundred pingo remnants.	NHA
35	Screen Hills	The largest raised ice contact delta in Ireland if not Europe. Covers most of Wexford between Kilmuckridge to Curracloe and is in excess of 30m thick. Shows a clear structural geometry with prodelta muds, wave-influenced sands, gravelly foresets dipping southeastwards and a laminated to massive diamict infilling hollows on the delta surface. It progrades southwards and coarsens upwards. It contains a wide range of derived mollusc fragments (McMillan 1964) and derived balls of peat rich in temperate pollen. Borings of	NHA

		marine organisms occur in the sands. Overall depositional environment is glaciomarine as the Irish Sea Glacier withdrew from the Celtic sea during the last termination. Important Late Glacial site with deep kettle holes	
36	Broomhill Point	Tundra frost polygons (Ice wedge casts are exposed at the top of the sequence just below the land surface)	CGS
37	Forth Mountain	Forth Mountain is a Cambrian Quartzite block which rises to 239m from a broad coastal plain, just west of Wexford Town. The site hosts a suite of periglacial features for which a chronological sequence for their formation has been proposed (Culleton, 1984). The summit of the mountain hosts well defined involutions, fossil frost cracks, tors and blockfields, and silt cappings on stones. As well as this, evidence for movement of non-glacial material downslope (head deposits) are also seen.	CGS
38	Ely Lodge/ Tincone	Coarse-grained laminated diamict containing numerous dropstones with deformation of underlying bedding. Records concurrent debris flow, ice berg melt and bottom currents a few kilometers in front of the ice limit at Screen Hills and a glaciomarine environment. Section faces the open sea. Glacial drop stones.	NHA

Quarry and Mining sites

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

In the Council's examination of quarrying in the county in 2012, further to section 261a of the planning and development act, a total of 114 sites were examined. Of this number, 25 were found to be no longer in use as quarries (abandoned / never used as quarry). The largest quarries in the county are at Coolishall, near Gorey, Brownswood near Enniscorthy, Kilmuckridge and Ballyvaldon. Most of the remaining quarries in the county are less than 10ha in size, the majority being less than 5ha. (See Map 5: Wexford Quarry Map, located in Appendix)

Landfill

The Council landfill site at Holmestown was expected to have a lifespan of 20 years with a maximum capacity of 900,000 Tonnes which gave a filling rate of 45,000 tonnes per year. The facility has been recently temporarily closed. It is currently licensed by the Environmental Protection Agency to accept 55,000 tonnes non-hazardous waste per annum. The Killurin landfill has been closed a number of years now but is still licensed and monitored.

Historic Landfills

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

Current Issues and Problems

Change to soils result from both natural processes and human activities and contribute to their dynamic and evolving nature. Of concern is the physical, biological

and/or chemical degradation of soils, which can cause direct loss of soil, and indirectly impair ecologically essential soil processes, reduce productive capacity and deplete soil quality and biodiversity.

Certain parts of the county are not within the catchment of waste water treatment networks and consequently development in these areas use septic tanks systems to treat waste water arising - it is likely that local pollution of soil is occurring in certain areas as a result of poorly maintained systems.

Soil erosion can occur due to surface erosion resulting from construction works and agricultural / forestry operations and can have potential to impact significantly on water quality and fishery resources. Coastal erosion is also noted as a problem in the County. Issues include;

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

Likely Evolution in the absence of the CWDP

In the absence of the development plan, the evolution of soil would be dependent on developments which take place.

The currently proposed Soil Directive suggests encouraging the rehabilitation of Brownfield sites, thus reducing the depletion of greenfield sites. However, in the absence of the Plan, there would be no framework for the direction of growth

towards Brownfield sites, where such development is appropriate. There would be no framework within which the cumulative effects of wind farm construction could be assessed against the potential for soil erosion.

4.5 Water and Flooding

This section discusses water that is surface water (rivers and lakes, estuarine and coastal waters) and groundwater in County Wexford. Flooding is also dealt with under this section. Public wastewater treatment and water supply are referred to in this section but will be primarily be dealt with in section 4.7 Material Assets.

Baseline description

Water within and surrounding the County has many functions: it provides drinking water to the area's population; it sustains the biodiversity and flora and fauna described under Section 4.2; it provides amenity; and, it is an integral part of the landscape.

Water Framework Directive

Since 2000, water management in the EU has been directed by the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC (WFD). The WFD requires that all Member States implement the necessary measures to prevent deterioration of the status of all waters - surface, ground, estuarine and coastal - and protect, enhance and restore all waters with the aim of achieving "good status" by 2015. All public bodies are required to coordinate their policies and operations so as to maintain the good status of water bodies which are currently unpolluted and improve polluted water bodies to good status by 2015.

South East River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015

The South Eastern River Basin District has a land area of 14,000 km², including 1,000 km² of marine waters. The district incorporates all or part of thirteen local authority areas: Waterford City and County, Wexford, Wicklow, Carlow, Kilkenny, Kildare, Offaly, Laois, North Tipperary, South Tipperary and a small part of Limerick

and Cork. The District includes the Gateway City of Waterford and the Hub cities/towns of Kilkenny and Wexford, as described in the National Spatial Strategy. Within this area:

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

The majority of the surface waters tested so far has good chemical status.

River Water Quality

The classification of rivers in Ireland is based upon the results of biological and chemical monitoring carried out by the Environmental Protection Agency. Rivers have been classified as being High, Good, Moderate, Poor or Bad in accordance with the criteria set out in European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 S.I. No. 272 of 2009, and the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) (Amendment) Regulations 2012.

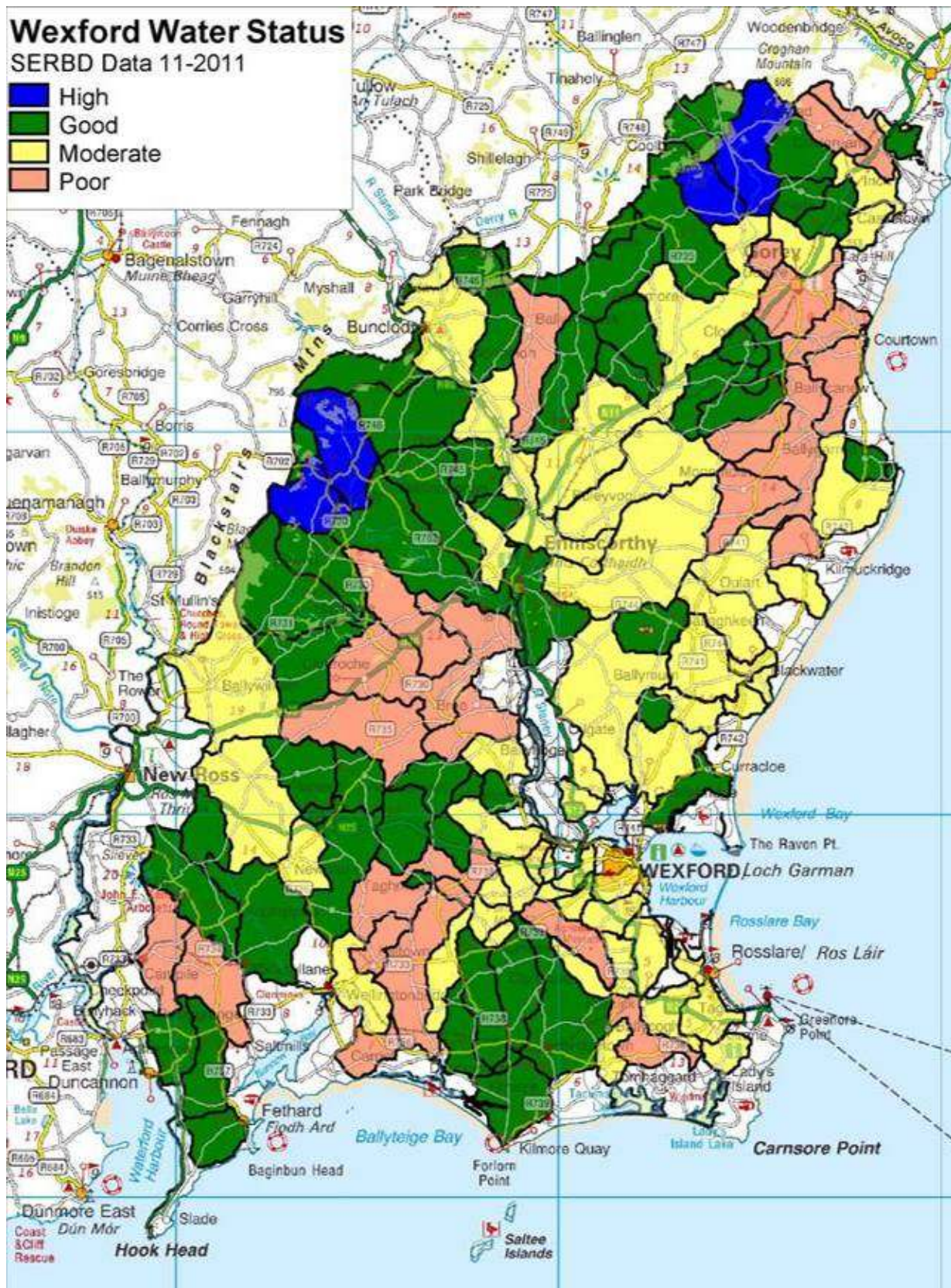


Figure 4 SERBD Water Status

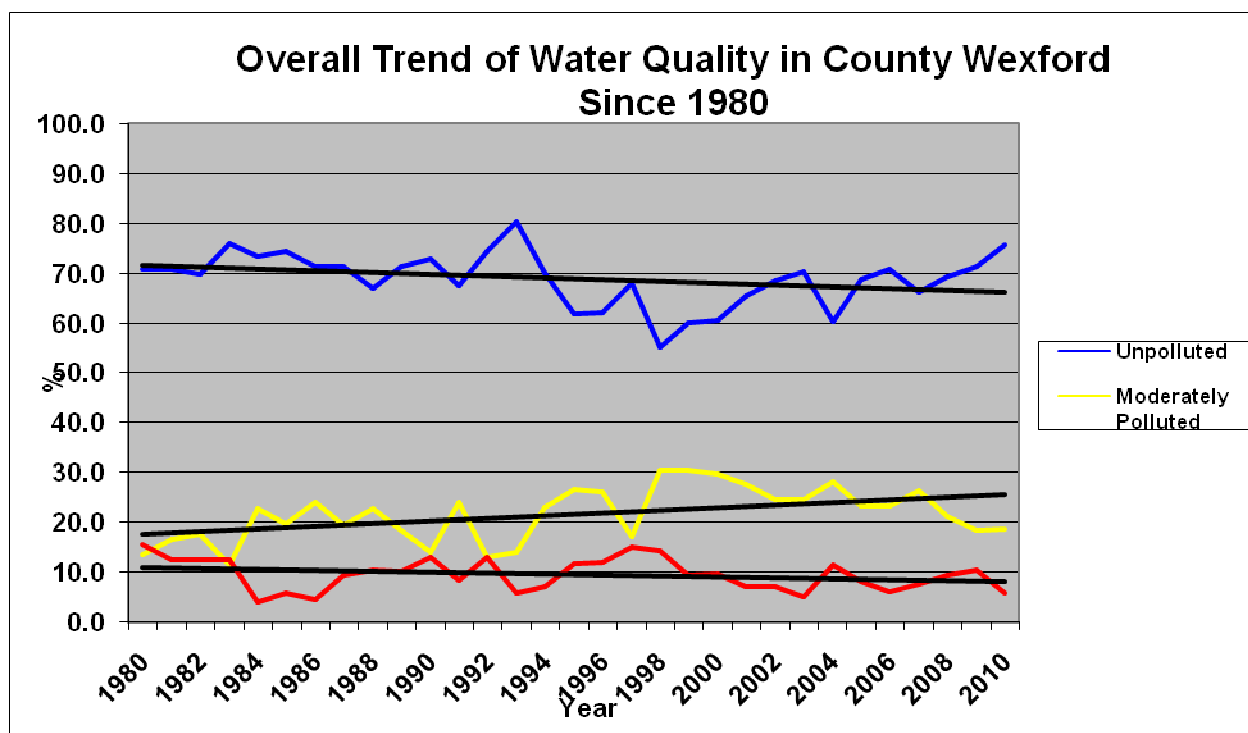


Figure 5 Overall Trend of Water Quality since 1980

Table 21 Current Surface Water Quality Status

Current Surface Water Quality Characterisation and Objectives in County Wexford			
Water Body Code	Waterbody Name	Status	Objective
SE_13_2	SE_Bridgetown_Bridgetown_Mid	Good	Protect
SE_13_662	SE_Danescastle_Danescastle	Poor	Restore_2021
SE_13_215	SE_Owenduff_Carnagh	Good	Protect
SE_13_243	SE_Fethard-on-Sea_FethardonSea	Good	Protect
SE_13_756	SE_Fethard-on-Sea_TinternAbbey	Poor	Restore_2021
SE_13_254	SE_Bridgetown_Bridgetown_Lower	Good	Protect
SE_13_118	SE_Bridgetown_Ballyshelin	Moderate	Restore_2015
SE_13_410	SE_Corock_Ballintarton	Poor	Restore_2021
SE_13_758	SE_Fethard-on-Sea_Ballygow	Good	Protect
SE_13_504	SE_Corock_Mulmontry_Upper	Moderate	Restore_2021
SE_13_164	SE_Corock_Templeshelein_Lower	Good	Protect
SE_13_242	SE_Fethard-on-Sea_Ramsgrange	Good	Protect
SE_13_166	SE_Corock_Templeshelein_Upper	Good	Protect
SE_13_646	SE_Owenduff_Cloonagh	Good	Protect
SE_13_251	SE_Tacumshin/Lady's Island_Racecourse	Moderate	Restore_2015
SE_13_675	SE_Corock_Arnestown	Poor	Restore_2021
SE_13_407	SE_Corock_Cloonerane	Good	Protect
SE_13_745	SE_Bridgetown_Duncormick	Poor	Restore_2021
SE_13_703	SE_Bridgetown_Tincurra	Moderate	Restore_2015
SE_13_749	SE_Corock_Corock_Lower	Moderate	Restore_2015
SE_13_285	SE_Corock_Tomgarrow	Good	Protect
SE_13_511	SE_Corock_Ballintlea	Moderate	Restore_2015

SE_13_397	SE_Corock_Corock_Upper	Good	Protect
SE_13_394	SE_Corock_Mulmontry_Lower	Poor	Restore_2021
SE_13_547	SE_Owenduff_Owenduff_Upper	Moderate	Restore_2021
SE_13_259	SE_Tacumshin/Lady's Island_Tomhaggard	Moderate	Restore_2015
SE_13_516	SE_Corock_Oldboley	Good	Protect
SE_13_692	SE_Bridgetown_Bridgetown_Upper	Good	Protect
SE_13_145	SE_Bridgetown_Cleristown	Good	Protect
SE_13_671	SE_Corock_Kilgarvan	Good	Protect
SE_13_613	SE_Corock_Newbawn	Moderate	Restore_2021
SE_13_754	SE_Owenduff_Owenduff_Lower	Good	Protect
SE_13_676	SE_Bridgetown_DuncormickTRIB1	Moderate	Restore_2015
SE_13_245	SE_Bridgetown_KilmoreQuay	Good	Protect
SE_13_438	SE_Bridgetown_Tullisspark	Good	Protect
SE_13_762	SE_SuirMain_Campile	Poor	Restore_2021
SE_12_338	SE_SlaneyBann_Blackwater	High	Protect
SE_12_599	SE_SlaneyBann_Camolín_Lower	Good	Protect
SE_12_415	SE_SlaneyBann_Lask	Good	Protect
SE_12_332	SE_SlaneyBann_Bann_Upper	High	Protect
SE_12_2511	SE_SlaneyBann_Camolín_Upper	Good	Protect
SE_12_921	SE_SlaneyBann_Bann_Lower	Moderate	Restore_2021
SE_12_2610	SE_SlaneyBann_Mullaunfin	Poor	Restore_2021
SE_14_1921	SE_BarrowMain_Pollmounty	Moderate	Restore_2015
SE_14_1483	SE_BarrowMain_Aughnabrisky	Good	Protect
SE_12_2440	SE_SlaneyUrrin_Askinvillar_Upper	High	Protect
SE_12_795	SE_SlaneyBoro_Forrestaltown	Good	Protect
SE_12_1695	SE_SlaneyBoro_Aughnaglaure	Poor	Restore_2021
SE_12_2605	SE_SlaneyUrrin_Urrin_Lower	Good	Protect
SE_12_2601	SE_SlaneyBoro_Boro_Lower	Poor	Restore_2021
SE_12_544	SE_SlaneyUrrin_Askunskin	Good	Protect
SE_12_1893	SE_SlaneyBoro_Davidstown	Poor	Restore_2021
SE_12_581	SE_SlaneyBoro_Boro_Upper	Good	Protect
SE_12_2115	SE_SlaneyUrrin_Askinvillar_Lower	High	Protect
SE_12_2323	SE_SlaneyUrrin_Lyre	Moderate	Restore_2021
SE_12_868	SE_SlaneyBoro_Killeen	Good	Protect
SE_12_2117	SE_SlaneyUrrin_Urrin_Upper	Good	Protect
SE_12_1817	SE_SlaneyDerry_Mine_Upper	Good	Protect
SE_12_781	SE_SlaneyDerry_Rosnastraw	Good	Protect
SE_12_757	SE_SlaneyDerry_Coves	Good	Protect
SE_12_2011	SE_SlaneyDerry_Abbeydown	Good	Protect
SE_12_1541	SE_SlaneyDerry_Ballingate	Good	Protect
SE_12_1988	SE_SlaneyDerry_Coolboy	Good	Protect
SE_12_2095	SE_SlaneyDerry_Derry_Lower	Good	Protect
SE_11_251	SE_Owenavorrigh_Owenavorrigh_Mid	Poor	Restore_2021
SE_11_68	SE_Owenavorrigh_Brackan_Lower	Good	Protect
SE_11_61	SE_Owenavorrigh_Brackan_Upper	Good	Protect
SE_11_33	SE_Clonough_Inch_Lower	Moderate	Restore_2021
SE_11_381	SE_Clonough_Clonough	Poor	Restore_2021
SE_11_500	SE_Castle_Ellis_Templederry	Moderate	Restore_2021
SE_11_519	SE_Clonough_Inch_Upper	Good	Protect
SE_11_450	SE_Castle_Ellis_Aughanall_Upper	Moderate	Restore_2015
SE_11_443	SE_Owenavorrigh_Banoge_Upper	Moderate	Restore_2015

SE_11_278	SE_Owenavorrigh_Ballycanew	Good	Protect
SE_11_279	SE_Castle_Ellis_Aughanall_Lower	Moderate	Restore_2021
SE_11_32	SE_Castle_Ellis_Blackwater_Lower	Moderate	Restore_2021
SE_11_232	SE_Clonough_Tinnock	Moderate	Restore_2021
SE_11_247	SE_Owenavorrigh_Ballyedmond	Poor	Restore_2021
SE_11_256	SE_Owenavorrigh_Cain	Good	Protect
SE_11_455	SE_Owenavorrigh_Owenavorrigh_Lower	Poor	Restore_2021
SE_11_469	SE_Castle_Ellis_Aughboy	Bad	Restore_2021
SE_11_199	SE_Castle_Ellis_Ballynaclash	Moderate	Restore_2021
SE_11_339	SE_Clonough_ClonoughTRIB1	Poor	Restore_2021
SE_11_512	SE_Owenavorrigh_Ballinclare	Poor	Restore_2021
SE_11_393	SE_Castle_Ellis_Tinnaberna	Moderate	Restore_2021
SE_11_56	SE_Owenavorrigh_Owenavorrigh_Upper	Moderate	Restore_2021
SE_11_456	SE_Owenavorrigh_Ruaunmore	Poor	Restore_2021
SE_11_484	SE_Clonough_Corcannon	Good	Protect
SE_11_257	SE_Owenavorrigh_Banoge_Lower	Poor	Restore_2021
SE_11_490	SE_Castle_Ellis_Gerry	Good	Protect
SE_11_502	SE_Castle_Ellis_Kilmichael	Good	Protect
SE_11_481	SE_Castle_Ellis_Blackwater_Upper	Moderate	Restore_2021
SE_11_95	SE_Clonough_Ballyconlore	Good	Protect
SE_12_2527	SE_SlaneyMain_Artramon	Moderate	Restore_2015
SE_12_801	SE_SlaneyMain_Mountanna	Moderate	Restore_2021
SE_12_2334	SE_Piercetown_Newtown	Moderate	Restore_2015
SE_12_2504	SE_Sow_Sow_Mid	Moderate	Restore_2021
SE_12_440	SE_Piercetown_Ford	Moderate	Restore_2021
SE_12_316	SE_Piercetown_Piercetown	Moderate	Restore_2021
SE_12_2545	SE_SlaneyMain_Bolgerstown	Moderate	Restore_2021
SE_12_803	SE_SlaneyMain_Keeloges	Moderate	Restore_2021
SE_12_432	SE_Sow_Ballyfarnoge	Moderate	Restore_2021
SE_12_424	SE_Wexford_Harbour_Ardcavan	Good	Protect
SE_12_3	SE_Sow_Sow_Lower	Moderate	Restore_2021
SE_12_622	SE_Piercetown_Ballydusker	Poor	Restore_2021
SE_12_766	SE_Piercetown_Ballymorris	Moderate	Restore_2021
SE_12_149	SE_Piercetown_Murrtown	Poor	Restore_2021
SE_12_907	SE_SlaneyMain_Crossabeg	Moderate	Restore_2021
SE_12_2557	SE_SlaneyMain_Ballyvoleen	Good	Protect
SE_12_994	SE_Sow_Garryhubbock	Good	Protect
SE_12_2385	SE_SlaneyMain_Tinnokilla_Upper	Good	Protect
SE_12_2386	SE_SlaneyMain_Corlican	Good	Protect
SE_12_2579	SE_SlaneyMain_Clonmore	Poor	Restore_2021
SE_12_1305	SE_SlaneyMain_Ballygoman	Moderate	Restore_2021
SE_12_2289	SE_Piercetown_BishopsWater	Moderate	Restore_2021
SE_12_2456	SE_Piercetown_Coolballow	Moderate	Restore_2021
SE_12_2565	SE_SlaneyMain_Tinnokilla_Lower	Moderate	Restore_2021
SE_12_442	SE_Piercetown_Bearlough	Moderate	Restore_2021
SE_12_2376	SE_Piercetown_Newbay	Moderate	Restore_2015
SE_12_851	SE_Sow_Sow_Upper	Good	Protect
SE_12_441	SE_Piercetown_Pollrankin	Moderate	Restore_2021
SE_12_2478	SE_Piercetown_Jackstown	Moderate	Restore_2021
SE_12_2541	SE_SlaneyMain_Ardcandrisk	Moderate	Restore_2021
SE_12_2075	SE_SlaneyMain_Tinnacross	Moderate	Restore_2021

SE_12_2098	SE_SlaneyMain_Clody	Good	Protect
SE_12_932	SE_SlaneyMain_Borris	Good	Protect
SE_12_946	SE_SlaneyMain_Glasha	Good	Protect
SE_12_2085	SE_SlaneyMain_Corbally	Moderate	Restore_2015
SE_12_2065	SE_SlaneyMain_Ballywilliamroe	Good	Protect
SE_12_955	SE_SlaneyMain_Ballingale	Poor	Restore_2021
SE_12_934	SE_SlaneyMain_Ballycarney	Good	Protect
SE_12_2084	SE_SlaneyMain_Coolnahorna	Good	Protect
SE_12_924_3	SE_SlaneyMain_Slaney_1_3	Good	Protect
SE_12_924_1	SE_SlaneyMain_Slaney_1_1	Good	Protect
SE_12_924_2	SE_SlaneyMain_Slaney_1_2	Moderate	Restore_2015

Ground Water Quality

Groundwater is important for a drinking water supply as well as the supply to surface waters across the county. Groundwater is contained in aquifers which are the underground layers of rock which contain water. Aquifers are exposed in our surface lakes and rivers.

Qualitative and quantitative criteria determine the classification of groundwaters in accordance with the provisions of the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 S.I. No. 9 of 2010. The WFD sets out a series of criteria that must be met for a body to be classed as good chemical and quantitative status. Groundwaters are classified as being either good or poor. All ground water is at 'Good' water quality status in County Wexford.

Aquifer Vulnerability

The Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) rates aquifers according to their vulnerability to pollution. Aquifer vulnerability refers to the ease with which pollutants of various kinds can enter underground water. Figure 9 shows aquifer vulnerability data for the County. (See Map 6 Aquifer Protection Zones, located in Appendix)

Aquifer Productivity

The GSI rates aquifers based on the hydrogeological characteristics and on the value of the groundwater resource. Ireland's entire land surface is divided into nine aquifer categories, eight aquifer categories are defined in *Groundwater Protection Schemes* (DELG/EPA/GSI, 1999), and they are as follows;

Regionally Important (R) Aquifers

- (i) Karstified aquifers (**Rk**)
- (ii) Fissured bedrock aquifers (**Rf**)
- (iii) Extensive sand/gravel aquifers (**Rg**)

Locally Important (L) Aquifers

- (i) Sand/gravel (**Lg**)
- (ii) Bedrock which is Generally Moderately Productive (**Lm**)
- (iii) Bedrock which is Moderately Productive only in Local Zones (**LI**)

Poor (P) Aquifers

- (i) Bedrock which is Generally Unproductive except for Local Zones (**PI**)
- (ii) Bedrock which is Generally Unproductive (**Pu**)

These aquifer categories are shown on the aquifer map, which can be used not only as an element of a groundwater protection scheme but also for groundwater development purposes.

VULNERABILITY RATING	SOURCE PROTECTION		RESOURCE PROTECTION					
			Regionally Imp.		Locally Imp.		Poor Aquifers	
	Inner	Outer	Rk	Rf/Rg	Lm/Lg	LI	PI	Pu
Extreme (E)	R4	R4	R4	R4	R3 ^m	R2 ^d	R2 ^c	R2 ^b
High (H)	R4	R4	R4	R3 ^m	R3 ⁿ	R2 ^c	R2 ^b	R2 ^a
Moderate (M)	R4	R3	R3 ^m	R2 ^d	R2 ^c	R2 ^b	R2 ^a	R1
Low (L)	R3 ^m	R3 ^a	R2 ^d	R2 ^c	R2 ^b	R2 ^a	R1	R1

Four levels of response (**R**) to the risk of a potentially polluting activity are proposed:

R1 Acceptable subject to normal good practice.

R2 Acceptable in principle, subject to conditions. (The number and content of the notes may vary depending on the zone and the activity).

R3 Not acceptable in principle; some exceptions may be allowed subject to conditions

R4 Not acceptable

The matrix above gives the result of integrating the two regional elements of land surface zoning (vulnerability categories and resource protection areas).

Bathing Water

Directive 2006/7/EC concerning the management of bathing water quality and repealing Directive 76/160/EEC came into force on the 24th March, 2006. The new Directive gives stronger focus on the protection of public health, a proactive approach to the management of bathing water quality and greater public participation. It establishes stricter microbiological standards which will be used to classify bathing waters as “poor”, “sufficient”, “good” or “excellent”. The Bathing Water Quality Regulations, 2008 transpose European Council Directive 2006/7/EC into Irish law. The 2008 Regulations are running in parallel with the Quality of Bathing Water Regulations 1992 and all amendments. Bathing waters are classified as “poor”, “sufficient” or “good”.

The monitoring of water quality at the 131 designated bathing areas in Ireland in 2010 is governed by the Quality of Bathing Waters Regulations, 1992 (S.I 155 of 1992) and amendments, which transposed the EU Directive 76/160/EEC. The Environmental Protection Agency Report, “The Quality of Bathing Water in Ireland, An overview for the year 2010” published 2011, reports that one out of six designated bathing areas in County Wexford have sufficient water quality (Compliant with EU Mandatory values only) and the remaining 5 achieved good water quality status (Compliant with EU guide and mandatory values).

Table 22 Bathing Water Quality

Bathing Water Quality for 2011 (Source EPA)	
Beach	Bathing Water Quality
Ballymoney, North Beach	Good
Courtown, North Beach	Good
Curraclloe	Good
Duncannon	Sufficient
Morriscastle	Sufficient
Rosslare Strand	Sufficient

Blue Flag Beaches

The Blue Flag is an international award for beach excellence which is operated in Ireland by An Taisce, with support from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and by Tidy Northern Ireland with the support of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency in Northern Ireland. The award is presented to beaches which have excellent water quality and beaches and marinas which achieve high standards across a wide range of other criteria including environmental education, management of the environment, safety and other services. In County Wexford, for the 2011 bathing season, the following beaches held the Blue Flag Award; Courtown, Curracloe, Morriscastle and Rosslare, and one Blue Flag Marina, Kilmore Quay.

Green Coast Awards

The Green Coast Awards scheme is a symbol of excellence which recognizes excellent water quality, high environmental status, and good management and community involvement. In County Wexford, for the 2011 bathing season, the following beaches held the Green Coast Award; Ballymoney, Old Bawn, Cahore, Ballinesker, Culleton's Gap and Cullenstown. Coastal Water Quality is yet to be determined.

Flooding

Flooding is an important issue when considering location of development in relation to flood plain of a watercourse. The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment prepared by Wexford County Council has identified flood zones for the County. See Volume 7 of the main County Plan document. (See also Map 7: Flood Risk Zones, located in the Appendix)

Floods are usually caused by a combination of events including overflowing river banks, heavy rains, coastal storms or blocked or overloaded drainage systems and increase in development and impermeable surfacing. Numerous severe floods have

occurred throughout the county in the last decade causing significant damage to and loss of property.

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

The National Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA), OPW, July 2011, is a national screening exercise, based on available and readily-derivable information, to identify areas where there may be a significant risk associated with flooding. The Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme is central to the medium to long-term strategy for the reduction and management of flood risk in Ireland.

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

Current Issues and Problems

Most of the major towns identified in the Development Plan Strategy in Chapter 3 of the County Development Plan are located on or close to some type of water body. Drinking water for residents of Enniscorthy and Wexford is supplied from surface water extraction. Drinking water for Gorey and New Ross are sourced from ground water abstraction. It is important that development in these areas will have regard to their potential impact on ground and surface water quality. Issues to be addressed include:

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

Likely Evolution in the absence of the CWDP

This baseline assessment has shown that a number of water bodies are under pressure from various sources of pollution. Diffuse sources of pollution and morphological processes within the water bodies have been identified as the main causes. Without rapid action river water quality would also suffer. Fish stocks within the county could become depleted without proper planning controls, which would have knock on effects for the wider biodiversity of the county. Ground water which is used by a number of smaller public supplies and a significant portion of rural dwellers in the County would also suffer a similar fate. In the absence of proper planning controls, significant negative impacts on both drinking water and biodiversity in the county would be expected to occur.

4.6 Air, Noise & Climate

Air quality in Ireland is of a high standard across the country and is among the best in Europe, due to the prevailing clean Atlantic air and a lack of large cities and heavy industry. Emissions of pollutants from vehicles, power stations, industry, domestic fuel burning and agriculture can have international, national, local or global effects. Emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are increasing the greenhouse effect and causing global warming. The most significant and sustained

contributor to greenhouse gas emissions is the transport section and the increase in road transport use.

Baseline description

Air Quality

The EPA mobile laboratory was brought to Wexford on 10th March 2005. Monitoring continued until 31st March 2006. The monitoring unit was sited in the premises of Wexford County Council on Hill Street, Wexford. The site is within 500m of the centre of Wexford town.



An air quality assessment was carried out in Wexford town from 10th March 2005, until 31st March 2006. No limit values were exceeded during the assessment. Concentrations of carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, benzene and lead were below their respective lower assessment thresholds. Levels of PM10 exceeded the upper assessment threshold for this parameter. Wexford town is in Zone C of the country, while the remainder of the county is in Zone D. The implications of this assessment are that within Zone C (specified urban centers with populations in excess of 15,000)

- PM10 will need to be monitored continuously
- Levels of CO (Carbon Monoxide), SO₂ (Sulphur Dioxide), NO₂ (Nitrogen Dioxide), benzene and lead can be assessed using modelling or objective estimation techniques.

The Air Quality Directive states that modelling or objective estimation techniques may be used to assess ambient air quality if levels of the pollutant in question in that zone are below the lower assessment threshold. Continuous monitoring is required if levels exceed the upper assessment threshold.

Climate

The dominant influence on Ireland's climate is the Atlantic Ocean. Consequently, Ireland does not suffer from the extremes of temperature experienced by many other countries at similar latitude.

Johnstown Castle Automatic Weather Station (AWS) was opened in 2003 and is situated in the grounds of the Teagasc research centre, Johnstown Castle, Co. Wexford. The AWS has replaced a manual climate station which has a continuous climatological record since 1914. Since April, 2008 the station has replaced Rosslare as a World Meteorological Station (WMO) Synoptic Station.

Average annual temperature is about 9 °C. In the middle and east of the country temperatures tend to be somewhat more extreme than in other parts of the country. For example, summer mean daily maximum is about 19 °C and winter mean daily minimum is about 2.5 °C in these areas.

Mean annual windspeed varies between about 4 m/sec in the east midlands and 7 m/sec in the northwest. Strong winds tend to be more frequent in winter than in summer. Sunshine duration is highest in the southeast of the country. Average rainfall varies between about 800 and 2,800mm.

Coastal Erosion

Of the county's approximately 246km of coastline 211km is soft consisting of long sandy beaches and 'soft' cliffs, which are severely affected by erosion losing an average of one metre per year. There is increasing concern that the process will be accelerated due to rising sea levels and increased storm frequency and intensity caused by global warming.

Climate Change

Climate Change is a transboundary issue affecting the entire globe and may have fundamental influence on social stability and sustainable development. It is widely recognised that the build up of atmospheric Greenhouse Gases (GHG's) such as carbon dioxide is threatening global climate stability. Most GHG emissions are related to the energy generation, transport, agriculture, and industry sectors. Ireland

ratified the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1994 and the Kyoto Protocol in 1997. Following the Conference of Parties to the Climate Change Convention meeting in Copenhagen, 2009, the EU revised its commitment to reducing greenhouse gases by increasing the target to 20% reduction on 1990 levels by 2020.

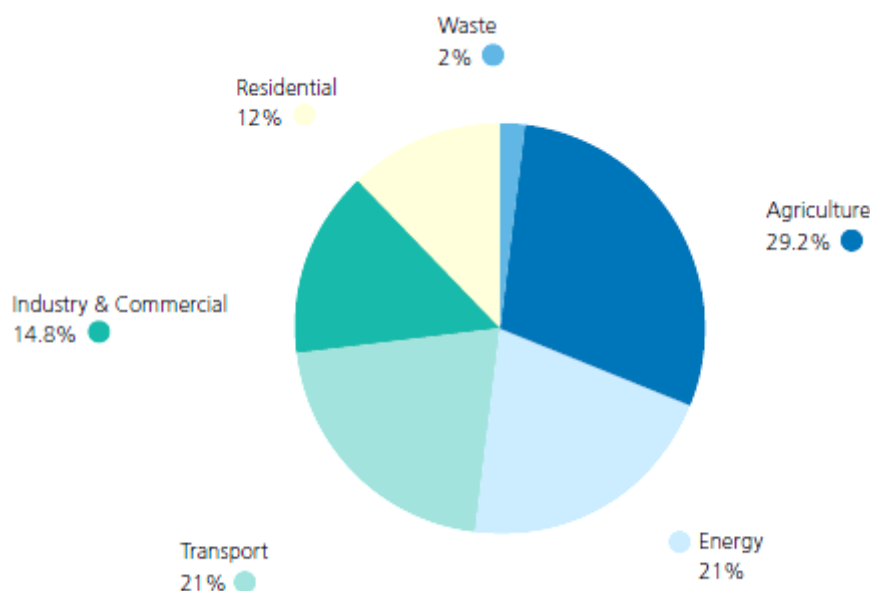


Figure 6 Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Sector for 2009 (Source EPA, 2011)

Renewable Energy

The EU Renewables Directive 2009/28/EC promotes the use of energy from renewable sources and set the EU's renewable energy target at 20% of energy production by 2020. Ireland was set a renewable energy target of 16% target by 2020.

County Wexford has by far the largest share of installed wind capacity in the South East Region. The installed capacity from existing wind farms in County Wexford is 122MW (6% of the total installed wind capacity in Ireland), with eight permitted wind farms accounting for a further 79MW. County Wexford will exceed its proportionate share of the national 40% renewable target for electricity in 2020 based on installed and permitted wind farm developments. If all eight wind farms are built, then electricity consumption from renewable sources will account for 54.7% (528GWh) of

total electricity consumption in County Wexford in 2020. There are also other renewable energy options, such as tidal energy, which could potentially enable County Wexford to supply more electricity from renewable energy sources than its total consumption.

Power Plant

Endesa Ireland Limited proposes to construct a 430 MW natural gas fired Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) power plant within the confines of the existing operational power generating facility at Great Island, County Wexford. The primary fuel source for the proposed CCGT will be natural gas with distillate oil stored onsite as a back up fuel. The existing Great Island power plant currently operates on Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) with a maximum electrical output capacity of 240 MW. It is anticipated that the new power plant will be completed by mid 2013 and once the CCGT plant becomes operational, the existing HFO fired power plant will be decommissioned.

Noise

Noise is an unwanted sound, which can seriously harm human health and interfere with daily activities at home, school and work and during leisure time. Areas within the County which are commonly affected by noise are urban areas and areas along roadsides. Generally, the main noise source in the County is from traffic. Traffic hotspots within some of the County's towns are likely to have elevated levels of air pollution and noise due to traffic congestion compared to surrounding rural areas. These hotspots are located along the main routes and especially at busy junctions. In addition there are localised noise sources which can include train movements, nightclubs and quarry activities.

