



Kinsale

Development Plan

2009 - 2015



Kinsale Town Council

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03

Strategic Environmental
Assessment and
Appropriate Assessment

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION.....	9
1.1	BACKGROUND.....	9
1.2	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA).....	9
1.3	PREPARATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT AND THE KINSALE DEVELOPMENT PLAN	11
2	SEA METHODOLOGY	13
2.1	SCREENING	14
2.2	SCOPING	15
2.3	ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT	20
2.4	CONSULTATION.....	20
2.4.1	Consultation Response from Environmental Authorities	21
2.4.2	Assessment of Material Amendments	21
2.4.3	Adoption of the Plan	22
3	THE KINSALE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2009-2015 OVERALL OBJECTIVES	23
4	RELATED PLANS	25
4.1.1	EU Environmental Plans and Other Guidance	34
4.1.2	National Plans.....	36
4.1.3	Regional Plans.....	43
4.1.4	Local Plans	45
5	EXISTING ENVIRONMENT.....	50
5.1	INTRODUCTION	50
5.2	BIODIVERSITY, FLORA AND FAUNA	51
5.2.1	Existing Policies	51
5.2.2	Baseline	51
5.2.3	Impact Assessment: Existing Environmental Problems and Constraints / Threats.....	63
5.2.4	Evolution without implementation of the plan	64
5.3	POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH	65
5.3.1	Policy	65
5.3.2	Baseline	66
5.3.3	Impact assessment – existing environmental problems and constraints	68
5.3.4	Evolution without implementation of the plan	68
5.4	SOIL.....	70
5.4.1	Policy	70
5.4.2	Baseline	70
5.4.3	Soils and Subsoils	75
5.4.4	Quarrying and Mining	76
5.4.5	Impact assessment –existing environmental problems and constraints	77
5.4.6	Evolution without implementation of the Plan.....	77
5.5	WATER.....	78

5.5.1	Policy	78
5.5.2	Baseline	78
5.5.3	Impact Assessment –existing environmental problems and constraints	85
5.5.4	Evolution without implementation of the plan	85
5.6	AIR AND CLIMATE (ENERGY).....	86
5.6.1	Policy	86
5.6.2	Baseline	86
5.6.3	Impact assessment – existing environmental problems and constraints	94
5.6.4	Evolution without implementation of the plan	94
5.7	MATERIAL ASSETS	95
5.7.1	Policy	95
5.7.2	Baseline	95
5.7.3	Impact assessment – existing environmental problems and constraints	101
5.7.4	Evolution without implementation of the plan.	101
5.8	CULTURAL HERITAGE	103
5.8.1	Policy	103
5.8.2	Baseline	103
5.8.3	Impact assessment –existing environmental problems and constraints	107
5.8.4	Evolution without implementation of the plan	107
5.9	LANDSCAPE	108
5.9.1	Policy	108
5.9.2	Baseline	108
5.9.3	Impact Assessment – existing environmental problems and constraints	111
5.9.4	Evolution without implementation of the plan.	111
6	OBJECTIVES, TARGETS AND INDICATORS.....	112
7	ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVES.....	118
7.1	INTRODUCTION.....	118
7.2	ASSESSMETNT OF OPTIONS	119
7.3	CONCLUSION.....	123
8	ASSESSMENT OF DRAFT PLAN POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES.....	125
8.1	INTRODUCTION	125
8.1	ASSESMENT CRITERIA.....	125
8.2	ASSESSMENT MATRIX OF DRAFT KINSALE TOWN DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES	127
9	SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS AND PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES.....	156
9.1	INTRODUCTION	156
9.2	SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS, MITIGATION MEASURES AND PROPOSED MONITORING OF DRAFT KINSALE TOWN DEVELOPMENT PLAN ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT	157
9.3	CUMULATIVE EFFECTS.....	171
10	MONITORING	173
11	NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY	180

11.1	INTRODUCTION	180
11.2	DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN.....	180
11.3	METHODOLOGY	181
11.4	ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE	182
11.5	CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES AND INFLUENCE OF SEA ON THE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF THE PLAN.....	186
11.6	SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS AND MITIGATION.....	186
11.7	MITIGATION AND MONITORING	187

LIST OF FIGURES

- Figure 1.1 Stages of the SEA Process
- Figure 5.2.1 Designated Sites within the Study Area
- Figure 5.4.1 Group Bedrock and Structural Geology
- Figure 5.4.2 Formation Bedrock Geology
- Figure 5.4.3 Local Aquifers
- Figure 5.4.4 Aquifer Vulnerability in the Study Area
- Figure 5.4.5 Soils and Deposits within the Kinsale Area
- Figure 5.5.1 Streams and Rivers within the Kinsale Area
- Figure 5.5.2 Water Quality in the Kinsale Area
- Figure 5.5.3 WFD Risk Assessment Rating for GW
- Figure 5.5.4 Bedrock Aquifer Vulnerability in the Kinsale Area
- Figure 5.5.5 Groundwater Vulnerability Within the Study Area
- Figure 5.6.1 Energy related CO₂ emissions by Sector
- Figure 5.6.2 Windfarms in Cork
- Figure 5.6.3 Geothermal Resources in the South West
- Figure 5.7.1 Major schemes Cork Strategic Water Study
- Figure: 5.9.1 Landscape Character Kinsale Town Council Area
- Figure 5.9.2 Heritage and Scenic Amenity Kinsale

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.3.1	Timetable of Draft Plan and Strategic Environment Assessment
Table 2.1	Key Environmental Impacts Determined from Screening and Scoping Phases
Table 4.1	Overview of International Legislation, Plans, Policies and Programmes
Table 4.2	Overview of EU Legislation, Plans, Policies and Programmes
Table 4.3	Overview of Irish Legislation, Plans, Policies and Programmes
Table 5.2.1	Designated sites within 10km of Kinsale and the key ecological features of the sites
Table 5.2.2	Sites within 10km of the study area that are included in the NGO Special Areas of Conservation Shadow List (Dwyer, 2000).
Table 5.2.3	Rare or Protected Plant Species recorded by Preston <i>et. al.</i> (2002) from 10km squares W64 and W65
Table 5.2.4	Legally Protected Mammal Species Recorded by Hayden and Harrington as Being Present in the 20km x 20km Square Comprising 10km National Grid Squares W66, W67, W76 and W77
Table 5.2.5	Bird Species of High Conservation Concern Recorded From 10km National Grid Squares W64 and W65 during the 'New Atlas Survey' 1988-91 (Gibbons <i>et. al.</i> , 1993).
Table 5.3.1	Trends in Population between the Censal Periods of 1996-2002 and 2002-2006 for County Cork, Kinsale Urban District and Kinsale Environs
Table 5.3.2	Kinsale Urban Age Cohort of the population 2002 - 2006
Table 5.4.1	Areas of Geological Interest within the Study Area
Table 5.5.1	Water Framework Directive and EPA ratings of Rivers, Streams and Bathing Waters within the Study Area
Table 5.5.2	Summary of GW Ratings Throughout Kinsale
Table 5.6.1	Existing Power Plants in Cork
Table 5.7.1	Accessibility to Kinsale Town
Table 5.8.1	List of Record of Monuments and Places in Kinsale
Table 6.1	SEA Objectives Targets and Indicators

Table 7.2.1	Scoring Symbol for the Purpose of Assessment of Alternatives
Table 7.2.2	Option 1 the 'Do-nothing' Option
Table 7.2.3	Option 2 Rezone sufficient lands in accordance with national, Regional and Local projections
Table 7.2.4	Option 3 Extend new development zonings on Greenfield lands in accordance with submissions to the development plan.
Table 7.3.1	Summary of Development Option Score
Table 8.1	Assessment Criteria
Table 8.2	Assessment Matrix of Draft Development Plan Policies and Objectives
Table 9.1	Significant Effects, Proposed Mitigation Measures and Proposed Monitoring of draft Kinsale Town Development Plan Environmental Report
Table 9.2	Assessment of Cumulative Impacts
Table 10.1:	Monitoring Programme

APPENDIX

Appendix 1 – Designated Sites

Appendix 2 – Appropriate Assessment

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

The Kinsale Town Plan sets out the overall strategy for the development of Kinsale town. The existing Town Development Plan was adopted in 2003 and remains in force until 2009.

Kinsale Town Council is currently preparing a new Town Development Plan under The Planning and Development Act (2000) which requires the Planning Authority to prepare a “Development Plan” every six years for its jurisdiction.

As part of the development plan process, RPS undertook a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) which is intended to identify and assess the issues facing the Kinsale Town Council area going forward. This Environmental Report forms part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on the draft Kinsale Development Plan. The purpose of this Environmental Report is to identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the proposed draft Kinsale Development Plan and should be read in conjunction with the draft Plan.

The SEA process was undertaken in parallel with each stage of the draft Plan making process and involved close consultation and meetings with the SEA Consultation Authorities, members of CB Planning Consultancy that drafted the Kinsale Town Development Plan 2009 - 2015, the SEA team and a number of specialists who focused on the significant environmental issues of the plan as identified during the screening and scoping phases and assessment of baseline information for the area. The Environmental Report has guided the preparation of objectives, policies and development scenarios for the Development Plan with an ultimate goal of achieving sustainable development within the Kinsale Town Council area.

1.2 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA)

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a process for evaluating, at the earliest appropriate stage, the environmental quality and consequences of Policy, Plan or Programme initiatives by statutory bodies. The purpose is to ensure that the environmental consequences of plans and programmes are assessed both during their preparation and prior to adoption. The SEA process also gives interested parties an opportunity to comment on the environmental impacts of the proposed plan or programme and to be kept informed during the decision making process.

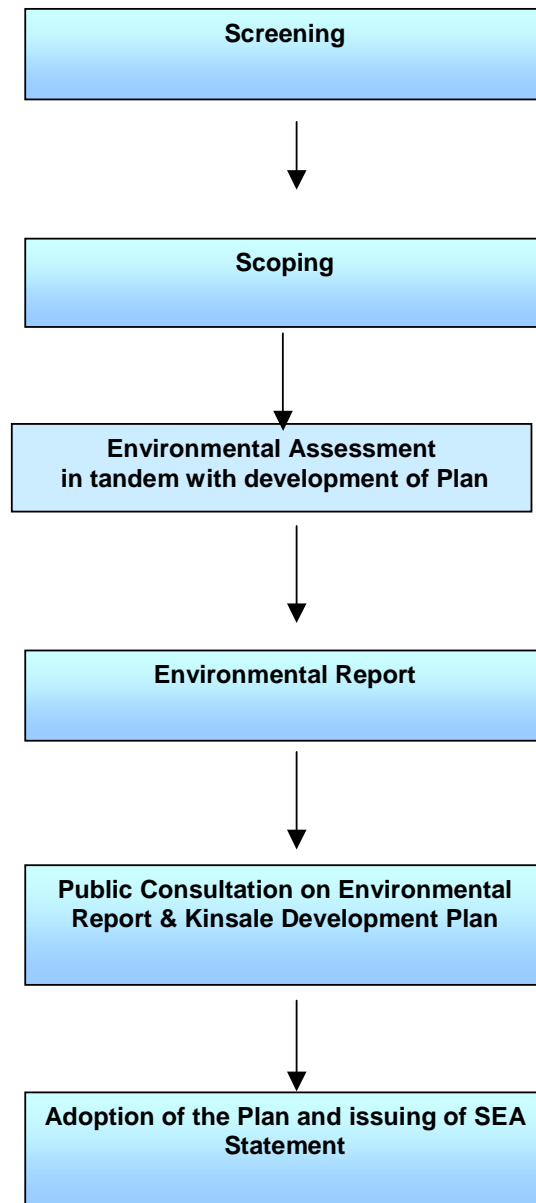
The European Directive (2001/42/EC) on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (the SEA Directive), was transposed into national legislation in Ireland by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435/2004) and the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 436/2004).

The stages of the SEA can be seen in Figure 1.1 and comprise the following:

- **Screening of Plans and Programmes** to establish whether the relevant plan or programmes must undergo an SEA;
- **Scoping Report:** This Scoping Report forms part of the statutory scoping process as required by Article 11(1) of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, S.I. 435 of 2004. The purpose of this report is to present the current understanding of the key environmental issues relating to the Kinsale Development Plan Study Area and to inform the identification and assessment of possible options at a strategic level. It also aims to generate comments from stakeholders on the scope and the SEA approach adopted for the Kinsale Development Plan

- **An Environmental Report**:- containing the findings of the Assessment on the likely significant effects on the environment of the Plan;
- **Consultation** on the Draft Plan and associated Environmental Report; and
- **An SEA Statement** identifying how environmental considerations and consultations have been integrated into the Final Plan.

Figure 1.1: Stages of the SEA Process



1.3 PREPARATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT AND THE KINSALE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

In accordance with the provisions of Article 13A of The Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004, it was determined that the Kinsale Development Plan would be required to be Strategic Environmentally Assessed in tandem with the preparation of the Kinsale Development Plan 2009 - 2015. The proposed plan was screened in terms of the provisions of Article 13A of The Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004. Taking account of the relevant criteria set out in schedule 2A of the Regulations it was considered that Kinsale Town Council is required to prepare an Environmental Report in respect of the preparation of the Kinsale Development Plan for the following reasons.

- The plan would set a framework for projects and other activities, with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources to the projects or activities.
- The plan influences non - statutory plans, guidelines and strategies within Kinsale Town Council area. It also influences the Bandon Electoral Local Area Plan 2005 in terms of provision of development within the Kinsale environs.
- The plan is relevant in terms of the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development,
- It is likely that proposals within the draft plan could create environmental problems to the plan,
- It is considered that due to the sensitive nature of the area which includes local sites of environmental and landscape importance that there could be potential environmental problems relevant to the Kinsale Development Plan.
- There are no environmental designations within the Kinsale Town Plan area, however there are a number of designations in the vicinity of the Kinsale Town Council area. Therefore European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997, which is part of European Union legislation on the environment, would not need to be directly implemented within the plan area due to the location of European Sites outside the plan area. However, if the plan should impact on a European site, then European Legislation would need to be implemented in the area.

The Environmental Report provides an Environmental Assessment of the draft Town Plan, including its main objectives and policies.

The Planning and Development Act (2000) as amended requires the Planning Authority to prepare a “Development Plan” every six years for its jurisdiction. The Kinsale Development Plan was adopted in 2003. The Statutory preparation of the Plan began in 30th November 2007 (4 years later), whereby a notice of intention to prepare the Kinsale Town Development Plan 2009 – 2015 was issued. Submissions and observations were invited from the public and the closing date for submissions was on the 25th January 2008. The s.11 Managers Report was adopted on the 30th May 2008. Table 1.3.1 below summarises the timetable for release of documents.

Table 1.3.1 Timetable of Plan and Strategic Environment Assessment

Date	Development Plan	Strategic Environmental Assessment
30 th November 2007 25 th January 2008	Strategic Issues Paper for Public Consultation	Scoping Report (Statutory consultation)
30 th May 2008	s. 11 Manager's Report on submissions to the Issues Paper	
June/July 2008	Preparation of Draft Kinsale Development Plan	Preparation of Draft Environmental Report
31 st July 2008	Presentation of Draft Town Development Plan to Members	Presentation of Draft Environmental Report to Members
8 th October 2008 22 nd December 2008	Public consultation of Draft Kinsale Development Plan	Public Consultation of Draft Environmental Report
March 2009	Presentation of Draft s. 12 Managers Report Members	
April/May 2009	Public consultation of Draft s. 12 Managers Report	
May 2009	Presentation of Draft s. 12(8)a Managers Report on submissions to Members	
May 2009	Final Adopted Kinsale Development Plan	SEA Statement

(Current Stage highlighted in light blue)

2 SEA METHODOLOGY

The SEA methodology used to carry out the SEA of the proposed Kinsale Development Plan reflects the requirements of the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) as transposed into Irish law (S.I. No. 436 2004) and also experience drawn from other SEA's carried out in Ireland and the UK. The following documents, in particular, have also been used as guidance:-

- Development of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Methodologies for Plans and Programmes in Ireland, Synthesis Report, EPA (2003);
- Scoping Checklist as issued by the EPA in Jan 2008;
- Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment. Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities (DoEHLG, 2004);
- Guidelines on SEA. Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources. Available at: <http://www.dcmnr.gov.ie/Marine/Environmental+Assessment/Environmental+Assessment.htm>;
- *A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive*. September 2005. Office of the Deputy Prime Minister;
- *Strategic Environmental Assessment. Services and Standards for Responsible Authorities*. Environment and Heritage Service;
- *Strategic Environmental Assessment Toolkit (Version 1)*. September 2006. Scottish Executive; and
- *Strategic Environmental Assessment and Biodiversity: Guidance for Practitioners*. June 2004. Countryside Council for Wales, English Nature, the Environment Agency and the RSPB.

Under consideration is a proposed preparation of the Kinsale Development Plan which, if implemented has the potential to impact on the receiving environment. The main steps taken in this SEA process involved screening, scoping, baseline study, consideration of alternatives, environmental assessment of the objectives and policies of the proposed variation and the formulation of mitigation and monitoring measures.

2.1 SCREENING

In accordance with the provisions of Article 13A of The Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004, it was determined that the Kinsale Development Plan would be required to be Strategically Environmentally Assessed in tandem with the preparation of the Kinsale Development Plan 2009 - 2015. The proposed plan was screened in terms of the provisions of Article 13A of The Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004. Taking account of the relevant criteria set out in schedule 2A of the Regulations it was considered that Kinsale Town Council is required to prepare an Environmental Report in respect of the preparation of the Kinsale Development Plan for the following reasons.

- The plan would set a framework for projects and other activities, with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources to the projects or activities.
- The plan influences non - statutory plans, guidelines and strategies within Kinsale Town Council area. It also influences the Bandon Electoral Local Area Plan 2005 in terms of provision of development within the Kinsale environs.
- The plan would be relevant in terms of the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development,
- It is likely that proposals (i.e. masterplan) could create environmental problems to the plan,
- It was considered that due to the sensitive nature of the area which includes European, national and local sites of environmental and landscape importance it is likely that there could be potential environmental problems relevant to the Kinsale Development Plan.
- There are no European Sites located within the Kinsale Town Council boundary. However a number Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas and are located in close proximity to the town.

Therefore, following a screening exercise, Kinsale Town Council determined that a strategic environmental assessment would be warranted in this case. This decision is available in the public file in Kinsale Town Council.

2.2 SCOPING

Once determined that an SEA is required for a given plan or programme, in this case the proposed preparation of the Kinsale Development Plan, an environmental report must be prepared. The content and scope of this environmental report is determined with input from statutory Consultees. In Ireland, three statutory Consultees have been nominated:-

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA);
- The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG); and
- The Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources (DCMNR).

RPS on behalf of Kinsale Town Council undertook formal scoping of the SEA Environmental Report with the three statutory Consultees on the 8th of May 2008. Responses from all parties consulted were received by RPS by June 2008. The Environmental Protection Agency formally responded on the 5th of June 2008, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government responded on the 25th on 27th of June 2008 and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources responded on the 3rd of June 2008. All scoping responses have been documented in table 2.1 below.

The scoping exercise for this SEA determined the potential key environmental impacts and outlined how they should be addressed as part of the Environmental Report (Table 2.1)

During the Scoping Stage Kinsale Town Council also issued an Issues Paper in order to stimulate public consultation/opinion on the planning issues that the 2009-2015 Development Plan should address. Public interest at the start of the plan process is important so that the Development Plan reflects public aspirations and concerns as well as government policy, strategies and guidelines.

Table 2.1: Key Environmental Impacts Determined from Screening and Scoping Phases

Environmental Topic	Issues	Mitigation/Recommendations
Biodiversity	Impacts on nearby designated sites including the Sovereign Islands SPA 004124 and NHA 000105 (6 km), the Old Head of Kinsale NHA 000100 and SPA 004021 (9km), James Fort NHA 001060 (approx. 500m), Garrylucas Marsh NHA 000087 (8km), Garrettstown Marsh NHA 001053 (8km), Bandon Valley above Inishannon NHA 001740 (8km) and the Courtmacsherry Estuary SAC 001230 NHA 001230 (11km). Increased demand for rezoning of land with concomitant loss of amenity and impacts on biodiversity.	Appropriate Assessment in parallel with the SEA. A specific objective for the support of a phased and co-ordinated programme of Habitat Mapping of Kinsale and adjoining area should be included in the Plan in accordance with the habitat mapping currently being pursued by Cork County Council on an electoral area basis.
Flooding	The town centre is liable to flooding.	OPW flood maps should be referenced as part of the SEA baseline. Flood maps should be referred to in planning applications

Environmental Topic	Issues	Mitigation/Recommendations
		<p>A specific objective should be included to provide for appropriate flood risk assessments to be undertaken, where proposed development(s) and proposed zoning in areas within the floodplain of rivers or adjoining coastal areas is being considered.</p>
<p>Water</p>	<p>Transitional water, rivers and tributaries within Kinsale Town Council is classified as 'possibly at risk of not achieving good status', in accordance with the Water Framework Directive Characterisation- Risk Categorisation.</p> <p>Areas within the Development Plan with Extreme groundwater vulnerability ratings and areas with Rock near Surface or Karst.</p> <p>Due to excessive levels of Aluminium in treated water, there is a need for the provision of a safe and secure water supply in Kinsale.</p> <p>If additional lands for residential development is being proposed in the Plan for the above listed areas, consideration should be given, to the adequacy of the existing water supply in terms of both quality and quantity and the potential risk to human health.</p>	<p>Policies and Objectives and conditions attached to planning authorisations should ensure that the ongoing development of the Town is undertaken in such a way so as not to compromise the quality of surface water (and associated habitats and species) groundwater within the zone of influence of the Development Plan area.</p> <p>Include relevant policies and objectives for the provision and promotion of adequate and appropriate Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS).</p> <p>New objective for a Groundwater Protection Plan for groundwater resources in the Kinsale area in accordance with the Groundwater Protection Scheme for Cork County.</p> <p>The Plan should implement and include, as appropriate, the relevant recommendations set out in <i>The Provision and Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland –A Report for the Years 2006-2007, (Office of Environment Enforcement- EPA, 2007)</i> as included below in Section 4 of the SEA Pack. You are referred to this Report at: http://www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/water/drinking/</p> <p>Plan should include specific objectives for the Kinsale Drinking Water Supply See http://www.epa.ie/downloads/data/water/name_24319,en.html.</p> <p>Include specific objective for the preparation of a Water Conservation Strategy for Kinsale town and surrounding area as appropriate.</p> <p>Develop an appropriate solution that will involve abandoning or replacing the source, upgrading the treatment facilities or improving</p>

Environmental Topic	Issues	Mitigation/Recommendations
	Impacts on water quality due to infrastructural deficiencies for wastewater treatment and storm water management.	<p>management and operational practices.</p> <p>The plan should include the specific provisions of the Urban Waste Water Discharges in Ireland, A report for the Years 2004 and 2005 http://www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/water/wastewater/name,13978,en.html</p> <p>Policies/objectives to ensure bathing waters in Kinsale and adjoining areas, as appropriate, achieve “sufficient or better status by 2015”.</p>
Waste Water Treatment Plant Water Quality	Potential for a decrease in water quality of the Kinsale Harbour from WWTP if capacity is over used.	<p>SEA to address capacity and operating standards of the WWTP.</p> <p>The Plan should include a policy to ensure that all developments currently served by septic tanks should be connected to the WWTP where possible.</p> <p>The Plan should include a policy that all new developments use separate systems for foul and storm water sewage.</p> <p>To ensure separation of foul and surface water effluents through the provision of separate collecting networks and to ensure that all new developments provide separate collecting systems</p>
Population and Health	<p>Population Statistics</p> <p>Employment/unemployment</p> <p>Human Health - The following should be assessed in the town plan; Provision of adequate and appropriate amenity to serve both existing community and likely future increases in population; Provision of education and health services; Provision of adequate and appropriate cycleway and footpath networks along with adequate relevant signage; Promotion of the protection of existing natural and cultural heritage resources in the area as a local amenity and an educational resource; Protection of the air quality in the Kinsale area; Provision of broadband (for work at</p>	<p>Review population figures giving new percentages from NSS, CASP and CDP 2003 and Draft CDP2007.</p> <p>Appropriate policies and objectives with associated commitment and timescales, where necessary, are included in relation to the provision of adequate and appropriate wastewater treatment in for Kinsale.</p>

Environmental Topic	Issues	Mitigation/Recommendations
	home); Provision of childcare facilities near work places; Localised campaigns to encourage exercise and healthy living for all ages.	
Material Assets	New buildings should consider use of renewable material	Sustainable building practice policy Consideration should be given to the implementation of an integrated approach to waste management for any proposed development(s) within the Town.
Landscape	Key views, vistas, prospects, sensitive landscapes, river corridors etc all need to be addressed.	Recommend detailed landscape assessments where appropriate.
Cultural Heritage	<p>There should be an objective in the plan outlining the following in terms of Cultural Heritage; 'Promote the protection and conservation of the cultural, including architectural and archaeological, heritage'.</p> <p>Valued natural and historic landscapes, and features within them, should be conserved and enhanced.</p> <p>The Development Plan shall include objectives for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the protection of structures, or parts of structures, which are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest; • the preservation of the character of architectural conservation areas <p>Zone of Archaeological Importance in Kinsale town. In addition, there may be undiscovered sub-surface archaeological sites/monuments within the town. It is recommended that these issues be investigated within the Environmental Report.</p> <p>Ensure to distinguish between National Monuments, Recorded Monuments and Places (RMPs) in Kinsale and Record of Protected Structures (RPS). Refer to www.archaeology.ie</p>	<p>Tree Preservation Order Objective in plan</p> <p>Include protective objectives on heritage</p>

Environmental Topic	Issues	Mitigation/Recommendations
	<p>The archaeological potential of the coastal and inter-tidal zone, where relevant, should be carefully considered.</p> <p>Any potential impacts on archaeological heritage should be subject to full archaeological assessment.</p> <p>Industrial Heritage should be addressed. Promotion of linkages between significant features of archaeological/architectural significance.</p> <p>Protection of important trees in the town.</p>	
Soil	<p>Soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development work, where Brownfield development is proposed in Kinsale.</p>	<p>A policy/objective should be included in the Plan to ensure adequate and appropriate investigation of the nature and extent of any soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development work, where Brownfield development is proposed in Kinsale.</p>
Transport	<p>Pedestrian facilities, public transport and cycle lanes will need to be addressed in the plan in a balanced and sustainable manner.</p> <p>Increased traffic and impact on air quality and amenity</p> <p>Consideration should also be given to the inclusion of specific policies and objectives with respect to climate change.</p>	<p>Consideration should be given to the inclusion of a Target relating to the improvement of the current transport network in the Kinsale area once Traffic and Transport Study has been completed.</p> <p>Development of traffic management measures to reduce the potential for traffic congestion and associated vehicular emissions should be considered for Kinsale Town.</p> <p>Improved pedestrian and cycle facilities</p> <p>Good quality public transport</p>
Other	<p>Objectives, Indicators and Targets</p> <p>The Plan should include relevant policies and objectives for the Promotion of energy conservation measures in buildings and Promotion, where appropriate, of the use of renewable energy systems (e.g. solar, wind, geothermal etc.) within the community.</p>	<p>Use similar indicators, and targets as used within the Draft CDP 2007. Provide for consistency in monitoring across the county.</p>

2.3 ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The Environmental Report contains an assessment of the likely significant effects (on biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors) of implementing the proposed plan.

The content of the Environmental Report is broadly defined in Article 12 (1) of the Regulations.

Chapter Title	Reference to Table 4A of the PG (Planning Guidelines)
Non-Tech summary	Ref. J
Introduction	
SEA Background and Methodology	
Key Objectives of the Plan	Ref. A
Planning and Policy Context	Ref. A and Ref. E
Baseline Environment	Ref. B, C and D
Objectives Targets and Indicators	Ref. C and Red. D
Assessment of Alternatives	Ref. J and H
Assessment of Policies/Objectives	Ref. B
Significant Effects and Mitigation Measures	Ref. D, F, I and G
Monitoring	Ref. I

2.4 CONSULTATION

The draft Kinsale Town Development Plan and Environmental Report went on public display between the 8th October 2008 and the 22nd December 2008 and submissions were invited from the public, from the relevant statutory bodies and the Environmental Authorities.

In order to document the SEA process, since the initial Consultation draft of the Environmental Report, this environmental report has been updated to include the following changes:

- Suggestions and comments received from the environmental authorities.
- Assessment of significant amendments to the draft Development Plan arising from the initial consultation process.

2.4.1 Consultation Response from Environmental Authorities

In December 2008 consultation responses were received by Kinsale Town Council from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

A submission from the **DoEHLG's** Spatial Planning Policy, Development Applications and National Monuments Units was received suggesting a number of changes to the Draft Plan in relation to architectural heritage and archaeology. No comments were received in relation to the Environmental Report.

A submission from the EPA was received relating to the possible impacts of the Draft Development Plan on various aspects of the environment and also included comments relating to the Environmental Report. Submission no. 30 of the s.12 Manager's Report for the draft Plan deals with the response to this submission relating to the draft Plan, and in response, the majority of the additional policies suggested in the Consultation draft Environmental Report were included in the Amended Draft Plan and additional references to the integration of the SEA and the draft Plan were made.

With regard to the Consultation draft Environmental Report the EPA made suggestions with regard to additional environmental objectives, targets and indicators and on this basis a number of changes were made to table 6.1 and table 10.1 (monitoring programme also includes objectives, targets and indicators) of this report. It was considered that adequate consideration had already been given to sustainable use of natural resources and energy conservation, however provision was made to include the following objectives, targets and indicators; water conservation, climate change, protection of wetlands and landscape. Furthermore the assessment matrix of draft plan policies and Objectives as set out in Table 8.2 was updated to reflect changes to the objectives targets and indicators..

