

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

FOR

TRAMORE LOCAL AREA PLAN

2014-2020

February 2014



**Waterford County Council
Comhairle Chontae Phort Láirge**

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1 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a formal process that was carried out in parallel with the review of the Local Area Plan for Tramore 2014-2020. It is a valuable tool that informs decision making in the consideration of the Draft Plan, improving the environmental sustainability of the Plan and raising 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 and how they were made.

The main output of SEA is the Environmental Report, which outlines the findings of the assessment process. This is the Environmental Report for the Local Area Plan for Tramore 2014-2020 that has been prepared in accordance with the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004. This report should be read in conjunction with the Tramore Local Area Plan 2014-2020 and the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report on the Plan.

1.2 CONTENTS AND MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE LOCAL AREA PLAN

The Local Area Plan provides a strategic planning framework for the development of Tramore Town and environs. The Plan is prepared under the requirements of Section 10(2) of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 and provides for the proper planning and sustainable development for Tramore for the years 2014-2020. It contains a number of Strategic Goals such as the development of sustainable vibrant communities, supporting sustainable tourism, protection of the county's built and natural heritage, managing climate change and flood risk and developing the green economy. These goals then form part of each of the chapters which go on to define specific policies and objectives for housing, settlement strategy, environment, infrastructure, heritage and community.

1.3 CURRENT STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1.3.1 Flora, Fauna and Biodiversity

There are a number of diverse habitats found in and adjacent to Tramore. These habitats are of European importance and are designated Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for their habitat or plant/animal species value or Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for birdlife. Tramore Dunes and Back Strand is designated a Special Area of Conservation and a Special Protection Area. In addition to legally designated sites there are many other important sites for wildlife such as wetlands and hedgerows. Key issues for conservation of biodiversity in Tramore are;

maintenance of good water quality for water dependant habitats and species, protection of coastal habitats and control of invasive species.

1.3.2 Population and Human Health

The Census of 2011 shows the population of Tramore grew by 7.2 % between 2006 and 2011. Key issues for population and human health include maintenance of good standards of water quality involving drinking water, waste water treatment and recreational bathing waters.

1.3.3 Water

The main legislation governing water quality in Ireland is the EU Water Framework Directive. The WFD aims to achieve “good” status of all water bodies by 2015. Key issues for water are; provision of adequate waste water treatment infrastructure, maintenance of good quality drinking water for protection of human health, protection of groundwaters, restoration of surface and coastal water, and protection and restoration of water quality for water dependant habitats and species.

1.3.4 Air Quality and Climate

Air quality monitoring is carried out by the EPA. Tramore is in Zone D. The National Climate Change Strategy Review published in April 2007 sets out a series of measures that will reduce Ireland’s greenhouse gas emissions by over 17 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in the period 2008-2012. Currently there are no significant concerns with regard to air quality in Tramore. However, climate change presents real challenges to future land use and location of development in the county. Predicted impacts from projected temperature rises include more concentrated periods of higher rainfall, more exposure to flood risk and increasing coastal erosion.

1.3.5 Geology and Soils

The Soils of Ireland Map (1995) indicates that Acid Brown Earths, Mineral Alluvium and Gleys occur in Tramore. An audit of Geological Heritage Sites was carried out for Waterford County Council in 2011. The Irish Geological Heritage Programme has identified Tramore Dunes and the rocky coast as sites of County Geological Interest.

1.3.6 Landscape

Tramore is characterised by Tramore Bay. The diversity of landscapes and natural heritage enables views and prospects of areas of natural beauty from the town. The coastal landscape is of key importance to Tramore’s tourism industry. Development of infrastructure, including tourism developments, all have the potential to impact on landscape.

1.3.7 Cultural Heritage

The Tramore LAP area contains 50 Recorded Monuments protected under the National Monuments Act 1930-2004. An Archaeological Inventory prepared by the National Monuments Service of the DoEHLG is available for County Waterford.

A number of buildings and other structures are considered to be of interest for reasons of architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest and are listed in the Record of Protected Structures in the Local Area Plan. The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage is also an important resource for listing further structures for protection. The maintenance and conservation of Tramore's cultural heritage is key in order to maintain an irreplaceable resource, sense of identity for the town and as a source of visitor interest and tourism revenue. Key issues include the conservation of built heritage and streetscapes.

1.3.8 Material Assets

Material assets is taken to include infrastructure and utilities including road, water supply and wastewater treatment facilities. It also includes economic assets such as agricultural lands, coastal and water resources which support the tourism industry. Key environmental pressures on material assets are land use and climate change and water pollution. The Carrigavrantry water supply for Tramore was listed on the 2012 RAL due to elevated levels of Trihalomethanes exceeding the standard for same in the Drinking Water Regulations. The plant was decommissioned in early 2014 and the source replaced by the East Waterford Supply Scheme.

1.4 EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Environmental issues relate to water quality including protection of bathing waters in Tramore Bay, continued monitoring of public water supplies and provision of sufficient capacity in waste water treatment plants. The need to maintain water quality is key to conservation of biodiversity and water dependant habitats and species. Climate change impacts involving floodrisk and coastal erosion will also require to be considered in future land use and development patterns.

1.5 CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES

Alternative strategy options are explored in the main report along with the do-nothing scenario. These are:

1. Alternative Strategy Option 1- Continue with existing zoning in the 2007-2013 Plan.
2. Review zoning including future phased zoning of lands.

In the interests of the future settlement strategy for the town and wider county and in compliance with the Core Strategy and Regional Planning Guidelines and in terms of environmental

infrastructure to support a sustainable pattern and rate of future growth the preferred strategy is option 2.

1.6 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OBJECTIVES

The Environmental Protection Objectives provide a standard against which the goals, policies and objectives of the Local Area Plan can be measured in order to highlight those with the potential for environmental impact. They are as follows:

1.6.1 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

B1: Protect, conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats, species and areas of national or international importance, including aquatic habitats and species and promote the sustainable management of habitat networks.

1.6.2 Population and Human Health

P1: Facilitate a good standard of health for Tramore's population through ensuring high quality residential, recreational and working environments.

1.6.3 Water Resources

W1: Achieve and maintain required water quality standards in the South East River Basin Management Plan and reduce discharges of pollutants or contamination to protect waters as sources of drinking water and as valuable assets for amenity and recreation.

1.6.4 Air and Climate

AC1: Support implementation of *National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (Building Resilience to Climate Change)*.

1.6.5 Cultural Heritage

C1: Protect and conserve features of architectural and archaeological heritage.

1.6.6 Landscape

L1: Protect and conserve the quality, character and distinctiveness of landscape including coastal landscapes and minimise negative visual impacts.

1.6.7 Soil and Geology

S1: Conserve the quality of and prevent erosion of soils and protect geological sites.

1.6.8 Material Assets

MA1: Maintain the quality of and access to assets such as open spaces, water resources and all other physical and social infrastructure.

1.7 LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT OF IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The full matrix and assessment of the Local Area Plan policies and development objectives against environmental objectives is included in Appendix One of the Environmental Report.

Assessment of the policies and development objectives in the Local Area Plan shows that these policies and development objectives will not pose a significant adverse impact on the environment. Many of the policies and objectives are considered positive, setting out to manage and protect aspects of the environment such as water quality, landscape, heritage resources and management of climate change. The plan is particularly strong on policies supporting sustainable travel with associated positive implications for human health through cycleways and pedestrian access. Due to the strategic nature of the plan some of the broad range objectives cannot be accurately appraised to infer a definite positive or negative impact and so have been assessed as “uncertain” as a lower level tier assessment will be more appropriate to determine the precise nature of the impacts involved.

The finding of “uncertain” impacts in the SEA matrix will be determined at a lower level of environmental assessment largely through EIA at the project level. These assessments will involve application of Appropriate and Ecological Assessment, landscape appraisal, archaeological and architectural heritage appraisal and climate change proofing to accurately determine the impacts under the range of environmental headings detailed above.

The findings of uncertain impacts on Natura 2000 sites from the Appropriate Assessment screening process are carried through the Environmental Report and are mitigated by policies NH1-NH3 or through the incorporation of amendments to Draft Plan policies where required.

1.8 MONITORING PROPOSALS

Measures were proposed as part of this SEA process to monitor the effects on the environment of implementing the Local Area Plan and these are presented in the Environmental Report in terms of the achievement of the environmental protection objectives and the impact on the environmental factors that the SEA legislation requires to be considered. Measurable indicators are included and targets are set. Monitoring for SEA will be carried out as part of the overall monitoring of implementation of the Tramore Local Area Plan and using existing assessment frameworks such as the SE River Basin District Management Plan, and Article 17 Habitats Directive Assessment along with internal monitoring carried out by Waterford Co. Council.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 BACKGROUND

The objective of the Local Area Plan is to provide for the proper planning and sustainable development for Tramore for the years 2014-2020.

The purpose of this environmental report is to identify and evaluate the likely significant impacts on the environment of implementing the Local Area Plan 2014-2020.

2.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is defined as ‘the formal, systematic and comprehensive process of evaluating the effects of a proposed policy, plan or programme or its alternatives, including the written report on the findings of that evaluation, and using the findings in publicly accountable decision making’.

SEA is a process for evaluating at the earliest appropriate stage, the environmental quality, and potential consequences, of policies, plans or programmes and to ensure that any potential consequences are assessed during their preparation and before they are adopted. Its overall purpose is to contribute to sustainable development. SEA is intended to provide a framework for influencing decision-making at an early stage; to improve the environmental sustainability of the Draft 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 and how they were made.

The SEA process includes the following outputs:

- An Environmental Report (a report containing the findings of the SEA) on the likely significant effects of implementing the Local Area Plan 2014-2020.
- A SEA Statement (identifying how environmental considerations and consultation have been integrated into the final adopted Local Area Plan).

This is the Environmental Report for the Local Area Plan 2014-2020 for Tramore and has been carried out in accordance with Schedule 2B of S.I. 436 of 2004, which sets out the information that is required to be included in SEA and Environmental Reports. This report should be read in conjunction with the Local Area Plan 2014-2020 for Tramore and Appropriate Assessment Screening Report.

2.3 The Contents and Main Objectives of the Tramore Local Area Plan 2014-2020

The previous Local Area Plan was adopted in 2007 and extended until June 10th 2013. Under Section 11 (1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 this Plan is subject to review and sets the context for the Local Area Plan for the period 2014-2020.

The Local Area Plan 2014-2020 has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 10(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 and provides for the proper planning and sustainable development for Tramore for the years 2014-2020.

The Vision Statement of the County as set out in the Waterford County Development Plan 2011-2017 is as follows:

“To develop Waterford as a County, where the wellbeing of the community is enhanced through balanced economic development, the creation of attractive places to live and work and through the sustainable management of our natural assets as we strive to become a Green County.”

Tramore as the Secondary Service Centre has a significant role to play in the achievement of this vision. The vision is at the forefront of how Tramore should develop over the Plan period and to achieve this, a number of goals which are specific to Tramore have been formulated and are as follows:

- To develop Tramore as a leading retail and economic centre and realise its Secondary Service Centre status.
- To provide high quality residential development catering for a mixture of house types and sizes to provide for the current and future population of Tramore.
- To encourage industrial development in Tramore through a plan led approach.
- To provide for services and infrastructure in a coherent and strategic manner that will compliment and aid future development and growth.
- To ensure the educational needs of the Town are catered for throughout the lifetime of the Plan.
- To develop a Town park which will provide a public amenity and recreational facility in Tramore.
- To ensure that Community facilities are provided in conjunction with new residential development .
- To improve mobility and accessibility throughout the Town and to prioritise pedestrian movements.

2.4 RELATIONSHIP OF THE DRAFT LOCAL AREA PLAN WITH OTHER RELEVANT PLANS

2.4.1 Introduction - Hierarchy of Strategic Actions

The Tramore Local Area Plan is situated within a hierarchy of strategic actions, policy and guidance; higher-level strategic actions direct the Local Area Plan while the Local Area Plan in turn, will direct lower strategic actions. In accordance with the SEA legislation in this regard, the Environmental Report shall include the information that may reasonably be required taking into account a number of factors, one of which is “the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in the decision-making process in order to avoid duplication of environmental assessment”.

In accordance with this provision, potential environmental impacts that arise from the implementation of policies and objectives where dictated by higher-level policy, will not be assessed in this SEA. Furthermore, certain objectives will be more site-specific than strategic. Where such situations arise, they will undergo assessment for their impacts through a more appropriate appraisal, such as EIA. As required in the legislation, the Local Area Plan (and accompanying Environmental Report) shall, so far as is practical, be consistent with national and regional plans, policies and strategies, and any guidelines issued by the Minister of the Environment, Community and Local Government, which relate to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area covered by the Local Area Plan 2014-2020.

2.4.2 National and Regional Policy and Guidance

Ireland has ratified a range of national and international agreements in relation to our environment; such agreements place legal obligations on the State in relation to the maintenance of prescribed standards of environmental quality and the conservation and management of designated heritage sites and species. Relevant policy and guidance from regional, national and international levels are outlined in the following sections.

Waterford Planning, Land Use and Transportation Strategy 2004-2020 (PLUTS)

The PLUTS area comprises Waterford City and its environs including neighbouring towns such as Tramore. A key element of the PLUTS strategy is the achievement of a critical mass in Waterford City Gateway to reinforce and develop its role as the economic driver of the South-East region. This will have a knock-on effect on the growth and development of neighbouring towns such as Tramore which should provide a support to the Gateway.

Regional Planning Guidelines for the South East Region 2010-2022

The objective of the Regional Planning Guidelines is to provide a long-term strategic planning framework for the development of the South-East region (South Tipperary, Waterford, Carlow,

Kilkenny and Wexford). The guidelines are intended to be a framework for local authority development plans by enhancing the strategic dimension of planning at regional and local levels and building upon the approach taken by the National Spatial Strategy. The Guidelines address issues such as settlement, transportation, industrial development, community facilities and environmental protection.

Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future 2009-2020

Smarter Travel, “*A Sustainable Transport Future*” is the blueprint for transport in Ireland until 2020. It recognises the vital importance for continued investment in transport but also sets out the necessary steps to ensure that people choose more sustainable transport modes such as walking, cycling and public transport.

National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (Building Resilience to Climate Change)

This framework, published in December 2012 by the DoECLG, provides a mandate for local authorities and other agencies to prepare local adaptation plans (including mitigation) for climate change as part of development planning. These adaptation plans are to be published by mid-2014.

2.4.3 International Conventions and Agreements

Ireland has ratified a range of International Agreements in relation to our environment. Such agreements place legal obligations on the State in relation to the conservation and management of our environment and heritage. Table 2.1 below details the range of EU environmental legislation and policies and how they are transposed into Irish law.

Table 2.1 Legislation and Policy directing environmental standards and objectives in Ireland

Topic	Policy, Plan or Programme	Objectives
Biodiversity	UN Convention of Biological Diversity (1992)	Maintain and enhance biodiversity.
	The Ramsar Convention The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (1971 and amendments)	Objectives include protection and conservation of wetlands, particularly those of importance to waterfowl as Waterfowl Habitat
	European Union Directive (92/432/EEC) on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna	Lists certain habitats and species that must be given protection.

	European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, SI 94/1997, as amended SI 233/1998 SI 378/2005 and Birds and Habitats Regulations 2011	These Regulations give effect to Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive) and the Minister to designate special areas of conservation (endangered species and habitats of endangered species) as a contribution to an EU Community network to be known as NATURA 2000.
	EU Directive (EU/79/409) on the Conservation of Wild Birds	Designation of Special Protection Areas for birds.
	Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland Guidance for Planning Authorities (2009)	Guidance on carrying out AA on plans and Projects as required under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive
	National Biodiversity Plan 2010	To secure the conservation, including where possible the enhancement and sustainable use, of biological diversity in Ireland
	European Communities Environmental Objectives (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) 2009	Measures to protect the conservation status of Freshwater Pearl Mussel
	Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sub-Basin Catchment Management Plans (Rivers Blackwater, Clodiagh and Licky)	Catchment based management plans for the protection and conservation of Freshwater Pearl Mussel populations
	Irish National Forest Standards (2000)	Aims to ensure sustainable forest management
	Ospar Convention (1992) The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic	Protection of the Marine Environment
	EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008	Aims to achieve good environmental status of the EU's marine waters by 2021 and to protect the resource base upon which marine-related economic and social activities depend.
	EU Freshwater Fish Directive (78/659/EEC)	Objectives seek to protect those freshwater 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.
Water	EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) 2000	Establishes a framework for community action in the field of water policy. Aims to prevent any deterioration in the status of any waters and to achieve at

		least “good status” in all waters by 2015.
	The Groundwater Directive (1980/68/EC) 1980	Seeks to maintain and enhance the quality of all ground waters in the EU.
	EU Urban Waste Water treatment directive (91/271/EEC) 1991	Sets targets dates for the provision of specified waste water treatment infrastructure and services.
	EU Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)	The Floods Directive applies to river basins and coastal areas at risk of flooding and provides for the prevention and management of flood risk and preparation of Flood Risk Management Plans
	DoEHLG Guidelines on Flood Risk Management and the Planning System (2009)	Seeks to prevent development that is sensitive to the effects of flooding in flood prone or marginal areas. Must not reduce the flood plain or restrict flow across floodplains.
	The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)	This Directive has the objective of reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and preventing further such pollution.
	Drinking Water Directive (80/778/EEC) as amended by Directive 98/83/EC	The primary objective is to protect the health of the consumers in the European Union and to make sure drinking water is wholesome and clean.
	The Local Government (Water Pollution) Act, 1977 (Water Quality Standards for Phosphorous) Regulations, 1998	Rivers of good quality to be retained as such, rivers of poor quality to be improved
	European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations, 2009	Transposes into Irish law the measures needed to give effect to Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive relating to the protection of surface waters including the requirements of Directive 2008/105/EC on environmental quality standards.
	Managing Ireland’s Rivers and Lakes: Catchment based Strategy Against Pollution (1997)	This document details a strategy to protect water quality against pollution by phosphorus from all sources.
	River Basin Management Plans for River Basin Districts (RBDs)	Seeks to establish an integrated monitoring and management system for all waters within an RBD, to develop a dynamic