IPPC Licenses

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

Table 23 IPPC Licence Facilities

Reg. No.	Name and Location	Type of Industry
P0047-03	Slaney Foods International Limited and Slaney Proteins Ryland, Bunclody, Co Wexford	Food production
P0062-02	Carl Zeiss Vision Ireland Limited Whitemill Industrial Estate, Clonard, Wexford	Chemicals (ceased trading)
P0177-03-	Irish Country Meats (Sheepmeat) Limited Bayland, Camolin, Enniscorthy	Slaughter of animals
P0256 – 01 –	Wexford Weaving of Ireland Limited Drinagh, Wexford	Textile (ceased operating but licence still active due to ongoing monitoring)
P0394-01 –	Wexal International Old Dublin Road, Enniscorthy	(ceased operating but licence still active due to ongoing monitoring)
P0429-01 -	Rennard Pig Farms Limited South Slobs, Wexford	Intensive Agriculture
P0453-02/03 –	Rennard Pig Farms Limited The Deeps/Cornwall, Crossabeg, Co. Wexford,	Intensive Agriculture
P0606 – 03 –	Endesa Ireland Limited (Great Island)	Energy Production
P0622 – 01 –	Hogg Enterprises Limited Clohamon Mills, Bunclody	Intensive Agriculture
P0794 – 01 –	Wexford Creamery Limited Rocklands, Wexford	Creamery
P0829 – 01 –	Green Biofuels Ireland Limited Marshmeadows, New Ross	Production of Chemicals
P0840 – 01 –	Adamstown Engineering Limited Adamstown, County Wexford	Metals

Waste Licences

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

Table 24 Waste licences in County Wexford

W0016-(01 – 02)	Wexford County Council - Killurin Landfill Site
W0123-01	Custom Compost - Ballyminaun Hill, Gorey
W0191-(01-02)	Wexford County Council – Holmestown landfill
W0220-01	Greenstar – Waste Recycling-Gorey
W0229-01	Advanced Environmental Solutions Limited – Waste transfer station - Rosslare
W0241-01	Greenstar - Waste Transfer Station – Clavass, Enniscorthy
W0258-01	Murray Waste Recycling - Waste Transfer Station - Coolatore, Ferns
W0280-01	Roadstone Wood limited - Brownswood Inert Waste Recovery Facility

Current Issues and Problems

In Ireland generally air quality is not a huge issue with the main threat for air quality being emissions for road traffic. Air pollution can affect the health and well-being of sensitive population groups and eco-systems.

Climate change is a cross cutting issue which impacts on habitats, species, fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, water quality, water safety, flood risk and people. Of increasing concern is the issue of flooding of rivers, estuaries and coastal areas. Changes in sea level and/or changes in the occurrence of severe rainfall events as a result of climate change could adversely impact upon the county's population, its biodiversity and its economy.

Coastal Erosion is an inevitable and necessary element of any healthy functioning beach and sand dune system. Coastal development and resultant shoreline

defences can pose a significant risk to the entire beach due to wave reflection and scouring. This will eventually result in loss of important bird and wetland habitats.

Likely Evolution in the absence of the CWDP

In the absence of a County Development Plan, there would be no framework for the location of new development and as a consequence uncontrolled dispersed development would be likely to occur. There would also be missed opportunities relating to energy efficiency, renewable energy and reduction in local transport related emissions due to a lack of integrated land use and transportation policies and the wind strategy.

The Plan also encourages the integration of land use and transport in order to minimise the use of road transport and promote the use of more alternative forms of transport such as bus, rail, cycling and walking. In the absence of these policies, greenhouse gas emissions would increase and this would be contrary to the policies of the National Climate Change Strategy (2007).

4.7 Material Assets

For the purposes of this section material assets includes the following;

- Natural Assets – renewable and non renewable, quarries and mines, agriculture and forestry, conservation areas (NHAs, SACs and SPAs)
- Economic Assets of a human origin - Infrastructure (settlements , roads, telecommunications, wastewater, drinking water)
- Cultural Assets of a physical type - Built environment (protected structures/ archaeological monuments)
- Cultural Assets of a social type – language , dialect, literary and artistic association

The utilisation of the County's material assets leads directly to potential environmental impacts. How we manage these resources is affected by the implementation of national and regional plans and programmes. For the purposes of this report natural assets are discussed earlier in this report and economic assets will be dealt with in this section, while cultural assets will be examined later in this report.

Baseline description

The future development of the Council's water and wastewater treatment infrastructure is largely dependent on the Government's Water Services Investment Programme, and the availability of funding therein. The following tables outline the current and planned wastewater and water supply projects proposed for the County.

Table 25 Existing Public water abstractions

Name	Source River or Ground	Licensed for what volume? (cubic metres/day)	Design capacity (cubic metres/day)	Current volume abstracted (cubic metres/day)
Wexford	Sow River at Edenvale	7600	Plant 7,600	Circa 7,000
	Coolree Impounding Reservoir	2400		
Enniscorthy Town	River Slaney	9090	4300	Circa 3,700
New Ross	Pollmounty River	4,545	To be confirmed	To be confirmed

Table 26 Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2012: Water Supply Projects

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

Wastewater Treatment Infrastructure

Table 27 County Council Wastewater Treatment Plants

WWTP/Agglomeration	Size	Design	PE/Load	Treatment	Licence
Enniscorthy	10,000+ PE	30000	16500	Sec P&N removal	Licence granted
Gorey/Courtown	10,000+ PE	30000	16000	Sec	Licence granted
New Ross	10,000+ PE	14000	9000	Sec Requirement for P&N removal	Licence granted
Wexford	10,000+ PE	45000	30000	Sec P&N removal and uv treatment	Licensed
Bunclody	2,001 - 10,000 PE	6500	2500	Sec Requirement for P&N removal	Licensed
Castlebridge	2,001 - 10,000 PE	2000	2250	Sec	Pending
Coolgreany	2,001 - 10,000 PE	2400	500	Sec P&N	Pending
Ferns	2,001 - 10,000 PE	2250	2250	Sec	Pending
Rosslare Harbour	2,001 - 10,000 PE	9800	4000	Sec	Licensed
Rosslare Strand	2,001 - 10,000 PE	7500	7500max	Sec	Pending
Kilmuckridge	1,001 - 2,000 PE	2000	2000	Sec	Licensed
Bridgetown	1,001 - 2,000 PE	2000	800	Sec P&N removal	Pending
Campile	500 - 1,000 PE	250 At planning stage	650	Primary requirement for sec treat	Licensed
Clonroche	500 - 1,000 PE	600	900	Sec	Licensed
Taghmon	500 - 1,000 PE	600	980	To discharge to Wex plant	Wex plant

Table 28 Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2012: Wastewater Projects

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

Table 29 Proposed Settlement Strategy contained in the County Plan

Settlement	Wastewater Treatment Facilities	Current Design Capacity P.E	Available Capacity	Upgrade
Hub				
Wexford Town	Yes	45,000	Yes	N/A
Larger Towns				
New Ross Town	Yes	16,000 (potential 24,000)	Yes	N/A
Enniscorthy Town	Yes	18,000	No	Planned 30,000 P.E design capacity; scheduled to commence 2013
Gorey Town	Yes	4,500	No	Planned 30,000 P.E design capacity to serve Gorey and Courtown; scheduled to commence 2013

District Towns				
Bunclody	Yes	6,500	Yes	N/A
Castlebridge	Yes	2,000	No	No
Courtown and Riverchapel	Yes	12,500	No	Planned 30,000 design capacity to serve Gorey and Courtown scheduled to commence 2013
Rosslare Harbour	Yes	9,383	Yes	No
Wellingtonbridge	Yes	25	No	At Planning stage
Strong Villages				
Kiltealy	No	No	No	No
Taghmon	Yes	600	No	Planned 3,500 P.E design capacity scheduled to commence 2013.
Bridgetown	Yes	2,000	No	No
Ferns	Yes	2,250	No	No
Campile	Yes	250	No	At planning stage
Clonroche	Yes	600	No	At planning stage
Coolgreany	Yes	2400	Yes	no
Rosslare Strand	Yes	7500	No	no
Kilmuckridge	Yes	2000	No	no

Road infrastructure

(See Map 8: Existing Road and Rail Infrastructure, located in Appendix)

Major National Road Proposals in County Wexford

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

- Scheme: N11 Gorey to Enniscorthy Official status at February 2012: Phase 5 (Advance Works & Construction Documents Preparation, Tender and Award) (Jointly with N11 Gorey to Enniscorthy)
- Scheme: N30 Clonroche to New Ross Official status at February 2012: Suspended

(See Map: 9: Proposed Roads in the County, located in Appendix)

Rail

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

The Council regrets that services on the Rosslare Harbour / Waterford line closed in 2010 and will continue to support campaigns to restore the service. The County Council will also encourage and facilitate the re-opening of the New Ross - Waterford line for passengers and freight. There is significant potential for more freight traffic to be carried by rail in the county and the Council will encourage the development of the infrastructure required to facilitate this, such as a rail cargo depot at Rosslare Harbour. (See also Map 8: Existing Road and Rail Infrastructure, located in Appendix)

Gas Network

Bord Gáis has stated that it will continue to review the potential to extend the gas network to County Wexford should developments in the region facilitate this. Bord Gáis has applied to An Bord Pleanála for a gas pipeline to Great Island Power Station. The pipeline, if constructed, will bring natural gas to Great Island from a supply point on the existing gas transmission network at Baunlusk, approximately 6km south of Kilkenny City. This will provide a connection for the approved 430 MW Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) generating station at Great Island.

Wind Energy

County Wexford's share of Ireland's total installed wind capacity comprises seven wind farms with a combined installed capacity of 151.85 MW. This compares with 280.21 MW generated in County Donegal, which has the largest number of wind

farms nationally. County Wexford has the largest share of installed wind capacity in the South East Region with Carlow, Kilkenny and Waterford having a combined 17MW and Tipperary (North and South) having 90.64 MW. The installed wind capacity in County Wexford represents 6% of the total installed wind capacity in Ireland to date. (See Map 10: Proposed and Existing Wind Farms, located in Appendix)

Current Issues and Problems

The Council's ability to meet their commitments under the Water Framework Directive could be compromised due to shortfall in wastewater treatment capacity. Currently there are a number of systems operating at or over capacity.

Likely Evolution in the absence of the CWDP

In the absence of the County Development Plan there would be no framework within which to regulate, aid and/or control development whether economic, social or environmental. In the absence of the Plan, issues such as future water demand, resource identification and protection will not be comprehensively assessed resulting in a poor level of service provision and possible degradation of important reserves. Also, the future investment in key infrastructure will not be targeted appropriately to key development areas. The result would be a haphazard, un-coordinated delivery of service, resulting in negative environmental impacts. Wind energy applications would be assessed on a case-by-case basis without an overall strategic framework to guide wind farm development, which would not facilitate an evaluation of cumulative impacts associated with wind farm development

4.8 Cultural Heritage

This section of the environmental report looks at cultural heritage of the County including settlements, monuments, features and historical sites in the County.

Baseline description

The heritage of County Wexford is a unique resource providing us with a cultural identity and defining the society which we live in. Wexford has a distinct architectural

heritage with thatched cottages in coastal areas of the county. Wexford, Rosslare Harbour, Kilmore and Slade/Hook Head form an important element of the county's maritime heritage as well as the many historical shipwrecks found around the county coastline.

Archaeology

Archaeological heritage is defined as including structures, places, caves, sites, features or other objects, whether on land, underwater or in the inter-tidal zones. Archaeological sites and monuments are protected under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004. The Record of Monuments and Places, which was established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994, provides a statutory list of all known archaeological monuments in Ireland. It includes a set of maps and a list of monuments and places for each County. These are known as Recorded Monuments. Zones of Archaeological Potential are also included. There are more than 120,000 monuments on the Record of Monuments and Places in Ireland. Approximately 1,700 of these are located in County Wexford.

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

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

Table 30 National Monuments which are the subject of Preservation Orders

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

Table 31 National Monuments in State Ownership or Guardianship

No.	Monument	Townland	Status	RMP No.
516	Ballyhack Castle	Ballyhack	Ownership	WX044-009001-
375	Motte	Ballymoty More	Ownership	WX020-041----
521	Ferns Castle	Castleland	Guardianship	WX015-003001-
665	Clone Church	Clone	Ownership	WX015-023001-
644	Coolhull Castle	Coolhull	Ownership	WX046-028---
192	Dunbrody Abbey (Cist.)	Dunbrody	Ownership	WX039-030001
668	Duncannon Fort	Duncannon	Guardianship	WX044-015001-
457	Tacumshane Windmill	Fence	Guardianship	WX053-006----
133	Ferns Abbey	Ferns Upper	Ownership	WX015-003004-
133	Ferns (St. Peters) Church	Ferns Upper	Ownership	WX015-003005-
133	Ferns Cathedral & Crosses	Ferns Upper	Ownership	WX015-003002-

				WX015-003009- WX015-003010- WX015-003011- WX015-003012- WX015-003013- WX015-003017- WX015-003018-
443	St. Mary's Church	New Ross	Guardianship	WX029-013002-
434	Rathmackee Castle	Rachmackee Great	Guardianship	WX042-029001-
229	Rathumney Castle	Rathumney	Ownership	WX040-028001-
429	Slade Castle	Slade	Guardianship	WX054-008001-
392	Windmill on Vinegar Hill	Templeshannon	Guardianship	WX020-032----
506	Tintern Abbey (Cist. Abbey, Church & bridge)	Tintern	Ownership	WX045-027001- WX045-028001- WX045-029001-
445	St. Selsker's Priory Church (Aug.)	Wexford Town	Guardianship	WX037-032009-

(See Map 13: Recorded Monuments, located in Appendix)

Architecture

The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) sets out the requirements of County Development Plans to protect architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific and technical structures of special interest by including a Record of

Protected Structures (RPS), these are listed in Volume 2 of the Development Plan. There are now 805 protected structures listed in the County Development Plan 2013-2019. In relation to a protected structure or proposed protected structure, the following are encompassed:

- the interior of the structure;
- the land lying within the curtilage of the structure;
- any other structures lying within that curtilage and their interiors; and,
- all fixtures and features which form part of the interior or exterior of any structure

There are no Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA's) within the County Plan area. However, there are ACAs proposed under the town plans.

(See Map 14: Existing Record of Protected Structures, located in Appendix)

Note: This map represents the 371 structures currently on the RPS, and does not include the additions or deletions made under this Plan, which are in the process of being mapped.

NIAH

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) includes approximately 1500 structures in the Plan area which are considered by the Minister of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to be of intrinsic interest. The inclusion of these structures on the Record of Protected Structures have been considered as part of the County Development Plan review. (See Map 15 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage)

Shipwrecks

Irish Shipwrecks database is a searchable database of ship wrecks on and off the Irish Coast. This database indicates County Wexford has 62 shipwrecks in total (3rd highest in the country) and contains information pertaining to the numerous shipwrecks around the coast. This is a valuable historical and recreational resource for the county.

Current Issues and Problems

Development of infrastructure, and development resulting from economic growth and increasing population, can potentially impact on the integrity of sites or features of architectural, archaeological or cultural heritage interest. Significant development pressures may vary depending on the location within the County. For example, there may be more demand for development in areas of tourism potential and along the coastline. Coastal locations are always in demand when it comes to holiday accommodation. Thus, sites of heritage value and features in these areas may experience more pressure. Development which involves material alteration or additions to protected structures can detract from the special character of the structure and its setting, and have the potential to result in the loss of features of architectural or historic interest unless the historic form and structural integrity of the structure are retained. Also, development in close proximity to sites and areas of cultural heritage may adversely impact upon the cultural landscape setting.

Likely Evolution in the absence of the CWDP

In absence of the County Development Plan there would be no framework within which to regulate, and control development. Uncontrolled development could lead to soil excavation in areas of archaeological potential, inappropriate developments within ACAs or neglect and inappropriate redevelopment of protected structures. Such developments would not be easily monitored or assessed for potential impacts on subsurface cultural heritage or built heritage. This may lead to uncontrolled developments resulting in losses and/or deterioration in the cultural heritage of County Wexford. Indirectly this could negatively impact upon the cultural amenity resource and tourism potential of the county. Thus, the evolution of cultural heritage within the County in the absence of the Plan would be highly dependent on the rate and extent of uncontrolled developments. Ultimately, the potential for fragmentation, loss, and/or deterioration of cultural heritage would occur of this irreplaceable resource.

4.9 Landscape

"Landscape" is defined as an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors. Landscapes are

a daily presence in the lives of the County's residents and workers. The enjoyment of the landscapes can contribute to a high quality of life for the people who live and work here and a pleasurable experience for the people who visit the County.

Baseline description

County Wexford is known as the 'Model County' with largely low-lying relatively flat fertile land being the characteristic landscape of the county. The majority of this low-lying fertile land is located between the prominent ridgeline of the Blackstairs Mountains in the north-west and the Irish Sea. Most settlement and agriculture occur in this broad coastal plain. Within this broad pattern smaller topographic features such as hills and river corridors create distinctive localised landscapes within landscapes. Small seaside lakes or lagoons exist at two locations; Lady's Island and Tacumshin Lake.

Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Character Types are distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogenous in character. They are generic in nature in that they may occur in different localities throughout any defined area. Nonetheless, where they do occur, they commonly share similar combinations of geology, topography, land cover and historical landuse.

The Landscape and Landscape Assessment: Draft Guidelines for Planning Authorities (Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2001) provide guidance for planning authorities on the preparation of an LCA. The LCA prepared for the Wexford County Development Plan 2007-2013, updated under this plan, was prepared with regard to these guidelines following an objective assessment of:

- physical attributes, for example, topography, ridge lines, slope, altitude and coast
- sensitivity to development
- geology and soils
- vegetation and land cover
- settlement patterns

- historical activity

The Landscape Character Assessment (set out on in Volume 3 of the Plan and shown on Map 16) identifies the four landscape character units and the Landscapes of Greater Sensitivity. The four landscape character units are:

- (1) Uplands
- (2) Lowlands
- (3) River Valleys
- (4) Coastal

The LCA now also identifies 'Landscapes of Greater Sensitivity'. These are found within the four landscape character units and represent the features in the landscape and seascape which have the most visual interest and prominence, and are therefore generally more sensitive to development. Many of these features also have profound historical, socio-cultural and religious interest. The 'Landscapes of Greater Sensitivity' include the following; Hills and ridges , water bodies, The Islands, coastal promontories , The Hook Peninsula, Screen Hills, Lacken Hill and the Slob.

(See Map 16: Landscape Character Assessment, located in Appendix)

Current Issues and Problems

In upland areas, concentrations of one-off housing developments are having adverse and visual impacts on the landscape due to its low capacity to absorb development. Forth Mountain and Tara Hill are experiencing significant pressure from one-off housing developments. Recently constructed windfarms are becoming dominating features on the skyline. In the future it is likely that afforestation will become the dominant landuse in upland areas.

In the lowlands, intensification of agricultural practices and expansion of urban settlements are the predicted factors of change for the future. The deep sand and gravel sediment near the screen hills that support distinctive floral communities are becoming attractive for the extraction industry.

In the coastal landscape, the concentration of sand extraction developments and wind developments have created dominant features near Cahore, Blackwater,

Carnsore Point and Inish Point. The coastal area is experiencing greater pressure for tourism and residential development; parts of the landscape of the Hook Peninsula are experiencing pressure from second homes and holiday homes.

Likely Evolution in the absence of the CWDP

In the absence of the Wexford County Development Plan, it is likely that development within the county would have an adverse impact on the landscape. There would be no strategic planning or guidance for future developments and it is likely that the county as a whole may develop in an unbalanced way. As a result, fragmentation and loss of landscape value would occur. Furthermore, there would be no protection from significant developments for 'Landscapes of Greater Sensitivity'. It is logical to expect that current issues and problems outlined above would continue into the future, adding to an increased decline in the value and quality of the overall landscape.

4.10 Inter-relationship between environmental topics

Impacts and interactions will vary in extent and nature. In particular, issues regarding water quality, climate change and flooding cross a number of environmental areas. Population increase and changes in human activities and settlement patterns can also impact on a wide range of environmental areas. This environmental report has approached each of the environmental receptors on an individual basis though it is fully cognisant of the relationship between the various elements. The inter-relationship between environmental topics is largely dealt with herein as they arise. The report has therefore attempted to present the data in such a way as to indicate fully the potential for impacts on other aspects of the environment where they may occur or indeed are likely to occur. Furthermore an assessment of each of the strategic objectives, objectives and policies has been undertaken considering a range of strategic environmental objectives (as contained in Section 5) of this environmental report.

To highlight the extent of the relationship between the various elements of the environment the matrix below (Table 32) provides an indication of the interactions present between environmental receptors.

Table 32 Potential Inter-relationships between SEA topics

Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	✓							
Population & Human Health	✓	✓						
Soil and Geology	✓	✓	✓					
Water and Flooding	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Air & Climatic Factors	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Material Assets	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Cultural Heritage	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	
Landscape	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	Population & Human Health	Soil and Geology	Water and Flooding	Air & Climatic Factors	Material Assets	Cultural Heritage	Landscape

4.11 Difficulties encountered and Data Gaps

A considerable amount of data was gathered and collated in preparing this Environmental Report. However, there were a number of areas where data did not exist or was not freely available. Whilst certain information is readily and easily accessible, such as data relating to water quality, other information is more difficult to ascertain or is not yet available. Such data would include for example data on habitats, trees and hedgerows and coastal sea-level rise data.

Significant gaps in the environmental parameters data include:

- Management Plans for all the Natura 2000 Sites in the county are not available, generic conservation objectives are in place in most instances.
- Detailed information on health parameters and issues in the county are not available;
- Lack of landslide or soil erosion data;
- Lack of recent air quality monitoring data
- Noise Action Plans;
- Information on discharges is limited. Audits are carried out by the Council on a priority basis to monitor compliance of existing licences against their permitted discharge;

- Coastal water quality status has yet to be determined.

Section 5: Strategic Environmental Objectives

5.1 Introduction

Section (e) of Schedule 2B of the SEA regulations requires environment protection objectives, targets and indicators to describe and monitor change and predict impacts of the proposed plan on the environment.

Schedule 2B (e) of the SEA Regulations require *‘the environmental protection objectives, established at international, European Union or national level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;’*

Objectives and targets set aims and thresholds that should be taken into account when assessing the impact of the proposed plan on the environment. Indicators are used to illustrate and communicate impact in a simple and effective manner. Indicators can also be used to form the basis of a monitoring programme for the plan, the results of which will inform the next review. The proposed monitoring programmes for each of the environmental topics will be outlined in more detail in Section 9 of this report.

5.2 Development of Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)

The primary source used in formulating the SEOs was Table 4B of the SEA Guidelines (DEHLG, 2004). This list has been amended to give effect to objectives that are considered relevant to the Plan. The use of SEOs fulfils obligations set out in Schedule 2B of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004) as amended.

SEOs are methodological measures against which the environmental effects of the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019 can be tested.

Table 33 Strategic Environmental Objectives

Environmental Parameter	SEO	Objective

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	B1	Conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats, species within the county, and support the sustainable management of these areas.
	B2	Ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive with regard to protection of Natura 2000 sites and habitats and species listed under Annexes I and II of the Directive and prevent the loss of ecological networks, and stepping stones or parts there of which provide important connectivity for species.
	B3	To ensure compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the protection of wildlife corridors and contiguous areas of habitat which are important on a County level for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.
	B4	Protect aquatic and terrestrial habitats from the spread of invasive species.
Population & Human Health	PH1	Protect and enhance peoples quality of life based on high quality residential, community, working and recreational environments.
	PH2	Protect human health through minimising the risk of polluting emissions including noise and vibrations from incompatible land-uses and emissions to air/water/soil from traffic, industrial processes and extractive industry.
Soil/Geology	S1	Prevent pollution or contamination of soils.
	S2	Give preference to the use and regeneration of derelict, disused and infill sites, rather than Greenfield

		sites.
	S3	Minimise the amount of waste to landfill.
	S4	Protect and conserve important geological sites.
Water	W1	To ensure the protection from pollution/contamination and/or improvement of all drinking water, surface water and ground water quality throughout the county.
	W2	Ensure new development will not be permitted within flood zones other than development which satisfies the justification test, as outlined in the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009 for Planning Authorities, within well established towns.
Air & Climate	AC1	Facilitate measures which seek to reduce all forms of air pollution and reduce dependence on travel by private car.
	AC2	Promote use of renewable energy sources and support energy conservation initiatives.
	AC3	Avoid development within flood risk areas and protect the marine and coastal environment from inappropriate works or development, and promote Integrated coastal zone management strategies.
Material Assets	MA1	Ensure that zoned land within town plans will not be developed if such development will lead to overcapacity of Wastewater Treatment Plants in order to ensure protection of the water resources within the plan area.

	MA2	Maintain and improve the quality of, and access to, material assets such as open spaces, drinking water supply, and all other physical and social infrastructure.
Cultural Heritage	C1	Promote the protection and conservation of the county's cultural heritage including the built environment and settings; archaeological (recorded monuments and archaeological zones), architectural (Protected Structures, vernacular buildings, materials and urban fabric), and manmade landscape features (e.g. field walls, footpaths, gate piers).
Landscape	L1	To avoid adverse impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscapes which are the most valuable and sensitive to change, including seascapes, coastal scapes, and landscapes of historical and cultural importance.

Section 6: Alternatives

6.1 Introduction

One of the critical roles of SEA is to facilitate an evaluation of the likely environmental consequences of a range of alternative scenarios for accommodating future growth in County Wexford. These alternative development scenarios must be realistic, capable of implementation, and should represent a range of different approaches within statutory and operational requirements of the County Development Plan. In some cases the preferred scenario will combine elements from the various alternatives considered.

The objective of this Section is to determine the relative merits and evaluate the likely environmental consequences of a number of scenarios or alternatives to accommodate future development of County Wexford in terms of different planning and development strategies. Therefore, a number of reasonable alternative development plan strategies for the County were considered during the drafting process for the preparation of the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019. These were described taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the Plan area. The following summarises a series of ‘Scenarios’ which provide a range of plausible narratives of the outcomes of different planning approaches and development strategies of the future development of County Wexford.

6.2 The ‘do-nothing’ scenario

It is important to note the ‘do nothing’ scenario is not one of the ‘reasonable alternatives’ which are required to be considered under the SEA Directive. Nor would it necessarily be in keeping with the principle of environmentally sustainable development which is fundamental to the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). Annex I of the SEA Directive specifies that information should be provided in the environmental report on inter alia: ‘The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme’. Section 4 of this Environmental Report

considers the evolution of each component of the environment in the absence of implementing the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019.

6.3 Development of Alternatives

Alternative Scenario 1 - Market Driven Planning

In this scenario development is dominated by residential development, as trends have historically occurred. In this scenario there is little strategic focus as to where housing should occur. Housing development would continue to concentrate in the north, northeast and east (coastal areas) of the County at growth rates as previously experienced. Gorey and Wexford would experience high levels of urbanisation, some at elevated densities.

In this scenario little emphasis is placed on economic development as the driver of building critical mass within the principal town of Wexford. This scenario allows for sporadic economic development in both rural and urban locations, placing uneconomic pressures on public services such as roads, water and wastewater. Extensive areas of rural housing would occur along the strategic and regional routes throughout the County. There are weak measures to protect the environment.

The following are the key elements of this development strategy:

- No adherence to a settlement strategy based on RPGs, Town Plans, LAPs;
- No creation of critical mass at strategic locations within the County;
- Uncontrolled development of existing rural settlements and rural housing, particularly in the north and east (coastal areas) of the County;
- Dispersed development in the rural settlements and rural countryside; and,
- Natural Resource enterprises (extractive industries, forestry and wind energy) are developed in an individual basis through out the County.

Alternative Scenario 2 – Dispersed Settlement Led Approach

This scenario envisages uncontrolled growth of all settlements within the County with heavy emphasis on accommodating housing within settlements as opposed to any rural areas and appropriate environmental protection measures for designated environmental protection zones such as aquifers, SACs, NHAs, SPAs. This

approach does not give any hierarchy or settlement network indicating which settlements should develop as priority. There would be no structure for prioritising infrastructure and service provision, leading to an un-coordinated approach to the delivery of public services such as public water and wastewater treatment.

The following are the key elements of this development strategy:

- Towns would be competing against each other to attract development and there would be no identified settlement network to allow for planned future development.
- Unbalanced growth of the more attractive villages or towns which have better services or are more desirable from location point of view, with possible stagnation of the hub's population and the smaller more remote settlements
- There is likely to be significant long-term adverse impacts on the quality of life within the County due to the loss of viability of services in settlements across the County;
- Little involvement in terms of determining the future development strategy of the County;
- Rural isolation in the more remote areas with declining populations and diminishing services in the nearby smaller settlements.
- Pressure for growth would lead to urban sprawl and Ribbon development radiating from some existing towns and villages in the north of the county;
- Concentration of private effluent systems in settlements where there are no public wastewater treatment infrastructure.

Alternative Scenario 3 – Strategic Planning Approach

This scenario is a planned sustainable development approach to planning in the County. Development will be focused within zoned and serviced areas. This scenario places emphasises on strengthening the rural villages, particularly in the west and south of the County, and controlling rural one-off development in the eastern and northern sections of the County where pressure for residential development is channelled into the designated settlements, in order to protect the strategic infrastructure. Environmental protection zones such as aquifers, SACs, NHAs, SPAs

are protected. The housing needs of rural communities will be supported where considered appropriate. The rural areas of the county will have a characterisation in accordance with the recommendations of the Rural Housing Guidelines with a number of further policy areas added based on the assessment of the potential for impact on areas of greater sensitivity.

The following are the key elements of this development strategy:

- Adherence to a settlement strategy based on NSS, RPGs, Town Plans, LAPs;
- Creation of critical mass at strategic locations within the County;
- Balanced growth with a strategic sustainable development strategy for the county which will assist in the economic and coordinated delivery of public services
- Controlled development of existing rural settlements and rural housing, particularly in the northeast, east and south east of the County;
- Natural resource enterprises (extractive industries, forestry) are developed in an individual basis throughout the County.
- Development of a Wind Energy Strategy to coordinate the approach to the development of individual wind farms.

6.4 Outline of the Reasons for Selecting the Alternatives

On the basis of the above analysis, the 'do nothing' Scenario was not included as it was not considered a "reasonable alternative".

Scenario 1 'Market Driven Planning Approach' involves minimal intervention in terms of any planning with a short-term economic and social benefits. This approach follows a non planned approach and allows development in all areas dictated by the market. With little control there would be potential for significant impacts on the environment of County Wexford. This approach would not allow for the orderly and sustainable development of the County and is therefore not considered a desirable option for the county.

Scenario 2 ‘Dispersed Settlement Led Planning Approach’ places more emphasis on growing existing settlements with less protection offered to the wider environment, but very restricted rural development. This approach would lead to an unbalanced growth of the more attractive settlements in the more desirable locations with stagnation or population decline in the more remote or less attractive settlements. There would be a poor settlement structure or hierarchy within which public service provision could be planned and provided which could lead to impacts on the environment. The housing needs of rural communities would not be met which would have wider social implications.

Scenario 3 ‘Strategic Planning Approach’ allows for a planned sustainable development approach to planning in the County. Development will be focused within zoned and serviced areas. Significant controls will be put in place for development in environmentally sensitive areas and designated sites such as SACs, SPAs and NHAs as well as areas of archaeological potential or where threats to natural resources prevail such as groundwater protection zones and surface water. In conclusion, a strategic planned approach to the future development of the County incorporating principles of sustainable development emerges as the most environmentally sustainable option for County Wexford for the period of 2013-2019.

6.5 Evaluation of Alternatives

Table 34 Evaluation of Plan Alternatives

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	No likely Interaction	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - would be mitigated
Strategic Plan Options				
Scenario 1 Market Driven		AC2, S3, MA1	L1, AC1, S2, PH1, PH2,	B1, B2, B3,B4 PH2, S1, S4, W1,

Planning			MA2,	W2, AC3, C1
Scenario 2 Dispersed Settlement Led Planning	AC1, S2	S3, MA1, AC2	L1, MA2	B1, B2, B3,B4, PH1, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, C1
Scenario 3 Strategic Planning Approach	B1, B2, B3,B4, PH1, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC3, S2, L1, MA2, C1	S3, MA1, AC2		

6.6 Reason for Choosing the Preferred Alternative

The Alternatives that were examined were produced and evaluated at an early - more embryonic - stage to facilitate the evaluation and selection of a plan - having regard, inter alia, to environmental consequences. The Alternative Scenario for the Development Plan which emerged from the Plan preparation process, Scenario 3 Strategic Planning Approach – this Scenario achieves a good balance between environmental protection and conformance with relevant National and Regional planning objectives.

The Settlement Hierarchy from the County Development Plan is shown below.

Table 35 Settlement Hierarchy

Settlement Type	Settlement
Hub	Wexford Town
Larger Towns	Enniscorthy New Ross Gorey
District Towns	Bunclody Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane Castlebridge

	Courtown and Riverchapel Wellingtonbridge
Strong Villages	Kiltealy Campile Taghmon Coolgreaney Bridgetown Ferns Rosslare Strand Kilmuckridge Clonroche
Smaller Villages and Rural Settlements	All remaining villages and rural settlements
Open Countryside	All open countryside outside of the designated settlements.

With the integration of appropriate mitigation measures (including those which are identified in Section 8 of this report) potential adverse environmental effects which could arise as a result of implementing this scenario would be likely to be avoided, reduced or offset.

Alternative Scenario 3 was chosen to be developed having regard to both:

1. The environmental effects which were identified by the Strategic Environmental Assessment; and,
2. Planning - including social and economic - effects.

Section 7 evaluates the policies and objectives which have been prepared to realise Scenario 3 (the selected Development Plan Scenario). Some of these provisions are likely to have a range of beneficial effects with regard to the protection of the environment while some are likely to have a range of potential adverse effects which will be mitigated by other provisions which have been integrated into the Plan, including those which have emerged through the SEA process.

6.7 Development of Wind Energy Strategy Alternatives

The SEA addressed a number of alternatives and these are presented below. The alternatives are divided into Strategic Energy Options which identify alternative renewable energy options and Spatial Wind Energy Options which consider the location of new wind farms. The SEA and AA process helped to define areas for wind energy development and ensured that highly sensitive environmental resources

were avoided or potential negative impacts highlighted and addressed through mitigation measures.

Strategic Energy Options

Option 1: Do Nothing Scenario

This option would involve retaining the existing Wind Energy Strategy. However, it was decided early on in the SEA process that the existing Wind Energy Strategy should be reviewed to:

- Take account of updated national and regional policy in relation to climate change, renewable energy and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Assess the cumulative impacts of existing and permitted wind farms in the County and adjoining Counties
- Set a target for renewable energy in line with the 40% target set by Government, as recommended in the RPGs
- Take account of technological advances in wind turbine development and improvements to the National Grid

Option 2: Ad-hoc Planning for Wind Farm Development

This option would involve wind energy applications being assessed on a case-by-case basis without an overall strategic framework to guide wind farm development. This is not in line with existing planning guidance for wind energy development and would not facilitate an evaluation of cumulative impacts associated with wind farm development. In addition, the lack of strategic evaluation of this land use would not be in keeping with the SEA Directive.

Option 3: Alternative Renewable Energy Sources

This option would involve planning for alternative renewable energy sources such as biomass or tidal power in seeking to achieve a target that reflects the national target of 40% renewable energy production by 2020. The reason this is not being pursued as a means to meet this target in this Plan is, that whilst other renewable energies can and will contribute to this target, in practice County Wexford has a significant wind resource and, at national level, Ireland has experience in planning and

managing this technology. The East Coast of Wexford is identified in the Draft Draft Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDPP) as being suitable for tidal development, however further research and development will be required before this type of renewable energy is developed. There is also some uncertainty regarding the economic viability of anaerobic digesters. The Bioenergy Action Plan for Ireland (Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, 2007) notes that, in general, it would not be economic for farmers to transport manures any great distance to an anaerobic digestion plant for treatment and subsequent land spreading. High capital costs are another inhibiting factor. Hence, this option was not considered to be a realistic alternative for the lifetime of this Plan. Other renewable energies will, however, be supported by Wexford County Council in conjunction with the Wind Energy Strategy.

Option 4: Offshore Wind Energy Development

This scenario would see the direction of wind farms to the offshore areas of County Wexford as a means of achieving renewable energy targets. The Draft OREDPP identifies the south and east coasts of Wexford as being suitable for wind energy development and Grid 25 anticipates the future capacity for offshore wind farm development off the coast of County Wexford to be in the region of 445 MW. To date, no connection offers have been made for offshore wind farm developments in this area.² The 3900 MW of wind developments which received an offer as part of Gate 3 will provide for the 40% national renewable generation target by 2020 if all the generators to receive an offer are built. It is unlikely that the County will achieve significant renewable energy production from offshore wind energy development within the lifetime of this Plan.

Option 5: Alternative Targets and Alternative Timeframes

This scenario would assess different renewable energy targets and timeframes as a means of achieving the 2020 renewable energy target of 40% electricity production from renewable energy resources. The target of 255 MW in this Wind Energy Strategy will enable County Wexford to generate the equivalent of 70% of its

² Eirgrid's *Connection Offer: Disclosure of Applications – 24 October 2011* shows that there is an application for grid connection for a 600 MW offshore wind farm at Glassgorman Banks off the coast of County Wexford. The application, made in 2008, is still in progress.

electricity needs from wind energy by 2019. The target of 70% has been chosen as the County has significantly more wind availability (i.e. higher wind speeds over a larger geographical area) than the other four counties in the South East Region. Having regard to this resource, electricity demand forecasts and subject to the delivery of necessary transmission infrastructure, County Wexford has the potential to absorb additional wind energy developments and make a significant contribution to the national target of 40%.

Option 6: Strategic Approach to Onshore Wind Energy Development

This approach recognises where the principal wind resources are and matches them to existing infrastructure – two critical considerations for wind energy development. It seeks to protect designated sites and existing settlements while maximising the potential of local renewable energy resources. This approach would allow potential applicants a means to progress wind energy developments within robust strategic areas in the County, thus assisting the County in meeting its renewable energy targets. It would also encourage clustering or sharing of infrastructure associated with wind energy development.

Spatial Wind Energy Options

Option 7 – Consolidate Wind Energy Development in a Single Large Cluster

This option would allow for the clustering of new wind farm developments in a single location based on strategic analysis of the most suitable area in terms of wind resources, environmental, landscape and other factors. This approach would potentially lead to significant effects in a particular location, particularly in terms of landscape and environmental impacts. However, these effects would be localised rather than dispersed throughout the County. This option would have the greatest potential to meet the wind energy targets for the County whilst limiting the extent of environmental, visual and amenity impacts.

Option 8: Disperse Wind Energy Development throughout County

This option would allow for the dispersal of wind farm developments throughout the County within potentially suitable areas. This approach would not realise

opportunities for clustering wind farm developments in the most strategic locations and would result in widespread environmental and visual impacts around the County.

Option 9 – Larger Wind Farm Clusters in Suitable Areas and Smaller Wind Farm Developments in Potentially Suitable Areas

This option would allow for the concentration of larger wind farm developments in the most suitable areas together with smaller wind farms or groupings of wind farms in other acceptable areas, subject to environmental and visual assessment. This option would result in dispersed environmental and visual impacts around the County when compared with Option 7.