Suggestions were also made in terms of the assessment of environmental effects, mitigation measures and monitoring and as a result a new Table (Table 9.1) linking trends and potential environmental impacts, significant effects, mitigation measures and proposed monitoring is included within this environmental report. This table also references how the relevant mitigation measures of significant effects have been incorporated into the plan. Furthermore a new section referring to potential cumulative environmental effects has been included in section 9.2 of this report.

2.4.2 Assessment of Material Amendments

As a result of the initial consultation draft of the plan a number of amendments have been made to the draft Plan, however it was considered that only three of the proposed amendments as set out in the s.12 Manager's Report of the draft Kinsale Town Development Plan would have potential to have a significant effect on the environment of the area. On this basis the following amendments have been assessed within the assessment matrix as set out in table 8.2 of this report:

- An amendment has been made to reword Enterprise & Employment Specific Zoning Objective **EE2** in Volume 2, to allow for the development of a discount retailer is granted.
- A portion of land on Pier road that is as an expansive private garden will be rezoned from town centre to open space under the specific policy objective NOSRA 2.

- New Objective **NOSRA 2** to provide – Passive Open Space and public car parking ancillary to proposed adjoining new town park.

To conclude it is not considered that the proposed amendments of the draft Plan would have a significant impact on the plan area.

2.4.3 Adoption of the Plan

The Plan was formally 'made' at a meeting on Friday 29th May. At this meeting the Council accepted all recommendations contained in the s.12 report and agreed to adopt the amended draft development plan as put out for consultation in April/May 2009. No material changes were made to the Plan at this stage and therefore no additional amendments were assessed in terms of SEA at this stage.

3 THE KINSALE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2009-2015 OVERALL OBJECTIVES

The Kinsale Development Plan 2009 outlines the Council's policies for the development of Kinsale Town to 2015.

The plan has been prepared and developed against a backdrop of consultations by means of public meeting, individual meetings, and written submissions. The plan, as the main public statement of the town council, provides a vision for the town to evolve, giving statutory context for guiding development in the interests of the proper planning and sustainable development of the town.

The strategic aim of the plan is to set out a framework for the sustainable development of Kinsale to enable growth to take place in a co-ordinated and orderly manner, whilst protecting and preserving the town's intrinsic character, heritage and amenity and making a positive contribution to an improvement in the quality of life.

The general goals of the plan are designed to improve the quality of life for the population of Kinsale which the Council will endeavor to implement during the period of the Plan. These goals are as follows:

- To seek the extension of the administrative boundary of Kinsale Town Council to include the Environs, in order to ensure the co-ordinated and sustainable development of Kinsale Town and Environs.
- To be consistent with the policies and objectives of the statutory Cork County Development Plan 2003 – 2009, Cork Area Strategic Plan 2001 – 2020 and the Bandon Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2005 – 2011.
- To be consistent with policies and objectives of the National Spatial Strategy, Regional Planning Guidelines and Ministerial Guidelines.
- To guide the location and pattern of development whilst ensuring the retention of a compact town.
- To ensure that sufficient and suitably located land is zoned to meet the needs of the existing community and enable population and socio-economic growth in line with County and Regional projections.
- To sustain and enhance the role of Kinsale as a community and commercial service centre catering for the needs of the population within the Town, Environs and wider rural hinterland.
- To ensure the provision of sufficient and adequate land to enable enterprise and employment growth.
- To expand the existing town centre to enable the delivery of vital business, residential and community facilities.
- To adopt a sequential approach to the provision of retail and commercial development, embracing the Town Centre first principle.
- To provide a safe road network to meet the needs of motorists, cyclists and pedestrians and significantly improve the traffic management and car parking facilities within the town facilitating community and visitor need.
- To ensure the delivery of physical and social infrastructure in tandem with development.
- To facilitate the provision of improved amenities within the town and to encourage the redevelopment and renewal of neglected or derelict sites.
- To conserve and enhance the environment of the town through the preservation and restoration of buildings and other features of archaeological, historic or cultural.

- To protect residential and amenity lands from encroachment by incompatible types of development.
- To promote, protect, improve, encourage and facilitate the development of sustainable tourism and recreational facilities in Kinsale.
- To conserve and protect the natural heritage of Kinsale.
- To be consistent with environmental policies and objectives of international, national, regional and local importance.

4 RELATED PLANS

The SEA Directive requires that the SEA process should include the review of other Plans/Programmes, which are related to the Plan/Programme being assessed i.e. the Kinsale Development Plan. Any identified actions from this study will need to comply with relevant international and national legislation such as the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the Habitats and Bird's Directives that stringently protect Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protected Areas (SPAs) within the catchment. The requirements will be expressed in the environmental objectives.

Tables 4.1 to 4.3 below provide an overview of the relevant legislation, plans, policies that apply to the various environmental topics to be addressed in this Environmental Report.

Table 4.1: Overview of International Legislation, Plans, Policies and Programmes

Topic	Title	Summary of Objectives
Biodiversity	UN Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)	Objectives include the maintenance and enhancement of Biodiversity.
	The Ramsar Convention The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (1971 and amendments)	Objectives include protection and conservation of wetlands, particularly those of importance to waterfowl as Waterfowl Habitat.
Climate	UN Kyoto Protocol The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Kyoto Protocol 1997	Objectives seek to alleviate the impacts of climate change and reduce global emissions of GHGs.
Environment	Agenda 21	Local Agenda 21 is a process which facilitates sustainable development at community level. It is an approach based on participation which respects social, cultural, economic and environmental needs of the present and future citizens of a community in all its diversity and how the community relates to the future of the regional, national and international community of which it is part.
	The 6 th EU Environmental Action Programme 1998.	The Environment Action Programme takes a broad look at the challenges of environmental policy and provides a strategic framework for the Commission's environmental policy up to 2012. It identified four environmental areas for priority actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change • Nature and Biodiversity • Environment and Health and Quality of Life • Natural Resources and Waste
	The MARPOL Convention International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto (MARPOL 73/78).	Objectives include for the protection of the marine environment.

Topic	Title	Summary of Objectives
	The OSPAR Convention The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (22 September 1992).	Objectives include the protection of the marine environment.
	COMAH (Seveso II) Directive- European Communities (Control of Major Accident Hazards involving dangerous Substances) Regulations 2000	Requirements for the storage of relatively large quantities of substances classified as dangerous.
Human Health / Air	World Health Organisation (WHO) Air Quality Guidelines (1999) and Guidelines for Europe (1987)	Objectives seek the elimination or minimisation of certain airborne pollutants for the protection of human health.

Table 4.2 Overview of EU Legislation, Plans, Policies and Programmes

Topic	Title	Summary of Objectives
Air	The Air Framework Directive Directive on Air Quality Assessment and Management (Framework Directive) (1996/62/EC)	Objectives include the prevention and/or reduction of airborne pollutants for the protection of human health and environment.
	Directive on National Emission Ceilings for Certain Atmospheric Pollutants (2001/81/EC)	Objectives seek to limit the national emissions of certain airborne pollutants for the protection of human health and the environment.
Biodiversity	The EU Biodiversity Strategy Communication on a European Community Biodiversity Strategy	Objectives seek to prevent and eliminate the causes of biodiversity loss and maintain and enhance current levels of biodiversity.
	The EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)	Objectives seek to prevent and eliminate the causes of habitat loss and maintain and enhance current levels of biodiversity.
	The EU Birds Directive (as modified) (EC/79/409)	Objectives seek to prevent and eliminate the causes of bird species loss and maintain and enhance current levels of biodiversity.
	The EU Shellfish Directive (79/923/EEC)	Objectives seek to maintain those coastal and brackish waters, which need protection or improvement, in order to allow shellfish to develop and to contribute to the high quality of shellfish products intended for human consumption.
	The EU Freshwater Fish Directive (78/659/EEC)	Objectives seek to protect those fresh water bodies identified by Member States as waters suitable for sustaining fish populations. For those waters it sets physical and chemical water quality objectives for salmonid waters and cyprinid waters
Climate	Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) 2005.	Objectives seek to develop the necessary elements of a strategy to implement the Kyoto protocol.

Topic	Title	Summary of Objectives
Human Health	The EU Environment and Health Strategy 2004-2010 (first period)	Objectives seek to prevent and reduce the impacts of pollution on human health.
	The EU REACH Initiative Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals (REACH)	Objectives seek to limit the harmful effects to the environment and human health from certain chemicals through improved analysis and data collection.
	Laying down the Health Conditions for the production and placement on the market of live bivalve molluscs (91/492/EEC)	Objectives seek to ensure a suitable environment for shellfish growth and protect consumers of shellfish. It classifies shellfish harvesting areas according to the quality of shellfish populations. The classification determines the conditions under which shellfish harvested from those waters can be offered for sale.
Sustainable Development	The Gothenburg Strategy (2001) Communication from the Commission on “a Sustainable Europe for a Better World”	Objectives seek to make the future development of the EU more sustainable.
	The Sixth Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community 2002- 2012	Objectives seek to make the future development of the EU more sustainable.
	The SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)	Under the SEA Directive, the RBDMP requires an SEA.
Water	The Water Framework Directive EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	Objectives seek to maintain and enhance the quality of all surface waters in the EU. The RBMPs are a requirement of this directive.
	The Groundwater Directive (1980/68/EC)	Objectives seek to maintain and enhance the quality of all groundwater in the EU.
	EU Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)	The Floods Directive applies to river basins and coastal areas at risk of flooding. With trends such as climate change and increased domestic and economic development in flood risk zones, this poses a threat of flooding in coastal and river basin areas.
	Bathing Water Directive 2006/7/EC	The overall objective of the revised Directive remains the protection of public health whilst bathing, but it also offers an opportunity to improve management practices at bathing waters and to standardise the information provided to bathers across Europe.
	Nitrates Directive 91/676/EEC	This Directive has the objective of reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and preventing further such pollution.
	Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive 91/271/EEC. Amended under Directive 98/15/EEC	The primary aim is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of discharges of urban wastewater, by the provision of urban wastewater collecting systems (sewerage) and treatment plants for urban centres. The Directive also provides general rules for the sustainable disposal of sludge arising from wastewater treatment.
	Natura 2000 sites designated under Directive 92/43/EC and 79/409/EEC	The purpose is to enable Habitats Directive Annex I habitats or Annex II species to be maintained, or restored to a favourable conservation status over their natural range. Also, to conserve habitats for bird species under the Birds Directive Annex I.

Topic	Title	Summary of Objectives
	Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)	This new directive establishes a regime which sets underground water quality standards and introduces measures to prevent or limit inputs of pollutants into groundwater.
	Drinking Water Directive (DWD) Council Directive 98/83/EC	The primary objective is to protect the health of the consumers in the European Union and to make sure the water is wholesome and clean.
Cultural Heritage	The European Convention on Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (The Valletta Convention of 1992)	Requires that appropriate consideration is given to archaeological issues at all stages of the planning and development process.
Landscape	European Landscape Convention 2000	Requires a commitment from Ireland to introduce policies to effect landscape protection and management.

Table 4.3: Overview of Irish Legislation, Plans, Policies and Programmes

Topic	Title	Summary of Objectives
Air	Air Quality Standards Regulations 2002 (S.I. No. 271 of 2002)	Objectives include the reduction of certain airborne pollutants for the protection of human health and the environment.
	Ozone in Ambient Air Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 53 of 2004).	Objectives include the reduction of certain airborne pollutants for the protection of human health and the environment.
	The Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 (Ambient Air Quality Assessment and Management) Regulations 1999	Objectives include the reduction of certain airborne pollutants for the protection of human health and the environment.
Biodiversity	The National Biodiversity Plan (2002)	Objectives include the enhancement and conservation of biodiversity.
	The Wildlife Act 1976. The Wildlife (Amendment) act 2000	The Wildlife Act, 1976 and the Wildlife Amendment Act, 2000 are the principal statutory provisions providing for the protection of Wildlife (both Flora and Fauna) and the control of activities which may impact adversely on the conservation of Wildlife.
	National Heritage Plan 2002-2007	The purpose of the National Heritage Plan is to set out a clear and coherent strategy and framework for the protection and enhancement of Irish heritage over the five year period.
	European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, SI 94/1997, as amended SI 233/1998 and SI 378/2005	These Regulations give effect to Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive) and the Minister to designate special areas of conservation (endangered species and habitats of endangered species) as a contribution to an EU Community network to be known as NATURA 2000.
	Flora Protection Order 1999	Objectives include it being illegal to alter, damage or interfere in any way with their habitats. This protection applies wherever the plants are found and is not confined to sites designated for nature conservation.

Topic	Title	Summary of Objectives
	Quality of Shellfish Waters Regulations 1994 (SI 200/1994) and amendments	Give effect to Council Directive 79/923/EEC of 30 October 1979 on the quality required of shellfish waters and prescribe quality standards for shellfish waters and designate the waters to which they apply, together with sampling and analysis procedures to be used to determine compliance with the standards.
	Quality of Salmonid Waters Regulations 1988 (SI 293 of 1988)	Prescribe quality standards for salmonid waters and designate the waters to which they apply, together with the sampling programmes and the methods of analysis and inspection to be used by local authorities to determine compliance with the standards. Also, give effect to Council Directive No. 78/659/EEC on the quality of fresh waters needing protection or improvement in order to support fish life
Climate	National Climate Change Strategy (2000) and National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012	Objectives include the reduction of national GHG emissions (including those from the water sector)
Human Health	Quality of Bathing Waters Regulations 1988 (SI 84 of 1988) and amendments	Prescribe bathing water quality standards and the bathing areas to which they apply, together with the sampling programmes and the methods of analysis and inspection to be used by local authorities to determine compliance with the standards. Give effect to Council Directive No. 76/160/EEC concerning the quality of bathing water.
Energy	Green Paper on Sustainable Energy (1999)	Objectives include the increased utilisation and development of renewable energies to meet EU targets
	Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland The Energy Policy Framework 2007-2020 (White Paper)	This White Paper sets out the Government's Energy Policy Framework 2007-2020 to deliver a sustainable energy future for Ireland. It is set firmly in the global and European context which has put energy security and climate change among the most urgent international challenges. The White Paper sets out the actions to be taken in response to the energy challenges facing Ireland. The objective is to deliver a sustainable energy future, starting now, with a time horizon of 2020 but also looking beyond that.
Planning	National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020 (2002)	Objectives of the NSS are to achieve a better balance of social, economic and physical development across Ireland, supported by more effective planning.
	National Development Plan from 2007 to 2013	Objectives of the NDP are to promote more balanced spatial and economic development.
	Planning and Development Act 2000	Revised and consolidated the law relating to planning and development by repealing and re-enacting with amendments the Local Government (Planning and Development) Acts, 1963 to 1999; to provide, in the interests of the common good, for proper planning and sustainable development including the provision of housing; to provide for the licensing of events and control of funfairs; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992, the Roads Act 1993, the Waste Management Act 1996, and certain other enactments.

Topic	Title	Summary of Objectives
	National Anti Poverty Strategy (NAPS)	The National Anti-Poverty Strategy (NAPS) is the government strategic initiative to place the needs of the poor and the socially excluded at the top of the national policy agenda. The NAPS recognises the unacceptable scale of poverty and its impact on those directly affected and on the wider society and it particularly notes the distinct spatial aspects of poverty in urban and rural areas. The strategy emphasis the importance of a cross-departmental policy response in dealing with the problem.
	Retail Planning Guidelines 2005	The Retail Planning Guidelines provide a comprehensive framework to guide local authorities in preparing development plans, assessing applications for planning permission, and guiding retailers and developers in formulating development proposals. Retail functions reflect four broad tiers of urban development. Cavan Town is defined in the third tier of towns. Third tier centres are described as providing urban anchors for a rural economy which is undergoing rapid change
	Residential Density Guidelines for Planning Authorities	These Guidelines are aimed at addressing the high levels of suburban housing development at low densities on Green field sites over the last few decades. This has led to an increase in the demand for travel, greater traffic congestion and high infrastructure costs. The Guidelines recognise that higher densities should not be achieved at an unacceptable amenity cost to the surrounding dwellings and the residents of the proposed development. A high quality of design and layout and a good quality living environment, including the availability of adequate shopping, social, transport and leisure infrastructure, are essential if increased residential densities are to be acceptable.
Sustainable Development	Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997) (DoEHLG)	Objectives are to ensure that future development in Ireland occurs in a sustainable manner.
	European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004)	The EU SEA Directive was transposed into Irish Law under S.I. 435 in 2004.

Topic	Title	Summary of Objectives
	Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines 2005	<p>These guidelines set out in detail how the Government's policies on rural housing are to be implemented by Planning Authorities in making their development plans and in the operation of the development control system to ensure a vibrant future for all rural areas. In supporting housing development patterns in rural areas that are sustainable, policies and practices of planning authorities should seek to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the needs of rural communities are identified in the development plan process and that policies are put in place to ensure that the type and scale of residential and other development in rural areas, at appropriate locations, necessary to sustain rural communities is accommodated. • Manage pressure for overspill development from urban areas in the rural areas closest to the main cities and towns such as the gateways, hubs, and other large towns. <p>A strong theme in the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines is the need to strengthen villages and towns. Planning authorities need to ensure that cities, towns and villages offer attractive and affordable housing options to meet the housing needs of urban communities and persons wishing to live in urban areas.</p>
	Making Ireland's Development Sustainable	<p>This document focuses on the link between economic activity and pressures on the environment. Sustainable development emerged as an idea in the late 1980s and led to the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. At the Summit, world leaders agreed to implement an action programme for sustainable development called, Agenda 21. The Irish Government published <i>Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland</i> in 1997, which applies Agenda 21 in Irish circumstances. <i>Making Ireland's Development Sustainable</i> reviews the progress made in terms of sustainable development in Ireland since Rio, assesses the challenge we now face and sets out policies and actions to meet that challenge.</p>
Transport	Transport 21	<p>Transport 21 is a strategy that will see 34.4 billion invested over the next 10 years in Irish transport. Connecting communities and promoting prosperity is the core aim of this strategy. The programme seeks to meet the transport needs of the country's citizens and also underpin our competitiveness into the future. A comprehensive and efficient transport network is essential if we are to continue to improve our living standards while remaining competitive in the global market place. Transport 21 recognises that quality integrated transport is critical for competitiveness, return on investment and regional development.</p>
Environment	The Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992	<p>Objectives include the better protection of the environment and the control of pollution through improved licensing and monitoring.</p>

Topic	Title	Summary of Objectives
	The Protection of the Environment Act 2003	Objectives include for better protection of the environment and the control of pollution through improved licensing and monitoring.
Water	Drinking Water Regulations SI 439 of 2000	Prescribe quality standards to be applied in relation to certain supplies of drinking water, including requirements as to sampling frequency, methods of analysis, the provision of information to consumers and related matters. Give effect to provisions of EU Council Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption.
	Local Government (Water Pollution) Act, 1977 (Water Quality Standards for Phosphorus) Regulations 1998 (SI 258 of 1998)	Provide for specified improvements in water quality conditions in rivers and lakes based on phosphorus concentrations or related water quality classifications and give effect to certain requirements arising under Council Directive 76/46/EC on pollution caused by certain dangerous substances discharged into the aquatic environment of the Community.
	Water Quality in Ireland 2001-2003	This document assesses the quality of Ireland's aquatic ecosystems concentrating on ambient water quality indicators.
	Water Quality in Ireland 2005: Key indicators of the Aquatic Environment	The quality of rivers, lakes, estuaries, coastal waters, ground waters and canals is discussed in this report.
	Towards setting guideline values for the protection of groundwater in Ireland (2003)	Proposals for setting environmental quality objectives and standards for groundwater through use of guideline values.
	Groundwater Monitoring Programme	The information on which a national groundwater quality programme is based.
	European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations (SI 722 of 2003)	Provide for the transposition into Irish national law of the provisions of the EU Water Framework Directive.
	European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2005 (S.I. No. 378 of 2006)	Provide statutory support for good agricultural practice to protect waters against pollution from agricultural sources. Give further effect to several EU Directives including Directives in relation to protection of waters against pollution from agricultural sources ("the Nitrates Directive"), dangerous substances in water, waste management, protection of groundwater, public participation in policy development and water policy (the Water Framework Directive).
	Arterial Drainage Act, 1945	Makes provision for the drainage and improvement of land by the execution of works of arterial drainage, to provide for the maintenance of those works and make further and better provision for the maintenance of existing drainage works, and to provide for matters incidental to or connected with the matters aforesaid or relating generally to the drainage of land.

Topic	Title	Summary of Objectives
	OPW Guidelines on Flood Risk 2005	The OPW provide guidance on Planning Policy in relation to flooding. The policy which the Planning Authority should adopt is "Development should not itself be subject to an appropriate risk of flooding nor should it cause or exacerbate such a risk at other locations". This provides for run-off areas and the provision of appropriate drains. There should be set-back zones from the edge of watercourses. Minimum design standards should be applied, flood impact assessments to be required in certain developments and certification from a competent person that a development will not contribute to flooding within the relevant catchment.
Material Assets	Quarries and Ancillary Activities Guidelines 2004	Aggregates are a significant natural resource. The extractive industries make an important contribution to economic development in Ireland. However, the operation of quarries can give rise to land use and environmental issues which should be mitigated and controlled through the planning system. These Guidelines seek to identify those issues and to suggest best practice in dealing with them. It is important that Planning Authorities recognise that quarries (including sand-and-gravel pits) vary greatly in size, with varying environmental impacts, and that the planning response to proposed developments should be tailored accordingly.
	EPA Wastewater Treatment Manual 2000	The Waste Water Treatment Manual for single houses details the basic mechanism of the waste water treatment system, various types of systems, suitable site characteristics and treatment options. This document will be referred to by the Planning Authority, though may be replaced by updated versions.
	Irish National Forest Standard 2000	In 1996, the Irish Government published Growing for the Future: A Strategic Plan for the Development of the Forestry Sector in Ireland. The aim of this strategy is to develop forestry to a scale and in a manner which maximises its contribution to national economic and social well-being on a sustainable basis and which is compatible with the protection of the environment. In Growing for the Future, a commitment was made to promote quality in all aspects of Irish forestry and to provide the instruments to achieve this. The Irish National Forest Standard is the result of a consultative process initiated in 1999. Working parties were set up to consider environmental, economic, social and legal aspects of forestry and sustainable forest management. The groups were charged with developing indicators for Sustainable Forest Management.
Waste	The Waste Management Act 1996 and amendments	Objectives include (amongst others) the more effective and environmentally sensitive management of wastes in Ireland.
	European Communities (Port Reception Facilities for Ship Generated Waste and Cargo Residues) Regulations 2003 (SI 117 of 2003)	Objective is to reduce the discharges of ship-generated waste and cargo residues into the sea, especially illegal discharges, from ships using ports in the Community, by improving the availability and use of port reception facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residues, thereby enhancing the protection of the marine environment.

Topic	Title	Summary of Objectives
Cultural Heritage	National Heritage Plan 2002	Core objective is to protect our heritage. In this regard the “polluter pays” principle and the precautionary principles are operable.
	Framework and Principles for the protection of the archaeological heritage	Sets out archaeological policies and principles that should be applied by all bodies when undertaking or authorising development.
	Architectural Heritage Protection, Guidelines for Planning Authorities, 2004	Outlines policies for protection of Architectural Conservation Areas.
	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)	Involves identifying and recording the architectural heritage of Ireland, from 1700 to the present day

4.1.1 EU Environmental Plans and Other Guidance

EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC): The provisions of the Directive requires Member States to introduce a range of measures including the protection of species listed in the Annexes; and to undertake surveillance of habitats and species and produce a report every six years on the implementation of the Directive. The habitats listed in Annex 1 of the Directive and the species listed in Annex II, are to be protected by means of a network of sites and are afforded protection as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) classified under the EC Birds Directive, form a network of protected areas known as Natura 2000.

The EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) came into force in December 2000 and was written into Irish Law in 2003. The Directive clarifies, collects and updates previous pieces of water legislation and provides for water management on the basis of River Basin Districts. The Water Framework Directive (WFD) sets a framework for comprehensive management of water resources in the European Community, within a common approach and with common objectives, principles and basic measures. The WFD addresses inland surface waters, estuarine and coastal waters and groundwater. The fundamental objective of the WFD aims at maintaining “high status” of waters where it exists, preventing any deterioration in the existing status of waters and achieving at least “good status” in relation to all waters by 2015.

The main objectives of the WFD are to protect and enhance the status of all our waters, encourage sustainable water use, provide for sufficient supply of good quality surface water and groundwater, reduce or phase out discharges of dangerous substances to water, protect territorial and marine waters and to establish and maintain a register of “protected areas”.

EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) 1979 seeks to protect, manage and regulate all bird species naturally living in the wild within the European territory of the Member States, including the eggs of these birds, their nests and their habitats and to regulate the exploitation of these species. Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for the protection of birds were established following the Birds Directive.

EU Urban Waste-Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) 1991 seeks to protect the environment from the adverse effects of urban waste water discharges and discharges from certain industrial sectors and concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of domestic waste-

water, the mixture of waste-water, the mixture of waste-water and waste-water from certain industrial sectors.

EU Floods Directive was adopted on the 18th January 2006 when the European Commission proposed a directive on the assessment and management of floods. Its aim is to reduce and manage the risks that floods pose to human health, the environment, infrastructure and property.

The **Groundwater Directive 80/68/EEC** requires Member States to apply a system of investigation and authorisation to waste disposal and other activities in order to ensure that groundwater is not polluted by dangerous substances.

The **Surface Water Directive 75/440/EEC** aims to protect public health by ensuring that surface water abstracted for use as drinking water reaches certain standards before it is supplied to the public. The directive lays down nonbinding “guide” values and binding “imperative” values and requires Member States to monitor the quality of surface waters from which drinking water is abstracted and to take measures to ensure that it complies with the minimum quality standards. The Directive has been integrated into the proposed Water Framework Directive.

The **Environmental Impact Assessment Directive 85/337/EEC** (amended as Directive 97/11/EC), requires Member States to carry out environmental impact assessments (EIA) on certain public or private projects, before they are authorised, where it is believed that the projects are likely to have a significant impact on the environment. The EIA procedure is an integral part of the planning process and the public can provide input and express environmental concerns with regard to the project. The results of this consultation must be taken into account during the authorisation process.

The aim of the **European Convention on Protection of the Archaeological Heritage 1992** is to “protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study”. The Convention provides the basic framework for policy on the protection of the archaeological heritage in Ireland. The obligations on the State under the Convention have been summarised by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands and included the following:

- Providing for statutory protection measures, including the maintenance of an inventory of the archaeological heritage and the designation of protected monuments and areas;
- The authorisation and supervision of excavations and other archaeological activities;
- Providing measures for the physical protection of the archaeological heritage including acquisition or protection by other means;
- Providing for consultation between archaeologists and planners in relation to the drawing up of development plans and development schemes so as to ensure that full consideration is given to archaeological requirements.
- Facilitating the study of archaeological discoveries by making and bringing up to date surveys, inventories and maps of archaeological sites and taking practical measures to ensure the drafting, following archaeological operations, of a publishable scientific record before the publication of comprehensive studies;

- Educating the public in relation to the value of the archaeological heritage and the threats to it, promoting public access to important elements of this heritage, and encouraging public display of selected archaeological objects.

In particular the Kinsale Development Plan is informed by the following plans at National and Regional Level.

4.1.2 National Plans

National Development Plan 2007-2013

The 2000 National Development Plan was prepared to underpin the development of a dynamic competitive economy to 2006. The subsequent NDP published last year will guide the development of the country in the period 2007-2013. The Plan sets out a strong framework for the promotion of regional development with a particular focus on investment in the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) Gateway centres. Strong urban centres are directly related to regional growth and development, affecting employment, incomes and quality of life throughout the regions.

The Plan has four basic objectives: to continue sustainable national economic and employment growth, to strengthen and improve Ireland's international competitiveness, to foster balanced regional development and to promote social inclusion. It is identified that the challenge for Cork is to accelerate growth and development.

The NDP is the largest and most ambitious investment plan ever drawn up for Ireland, where over 52 billion was invested between 2002-2006 and a predicted 184 billion of Public, Private and EU funds will be invested between 2007 and 2013 in economic and social infrastructure, enterprise, science, agriculture sectors, education, training and environmental services.

The 2007 National Development Plan includes a number of strategic investment objectives for the southwest region including major road improvement schemes, waste management, enterprise, social infrastructure programmes etc.

The National Spatial Strategy, 2002-2020

The National Spatial Strategy (NSS) is a twenty year planning framework with an objective to develop the economic, social and environmental capability of Ireland as a whole. One of its major aims is to recognize and integrate the roles of both urban and rural areas, and to develop Ireland in terms of 'functional areas' each area being developed so as to reach 'critical mass'.

It is a planning framework designed to deliver a more balanced social, economic and physical development between the regions. The successful aspects of the growth of the Greater Dublin Area over recent years need to be emulated in other areas to deliver a more even distribution of successful economic development. The growing strengths of Cork, Limerick/Shannon, Galway, and Waterford suggest that a coordinated development of these cities has the potential to offer a counterweight to the pull of the Dublin Region.

The NSS defines Cork as the 'National/International Gateway city for the Southwest Region'. To fulfil its role as 'Gateway', Cork will have to drive and accommodate development in both the urban and rural areas in order to support a more balanced pattern of national development. The

NSS confirms that Cork County possesses all of the attributes that the NSS defines as making an economically successful area. These are: a large and skilled workforce, a capacity for learning and innovation, international transport connections and an attractive physical, social and business environment. It states:

'Cork will build on its substantial and established economic base to lever investment into the southwest region. It will do this with the support of its scale of population, its third level institutions and the substantial capacity for growth identified in the Cork Area Strategic Plan (CSRS).

