

Habitats Directive Article 6 Screening Assessment

Regional Planning Guidelines South-East Region

2010-2022

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**South East Regional Authority
Údarás Réigiúnach an Oir-Dheiscirt**

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1. Introduction to Habitats Directive & Article 6 Assessment

The aim of the European Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of wild habitats and of wild fauna and flora) is to create a network of protected wildlife sites in Europe, maintained at a favourable conservation status¹. Each member state must designate their most important natural areas as Special Areas of Conservation. The Directive specifies the scientific criteria on the basis of which SAC sites must be selected and very strictly curtails the grounds that can be used as justification for damaging a site. The network of sites is referred to as NATURA 2000 and includes SACs (Special Areas of Conservation) for protected habitats and species and SPAs (Special Protection Areas) for birds.

The European Habitats Directive (Council of the European Communities 1992) was transposed into Irish legislation by the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 and amended in 1998 and 2005.

The Natural Habitats Regulations amend the Planning Acts 2000-2009 and require planning authorities when considering an application for a development that is likely to have a significant effect on the SAC, to ensure that an appropriate assessment of the implications of the development for the conservation status of the site is undertaken.

Sites may contain priority or non-priority habitats and species. Priority habitats include raised and blanket bogs, some types of fens, bog woodlands and turloughs.

The only justifications for damaging a qualifying "priority" site are "considerations relating to human health and public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance of the environment, or further to an opinion from the European Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest" (IROPI), but this can only be allowed after an assessment is made in line with the Article 6 procedure, and there are no other alternatives and an agreement is reached with the European Commission.

The European Parliament, in a communication to the European Council in September 2000, states: The implementation of the European Habitats Directive and Birds Directive, both with respect to species conservation and with respect to the establishment of the Natura 2000 network, is one of the most important tools for achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the European Union and member states (European Parliament 2000).

Article 6 of the Habitats Directive provides a strict assessment procedure for any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a designated European site but which has the potential to have implications for the site in view of the

¹ The conservation status of a species can be taken as "favourable" when population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future and there is and will continue to be a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis. Article 1 (i) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC

The conservation status of a habitat can be taken as "favourable" when its natural range and area it covers within that range is stable or increasing and the ecological factors that are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future.

site's conservation objectives. The Regional Planning Guidelines for the South- East Region, therefore, fall under the remit of Article 6.

2. Guidance on the implementation of Article 6

2.1 National Guidance

A Circular Letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08 issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government on 15 February, 2008 **Appropriate Assessment of Land Use Plans** states that:

Any draft land use plan (development plans, local area plans, regional planning guidelines, schemes for strategic development zones) or amendment/variation to it proposed under the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) must be screened for any potential impact on areas designated as Natura 2000 sites (normally called Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPAs)).

This screening should be based on any ecological information available to the authority and an adequate description of the plan and its likely environmental impacts.

This should take into account any policies that will set the terms for future development. Up to date maps of Natura 2000 sites, or areas proposed for designation, are available on www.npws.ie. The results of the screening should be recorded and made available to the public.

In any case where, following screening, it is found that the draft plan or amendment may have an impact on the conservation objectives of a Natura 2000 site or that such an impact cannot be ruled out, adopting a precautionary approach-

- an Appropriate Assessment of the plan must be carried out and
- in any case where a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) would not otherwise be required, it must also be carried out.

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government published *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland Guidance for Planning Authorities in December 2009*. This guidance document establishes the steps and procedures to be followed in undertaking an appropriate assessment of statutory land use plans within the framework of current planning legislation.

Section 4.10 of the Guidance states: "It is the competent authority's responsibility to carry out the appropriate assessment of the plan. The Statement of AA of plans should be based on best available information, objective criteria, best scientific knowledge and expert judgement in relation to its impact on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site with respect to the conservation objectives of the site and to its structure and function. There should be no reasonable scientific doubt as to the absence of effects."

It is recommended that the Department be consulted by a planning authority at every stage of the plan making process (i.e. at the pre-draft, draft and proposed amendments stages). The Department's comments should be taken into account by the planning authority before the plan is adopted. In each iteration of the plan earlier observations from the Department should be carried forward.

Screening can be used to establish which policies and objectives have potential to have significant effects, and thereby the ones that require further attention at the AA stage.

A Guidance note issued by the DoEHLG (July 2009) on Regional Planning Guidelines and Habitats Directive Assessment outlines the following:

‘Regional authorities are not consent authorities. Plans and projects are informed as a result of policies and objectives contained in the Regional Planning Guidelines. RPG’s contain high level policies and objectives which do not contain the level of detail which are likely to trigger an extended Habitats Directive Assessment provided they do not have a significant effect on Natura 2000 sites.’

The following guidance is also provided:

Stage 1 HDA Screening of RPG Policies and Objectives.

Screen to ascertain if the policies/objectives are likely to have significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites.

- If no significant effects, then policies or objectives can be accepted. If all the policies/objectives in the draft plan are found not to have a significant effect on any Natura 2000 site then prepare a Finding of no Significant Effects report at this stage and no further HDA assessment is required.
- If a policy/objective as worded does have a significant effect, then the policy/objective needs to be amended or rejected. However, if the regional authority still wishes to proceed with the policy/objective even though it may have a significant effect, then a Stage 2 extended HDA assessment is required.

Avoidance and mitigation

Commence Stage 2 EHDA and where there will be adverse impacts on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site consider avoidance/mitigation measures. If the avoidance and mitigation measures result in removing the adverse impacts on site integrity, then policies or objectives can be accepted and a HDA report can be prepared and no further HDA assessment is required.

If this is not the case, then alternatives require to be considered to ensure no adverse impacts on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites.

Alternatives

If alternative solutions exist, these must also be subject to Stage 1 HDA Screening and if necessary Stage 2 EHDA.

IROPI

If the results of the Stage 2 EHDA show that the policies/objectives will still have a significant effect and no alternatives are possible, then an Imperative Reason of Over-riding Public Interest (IROPI) situation may be considered in order to retain such policies in the RPGs.

2.2 European Guidance

The European Commission methodological guidance on the provisions of article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive sets out the four stages for the assessment.²

Stage 1. Screening — the process which identifies the likely impacts upon a Natura 2000 site of a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant;

Stage 2. Appropriate assessment — the consideration of the impact on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site of the project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are adverse impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts;

Stage 3. Assessment of alternative solutions — the process which examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site;

Stage 4. Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain — an assessment of compensatory measures where, in the light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI), it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.

3. Procedure for stage one screening

This report consists of a stage one screening for Habitats Directive Assessment of the Draft Regional Planning Guidelines for the South-East Region 2010-2022.

This stage examines the likely effects of the Draft Regional Planning Guidelines on Natura 2000 sites in the South-East Region and within a 15 kms. buffer of the region and considers whether it can be objectively concluded that these sites will not be significantly impacted. This assessment comprises four steps:

Step 1: determining whether the project or plan is directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site;

The Regional Planning Guidelines are a spatial planning framework for the South- East Region and are not directly connected to the management of any Natura 2000 sites.

Step 2: describing the project or plan and the description and characterisation of other projects or plans that in combination have the potential for having significant effects on the Natura 2000 site;

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

² *Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 200 sites- methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6 (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.*
Managing Natura 2000 sites The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.
European Commission (2002)

South Tipperary, Waterford City and County 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. Given the key role played by Regional Planning Guidelines in supporting the implementation of the NSS, their overall approach needs to be subject to a review and update by mid-2010 so that they continue to have statutory effect.

The Draft Regional Planning Guidelines prepared by the South-East Regional Authority represent a planning framework for the period 2010-2022 designed to achieve a better spatial balance of social, economic and physical development throughout the region. It is intended that the Guidelines will provide the necessary strategic framework for local authority development plans and will address issues such as settlement, transportation, industrial development, community facilities and environmental protection.

The South-East Region comprises the six local authority areas of Counties Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Waterford City and County and Wexford, an area of 9,406 sq.kms (13.5%) of the State.

With a total population in excess of 460,838 (Census 2006), the region encompasses 10.9% of the state population. One of the key strengths of the region is its areas of outstanding natural beauty. These, along with its strong cultural and heritage assets, make it an area very suitable for a strong tourism base. The Region contains 5 main waterway corridors, Blackwater, Barrow, Nore, Suir and Slaney. It has a considerable coastal area and unique mountain ranges.

The South-East Region is rich in natural resources and comprises several designated sites especially along the coast. In total there are around 60 Natura 2000 sites within the South-East Region with a further 4 within 15 kms. of the South-East Region's boundary with the other regions.

Step 3: Identifying the potential effects on the Natura 2000 site;

The guidance note from NPWS (17 July 2009) states that all N2000 sites within or adjacent the region must be mapped and tabulated, and site integrity and site conditions necessary to support the site integrity must be indicated.

The information presented in Table 1 comprises a breakdown of Natura 2000 sites within the South-East Region. The N2000 sites are listed by county and by designation; Special Areas of Conservation / Special Protection Areas. The following information is listed for each N2000 site:

- Site code
- Site name
- Qualifying interests
- Conservation objectives
- Threats to site integrity.

Table 2 details sites outside the South-East Region but within a 15 kms. buffer of the region.

Step 4: Assessing the significance of any effects on the Natura 2000 site.

The screening stage involves application of the precautionary principle proportional to the policy/objective and the Natura 2000 site in question. Objectives and policies from the Draft Regional Planning Guidelines and their impact on the N2000 have been screened to ascertain if the policies/objectives are likely to have significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites, using the following framework:

- RPG objective
- N2000 site
- Qualifying interests
- Threats to site integrity
- Potential impacts from RPG
- Risk of significant impact (Y/N)
- Potential 'in combination' impacts
- Risk of significant impacts (Y/N)
- Avoidance and (then) mitigation measures
- Action required: Policy change needed / rewording / additional RPG objective.

Where no significant effects are found, then policies or objectives are accepted. If all the policies/objectives in the Draft Guidelines are found not to have a significant effect on any Natura 2000 site then a Finding of no Significant Effects Report is prepared and no further HDA assessment is required.

Where a policy/objective as worded does have a significant effect, then the policy/objective needs to be amended or rejected. The regional authority understands that if it still wishes to proceed with the policy/objective even though it may have a significant effect, then a Stage 2 extended HDA assessment is required.

4. Scoping of issues for HDA

In order to inform preparation of the Habitats Directive Assessment a meeting was held with the NPWS Regional Ecologist to flag general issues of concern for the Natura 2000 network within the South-East Region. Issues highlighted included:

- Abstraction of water from SACs for sources of drinking water and impacts on habitats and species;
- Treatment of wastewater, e.g. avoid discharge to areas containing Freshwater Pearl Mussel populations;
- Increased population growth and associated increased pressures on habitats used for recreational areas, e.g. Tramore Dunes, Upland areas - Comeraghs, Blackstairs;
- Development of linear parks and removal of river edge vegetation/riparian zone;
- Wind Energy developments and bird migration routes.

Table 1: Natura 2000 sites within the South-East Region

County Carlow		Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	
Site code	Site name	Qualifying interests	Conservation objectives
000770	Blackstairs Mountains	Dry Heath	To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.
00781	Slaney River Valley	Aluvial Wet Woodland Floating River vegetation Estuaries Tidal Mudflats Old Oak Woodlands Sea Lamprey, River Lamprey, Brook Lamprey, Freshwater Pearl Mussel Twaite Shad, Atlantic Salmon, Otter	To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.
002162	River Barrow and River Nore	Alluvial Wet Woodlands, Petrifying Springs, Old Oak Woodlands, Floating River Vegetation, Estuary, Tidal Mudflats, Salicornia Mudflats, Atlantic Salt Meadows, Dry Heath and Eutrophic Tall Herbs Sea Lamprey, Brook Lamprey, River Lamprey, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Nore Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Crayfish, Twaite Shad, Atlantic Salmon, Otter, <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> , Killarney Fern	To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.
County Kilkenny		Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	
Site code	Site name	Qualifying interests	Conservation objectives
000404	Hugginstown Fen	Alkaline Fen	To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.
000407		Turlough	To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species

The Loughans		<p>for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status.</p> <p>To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site.</p> <p>To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.</p>
000831 Cullahill Mountain	Orchid Rich Calcareous Grassland	<p>To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status.</p> <p>To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site.</p> <p>To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.</p>
000849 Spahill and Clomantagh Hill	Orchid Rich Calcareous Grassland	<p>To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status.</p> <p>To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site.</p> <p>To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.</p>
0001858 Galmoy	Alkaline Fen	<p>To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status.</p> <p>To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site.</p> <p>To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.</p>
0002137 Lower River Suir	Alluvial Wet Woodlands and Yew Wood, Floating River Vegetation, Atlantic Salt Meadows, Old Oak Wood and Eutrophic Tall Herbs Sea Lamprey, Brook Lamprey, River Lamprey, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Crayfish, Twaité Shad, Atlantic Salmon, Otter	<p>To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status.</p> <p>To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site.</p> <p>To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.</p>
0002162 River Barrow and River Nore	Alluvial Wet Woodlands, Petrifying Springs, Old Oak Woodlands, Floating River Vegetation, Estuary, Tidal Mudflats, Salicornia Mudflats, Atlantic Salt Meadows, Dry Heath and Eutrophic Tall Herbs Sea Lamprey, Brook Lamprey, River Lamprey, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Nore Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Crayfish,	<p>To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status.</p> <p>To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site.</p> <p>To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.</p>