Evaluation of Wind Energy Strategy Alternatives

Table 36 Evaluation of Wind Energy Strategy Alternatives

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	No likely Interaction	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs - would be mitigated
Strategic Energy Options				
Option 1: Do Nothing Scenario	AC1, AC2	B4, S2, S3, MA1	L1	B1, B2, B3, PH1, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA2, C1
Option 2: Ad-hoc Planning for Wind Farm Development	AC1, AC2	B4, S2, S3, MA1	L1	B1, B2, B3, PH1, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA2, C1
Option 3: Alternative Renewable	AC1, AC2	B4, S2, S3, MA1		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH1, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3,

Energy Sources				MA2, C1, L1
Option 4: Offshore Wind Energy Development	AC1, AC2	B4, PH1, PH2, S1, S2, S3, W1, W2, MA1, MA2, C1		B1, B2, B3, S4, AC3, L1
Option 5: Alternative Targets and Alternative Timeframes	AC1, AC2 (depending on targets and timeframes)	B4, S2, S3, MA1	AC1, AC2 (depending on targets and timeframes)	B1, B2, B3, PH1, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA2, C1, L1
Option 6: Strategic Approach to Onshore Wind Energy Development	AC1, AC2	B4, PH1, PH2, S2, S3, MA1		B1, B2, B3, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA2, C1, L1
Spatial Wind Energy Options				
Option 7: Consolidate Wind Energy Development in a Single Large Cluster	AC1, AC2	B4, PH1, PH2, S2, S3, MA1		B1, B2, B3, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA2, C1, L1
Option 8: Disperse Wind Energy Development throughout County	AC1, AC2	B4, PH1, PH2, S2, S3, MA1	L1	B1, B2, B3, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA2, C1
Option 9:	AC1, AC2	B4, PH1,	L1	B1, B2, B3, S1,

Larger Wind Farm Clusters in Suitable Areas and Smaller Wind Farm Developments in Potentially Suitable Areas		PH2, S2, S3, MA1		S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA2, C1
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Preferred Wind Energy Strategy Option

The preferred alternative is a combination of Option 6 Strategic Approach to Onshore Wind Energy Development and Option 7 Consolidate Wind Energy Development in a Single Large Cluster. Together these options form the basis for the Wind Energy Strategy, allowing for the strategic development of wind in areas where there are high wind speeds and grid connections while seeking to avoid or reduce impacts on the environment and ensuring the protection of residential and visual amenity.

Identification of Areas for Wind Farm Development

The SEA helped to define areas for wind energy development and ensured that highly sensitive environmental resources were avoided or potential negative impacts highlighted and addressed through mitigation measures. Designated sites were avoided by excluding them from the Acceptable in Principle and Open for Consideration areas. Landscape Character Areas were also excluded where they were considered to be sensitive to wind farm development.

It was not possible to avoid Recorded Monuments due to the large number of sites dispersed throughout the County. Similarly, it was not possible to avoid all breeding areas, roosting grounds and flight paths for protected bird species as detailed data was not available at the time of preparing the Strategy. Therefore, measures have been incorporated into the development management standards contained in Section 5 of the Strategy to mitigate potential adverse impacts of wind farm

development on archaeological heritage and potential impacts on birds in terms of collision, disturbance and any other impacts on the environment.

The County has been divided into the following three areas for the purposes of wind energy development: Acceptable in Principle, Open for Consideration and Not Normally Permissible.

To avoid disproportionate visual impacts and considering the open, flat and often regular nature of the landscape in County Wexford, it was decided that wind farm developments should be confined to a specific area of the region. Hence, cumulative visual impacts should be restricted to those locations and their surrounding environs and not affect view sheds throughout the rest of the County. Whilst there may be scope for small, locally based projects on carefully selected sites in the County, the potential for new larger commercial wind farms is much more limited due to the scale and nature of the landscape.

Section 7: Likely Significant Effects of Implementing the Plan

7.1 Introduction

SEA legislation requires the Environmental Report to include the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the Plan. This includes secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects. The effects should be shown on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above. The following section identifies the effects on the environment of implementing the policies and objectives of the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019.

7.2 Methodology

Each Chapter of the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019 list objectives relating to particular topic of that Chapter as listed below;

Chapter 1	Introduction and Context
Chapter 2	Demographic Profile
Chapter 3	Core Strategy
Chapter 4	Housing
Chapter 5	Climate Change
Chapter 6	Employment, Economy and Enterprise
Chapter 7	Tourism
Chapter 8	Transport
Chapter 9	Infrastructure
Chapter 10	Environmental Management
Chapter 11	Energy
Chapter 12	Flood Risk Management
Chapter 13	Coastal Zone Management
Chapter 14	Heritage (built, natural, green infrastructure and landscape)
Chapter 15	Recreation, Sport and Public Rights of Way
Chapter 16	Social Inclusion and Community Facilities

Each of the chapters objectives were evaluated against the criteria in Table 37 below. The objectives were appraised depending whether or not the objectives were likely to improve, conflict or have neutral interactions with the provisions of the Plan when measured against the respective criteria.

Table 37 Criteria for Appraising the Effect of the Plan Objectives on SEOs

Likely to improve status of SEOs	No likely interaction with status of SEOs	Neutral interaction with status of SEOs	Uncertain interaction with status of SEOs	Potential conflict with status of SEOs likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs unlikely to be mitigated
A	B	C	D	E	F

Highlighted text is as a result of SEA

New Text added at amendment to draft plan stage is identified in Bold and underlined

Deleted Text at amendment to draft plan stage is identified as ~~Strikethrough text~~

Text in bold and red was added at modification stage

Strategic Environmental Objectives		
Environmental Parameter	SEO	Objective
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	B1	Conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats and species within the county, and support the sustainable management of these areas.
	B2	Ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive with regard to protection of Natura 2000 sites and habitats

		and species listed under Annexes I and II of the Directive and prevent the loss of ecological networks and stepping stones or parts thereof which provide important connectivity for species.
	B3	To ensure compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the protection of wildlife corridors and contiguous areas of habitat which are important on a County level for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.
	B4	Protect aquatic and terrestrial habitats from the spread of invasive species.
Population & Human Health	PH1	Protect and enhance peoples quality of life based on high quality residential, community, working and recreational environments.
	PH2	Protect human health through minimising the risk of polluting emissions including noise and vibrations from incompatible land-uses and emissions to air/water/soil from traffic, industrial processes and extractive industry.
Soil/Geology	S1	Prevent pollution or contamination of soils.
	S2	Give preference to the use and regeneration of derelict, disused and infill sites, rather than greenfield sites.
	S3	Minimise the amount of waste to landfill.
	S4	Protect and conserve important geological sites.
Water	W1	To ensure the protection from pollution/contamination and/or improvement of all drinking water, surface water and ground water quality throughout the county.
	W2	Ensure new development will not be permitted within flood zones other than development which satisfies the justification test, as outlined in the Planning System

		and Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009 for Planning Authorities.
Air & Climate	AC1	Facilitate measures which seek to reduce all forms of air pollution and reduce dependence on travel by private car.
	AC2	Promote use of renewable energy sources and support energy conservation initiatives.
	AC3	Avoid development within flood risk areas and protect the marine and coastal environment from inappropriate works or development, and promote Integrated coastal zone management strategies.
Material Assets	MA1	Ensure that zoned land within town plans will not be developed if such development will lead to overcapacity of Wastewater Treatment Plants in order to ensure protection of the water resources within the plan area.
	MA2	Maintain and improve the quality of, and access to, material assets such as open spaces, drinking water supply, and all other physical and social infrastructure.
Cultural Heritage	C1	Promote the protection and conservation of the county's cultural heritage including the built environment and settings; archaeological (Recorded Monuments and archaeological zones), architectural (Protected Structures, vernacular buildings, materials and urban fabric), and manmade landscape features (e.g. field walls, footpaths, gate piers).
Landscape	L1	To avoid adverse impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscapes which are the most valuable and sensitive to change, including seascapes, coastal scapes, and landscapes of historical and cultural importance.

7.3 Assessment Matrix of County Development Plan Objectives

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
Assessment Matrix of County Development Plan Objectives	A	B	C	D	E	F
Chapter 3 – Core Strategy						
Objective SS01 - To meet the housing needs of the County in an environmentally sustainable manner	PH1		S2, S3, AC2,MA2		B1, B2, B3,B4, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC3, MA1, C1,L1	
Objective SS02 - To ensure that any plan/project and any associated works, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, are subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity (defined by the structure and function) of any Natura 2000 site(s) and that the requirements of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive are fully satisfied. Where the plan/project is likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site it shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment. The plan/project will proceed only after it has been ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site or where in the absence of alternative solutions, the plan/project is deemed imperative for reasons of overriding public interest, all in accordance with the provisions of article 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive.	B1, B2, B3,		PH1, PH2, S1, S2, S3, S4, B4, AC2, AC1, AC3, MA1, MA2, W1, W2, C1,L1			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
SS03 - <u>All Local Area Plans and Development Plans shall be screened and/or assessed in accordance with the requirements of the SEA and Habitats Directives and the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines (DEHLG and OPW, 2009).</u>	B1, B2, B3, B4, W1, W2, AC3	S2, S3, S4, AC1, AC2, C1, L1	PH1, PH2, S1, MA1, MA2			
Objective SS04 - To manage the County's settlement pattern in accordance with the population targets set out in the Regional Planning Guidelines for the South-East Region 2010-2022, the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy.	PH1 AC1, L1	S3,	S2, AC2, MA2		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, C1,	
Objective SS05 - To encourage new residential developments to occur in the Hub, Larger Towns and District Towns in accordance with the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy and subject to adequate capacity being available in the relevant wastewater treatment facilities in the interests of protecting water resources in the area. Objective SS06 - To ensure the density of residential developments is appropriate to the location of the proposed development having regard to the benefits of ensuring that land is efficiently used. In deciding on the appropriate density for a particular location the Council will have regard to the existing grain and density of the settlement, the proximity of the site to the town or village centre or public transport nodes and the availability of existing services and the Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas and the accompanying Urban Design Manual-A Best Practice Guide (DEHLG, 2009) and subject to compliance	W1, AC1, MA2, L1, S2, PH1, B1, B2, B3, PH1, PH2, AC1	S3, AC2 S3,	AC2, AC3 W2, S1, C1 S1, S4, B4, AC2, , AC3, MA1, MA2, W1, W2, C1, L1		B1, B2, B3, B4 MA1, PH2 S2,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards in Chapter 18.						
<p>Objective SS07 - To ensure the zoning of lands for residential use is in accordance with the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy. The development of this zoned land is subject to adequate capacity being available in the relevant wastewater treatment facilities in the interests of the protecting water resources in the area.</p> <p>Objective SS08 - To avoid the siting of new residential developments in areas vulnerable to flood risk in accordance with the provisions of the Flood Risk Management-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG and OPW, 2009).</p> <p>Objective SS09 - <u>To have regard to the Local Area Plan–Draft Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DECLG, 2012) and companion manual and any updated version of these guidelines when preparing local area plans.</u></p>	<p>W1, W2, MA1, MA2, PH1, PH2,</p> <p>AC3, W2</p>		<p>B4, S3, AC1, AC2</p> <p>B4, S3, AC1, AC2 B1, B2, B3 C1,L1, S1,S2, S4, W1, MA1, MA2, PH1, PH2,</p> <p>All SEOs</p>		<p>B1, B2, B3 C1,L1, S1,S2, S4, AC3,</p>	
Objective SS10: <u>To have regard to the Development Plan–Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG, 2007) and any updated version of these guidelines when preparing development plans and variations of development plans.</u>			All SEOs			
Objective SS11 - To encourage new residential development to occur in the Hub in accordance with the	PH1 AC1, L1	S3	AC2,MA2		S2, B1, B2,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy and subject to normal planning and environmental criteria, <u>including the availability of adequate waste water treatment capacity and drinking water capacity, and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</u>					B3,B4, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, C1,	
Objective SS12 - To ensure the zoning of lands for residential development in accordance with the population targets set down by the Regional Planning Guidelines for the South-East Region, the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy in order to achieve the critical mass necessary to sustain the town's role as a Hub in the South-East Region.	PH1 AC1,	S3,	S2, L1, AC2,MA2		B1, B2, B3,B4, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, C1,	
Objective SS13 - To generally require the phasing of development on residential zoned lands. Phasing will be based on the sequential approach with the zoning extending outwards from the Town Centre. A strong emphasis will be placed on consolidating existing patterns of development, encouraging infill opportunities and a better use of land.	PH1 AC1, S2	S3,	B4, L1, AC2,MA2		B1, B2, B3, , PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, C1,	
Objective SS14 - To encourage new residential development to occur in the Larger Towns in accordance with the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy and subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria, <u>including the availability of adequate waste water treatment capacity and drinking water capacity,</u> and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	PH1 AC1, S2	S3,	B4, L1, AC2,MA2		B1, B2, B3, , PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, C1,	
Objective SS15 - Ensure the zoning of lands for residential use in the Larger Towns is in accordance with the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy. The development of this	W1, AC1, MA2, L1, S2, PH1,	S3, AC2	AC2, AC3 W2, S1, C1		B1, B2, B3, B4 MA1,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated PH2	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
zoned land is subject to adequate capacity being available in the relevant wastewater treatment facilities in the interests of the protecting water resources in the area and subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.						
<p>Objective SS16 - Require the phasing of land zoned for residential development. The phasing of development will be based on a clear sequential approach with the zoning extending outwards from the town centres. A strong emphasis will be placed on consolidating existing patterns of development, encouraging infill opportunities and better use of lands.</p> <p>Objective SS17 - To encourage new residential development to occur in the District Towns in accordance with the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy and subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria , including the availability of adequate waste water treatment capacity and drinking water capacity, and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p> <p>Objective SS18 - To require the phasing of land zoned for residential development. The phasing of development will be based on a clear sequential approach with the zoning extending outwards from the town centres. A strong emphasis will be placed on consolidating existing patterns of development, encouraging infill opportunities and better use of lands.</p>	<p>PH1 AC1, S2</p> <p>PH1 AC1, S2</p> <p>PH1 AC1, S2</p>	<p>S3,</p> <p>S3,</p> <p>S3,</p>	<p>B4, L1, AC2,MA2</p> <p>B4, L1, AC2,MA2</p> <p>B4, L1, AC2,MA2</p>		<p>B1, B2, B3, , PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, C1,</p> <p>B1, B2, B3, , PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, C1,</p> <p>B1, B2, B3, , PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, C1,</p>	
Objective SS19 - To prepare a Local Area Plan for Courtown and Riverchapel.			All SEOs			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
Objective SS20 - To ensure the Strong Villages maintain and enhance their roles as important service centres.	PH1, S2, AC1, MA2	B4, S3	B1, B2, B3, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC2, AC3, L1		MA1, C1,	
Objective SS21 - To prepare a Village Design Statements for Killealy, Rosslare Strand, Bridgetown, Coolgreaney, Kilmuckridge and Campile Objective SS22 - To ensure new residential development in the Strong Villages is in accordance with the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy and subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria <u>, including the availability of adequate waste water treatment capacity and drinking water capacity,</u> and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18	PH1 AC1, S2	S3,	B4, L1, AC2,MA2		B1, B2, B3, , PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2,AC3, MA1, C1,	
Objective SS23 - To ensure that new residential development complies with the sequential approach to the development of land which is focused on developing lands closest to the village centre first	PH1 AC1, S2	S3,	B4, L1, AC2,MA2		B1, B2, B3, , PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, C1,	
Objective SS24 - To promote and facilitate the provision of serviced residential sites within Strong Villages subject to complying with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	PH1 AC1, MA2	S3,	B4, L1, AC2,		B1, B2, B3, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, C1,	
Objective SS25 - To ensure the smaller villages in the	PH1 AC1,	S3, S4,	B1, B2, B3,			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
County maintain and enhance their roles as important local service centres in order to maintain sustainable communities and ensure a good quality of life.	MA2		B4, PH2, S1, S2, W1, W2, L1, AC2, AC3 MA1, C1,			
Objective SS26 - To encourage the provision of additional social and communities facilities within the smaller villages to serve the population of the village and its surrounding rural hinterland.	PH1 AC1, MA2	S3, S4,	B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, W1, W2, L1, AC2, AC3 MA1, C1,			
Objective SS27 - To ensure that siting of new residential development complies with the sequential approach to the development of land which is focused on developing lands closest to the village centre first.	PH1 AC1, S2	S3,	B4, L1, AC2, MA2		B1, B2, B3, , PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, C1,	
Objective SS28 - To promote and facilitate the provision of serviced residential sites within Strong Villages subject to complying with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	PH1 AC1, MA2	S3,	B4, L1, AC2,		B1, B2, B3, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, C1,	
Objective SS29 - To support the development of rural transport initiatives which provide public transport links between Smaller Villages and Rural Settlements and the County's towns for the populations of these settlements and their surrounding rural hinterland	PH1, PH2, AC1, AC2, MA2	B1, B2, B3, S1, S2, S3, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1				
Objective SS30 - To conserve, protect and enhance the	PH1, C1,	B1, B2, B3,	S2, MA2			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
character of rural settlements.	L1	B4, PH2, S1, S3, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1,				
Objective SS31 - To encourage cluster developments in rural settlements where there is a basic nucleus of community facilities and services, which include all or at least two of the following-school, post office, local shop, church and public house subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	PH1, AC2	MA1, S3	MA2		B1, B2, B3, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC3, C1, L1	
Objective SS32 - To promote and facilitate the provision of serviced residential sites within Strong Villages subject to complying with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	PH1 AC1, MA2	S3,	B4, L1, AC2,		B1, B2, B3, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, C1,	
Objective SS33 - To support the development of rural transport initiatives which will provide public transport links between Smaller Villages and Rural Settlements and the County's towns for the populations of these settlements and their surrounding rural hinterland	PH1, PH2, AC1, AC2, MA2	B1, B2, B3, S1, S2, S3, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1				
Objective SS34 - To permit one-off rural housing in accordance with the Sustainable Rural Housing Strategy in Section 4 and subject to compliance with normal planning	PH1, AC2	MA1, S3	MA2		B1, B2, B3, PH2, S1, S4,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.					W1, W2, AC1, AC3, C1, L1	
Chapter 4 - Housing						
<p>Objective HP01 - To promote Universal Design and Lifetime Housing in accordance with best practice and the policies and principles contained in Building for Everyone: A Universal Design Approach (National Disability Authority, 2012) and Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas: Guidelines for Planning Authorities and its companion document Urban Design Manual (DEHLG, 2008). Universal design is design of environment that can be accessed, understood and used to the greatest possible extent by all people regardless of their age, size or ability.</p> <p>Objective HP02 - To ensure that all new housing developments represent 'Sustainable Neighbourhoods' which are inclusive and responsive to the physical or cultural needs of those who use them, are well located relative to the social, community, commercial and administrative services which sustain them and are integrated with the community within which it will be located.</p>	<p>PH1, MA2,</p> <p>PH1, MA2, AC2 PH2</p>		<p>B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S3, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1</p> <p>S1, S2, S3, W1, AC1,</p>	B1, B2, B3, B4, S4 W2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1		
Objective HP03 - To ensure that new housing developments contribute to the social or recreation infrastructure of the community in which they will be located either through the provision of amenities or through financial contribution.	PH1, MA2	S3	B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>Objective HP04 - To ensure that new housing development minimises the use of natural resources and impacts on natural assets. Locations selected for residential developments should maximise the potential for the use of sustainable modes of transport such as walking, cycling and the use of public transport to reduce dependence on fossil fuels. The design of the individual dwellings and associated services should minimise the use of natural energy and water.</p>	<p>B1, B2, B3, B4, S3, PH1, PH2, AC1, AC2,</p>		<p>S1, S2, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, MA2</p>		<p>S4, C1, L1</p>	
<p>Objective HP05 - To ensure that any plan/project and any associated works for the provision of residential development or required to accommodate the objectives of this section or the Housing Strategy contained in Volume 6, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, are subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity (defined by the structure and function) of any Natura 2000 site(s) and that the requirements of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive are fully satisfied. Where the plan/project is likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site it shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment. The plan/project will proceed only after it has been ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site or where in the absence of alternative solutions, the plan/project is deemed imperative for reasons of overriding public interest, all in accordance with the provisions of article 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive.</p>	<p>B1, B2, B3, B4, S4</p>		<p>PH1, PH2, S1, S2, S3, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, MA2, C1, L1</p>			
<p>Objective HP06 - To ensure that all new housing developments provide a high quality living environment with attractive and efficient buildings which are located in a high</p>	<p>PH1, MA2</p>	<p>S3</p>	<p>B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1,</p>			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>quality public realm and which are serviced by well designed and located open spaces.</p> <p>Objective HP07 - To require all developments over 10 houses to be accompanied by an Urban Design Statement showing how the matters detailed in Chapter 17 have been taken into account in the design of the development.</p>			W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1 All SEOs			
<p>Objective HP08 - To ensure the density of residential developments is appropriate to the location of the proposed development to ensure that land is efficiently used. In deciding on the appropriate density for a particular location the Council will have regard to the existing grain and density of the settlement, the proximity of the site to the town or village centre or public transport nodes and the availability of existing services and the Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas and the accompanying Urban Design Manual-A Best Practice Guide (DEHLG, 2009) and normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p> <p>Objective HP09 - To implement the objectives of the Housing Strategy contained in Volume 6 in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the Housing (Miscellaneous) Act 2009 and having regard to the amendments to Government policy outlined in the Housing Policy Statement issued in June 2011.</p> <p>Objective HP10 - To require that 20% of all land zoned for residential use, or for a mixture of residential and other uses, be reserved for the purposes of Part V of the</p>	PH1, MA2	S3	<p>B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3,</p> <p>All SEOs</p>		S2, MA1, C1, L1	
	PH1	S3	B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1,			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) Section 94(4)(a)(i) and 4(a)(ii) with the exception of the exemptions provided for in Section 4 of the Housing Strategy contained in Volume 6 and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).			S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, MA2, C1, L1			
Objective HP11 - To review the Housing Strategy contained in Volume 6 when Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) is revised to take account of the new economic and policy contexts. Objective HP12 - To ensure that adequate and appropriate land is zoned to meet the likely future housing need identified in the Housing Strategy and Core Strategy.	PH1	S3	PH2, W1, W2, AC2		B1, B2, B3, B4, S1, S2, S4, AC1, AC3, MA1, MA2, C1, L1	
Objective HP13 - To seek to facilitate all households to access good quality housing appropriate to household circumstances and in their particular community of choice. The Council's priority will be on meeting the most acute needs – those unable to provide for their accommodation from their own resources. Objective HP14 - To ensure that housing is available for people of different income types. This shall be achieved through the housing support system and through the planning system which will ensure that an appropriate mix of units is provided in appropriate locations.	PH1, MA2 PH1, MA2		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1 B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3,			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>Objective HP15 - To require all applications for residential development of 10 houses or more contain a mix of house types. The mix of house types shall be appropriate to the needs identified where the scheme will be located. This will not apply where it can be demonstrated that there is a need for a particular type of unit and the proposed development meets this need.</p> <p>Objective HP16 - To ensure that the Council's selection of lands, or housing units to purchase or lease, acts to counteract undue segregation by persons of different social backgrounds.</p> <p>Objective HP17 - To ensure that those with specific housing needs, such as the elderly, persons with a disability, homeless people and Travellers are accommodated in a manner which is appropriate to their specific needs.</p> <p>Objective HP18 - To work with other statutory, voluntary, representative and interest groups to identify the requirements of those with special housing needs and the appropriate policy and strategic responses.</p> <p>Objective HP19 - To have regard to the National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability 2011-2016 and, insofar as possible, having regard to budgetary constraints,</p>	<p>PH1, MA2</p> <p>PH1, MA2</p> <p>PH1, MA2</p> <p>PH1, MA2</p> <p>PH1, MA2</p>		<p>MA1,C1, L1 B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1,C1, L1</p> <p>B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1,C1, L1</p> <p>B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1,C1, L1</p> <p>B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1,C1, L1</p> <p>B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1,</p>			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
implement the strategic aims of this strategy.			S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1,C1, L1			
Objective HP20 - To ensure that a minimum of 20% of dwellings in all new housing estates of five dwellings or more are suitable to accommodate or are adaptable to provide accommodation for people with disabilities. Developers will be required to show an accessible route to the residential units from the boundary of the property. Proximity and access to local services must also be considered relative to the units which are accessible.	PH1, MA2		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1,C1, L1			
Objective HP21 - To require an Access Statement to be carried out for significant developments in accordance with Appendix 6 of Buildings for Everyone: A Universal Design Approach (National Disability Authority, 2012).	PH1, MA2		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1,C1, L1			
Objective HP22 - To implement, insofar as possible having regard to budgetary constraints, the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2007-2013 and any subsequently adopted strategy subject.	PH1, MA2		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1,C1, L1			
Objective HP23 - To implement, insofar as possible having regard to budgetary constraints, the actions contained in the South-East Homeless Action Plan 2010-2013 and any subsequently adopted plan.	PH1, MA2		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3,			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>Objective HP24 - To promote best practice and innovation with regard to ongoing management and maintenance of all Council housing stock and the associated public realm.</p> <p>Objective HP25 - To have regard to the Managing and Resolving Unfinished Housing Developments - Guidance Manual (Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, 2011) when preparing Town Development Plans and Local Areas Plans and assessing planning applications dealing with unfinished housing developments</p>			<p>MA1,C1, L1 All SEOs</p> <p>All SEOs</p>			
Objective HP26 - To have regard to the nature and quantum of unfinished housing developments when preparing Core Strategies for the Town Development Plans and zoning lands for residential developments in Local Area Plans.			All SEOs			
Objective HP27 - To adopt a flexible approach to planning applications to resolve issues relating to unfinished estates where this would result in substantial environmental or community gain. Such flexibility may include for reconfiguration of estates in relation to open space, roads and circulation requirement.	B1, B2, B3, B4, PH1, MA2, S2	AC1,	PH2, S1, S3, S4, W1, W2, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1			
Objective RH01 - To facilitate the development of individual houses in the open countryside in 'Areas under Strong Urban Influence' in accordance with the criteria laid down in Table No. 12 subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards laid down in Chapter 18.	PH1		S2, S3, AC2,MA2		B1, B2, B3,B4, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC3, MA1,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>Objective RH02 -To facilitate individual houses, other than those referred to in 'Areas under Strong Urban Influence' in Table No. 12, in the existing settlements including those settlements defined in the settlement hierarchy as Strong Villages and Small Villages and Rural Settlements subject to complying with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards laid down in Chapter 18.</p> <p>Objective RH03 - To facilitate the development of individual houses in the open countryside in 'Stronger Rural Areas' in accordance with the criteria laid down in Table No. 12 subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards laid down in Chapter 18.</p>	PH1		S2, S3, AC2,MA2		C1,L1 B1, B2, B3,B4, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC3, MA1, C1,L1 B1, B2, B3,B4, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC3, MA1, C1,L1	
<p>Objective RH04 - To facilitate individual houses, other than those referred to in 'Stronger Rural Areas' in Table No. 12, in the existing settlements including those settlements defined in the settlement hierarchy as Strong Villages and Small Villages and Rural Settlements subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards laid down in Chapter 18.</p>	PH1		S2, S3, AC2,MA2		B1, B2, B3,B4, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC3, MA1, C1,L1	
<p>Objective RH05 - To facilitate the development of individual houses in the open countryside in 'Structurally Weak Areas' in accordance with the criteria laid down in</p>	PH1		S2, S3, AC2,MA2		B1, B2, B3,B4, PH2, S1,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC3, MA1, C1,L1	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
Table No. 12 subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards laid down in Chapter 18.						
Objective RH06 - To facilitate and where possible stimulate or provide the development of housing, economic development, services and infrastructure in the villages in 'Structurally Weak Areas' to sustain and renew populations and services in these areas, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards laid down in Chapter 18.	PH1, MA2, AC1		S2, S3, AC2		B1, B2, B3,B4, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, C1,L1	
Objective RH07 - To minimise the individual or cumulative adverse visual impacts that local concentrations of one-off housing, outside of settlements, may have on Upland, River Valley and Coastal landscape character units or Landscapes of Greater Sensitivity. In this regard, in locations where the Council considers that there is a risk of individual or cumulative adverse impacts, the Council will only consider proposals for housing developments where the applicant has demonstrated an overriding need to reside in the particular location in accordance with the criteria contained in Table No. 12.	L1	S3, MA1, MA2	B1, B2, B3, B4, PH1, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1,AC1, AC2,		W2, AC3,	
Objective RH08 - To facilitate the development of individual houses in the open countryside in 'Coastal Zone/Natural Heritage Areas' in accordance with the criteria laid down in Table No. 12, subject to the applicant demonstrating that the proposed development complies with the policies contained in Chapter 13 and will not have	PH1		S2, S3, AC2,MA2		B1, B2, B3,B4, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC3,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
an adverse impact on natural heritage and subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards laid down in Chapter 18.					MA1, C1, L1	
Objective RH09 - To ensure that the rural houses are of high quality design and well sited in the landscape.	L1	S2, AC1, AC2, S3,	B1, B2, B3, B4, S1		PH1, PH2, W1, W2, AC3	
Objective RH10 - To adopt a presumption in favour of the retention of existing traditional dwellings with appropriate adaption, as required, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria and, where appropriate, the development management standards laid down in Chapter 18.	L1, C1, S1, S2, S3, AC2, S4	MA2, MA1, AC1, PH1, PH2, B1, B2, B3, B4	W1, W2			
Objective RH11 - To facilitate the replacement of dwellings where it has been demonstrated that a dwelling cannot be retained having regard to sustainability or structural condition or where the dwelling concerned is not worthy of retention subject to the criteria outlined in Table No. 12, normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards laid down in Section 18.	PH1		B1, B2, B3, B4, S4, PH2, AC1, AC2, MA1, MA2, C1		AC3, S2, S3, S1, W1, W2, L1	
Objective RH12 - To prohibit individual new build holiday homes outside the existing settlements outlined on the Settlement Hierarchy.	B1, B2, B3, B4, S4, W1, W2, AC3, C1, L1	PH2, S1, S2, S3, AC1, AC2, MA1, MA2			PH1	
Objective RH13 - To facilitate the conversion of substantially intact vernacular buildings (houses or	AC2, C1, L1, S1, S2,	AC1, MA2	W2, AC3, MA1, PH1,		W1	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
farm/industrial buildings) within or outside settlements for individual holiday home use subject to normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards laid down in Chapter 18.	S3,		PH2, S4, B1, B2, B3, B4			
Chapter 5 – Climate Change						
Objective CC01 - To have regard to the National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012 and any updated version of this document published during the lifetime of the Plan.			All SEOs			
Objective CC02 - To have regard to the any future Climate Change Action Plan for the South-East Region.			All SEOs			
Objective CC03 - To prepare, in conjunction with other key stakeholders, a Climate Change Strategy for the County during the life time of the Plan.			All SEOs			
Objective CC04 - To minimise emissions greenhouse gases in order to contribute to a reduction and avoidance of human induced climate change in accordance with the Kyoto agreement. The Council supports and is committed to the National Climate Change Strategy and in general to facilitating measures which seek to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.	PH2, B1, AC1, AC2,		B2, B3, B4, PH1, S1, S2, S3, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, MA2, C1, L1			
Objective CC05 - To prepare a Renewable Energy Strategy for County Wexford during the lifetime of the Plan, which will build on and support the Wind Energy Strategy 2013-2019, any Climate Change Strategy prepared for the County and the National Renewable Energy Action Plan (Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, 2010).			All SEOs			
Objective CC06 - To adopt sustainable planning strategies through the integration of land use and transportation as a means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.	PH2, B1, AC1, AC2,		B2, B3, B4, PH1, S1, S2, S3, S4, W1,			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>Objective CC07 - To raise awareness of climate change and its potential impacts and encourage businesses, local communities and people to be as self-sustaining as possible.</p> <p>Objective CC08 - To encourage improved energy efficiency of its existing building stock and to promote energy efficiency and conservation in the design and development of all new buildings and in residential schemes in particular.</p> <p>Objective CC09 - To promote and encourage new developments to mitigate against, and adapt to, where possible the impacts of climate change through the location, layout and design of the development</p>	<p>PH2, B1, AC1, AC2,</p> <p>PH2, B1, AC1, AC2,</p> <p>PH2, B1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3</p>		<p>W2, AC3, MA1, MA2, C1, L1 B2, B3, B4, PH1, S1, S2, S3, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, MA2, C1, L1 B2, B3, B4, PH1, S1, S2, S3, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, MA2, C1, L1 B2, B3, B4, PH1, S1, S2, S3, S4, W1, MA1, MA2, C1, L1</p>			
Chapter 6 – Employment, Economy and Enterprise						
Objective ED01 - To ensure that sufficient serviced land is available for enterprise and employment related development through the zoning of appropriate lands in Town Development Plans and Local Area Plans. Economic development proposals will be permitted within settlements on suitably zoned land or within towns and village settlements defined within the Core Strategy/Settlement Hierarchy, subject to the proper planning and sustainable	PH1	S3	S2, AC1, AC2,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, MA2, C1,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated L1	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
development of the area, compliance with normal planning and environment criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18. The Council will ensure that suitable industrial and commercial lands are protected from inappropriate development that could compromise the economic potential of these lands.						
Objective ED02 - To consider economic development proposals of a scale which are appropriate to the town or village's location within the Core Strategy/ Settlement Hierarchy, or an enterprise in a rural area, so as to achieve sustainable balanced economic development subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	PH1	S3	S2, AC1, AC2,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, MA2, C1, L1	
Objective ED03 - To permit the extension of an existing industrial or enterprise facility within towns or villages provided the resultant scale and form of the enterprise is compatible with the character and scale of the area and subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	PH1	S3	S2, AC1, AC2,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, MA2, C1, L1	
Objective ED04 - To permit the extension of an existing industrial or enterprise facility within the countryside provided the resultant scale and form of the enterprise is compatible with the character and scale of the area and subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management	PH1	S3	S2, AC1, AC2,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>standards contained in Chapter 18.</p> <p>Objective ED05 - To support and encourage the further expansion of existing third level educational facilities in the County in order to improve education, training and skills development in the workforce subject to compliance with normal planning and environment criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p>	PH1	S3	S2, AC1, AC2,		MA1, MA2, C1, L1 B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, MA2, C1, L1	
<p>Objective ED06 - To encourage and support research, development and innovation in collaboration with educational institutions and development agencies and to provide sufficient zoned land for this purpose.</p> <p>Objective ED07 - To develop and maximise the tourism potential of Wexford by facilitating the expansion of existing and the provision of new sustainable tourism products, facilities and infrastructure, subject to compliance with normal planning and environment criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18</p> <p>Objective ED08 - To facilitate and encourage the development of 'green' industries including industries relating to renewable energy, energy-efficient technologies, waste recycling and conservation on appropriately zoned land or on land within villages to a scale and size that is in keeping with the character of the area, subject to complying</p>	PH1, MA2	S3	ALL SEOs AC1, AC2,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1,S2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1 B1, B2, B3, B4, PH1, PH2, S1,S2,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards in Chapter 18. Green industries will not be permitted outside settlements unless the development complies with the locational requirements of waste management facilities outlined in Chapter 10 and subject to complying with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p> <p>Objective ED09 - To prohibit quarrying <u>extractive industry development</u> which could significantly impact on the areas designated as being of European <u>and National</u> importance (such as <u>SACs</u>, cSACs, and SPAs, <u>NHAs and pNHAs</u>) where significant detrimental impacts cannot be satisfactorily mitigated, even if significant aggregate resources are identified in such areas by the GSI. A strict precautionary approach will be taken where designated sites will be affected.</p>	S4, B1, B2, B3, B4, PH1, PH2, AC1, C1, L1	S3, S2, AC2, MA1, MA2	S1, W1, W2, AC3,			
<p>Objective ED10 - Extractive industry sites can themselves create important new habitats, and further to the key objective of this Plan to protect and enhance the County's unique natural heritage and biodiversity, while promoting and developing its cultural, educational and eco-tourism potential in a sustainable manner, the Council will require that the operators of all proposed quarry <u>extractive industry developments</u> maximise the bio-diversity potential of their site by including proposals which promote bio-diversity throughout the working life and restoration of the quarry in their application.</p>	B1, B2, B3, B4, S2, PH2, S1, L1	S3, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, MA2	PH1, S4, W1, C1			
<p>Objective ED11 - <i>To ensure that permitted extractive industry developments are in accordance with the</i></p>	B1, B2, B3, B4,	S3, AC1, AC2, AC3,	PH1, S4, W1, W2, C1			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p><i>guidelines on Environmental Management in the Extractive Industry (EPA, 2006), the Wildlife, Habitats and the Extractive Industry (Notice Nature/ Irish Concrete Federation / NPWS 2010) and the Environmental Code (ICF, 2006).</i></p> <p><u>To ensure that extractive industry developments are sited, designed and operated in accordance with best practice. Cognisance should be paid to the following guideline documents (as may be superseded and/or updated) which are of particular relevance:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Environmental Management in the Extractive Industry (EPA, 2006);</u> - <u>Quarries and Ancillary Activities: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG, 2004);</u> - <u>Wildlife, Habitats and the Extractive Industry (Notice Nature/ Irish Concrete Federation / NPWS 2010);</u> - <u>The Environmental Code (ICF, 2006);</u> - <u>Geological Heritage Guidelines for the Extractive Industry (ICF and GSI, 2008);</u> <p><u>Archaeological Code of Practice (ICF and DEHLG, 2009)</u></p>	S2, PH2, S1, L1	MA1, MA2				
<p>Objective ED12 - To ensure facilities for the manufacture of concrete and tarmac, where applicable, are located within existing quarries, to take advantage of a convenient supply of materials, subject to such facilities being appropriately sited, on-going management and controls over the generation of emissions, the access and local roads network being acceptable for the traffic generated and compliance with normal planning and environmental</p>		B4, S2, S3, MA1, MA2	PH1, S4, AC2,		B1, B2, B3, PH2, S1, W1, W2, AC1, AC3, C1, L1	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p> <p><u>To ensure facilities for the manufacture of concrete and tarmac, where applicable, are located within existing extractive industry sites, to take advantage of a convenient supply of materials, subject to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>such facilities being appropriately sited having regard to visual amenities;</u> - <u>such facilities being subject to on-going management and controls over the generation of emissions;</u> - <u>the access and local roads network being acceptable for the traffic generated;</u> <p><u>compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards in Chapter 18.</u></p>						
<p>Objective ED13 - To consider the use of worked out sites for the deposit and recycling of inert waste material, subject to complying with the necessary environmental and traffic safeguards, particularly when such proposals result in the creation and protection of habitats and subject to compliance with the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p> <p>Objective ED14 - To prepare supplementary guidance or vary the plan to include policies which will balance the interests of non-extractive rural amenity and development with the need to protect important aggregate deposits for possible future extraction, if and when such deposits are identified.</p>	B1, B3, S2, S3	AC2, MA1, MA2	PH1, PH2, S4, W2, AC1, AC3, C1 All SEOs		B4, B2, S1, W1, L1	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>Objective ED15 - To facilitate the use of extractive industry sites for other purposes such as concrete and tarmac manufacture and the deposit of inert waste material, provided that such activity can take place without generating adverse traffic and other adverse impacts (which cannot be adequately mitigated through sensitive siting and design and on-going compliance with planning conditions) and subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development standards contained in Chapter 18.</p> <p><u>To seek to ensure that site security and health and safety is given high priority through the imposition and enforcement of conditions with regard to site security and warning signs. The Council will also report apparent dangerous situations or practices to the appropriate authorities.</u></p>		All SEO's				
<p>Objective ED16 -To positively engage with industry representatives lobby groups, local amenity groups, other local authorities, National Parks and Wildlife, state bodies and other interested parties in the on-going development and review of the Council's management and control of extractive activities</p>			All SEOs			
<p>Objective ED17 - To promote the continued development of food production and processing within the County subject to complying with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards in Chapter 18.</p>			All SEOs			
<p>Objective ED18 - To promote and encourage food producers and processing to provide associated activities by permitting the expansion and development of existing</p>		S3, MA2	B4, PH1, S1,S2, A2, AC1, AC2,		B1, B2, B3, PH2, S4, W1,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>businesses, subject to complying with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards in Chapter 18.</p> <p>Objective ED19- To encourage and facilitate the diversification of the agricultural economy through farm diversification as defined by the Wexford Local Development's Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 provided that this does not negatively affect public health, the character and the amenity of the surrounding area or Natura 2000 sites and subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p> <p>Objective ED20 - To support the development of the fisheries and aquaculture industry and support its diversification at appropriate locations, having regard to the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive, the relevant River Basin Management Plans and the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Objective ED21 - To facilitate and support the development of sustainable agriculture practices and facilities within the County subject to complying with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards in Chapter 18.</p>	S2	S3, MA2	<p>MA1,</p> <p>PH1, AC1, AC2, MA1,</p>		<p>B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, S1, C1, L1</p>	
		S3, AC1, AC2, MA1, MA2,	PH1, S1, S2,		<p>B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, C1, L1</p>	
		S3, AC1, AC2, MA1, MA2	PH1, S2, L1		<p>B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, C1</p>	
<p>Objective ED22 - To facilitate the sustainable development of forestry in Wexford provided that it is in harmony with the surrounding landscape, that no undue injury is <u>that no significant adverse impacts are</u> caused to natural waters, wildlife habitats, or conservation areas <u>and that it does</u></p>		S3, AC1, AC2, MA1, MA2,	PH1, S2,		<p>B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3,</p>	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
not have a significant adverse visual impact on the local landscape and subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.					C1, L1	
<p>Objective ED23 - To encourage the establishment of a self-sustaining forest industry based on a variety of species and a wide range of post-felling services in proximity to large forested areas which are used for source material, subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p> <p>Objective ED24 - To encourage the establishment of primary, secondary and tertiary forest based processing industries subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p> <p>Objective ED25 - To ensure that land with the potential to accommodate port related development at Rosslare Europort and New Ross Port is protected from inappropriate development that would prejudice its long term potential to accommodate this form of development.</p>		<p>S3, AC1, AC2, MA1, MA2,</p> <p>S3, AC1, AC2, MA1, MA2,</p>	<p>PH1, S2,</p> <p>PH1, S2,</p> <p>All SEOs</p>		<p>B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, C1, L1</p> <p>B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, C1, L1</p>	
Objective ED26 - To maximise the economic potential of Rosslare and New Ross port facilities and promote the development of associated port related employment, subject to ensuring that any plan or project associated with the economic development of lands which has the potential to significantly affect a Natura 2000 site is appropriately		S3	S2, AC1, AC2, MA1, MA2,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH1, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>assessed in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive in order to avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the site(s).</p> <p>Objective ED27 - To provide sufficient and suitably zoned land to promote economic activity in the area of the Ports and assist in the realisation of the economic potential of Rosslare Europort and New Ross Port subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p>		S3	AC1, AC2, MA1, MA2,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH1, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, C1, L1	
<p>Objective ED28 - To support the development of Rosslare Europort as a Sustainable Energy Zone (SEZ) and provide the necessary infrastructure to facilitate its development as an SEZ.</p>		S3	S2, AC1, AC2, MA2,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH1, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, MA1 AC3, C1, L1	
<p>Objective ED29 - To co-operate with state and semi-state employment agencies and local organisations in promoting, marketing and encouraging enterprises to locate suitable activities in the distribution, logistics and other related sectors in Rosslare Harbour and New Ross</p>			ALL SEOs			
<p>Objective ED30 - To facilitate new development and/ or the conversion of part of a dwelling to an appropriate home-based economic activity, where the dwelling remains as the main residence of the practitioner and the economic use is ancillary to the residential use and subject to</p>	PH1, AC1	S1, S2, S3, S4, W1, W2, AC2, AC3, MA1, MA2, C1,	B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2,			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p> <p>Objective ED31 - To ensure that all retail development permitted is in accordance with the Guidelines for Planning Authorities Retail Planning (DECLG, 2012) and the Wexford County Retail Strategy.</p> <p>Objective ED32 - To permit retail development of a scale which is appropriate to the level of the town/area within the retail hierarchy and the population of the catchment.</p> <p>Objective ED33 - To prohibit new retail developments if they would either by themselves or cumulatively with other recent developments and proposals seriously damage the vitality and viability of existing town centres.</p> <p>Objective ED34 - To have regard to the findings of the capacity assessment contained in the County Retail Strategy in assessing planning applications, however when considering any individual planning proposal in any town the applicant will be required to demonstrate in the Retail Impact Assessment that the floorspace is appropriate having regard to the quantum of floorspace required in that town. The Retail Impact Assessment shall take account of the <u>particular population of</u> catchment, extant permissions and their likelihood of being implemented and vacancies in</p>	<p>PH1, S2</p> <p>PH1, PH2,</p>	<p>L1</p> <p>B1, B2, B3, B4, L1</p>	<p>All SEOs</p> <p>B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S3, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, MA2</p> <p>S1, S2, S3, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, MA2, C1, B1, B2, B3, B4, PH1, PH2, S1, S2, S3, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, MA2, C1, L1</p>		<p>C1, L1</p>	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>the individual towns. Information with regard to extant permissions can be provided by the Council. The quantitative need for the quantum of floorspace will not be the only deciding factor; the Council will also consider whether any given planning application will be better located sequentially than permitted developments or whether it would be required for qualitative reasons such as strengthening the County's retail profile profile.</p> <p>Objective ED35 - To promote and protect the designated Primary and Secondary Retail streets as the key locations for retail development.</p>	PH1, PH2, S2	B1, B2, B3,B4, L1	S1, S3,S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2AC3, MA1, MA2,C1,			
<p>Objective ED36 - To resist applications for planning permission which would result in net loss of convenience and comparison shopping floorspace at ground level on Primary Retail Frontages where this would affect the vitality and viability of these streets.</p>	PH1, PH2, S2	B1, B2, B3,B4, L1	S1, S3,S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2AC3, MA1, MA2,C1,			
<p>Objective ED37 On primary retail streets permission will be favourably considered for banks and other professional services, office uses, restaurants, bars, off licenses, takeaways and other cultural uses provided:</p> <p>i) The proposals would not individually or cumulatively cause demonstrable harm to the function, character or appearance of the street concerned or to the town centre as a</p>	PH1, PH2, S2	B1, B2, B3,B4, S3,L1, S4,	S1, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, MA2,C1,			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>whole.</p> <p>ii) There would be no significant loss of residential accommodation at upper floor levels. While residential use is the preferred use upstairs it is accepted that it is not always possible to accommodate appropriate units in these buildings. Therefore other commercial uses will be considered but the Planning Authority will have regard to the amount of residential uses retained in the area to ensure that a balance of residential and commercial uses 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.</p>						
<p>Objective ED38 Retail developments on edge of centre sites or out of town centre sites will be considered when it has been clearly demonstrated that all viable, available and suitable sites in the town centre have been fully investigated and considered in accordance with the Retail Planning Guidelines and in particular the sequential test. A special financial contribution will be applied to retail developments on edge of centre or out of town centre sites. This contribution will be used by the Council to carry out town centre improvements and/or to enhance access arrangements from the town centre to the subject site. Provisions in this regard will</p>		S3			B1, B2, B3, B4, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, MA2, C1, L1 , AC1, AC2	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
be set out in the respective Development Contribution Schemes.						
Objective ED39 - To prioritise the reuse of vacant and derelict buildings in the town centre for uses including retail development.	S2, PH1, AC1, MA2	S3	B1, B2, B3, B4, W1, W2, AC2, L1		PH2, S1, S4, W2, AC3, MA1, C1, PH2,	
Objective ED40 - To encourage 'living over the shop' whereby the upper storeys of buildings have a residential function with the ground floor used for commercial or retail purposes.	PH1, S2, AC1, MA2,	B1, B2, B3, B4,	S1, S3, S4, W1, W2, , AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1			
Objective ED41 - To consider tourism related retail developments in towns and villages or at existing established tourist attractions. The retail facility shall be suitably designed, sited and of a scale that does not detract from the tourism feature. Recommend wording change – and shall be subject to normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18		S3			B1, B2, B3, B4, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, MA2, C1, L1, AC1, AC2	
Objective ED42 - To continue to make environmental improvements to the town centres through high quality civic design, provision of attractive street furnishing, lighting and effective street cleaning/business improvement district type initiatives.	PH1		PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, MA2, L1		B1, B2, B3, B4, S3, C1,	
Objective ED43 To improve accessibility of town centres by developing a pedestrian and cyclist friendly urban environment and	PH1, PH2, AC1, AC2, MA2	S3	B, B2, B3, B4, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2,			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>promoting vibrant street life.</p> <p>Objective ED44 - To ensure that all proposed <u>plans and</u> projects relating to retail development (including retail warehouses, factory outlets, shopping centres, convenience shops etc) and any associated improvement works or associated infrastructure (i.e. parking facilities), individually or in combination with other plans or projects, are subject to Appropriate Assessment to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity (defined by the structure and function) of any Natura 2000 site(s) and that the requirements of Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive are fully satisfied. <u>Screening to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity (defined by the structure and function) of any Natura 2000 site(s) and that the requirements of Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive are fully satisfied.</u> <u>Where the plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site it shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment. The plan or project will only proceed after it has been ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site or where in the absence of alternative solutions, the plan or project is deemed imperative for reasons of overriding public interest, all in accordance with the provisions of Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive.</u></p> <p>Objective ED45 - To consider the reuse/redevelopment of brownfield sites in the countryside for farm diversification activities as defined by the Wexford Local Development's Rural Development Programme 2007-2013, subject to</p>	<p>B1, B2, B3, B4, S4</p> <p>S2</p>	<p>S3, MA2</p>	<p>AC3, MA1, C1, L1 PH1, PH2, S1, S2, S3, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, MA2, C1, L1</p> <p>PH1, AC1, AC2, MA1,</p>		<p>B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S4, W1, W2,</p>	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>compliance with normal planning and environment criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p> <p>Objective ED46 - To consider the re-use/re-development of brownfield sites in town and villages for appropriate economic development proposals subject to the scale of the proposed development and the nature of the proposed process or activity being appropriate to and compatible with the character of the town or village and subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards in Chapter 18</p>	S2	S3, MA2	PH1, AC1, AC2, MA1,		AC3, S1, C1, L1 B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, S1, C1, L1	
Chapter 7 - Tourism						
<p>Objective TM01 - To protect and sustain those natural, built and cultural features that form the basis of the County's tourism industry, including landscapes of greater sensitivity, local scenic landscapes, areas of important wildlife interest, historic buildings and structures.</p> <p>Objective TM02 - To facilitate the development of a diversified tourism industry subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p>	B1, B2, B3, B4, PH1, S4, W1, W2, MA2, C1, L1 PH1, MA2,	S3, S3,	PH2, S1, S2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, AC2,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC3, MA1, C1, L1	
Objective TM03 - To work with Fáilte Ireland, the County			All SEOs			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
Wexford Tourist Board, the Arts Council and other relevant bodies including National Parks and Wildlife to promote and maximise the tourism potential of Wexford, while ensuring the protection of the natural, cultural and built heritage of the area.						
Objective TM04 - To develop and maximise the tourism potential of Wexford by facilitating the expansion of existing and the provision of new sustainable tourism products, facilities and infrastructure while ensuring the protection of the environment and subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	PH1, MA2,	S3,	AC2,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC3, MA1,C1, L1	
Objective TM05 - To support tourism product clustering with other sites and attractions in the South-East Region	PH1, MA2, AC1	S3,	AC2,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1,C1, L1	
<u>TM 06 - To support the development of conferencing facilities in appropriate locations as a means of attracting business and tourism subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</u>	PH1, MA2, AC1	S3,	AC2,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC3,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
Objective TM07 - To maintain and improve tourist routes, accesses to the County and infrastructure through the provision of attractive, useful, informative signage methods <u>with consideration of visual impacts on the landscape</u> , and by carrying out environmental improvements along tourist routes subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	PH1, MA2,	S3, PH2, AC2			MA1,C1, L1 B1, B2, B3, B4, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC3, MA1,C1, L1	
Objective TM08 - To facilitate improved access to Rosslare Europort and promote integrated access arrangement in accordance with Guidelines for Accessible Maritime Passenger Transport (Department of Transport, March 2010). Objective TM09 - To promote the integration of road, rail and maritime services in accordance with the trans-European combined transport network. Objective TM10 - To encourage the development of coastal tourism such as water sports and water related events subject to the compliance with the Coastal Zone Management objectives contained in Chapter 13, normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	PH1, MA2 PH1, MA2 PH1, MA2	S3 S3 S3	All other SEOs All other SEOs AC2		 B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC3, MA1,C1, L1	
Objective TM11 - To prohibit tourism development which would significantly diminish the amenity and economic	B1, B4, PH2,	S3, MA1, MA2	B2, B3, PH1, S1, S2, S4,			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>value of the County's coastline.</p> <p>Objective TM12 - To promote the development of marine leisure and recreation clusters at appropriate locations along the County's coastline subject to compliance with the Coastal Zone Management objectives contained in Chapter 13, normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p>	PH1, MA2	S3	W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, AC2		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC3, MA1,C1, L1	
<p>Objective TM13 - To support and facilitate the development of infrastructure associated with the inland waterways subject to compliance with Articles 6 and Article 10 of the Habitats Directive and subject to an Appropriate Assessment.</p> <p>Objective TM14 -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 the requirement to achieve good status by 2015 and that all development is undertaken in compliance with Articles 6 and Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</p>	PH1, MA2	S3	AC2		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC3, MA1,C1, L1 B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC3,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>Objective TM15 -To protect the views and vistas from waterways from inappropriate development which would detract from the amenity of the waterways.</p> <p>Objective TM16 - To improve the visual appearance of towns and villages, protect their inherent character and maximise their tourism potential by the continuance of environmental schemes, design control and the removal/improving dereliction.</p>	<p>L1, MA2, PH1</p> <p>C1, L1, S2, B4, PH1,</p>	<p>S3, AC2, AC3, PH2, B2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC1, MA1, MA2</p>	<p>All other SEOs</p> <p>B1, B3,</p>		<p>MA1,C1, L1</p>	
<p>Objective TM17 - To support the expansion of a diversified range of tourist accommodation including developments to cater for tour groups within town and village centres subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p>	<p>MA2, PH1</p>	<p>S3</p>	<p>AC2, B1, B4</p>		<p>B2, B3, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC3, MA1,C1, L1</p>	
<p>Objective TM18 - To encourage and facilitate the development of 'Craft and Design' shops in town and village centres</p> <p>Objective TM19 - To promote and facilitate the development and expansion of existing resource based rural tourism (for example open farms, bird watching and visitor centres), which is not detrimental to the character, amenity, scenic value, heritage value and environmental quality of a rural area subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development</p>	<p>MA2, PH1</p> <p>PH1, MA2</p>	<p>S3,</p> <p>S3</p>	<p>All other SEOs</p>		<p>B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1,</p>	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
management standards contained in Chapter 18.					AC2, AC3, MA1,C1, L1	
<p>Objective TM20 - To ensure that holiday home developments are located in towns and villages and that such development relates sympathetically to the scale and level of development and facilities in the locality.</p>	PH1, MA2	S3			B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1,C1, L1	
<p>Objective TM21 - To encourage the reuse and refurbishment of vernacular buildings (houses or farm/industrial buildings) for tourist related facilities, including holiday home accommodation. The development shall relate in scale to the site's characteristics and location, shall not be detrimental to the rural amenity of the surrounding area and is subject to compliance with the normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p>	PH1, MA2, S2	S3			B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1,C1, L1	
<p>Objective TM22 - To prepare a Heritage Plan to assist the development of the arts and cultural tourism industry in a sustainable manner in harmony with the urban/rural, physical and human environment.</p> <p>Objective TM23 - To work with the Heritage Council, Arts</p>			All SEOs			
			All SEOs			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
Council, Fáilte Ireland and other relevant bodies such as National Parks and Wildlife to promote and develop the arts, cultural and heritage attractions throughout the County.						
Objective TM24 - To safeguard the cultural and historic heritage of the County and facilitate the expansion and development of appropriate facilities suitably located adjacent to points of interest subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	PH1, MA2, C1	S3			B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, L1	
Objective TM25 - To support and promote the existing festivals and cultural events which take in the County and to facilitate the establishment of new events where viable.	PH1, MA2,		All other SEOs			
Objective TM26 - To promote and facilitate the development of tourist related resorts and amenities in towns and villages subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	PH1, MA2,	S3			B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1	
Objective TM27 - To consider the development <u>and the extension of existing</u> of tourist-related resorts and amenities <u>and the development of new resorts and</u>	PH1, MA2,	S3			B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
amenities outside of settlements where it is demonstrated that the development is dependent on an existing local resource or a unique site characteristic or where an overriding need is demonstrated, subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.					S1,S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1	
<p>Objective TM28 - To encourage the provision of indoor and activity based tourism facilities and events which extend the tourism season within town and villages or in rural areas subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p> <p>Objective TM29 - To (insert)generally restrict the development of new <u>camping/glamping and</u> caravan parks to built-up areas (remove)unless it can be demonstrated that the development would have limited visual impact and subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p>	PH1, MA2,	S3			B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1,S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1	
	PH1, MA2,	S3			B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1,S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1	
Objective TM30 - To promote and encourage the visual	B1, B3,	S2, S3,	B2, W2,			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>and environmental improvement of existing caravan parks and the upgrading of their associated infrastructure and facilities.</p> <p>Objective TM31 - To consider holiday home developments on the sites of existing caravan parks in association with or the replacement of existing caravans and subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p>	B4, PH1, PH2, S1, W1, MA2 PH1, MA2,	AC1, AC2, S3	AC3, MA1, L1, C1		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1	
<p>Objective TM32 -To consider small scale additions to, or the development of vacant infill plots in existing caravan parks in conjunction with environmental and infrastructural improvements. Regard should be had to Fáilte Ireland's Registration and Renewal of Registration Regulations for Caravan and Camping Parks 2009. While touring caravan sites tend to be less obtrusive than static sites, the provision of new facilities will be assessed against strict planning, design and environmental criteria. This type of development will be resisted in areas already well provided for, in the open countryside, in areas of landscape vulnerability and sensitivity and adjacent to or within Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>Objective TM33 - To facilitate the development of 'Camper Van' touring facilities at appropriate locations within towns and villages subject to compliance with normal planning</p>	PH1, MA2, PH1, MA2,	S3 S3			B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1 B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.					S1,S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1	
Objective TM34 - To prohibit the replacement of individual mobile homes and caravans in rural or urban areas except in extenuating circumstances and where permitted the planning permission will only be for a limited period.	LI, W1, W2, AC3	S3, AC2,	All Other SEOs			
Chapter 8 - Transport						
Objective T01 - To support the sustainable transport principles outlined in Smarter Travel: A Sustainable Transport Future (Department of Transport, 2009).	AC1, AC2, PH2	S3	All other SEOs			
Objective T02 - To integrate land use and transport in the development and application of land use planning objectives in a manner which reduces reliance on car-based travel and promotes more sustainable transport choices.	AC1, AC2, PH2	S3	All other SEOs			
Objective T03 - To ensure that all proposed <u>plans or</u> projects relating to transportation (including walking, cycling, rail, bus, airports, ports and roads) and any associated improvement works, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, are subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity (defined by the structure and function) of any Natura 2000 site(s) and that the requirements of Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU	B1, B2, B3, B4,	S3, MA1, MA2, PH1,	All other SEOs			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>Habitats Directive are fully satisfied. Where the plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site it shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment. The project will proceed only after it has been ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site or where in the absence of alternative solutions, the project is deemed imperative for reasons of overriding public interest, all in accordance with the provisions of Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive</p> <p>Objective T04 - To support and facilitate proposals, including infrastructure developments, which enhance the quality, frequency and speed of existing train and bus public transport services in and to/from the county and to support and facilitate the provision of new services, such as on the Rosslare Europort – Waterford and New Ross– Waterford railway lines.</p>	PH1, PH2, MA2, AC1	S3	S2, MA1		B1, B2, B3, B4, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1	
<p>Objective T05 - To support the use and zoning of land in suitable locations which facilitates public transport usage and to support the development of appropriately sited and designed facilities, such as additional stations, car and cycle parking, taxi ranks, bus parking facilities, bus shelters and bus lanes which facilitate increased public transport usage; all of which contribute to the development of integrated sustainable transport systems.</p>	PH1, MA2, PH2, AC1	S3			B1, B2, B3, B4, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1	
<p>Objective T06 - To prevent proposed development which would impede the safe operation of current and future rail services on existing operational lines and which would impede the potential future reintroduction of services on</p>	PH1, MA2, PH2, AC1	S3	ALL other SEOs			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>lines which are currently disused.</p> <p>Objective T07 - To encourage and facilitate the development of enhanced rail freight services and supporting infrastructure within the County.</p>	PH1, MA2, PH2, AC1	S3			B1, B2, B3, B4, S1,S2, S4, W1, W2, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1	
<p>Objective T08 - To promote improvements to bus and rail services and infrastructure serving County to ensure greater access for people with disabilities.</p>	PH1, MA2, PH2, AC1	S3			B1, B2, B3, B4, S1,S2, S4, W1, W2, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1	
<p>Objective T09 – To support and facilitate public transport initiatives which reduce reliance on the private car for tourist and recreational journeys within the county.</p>	PH1,PH2, AC1,AC2, MA2	S2,S3	B1,B2,B3, B4,S1,S4, MA1,W1, W2,AC3, C1,L1			
<p>Objective T10 To encourage walking and cycling by all sections of the community through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting walking and cycling as sustainable transport modes and healthy recreation activities throughout the County; 	PH1, MA2, PH2, AC1	S3	All other SEOs			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting cycling and pedestrian friendly development layouts, provide facilities at public transport nodes, towns and villages, plan for and make provision for the integration of cyclist and pedestrian needs when considering new proposed development proposals; Promoting cycling and walking facilities as integral to the provision of vehicular traffic facilities; Requiring the provision of drop kerbs at all junctions and central island refuges to facilitate ease of access for elderly and mobility restricted people; Requiring that proposed developments are sited and designed in a manner in which facilitates and encourages safe walking and cycling; Supporting the installation of infrastructure measures (for example new/wider pavements, road crossings, cycle parking facilities), retrofitted if necessary, which facilitates and encourages safe walking and cycling; Supporting the preparation of walking and cycling audits for the settlements in the County; Ensuring that the needs of walkers and cyclists are given thorough consideration in all planning documents, including Town Development Plans, Local Area Plans, Village Design Statements and Public Realm plans produced by or in conjunction with the Council; Ensuring that the needs of walkers and cyclists are given full consideration in proposals to maintain and upgrade public roads, in undertaking traffic calming 						