		programme of management measures and to produce a River Basin Management Plan, which will be continually updated.
	Bathing Water Directive EC Directive 2006/7 EC Repeals existing Directive (71/160/EEC) with effect from 31 December 2014	Sets out standards for bathing water quality to protect health and the environment
Human Health	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 Stockholm Convention (2001)	Objectives seek to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants (POPs).
	The EU CAFÉ Programme Commission communication of 4 May 2001 "The Clean Air for Europe (CAFE) Programme: Towards a Thematic Strategy for Air Quality".	Seeks to prevent and reduce air pollution and impacts on human health from air pollution.
	EU Shellfish Directive (79/923/EEC)	Objectives seek to maintain those coastal and brackish waters, which need protection or improvement, in order to allow shellfish to develop and to contribute to the high quality of shellfish products intended for human consumption.
	Pollution Reduction Programmes for Tramore Bay	To ensure compliance with standards and objectives of the 2006 Quality of Shellfish Waters Regulations
	The EU Environment and Health Strategy 2004-2010	Seeks to prevent and reduce the impacts pollution on human health.
Climate / Air	Kyoto Protocol (1997)	Aim of the UN Protocol is to combat climate change. Industrialised countries will have to reduce their combined greenhouse gas emissions by a minimum of 8% by 2012.
	Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) 2005	Seeks to develop the necessary elements of a strategy to implement the Kyoto protocol.
	White Paper on 'European transport policy for 2010', COM (2001) 370	Seeks to develop a modern sustainable transport system.
	"The IPPC Directive" Directive 96/61/EC concerning integrated pollution, prevention and	Seeks to minimise pollution and maximize resource efficiency in industry through licensing and

	control	guidance.
	Ozone in Ambient Air Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 53 of 2004).	Objectives include the reduction of certain airborne pollutants for the protection of human health and the environment.
	“Air Framework Directive” Directive on Air Quality Assessment and Management (Framework Directive) (1996/62/EC)	Seeks the prevention and/or reduction of airborne pollutants for the protection of human health and environment.
	Directive on national emission ceilings for certain atmospheric pollutants (2001/81/EC)	Seeks to limit the national 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 and target dates for reducing concentrations of fine particles, which are among the most dangerous pollutants for human health.
	Adopting to climate change in Europe – options to EU action {SEC(2007) 849}	Seeks to initiate a Europe-wide public debated and consultation on developing responses to climate change at EU level
	National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012	Established measures by which Ireland can meet its 2008-2012 targets in respect to green house gas emissions
	Delivering A Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland	Government Energy Policy Framework 2007-2020 to deliver a sustainable energy future for Ireland.
Cultural Heritage (Landscape Architecture Archaeology)	European Landscape Convention 2000	Encourages public authorities to adopt policies at local, national and international level to protect and manage landscapes.
	Policy Paper on Ireland's Landscape and the National Heritage, The Heritage Council, (2002)	Policy paper sets out a vision for the Irish landscape to allow people to harness the landscape for economic benefit whilst acknowledging that in the long run such benefits can only be sustained through an appreciation and awareness of the contribution of that landscape to our quality of life.
	Landscape and landscape and Assessment, Guidelines for Planning Authorities -2000	Sets out how a landscape character assessment should be conducted.
	Granada Convention for	Established common principles

	protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe 1985	and strategy, informed Part IV of the 2000 Planning and Development Act 2000-2004
	European Convention on protection of the Archaeological Heritage 1992	Requires that appropriate consideration be given to archaeological issues at all stages of the planning and development process
	Architectural Heritage Protection- Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2004	The protection of structures, or parts of structures, which are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, or technical interest, and; the preservation of the character of architectural conservation areas.
	National Heritage Plan 2002	Plan forms the basis of a strategic approach to the protection and management of heritage up to 2007
	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage	To establish inventory of buildings of value
	Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (1999)	This document sets out the archaeological policies and principles which should be applied by all public bodies when undertaking or authorising development.
Soil	2006 Proposal for an EC Directive establishing a framework for the protection of soil	Still under discussion. Proposes to establish a common strategy in Europe for the protection and sustainable use of soil.
	Sewage Sludge Directive (86/278/EEC)	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
	Directive 2004/35/EC on Environmental Liability with regard to the prevention and remedying environmental damage	Prevention and remediation of environmental damage
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.
	“The Gothenburg Strategy” Communication from the Commission on Sustainable Europe for a Better World”	Seeks to make the future development of the EU more sustainable.

	2001	
	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 SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)	Objective 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, by ensuring that, in accordance with this Directive, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.
	Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Rural Housing 2005	To address the issue of sustainable rural housing
	Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas 2008	Addressing sustainable design and services in urban areas
	Wind Energy Guidelines 2004	To ensure a consistency of approach in the identification of suitable locations for wind farm development and the treatment of planning applications for wind farm developments
	Sustainable development- a strategy for Ireland 1997	To promote the consideration of sustainable principles in drafting and implementation of the Guidelines
	Green Paper on Sustainable Energy 1999	The paper sets out how Ireland will progress to meeting its energy requirements. It concentrates on Ireland's need to limit CO2 emissions under the Kyoto Protocol.
	Transport 21 (2005)	Seeks to develop an integrated transport system across Ireland
	Traffic Management Guidelines (2003)	Provides guidance on a number of traffic management issues including public transport
	Smarter Travel- A Sustainable Transport Future, A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009-2020	Promotion of sustainable transport

	Delivering A Sustainable Energy Future For Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020	Seeks to reduce energy demand and energy related emissions
	Directive 2004/35/EC on Environmental Liability with regard to the prevention and remedying environmental damage	Seeks to establish a common framework for the prevention and remediation of environmental damage
Waste	The Waste Framework Directive” Council Directive 75/442/EEC of 15 July 1975 on waste “the Waste Framework Directive” and amending acts.	Seeks to minimise the quantities of waste production in the EU, reduce the environmental impacts from the management of these wastes and defines what constitutes a waste or hazardous waste.
	“The Landfill Directive” Council Directive 99/31/EC of 26 April 1999 on the landfill of waste	Seeks to reduce the environmental impact from the landfilling of waste & divert certain quantities and types of waste from European landfills.
	“The WEE Directive” Directive 2002/96/EC of 27 January 2003 on waste electrical and electronic equipment	Seek more environmentally sensitive management of waste electric and electronic equipment.
	National Waste Prevention Programme	Seeks to decouple waste generation from economic activity in Ireland
Major Accidents	EU Major Accident (Seveso) Directive (96/82/EC) 1996	Seeks to avoid and minimize the effects of major accidents

3 SEA METHODOLOGY

3.1 STEPS IN THE SEA PROCESS

The Environmental Report is an important element of the SEA process. The report is generated from a series of distinct steps taken in the assessment of the likely potential impacts of the proposed variation being implemented.

The steps taken in the execution of this SEA process follow the layout of this document, and are as follows:

1. Introduction to and familiarisation with the SEA process.
2. Setting out the Background to the Local Area Plan 2014-2020.
3. Establishment of Environmental Baseline and Trends for the Town:
Baseline data were having regard to the requirements of the SEA Directive. The various factors used to describe the current state of the environment included landscape, soils and groundwater, noise, air quality, built heritage, natural heritage and bio-diversity. Much of the data were extracted from existing data sources.
4. Identifying significant Existing Environmental Issues in Tramore.
This was facilitated by the various forms of consultation that took place as part of the SEA process.
5. Drafting of Environmental Protection Objectives from regional, national and international environmental policy, consideration of the significant environmental issues facing Tramore specifically and from best practice.
6. The Likely Significant Effects of implementation of the Local Area Plan 2014-2020 were established through the identification of conflicts between the Local Area Plan policies and objectives and environmental objectives (assessed in matrix format).
7. Where conflicts are identified, opportunities to prevent, reduce, or offset the adverse environmental effects were explored and policies altered or augmented where necessary to address / mitigate the effects.
8. Where the conflicts and consequent adverse impacts cannot be prevented, reduced or offset, mitigation measures were proposed.
9. Alternatives strategies were considered.
10. Monitoring measures were identified in order to quantitatively assess the consequences of the identified impacts.
11. Consultation. The Environmental Report and the Draft Local Area Plan 2014-2020 were made available for public consultation as per the statutory process provided for under the Planning and Development Amendment Act 2010. Pre-draft consultation on the Local Area Plan took place from May 1st until May 15th 2013. The Draft Plan was put on public display from June 10th 2013 until July 22nd 2013. Twenty submissions and observations were received on the Draft Plan. The Manager's Report details summary of submissions received, Manager's considerations and Manager's Recommendations on

how the issues raised were taken into account in the Plan¹. The proposed material amendments to the plan were put out on public consultation from November 4th until December 2nd. Along with prescribed bodies the documents were made available to neighbouring local authorities.

3.2 Difficulties Encountered in Compiling the Required Information

The SEA Guidelines produced by the DoEHLG in 2004 state that the SEA process “does not require major new research”. As such, the Environmental Report was prepared and informed by many already available data sources.

Data sources that were used include; research that was carried out within the local authority, by the Central Statistics Office, by the Environmental Protection Agency and WFD River Basin District Management Plans and also the Heritage Data that has been collated by the DoEHLG.

Difficulties encountered in compiling data include the availability of spatial data for human health. Table 3.1 details gaps in data sources relating to the Environmental Protection Objectives.

Table 3.1 Environmental Protection Objectives and Data Gaps

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Data Gaps
B1: Protect, conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats, species and areas of national or international importance, including aquatic habitats and species and promote the sustainable management of habitat networks.	Good data available including Tramore Town Habitat Map (2011)
Population and Human Health	
P1: Facilitate a good standard of health for Tramore’s population through ensuring high quality residential, recreational and working environments.	Spatial data on human health deficient
Water Resources	
W1: Achieve and maintain required water quality standards in the South East River Basin Management Plan and associated Programme of Measures and reduce discharges of pollutants or contamination to protect waters as valuable assets for amenity and recreation.	Good data available
Air and Climatic Factors	
AC1: Support implementation of <i>National Climate Change Adaptation</i>	Data available

¹ Available on <http://www.waterfordcoco.ie/en/media/planning/pdfs/laps2013/Tramore%20Managers%20Report.pdf>

<i>Framework (Building Resilience to Climate Change).</i>	
Cultural Heritage	
C1: Protect and conserve features of architectural and archaeological heritage.	Good data available through Record of Monuments and Places and Record of Protected Structures
Landscape	
L1: Protect and conserve the quality, character and distinctiveness of landscape including, coastal landscapes and minimise negative visual impacts.	Scenic views indicated in Local Area Plan.
Soil and Geology	
S1: Protect the quality of soils, and prevent erosion of, soils and geological heritage sites in Tramore.	Data available through Teagasc Soil Mapping Project and Geological Heritage Survey of Waterford
Material Assets	
MA1: Maintain the quality of, and access to, assets such as open spaces, water resources and all other physical and social infrastructure	Details on public amenity areas available

4. CURRENT STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Ireland's Environment 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency's fourth state of the environment report provides an overall assessment of Ireland's environment. The overall conclusion of the report is that the quality of Ireland's environment is relatively good but there are some key environmental challenges facing Ireland and these include;

1. Limiting and adapting to Climate Change
2. Reversing Environmental Degradation
 - preventing eutrophication and other water pollution
 - protecting natural habitats and species populations
 - remediation of contaminated land
3. Complying with Environmental Legislation and Agreements.
4. Mainstreaming Environmental Considerations

The Assessment reports that there are two primary areas where unsatisfactory conditions are extensive- eutrophication and other water pollution and the unsatisfactory conservation status of natural habitats and species. Remediation of contaminated land is also an important issue. Ireland faces a difficult challenge in meeting many of its environmental protection obligations under both European legislation and other internationally binding legal agreements. Financial penalties are a potential consequence of failing to meet our environmental protection commitments.²

Remediation of unsatisfactory quality in groundwater, rivers, lakes and estuaries is one of the main environmental challenges.

Biodiversity loss is a serious threat to the quality of Ireland's environment as habitat degradation and species loss are often irreversible. Many of Ireland's most important habitats afforded protection under the EU Habitats Directive were assessed in 2008 as having bad conservation status³. Certain species particularly those of wetland and aquatic environments such as the Atlantic Salmon, Otter and Freshwater Pearl Mussel are considered to be of poor conservation status.

The provision and maintenance of sufficient infrastructure in the areas of wastewater treatment, water supply, flood prevention and control, renewable energy, sustainable transport and waste management are critical to ensure maintenance of a good quality environment. The following baseline details the current status of the environment in Tramore in relation to these issues.

² Ireland's Environment 2008, EPA

³ The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland, 2008, NPWS

BASELINE AND RELEVANT ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

4.2. Flora, Fauna and Biodiversity

The need to conserve biodiversity is underlined in the National Biodiversity Plan and Convention on Biological Diversity which Ireland signed and ratified in 1996. Conservation of biodiversity in Ireland is directed by the EU Birds Directive, EU Habitats Directive (transposed into Irish law by the Natural Habitat Regulations amended by SI 233/1998 , SI 378/2005, SI 477/2011) and the 1976 and 2000 (Amendment) Wildlife Acts. A Local Biodiversity Plan was published for County Waterford in 2008 with the aim of maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in the county through raising awareness, addressing information gaps and developing best practice through policy and work practices. A habitat survey of Tramore was carried out in 2011 and a habitat map for the area has been prepared.

4.2.1 Designated Sites

The landscape of Tramore provides the setting for a range of wildlife habitats and species and Tramore Dunes and Backstrand are designated as a Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area. These designations are in place to protect habitats and the favourable conservation status of species identified in the EU Habitats and Birds Directives.

Tramore Dunes

Tramore Dunes are a fine example of a sand spit developed on a shingle ridge and represent one of the few dunes systems on the south coast of Ireland. The fixed dunes are substantial in area though species diversity is low due to the absence of grazing. The fixed dunes are complemented by small, though good examples of shifting marram dunes and embryonic dunes. The salt marshes are of the lagoon type, a rare type in Ireland and both Atlantic and Mediterranean communities are well represented. The intertidal sand and mud flats are of moderate sizes and have *Zostera* (Eelgrass-valued feeding for wintering wildfowl) communities. Five Red Data Book Plant species have been known from the site and one- *Polygonum maritimum* has its only Irish station here.

A Saltmarsh monitoring project was carried out by the NPWS in 2007/2008 and the findings for Tramore as detailed in the final report (McCorry & Ryle 2009) are as follows:-

Habitat	EU Conservation Status Assessment		
	Favourable	Unfavourable -inadequate	Overall EU Conservation Status Assessment
Salicornia	Extent, Structure	Future prospects	Unfavourable-

mudflats	and functions		inadequate
Atlantic salt meadows	Future prospects		Favourable

The report states that the overall conservation status of the site is *favourable*. “The saltmarsh around the Back Strand has been affected by reclamation and related works in past and these activities are probably still having a residual impact. However, the saltmarsh is slowly recovering from this disturbance and is quite natural in character. There are several species present such as Golden Samphire and Sharp Rush, which add to the conservation value. Part of the saltmarsh is affected by amenity pressure but this only affects a small area. *Spartina* swards are extensive around the site, but this habitat has mainly developed on intertidal mudflats. It has spread significantly in the saltmarsh at the Tramore Intake.”

“The future prospects of the *Salicornia* mudflats habitat are assessed as *unfavourable-inadequate*. This assessment assumes that the current management activities and level of impacts continue in the near future. This habitat is vulnerable to the invasion of Common Cordgrass. Whilst the cover of Common Cordgrass is low within this habitat, there are frequent clumps occurring around the habitat, especially on the mudflats adjacent to The Cush. There are no other activities or impacts affecting this habitat. This habitat is prone to natural changes in distribution and extent in response to erosion and accretion of sediment banks within creeks and along the seaward saltmarsh cliffs.”

Tramore Back Strand

Tramore Dunes and Backstrand support important wintering waterfowl populations with Light Bellied Brent Geese in international numbers and seven other species in numbers of national importance. Two species listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive occur- Golden Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit.

Bird counts collated as part of the AA of a compensatory wetland project at Kilmaclegue (2010) have demonstrated increasing numbers of Brent Geese in and around the SPA.

Table 4.1. IWeBS and data collected by RPS (2009/10) on light- bellied Brent Goose Numbers at Tramore Backstrand

Period	5-year mean peak			2004/05 peak	2005/06 peak	2006/07 peak	2007/08 peak	2009/10 peak (RPS)
	1994-98	1995-99	1996-2000					
Number of birds	418	393	344	751	883	713	911	1,080

The population of Light-bellied Brent Goose at Tramore Back Strand is of international importance and has increased greatly in recent years. The mean peak from the period 1996 to

2000 of 344 birds ranked the site 19th in Ireland (Crowe, 2005) however more recent higher counts of up to 1,080 birds (RPS 2010)⁴ would rank Tramore as now being one of the ten most important sites in Ireland for this species.

Within the SPA boundary, the key habitats used by wintering wildfowl are the intertidal mudflats including the Eel-grass beds which provide an important food source for Light-bellied Brent Geese. The Zostera beds are largely present to the north of the Back Strand and not in the area around Tramore landfill and Tramore Leisure Parks Site.

Many bird species also use grassland habitats outside the SPA boundary to the north of the Backstrand. Species include Light-bellied Brent Goose, Golden Plover, Lapwing and Curlew.

A review of IWeBS data over the past 10 years gives a good indication of population trends in the range of waterfowl species present at the site. Two species show an apparent trend for increase- Light-bellied Brent Goose and Shelduck. Numbers of Golden Plover are indicating a trend towards decrease. However numbers can be highly variable between seasons reflecting the need for review of long term data to deduce an accurate trend direction.

Table 4.2 Trends in mean peak counts of selected waterbirds at Tramore Bay 1998-2009
Blue indicates apparent increase. Red indicates apparent decrease

Species	2008/2009	2006/07	2005/06	2004/05	2002/03	2001/02	1999/00	1998/99
Light-bellied Brent Goose	850	713	883	751	562	414	375	313
Shelduck	70	51	48	44	22	19	37	24
Wigeon	77	46	108	109	53	87	51	82
Teal	40	20	30	71	16	67	75	115
Mallard	115	94	102	100	42	111	3	29
Oystercatcher	396	346	520	492	310	662	425	236
Golden Plover	1,750	2900	4000	4500	1	2500	2800	2420
Lapwing	1,780	834	1880	1350	1342	633	3500	1605
Knot	184	26	210	70	62	12	37	28
Sanderling	10	56	48	35	58	10	30	48
Dunlin	1,000	688	697	790	1043	725	1790	1640
Black-tailed Godwit	176	238	343	530	391	151	377	303
Bar-tailed Godwit	205	210	247	300	318	271	405	227
Curlew	397	677	443	674	415	395	680	835
Redshank	165	165	411	304	334	314	201	215
Turnstone	30	35	49	27	51	9	25	20

⁴ Bird Count carried out by RPS for Waterford County Council as part of the AA Screening for the Kilmacleague Compensatory Wetlands Project.