The main 'Hub' within the Cork region is Mallow with Midleton, Bandon, Kinsale and Kinsale noted as towns with 'urban strengthening opportunity'. Map 9 of the *National Spatial Strategy* also identifies the Cork Metropolitan area, including the important towns of Blarney, Tower, Kinsale, Carrigaline, Passage West, Cobh and Midleton.

The NSS identifies the areas where future housing needs are likely to arise for local authorities and suggests contributory factors that improve quality of life as a means of attracting people to live in cities. In the case of Cork, it acknowledges the strength of central parts of Cork City such as the Docklands area (which is also supported by CASP) as well as the need to promote the city's historical, retail and university elements in order to attract people to live in the area. The Strategy estimates growth of up to 360,000 - 450,000 by 2020 (i.e. 35,000 – 125,000 population increase) for the Cork Gateway and its Metropolitan hinterland.

Clearly the levels of growth experienced in the Gateway of Cork will influence growth within the entire South West Region. Table 3, extracted from the *National Spatial Strategy*, illustrates the expected future breakdown of projected regional household distribution. The South West Region is expected to grow from its 1996 level of 170,000 households to between 254,000 and 305,000 households by 2020 depending on levels of economic growth in the region, equating to between 3,500 and 5,625 new households per year.

Kinsale is identified as a medium sized town with a population of between 1,500-5,000 and further indicates that medium sized towns are capable of catering for '*local growth in residential, employment and service functions, through enhancing the built environment, water services, public transport links and capacity for development in these centres*'. In addition, Kinsale is located within an area with strategic rural assets within a Metropolitan hinterland. As a result, the NSS indicates that rural assets must be protected and the local potential of rural areas developed.

National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012

The National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012 follows on from the first national strategy, published in 2000 and reviewed in 2002, and takes account of the public consultation process which followed the further review in Ireland's Pathway to Kyoto Compliance (2006). The purpose of this Strategy is to show clearly the measures by which Ireland will meet its 2008-2012 commitments particularly in relation to the way Ireland produces and uses energy in the built environment and in transport.; and to show how these measures position us for the post-2012 period, and to identify the areas in which further measures are being researched and developed to enable us to meet our eventual 2020 commitment. Through innovation, energy efficiency and more sustainability in our personal choices, we can achieve the necessary lowering of the carbon intensity of our economy without sacrificing competitiveness, economic performance or quality of life.

National Biodiversity Plan 2002

The National Biodiversity Plan 2002 comprises a set of 91 Actions to halt the current and continuing loss of plant species, as well as the vegetation and habitats they compose by the year 2010. The Plan pays special attention to the need for the integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into all relevant sectors. The full and effective integration of biodiversity concerns into the development and implementation of other policies, legislation, and programmes is of crucial importance. The overall objective of the Plan is to secure the conservation, including where possible the enhancement, and sustainable use of biological diversity in Ireland and to contribute to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity globally. The objectives of the National Biodiversity Plan include to;

- Conserve habitat diversity, including all sites of special biodiversity importance;
- Conserve species diversity;
- Conserve genetic diversity, both wild and domesticated;
- Contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; and
- Advancing other obligations of the European Community Biodiversity Strategy in the EU, regionally and internationally.

Sustainable Development – A Strategy for Ireland 1997

Sustainable Development – A Strategy for Ireland, published in 1997, stresses the Government's commitment to sustainable forms of transport and the need to strengthen and improve such forms in the interests of the promotion of sustainable development. An emphasis is given to the need to produce an efficient, cost effective and customer focused development of the rail network. The Strategy reflects Ireland's commitment to the principles and agenda for sustainable development agreed at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and also responds to the EU Fifth Action Programme for the Environment.

The general aim of the Strategy is to *“ensure that economy and society in Ireland can develop to their full potential within a well protected environment, without compromising the quality of that environment and with responsibility towards present and future generations and the wider international community”*.

To achieve the aims of the Strategy, the Government has adopted the following principles, the implementation of these being specific objectives of this Plan:

- The Precautionary Principle which aims to deal with causes rather than results of environmental pollution; and
- Integration: illustrates the importance of integration at all levels of society – government, sectoral and policy levels, to enable environmental concerns to be addressed in an effective and comprehensive manner.
- The Polluter Pays Principle, which allocates the costs of pollution to producers and consumers rather than to society at large.

The Strategy recognises that the primary responsibility for the proper management of hazardous waste lies with the holder or generator of the waste. Other international policies/legislation that should be adhered to include:

- European Union (EU) Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) 1992;
- EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC);
- European Landscape;
- Birds Directive;
- Air Framework Directive;
- Waste Framework Directive; and
- Phosphorous Regulations.

Furthermore, The justification for new facilities which may increase environmental pressures is considered to be a key consideration. In relation to highly sensitive landscapes and habitats of rare flora and fauna, which require protection, the Strategy establishes that such protection does not imply exclusive dedication to tourism/leisure uses or the prohibition of development within such areas. Rather in such instances, the Strategy recommends that a balance be reached between habitat protection and planned, controlled visitor access.

National Heritage Plan 2002

The National Heritage Plan 2002 sets out a clear and coherent strategy and framework for the protection and enhancement of our heritage over the next five years. The concept of 'placing heritage at the heart of public life' is intended to be all-embracing and to encompass the actions of individuals, communities, the private sector, non-governmental organisations, and regional and local bodies – all or which have a critical role to play in the protection and promotion of our heritage. The priorities for the National Heritage Plan include the following key actions:

- Local Heritage Plans, supported by enhanced levels of heritage expertise within Local Authorities;
- Increased levels of assistance for the protection of the archaeological and architectural heritage;
- Implementation of the National Biodiversity Plan and addressing the conservation of habitats, species, genetic diversity and the natural heritage;
- Initiation of a heritage inventory programme and establishment of a central heritage archive and library;

- Establishment of new structures in Dúchas, the Heritage Service of the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, to provide a more efficient, integrated and regionalised service;
- Provision of total additional financial allocations of 123.16 m (£97 m) on a phased basis over the life of the Plan; and
- The deployment of a total of 102 additional staff to enhance existing heritage programmes and to operate the new structures proposed in the Plan.

The Energy White Paper – Delivering a Sustainable Future for Ireland

The White Paper entitled “Delivering a Sustainable Future for Ireland” is an action based strategy for achieving specific energy targets for Ireland in a timeframe between 2007 and 2020. The White Paper sets out strategic goals for the security of energy supply, sustainability and competitiveness. The main provisions of the White Paper are:

- Sustainable transport action plan which will consider 100% plant oil in captive fleets in Local Authorities;
- Public sector will lead the way in bio-energy heating, electricity, CHP and biofuels;
- Electricity demand site management will be addressed this year and there are plans to install smart metering for all new and existing housing stock.
- Review part L (Conservation of fuel and energy) of building regulations in 2008 to reduce energy demand by 40% relative to current standards, look for funding mechanisms for smart metering, set target of 33% energy saving across public sector, introduce energy efficiency programmes (targets and standards) for LA's, publish green public procurement action plan, update existing social housing design guidelines; and
- Allocate significant amounts of resources towards remedial works Scheme and LA major refurbishment works.

In 2005 the Government launched Transport 21, a capital investment framework through which the transport system in Ireland will be developed, over the period 2006 to 2015. This framework includes for the development of the N15/N17/N18/N20/N25 Atlantic Corridor from Letterkenny to Waterford via Sligo, Tuam, Ennis, Limerick, Mallow and Cork. The road for the Atlantic Corridor is to be dual carriageway or 2+1. The current NRA policy is that 2+1 should only be used in retrofit situations therefore the cross section for new build sections of the Atlantic Corridor will be dual carriageway.

The scheme objectives are set out in Transport 21 as part of the strategy for National Roads as follows:

“Transport 21 is the capital investment framework through which the transport system in Ireland will be developed, over the period 2006 to 2015. This framework will address the twin challenges of past investment backlogs and continuing growth in transport demand. The projects and programmes that make up Transport 21 will aim to:

- *increase accessibility;*
- *ensure sustainability;*
- *expand capacity;*
- *increase use; and*
- *enhance quality.*

Towards Sustainable Local Communities: Guidelines on Local Agenda 21, 2001

Local Agenda 21 was the result of the first UN Conference on the Environment and Development (Earth Summit) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, where Ireland was amongst 150 nations, which endorsed Agenda 21, a major blueprint for how the world's nations can work individually and collectively towards sustainable development by the 21st century. Local Agenda 21 and the EU's Fifth Environment Action Programme underlined the fact that traditional policies must be replaced by an integrated approach to environment and development issues, if growth is to be achieved in parallel with, rather than at the expense of, environmental quality.

Local Agenda 21 is intended to translate sustainable development principles and objectives into practical action at the local level. Some of the major aims of Agenda 21 include:

- Reducing the amount of energy and raw materials society consumes, as well as the pollution and waste it produces;
- Protecting fragile ecosystems and environments; and
- Bringing about a fairer distribution of wealth, both between countries and between different social groups within countries.

Local Agenda 21 also encourages consultative processes which involve the whole community, its elected members and other community and representative groups through means of information awareness, public consultation and feedback, partnerships between authorities, businesses and communities, and a continuing monitoring of progress towards sustainability. The principles of Agenda 21 are being met through the process of SEA.

EU Sixth Environment Action Programme, 2002-2012

The EU Sixth Environment Action Programme sets out objectives in the shape of Europe's future environment at the start of the 21st century. It provides a framework for adopting and implementing sustainable development policies in Europe. This vision "Environment 2010: Our Future, Our Choice" seeks the following aims:

- To decouple the generation of waste from economic growth by establishing more sustainable consumption patterns;

- For waste generated, these should represent very low risks to the environment and our health;
- We should maximise recycling and bring “final disposal to an absolute minimum”; and
- Waste should be treated as close as possible to where it is generated (“proximity principle”).

Seven ‘Thematic Strategies’ were introduced as a way to tackle seven key environmental issues, which require a holistic approach because of: their complexity, the diversity of actors concerned and the need to find multiple and innovative solutions. The Seven Thematic Strategies are:

- Clean Air For Europe (CAFE);
- Soil protection;
- Sustainable use of pesticides;
- Protect and conserve the marine environment;
- Waste prevention and recycling;
- Sustainable use of natural resources; and
- Urban environment.

Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities, 2005

Published in January 2005 the *Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities* provide a comprehensive framework to guide local authorities in preparing development plans and assessing applications for planning permission as well as retailers and developers in formulating development proposals.

These guidelines are a revision of the 2001 guidelines insofar as with relation to retail warehousing. It was recognised that there is evidence of consumer demand in Ireland for large-scale retail warehousing units which are capable of displaying a very wide range of goods within one store. Accordingly, the Minister has determined that the 6,000sqm floorspace cap on individual retail warehouses will not apply in those areas which are subject to Integrated Area Plans under the Urban Renewal Act, 1998 in National Spatial Strategy, Gateways of Athlone/Tullamore/Mullingar, Cork, Dublin, Dundalk, Galway, Letterkenny, Limerick/Shannon, Sligo and Waterford and within the functional areas of the four Dublin local authorities.

Residential Density Guidelines for Planning Authorities, 1999

These Guidelines promote increased residential densities in order to ensure the most efficient use of zoned and serviced housing land, provide a more varied range of dwelling types and sizes, optimise the use of existing services, facilities and infrastructure, encourage more sustainable commuting patterns and facilitate improved public transport. It is considered that the settlement strategy proposed in the variation reflects those in the Guidelines.

Guidelines for Planning Authorities: Architectural Heritage Protection, 2004

The Planning and Development Act 2000, required additional development objectives relating to the protection of structures which are deemed to be of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest and to preserve the character of architectural conservation areas.

In this context, these Guidelines aim to assist local authorities/town councils in the adoption of suitable policies for protecting architectural heritage in their development plans and to ensure they have practical effect through development control measures. The guidelines aim to assist planning authorities in their role to protect the architectural heritage of their area. The Kinsale Development Plan is considered to be consistent with these Guidelines.

4.1.3 Regional Plans

Regional Planning Guidelines for the Southwest Region, 2004

The Regional Planning Guidelines for the Southwest provide a broad canvas, which aims to steer the growth and prosperity of the region and its people, up to 2020. The Guidelines contain statements and analysis of key economic objectives, together with a set of planning guidelines to be incorporated in the statutory development plans of the local authorities in the region and are seen as an important link between NSS and the draft of local county and city development plans.

One of its strategic aims is to develop the Cork City Gateway as a dynamic and progressive European City Region - attractive to investment and to people, and the primary counterfoil to Dublin, as envisaged by both the *National Spatial Strategy* and also by *CASP* - to the benefit of the Gateway itself and also the entire Region. The Regional Planning Guidelines promote growth in the Gateway in line with the aspirations of both the *NSS* and the *CASP*.

Kinsale is designated as a key service town within the *Regional Planning Guidelines*. Key service towns are outlined as towns with a population, generally between 1,500 and 5,000 that can perform an important role in driving the development of a particular spatial component of the overall region and that are being targeted for growth. This can be achieved individually or in conjunction with linked towns.

South Western River Basin District (SWRBD)

The South Western River Basin District (SWRBD) “A Future for Our Waters” and “Water Matters” outlines the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive, and detail the main issues of investigation to date. These include wastewater and industrial discharges, landfills, quarries, mines and contaminated lands, agriculture, wastewater from unsewered properties, forestry, usage and discharge of dangerous substances, physical modifications, abstractions and local issues. The booklet “Water Matters” also outlines the next steps in the process of preparing a River Basin Management Plan, which is due to be adopted in 2009. The document “A Future for Our Waters” indicates the findings of Risk Assessments that have been carried out on water bodies within the SWRBD.

Cork Area Strategic Plan 2001-2020

The *Cork Area Strategic Plan* is a sub-regional plan, which provides a vision and strategy for the development of the Cork City Region up to 2020. The strategy is currently under review to take account of population and economic growth since the 2001 strategy. The CASP area covers an area determined by a journey time of about 45 minutes from Cork City and encompasses the satellite towns close to the City including Cobh, Passage West, Midleton, Blarney, Ballincollig, Kinsale, Blarney Ballincollig and Carrigaline, and the ring towns and rural hinterlands of Bandon, Kinsale, Mallow, Fermoy, Youghal and Kinsale. Its guiding principle is the implementation of an integrated land use and transportation strategy, based on the development of a commuter rail corridor from Blarney to Midleton, with complementary residential development to an appropriate density.

CASP sets out a vision to achieve sustainable development in the Ring Towns and rural areas, by focusing development effort upon existing settlements, particularly the Ring Towns, which are best placed to attract new investment. *CASP* recognises that the challenge will be to avoid the development of the rural areas as suburbs for Metropolitan Cork and aim for employment-led growth of rural towns and the villages.

CASP places great emphasis on processing and enhancing the environment, in recognition of the fact that the environment is a vital component of a high quality of life for the population, and as an attraction to visitors and investors.

The natural environment and in particular the spectacular harbour area are without comparison elsewhere in Europe. Protecting this asset and the social and cultural assets in all their manifestations is therefore outlined by the *CASP* as vital to the future success of the area. The location of the proposed development at Preghane and Ballymacus is designated in *CASP* as a protected or remote area.

CASP sets out a framework that will enable the Cork City region to:

- Attain critical mass;
- Integrate land uses and transport through the development of a commuter rail system, green routes and park & ride facilities with complementary land use zoning;

- Make efficient use of investment in infrastructure;
- Provide a high quality environment;
- Improve the competitiveness and attractiveness of the overall region.

CASP plays a key role in the planning process by providing a coherent, long-term spatial context, within which the more detailed statutory Development Plans can develop. The CASP Plan estimates a total growth in population in the Cork Area Strategic Plan Area of 488,000 people, to be distributed as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| • Cork City | 150,000 |
| • Metropolitan Area (exc. The City) | 216,240 |
| • Ring Towns and Rural Areas | 121,760 |

4.1.4 Local Plans

Cork County Waste Management Plan 2004-2009

The Waste Management Plan was formulated by Cork County Council to address the on-going challenge of waste management in County Cork. The Plan addresses all areas of waste management – from waste prevention and minimisation, to its collection, treatment, recovery and final disposal. The Plan is guided by international, EU and Irish legislation and policy on waste management.

The Waste Management Plan for County Cork envisages a single, central regional landfill to accept residual waste. National recycling targets for household wastes will be met by provision of a high number of civic amenity and bring sites, combined with a central integrated materials recovery and composting facility to segregate and recover recyclable and biodegradable household wastes. Thermal treatment will be retained as an option, should waste growth necessitate its introduction at a later date.

The previous Waste Management Plan (1999 to 2004) confirmed the decision to proceed on the basis of Scenario 2 of the Waste Management Strategy, which resulted in a number of actions being taken by the Council including:

- Bottlehill identified as the most suitable site for a landfill.
- Application to the Environmental Protection Agency for a waste management licence and to An Bord Pleanála for approval. The EPA issued a proposed decision to grant a licence and a decision is currently awaited. An Bord Pleanála granted approval in February 2004.

- Progress on the acquisition of sites for the provision of materials recovery and residual landfill facilities.
- Entering into tender negotiations for the provision of a materials recovery facility by public private partnership.
- Progress in the provision of civic amenity sites and transfer stations.

Having regard to the above, the Council proposes to continue to implement scenario 2 for the management of municipal waste in the county until 2009.

Cork Strategic Retail Study 2008

The draft Cork Strategic Retail Study (CSRS) outlines that there are a number of commitments in terms of retail development within Kinsale town. Currently the town supports approximately 1940sqm of comparison goods floorspace and 520sqm of convenience goods floorspace. It also performs a very significant tourism function. Future redevelopment of the quay, development of the builders yard and land adjacent and lands at Troopers Close and these are likely to meet requirements in the town. It is assumed, if developed, that these will strengthen the town and claw back some of the expenditure which is currently leaking to Cork City. According to Table 6.3 Retail Hierarchy, an objective for Kinsale is its consolidation as a local service and tourism centre.

Cork County Heritage Plan 2005 – 2010

The Cork County Heritage Plan aims to secure benefits for local heritage and to increase awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of this heritage for all of the people in County Cork. It aims to develop and encourage best practice in relation to the management and care of heritage in County Cork and to deliver practical actions to achieve this, as well as to gather and disseminate information about heritage in the County.

Joint Housing Strategy

Cork County Council, in conjunction with Cork Corporation and the nine Urban District Councils in the county produced a Joint Housing Strategy to address the housing needs of the existing and future population of Cork to 2011. The policies and objectives of the strategy are enshrined in the Cork County Development Plan 2003 (as amended). The Strategy sets out four key principles:

- To provide for a diverse range of housing needs
- To promote balanced communities
- To promote sustainable development of the urban and rural environment
- To promote a high quality living environment.

Cork County Development Plan 2003

The Cork County Development Plan 2003 (as varied) took its guidance from the 20-year strategy provided in CASP and the N&WCSP (for the remainder of the County outside the CASP area). Kinsale Town boundary is located entirely within the administrative boundary of Kinsale Town Council and is governed by the policies and objectives of the Kinsale Development Plan. However the lands surrounding Kinsale Town Council are governed by the Cork County Development Plan 2003 (as varied), this plan was adopted in January 2003 and provides the framework for development and planning in the County for the next six years. The Plan has a vision for the County that is based on four strategic goals, as follows:

- Enhanced quality of life for all - based on high-quality residential, working and recreational environments, and sustainable transportation patterns;
- Sustainable patterns of growth in urban and rural areas that are well balanced throughout the County, together with efficient provision of social and physical infrastructure;
- Sustainable and balanced economic investment, together with wise management of the County's environmental and cultural assets;
- Responsible guardianship of the County, so that it can be handed on to future generations in a healthy state.

Kinsale is recognised as Ring Town within the Cork County Development Plan 2003 with a strategic aim of '*consolidation of the town within its scenic coastal setting and continued promotion of its special heritage and marine tourism functions*'.

According to the *CDP 2003* there is only limited capacity for new development within the town council area and most new growth will need to take place in the county area.

Draft Cork County Development Plan 2008

The draft Cork County Development was published in December 2007 by the Planning Policy Unit of Cork County Council and was on consultation until February 2008. Amendments to the Draft plan are due to be published in August 2008 and the draft plan is due to be adopted in January 2009.

The Plan identifies Kinsale as a Ring Town capable of supporting a substantial rural hinterland consisting of several small villages. It is considered critical that development is encouraged within towns such as Kinsale rather than within the rural hinterland, so that they can build up a critical mass of population necessary to attract new investment.

The policy and objectives of the Plan for Kinsale is based on the following planning and sustainability goal:

To protect and enhance the natural built heritage assets of Kinsale to facilitate the development of the town as a Principle Tourist Attraction.

The Plan identifies a need for a major upgrade of the existing water treatment and water storage facilities in Kinsale. It further notes that the protection of the scenic coastal environment is important to the economic future of the town as are continued road improvements in order to relieve congestion problems within and approaching the town.

North and West Cork Strategic Plan 2002 to 2020

The North and West Cork Strategic Plan is a 20-year sub-regional plan for the development of those areas of the county that lie outside the Cork Area Strategic Plan (CASP) area.

The Plan states that town and village populations in County Cork make up 52% of the county's population. The North and West Cork area towns make up less than 8% of the total county population.

The North and West Cork Strategic Plan addresses the trends that impact on rural settlements. These include an ageing population, migration of the young, increased commuting to urban areas for employment, with associated pressures on transport infrastructure and environmental quality, growing relative affluence of urban living and loss of services delivered locally (such as pubs, schools, post office, health care). It is the aim of the plan to build on the strengths of the existing paradigm while addressing its shortcomings. In essence placing a greater emphasis on increasing consumption possibilities, through the provision of better infrastructure and supporting services and protecting the environmental and cultural heritage of the area is proposed. A major programme of town and village renewal and development is required and a much greater proportion of new housing should be directed to villages, according to the recommendations of the Plan.

The objectives of the Plan are to:

- Raise the productive potential of the economy by focusing industrial development geographically in a number of areas e.g. Clonakilty, Kinsale and the corridor between Charleville and Mallow
- Optimise spatial development patterns as essential requirements for infrastructure development as the weakness of the county's urban fabric represents a serious threat to the sustainability of communities.
- Improve access and communications and increase infrastructure provision and resources
- Incorporate environmental sustainability
- Promote access to social, recreational and cultural facilities and
- Contain effective implementation procedures

Bandon Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2005

The Bandon Electoral Area Local Area Plan governs the environs of Kinsale. In this Local Area Plan, Kinsale Environs is identified as a Main Settlement within the Bandon Electoral Area, while retaining its status as a ring town in the overall strategy of the Cork County Development Plan 2003 (as varied), as detailed in Chapter 2, Volume 1 of that Plan. It outlines that the strategic aims for Kinsale is the consolidation of the town within its scenic coastal setting and continued promotion of its special heritage and marine tourism functions.

Within this plan lands outside the town boundary to the southwest and north are zoned for residential development, while lands to the northeast are zoned for industrial development. 3.2 acres of land is zoned for light industry to the south west of the town. The plan also includes policy objective for a wastewater treatment plant and upgrading of local access roads while also a number of specific objectives relating to passive open space and amenity areas.

5 EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

5.1 INTRODUCTION

This section of the report describes the current state of the environment in the Kinsale Development Plan area as an entire site. Sections 5.2 to 5.10 below describe the baseline conditions for each topic. As set out in the SEA guidelines (e.g. Population, Material Assets etc) are fully addressed in accordance with the SEA Guidelines.

In accordance with the SEA guidelines no primary research was carried out in the collection of data. Existing and available information sources were used. These include the following:-

- Central Statistics Office;
- National Parks and Wildlife Service data base;
- Planning and Policy documents;
- Geological Survey of Ireland;
- South Western Regional Fisheries Board
- The Environmental Protection Agency; and
- Ordnance Survey of Ireland.

Baseline data was collected relating to the indicators described in the SEA directive: biodiversity, fauna, flora, population, human health, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between these factors.

5.2 BIODIVERSITY, FLORA AND FAUNA

5.2.1 Existing Policies

It is considered that the current objectives of the Draft Kinsale Development Plan 2009-2015 with regard to the protection of the natural environment (biodiversity, flora and fauna) need to concentrate on the protection of habitats, flora and fauna. Therefore it is recommended that a number of additional policies should be included in the draft plan in the interest of sustainability of Kinsale Town.

5.2.2 Baseline

The term 'biological diversity', often abbreviated to 'biodiversity' refers to the variety of living things. In the same way as a rich diversity of cultures enhances the quality of our lives, so does a rich diversity of plants and animals. Biological diversity is known to be important to the proper functioning of the planet's life support system. Conservation of biological diversity has, therefore, become one of the key aims of governments throughout the world.

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5.2.2.1 Designated Sites

There are no designated sites within the town boundaries. The closest designated site is James Fort pNHA (Site Code: 001060), which lies on the eastern outskirts of Kinsale, across the Bandon River. A number of other sites designated for biodiversity conservation exist within 10km of the town, these are described in this section.

The Natura 2000 Network is a network of important ecological sites across the European Union. It is comprised of areas known as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservations (SACs). The total land and freshwater area within the Natura 2000 network in Ireland is some 11,644km²: this includes some 2,300km² of designated marine areas. Whilst the designation of an area as a Natura 2000 site greatly restricts development, the designation does not necessarily mean limitation of activities within the site or surrounding area provided these activities are environmentally sensitive and do not impact negatively upon the habitats, or species for the protection of which the site has been designated.

Candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs)

Candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs) are designated and protected under the European Union (EU) 'Habitats Directive' (92/43/EEC), as implemented in Ireland by the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997. There are no cSACs situated within 10km of Kinsale.

Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) were initially designated under Directive 79/409/EEC, the Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds ('The Birds Directive'), and are now protected as Natura 2000 Sites under the EU 'Habitats Directive'. There are two SPAs within 10km of Kinsale:

Old Head of Kinsale SPA (Site Code: 004021) and *Sovereign Island* SPA (Site Code: 004124). See Table 5.2.D for the key features of these designated sites.

Ramsar sites

Ramsar sites are internationally important wetlands where water is the primary controlling environmental factor. The full title of the Ramsar convention is *The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat*. The convention was developed and adopted by participating nations at a meeting in Ramsar, Iran on February 2, 1971 and came into force on December 21, 1975. There is no Ramsar site within 10km of the study area.

Shellfish Growing Waters

Several marine habitats have been designated as shellfish growing waters in accordance with obligations under EU Council Directive 79/923/EEC on the quality of shellfish waters. The EC Shellfish Waters Directive (79/923/EEC), seeks to protect or improve shellfish waters identified by member states in order to support shellfish life and growth and thus contribute to the high quality of edible shellfish products. Kinsale Harbour has been designated as 'Shellfish Growing Waters'.

Natural Heritage Areas

Sites of national importance in the Republic of Ireland are termed, proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs). There are seven pNHAs within 10km of Kinsale, *James Fort* (Site Code: 001060), *Garrettstown Marsh* (Site Code: 001053), *Garrylucus Marsh* (Site Code: 000087), *Old Head of Kinsale* (Site Code: 000100), *Bandon Valley Below Inishannon* (Site Code: 001515), *Bandon Valley Above Inishannon* (Site Code: 001740) and *Sovereign Islands* (Site Code: 000105). Whilst the Wildlife (Amendment) Act (2000) has been passed into law, pNHAs will not have legal backing until consultative process with landowners has been completed and they are designated as NHAs. This process is currently underway, however none of these pNHAs is yet listed on the NPWS website as having been designated (July 2008).

The only pNHA located in the immediate vicinity of Kinsale town is James Fort pNHA, which is designated primarily for its flora. The site a number of less common plants including, Pellitory-on-the-wall (*Parietaria judaica*), Ivy-leaved Toadflax (*Cymbalaria muralis*), Parsley (*Petroselinum crispum*), Wall Valerian (*Centranthus ruber*), Biting Stonecrop (*Sedum acre*) and Musk Storksbill (*Erodium moschatum*). In addition there is a species-rich meadow to the north of the pNHA, which is of some ecological interest. Sweet Vernal Grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), False Oat (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*) are the main species with the meadow. Soft Brome (*Bromus hordaceus*), Changing Forget-me-not (*Myosotis discolor*), Trailing St. John's-wort (*Hypericum humifusum*) and Yellow Clover (*Trifolium dubium*) have also been recorded.

Table 5.2.1 presents details of the key ecological features of the cSACs, SPAs and pNHAs within 10km of Kinsale; it also gives their distances and directions from Kinsale, and gives a summary of the key ecological features for which the sites have been designated.