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
and proposals to maintain or change local speed limits in all town, village and rural locations.						
Objective T11 To support and facilitate the sustainable development of enhanced transport infrastructure at Rosslare Europort and New Ross Port , including the development of rail freight handling facilities, the development of facilities to handle more load-on load-off cargo, and the development of facilities to enable usage of Rosslare Europort by more container ships subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria, the development management standards in Chapter 18 of the Plan, and any other relevant Plans and guidance documents.	PH2, AC1, MA2	S3	MA1, AC2,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH1, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, C1, L1	
Objective T12 - To support the sustainable development of port related services and industries on lands adjacent to the ports of Rosslare Europort and New Ross, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.		All SEO's				
Objective T12 – To support and facilitate the development of enhanced transport infrastructure at Rosslare Europort and New Ross Port subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria, the development management standards contained in Chapter 18 and other relevant Plans and guidance documents. Chapters 6, 7 and 13 also include objectives supporting the County's Ports.		All SEO's				
Objective T13 - To support the on-going development of Waterford Airport and to support and facilitate proposals to	PH1, MA2,	S3	All Other SEOs			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>improve access to Waterford Airport and all other airports in the Country to and from County Wexford, in particular by public transport.</p> <p>Objective T14 - To support, facilitate and enable the sustainable development of, and improvements to, the national roads network in the County, as guided by the NRA National Roads programme.</p>	MA2,	S3, S2	W1, AC2, MA1,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH1, PH2, S1, S4, W2, AC1, AC3, C1, L1	
<p>Objective T15 - To support the development of the following national roads schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N25/N11 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour • N11 Enniscorthy Bypass • N30 Clonroche Bypass • N25 New Ross Bypass 	MA2,	S3, S2	W1, AC2, MA1,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH1, PH2, S1, S4, W2, AC1, AC3, C1, L1	
<p>Objective T16 - To implement the mitigation measures described in the Natura Impact Statement Stage 1 Screening Assessment prepared for the N11-N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour Scheme to ensure protection of the integrity of the Slaney River Valley cSAC and the Wexford Harbour and Slob SPA.</p>	B1, B2, B3, B4,	S3, AC2,	All Other SEOs			
<p>Objective T17 - To support the development of the national primary routes to a minimum dual carriageway standard.</p>	MA2,	S3, S2	W1, AC2, MA1,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH1, PH2, S1,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated S4, W2, AC1, AC3, C1, L1	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
Objective T18 - To facilitate and enable the development of national road schemes having regard to the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Spatial Planning and National Roads (NRA <u>DEHLG</u> , 2012), <u>NRA Circular 16/2011</u> and consultations with the National Roads Authority on each proposal. The Council will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally retain required lands free from development; • Require that adjacent development of sensitive uses such as housing, schools and nursing homes, are compatible with the construction and long-term operation of the road; • Ensure that development objectives, including the zoning of land, do not compromise the route selection process; Adopt a more flexible approach in accordance with the provisions of NRA Circular 16/2011, where extensions of a limited scale to existing development are proposed, and where developments are proposed on the margins of identified corridors and at locations within corridors that are removed from critical areas such crossing points with the existing road network (national and non-national) and tie-in points between existing and planned roads.	MA2, PH1	S3, S2	W1, AC2, MA1,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S4, W2, AC1, AC3, C1, L1	
Objective T19 - To prevent inappropriate development,	PH1	S3, MA1	All Other			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>land uses and zoning proposals on lands adjacent to existing national roads and national roads junctions particularly outside of settlements in order to allow for the possible future upgrade of these roads and junctions.</p> <p><u>To use an evidence based approach in the assessment of the impacts of development and zoning proposals on safety, the current and future capacity, and function of national roads and to prevent inappropriate development, land uses and zoning proposals on lands adjacent to existing national roads, which would adversely affect the safety, current and future capacity and function of national roads, having regard to possible future upgrades of the national roads and junctions.</u></p> <p>Objective T20 - To avoid the creation of any new direct access points from development or the generation of increased traffic from existing direct access/egress points to the national road network to which speed limits greater than 60kph apply. The planning authority may apply a less restrictive approach in a limited number of exceptional circumstances for access onto non-motorway sections of national roads for development in the following categories:</p> <p>(1) Developments of national and regional strategic importance which by their nature are most appropriately located outside of urban areas, and where the locations concerned have specific characteristics that make them particularly suitable for the development proposed. In considering the appropriateness of making any such exception the planning authority will also take the following</p>	PH1	S3, MA1	<p>SEOs</p> <p>All Other SEOs</p>			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>matters into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The relevance and appropriateness of the proposed development in supporting the aims and objectives of the National Spatial Strategy and the Regional Planning Guidelines for the South-East Region 2010-2022. • The requirements of other planning guidelines issued under Section 28 of the Act including the Retail Planning Guidelines (2012) which includes a general presumption against large retail centres being located adjacent or close to existing, new or planned national roads, including motorways. • The nature of the proposed development and the volume of traffic to be generated by it and any implications for the safety, capacity and efficient operation of national roads. • Any plans for future upgrades of national roads and other transport infrastructure/services. • The suitability of the location compared to alternative locations. • The pattern of existing development in the area. • The precedent that could be created for cumulative development in the area and the potential implications for the national road network. <p>(2) Developments relating to existing established large enterprises and employers on the national road network such as at Irish Country Meats (N11) and Slaney Meats (N80) which are identified on Map No. 9.</p>						

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>(3) Developments on zoned land on identified stretches of national road (see Map No. 10a, 10b, 10c and 10d relating to significant enterprises and employers, existing and potential/proposed, and development relating to other significant uses on appropriately zoned lands. These lands are zoned under Enniscorthy Town and Environs Development Plan 2008-2014 (Map No. 10a), New Ross Town and Environs Development Plan 2011-2017 (Map No. 10b), Bunclody Local Area Plan 2009-2015 (Map No. 10c) and Clonroche Local Area Plan 2009 (Map No. 10d). In identifying the sections of road to which this exception applies the planning authority has had regard to the fact that the stretches of road identified in the Enniscorthy, New Ross and Clonroche plans are on sections of road which are to be by-passed.</p> <p>The planning authority will carry out further detailed evidenced-based assessment of the lands when these plans are being reviewed with a view to demonstrating that any necessary exceptions can be accommodated without compromising the safety capacity and efficiency of the national road network.</p> <p>In any case, and in particular in the case where applications may be submitted in advance of the review of these plans, the applicant will be responsible for preparing a Road Safety Audit, prepared in accordance with the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (NRA, 2010) where</p>						

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>appropriate, and a Transport and Traffic Assessment and the planning authority will use the evidence provided together with available data to establish an evidence base which demonstrates that any proposed development will not compromise the safety, capacity and efficiency of the national road network</p> <p>The Council will also review the speed limits in areas where existing employers or zoned land exists with the intention of reducing, where appropriate, the speed limits and subject to the appropriate statutory process.</p> <p>(4) Intensification of use of existing accesses onto the national road network where there is an existing development (for example at St Senan's Hospital) but that such intensification would not result in a material intensification such that the proposed development would compromise the safety, capacity and efficiency of the national road network.</p> <p>In all four categories such exceptional circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It must be demonstrated by the applicant that the development is compliant with proper planning and sustainable development, that there is no alternative access/egress point available other than to the national road network at a location where a speed limit greater than 60kph applies and that the envisaged usage of the access/egress point will not compromise the safety, capacity and efficient operation of national roads. 						

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant will be responsible for preparing a Road Safety Audit, prepared in accordance with the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (NRA, 2010) where appropriate and a Transport and Traffic Assessment. The planning authority will use the evidence provided together with available data to establish an evidence base which demonstrates that any proposed development will not compromise the safety capacity and efficiency of the national road network. The applicant will be required to provide satisfactory details of proposed demand management measures. The applicant will be required to provide the appropriate funding to provide any capacity enhancements or traffic management measures identified as required. <p>The development will be subject to the development management standards outlined in Chapter 18</p> <p>Objective T21 To facilitate a limited level of new accesses or the intensified use of existing accesses to the national road network on the approaches to or exit from urban centres that are subject to a speed limit zone between 50kph and 60kph - otherwise known as the transition zone. Such accesses will be considered where they facilitate orderly urban development and would not result in a proliferation of such entrances, leading to a diminution in the role of these transitional zones. The Council will have regard to the nature of the proposed development and the volume of</p>	PH1	S3, MA1	All Other SEOs			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>traffic to be generated by it and the implications for the safety, capacity and efficient operation of the national road. A Road Safety Audit, prepared in accordance with the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (NRA, 2010), shall be submitted where appropriate. The development must be compliant with proper planning and sustainable development and will be subject to the development management standards outlined in Chapter 18.</p>						
<p>Objective T22 To facilitate new accesses or the intensified use of existing accesses to the national road network within the 50kph zone in accordance with normal road safety, traffic management and urban design criteria for built up areas. A Road Safety Audit, prepared in accordance with the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (NRA, 2010), shall be submitted where appropriate. The development must be compliant with proper planning and sustainable development and will be subject to the development management standards outlined in Chapter 18.</p>	PH1	S3, MA1	All Other SEOs			
<p>Objective T23 - To require that a Traffic and Transportation Assessment (TTA) is undertaken for larger proposed developments in order to assess the implications for the capacity and efficient operation of national roads and to ensure that the national road links and junctions in the vicinity of the development are adequate to accommodate the proposed development without causing additional delays to existing and future road based traffic.</p>	PH1	S3, MA1	All SEOs			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>The TTA shall be prepared having regard to the Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines (NRA, 2007) and the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Spatial Planning and National Roads (DECLG, 2012). The Council will have regard to the threshold and sub-threshold guidance within the Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines in the determination of whether a TTA is required. The TTA should include a Mobility Management Plan which promotes sustainable travel.</p> <p>Objective T24 - To require that a Road Safety Audit (RSA) be undertaken for development proposals which require new or significant changes to an existing access/egress point to a national road in order to fully assess implications for safety on national roads. The RSA shall be prepared in accordance with the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (NRA, 2010).</p>		S3	All SEOs			
<p>Objective T25 - To control the signage on and adjoining national roads in accordance with the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Spatial Planning and National Roads (DECLG) and the National Roads Authority's policy statement on the Provision of Tourist and Leisure Signage on National Roads (March 2011) and any updated versions of these documents.</p>	L1	S3, MA1	All Other SEOs			
<p>Objective T26 - To manage and maintain the regional road network in the County in a manner which safeguards the strategic function of regional roads.</p>	MA2, PH1	S3, S2	W1, AC2, MA1,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S4, W2, AC1, AC3, C1,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated L1	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>Objective T27 - To prevent new or the significant intensification of existing, access/egress points from/to Class I Regional Roads. This objective will not apply in the following locations and circumstances but only in locations and for developments which will not give rise to public safety hazards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within the development boundaries/built up areas of towns, villages or other settlements where a speed limit of 50 – 60 k.p.h. applies and where a safe access, avoiding undue proliferation of access points, can be achieved. • Farmers and their sons or daughters proposing to build a dwelling house for their own use provided that a need for that dwelling has been clearly established and where there is no suitable alternative access possible from the family landholding onto a local road. • The sub-division of dwelling house sites to provide a dwelling for the use of a son or daughter of the original site owner, where a need for that dwelling has been clearly established and where there is no suitable alternative access possible from the family landholding onto a local road. Proposals for granny flat type developments at such properties will be considered on their merits having regard to the characteristics of the site and the anticipated level of intensification of use of existing access point. • For developments of a commercial nature, where a clear need for the development is established, 		ALL SEOs				

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>which could not be met in other locations, and where there is no suitable alternative access to a local road possible. The Council will have regard to the likely number and type of traffic movements associated with proposed development in the assessment of such proposals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The above criteria also apply where a shared access/egress from/to the Class 1 regional road is proposed (including with an existing access) and where access/egress from/to the Class 1 regional road is proposed via a private lane. 						
<p>Objective T28 - To control new and significant intensification of existing, access/egress points from/to non-class 1 regional roads except for circumstances where a need for the development at that location has been clearly established and where there is no suitable alternative access possible onto a local road. This shall also apply where a shared access to the non- class 1 regional road is proposed and where access to the non-class 1 regional road is proposed via a private lane.</p> <p>Objective T29 - To promote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of inner relief routes which may have regional road status, for traffic in Gorey Town, Wexford Town, New Ross Town and Enniscorthy Town to include possible new river crossings in Wexford and New Ross The upgrade of the R700 which provides an important link between Counties Wexford and Kilkenny. 	MA2, PH1	All SEOs S3, S2	W1, AC2, MA1,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S4, W2, AC1, AC3, C1, L1	
<p>Objective T30 - To manage and maintain local roads in the</p>		S3, MA1,	All other			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
County having regard to their important function, as resources allow. Objective T31 - To facilitate access proposals to local roads on a site by site basis having regard to the characteristics of the site and the road where access is proposed.		C1, L1, AC3, S1, S2, S4 S3, MA1, C1, L1, AC3, S1, S2, S4	SEOs All other SEOs			
Objective T32 - To promote and encourage road safety having regard to the National Roads Safety Strategy (RSA, 2007) and to exercise its functions with regard to the maintenance and improvement of all regional and local roads in a manner which has regard to the safety of all potential users of those roads including agricultural vehicles, cyclists, pedestrians and public transport and to protect the biodiversity and amenity value of roadside landscaping.			All SEOs			
Objective T33 - To assess the detailed siting and design of proposals for new or intensified use of existing accesses to roads on their merits having regard to the objectives of this chapter and the development managements standards contained in Chapter 18.			All SEOs			
Objective T34 - To restrict development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where the local roads network is deficient including considerations of capacity, width, alignment, surface or structural condition Which would create serious traffic congestion Which would unduly obstruct other road users A Traffic and Transport Assessment (TTA) with a Mobility	B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, C1, L1	S2, S3, AC1, AC2, MA1, MA2			PH1,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>Management Plan may be sought for proposed developments affecting non-national roads with regard to this objective</p> <p>Objective T35 - To undertake traffic management schemes, which may include reductions in speed limits and/or other measures, with a view to enhancing safety for all road users, where considered appropriate to do so and as resources allow.</p> <p>Objective T36 - To restrict advertising or lighting proposals in the proximity of roads having due regard to safety and amenity issues and the development management standards in Chapter 18 of the Plan.</p> <p>Objective T37 - To support and facilitate the provision of charging points for electric vehicles</p>			All SEOs			
	PH1, PH2,	All other SEOs				
	B1, PH1, PH2, AC1, AC2,	B2, B3, B4, S1, S2, S3, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, MA2, C1, L1	All SEOs			
<p>Objective T38 - To ensure that traffic noise levels are considered in the assessment of all significant development proposals. This assessment will have regard to noise maps for national and major non-national roads to be prepared by the NRA and the Council further to Environmental Noise Regulation S.I. No. 140 of 2006.</p> <p>Objective T39 To consider proposals for petrol filling stations / service stations/ truck parking facilities subject to compliance with the following general principles and the design standards</p>		S3	PH1, S2, AC2, MA1, MA2		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S4, W1,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated W2, AC1, AC3, C1, L1	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>contained in the development management standards in Chapter 18 of the Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Such developments at or near national roads shall be assessed having regard to NRA Guidance contained Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities (NRA, 2012). The provision of such facilities on those sections of regional roads and local roads where the maximum speed limit applies will generally be discouraged, unless an overriding need for the development in that location is clearly demonstrated. The proposed development would not result in traffic safety hazards, serious traffic congestion, or the undue obstruction of other road users. The proposed development would not result in adverse impacts on the environment and local amenities. The proposed development would not result in an undue proliferation of such facilities. The proposed development would not undermine the vitality of retail services in local villages in contravention of the Retail objectives of this Plan. The proposed development shall not contravene other objectives of this Plan. 						
<p>Objective T40 To retain, maintain and provide appropriately sited and designed parking facilities for cars, buses, motorcycles and cycles where required and as resources allow.</p>	PH1	S2, S3, AC1, AC2, MA1, MA2	PH2, W1,		B1, B2, B3, B4, S1, S4, W2, AC3,C1,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated L1	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
Objective T41 To require developments to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide adequate, well designed and safe parking and waiting provision for private cars, taxis, buses, motorbikes and cycles, which meets the development management standards in Chapter 18, and which has regard to the promotion of good urban and rural design and the safety of all road users and facilitates access by walking, cycling and public transport. • Provide adequate arrangements for servicing and deliveries which meet best practice standards having regard to the need to promote good urban and rural design and to protect public safety. 	PH1, MA2		All other SEOs			
Chapter 9 - Infrastructure						
Objective WS01 - To protect existing and potential water resources for the County, in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), the South-East River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 and any updated version, the Pollution Reduction Programmes for designated shellfish waters, the provisions of the Groundwater Protection Scheme for the County and any other protection plans for water supply sources. Objective WS02 - To ensure drinking water supplied by the public water network complies with the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations 2007.	W1, PH2, B1, S1 W1, MA2, PH2	B4, S2, S3, S4, AC2, AC3, C1, L1 B4, S2, S3, C1, L1, AC2, S4, AC1	W2, PH1, B2, B3, AC1, MA1, MA2, MA1, PH1, B1, B2, B3, S1, AC3			
Objective WS03 - To ensure that all proposed future public	B1, B2,	S2, S3, S4,	PH1, PH2,			

Objective T41

To require developments to:

- Provide adequate, well designed and safe parking and waiting provision for private cars, taxis, buses, motorbikes and cycles, which meets the development management standards in Chapter 18, and which has regard to the promotion of good urban and rural design and the safety of all road users and facilitates access by walking, cycling and public transport.
- Provide adequate arrangements for servicing and deliveries which meet best practice standards having regard to the need to promote good urban and rural design and to protect public safety.