	Twaite Shad, Atlantic Salmon, Otter, <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> , Killarney Fern	
0002252 Thomastown Quarry	Petrifying Springs	To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.
South Tipperary		Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
Site code	Qualifying interests	Conservation objectives
Site name		
000646 Galtee Mountains	Dry Heath	To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.
0002137 Lower River Suir	Alluvial Wet Woodlands and Yew Wood, Floating River Vegetation, Atlantic Salt Meadows, Old Oak Wood and Eutrophic Tall Herbs Sea Lamprey, Brook Lamprey, River Lamprey, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Crayfish, Twaite Shad, Atlantic Salmon, Otter	To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.
002170 Blackwater River	Alluvial Wet Woodlands, Yew Wood, Floating River Vegetation, Estuaries, Tidal Mudflats, Salicornia Mudflats, Atlantic Salt Meadows, Mediterranean Salt Meadows, Perennial vegetation of stony banks, Old Oak Woodlands Sea Lamprey, Brook Lamprey, River Lamprey, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Nore Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Crayfish, Twaite Shad, Atlantic Salmon,	To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.
0002162 River Barrow and River Nore	Alluvial Wet Woodlands, Petrifying Springs, Old Oak Woodlands, Floating River Vegetation, Estuary,	To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the extent, species richness and

	Tidal Mudflats, Salicornia mudflats, Atlantic Salt Meadows, Dry Heath and Eutrophic Tall Herbs Sea lamprey, Brook Lamprey, River Lamprey, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Nore Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Crayfish, Twaite Shad, Atlantic Salmon, Otter <i>Vertigo moulinsina</i> , Killarney Fern	biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.
002257 Moanour Mountain	Species Rich Nardus Grassland	To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.
Waterford City		Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
Site code Site name	Qualifying interests	Conservation objectives
0002137 Lower River Suir	Alluvial Wet Woodlands and Yew Wood, Floating River Vegetation, Atlantic Salt Meadows, Old Oak Wood and Eutrophic Tall Herbs Sea Lamprey, Brook Lamprey, River Lamprey, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Crayfish, Twaite Shad, Atlantic Salmon, Otter	To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.
0002162 River Barrow and River Nore	Alluvial Wet Woodlands, Petrifying Springs, Old Oak Woodlands, Floating River Vegetation, Estuary, Tidal Mudflats, Salicornia Mudflats, Atlantic Salt Meadows, Dry Heath and Eutrophic Tall Herbs Sea lamprey, Brook Lamprey, River Lamprey, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Nore Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Crayfish, Twaite Shad, Atlantic Salmon, Otter <i>Vertigo moulinsina</i> , Killarney Fern	To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.
County Waterford		Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
Site code Site name	Qualifying interests	Conservation objectives
002123 Ardmore Head	Dry coastal heath and vegetated sea cliffs.	To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status.

		<p>To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site.</p> <p>To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.</p>
002170 Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford)	<p>Estuary, Mudflats, Shingle Banks, Salt Meadows, Floating River Vegetation, Old Oak Woods, Alluvial Woodland, Yew Woodland, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, White-clawed Crayfish, Shad, Lampreys, Salmon, Otter, Killarney Fern</p>	<p>To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status.</p> <p>To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site.</p> <p>To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.</p>
001952 Comeragh Mountains	<p>Blanket bog, Dry, Wet and Alpine Heath, Rocky Slopes, Oligotrophic Lakes, Floating River Vegetation, Shining Sicklemoss</p>	<p>To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status.</p> <p>To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site.</p> <p>To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.</p>
002324 Glendine Wood	<p>Semi-natural Woodland with rare assemblages of Ground Flora.</p>	<p>To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status.</p> <p>To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site.</p> <p>To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.</p>
000665 Helvick Head	<p>Vegetated Sea Cliffs and Dry Heath.</p>	<p>To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status.</p> <p>To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site.</p> <p>To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.</p>
002137 Lower River Suir	<p>Salt Meadows, Floating River Vegetation, Marginal River Vegetation, Old Oak Woods, Alluvial Wet Woodland, Yew Woods, Twaite Shad, Sea Lamprey, Brook Lamprey, River Lamprey, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, White-clawed Crayfish, Atlantic Salmon, Otter</p>	<p>To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status.</p> <p>To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site.</p> <p>To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.</p>
000668 Nier Valley Woods	<p>Old Oak Woodlands and Dry Heath</p>	<p>To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status.</p> <p>To maintain the extent, species richness and</p>

		<p>biodiversity of the entire site.</p> <p>To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.</p>
<p>002162 River Nore and River Barrow (Waterford Estuary)</p>	<p>Estuary, Mudflats, Salt Meadows, Floating River Vegetation, Dry Heath, Marginal River Vegetation, Petrifying Springs, Old Oak Woods, Alluvial Woods, White-clawed Crayfish, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Whorl snail, Shad, Lampreys, Salmon, Otter, Killarney Fern</p>	<p>To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status.</p> <p>To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site.</p> <p>To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.</p>
<p>00671 Tramore Dunes and Back Strand</p>	<p>Mudflats and sandflats, shingle banks, salt meadows, embryonic, white and fixed dunes.</p>	<p>To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status.</p> <p>To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site.</p> <p>To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.</p>
County Waterford		Special Protection Areas (SPAs)
Site code	Qualifying interests	Conservation objectives
Site name		
<p>Tramore Backstrand</p>	<p>Brent Geese, Golden Plover, Grey Plover, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Lapwing, Dunlin, Sanderling,</p>	<p>To maintain the bird species of special conservation interest for which this SPA has been listed at favourable conservation status</p>
<p>Dungarvan Bay</p>	<p>Brent Goose, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, of international importance Nationally important numbers of Shelduck, Wigeon, Red- breasted Merganser, Grey Plover, Golden Plover, Lapwing, Knot, Sanderling, Dunlin, Redshank and Turnstone</p>	<p>To maintain the bird species of special conservation interest for which this SPA has been listed at favourable conservation status</p>
<p>Blackwater Callows</p>	<p>Whooper swan, Bewick's Swan, Golden Plover, Kingfisher</p>	<p>To maintain the bird species of special conservation interest for which this SPA has been listed at favourable conservation status</p>
<p>Blackwater Estuary</p>	<p>Little Egret, Golden Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit, Sandwich Tern, Roseate Tern, Common Tern</p>	<p>To maintain the bird species of special conservation interest for which this SPA has been listed at favourable conservation status</p>
<p>Helvick Head Coast</p>	<p>Peregrine, Chough Kittiwake and Guillemot</p>	<p>To maintain the bird species of special conservation interest for which this SPA has been listed at favourable conservation status</p>
<p>Mid-Waterford Coast</p>	<p>Peregrine, Chough</p>	<p>To maintain the bird species of special conservation interest for which this SPA has been listed at favourable conservation status</p>

County Wexford		Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
Site code Site name	Qualifying interests	Conservation objectives
000696 Ballyteige Burrow	Fixed Dune, Dune Heath , Lagoon	To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.
000697 Bannow Bay	Embryonic Shifting Dunes, White Dunes, Fixed Grey Dunes, Halophilous Scrub, Atlantic Salt Meadows, Mediterranean Salt Meadows, Estuary	To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.
000700 Cahore Polders and Dunes	Fixed Dunes, Marram Dunes, Embryonic Shifting Dunes, Drift Lines	To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.
000704 Lady's Island Lake SAC	Coastal Lagoon , Shingle Barrier, Dunes	To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.
000707 Saltee Islands	Reefs, Grey Seal	To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.
000708 Screen Hills	Oligotrophic Lakes, Dry Heath	To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.
000709 Tacumshin Lake	Lagoon, Drift Lines, Perennial vegetation of Stony Banks, Embryonic, Shifting and Marram Dunes	To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with

		landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.
000710 Raven Point Nature Reserve	Drift Lines, 5 types of Dune Systems	To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.
000764 Hook Head	Large Shallow Inlets and Bays, Reef and Sea Cliffs	To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.
000770 Blackstairs Mountains	Dry Heath	To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.
00781 Slaney River Valley	Alluvial Wet Woodland, Floating River vegetation Estuaries, Tidal Mudflats Old Oak Woodlands Sea Lamprey, River Lamprey, Brook Lamprey, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Twaite Shad, Atlantic Salmon, Otter	To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.
001741 Kilmuckridge- Tinnaberna Sandhills	Marram Dunes, Fixed Dunes	To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.
001742 Kilpatrick Sandhills	Fixed Dune and Dune Heath	To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.
002161 Long Bank	Submerged Sandbanks	To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.

002162 River Barrow and River Nore	As above (Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford)	To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.
002269 Carnsore Point	Intertidal mud/sand flats & reefs	To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.

Co. Wexford		Special Protection Areas
Site code Site name	Qualifying interests	Conservation objectives
004019 The Raven	Greenland White-fronted Geese, Red-throated Diver, Great Northern Diver, Slavonian Grebe, Golden Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit, Little Tern	To maintain the bird species of special conservation interest for which this SPA has been listed at favourable conservation status
Saltee Islands	Breeding Seabirds, Peregrine, Chough	To maintain the bird species of special conservation interest for which this SPA has been listed at favourable conservation status
Lady's Island	Wintering Waterfowl, Whooper Swan, Golden Plover	To maintain the bird species of special conservation interest for which this SPA has been listed at favourable conservation status
Ballyteigue Burrow	Golden Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit, Little Tern	To maintain the bird species of special conservation interest for which this SPA has been listed at favourable conservation status
Bannow Bay	Brent Geese, Golden Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit	To maintain the bird species of special conservation interest for which this SPA has been listed at favourable conservation status
Wexford Harbour and Slobs	Greenland White fronted Goose, Whooper Swan, Bewick's Swan, Golden Plover, Wintering Waterfowl	To maintain the bird species of special conservation interest for which this SPA has been listed at favourable conservation status
Tacumshin Lake	Greenland White- fronted Goose, Whooper Swan, Bewick's Swan, Golden Plover	To maintain the bird species of special conservation interest for which this SPA has been listed at favourable conservation status
Keeragh Islands	Tern species	To maintain the bird species of special conservation interest for which this SPA has been listed at favourable conservation status

Table 2: Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the South- East Region

County Cork			Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
Site code	Site name	Qualifying interests	Conservation objectives
000077	Ballymacoda Bay SPA	Estuaries, salt meadows, mudflats and sandflats	To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.
002170	Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford)	Estuary, Mudflats, Shingle Banks, Salt Meadows, Floating River Vegetation, Old Oak Woods, Alluvial Woodland, Yew Woodland, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, White-clawed Crayfish, Shad, Lampreys, Salmon, Otter, Killarney Fern	To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities.
North Tipperary			Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
Site code	Site name	Qualifying interests	Conservation objectives
	Slievefelim to Silvermines Mountains SPA	Hen Harrier	To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status. To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site. To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities

County Wicklow		Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
Site code Site name	Qualifying interests	Conservation objectives
Holdenstown Bog 0001757	Transition mires and quaking bog, active raised bog	<p>To maintain the Annex I habitats and Annex II species for which the cSAC has been selected at favourable conservation status.</p> <p>To maintain the extent, species richness and biodiversity of the entire site.</p> <p>To establish effective liaison and co-operation with landowners, legal users and relevant authorities</p>

5. Screening Assessment

The main goal of the Regional Planning Guidelines is to implement the provisions of the National Spatial Strategy by building up critical mass in the designated gateways and hubs thus achieving critical population targets which can attract required employment opportunities, physical, environmental and social infrastructure. A broad level assessment highlighted the need to focus on Natura 2000 sites located at/near key urban settlements and in the context of environmental issues identified in the SEA process and detailed in the Environmental Report accompanying the Draft Regional Planning Guidelines. The SEA identified that key environmental pressures in the region relate to water quality and conservation of water dependant habitats and species, continued monitoring of public water supplies and provision of sufficient capacity in waste water treatment plants.

Table 3 below details assessment of potential impacts arising from implementation of the Regional Planning Guidelines on river SACs along which key settlements are located that are targeted for population growth in the regional planning guidelines. This includes the Waterford City Gateway, Kilkenny and Wexford Hubs and County Towns such as Carlow, Clonmel and Dungarvan.

Table 3. Habitats Directive Assessment to determine risk of significant impacts on SACs and SPAs.