Table 5.2.1: Designated sites within 10km of Kinsale and the key ecological features of the sites

Name	Site Code	Key Features	Approximate distance (and direction) from Kinsale
Old Head of Kinsale SPA	004021	The site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for the breeding seabirds including nationally important numbers of Kittiwake and Guillemot. It is the largest seabird colony on the south coast between the Bull Rock and the Saltee Islands Fulmar, Shag, Herring Gull and Razorbill also breed. Chough and Peregrine, which breed elsewhere on the Old Head, are regularly seen within the site. Both species are listed in Annex I of the EU Birds Directive and their Irish populations are considered to be of international importance. The site is also a designated Refuge for Fauna.	8.5km to the west
Sovereign Islands SPA	004124	The islands are important for breeding seabirds, with most on the eastern stack. A nationally important Cormorant colony has been known since the late 1960s and in 1999, 156 nests were counted. Herring Gulls and Great Black-backed Gulls also breed, with 10 and 75 pairs respectively in 1999 (the latter is a nationally important population). The only other seabird which has been recorded breeding in recent years is Black Guillemot, with 10 individuals in April 1999.	5km to the southeast
Sovereign Islands NHA	000105	See <i>Sovereign Islands</i> SPA (above).	5km to the southeast
James Fort pNHA	001060	The site is included as a pNHA because it is floristically rich with a good number of less common plants, some of them introduced. In addition there is a species-rich meadow of some ecological interest.	Less than 0.25km to the east
Garrettstown Marsh pNHA	001053	Breeding bird species recorded within the pNHA include Sedge Warbler, Reed Bunting, Mallard, Snipe, Moorhen and Mute Swan. Although overall bird numbers are small the site has significant value as an example of a lagoonal marsh with characteristic plants and a relatively untouched centre.	6km to the southwest
Garrylucas Marsh pNHA	000087	Garrylucas Marsh is coastal, lime-rich and unpolluted. There are one or two pools of open water but, in many places, a rather open stand of Common Reed (<i>Phragmites australis</i>) exists, beneath which a local species, Marsh Fern (<i>Thelyphteus palustris</i>), and Water Horsetail (<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>) commonly occur.	6km to the south
Old Head of Kinsale pNHA	000100	See Old Head of Kinsale SPA (above) for details of the importance of the site for seabirds. The pNHA is larger than the SPA and also includes	8km to the south

		breeding habitat for Chough and areas of high quality coastal grassland and coastal heath habitats.	
Bandon Valley Below Inishannon pNHA	001515	Below Inishannon the river becomes tidal before it becomes brackish and extensive stands of Common Reed (<i>Phragmites australis</i>) have developed, with Reed Sweet-grass (<i>Glyceria maxima</i>) and some sedges. Shippool is wood semi-natural in character in parts and supports an ecologically interesting flora and fauna. In 1986 a species of hairstreak butterfly was reported to occur there, presumably Purple Hairstreak. This site is important for its wetlands including the extensive areas of Common Reed (<i>Phragmites australis</i>) and the more diverse areas of wetland vegetation. The general flora surrounding Shippool Wood may also be of interest.	6.5km to the northwest
Bandon Valley Above Inishannon pNHA	001740	The interest of the Valley lies partly in its aquatic habitats since the river has not been deepened artificially as is so often the case. Woodlands occur where the meanders of the valley approach the Valley's edge and create steep slopes. The woodlands are semi-natural, mostly planted with species such as Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudopentanus</i>) and Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>) but mixed in with the native Oaks (<i>Quercus sp.</i>). The river supports otter, a species listed in Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive.	9km to the northwest

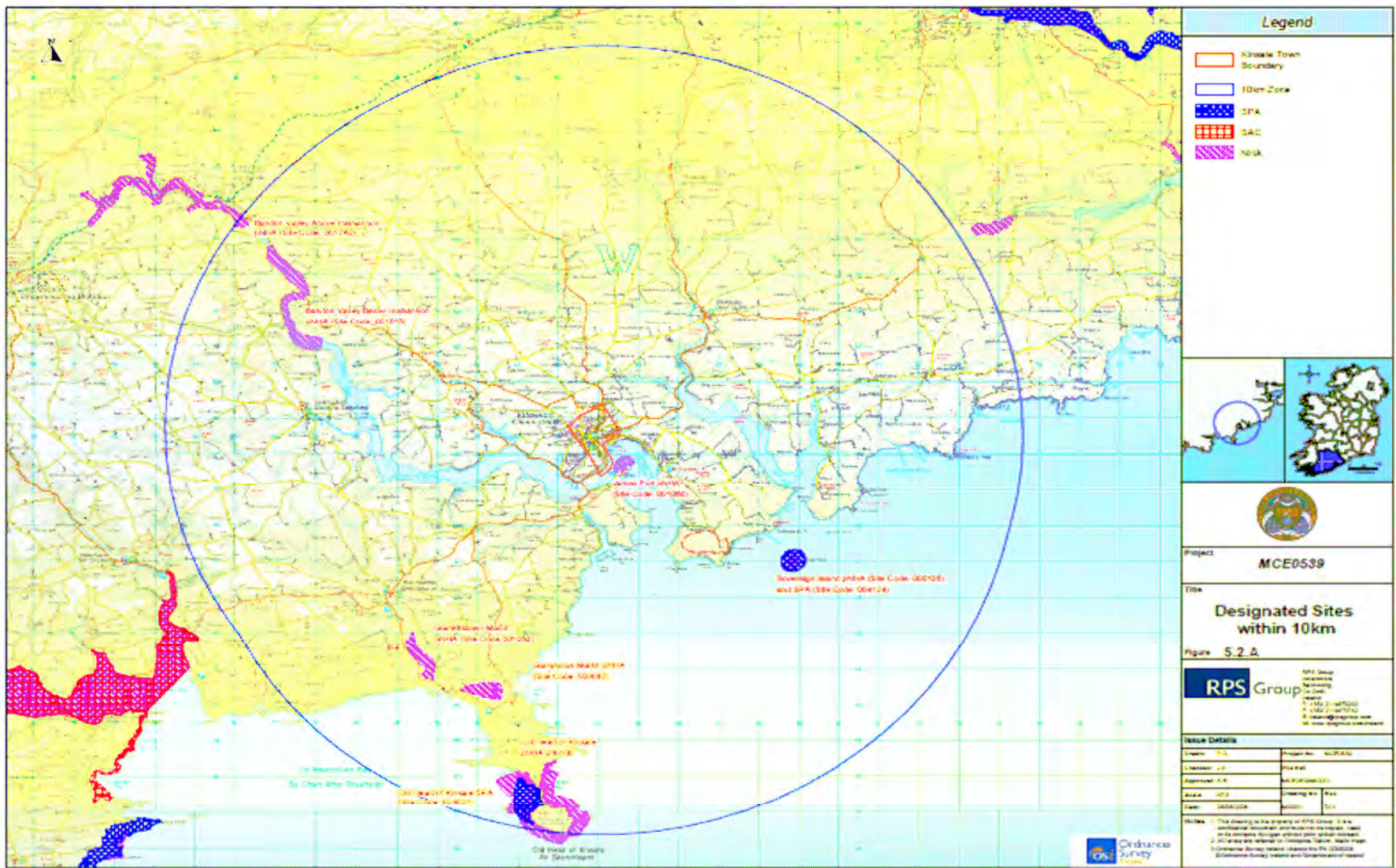
Shadow Sites

There are two sites within 10km of the study area that are included in the *NGO Special Areas of Conservation Shadow List* (Dwyer, 2000), Garrylucas Marsh and the Old Head of Kinsale. The Shadow List has been compiled by a grouping of Irish conservation Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), and includes sites, which, according to the NGOs, fulfil the ecological requirements for SAC designation. The sites are described below in Table 5.2.2.

Table 5.2.2: Sites within 10km of the study area that are included in the NGO Special Areas of Conservation Shadow List (Dwyer, 2000)

Site Name	Reason for 'Shadow Site' designation	Distance (and direction) from Kinsale
Garrylucas Marsh pNHA	Annex I habitats: Fixed Dunes (habitat code: 2130); and Calcereous Fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> (habitat code: 7210)	6km to the south
Old Head of Kinsale (Marine) pNHA	Annex II species: Harbour Porpoise <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> (species code: 1351)	8km to the south

Figure 5.2.1 Designated Sites within the Study Area A3 Format



Refuge of Fauna

Refuge of Fauna is a designation used for protection of one or more species of animals. Refuges are designated by Ministerial Order under the Wildlife Acts. Seven refuges of fauna have been designated in Ireland, all of which are cliffs and islands to protect breeding seabirds. The Old Head of Kinsale has been designated as a Refuge for Fauna. The habitats protected includes cliff tops, marine cliff and a 200metre strip of sea. Species protected include, Chough, Fulmar, Guillemot, Kittiwake, Great Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Peregrine, Puffin, Raven, Razorbill and Shag.

Important Bird Areas (IBAs)

Birdlife International (Hunt *et. al.* 2000) classifies the areas of 'Sovereign Islands' (Republic of Ireland IBA no. 87) and 'Old Head of Kinsale' (Republic of Ireland IBA no. 86) as Important Bird Areas (IBAs). The *Old Head of Kinsale* is 15ha in total consisting almost exclusively of sea cliff and rocky shore habitats. Breeding sea birds recorded within the area include Common Guillemot, Razorbill, Kittiwake, Peregrine, Kestrel and Chough. The *Sovereign Islands* IBA consists of two small flat topped islands and surrounding waters. The site supports breeding seabirds including Fulmar, Great Cormorant and Great Black-backed Gull.

Other Designated sites

There are no Wildlife Sanctuaries or Statutory Nature Reserves with the study area.

5.2.2.2 Flora of Kinsale

Kinsale town lies within Ordnance survey National Grid 10km square W64 and W65. Both the NPWS Rare Plants Database and the *New Atlas of British and Irish Flora* (Preston *et. al.*, 2002) have recorded protected flora species from these 10km squares.

A plant species list for 10km square W64 and W65 was generated from the CD-Rom version of Preston *et. al.*, (2002). This list was then compared to the lists of species protected under the Flora (Protection) Order of 1999; and those included in the *Irish Red Data Book. 1. Vascular Plants*. (Curtis and McGough, 1988). Table 5.2.3 presents details of the rare and protected plant species found within 10km squares W64 and W65.

Table 5.2.3: Rare or Protected Plant Species recorded by Preston *et. al.* (2002) from 10km squares W64 and W65

Species	Status within 10km square W64	Status within 10km square W65	Notes
Wood Bitter-vetch (<i>Vicia orobus</i>)	1987-1999*	1987-1999*	Flora Protection Order IUCN = Vulnerable IRDB TN = 11 (Vulnerable)
Cowslip (<i>Primula veris</i>)	Not recorded	1987-1999*	IUCN = Not threatened IRDB TN = 8 (Rare)
Golden Dock (<i>Rumex maritimus</i>)	Not recorded	pre-1970*	IUCN = Rare IRDB TN = 7 (Rare)
Lanceolate Spleenwort (<i>Asplenium billotii</i>)	pre-1970*	pre-1970*	Flora Protection Order IUCN = Vulnerable IRDB TN = 10 (Vulnerable)

Narrow-leaved Marsh-orchid (<i>Dactylorhiza traunsteineri</i>)	1970-1986*	Not Recorded	IUCN = Not threatened IRDB TN = 7 (Rare)
Pennyroyal (<i>Mentha pulegium</i>)	pre-1970* 1883 at (W635480)**	Not Recorded	Flora Protection Order IUCN = Vulnerable IRDB TN = 9 (Vulnerable)
Sharp-leaved Fluellen (<i>Kickxia elatine</i>)	1987-1999*	Not Recorded	IUCN = Vulnerable IRDB TN = 9 (Vulnerable)
Tufted Saltmarsh-grass (<i>Puccinellia fasciculata</i>)	Not Recorded	pre-1970* 1959 at 'Kinsale' **	IUCN = Rare IRDB TN = 8 Rare Flora Protection Order Species
Wild Clary (<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>)	pre-1970*	Not Recorded	IUCN = Rare IRDB TN = 7 (Rare)

*Preston *et. al.* (2002). ** NPWS Rare Plants Data Base.

Three Flora (Protection) Order species are recorded from 10km National Grid squares W64 and W65 as follows.

Wood Bitter-vetch (*Vicia orobus*) is recorded by Preston *et. al.* (2002), as being present within the 10km squares W64 and W65 (1987-1999). Webb *et. al.*, (1996) describe its occurrence in 'Thickets and rocky ground in the West, Centre and North-east of Ireland rather rare.'

Pennyroyal (*Mentha pulegium*) was recorded within 10km square W64 in 1883 (NPWS, 2008) and by Preston *et. al.* (2002) in W64, pre-1970. It is a perennial mint of damp sandy places and has been recorded from over 50 sites in the island of Ireland. The majority of these sites are concentrated in the southwest of Ireland, notably in Kerry and Cork (Curtis and McGough, 1988).

Lanceolate Spleenwort (*Asplenium billotii*) which is recorded by Preston *et. al.* (2002), as being present in the 10km squares W64 and W65 pre-1970, is listed as 'Vulnerable' in the Red Data Book. Webb *et. al.*, (1996) describe it as occurring in 'woods and shady places; locally frequent in the Liffey Valley but rare elsewhere.'

Five further species are listed in the Irish Red Data Book as follows.

Narrow-leaved Marsh-orchid (*Dactylorhiza traunsteineri*) which is recorded by Preston *et. al.* (2002), as being present within the 10km grid square W64 (between 1970-1986) is a Northern Ireland Scheduled Species (1999) but is not legally protected in the Republic. It is listed as 'Rare' in the Red Data Book. Webb *et. al.*, (1996) describe its occurrence in 'Bogs, fens and wet areas in machair.' Curtis and McGough, (1988) describe it as having a wide disturbance on the island increasingly recognised from fens and calcareous marshes, particularly in western Ireland.

Cowslip (*Primula veris*) which is recorded by Preston *et. al.* (2002), as being present within the 10km grid square W65 (between 1970-1986) is a Northern Ireland Scheduled Species (1999) but is not protected in the Republic. It is listed as 'Rare' in the Red Data Book. Webb *et. al.*, (1996) describe it as occurring in 'pastures; frequent in the Centre, rather rare in the North-east and South-west.' Curtis and McGough, (1988) describe it as being rare in Northern Ireland but is increasing in eastern Ireland and is now abundant in many site where it was once absent or rare.

Golden Dock (*Rumex maritimus*) which is recorded by Preston *et. al.* (2002), as being present within the 10km grid squares W65 (between 1970-1986) is a Northern Ireland Scheduled Species but is not protected in the Republic. It is listed as 'Rare' in the Red Data Book. Golden Dock occurs in 'ditches and by recently drained lakes and ponds; very rare.' (Webb *et. al.*, 1996).

Tufted Saltmarsh Grass was recorded within 10km square W65 in 1959 and by Preston *et. al.* (2002) pre-1970. Tufted Salt-marsh Grass (*Puccinellia fasciculata*), also commonly known as Borrer's Saltmarsh Grass, is a tufted perennial grass of saltmarshes, muddy inlets and estuaries, restricted to southern and eastern Ireland, in counties Cork, Waterford, Wexford & Dublin. The only recent records are from the vicinity of Wexford Harbour, and at Booterstown in Dublin: the species is apparently declining (Curtis and McGough, 1988).

Wild Clary (*Salvia verbenaca*) is recorded by Preston *et. al.* (2002), as being present within the 10km squares W64 pre-1970. Wild Clary (*Salvia verbenaca*) (also known as Wild Sage) is an aromatic perennial herb of dry sandy banks, pastures and waste places near the coast. Since 1970, this species has been recorded from 11 sites in Co.'s Cork (3; one since destroyed), Waterford (1), Galway (1), Wexford (2), Dublin (3; one now extinct) and Meath (Curtis and McGough, 1988).

5.2.2.1 Fauna of Kinsale

Mammals

In Exploring Irish Mammals, Hayden and Harrington (2000) present the distribution of mammal species by 20km x 20km squares, each of which is composed of four Ordnance survey 10km National Grid squares. Kinsale lies within the 20km square composed of W64, W65, W74 and W75. Table 5.2.4 presents details of the mammal species found in this 20km square.

Table 5.2.4 Legally Protected Mammal Species Recorded by Hayden and Harrington as Being Present in the 20km x 20km Square Comprising 10km National Grid Squares W66, W67, W76 and W77

Species	Indication of National Distribution	Level of Protection	Likelihood of the species occurring in Kinsale
Badger	Throughout Ireland	Wildlife (Amendment) Act (2000).	Likely to be present in the vicinity of the town.
Daubenton's bat	Throughout Ireland	Wildlife (Amendment) Act (2000). Habitats Directive Annex IV. Berne Convention Annex II.	Likely to be present in the town, roosting in buildings.
Common/Soprano Pipistrelle	Throughout Ireland	Wildlife (Amendment) Act (2000). Habitats Directive Annex IV. Berne Convention Annex II.	Likely to be present in the town, roosting in buildings.
Hedgehog	Throughout Ireland	Berne Convention Appendix III.	Likely to be present in larger gardens and 'wild' areas the town.

			town.
Irish (mountain) hare	Throughout Ireland	Berne Convention Appendix III.	May be present.
Irish stoat	Throughout Ireland	Wildlife (Amendment) Act (2000). Berne Convention Appendix III.	May be present.
Leisler's bat	Scattered throughout Ireland	Habitats Directive Annex IV. Berne Convention Annex II.	Likely to be present in the town, roosting in buildings.
Otter	Throughout Ireland	Habitats Directive Annexes II and IV. Berne Convention Appendix III. Wildlife (Amendment) Act (2000).	Likely to be present in the harbour and in streams in the town.
Pygmy shrew	Throughout Ireland	Berne Convention Appendix III.	Likely to be present in rough areas of scrub and grassland in the town.
Red squirrel	Scattered throughout Ireland, but with evidence of a recent decline.	Wildlife (Amendment) Act (2000).	Likely to be present in woodlands within a few kilometres of the town or possibly within the town itself.

Birds

Table 5.2.5 presents details of bird species of conservation concern recorded by Gibbons *et. al.* (1993) as breeding within OS 10km grid squares W64 and W65, within which Kinsale is located. Species considered here to be of high conservation concern are those listed either on the 'Red List' by Lynas *et. al.* (2007), as being of high conservation concern in Ireland; those listed in the Irish Red Data Book (RDB) (Whilde, 1993) or those listed under Appendix I of the EU 'Birds Directive'.

Table 5.2.5 Bird Species of High Conservation Concern Recorded From 10km National Grid Squares W64 and W65 During the 'New Atlas Survey' 1988-91 (Gibbons *et al.*, 1993)

Species	Breeding status within 10km square W64	Breeding status within 10km square W65	Notes
Barn Owl	N/A	Confirmed breeding	Red List
Chough	Confirmed breeding	N/A	Annex I Birds Directive Red List
Corncrake	Possible breeding	N/A	Annex I Birds Directive Red List
Grey Partridge	N/A	Possible breeding	Red List
Herring Gull	Confirmed breeding	N/A	Red List
Yellowhammer	Confirmed breeding	Confirmed breeding	Red List

Barn Owls usually nest in old buildings such as barns and require access to areas of suitable feeding habitat such as rough grassland or marshland. They will occasionally occupy urban environments. Plenty of suitable habitat exists around Kinsale and it is possible that the species occurs within the town boundary or close by.

Choughs are restricted to areas of low intensity livestock farming close to suitable nest sites, i.e. cliffs, caves and occasionally old buildings (Gibbons *et al.*, 1993). Most Choughs live on the coast. Potential habitat for Chough exists along much of the coastline in the Kinsale area, there is a particularly large population on the Old Head of Kinsale. Choughs are likely to visit the town itself on occasion but the habitats within the town are not of importance to this species.

The Corncrake's main habitat is grass meadows that are late-cut for hay and silage. The species has declined greatly since the Atlas was published in 1993 and has not been recorded breeding in Co Cork for a number of years.

Grey Partridge in Ireland occupy agricultural land and large areas of cutover bog. The species has declined greatly since the Atlas was published in 1993 and has not been recorded in Co. Cork for a number of years.

Herring Gull breeds in a wide range of habitats, forming colonies on steep cliffs, rocky outcrops, screes, beaches, moorland, and even on inhabited buildings (see Gibbons *et al.*, 1993). The roofs of the town offer potential breeding habitat for Herring Gulls and birds are present throughout the summer.

Yellowhammer is a bird of agricultural land requiring both tillage and hedgerows within its breeding territory. Gillmore (1979) found that Yellowhammers had disappeared from agricultural areas in which tillage comprises the lowest proportion (<10%) of agricultural land use. The species remains extant around Kinsale (RM *pers. obs.*), and may breed within the town boundary.

Reptiles and Amphibians

It is likely that common frog and probable smooth newt may utilise wet areas such as drains, ponds, etc. within Kinsale. There is no record of Viviparous Lizard from 10km squares W64 and W65 (Marnell, 2002). This was however not a comprehensive survey, and it is considered likely that this species also occurs in the area.

Terrestrial Invertebrates

There are no recent records of the Habitats Directive Annex II butterfly species marsh fritillary in OS 10km National Grid squares W64 and W65 (Asher et. al. 2001). It is considered unlikely that this species occurs within the study area.

None of the three species of *Vertigo* snails (*V. geyeri*, *V. angustior* and *V. moulinsiana*) that are listed under Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive are known to occur in the Kinsale area (Kerney 1999). Kerry Slug a species listed as an Annex II and Annex IV species of the European Habitats Directive is not present within the Kinsale area.

The range of habitats within the study area is high, and it is likely that this is reflected in a diverse invertebrate fauna. There is no reason to suppose, however, that the invertebrate fauna of the Kinsale area is other than typical of a coastal lowland location in southwest Ireland.

5.2.2.2 Aquatic biodiversity

The Bandon River flows through Bandon and Inishannon draining the agricultural catchment to the west of Kinsale Town. Upstream of Kinsale unspecified ammocoetes (lamprey larvae) have been recorded in the middle reaches of the Bandon River (Kurz & Costello 1998). Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) have been recorded in the Bandon River (Clabby *et al* 2003). A tributary drains into the Bandon River through the eastern part of Kinsale town and forms the estuary in the centre of the town. The Bandon River flows from west to east to the south of the town where it takes the form of a fairly steep-sided 'drowned valley' with a narrow and steep intertidal zone.

The water quality of the Bandon River upstream of Kinsale is continually monitored by the EPA. The most recent water quality survey was carried out in 2005 at a sampling station in Inishannon where a 'Q value' rating of 4 (meaning that it is of 'Good' status) was recorded. The section of the Bandon River situated directly to the south of Kinsale has been labelled the '*Lower Bandon Estuary*' by the EPA. The area has been classified as Eutrophic by the EPA. Eutrophication is caused by enrichment of water by nutrients (especially phosphorous and/or nitrogen compounds) causing an accelerated growth in algae and other plant forms, which causes an undesirable disturbance to the balance of organisms present in the water, and to the quality of the water. In addition, eutrophic waters may experience mass growth and strandings of algal material, which typically produces very strong odours and visual impact as it degrades on beaches and shorelines (EPA, 2008). 'Kinsale Harbour' where the Bandon River meets the sea was classed in the same year as 'Intermediate Eutrophic' which indicates low levels of eutrophication.

5.2.2.3 Ecological Networks

An ecological network is a network that consists of core areas of high biodiversity value and corridors or 'stepping stones' which are linkages between them. Ecological networks are important in connecting areas of local biodiversity with each other and with nearby designated

sites so as to prevent islands of habitat from being isolated. They also provide important linkages for wildlife, flora and fauna and are important for mammals, including bats, and for birds and invertebrates. Treelines and hedgerows are likely to be important components of Kinsale's ecological networks, allowing for linkages between and within areas of high biodiversity such as woodlands and wetlands in the surrounding countryside. The ecological network approach supports management of linkages between areas of biodiversity value, between areas used by species for different functions and between local populations of different species.

The importance of ecological networks is the subject of Article 10 of the EU Habitats Directive, which recognises that ecological networks are corridors and 'stepping stones' for wildlife, flora and fauna allowing for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange. The Habitats Directive requires that ecological connectivity and areas of ecological value outside the network of designated ecological sites (cSACs and SPAs) are maintained and it recognises the need for the management of these through land-use planning and development policies.

5.2.2.4 Invasive Species

Invasive species is the term used to describe a non-native species which becomes established in natural, or semi natural ecosystems or habitats, is an agent of change, and threatens native biological diversity (or has the potential to do so).

South West Regional Fisheries Board have confirmed that as yet, there is no record of any invasive species getting a foothold within Kinsale Harbour. However there is a potential threat from a number of sources.

Zebra Mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*), a highly invasive bivalve mollusc, could enter the Bandon River on boats and ships entering Kinsale Harbour. Wireweed (*Sargassum muticum*) a highly vigorous brown seaweed has been reported in some areas in West Cork and is expected to spread throughout coastal Ireland (see <http://www.irishseaweed.com/documents/smutposter.pdf>). Both constitute serious threats to native marine flora and fauna. Other potential sources for invasive species include surface water runoff from garden centres, which may bring seeds or fragments of living plants into natural systems; and exotic species planted in parks and residential gardens, which may 'escape' and spread into natural habitats.

Other invasive species threatening natural systems in Ireland include Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) and Grey Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), and any of these could potentially become a problem for biodiversity in Kinsale.

5.2.3 Impact Assessment: Existing Environmental Problems and Constraints / Threats

The following environmental problems and constraints / threats to biodiversity in Kinsale have been identified:

- The discharge of raw sewage from Kinsale town into Kinsale Harbour has serious implications for biodiversity in the harbour and is also a significant problem for implementation of the EU Shellfish Waters Directive.
- There is also potential for impacts to the aquatic environment in the form of industrial and agricultural run-off, other municipal sources of pollution, fragmentation of river corridors

and soil erosion. These risks apply in particular to Kinsale Harbour and the Bandon River. Under the Water Framework Directive, water quality must achieve “good status” by 2015.

- **Greenfield Development:** All developments which take place on greenfield sites are likely cause some degree of negative impact on biodiversity. Where developments i.e. roads, housing and other infrastructural developments have occurred on greenfield sites they have replaced some semi natural and natural areas with artificial surfacing causing a gradual loss of biodiversity.
- **Invasive species:** There is potential for invasive species to enter surface waters and marine systems from a number of sources including runoff from garden centres, from boats, by dumping of waste from fish tanks and garden ponds, and perhaps also from aquaculture facilities. There is therefore a need to include a policy in the new plan to prevent the introduction of those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species. The utilisation of native species in amenity planting and stocking along with change in community actions to reduce the introduction and spread of non-native species should be encouraged.
- **Removal of Ecological Corridors:** The removal of ecological networks / corridors is a significant issue. It is recognised that there has been a significant increase in hedgerow removal throughout Ireland in recent years.
- **Climate Change:** Until recently biodiversity losses have been attributed to the spread and increased environmental impact of people, however, it seems likely that future losses will increasingly result from human induced global climate change. Climate change considerations must therefore be seen as central to the protection of the natural environment.

5.2.4 Evolution without implementation of the plan

In Kinsale, biodiversity, flora and fauna is offered protection through the County Development Plan and the Town Plan. Without implementation of the new Plan it is expected that there would be a continual loss of greenfield sites and semi-natural habitats. There is currently no secondary sewage treatment in Kinsale and as a result large quantities of raw sewage is being discharged into Kinsale Harbour from the town. This situation would be expected to worsen in the absence of the Plan. In general terms, there would be no long-term guidance and each planning application would be dealt with on an individual basis, resulting in potential for long terms individual and cumulative impacts on habitats (including fragmentation), water and other natural resources.

5.3 POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH

This section of the report outlines the policies relevant to population in the Kinsale Town Council area and population, employment and household data primarily retrieved from the Census of Population 2006.

The 2006 Census of population identified a population of 2,298 within the Kinsale Town Council boundary area reflecting a rate of population growth between 2002-2006 below the national average. The town environs (which is within the Cork County Council area) however have grown rapidly in the same period, significantly beyond the projections outlined in the both the CASP Strategy 2001 and the Cork County Development Plan, 2003.

The large extent of this growth has taken place outside the Town Council area within the environs. A significant number of residential units, yet to be built, have the benefit of planning permission within the Town Council area. The extent and speed of growth has placed strain on the capacities of existing infrastructural facilities in the area so much so that significant upgrades are now required.

In short, the recent development of the wider area, particularly the environs of Kinsale has been out of line with the regional strategic projections on settlement and population outlined in the CASP strategy.

The new population projections outlined in draft Kinsale Town Development Plan derive from geo-directory figures (April 2008), the 2006 Census of population, the number of extant planning permissions and proposed new residential zonings and are based on an average household size of 2.4. The projections see potential for a population of 3,501 persons in the Town Council administrative area circa 2015. These projections are not consistent with projections contained in both the draft Cork County Development Plan, 2007 and the adopted CASP Update 2008.

It is clear that the development of Kinsale and its environs would greatly benefit from increased co-operation and co-ordination between the Town Council and the County Council not just in terms of the provision of necessary infrastructure but in the development of lands for residential uses. In terms of this Strategic Environmental Assessment it is clear that the further growth of the town should be directed as much as possible to the Town Council area to realise a more compact and sustainable urban area. A new policy for inclusion in the draft plan is proposed in this regard.

Sufficient lands will be rezoned for employment and community uses within the town development boundary, which will contribute to the generation of critical mass within the town of Kinsale.

5.3.1 Policy

Baseline National plans outlined in Chapter 4 including the National Spatial Strategy, the National Development Plan, the Retail Planning Guidelines, the Residential Planning Guidelines and the Planning and Development Act are all considered key plans/acts to reference in relation to population and human health. At a regional level the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Southwest Region will inform the policies and objectives for population and human health. While at a local level the Cork Strategic Retail Study (CSRS) 2002, draft Cork Strategic Retail Study (CSRS) 2008, Cork County Development Plan 2003, draft Cork County Development Plan 2007, North and West Cork Strategic Plan 2002 to 2020 and the Bandon Electoral Local Area Plan 2005 will inform mitigation, policies and objectives in relation to the human environment (refer to Chapter 4 Related Plans).

5.3.2 Baseline

This section of the report describes the evaluation as set out in the SEA regulations of the environmental topic of population. For the purposes of evaluation, the impacts on population are divided into two, population impacts in terms of job creation and impacts on population in terms of residential population. The initial section presents a synopsis of the baseline conditions followed by a background to the Plans and policies, which influence the population of Kinsale.

Table 5.3.1 indicates trends in population during the intercensal period between 1996-2002, Cork County recorded an increase (10.7%) in population, Kinsale Urban saw an increase of 12.5% while Kinsale Environs and Kinsale Rural ED increased by 22.7% and 21.1% respectively. Therefore during this period it was evident that the population of Kinsale Urban had increased above the average of County Cork, however the population of Kinsale Environs and Kinsale Rural ED which includes Kinsale Environs had increased significantly in comparison to that of Kinsale Urban District and Cork County.