Chapter 9 - Infrastructure

Objective WS01 - To protect existing and potential water resources for the County, in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), the South-East River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 and any updated version, the Pollution Reduction Programmes for designated shellfish waters, the provisions of the Groundwater Protection Scheme for the County and any other protection plans for water supply sources.

Objective WS02 - To ensure drinking water supplied by the public water network complies with the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations 2007.

Objective WS03 - To ensure that all proposed future public

Likely to improve

PH1, MA2

No likely interaction

Neutral interaction

All other SEO's

Uncertain interaction

Potential conflict likely to be mitigated L1

**Probable
Conflict
unlikely
to be
mitigated**

W1,PH2,
B1,S1

B4, S2, S3,
S4, AC2,
AC3, C1, L1

W2, PH1, B2,
B3, AC1,
MA1, MA2,

W1,
MA2, PH2

B4, S2, S3,
C1, L1,
AC2, S4,
AC1

MA1, PH1,
B1, B2, B3,
S1, AC3

B1, B2,

S2,S3, S4,

PH1, PH2,

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
water abstractions within the plan area are screened for Appropriate Assessment of its potential impact on the Natura 2000 network, in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive	B3, B4, AC3	AC1, AC2, C1, L1	S1, W1, W2 MA1, MA2			
Objective WS04 - a) To provide water treatment facilities in accordance with statutory obligations as set out by EU and national policy and subject to the development management standards outlined in Chapter 18. b) To facilitate future development while protecting the environment. c) To maintain and provide a safe and secure potable water supply in settlements to the extent that finances permit, having regard to the requirement to align water services investment with the settlement strategy and areas where serious deficiencies are evident. d) To facilitate Wexford County Council's Water Services Investment Programme and Water Services Assessment of Needs to provide sufficient storage, supply and pressure of potable water to serve all lands zoned for development and in accordance with the priorities as set out in the settlement hierarchy.	B1, B2, B3, PH1, PH2, S1, W1, W2, MA1, MA2,	B4, S2, S3, AC1, AC2, AC3, C1, L1	S4			
Objective WS05 - To ensure the delivery of an adequate and reliable public water supply which serves the domestic, commercial and industrial needs of the County.	MA2, PH1, W1,	C1, L1, S3, AC1, MA1, AC3	S2, S1, W2, AC2, PH2		B1, B2, B3, S4, B4	MA2, PH1, W1,
Objective WS06 - Where connection to an existing public	MA2, B2,	C1, L1, B4,	PH1, PH2,			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>water supply is not possible or the existing supply system does not have sufficient capacity, the provision of a private water supply will be considered where it can be demonstrated that the proposed water supply meets the standards set out in EU and national legislation and guidance, would not be prejudicial to public health or would not impact on the source of an existing supply or cumulatively on the Natura 2000 network.</p> <p>Objective WS07 - To provide sufficient water storage, supply and pressure of potable water to serve all lands zoned for development in the County and in accordance with the hierarchy of settlements as set out in Settlement Strategy.</p> <p>Objective WS08 - To facilitate measures to secure the delivery of the Water Services Investment Programme for the County.</p> <p>Objective WC01 - To improve efficiency in the operation and demand management of the water supply infrastructure, promote water conservation and reduce the overall level of water loss in the public water supply.</p>	<p>B3, W1</p> <p>W1, MA2, PH1</p> <p>MA2, PH1, AC2</p> <p>MA2, PH1, AC2</p>	<p>S3, S4, AC1, AC2</p> <p>AC1, AC2, AC3, L1, C1, S1, B4, S3, S4</p> <p>L1, C1, MA1, AC1, B1, B2, B3, B4, S1, S3, S4</p> <p>L1, C1, MA1, AC1, B1, B2, B3, B4, S1, S3, S4</p>	<p>B1, S1, S2, W2, AC3, MA1</p> <p>S2, MA1, B2, B3, PH2, W2,</p> <p>AC3, PH2, S2, W1, W2,</p> <p>AC3, PH2, S2, W1, W2,</p>		<p>B1</p>	
<p>Objective WC02 - To support and promote the use of water conservation measures in new developments, for example, rainwater harvesting systems.</p> <p>Objective WC03 - <u>To continue the commitment to water conservation and leakage reduction for drinking water</u></p>	<p>AC2</p> <p>W1, MA2</p>	<p>S3, S4, L1, C1, AC3, AC1, S2, S1, B2, B3</p> <p>All other SEOs</p>	<p>B1, MA2, MA1, W2, W1, PH2, PH1, B4</p>			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p><u>systems within the County area, and promote awareness of water conservation measures and techniques.</u></p> <p>Objective WW01 - To ensure that all wastewater generated is collected, treated and discharged after treatment in a safe and sustainable manner, having regard to the standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation and guidance and subject to complying with the provisions and objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive, relevant River Basin Management Plan, relevant Pollution Reduction Programmes for Shellfish Waters, Urban Wastewater Water Directive and the Habitats Directive</p> <p>Objective WW02 - To provide, subject to funding, adequate wastewater facilities to serve the existing and future needs of populations in the towns and villages identified in the Settlement Hierarchy subject to complying with the provisions and objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive, relevant River Basin Management Plan, relevant Pollution Reduction Programmes for Shellfish Waters, Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and the Habitats Directive.</p>	<p>PH2, MA1</p> <p>MA2, MA1, PH1, S1, PH2</p>	<p>L1, C1, S3, S4, B4, AC1, AC2, AC3,</p> <p>L1, C1, AC3, AC2, AC1, S4, S3, B4</p>	<p>MA2, W2, S2, PH1,</p> <p>W2, S2</p>		<p>B1, B2, B3, W1, S1,</p> <p>B1, B2, B3, W1,</p>	
<p>Objective WW03 -</p> <p>a) <u>To facilitate the provision and improvement of adequate wastewater services in order to serve the existing and future needs of the populations of towns, villages and settlements as identified in the settlement hierarchy and Core Strategy and as determined by the Water Services Assessment of Needs and as finances permit</u></p>	<p>B1, B2, B3, PH1, PH2, S1, W1, W2, MA1, MA2,</p>	<p>B4, S2, S3, AC1, AC2, AC3, C1, L1</p>	<p>S4</p>			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p><u>and in accordance with the Water Framework Directive 2000 and the EU Urban Wastewater Directive and Habitats Directive;</u></p> <p>b) <u>To develop, where necessary, and in line with the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy, additional capacity of existing treatment plants to meet the requirements of future development proposals;</u></p> <p>c) <u>To ensure that all foul water generated is collected and discharged after treatment in a safe and sustainable manner, having regard to the standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation.</u></p> <p>Objective WW04 - To consider the provision of private wastewater treatment facilities to serve commercial/employment generating developments where it is demonstrated that the proposed wastewater treatment system will meet all the relevant environmental criteria of the EPA and the Planning Authority, and subject to complying with the provisions and objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive, relevant River Basin Management Plan, relevant Pollution Reduction Programmes for Shellfish Waters and the Habitats Directive. An annual renewed contract for the management and maintenance of the system contracted to a reputable company/person will be required; details of which shall be submitted to the Planning Authority</p> <p>Objective WW05 - To consider the provision of communal private wastewater treatment facilities where appropriate to serve developments in Strong Villages, Smaller Villages</p>	<p>MA2, MA1, PH1</p> <p>MA2, MA1, PH1</p>	<p>B4, S4, S2, S3, AC3, AC2, AC1, L1, C1</p> <p>B4, S4, S2, S3, AC3, AC2, AC1,</p>	<p>W2</p> <p>W2</p>		<p>B1, B2, B3, W1, S1, PH2</p> <p>B1, B2, B3, W1, S1, PH2</p>	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
and Rural Settlements only where it demonstrated that the proposed wastewater treatment system will meet all the relevant environmental criteria of the EPA and the Planning Authority and subject to complying with the provisions and objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive, relevant River Basin Management Plan, relevant Pollution Reduction Programmes for Shellfish Waters and the Habitats Directive. An annual renewed contract for the management and maintenance of the system contracted to a reputable company/person will be required; details of which shall be submitted to the Planning Authority.		L1, C1				
<p>Objective WW06 - To permit the provision of private wastewater treatment facilities to serve a single dwelling house only where it demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority that the proposed wastewater treatment system is in accordance with the Code of Practice: Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (EPA, 2009) and subject to complying with the provisions and objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive, relevant River Basin Management Plan, relevant Pollution Reduction Programmes for Shellfish Waters and the Habitats Directive. An annual renewed contract for the management and maintenance of the system contracted to a reputable company/person will be required; details of which shall be submitted to the Planning Authority.</p> <p>Objective WW07 - To work with relevant agencies and to assist in the research and development of new sustainable effluent treatment systems including zero discharge systems such as Willow Beds or Reed Beds.</p>	MA2, MA1, PH1	B4, S4, S2, S3, AC3, AC2, AC1, L1, C1	W2		B1, B2, B3, W1, S1, PH2	
	W1, W2		ALL other SEOs			
Objective WW08 - To examine the feasibility of connecting	MA2		All other			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>unsewered areas, including individual properties and premises served by on-site wastewater treatment facilities, to existing and planned sewer networks.</p> <p>Objective SWM01 - To promote storm water retention facilities for new developments and to incorporate design solutions that provide for collection and recycling of surface water in accordance with Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems.</p> <p>Objective SWM02 - To ensure that all storm water generated in a new development is disposed of on-site or is attenuated and treated prior to discharge to an approved storm water system.</p> <p>Objective SWM03 - The discharge of surface water run-off and rainwater into foul water sewage drainage systems will not be permitted.</p> <p>Objectives SWM04 - To require the separation of foul and surface water discharges in new developments through the provision by the developer of separate networks.</p>	<p>W1, W2,</p> <p>W1, W2</p> <p>W1, MA2, PH2, S1</p> <p>W1, MA2</p>	<p>B1, B4, S3, S2, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1, S4</p>	<p>SEOs</p> <p>All other SEOs</p> <p>All other SEOs</p> <p>B2, B3, PH1</p> <p>All other SEOs</p>			
Objective TCO1 - To facilitate the delivery of high-capacity telecommunications infrastructure at appropriate locations throughout the County subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	MA2	S3, S2, AC1, AC3	W1, W2, AC2, MA1		B4, PH1, S4, C1, L1, B1, B2, B3, PH2, S1	
Objective TC02 - To have regard to Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (Department of the Environment and Local			All SEOs			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas within or adjoining the curtilage of protected structures Areas on or within the setting of archaeological sites Within or adjacent to Natura 2000 sites <p>The Council may consider an exemption to this objective where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An overriding technical need for the equipment has been demonstrated and which cannot be met by the sharing of existing authorised equipment in the area, and The equipment is of a scale and is sited, designed and landscaped in a manner which minimises adverse visual impacts on the subject landscape unit. 						
Objective TC07 - To ensure the location of telecommunications structures minimise and/or mitigate any adverse impacts on communities, the natural and built environment and public rights of way.	PH1, PH2, L1, C1		All other SEOs			
Objective BB01 - To encourage and facilitate the co-ordinated development and extension of broadband infrastructure throughout the County, <u>in particular in the Hub, larger towns and District Towns, by state or private operators</u> as a means for improving economic competitiveness and social inclusion subject to <u>compliance with</u> normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18. Objective BB02 - To support the rollout of the National	PH1, MA2		L1, MA2, AC1, AC2, AC3, W1, W2, PH2, B1, B2, B3, B4 All SEOs		C1,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
Broadband Scheme, the Rural Broadband Scheme and the Broadband to School Scheme in conjunction with the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.						
Objective BB03 - To ensure that ducting for broadband fibre connections is provided during the installation of services, in all new commercial and housing schemes and during the carrying out of any work to roads or rail lines	PH1, MA2		L1, MA2, AC1, AC2, AC3, W1, W2, PH2, B1, B2, B3, B4		C1,	
Objective BB04 - To encourage the provision of WiFi zones in public buildings.	MA2, PH1	MA1, C1, L1, AC3, AC1, W2, W1, S4, S3, S2, S1, PH2, B4, B3, B2, B1	AC2			
Chapter 10 – Environmental Management						
Objective WQ01 - To protect existing and potential water resources for the County, in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), <u>Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC)</u> the South-East River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 and any updated version, the East River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 and any updated version, the Pollution Reduction Programmes for designated shellfish waters, the provisions of Groundwater Protection Scheme for the County and any other protection plans for water supply sources, <u>with an aim to improving all water quality.</u>	W1, B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, MA2	S2, S3, S4, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1	W2, PH1, S1			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
Objective WQ02 - To promote compliance with the requirements of the European Communities (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 and the European Communities (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 and any other relevant legislation.	W1, B1,B4 , PH2, MA2	S2, S3, S4, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1	W2,B2, B3, PH1, S1,			
Objective WQ03 - To continue to improve water quality by implementing the measures outlined in the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) and the national Nitrates Action Programme.	W1, B1,B4 , PH2, MA2	S2, S3, S4, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1	W2,B2, B3, PH1, S1,			
Objective WQ04 - To ensure that developments permitted comply with the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive, the relevant River Basin Management Plans and the Habitats Directive.	W1, B1,B4 , PH2, MA2	S2, S3, S4, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1	W2, B2, B3, PH1, S1,			
Objective WQ05 - To ensure that development permitted would not have an unacceptable impact on water quality and quantity, including surface water, ground water, designated source protection areas, river corridors and associated wetlands, estuarine waters, coastal and transitional waters.	W1, B1,B4 , PH2, MA2	S2, S3, S4, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1	W2, B2, B3, PH1, S1,			
Objective AQ01 - To have regard to the Air Quality Standards Regulation 2011 (S.I. No. 180 of 2011) when assessing planning applications for development which may have effects on air quality.	PH2, AC1,		All other SEOS			
Objective AQ02 - To encourage sustainable industrial developments by promoting the use of cleaner technologies and production techniques, reducing waste production, conservation and recycling of materials.	S3, PH2, AC1, AC2		All other SEOs			
Objective AQ03 - To manage development to provide the efficient use of land and infrastructure, thereby controlling	PH2, S1,		All other SEOs			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
and limiting air emissions. Objective AQ04 - To require the submission of measures to prevent and reduce dust and airborne particulate emissions for activities that may have a negative effect on air quality. Objective AQ05 - To encourage a modal change from private car use towards other types of travel and to promote the use of public transport as a means of reducing vehicle emissions and improving air quality.	PH2, AC1, PH2, AC1, PH1		All other SEOs All other SEOs			
Objective N01 - To have regard to the provisions of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acts 1992 and 2003 and the Environmental Protection Agency Noise Regulations 1994 when assessing planning applications.			All SEOs			
Objective N02 - To regulate and control activities likely to give rise to excessive noise, other than those activities which are regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency. Objective N03 - To ensure new development does not cause an unacceptable increase in noise levels affecting noise sensitive properties. Proposals for new development with the potential to create excessive noise will be required to submit a construction and/or operation management plan to control such emissions. Objective N04 - To require activities likely to give rise to excessive noise to install noise mitigation measures and monitors. The provision of a noise audit may be required where appropriate.	PH2 PH2 PH2		All other SEOs All other SEOs All other SEOs			
Objective N05 - To ensure that relevant planning applications comply with the provisions of any Noise Action Plan or noise maps relating to the area.	PH2		All other SEOs			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
Objective L01 - To require developments providing external lighting, to clearly demonstrate that the lighting scheme is the minimum needed for security and working purposes.	PH2		All other SEOs			
Objective L02 - To ensure that external lighting and lighting schemes are designed so that light spillage is minimised, thereby protecting the amenities of nearby properties and wildlife, including protected species.	PH2		All other SEOs			
Objective WM01 - To implement the provisions of the Joint Waste Management Plan for the South-East Region 2006-2011, and any updated version published during the lifetime of the Plan, subject to compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.	S3, S1		All other SEOs			
Objective WM02 - To increase public awareness of the importance of waste management, in particular prevention and minimisation of waste. The Council will encourage local communities, schools and businesses to become involved in environmental awareness activities and community based recycling or environmental management initiatives that will lead to local sustainable waste management practices.	S3		All other SEOs			
Objective WM03 - To implement the National Waste Prevention Programme and any update version published during the lifetime of the Plan. The Council will continue to support initiatives such as the 'Green Business Initiative' and the 'Green Schools Programme' which promote waste prevention in businesses and schools	S3		All other SEOs			
Objective WM04 - To encourage the development of waste minimisation strategies for domestic, commercial and industrial waste.	S3		All other SEOs			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>Objective WM05 - To support the development of appropriately sited waste recycling and recovery facilities, such as bring centres, civic amenity centres, waste transfer stations, waste material facilities and authorised treatment facilities for end-of-life vehicles as a means of facilitating a reduction in the quantity of waste that goes to landfill disposal sites subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the relevant development management standards set out in Chapter 18.</p> <p>Objective WM06 - To ensure hazardous household waste is disposed off in accordance with the provisions of the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2008-2012, and any updated version published during the lifetime of the Plan, subject to compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p>	<p>S3</p> <p>S1, S3</p>		<p>All other SEOs</p> <p>All Other SEOs</p>			
<p>Objective WM07 - To encourage and facilitate the development of new alternatives and technological advances in relation to waste management such as Organic Waste to Energy/Combined Heat and Power schemes subject to the criteria for location of waste management facilities contained in Section 10.6.3 above and compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p> <p>Objective WM08 - To support the provision of infrastructure for composting and other forms of recycling for bio-waste subject to the criteria for location of waste management facilities contained in Section 10.6.3 above and compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards</p>	<p>S1, S3, AC2</p> <p>S1, S3</p>	<p>S2, MA1, MA2</p>	<p>All other SEOs</p> <p>PH1, AC1, AC2,</p>		<p>B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, C1, L1</p>	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>contained in Chapter 18.</p> <p>Objective WM09 - To encourage the development of Construction and Demolition waste recycling facilities at appropriate sites subject to complying with normal planning and environmental criteria and the relevant development management standards set out in Chapter 18.</p>	S1, S3	S2, MA1, MA2	PH1, AC1, AC2		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, C1, L1	
<p>Objective WM10 - To promote the recycling and reuse of aggregates from Construction and Demolition waste.</p> <p>Objective WM11 - To ensure the disposal of agricultural waste is carried in a safe manner and in compliance with the Nitrates Directive, European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations, 2009 (S.I. No. 101 of 2009), the European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 610 of 2010), the Habitats Directive and any other relevant statutory provisions.</p> <p>Objective WM12 - To have regard to the Sludge Management Plan for the County 2001-2020 and any updated version published during the lifetime of the Plan, subject to compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p>	S1, S3	MA1, MA2, C1, L1	<p>All other SEOs</p> <p>PH1, S2, S3, S4, AC1, AC2, AC3,</p> <p>All SEOs</p>		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, C1, L1, S1,	
<p>Objective LM01 - To implement the provision of the “Litter Management Plan 2010-2013 for County Wexford” and any updated version of the Plan.</p> <p>Objective HL01 - To carefully consider the land use and proposals for developments within 250 metres of identified historic landfill sites in accordance with the provisions of the document Protection of New Buildings and Occupants</p>	<p>PH1, S3</p> <p>PH2</p>		<p>All other SEOs</p> <p>All other SEOs</p>			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>from Landfill Gas (Department of the Environment and Local Government, 1994) and any subsequent updated version of this document .</p> <p>Objective HL02 - To implement remediation plans for the identified historic landfills in the County.</p> <p>Objective BG01 - To provide and facilitate burial grounds, or extensions to existing burial grounds, at appropriate locations throughout the County subject to complying with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p>	<p>PH1</p> <p>PH1,</p>	<p>S2, S3, AC1, AC2,MA1, MA2 ,</p>	<p>ALL other SEOs</p> <p>L1</p>		<p>B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, C1</p>	
<p>Objective BG02 - To ensure that burial grounds throughout the County are managed and maintained in a manner that respects their associated culture and heritage.</p> <p>Objective CM01 - To consider the provision of human crematorium and associated facilities including a chapel/funeral service home at appropriate locations in the County subject to complying with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p> <p>Objective COMAH01 - To control the following for the purposes of reducing the risk or limiting the consequences of a major accident (regard will be had to the provisions of the Major Accidents Directive and any regulations, under any enactment, giving effect to that Directive):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The siting of Major Accident Hazard sites • The modification of an existing Major Accident Hazard site • Development in the vicinity of a Major Accident 	<p>C1</p> <p>PH1,</p> <p>PH1, PH2</p>	<p>S2, S3, AC1, AC2,MA1, MA2 ,</p>	<p>All other SEOs</p> <p>L1</p> <p>All SEOs</p>		<p>B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, C1</p>	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
Hazard site as specified in the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).						
Objective COMAH02 - To consult with and have regard to the technical advice of the Health and Safety Authority when preparing Development Plans and Local Area Plans and assessing planning applications where the Major Accidents Directive and any associated regulations are relevant.			ALL SEOs			
Chapter 11 - Energy						
Objective EN01 - To facilitate the achievement of a secure and efficient energy supply and storage for County Wexford.	PH1, MA2		All other SEOs			
Objective EN02 - To promote County Wexford as a low carbon County by 2019 as a means of attracting inward investment and to facilitate the development of energy sources which will achieve low carbon outputs.	PH1, MA2, AC2		ALL other SEOs			
Objective EN03 <u>To raise awareness of the need to reverse fossil fuel dependency, to mitigate the effects of peak oil and reduce carbon emissions, to mitigate the effects of climate change.</u>	PH1, PH2, AC1, AC2,	All other SEOs				
Objective EN04 - To facilitate the provision of and improvements to energy networks in principle, provided that it can be demonstrated that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development is required in order to facilitate the provision or retention of significant economic or social infrastructure The route proposed has been identified with due consideration for social, environmental and cultural impacts 	PH1, MA2	S2, S3, MA1,	S1, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S4, C1, L1	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The design is such that will achieve least environmental impact consistent with not incurring excessive cost Where impacts are inevitable mitigation features have been included Proposals for energy infrastructure should be assessed in accordance with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. 						
Objective EN05 - To support the extension of the gas network to County Wexford, subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	MA2	S2, S3, AC1, MA1	AC2		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH1, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, C1, L1	
Objective EN06 - To support the development of appropriately located gas fired peaking plants with a capacity of between 50-100 MW, subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18. Objective EN07 - To encourage and favourably consider proposals for renewable energy developments and ancillary facilities in order to meet national, regional and county renewable energy targets and to facilitate a reduction in CO ₂ emissions and the promotion of a low carbon economy, subject to development management standards and compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats	AC2	S2, S3, AC1, MA1, MA2 S2, S3, AC1, MA1, MA2	AC2		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH1, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, C1, L1 B1, B2, B3, B4, PH1, PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>Directive.</p> <p>Objective EN08 - To support and assist Wexford County Development Board in implementing the measures contained in Positioning Wexford for the Upturn: Towards Sustainable Growth and Development (Wexford County Development Board, 2010) in relation to developing a sustainable energy supply and promoting County Wexford as a 'Green County.'</p> <p>Objective EN09 - To support the development of Sustainable Energy Zones initially at Johnstown Castle, Drinagh and Rosslare Europort with other zones to follow throughout the County in accordance with <u>Guidelines for a Sustainable Energy Community (SEAI, 2011)</u> the Council's document Job Creation from the Generation and Utilisation of Energy from Renewable Energy Resources (Wexford County Council, 2010).</p>	AC2		<p>ALL SEOs</p> <p>ALL SEOs</p>		C1, L1	
Objective EN10 - To prepare a Renewable Energy Strategy for County Wexford during the lifetime of the Plan which will build on and support the Wind Energy Strategy 2013-2019, any Climate Change Strategy prepared for the County and the National Renewable Energy Action Plan (Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, 2010).	AC2		ALL SEOs			
Objective EN11 - To promote and facilitate wind energy development in accordance with Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Wind Energy Development (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2006) and the Wind Energy Strategy which forms part of this Plan, subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management	AC1, AC2	S3, MA1, MA2,	S1, S2, W1, W2, AC3		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH1, PH2, S4, C1, L1	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
standards contained in Chapter 18.						
Objective EN12 - To support and encourage the development of the bioenergy sector and facilitate its development for energy production, heat storage and distribution, subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	AC1, AC2	S3, MA1, MA2,	S1, S2, W1, W2, AC3		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH1, PH2, S4, C1, L1	
Objective EN13 - To support and assist in the implementation of the South-East Region Bioenergy Implementation Plan 2008-2013 through the planning process, subject to compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.	AC1, AC2	S3, MA1, MA2,	S1, S2, W1, W2, AC3		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH1, PH2, S4, C1, L1	
Objective EN14 - To encourage the development of anaerobic digesters and biofuel processing plants, subject to the criteria for renewable energies, energy crops and sustainable construction in Chapter 6 and compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	AC1, AC2	S3, MA1, MA2,	S1, S2, W1, W2, AC3		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH1, PH2, S4, C1, L1	
Objective EN15 - To facilitate the development of Organic Waste to Energy/Combined Heat and Power schemes, subject to the criteria for location of waste management facilities contained in Chapter 10 and compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	AC1, AC2, S3	MA1, MA2,	S1, S2, W1, W2, AC3		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH1, PH2, S4, C1, L1	
Objective EN16 - To support and encourage the development of Biomass District Heating and facilitate its development for energy production, heat storage and distribution, subject to compliance with normal planning	AC1, AC2, MA2, PH1, PH2	S3, MA1,	S1, S2, W1, W2, AC3, L1		B1, B2, B3, B4, S4, C1,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.						
Objective EN17 - To support the development of feasibility studies which examine the tidal energy resource off Tuskar Rock and the development of this resource where viable, subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18	AC2		ALL other SEOs			
Objective EN18 - To promote the use of solar technologies in new and existing dwellings, offices, commercial and industrial buildings, subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	AC2, AC1		ALL other SEOs		C1, L1	
Objective EN19 - To encourage the development of small scale hydroelectric projects, subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	AC2, AC1		All other SEOs		B1, B2, B3, B4, W1, W2	
Objective EN20 - To promote the use of geothermal energy products in new developments, subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	AC2, AC1		All other SEOs			
Objective EN21 - To 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. New buildings should incorporate renewable energy technologies in order to help achieve the rating	AC2, AC1		All other SEOs			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
required.						
Objective EN22 - To promote innovative building design and layout that demonstrates a high level of energy conservation, energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources.	AC2, AC1		ALL other SEOs			
Objective EN23 - To encourage the integration of micro renewable energy sources into the design and construction of single and multiple housing developments	AC2, AC1		All other SEOs			
Objective EN24 - To promote the development and use of electric vehicles and facilitate the provision of appropriate infrastructure, such as electric charging points, at accessible locations throughout the County, subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	AC2, AC1		ALL other SEOs			
Objective EN25 - To encourage the utilisation of sustainable modes of transport such as public transport, cycling and walking as a measure to reduce man-made Green House Gas emissions through the sustainable settlement policies in this Plan and the provision of appropriate infrastructure, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	AC2, AC1		ALL other SEOs			
Chapter 12 – Flood Risk Management						
Objective FRM01 - To carry out flood risk assessment for the purpose of regulating, restricting and controlling development in areas at risk of flooding and to minimise the level of flood risk to people, business, infrastructure and the environment through the identification and management of existing and potential future flood risk.	W2, AC3		All other SEOs			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>Objective FRM02 - To ensure that flood risk management is incorporated into the preparation of all Town Development Plans and Local Area Plans through the preparation of Stage Two Strategic Flood Risk Assessments for the respective plan areas in accordance with the requirements of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG and OPW, 2009).</p> <p>Objective FRM03 - To apply the sequential approach which is based on the principles of avoidance, reduction and mitigation of flood risks when preparing town development plans and local area plans and when assessing planning applications for development proposals.</p> <p>Objective FRM04 - To ensure that all development proposals comply with the requirements of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management-Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DEHLG and OPW 2009) and to ensure that the Justification Test for Development Management is applied to required development proposals and in accordance with methodology set out in the guidelines.</p>	W2, AC3		All other SEOs			
	W2, AC3		All other SEOs			
	W2, AC3		All other SEOs			
<p>Objective FRM05 - To have regard to any future flood hazard maps, flood risk maps and flood risk management plans prepared as part of the South-East Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study.</p> <p>Objective FRM06 - To require the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) to minimise the extent of hard surfacing and paving and require the use of sustainable drainage for new development or extensions to</p>	W2, AC3		All other SEOs			
	W1, W2, W2, AC3		All other SEOs			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>existing developments.</p> <p>Objective FRM07 - To protect and enhance the County's floodplains, wetlands and coastal areas as 'green infrastructure' which provides space for storage and conveyance of floodwater, enabling flood risk to be more effectively managed and reducing the need to provide flood defences in the future, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p>	B1, B2, B3, B4, W1, W2, AC3, L1		All other SEOs			
<p>Objective FRM08 - To facilitate the provision of necessary suitable flood risk management infrastructure by the Office of Public Works, the local authority or private developers, subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p>	W1, W2, AC3, PH1	S3, PH2, S1, S2, S3, AC1, AC2, MA1, MA2,			B1, B2, B3, B4, S4, C1, L1	
<p>Objective FRM09 - To ensure that where flood protection or alleviation works take place that the natural and cultural heritage and rivers, streams and watercourses are protected and enhanced.</p> <p>Objective FRM10 - To preserve appropriately sized riparian strips alongside river channels free of development and of adequate width to permit access for river maintenance.</p> <p>Objective FRM11 - To ensure that development proposals in areas at moderate (Flood Zone B) or high (Flood Zone A) risk of flooding which are considered acceptable in principle demonstrate that appropriate mitigation measures can be put in place and that residual risks can be managed to acceptable levels.</p> <p>Objective FRM12 - To ensure new development does not</p>	<p>C1, L1</p> <p>B1, B2, B3, B4, W1, W2, AC3, W2</p> <p>AC3, W2</p>		<p>All other SEOs</p> <p>All other SEOs</p> <p>All other SEOs</p> <p>All other</p>			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
increase flood risk elsewhere including that which may arise from surface water run-off.			SEOs			
Chapter 13- Coastal Zone Management						
<p>Objective CZM01 - To ensure that any plan or project and any associated works, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, are subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity (defined by the structure and function) of any Natura 2000 site(s) and that the requirements of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive are fully satisfied. Where the plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site it shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment. The plan or project will proceed only after it has been ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site or where in the absence of alternative solutions, the plan/project is deemed imperative for reasons of overriding public interest, all in accordance with the provisions of Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Objective CZM02 - To have regard to any future national and/or regional Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan for the coastal and estuarine areas of the County. To work in collaboration with the South-East Regional Authority, local communities and other relevant stakeholders in the preparation and implementation of an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan for the coastal and estuarine areas of the Region and the County.</p> <p>Objective CZM03 - To consider the carrying out of environmentally sensitive coastal protection works where necessary subject to the works being appropriately</p>	B1, B2, B3, B4		<p>All other SEOs</p> <p>All SEOs</p>			
	AC3	S2, S3, AC2, MA1, MA2	PH1, PH2, S1, W1, W2, AC1, C1,		B1, B2, B3, B4, S4, L1	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
designed and where it is demonstrated that the works would not exacerbate existing problems of coastal erosion or result in altered patterns of erosion, deposition or flooding elsewhere along the coast to the detriment of other properties, important habitats, coastal features or Natura 2000 sites.						
Objective CZM04 - To prohibit development within areas liable to coastal flooding, other than in accordance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Office of Public Works, 2009).	AC3, W2		All other SEOs			
Objective CZM05 - To have regard to the findings and recommendations of the Irish Coastal Protection Strategy Studies in the assessment of planning applications.			ALL SEOs			
Objective CZM06 - To establish a coastal monitoring programme to provide information on coastal erosion on an ongoing basis.			ALL SEOs			
Objective CZM07 - To ensure that developments in the coastal zone are correctly sited and designed having regard to visual impact on the coastal zone and the coastal landscape character unit	AC3, W2, L1	S2, S3, AC1, AC2,	PH1, PH2, S1,		B1, B2, B3, B4, S4, W1, MA1, MA2, C1	
Objective CZM08 - To prohibit the removal of beach material, sand and gravel.	B1, B2, B3, B4, AC3,	S3, AC1, AC2, MA1, MA2	PH1, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, C1, L1			
Objective CZM09 To restrict development outside the boundaries of existing coastal settlements to that which is required to be located	PH1	S3	AC2, MA1, MA2,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC3, C1, L1	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>in that particular location such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development to support the operation of existing ports, harbours and marinas • Agricultural development • Tourism related facilities appropriate to the particular coastal location (other than new build holiday home accommodation) where there is a demonstration of a location or resource based need • Other developments where an overriding need is demonstrated. <p>New development shall be prohibited where it poses a significant or potential threat to coastal habitats or features, and/or where the development is likely to result in adverse patterns of erosion or deposition elsewhere along the coast and where it is likely to affect the integrity of Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>Objective CZM10 - To consider one-off housing in areas outside of the boundaries of existing settlements in accordance with the rural housing objectives in the Sustainable Rural Housing Strategy in Chapter 4 and subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p>	PH1	S3	AC2, MA1, MA2,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC3, C1, L1	
<p>Objective CZM11 - To encourage proposals to reinstate, conserve and or replace existing or disused dwellings for permanent or second home residential use subject to compliance with the rural housing objectives in the</p>	S2, PH1,	S3	B1, B2, B3, B4, AC2, PH2, S1, S4, AC1, AC3,		C1,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
Sustainable Rural Housing Strategy in Chapter 4 and subject to compliance normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.			MA1, MA2, L1			
Objective CZM12 - To encourage small-scale enterprises where it proposed to renovate an existing barn, outhouse or other existing structure for use by the enterprise subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	S2, PH1,	S3	B1, B2, B3, B4, AC2, PH2, S1, S4, AC1, AC3, MA1, MA2, L1		C1,	
Objective CZM13 - To ensure that developments are sensitively sited, designed and landscaped and do not detract from the visual amenity of the area. Objective CZM14 - To prohibit development outside the boundaries of existing coastal settlements where such development could not be adequately defended over the lifetime of the development without the need to construct new or additional coastal defence works Objective CZM15 - To prohibit the development of any building (including caravans or temporary dwellings) outside the boundary of existing coastal settlements where the development is within 100m of the 'soft shoreline', that is, shorelines that are prone to erosion, unless it can be objectively established based on the best scientific information available at the time of the planning application, that the likelihood of erosion at the location is minimal taking into account, inter alia, any impacts of the proposed development on erosion, or deposition, and that the development will not pose a significant or potential threat to	L1 W2, AC3 W2, AC3, L1	S3	All other SEOs All other SEOs All other SEOs			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
coastal habitats or features. This objective will not apply to minor extensions to existing buildings.						
Objective CZM16 - To control the nature and pattern of development within existing settlements in the coastal zone. Development shall be prohibited where it poses a significant or potential threat to coastal habitats or features, and/or where the development is likely to result in adverse patterns of erosion or deposition elsewhere along the coast.	W2, AC3, L1, B1, B2, B3		All other SEOs			
Objective CZM17 - To ensure that development is in keeping with the scale and character of the coastal settlement, and that the design positively contributes to and enhances the coastal landscape setting.	L1, C1		All Other SEOs			
Objective CZM18 - To consider the development of a building (including caravans or temporary dwellings) within the boundary of an existing settlement where the development is within 100m of the 'soft shoreline', that is, shorelines that are prone to erosion. It must be objectively established based on the best scientific information available at the time of the planning application, that the likelihood of erosion at the location is minimal taking into account, inter alia, any impacts of the proposed development on erosion or deposition, and that the development will not pose a significant or potential threat to coastal habitats or features.	W2, AC3, PH1,	S3	S2, AC1, AC2, MA1, MA2,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S4, W1, C1, L1	
Objective CZM19 - To require new holiday home schemes and second home developments to locate within the existing towns and villages in the coastal zone. The scale of housing home schemes shall be compatible with the scale and character of the town or village and in	PH1,MA2,	S3,	AC1, AC2,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p> <p>Objective CZM20 - To consider appropriate tourism and recreational activities (other than new holiday home accommodation) in areas outside of existing settlements providing these activities do not cause significant adverse impacts on the coastal character and subject to normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18</p>	PH1,MA2,	S3,	AC1, AC2,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1,C1, L1,	
<p>Objective CZM21 - To support the South-East Regional Authority in the development of a way-marked Coastal Walkway, where possible and appropriate along the full length of the South-East Region's coastline in conjunction with the other local authorities in the region, landowners and other partner agencies. All programmes and works to develop the coastal walkway will be required to comply with the principles of sustainable development Article 6 and Article 10 of the Habitat's Directive.</p>	PH1,MA2, AC1	S3,	AC2,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1,C1, L1,	
<p>Objective CZM22 - To ensure that there is appropriate public access to the coast including the provision of coastal walkways and cycle ways subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p>	PH1,MA2,	S3,	AC1, AC2,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1,C1, L1,	
<p>Objective CZM23 - To encourage tourism and</p>	PH1,		ALL other			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
recreation facilities and developments to be accessible for pedestrians and cyclists and take advantage of sustainable transport alternatives through the provision of pathways, cycleway and links to the public transport system where possible, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	MA2, AC1, AC2		SEOs			
Objective CZM24 - To promote access, including public walkways, to beaches and the seashore where environmentally appropriate, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	PH1, MA2,	S3,	AC1, AC2, W1,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1,	
Objective CZM25 - To maintain and upgrade facilities in coastal areas through the provision of appropriate support facilities such as car parking, coach parking , cycle parking, public toilets and refuse disposal facilities, subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	PH1, MA2,	S3,	AC1, AC2,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1,	
Objective CZM26 - <u>To support and promote the development of coastal routes as tourism attractions and local amenities, in co-operation with statutory and relevant organisations, for recreational activities including walking, cycling, pony trekking, whale/dolphin watching and bird-watching. These routes should provide links to other activities and</u>	PH1, MA2	S3	AC1, AC2		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, C1,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated L1	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<u>facilities where feasible and practicable and are subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</u>						
Objective CZM27 - To support the development of Rosslare Europort, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	PH1,MA2,	S3,	AC1, AC2,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1,C1, L1,	
Objective CZM28 - To maintain and improve the harbours, piers and quays under the control of Wexford County Council, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	PH1,MA2,	S3,	AC1, AC2, PH2		B1, B2, B3, B4, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1,C1, L1,	
Objective CZM29 - To encourage universally accessible extensions of the use of harbours where appropriate to include elements of active and passive leisure, tourism and service enterprises to create vibrant, attractive focal points for existing coastal settlements subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	PH1,MA2,	S3,	AC1, AC2, PH2		B1, B2, B3, B4, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1,C1, L1,	
Objective CZM30 - To encourage the development of	PH1,MA2,	S3,	AC1, AC2,		B1, B2,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>universally accessible marinas, jetties and facilities for maritime leisure developments where the siting of such installations will not detract from the visual amenity, the environmental quality of the area, or public access to beaches and subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18</p> <p>Objective CZM31 - To protect beaches, access to beaches and designated bathing areas as valuable local amenities and as a tourism resource.</p> <p>Objective CZM32 - To protect bathing waters in order that they meet the required bathing water standards and to implement the findings and recommendations of the Quality of Bathing Water in Ireland reports as published.</p>	PH1,MA2,	S3,	<p>PH2</p> <p>AC1, AC2, PH2</p>		<p>B3, B4, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1,C1, L1,</p> <p>B1, B2, B3, B4, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1,C1, L1,</p>	
<p>Objective CZM33 - To protect, enhance and conserve all beaches in the County and to retain Blue Flag status and strive to increase the number of beaches with this status.</p> <p>Objective CZM34 - To provide car parking, cycle parking toilet and waste facilities at suitable locations at the County's bathing areas, where possible, subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p>	<p>B1, B2, B3, B4, PH1, MA2 PH1,MA2,</p>	S3,	<p>All other SEOs</p> <p>AC1, AC2,</p>		<p>B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1,C1, L1,</p>	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
Objective CZM35 - To improve and develop accessibility to beaches for people with disabilities, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	PH1, MA2,	S2, S3	PH2, S1, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1,		B1, B2, B3, B4, S4, C1, L1	
Objective CZM36 - To support the contribution of fishing and aquaculture to the rural economy by encouraging and facilitating the use and development of existing port/pier/harbour facilities for commercial fishing, whilst taking account of the need to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the coast and subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	PH1,		ALL other SEOs			
Objective CZM37 - To work with local communities, relevant stakeholders and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to ensure the proper and successful implementation of the Shellfish Waters Directive along the County Wexford coastline.	B1, B4, W1,		ALL other SEOs			
Objective CZM38 - To support the development of marine tourism clusters along the South-East coastline and promote the implementation of the objectives contained in the Development Strategy for Marine and Leisure Infrastructure (Marine Institute, 2002) subject to normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	PH1, MA2,	S3,	AC1, AC2,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1,	
Objective CZM39 - To support and protect identified shellfish areas in the County.	B1, B4, W1,		ALL other SEOs			
Chapter 14 – Heritage (built, natural, green						