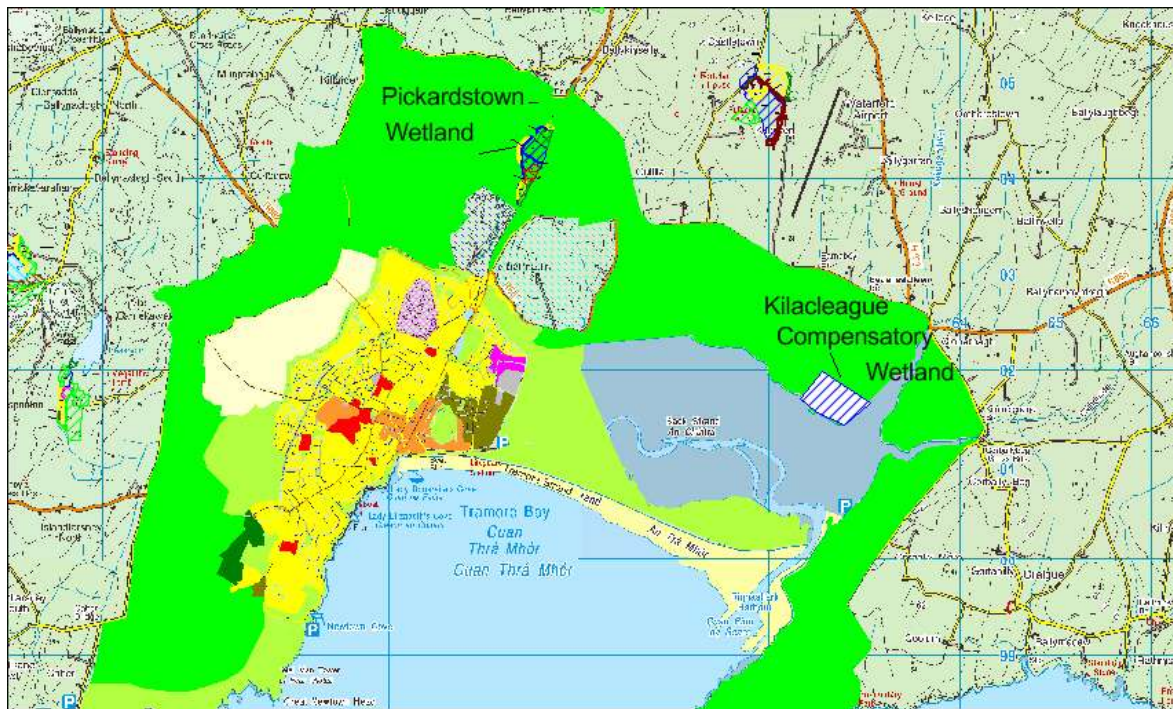
Of the eight species listed for the Tramore Backstrand SPA , Brent Geese are notably increasing, Golden Plover and Curlew are decreasing while the remainder are relatively constant with the normal level of variability that can be accounted for by different count seasons.

4.2.2 Wetlands

Wetland sites are areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary with water that is static or flowing, brackish or salt. Wetlands provide habitats for unusual communities of species that can survive in aquatic and semi-aquatic conditions. The amount of drainage and water present at these sites are their most important feature as increased drainage or flooding can cause drastic changes and loss of species. A survey was carried out on 21 wetland sites in Co. Waterford in 2006 as part of the Co. Heritage Plan. Pickardstown wetland occurs within the Local Area Plan boundary and was rated as being of county importance in the survey. All county wetlands sites are now listed as protected sites of local biodiversity interest in the Co. Development Plan.

Kilmacleague Compensatory Wetland

A site on the north side of Tramore Back Strand totalling 22ha in Kilmacleague was acquired by Waterford County Council for the purpose of creating compensatory wetland habitat and completed in May 2013. This project was required as compensation for loss of coastal wetland within the Tramore Dunes SAC from the former landfill site. The wetland was created by constructing a new sea embankment and breaching the existing sea embankment to enable inundation of the compensatory wetland area which is lower than the adjoining Back Strand. The area of created habitat inside the embankment is 7.5 ha and following an initial development of a shallow coastal lagoon the anticipated succession is 5 ha of mudflat, 1 ha transitional salt marsh, .5 ha of Upper Saltmarsh and 1ha of pioneer marsh. The site will be monitored and its ecological development may merit its inclusion with the Tramore Back Strand SPA in time.

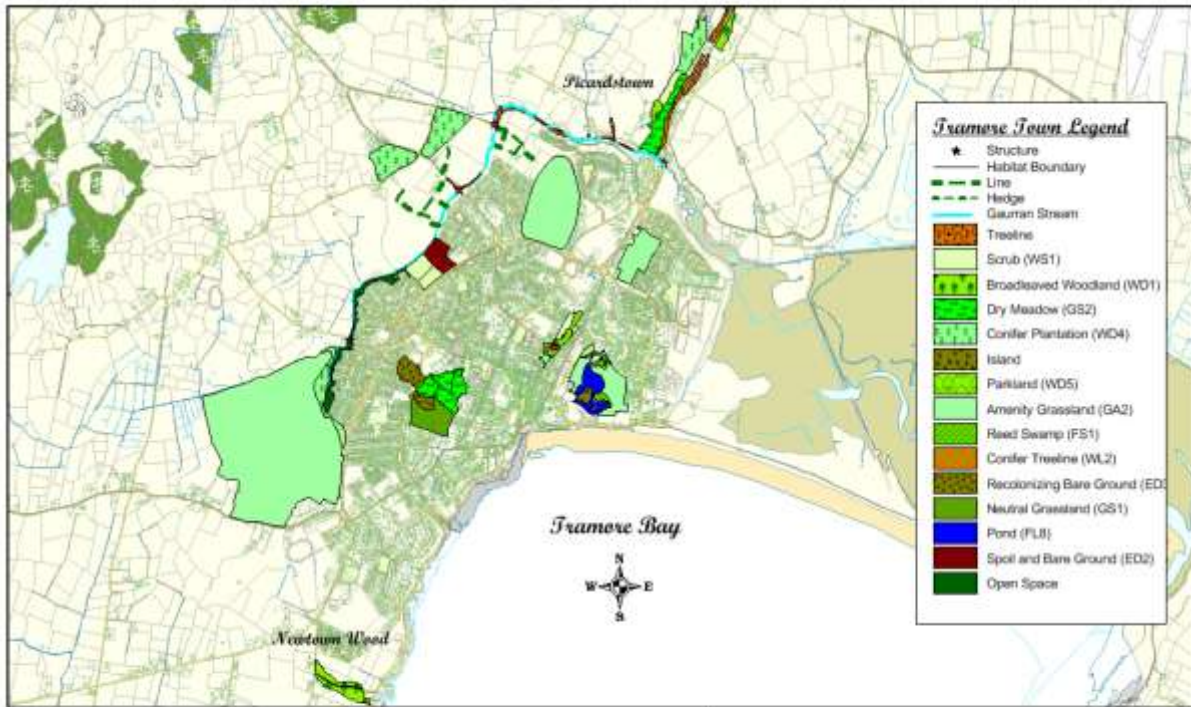



Map 1. Wetlands in the Tramore LAP area (excluding Tramore Back Strand SPA)

4.2.3 Ecological Corridors

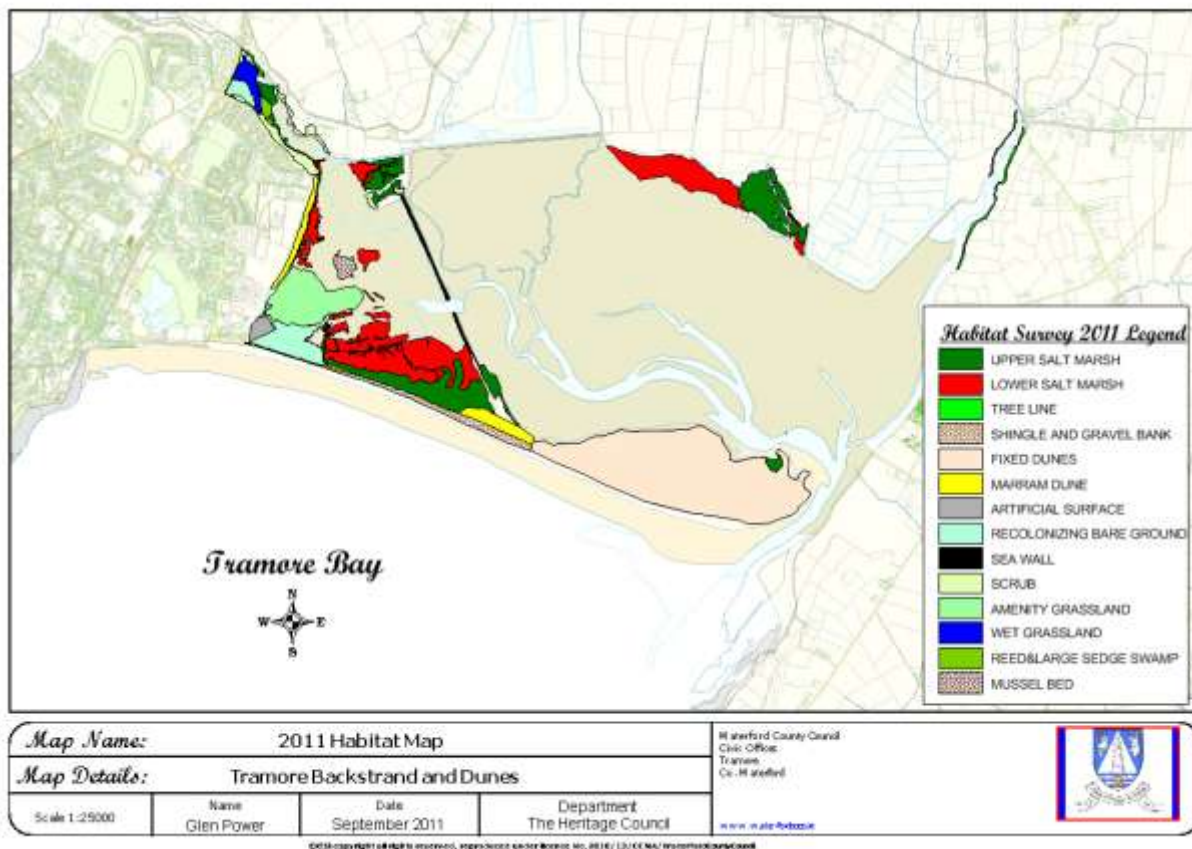
Linear features such as hedgerows, woodlands and streams provide “ecological corridors” along which species can move and disperse. Trees provide great amenity value in the landscape and are also an important wildlife habitat. The corridor role of hedgerows in facilitating the movement and distribution of wild flora and fauna through the landscape is believed to be enhanced significantly if hedgerows link into other habitat features. Roadside and townland boundary hedges generally contain a higher diversity of species than other hedges. Hedgerows also function as carbon sinks, pollution filters and sound barriers between busy roads and housing.

A survey of Tramore involving mapping of habitats in and around the urban area was carried out in 2011 (Map 1). The survey identified natural systems that function as core/corridor/buffer linkages between habitats and included hedgerows, streams, treelines, areas of grassland and boundary walls. The habitat map of Tramore highlights ecological corridors and sites of local biodiversity in the Town Plan area. Key ecological corridors include Bookie Woods, Newtown Woods, Glen Road, the Garraun Stream and tree corridors on the approach road from Pickardstown. Other sites of local interest are the Town Park, Tramore House Gardens, constructed wetlands along the Riverstown Relief Road and semi-natural areas on the outskirts of the town.



Map Name: 2011 Habitat Map		 Waterford County Council Tramore Civic Office Tramore Co. W. Waterford	
Map Details: Tramore Town and Environs			
DO NOT SCALE	Name Glen Power	Date September 2011	Department The Heritage Council

Map 2. Habitat Map of Tramore Town area



Map 3. Habitat Map of Tramore Back Strand and Dunes

4.2.4 Invasive Species

Invasive species represent one of the greatest threats to biodiversity, second only to that caused by direct habitat destruction. They do this by competitively excluding or out-competing our less robust native species, by preying on native species or by altering the natural aquatic or riparian habitat in which they reside. Invasive Species of concern in Tramore include Japanese Knotweed which has been recorded at Tramore landfill site and along the coast road. Ongoing efforts are being made by the Council to identify its occurrence and prevent further spread of the plant. Cord grass also occurs on the mud flats of the Back Strand.

4.2.5 Existing Environmental Pressures/problems; Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

Pressures on biodiversity in Tramore include recreational pressure on the dunes area in Saleens which has been subject to traffic by off-road motorised vehicles compacting dune vegetation and exposing bare sand. Waterford Co. Council carried out some deterrent measures in 2013 including blocking off of access points from the strand and signage and this has reduced the level of activity on the site. The main dunes spit is also subject to recreational pressure and

conservation works were carried out in 2010 and 2011 including establishment of sand ladders and transplanting of Marram Grass.

Encroachment on the SAC and infilling of wetlands has been the subject of an ECJ case and material has been removed from Pickardstown wetland and a 22ha compensatory wetland site has been established by the Council at Kilmacleague.

Monitoring of spread of invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed and Cord grass is required.

Development pressure may incur loss of ecological corridors within the plan area and the incorporation of green infrastructure in future design and developments is necessary. This includes retention of tree belts and hedgerows and avoidance of culverting streams.

Due to its coastal location Tramore has one of the lowest levels of tree cover in the county. Areas of woodland value in the Plan area include Newtown Woods, Bookie Woods and Corbally More. Smaller stands such as the Aldi Site and green corridor along Cove Road are important in a local context. There are no Tree Preservation Orders on any trees in the town of Tramore and thus protection of amenity and ecological value should be a key objective in the Plan. Where tree belts are included in areas zoned as Open Space (e.g. Newtown Woods) it adds to the amenity landscape value of the site.

Bookie Woods was zoned as residential lands in the 2007-2013 plan and was proposed as residential in the 2014-2020 LAP. Policy divergence may arise with regard to objectives for tree conservation as per policy G1, Section 6.2.1 and the land use zoning on this site. This divergence is in the context of a live planning application submitted under the 2007-2013 plan and a precedent for approval of residential use by An Bord Pleanála on a previous application. Any development proposed for the site will be required to take account of the impacts on amenity and ecology of the site.

Maintenance of water quality is required for the favourable conservation status of the Back Strand SAC and SPA.

4.3 Population and Human Health

The Census of 2011 shows the population of Ireland increased from 4,239,848 in 2006 to 4,588,252 in 2011 an actual increase of 348,404 persons or 8.2%. Over this time, the population of County Waterford grew by 7.6% from 62,213 to 66,960. The population of County Waterford (excluding the City) grew from 52,140 to 56,952 during the period 1996 – 2002 (CSO, 2002). Tramore's population grew from 9,634 to 10,238.

Table 4.1. Census 2006: Population of County Waterford and Tramore 2002-2006.

Area	Population		% Change		2011	% Change	
	2002	2006	Actual	Percentage		Actual	%
County Waterford	56,952	62,213		9.2%	66,960	4,747	7.6%
Tramore	7,684	9,634	1,950	25.4%	10,238	694	7.2%

County Waterford is part of the South East Regional Authority and the Local area Plan must have regard to the SERA Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022. The main aim of the RPGs is to develop the designated gateway in the region (Waterford City) in support of the aims of the National Spatial Strategy. The promotion of balanced regional development is a priority for the Guidelines. Population targets set for the growth of Tramore in the SERPGs are as follows;

2010- 10,000 2016-11,600 2022-13,400

The projected housing and zoning requirements for Tramore are 359 residential units required over the period 2014-2020 and 42 ha. of zoned land for housing (based on an average density of 15units/ha).

The County Development Plan provides for a population of 10,924 persons in Tramore by 2017. However, the 2011 population projection for Tramore in the County Development Plan at 10,200 was marginally less than the Census figure. In this regard, the 2011 Census recorded an actual population of 10,328 for Tramore which is an increase of 7.2% on the 2006 figure. It is reasonable to assume that this increase will have a knock-on effect to the population projections for 2017 & 2020 as contained in the County Development Plan. Applying a similar increase from this baseline figure of 10,328 results in a projected population of 11,071 up to 2017. Applying a projected average household size of 2.71, this projected population increase results in an additional requirement of 272 no. households up to 2017.

4.3.1 Human Health

Human health protection is a fundamental aspect of environmental protection. Availability of spatial data on human health on a county and a local basis is limited. Key issues with population and human health are the interrelationships of human health and water quality including drinking water, waste water treatment, recreational bathing waters, fisheries and shellfish waters. The expansion of residential development without full infrastructure requirements being developed for waste, wastewater, drinking water and transport can give rise to environmental pressures on water quality and is associated with increases in commuting distances, travel times and emissions of pollutants to air.

4.3.2 Existing Environmental Pressures/problems; Population and Human Health

Generally, issues that may impact on human health such as water quality, air quality and quality of life including areas of recreation and amenity are of a high quality in Tramore.

4.4 Water

An overview of water quality in Ireland is provided in the 2008 EPA report "Water Quality in Ireland 2004-2006". This report shows that on a national basis approximately 71% of river channel, 92% of lake area and 81% of estuarine and coastal waters monitored were of a satisfactory quality. During the review period, over 96% of the marine bathing waters monitored complied with the minimum mandatory standards set by the EU Bathing Waters Directive and national regulations. The main findings of the report were that there was an overall improvement in the quality of water in the state since the previous assessment period and that nutrient enrichment causing eutrophication is the main threat to these systems.

4.4.1 Surface Waters

A number of lakes are located in the east of Co. Waterford and two of these serve as reservoirs for public water supplies in Tramore i.e. Ballyscanlon lake and Carrigavrantry. The Water Framework Directive reporting threshold for lakes is a minimum of 50 ha in surface area or location in a protected area. Review of the *Integrated Water Quality Report South East Ireland EPA 2012* details the water quality status of these lakes.