During the most recent intercensal period of 2002-2006, Cork County recorded another increase in its population (11.4%). Kinsale Urban had a population increase of 1.5%, while Kinsale Environs and Kinsale Rural ED had an increase of 38.9% and 25.5% respectively. Therefore it is evident that the most significant increase in population between 2002 – 2006 was in the Kinsale Environs. It is considered that this significant increase in population is a result of the rezoning of lands by Cork County Council within the Kinsale Environs and the proliferation of one-off dwellings in this area.

Table 5.3.1: Trends in Population between the Censal Periods of 1996-2002 and 2002-2006 for County Cork, Kinsale Urban District and Kinsale Environs

Area	1996	2002	% Change 96-02	2006	% Change 02-06
Kinsale Urban	2,007	2,257	12.5%	2,298	1.8%
Kinsale Environs	1,057	1,297	22.7%	1,801	38.9%
Kinsale Rural ED (inc. Kinsale Environs)	2,513	3,044	21.1%	3,819	25.5%
Co. Cork	293,323	324,767	10.7%	361,877	11.4%

Source: Census of Population 1996, 2002 and 2006.

The age structure of the population of Kinsale is important to examine, as this will have implications for future housing demand, schools and health care services. It must be noted that the figures in Table 5.3.2 below is based on the Kinsale town Council area, which comprises the Kinsale Urban District; the total population figure for this area is 2,298. Three categories of the population structure are examined:

- the young age dependant population (i.e. those persons within the 0-14 age cohort);
- the old age dependent population (i.e. those persons in the 65+ age cohort); and
- the working/independent age population (i.e. those persons within the 15-64 age cohort).

Table 5.3.2 Kinsale Urban Age Cohort of the population 2002 - 2006

Area	0-14	15-64	65+	Total
Kinsale Urban 2006	311 (13.5%)	1,642 (71.5%)	345 (15%)	2,298
County Cork	78,863 (22%)	245,103 (68%)	37,911 (10%)	361,877

In 2006, 13.5% of the population of Kinsale Urban was within the young age dependant population. This is significantly below that for the County, which has a young age dependant population of approximately 22%. This has negative implications for the future working/independent age cohort as there is likely to be a natural decline in the future housing and employment demand in the area, as there is likely to be less young adults moving into the labour market and setting up independent households in the future from within the current population of Kinsale Town.

In 2006, 15% of the population in Kinsale Urban were within the old age dependent population of people with approximately 345 people. Kinsale had a greater number of persons aged 65 and over than in the County which only recorded 10% of its population within the 65+ age cohort in 2006. This higher percentage of elderly population has slight implications relating to health and social service needs as increased provision of these services would be needed within Kinsale Town compared with that of the rest of the County.

Reflecting the national economic growth of recent years and increased participation in employment, a total of 55% of the population of Kinsale over the age of 15 are engaged in employment, this corresponds to the County average of 46%. According to the 2006 Census figures approximately 141 people or 11% of the Kinsale Urban labour force are unemployed, this is significantly higher than the county average of 5%. The largest percentage of persons at work in Kinsale Urban work in commerce and trade representing 14% of the total workforce, while the least amount of people work in the agricultural industry in the Kinsale Urban area.

Population Projections

The new population projections outlined in draft Kinsale Town Development Plan derive from geo-directory figures (April 2008), the 2006 Census of population, the number of extant planning

permissions and proposed new residential zonings and are based on an average household size of 2.4. The projections see potential for a population of 3,501 persons in the Town Council administrative area circa 2015. These projections are not consistent with projections contained in both the draft Cork County Development Plan, 2007 and the adopted CASP Update 2008 which project a total population of 6,147 by 2020 for the Kinsale Urban ED and Kinsale Rural ED, which would make provision for an increase of 30 people in this period.

It is clear that the development of Kinsale and its environs would greatly benefit from increased co-operation and co-ordination between the Town Council and the County Council not just in terms of the provision of necessary infrastructure but in the development of lands for residential uses. In terms of this Strategic Environmental Assessment it is clear that the further growth of the town should be directed as much as possible to the Town Council area to realise a more compact and sustainable urban area. A new policy for inclusion in the draft plan is proposed in this regard.

Zoning Provision

The Development Plan Guidelines (DoEHLG 2007) state that planning authorities need to zone enough land for residential needs for at least nine years. This means that more land than is necessary should be zoned. Sufficient lands must therefore be zoned for the period of the Development Plan and a further three years.

A capacity study of the zoned lands within Kinsale was undertaken by the Colin Buchanan Planning Consultants in preparation of the draft plan. As a result of this study it was considered that an additional 1.1 hectares of land should be rezoned from Industrial to new residential development. New residential zonings were based on the following principles;

1. To provide new residential communities to enhance the setting of the proposed Town Park and to provide passive surveillance of the same.
2. To correct erroneous zonings in the previous Development Plan

5.3.3 Impact assessment – existing environmental problems and constraints

Kinsale Town Council and Kinsale environs (which is within the Cork County Council area) have grown rapidly in the period between 2002 - 2006, significantly beyond the projections outlined in the both the CASP Strategy 2001 and the Cork County Development Plan, 2003. However the large extent of this growth has taken place outside the Town Council area within the environs. A significant number of residential units, yet to be built, have the benefit of planning permission within the Town Council area. The extent and speed of growth has placed strain on the capacities of existing infrastructural facilities in the area so much so that significant upgrades are now required.

In short, the recent development of the wider area, particularly the environs of Kinsale has been out of line with the regional strategic projections on settlement and population outlined in the CASP strategy. In addition the new population projections outlined in draft Kinsale Town Development Plan are not consistent with projections contained in both the draft Cork County Development Plan, 2007 and the CASP Update 2008.

5.3.4 Evolution without implementation of the plan

The provision of planned residential, employment, improved infrastructure and community uses within the Kinsale Town Council area will result in a better quality of life than would arise from an unstructured/unplanned approach. If the plan were not implemented, the redevelopment and renewal of the area would take place in a haphazard approach, possibly allowing growth in the form

of pockets of populations developing in an ad hoc fashion throughout the Kinsale Town Council area. Moreover the positive regulatory policies and objectives being introduced by the Kinsale Development Plan and aimed at improving the town's vitality, character and overall environment would not be implemented through the planning and development process.

5.4 SOIL

5.4.1 Policy

Soils are offered protection through the proposed EC Directive 2004/35/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council for establishing a framework for the protection of soil and amending Directive 2004/35/EC. This Directive provides a common strategy for the protection and sustainable use of soil based on the principles of integration of soil concerns into other policies, preservation of soil functions within the context of sustainable use, prevention of threats to soil and migration of their effects, as well as restoration of degraded soils to a level of functionality consistent with the current and approved future use.

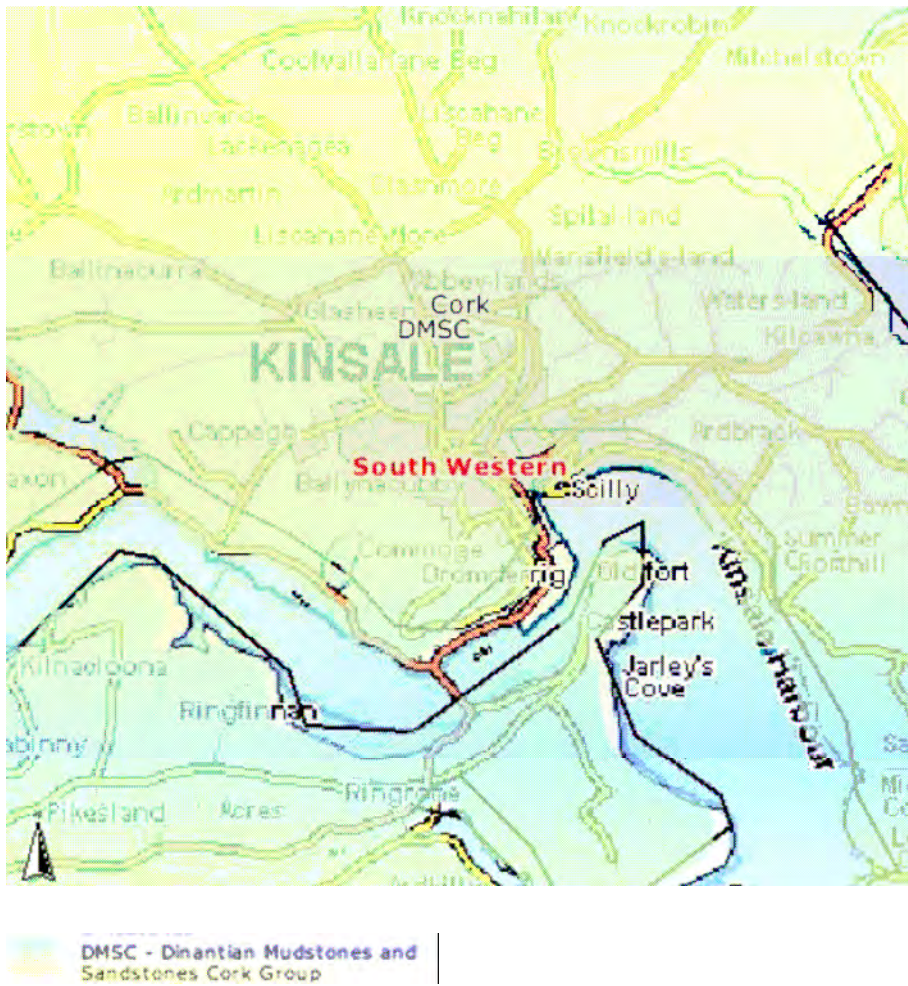
5.4.2 Baseline

Bedrock Geology

The town of Kinsale is situated within a sedimentary geological setting. The underlying rock comprises of bedded sediments from the Kinsale Formation with an associated member formation the Pig's Cove Member (located on the opposite bank of the River to the Town). The Kinsale Formation is made up of grey mudstone and subordinate sandstone and deposited by fluvial deposition during the Lower Carboniferous Period ~ 355 million years ago. The overlying Pigs Cove Formation sand-lensed mudstone also deposited during the Lower Carboniferous period.

The Kinsale town area is not structurally complicated. The town lies between two anticlines (A-shaped folds) that trend southwest – northeast, the fold axes can be located passing through Belgooly (~8km from Kinsale) and 2-3km north of Ballinspittle. There are no significant faults in the study area (minors faults and fractures may be found on a local level).

Figure 5.4.1 – Group Bedrock and Structural Geology



Source: Geology of South Cork, Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) (1997).

Figure 5.4.2 – Formation Bedrock Geology



Colour Code	Formation
KN	Kinsale Formation
KNpc	Pigs Cove Formation

Source: Geology of South Cork, Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) (1997).

Hydrogeology

According to the GSI, the underlying aquifer is classified as a locally important aquifer, moderately productive in local zones (see Figure 5.4.3). Such an aquifer is capable of yielding enough water to springs and boreholes to supply single houses, small farms or small group water schemes. The GSI vulnerability rating in the Kinsale Town area is high to extreme with some extreme areas with rock near the surface (see Figure 5.4.4).

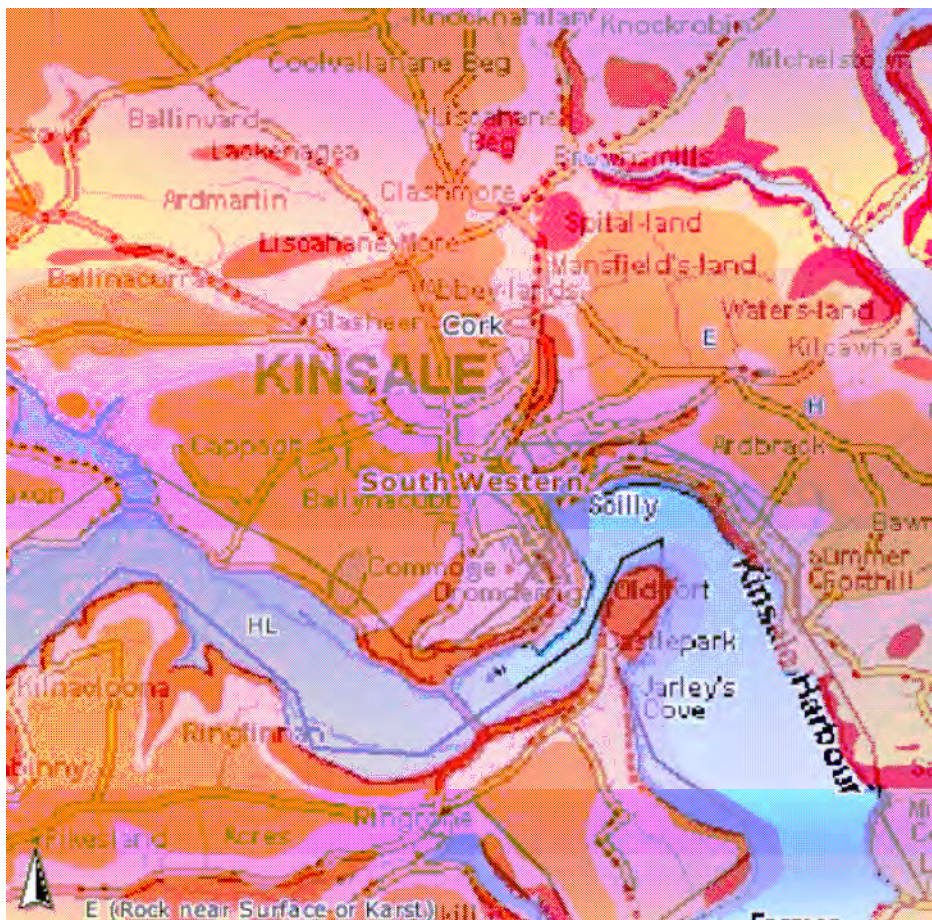
Figure 5.4.3 – Local Aquifers



LI - Locally Important Aquifer - Bed which is Moderately Productive only
Local Zones

Source: GSI mapper

Figure 5.4.4 – Aquifer Vulnerability in the Study Area



- E (Rock near Surface or Karst)
- E - Extreme
- H - High
- M - Moderate
- L - Low
- HL - High to Low. Only an interim status took place.
- Water

Source: GSI mapper

Sites of Geological Heritage/Interest Within the Kinsale area there is the following site of geological interest –

Table 5.4.1 – Areas of Geological Interest within the Study Area

Site Name	Principal Characteristics	Location
Old Head of Kinsale	Devonian and Carboniferous type section for the Munster Basin Some fossiliferous beds	Holeopen Bay

5.4.3 Soils and Subsoils

The Kinsale area generally consists of glacial tills laid down during the last glaciation period over 10,000 years ago. The till matrix is made up of Devonian and Carboniferous sediments, which reflects the country rock that makes up the study area.

Alluvial deposits are also present along and adjacent to the rivers that pass through the Study Area. These deposits are likely to consist of estuarine clays and sand deposits as the River Bandon enters the mature stage of the rivers journey.

The town centre area is generally made up of man made hard standing surfaces and landscaping. The made surfaces also extends into the Summercove area probably due to the ascetic attractions of building homes overlooking a natural harbour.

Figure 5.4.5 – Soils and Deposits within the Kinsale Area



Source: GSI mapper

5.4.4 Quarrying and Mining

At present there are no mining activities in the Kinsale area. Likewise there are no quarrying or sand/gravel pits in operation in the area.

The nearest quarry is located ~10km from Kinsale at Dromkeen, Inishannon. Sand and gravel is extracted from this site as fluvial and flood deposits were laid down over centuries from the Bandon River.

- Keohane Readymix - Dromkeen, In

- nishannon, Co. Cork Extraction: 250,000 -500,000 ton per annum.

5.4.5 Impact assessment –existing environmental problems and constraints

Greenfield sites - any proposed developments on greenfield sites involves changing the character of the ground and soil. New developments have the potential to contaminate the soil and underlying groundwater, particularly in the case of septic tanks and poor wastewater treatment facilities. Existing activities such as agriculture and manufacturing may also pose a risk to soil and groundwater.

Soil erosion – construction, agriculture and forestry can lead to soil erosion, which has a negative affects on water quality and aquatic biodiversity. Soil erosion results in a loss of nutrients in the upper layers of the soils also leading to a reduced water-holding capacity. Soil erosion can also lead to sediment movement and agricultural pollution into watercourses. This can lead to increased solids in watercourses, disruption of ecosystems and contamination of drinking water.

The frequent rock outcrops and the presence of rock close to the ground surface throughout the Study Area and particularly to in the river/harbour area of Kinsale may be a constraint to road construction if excavation through rock for cuttings is required.

5.4.6 Evolution without implementation of the Plan

The proposed Soil Directive suggests the encouragement of development on brownfield sites through sustainable redevelopment of existing sites. The reuse of urban brownfield sites in particular will reduce urban sprawl and the need to develop greenfield sites.

The new Plan will provide policies and guidance for development of brownfield sites over Greenfield sites. In the absence of the Plan there is the potential for further development of Greenfield sites resulting in a loss of soil resource to development and soil erosion due to removal of materials due to construction works.

If quarrying is managed poorly, quarrying (and/or gravel pits) may lead to depletion of subsoils, removal of natural resources and the displacement of the soil layer.

5.5 WATER

5.5.1 Policy

In the interest of maintaining good water quality in the Kinsale area, the County Council set about fulfilling its obligation under the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations, 2003 (SI No.722 of 2003) transposed by the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) into Irish Law offers protection for water in Ireland. The Water Framework Directive (WFD) sets an objective of achieving at least good status for all water bodies and aims to ensure that no further deterioration in status of any waters will occur by 2015.

Good status for surface water is a combination of the chemical quality, biological quality and microbiological quality that must be achieved. For Groundwater Good Status refers to groundwater chemical water quality and quantity.

In addition to the Water Framework Directive, water in Ireland is also offered protection under European Community (Groundwater Directive, 80/68/EEC) and National Legislation (Local Government (Water Pollution) Act; The Waste Management Acts and the Planning and Development Act).

Drinking Water Regulations (S.I No 439 of 2000) ensure that the presence of a single faecal coliform in a water supply is unacceptable.

Local Policies

The South Western River Basin District (SWRBD) “A Future for Our Waters” and “Water Matters” outline the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive, and detail the main issues of investigation to date. These include wastewater and industrial discharges, landfills, quarries, mines and contaminated lands, agriculture, wastewater from unsewered properties, forestry, usage and discharge of dangerous substances, physical modifications, abstractions and local issues. The booklet “Water Matters” also outlines the next steps in the process of preparing a River Basin Management Plan, which is due to be adopted in 2009. The document “A Future for Our Waters” indicates the findings of Risk Assessments that have been carried out on water bodies within the SWRBD.

5.5.2 Baseline

Surface Water

Kinsale town lies along the estuary of the River Bandon as it enters the Atlantic Ocean. It forms a natural harbour, where the town is situated at the bottom of the steep valley. Numerous other tributaries drain off the steep hill sides at Scilly, Summercove, Charles Fort and Ringfinnan.

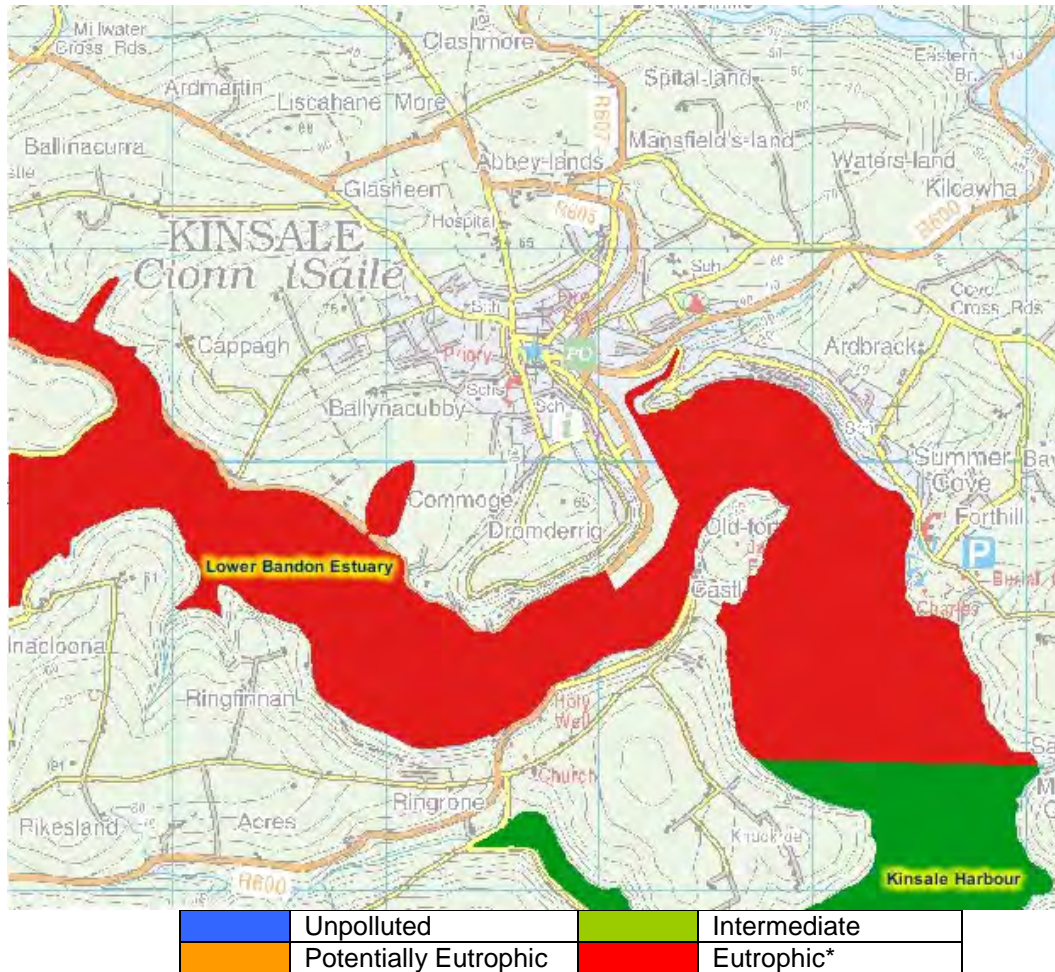
In order to manage and assess water quality, a River Basin Management Plan was put in place in the south west of Ireland. Kinsale lies within the South Western River Basin District (SWRBD) the plan for which is due to be adopted in 2009. Baseline data including the various risk assessments for surface water and groundwater's in the Kinsale area are outlined below.

Figure 5.5.1 – Streams and Rivers within the Kinsale Area



Source: – EPA ENvision Mapper

Figure 5.5.2 – Water Quality in the Kinsale Area



*Eutrophic - rich in mineral and organic nutrients that promote a proliferation of plant life, especially algae

Source: – EPA ENvision Mapper

Risk assessments have been carried out on all water bodies within the SWRBD and four risk categories were created.

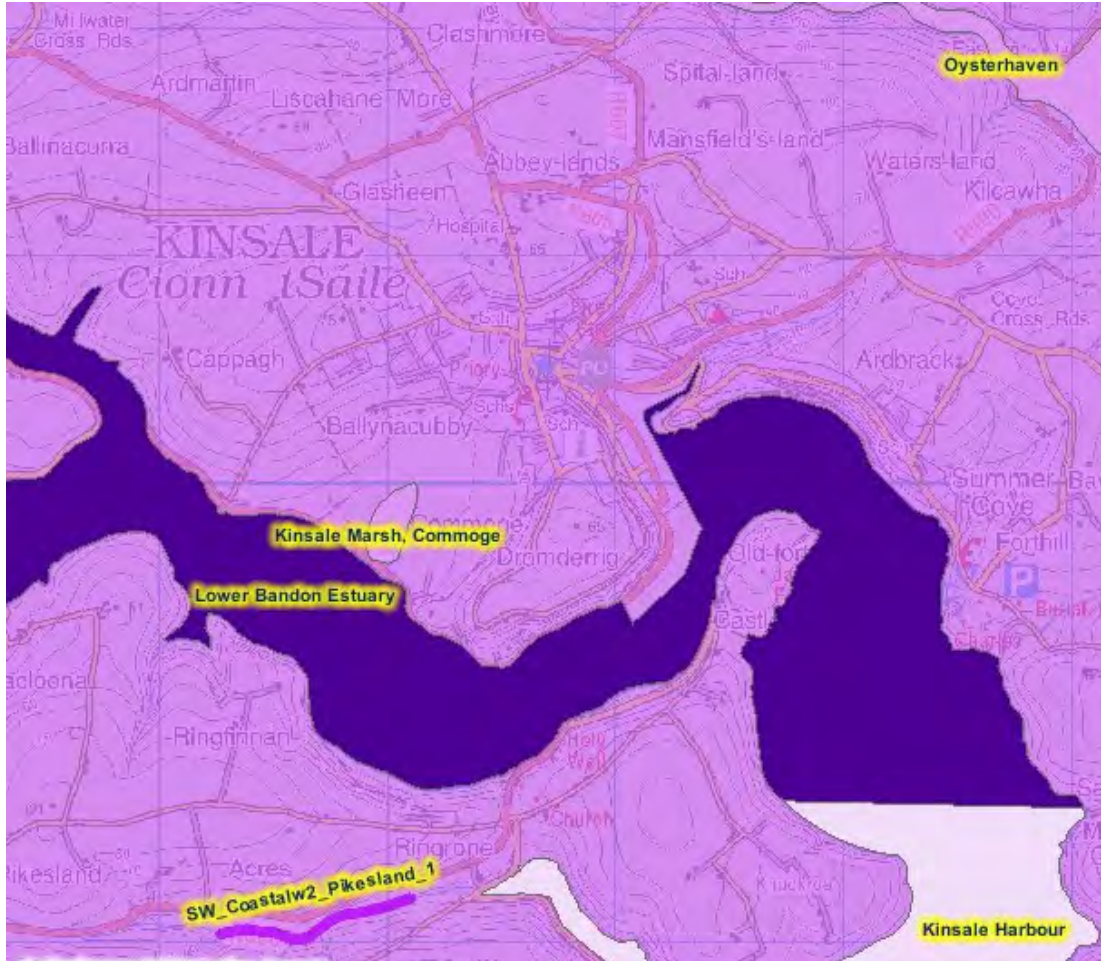
1. Unpolluted
2. Intermediate
3. Potentially Eutrophic
4. Eutrophic

Figure 5.5.1 shows a map of risk assessments undertaken by the SWRBD for Rivers and streams within Kinsale and Figure 5.5.4 shows a map of risk assessment for Groundwater throughout the Kinsale area.

All rivers/streams within Kinsale (namely Bandon river Estuary and streams within the harbour) have received an EPA Q Value rating of 4, indicating “good status”. However the Water Framework Directive (WFD) has categorised the Bandon River Estuary as “At Risk of Not Achieving Good

Status”. However the greater harbour mouth area is classed “As Strongly Expected to Achieve Good Status” due to greater dilution of ocean currents, therefore “Not at Risk”. Figure 5.5.3 shows the Water Framework Directives risk classification of rivers within the study area

Figure 5.5.3 - WFD Risk Assessment Rating for GW



Water Framework Directive Colour Key	At Risk of Not Achieving Good Status	Possibly at Risk of Not Achieving Good Status	Expected to Achieve Good Status	Strongly Expected to Achieve Good Status

Source – EPA ENvision Mapper

Table 5.5.1 - Water Framework Directive and EPA ratings of Rivers, Streams and Bathing Waters within the Study Area

River/Streams	EPA Q Rating (taken further up stream)	Water Framework Directive Rating
River Bandon	4	At Risk of Not Achieving Good Status
Greater Harbour Area	4	Strongly Expected to Achieve Good Status

Source: EPA ENvision Mapper

Groundwater

Groundwater forms an integral part of all ecosystems and within the Kinsale area is a significant resource. A number of private drinking water supplies are taken from groundwater reserves.

Groundwater is subject to contamination from agriculture, poorly designed/constructed and maintained domestic wastewater treatment infrastructure, industrial sources etc. Groundwater also contributes to surface water quality providing residual flows from rivers and streams. It is also integral to the support of wetlands.

Earthworks, cuttings or dewatering may have the potential to locally lower the groundwater table, which may impact on shallow domestic wells close to the proposed road. Further, road surface runoff, if not directed into properly constructed drainage outlets, may also impact on these shallow wells.

Road runoff and accidental spillage can affect groundwater quality and wells. Consideration will have to be given to road drainage and pollution control measures. Where there are no surface water features, soakaways may be used for road drainage.

Table 5.5.3 summarizes the groundwater throughout the Study Area. This information is presented in Figures 5.5.3 and 5.5.4.