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
infrastructure and landscape)						
Objective HT01 - To prepare a Heritage Plan to assist the management and promotion our valuable heritage in a sustainable manner.			All SEOs			
Objective HT02 - To ensure that the use of our heritage assets is managed in a manner that does not adversely impact on the intrinsic value of the assets. Objective HT03 - To ensure that development proposals do not have an unacceptable impact on our heritage unless there is a reason of over-riding public interest for such development. Any such development shall be in compliance with all other planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	C1 C1, L1, PH1, MA2		ALL SEOs AC1, MA1,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, , S1, S2, S3, S4, W1, W2, AC3,	
Objective NH01 - To conserve and protect the integrity of sites designated for their habitat/wildlife or geological/geomorphological importance and prohibit development which would damage or threaten the integrity of these sites, including SACs, cSAC, SPAs, NHAs, pNHAs, Nature Reserves, and Refuges for Fauna.	B1, B2, B3, B4, S4, L1		All other SEOs			
Objective NH02 - To recognise the importance of recommended proposed NHAs and County Geological sites identified by the Geological Survey of Ireland and protect the character and integrity of these sites where appropriate.	B1, B2, B3, B4, S4, L1		All other SEOs			
Objective NH03 - To ensure that any plan or project and any associated works, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, are subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity (defined by the structure	B1, B2, B3, B4		All other SEOs			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
and function) of any Natura 2000 site(s) and that the requirements of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive are fully satisfied. Where the plan/project is likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site it shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment. The plan/project will proceed only after it has been ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site or where in the absence of alternative solutions, the plan/project is deemed imperative for reasons of overriding public interest, all in accordance with the provisions of article 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive.						
Objective NH04 - To ensure the protection and conservation of areas, sites and species and ecological networks/corridors of local biodiversity value outside the designated sites throughout the County.	B1, B2, B3, B4		All other SEOs			
Objective NH05 - To ensure that traditional field boundaries, ponds or small woods which provide important ecological networks are protected. Where such features exist on land which is to be developed the applicant should demonstrate that the design of the development has resulted in the retention of these features insofar as is possible and that the existing biodiversity value of the site has been protected and enhanced.	B1, B2, B3, B4		All other SEOs			
Objective NH06 - To protect individual or groups of trees and woodlands of particular amenity and nature conservation value and make Tree Preservation Orders where appropriate.	B1, B3		All other SEOs			
Objective NH07 - To protect woodlands and hedgerows from damage and/or degradation and work to prevent the disruption of the connectivity of the woodlands and	B1, B3		All other SEOs			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>hedgerows of the County.</p> <p>Objective NH08 - To ensure, where appropriate, applications for development include proposals for native planting and leave a suitable ecological buffer zone between the development works and areas or features of ecological importance. Where hedgerows are required to be removed require the applicant/developer to reinstate the hedgerows with a suitable replacement of native species to the satisfaction of the Council.</p>	B1, B3		All other SEOs			
Objective NH09 - To work with local communities, groups, landowners, the NPWS and other relevant parties to identify, protect, manage and, where appropriate, enhance and promote sites of local biodiversity value.	B1, B32, B3, B4, PH1		All other SEOs			
<p>Objective NH10 - To implement the actions identified in the County Wexford Draft Biodiversity Action Plan 2012-2017, or any subsequent plan, in partnership with all relevant parties and stakeholders.</p> <p>Objective NH11 - To complete mapping of ecological networks/corridors of local biodiversity value outside of designated sites and afford appropriate protection to areas of ecological importance as required.</p> <p>Objective NH12 - To promote awareness and appreciation of our natural heritage through the production of guidelines for individuals, homeowners, developers and ensure that that biodiversity and natural heritage is taken into account from the earliest point in the design process.</p>	<p>B1, B2, B3, B4</p> <p>B1, B2, B3, B4</p> <p>B1, B2, B3, B4</p>		<p>All other SEOs</p> <p>All other SEOs</p> <p>All other SEOs</p>			
Objective NH13 - To recognise that the Council plays an important role in the management of the landscape and ensure that considerations of natural heritage inform the Council's own decisions, actions and methods of operation	L1		All other SEOs			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>Objective NH14 - To recognise and afford appropriate protection to any new NHAs, SPAs or SACs which are designated within the life time of the Plan.</p> <p>Objective NH15 - To ensure that natural heritage and biodiversity inform the preparation of Local Area Plans and to identify, protect and manage biodiversity through these Plans.</p> <p>Objective GI01 - To ensure the protection, enhancement and maintenance of the natural environment and recognise the economic, social, environmental and physical value of green spaces through the integration of Green Infrastructure planning and development in the planning process.</p>	<p>B1, B2,B3, B4</p> <p>B1, B2,B3, B4</p> <p>B1, B2,B3, B4</p>		<p>All other SEOs</p> <p>All other SEOs</p> <p>All other SEOs</p>			
<p>Objective GI02 - To develop and implement a Green Infrastructure Strategy for the County <u>within the lifetime of the plan</u>, in consultation with adjoining Local Authorities, key stakeholders and the public, subject to compliance with Articles 6 and 10 of the Habitats Directive. The Strategy will integrate policies and objectives under a number of headings including; natural heritage, parks and open spaces, built heritage and archaeology, water management, flooding and climate change allowing for a strategic approach to green space planning in the County.</p> <p>Objective GI03 - To identify, protect, enhance and manage Green Infrastructure in all Local Area Plans in an integrated and coherent manner.</p> <p>Objective GI04 - To ensure the principles of Green Infrastructure and the County Green Infrastructure Strategy are used to inform the development management process in terms of design and layout of new residential schemes,</p>	<p>B1, B2, B3</p> <p>B1</p> <p>B1, W1, W2,</p>		<p>All other SEOs</p> <p>All other SEOs</p> <p>All other SEOs</p>			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
business and industrial developments and other relevant projects, for example, through the integration of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) into the overall site concept and layout.						
<p>Objective GI05 - To require new developments to contribute to the protection and enhancement of existing Green Infrastructure, and the provision of new Green Infrastructure where appropriate, in an integrated and coherent manner. Such development shall be in compliance with all other planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p> <p>Objective GI06 - To require proposals for medium to high-density residential schemes to have regard to the recommendations of the 'Green City Guidelines' (UCD Urban Institute of Ireland, 2008) when designing such schemes, and to demonstrate this in the planning application.</p> <p>Objective GI07 - To require proposals for significant development to submit a Green Infrastructure Plan as part of the planning application.</p> <p>Objective L01 - To have regard to the Landscape Character Assessment and associated map contained in Volume 3, the Landscape and Landscape Assessment-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2000) Draft and any updated versions of these guidelines published during the lifetime of the Plan, when assessing planning applications for development.</p>	<p>B1, B2, B3,</p> <p>B1, B2, B3</p> <p>L1</p>		<p>All other SEOs</p> <p>All other SEOs</p> <p>All SEOs</p> <p>ALL SEOs</p>			
Objective L02 - To review the Landscape Character Assessment and the landscape objectives in the Plan, after	L1		ALL SEOs			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
the publication of the National Landscape Strategy and future guidelines issued by a Minister of the Government with respect to landscape.						
Objective L03 - To ensure that developments are not unduly visually obtrusive in the landscape, in particular in the Upland, River Valley and Coastal landscape units and on or in the vicinity of Landscapes of Greater Sensitivity.	L1		ALL SEOs			
Objective L04 - To require all developments to be appropriate in scale and sited, designed and landscaped having regard to their setting in the landscape so as to ensure that any potential adverse visual impacts are minimised.	L1		All SEOs			
Objectives L05 - To prohibit developments which are likely to have significant adverse visual impacts, either individually or cumulatively, on the character of the Uplands, River Valley or Coastal landscape or a Landscape of Greater Sensitivity and where there is no overriding need for the development to be in that particular location.	L1		All SEOs			
Objective L06 - To ensure that, where there is an overriding need is demonstrated for a particular development in an Upland, River Valley or Coastal landscape unit or on, or in, the vicinity of a Landscape of Greater Sensitivity, careful consideration is given to site selection. The development should be appropriate in scale and be sited, designed and landscaped in a manner which minimises potentially adverse impacts on the subject landscape and will be required to comply with all normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	PH1	S3,	AC1, AC2, MA1		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1,S2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA2, C1, L1	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
Objective L07 - To encourage appropriate development which would enhance an existing degraded landscape and/or which would enhance and introduce views to or from a Landscapes of Greater Sensitivity from public viewpoints, subject to compliance with all normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	L1, PH1	S3,	AC1, AC2, MA1		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1,S2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA2, C1,	
Objective L08 - To consider appropriate rural recreational and tourism related developments which would facilitate public access to and appreciation of Upland, River Valley and Coastal Landscapes and Landscapes of Greater Sensitivity in the County subject to compliance with the relevant objectives in Chapters 6, 7 and 13. Developments should be appropriate in scale and be sited, designed and landscaped in a manner which minimises potentially adverse impacts on the landscape and shall be in compliance with all other planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	PH1	S3,	AC1, AC2, MA1		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1,S2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA2, C1, L1	
Objective L09 To require developments to be sited, designed and landscaped in manner which has regard to the site specific characteristics of the natural and built landscape, for example, developments should be sited, designed and landscaped to minimise loss of natural features such as mature trees and hedging, and built features.	L1, PH1	S3,	AC1, AC2, MA1		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1,S2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA2, C1,	
Objective L10 To adopt a presumption against the siting of telecommunications equipment:		S3,	AC1, AC2, MA1, W1,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH1,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In prominent locations in Upland, River Valley and Coastal landscape character units and in Landscapes of Greater Sensitivity In locations which would impede or detract from existing public viewpoints to or from a Landscape of Greater Sensitivity, rivers, estuaries or the sea. <p>The Council may consider an exemption to this objective, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria and the development managements contained in Chapter 18, where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An overriding technical need for the equipment has been demonstrated and which cannot be met by the sharing of existing authorised equipment in the area, and The equipment is of a scale and is sited, designed and landscaped in a manner which minimises adverse visual impacts on the subject landscape unit. <p>Objective - To seek to minimise the individual and cumulative adverse visual impacts that local concentrations of one-off housing, outside of settlements, may have on Upland, River Valley and Coastal landscape character units or Landscapes of Greater Sensitivity. In this regard, in locations where the Council considers that there is a risk of individual or cumulative adverse impacts, the Council will only consider proposals for housing developments where a need for the dwelling has been demonstrated in accordance with the criteria Table No. 12 in Chapter 4.</p> <p>Objective AH01 - To conserve and protect archaeological</p>					PH2, S1,S2, S4, W2, AC3, MA2, C1, L1	
	PH1	S3,	AC1, AC2, MA1		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1,S2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA2, C1, L1	
	C1		All other			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
sites, monuments (including their settings), underwater archaeology and objects within the jurisdiction of Wexford County Council including those listed on the Record of Monuments and Places, the Register of Historic Monuments or newly discovered sub-surface archaeological remains.			SEOs			
Objective AH02 - To protect the heritage of groups of important national monuments, inclusive of their contextual setting and interpretation, in the operation of development management.	C1		All other SEOs			
Objective AH03 - To fully consider the protection of the archaeological heritage when undertaking, approving or authorising development. In considering such protection the Council will have regard to the advice and recommendations of the National Monuments Service and the principles set out in Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, 1999).	C1		All other SEOs			
Objective AH04 - 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 appropriate measures to safeguard this archaeological heritage. In all such cases the Planning Authority shall consult with the National Monuments Service in the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.	C1		All other SEOs			
Objective AH05 - 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. Where	C1		All other SEOs			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
preservation in-situ is not possible the Council will consider preservation by record in appropriate circumstances.						
Objective AH06 - To protect historic and archaeological landscapes, including battlefields, and promote access to such sites provided that this does not threaten the feature. Objective AH07 - To protect historic urban defences (both upstanding and buried) and associated features and safeguard them from inappropriate development in accordance with National Policy on Town Defences (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2008).	C1, L1 C1		All other SEOs All other SEOs			
Objective AH08 - To include archaeological landscapes as part of the updated Landscape Character Assessment of the County to be prepared following the publication of a National Landscape Strategy/National Landscape Character Assessment.	C1, L1		All other SEOs			
Objective AH09 - To identify appropriate archaeological sites in the County to which public access could be provided, and work to secure public access where appropriate in consultation with the land owner, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18. Objective AH10 - To retain existing street layouts, historic building lines and traditional plot widths which derive from medieval or earlier origin.	C1, PH1, MA2 C1		All other SEOs All other SEOs			
Objective AH11 - To protect historical burial grounds within County Wexford and encourage their maintenance in accordance with conservation principles Objective PS01 - To protect the architectural heritage of	C1 C1		All other SEOs All other			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
County Wexford 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			SEOs			
Objective PS02 - 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	C1		All other SEOs			
Objective PS03 - 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 subject to normal planning and development criteria and the development standards contained in Chapter 18 where appropriate This does not preclude putting forward innovative contemporary designs that respect the context of the Protected Structure.	C1, PH1	S3,	AC1, AC2, MA1		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA2, L1	
Objective PS04 - 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 areas and the sustainable development of the County.	C1		All other SEOs			
Objective PS05 - 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.	C1		All other SEOs			
Objective PS06 - To encourage the retention of those	C1		All other			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
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.			SEOs			
Objective PS07 - 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 Architectural Heritage Protection- Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG, 2004) and any subsequent drafts.	C1		All other SEOs			
Objective PS08 - To ensure that all applications for Protected Structures are assessed by taking into consideration the advice contained in Architectural Heritage Protection- Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG, 2004), and any subsequent drafts.	C1		All other SEOs			
Objective PS09 - 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.	C1		All other SEOs			
Objective PS10 - To facilitate the retention of older buildings, the Planning Authority will give consideration to the relaxation of car parking and other Development Management requirements in appropriate circumstances.	C1, S2,		All other SEOs			
Objective PS11 - To ensure that elements of the architectural heritage of the County, such as historic gardens, stone walls, ditches and street furniture that make a positive contribution to the built heritage, are retained.	C1		All other SEOs			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
Objective ACA01 - To identify and designate areas as Architectural Conservation Areas in the Towns and Villages of County Wexford where appropriate through Town Development Plan and Local Area Plan processes.	C1		All other SEOs			
Objective ACA02 - To ensure that all proposed developments are carried out to the highest architectural and urban design standards within designated areas of Architectural Conservation Areas.	C1		All other SEOs			
Objective G01 - To preserve and enhance the County's graveyards through improved management and access and community stewardship and to provide historical information at each location and promote the unique character of each of the burial grounds to the surrounding residents and property owners.	C1		All other SEOs			
Objective CH01 - To support the sustainable development and promotion of our cultural heritage and the associated infrastructure subjection to normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	C1		All other SEOs			
Objective CH02 - To safeguard the cultural heritage of the County and facilitate the expansion and development of appropriate facilities suitably located adjacent to points of interest subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	C1, PH1,		All other SEOs			
Objective CH03 - To promote cultural and artistic excellence and innovation and support the work of those involved in the development of our arts and cultural heritage subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management	C1		All other SEOs			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
standards contained in Chapter 18. Objective CH04 - To help to ensure that our cultural heritage and associated facilities are accessible and inclusive subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18. Objective CH05 - To continue to promote the Wexford Festival Opera and the bringing of international arts to the County. The Council will also promote international audiences for Wexford based artists and arts projects, and support multi-cultural initiatives.	C1, MA2, PH1 C1		SEOs All other SEOs			
Objective CH06 - To encourage and facilitate the development, creation and display of works of art in public areas subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental standards and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	C1		All other SEOs			
Objective CH07 - To encourage the provisions of public works of art in major new commercial and private residential developments in the County to enhance the amenities of the local environment.	C1		All other SEOs			
Objective CH08 - To support the development and expansion of Library Services. Such development and expansion shall be carried out to the highest internationally recognized standard and shall be subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental standards and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18 where appropriate.	C1, PH1, MA2		All other SEOs			
Objective CH09 - To cooperate with the Heritage Council, Arts Council, Fáilte Ireland and other relevant bodies such as the National Parks and Wildlife Service to promote and	C1		All other SEOs			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
develop the arts, cultural and heritage attractions throughout the County.						
Chapter 15 – Recreation, Sport and Public Rights of Way						
Objective RS01 - To ensure that adequate amenity and recreational open space and facilities are available for all groups of the population through the zoning of appropriate lands in Development Plans and Local Area Plans.	PH1, MA2		All other SEOs			
Objective RS02 - To implement the strategic objectives contained in the County Wexford Recreation Strategy including promoting awareness and access to recreational activities and facilities in the County, identifying future recreational needs and promoting flexibility and adaptability of facilities in order to accommodate emerging needs, subject to compliance with Articles 6 and 10 of the Habitats Directive.	PH1, MA2,		All other SEOs			
Objective RS03 - To encourage the use of school grounds and associated recreational facilities outside of school hours by all members of the community provided that this does not conflict with the delivery of the education service.	PH1, MA2,		All other SEOs			
Objective RS04 - To promote recreation based tourism and associated employment opportunities in the County. Objective RS05 - To ensure that new recreational facilities are located in existing settlements close to the main residential areas and other community facilities, where possible, to maximise participation levels and reduce the need to travel.	PH1, MA2, PH1, MA2, AC1,	S3,	All other SEOs		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, AC2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, MA1,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
Objective RS06 - To promote and encourage a vibrant and active sports sector, with increased participation levels, good quality sustainable facilities and opportunities for people to play an active role in sport.	PH1, MA2		All other SEOs		AC3, C1, L1	
Objective RS07 - To develop sport, recreation and amenity facilities consistent with proper planning and sustainable development in appropriate locations in the County, in partnership with local community and sports groups and/or private parties, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	PH1, MA2, AC1,	S3,			B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, AC2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, MA1, AC3, C1, L1	
Objective RS08 - To maximise the range of play opportunities available to all children, particularly children who are marginalised, disadvantaged or who are disabled.	PH1, MA2		All other SEOs			
Objective RS09 - To ensure that high quality play and recreation facilities are incorporated into new housing developments over 75 dwellings. Play facilities may include playgrounds, basket ball courts, tennis courts, hurling walls or other facilities considered appropriate by the Council. This standard may be modified in any particular case where there are significant reasons for doing so. Criteria that may be taken into account include the existing geographical distribution of play facilities and the emerging demographic profile of the area.	PH1, MA2		All other SEOs			
Objective RS10 - To encourage the development of Multi-	PH1, MA2	S3,			B1, B2,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>User Games Areas (MUGAS) at appropriate locations in the County and ensure that new community facilities and public open spaces are designed to allow flexibility in their use.</p> <p>Objective RS11 - To promote the use of natural amenity areas in the County for recreational purposes while ensuring the protection of scenic and environmentally sensitive areas, including Natura 2000 sites.</p>	PH1, MA2	S3, S2, AC2, MA1,	PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC3, C1, L1		B1, B2, B3, B4,	
<p>Objective RS12 - To encourage the provision of access to amenity areas such as beaches, inland waterways, forests and heritage sites in co-operation with landowners and continue to maintain and improve existing accesses, subject to compliance with Articles 6 and 10 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Objective RS13 - To facilitate the sustainable development of eco-tourism at appropriate locations in the County, whilst protecting areas of ecological value and ensuring that any development takes cognisance of the aims and objectives of the Water Framework Directive and ensuring that all development is undertaken in compliance with Articles 6 and Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</p>	PH1, MA2	S3, S2, AC2, MA1,	PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC3, C1, L1		B1, B2, B3, B4,	
	PH1, MA2	S3,			B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, AC1, AC2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, MA1, AC3, C1,	

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Objective RS14 -To co-operate with Coillte in the protection of existing and development of additional forest amenity sites and walks, subject to compliance with Articles 6 and 10 of the Habitats Directive.	PH1, MA2	S3, S2, AC2, MA1,	PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC3, C1, L1		L1 B1, B2, B3, B4,	
Objective RS15 - To support the development of the amenities and recreation potential of the River Barrow in co-operation with National Parks and Wildlife Service, Inland Waterways, adjoining Local Authorities, Harbour Masters and all other relevant authorities. All such development should be undertaken in compliance with Articles 6 and Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.	PH1, MA2	S3, S2, AC2, MA1,	PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC3, C1, L1		B1, B2, B3, B4,	
Objective RS16 - To maintain and improve beaches within the County in order to achieve Blue Flag and Green Coast status where beaches do not have these awards and strive to retain Blue Flag and Green Coast status on beaches where they have currently been awarded.	PH1, MA2, W1,	S3, S2, S4, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1,	S1, PH2, W2 C1, L1		B1, B2, B3, B4,	
Objective RS17 - To identify beaches within the County which can best service the needs of disabled members of the community and to develop these beaches in association with disability representative groups, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	PH1, MA2	S3, S2, AC2, MA1,	PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC3, C1, L1		B1, B2, B3, B4,	
Objective RS18 - To prohibit the development of static caravan and camping sites in open and exposed coastal and lakeshore areas and areas that are deemed to be ecologically sensitive.	B1, B2, B3, B4, L1		All other SEOs			
Objective RS19 - To promote sustainable outdoor recreation in the form of walking and cycling and exploit the	PH1,		All other			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>recreational and tourist potential of walking and cycling routes in the County whilst ensuring the protection of the environment.</p> <p>Objective RS20 - To engage and co-operate with representative bodies, local groups, landowners and where relevant adjoining local authorities, in order to support the sustainable development of walking and cycling routes.</p> <p>Objective RS21 - To maintain a listing of national trails approved in County Wexford and promote their greater use.</p>	<p>MA2, AC1</p> <p>PH1, MA2, AC1</p> <p>PH1, MA2, AC1</p>		<p>SEOs</p> <p>All other SEOs</p> <p>All other SEOs</p>			
<p>Objective RS22 - To promote the development and use of the Wexford Coastal Pathway (Slí Charman) as a recreation and tourist facility, subject to compliance with Articles 6 and Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Objective RS23 - To provide and maintain new/improved coastal access points, right-of-ways and the improvement and upgrading of the Coastal Pathway, subject to compliance with Articles 6 and Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Objective RS24 - To promote the development of riverside walking routes, whilst protecting areas of ecological value and ensuring that any development takes cognisance of the aims and objectives of the Water Framework Directive and ensuring that all development is undertaken in compliance with Articles 6 and Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</p>	<p>PH1, MA2</p> <p>PH1, MA2</p> <p>PH1, MA2</p>	<p>S3, S2, AC2, MA1,</p> <p>S3, S2, AC2, MA1,</p> <p>S3, S2, AC2, MA1,</p>	<p>PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC3, C1, L1</p> <p>PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC3, C1, L1</p> <p>PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC3, C1, L1</p>		<p>B1, B2, B3, B4,</p> <p>B1, B2, B3, B4,</p> <p>B1, B2, B3, B4,</p>	
<p>Objective RS25 - To facilitate the development of disused railways for amenity purposes <u>including the development of walkways, cycleways or bridleways</u>, provided that the use does not interfere with the re-opening of lines, <u>and</u></p>	<p>PH1, MA2</p>	<p>S3, S2, AC2, MA1,</p>	<p>PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC3,</p>		<p>B1, B2, B3, B4,</p>	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>subject to normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p> <p>Objective RS26 - To improve cycle routes with better signposting, better road surfaces and greater safety for the cyclist and to ensure that new urban road infrastructure and traffic management measures are designed to be cyclist friendly.</p> <p>Objective RS27 - To support the development of a National Cycle Network and examine the feasibility of linking the main towns of County Wexford to this network</p>	<p>PH1, MA2</p> <p>PH1, MA2, AC1</p>		<p>C1, L1</p> <p>All other SEOs</p> <p>All other SEOs</p>			
<p>Objective RS28 - <u>To engage with Coillte in the investigation of the suitability of developing off-road cycling trails at Forth Mountain, Bree Hill and Deerpark/Kilbranish in accordance with Coillte's Off-Road Cycling Strategy (2012), provided that they do not negatively impact on residential amenity, landscape, heritage or the environment and subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</u></p> <p>Objective RS29 - To require the provision of good quality, accessible, well located and functional open spaces in new residential developments in accordance with the standards recommended in Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas: Guidelines for Planning Authorities and its companion document Urban Design Manual (DEHLG, 2008).</p>	<p>PH1, MA2</p> <p>PH1, MA2</p>	<p>S3, S2, AC2, MA1</p>	<p>PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC3, C1, L1</p> <p>All other SEOs</p>		<p>B1, B2, B3, B4</p>	
<p>Objective RS30 - To ensure that all residents have reasonable access to a range of different types of open</p>	<p>PH1, MA2</p>		<p>All other SEOs</p>			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>lakeshore, riverbank or other place of natural beauty or recreational utility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council will identify existing rights of ways, paths, and access points to seashore, mountain, lakeshore, riverbank or other places of natural beauty or recreational activity. • The Council will identify access points to seashore, mountain, lakeshore, riverbank or other places of natural beauty or recreational activity which the Council have maintained or repaired with a view to identifying public rights of way. • The Council will carry out a desktop analysis of public records, maps, aerial photographs, newspaper accounts to identify reputations of public rights of way. • Once the list is compiled the Council will advertise and put on display the proposed list of public rights of way. The public will be invited to make submissions on the validity of the public rights of way. • The Council will endeavour to verify and list the public rights of way and begin the formal process for designating rights of way under Section 14 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). • The Plan will be varied to include to list and map the public rights of way. 						
Objective RS36 - To ensure that development does not impinge on public walking routes and public rights of way, particularly those at the seashore, mountain, lakeshore, riverbank or other places of natural beauty or recreational	PH1, MA2		All other SEOs			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
activity.						
Chapter 16 – Social Inclusion and Community Facilities						
Objective CF01 - To promote social inclusion and access to education, health and community support services, amenities and leisure services and a good quality built environment for all members of the community through the planning process.	PH1, MA2		All other SEOs			
Objective CF02 - To support Wexford Local Development, other local development structures and the County Development Board in responding to social exclusion issues and creating a more inclusive environment for all members of the community.	PH1, MA2		All other SEOs			
Objective CF03 - To support the entitlement of all members of the community to enjoy a high quality living environment and to support local communities, the Health Authorities and other bodies involved in the provision of facilities for groups with specific design/planning needs.	PH1, MA2		All other SEOs			
Objective CF04 - To promote Universal Design and Lifetime Housing in accordance with best practice and the policies and principles contained in Building for Everyone: A Universal Design Approach (National Disability Authority, 2012) and Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas: Guidelines for Planning Authorities and its companion document Urban Design Manual (DEHLG, 2008).	PH1,		All other SEOs			
Objective CF05 - To ensure that a minimum of 20% of dwellings in all new housing estates of five dwellings or more are suitable to accommodate or are adaptable to provide accommodation for people with disabilities. Developers will be required to show an accessible route to	PH1,		All other SEOs			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>the residential units from the boundary of the property. Proximity and access to local services must also be considered relative to the units which are accessible.</p> <p>Objective CF06 - To require an Access Statement to be carried out for significant developments in accordance with Appendix 6 of Buildings for Everyone: A Universal Design Approach (National Disability Authority, 2012).</p> <p>Objective CF07 - To continue to carry out improvements to the public realm to create a safe and barrier free environment that can be accessed by all members of the community.</p>	<p>PH1,</p> <p>PH1, MA2</p>		<p>All other SEOs</p> <p>All other SEOs</p>			
<p>Objective CF08 -To implement the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2007-2013 and any subsequent Programme adopted by the Council and continue to address the provision of accommodation appropriate to the particular needs of travellers.</p>	<p>PH1,</p>		<p>All other SEOs</p>			
<p>Objective CF09 - To promote the development of sustainable communities on the basis of a high quality of life where people can live, work and enjoy access to a wide range of community, health and educational facilities suitable for all ages, needs and abilities.</p> <p>Objective CF10 - To maintain and, where possible, improve the provision of community facilities in the County, ensuring that these facilities are adequate to meet the needs of the communities they serve, are physically integrated with residential and employment areas and are provided concurrently with new residential development, subject to normal planning and development criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p>	<p>PH1,</p> <p>PH1, MA2</p>		<p>All other SEOs</p> <p>All other SEOs</p>			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
Objective CF11 - To carry out, in conjunction with the County Development Board, a Social Infrastructure Audit to identify areas where social, community and recreational infrastructure is lacking and to ascertain the requirements of local communities.	PH1, MA2		All other SEOs			
Objective CF12 - Facilitate the provision of new burial grounds and the extension of existing cemeteries as appropriate to cater for the needs of a multi-cultural County, ensuring that any development takes cognisance of the aims and objectives of the Water Framework Directive and achieving good status by 2015 and that all development is undertaken in compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.	PH1, MA2		All other SEOs			
Objective CF13 - To consult with the Department of Education and Skills in the identification and facilitation of suitable sites for new educational facilities.			All SEOs			
Objective CF14 - To restrict new development adjacent to existing schools where such development may have the potential to restrict the expansion of that school.	PH1		All other SEOs			
Objective CF15 - To encourage the multi-use of school buildings and facilities provided this does not conflict with the delivery of the education service.	PH1, MA2		All other SEOs			
Objective CF16 - To ensure that no significant residential development proceeds without an assessment of existing schools capacity or the provision of new school facilities in tandem with the development.			All SEOs			
Objective CF17 - To support the development and ongoing provision of Third Level Education in the County, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter	PH1,	S3	AC1, AC2,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
18.					W1, W2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1	
Objective CF18 - To support the transformation of Carlow and Waterford Institutes of Technology and their associated campuses into a technical university Objective CF 19 – To further develop educational linkages with European Education institutions in order to enhance Wexford as Educational Gateway to Europe			All SEOs All SEOs			
Objective CF19 - To encourage and facilitate the provision of childcare facilities, in accordance with Childcare Facilities: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2001), within new or existing places of work, residential areas, educational establishments, town centres and adjacent to public transport nodes. Where childcare facilities are proposed to be located within established residential areas, applications for such uses will be assessed having regard to the likely effect on the amenities of adjoining properties, the availability of space for off-street parking and/or suitable drop-off and collection points and outdoor playspace. In some cases, it may be necessary to attach a condition that would require some residential content to be maintained in the premises.	PH1,	S3	AC1, AC2,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1	
Objective CF20 - To require the provision of purpose-built 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	PH1,	S3	AC1, AC2,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated AC3, MA1, C1, L1	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>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.</p> <p>Objective CF21 - To support the Wexford County Childcare Committee/Wexford County Development Board in carrying out an audit of childcare facilities.</p>			All SEOs			
<p>Objective CF22 - To promote the continued improvement and expansion of health and medical care facilities in the County which meet the needs of and are easily accessible to local service users, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.</p>	PH1,	S3	AC1, AC2,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1	
Chapter 17 – Design Guide						
<p>Objective DES1 - To encourage architectural creativity and innovation in both the urban and rural environment.</p>	PH1, AC2, MA2	PH2, S3, W1, AC1, MA1,	B1,B2, B3,B4, S1, S2, S4, W2, AC3		C1, L1	
<p>Objective DES2 - To promote architectural quality and the creation of good places. The Council will have regard to the guidance as set out in the Urban Design Manual – Best Practice Guide (2009) when assessing large scale developments and in the creation of master plans as part of future Town Plans and Local Area Plans.</p>	PH1, AC2, MA2	PH2, S3, W1, AC1, MA1,	B1,B2, B3,B4, S1, S2, S4, W2, AC3		C1, L1	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
Retail Strategy						
Objective 1: The Council shall ensure that all retail development permitted is in accordance with the Guidelines for Planning Authorities Retail Planning (DECLG, 2012) and the Wexford County Retail Strategy.			All SEOs			
Objective 2: The Council will permit retail development of a scale which is appropriate to the level of the town/area within the retail hierarchy and the population of the catchment.	PH1, S2		B1, B2, B3,B4, , PH2, S1, , S3,S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2AC3, MA1, MA2,		C1, L1	
Objective 3: The Council will prohibit new retail developments if they would either by themselves or cumulatively with other recent developments and proposals seriously damage the vitality and viability of existing town centres.	PH1, PH2,	B1, B2, B3,B4, L1	S1, S2, S3,S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2AC3, MA1, MA2,C1,			
Objective 4: The planning authority will have regard to the findings of the capacity assessment contained in the County Retail Strategy in assessing planning applications, however when considering any individual planning proposal in any town the applicant will be required to demonstrate in the Retail Impact Assessment that the floorspace is appropriate having regard to the quantum of floorspace required in that town. The Retail Impact Assessment shall take account of the particular population of catchment, extant permissions and their likelihood of being implemented and vacancies in the individual towns.			B1, B2, B3,B4, PH1, PH2, S1, S2, S3,S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2AC3, MA1, MA2,C1, L1			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>Information with regard to extant permissions can be provided by the Council. The quantitative need for the quantum of floorspace will not be the only deciding factor; the Council will also consider whether any given planning application will be better located sequentially than permitted developments or whether it would be required for qualitative reasons such as strengthening the County's retail profile profile.</p> <p>Objective 5: The Council shall promote and protect the designated Primary and Secondary Retail streets as the key locations for retail development.</p> <p>Objective 6: The Council shall resist applications for planning permission which would result in net loss of convenience and comparison shopping floorspace at ground level on Primary Shopping Frontages where this would affect the vitality and viability of these streets.</p> <p>Objective 7: On Primary Shopping Frontages permission will be favourably considered for banks and other professional services, office uses, restaurants, bars, off licenses, takeaways and other cultural uses provided:</p> <p>iii) 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.</p>	<p>PH1, PH2, S2</p> <p>PH1, PH2, S2</p> <p>PH1, PH2, S2</p>	<p>B1, B2, B3,B4, L1</p> <p>B1, B2, B3,B4, L1</p> <p>B1, B2, B3,B4, S3,L1, S4,</p>	<p>S1, S3,S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2AC3, MA1, MA2,C1, S1, S3,S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2AC3, MA1, MA2,C1, S1, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, MA2,C1,</p>			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>iv) 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.</p> <p>Objective 8: It is an objective of the Council that proposals for large scale retail development will be favourably considered where they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide safe and easy access for <u>motorists</u>, pedestrians, cyclists and <u>people with specific design needs</u>; • <u>will not adversely affect the efficiency of the national road network and key junctions and interchanges and that it can be demonstrated that traffic volumes can be accommodated within the design assumptions for such roads</u>; • are of a high design standard and satisfactorily integrate with the surrounding built environment; • do not negatively impact on the flow of vehicular traffic either in the immediate vicinity or the wider area of the development. 	AC1, AC2,	S3			B1, B2, B3, B4, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, MA2, C1, L1	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> are of a scale appropriate to its location. <p>Objective 9: The Council will generally require a Retail Impact Assessment (RIA) to be carried out for proposals for development³;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) greater than 1000 sqm of net floorspace for both convenience and comparison type developments in the four main towns, (b) greater than 500 sq.m. of net retail floorspace for both convenience and comparison type developments in district towns and other settlements, (c) or where the Planning Authority considers the development may impact on the vitality and viability of a town centre. <p>The Planning Authority retains the right to waive the requirement of the Retail Impact Assessment on a case to case basis. Such statements shall include, at minimum, the criteria set out in the Retail Planning Guidelines (2005) or as amended.</p> <p>Objective 10: Retail developments on edge of centre sites or out of town centre sites will be considered when it has been clearly demonstrated that all viable, available and suitable sites in the town centre have been fully investigated and considered in accordance with the Retail Planning Guidelines and in particular the Sequential Test.</p> <p><u>A special financial contribution will be applied to retail</u></p>			<p>B1, B2, B3,B4, PH1, PH2, S1, S2, S3,S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2AC3, MA1, MA2,C1, L1</p>			
		S3			<p>B1, B2, B3, B4, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, MA2, C1,</p>	

³ Wexford Town, Enniscorthy and New Ross have their own development plans and they are bound by the objectives of their respective development plans.