Natura 2000 Site	Pressure Topic	Possible impacts from Regional Planning Guidelines	Risk of Significant Impact	Mitigation measure
Lower River Suir	Water quality (EPA classify Lower Suir Estuary trophic status as Intermediate, Upper Suir Estuary as Eutrophic) ³ Waste Water Treatment	Increase in population in settlements along River Suir including Clonmel and Waterford City Population targets for 2016 for Waterford City and Clonmel are 51,000 and 23,000 respectively	New Secondary Waste Water Treatment Plant commissioned in Waterford City in 2009 to serve a population equivalent of 140,000 Secondary treatment with a population equivalent to serve 40,000 is available at Clonmel Secondary Treatment serves the town of Carrick on Suir for a population equivalent of 16,000 ⁴	Adequate capacity in Waterford City for lifetime of guidelines. Policies in Clonmel and Carrick on Suir Town Plans to only allow further development where WWT infrastructure is in place. Provisions of Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations SI no. 684 of 2007 and application of PD7/09 Provisions of DoEHLG Water Services Investment Programme
River Nore and River Barrow including	Water quality (EPA list trophic status as Intermediate)	Increase in population in settlements along River Nore and Barrow including Carlow, Kilkenny and New Ross	Secondary treatment with a population equivalent to serve 36,000 is available at Carlow, 110,000 at Kilkenny and 10,000 is	Provisions of Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations SI no. 684 of 2007 and application of PD7/09

³ Ireland's Environment 2008 (EPA)

⁴ Data extracted from *Urban Waste Water Discharges In Ireland : A Report for the Years 2006 and 2007* (2009), EPA

Waterford Estuary	Waste Water Treatment	Population targets for 2016 for Carlow and Kilkenny are 23,768 and 25,800 respectively	<p>available at New Ross</p> <p>According to Carlow Town Plan 2009 upgrade to treatment plant of 70,000 p.e. expected to be completed by 2013. Domestic population serviced cannot exceed 25,000 p.e. unless this upgrade has taken place.</p> <p>Sufficient capacity exists in WWTP in Kilkenny but plant requires nutrient removal. Plans underway to carry out upgrade to plant.</p>	Provisions of DoEHLG Water Services Investment Programme
Slaney River Valley	<p>Water quality (EPA classify Lower Slaney Estuary trophic status as eutrophic and Upper Slaney as Intermediate)</p> <p>Waste Water Treatment Water Abstraction for Water Supply</p>	<p>Increase in population in settlements along Slaney River Valley including Enniscorthy and Wexford Town</p> <p>Continued urbanisation and industrialisation.</p> <p>Current population in Enniscorthy and Wexford stand at 9,538 and 18,163 with population target for 2016 for Wexford Town at 23,500</p>	<p>Secondary treatment with a population equivalent to serve 45,000 is available at Wexford and for a population equivalent of 16,500 in Enniscorthy</p> <p>Existing capacity in Wexford is sufficient. Capacity in Enniscorthy is stretched and there are plans for an upgrade</p>	<p>Provisions of Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations SI no. 684 of 2007 and application of PD7/09</p> <p>Provisions of DoEHLG Water Services Investment Programme</p>
Wexford Harbour	Water quality (EPA classify trophic status as Eutrophic SERBDMP lists area as requiring restoration to achieve	<p>Increase in population in Wexford Town</p> <p>Continued urbanisation and industrialisation.</p> <p>Population target for 2016 for</p>	<p>Secondary treatment with a population equivalent to serve 45,000 is available at Wexford</p> <p>Existing capacity in Wexford is sufficient.</p>	<p>Provisions of Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations SI no. 684 of 2007 and application of PD7/09</p> <p>Provisions of DoEHLG Water</p>

	good status under WFD by 2015) Waste Water Treatment	Wexford Town is 23,500		Services Investment Programme
Dungarvan Bay	Water Quality (EPA lists trophic status as Intermediate SERBDMP state area requires restoration to reach good status under the WFD by 2015)	Increase in population in Dungarvan Population target for 2016 for Dungarvan is 11,600	Secondary treatment with a population equivalent to serve 20,000 is available at Dungarvan Ballinroad (settlement adjacent to Dungarvan Town) is currently over capacity with plans to connect it to Dungarvan Scheme underway	Provisions of Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations SI no. 684 of 2007 and application of PD7/09 Provisions of DoEHLG Water Services Investment Programme
Blackwater River	Water Quality (EPA classify trophic status as eutropic in both Upper and Lower Blackwater Estuary)	Increase in population in settlements along River Blackwater and Bride including Ballyduff, Lismore, Cappoquin, Villierstown, AGLISH and Clashmore	These settlements not considered within the Regional Planning Guidelines Settlement Hierarchy. Impacts more appropriately assessed through review of the County Waterford Development Plan 2011-2017.	Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations SI no. 684 of 2007 and application of PD7/09 Provisions of DoEHLG Water Services Investment Programme
Annex II species	Conservation Status⁵	Pressure Topic		Mitigation measure

⁵ The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland, DoEHLG, 2008.

Freshwater Pearl Mussel	Bad	Water quality	Freshwater Pearl Mussel Regulations, FPM Sub-Basin Catchment Plans and WFD Programme of Measures Provisions of Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations SI no. 684 of 2007 and application of PD7/09 Provisions of DoEHLG Water Services Investment Programme
Killarney Fern	Good	Modifications to the hydrology of a site through afforestation, road development	Infrastructure projects will be subject to H.D.A. at the project level
Salmon	Bad	Water quality	Programme of Measures under WFD and River Basin District Management Plans
Crayfish	Poor	Water quality	River Basin District Management Plans
Twaite Shad	Bad	Water quality	River Basin District Management Plans
Otter	Poor	Water quality Clearance of riparian vegetation	Infrastructure projects will be subject to H.D.A. at the project level
River Lamprey	Good	Water quality	River Basin District Management Plans
Sea Lamprey	Poor	Weirs and Channel maintenance	Infrastructure projects will be subject to H.D.A. at the project level

5.2 Potential Impacts and Mitigation

The Regional Planning Guidelines aim to build up critical mass in Waterford, Kilkenny and Wexford and also support growth in County Towns. In the context of Habitats Directive Assessment, potential impacts may arise where increased population growth cannot be served by water and wastewater infrastructure leading to deterioration of water quality standards and pollution which may compromise habitat quality and thereby affect the favourable conservation status of habitats and species. Eutrophication in some instances may provide richer feeding grounds for bird life in SPAs but largely water pollution will be considered a threat to site integrity in the Natura 2000 network.

The location of designated Gateway, Hubs and County Towns on rivers and estuaries, all of which are designated SAC, requires the provision of adequate capacity and appropriate level of treatment to reduce the threat of deteriorating water quality. Where limits in treatment levels are in sight, all local authorities have plans to extend or upgrade waste water treatment facilities in the lifetime of the guidelines. All local authorities prepared Assessment of Needs for Water Services in November 2009 which were submitted to the DoEHLG under the Department's Water Services Investment Programme. These needs are prioritised under four themes:

- Water Conservation Proposals which meet environmental and economic goals
- Works required to respond to ECJ judgements
- Environment/Public Health Objectives
- Works to support sustainable development of hubs and gateways under the NSS.

Thus, while projected population growth promoted in the RPGs could give rise to deteriorating water quality standards it is considered the provisions of the 2007 Waste Water Discharge Regulations and priority scheme for the Water Services Investment Programme laid out in Circular L6/09 will set out to address any existing future deficiencies in the infrastructure required to service this growth.

Appendix 2 and 3 detail the projected growth including target population figures and housing/zoning requirements for the period 2010-2016. Consideration must also be given to potential additional draw on capacity arising from the establishment of new industrial enterprises in these areas although in some settlements the reduction in industrial loading has released capacity to treatment plants. Mitigation for new loading would involve preclusion of further development until the appropriate level of capacity has been supplied, phased development requiring waste water treatment infrastructure to be in place prior to new development and re-zoning at the review stage of City/County Development Plans. Extended HDA assessment of City/County Development Plans and any developments affecting Natura 2000 sites will more accurately determine the impacts on these sites. The publication and implementation

of Conservation Management Plans for Natura 2000 sites would also assist in providing for the favourable conservation of these sites by making available habitat maps, bird usage maps and baseline data.

5.3 Assessment of specific policies

A review of each of the strategic goals, policies and objectives contained in the Draft Regional Planning Guidelines was undertaken and screened for their potential impacts on the Natura 2000 network in the region. Appendix 1 details the policies at pre-draft and draft stages following consultation with the NPWS and subsequent amending of policies to incorporate requirements in compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.

5.4 Impacts on Natura sites within 15km of the South-East Region

There are 4 Natura 2000 sites located within 15 kms. of the South-East Region. All the river SACs within the region (Blackwater, Lower River Suir, Barrow and Nore, and River Slaney) traverse the regional borders and rise within with the South-West (Blackwater) and Mid-East Region respectively. Habitats Directive Assessments prepared for regional planning guidelines for these regions (see www.rpg.ie and www.swra.ie) refer to any potential significant impacts downstream of their source. No significant impacts arising from the South-East Regional Planning Guidelines have been identified upstream of the river corridors in Counties Wicklow, Kildare, Laois, North Tipperary and Cork. Other Natura 2000 sites within 15 km of the region's boundary are self-contained habitats that will not be directly affected by strategic policies in the Regional Planning Guidelines.

6. Conclusion

A Habitats Directive Assessment was carried out on the Draft Regional Planning Guidelines for the South-East Region 2010-2022. Preparation of the assessment involved preliminary discussion and screening of policies with the NPWS Regional Ecologists to identify general issues of concern for conservation in the region. A review of conservation objectives and threats to site integrity for the range of Natura 2000 in the region was undertaken to identify sites that may be impacted by policies/objectives in the Draft Regional Planning Guidelines. Large urban settlements ranging from Waterford City to County towns and which are located adjacent to river SACs were considered to be the key areas for assessment. Pressure topics such as waste water treatment were assessed for their impacts on SACs such as the Lower River Suir, Nore and Barrow and River Slaney. The assessment found that adequate waste water treatment is the key issue to be addressed.

Screening for impacts on Annex II species occurring within the region was also carried out. All these species are water dependant species and thus, protecting the habitat in which they occur will by association enable protection of their conservation

status. Conservation status for the Killarney Fern and River Lamprey is considered good.⁶ Species such as the Freshwater Pearl Mussel are already the subject of a range of environmental targets laid out in Sub-Basin Catchment Plans and Program of Measures under the Water Framework Directive. These targets involve participation by local authorities and thus it is not considered that there are additional impacts arising from the Draft Regional Planning Guidelines that have not already been raised in the Sub-basin plans for the species. Species such as Salmon, Crayfish, Twaite Shad and Otter are considered to hold bad and poor conservation status reflecting the need to address water pollution and management of riparian zones. These issues will be addressed by the River Basin District Management Plans and 2009 Surface Water Regulations. Section 8.2.4 of the Regional Planning Guidelines recommends the inclusion of River Management Policies in County Development Plans in the Region.

The potential for impacts on site integrity arising from strategic infrastructure such as ports/marinas/energy and communications networks/road developments is recognised in this assessment but in the absence of project details in terms of nature and scale of these types of projects it is recommended that these projects will be more appropriately assessed at the project level or City/County Development Plan level. Section 8.9 of the Draft Guidelines clearly advocates screening for appropriate assessment at all levels in the planning hierarchy. The Guidelines also recommend (where relevant) screening policies contained in other policy documents and guidelines that may impact on Natura 2000 sites and were not subject to appropriate assessment previously. Appendix 1 details the amendments made following discussion of policies in the pre-draft Regional Planning Guidelines with the NPWS in December 2009. Amendments have been made to ensure avoidance of impacts at the strategic level and to ensure any plans or projects required to deliver policies that may impact on Natura 2000 sites within the region are subject to an appropriate assessment in compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.

Due to the regional scale of the projects identified within the Regional Planning Guidelines (e.g. Tables 5.1 and 5.2) many of which have yet to undergo detailed route/site selection and options it is considered that an Appropriate Assessment should take place at each stage of the development process from City/County Development Plan, Local Area Plans and at the individual plan or project level to ensure that there is no negative impact on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site and that the requirements of Articles 6 (3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive are fully edited.

This assessment should be read in conjunction with the Draft Regional Planning Guidelines for the South-East Region 2010-2022 and the accompanying Environmental Report prepared in fulfilment of the SEA process. Comments on the assessment are invited during the period of public consultation from February - April 2010.

⁶ The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland (DoEHLG, 2008)

As per the process outlined in Section 4 and subject to comments by the National Parks and Wildlife Service on this screening assessment a Finding of No Significant Effects Report is proposed based on mitigation measures to be applied through the Water Services Investment Programme and AA screening at the Development Plan, Strategic Infrastructure and Project Level with no further AA assessment required at this strategic level of preparing the Draft Regional Planning Guidelines.