Table 5.5.2 - Summary of GW Ratings Throughout Kinsale

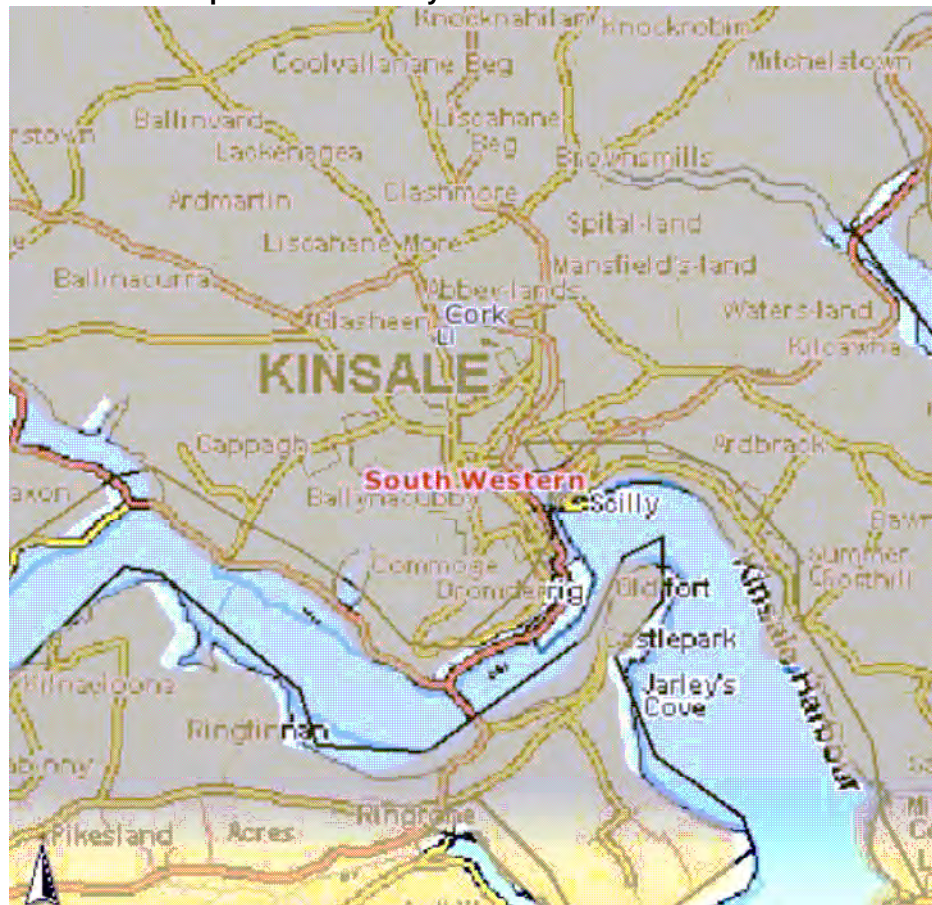
Location	Water Framework Directive Rating	Aquifer Classification	Aquifer Vulnerability
Town Area	Possibly at Risk of Not Achieving Good Status	Locally Important Aquifer – Moderately Productive in Local Zones (LI)	High – Extreme (some rock near surface)
Greater Harbour Area			

Source: WFD - EPA ENvision Mapper, Aquifer Vulnerability - GSI

The Water Framework Directive classifies a large proportion of the Kinsale urban area groundwater as “Possibly at Risk of Not Achieving Good Status”. Also aquifer vulnerability can be considered high with some rock found near surface, therefore verifying a possible risk. See Figure 1.4 – Aquifer Vulnerability

Kinsale is served by a groundwater and surface water source, which comes from the Bandon River in the centre of town.

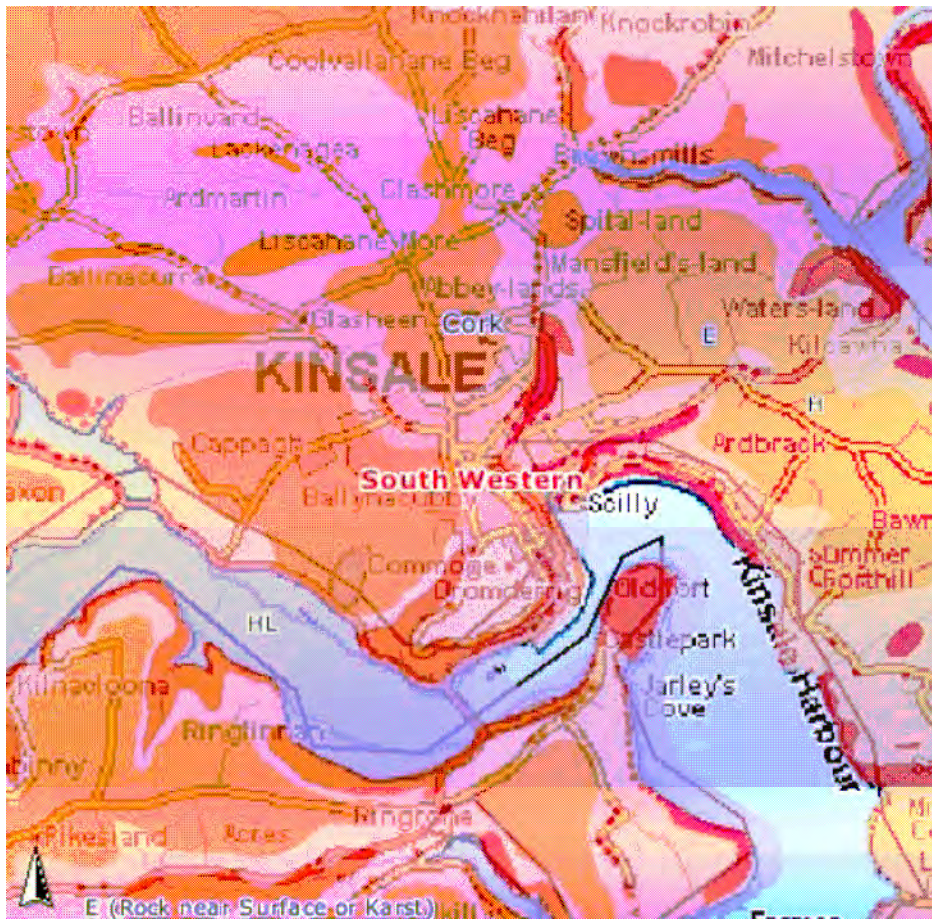
Figure 5.5.4 – Bedrock Aquifer Vulnerability in the Kinsale Area



LI - Locally Important Aquifer - Bed which is Moderately Productive only Local Zones

Source: GSI GW Mapper

Figure 5.5.5 - Groundwater Vulnerability Within the Study Area



- E (Rock near Surface or Karst)
- E - Extreme
- H - High
- M - Moderate
- L - Low
- HL - High to Low. Only an interim took place.
- Water

Source: GSI GW Mapper

Flooding

Flooding in Kinsale is considered to be a problem as Kinsale has undergone flooding at a significant number of locations within the town centre and approach roads. Most recently (2005) flooding was reported at the following locations – Dromderrig, Pier Rd, Guardwell St, Eastern Road, the Glen, and Scilly. Flooding is typically caused by high tides and may also be influenced by heavy rainfall.

Section 2.7 of the draft Plan outlines a number of comprehensive safeguarding policies to mitigate against potential future flooding within the town. Particularly, the plan outlines that any

developments greater than 0.5 hectare the developer must submit surface water attenuation proposals, so that the risk of increased flooding due to rapid discharge of surface water is minimised.

Policy FP1 also outlines that development will need 'To take cognisance of the recently published Planning System and Flood Risk Guidance published by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and OPW.'

5.5.3 Impact Assessment –existing environmental problems and constraints

There are a variety of activities both within and outside the study area, which have the potential to impact on water quality. These include sewerage treatment works, domestic water treatment systems, housing, construction work, industry, tourism, spillages, marine industry, increased road runoff and agriculture.

Existing problems within the Kinsale area include:

- Surface Water Pollution -Under the WFD The Bandon River is classified as "at Risk of Not Achieving Good Status". While the greater Kinsale Harbour and estuary are considered "strongly expected to achieve good status", both are directly related and may possibly at risk if controls are not enforced.
- Groundwater Pollution - The town centre of study area is considered "probably at risk of not achieving good status" for groundwater
- Impacts to Fisheries - Direct impacts to water will have indirect effects on fisheries.
- Flooding- Flooding has been identified as important and a regular occurrence particularly in relation to areas adjacent to fluctuating tide volumes and low lying topography. However the threat of climate change and global warming may have an influence over meteorological conditions such that to increase flooding in the study area. Strict control of planning will be required in flood risk areas and the OPW's Guidelines on Flood Risk should be adhered to.
- Municipal Wastewater Treatment and Domestic Wastewater Treatment – There is a possibility of unchecked increase in demand for wastewater treatment with potential for increased pollution to surface waters. Therefore correct treatment of wastewater is an important factor to consider in the quality of surface water. It is essential that the WWTP operates to highest standards and that monitoring of the performance of wastewater treatment plant and sewerage network is undertaken to capture leakages to GW and SW.

5.5.4 Evolution without implementation of the plan

A review of the existing baseline information shows that a number of water bodies in the study area are under pressure from various sources of pollution, which has resulted in reduced biodiversity, poor water quality and algal blooms. In the event that the Plan is not updated there is potential for increased pressure on these water bodies and most water bodies would be unlikely to reach the objectives of the WFD. If water quality were to deteriorate further or experience a reduction in its quality status, there would also be increased adverse impacts on biodiversity, flora and fauna, fisheries, drinking water, human health and soils. The new SEA plan will steer development away from watercourses rather than along or within their floodplains. In addition the aesthetics of Kinsale Harbour and surrounding Bandon River Estuary would suffer which would have an indirect effect on tourism.

5.6 AIR AND CLIMATE (ENERGY)

5.6.1 Policy

At international level the Air Quality Framework Directive 96/62/EC sets out standards for air quality. The Directive was transposed into Irish law by the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 (Ambient Air Quality Assessment and Management) Regulations 1999 (S.I No. 33 of 1999).

In March 2007 the Government launched its Energy White Paper entitled '*Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland*'. The paper was devised to be a practical action-based strategy for achieving a new energy future for Ireland and spans the timeframe 2007-2020. Key to the strategy are the three pillars of energy supply - security, sustainability, and economic competitiveness.

At a national level the National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2011 provides for the protection of air quality. The strategy for reducing emissions will be shared across all sectors but the main focus will be on transport, residential, industry, electricity production, the public sector and waste. The new Programme for Government outlines a 3% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions per annum. The programme will also require Ireland to join the top 5 countries in the world, as measured by the Environmental Performance Index (EPI). The National Climate Change Strategy will also be supported by other relevant government policy such as the National Development Plan, Transport 21, National Energy policy 2007 and the at a local level there are currently two objectives in relation to energy and climate change in the County Development Plan.

Climate Change

INF 4-2 It is an objective to support the national Climate Change Strategy and in general to facilitate measures which seek to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.

Renewable Energy Production

INF 4-3 It is an objective generally to encourage the production of energy from renewable sources, including in particular that from biomass, waste material, solar wave and wind energy, subject to normal proper planning considerations, including in particular impact on areas of environmental or landscape amenity.

While there are no objectives directly relating to air quality the plan states *that the long term economic, social and environmental well-being of Cork requires water and air quality to be of the highest possible standard.*

5.6.2 Baseline

Air Quality

In general the air quality in Ireland is considered to be good and this is primarily as a result of the prevailing Atlantic southwesterly winds crossing the country. The EPA monitors the air quality across the country, dividing the country into regions or zones. For Ireland, four zones, A, B, C and D are defined in the Air Quality Regulations (2002). The main areas defined in each zone are: Zone A (Dublin Conurbation), Zone B (Cork Conurbation), Zone C (other named cities and large towns) and Zone D (Rural Ireland, i.e. the remainder of the State excluding Zones A, B and C).

Air quality monitoring and assessments are undertaken at 5 locations in Cork, of which 3 are located within Cork City Council area and 2 locations are within the administrative area of Cork

County Council. Air quality is monitored and assessed in Cork County at Glashaboy and Cork Harbour at Passage West.

There appears to be a small decreasing trend in concentrations in recent years.

- Suspended particulates reached about 90% of the EU limits in the past and have now reduced to about 10% of the limit due to the ban on the sale of coal. These particles arise from the inefficient combustion of solid fuels and diesel.
- New monitoring parameters called PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} are now being used to monitor for particulates. These measure particulates less than 10 and 2.5 microns in diameter. Results from the gravimetric method indicate compliance at about 30 % of the EU annual mean limit.
- Sulphur dioxide levels were always quite low in Cork. The first smokeless fuels increased levels but levels have now fallen again to previous values. The old method for monitoring is compliant at about 7% of the standard. The new method is at about the same level of compliance with the new standard. Sulphur is a contaminant in most types of fuel.
- Nitrogen dioxide average values are about 40% of the mean limit. It arises from air being used as an oxidant in the high temperature combustion of fuel in space heating and traffic.
- Ozone levels were in compliance. There were 9 exceedances of the 8 hour running average while 25 are allowed. Ozone levels can be strongly influenced by imported pollution and/or natural sunshine events. Rural stations in Ireland have far higher levels than our urban station because nitric oxide reduces levels in cities. It is only in urban areas with extreme traffic densities and very high sunshine levels that a different series of reactions dominate to produce very high ozone levels. Ozone has always been present in ambient air but levels have increased due to pollution. It also arises due to diffusion downwards from the stratosphere
- Carbon monoxide levels are about 36% of the standard operative in 2005. It arises from poor oxidation of fuel.
- Lead levels are about 4 % of the standard. This is a major decrease from the 1980's. Unleaded petrol is now the only type available. It is a petrol additive to prevent "knock" and improve acceleration.
- The new continuous monitor, in operation since March 2000, indicates benzene levels to be about 10% of the standard. Benzene derives mainly from traffic fuels.

Source - Air Pollution in Cork City 2007 Report

Climate

The dominant influence on Ireland's climate is the Atlantic Ocean. Consequently, Ireland does not suffer from the extremes of temperature experienced by many other countries at similar latitudes. Met Eireann provides information on the various climatic conditions experienced across the country. The climate of the area is best described by meteorological measurements collected by the

National Meteorological Service from the synoptic stations at Cork Airport less than 20km from Kinsale. To characterise the prevailing conditions at the site, historical meteorological data compiled by Met Eireann (www.meteireann.ie) is presented for Cork Airport and is available at www.met.ie.

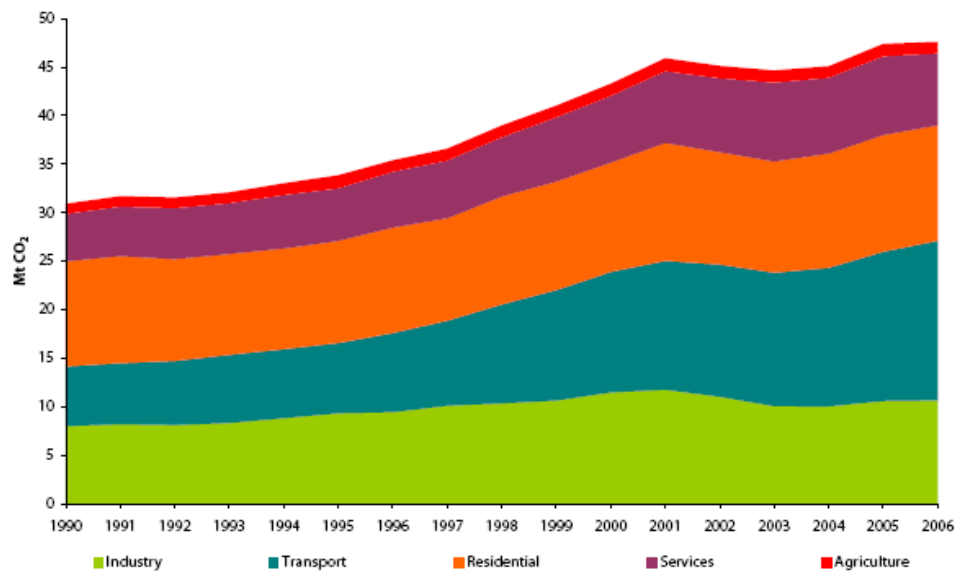
The climate is becoming ever more variable and we can no longer safely refer to past climate when planning for the future.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG)

Ireland currently emits 1.7% of total GHG emissions in the EU-15. This equates to 69.9 Mt of CO₂ equivalents. According to the most recent data (2005), Ireland currently emits 25.4% more GHG's than were emitted in 1990. This is 12% above the target set for Ireland under the EU burden-sharing agreement.

The contribution of various sectors to total energy related CO₂ emissions over the period 1990-2006 is shown in Figure 5.6.1. While not the greatest contributor, the sector of most concern is transport as it has shown the greatest growth in the corresponding period. Coupled with a lack of public transport infrastructure, transport is likely to continue to increase its contribution to global warming and poor air quality in the immediate future.

Figure 5.6.1: Energy related CO₂ emissions by Sector



Source: Energy in Ireland 1990 – 2005-Trends, Issues, Forecasts and Indicators (SEI, 2006)

Green House Gas Permitted Installations within the study area

The National Allocation Plan 2008 to 2011(extracted from Articles 9 and 10 and Annex III of the EU Emissions Trading Directive (as transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 437 of 2004) and amendments) contains a list of all installations with GHG permits in Ireland. A GHG permit is issued in attempt to control the emissions of gases, which have the potential to change global climatic conditions. There have been no GHG permits issued to installations in the study area.

Energy Overview

Energy is used in Ireland primarily for transportation, electricity generation and heat generation purposes. The contribution of each source to national energy demand has changed somewhat in the last number of decades, for example

- In 1990, thermal uses accounted for 44% of all primary energy used, electricity accounted for 34% and transport 22%; and
- In 2005 thermal uses accounted for 34% of all primary energy used, electricity accounted for 33% and transport 33%.

It is predicted that by 2020 the transport sector will increase its share in national energy demand to a value of 43%. Thermal and electricity uses, it is predicted, will together account for the remaining 57% of national energy demand.

Current Situation

Total Primary Energy Requirements (TPER) have increased substantially in Ireland since the early 1990s. Under a 'business as usual approach' this trend would continue, however, significant national efforts are currently being made to curb energy requirements. These efforts are outlined in national energy policy documents.

Currently, national TPER is met largely by the combustion of fossil fuels and in particular oil, with natural gas, coal and peat supplying lesser amounts of energy. There has been a change in fuel mix used for energy generation in Ireland from 1990 to 2005. In general

- the use of gas and oil has increased substantially;
- the use of coal and peat has declined; and
- the use of renewables has also increased substantially, albeit from a very low base.

TPER are projected to increase up to 2010. After this time the effect of the implementation of current energy policy is expected to result in a stabilization of TPER.

The demand for electricity is predicted to grow in the future. Predictions are that electricity demand will increase by 4.5% per annum between 2005 and 2010. In the following decade, the rate of growth is expected to slow down considerably to 1.2% per annum.

Fossil Fuels

In 2005, fossil fuels supplied 98% of TPER requirements. By 2010 this value is expected to decrease to 94% and to 86% by 2020. The shortfall in supplying TPER is expected to be met through the use of renewables.

Oil and Coal

Ireland imports all coal and oil requirements.

Natural Gas

There is existing indigenous production at the Kinsale fields and satellite fields off the south coast of Ireland but this is expected to decline over the next few years. New indigenous production from the Seven Heads facility also came on shore in the last quarter of 2003, through the nearby Kinsale Head facility. Further indigenous gas supplies were discovered at the Corrib field, located off the West Coast of Ireland. Reserves are believed to be of the order of 20-30bcm. The development of the field was substantially delayed by planning permission difficulties. Despite the more recent finds of indigenous gas fields at Seven Heads and Corrib, the Irish gas market is expected to continue to be heavily reliant on Interconnection with the UK market.

Renewables

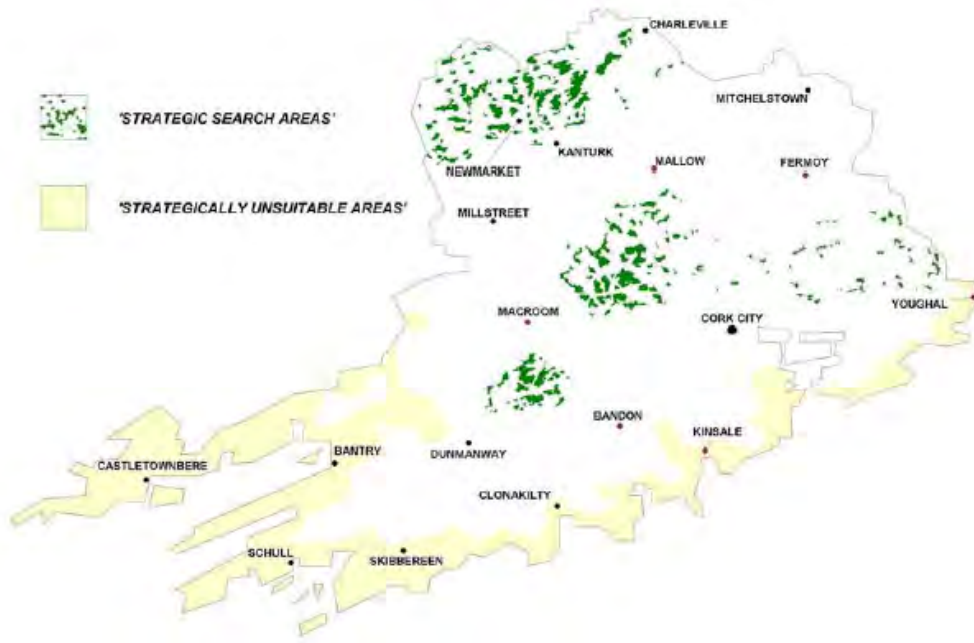
Following the publication in January 2008 of the All Ireland Grid Study, the ESB have announced a massive new investment plan, which will see 22 billion invested in the country's electricity infrastructure in the next 12 years. The scale of the new capital spending programme is unprecedented and half of all the money is to be invested in renewable energy projects including wind, tidal, wave, and biomass energy generation.

The increased use of renewables in supplying TPER will result in a decrease in energy related carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. The government policy document '*Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland*' predicts that national CO₂ emissions will decrease by 6% as a result of the increased use of renewables in supplying future TPER.

Windfarms

Cork County Council has received in excess of 70 applications for wind farms in the County. However, while there have been a number of wind farms permitted in County Cork to date only approximately 6 wind farms have been or are in the process of being constructed. A number of existing permissions will have to be renewed over the lifetime of the CDP 2009-2015.

Cork County Council has identified Strategically Unsuitable Areas, which because of high landscape sensitivity, are generally considered to be unsuitable for wind energy projects. Except on a small scale and at particularly suitable locations, wind projects would normally be discouraged in these areas. However, the identification of strategically suitable areas and strategically unsuitable areas does not give any certainty about the outcome of any particular wind energy proposal and even in strategic search areas there will be particular constraints at particular sites. Areas to the south of Kinsale along the coast and to the north west of Kinsale towards Bandon have been identified as a Strategic Search Area.

Figure 5.6.2: Windfarms in Cork

Strategic Wind Energy Areas in County Cork.

Source: Cork County Development Plan 2003

Solar

Solar energy can be used cost-effectively to meet Irish buildings' heating requirement. Contrary to the old belief that our climate is not suitable for solar, we enjoy as much solar radiation here as most northern European countries. Ireland's annual solar irradiation varies between 950 kWh/m² per/year and 1,100 kWh/m² per/year. Valentia experiences the greatest solar irradiation in the country. Each square meter horizontal area therefore receives the equivalent of 100 litres of oil in free energy from the sun.

Hydro

At present there is single hydropower plant in operation at Inniscara on the River Lee (12km from the city centre). The hydroelectric plant has a capacity of 27 MW of electricity. One other pilot scheme is in place, at Carrigrohane a micro-renewable turbine house has been supplying green electricity to 132 of Cork City Council's electricity accounts since 2004 and delivers a maximum of 1,130 MWh/yr electricity. There is no hydro electricity generating plants in the Kinsale area. It is generally accepted that all the significant hydro power potential in the country has been exploited.

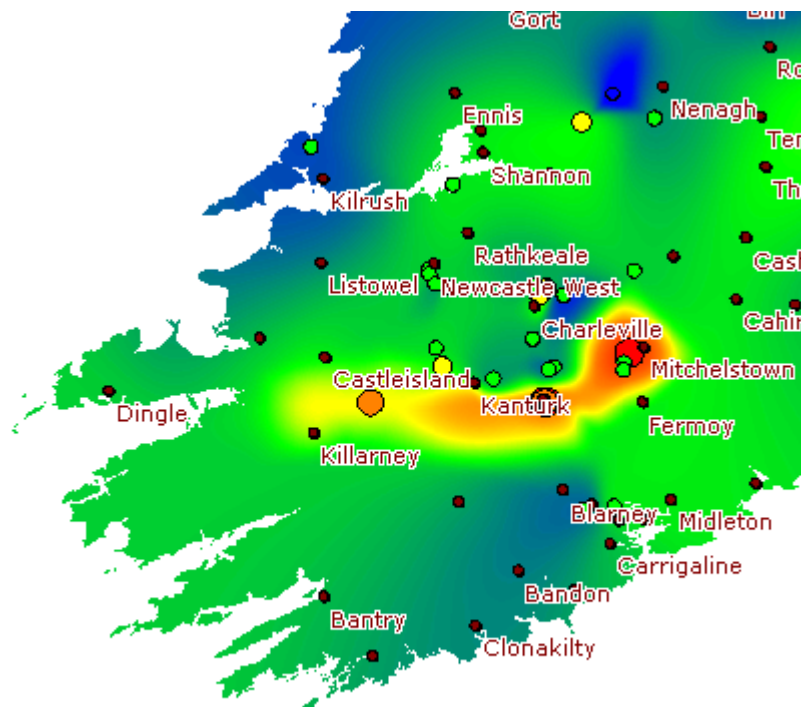
Tidal/Wave Energy

Ireland has become one of the world leaders in wave energy technology with the development of the Wavebob. The Wavebob was developed by an Irish company and can successfully convert wave energy to electrical energy. In general the waters off South Cork have poor potential for wave energy generation. The potential wave resources for the country and county can be seen on www.maps.marine.ie.

Geothermal

In 2004, CSA Group, a natural resource consultancy, completed a study commissioned by SEI, which aimed at identifying the potential resources of geothermal energy in Ireland. The results of this review indicate that Ireland is particularly well suited for the utilization of ground source heat pumps, due to its temperate climate and rainfall levels that ensure good conductivity and year round rain-fall recharge. The current installation rate is increasing rapidly and requires immediate attention to set and maintain high standards of equipment installation and operation. One of the outcomes of the project was to create a series of geothermal maps for Ireland, an example of which is illustrated below.

Figure 5.6.3: Geothermal Resources in the South West



This Map is for illustrative purposes only. All data copyright OSI + SEI

Source: www.sei.ie

The map above illustrates clearly the Killarney-Mallow thrust fault and elevated ground temperatures. The warm springs in the Mallow area and in the more recently identified eastward

extension to Glanworth, lie along an east northeast trending Killarney-Mallow thrust fault. Temperatures in this area vary between 13°C at Marybrook spring, Newmarket, Co. Cork (typical of groundwater temperatures in the area) to 23.5 °C at the County Council borehole north of Glanworth, Co. Cork. It is also worth noting that in broad terms silica rich rocks, of which the Devonian in the Cork and Kerry area are mostly comprised, have higher heat conductivity than limestone.

However close inspection of the maps indicate that the geothermal resource of the Kinsale Area is poor in comparison to area long the Cork/Kerry county boundary and Cork /Limerick county boundary

Power Generation in Cork

There are 3 power stations operating in County Cork and permission has also been granted for a further power station at Aghada, which is yet to commence construction. The 400m plant at Aghada will generate 400 megawatts of electricity for the national grid every year. The plant will sit alongside an existing power station and is due to be completed in 2009. (Natural gas powered).

Table 5.6.1: Existing Power Plants in Cork

Location	Capacity (megawatts)	Energy Source
Innishcara	27	Hydro
Aghada	525	Gas
Marina	115	Gas

Energy Efficiency in Buildings, Sustainable Building Design

The EU Directive on the Energy Performance of Buildings (EPBD) contains a range of provisions aimed at improving energy performance of residential and non-residential buildings, both new-build and existing. This Directive was adopted into Irish law as Regulation in 2006.

The EPBD obliges specific forms of information and advice on energy performance to be provided to building purchasers, tenants and users. This information and advice provides consumers with information regarding the energy performance of a building and enables them to take this into consideration in any decisions on property transactions.

As part of the Directive, a Building Energy Rating (BER) certificate, which is effectively an energy label, will be required at the point of sale or rental of a building, or on completion of a new building.

The Action Plan for Implementation of the EPBD in Ireland published in July 2006 proposes phased implementation of BER in Ireland as follows:

- 1 January 2007: BER of new dwellings;
- 1 July 2008: BER of new buildings, other than dwellings; and

- 1 January 2009: BER of existing dwellings and other existing buildings, when offered for sale or rental.

5.6.3 Impact assessment – existing environmental problems and constraints

Sustainability is a key constraint for future development. Emissions to the atmosphere, energy consumption and climate change are all interlinked. Future developments should give consideration to passive design and clean and energy efficient technologies such as renewables, district heating and co-generation.

In Ireland the transport sector is the fast growing contributor of GHG emissions. A reliable efficient public transport system within the Kinsale area would reduce car dependence and combat rising CO₂ emissions from vehicle exhausts.

Kinsale is a coastal town and an area of high visual amenity. It will be important to ensure that for future energy developments and the associated infrastructure does not impact adversely on the landscape. Kinsale urban area has been identified as a strategically unsuitable zone for wind development in the Cork County Development Plan.

Space may also be a constraint in particular when locating vertical ground source heat pumps and district heating plant.

5.6.4 Evolution without implementation of the plan

Evolution without the plan would see a continued upward trend in the inefficient use of energy in the region and deterioration in air quality as a result of ever increasing combustion emissions. Evolution without the plan would also see a slower uptake of renewable energy technologies sustainable building design.

5.7 MATERIAL ASSETS

Within the Kinsale area there are a variety of material assets. In general material assets are associated with the;

- Built Environment – (protected structures and archaeological monuments); (discussed under cultural heritage)
- Natural Assets – (quarries and mines, agriculture and forestry, conservation areas; and
- Infrastructure – (roads, telecommunications, wastewater, roads, energy).

It is how these assets are utilised that has the potential to impact on the Environment.

5.7.1 Policy

The Kinsale Plan has a number of policies that have regard to material assets. The Plan takes into account policies at a national level, regional and local level. Particular reference is made to the National Spatial Strategy (for transport), the Urban Wastewater Treatment Regulations 2001, the Cork Waste Management Plan, the Cork County Development Plan and the Bandon Electoral Local Area Plan.