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p><u>developments on edge of centre or out of town centre sites. This contribution will be used by the Council to carry out town centre improvements and/or to enhance access arrangements from the town centre to the subject site. Provisions in this regard will be set out in the respective Development Contribution Schemes.</u></p> <p>Objective 11: The Council will prioritise the reuse of vacant and derelict buildings in the town centre for uses including retail development.</p>	S2, PH1, AC1, MA2	S3	B1, B2, B3, B4, W1, AC2, L1		PH2, S1, S4, W2, AC3, MA1, C1, AC2	
<p>Objective 12: The Council will encourage 'living over the shop' whereby the upper storeys of buildings have a residential function with the ground floor used for commercial or retail purposes.</p>	PH1, S2, AC1, MA2,	B1, B2, B3, B4,	S1, S3, S4, W1, W2, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1		PH2,	
<p>Objective 13: The Council will consider tourism related retail developments in towns and villages or at existing established tourist attractions. The retail facility shall be suitably designed, sited and of a scale that does not detract from the tourism feature.</p> <p>Recommend wording change – and shall be subject to normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18</p>		S3			B1, B2, B3, B4, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, MA2, C1, L1, AC1, AC2	
<p>Objective 14: It is the objective of the Council to continue to make environmental improvements to the town centres through high quality civic design, provision of attractive street furnishing, lighting and effective street cleaning/business improvement district type initiatives.</p>	PH1		PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, MA2, L1		B1, B2, B3, B4, S3, C1,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
Objective 15: It is an objective of the Council to improve accessibility of town centres by developing a pedestrian and cyclist friendly urban environment and promoting vibrant street life.	PH1, PH2, AC1, AC2, MA2	S3	B, B2, B3, B4, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1			
Objective 16: It is the objective of the Council to ensure that all proposed projects relating to retail development (including retail warehouses, factory outlets, shopping centres, convenience shops etc) and any associated improvement works or associated infrastructure (i.e. parking facilities), individually or in combination with other plans or projects, are subject to Appropriate Assessment to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity (defined by the structure and function) of any Natura 2000 site(s) and that the requirements of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive are fully satisfied	B1, B2, B3, B4, S4		PH1, PH2, S1, S2, S3,, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, MA2, C1, L1			
Volume 5 Wind Energy Strategy						
Objective WE01 Ensure the security of energy supply by supporting the development of wind energy resources in County Wexford at appropriate scales and in appropriate locations, subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Section 5	AC1, AC2	S3, MA1, MA2	B4		B1, B2, B3, W1, W2, C1, L1, PH1, PH2, S1, S2 S4, AC3	
Objective WE02 Aim to achieve a minimum target of 300 MW of wind energy, to enable County Wexford to make the initial steps toward a low carbon economy by 2020.	AC1, AC2	MA1, MA2, S3,	B4		B1, B2, B3, W1, W2, C1, L1,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
					PH1, PH2, S1, S2, S4, AC3	
Objective WE03 Facilitate wind energy development on appropriate sites in the County and work with the relevant agencies to encourage investment in research and technology associated with wind farms and other renewable energy technology	AC1, AC2	MA1, MA2,S3	B4		B1, B2, B3, W1, W2, C1,L1, PH1, PH2, S1, S2, S4, AC3	
Objective WE04 Favourably consider proposals for the development of infrastructure for the production, storage and distribution of electricity through the harnessing of wind energy in appropriate sites and locations, subject to relevant policy, legislation and environmental considerations and the development management standards contained in Section 5.	AC1, AC2	MA1, MA2,S3	B4		B1, B2, B3, W1, W2, C1,L1, PH1, PH2, S1, S2, S4, AC3	
Objective WE05 Promote community consultation in proposed wind farm developments in accordance with Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Wind Energy Development (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2006) and Best Practice Guidelines for the Irish Wind Energy Industry (IWEA, 2012).	AC1, AC2 PH1, PH2	MA1, MA2,S3 B1, B2, B3, B4, W1, W2, C1,L1, S1, S2, S4, AC3				
Objective WE06	B1, B2,	MA1,	W2, C1 PH1,			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
Encourage the development of ecological enhancements or improvements that go beyond measures required to mitigate or compensate for damage from wind farm construction. Providing attractive and wildlife-rich habitats is a way to contribute to local and national biodiversity strategies and targets.	B3, B4, W1, AC1, AC2, L1	MA2,S3 S4	PH2 S1, S2 AC3			
Objective WE07 Require an Appropriate Assessment to be carried out for proposals which have the potential to adversely affect the integrity of any Natura 2000 site. Having regard to Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, where a proposed development will give rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on Natura 2000 sites (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects), permission will only be granted where there are no alternative solutions and where there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest in favour of granting permission, including those of a social or economic nature.	B1, B2, B3, B4	AC1, AC3, S2, S1, AC2, S4, MA1, MA2,S3, W1, W2, C1 L1 PH1, PH2				
Objective WE08 Facilitate, where appropriate, small scale wind energy development projects in urban areas, industrial estates, business parks and small community-based proposals, subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Section 5.	AC1, AC2 PH1,		B4, MA1, MA2,S3		B1, B2, B3, W1, W2, C1,L1, PH2, S1, S2, S4, AC3	
Objectives WE09 Consider the re-powering (by replacing existing wind turbines) and extension of existing wind farms. Applications on such sites will each be assessed on their merits and will	AC1, AC2, S2	MA1, MA2,S3	B4		B1, B2, B3, W1, W2, C1,L1,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
be subject to the development management standards contained in Section 5.(See table 4)					PH1, PH2, S1, , S4, AC3	
Objective WE10 Facilitate onshore support infrastructure including landing locations for land-sea connections for appropriate offshore development, subject to relevant policy, legislation, environmental, landscape, amenity, seascape and technical considerations and subject to the development management standards contained in Section 5.	AC1, AC2	MA1, MA2,S3	B4		B1, B2, B3, W1, W2, C1,L1, PH1, PH2, S1, S2, S4, AC3	
Joint Housing Strategy 2013-2019						
Objective HS01 - Require that a 20% of all land zoned for residential use, or for a mixture of residential and other uses, be reserved for the purposes of Section 94(4)(a)(i) and (4)(a)(ii) with the exception of the exemption(s) provided for in Section 4 of this strategy and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).	PH1,	S3	B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, MA2, C1, L1			
Objective HS02 - Review this interim Housing Strategy when Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) is revised to take account of the new economic and policy contexts.			All SEOs			
Objective HS03 - Ensure that adequate and appropriate land is zoned to meet the likely future housing need identified in the Housing Strategy and Core Strategy.	PH1,	S3	PH2, W1, W2, AC2		B1, B2, B3, B4, S1, S2, S4, AC1, AC3,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
					MA1, MA2, C1, L1	
Objective HS04 - Seek to facilitate all households to access good quality housing appropriate to household circumstances and in their particular community of choice. The Council's priority will be on meeting the most acute needs – those unable to provide for their accommodation from their own resources.	PH1, MA2	S3	B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1			
Objective HS05 - Ensure that housing is available for people of different income types. This shall be achieved through the housing support system and through the planning system which will ensure that an appropriate mix of units is provided in appropriate locations.	PH1, MA2,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S3, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1			
Objective HS06 - Ensure that a mix of house types and sizes is provided within individual developments and within communities. This will be achieved through the development management and forward planning process. The forward planning process will ensure that appropriate zonings are provided in Development Plans and Local Area Plans at suitable locations to provide for a mix of unit types. Development Plans will also include standards requiring the provision of a mix of unit types and sizes. This will also be achieved through the Council's actions as a housing authority through the selection of lands or units for lease, rent or purchase.	PH1, MA2,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S3, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1			
Objective HS07 - Ensure that the Council's selection of	PH1,		B1, B2, B3,			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
lands or housing units to purchase or lease acts to counteract undue segregation by persons of different social backgrounds.	MA2,		B4, PH2, ,S1, S2, S3, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1			
Objective HS08 - Ensure that those with specific housing needs, such as the elderly, persons with a disability, homeless people and Travellers are accommodated in a manner which is appropriate to their specific needs.	PH1, MA2,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, ,S1, S2, S3, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1			
Objective HS09 - To work with other statutory, voluntary and representative and interest groups to identify the needs of those with special housing needs and the appropriate policy and strategic responses.	PH1, MA2,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, ,S1, S2, S3, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1			
Objective HS10 - Have regard to the National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability 2011-2016 and, insofar as possible having regard to budgetary constraints, implement the strategic aims of this strategy (see Section 1 above).	PH1, MA2,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, ,S1, S2, S3, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1			
Objective HS11 - Promote Universal Design and Lifetime	PH1, AC2		B1,B2,B3,B4,		C1, L1, S2	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
Housing in accordance with best practice and the policies and principles contained in Building for Everyone: A Universal Design Approach (National Disability Authority, 2012) and Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas: Guidelines for Planning Authorities and its companion document Urban Design Manual (DEHLG, 2008).			PH2, S1, S2, S3, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC3, MA1, MA2,			
Objective HS12 - Ensure that a minimum of 20% of dwellings in all new housing estates of five dwellings or more are suitable to accommodate or are adaptable to provide accommodation for people with disabilities. Developers will be required to show an accessible route to the residential units from the boundary of the property. Proximity and access to local services must also be considered relative to the units which are accessible.	PH1, MA2,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, ,S1, S2, S3, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1			
Objective HS13 - To require an Access Statement to be carried out for significant developments in accordance with Appendix 6 of Buildings for Everyone: A Universal Design Approach (National Disability Authority, 2012).	PH1, MA2,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, ,S1, S2, S3, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1			
Objective HS14 - Implement, insofar as possible having regard to budgetary constraints, the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2007-2013 and any subsequently adopted strategy subject.	PH1, MA2,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, ,S1, S2, S3, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
Objective HS15 - Implement, insofar as possible having regard to budgetary constraints, the actions contained in the South-East Homeless Action Plan 2010-2013 and any subsequently adopted plan.	PH1, MA2,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S3, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1			
Objective HS16 - Ensure, through the forward planning and development management processes and the actions of the housing authorities, that new and existing communities provide high-quality living environments with attractive, comfortable and safe accommodation and adequate and well located social and physical infrastructure.	PH1, MA2,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S3, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1			
Objective HS17 - Promote the development of sustainable housing developments which are energy efficient, and efficient in their use of natural resources such as water and materials.	PH1, MA2, AC2, S3,		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, , AC3, MA1, C1, L1			
Objective HS18 - Promote best practice and innovation with regard to ongoing management and maintenance of all housing stock and the associated public realm.			All SEOs			
Objective HS19 - Pursue a range of options for housing provision including for <u>adaptable and accessible housing</u> , including direct new stock acquisition or build, leasing, RAS and the utilization of RAS commitments.		S3	PH1, AC1, AC2, MA1, MA2		B1, B2, B3, B4, S2, S4, PH2, S1, W1, W2,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
					AC3,C1, L1	
Objective HS20 - Support and assist the voluntary housing sector in their role as providers of housing to those in need of accommodation.			All SEOs			
Rosslare Strand & Castlebridge Objectives						
Objective RSO01 - To protect and enhance the distinctive character of Rosslare Strand.	PH1, C1, L1	MA1	B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S3, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA2			
Objective RSO02 - To ensure Rosslare Strand maintains its existing population levels and services and that future growth is balanced and sustainable and is relevant and appropriate to the scale, size and character of the village.	PH1, MA2		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S3, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, MA2			
Objective RSO03 - To ensure Rosslare Strand maintains and enhances its role as an important local service centre for its residents and the surrounding rural hinterland whilst maintaining sustainable communities and ensuring a good quality environment	PH1, MA2		B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S3, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, MA2, C1, L1			
Objective RSO04 - To ensure Rosslare Strand maintains and enhances its role as a valuable tourism destination in	PH1, MA2	S3			B1, B2, B3, B4,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
the County and to facilitate the development of appropriate tourism facilities, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.					PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1	
Objective RSO05 - To ensure the sustainable use and management of Rosslare Strand's natural resources, assets and amenities, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	B1, B3, S1, S3, MA2		B2, B4, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1			
Objective RSO06 - To ensure the density, scale and form of future residential development in Castlebridge is appropriate to the settlement's position in the County's Settlement Strategy and associated Settlement Hierarchy and that it has regard to the Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas and the accompanying Urban Design Manual-A Best Practice Guide (DEHLG, 2009).	B1, B2, B3, PH1, PH2, AC1	S3,	S1, S4, B4, AC2, , AC3, MA1, MA2, W1, W2, C1,L1		S2,	
Objective RSO07 - To consolidate the existing pattern of development and ensure that new development complies with the sequential approach to the development of land which is focused on developing lands closest to the village centre first.	PH1 AC1, S2	S3,	B4, L1, AC2,MA2		B1, B2, B3, , PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, C1,	
Objective RSO08 - To prepare in conjunction with the local community a Village Design Statement for Rosslare Strand			B1, B2, B3, B4, PH1,			

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>which will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Assess and describe what is unique about Rosslare Strand to ensure these features are enhanced through the planning process and other relevant socio-economic development programmes; b) To draw up design principles to guide future development within and surrounding the village, in accordance with Section 28 Planning Guidelines and the European Landscape Convention; c) To effectively manage new development and to provide advice to all decision makers, developers and their agents; and d) To act as a focus for local communities to participate and collaborate effectively in the local planning process and other developments in and for the community. 			PH2, ,S1, S2, S3, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, MA2, C1, L1			
Objective RSO09 - To promote and facilitate the provision of serviced residential sites in the village subject to complying with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	PH1 AC1, MA2	S3,	B4, L1, AC2,		B1, B2, B3, PH2, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, C1,	
Objective RSO10 - To consider the development of holiday homes within the boundaries of the settlement subject to the development being in keeping with scale and character of Rosslare Strand and compliance with normal planning and environment criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18. The design should positively contribute to and enhance the coastal landscape setting.	L1, C1, PH1,	S3	PH2, B4, AC1, AC2,		B1, B2, B3, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, MA2	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
Objective RSO11 - To encourage the provision of appropriate retail services and additional social and communities facilities in the village to serve the resident population, surrounding rural hinterland and visitors, subject to normal planning and environment criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.	PH1, MA2	AC1, AC2,	B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S3, S4, W1, W2, AC3, L1		MA1, C1	
Objective RS012 - To ensure all development is in accordance with objectives in Chapter 13 (Coastal Zone Management)	W2, L1, AC3	AC1, AC2,	B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S3, S4, W1, MA1, C1			
Objective RSO13 - To ensure the protection and conservation of natural heritage including designated sites, protected species, and ecological networks/corridors of local biodiversity value outside the designated sites.	B1, B2, B3, B4, C1, L1		B1, PH1, PH2, S1, S2, S3, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, MA2			
Objective CSO01 - To protect and enhance the distinctive character of Castlebridge.	PH1, C1, L1	MA1	B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S3, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA2			
Objective CSO02 - To ensure the density, scale and form of future residential development in Castlebridge is appropriate to the settlement's position as a District Town in the County's Settlement Strategy and associated Settlement Hierarchy and that new residential development	B1, B2, B3, PH1, PH2, AC1	S3,	S1, S4, B4, AC2, , AC3, MA1, MA2, W1, W2, C1, L1		S2,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
<p>has regard to the Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas and the accompanying Urban Design Manual- A Best Practice Guide (DEHLG, 2009).</p> <p>Objective CSO03 - To prepare in conjunction with the local community a Village Design Statement for Castlebridge which will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Assess and describe what is unique about Castlebridge to ensure these features are enhanced through the planning process and other relevant socio-economic development programmes; b) Draw up design principles to guide future development within and surrounding the village, in accordance with Section 28 Planning Guidelines and the European Landscape Convention; c) Effectively manage new development and to provide advice to all decision makers, developers and their agent; and d) Act as a focus for local communities to participate and collaborate effectively in the local planning process and other developments in and for the community. <p>Objective CSO04 - To consolidate the existing pattern of development and ensure that new development complies with the sequential approach to the development of land which is focused on developing lands closest to the village centre first.</p> <p>Objective CSO05 - To promote and facilitate the provision of serviced residential sites in the village subject to complying with normal planning and environmental criteria</p>			<p>B1, B2, B3, B4, PH1, PH2, S1, S2, S3, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, MA2, C1, L1</p>			
	PH1 AC1, S2	S3,	B4, L1, AC2, MA2		B1, B2, B3, , PH2, S1, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, C1,	
	PH1 AC1, MA2	S3,	B4, L1, AC2,		B1, B2, B3, PH2,	

Development Plan Objectives & Policy	Likely to improve	No likely interaction	Neutral interaction	Uncertain interaction	Potential conflict likely to be mitigated	Probable Conflict unlikely to be mitigated
and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18.					S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC3, MA1, C1,	
Objective CSO06 - To encourage the provision of appropriate retail services and additional social and communities facilities in the village to serve the resident population, surrounding rural hinterland and visitors, subject to normal planning and environment criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18 of Volume 1.	PH1, MA2	AC1, AC2,	B1, B2, B3, B4, PH2, S1, S2, S3, S4, W1, W2, AC3, L1		MA1, C1	
Objective CSO07 - To ensure the sustainable use and management of Castlebridge's natural resources, assets and amenities, subject to normal planning and environment criteria and the development management standards contained in Chapter 18 of Volume 1.	B1, B3, S1, S3, MA2		B2, B4, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, C1, L1			
Objective CSO08 - To ensure the protection and conservation of natural heritage including designated sites, protected species, and ecological networks/corridors of local biodiversity value outside the designated sites.	B1, B2, B3, B4, L1	S3	B2, B4, S1, S2, S4, W1, W2, AC1, AC2, AC3, MA1, MA2, C1, L1			

Section 8: Mitigation Measures

8.1 Introduction

It is a requirement of the (SEA) Regulations 2004, as amended (Schedule 2B), to set out measures to offset any potential negative impact on the environment as a result of implementing the policies and objectives of the Plan. Mitigation measures are measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse impacts on the environment of implementing the Wexford County Development Plan.

Mitigation measures are required to eliminate/ remediate/ reduce significant negative environmental impacts. These significant impacts can be mitigated at:

- Source (avoiding the impact at source)
- Pathway (reducing the magnitude of the impact)
- Receptor (compensating for the impact by providing an alternative)

Mitigation involves ameliorating significant negative effects via prevention and/or by reducing or offsetting such effects. Mitigation measures can be roughly divided into those that: avoid effects; reduce the magnitude or extent, probability and/or severity of effects; repair effects after they have occurred; and, compensate for effects, balancing out negative impacts with positive ones. The mitigation measures are summarised in Table 38.

The SEA of the Plan was carried out in-house within the wider Plan drafting team; as such environmental vulnerabilities, issues and constraints were considered in the first instance through the plan writing process and in this regard formulated with the explicit intention of protecting the environment and avoiding potentially adverse environmental impacts.

The mitigation measures detailed under Table 38 are integrated into and adopted as part of the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019. With regard to mitigation measures it should be noted that:

- Detailed mitigation measures in addition to those detailed below, and those integrated into the Plan are likely to be required at individual project level, for example through Habitat and Species Survey, Ecological Impact Assessment, Appropriate Assessment and/or Environmental Impact Assessment.
- Changes to the Plan (during the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019 review period) following consultation were integrated and evaluated in this Environmental Report.
- All legislation, policies and guidelines outlined in both the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019, this Environmental Report and the AA are strictly adhered to.
- In implementing the Plan, regard should be had to future legislation, policies and guidelines.

8.2 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

The preferred development strategy may have uncertain impacts on SEOs B1, B2, B3 and B4. This is because impacts of implementing the Plan on habitats, flora and fauna within the designated sites, as well as non-designated habitats, species and their sustaining resources are uncertain in the absence of detailed information on the type and scale of developments which may be proposed during the lifetime of the Plan. Rural development and development of greenfield lands could potentially destroy ecological network corridors to these areas through loss of hedgerows and trees.

B1	Conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats, species within the county, and support the sustainable management of these areas.
B2	Ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive with regard to protection of Natura 2000 sites and habitats and species listed under Annexes I and II of the Directive. and prevent the loss of ecological networks, and stepping stones or parts thereof which provide important connectivity for species.
B3	To ensure compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the protection of wildlife corridors and contiguous areas of

	habitat which are important on a County level for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species
B4	Protect aquatic and terrestrial habitats from the spread of invasive species

To mitigate any uncertainty the following Objectives have been included:

Mitigation	Policy
MM1	Objective NH01 - To conserve and protect the integrity of sites designated for their habitat/wildlife or geological/geomorphological importance and prohibit development which would damage or threaten the integrity of these sites, including SACs, cSAC, SPAs, NHAs, pNHAs, Nature Reserves, and Refuges for Fauna.
MM2	Objective NH03 - To ensure that any plan or project and any associated works, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, are subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity (defined by the structure and function) of any Natura 2000 site(s) and that the requirements of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive are fully satisfied. Where the plan/project is likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site it shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment. The plan/project will proceed only after it has been ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site or where in the absence of alternative solutions, the plan/project is deemed imperative for reasons of overriding public interest, all in accordance with the provisions of article 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive.
MM3	Objective NH04 - To ensure the protection and conservation of areas, sites and species and ecological networks/corridors of local biodiversity value outside the designated sites throughout the County.
MM4	Objective NH08 - To ensure, where appropriate, applications for development include proposals for native planting and leave a suitable

	ecological buffer zone between the development works and areas or features of ecological importance. Where hedgerows are required to be removed, require the applicant/developer to reinstate the hedgerows with a suitable replacement of native species to the satisfaction of the Council.
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8.3 Population and Human Health

The implementation of the Plan would have positive impacts for population and human health in terms of improved water quality and provision of high quality residential, recreational and working environments. However, in the absence of appropriate mitigation measures, there is potential for future development to conflict with SEO PH2.

PH1	Protect and enhance peoples quality of life based on high quality residential, community, working and recreational environments.
PH2	Protect human health through minimising the risk of polluting emissions including noise and vibrations from incompatible land-uses and emissions to air/water/soil from traffic, industrial processes and extractive industry.

In the absence of detailed information on the type and scale of developments which may be proposed during the lifetime of the Plan, it is necessary to mitigate any uncertainty by including the following Objectives.

Mitigation	Policy
MM5	Objective CF09 - To promote the development of sustainable communities on the basis of a high quality of life where people can live, work and enjoy access to a wide range of community, health and educational facilities suitable for all ages, needs and abilities.
MM6	Mitigation also included in objectives under Water, Air and Climate Sections which will address any potential impacts on air, and water quality.

8.4 Soil and Geology

The Plan encourages the redevelopment of Brownfield sites and therefore has a positive impact on SEO S2. No significant impacts are identified on SEO S1, S3 and SEO S4.

S1	Prevent pollution or contamination of soils
S2	Give preference to the use and regeneration of derelict, disused and infill sites, rather than Greenfield sites.
S3	Minimise the amount of waste to landfill
S4	Protect and conserve important geological sites

In the absence of detailed information on the type and scale of developments which may be proposed during the lifetime of the Plan it is necessary to mitigate any uncertainty by including the following Objectives.

Mitigation	Policy
MM7	Objective WM01 - To implement the provisions of the Joint Waste Management Plan for the South-East Region 2006-2011, and any updated version published during the lifetime of the Plan, subject to compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.
MM8	Objective NH02 - To recognise the importance of recommended proposed NHAs and County Geological sites identified by the Geological Survey of Ireland and protect the character and integrity of these sites where appropriate.
MM9	Objective WM04 - To encourage the development of waste minimisation strategies for domestic, commercial and industrial waste.

8.5 Water & Flooding

There is the potential for significant effects from the implementation of the Plan on water. A number of international and national environmental policies such as the Water Framework Directive and the Floods Directive, the development management standards contained in Chapter 18 and other objectives contained in Chapters 10 and 12 have listed appropriate mitigation measures to minimise the impact of development on water quality and flooding. However, planning applications will be

assessed for water quality impacts and flood risk and specific mitigation measures employed where significant adverse effects may occur.

W1	To ensure the protection from pollution/contamination and/or improvement of all drinking water, surface water and groundwater quality throughout the county
W2	Ensure new development will not be permitted within flood zones other than development which satisfies the justification test, as outlined in the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009 for Planning Authorities, within well established towns.

In the absence of detailed information on the type and scale of developments which may be proposed during the lifetime of the Plan, it is necessary to mitigate any uncertainty by including the following objectives:

Mitigation	Policy
MM10	Objective WQ05 - To ensure that development permitted would not have an unacceptable impact on water quality and quantity, including surface water, ground water, designated source protection areas, river corridors and associated wetlands, estuarine waters, coastal and transitional waters.
MM11	Objective FRM01 - To carry out flood risk assessment for the purpose of regulating, restricting and controlling development in areas at risk of flooding and to minimise the level of flood risk to people, business, infrastructure and the environment through the identification and management of existing and potential future flood risk.

8.6 Air, Noise and Climate

A number of international and national environmental policies such as the Kyoto Protocol and the National Emissions Ceilings, the development management standards contained in Chapter 18 have listed appropriate mitigation measures to minimise the impact of development on air, noise and climate. At a local level Wexford County Council has a statutory function to place conditions on air emissions licences to ensure emissions from development or facilities do not impact on the ambient air quality. The mitigation measures provided by public transport will help

mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. Wexford County Council encourages developers and residents to examine the feasibility of using alternative energy sources. The Council has prepared a Wind Energy Strategy which indicates preferred areas and areas open for consideration for wind energy development.

AC1	Facilitate measures which seek to reduce all forms of air pollution and reduce dependence on travel by private car.
AC2	Promote use of renewable energy sources and support energy conservation initiatives
AC3	Avoid development within flood risk areas and protect the marine and coastal environment from inappropriate works or development, and promote Integrated coastal zone management strategies

In the absence of detailed information on the type and scale of developments which may be proposed during the lifetime of the Plan, it is necessary to mitigate any uncertainty by including the following Objectives to promote public transport and renewable energy and to prevent new development from locating within areas vulnerable to coastal flooding.

Mitigation	Policy
MM12	Objective CC04 - To minimise emissions greenhouse gases in order to contribute to a reduction and avoidance of human induced climate change in accordance with the Kyoto agreement. The Council supports and is committed to the National Climate Change Strategy and in general to facilitating measures which seek to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.
MM13	Objective AQ05 - To encourage a modal change from private car use towards other types of travel and to promote the use of public transport as a means of reducing vehicle emissions and improving air quality.
MM14	Objective EN07 - To encourage and favourably consider proposals for renewable energy developments and ancillary facilities in order to meet national, regional and county renewable energy targets and to facilitate

	a reduction in CO ₂ emissions and the promotion of a low carbon economy, subject to development management standards and compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.
MM15	Objective EN22 - To promote innovative building design and layout that demonstrates a high level of energy conservation, energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources.
MM16	Objective CZM04 - To prohibit development within areas liable to coastal flooding, other than in accordance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Office of Public Works, 2009).

8.7 Material Assets

There were no significant adverse impacts noted on material assets resulting from implementation of the Plan.

MA1	Ensure that zoned land within town plans will not be developed if such development will lead to overcapacity of Wastewater Treatment Plants in order to ensure protection of the water resources within the Plan area.
MA2	Maintain and improve the quality of, and access to, material assets such as open spaces, drinking water supply, and all other physical and social infrastructure.

However in the absence of detailed information on the type and scale of developments which may be proposed during the lifetime of the Plan, it is necessary to mitigate any uncertainty by including the following objectives:

Mitigation	Policy
MM17	Objective SS07 - To ensure the zoning of lands for residential use is in accordance with the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy. The development of this zoned land is subject to adequate capacity being

	available in the relevant wastewater treatment facilities in the interests of protecting water resources in the area.
MM18	Objective WS05 - To ensure the delivery of an adequate and reliable public water supply which serves the domestic, commercial and industrial needs of the County.

8.8 Cultural Heritage

Many of the objectives of the Development Plan deal with the protection of archaeological and architectural heritage which will provide the necessary mitigation measures to protect architectural and archaeological heritage.

C1	Promote the protection and conservation of the county's cultural heritage including the built environment and settings; archaeological (recorded monuments and archaeological zones), architectural (Protected Structures, vernacular buildings, materials and urban fabric), and manmade landscape features (e.g. field walls, footpaths, gate piers)
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The following objectives are included to mitigate any potential negative impacts.

Mitigation	Policy
MM19	Objective PS01 - To protect the architectural heritage of County Wexford 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
MM20	Objective AH01 - To conserve and protect archaeological sites, monuments (including their settings), underwater archaeology and objects within the jurisdiction of Wexford County Council including those listed on the Record of Monuments and Places, the Register of Historic Monuments or newly discovered sub-surface archaeological remains.

8.9 Landscape

The assessment has indicated no single significant impacts will occur from the implementation of the objectives of the Development Plan provided that the

objectives and policies are adhered to. However, the accumulative impacts of developments on the landscape require mitigation to avoid adverse impacts on the landscape.

L1	To avoid adverse impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscapes which are the most valuable and sensitive to change, including seascapes, coastal scapes, and landscapes of historical and cultural importance
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The following objectives are included to mitigate any potential negative impacts.

Mitigation	Policy
MM21	Objective RH07 - To minimise the individual or cumulative adverse visual impacts that local concentrations of one-off housing, outside of settlements, may have on Upland, River Valley and Coastal landscape character units or Landscapes of Greater Sensitivity. In this regard, in locations where the Council considers that there is a risk of individual or cumulative adverse impacts, the Council will only consider proposals for housing developments where the applicant has demonstrated an overriding need to reside in the particular location in accordance with the criteria contained in Table No. 12.

8.10 Incorporation of Mitigation Measures into the Plan

The mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Plan and the policies and objectives refined and refocused where necessary. Table 38 identifies the policies in the Plan which have been influenced by the mitigation measures. Post-mitigation or 'residual' impacts will be addressed through monitoring during the implementation of the Plan.

Table 38 Mitigation

Environmental Parameter	Mitigation Measure	Plan Policy/Objective
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	MM1	Objective NH01 - To conserve and protect the integrity of sites designated for their habitat/wildlife or geological/geomorphological importance and prohibit development which would damage or threaten the integrity of these sites, including SACs, cSAC, SPAs, NHAs, pNHAs, Nature Reserves, and Refuges for Fauna.
	MM2	Objective NH03 - To ensure that any plan or project and any associated works, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, are subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity (defined by the structure and function) of any Natura 2000 site(s) and that the requirements of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive are fully satisfied. Where the plan/project is likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site it shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment. The plan/project will proceed only after it has been ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site or where in the absence of alternative solutions, the plan/project is deemed imperative for reasons of overriding public interest, all in accordance with the provisions of article 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive.
	MM3	Objective NH04 - To ensure the protection and conservation of areas, sites and species and ecological networks/corridors of local biodiversity value outside the designated sites throughout the County.

	MM4	Objective NH08 - To ensure, where appropriate, applications for development include proposals for native planting and leave a suitable ecological buffer zone between the development works and areas or features of ecological importance. Where hedgerows are required to be removed, require the applicant/developer to reinstate the hedgerows with a suitable replacement of native species to the satisfaction of the Council.
Population and Human Health	MM5	Objective CF09 - To promote the development of sustainable communities on the basis of a high quality of life where people can live, work and enjoy access to a wide range of community, health and educational facilities suitable for all ages, needs and abilities.
	MM6	Mitigation also included in objectives under Water, Air and Climate Sections which will address any potential impacts on air, and water quality.
Soil and Geology	MM7	Objective WM01 - To implement the provisions of the Joint Waste Management Plan for the South-East Region 2006-2011, and any updated version published during the lifetime of the Plan, subject to compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.
	MM8	Objective NH02 - To recognise the importance of recommended proposed NHAs and County Geological sites identified by the Geological Survey of Ireland and protect the character and integrity of these sites where appropriate.
	MM9	Objective WM04 - To encourage the development of waste minimisation strategies for domestic, commercial and industrial waste.
Water and Flooding	MM10	Objective WQ05 - To ensure that development permitted would not have an unacceptable impact on water quality and quantity, including surface water, ground water, designated source protection areas, river corridors and associated wetlands, estuarine waters, coastal and transitional waters.

Air , Noiseand Climate	MM11	Objective FRM01 - To carry out flood risk assessment for the purpose of regulating, restricting and controlling development in areas at risk of flooding and to minimise the level of flood risk to people, business, infrastructure and the environment through the identification and management of existing and potential future flood risk.
	MM12	Objective CC04 - To minimise emissions greenhouse gases in order to contribute to a reduction and avoidance of human induced climate change in accordance with the Kyoto agreement. The Council supports and is committed to the National Climate Change Strategy and in general to facilitating measures which seek to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.
	MM13	Objective AQ05 - To encourage a modal change from private car use towards other types of travel and to promote the use of public transport as a means of reducing vehicle emissions and improving air quality.
	MM14	Objective EN07 - To encourage and favourably consider proposals for renewable energy developments and ancillary facilities in order to meet National, Regional and County renewable energy targets and to facilitate a reduction in CO ₂ emissions and the promotion of a low carbon economy, subject to development management standards and compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.
	MM15	Objective EN22 - To promote innovative building design and layout that demonstrates a high level of energy conservation, energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources.
	MM16	Objective CZM04 - To prohibit development within areas liable to coastal flooding, other than in accordance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Office of Public Works, 2009).

Material Assets	MM17	Objective SS07 - To ensure the zoning of lands for residential use is in accordance with the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy. The development of this zoned land is subject to adequate capacity being available in the relevant wastewater treatment facilities in the interests of the protecting water resources in the area.
	MM18	Objective WS05 - To ensure the delivery of an adequate and reliable public water supply which serves the domestic, commercial and industrial needs of the County.
Cultural Heritage	MM19	Objective PS01 - To protect the architectural heritage of County Wexford 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
	MM20	Objective AH01 - To conserve and protect archaeological sites, monuments (including their settings), underwater archaeology and objects within the jurisdiction of Wexford County Council including those listed on the Record of Monuments and Places, the Register of Historic Monuments or newly discovered sub-surface archaeological remains.
Landscape	MM21	Objective RH07 - To minimise the individual or cumulative adverse visual impacts that local concentrations of one-off housing, outside of settlements, may have on Upland, River Valley and Coastal landscape character units or Landscapes of Greater Sensitivity. In this regard, in locations where the Council considers that there is a risk of individual or cumulative adverse impacts, the Council will only consider proposals for housing developments where the applicant has demonstrated an overriding need to reside in the particular location in accordance with the criteria contained in Table No. 12.

8.11 Mitigation in the Wind Strategy

The SEA helped to define areas for wind energy development and ensured that highly sensitive environmental resources were avoided or potential negative impacts highlighted and addressed through mitigation measures. Designated sites were avoided by excluding them from the Acceptable in Principle and Open for Consideration areas. Landscape Character Areas were also excluded where they were considered to be sensitive to wind farm development. It was not possible to avoid Recorded Monuments due to the large number of sites dispersed throughout the County. Similarly, it was not possible to avoid all breeding areas, roosting grounds and flight paths for protected bird species as detailed data was not available at the time of preparing this Strategy. Therefore, measures have been incorporated into the development management standards contained in Section 5 of the Wind Strategy to mitigate potential adverse impacts of wind farm development on archaeological heritage and potential impacts on birds in terms of collision, disturbance and any other impacts on the environment.

Section 9: Monitoring Programme

9.1 Introduction

Article 10 of the SEA Directive requires that monitoring be carried out in order to identify at an early stage any unforeseen adverse effects due to the implementation of the Plan and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action. Monitoring is a key element of the effective implementation of the Wexford County Development Plan 2013 – 2019. Its purpose is to cross check significant effects which arise during the implementation stage of the Plan against those predicted during the plan preparation stage. Monitoring is based on indicators which measure changes to the environment. Monitoring shall be based on the environmental objectives, targets and indicators set out in Table 39 below.

Under the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the County Manager is required to prepare a progress report on the implementation of the Plan. Given that the environment is a significant consideration the progress report should include the key findings of the environmental monitoring programme as outlined in this section.

9.2 Monitoring Indicators

Several kinds of indicators may be used to fulfil particular functions and measure the quality/quantity of environmental resources:

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

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

The following Table 39 lists indicators and targets which may be amended depending on availability of resources and relevance of the indicators to monitor the environmental baseline. The indicators allow quantitative measures of trends and progress over time relating to the SEOs used in the evaluation. Focus is given to indicators which are relevant to the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan and existing monitoring arrangements shall be used in order to monitor the selected indicators where possible.

The methodology for the development and selection of the SEA indicators for the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019 has been informed by the scoping process, the baseline assessment and the identification of existing environmental problems.