Table 4.2 Lake Quality in public water supplies serving Tramore

Site	Remarks 2011
<p style="text-align: center;">Ballyscanlon Lake</p> <p>This is an abstraction point for Tramore water supply. It was added to the monitoring programme under the Water Framework Directive in 2007 (but had previously been monitored under the Surface Water for the Abstraction of Drinking Water Regulations (SI 294 of 1989))</p>	<p>BOD was slightly elevated in July, this may be due to plankton present in the lake. Otherwise quality is satisfactory. No change from 2010.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Carrigavrantry lake</p> <p>This lake is an abstraction point for Tramore water supply. It was added to the monitoring programme under the Water Framework Directive in 2007 (but had previously been monitored under the Surface Water for the Abstraction of Drinking Water Regs (SI 294 of 1989)) In previous years this lake displayed eutrophic conditions, and outbreaks of cyanobacteria (blue/green algae) occurred.</p>	<p>BOD was slightly elevated in March, this may be due to plankton present in the lake. Otherwise quality is satisfactory. No change from 2010</p>

Chemical and biological parameters are used to determine ecological status which is presented below. In the period 2007 to 2010, reservoirs serving Tramore in the south-eastern RBD were monitored and classified as moderate for biological and chemical status.

LAKE	2007-2009 Status for BQE	2007-2009 Status for GPC	2007-2009 Ecological Status	2008-2010 Rolling Status for BQE	2008-2010 Rolling Status for TP Status	Ecological Rolling Status 2008-2010
Ballyscanlan	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Carrigavantry Reservoir	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

Table 4.1 Status of Lakes in South-East Ireland⁵

4.4.2 Drinking Water Quality

Tramore is supplied by two water treatment plants at Carrigavantry and Adamstown. The Carrigavantry treatment plant is supplied with raw water from impoundments at Ballyscanlon and Carrigavantry. The output of this scheme is limited by source capacity, the dry weather yield of which is assessed as 200,000 – 250,00 gallons per day. Treatment at Carrigavantry is by rapid gravity filters with pH correction, chlorination and fluoridation of the water carried out. The plant requires high maintenance, with some of the equipment being almost 70 years old and nearing the end of its useful life. Treated water from the Carrigavantry plant is stored at Carrigavantry reservoir with a capacity of 150,000 gallons. The highest areas of Tramore town are served from this reservoir. The Tank Field reservoir supplies the lower areas of the town with this reservoir being fed from the Carrigavantry reservoir. The capacity of this reservoir is 150,000 gallons.

The “ Winter” water demand (i.e. from the permanent population) is 2700m³ with summer peak rising to 3,300m³. The balance of potable water requirements, in excess of the Carrigavantry plant output is supplied from the Adamstown Plant (East Waterford Regional Water Scheme). The water supplied from the Adamstown plant stored at Ballydrislane Reservoir which was constructed in 2000, with a capacity of 10,000m³ and at Sporthouse reservoir with a capacity of 545,0000 gallons. This scheme serves Waterford City and the eastern part of the County, including the towns of Tramore, Dunmore East, Cheekpoint, Faithlegg and Passage East. Phase 2 of this scheme provided for a duplication in treatment capacity of the Adamstown Water Treatment Plant as well as the provision of a new water intake facility on the River Mahon at Seafield to augment the existing sources of supply. The expanded treatment system has been online since mid 2010. Treatment comprises the following stages; raw water balancing, coagulation, flocculation, rapid gravity filtration, pH correction, chlorination and fluoridation. The site also has sludge treatment. Final treated water is pumped to the following storage

⁵ Integrated Water Quality Report South East Ireland EPA 2012

reservoirs; Sporthouse reservoir (2,500m³, 106.3m TWL) and Ballydrislane reservoir (10,000m³, 69.3m TWL). A SCADA system continuously monitors all water quality and performance parameters from source to distribution. The EWWSS is a state of the art facility that comprises multiple sources and multiple treatment processes that consistently produces water that meets all European standards.

The European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations (No. 2) 2007 came into force in March 2007. In accordance with these regulations, the local authority must notify the EPA where there has been a failure to meet a quality standard. The EPA Report- *The Provision and Quality of Drinking Water In Ireland- A Report for the years 2007-2008* records the overall compliance rate of drinking water in the county in 2007 at 95.2% and below the national average although an improvement from a rate of 94.2% in 2006.

As part of their report the EPA also publish a **Remedial Action List (RAL)** which details water supplies requiring improvement in water quality standards. Inclusion of a public water supply on this list does not mean that the water produced by the supply is unsafe to drink but that some environmental criteria are unsatisfactory. The list is a working list with the possibility of supplies being added or removed as work is completed and further information becomes available.

The Carrigavrantry water supply for Tramore was listed on the 2012 RAL due to elevated levels of Trihalomethanes exceeding the standard for same in the Drinking Water Regulations.

Upgrade of water treatment plant will include chemical treatment to address this which is to be completed by June 2014.

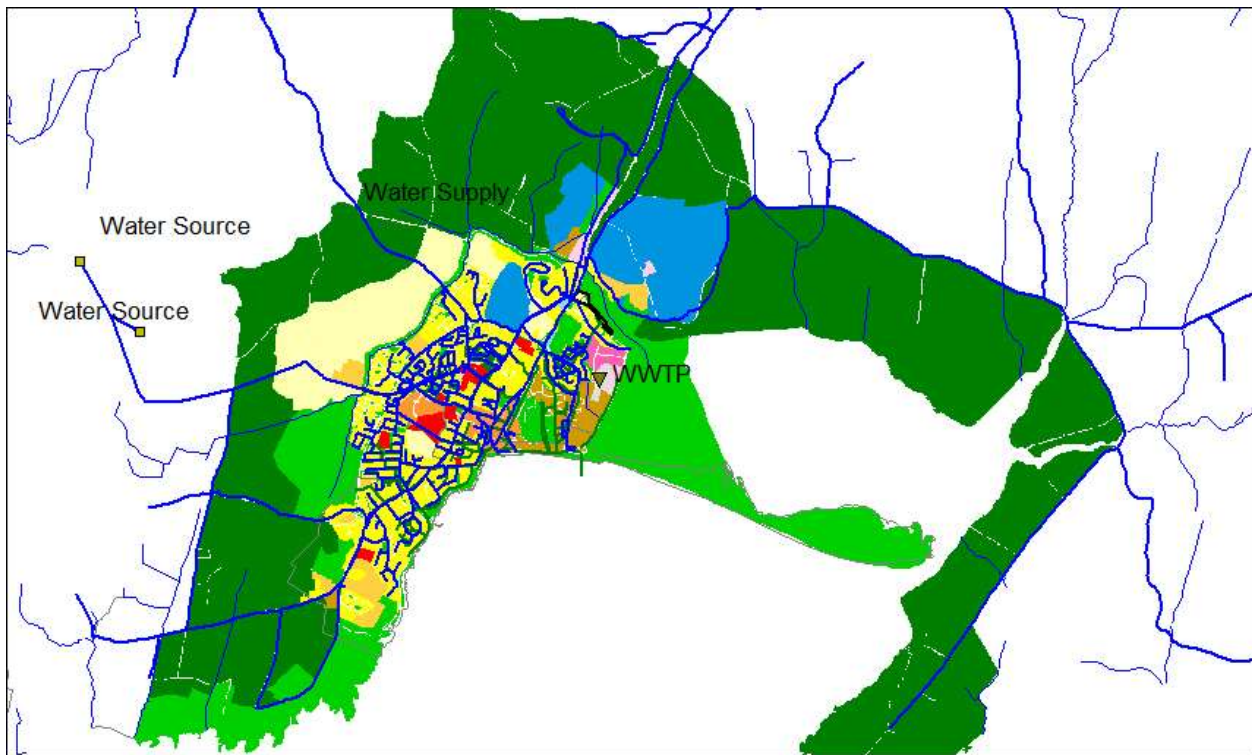
4.4.3 Waste Water

Tramore Wastewater Treatment Plant is located at Crobally Upper to the east of Tramore town and was completed in 2008. The WWTP is designed to serve a PE of 20,000 and provides treatment of effluent to E.U Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive standards and EC and National Bathing Water Quality standards. Provision has been made in the design of the plant to allow for expansion to 35,000 PE should it be required in future. Construction of Tramore WWTP commenced in 2005 and was fully operational by February 2008. The WWTP treats domestic, commercial and institutional effluent from Tramore Town and environs. There are 5 discharge points from the agglomeration. The primary discharge is via an outfall pipe and diffuser into Tramore Bay. The remaining discharge points include 1 emergency overflow and 3 storm water overflows which also discharge into Tramore Bay. There are no secondary discharges from the agglomeration. Tramore WWTP provides preliminary and secondary treatment. The treatment consists of screening, grit and grease removal at the inlet works, aeration, clarification and sludge removal. Dewatered sludge is transferred to Dungarvan WWTP.

The existing Tramore Sewage System is a combined system, which incorporates storm overflows. The majority of the sewage in Tramore discharges to the main pump station at the eastern end of the Promenade. This includes the Newtown area, which is served by the Cove pump station which in turn pumps sewage into the Town's gravity sewer network. From the Promenade pump station, the sewage is pumped to the new treatment plant at Riverstown. There is also a new pump station at Riverstown serving the northern section of the Town.

The second phase of the Tramore Sewerage Scheme upgrade is proposed to commence during this Plan period and will consist of increased capacity at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, the separation of foul and storm flows as well as improved stormwater attenuation.

There is sufficient capacity at the plant which incorporates secondary treatment for the current and projected population of Tramore.



Map 4. Water sources, water supply network and location of Waste Water Treatment Plant in Tramore.

4.4.4 Estuarine and Coastal Waters

Review of *Water Quality In Ireland 2007-2009* published by the EPA in 2010 shows that the ecological status for transitional and coastal waters in Tramore Back Strand is classified as high.

4.4.5 Bathing Waters

EC Directive 2006/7/EC came into force on 24 March 2006 and was transposed into Irish law as the Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008 (SI No. 79 of 2008). It repeals the existing Directive (76/160/EEC) with effect from 31 December 2014 and sets out standards for bathing water quality to protect public health and the environment. The purpose of the Bathing Water Regulations is the protection of human health and local authorities should ensure that where any bathing water fails the mandatory standards that the public are made aware of this fact by means of information posted at the bathing area. Building on research into the health risks associated with bathing waters it focuses on tighter microbiological standards for two new parameters, *Escherichia coli* (*E. Coli*) and Intestinal enterococci (I.E). Previous assessments were based principally on results of Total and Faecal Coliforms analyses plus a range of physico-chemical parameters. Under the present classification system “Good” water quality relates to compliance with both EU guide and mandatory values with “Sufficient” relating to compliance with the mandatory values and “Poor” reflecting non-compliance with mandatory values.

From the most recent EPA report on *Bathing Water Quality in Ireland- A Report for the year 2012* overall bathing water quality in Tramore is described as “sufficient” and failing to meet standards for Intestinal enterococci. Assessment for 2010 and 2009 rated the bathing water quality as good. The decline since 2010 is likely linked to increased rainfall in the past 2 summers causing storm overflows and run off of waste water effluent.

Analysis of bathing water quality in the context of the directive and the associated national regulations is separate from though complementary to the European Blue Flag Scheme a voluntary public information and advice scheme administered by An Taisce. To receive a blue flag, a bathing site must, in addition to maintaining a high standard of water quality meet specified objectives with regard to the provision of safety services and facilities, environmental management of the beach area and environmental education. Tramore was awarded Blue Flag Status in 2011 and has maintained its Blue Flag in 2012 and 2013.

4.4.8 Water Framework Directive

The Water Framework Directive marks a new approach for the protection and improvement of water resources. Commenced in 2009, a six year cycle of river basin management plans is being implemented for the purpose of protecting and enhancing all waters- groundwater, rivers, lakes, transitional waters (estuaries) and coastal waters including protection for related terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands. Tramore is covered by the South East River Basin District Management Plan. Surface water ecological status is described as moderate in the Plan.

Article 6 of the Water Framework Directive requires each Member State to establish a Register of Protected Areas. These areas are considered to need greater protection because they contain sensitive habitats or wildlife species or the need to protect human health including drinking water sources, shellfish growing areas and bathing areas. Protected areas must achieve standards

relevant to their designation which may be stricter than good or high status as defined under the Directive.

Table 4.8. Protected Areas under Water Framework Directive in Tramore Town Plan area

Protected Area	Total Designated Areas
Drinking Waters	None
Economically Significant Aquatic Species	None
Recreation and Bathing Waters	Tramore Main Strand
Nutrient Sensitive Waters	None
Water Dependant SACs	Tramore Dunes and Back Strand
Water Dependant SPAs	Tramore Dunes and Back Strand

4.4.9 Existing Environmental Pressures and Water

The EPA received a number of complaints relating to concerns about overflows from the Tramore plant in 2010. There are occasional complaints regarding storm overflows and generally these overflows are operating as per design to relieve excess flows from the network during periods of high rainfall these overflows being frequent during summers on account of the very wet periods prevailing. This issue has since been addressed by the installation of two constructed wetland cells at the edge of the Tramore landfill and along Riverstown Relief Road. Annual monitoring takes place and complaints are registered by Tramore Civic Offices and liaison with EPA. No recent complaints were received on this issue in 2013.

According to the South East River Basin District Management Plan in order to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, surface water quality in Tramore Bay needs to be restored by 2015.

4.5 Air and Climate

Air quality in Ireland is generally of a high standard across the country. Tramore lies in Zone D.

Global climate change is now recognized as the primary environmental challenge of this century. The European Union is taking the lead in this regard with the adoption of climate changes strategies, including the Kyoto Protocol, aimed at reducing the level of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. For the period beyond 2012, the EU Council of Ministers has committed to achieving at least a 20% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 compared to 1990 levels.

To ensure Ireland reaches its target under the Kyoto Protocol the Government published a reviewed National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012. Policy statements such as the White Paper, *Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland* sets out the Government's Energy Policy Framework 2007-2020 to deliver a sustainable energy future for Ireland. Local Authorities are working in collaboration with their local energy agencies to implement Climate

Change Strategies at local level and a County Climate Change Strategy has been prepared by the Waterford Energy Bureau.

The DoECLG published the *National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (Building Resilience to Climate Change)* in December 2012. This framework provides a mandate for local authorities and other agencies to prepare local adaptation plans (including mitigation) for climate change- as part of development planning to be published by mid-2014. A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment was carried out as part of the Waterford Co. Development Plan 2011-2017.

A smarter travel initiative is currently being developed by Waterford County Council and aims to advance a modal shift from private car to walking, cycling, public transport and car sharing. A number of projects are in the planning stage to facilitate this modal shift including cycle/walk route design, route selection and prioritisation, infrastructure design, review of traffic management, use of innovative and green solutions and integration of behavioural change and infrastructure. A cycle track from Tramore to Waterford City was opened in 2013.

4.5.1 Flooding

In fulfilment of the requirements of the EU “Floods” Directive (2007/60/EC) and under the CFRAM Programme for the South East, the Office of Public Works (OPW) carried out an initial Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment in 2011 to identify Probable and Possible Areas for Further Assessment (AFAs) or Individual Risk Receptors (IRRs). The PFRA was based upon information on past flood events, OPW and Local Authority knowledge of flood risk areas and analysis of available and predictive flood hazard. Review of the *South Eastern CFRAM Study Flood Risk Review - Final Report* indicates that areas along the Tramore Promenade are susceptible to coastal flooding. Site inspection and coastal flood hazard mapping produced through the Irish Coastal Protection Strategy Study indicate a 0.5% AEP tidal event would affect 15 residential and commercial properties in the town. This flood risk has merited the inclusion of Tramore & Environs in the list of areas for further assessment in the CFRAMs study. For these risk areas, flood risk maps and flood hazard maps will be drawn up by 2013. Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) will be developed by 2015. Mapping of the predictive flood risk zone is available from www.southeastcframstudy.ie.

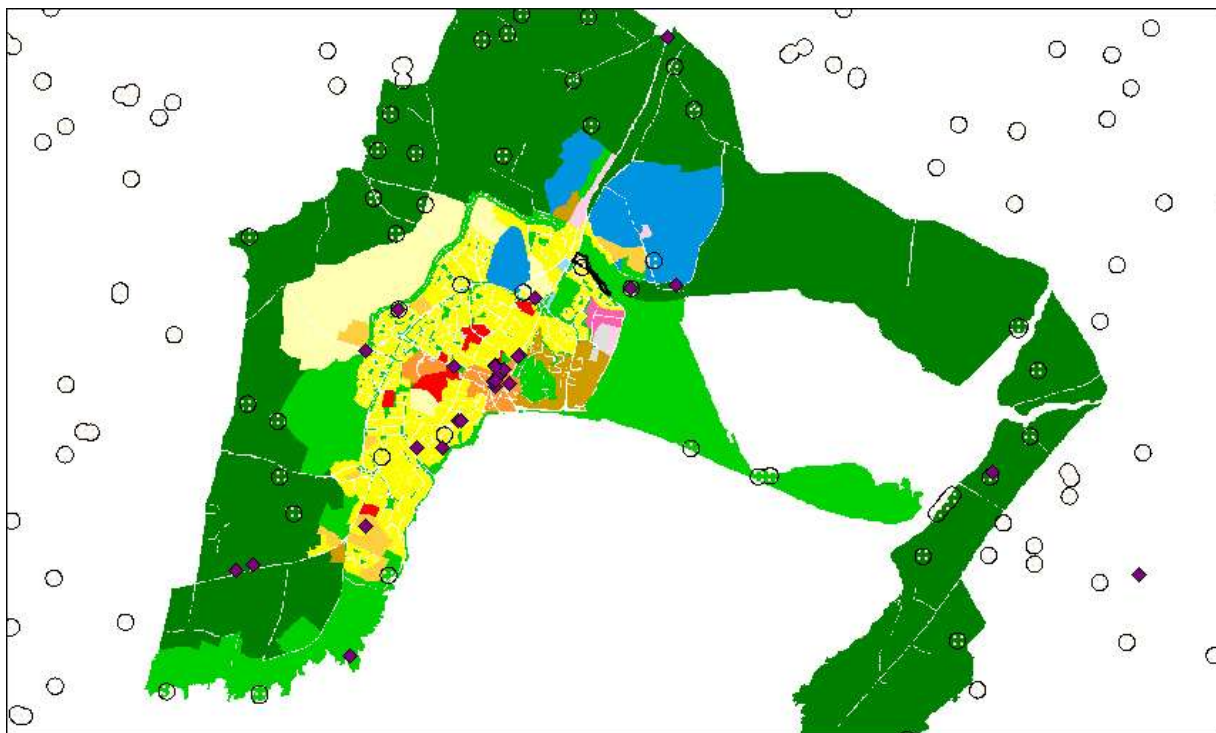
4.5.2 Existing environmental pressures air and climate

Currently there are no significant concerns with regard to air quality in Tramore. The development of the *Tramore Cycle Strategy* will deliver positive benefits for air quality, carbon emissions and human health.