Appendix 1 AA Screening Assessment of Draft RPG policies

Goal/Policy/Objective Reference Number	RPG Strategic goal/policy/objective at Pre-Draft AA screening Meeting with NPWS 15/12/09	Amended RPG Strategic goal/policy/objective post AA screening meeting with NPWS 15/12/09
A1	Putting in place the conditions where 35,000 new jobs can be created over the next 20 years. Job creation needs to focus on the advanced sectors, the public sector, health and education, retail, tourism and e-business.	Putting in place the conditions where 35,000 new jobs can be created over the next 20 years. Job creation needs to focus on the advanced sectors, the public sector, health and education, retail, tourism and e-business.
A2	It is an objective of the Regional Authority to support the establishment of a University in the South-East by utilising and building upon the existing network of third and fourth level educational establishments at Waterford, Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford and Clonmel.	It is an objective of the Regional Authority to support the establishment of a University in the South-East by utilising and building upon the existing network of third and fourth level educational establishments at Waterford, Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford and Clonmel.
A3	Ensuring that supporting infrastructure such as telecommunications and energy supply networks are available and have sufficient capacity to ensure growth in enterprise activity.	Promotion of the knowledge economy through high level research and development in the Higher Educational Institutes and developing industry – academic co-operation and links.
A4	Identifying and developing a small number of <i>first class</i> business locations with first class infrastructure capable of attracting Foreign Direct Investment and facilitating new indigenous start-ups in advanced sectors in competition with locations nationally and internationally.	Ensuring that supporting infrastructure such as telecommunications and energy supply networks are available and have sufficient capacity to ensure growth in enterprise activity.
A5	Promoting and facilitating the decentralisation of services from the Dublin Metropolitan Area to the South-East.	Identifying and developing a small number of first class business locations with first class infrastructure capable of attracting Foreign Direct Investment and facilitating new indigenous start-ups in advanced sectors in competition with locations nationally and internationally.
A6	Promoting tourism and attracting overseas and domestic visitors through promotion of diverse and well-developed tourism sectors and highlighting the facilities for the business sector.	Promoting and facilitating the decentralisation of services from the Dublin Metropolitan Area to the South-East.
A7	Supporting the implementation of the Joint Waste Management Plan for the South-East Region.	Promoting tourism and attracting overseas and domestic visitors through promotion of diverse and well-developed tourism sectors and highlighting the facilities for the business sector.
A8		Supporting the implementation of the Joint Waste Management Plan for the South-East Region.
B1	Planning and providing for a regional	Planning and providing for a regional

	population of 580,500 by the year 2022.	population of 580,500 by the year 2022.
B2	Supporting the development and growth of the Waterford City Gateway as the Driver for the Region.	Supporting the development and growth of the Waterford City Gateway as the Driver for the Region.
B3	Planning and providing for population growth in each of the two Hubs of Wexford and Kilkenny and the County Towns of Carlow, Clonmel and Dungarvan.	Planning and providing for population growth in each of the two Hubs of Wexford and Kilkenny and the County Towns of Carlow, Clonmel and Dungarvan.
B4	Developing the main urban settlements as attractive places for people to live in and want to move to, where efficient public transport and quality public services and a high quality environment make them attractive places to live, to work in and do business in. This is the key to building critical mass and achieving population targets.	Developing the main urban settlements as attractive places for people to live in and want to move to, where efficient public transport and quality public services and a high quality environment make them attractive places to live, to work in and do business in. This is the key to building critical mass and achieving population targets.
B5	Ensuring the availability and affordability of housing in cities, towns and villages, supported by clear rural settlement strategies, to achieve critical mass and a strong, competitive urban network.	Ensuring the availability and affordability of housing in cities, towns and villages, supported by clear rural settlement strategies, to achieve critical mass and a strong, competitive urban network.
B6	Ensuring the provision of a full range of high quality, linked and complementary social and recreational facilities to develop and maintain a critical mass of population within the region.	Ensuring the provision of a full range of high quality, linked and complementary social and recreational facilities to develop and maintain a critical mass of population within the region.
B7	To base all settlement growth on sound principles of Water Management, through implementation of the Water Framework Directive, as set out in the River Basin District Management Plans for the river catchments in the region.	To base all settlement growth on sound principles of Water Management, through implementation of the Water Framework Directive, as set out in the River Basin District Management Plans for the river catchments in the region.
B8	Developing water services and other social infrastructure to a standard sufficient to support the sustainable development of critical mass as selected locations.	Developing water services and other social infrastructure to a standard sufficient to support the sustainable development of critical mass as selected locations.
C1	Improving public transport and connectivity throughout the region by providing more flexible public transport services and reducing commuting times and distances.	Improving public transport and connectivity throughout the region by providing more flexible public transport services and reducing commuting times and distances.
C2	Making settlements sustainable through the integration of land use and transport planning and creating meaningful jobs locally and facilitating e-working.	Making settlements sustainable through the integration of land use and transport planning and creating meaningful jobs locally and facilitating e-working.
C3	Supporting the development of effective communications by road and rail between Waterford City and Dublin, Cork and Limerick, including upgrading the Rosslare – Limerick line.	Delivering enhanced regional accessibility via air services, building particularly on the important regional asset of Waterford Airport and its associated infrastructure.
C4	Supporting the development of the internal road	To enhance access routes (road and

	network between the Gateway, Hubs and County Towns and other larger settlements and the better integration of land use and transport planning throughout the region.	rail) to the region's ports, recognising the important contribution of Rosslare Europort, Waterford Port and New Ross Port to the economic infrastructure of the region.
C5	Securing the future balanced development of Waterford City through enhanced additional connectivity by means of development of a downstream river crossing.	Supporting the sustainable development of effective communications by road and rail between Waterford City and Dublin, Cork and Limerick, including upgrading the Rosslare – Limerick line.
C6	Upgrading of the key N24 National Primary route linking the Gateways of Waterford and Limerick and connecting them to the urban settlements of Carrick-on-Suir, Clonmel, Cahir and Tipperary in the region.	Supporting the sustainable development of the internal road network between the Gateway, Hubs and County Towns and other larger settlements and the better integration of land use and transport planning throughout the region.
C7	Upgrading of the N25 along the Atlantic Corridor linking Waterford with Cork and Rosslare and connecting them to the urban settlements of Dungarvan, Wexford, and New Ross within the region.	Securing the future balanced development of Waterford City through enhanced additional connectivity by means of development of a downstream river crossing.
C8	Improving transportation links between Rosslare Europort, Wexford and Dublin resulting from improvements to the N11/M11 and improved rail services.	Upgrading of the key N24 National Primary route linking the Gateways of Waterford and Limerick and connecting them to the urban settlements of Carrick-on-Suir, Clonmel, Cahir and Tipperary in the region.
C9	Delivering enhanced regional accessibility via air services, building particularly on the important regional asset of Waterford Airport and its associated infrastructure.	Upgrading of the N25 along the Atlantic Corridor linking Waterford with Cork and Rosslare and connecting them to the urban settlements of Dungarvan, Wexford, and New Ross within the region.
C10	Establishing a spatial policy framework through which development of the ports in the region can be co-ordinated to deliver a critical mass of services and facilities, boosting the national and international competitiveness of the region.	Improving transportation links between Rosslare Europort, Wexford and Dublin resulting from improvements to the N11/M11 and improved rail services.
C11	Promoting an increased frequency of rail services on the Waterford to Dublin line and a reduction in journey times between all centres of population along the line and supporting the upgrading and rescheduling of services on the Rosslare to Limerick Rail Line (via Waterford) to provide for high quality and frequent commuter services with onward connections to Limerick and the Western Rail Corridor.	Establishing a spatial policy framework through which development of the ports in the region can be co-ordinated to deliver a critical mass of services and facilities, boosting the national and international competitiveness of the region.
C12	Supporting the development and improvement of key economic infrastructure such as energy generation and transmission networks and telecommunications, all of which are essential for the continued development of the Region.	Promoting an increased frequency of rail services on the Waterford to Dublin line and a reduction in journey times between all centres of population along the line and supporting the upgrading and rescheduling of services on the Rosslare to Limerick Rail Line (via Waterford) to provide for high quality

		and frequent commuter services with onward connections to Limerick and the Western Rail Corridor.
C13		Supporting the development and improvement of key economic infrastructure such as energy generation and transmission networks and telecommunications, all of which are essential for the continued development of the Region.
D1	Ensuring that agriculture continues to play an important role in the lives of the people of the South-East. The South-East will seek to ensure that it is one of the most efficient regions in Ireland effectively competing in both national and international markets.	Ensuring that agriculture continues to play an important role in the lives of the people of the South-East. The South-East will seek to ensure that it is one of the most efficient regions in Ireland effectively competing in both national and international markets.
D2	Identifying the different rural area types in the region and devising rural development and settlement policies appropriate to local conditions and that build on existing potential so as to strengthen rural communities and underpin rural sustainability.	Identifying the different rural area types in the region and devising rural development and settlement policies appropriate to local conditions and that build on existing potential so as to strengthen rural communities and underpin rural sustainability.
D3	Identifying opportunities for land uses in rural areas other than those related to food production. There is scope for energy crops, recreation, woodland and wildlife habitats. Rural diversification is needed to create employment and generate economic prosperity.	Identifying opportunities for land uses in rural areas other than those related to food production. There is scope for energy crops, recreation, woodland and wildlife habitats. Rural diversification is needed to create employment and generate economic prosperity.
D4	Developing a self-sustaining forest industry based on a variety of species and a wide range of post-felling services.	Developing a self-sustaining forest industry based on a variety of species and a wide range of post-felling services.
D5	Development of the Green Economy in rural areas; Actively promoting the exploitation of wind energy and other forms of renewable energy as valuable regional assets in appropriate locations.	Development of the Green Economy in rural areas; Actively promoting the exploitation of wind energy and other forms of renewable energy as valuable regional assets in appropriate locations.
D6	Support implementation of the South-East Region Bio-Energy Implementation Plan.	Support implementation of the South-East Region Bio-Energy Implementation Plan.
D7	Supporting the development of an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy (ICZMS) for the Region by each of the three coastal local authorities, having regard to the National ICZMS.	Supporting the development of an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy (ICZMS) for the Region by each of the three coastal local authorities, having regard to the National ICZMS.
D8	Encouraging the preservation of a high quality environment, and preservation of built heritage assets, so that the South-East will continue to be a pleasant place in which to live, work or to visit.	Encouraging the preservation of a high quality environment, and preservation of built heritage assets, so that the South-East will continue to be a pleasant place in which to live, work or to visit.
D9	A co-ordinated approach should be taken to the protection of landscapes, in accordance with the	A co-ordinated approach should be taken to the protection of landscapes,

	European Landscape Convention.	in accordance with the European Landscape Convention.
4.1	Planning Authorities should identify stronger and weaker rural areas so that policies can be developed to suit the needs of different areas Local Area Plans, where appropriate, can be used to develop policies to strengthen smaller settlements in these areas.	Planning Authorities should identify stronger and weaker rural areas so that policies can be developed to suit the needs of different areas Local Area Plans, where appropriate, can be used to develop policies to strengthen smaller settlements in these areas.
4.2	Planning Authorities should work together, and in conjunction with the Forest Service, to develop a Regional Indicative Forest Strategy	Planning Authorities should work together, and in conjunction with the Forest Service, to develop a Regional Indicative Forest Strategy
4.3	It is an objective of the Regional Authority to work in partnership with key stakeholders to develop a Strategic Commercial and Leisure Development Framework for the Waterford Estuary that will guide the future development of the resource.	It is an objective of the Regional Authority to work in partnership with key stakeholders to develop a sustainable Strategic Commercial and Leisure Development Framework for the Waterford Estuary that will guide the future development of the resource.
4.4	The Regional Authority will support Local Authorities and other agencies to work together to implement the objectives of the <i>'Development Strategy for Marine and Leisure Infrastructure'</i>	The Regional Authority will support Local Authorities and other agencies to work together to implement the objectives of the <i>'Development Strategy for Marine and Leisure Infrastructure'</i> subject to the findings of an appropriate assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.
4.5	The Regional Authority will support Local Authorities in the economic exploitation of mineral and aggregate deposits, having regard to the environmental and social impact of such operations. Planning authorities are encouraged to adopt appropriate policies to safeguard viable unworked deposits for future extraction.	The Regional Authority will support Local Authorities in the economic exploitation of mineral and aggregate deposits, having regard to the environmental and social impact of such operations. Planning authorities are encouraged to adopt appropriate policies to safeguard viable unworked deposits for future extraction.
4.6	It is an objective of the Regional Authority to promote the establishment of a University of the South-East at Waterford with links to existing third and fourth level facilities at Carlow and in Kilkenny, Wexford and Clonmel.	It is an objective of the Regional Authority to promote the establishment of a University of the South-East at Waterford with links to existing third and fourth level facilities at Carlow and in Kilkenny, Wexford and Clonmel.
4.7	The Regional Authority will support the further expansion of the existing outreach facilities established by NUI Maynooth in Kilkenny, by IT Carlow in Wexford and the further collaboration of the links established between Trinity College, Dublin and Carlow College. The Regional Authority will support outreach of third and fourth level academia to other centres throughout the region.	The Regional Authority will support the further expansion of the existing outreach facilities established by NUI Maynooth in Kilkenny, by IT Carlow in Wexford and the further collaboration of the links established between Trinity College, Dublin and Carlow College. The Regional Authority will support outreach of third and fourth level academia to other centres throughout the region.
4.8	It is an objective of the Regional Authority to maximise investment in, and development of, the South-East Region's ability to innovate in education, research and development through its third and fourth level educational institutions and effective linkages with industry.	It is an objective of the Regional Authority to maximise investment in, and development of, the South-East Region's ability to innovate in education, research and development through its third and fourth level educational institutions and effective linkages with industry.
4.9	It is an objective of the Regional Authority to	It is an objective of the Regional