Monitoring Agencies

CDB – County Development Board

CSO – Central Statistics Office

DAHG – Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

DECLG – Department of Environment, Communities and Local Government

DoT – Department of Transport

EPA – Environmental Protection Agency

Failte – Failte Ireland

GSI – Geological Survey of Ireland

HC – Heritage Council

MI – Marine Institute

NTA – National Transport Authority

NPWS – National Parks & Wildlife Service

NBDC – National Biodiversity Data Centre

NRA – National Roads Authority

WCC – Wexford County Council (Various Sections)

WEMA - Wexford Energy Management Agency

9.3 Monitoring Indicators and Targets

Table 39 Strategic Environmental Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Strategic Environmental Objectives, Indicators and Targets				
Objective		Target	Indicative Indicators	Responsible Authority and frequency
Biodiversity	B1 Conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats, species within the county, and support the sustainable management of these areas.	No reduction in habitat diversity or loss of species in non-designated sites.	Conservation status of habitats and species as reported by NPWS.	WCC (Planning & Environment Sections), NPWS. Dependant on the availability of information from relevant statutory authorities
	B2 Ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive with regard to protection of Natura 2000 sites and habitats and species listed under Annexes I and II of the Directive and prevent the loss of ecological networks, and stepping stones or parts there of which provide important connectivity for species.	Protect Natura 2000 sites and habitats and species under Annex I and II of Habitats Directive. No ecological networks or parts there of which provide significant connectivity between local areas of biodiversity to be lost without remediation by implementation of the CWDP.	Conservation status of the Qualifying Interests of Natura 2000 sites and protected habitats and species as reported by NPWS and other conservation organisations.	WCC (Planning & Environment Sections), NPWS. Dependant on the availability of information from relevant statutory authorities.
	B3 To ensure compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the protection of wildlife corridors and contiguous areas of habitat which are important on a County level for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal and	No ecological networks or parts there of which provide significant connectivity between local areas of biodiversity to be lost, once mapping complete, without remediation by implementation of the	Percentage loss of mapped ecological networks.	WCC (Planning & Environment Sections), HC Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the County Manager's Report on progress (subject to available resources)

Population and Human Health	genetic exchange of wild species.	CWDP.		
	B4 Protect aquatic and terrestrial habitats from the spread of invasive species	Prevent introduction of new invasive species. Control or manage current invasive species to prevent a spread in their distribution.	Number and types of invasive species identified. Number of submissions or observations. Distribution of invasive species as listed on National Biodiversity Data Centre website and updates from other invasive species related sites and organisations.	WCC (Planning & Environment Sections), NPWS,NBDC Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the County Manager's Report on progress (subject to available resources)
	PH1 Protect and enhance peoples quality of life based on high quality residential, community, working and recreational environments.	Increased employment opportunities. Increases and improvements in quality of services, amenities and 'green spaces' available to the public.	Provision of employment. Provision of services, amenities and 'green spaces'.	Central Government, IDA, Enterprise Ireland, County Enterprise Board, WCC (Housing, Planning, Enterprise, Community Sections) Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the County Manager's Report on progress (subject to available resources)
	PH2 Protect human health through minimising the risk of polluting emissions including noise and vibrations from incompatible land-uses and emissions to air/water/soil from traffic, industrial processes and extractive industry	No significant deterioration in human health as a result of environmental factors. No spatial concentrations of health problems resulting from incompatible land-uses. No designated Shellfish Growing Areas to be of Class C standard and implementation of Pollution	Number of occurrences of declines in human health relating to environmental issues in County Wexford. Occurrence (if any) of spatial concentrations of deterioration of human health. Quality of designated Shellfish Growing areas	WCC(Planning, Environment Sections) CSO MI Water Quality Section of DECLG Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the County Manager's Report on progress (subject to available resources)

		Reduction Programmes for designated areas.	in the County as listed by DEHLG.	
Soil and Geology	S1 Prevent pollution or contamination of soils	Maintenance and conservation of soil quality, especially in regard to organic matter content.	EPA/ Teagasc National Soils Mapping Project.	EPA/Teagasc Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the County Manager's Report on progress (subject to available resources)
	S2 Give preference to the use and regeneration of derelict, disused and infill sites, rather than greenfield sites.	Develop as many derelict, disused and infill sites as appropriate and possible.	Location and area of developed derelict, disused and infill sites over the duration of the plan.	WCC (Planning Section) Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the County Manager's Report on progress (subject to available resources)
	S3 Minimise the amount of waste to landfill	Reduce the amount of waste to landfill by increasing recycling and composting initiatives.	Amount and nature of waste going to landfill sites.	WCC (Environment Section) Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the County Manager's Report on progress (subject to available resources)
	S4 Protect and conserve important geological sites	Retain or increase the conservation status of important geological sites throughout the county	Conservation status of important geological sites mapped by gsi.ie.	GSI Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the County Manager's Report on progress (subject to available resources)

Water and Flooding	W1 To ensure, the protection from pollution/contamination and/or improvement of all drinking water, surface water and ground water quality throughout the county	Protect and restore areas identified in River Basin District Management plan required to achieve “good” status i.e. 4+ for water quality by 2015 in line with WFD Objectives. No deterioration of quality of drinking water in the County. No deterioration of good quality surface waters and ground waters. Improvements in quality of those waters failing to reach WFD objectives.	Water quality monitoring results from the EPA for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinking water quality • Surface water ecological and chemical status • Status of estuarine and coastal waters • Bathing water quality • Ground water quality • Number of Public Water Supplies on EPA Remedial Action List. • Number of Discharge Licences granted by EPA. 	EPA WCC(Water Services/Irish Water, Environment Section) Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the County Manager’s Report on progress (subject to available resources)
	W2 Ensure new development will not be permitted within flood zones other than development which satisfies the justification test, as outlined in the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009 for Planning Authorities.	In accordance with OPW/ DEHLG Risk Assessment, require all applications within designated Flood Risk zones A and B to undertake a flood risk assessment as part of the planning application.	Number of permitted development in flood risk zones A and B.	WCC (Planning Section) OPW Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the County Manager’s Report on progress (subject to available resources)

Air, Noise and Climate	AC1 Facilitate measures which seek to reduce all forms of air pollution and reduce dependence on travel by private car.	20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2020. Increase investment in cycle-ways and footpaths	Results of local Air Quality monitoring. Proportion of public travel modes used.	EPA, DoT, NTA, WCC (Environment Section) Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the County Manager's Report on progress (subject to available resources)
	AC2 Promote use of renewable energy sources and support energy conservation initiatives	Increase in renewable energy development and research and development in the county. Address the county's contribution to the national targets on renewable energy set out in policy documents.	Installed capacity from renewable energy resources. Number of renewable energy developments granted planning permission. Meet or exceed county's contribution to national targets on renewable energy.	WCC (Planning Section, Energy Officer) Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the County Manager's Report on progress (subject to available resources)
	AC3 Avoid development within flood risk areas and protect the marine and coastal environment from inappropriate works or development, and promote Integrated coastal zone management strategies	In accordance with OPW/ DoEHLG Risk Assessment, require all applications within designation Flood Risk zones A and B to undertake a flood risk assessment as part of the planning application. No vulnerable development in flood risk or areas risk of coastal flooding.	Number of permitted developments in flood risk or coastal zones.	WCC (Planning Section) OPW Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the County Manager's Report on progress (subject to available resources)

Material Assets	MA1 Ensure that zoned land within town plans will not be developed if such development will lead to overcapacity of Wastewater Treatment Plants in order to ensure protection of the water resources within the plan area.	New development should be served by a public wastewater treatment system or an approved on site wastewater treatment plant designed, constructed and managed in accordance with the EPA Guidelines.	Number of permissions granted without connection to a public wastewater treatment system or an approved on site wastewater treatment plant designed, constructed and managed in accordance with the EPA Guidelines.	WCC (Planning, Environment Sections) EPA Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the County Manager's Report on progress (subject to available resources)
	MA2 Maintain and improve the quality of, and access to, material assets such as open spaces, drinking water supply, and all other physical and social infrastructure.	Increase numbers of visitors to cultural heritage sites and other public amenities. Maintain or enhance access to public amenities. No deterioration in public water supplies.	Quality of access to public amenities and visitor numbers. Quality and accessibility of public water supply.	WCC (Community, Water Services) OPW Fáilte Ireland Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the County Manager's Report on progress (subject to available resources)

Cultural Heritage	C1 Promote the protection and conservation of the county's cultural heritage including the built environment and settings; archaeological (Recorded Monuments and archaeological zones), architectural (Protected Structures, vernacular buildings, materials and urban fabric), and manmade landscape features (e.g. field walls, footpaths, gate piers)	No damage occurring to structures or monuments due to development. Maintain and increase the number of archaeological features recorded and protected. To increase the number and range of ACAs in the county to conserve both townscapes and demesne landscapes. To increase the number of protected structures in line with Ministerial recommendations arising from NIAH surveys.	Number of structures or monuments damaged due to development. Number of monuments on the RPS and areas of archaeological potential recorded or subject to exploration as a result of development. Number and range of ACAs designated in the county (townscape and demesne landscape). Number of structures in RPS in relation to Ministerial recommendations arising from NIAH county inventory.	DAHG National Monuments Service DAHG NIAH, WCC (Planning Section) Owners Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the County Manager's Report on progress (subject to available resources)
Landscape	L1 To avoid adverse impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscapes which are the most valuable and sensitive to change, including seascapes, coastal scapes, and landscapes of historical and cultural importance	No diminution in the quality of important landscapes	The number of permissions granted in "Landscapes of Greater Sensitivity".	WCC (Planning Section) Initial monitoring to commence within two years of adoption as part of the County Manager's Report on progress (subject to available resources)
	In all instances monitoring will be subject to availability of data and resources.			

9.4 Conclusion

The purpose of indicators is to monitor the effectiveness of the Plan in meeting the environmental objectives and targets identified in this Report. The methodology for the development and selection of the SEA indicators for the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019 has been informed by the scoping process, the baseline assessment and the identification of existing environmental problems. However, it should be noted that the final set of indicators is also influenced by the availability of existing and relevant indicators and current monitoring programmes. Some indicators will involve the collection of new data which is available within the wider Council resource base. Based on the information above, majority of the indicator information required is already being actively collected and reported at a level sufficient to meet the needs of Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019. In summary, the following recommendations have been included in this Section:

It is recommended that:

- A multi-disciplinary monitoring team is established to oversee the monitoring process.
- The Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019 Progress Report will include the key findings of the environmental monitoring programme.
- This environmental report is issued to the designated Environmental Authorities, Transboundary Authorities, and made available on the Wexford County Council website.

APPENDIX

SCHEDULE 2B - INFORMATION TO BE CONTAINED IN AN ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The following information shall be included in an environmental report –

- (a) an outline of the contents and main objectives of the Plan and relationship with other relevant Plans;
- (b) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the Plan;
- (c) the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;
- (d) any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the Plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to the Birds Directive or Habitats Directive;
- (e) the environmental protection objectives, established at international, European Union or national level, which are relevant to the Plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;
- (f) the likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors;
- (g) the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the Plan;
- (h) an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information;
- (i) a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring of the significant environmental effects of implementation of the Plan;
- (j) a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.

Maps

Map 1: County Wexford Geographical Area

Map 2: Designated sites

Map 3: Soils Map of County Wexford

Map 4: County Geological Sites

Map 5: Wexford Quarry Map

Map 6: Aquifer Protection Zones

Map 7: Flood Risk Zones

Map 8: Existing Road and Rail Infrastructure

Map 9: Proposed roads in the county

Map 10: Proposed and existing wind farms

Map 11: Electricity grid network

Map 12: Broadband Network

Map 13: Recorded Monuments

Map 14: Existing Record of Protected Structures

Map 15: National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

Map 16: Landscape Character Assessment

Map 17: Sustainable Rural Housing Strategy



County Wexford Geographical Area

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Title: County Wexford Geographical Area

Drawn by: NK

Checked by: GH

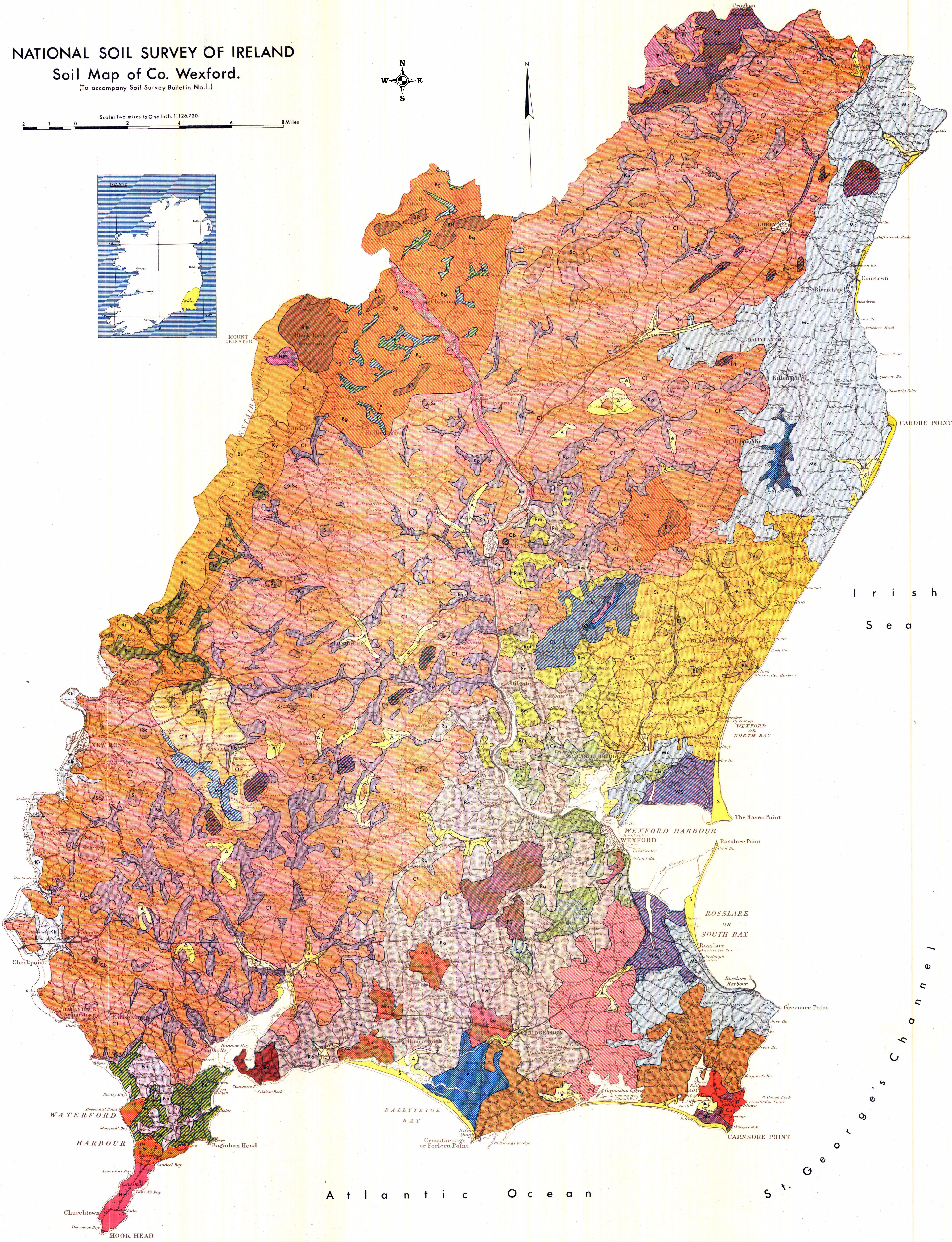
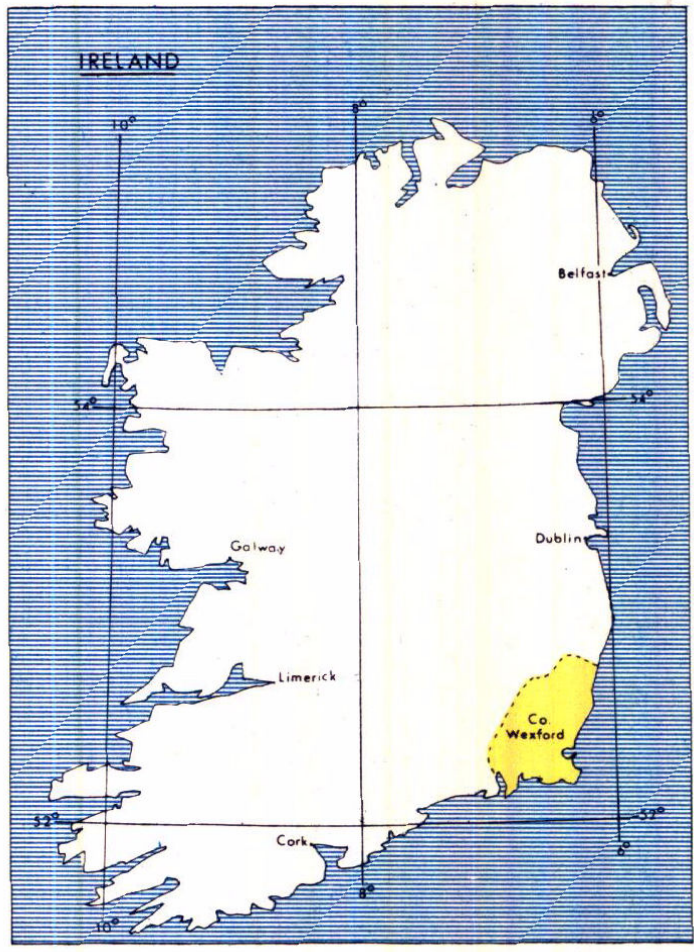
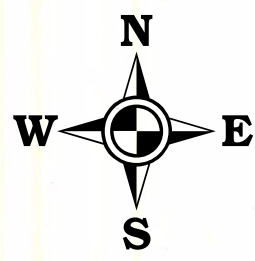
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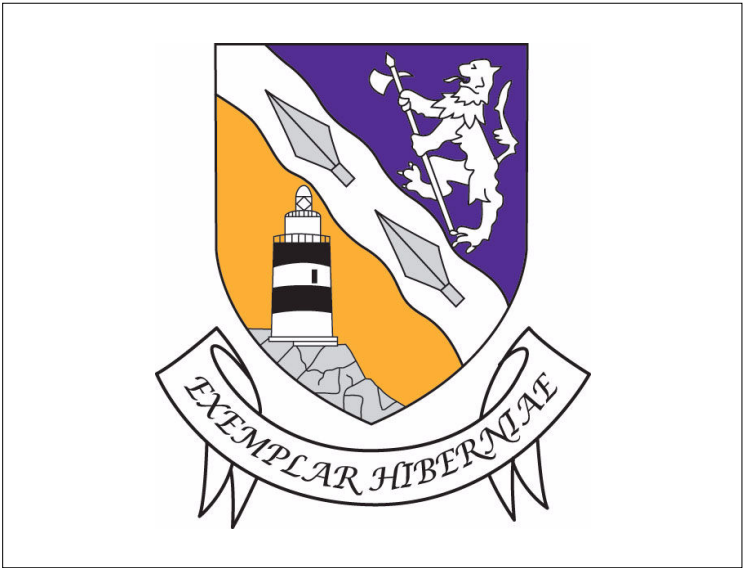
NATIONAL SOIL SURVEY OF IRELAND
Soil Map of Co. Wexford.
(To accompany Soil Survey Bulletin No.1.)

Scale: Two miles to One Inch. 1:126,720.
0 2 4 6 8 Miles



Soil surveyed by M. J. Gardiner, T. F. Finch,
Head of National Soil Survey, Pierce Ryan,
Copies of this map and bulletin available from Publications
Section, An Foras Talúntais, 33, Merrion Rd., Dublin 4. Price 30¢.

Prepared and published by National Soil Survey, Soils Division, An Foras Talúntais.
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Wexford County Development Plan 2013 - 2019

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Title: Soils Map of County Wexford

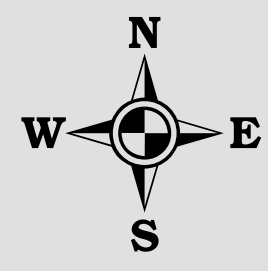
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Date: 12.03.2013

Map No: 3

- ★ Geological Sites
- ★ Geological Sites



● Enniscorthy

Gorey

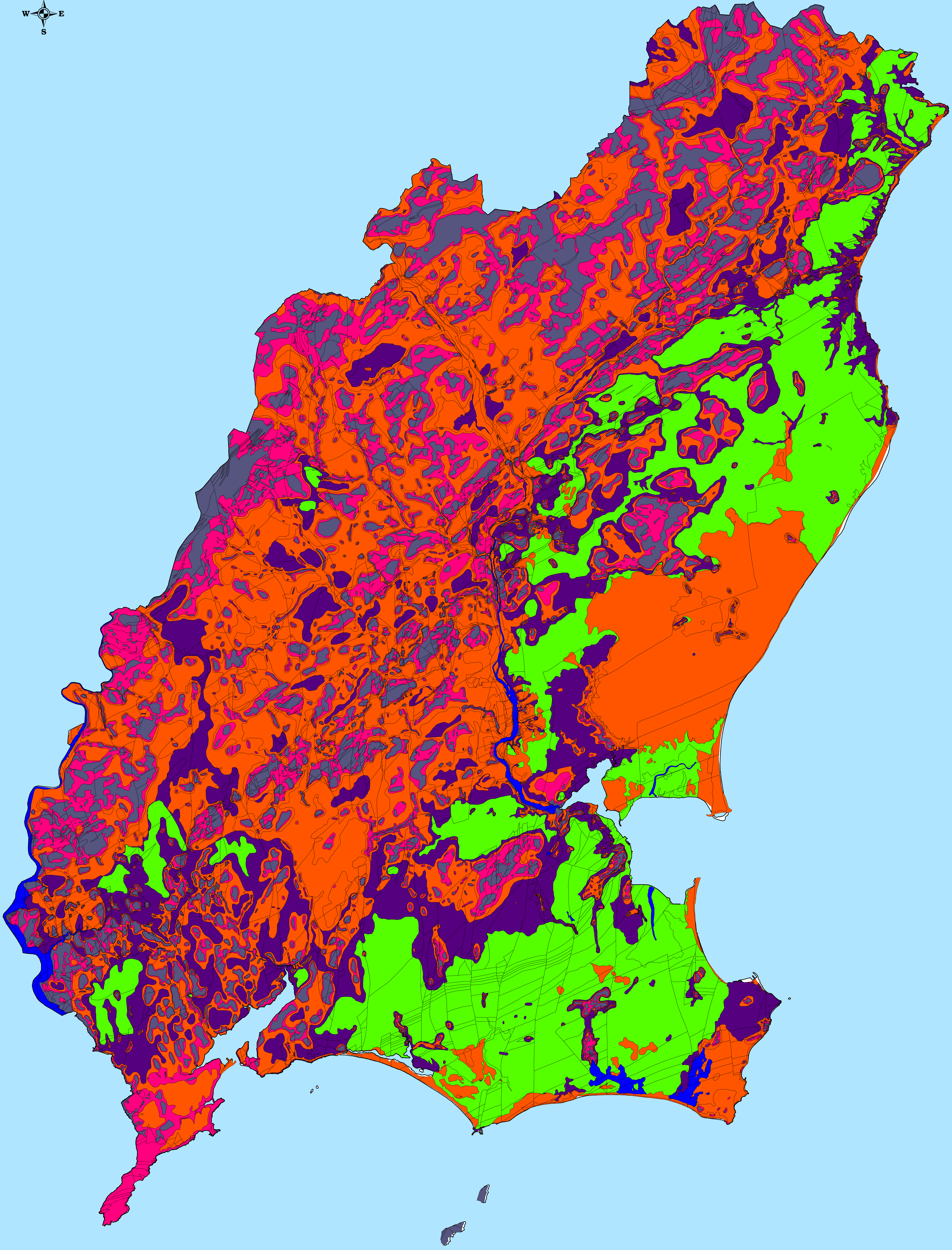
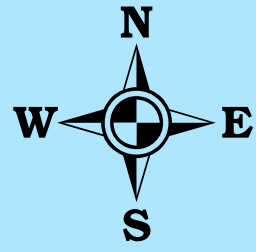


Wexford



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Map No: 4



Aquifer Protection Zones

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Title: Aquifer Protection Zones

Drawn by: NK

Checked by: GH

Date: 12.03.2013

Map No: 6

Legend

Existing National Roads

Approved National Roads Scheme

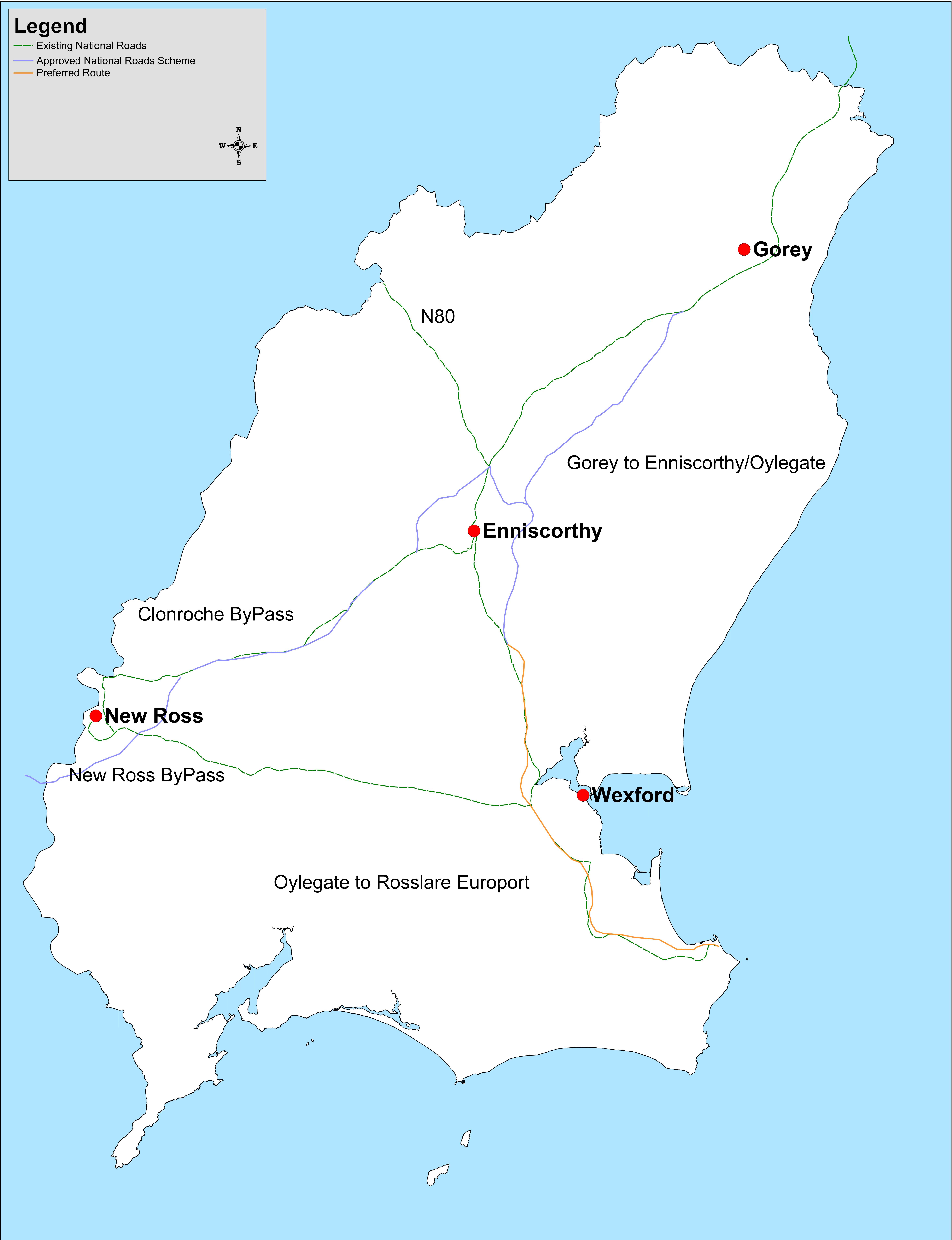
Preferred Route

N

W

E

S






**Wexford County Development Plan 2013 - 2019
Wind Energy Strategy**

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Title: Existing and Permitted Wind Farms

Drawn by: NK	Checked by: FF
Date: 12.03.2013	Map No: 10



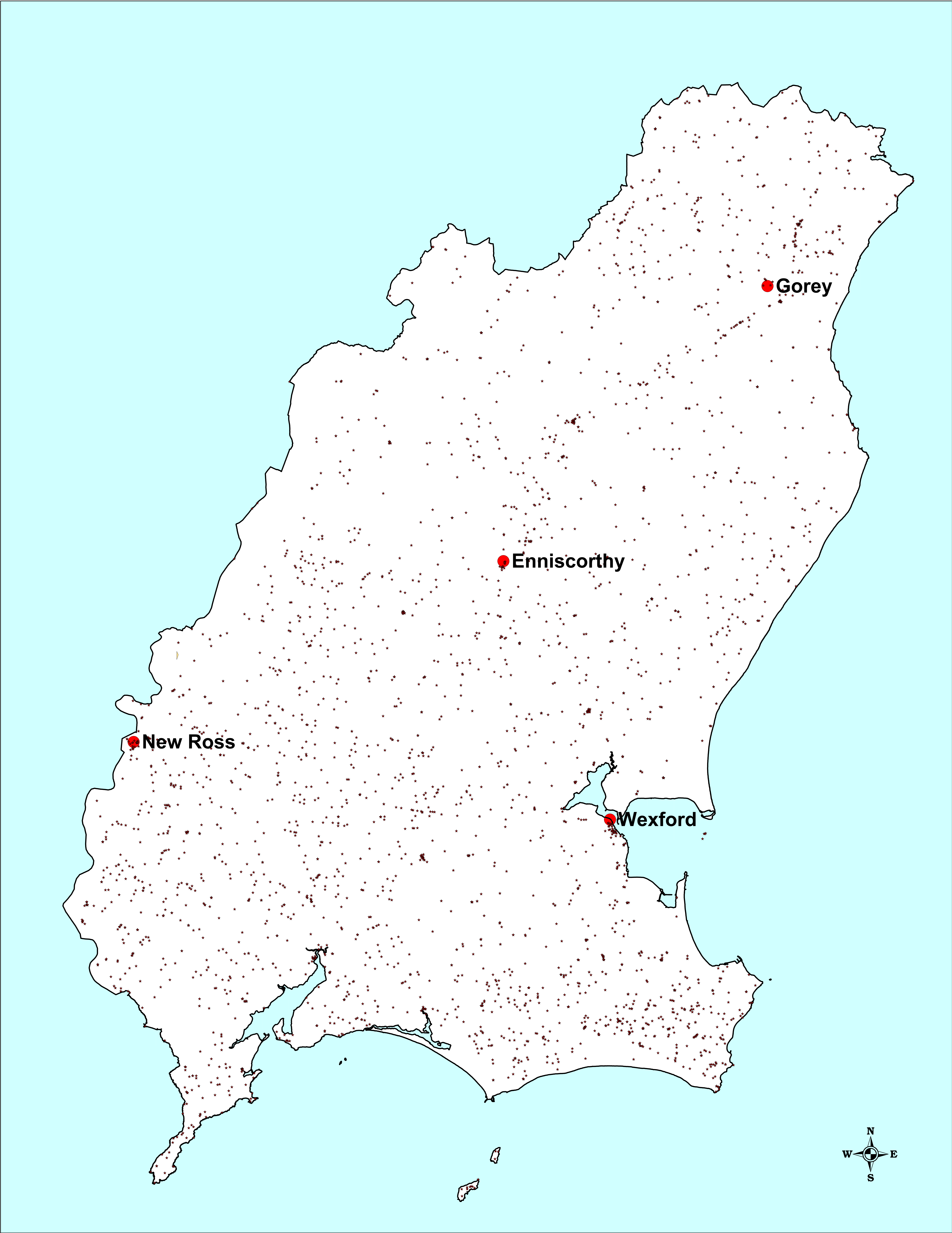
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	Drawn by: NK	Checked by: GH
	Date: 12.03.2013	Map No: 11

Electrical Grid Network

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	Broadband Network		Title: Broadband Network	
			Drawn by: NK	Checked by: GH
			Date: 12.03.2013	Map No: 12

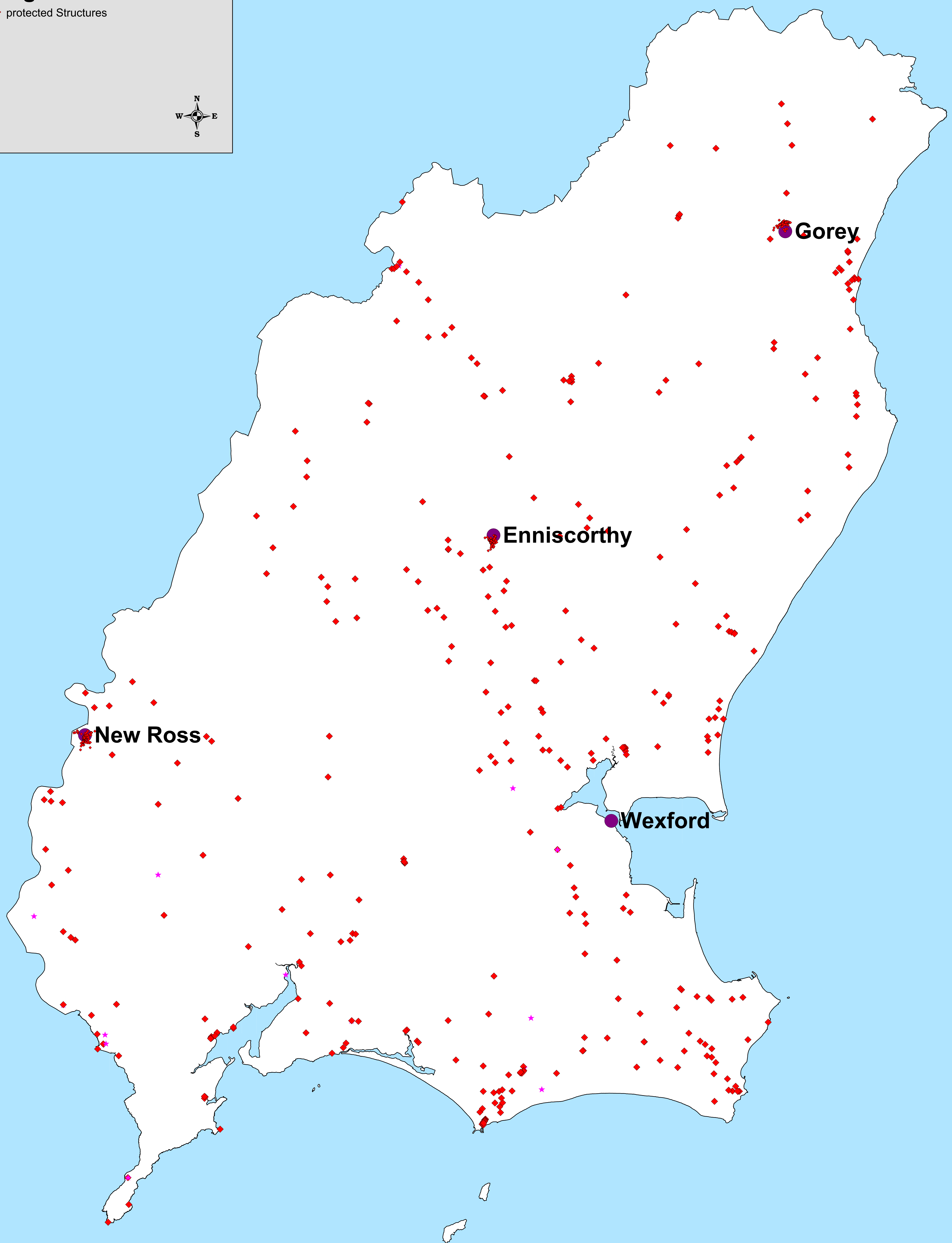
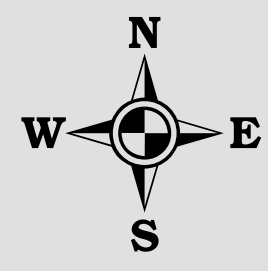


Recorded Monuments

Recorded Monuments

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Date: 25/01/2012	Map No: 13

- ♦ protected Structures



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Map No: 14

★ NIAH



Enniscorthy

Gorey



Wexford



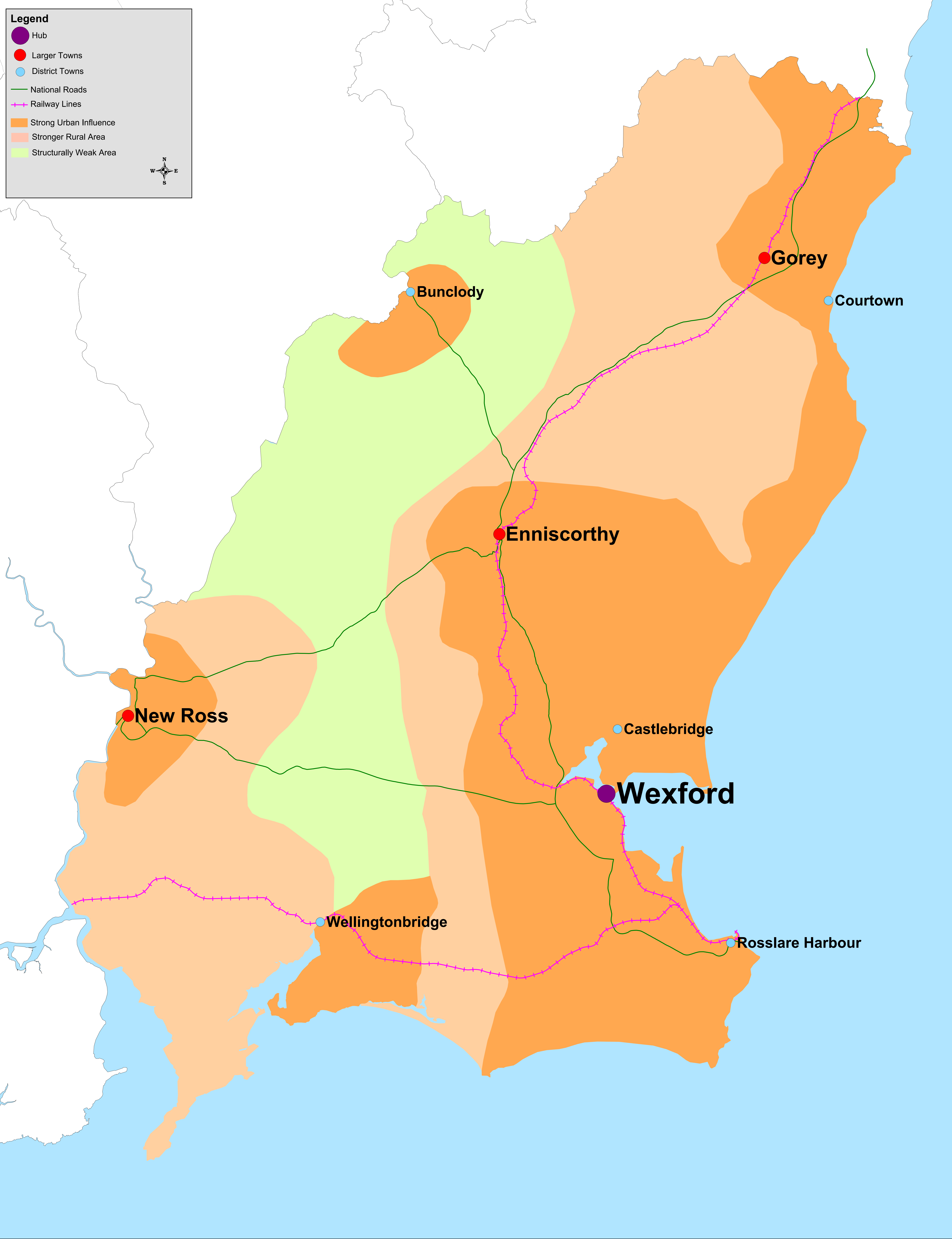
Title: National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

Drawn by: NK

Checked by: GH

Date: 12.03.2013

Map No: 15



Wexford County Development Plan 2013 - 2019
Sustainable Rural Housing Strategy

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Title: Rural Area Types

Drawn by: NK

Checked by: DK

Date: 12/03/2013

Map No: 17