4.6 Cultural Heritage

4.6.1 Archaeological Heritage

There are 50 Recorded Monuments within the Tramore Local Area Plan boundary and 7 within the town boundary. This includes enclosures, ringforts, middens, standing stones and a promontory fort. The County Archaeological Inventory for Waterford was published by the National Monuments Service of the DoEHLG in 1999. The annual excavations bulletin accessible at www.excavations.ie details excavations conducted in Waterford and is an indicator of the potential for occurrence of subsurface archaeology. The coastal location of the town provides interest in underwater archaeology along with archaeological potential in intertidal areas. A Shipwreck Inventory has been collated by the Underwater Archaeology Unit of the National Monuments Service of the DoEHLG. Tramore was known as the Graveyard of Ships due to the high number of shipwrecks in the bay over the 16th-19th centuries until the construction of navigation beacons on Brownstown Head and Newtown Head.



Map 5. Cultural Heritage in Tramore LAP. ◇ denotes protected structure, O denotes recorded monument.

4.6.2 Architectural Heritage

There are 36 structures listed in the Record of Protected Structures for Tramore. County Waterford including Tramore has been surveyed under the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage and an inventory of architectural heritage was published by the DoEHLG in 2004. The

main civic buildings in the town include the railway station, the Coastguard Station, the Church of Ireland Church, Tramore House and Gardens. Holy Cross Church designed by J.J Mc Carthy is considered of national importance and is a landmark building on the horizon of the town. The local authority in partnership with the Waterford Institute of Technology prepared guidelines in 2000 on “The architectural heritage of Tramore - Guide for owners” detailing the distinctive aspects of buildings in Tramore. Tramore Civic Offices host a design studio which are undertaking a number of projects in consultation with the local community on the built heritage of Tramore including a Town Design Statement⁶ and a Public Realm Plan.

4.6.3 Existing environmental pressures/ Cultural Heritage

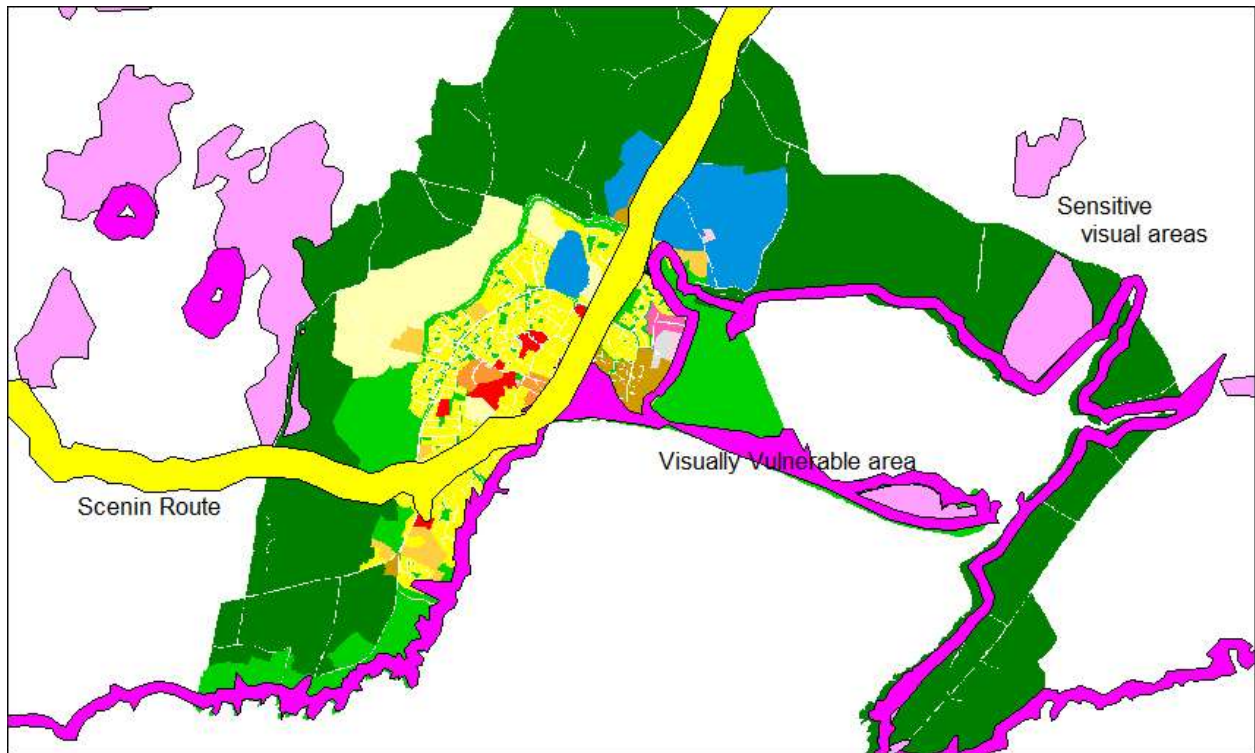
The maintenance and conservation of Tramore’s Cultural Heritage is key in order to maintain an irreplaceable resource, sense of identity for the town and as a source of visitor interest and tourism revenue. Key issues include the maintenance and conservation of listed buildings and their curtilage, conservation and additions to Record of Protected Structures and maintenance and future use of historic buildings. Archaeological heritage in Tramore could be promoted through public information signage.

4.7 Landscape

Tramore’s landscapes include urban, peri-urban and coastal landscapes from sandy beaches to cliff tops to an urban form and agricultural land. Scenic views are provided along walking routes such as the Doneraile Walk, The Cliff Road and Newtown Woods. The coastal area is listed as visually vulnerable in the Co. Development Plan.

The town, in general, slopes to the east and north of the town there are elevated lands with views of both Great Newtown Head and Rinnashark Harbour and beyond. Views from the beach out across Tramore Bay or west along Tramore Strand and the Cush to Great Newtown Head and the impressive Metal Man tower and east to Rinnashark Harbour and the townlands of Lisselty and Brownstown are impressive.

⁶ Informed by The Heritage Council Village Design Statement Toolkit



Map 6. Scenic landscape value of Tramore LAP area.

The European Landscape Convention (ELC) promotes the protection, management and planning of all landscapes including, rural, peri-urban and degraded landscapes. Article 5 of the ELC urges recognition in law that landscape is an essential component of people’s surroundings, an expression of diversity of shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of identity. The convention advocates the establishment and implementation of landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning, and urges the participation of the general public, and local and regional authorities in these policies.

Tramore Town Park , the boating lake and Tramore House Gardens all provide landscape amenity areas for enjoyment by the public. There is a proposal to develop Tramore House Gardens as Japanese Gardens and a national visitor attraction. The coastal landscape is an asset for tourism in Tramore. Development of infrastructure, including energy networks, wind energy and tourism developments, all have the potential to impact on landscape.

4.7.1 Existing environmental pressures/ Landscape

Good provision of open space such as the Park adds to the quality of landscape in Tramore. Building heights are not excessive and adequate open space fronts the harbour area. Currently there are no significant concerns with regard to landscape in Tramore.

4.8 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

4.8.1 Geology

The rocky coast of Tramore consists of highly fossiliferous rocks, classed as part of the Tramore limestone formation of middle Ordovician age from around 470 million years ago. The rocks have yielded a rich diversity of marine animals from a mid-Ordovician shelf sea environment. These are mainly trilobites (extinct arthropods) and brachiopod shells, and also a characteristic common dome-shaped bryozoan colony. Black slates from Lady Elizabeth's Cove contain numerous graptolites (an extinct planktonic animal).

The mix of useful animal groups makes this an important site for biostratigraphical correlation with the Ordovician Period, both in Ireland and internationally. With further research, the site will be very important in understanding the breakdown of the faunal provinciality within the Iapetus Ocean that once separated northwest Ireland from southeast Ireland. Tramore appears to have been a key site for the early migration of species across this former ocean.

Tramore Burrow is a long wide sand spit across the mouth of Tramore Bay with several large dunes the highest of which is up to 30m. The spit formed in the Holocene period since the last glaciation and is comprised of unconsolidated sand sediment.⁷

The Geological Survey of Ireland established the Irish Geological Heritage (IGH) programme in 1998 with the objective of identifying and selecting sites that best represent the geological heritage of Ireland for designation as Natural Heritage Areas. An audit of Geological Heritage Sites is being carried out for Waterford County Council in 2011. The IGH identified Tramore and Tramore Burrow as sites of County Geological Interest.

4.8.2 Soils

Waterford contains a range of soils, which support various habitats and land uses. The Soils of Ireland Map (1995) indicates that Acid Brown Earths and Gleys occur in Tramore. Teagasc and the EPA have developed a National Soil Mapping project to update and refine previous soil mapping work.

The Tramore Solid Waste Landfill Disposal Site closed at the end of 2005. This site is located on an area of the Back Strand just east of Tramore Town. The capping procedure was completed and the site re-seeded in 2008. The civic amenity centre for recycling waste closed in 2010. The site encompasses an area of approximately 14ha and has been re-vegetated with amenity grassland and was opened as an area for public recreational walking use in 2013.

⁷ Corries, Caves and Coast, the Geological Heritage of Co. Waterford

4.8.3 Existing environmental pressures/ Geology, Soils

Tramore’s coastline is a valuable natural resource providing a buffer for extreme weathers. A growing body of evidence illustrates that rising sea levels, increasing storm frequency and wave energy will increase the rate of erosion, loss of habitats and incidence of flood-related events in vulnerable areas of the Waterford coast. In recognition of this, in 2008, Waterford County Council through the Heritage Plan undertook a Scoping Study towards the Integrated Coastal Zone Management of Tramore Bay which will help inform application of ICZM to the area’s coastline. Coastal erosion arising from Climate Change will be an environmental pressure on geology and soils.

Leachate from the former landfill site is subject to continual monitoring as part of the EPA licence for the site and subject to submission of an annual environmental report to the EPA.

4.9 Material Assets

Material assets is taken to include infrastructure and utilities including road, water supply and wastewater treatment facilities. It also includes economic assets such as agricultural lands, coastal and water resources which support fisheries and tourism industry. The WWTP was opened in 2008. Coastal defences consisting of rock armour are located along the strand.

4.9.3 Existing environmental pressures/ Material Assets

4.10 Interrelationships between the above environmental factors

The interrelationships between the range of environmental topics is an important consideration in the environmental assessment. Table 4.10 below indicates the interrelationships identified between the environmental topics in this assessment.

Table 4.10 Inter-Relationships between Environmental Topics

Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna	√						
Population/ Human Health	√	√					
Soil	√	√	√				
Water	√	√	√	√			
Air	√	√	√	X	√		
Climate	√	√	√	√	√	√	
Material Assets	√	√	√	√	X	√	√

Cultural Heritage	X	√	X	√	X	X	√	√	
Landscape	√	X	√	√	X	X	√	√	√
	Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna	Population/ Human Health	Soil	Water	Air	Climate	Material Assets	Cultural Heritage	Landscape

Declining water quality gives rise to associated impacts on population and human health from drinking water supplies (risk of E-coli, Intestinal Enterococci), treatment of waste water and , bathing waters. Water quality is also linked to soil where inputs of excess nutrients such as nitrates and phosphates into soil cause eutrophication of water and wetlands. Water quality also impacts on biodiversity concerning water dependant habitats and species. Climate change will impact on a range of environmental criteria from population and human health concerning increased incidences of flooding, impacts on habitats and species from changing temperature conditions, soil run off and coastal erosion.

4.11 EVOLUTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PLAN

Under Section 11 (1) of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 this Plan is subject to review and thus the absence of a review of the current Local area Plan would not be in compliance with statutory obligations under the Planning Acts.

In view of the targets set out in the County Development Plan Core Strategy and SE Regional Planning Guidelines, the proposed future phased zoning of residential areas zoned in the current Local Area Plan is appropriate. A review of zoned land in the current plan indicates there is approximately 284 ha. of land currently zoned as residential indicating adequate availability of zoned land for the medium-long term.

4.12 Conclusion – Significant Environmental Issues

In summary, key environmental pressures relate to biodiversity, water quality and coastal erosion with the need to restore surface water quality in Tramore Bay. The need to maintain water quality is key to conservation of biodiversity and water dependant habitats and species. Climate change impacts involving floodrisk and coastal erosion will also require to be considered in future land use and development patterns in Tramore. Water quality from the Carrigavrantry Water supply will require ongoing monitoring and treatment in order to delist it from the EPA’s Remedial Action List. Bathing water quality at Tramore will require ongoing monitoring to ensure it reverts back to “good” status complying with both EU guide and mandatory values.

The state of the environment is in a much improved position than at the time of preparation of the existing Tramore Local Area Plan (2007-2013). The SEA prepared for that Plan cites remediation of the landfill, waste water treatment, encroachment on the SAC and water quality in

Tramore Bay as significant environmental issues. Resolution of all these issues has progressed with closure and remediation of the landfill, creation of a compensatory wetland at Kilmacleague, completion of the WWTP and restoration of Blue Flag Status for Tramore Beach in 2011. The updating of Tramore Beach Bye-laws in 2012 and the ongoing implementation of an Environmental Monitoring Plan for the former Landfill site provide for ongoing improvements in the environment in Tramore.

4.13 CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE DIRECTIONS

It is required in the legislation that the Environmental Report must consider “reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme” and the significant environmental effects of the alternatives selected.

Alternative strategies that were considered are outlined below.

Alternative Strategy Option 1- Continue with existing zoning in Current Local Area Plan

There are 284 ha zoned for residential development in the existing Tramore Local Area Plan indicating more than sufficient lands available for the projected population figures for the plan period. Continuation of and extension to existing areas of residentially zoned land may give rise to environmental issues that are contrary to achieving the objectives of the Water Framework Directive, national energy policy, Core Strategy and the SE Regional Planning Guidelines.

Alternative Strategy Option 2- Phase the area of zoned land in the current Local Area Plan

As informed by the Core Strategy, there are approximately 42 hectares of land objectively required for residential development over the lifetime of the Plan. Under the lifetime of the previous Plan, 11 houses were constructed at Crobally Upper and 19 no. houses were constructed at Newtown.

There is an extant planning permission for 155 houses on 8 hectares at Newtown and a further 40 houses permitted on 3.8 hectares at Newtown Glen. The Planning Authority has also granted an extension of duration of planning permission for 74 dwellings on a 3 hectare site on the Ring Road. Outline permission has been granted for 17 dwellings on master plan zoned lands at Ballinattin.

In total, there are 456 housing units currently committed to development in Tramore.

Residential Zoned Land		No. of units
Committed to development	45ha	456

For the proper and sustainable development of the Town, it is vital to ensure that the future development of Tramore is balanced and that sufficient lands are made available within the Town. Furthermore, it is the obligation of the Planning Authority to ensure that sufficient and suitable land is zoned for residential use, and subsequently released for the purpose of the Residential and Housing Strategy of this Plan, and to ensure that a scarcity of such land does not occur at any time during the period of the Plan. For these reasons, the Council has ensured that there is sufficient residential zoned lands within the Plan boundary to adequately cater for the projected population over the Plan period, including 75% over zoning as permitted under the Regional Planning Guidelines.

Strategic Reserved lands (SR) may be reviewed by the Planning Authority over the lifetime of the Plan where specific need arises. This shall be subject to the availability and capacity of waste and water services and where Existing Residential (ER) and New Proposed Residential (NR) lands have been developed/or committed to development by way of a grant of planning permission.

The development strategy is largely predetermined by lands that are already committed to development. Within the Plan area, there is opportunity for infill housing throughout the Town and peri-urban development on the north-eastern fringes of the Town.

In total 3 Masterplan Special Use Areas are identified for the Town and these are located at Ballinattin, Pickardstown and Tramore Racecourse. These strategic lands shall be the subject of detailed master plans, to be prepared for any future planning application on these lands.

Preferred Option- Option 2

The Local Area Plan aims to support growth in existing zoned lands and where existing and proposed infrastructural capacities permit.. The Draft Plan proposed to future phase an area of zoned land of approximately 242 ha. providing an area of 42 ha. for residential development over the lifetime of the plan 2014-2020. This is a reduction of 242ha from the existing 284 ha zoned for residential use in the existing plan.

The Core Strategy sets out a requirement of zoned housing land in the town of 42ha for the period 2014-2020 based on the county share out from the population projections established for Tramore by the Core Strategy. Thus it is in the interests of the future settlement strategy for the county and the town of Tramore and in terms of environmental infrastructure to support a sustainable pattern and rate of future growth and accordingly Option 2 is the preferred option.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OBJECTIVES RELEVANT TO THE TRAMORE LOCAL AREA PLAN 2014-2020

5.1 INTRODUCTION

The use of environmental protection objectives fulfils obligations set out in Section F, Schedule 2B of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004. The environmental protection objectives are distinct from the Local Area Plan objectives and provide a standard against which the policies and objectives of the Local Area Plan can be measured in order to highlight those with the potential for environmental impact. They are used as a tool to cross check the policies of the Draft Local Area Plan in order to maximise the environmental sustainability of the Local Area Plan. The cross checking process will help identify policies that will be likely to result in significant adverse impacts, so that alternatives may be considered or mitigation measures may be put in place.

The environmental protection objectives for the Draft Local Area Plan were generated from European, National and Regional Policy and Guidance. Sample objectives are given in Table 4B of the SEA Guidelines produced by the DoEHLG in 2004 and these were amended to reflect the specific issues that are considered relevant to the Plan and the range of issues that are significant within Tramore. The scoping process informed the generation of appropriate objectives. The objectives are set out below, under a range of headings, which were taken from the SEA Regulations and the DoEHLG guidelines.

5.2 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OBJECTIVES

5.2.1 BIODIVERSITY, FLORA AND FAUNA

B1: Protect, conserve and enhance habitats, species and areas of national or international importance, including aquatic habitats and species and promote the sustainable management of habitat networks.

5.2.2 POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH

P1: Facilitate a good standard of health for Tramore's population through ensuring high quality residential, recreational and working environments.

5.2.3 WATER RESOURCES

W1: Achieve and maintain required water quality standards in the South East River Basin Management Plans and associated Programme of Measures and reduce discharges of pollutants or contamination to protect waters as sources of drinking water and as valuable assets for amenity and recreation.

5.2.4 AIR AND CLIMATE

AC1: Support implementation of *National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (Building Resilience to Climate Change)*

5.2.5 CULTURAL HERITAGE

C1: Protect and conserve features of architectural and archaeological heritage.

5.2.6 LANDSCAPES

L1: Protect and conserve the quality, character and distinctiveness of the coastal landscape and minimise negative visual impacts.

5.2.7 SOILS AND GEOLOGY

S1: Conserve the quality of and prevent erosion of soils and protect geological sites.