	strengthen and enhance the regional R&D (Research and Development) capability in the region by maximising the synergies between third and fourth level institutions and industry.	Authority to strengthen and enhance the regional R&D (Research and Development) capability in the region by maximising the synergies between third and fourth level institutions and industry. To this end, the Regional Authority fully supports the relocation and expansion of the Tipperary Institute Clonmel Campus from its current location to the Tipperary Science and Technology Park at Ballingarrane.
4.10	The Regional Authority will support expansion in the Training and Skills sector of further education as a positive step towards advanced training and reskilling of the labour force.	The Regional Authority will support expansion in the Training and Skills sector of further education as a positive step towards advanced training and reskilling of the labour force.
4.11	The Regional Authority will support the VEC network and all existing education providers and support expansion in this sector of further education as a positive step towards advanced training and reskilling of the labour force.	The Regional Authority will support the VEC network and all existing education providers and support expansion in this sector of further education as a positive step towards advanced training and reskilling of the labour force.
4.12	The Regional Authority will encourage the preparation of a Joint Retail Strategy for Waterford and its environs.	The Regional Authority will encourage the preparation of a Joint Retail Strategy for Waterford and its environs.
4.13	It is an objective for the Gateway that Waterford City should seek to consolidate the City around the River Suir , with an emphasis on the possibilities for developing the City Quays area.	It is an objective for the Gateway that Waterford City should seek to consolidate the City around the River Suir in an environmentally sustainable manner , with an emphasis on the possibilities for developing the City Quays area.
4.14	Each local authority should seek to maximise the benefit of urban renewal schemes and incentives by: preparing urban redevelopment framework plans; pro-actively engaging with property owners and developers; becoming involved in site acquisition and assembly where the private sector is unwilling or unable to unlock the potential of key development lands utilising to the full the provisions of the Derelict Sites legislation.	Each local authority should seek to maximise the benefit of urban renewal schemes and incentives by: preparing urban redevelopment framework plans; pro-actively engaging with property owners and developers; becoming involved in site acquisition and assembly where the private sector is unwilling or unable to unlock the potential of key development lands in an environmentally sustainable manner ; utilising to the full the provisions of the Derelict Sites legislation.
4.15	It is an objective of the Regional Authority to work with the relevant authorities to develop a joint development programme for the development of the River Barrow and its catchment for development of water-based activities on the river	It is an objective of the Regional Authority to work with the relevant authorities including DoEHLG/ National Parks and Wildlife Service to develop a joint development programme for the development of the River Barrow and its catchment for development of water-based activities on the river, ensuring that all such development would be in compliance with Articles 6 and 10 of the Habitats Directive and subject to an Appropriate Assessment.
5.1	Planning Authorities should prepare Local Transport Plans as part of City or County Development Plans, in accordance with the	Planning Authorities should prepare Local Transport Plans as part of City or County Development Plans, in

	Guidelines set out in ' <i>Smarter Travel: A Sustainable Transport Future</i> '.	accordance with the Guidelines set out in ' <i>Smarter Travel: A Sustainable Transport Future</i> '.
5.2	Planning Authorities should prepare Local Transport Plans as part of City or County Development Plans, in accordance with the Guidelines set out in ' <i>Smarter Travel: A Sustainable Transport Future</i> '.	Planning Authorities should prepare Local Transport Plans as part of City or County Development Plans, in accordance with the Guidelines set out in ' <i>Smarter Travel: A Sustainable Transport Future</i> '.
5.3	Planning Authorities should require MMPs for all new large scale developments or collection of smaller developments. MMPs may form part of a Transport Impact Assessment.	Planning Authorities should require MMPs for all new large scale developments or collection of smaller developments. MMPs may form part of a Transport Impact Assessment.
5.4	<p>It is an objective of the Regional Authority to:-</p> <p>support the provision of public transport services and preserving land in suitable locations for development of public transport infrastructure and ancillary facilities, such as QBC/Bus Lanes, Park and Ride facilities cycle & walkways, taxi ranks and through public transport supportive parking and traffic management policies, bus lane and bus idle areas;</p> <p>support local community transport services by co-operating with various public and private agencies which are transport providers within the Region in the co-ordination and provision of new services and improvement of existing services and associated transport related infrastructure in the interest of reducing social isolation;</p> <p>Prioritise the planning of future public transport needs to the linked gateway, hubs and principal towns.</p>	<p>It is an objective of the Regional Authority to:-</p> <p>support the provision of public transport services and preserving land in suitable locations for development of public transport infrastructure and ancillary facilities, such as QBC/Bus Lanes, Park and Ride facilities cycle & walkways, taxi ranks and through public transport supportive parking and traffic management policies, bus lane and bus idle areas;</p> <p>support local community transport services by co-operating with various public and private agencies which are transport providers within the Region in the co-ordination and provision of new services and improvement of existing services and associated transport related infrastructure in the interest of reducing social isolation;</p> <p>Prioritise the planning of future public transport needs to the linked gateway, hubs and principal towns.</p>
5.5	The Regional Authority will support the provision and expansion of rural transport projects across the region	The Regional Authority will support the provision and sustainable expansion of rural transport services across the region
5.6	It is an objective of the Regional Authority that in the preparation of development plans Local Authorities should explore and support the provision of park & ride facilities for the main urban areas.	It is an objective of the Regional Authority that in the preparation of development plans Local Authorities should explore and support the provision of park & ride facilities for the main urban areas.
5.7	<p>It is an objective of the Regional Authority to</p> <p>To support walking and cycling as the mode of first choice for journeys up to 7 kilometres;</p> <p>To promote and facilitate the development of cycling and walking facilities in the region;</p> <p>To promote the development of cycling by the development of cycle links</p> <p>To encourage the provision of secure bicycle parking facilities in towns, at neighbourhood</p>	<p>It is an objective of the Regional Authority to</p> <p>To support walking and cycling as the mode of first choice for journeys up to 7 kilometres;</p> <p>To promote and facilitate the sustainable development of cycling and walking facilities in the region;</p> <p>To promote the development of cycling by the development of cycle</p>

	centres, at public facilities such as schools, libraries and in all new developments; To support the development of the inter-urban National Cycle Network so that the majority of the network is off-road; To comply with the 'European Charter of Pedestrian Rights' in order to improve facilities for pedestrians and access to such facilities for people with disabilities.	links in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive . To encourage the provision of secure bicycle parking facilities in towns, at neighbourhood centres, at public facilities such as schools, libraries and in all new developments; To support the sustainable development of the inter-urban National Cycle Network so that the majority of the network is off-road; To comply with the 'European Charter of Pedestrian Rights' in order to improve facilities for pedestrians and access to such facilities for people with disabilities.
5.8	The Regional Authority will support measures to:- Prioritise improved pedestrian and cycling facilities as part of an integrated approach to the management of movement.	The Regional Authority will support measures to:- Prioritise improved pedestrian and cycling facilities as part of an integrated approach to the sustainable management of movement.
5.9	Local planning authorities should develop specific measures to provide for the The provision of more disabled driver parking bays; The symmetrical alignment of street furniture so as to minimise obstruction to the visually impaired pedestrian; The introduction of more tactile paving at crossings, at the edges of rail platforms, bus stops etc; The further provision of ramps and kerb dishing at appropriate locations to improve the movement of disabled people; Implementation of Department of Transport and the DoEHLG policy in relation to the Disability Act, 2005.	Local planning authorities should develop specific measures to provide for the The provision of more disabled driver parking bays; The symmetrical alignment of street furniture so as to minimise obstruction to the visually impaired pedestrian; The introduction of more tactile paving at crossings, at the edges of rail platforms, bus stops etc; The further provision of ramps and kerb dishing at appropriate locations to improve the movement of disabled people; Implementation of Department of Transport and the DoEHLG policy in relation to the Disability Act, 2005.
5.10	The Regional Authority will support, facilitate and enable the development and improvements to the National Road Network within the region.	The Regional Authority will support, facilitate and enable the sustainable development and improvements to the National Road Network within the region.
5.11	The Regional Authority will seek to: Work with all the relevant agencies and Local Authorities to implement the upgrading of the N24 as set out in the <i>N24 Prioritisation Study</i> (South-East Regional Authority, 2008). Support the development of the internal road network between the Gateway, Hubs and County Towns and other larger settlements and the better integration of land use and transport planning throughout the region. Secure the future balanced development of Waterford City through enhanced additional connectivity through the development of a downstream river crossing. Support the provision of a second river crossing in New Ross as part of the N25 improvement.	The Regional Authority will seek to: Work with all the relevant agencies and Local Authorities to implement the upgrading of the N24 as set out in the <i>N24 Prioritisation Study</i> (South-East Regional Authority, 2008). Support the development of the internal road network between the Gateway, Hubs and County Towns and other larger settlements and the better integration of land use and transport planning throughout the region. Secure the future balanced development of Waterford City through enhanced additional connectivity through the development

	Support the upgrade of the N80 Enniscorthy – Carlow road and improvements to linkages from South-East region to the Midlands. Support the upgrading of the R693 and R 700, which provide important links to the M7/M8 and between the two Hubs of Wexford and Kilkenny.	of a downstream river crossing. Support the provision of a second river crossing in New Ross as part of the N25 improvement. Support the upgrade of the N80 Enniscorthy – Carlow road and improvements to linkages from South-East region to the Midlands. Support the upgrading of the R693 and R 700, which provide important links to the M7/M8 and between the two Hubs of Wexford and Kilkenny. <i>All such projects will be required to comply with principles of sustainable development and to be assessed in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</i>
5.12	Planning Authorities should have regard to the National Roads Authority ‘ <i>Policy on Development Management and Access to National Roads</i> ’ (May 2006) when assessing planning applications where direct access onto the national road network is proposed or in the vicinity of existing and proposed junctions	Planning Authorities should have regard to the National Roads Authority ‘ <i>Policy on Development Management and Access to National Roads</i> ’ (May 2006) when assessing planning applications where direct access onto the national road network is proposed or in the vicinity of existing and proposed junctions
5.13	The Regional Authority will support the development of Rail and Land-Use Plan for the Rosslare – Limerick Railway line	The Regional Authority will support the <i>sustainable</i> development of Rail and Land-Use Plan for the Rosslare – Limerick Railway line.
5.14	The Regional Authority will seek to: Support the implementation of the priority rail improvements required for the region. Ensure that permitted development in urban rail corridors/nodes is high density and appropriate for public transport use (e.g. not warehousing or other activities with low employment intensity).	The Regional Authority will seek to: Support the implementation of the priority rail improvements required for the region. Ensure that permitted development in urban rail corridors/nodes is high density and appropriate for public transport use (e.g. not warehousing or other activities with low employment intensity). <i>Infrastructure improvements shall be carried out in accordance with best environmental engineering practise and appropriate site restoration</i> <i>All such projects will be required to comply with principles of sustainable development and be assessed where required in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</i>
5.15	Planning authorities whose functional areas include the larger commercial ports should consider the need to develop Local Area Plans for the ports through which their development can be co-ordinated. In this regard future Development Plan policy should identify and reserve key strategic sites for the further development of the ports.	Planning authorities whose functional areas include the larger commercial ports should consider the need to develop Local Area Plans for the ports through which their development can be co-ordinated. In this regard future Development Plan policy should identify and reserve key strategic sites for the further development of the ports. <i>All such projects and LAPS will be required to comply with principles of sustainable</i>

		development and to be assessed in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.
5.16	The Regional Authority will support the appropriate future development of the portal estate at Marshmeadows and subject to the findings of a Habitats Directive Assessment.	The Regional Authority will support the appropriate future development of the portal estate at Marshmeadows and subject to the findings of an Appropriate Assessment in compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive..
5.17	The Regional Authority will support the development of a modern, locally based fisheries industry to sustain local communities.	The Regional Authority will support the sustainable development of a modern, locally based fisheries industry to sustain local communities.
5.18	The Regional Authority will support the further development of South-East Regional Airport and, in particular, the development of: an extension of the existing runway to accommodate larger aircraft, improved transport linkages and services between the airport, Waterford City and the entire South-East Region, i.e. roads and public transport encourage additional operators offering services from this location the expansion and development of aviation-related industries at the airport.	The Regional Authority will support the further development of South-East Regional Airport and, in particular, the development of: an extension of the existing runway to accommodate larger aircraft, subject to an Appropriate Assessment of the impact on Tramore Back Strand SPA and to ensure avoidance of adverse impacts on the integrity of Tramore Back Strand SPA improved transport linkages and services between the airport, Waterford City and the entire South-East Region, i.e. roads and public transport encourage additional operators offering services from this location the expansion and development of aviation-related industries at the airport.
5.19	Development Plans should examine policies to protect longer-term, flight path public safety zones, and control uses which could adversely impact on the airport's operations or the potential for new runway development and extensions sufficient to handle larger aircraft to a wider variety of destinations.	Development Plans should examine policies to protect longer-term, flight path public safety zones, and control uses which could adversely impact on the airport's operations or the potential for new runway development and extensions sufficient to handle larger aircraft to a wider variety of destinations. All such projects at 5.18 and 5.19 will be required to comply with principles of sustainable development and to be assessed in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.
5.20	The Regional Authority will support the progressive introduction of policies aimed at achieving effective water conservation and minimisation of wastage.	The Regional Authority will support the progressive introduction of policies aimed at achieving effective water conservation and minimisation