5.7.2 Baseline

Water Supply

The Cork Strategic Water Study provides for the upgrading of infrastructural assets and operating systems in order to meet present and future demands within defined level of service standards. The Strategy depends on the implementation of an integrated set of recommendations, which requires coordination between authorities and with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Implementation of the strategy will deliver a secure, high quality water service, sufficient to underpin the socio-economic development of the region over the next 25 years in an environmentally sustainable manner. The major schemes in the study area are shown on Figure 5.7.1 below

The Cork Strategic Water Study has been completed in response to a joint brief on behalf of Cork County Council and Cork City Council to examine and report on the water supply needs of the South Cork region over the next 25 years. The principal objective of this sanitary programme is to:

- to provide an adequate supply of water, complying with the Irish Drinking Water Regulations, for domestic, industrial, agricultural and other uses; and
- to provide for the safe disposal of sewage and other waterborne wastes.

According to the strategic water study drinking water for Kinsale Towns water supply is part of the Southern Region; comprising the South city environs and Bandon/Innishannon catchments together with the Southern Coastal area from Cork Harbour to Courtmacsherry Bay where existing water supplies are unsatisfactory in terms of both quantity and quality. However the existing water supply scheme serving Kinsale Town is the Innishannon Regional Water Supply Scheme. The detailed recommendations from strategic water study outlines that the Innishannon Water Supply, requires immediate works to prove and develop the capacity. In addition, there is an immediate requirement for 2.1MI balancing reservoir at Innishannon, rationalisation of the Kinsale Town Distribution supply and improvements to that supply including a new high level scheme, a new supply to Belgooly and the area west of Bandon estuary.

Figure 5.7.1 Major schemes Cork Strategic Water Study

Source: Cork Strategic Water Study

Existing Conditions

The town of Kinsale has grown considerably in recent times, particularly to the south west in the environs. Any additional demand in the area would require additional storage requirements and additional booster pumping as the existing reservoirs cannot supply some of the higher levels of Kinsale in order to meet future demand it is and the existing water mains to the south of the town is proposed to be upgraded. At present there are 3 existing water storage areas for the town located north of the town at the Rock Reservoir (910m³), Camphill Hill (1,364m³) and to the east of the town at Ardrack (455m³), which are adequate in terms of existing storage.

Water Supply Proposals

Cork County Council is currently in the process of upgrading the Kinsale Water Supply Scheme in order to provide the necessary water supply infrastructure to service development lands in the area. This scheme comprises the development of;

- a 2,500m³ reservoir and booster pumping station to supply this reservoir, north east of the town at Lischane in order to provide additional storage to cater for future demand in the Kinsale area.

- Examination and optimisation of network/pumping arrangements (existing); and
- The upgrading of watermains to serve development areas.
- The rationalization of the Kinsale water supply network and the implementation of district metering areas (DMA's) as part of the Water Conservation and Demand Management Study.

Water Conservation and Demand Management Study.

A Water Conservation and Demand Management Study was undertaken by RPS Consulting Engineers on behalf of Cork County Council. Cork County Council has recently commenced a Phase 1 Water Conservation Project but has yet to put in place the significant works required to establish appropriate leakage control infrastructure. Cork County Council are currently generating contract documents for a District Metered Area Establishment Contract for all schemes in the county.

Drinking Water Quality

Drinking water is regulated by the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations, 2000. Drinking water is supplied in County Cork via a range of public and private schemes; however, the vast majority of the population are served by public water supplies. Most drinking water originates from surface water, particularly for public water supplies whereas group water schemes and small private supplies tend to be slightly more reliant on groundwater or spring water.

In accordance with these regulations, the local authority must notify the EPA where there has been a failure to meet a quality standard. According to the EPA report: 'The Provision and Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland, A Report on the Years 2006-2007', no notification of drinking water contamination has been sent to the EPA regarding the supply to the Kinsale Town Council area. In addition, between 2004 and 2006 there are no incidents of E.coli contamination in the Kinsale Town Council supply, however there was an incidence of E.coli contamination in Kilbrittain, which is in the Southern Region water supply network and 17km from Kinsale. This incident was due to breakdowns in chlorination equipment. Therefore it is recommended that the Council should investigate and possibly install chlorine monitors to allow detection of faulty chlorinators in advance of contamination of the water supply.

Cork County Council as a sanitary authority is responsible for the production, distribution and monitoring of public water supplies. Other drinking water supply schemes which are present in the County include:

- Public Group Water Schemes, where the water is provided by the sanitary authority but responsibility for distribution of the water rests with the group scheme. These schemes tend to be supplied off larger public water supplies.
- Private Group Water Schemes' are schemes where the owners of the scheme (usually representatives of the local community) source and distribute their own water.

Capacity of the Kinsale Sewage Treatment Plant

The existing town sewerage system is a totally combined system i.e. storm and foul flows are carried in the same pipe network. At present the sewers in existence are unable to take the maximum flows that can be discharged to them. The sewerage does not receive any treatment before being discharged into the harbour water. While the sewerage is comminuted, this only breaks up the solids but imparts no element of biological treatment. It is estimated that a minimum

of 40% of the total pollution load is discharged into the Inner Harbour at Scilly Dam, immediately adjacent to the Quay Walls.

Under the EPA Act 1992 (Urban Waste Water Treatment) Regulations, 1994, S.I. 419 of 1994, all wastewater entering collection systems shall be subject to secondary treatment, or equivalent treatment, prior to discharge. To meet modern day legislation the sewerage must be treated. The existing system is at capacity and future development of the town has been stifled as a result.

Cork County Council propose to construct a modern municipal wastewater treatment facility at Cappagh to the west of the town on lands within the Kinsale Environs, which is administered by Cork County Council. This wastewater treatment plant will serve the needs of Kinsale Town and Environs. Funding is secured for this wastewater treatment facility and work is due to commence in August 2008. Under the proposals for the scheme, the town and environs would be served by an upgraded collection system, which will combine all untreated foul discharges and pump these forward to a single treatment location. Following appropriate treatment at this location, the effluent will be discharged into the Estuary between the 'Old' and 'New' bridges.

The existing **pumping station** for Kinsale is located at Denis' Quay, this will be utilised as the main pumping station for the Kinsale Sewerage Scheme and odour removal facilities will be included within this station. Additional foul pumping stations will be located at Summercove, Lower Scilly Walk, Scilly and World's end. In the event of power failure, a high level overflow will discharge from the storm holding tank to the existing storm outfall on Pier Road near the main marina. However it should be highlighted that overflow at this location could potentially impact on water quality adjacent to the outfall, particularly downstream in the Docks/Marina area as outlined in the Kinsale Sewerage Scheme Addendum to the EIS on page 8. However it should also be noted that predicted values are for a worst-case scenario, under extreme conditions, and would occur very infrequently. The EIS notes that the impact from the overflow will be of an infrequent and temporary nature, therefore mitigation is not deemed necessary.

Storm network – the storm network will comprise of several separate systems for Kinsale and will discharge at a number of locations including Scilly Dam, Pier Road and Denis' Quay. No foul flows, except for the screened emergency overflows will discharge from these locations and all discharges will be fitted with flap valves.

Overall it is considered that the water quality within the harbour and estuary would be significantly improved by the introduction of a new wastewater treatment plant

In addition a new drainage scheme for Kinsale called the Kinsale Main Drainage has commenced work within the town. Both the Kinsale Main Drainage Scheme and the Kinsale wastewater treatment plant are due to be completed in 2010.

Waste Disposal/Landfill

In relation to waste disposal, it is noted that the Cork MRF, which is the cornerstone of Waste Management Strategy, is yet to be built; the Bottlehill landfill is non-operational and the Hazardous Waste Incinerator is still not constructed. Landfill capacity in the Cork region, prior to the opening of Bottlehill, is limited to that at Youghal (300,000), which is running below licensed capacity. Rossmore is currently at capacity. Kinsale Road landfill only accepts waste from Cork City Council. Once Bottlehill opens it will have a capacity of 5 Million tonnes with an approximate life of 20 years.

There is a civic amenity site in Kinsale located at the Council Area Offices; this site takes the following materials;

- Glass bottles/Jars
- Beverage Cans
- Newspapers & Magazines
- Textiles
- Food Tins
- Cardboard Only

There were 93 bring banks in operation across the County as of 2006 (EPA 2006).

Waste and IPC Licensed Sites

Currently there is one IPPC licensed facility at Eli Lilly S.A. located to the north of Kinsale Town Council area (IPPC Reg. no P0009-03). The principal class of activity is for the use of chemical or biological process for the production of basic pharmaceutical products.

Waste-to-Energy

In January 2004 Indaver received planning permission for the construction of Phase 1 of a 100,000tpa 75M incinerator for hazardous waste, including a Waste Transfer Station for hazardous waste, to be located at Ringaskiddy. The development was appealed to An Bord Pleanála who subsequently granted permission subject to 27 conditions in January 2004. In addition, a Waste Licence was granted by the EPA for the facility in November 2005. Judicial reviews were sought by objectors to both EPA and APB decisions.

Gas Infrastructure

Gas infrastructure is divided between transmission and distribution infrastructure. Transmission infrastructure forms the backbone of the Irish natural gas system and delivers large volumes of gas at high pressures to the main consumption centres, and in special cases, high consumption customers (generally power stations). The distribution network operate at lower pressure and delivers gas to low consumption customers, typically including small businesses and residential customers, in mostly urban areas.

Transmission Infrastructure

Currently Bord Gais Éireann (BGE) is the only entity that owns and operates transmission infrastructure in Ireland. However the possibility exists for other entities to build and operate a transmission network, subject to licence by the CER under the Gas (Interim) (Regulation) Act 2002.

Electricity

The Electricity Regulation Act 1999 liberalised the electricity sector in Ireland. As a result, the electricity market in Ireland is now fully open to competition, in accordance with the requirements of the EU Directives 96/92/EC and 98/30/EC, as of February 19th 2005. Nationally, the electricity network is currently undergoing a major refurbishment program, to continue to 2010. One of the major projects within this programme is the completion of the Medium Voltage Network Renewal Project. This project will see all of Ireland's Medium Voltage overhead electricity network converted to 20kV or refurbished, to ensure a secure, high quality supply with adequate capacity for existing and future loads.

The electricity demand of Kinsale is distributed from the 110kV Station Bulk Supply Points (HV) located at Bandon, through the 38kV (HV), Medium Voltage (MV), and Low Voltage (LV) network to customers. Significant investment has been made to improve the electricity infrastructure in Kinsale

in recent years. The following list outlines significant projects which were completed on the HV and MV Network recently. These projects have improved the capacity and quality of supply to Kinsale Town.

1. 38kV booster installed at Kinsale 38kV station.
2. Upgrading of the Kinsale to Kilmoney 38kV line.
3. All 10kV lines from Kinsale 38kV station were refurbished.

ESB consider that additional works be necessary during the course of the 2009 – 2015 planning period to cater for additional demand. Therefore a policy should be included in the plan to ensure that there is sufficient electricity to cater for additional demand in the area.

Transport

Kinsale Town Council had a population of 2,298 in the 2006 Census; it also has a considerable tourist population in the summer months of the year. Significant economic growth and a consequent increase in car ownership throughout Ireland in recent years have added to the pressures on existing infrastructure. In recent years Kinsale has experienced congestion on its road network, therefore a new relief road has been proposed for the town.

Currently a Traffic and Transportation study is being undertaken by Faber Maunsell. The overall objective of the Transportation Study objective of the study is to enable Kinsale Town Council and Cork County Council to introduce transport policies. This involves producing a programme of traffic, transportation and road safety proposals, which in the short, medium and long term will take into account traffic growth and land use in the study area up to 2026.

The Kinsale Traffic and Transportation Study is currently being progressed and the findings and recommendations included within the study, when published, will be incorporated within the Amended Draft Town Development Plan and will be assessed in terms of this Environmental Report.

It shall be an objective of the Plan to ensure the delivery of a sustainable transportation system and to improve connectivity, reduce traffic congestion, reconfigure car parking and provide for sustainable modes of transport such as walking, cycling and public transportation and improve facilities for those with disabilities.

The draft Plan includes a number of strategic objectives which will help to relieve congestion within the town centre, these include the delivery of the proposed Kinsale Inner Relief Road, construct a new vehicular access from Long Quay to Pier Road and to reserve lands to allow for a vehicular access from Blackhorsefield to the Bandon Road, creating the Bandon / Blackhorsefield / Abbey View cross roads in the future.

Access to Kinsale Town

Significant economic growth and a consequent increase in car ownership throughout Ireland in recent years have added to the pressures on existing infrastructure. Kinsale Town is accessed via regional roads only. Kinsale is located to the south west of Cork City and to the south east of Clonakilty, the town is accessed from both the City and Clonakilty via Regional Road R600. A number of Regional and local roads also connect the town with the surrounding hinterland including the R611 which connects the town to Carrigaline and the R605 which connects the town to Bandon. The town is located 25km west of Cork City; it is 20km south east of Bandon Town, 21km west of Crosshaven Village and Kinsale Town is approx. 20km south west of Cork International Airport. The

town is accessible via road and air; all routes are listed below in Table 5.7.1. A number of bus services depart from the bus station daily serving Kinsale.

The town is constrained physically due to its location in a valley with narrow winding streets and bounded by coast. As a result the town faces transport issues due to vehicular and HGV traffic congestion and inability of emergency vehicles and buses vehicles to manoeuvre within the town.

Table 5.7.1 Accessibility to Kinsale Town

Road Network	Transport Network
Regional Road	R600 - Air Port and Cork City R600 - Innishannon R607 - Ballinhassig and Cork City
Rail Network	Kent Station, Cork City (31km) – Kerry, Dublin.
Air	Cork International Airport (20km)

5.7.3 Impact assessment – existing environmental problems and constraints

Traffic - A Traffic and Transportation study on Kinsale Town is currently being undertaken and recommendations have not yet been made. Therefore it is recommended that all new transport objectives that will be included within the plan should be assessed in terms of strategic environmental assessment. In addition it is also considered that any large-scale proposals should undergo Environmental Impact Assessment. Consideration should also be given to the environmental policies and objectives of the current and proposed plan should any of the proposed options be implemented.

Wastewater Treatment – The existing town sewerage system is a totally combined system i.e. storm and foul flows are carried in the same pipe network. At present the sewers in existence are at capacity. Cork County Council propose to construct a modern municipal wastewater treatment facility at Cappagh to the west of the town on lands within the Kinsale Environs, which is administered by Cork County Council. This wastewater treatment plant will serve the needs of Kinsale Town and Environs. Funding is secured for this wastewater treatment facility and work is due to commence in August 2008.

Water Supply – Due to vast growth within the town in recent years any additional demand for water supply in the area would require additional storage requirements and additional booster pumping. Cork County Council is currently in the process of upgrading the Kinsale Water Supply Scheme in order to provide the necessary water supply infrastructure to service development lands in the area.

5.7.4 Evolution without implementation of the plan.

In the absence of the Draft Town Development Plan specific transport objectives would still be provided through the County Development Plan. However the town plan provides a guidance that specifically relates to transport infrastructure within the Kinsale area.

It is an objective of the plan to implement the outcome of the Kinsale Traffic and Transportation Study, which proposes to advise on traffic mitigation measures for the town. In the absence of the

Kinsale Town Development Plan 2009 – 2015 recommendations of the transportation study would not be implemented and therefore it is likely that the town would become even more congested, causing increased air and noise pollution within the town centre. Without the plan it is likely that additional public transportation facilities, cycling facilities, pedestrian amenities and parking facilities would not be provided. Without these integral features of the plan the transport situation within the town itself would deteriorate as increased volumes of traffic over time were using the same routes that may presently be at or near capacity.

5.8 CULTURAL HERITAGE

This section of the SEA establishes Kinsale Town Council's objectives and policies for the protection, conservation and enhancement of Kinsale's architectural and archaeological heritage. The jurisdiction of the Kinsale Town Development Plan 2009-2015 encompasses an important area in terms of architectural merit and archeological heritage. Urban development has increased significantly in recent years placing the archaeological heritage of the town under increasing threat. Therefore the strategy underlying the Plan specifically aims to conserve and enhance the environment of the town through the preservation and restoration of buildings and other features of archaeological, historic or cultural.

5.8.1 Policy

There are a number of specific planning policies and objectives in the Kinsale Development Plan 2009 to 2015 to retain and improve those structures, buildings and streetscapes within the town which significantly add to the uniqueness of Kinsale's urban landscape and to the amenity value of the town. The Plan also refers to national, regional and local plans including the Cork County Development Plan 2003 and draft Cork County Development Plan 2007.

5.8.2 Baseline

Cultural heritage includes inherited artefacts and intangible attributes that are inherited from past generations, maintained and bestowed for the benefit of future generations. The protection of heritage not only has environmental benefits and benefits for the quality of the people of Kinsale, but it also brings economic benefits to the County by providing attractive towns, villages and countryside for visitors to enjoy.

National Monuments - Archaeological Sites and Monuments in State Ownership

National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government or subject to a preservation order within the boundary of Kinsale Town Council are as follows:

Figure 5.8.1: National Monuments within Kinsale Town Council Boundary

National Monuments within Kinsale Town Council Boundary				
CO112-03402-	Town Wall	Townplots Abbeylands	Town Walls	National Monument
CO112-03406-	Urban Tower House	Townplots	The French Prison	National Monument (No. 360)

Under the national monuments acts (1930-2004) any works at or in proximity to such monuments will require ministerial consent.

In addition it should also be noted that under the National Monuments Acts any monument in the ownership or guardianship of the local authority may be declared a national monument. This applies to any Recorded Monument in local authority ownership or guardianship where the preservation of any such monument is a matter of national importance because of the archaeological, architectural, historical, traditional or artistic importance attaching to that monument. National Monuments Service will advise on any determinations regarding the status of such monuments. Under the national monuments acts (1930-2004) any works at or in proximity to such monuments will require ministerial consent.

Information regarding National Monuments is available on the National Monuments Service website at www.archeology.ie and is especially useful for information in monuments that have come to notice since the issuing of the Record of Monuments and Places.

Record of Protected Structures

A number of structures are listed for protection in the Record of Protected Structures (Draft Kinsale Development Plan, 2009). These structures range from cottages, houses, shop fronts, arches and schools. In addition to the Record of Protected Structures, structures of architectural heritage merit, although not put forward for inclusion in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) may continue to contribute to the identity of a locality and should be taken into account in the preparation of the Development Plan. The Kinsale area is unique in form and character. It is an objective to seek the identification and protection of all structures within the town that are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest. Such structures include but are not exclusive to the Record of Protected Structures. The distribution of the Record of Protected Structures throughout Kinsale are indicated in the draft Kinsale Development Plan 2009 - 2015.

The Record of Protected Structures list is a list of the structures that constitute the Kinsale Town Record of Protected Structures and are indicated in the Appendix of the draft Kinsale Town Development Plan 2009 – 2015.

Architectural Heritage

The term “architectural heritage” is defined in the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) & Historic Monuments Act, 1999 as meaning all:

- a) Structures and buildings together with their settings and attendant grounds fixtures and fittings;
- b) Groups of such structures and buildings, and Sites; and
- c) Which are of architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, scientific, social or technical interest.

Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA's)

The built heritage of County Cork and Kinsale town is also offered protection through the designation of Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs). Most of the Town Centre of Kinsale is designated as an ACA. An ACA is a place, area, group of structures or townscape, taking account

of building lines and heights, that is of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural scientific, social or technical interest or that contributes to the appreciation of a Protected Structure, and whose character is an objective of a development plan to preserve.

In addition to the policy of the plan Architectural Conservation Areas are protected by legislation may be used to protect the following:

- Groups of structures of distinctiveness or visual richness or historical importance;
- The setting and exterior appearance that are of special interest, but the interiors of which do not merit protection;
- The setting of a Protected Structure where this is more extensive than its cartilage;
- Designed landscapes where these contain groups of structures as in, for example urban parks, the former demesnes of country houses and groupings of archaeological or industrial remains; and
- Groups of structures, which form, dispersed but unified entities but which are not with in the attendant grounds of a single dominant Protected Structure.

Archaeological Heritage

Archaeological heritage is a resource, which can be used to gain knowledge and understanding of the past and is therefore of great cultural and scientific interest. Archaeological heritage ranges from sites, features and objects of archaeological interest.

The Minister for the Environment and Local Government is responsible for the protection of archaeological heritage, including the licensing of archaeological excavations, through the exercise of powers under the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2004.

There are a number of categories of monuments under the National Monuments Acts

- National monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister or a Local Authority or national monuments which are subject to a preservation order;
- Historic monuments or archaeological areas recorded in the Register of Historic Monuments; or
- Monuments or places recorded in the Record of Monuments and Places.

The Archaeological Survey of Ireland (ASI) compiles the record of all archaeological monuments in the State and is responsible for the publication of Archaeological Inventories. The Record of Monuments and Places is compiled by The ASI and comprises lists and maps of all monuments with known locations.

It should be noted that any direct impacts on national monuments in State or Local Authority care or subject to a preservation order will require the consent of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government under Section 14 of the National Monuments Act 1930 as amended by Section 5 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 2004.

Record of Monuments and Places

The National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994 made provision for the compilation of a record of all known monuments in the County - The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP). The Record of Monuments and Places consists of a set of maps on which all the archaeological sites in the county known to the Minister in 1997 were marked. It is accompanied by a manual, which contains a descriptive listing of each site. All the sites marked on the RMP maps are protected under section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994. As new features and monuments are discovered due to research and development driven archaeological assessment, monitoring, testing and excavation a second layer of monuments not yet included in the RMP is created.

Copies of the Record of Monuments & Places maps and accompanying manual can be viewed at the Copies of the Record of Monuments & Places maps and accompanying manual can be viewed at the Cork County Library, Model Business Park, Model Farm Road, Cork and at Kinsale Library, Methodist Hall, Kinsale, Co. Cork.

Kinsale Town has a diverse range of monuments ranging from a number of historic eras. Monuments within the area include Holy Wells, Market Houses, Churches, Graveyards, Enclosures etc. There are 24 monuments and places recorded within the boundaries of Kinsale Town. It is deemed that the Plan area is of high archaeological potential due to the potential for the presence of hitherto unknown sub-surface archaeological remains. This determination is based on the presence of substantial archaeological remains from many periods of the past within the Town Council area.

Tree Preservation Orders

In accordance with Section 205 of the Planning & Development Act (2000) it is the policy of the Council to ensure that there is provision for the preservation of any tree or woodlands within the Town Council boundary in the interests of amenity or the environment. Therefore the draft Kinsale Development Plan includes Policies to allow tree Preservations Orders to be made to ensure the retention of important trees in the urban and rural areas, particularly indigenous trees in the urban and rural areas under threat. Currently there are no tree preservation orders in the Plan, however there is a policy in the plan setting out that Development on the Friary lands, lands at Blackhorsefield; Glanbeg; and the New Road sites will require a full tree survey and assessment to be carried out before the commencement of any works.

Industrial Heritage

Ireland's industrial heritage is being changed and destroyed at an unknown rate. Over the past decade there has been a growing public awareness of Ireland's industrial heritage, as seen in a number of sites which have been restored by enthusiasts and are now open to the public as tourist and educational attractions. Although there is now official recognition of the importance of the industrial heritage of Ireland, statutory protection is still low, due in the main to a backlog of listing of heritage structures.

It is an objective of the plan 'to continue the protection of all forms of architectural heritage in Kinsale, including industrial and vernacular architecture.'

Gaeltacht Areas

There are no Gaeltacht areas within the Kinsale Town Council area.

5.8.3 Impact assessment –existing environmental problems and constraints

Developments or works which occur in close proximity to archaeological monuments would have potential to impact existing archaeological monuments through disturbance or destruction of the monuments. New developments that are adjacent to and/or alterations/extensions to existing protected structures also need to be carefully managed to ensure that the cultural heritage of such areas are not disturbed or negatively impacted upon.

It is deemed that the Plan area is of high archaeological potential. This determination is based on the presence of substantial archaeological remains from many periods of the past within the development area.

5.8.4 Evolution without implementation of the plan

In the absence of the Plan specific objectives would still be provided through the Cork County Development Plan and National Legislation. However the Kinsale Development Plan provides a guidance that encompasses principles from the Cork County Development Plan and the national legislation and is therefore more applicable to the area of Kinsale.

If the plan were not implemented there would not be any local guidance, policies or objectives to protect and conserve archaeological sites, protected structures, trees of merit, Architectural Conservation Areas and buildings and sites of Architectural merit. Therefore these features of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, social or technical interest could be damaged or even lost in some cases.

5.9 LANDSCAPE

Kinsale Town and its Environs contains significant areas of landscape importance, which are key not only for their intrinsic value as places of natural beauty but also because they provide a real asset for residents and visitors alike in terms of recreation, tourism and other uses. The importance of landscape is recognised in the Planning and Development Act 2000, which requires that Development Plans include objectives for the preservation of the landscape, views and prospects and the amenities of places and features of natural beauty.

5.9.1 Policy

There are a number of specific planning policies and objectives in the 2009 to 2015 Kinsale Development Plan to protect features of Landscape, Visual Amenity and Natural Heritage importance which significantly add to the uniqueness of Kinsale's landscape and to the amenity value of the town. The Plan also refers to national, regional and local plans including the Cork County Development Plan 2003 and draft Cork County Development Plan 2007.

5.9.2 Baseline

Landscape character is a distinct area of landscape that is relatively homogeneous in character. Each character represents its own landscape values and sensitivities. The character specified for a study area is generally a descriptive term made up of the prominent landform and land cover.

According to the draft Cork County Council Landscape Strategy the landscape of Kinsale town is of very high value and of national importance. The sensitivity of this landscape is also very high according to the draft County Landscape Strategy.

Figure: 5.9.1 Landscape Character Kinsale Town Council Area



Source: Bandon Electoral Local Area Plan 2005

Landscape Types

Kinsale town is classed as indented estuarine coast. The indented estuarine coast stretches from Baltimore in the west to the mouth of Cork Harbour, in the east. This landscape type comprises of gently undulating topography incised by shallow river estuaries or 'drowned' valleys formed by glacial activity. Much of the coastline outside Mucross Head comprises low but steep cliffs and is punctuated by a series of promontories, such as Old Head of Kinsale, Seven Heads, Galley Head and Toe Head and which recede to bays, such as Courtmacsherry Bay, Rosscarberry Bay and Kinsale Harbour. The estuaries wind inland into agricultural areas, creating shallow tidal mudflats and occasional marshy areas. The agricultural areas of this landscape type are usually intensively farmed for dairy and tillage uses and are comprised of fertile undulating fields of moderate size bounded by broadleaf hedgerows, however much of Kinsale town is urban in character therefore this would mainly apply to the more rural areas of the town and the environs. Farmsteads, houses and outbuildings are generally visible throughout the landscape due to the relatively low height of the hedgerows. The Urban centre of Kinsale is located within a sheltered inlet of the indented estuarine coast.

Of cultural note is the Old Head of Kinsale, the prominent form of which is associated with a form of which is associated with a key point in sixteenth and seventeenth century Irish history and, indeed, that of England and Spain.

Values

Indented Estuarine Coast is valued both nationally and internationally for its scenic amenity, its built and natural heritage, including such areas as Kinsale Harbour. The area attracts significant numbers of domestic and overseas visitors and tourists based on the unique quality of its scenic landscape, and its towns and villages of exceptional quality. The overall area also has a particularly complex and unique topography within Ireland, and which includes cliffs, promontories (including Oysterhaven, Old Head of Kinsale, Seven Heads, Galley Head and Toe Head), inlets, estuaries and beaches including Garretstown. Within Cork County the area is particularly important as a provider of significant amenities and recreational areas, particularly in the eastern part of the area, which is close to large centres of population. This landscape also contains some agricultural areas, which form an important component of the local economy.

Sensitivity

It is important to recognise that Kinsale Town Council area is quite finite in its extent, and therefore limited area remains undeveloped, or free from constraints. Tourism supports the town's economy and vibrancy. There is a large yachting marina close to the town centre, it is proposed to develop this area further for leisure, sailing and other purposes.

Areas to the south west of the town are sensitive to development in terms of steep slopes and elevated areas over 60metres highly elevated and steep. The town has developed Elevated lands to the north and south of the town are sensitive to development. Lands to the east and south east of Kinsale town are designated as Scenic Landscape Coastline in the Cork County Development Plan 2003 and Draft Cork County Development Plan 2007.