5.2.8 MATERIAL ASSETTS

MA1: Maintain the quality of and access to assets such as open spaces, water resources and all other physical and social infrastructure.

5.3 Use of Environmental Protection Objectives

The above Environmental Protection Objectives have been used to carry out the SEA in accordance with the legislation. They provide a standard against which the policies of the Draft Local Area Plan were measured for their environmental sustainability. A crosschecking process has been used whereby the Draft Local Area Plan policies and development objectives and proposed material amendments were proofed against the Environmental Protection Objectives so that any policies/development objectives with the potential for significant adverse environmental impacts were highlighted in addition to significant positive impacts. Alternative strategic options were considered and mitigation measures proposed to counteract any adverse environmental effects identified, thereby maximising the environmental sustainability of the Local Area Plan 2014-2020.

6 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF TRAMORE LOCAL AREA PLAN 2014-2020

6.1 METHODOLOGY FOR ASSESSMENT AND DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS

Matrices are the mechanism by which conflicts or potential conflicts between the policies of the Local Area Plan and the strategic environmental objectives have been identified. These matrices are provided in Appendix One to this Environmental Report. The likely significant effects that the policies contained in the Draft Local Area Plan and the proposed material amendments could have on the environment were identified in this process.

Each strategic policy and objective and material amendment proposed in the Draft Local Area Plan was assessed against the agreed SEA objectives.

The Draft produced was then formally assessed using the matrix (see Appendix One). The assessment of each was assigned a symbol;

- √ Significant beneficial impact
- ? Uncertain impact
- X Significant Adverse impact
- O No relationship, or insignificant impact

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

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

As a follow on from the preparation and evaluation of the previous sections of the report, i.e. baseline data and trends, existing significant issues, environmental vulnerabilities, the above questions were considered in determining significance of environmental effects identified. Suggested alternatives, mitigation, and offsetting, to the potential identified significant effects were identified and amendments to the Draft Local Area Plan 2014-2020 suggested where required.

6.2 Summary of Likely Significant Effects of Implementing the Tramore Local Area Plan 2014-2020 on the Environment and Measures Proposed to Prevent, Reduce or Offset

6.2.1 Introduction

The full matrix and assessment of policies against environmental objectives is included in Appendix One of this report. A summary of the outcome of this assessment is provided in this section.

In accordance with the legislation, the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the Tramore Local Area Plan 2014-2020 are summarised under headings that include all of the issues required to be covered. Potential significant positive environmental effects are highlighted as well as uncertain, potential negative, and neutral impacts and full details of these impacts can be seen in the matrix in Appendix One.

Depending on the level of significance, which was determined based on the scale and cumulative nature of the potential impact, measures to offset or mitigate against significant negative environmental effects have been provided. For those with a higher level of significance, a recommendation was made to remove or alter the policy so as to prevent or reduce the impact if possible.

Assessment of the policies and development objectives in the Tramore Local Area Plan 2014-2020 shows that these policies and objectives will not pose a significant adverse impact on the environment. Many of the policies and objectives are considered positive, setting out to manage and protect aspects of the environment such as biodiversity, water quality, climate change and sustainable travel, heritage resources and community facilities. The plan is particularly strong on policies supporting sustainable travel with associated positive implications for human health through accessible public transport and pedestrian access. Due to the strategic nature of the plan some of the broad range objectives cannot be accurately appraised to infer a definite positive or negative impact and so have been assessed as “uncertain” as a lower level tier assessment will be more appropriate to determine the precise nature of the impacts involved. This may relate to strategic policies/objectives concerning specific projects or other framework plans that may also require SEA at their inception.

To qualify “uncertain” impacts the range of issues for consideration under the various environmental topics is detailed below.

6.2.2 Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna

Impacts may be uncertain from policies and development objectives in the Plan in relation to biodiversity where objectives relate to infrastructure projects such as road improvements, development of unserviced lands and development of industrial lands. These policies may lead to projects that will require to be assessed at the project level by EIA and Appropriate Assessment (e.g. PDCS1, IN1 TO5). Inclusion of policies on natural heritage and green

infrastructure including retention of ecological corridors in Chapter 6 will mitigate against significant adverse impacts on biodiversity.

In fulfilment of the requirements of Article 6 (3) of the Habitats Directive an Appropriate Assessment Screening was carried out to assess the impacts of the Draft Plan on the Natura 2000 network. The AA screening concluded that no significant adverse impacts are implied from policies, objectives or land use zonings in the Tramore Local Area Plan.

Positive impacts on biodiversity are identified through policies NH1-NH4 promoting protection for habitats and species at a European, national and local level. The application of the green infrastructure concept in the plan will be a positive development for Biodiversity policy in Tramore as will the objective to include the Kilmacleague Compensatory wetland area within the Back Strand SPA.

No significant negative impacts are arising for biodiversity from the Tramore Local Area Plan 2014-2020.

6.2.3 Population and Human Health

Uncertainties in relation to human health arise where impacts on water quality and flood risk are to be determined. Water quality includes drinking water and bathing water. Generally, impacts on population and human health are positive as the Local Area Plan seeks to provide for growth which can provide benefits and services while promoting enhanced travel choice, protection of heritage and environment, and access to amenity and recreation. Existing and future proposed capacities in water and waste water infrastructure are designed to promote population growth in the interests of avoidance of environmental degradation and damage to human health. The plan is strong on policies and objectives for provision of community facilities ranging from recreational resources such as the Town Park and Japanese gardens to educational and healthcare facilities.

No significant negative impacts are arising for population and human health from the Tramore Local Area Plan.

6.2.4 Water

No significant adverse impacts from the Plan policies are arising in terms of water quality or supply. There is adequate capacity for current and future population growth in Tramore. However the SE River Basin Management Plan has highlighted the need to restore water quality in Tramore Bay. The need to maintain water quality is key to conservation of biodiversity and water dependant habitats and species. Policies ENV 1 and 2 of the Plan aim to preserve and protect groundwater and surface water quality in accordance with the Groundwater and Surface Water Regulations and to promote the achievement of good ecological status, good ecological potential if possible within the lifetime of the plan.

6.2.5 Air & Climate

The plan contains a range of positive objectives for promoting smarter travel options which will offer alternative to use of private car with positive implications for carbon emission reduction. Objectives promoting walking and cycle strategy imply positive impacts for population and human health. It is an objective of the plan to implement adaptation measures that reduce the effects of climate change and prepare local adaptation plans for building resilience to climate change in accordance with Government guidelines. Policies for coastal zone management in Chapter 6 of the plan are also favourable to mitigating effects of climate change on natural habitats and for coastal flood risk.

6.2.6 Cultural Heritage

Cultural heritage may be impacted by development and increased recreational pressure (e.g. kitchen middens in dunes subject to erosion). Chapter 6 policies provide for the protection and enhancement of Tramore's architectural and cultural heritage and will mitigate for proposals affecting these sites. Subject to the availability of resources, the Council will undertake a Public Realm Enhancement Programme over the lifetime of the Plan. The plan contains a range of positive policies and objectives promoting the built heritage of the town.

6.2.7 Landscape

Impacts on landscapes may arise from a range of developments including communications networks, energy networks, recreational pressure and tourism developments. The LAP recognises the scenic landscape value of the Tramore coast and objective CZM 3 aims to protect the scenic value of the Coastal Zone in Tramore including landward and seaward views and continuous views along the coastline and manage development so it will not materially detract from the visual amenity of the coast.

6.2.8 Soil and Geology

Objective CZM2 seeks to recognise the value of Tramore's natural coastal defences in Tramore Dunes and Back Strand and ensure their protection from damaging activities including coastal erosion and recreational activities. Tramore Dunes and the rocky coast at Lady Elizabeth's Cove have been identified as sites of County Geological Interest and the Draft LAP was amended to include a policy recognising their status and seeking their protection.

6.2.9 Material Assets

Positive impacts for material assets are implied in policies supporting development of the Town Park, Doneraile Walk and Japanese Gardens. These policies seek to maintain and enhance recreational and amenity space and environmental infrastructure that provide material assets for the town with associated benefits for the town's population. No significant negative impacts are arising for material assets from the Local Area Plan.

6.2.10 Impacts from proposed material amendments to the Plan

All material amendments proposed for the Draft Tramore LAP were screened for their potential impacts on the environmental protection objectives. No policy/objective amendments were appraised to have potential for negative significant effects on the range of environmental criteria. The proposed addition of Policy GH1 and objectives NHI and G1 were considered positive for the natural environment. Uncertain impacts from Plan policies and objectives such as ETD1 (zoning of industrial lands), ETD 2 (Water based tourism activities), Obj INF 7 (provision of a helipad) and CS11 (promotion of walkways and cycleways) were addressed through revised and strengthened policies that incorporated reference to requirements of Habitats and Birds Directives as appropriate.

Inclusion of additional policies for protection of geological heritage sites and policy to carry out an assessment of trees and woodlands within the LAP within the lifetime of the plan are positive additions for the natural environment. The addition of ObjNH1 and objG1 are also positive in requiring an appropriate level of environmental assessment is prepared to an acceptable standard in respect of any proposed plan or project likely to have an impact on biodiversity sites or protected species.

Zoning amendments to the plan including zoning changes for Tankfield, Newtown, Pickardstown, Crobally, Ballinattin, CBS, Pond Road and the Glen Road are considered not to pose significant effects on the range of environmental criteria. The zoning amendment proposed for Crobally Lower involving rezoning from open space to residential while outside the SAC is adjacent to the designated site and currently acts as a green space buffer to the SAC and infers uncertain impacts for biodiversity. The rezoning will require any proposed development on the site under this zoning to be subject to Project Appropriate Assessment as qualified by objectives NH1 and G1 and policy NH1 in the Plan.

The zoning amendment proposed for the Glen Road involving rezoning from open space to residential will incur loss of open space and an area of natural environment value and infers uncertain impacts for biodiversity and landscape. Any proposed development on the site under this zoning will be subject to policy G1 and objective G1.

6.2.12 Conclusion

SEA assessment of the Tramore Local Area Plan 2014-2020 determined that no significant adverse impacts are predicted from the Plan while positive impacts will be realised through proposed policies for integration of green infrastructure, smarter travel, coastal zone management, built heritage and community facilities.

The findings of “uncertain” impacts in the SEA matrix will be determined at a lower level of environmental assessment largely through EIA and AA at the project level. These assessments will involve application of Appropriate or Ecological Assessment, architectural heritage appraisal and flood risk assessment to accurately determine the impacts under the range of environmental headings detailed above.

The finding of uncertain impacts on Natura 2000 sites from policies such as ETD1 (zoning of industrial lands), ETD 2 (Water based tourism activities), Obj INF 7 (provision of a helipad) and CS11 (promotion of walkways and cycleways) was addressed through revised and strengthened policies that incorporate reference to requirements of Habitats and Birds Directives as appropriate.

Table 6.1 below details the relevant policy and section in the Draft Plan that addresses the key Environmental Topics as identified through the SEA process.

Table 6.1

Key Environmental Issue		Relevant Town Dev Plan policy
Water Quality	Surface Waters	NH6 & Objs NH1-2 INF 12
	Coastal & Estuarine Waters	NH6 & Objs NH1
	Groundwater	NH6 & Objs NH1
	Drinking Water Quality	INF 10 Obj INF8
	Waste Water	INF11
Biodiversity	Designated sites	NH1-NH4
	Local Biodiversity	GI1-GI3

7 MONITORING

7.1 Introduction

As part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment process, measures envisaged for monitoring the likely significant effects of implementing the Local Area Plan must be included in the Environmental Report. The review of the Local Area Plan 2014-2020 will include monitoring of any significant environmental effects.

Monitoring is often based on indicators, which measure changes in the environment, especially changes which are critical in terms of environmental quality. The Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government SEA Guidelines state that indicators that can be easily and realistically measured should be used. “Environmental indicators are key statistics, which describe an environmental issue. Their purpose is to communicate information on environmental issues in a simplified manner and over time to create a benchmark against which future progress towards sustainable development can be measured. To be effective they should be representative of the issue and be based on scientifically valid information. In this manner they can support policy development and reflect the interrelationship between society, the economy and the environment.”

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

1. State of the environment indicators reflect environmental quality, or quantity of physical and biological or chemical phenomenon;
2. Stress indicators reflect development effects;
3. Performance indicators may be used to evaluate long-term achievements in environmental management and protection;
4. 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.

Where new or improved monitoring measures come to light during the course of the Guidelines review they will inform monitoring for SEA, to ensure that monitoring of effects during the course of implementing the guidelines can be meaningful and effective.

The following measures are proposed as part of this SEA process, to monitor the effects on the environment of implementing the Tramore Local Area Plan 2014-2020, presented in terms of the achievement of the environmental protection objectives and the impact on the environmental factors that the SEA legislation requires to be considered.

7.1.1 Monitoring Proposals and Environmental Indicators

Environmental Objectives, Indicators and Targets

Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna					
Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Responsible Authority	Frequency of Monitoring	Targets	Intervention
B1: Protect, conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats, species and areas of national or international importance, including aquatic habitats and species and promote the sustainable management of habitat networks.	Conservation status of habitats and species as assessed under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive.	NPWS of DAHG	Every 6 years. Next report due in 2014	Maintenance of favourable conservation status ⁸ for all habitats and species protected under national and international legislation.	Loss of favourable conservation status of protected habitats and species
	Development of saltmarsh habitat at Kilmacleague Compensatory Wetland Site	Waterford Co. Council	Annual	Development of saltmarsh vegetation at Kilmacleague	Non-development of saltmarsh vegetation at Kilmacleague within lifetime of the plan.
	% cover of ecological corridors and sites of local biodiversity interest in Tramore Plan Area	Waterford Co. Council	Annual	No loss of ecological corridors and local biodiversity sites in Tramore Plan area	Notable loss and non replacement of ecological corridors and sites of local biodiversity interest in the Tramore Plan area.

Population and Human Health					
Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Responsible Authority	Frequency of Monitoring	Targets	Intervention
P1: Facilitate a good standard of health for Tramore's population through ensuring high quality residential, recreational and working environments.	Provision of employment, services and amenities within the county.	Central Government, IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland County Enterprise Board Tramore Town Council	ESRI quarterly index Monthly Live Register CSO Ongoing	Increase in employment opportunities, services and public amenity within the county	Ongoing
Water					
Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Responsible Authority	Frequency	Targets	Intervention
W1: Achieve and maintain required water quality standards in the South East River Basin Management Plans and associated Programme of Measures and reduce discharges of pollutants or contamination to protect waters as sources of drinking water and as valuable assets for amenity and recreation.	Water quality monitoring results by the EPA for: Surface Water Ecological and Chemical Status. Trophic Status of Estuarine and Coastal Waters. Bathing Water Quality. Groundwater Quality. Drinking Water Quality. Number of Public Water Supplies on EPA Remedial Action List.	EPA Tramore Town Council Waterford Co. Council	Annual	Protect and Restore areas identified in the River Basin District Management Plan required to achieve "good" status, i.e. 4+ for water quality by 2015 in line with the Water Framework Directive objectives. Improvement or at least no deterioration in levels of compliance with drinking water quality standards and promotion to above national average compliance rate.	Deterioration in Water Quality Standards Non attainment of WFD standards and River Basin Management Plans

Air and Climate

Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Responsible Body	Frequency	Targets	Intervention
AC1:Support implementation of <i>National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (Building Resilience to Climate Change)</i>	National Level of Carbon Emissions.	EPA	Annual	20% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2020.	Ongoing efforts to reduce emissions
	Delivery of County Climate Change Strategy and preparation of local adaptation plans	Waterford Energy Bureau	5 years	Full delivery of Co. Waterford Climate Change Strategy	Ongoing delivery of Climate Change Strategy
	Average daily motor vehicle flow within town	Tramore Town Council	Annual	Preparation of local adaptation plan for Tramore within lifetime of the plan.	Absence of local adaptation plan at mid term LAP review
	Proportion of travel by mode		Annual	Increase in pedestrian and cycle lanes within the town from 2013.	Delay in increase in pedestrian and cycle lanes within the town at mid term LAP review
	Monetary investment in walking and cycling routes		Annual		

Cultural Heritage

Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Responsible Body	Frequency	Targets	Intervention
C1 Protect and conserve features of architectural and archaeological heritage.	Number of structures in RPS in relation to Ministerial Recommendations arising from NIAH Tramore Inventory	DoEHLG NIAH Waterford County Council	Ongoing	To increase the number of Protected Structures in line with ministerial recommendations arising from NIAH surveys.	Damage to or loss of Protected Structures
	Preparation of Town Design Statement	Waterford County Council	Ongoing	Preparation of Town Design Statement and Public Realm Plan to inform future development and design in Tramore	Absence of Public Realm Plan and Town Design Statement by LAP mid Term review
	Preparation of Public Realm Plan	DoEHLG National Monuments Service	Ongoing	To maintain and increase the number of archaeological features recorded and protected.	Damage to or loss of Protected structures or national monuments
	Number of Monuments in the RMP and areas of archaeological potential which have been recorded or subject to exploration as a result of development.	Owners			
	Number of protected structures or archaeological monuments damaged due to development.			No damage occurring to structures or monuments due to development.	