		of wastage.
5.21	The Regional Authority will support the adoption of water pricing plans by each local authority in the region.	The Regional Authority will support the adoption of water pricing plans by each local authority in the region.
5.22	The Regional Authority will support the full implementation of the Water Framework Directive in conjunction with each Local Authority.	The Regional Authority will support the full implementation of the Water Framework Directive in conjunction with each Local Authority.
5.23	It is an objective of the Regional Authority to support the implementation of the Joint Waste Management Plan and will support the review of the Plan to ensure that its recommendations and objectives comply with the Regional Development Strategy for the South-East.	It is an objective of the Regional Authority to support the implementation of the Joint Waste Management Plan and will support the review of the Plan to ensure that its recommendations and objectives comply with the Regional Development Strategy for the South-East.
5.24	Local authorities in the region should ensure that the majority of the recycling and recovery infrastructure recommended in the Joint Waste Management Plan be provided before 2013.	Local authorities in the region should ensure that the majority of the recycling and recovery infrastructure recommended in the Joint Waste Management Plan be provided before 2013.
5.25	Local authorities in the South-East Region should incorporate energy from waste into the overall local authority waste management strategy.	Local authorities in the South-East Region should incorporate energy from waste into the overall local authority waste management strategy.
6.1	<p>The Regional Authority will support the provision of telecommunications infrastructure in the following areas:</p> <p>To support the provision of dark fibre on a regional and inter-regional basis at price levels closely related to costs.</p> <p>To facilitate the deployment of competitive broadband access technologies.</p> <p>To ensure that a high percentage of local telephone exchanges are equipped with fibre to facilitate DSL rollout.</p> <p>To encourage measures to stimulate demand for, and take-up of, broadband services.</p>	<p>The Regional Authority will support the provision of telecommunications infrastructure in the following areas:</p> <p>To support the provision of dark fibre on a regional and inter-regional basis at price levels closely related to costs.</p> <p>To facilitate the deployment of competitive broadband access technologies.</p> <p>To ensure that a high percentage of local telephone exchanges are equipped with fibre to facilitate DSL rollout.</p> <p>To encourage measures to stimulate demand for, and take-up of, broadband services.</p>
6.2	The Regional Planning Guidelines will support the provision of the most effective broadband services to all communities in the Region. In this context, each Planning Authority should co-operate in the roll out of the National Broadband Scheme and in the provision of antennae and telecommunications equipment at appropriate locations.	The Regional Planning Guidelines will support the provision of the most effective broadband services to all communities in the Region. In this context, each Planning Authority should co-operate in the roll out of the National Broadband Scheme and in the provision of antennae and telecommunications equipment at appropriate locations.
6.3	It is an objective of the Regional Authority that Local Authorities, the private sector, energy production and supply companies are	It is an objective of the Regional Authority that Local Authorities, the private sector, energy production and

	<p>encouraged to formulate sustainable energy policies and practices which seek to:</p> <p>ensure security of energy supply in order to support economic and social development; source energy at a price that does not adversely affect competitiveness; develop variable and alternative sources of energy generation; maximise the use of renewable energy technologies; promote a culture of energy conservation by all users; assist the development of indigenous sustainable energy enterprises.</p>	<p>supply companies are encouraged to formulate sustainable energy policies and practices which seek to:</p> <p>ensure security of energy supply in order to support economic and social development; source energy at a price that does not adversely affect competitiveness; develop variable and alternative sources of energy generation; maximise the use of renewable energy technologies; promote a culture of energy conservation by all users; assist the development of indigenous sustainable energy enterprises.</p>
6.4	The Regional Authority supports the development of Joint Wind Energy and Environmental Strategies.	The Regional Authority supports the development of Joint Wind Energy and Environmental Strategies.
6.5	The Regional Authority supports the development and expansion of the GRID network as set out in the GRID 25 Strategic Plan and future connections to renewable sources of energy.	The Regional Authority supports the sustainable development and expansion of the GRID network and future connections to renewable sources of energy, subject to appropriate assessment of all necessary environmental considerations.
6.6	It is an objective of the Regional Authority to support the extension of the Bord Gáis network to Belview and to County Wexford and other centres of industry	It is an objective of the Regional Authority to support the extension of the Bord Gáis network to Belview and to County Wexford and other centres of industry. All such projects will be required to comply with principles of sustainable development and to be assessed in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.
6.7	The Regional Authority will support the development of Hydro Energy generation initiatives.	The Regional Authority will support the sustainable development of Hydro Energy generation initiatives.
6.8	The Regional Authority will support the development of renewable energy technology.	The Regional Authority will support the sustainable development of renewable energy technology.
6.9	The Regional Authority will support the development of micro-renewable electrical generation technology.	The Regional Authority will support the development of micro-renewable electrical generation technology.
6.10	The Regional Authority will implement the <i>South-East Region Bioenergy Implementation Plan</i> in partnership with local authorities and other agencies	The Regional Authority will implement the <i>South-East Region Bioenergy Implementation Plan</i> in partnership with local authorities and other agencies
6.11	The Regional Authority will support the implementation of aspects of the Building Energy Directive and Energy Labelling.	The Regional Authority will support the implementation of aspects of the Building Energy Directive and Energy Labelling.

6.12	The Regional Authority will support the implementation of the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan.	The Regional Authority will support the implementation of the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan.
6.13	The Regional Authority will continue to support the work of the four Local / Regional Energy Agencies within the South-East Region.	The Regional Authority will continue to support the work of the four Local / Regional Energy Agencies within the South-East Region.
6.14	It is an objective of the Regional Authority to develop a Climate Change Action Plan for the South-East Region in partnership with Local Authorities, Local Energy Agencies and other stakeholders.	It is an objective of the Regional Authority to develop a Climate Change Action Plan for the South-East Region in partnership with Local Authorities, Local Energy Agencies and other stakeholders.
6.15	It is an objective of the Regional Authority to support the development of Local Climate Change Strategies by the Local Authorities.	It is an objective of the Regional Authority to support the development of Local Climate Change Strategies by the Local Authorities.
7.1	Planning Authorities should provide for their continuing development needs of Hospitals and Healthcare facilities.	Planning Authorities should provide for their continuing development needs of Hospitals and Healthcare facilities.
7.2	Planning Authorities should provide for the provision of community facilities through Local Area Plans.	Planning Authorities should provide for the provision of community facilities through Local Area Plans.
7.3	Development Plans and Local Area Plans should have regard to the needs of existing and developing communities in relation to the reservation of lands for school building and extension projects. Sites for new schools should be reserved as close as possible to community facilities and where appropriate the identification of multi-school campus locations should be considered. The size of sites to be reserved for new schools will be dependant on the level of education and the population to be served and with standards set out by the Department of Education and Science Circular SP3/08 – <i>'The Provision of Schools and the Planning System'</i> .	Development Plans and Local Area Plans should have regard to the needs of existing and developing communities in relation to the reservation of lands for school building and extension projects. Sites for new schools should be reserved as close as possible to community facilities and where appropriate the identification of multi-school campus locations should be considered. The size of sites to be reserved for new schools will be dependant on the level of education and the population to be served and with standards set out by the Department of Education and Science Circular SP3/08 – <i>'The Provision of Schools and the Planning System'</i> .
7.4	Local authorities should seek to assist in the retention of rural schools through implementation of the Regional Planning Guidelines' Regional Settlement Strategy.	Local authorities should seek to assist in the retention of rural schools through implementation of the Regional Planning Guidelines' Regional Settlement Strategy.
7.5	The Regional Authority supports development of improved public library services throughout the South-East Region.	The Regional Authority supports development of improved public library services throughout the South-East Region.
7.6	Development Plans and Local Area Plans should have regard to the needs of existing and developing communities in relation to the reservation of lands for leisure facilities. Sites for new leisure facilities should be reserved as	Development Plans and Local Area Plans should have regard to the needs of existing and developing communities in relation to the reservation of lands for leisure

	close as possible to community facilities and where appropriate the identification of shared facility locations should be considered.	facilities. Sites for new leisure facilities should be reserved as close as possible to community facilities and where appropriate the identification of shared facility locations should be considered.
7.7	The City and County Development Boards should be proactively involved in the formulation of development plan policies vis-à-vis marginalised groups.	The City and County Development Boards should be proactively involved in the formulation of development plan policies vis-à-vis marginalised groups.
7.8	The City and County Development Boards should be proactively involved in the formulation of development plan policies vis-à-vis marginalised groups.	The City and County Development Boards should be proactively involved in the formulation of development plan policies vis-à-vis marginalised groups.
7.9	Planning Authorities should identify and reserve locations for community facilities and such facilities should be grouped in or adjoining residential areas, general business areas or town centres, dependent on the support population required to warrant provision of a particular facility.	Planning Authorities should identify and reserve locations for community facilities and such facilities should be grouped in or adjoining residential areas, general business areas or town centres, dependent on the support population required to warrant provision of a particular facility.
8.1	Planning Authorities should develop policies that identify clearly: Environmental and Heritage resources that are to be maintained, conserved and enhanced and integrated in any development proposals involving these sites. Proposals for environmental enhancement in towns and villages and in rural areas. The means by which potential impacts on environmental resources are to be mitigated (for example, through design, compensation and phasing).	Planning Authorities should develop policies that identify clearly: Environmental and Heritage resources that are to be maintained, conserved and enhanced and integrated in any development proposals involving these sites. Proposals for environmental enhancement in towns and villages and in rural areas. The means by which potential impacts on environmental resources are to be avoided and mitigated (for example, through design, compensation and phasing).
8.2	Planning Authorities should ensure that all development plans take a holistic and integrated approach to heritage and protect all relevant aspects of national heritage, including archaeological, built, cultural, natural and linguistic heritage.	Planning Authorities should ensure that all development plans take a holistic and integrated approach to heritage and protect all relevant aspects of national heritage, including archaeological, built, cultural, natural and linguistic heritage.
8.3	Local authorities in the region should liaise closely with neighbouring authorities with regard to the preparation and delivery of County Heritage Plans and Local Biodiversity Plans to ensure consistency in emphasis and approach across administrative boundaries.	Local authorities in the region should liaise closely with neighbouring authorities with regard to the preparation and delivery of County Heritage Plans and Local Biodiversity Plans to ensure consistency in emphasis and approach across administrative boundaries.
8.4	Planning Authorities should include objectives for the preservation of the character of the landscape within Development Plans in accordance with the provisions of the Planning Acts and should take cognisance of EU Report from the European Landscape Character Assessment Initiative.	Planning Authorities should include objectives for the preservation of the character of the landscape within Development Plans in accordance with the provisions of the Planning Acts and should take cognisance of EU Report from the European

		Landscape Character Assessment Initiative.
8.5	<p>Planning Authorities should devise strategies for managing development and other activities in order to achieve the objectives of the relevant River Basin District Management Plans. Local authorities should ensure that common approaches are taken to the protection of surface and underground water bodies. These approaches should, inter alia, ensure that –</p> <p>The impact of developments on water bodies outside the jurisdiction of the individual authorities are considered when decisions on discharges and water extraction are being made;</p> <p>Developments do not interfere with the attainment of the standards required by the Water Framework Directive; and</p> <p>Joint actions are taken to positively address the attainment of the standards required by the Water Framework Directive.</p>	<p>Planning Authorities should devise strategies for managing development and other activities in order to achieve the objectives of the relevant River Basin District Management Plans. Local authorities should ensure that common approaches are taken to the protection of surface and underground water bodies. These approaches should, inter alia, ensure that –</p> <p>The impact of developments on water bodies outside the jurisdiction of the individual authorities are considered when decisions on discharges and water extraction are being made;</p> <p>Developments do not interfere with the attainment of the standards required by the Water Framework Directive; and</p> <p>Joint actions are taken to positively address the attainment of the standards required by the Water Framework Directive.</p>
8.6	<p>Planning Authorities should provide for the following biodiversity objectives through County, City and Local Area Development Plans: -</p> <p>Protect natural heritage sites designated National and European legislation, and in other relevant International Conventions, Agreements and Processes (e.g. Ramsar sites, special protection areas, special areas of conservation, natural heritage areas and statutory nature reserves).</p> <p>Ensure that development does not have a significant adverse impact, incapable of satisfactory mitigation, on plant, animal or bird species protected by law. The Habitats Directive Assessment as outlined in Section 11.9 has relevance in this regard.</p> <p>Encourage and promote access to natural heritage, geological and geomorphological systems, sites and features.</p> <p>Implement the actions as set out in the <i>National Biodiversity Plan</i> and <i>Ireland's Strategy for Plant Conservation</i>.</p> <p>Restore the rivers of the region to the highest salmonid quality status by 2015.</p> <p>Adopt and implement Biodiversity Action Plans at local level.</p> <p>Initiate local campaigns for biodiversity promotion such as native tree planting schemes, creation of wildlife refuges, wetlands creation etc. across the region.</p>	<p>Planning Authorities should provide for the following biodiversity objectives through County, City and Local Area Development Plans: -</p> <p>Protect natural heritage sites designated or proposed for designation in National and European legislation, and in other relevant International Conventions, Agreements and Processes (e.g. Ramsar sites, special protection areas, special areas of conservation, natural heritage areas and statutory nature reserves).</p> <p>Ensure that development does not have a significant adverse impact, incapable of satisfactory mitigation, on plant, animal or bird species protected by law. The Habitats Directive Assessment as outlined in Section 11.9 has relevance in this regard.</p> <p>Encourage and promote access to natural heritage, geological and geomorphological systems, sites and features.</p> <p>Implement the actions as set out in the <i>National Biodiversity Plan</i> and <i>Ireland's Strategy for Plant Conservation</i>.</p> <p>Restore the rivers of the region to the highest salmonid quality status by 2015.</p> <p>Adopt and implement Biodiversity Action Plans at local level.</p> <p>Initiate local campaigns for biodiversity promotion such as native tree planting schemes, creation of wildlife refuges, wetlands creation</p>

		etc. across the region.
8.7	It is an objective of the Regional Authority to prepare a Waterway Corridor Study for the Barrow, Nore and Suir in conjunction with the relevant public bodies.	It is an objective of the Regional Authority to prepare a Waterway Corridor Study for the Barrow, Nore and Suir in conjunction with the relevant public bodies.
8.8	<p>Planning Authorities should ensure that River Management Policies should be an integral part of Development Plans and cover all waterways considered as a natural resource requiring protection and development. The following mechanisms for protection of the aquatic environment could be considered for inclusion in development plans:-</p> <p>River Corridor Management Areas which provide for the protection and development of the aquatic environment (particularly within towns and cities).</p> <p>The identification and creation of linier parks along waterways incorporating preservation of the Riparian Zone along waterways.</p>	<p>Planning Authorities should ensure that River Management Policies should be an integral part of Development Plans and cover all waterways considered as a natural resource requiring protection and development. The following mechanisms for protection of the aquatic environment could be considered for inclusion in development plans:-</p> <p>River Corridor Management Areas which provide for the protection and sustainable development of the aquatic environment (particularly within towns and cities).</p> <p>The identification and creation of linear parks along waterways incorporating preservation of the Riparian Zone along waterways and subject to compliance with Article 6 and Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</p>
8.9	Planning Authorities are obliged under Section 10 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 to include objectives in their development plans in relation to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas.	Planning Authorities are obliged under Section 10 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 to include objectives in their development plans in relation to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas.
8.10	Development Plans should implement in full the policies set out in: <i>Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Architectural Heritage Protection.</i>	Development Plans should implement in full the policies set out in: <i>Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Architectural Heritage Protection.</i>
8.11	Development Plans should implement in full the policies set out in: <i>Government Policy on Architecture 2009-2015 Towards a Sustainable Future: Delivering Quality within the Built Environment.</i>	Development Plans should implement in full the policies set out in: <i>Government Policy on Architecture 2009-2015 Towards a Sustainable Future: Delivering Quality within the Built Environment.</i>
8.12	Planning Authorities should have regard to the emerging DoEHLG consolidated <i>National Monuments Bill</i> , in particular to the provisions of a new system for the identification, registration and conservation of historic landscapes.	Planning Authorities should have regard to the emerging DoEHLG consolidated <i>National Monuments Bill</i> , in particular to the provisions of a new system for the identification, registration and conservation of historic landscapes.
8.13	Planning Authorities should adopt policies that:- Preserve and protect all protected archaeological sites and monuments and their	Planning Authorities should adopt policies that:- Preserve and protect all protected archaeological sites and monuments

	<p>settings to a degree appropriate to the need to safeguard their historic integrity.</p> <p>Take cognisance of the fact that many other sites may remain beneath the surface (or underwater) and possibly may become uncovered following development/excavation work.</p> <p>Promote access to, and public awareness of, archaeological sites and National Monuments.</p>	<p>and their settings to a degree appropriate to the need to safeguard their historic integrity.</p> <p>Take cognisance of the fact that many other sites may remain beneath the surface (or underwater) and possibly may become uncovered following development/excavation work.</p> <p>Promote access to, and public awareness of, archaeological sites and National Monuments.</p>
8.14	<p>It is an objective of the Regional Authority that the linguistic and cultural heritage of the area should be promoted through the following policies:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the use of Irish in the gaeltacht area in the home, schools and in the workplace. • Develop specific language planning objectives to establish and strengthen Irish speaking social networks and Irish-medium institutions. • Undertake linguistic impact studies where necessary to mitigate against possible negative impacts of medium/large scale development proposals being brought forward within or immediately abutting the established Gaeltacht areas. • Priorities should focus on accommodating the natural growth of the indigenous populations, protecting the linguistic and distinct cultural heritage of the area and promoting appropriate economic development which would sustain the area. <p>Planning Authorities across the region should take cognisance of the need to preserve placenames at local level through appropriate policies to guide the naming of streets, estates and other developments.</p>	<p>It is an objective of the Regional Authority that the linguistic and cultural heritage of the area should be promoted through the following policies:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the use of Irish in the gaeltacht area in the home, schools and in the workplace. • Develop specific language planning objectives to establish and strengthen Irish speaking social networks and Irish-medium institutions. • Undertake linguistic impact studies where necessary to mitigate against possible negative impacts of medium/large scale development proposals being brought forward within or immediately abutting the established Gaeltacht areas. • Priorities should focus on accommodating the natural growth of the indigenous populations, protecting the linguistic and distinct cultural heritage of the area and promoting appropriate economic development which would sustain the area. <p>Planning Authorities across the region should take cognisance of the need to preserve placenames at local level through appropriate policies to guide the naming of streets, estates and other developments.</p>
8.15	<p>Each local authority should prepare an inventory of significant recreational and amenity assets within their functional areas as part of the Development Plan process.</p>	<p>Each local authority should prepare an inventory of significant recreational and amenity assets within their functional areas as part of the Development Plan process.</p>
8.16	<p>Local Authorities should include policies in their development plans to:-</p> <p>Protect and enhance the natural heritage and landscape character of river and stream corridors and valleys to maintain them free from inappropriate development, and to provide public access where feasible and appropriate.</p> <p>Preserve and improve access for the public to riverside, lakeside, upland and other areas that have been traditionally been used for outdoor recreation.</p> <p>Maintain and promote access to beaches and the seashore as an essential component of recreational and tourist amenity.</p>	<p>Local Authorities should include policies in their development plans to:-</p> <p>Protect and enhance the natural heritage and landscape character of river and stream corridors and valleys to maintain them free from inappropriate development, and to provide public access where feasible and appropriate.</p> <p>Preserve and improve access where environmentally appropriate for the public to riverside, lakeside, upland and other areas that have been</p>

	<p>Investigate and promote, where appropriate, the leisure and amenity potential of the inland waterways of the region particularly in line with the tourism industry.</p> <p>Co-operate with other Regions to develop the full potential of inland waterways as a common objective.</p>	<p>traditionally been used for outdoor recreation.</p> <p>Maintain and promote access where environmentally appropriate to beaches and the seashore as an essential component of recreational and tourist amenity.</p> <p>Investigate and promote, where environmentally appropriate, the leisure and amenity potential of the inland waterways of the region particularly in line with the tourism industry.</p> <p>Co-operate with other Regions to develop the full potential of inland waterways as a common objective.</p>
8.17	<p>The Regional Authority will support the examination and consideration by Local Authorities of ways to improve access to the countryside for informal recreational purposes such as walking, cycling and horse riding and promote the development of walkways and access to upland areas. Areas like the Comeragh, Knockmealdown and Galtee Mountains should be managed and promoted as a national amenity and should be the subject of Integrated Management Planning</p>	<p>The Regional Authority will support the examination and consideration by Local Authorities of ways to improve access to the countryside for informal recreational purposes such as walking, cycling and horse riding and promote the development of walkways and access to upland areas. Areas like the Blackstairs, Comeragh, Knockmealdown, and Galtee Mountains and Slievenamon should be managed and promoted as a national amenity and should be the subject of Integrated Management Planning. Amenity development in European Sites should be subject to Appropriate Assessment to determine their impacts on SACs and SPAs.</p>
8.18	<p>Planning Authorities should:</p> <p>Ensure that the future provision of residential developments, or mixed use schemes with a residential element, should be consistent with the policies and recommendations of the <i>Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas - Guidelines for Planning Authorities</i> (DoEHLG, 2008) and the <i>Best Practice Urban Design Manual</i> (DoEHLG, 2008) with regard to the quantity and quality of public and private open space provision.</p> <p>Have a presumption in favour of the retention and enhancement of existing sports and recreation facilities.</p> <p>Retain historic open spaces such as squares/riverside walks.</p> <p>Identify areas within urban centres, particularly those selected for future development in the settlement strategy, for the provision of public open spaces for both passive and active recreation.</p> <p>Where appropriate, in association with relevant Government Departments, ensure the provision of an adequate range of both outdoor and indoor recreational facilities in centres to cater for expected population demand.</p> <p>Locate areas of open spaces, recreation and sports facilities, especially such facilities in urban locations, within easy access by walking and cycling.</p> <p>Locate larger facilities likely to attract significant numbers of people and to be</p>	<p>Planning Authorities should:</p> <p>Ensure that the future provision of residential developments, or mixed use schemes with a residential element, should be consistent with the policies and recommendations of the <i>Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas - Guidelines for Planning Authorities</i> (DoEHLG, 2008) and the <i>Best Practice Urban Design Manual</i> (DoEHLG, 2008) with regard to the quantity and quality of public and private open space provision.</p> <p>Have a presumption in favour of the retention and enhancement of existing sports and recreation facilities.</p> <p>Retain historic open spaces such as squares/riverside walks.</p> <p>Identify areas within urban centres, particularly those selected for future development in the settlement strategy, for the provision of public open spaces for both passive and active recreation.</p> <p>Where appropriate, in association with relevant Government Departments, ensure the provision of an adequate range of both outdoor and indoor recreational facilities in centres to cater for expected population demand.</p>

	intensive trip generators, on routes well served by public transport.	Locate areas of open spaces, recreation and sports facilities, especially such facilities in urban locations, within easy access by walking and cycling. Locate larger facilities likely to attract significant numbers of people and to be intensive trip generators, on routes well served by public transport.
8.19	It is recommended that the coastal authorities (Counties Wexford and Waterford) and the South-East Regional Authority co-operate to develop an ICZM plan in consultation with government departments, stakeholders and other interested parties having regard to the development of a National Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Strategy. Such a plan should seek to co-ordinate and encourage co-operation between all agencies and authorities using the coastal zone in the region. The <i>'Review on ICZM and Principles of Best Practice'</i> document produced by The Heritage Council in 2004 may assist in this regard.	It is recommended that the coastal authorities (Counties Wexford and Waterford) and the South-East Regional Authority co-operate to develop an ICZM plan in consultation with government departments, stakeholders and other interested parties having regard to the development of a National Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Strategy. Such a plan should seek to co-ordinate and encourage co-operation between all agencies and authorities using the coastal zone in the region. The <i>'Review on ICZM and Principles of Best Practice'</i> document produced by The Heritage Council in 2004 may assist in this regard.
8.20	Local Authority Development Plans shall then, as appropriate, include the relevant policies and objectives of the Regional Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan.	Local Authority Development Plans shall then, as appropriate, include the relevant policies and objectives of the Regional Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan.
8.21	Local authorities should ensure elements of archaeological, architectural and other cultural significance are identified, retained and interpreted, and whenever possible and subject to resources, the knowledge is placed in the public domain.	Local authorities should ensure elements of archaeological, architectural and other cultural significance are identified, retained and interpreted, and whenever possible and subject to resources, the knowledge is placed in the public domain.
9.1	It is an objective of the Regional Planning Guidelines that in the writing of future Development and Local Area Plans local authorities will: Identify and consider at the earliest stages in the planning process flood hazard and potential risk. Identify flood risk areas on the Development Plan and Local Area Plan maps. Review existing Development Plans and Local Area Plans to ensure that issue of Flood Risk has been addressed in a manner consistent with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines. Where lands are already zoned for housing or other vulnerable development in the flood risk areas, local authorities should undertake a re-examination of the zoning in accordance with the sequential approach. Include policies which ensure that flood risk	It is an objective of the Regional Planning Guidelines that in the writing of future Development and Local Area Plans local authorities will: Identify and consider at the earliest stages in the planning process flood hazard and potential risk. Identify flood risk areas on the Development Plan and Local Area Plan maps. Review existing Development Plans and Local Area Plans to ensure that issue of Flood Risk has been addressed in a manner consistent with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines. Where lands are already zoned for housing or other vulnerable

	<p>areas targeted for development following the sequential approach should be planned, designed and constructed to reduce and manage flood risk and be adaptable to changes in climate.</p> <p>Include policies to ensure that flood risk and impact is considered as a key element in the assessment of future waste and mineral planning strategies and developments.</p> <p>Include policies that ensure that the location of key infrastructures will be subject to FRA.</p> <p>Include policies on the importance of the inclusion of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) in future developments in accordance with the Draft Flooding Guidance.</p>	<p>development in the flood risk areas, local authorities should undertake a re-examination of the zoning in accordance with the sequential approach.</p> <p>Include policies which ensure that flood risk areas targeted for development following the sequential approach should be planned, designed and constructed to reduce and manage flood risk and be adaptable to changes in climate.</p> <p>Include policies to ensure that flood risk and impact is considered as a key element in the assessment of future waste and mineral planning strategies and developments.</p> <p>Include policies that ensure that the location of key infrastructures will be subject to FRA.</p> <p>Include policies on the importance of the inclusion of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) in future developments in accordance with the Draft Flooding Guidance.</p>
9.2	Flood risk be managed pro-actively at all stages in the planning process avoiding development in flood risk areas where possible and by reducing the causes of flooding to and from existing and future development	Flood risk be managed pro-actively at all stages in the planning process avoiding development in flood risk areas where possible and by reducing the causes of flooding to and from existing and future development
9.3	New development should be avoided in areas at risk from flooding. Alongside this, the Regional Flood Risk Appraisal recognises the need for continuing investment and development within the urban centres of flood vulnerable designated growth towns and Waterford City and for this to take place in tandem with the completion of CFRAM studies and investment in comprehensive flood protection and management.	New development should be avoided in areas at risk from flooding. Alongside this, the Regional Flood Risk Appraisal recognises the need for continuing investment and development within the urban centres of flood vulnerable designated growth towns and Waterford City and for this to take place in tandem with the completion of CFRAM studies and investment in comprehensive flood protection and management.
9.4	Development and Local Area Plans shall include a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and all future zoning of land for development in areas at risk of flooding should follow the sequential approach set out in the Department Guidance on Flood Risk Management.	Development and Local Area Plans shall include a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and all future zoning of land for development in areas at risk of flooding should follow the sequential approach set out in the Department Guidance on Flood Risk Management.
9.5	Local authorities should take the opportunities presented when including policies and actions in development plans/LAPs (such as flood plain protection and SUDS) to optimise improvements in biodiversity and amenity for existing and future developments.	Local authorities should take the opportunities presented when including policies and actions in development plans/LAPs (such as flood plain protection and SUDS) to optimise improvements in biodiversity and amenity for existing and future developments.