Landscape					
Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Responsible Body	Frequency	Targets	Intervention
L1: Protect and conserve the quality, character and distinctiveness of landscape including coastal landscapes and minimise negative visual impacts.	Building height and extent in visually vulnerable areas and along the scenic route within the Tramore LAP	Waterford Co. Council	Ongoing	Maintenance of scenic amenity quality in visually vulnerable areas and scenic route through control of building heights and sympathetic building design in keeping with the coastal landscape character	Damage to or loss of scenic landscape value
Soils and Geology					
Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Responsible Body	Frequency	Targets	Intervention
S1: Protect quality of soils and prevent erosion of soils and geological heritage sites in the county	Condition of geological heritage sites- notable increase in erosion of dune spit or rocky cliffs	Waterford Co. Council	Ongoing Ongoing	Prevent significant erosion of geological heritage sites	Notable increase in erosion of dune spit or rocky cliffs will require coastal erosion intervention works
Material Assets					
Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Responsible Body	Frequency	Targets	Intervention
MA1: Maintain the quality of and access to assets such as open spaces, water resources and all other physical and social infrastructure.	Access to public amenities and visitor numbers.	Tramore Town Council Waterford County Council	Ongoing	Development of Town Park Development of Japanese Gardens at Tramore House Increased visitor numbers to Tramore House Gardens. Increased usage of Tramore Water recreation facilities	Damage to or loss of sites of amenity value. No attainment of Targets within lifetime of Tramore LAP

Appendices

Appendix 1 SEA Matrix

(Screening for impacts on Tramore Dunes and Back Strand SAC and SPA in final Column of Matrix-
“AA”)

Policy /Objective	CHAPTER 3	B1	P1	W1	AC1	C1	L1	S1	MA1	AA
	POPULATION, DEMOGRAPHICS and CORE STRATEGY									
PDCS1	To ensure the development of Special Use lands identified in Ballinattin, Pickardstown and Tramore Racecourse in land use zoning map are in accordance with Masterplans so as to ensure their co-ordinated and orderly development. The Masterplans may be prepared by a single developer or landowner or by a group of developers or landowners acting jointly.	? ⁹	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
ETD1	To promote Tramore as a base for major industrial development through the zoning of appropriate industrial lands	?	+	?	?	O	O	O	O	?
ETD2	To support the economic development initiatives of relevant agencies such as the IDA and Enterprise Ireland	o	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Obj ETD1	To promote appropriately scaled office type development in suitably zoned locations	o	o	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Obj ETD2	To promote the reuse of vacant buildings and vacant upper floors of existing retail premises for office development where suitable	o	+	O	O	O	O	O	+	O
Obj ETD3	To facilitate and promote the provision of a telecommunications network infrastructure to address the socio-economic needs of the population and the various employment sectors	o	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Obj ETD4	To work with the community to assess the potential for a community enterprise centre in Tramore	o	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
ETD3	To promote and encourage enhancement and expansion of the retail floorspace and Town Centre functions of Tramore and to develop its competitiveness through a plan led approach	o	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
ETD4	To address leakage of retail	o	+	O	O	O	O	O	+	O

⁹ Pickardstown is an area identified as having an ecological corridor of local value. Any proposed development in the area will require ecological assessment to determine impacts on the treeline/ecological corridor.

	expenditure from the town and its catchment through the appropriate zoning of land for retail/commercial development									
ETD5	Promote the reuse and regeneration of derelict land and buildings in Tramore for retail development where appropriate	o	+	O	O	+	O	O	+	O
ETD6	To consolidate the traditional Town Centre and to strengthen linkages between the retail areas of the town and between the Promenade and the town centre	o	+	O	O	+	O	O	+	O
ETD7	Require a high standard of design for all new town centre development and the refurbishment of existing properties, taking account of the natural and built heritage of the Town to ensure developments enhance and respect the character and setting of Tramore	o	+	O	O	+	O	O	+	O
ETD8	To promote the sustainable use of vacant upper floors of town centre buildings for residential use To promote the sustainable use of vacant upper floors of town centre buildings for residential use	o	+	O	O	+	O	O	+	O
Obj ETD5	To undertake a Public Realm Enhancement Programme to include streetscaping and linking of the Main Street/Town Centre and sights of interest	o	+	O	O	+	O	O	+	O
ETD8	To continue to work with relevant tourist and community bodies to promote and support the extension and diversification of the range of tourist facilities and attractions in Tramore	o	+	O	O	+	O	O	+	O
ETD9	To support the diversification of a range of a tourist facilities and attractions through the area, while protecting the surrounding natural environment of Tramore	o	+	O	O	+	O	O	+	O
Obj ETD6	To encourage the establishment of a five star hotel associated leisure facility and conference centre within the town to provide up market accommodation and to serve the needs of year round visitors	o	+	O	O	O	O	O	+	O
Obj ETD7	To encourage a mixture of tourist related uses with a	o	+	O	O	O	O	O	+	O

	specific focus on year round activities									
Obj ETD8	To continue to maintain Blue Flag status for Tramore beach and to monitor water quality to achieve this aim	+	+	+	O	O	O	O	+	O
Obj ETD9	To investigate the feasibility of extending the promenade eastwards subject to the availability of resources and likely environmental impacts	o	+	O	O	O	O	O	+	o
Obj ETD10	To support the establishment of a range of water based tourism activities in Tramore	?	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	?
Obj ETD11	It is an objective of the Council that a masterplan shall be prepared for development/redevelopment of the entire Promenade and seafront having regard to the development of the new town park and permitted redevelopment of the former Hydro site	o	+	O	O	O	O	O	+	o
INF1	To implement the smarter travel policy framework as produced by the Department of Transport and to encourage the sustainable creation of cycle and pedestrian friendly communities through the provision of cycle paths and other initiatives to curtail the dependency on private motor vehicles whilst seeking to minimise the depletion of the hedgerow resource that could potentially arise from cycle path provision	o	+	O	+	O	O	O	+	o
INF2	Ensure that cycle lanes are provided throughout the Town, where possible on new roads and that designated cycle bays are provided for as part of new retail/commercial/office type developments.	o	+	O	+	O	O	O	+	o
Obj INF1	It is the objective of the Council to support the policies of the 'National Cycle Policy Framework 2009-2020-Smarter Travel', Department of Transport, April 2009 while ensuring that any environmental effects of the implementation of the policies are fully assessed and adequately mitigated.	o	+	O	+	O	O	O	O	o
Obj INF2	It is the objective of the Council to promote the sustainable development of	o	+	O	+	O	O	O	O	o

	safe and convenient pedestrian and cycling facilities in the Town, to minimise the dependence on private motor vehicles, and to encourage an active and healthy lifestyle. New and upgraded road developments will be encouraged to integrate cycle lanes									
Obj INF3	Require planning applications for residential, commercial, retail, community, educational and industrial developments to demonstrate the proposal's accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists. The Council will also seek the provision of appropriate, well-designed pedestrian ways for residential development proposals to link with amenities and facilities. Such proposals shall adhere to the Guidelines on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas and Urban Design Manual (DoEHLG May2009)	o	+	O	+	O	O	O	O	o
Obj INF4	That the amalgamated school site at Ballycarnane is integrated into the surrounding area through high quality vehicular, pedestrian and cyclist paths	o	+	O	+	O	O	O	O	o
Obj INF5	To improve the access between Tramore and Waterford Airport and to upgrade the junction of the Glen Road and the Main Waterford / Tramore Road	?	+	O	+	O	O	O	O	o
Policy INF 3	To ensure the adequate provision of off-street car parking in Tramore to meet the needs of local residents, shoppers and businesses and also the provision of universally accessible parking spaces at appropriate locations throughout the Town	o	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	o
Policy INF 4	Ensure that commercial and industrial developments provide adequate number of parking spaces for vehicles, provision of loading bays and sufficient circulation for pedestrians, cyclists, motorists and delivery/ service vehicles	o	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	o
Obj INF6	Investigate the feasibility of a park and ride facility on the outskirts of the Town	o	+	O	+	O	O	O	O	o
Obj INF 7	Facilitate the provision of a helipad at a suitable location	?	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	?

	within the Town or its environs									
INF 5	To support the Rural Transport Initiative and the provision of an integrated public transport system as a means of reducing social isolation and as a viable long-term sustainable public transport option	o	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	o
INF 6	To support and co-operate with public and private transport operators in the provision of an effective, attractive and sustainable transport service and in the development of key infrastructural requirements such as bus lay-byes and set-down locations in appropriate locations.	o	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	o
INF 7	To support public and private bus operators in the provision of a well functioning, integrated public bus network, which enhances both Tramore's and Waterford's competitiveness, encourages economic improvement, promotes balanced regional development and contributes to social inclusion.	o	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	o
INF 8	Ensure that the timing and location of providing new services and utilities are compatible and concurrent with new construction.	o	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	o
INF 9	To liaise with the IDA/Enterprise Ireland in the provision of water for industrial purposes.	o	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	o
INF 10	Ensure adequate supplies of water for residential and other developments over the life time of the Plan.	o	+	+	O	O	O	O	O	o
Obj INF 8	Maintain a programme for upgrading and improving the water supply scheme in terms of quantity, quality, pressure, storage and reliability.	o	+	+	O	O	O	O	O	o
INF 11	To endeavour to facilitate the orderly growth of the urban area and to preserve coastal amenity by providing sewerage of those areas delineated for development under this Plan.	o	+	+	O	O	O	O	O	o
Obj INF 9	The lands to the north of the Garraun stream are currently unserved. The development of these lands will require the provision of a new sewer along the	?	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	o

	northern banks of the stream and upgrading of the sewer along the Glen Road. The development of this overall area which is the subject of a Master Plan will be dependent on a public-private-partnership approach to infrastructure provision in the area.									
INF 12	The Council will require compliance with best practice guidance for the collection, reuse, treatment and disposal of surface waters for all future development proposals. Development proposals must demonstrate adequate water conservation, water quality protection, and surface water run-off rate regulation measures to prevent the increase of flooding issues in the catchment	o	+	+	O	O	O	O	O	o
Obj INF 10	To prepare a Flood Studies Report for the lands within the catchment of the Gaurran Stream.	o	+	+	+	O	O	O	O	o
INF 13	The Council will facilitate and promote the use of micro-renewable technologies in the generation of electricity where they will not have an adverse impact on residential amenities, biodiversity, water quality and landscape sensitivities. Screening for Appropriate Assessment will be carried out where required to ensure that there is no negative impact on the integrity (defined by the structure and function and conservation objectives) of any Natura 2000 site located at or adjacent to proposed site for micro renewable development and that the requirements of Articles 6 (3) and (4) of the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC are fully satisfied.	o	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	o
INF 14	To promote sustainable approaches to housing design and construction and encourage responsible environmental management in construction.	o	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	o
INF 15	The Council will continue to implement mitigation measures that reduce the emissions of greenhouse	o	+	O	+	O	O	O	O	o

	gases which are driving climate change. Such measures will continue to reduce the affects of global warming and meet national and international commitments.									
Obj INF 11	The Council will continue to implement adaption measures that reduce the effects of climate change. Such measures will contribute to preparing local areas, to any possible changes of climate and habitat.	o	+	O	+	O	O	O	O	o
INF 16	The Council will facilitate proposals for the provision of telecommunication and broadband infrastructure and ancillary equipment subject to normal planning considerations having regard to the DoEHLG publication <i>'Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures - Guidelines for Planning Authorities'</i> (1996).	o	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	o
Obj INF 12	It is the objective of the Council to encourage the clustering and co-location of telecommunication masts, antennae or ancillary equipment and more favourable consideration will be given to their location near existing similar type structures.	o	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	o
Obj INF 13	It is the objective of the Council to ensure that where permission is granted for telecommunication masts that it will generally be for a temporary period not exceeding 5 years. This will enable the Planning Authority to review the situation considering changing technology and the effect of the development on the amenities of the area. Subsequent applications may be for such longer periods as the Planning Authority may direct	o	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	o
Obj INF 14	It is the objective of the Council to ensure that where permission is granted for telecommunication masts that it will generally be for a temporary period not exceeding 5 years. This will enable the Planning Authority to review the situation considering changing technology and the	o	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	o

	effect of the development on the amenities of the area. Subsequent applications may be for such longer periods as the Planning Authority may direct.									
Obj INF 15	It is the objective of the Council to support the co-ordinated and focussed development and extension of broadband infrastructure throughout the County. To this end the Planning Authority will seek to ensure that there is ducting for broadband fibre connections	o	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	o
CZM1	To apply the process of ICZM in the future management and sustainable development of the Tramore coastal zone	+	+	+	+	O	O	O	O	+
CZM2	To recognise the value of Tramore's natural coastal defences in Tramore Dunes and Back Strand and ensure their protection from damaging activities including coastal erosion and recreational activities	+	+	+	+	O	O	O	O	+
CZM3	To protect the scenic value of the Coastal Zone in Tramore including landward and seaward views and continuous views along the coastline and manage development so it will not materially detract from the visual amenity of the coast	+	+	+	+	O	O	O	O	+
CC1	To incorporate climate change adaptation planning in accordance with DoECLG guidelines in the future management and sustainable development of the Tramore coastal zone.	+	+	+	+	O	O	O	O	+
NH1	To conserve the favourable conservation status of species and habitats within Tramore Dunes and Back Strand Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area	+	+	+	+	O	O	O	O	+
NH2	To comply with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive to ensure that there is no significant adverse impact on the integrity of the Tramore Dunes and Back Strand SAC and SPA and that the requirements of Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive are fully satisfied by screening all projects and plans for Appropriate Assessment	+	+	+	+	O	O	O	O	+

NH3	To protect plant, animal species and habitats occurring in Tramore which have been identified by the Habitats Directive, Bird Directive, Wildlife Act (1976) and Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000 and the Flora Protection order S.I. No. 94 of 1999	+	+	+	+	O	O	O	O	+
NH4	To monitor the development of the created wetland at Kilmacleague to ensure maximum conservation gain for the site and seek to attain qualifying status for inclusion within the Tramore Back Strand SAC and SPA	+	+	+	O	O	O	O	O	+
GI1	To encourage the retention and creation of sites of local biodiversity value, ecological corridors and networks that connect areas of high conservation value such as tree corridors, hedgerows, earth banks and wetlands	+	+	+	O	O	O	O	O	+
GI2	To review and update the Tramore Habitat Map as new information becomes available and to incorporate green infrastructure into future development for the benefit of the natural environment, adaptation to climate change and quality of life for the local community.	+	+	+	O	O	O	O	O	+
GI3	To protect and preserve existing hedgerows and healthy mature and developing trees by incorporating them into the site layout of any new development where appropriate and to encourage new planting and the replacement of lost hedgerows and trees using native species.	+	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
GI4	Ensure that existing and proposed residential developments and amenity areas link effectively with each other through the provision of safe pedestrian links, footpaths and lighting.	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
GI5	Require the provision of a hierarchy of open space both for active and passive recreational use in new residential developments.	O	+	O	O	O	+	O	+	O
Obj GI1	It is the aim of the Council within the lifetime of this Plan, to develop a town park for Tramore	O	+	O	O	O	+	O	+	O

ObjGI2	The Council will support the re-development of Tramore House Garden and Doneraile Walk	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	+	0
NH5	It is a policy of the Council to preserve and protect groundwater and surface water quality in accordance with the Groundwater and Surface Water Regulations	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+
NH6	To promote the achievement of good ecological status, good ecological potential and good chemical status for all river water and groundwater if possible within the lifetime of the plan	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+
Obj NH1	To take into consideration the South East River Basin Management Plan when considering new development proposals	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+
Obj NH2	To implement the South East River Basin Management Plan and its programme of measures through the provision of good environmental management as reflected in the policies and actions herein	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+
BH1	It is the policy of the Council to maintain a Record of Protected Structures and to protect all the structures or parts of structures which are of historical, architectural, artistic, archaeological, social, scientific, technical and cultural interest	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
BH2	Demolition of a Protected Structure can only be considered in exceptional circumstances and the onus will be on the developer to provide the strongest justification for such an action	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
BH3	It is a policy of Waterford County Council to protect the built heritage and to encourage sensitive development or reuse of buildings to promote economic growth and regeneration	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
Obj BH1	Identify, protect and enhance the unique character of a streetscape by providing guidance on appropriate development to retain its distinctive character	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
BH4	It is the policy of the	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0

	Council to encourage the sensitive redevelopment of vacant or derelict sites in the streetscape									
Obj BH1	Subject to the availability of resources, the Council will undertake a Public Realm Enhancement Programme over the lifetime of the Plan	O	+	O	O	+	O	O	O	O
Obj BH2	To protect the vistas and settings of protected structures and the streetscape by the retention, where feasible, of terraces of historic vernacular houses	O	+	O	O	+	O	O	O	O
Obj BH3	To retain and enhance, where appropriate, the existing rubblestone walls, hedgerows and mature trees which form an intrinsic part of Tramore's built heritage	O	+	O	O	+	O	O	O	O
AH1	To ensure the preservation of all archaeological monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)	O	+	O	O	+	O	O	O	O
AH2	To secure the preservation 'in situ' of archaeological remains and settings in accordance with government of all archaeological monuments included in the Record of Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 and sites, features and objects of archaeological interest generally	O	+	O	O	+	O	O	O	O
AH3	To ensure that development in the vicinity of a site or archaeological interest shall not have significant adverse impact on the character of the archaeological site	O	+	O	O	+	O	O	O	O
AH4	Promote public awareness of the rich archaeological and architectural heritage of Tramore by providing information, where feasible, by way of apps, information via the internet, leaflets or tour guides	O	+	O	O	+	O	O	O	O
AH5	It is the policy of the Council to apply best practise in the care and management of historic graveyards as detailed in the guidance document on the "Care, Conservation and Recording of Historic Graveyards in County Waterford" published by Waterford County Council in 2009 and the Department of Arts, Heritage and the	O	+	O	O	+	O	O	O	O

	Gaeltacht website www.ahg.gov.ie									
Obj CS1	The Council is committed to the redevelopment of the boating lake area to a Town Park over the life time of the Plan	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	+	O
CS1	Ensure through the zoning of appropriate lands, that adequate educational facilities to cater for the future population growth within the Town and surrounding areas may be provided	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	+	O
objCS2	Support the amalgamation of the secondary schools in Tramore	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
CS2	To promote social integration through the provision of mixed tenure housing estates and the fulfillment of the Councils requirement under Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	+	O
CS3	To provide for the health care needs of the town's population as it grows and to provide for a mix of community related healthcare facilities for people with various healthcare needs such as nursing homes and health centers	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	+	O
CS4	To promote recreational and cultural facilities and activities that encourage inclusion of specific groups that may experience social exclusion due to social status, race, religion or any other factor that may lead to social marginalisation	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	+	O
CS5	To promote a high quality living environment through the provision of community facilities in line with, and supporting new residential development	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	+	O
CS6	To facilitate the provision of housing for the elderly, integrated into the community, at appropriate locations with access to facilities and services	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	+	O
CS7	It is the policy of the Council to support the implementation of the Waterford Sports	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O

	Partnership Strategy and their work to increase participation in sport and physical activity									
objCS3	To promote sporting and recreational activities in the Town and to encourage the provision of indoor and outdoor facilities for local clubs and organizations	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
CS8	To develop a programme to ensure that all communities have quality accessible playground facilities	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	+	O
CS9	The Council shall promote the development of additional recreational facilities within the Town to cater for the current and projected populations	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	+	O
CS10	To promote Tramore as an area for amenity walks and to play as role in promoting Waterford as <i>“The Walking Capital of Ireland”</i>	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	+	O
CS11	Promote and facilitate the provision of a network of quality amenity pathways and cycleways	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
CS12	Promote and encourage the development of a cinema and multifunctional building suitably located within the Town	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
CS13	To protect the existing recreational and sporting facilities in the Town	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	+	O