9.6	Key infrastructure suppliers should assess current elements and stress test future projects against flood risk, where this has not been previously undertaken	Key infrastructure suppliers should assess current elements and stress test future projects against flood risk, where this has not been previously undertaken.
9.7	<p>Local Authorities should pursue the following actions/indicators required for Regional Flood Risk Appraisal in their area:</p> <p>100% completion, in co-operation with all local authorities in the South-East, of CFRAM studies covering the Region by 2016, including a review of long term flood risk management options and consideration of appropriate land use policies.</p> <p>All local authorities to have completed SFRAS for all Development and Local Area Plans by 2016.</p> <p>The proportion of new housing land located in lands classified as Flood Zone A or B would decrease to a minimal level during lifetime of the Regional Planning Guidelines.</p> <p>Inclusion in Development Plan of policies and objectives on requiring non-sensitive uses and designs which provide flood protection for ground floors of buildings in flood vulnerable locations within existing urban centres.</p>	<p>Local Authorities should pursue the following actions/indicators required for Regional Flood Risk Appraisal in their area:</p> <p>100% completion, in co-operation with all local authorities in the South-East, of CFRAM studies covering the Region by 2016, including a review of long term flood risk management options and consideration of appropriate land use policies.</p> <p>All local authorities to have completed SFRAS for all Development and Local Area Plans by 2016.</p> <p>The proportion of new housing land located in lands classified as Flood Zone A or B would decrease to a minimal level during lifetime of the Regional Planning Guidelines.</p> <p>Inclusion in Development Plan of policies and objectives on requiring non-sensitive uses and designs which provide flood protection for ground floors of buildings in flood vulnerable locations within existing urban centres.</p>
A7, A8,D6,D7, 4.2, 5.1,5.2,5.236.10,6.128.38.7,8.10, 8.11,8.18,8.19,9.3,9.4	These policies support implementation of other policy documents, guidance and strategies	Insert in section 8.9 Support of policies contained in other policy/strategy and guidelines documents shall be subject to AA screening where required and prior to implementation and adoption by local authorities in the region..

Appendix 2.

Regional Population Targets for the State and the South-East Region 2010, 2016 and 2022 (Waterford City, Wexford and Kilkenny supplied by DEHLG, 2009) and Agglomeration (current load generated) and Plant (design capacity) Population Equivalents (EPA 2009)

	2006	2010	2016	2022	Agglom. P.E.	Plant P.E.
State	4,422,000	4,584,900	4,997,000	5,375,200		
SE Region	487,800	507,900	542,200	580,500		
Waterford City & Environs	49,213	52,500	56,500	62,500		
Waterford City	45,748	48,500	51,000	55,000		140,000
Carlow County	50,349	56,155	59,451	63,536		
Carlow Town	20,724	22,126	23,768	25,000	33,000	36,000
Kilkenny City	22,179	24,000	25,800	28,200		
Kilkenny	87,558	96,872	105,598	111,903	107,650	107,650
South Tipperary	83,221	91,302	96,863	104,483		
Clonmel	17,008	20,750	23,000	25,000	40,000	40,000
Waterford	62,213	68,932	73,223	79,495		
Dungarvan	8,362	10,000	11,600	13,400	13,000	20,000
Wexford Town	18,163	21,000	23,500	26,700	17,000	45,000
Wexford	131,749	146,139	156,065	166,083		

Appendix 3. Projected Housing/Zoning Requirements for Settlements

Settlement	Population inc. 2010-2016 (Based on Minimum Pop Targets)	Total No. Residential Units required over period 2010-2016	Total zoned housing land required over period 2010-2016 (incorporating 50% over zoning in accordance with DEHLG Development Plan Guidelines)
Carlow	1,642	566	42ha
Clonmel	2,250 ₂	803	60ha
Dungarvan	1,600 ₃	571	43ha
Kilkenny	1,800 *	642	48ha
Waterford City	2,500*	961	72 ha
Waterford City environs (Co. Kilkenny)	1,000*	357	27 ha
Waterford City environs (Co. waterford)	500*	179	13ha
Wexford	2,500 *	892	67ha
TOTAL	13,792	4,971 units	372ha

* Based on DoEHLG Minimum Population Targets, August 2009

Appendix 4 Circular PD7/09



Comhshaoil, Oidhreacht agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Heritage and Local Government



16th July 2009

Circular PD 7/09

Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations S.I. No. 684 of 2007

A Chara,

This circular sets out certain obligations on planning authorities under the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007 (SI 684 of 2007) as well as the interrelationship between these requirements and investment plans under the Department's Water Services Investment Programme. This circular is advisory, and not a legal interpretation of the Regulations.

Background

The Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007 were introduced to, among other things, provide for an authorisation/licensing regime for local authority waste water discharges. The Regulations were part of a range of measures implemented in response to an adverse judgment of the European Court of Justice, in Case C-282/02, concerning Ireland's transposition and implementation of the Dangerous Substances Directive 76/464/EEC (June 2005).

Local authorities and An Bord Pleanála will be aware that Part VIII of the 2007 Regulations establishes a clear linkage between decisions that they make as planning authorities on individual planning applications/appeals, and parallel obligations on local authorities, as water services authorities, to comply with emission limits for the discharge of wastewaters to water bodies arising from the stricter of either or both the Urban Waste Water Regulations (S.I. No. 254 of 2001) and emission limits based on achieving the environmental quality standards for the receiving waters, defined as the "Combined Approach¹" under article 3 of the 2007 Regulations. The EPA is required under the Waste Water Regulations to apply the combined approach when issuing licences, ensuring that the licence issued and discharge limits set therein comply in full with the requirements of the EU Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive.

¹ "combined approach", in relation to a waste water works, means the control of discharges and emissions to waters whereby the emission limits for the discharge are established on the basis of the stricter of either or both, the limits and controls required under the Urban Waste Water Regulations, and the limits determined under statute or Directive for the purpose of achieving the environmental objectives established for surface waters, groundwater or protected areas for the water body into which the discharge is made.

The effect of the 2007 Regulations is such that planning authorities must assure themselves that in approving development that would give rise to additional discharges to a waste water works or from storm water overflows governed by EPA licences, such discharges, taken in conjunction with discharges from other existing and/or already approved development, are capable of being treated in a manner that is compliant with the stricter of the requirements of:

1. The Urban Waste Water Regulations; or
2. The requirements of an EPA licence (which should already incorporate the requirements at (1) above) and which may incorporate more demanding requirements than (1) above depending on the assimilative capacity and the environmental quality objectives that have been established for the receiving waters in question.

At the same time, a programme of investment in water services infrastructure across the country is being implemented under the Department's Water Services Investment Programme to ensure that infrastructure is in place to both facilitate proper planning and sustainable development and to protect the environment, especially water quality, in compliance with national and EU requirements.

Obligations on Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála

Article 43 of the 2007 Regulations requires that where a planning authority or An Bord Pleanála is considering an application for permission, an appeal or an application for approval under Section 34, 37, 37E, 175 or 226 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 for development which involves the disposal of waste water to a waste water works or is considering such a development under Section 179 of the 2000 Act, the authority or the Board must consider whether the discharges of wastewater from the proposed development, taken in conjunction with existing and/or already approved discharges, would cause non-compliance with the Combined Approach referred to above.

Therefore, an assessment of the adequacy of wastewater collection and disposal facilities to cater for the development proposed is now an essential requirement and a material consideration in the evaluation by planning authorities and the Board of applications for permission, in determining appeals or applications for approval of the types mentioned above and documentary evidence of, or reference to such an assessment must be attached to the relevant file.

Article 43 of the 2007 Regulations also requires that where a planning authority or the Board forms an opinion that the discharge from a proposed development would result in non-compliance with, or a significant breach of the combined approach, the planning authority or the Board shall, as the case may be:

- (a) refuse permission or approval for the development;

- (b) impose conditions on any grant of permission or approval to ensure that the discharge will not cause non-compliance with, or a significant breach of, relevant limits; or
- (c) decide not to proceed with the development (as in the case of local authority own development).

Article 44 of the 2007 Regulations provides that where a planning authority, including An Bord Pleanála, considers a proposed development is likely to have a significant impact on waste water discharges, it may request the EPA to provide observations in relation to the planning authority's assessment of the likely impact of the proposed development on discharges. The EPA must comply with any such request and, in making its decision, the planning authority or the Board shall have regard to the Agency's observations.

Considerations in dealing with planning applications

The EPA has indicated that in the ongoing programme of licensing of discharges from each municipal wastewater treatment plant, one or other of the following scenarios will arise -

- (1) there will be plants where discharges will be compliant with the terms of their waste water discharge license on the grant of the licence; and
- (2) there will be plants where discharges will not be immediately compliant with the terms of waste water discharge licences and where the licence includes a specified improvement programme and timeframe for the necessary remedial measures or works to be executed.

When considering proposed developments in locations where scenario 1 applies, planning authorities should monitor the cumulative effect of grants of permissions and approvals on available wastewater treatment capacity under the terms of the work's licence. In cases subject to applications or appeals to An Bord Pleanála, the cumulative assessment referred to above must form part of the documentation submitted to the Board. It is then a matter for the planning authority or the Board to decide on particular applications in the normal manner, having regard to the effects of the extra loadings of the proposed development on available wastewater facilities, and any EPA observations.

In relation to proposed developments in locations where scenario 2 applies, planning authorities and the Board should assess the impact of any proposed development very carefully and should either:

- (a) avoid approving development that would create significant additional loadings on existing wastewater treatment works or storm water overflows that are already evidently struggling to meet the current terms of the waste water discharge licence and where upgraded facilities will take considerable time to put in place; or

(b) consider granting permission where suitably upgraded facilities will be procured, within a reasonable timescale that would allow the development proposed to proceed, in accordance with the specified improvement programme timeframe for compliance with the emission limit values in the relevant EPA discharge licence and ensuring that the requirements of the “combined approach” will be met.

In addition, planning authorities should only consider granting permission under paragraph (b) above where the development proposed is otherwise in accordance with the implementation of –

- the National Spatial Strategy;
 - any Regional Planning Guidelines in force;
 - the provisions of the relevant development plan and any local area plan; and
- will contribute towards the longer term proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Interaction between planning authorities and water services authorities

It is crucially important, in situations where waste water treatment works receive discharges from more than one water services authority area, that regular and effective co-ordination takes place between planning authorities regarding (a) tracking the cumulative impact of ongoing grants of planning permission on remaining waste water treatment capacity and storm water overflow discharges, and (b) compliance with the combined approach referred to above and the terms of relevant EPA waste water discharge licences.

The EPA normally require, as a standard condition on waste water discharge licences, that water services authorities submit an Annual Environmental Report (AER) in respect of each discharge licence, detailing any increase in discharges and further planning consents that have accrued since the previous AER was submitted, taking account of the overall requirement to comply with the licence conditions.

Taking account of the above, the planning authorities that share the use of one or more wastewater treatment facilities must nominate one central co-ordinating planning authority to monitor the cumulative impact of the granting of planning permissions for future development on the remaining wastewater treatment capacity, and co-operate with that authority in submitting information on relevant planning decisions. Use of Geographical Information Systems and real time relay of information would be desirable in this type of co-ordination.

Investment in Water Services Infrastructure

Mindful of the implications of the 2007 Regulations in facilitating proper planning and sustainable development, the Department is focused on working pro-actively with water services authorities and investing in enhanced water services infrastructure in areas of greatest need from an environmental protection and economic development perspective.

The Department will engage with water services authorities in the near future in determining strategic water services investment requirements, taking account of the availability of public funding, and will be endeavouring to ensure that the appropriate infrastructural investment responses are in place in areas of greatest need to both meet the requirements of the 2007 Regulations and facilitate overall national and regional development priorities.

If you have any queries in relation to this circular please contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,

Barry Quinlan

Barry Quinlan

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