Appendix 1B – SEA Screening of Material Amendments

(Screening for impacts on Tramore Dunes and Back Strand SAC and SPA in final Column of Matrix- “AA”)

Policy /Objective	CHAPTER 1	B1	P1	W1	AC1	C1	L1	S1	MA1	AA
Section 1.7 Vision	To continue to strengthen Tramore’s tourism sector, which respects and promotes its natural, built and cultural heritage whilst seeking to develop a <u>modern and diversified year round tourism offering.</u>	? ¹⁰	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	?
Section 1.7 Vision	Protect, enhance and promote <u>appropriate</u> access to the county’s built, natural and linguistic heritage.	+	+	O	O	+	+	O	O	+
Section 1.7 Vision	Develop Co. Waterford as the leader of the green economy by facilitating <u>sustainable</u> renewable energy infrastructure and promoting use of renewable energy among businesses and households throughout the county.	? ¹¹	+	O	+	O	?	O	O	?
Section 1.7 Vision	To develop Tramore <u>in a sustainable manner</u> as a leading retail and economic centre.	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Section 1.7 Vision	To protect and enhance the natural heritage of Tramore, including Tramore Dunes and Back Strand SAC and SPA and features of local importance	+	+	+	O	O	O	O	O	+
CHAPTER 3										
Section 3.3.1 Availability of Existing Residential Zoned Land	Strategic Reserve lands may be reviewed by the Planning Authority over the lifetime of the Plan where specific need arises. These lands shall be released in a sequential manner commencing at the most central locations within the Town. <u>Residential development on Strategic Residential Reserve lands shall only be considered where one or more of the following circumstances apply:</u> a) <u>At least 75% of “New Residential” lands have been fully developed; or</u> b) <u>At least 75% of “New Residential” lands have been fully committed to development (i.e. where planning permission has been granted and where construction is underway); or</u> c) <u>In the case where all “New Residential” lands have not been committed, it shall be proven that those uncommitted lands are unavailable for development or unserviceable</u> <u>AND where it can be demonstrated that:</u> d) <u>The Strategic Residential Reserve lands are readily serviceable; and</u> e) <u>There is a proven demand for new development based on a demonstrated lack of availability of housing and of potential sites.</u>	+	+	+	O	O	+	O	O	+
PCDS1	To ensure the development of Masterplan lands identified in Ballinattin, Pickardstown and Tramore Racecourse in land use zoning map are in accordance with Masterplans <u>and the requirements of the Water Framework, Floods, Habitats, Birds, SEA and EIA Directives where relevant</u> so as to ensure their co-ordinated and orderly development. The Masterplans may be prepared by a single developer or landowner or by a group of developers or landowners acting jointly.	+	+	+	O	O	+	O	O	+
CHAPTER 4										
ETD1	To promote Tramore as a base for significant and appropriate industrial development through the zoning of appropriate industrial lands. Any zoning for industrial development should not be in conflict with the <u>requirements of the Water Framework, Floods, Habitats, Birds, SEA and EIA Directives.</u>	? ¹²	+	?	O	O	?	O	O	?
ETD2	To support the economic development initiatives of relevant agencies such as the IDA and Enterprise Ireland subject to the <u>requirements of the Water Framework, Floods, Habitats, Birds, SEA and EIA Directives.</u>	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
ETD3	To promote and encourage enhancement and expansion of the retail	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O

¹⁰ Impacts on biodiversity including Tramore Back Strand SAC will be assessed through EIA and AA where required

¹¹ Impacts on biodiversity, AA and landscape will be determined through EIA and AA where required at the project level for any proposed renewable energy projects.

¹² Impacts on biodiversity, water quality, AA and landscape will be determined through EIA and AA where required at the project level for any proposed developments.

	floorspace and town centre functions of Tramore and to develop its competitiveness through a plan led approach <u>consistent with the Retail Planning Guidelines 2012.</u>									
ETD9	The Council shall have regard to the County Retail Strategy (or any revision of same) , the Retail Planning Guidelines and accompanying Retail Design Manual (2012) when <u>guiding retail development in Tramore.</u>	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Section 4.6.3 Promotion and Marketing	Promotion of <u>sustainable</u> heritage tourism, <u>appropriate</u> walking trails and <u>sustainable</u> marine tourism. Promotion of new activities, attractions and festivals e.g. <u>Power Boat Festival-Surfing Festival and Festival of the Sea.</u>	+	+	O	O	+	+	O	O	+ ¹³
ETD8	To continue to work with relevant tourist and community bodies to promote and support the extension and diversification of the range of <u>sustainable</u> tourist facilities and attractions in Tramore.	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Obj ETD7	To encourage a mix of <u>sustainable</u> tourist related uses with a specific focus on year round activities.	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Obj ETD 10	To support the establishment of a range of <u>sustainable</u> water based tourism activities in Tramore subject to the <u>requirements of the Water Framework, Floods, Habitats, Birds, SEA and EIA Directives.</u>	? ¹⁴	+	?	O	O	O	O	O	?
CHAPTER 5										
INF1	To implement the smarter travel policy framework as produced by the Department of Transport and to encourage the sustainable creation of cycle and pedestrian friendly communities through the provision of <u>sustainable</u> cycle paths and other initiatives to curtail the dependency on private motor vehicles whilst seeking to minimise the depletion of the hedgerow resource that could potentially arise from cycle path provision	O	+	O	+	O	O	O	+	O
Obj INF1	It is the objective of the Council to support the policies of the ' <u>National Cycle Policy Framework 2009-2020-Smarter Travel</u> ', Department of Transport, April 2009 while ensuring that any environmental effects of the implementation of the policies are fully assessed and adequately mitigated <u>or avoided.</u>	O	+	O	+	O	O	O	+	O
Obj INF3	Require planning applications for residential, commercial, retail, community, educational and industrial developments to demonstrate the proposal's accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists. The Council will also seek the provision <u>where</u> of appropriate <u>of</u> , well-designed pedestrian ways for residential development proposals to link with amenities and facilities. Such proposals shall adhere to the Guidelines on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas and Urban Design Manual (DoEHLG May2009).	O	+	O	+	O	O	O	+	O
Obj INF 7	Facilitate the provision of a helipad at a suitable location within the Town or its environs subject to an assessment of its impacts <u>on Tramore Back Strand SAC and SPA.</u>	? ¹⁵	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	?
Obj INF 8	Maintain a programme for upgrading and improving the water supply scheme <u>particularly those water supplies listed on the EPA Remedial Action List</u> in terms of quantity, quality, pressure, storage and reliability.	+	+	+	O	O	O	O	+	O
Obj INF11	<u>To implement the provisions of a Flood Risk Management Plan for Tramore and environs as prepared under the SE CFRAM Study.</u>	+	+	+	O	O	O	O	O	+
INF12	The Council will require compliance with best practice guidance for the collection, reuse, treatment and disposal of surface waters for all future development proposals. Development proposals must demonstrate adequate water conservation, water quality protection, and surface water run-off rate regulation measures <u>including SUDS measures where relevant and appropriate</u> to prevent the increase of flooding issues in the catchment.	+	+	+	O	O	O	O	O	+
INF16	The Council will facilitate proposals for the provision of telecommunication and broadband infrastructure and ancillary equipment subject to normal planning considerations having regard to the DoEHLG publication ' <u>Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures - Guidelines for Planning Authorities</u> ' (1996) <u>and to more recent planning legislation (as revised by CL 07/12 Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures)</u>	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
CHAPTER 6										

¹³ The proposed exclusion of Power boat festivals will remove potential for negative impacts of disturbance on marine and bird life in the Tramore Bay area.

¹⁴ The inclusion of “sustainable” and “subject to the requirements of the range of environmental directives” improves this policy. Impacts on biodiversity, water quality , AA and landscape will be determined through EIA and AA where required at the project level for any proposed tourism developments.



¹⁵ Impacts on biodiversity including Tramore Back Strand SAC and SPA will be assessed through EIA and AA where required at the project level for any proposed helipad development. Policies NH1 and objs NH1 and G1 also mitigate for any potential adverse impacts on the SPA from a proposed helipad.

Obj NH1	To assess all proposed developments which are likely to impact (directly or through indirect or cumulative impacts) on designated sites for nature conservation or sites proposed for designation and protected species in accordance with the relevant legislation.	+	+	+	O	O	O	O	O	+
NH1	To conserve, maintain and facilitate restoration of the favourable conservation status of species and habitats within Tramore Dunes and Back Strand Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area.	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	+
GH1	To protect Tramore Dunes and Lady Elizabeth's Cove as Sites of County Geological Interest in recognition of their geological heritage value.	+	+	O	O	O	+	+	O	+
G1	To protect and encourage the creation of sites of local biodiversity value, ecological corridors and networks that connect areas of high conservation value such as tree corridors, hedgerows, earth banks and wetlands as identified in map below.	+	+	O	O	O	+	+	O	+
Obj G1	To minimise the impact of new development on habitats of natural heritage value that are key features of Tramore's ecological network and require that an appropriate level of environmental assessment is prepared to an acceptable standard in respect of any proposed plan or project likely to have an impact on these sites or protected species.	+	+	O	O	O	+	+	O	+
Section 6.2.2	Key biodiversity sites and ecological corridors in Tramore include Bookie Woods, the Garraun Stream, Glen Road and tree corridors on the approach road from Pickardstown.	+ ¹⁶	+	O	O	O	+	+	O	O
NH6	To promote the achievement of good ecological status, good ecological potential and good chemical status for all river water and groundwater if possible within the lifetime of the Plan.	+	+	+	O	O	O	O	O	+
AH5	To protect and preserve the archaeological value of underwater archaeology. In considering development proposals the Council will take account of rivers, inter-tidal and sub-tidal environments and the potential to impact on previously unrecorded sites and will have regard to the advice and recommendations of the Underwater Archaeology Unit of the DAHG. Any development above or below water including to coastal edges shall not be detrimental to the character of an archaeological site or its setting.	O	O	O	O	+	O	O	O	O
Section 6.2.1	Trees are a valuable feature of the landscape for their amenity and wildlife value but due to its coastal location Tramore has one of the lowest levels of tree cover in the county. Areas of woodland value in the Plan area include Newtown Woods, Bookie Woods and Corbally More. The Council will carry out an assessment of trees and woodlands within the LAP area within the lifetime of the Plan and consider designation of TPOs where appropriate.	+	O	O	O	O	+	O	O	O
	The Council will preserve and enhance the amenity and biodiversity value of Tramore by preserving as far as possible trees, woodlands and hedgerows and will consider Tree Preservation Orders in order to protect trees of significance in the Plan area.	+	O	O	O	O	+	O	O	O
	CHAPTER 7									
CS11	Promote and facilitate the provision of quality amenity pathways and cycleways subject to the requirements of the Habitats and Birds Directives.	? ¹⁷	+	O	+	O	O	O	O	?
CS6	To facilitate the provision of housing for the elderly, integrated into the community at appropriate locations with access to facilities and services, and to work with recognised voluntary housing agencies and other relevant stakeholders in this regard.	O	+	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
	CHAPTER 8									
Table 8.1	Table 8.1 to include commercial Land Use Zoning. The uses permissible under this zoning type to include a Petrol Station as Open to Consideration.	O	O	O	O	O	? ¹⁸	O	O	O
Table 8.1	Amend Community services land use zoning to provide for institutional, educational, social, cultural, economic and community development uses.	O	+	O	O	O		O	O	O
DM1	Any development proposals within the plan area shall ensure that it will not be in conflict with the Water Framework, Floods, Habitat and Birds Directives and will be subject to the requirements of the EIA Directive.	+	+	+	O	O	O	O	O	+
Table 8.2	Helipad	? ¹⁹	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	?

¹⁷ Impacts on biodiversity including Tramore Back Strand SAC and SPA will be assessed through AA where required at the project level

¹⁸ Impacts on open space/landscape will be assessed through the Development Management process where a development of this type is proposed.

¹⁹ Impacts on biodiversity including Tramore Back Strand SAC and SPA will be assessed through EIA and AA where required at the project level for any proposed helipad development. Policies NH1 and objs NH1 and G1 also mitigate for any potential adverse impacts on the SPA from a proposed helipad.

	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>TYPE</th> <th>Res</th> <th>Med</th> <th>LC</th> <th>LC</th> <th>HO</th> <th>I</th> <th>E</th> <th>T</th> <th>U</th> <th>C</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Ballpark</td> <td>0</td> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> <td>0</td> <td>X</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </table>	TYPE	Res	Med	LC	LC	HO	I	E	T	U	C	Ballpark	0	X	X	0	X	0	0	0	0	0																																																						
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Ballpark	0	X	X	0	X	0	0	0	0	0																																																																			
Table 8.2	<p>Land Use Matrix – Amend as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th>TYPE</th> <th>Res</th> <th>Med</th> <th>LC</th> <th>LC</th> <th>HO</th> <th>I</th> <th>E</th> <th>T</th> <th>U</th> <th>C</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Enterprise Commercial</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Office (other than auxiliary to main use)</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Park & Ride Facility (including car parking)</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>X</td> </tr> </table> <table border="1"> <tr> <th>TYPE</th> <th>Res</th> <th>Med</th> <th>LC</th> <th>LC</th> <th>HO</th> <th>I</th> <th>E</th> <th>T</th> <th>U</th> <th>C</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Social Housing</td> <td>X</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </table>	TYPE	Res	Med	LC	LC	HO	I	E	T	U	C	Enterprise Commercial	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X	Office (other than auxiliary to main use)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X	Park & Ride Facility (including car parking)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X	TYPE	Res	Med	LC	LC	HO	I	E	T	U	C	Social Housing	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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Social Housing	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0																																																																			
Proposed Zoning Amendments																																																																													
Tramore Civic Offices , Tankfield	<p>Amend the zoning of the Tramore Civic Offices from <u>Utility</u> to Community Services to reflect the existing land use on the site.</p> <p>Amend the lands outlined in Red from Utility to Community Services.</p>  	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0																																																																		
Crobally Lower	<p>Rezone the lands outlined below in red from <u>Open Space</u> to Residential Reserve</p>	? ²⁰	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	?																																																																			




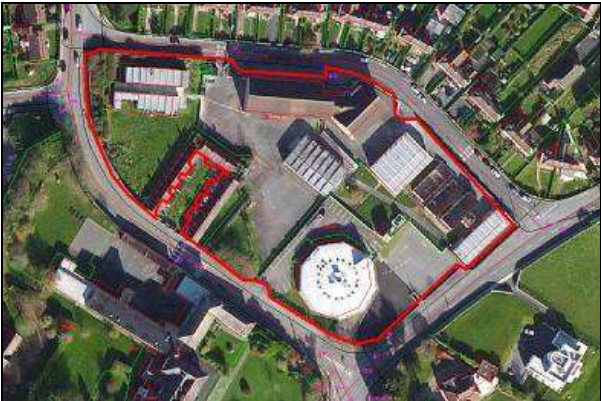
²⁰ These lands were zoned residential in the 2007-2013 Plan and then proposed as Open Space in the Draft LAP 2014-2020. The site lies adjacent to the boundary of Tramore Back Strand SAC and SPA and the zoning of Open Space provides a buffer to the environmentally sensitive site. The site in itself is not of significant ecological value and has been filled with a large volume of construction spoil. Planning permission for 27 dwellings was granted on the site by Waterford Co. Council in 2009 but appealed to An Bord Pleanála who refused it. It is considered that an Open Space zoning would ensure an ecological buffer zone is maintained adjacent to the SAC and SPA boundary. The proposed zoning change is somewhat mitigated by Section 3.3.1 Availability of Existing Residential Zoned Land and objectives NH1 and G1. Any proposed development on the site will be subject to Appropriate Assessment.




	 									
Newtown	<p>Rezoning the lands outlined below from <u>Community Services</u> to <u>Existing Residential</u>.</p>  	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Pickardstown Masterplan	<p>Amend the maps as follows: Area 1 = Tourism Area 2 = Open Space Area 3 = Mixed Use Enterprise</p>	?12	O	?	O	O	O	O	?	O

²¹ Lands at Pickardstown are subject to a Masterplan and land use zoning in the Draft LAP is being amended to reflect the live planning permissions on these lands. Permission was granted in 2009 for an Arboretum Garden Centre and Lifestyle Centre with associated restaurant, craft and food market. A landscaping plan was submitted and is conditioned with the permission. A habitat survey of Tramore carried out in 2011 highlighted the value of the tree corridor at Pickardstown. While area 2 of the land use zoning protects a tree belt as open space the woodland edge corridor along the Waterford Road in the Mixed Use zoning is somewhat mitigated by policy and objective G1 and proposed additions to Section 6.2.2 regarding value of ecological corridor at Pickardstown.

	 										
Aldi Site Crobally	Rezone the lands outlined below in Red from Open Space to Commercial. 	?22	O	O	O	O	?	O	?	O	

²² Permission was granted for an Aldi Foodstore on this site by Waterford Co. Council in 2009 and subsequently refused by ABP. The site was zoned as commercial in the Tramore LAP 2014-2020 and proposed as Open Space in the Draft LAP 2014-2020. A Tree Survey of the site for the 2009 planning application noted seventy three trees including approximately 19 Pine and 1 Monterey Cypress. In the context of low tree cover in Tramore the site does hold arboricultural value on a significant local scale and adds to the landscape character of the site when viewed from uphill at the racecourse roundabout. The return to commercial zoning may give rise to potential adverse impact on the tree cover of the site. The proposed zoning change is somewhat mitigated by policy and objective G1 and proposed policy NH5 (*The Council will preserve and enhance the amenity and biodiversity value of Tramore by preserving as far as possible trees, woodlands and hedgerows and will consider Tree Preservation Orders in order to protect trees of significance in the Plan area*).

												
Ballinattin	2 hectares to be rezoned from <u>New Residential</u> to <u>Open Space</u> .	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
	 											
Christian Brother's School site	Rezoned the lands outlined below at the Christian Brother's School site from <u>Existing Residential</u> to <u>Community Services</u> (i.e. circa 1.5 hectares).	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
												

										
Pond Road	<p>Rezone lands on Pond road from Open Space and Existing Residential to Community Services</p> 	O	O ²³	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Noel & Geraldine Curran C/O Peter Thompson	<p>Requests that the lands outlined in red below along the Glen Road be rezoned from Open Space to Residential</p> 	? ²⁴	O	O	O	O	?	O	O	O

²³ The site is currently used for community services and proposed zoning is deemed appropriate.

²⁴ Site is located in an area zoned to preserve open space for amenity and recreational use and is under semi-natural woodland cover. Amendment of zoning to residential would incur loss of open space and an area of natural environment value.