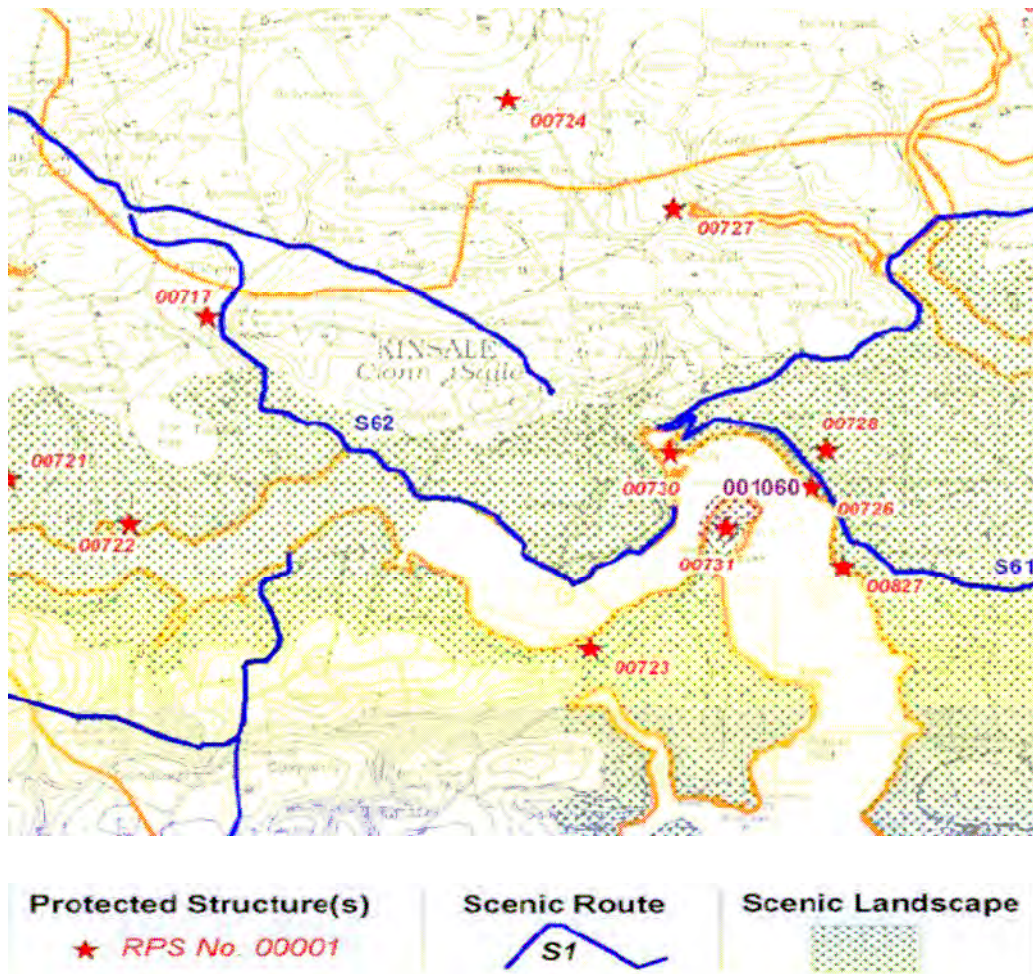
Much of the centre and south of the town is designated as Scenic Landscape within the Cork County Development Plan 2003 – This plan has identified specific scenic routes and scenic landscapes which in general makes up those areas of natural beauty and the important views and prospects that people in Cork and visitors to the County value most highly. In addition much of the centre, south and coastal area of the town is designated as scenic landscape. Visual impacts may arise from development within the town. The implications of development of zoned lands on existing

landscape form and features and on scenic views and routes should be investigated with a view to ensuring such views/ features are protected from proposed development of the area. In addition new development within the town should not impact on visual amenity of Scenic Routes A63, A62 and A61 outside the limits to the town boundary. As part of the County Development Plan Review, all scenic routes are study is currently being undertaken. All development within the town should ensure that it does not impact negatively on views from the harbour.

Scenic routes and views

Scenic Routes make up those areas of natural beauty and the important views and prospects that people in Cork (and visitors to the county) value most highly. There are three scenic routes located in close proximity to the town, these include Scenic Route A63, A62 and A61 as outlined in the Cork County Development Plan 2003 (S63, S62 and S61 Scenic Routes in the Draft Cork County Development Plan 2007).

Figure 5.9.2 Heritage and Scenic Amenity Kinsale



Source: Draft Cork County Development Plan 2007

5.9.3 Impact Assessment – existing environmental problems and constraints

It is considered that much of the lands surrounding the town are of high landscape character. As can be seen from figure 5.9.2 above lands to the south of the town are sensitive to development as these are designated as scenic landscape in both the Cork County Development Plan 2003 and the draft Cork County Development Plan 2007. Lands to the east and south east of Kinsale town are designated as Scenic Landscape Coastline in the Cork County Development Plan 2003 and Draft Cork County Development Plan 2007. Three scenic routes are located in close proximity to the town. There are no National Heritage Areas, Special Areas of Conservation or Special Protection Areas within Kinsale town. The nearby Old Head of Kinsale is identified as a Special Protection Area for the breeding of sea birds. James Fort, which is 0.25km from the coastline of Kinsale town is designated Proposed Natural Heritage Area because it is rich in flora.

It is an objective of the Kinsale Development Plan to protect features of Landscape, i.e. scenic views and walks, and areas of Natural Heritage importance and to encourage and improve waterfront activity especially as Scilly Dam.

5.9.4 Evolution without implementation of the plan.

In the absence of the Plan specific objectives would be still be provided through the Cork County Development Plan and National and European Legislation. However the Kinsale Development Plan provides a guidance that encompasses principles from the Cork County Development Plan and the national legislation and is therefore more applicable to the area of Kinsale.

If the plan were not implemented lands within the town would not be zoned and it is likely that development would take place in an ad hoc, haphazard manner and therefore have a negative impact on the surrounding natural heritage as development would take place on scenic landscapes and important vistas of the town. Therefore features of landscape value could be damaged or even lost in some cases.

6 OBJECTIVES, TARGETS AND INDICATORS

The sustainability criteria are broadly categorised in terms of the indicators outlined in the SEA Directive and in the SEA of the draft County Development Plan 2009-2015. In the course of carrying out the appraisal, the sustainability criteria were refined, combined and classified in order to avoid duplication and ensure a clear, focused and measurable set of criteria against which the strategy can be assessed. Set out in Table 6.1 are the SEA Objectives that are being considered to test the Kinsale Development Plan. These objectives are based on the current understanding of the key environmental issues identified at a local level in Kinsale and at a county level.

Table 6.1 SEA Objectives Targets and Indicators

Issue	Objective	Target	Indicator	Responsibility
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna				
B1	To avoid significant adverse impacts (direct, cumulative and indirect), to protected habitats, species or their sustaining resources in designated ecological sites by development within or adjacent to these sites.	No significant adverse impacts, (direct, cumulative and indirect impacts), to relevant habitats, species or their sustaining resources in designated ecological sites.	Number of significant adverse impacts (direct, cumulative and indirect impacts), to relevant habitats and species in designated ecological sites.	KTC DoEHLG
B2	To protect the marine environment, aquatic biodiversity, flora and fauna and to promote Coastal management strategies.	No significant adverse impacts, (direct, cumulative and indirect impacts), to relevant habitats, species or their sustaining resources in designated ecological sites.	Number of significant adverse impacts (direct, cumulative and indirect impacts), to relevant habitats and species in designated ecological sites.	KTC DoEHLG

Issue	Objective	Target	Indicator	Responsibility
Population and Human Health				
PH1	To improve the quality of life for the people of Kinsale through high quality residential, working and recreational environments, sustainable travel patterns.	To improve quality of life, provision of improved physical and social infrastructure, to reduce journey to work times and allow for a better match between place of residence and place of work.	Journey to work times.	CCC
		No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors.	Occurrence of a spatially concentrated deterioration in human health.	KTC/CCC
Soils				
S1	To maximise the sustainable re-use of brownfield lands and the existing built environment, rather than developing greenfield lands.	All brownfield lands to be redeveloped at the end of the plan lifespan (subject to availability on the open market and demand for such land).	Area of brownfield land available.	KTC
S2	To maintain the quality of soils.	To reduce contamination and safeguard soil quality and quantity.	Cannot specifically monitor at present, however, when soil directive comes into force, will be obliged to consider impacts of policies on soils.	CCC

Issue	Objective	Target	Indicator	Responsibility
S3	To minimise waste production and reduce the volume of waste to landfill and to operate sustainable waste management practices.	To meet national and EU targets on the recycling of municipal waste and its diversion from landfill.	Volume of waste recycled and volume of waste sent to landfill.	KTC/CCC
Water				
W1i	Maintain or improve the quality of surface water to meet the requirements of the South Western River Basin Management Plan (SW RBMP) and Programme of Measures (POMs)	0 Faecal Coliform Counts per 100ml of groundwater.	Faecal Coliform Counts per 100ml of groundwater.	EPA KTC/CCC
W1ii		To improve biotic quality ratings, where possible to Q5.	Changes in water quality as identified during water quality monitoring programmes.	EPA KTC/CCC
W2i	To maintain and improve, where possible, the quality of rivers, lakes, surface water and estuarine and coastal waters.	To maintain a biotic quality rating of Q4, in line with the requirement to achieve good water status under the Water Framework Directive, by 2015.	Biotic Quality Rating (Q Value) and Risk Assessment.	EPA KTC/CCC
W2ii		To improve biotic quality ratings, where possible, to Q5.	Biotic Quality Rating (Q Value) and Risk Assessment.	EPA KTC/CCC
W3	Promote sustainable water usage	To introduce water measures to reduce water wastage, leakage and over consumption usage and to promote conservation measures at household and Industrial level	Number of water conservation measures implemented during the lifetime of the Plan	EPA KTC/CCC

Issue	Objective	Target	Indicator	Responsibility
		by 2015.		
W4a	To prevent pollution and contamination of bathing water.	≤ 5,000 Total Coliform Counts per 100ml of bathing water.	Total Coliform Counts per 100ml of bathing water.	KTC
W4b		≤ 1,000 Faecal Coliform Counts per 100ml of bathing water.	Faecal Coliform Counts per 100ml of bathing water.	EPA CCC
Air and Climate				
A 1	To maintain and improve air quality in Kinsale and reduce CO2 Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) to alleviate Climate Change.	Increased use of public transport. Increase numbers of cycle lanes and pedestrian routes in the study area. Increase number of permissions granted for renewable energy projects	Use of public transport. Provision of cycle lanes and walking routes. Number of permissions granted for renewable energy projects.	KTC/CCC
Energy				
E1	Promote renewable energy technology for projected power requirements	Encourage use of renewable energy for domestic and small businesses. Use of renewable energy to supply National Grid where applicable.	Number and type of renewable energy technologies employed in new developments	KTC/CCC
Material Assets				
M1	To serve new development under the plan with appropriate wastewater treatment.	No new developments granted permission which cannot be adequately served by a public waste water treatment	Number of new developments granted permission which cannot be adequately served by a public waste water treatment	CCC NRA

Issue	Objective	Target	Indicator	Responsibility
		plant over the lifetime of the plan.	plant over the lifetime of the plan.	
M2	To maintain and improve the quality of drinking water supplies.	To maintain and improve drinking water quality in Kinsale to comply with the requirements of the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations 2000.	Drinking water quality standards (Microbiological, Chemical and Indicator parameters).	EPA KTC/CCC
Cultural Heritage				
CH1	To protect the archaeological heritage of Kinsale and; the context of the above within the surrounding landscape where relevant.	No unauthorised developments permitted over the lifespan of the plan which result in full or partial loss of: entries to the Record of Monuments and Places; entries to the Register for Historic Monuments; National Monument subject to Preservation Orders, and; the context of the above within the surrounding landscape where relevant.	Number of unauthorised developments permitted over the lifespan of the plan which result in full or partial loss of: entries to the Record of Monuments and Places; entries to the Register for Historic Monuments; National Monument subject to Preservation Orders, and; the context of the above within the surrounding landscape where relevant.	CCC Heritage Section Cork Heritage Forum DoEHLG

Issue	Objective	Target	Indicator	Responsibility
CH2	To preserve and protect the special interest and character of Kinsale 's architectural heritage and the context of the above within the surrounding landscape where relevant.	No unauthorised developments permitted over the lifespan of the plan which result in physical loss or loss to the context in the surrounding landscape or streetscape of: entries to the Record of Protected Structures; Architectural Conservation Areas, or; entries to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage.	Number of unauthorised developments permitted over the lifespan of the plan which result in physical loss or loss to the context in the surrounding landscape or streetscape of: entries to the Record of Protected Structures; Architectural Conservation Areas, or; entries to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage.	CCC Heritage Section Cork Heritage Forum DoEHLG
Landscape				
Li	To protect Kinsale 's sensitive landscapes, landscape features and designated scenic routes and landscape	No unauthorised developments to be conspicuously located within sensitive landscapes or designated scenic landscape.	Number of unauthorised conspicuous developments located within sensitive landscapes or designated scenic landscape.	KTC/CCC
Lii		No unauthorised developments to adversely impact upon designated scenic views or scenic landscape.	Number of unauthorised conspicuous developments adversely impacting upon designated scenic views or scenic landscape.	KTC/CCC

7 ASSESSMENT OF ALTERNATIVES

7.1 INTRODUCTION

Article 5 of the SEA Directive requires the environmental report to consider ‘reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme’ and the significant effects of the alternatives selected. Alternatives must be realistic and capable of implementation and should present a range of different approaches within the statutory and operational requirements of the Town Plan.

Section 3.14 of the DoEHLG Guidelines notes that the higher the level of the plan, the more strategic the options which are likely to be available. Conversely, lower tier plans, such as Local Area Plans, will be framed in a policy context set by the level(s) above them, and strategic options may be limited. As a result, the strategic options available to the preparation of the Draft Kinsale Development Plan are limited.

It is a mandatory objective of a Development Plan that sufficient lands are zoned for particular purposes. This is especially relevant in relation to the quantum and location of new residentially zoned lands. In this regard it is important to highlight that sufficient lands are rezoned for residential, employment and community uses within the Town Council boundary in line with national, regional and local population projections, which will contribute to the generation of critical mass within the town of Kinsale.

Kinsale Town Council is quite limited in its extent and nearly the entire town is developed. A number of development alternatives were considered in the preparation of the draft Kinsale Town Development Plan. Options included the do-nothing scenario, which would entail leaving the town to develop in its current situation, option 2 considers the rezoning of lands as a natural extension to the town centre in order to consolidate the town, while also allowing an element of greenfield rezoning and the last option considered was option 3 which was to extend development zonings of all undeveloped greenfield lands within the town council boundary.

Option 1 The ‘Do-nothing’ option;

Option 2 Rezone sufficient lands as a natural extension of the town centre;

Option 3 Extend new development zonings on remaining undeveloped Greenfield lands within the town boundary.

Under Option 1 the ‘do nothing’ scenario, Kinsale would maintain its current physical and socio-economic characteristics. Development would be market dependent and would occur at a slower pace and in a less co-ordinated manner. Adopting the ‘do-nothing’ approach would have implications for the proper planning and sustainability of Kinsale Town, as it would mean that development would take place in a haphazard manner.

As a result of the do-nothing approach, policies and objectives of the plan would not be updated and therefore derelict and under-utilised buildings would dilapidate further. Physical, social and economic development would not be planned and promoted within the town. Therefore Option 1 would not achieve the general goal of the Kinsale Town Development Plan, which is to improve the quality of life for the population of Kinsale, which the Council will endeavor to implement during the

period of the Plan. Therefore this option is not considered to be very positive in terms of the promotion of quality of life for Kinsale and is therefore not the chosen option for the plan.

Alternative Option 2 is to rezone sufficient lands as a natural extension of the town centre in accordance with projected growth for the area through the intensification and consolidation of the existing Town Centre. This option would allow for the redevelopment of brownfield sites and Greenfield sites only where there is a natural extension to existing zoning. This scenario allows for the intensification of the town centre and the consolidation and expansion of existing services to accessible lands. This scenario would meet a large number of the objectives of the Town Development Plan, as it would allow the rejuvenation of existing derelict sites, which would improve the town's architectural character and townscape and consequently improve its tourist function. It would also be likely to have a positive impact on existing residents and traders in the town. Therefore Option 2 is the preferred option for the Kinsale Town Development Plan 2009 - 2015.

Alternative Option 3 was to extend new development zonings on the last remaining undeveloped Greenfield lands within the town boundary. Kinsale Town Council is quite limited in its extent and very little greenfield lands remain within the town boundary, however some greenfield lands remain to the north east, north west and south west of the town. However the last remaining greenfield is either quite elevated or is designated open space and/or acts as a protective buffer. Therefore this option would involve extending zonings into the greenfield areas of the Town that is considered to be of high landscape character. In addition if additional greenfield lands were rezoned based on the population projections outlined in the draft plan this could possibly result in development of the town to extend rather than to consolidate and is not considered to be sustainable. Therefore Option 3 is considered unsustainable due to the dispersed nature of growth and primarily due to its potential to have an impact on areas of high landscape character.

7.2 ASSESSMENT OF OPTIONS

Table 7.2.1 below provides a description of the criteria used to assess the various environmental SEA topics against the proposed alternative.

Table 7.2.1 Scoring Symbol for the Purpose of Assessment of Alternatives

Impact	Negative	Negative indirect	Neutral	Positive (direct)	Positive (indirect)	Uncertain/Questionable
Symbol	x	⊗	0	✓	☑	?

Option 1- The “do-nothing” Option

Under Option 1 the ‘do nothing’ scenario, Kinsale would maintain its current physical and socio-economic characteristics. Development would be market dependent and would occur at a slower pace and in a less co-ordinated manner. Adopting the ‘do-nothing’ approach would have implications for the proper planning and sustainability of Kinsale Town, as it would mean that development would take place in a haphazard manner.

As a result of the do-nothing approach, policies and objectives of the plan would not be updated and therefore derelict and under-utilised buildings would dilapidate further. Physical, social and economic development would not be planned and promoted within the town. Therefore Option 1 would not achieve the general goal of the Kinsale Town Development Plan, which is to improve the quality of life for the population of Kinsale, which the Council will endeavor to implement during the period of the Plan. Therefore this option is not considered to be very positive in terms of the promotion of quality of life for Kinsale and is therefore not the chosen option for the plan. An overview of impacts by considering the “do nothing” scenario is provided below in Table 7.2.2.

Table 7.2.2 Option 1 the ‘Do-nothing’ Option

Environmental Issue	Score	Commentary
Biodiversity	☒	May result in pressure on the general biodiversity and flora and fauna within the area due to unplanned growth. Possible loss of hedgerows, tree lines and potentially sensitive habitats but not on a significant scale.
Population and Human Health	☒	Under this scenario there would be a continuing reliance on private transport as development would be of an unplanned nature which would result in greater exposure to noise and air pollution.
Water	☒	Uncontrolled development could place pressure on surface water and on groundwater quality. Uncontrolled development within the town is likely to have negative impacts to the water environment and may have indirect impacts on the harbour.
Soil	○	Unplanned development within the area could potentially result in the loss of fertile soils/resources but not on any significant scale as there is little greenfield lands within the town boundary.
Air & Climate	○ / ☒	Under this scenario it is likely that there would be a greater reliance on the private car rather than cycleways and pedestrian links resulting in increased CO ₂ emissions and some slight impacts to air quality and climate
Material Assets	×	This option could result in a number of one off septic tanks, connections to ESB rather than a planned and phased approach as development without services would be granted planning permission.
Cultural Heritage	☒	There could be impacts on the recorded monuments and places sites and protected structures within the area as a consequence of this option. Given the overall high archaeological potential of the plan area sub-surface remains may be encountered and thereby impacted upon.
Landscape	×	Unformulated development in the town may result in impacts on the protected views and may have negative impacts on the landscape.
Traffic	×	Unplanned development is likely to result in dispersed development, which would increase the need and dependency upon private means of transport leading to traffic congestion and delays and pressure on the existing congested road network.

Option 2- Rezone sufficient lands as a natural extension of the town centre

Alternative Option 2 is to rezone sufficient lands as a natural extension of the town centre in accordance with projected growth for the area through the intensification and consolidation of the existing Town Centre. This option would allow for the redevelopment of brownfield sites and Greenfield sites only where there is a natural extension to existing zoning. This scenario allows for the intensification of the town centre and the consolidation and expansion of existing services to accessible lands.

It is expected that under this option of growth future population growth in Kinsale will be accommodated through a pattern of consolidation with an emphasis on infill development and the development of greenfield sites that naturally extend from exiting zonings to the north east and north west of the town. It is considered that this option allows sufficient lands to be zoned within this plan to accommodate the projected population growth within the six-year plan period.

This scenario would meet a large number of the objectives of the Town Development Plan, as it would allow the rejuvenation of existing derelict sites, which would improve the town's architectural character and townscape and consequently improve its tourist function. It would also be likely to have a positive impact on existing residents and traders in the town. Therefore Option 2 is the preferred option for the Kinsale Town Development Plan 2009 - 2015.

Table 7.2.3: Rezone sufficient lands in accordance with national, Regional and Local projections

Environmental Issue	Score	Commentary
Biodiversity	0	The intensification of the Town centre and redeveloping brownfield sites and Greenfield sites only where there is a natural extension to existing zonings would have a neutral effect on biodiversity as it would reduce impacts to greenfield areas and wildlife corridors outside the town.
Population and Human Health	✓	It promotes greater use of public transport due to the intensification of the town centre and promotion of development on lands, which have been zoned in a planned manner. This option promotes growth and development to allow for greater open space, amenities and community facilities, which in turn would improve the quality of life for the individual.
Water	0	Policies in the plan ensure that development will only take place where wastewater and water supply capacity have been assessed with the aim of reducing pressure on surface water and groundwater. In addition, this option will aim for the preservation and enhancement of good water quality in line with the Water Framework Directive.
Soil	0	This scenario would involve uptake of land the majority of which is made ground and therefore impacts will be minimised.
Air & Climate	0	Development will be concentrated in areas well served by existing and planned infrastructure making it convenient for the population to utilise public transport and thereby reduce CO ₂ emissions and negative impacts to air quality and climate.
Material Assets	✓	This option focuses development in existing development areas and also promotes development on brownfield sites and on Greenfield sites only where there is a natural extension to existing zonings. This option would help to rejuvenate existing derelict sites, which would improve the town's architectural character and townscape and consequently its tourist function. This option promotes development where there is provision of services, water supply are planned to accommodate development.
Cultural Heritage	0	This option will concentrate development in areas already developed or zoned for development. In addition policies and objectives within the plan ensure that Cultural Heritage is protected and enhanced and therefore would prevent development impacting on cultural heritage.

Environmental Issue	Score	Commentary
Landscape	☒/○	This option would lead to the development of a more compact urban form within the town and would reduce the need for the development of greenfield areas on the edge of town. This option would concentrate development in the town and on lands zoned for development and would promote development of brownfield or derelict sites, which should reduce the visual impact on the landscape of the area. Some greenfield lands will be developed therefore there may be slight negative impacts.
Traffic	○	With the provision of sustainable public transport, it is likely that there will be an increase of use in public transport and reductions in the distances of commuting for the increasing population, as development is concentrated in the town and on lands planned and zoned for development.

Option 3 - Extend new development zonings on Greenfield Lands

Alternative Option 3 was to extend new development zonings on the last remaining undeveloped Greenfield lands within the town boundary. Kinsale Town Council is quite limited in its extent and very little greenfield lands remain within the town boundary, however some greenfield lands remain to the north east, north west and south west of the town. However the last remaining greenfield is either quite elevated or is designated open space and/or acts as a protective buffer. Therefore this option would involve extending zonings into the greenfield areas of the Town that is considered to be of high landscape character.

In addition if additional greenfield lands were rezoned based only on the population projections outlined in the draft plan it could possibly result in development of the town to extend rather than to consolidate and is not considered to be sustainable.

Therefore Option 3 is considered unsustainable due to its dispersed nature and primarily due to its potential negative impacts on the landscape. An overview of impacts by considering Option 3 is provided below in Table 7.2.4.

Table 7.2.4: Extend new development zonings on Greenfield lands in accordance with submissions to the development plan.

Environmental Issue	Score	Commentary
Biodiversity	☒	Development of the remaining greenfield sites of the town could potentially have a negative impact on biodiversity. Much of the Greenfield lands in Kinsale are in agricultural use. These lands could potentially be impacted directly and indirectly by development on both in this area and skirting this area.
Population and Human Health	☒/○	This scenario would create a higher dependency on the private motorcar, which may adversely affect human health due to deterioration of air quality. It would increase the amount of development on open space within the town boundary; this would reduce the number of amenities for the population and tourists visiting the town of Kinsale. Overall this option is considered neutral in terms of human health and on the quality of life for the individual.
Water	☒	Much of the greenfield lands in Kinsale are in use as open space or agricultural use, development on these lands could potentially have negative impacts on the water quality due to the increased demand for groundwater, which would place pressure on surface water and on groundwater quality.

Environmental Issue	Score	Commentary
Soil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Development on greenfield lands would eventually result in loss of fertile soils/resources in favour of development of brownfield sites.
Air & Climate	O/ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Under this scenario there would be greater reliance on the private car rather than use of cycleways and pedestrian links resulting in increased CO ₂ emissions and slight negative impacts to air quality and climate.
Material Assets	*	This option would result in the development of greenfield sites instead of the re-use of brownfield sites and the redevelopment of derelict structures within the town. This option would therefore result in the further dilapidation of the town centre and would not be sustainable in the long term. This could have indirect impacts on the tourism industry of Kinsale.
Cultural Heritage	O	It is not considered that the development of greenfield lands would cause any increased risk of impact on archaeology and built heritage.
Landscape	*	This scenario would result in the development of greenfield lands within the town boundary and is likely to put pressure on the open landscapes to the northeast, northwest and southwest of the town. In addition, without the development of brownfield or derelict sites in favour of greenfield sites, these areas will continue to be unused and negatively impact upon the landscape character of the town.
Traffic	*	If all Greenfield lands were rezoned in addition to the lands already zoned within the town this would result in a haphazard approach to the town planning principles of the town therefore this would increase the number of people travelling by private means of transport leading to traffic congestion and delays and additional pressure on existing road network.

7.3 CONCLUSION

Table 7.3.1. below summarises the scoring for each development option. As stated above it is considered that development option 3 is considered unsustainable due to its dispersed nature and primarily due to its potential negative impacts on the landscape while option 1 (the “do nothing” scenario) was considered to do little to enhance and improve the area. Therefore development Option 2 has clearly emerged as the preferred option as it proposes to consolidate and enhance Kinsale Town Centre while also protecting any remaining greenfield and open space within the town. Option 2 will be examined in more detail in Chapter 8.

Table 7.3.1 Summary of Development Option Score

SEA Objective	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Biodiversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Population and Human Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> /O
Water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	O	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Soil	O	O	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Air & Climate	O / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	O	O / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Material Assets	x	✓	x
Cultural Heritage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0	0
Landscape	x	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> /O	x
Traffic	x	O	x

8 ASSESSMENT OF DRAFT PLAN POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES

8.1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this section of the Environmental Report is to evaluate as far as is possible the environmental effects of this draft Town Plan and to set out measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as far as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment. This section therefore evaluates the Draft Plan's Policies and objectives against the SEA objectives. As part of the methodology a matrix was used to assess the strategic objectives of the Kinsale Development Plan against the objectives devised to ensure that the strategy is sustainable as indicated in Table 8.2 below. This process enables an overview of where potential significant environmental effects may arise from implementation of the Plan and allows for additional objectives to be generated, if necessary.

It is considered that overall the proposed strategy will not have a negative impact on the environment. All potential significant effects that have emerged as a result of baseline study and the assessment of the Policies and Objectives is documented in chapter 9 entitled 'Significant effects and Proposed Mitigation Measures'. Under this section mitigation measures will be put in place in order to prevent deterioration in environmental quality of the area. A Monitoring programme which will be linked to significant effects is set out in section 10 of this report.

The environmental objectives of Biodiversity Flora and Fauna, Population and Human Health, Soil water, Air and Climatic Factors, Energy, Material Assets, Cultural Heritage and Landscape area assessed against the policies and objectives outlined in the draft Kinsale Town Development Plan 2009 – 2015.

8.1 ASSESMENT CRITERIA

The assessment criteria used is based on the likely significant effects of the Plan's Objectives on the environmental objectives as detailed in Table 8.2. The criteria used for the assessment is described in Table 8.1:

Table 8.1 Assessment Criteria

Type of Impact	Description	Symbol
Positive	Improves the quality of the environment (i.e. improves air quality, biodiversity etc. Positive impacts may be	+
	Short Term / Temporary	+S
	Long Term/ Permanent	+L +T +P
	Indirect	+ I

Negative	<p>Reduces the quality of the environment (i.e. reducing air quality or reducing species diversity). A negative impact can however be sufficiently minimised/eliminated by installation of appropriate mitigation measures.</p> <p>Negative impacts may be</p> <p>Short Term/Temporary</p> <p>Long Term/Permanent</p> <p>Indirect</p>	<p>-</p> <p>_S</p> <p>_L</p> <p>_I</p>
Short term/ Temporary	Usually lasts the duration of the project i.e. during the construction stage of a development i.e. during provision of infrastructure recommended in the Plan.	S +S or _S
Long term/ Permanent	Will last greater than 60 years	L +L or _L
Indirect	Effects that are not a direct result of the Plan, same as secondary effects.	I +I or _I
Neutral	No Impact	0
Questionable	Unknown	?
Cumulative (or synergistic)	Effects on the environment that result from incremental changes caused by strategic action together with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. These results can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over time or space.	C

Table 8.2 draft Kinsale Town Development Policy/Objective Assessment Matrix

Strategic Objectives	Biodiversity Flora & Fauna		Population & Human Health		Soil			Water				Air & Climate	Energy	Material Assets		Cultural Heritage		Landscap e	Comments
	B1	B2	PH1	PH 2	S1	S2	S3	W1i	W2i	W3	W4	A1	E1	M1	M2	CH 1	CH2	L1i	

facilitate the development of sustainable tourism and recreational facilities in Kinsale.																			
To conserve and protect the natural heritage of Kinsale	+I	+L	O	O	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-I	-I	+L	
Transport																			
Goal: To develop safer, more efficient and integrated transport system within Kinsale, with improvements to the road network, other modes of the transport including public transport, cycle ways and to create a pedestrian friendly environment.	O	O	+L	+L	+L	+L	I+	O	O	O	O	+L	O	O	O	I+	I+	I+	A safe, efficient transport system would have many positive impacts and many indirect positive impacts within the town.
Obj 1:	O	O	+L	+L	+L	+L	I+	?	O	O	O	+L	O	O	O	I+	I+	I+	Positive as it promotes sustainable forms of transport
Obj 2:	?	O	?	?	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	?	?	O	O	O	O	?	Road improvements unlikely to have any detrimental effect on Kinsale town
Obj 3:	0	O	+L	+L	+L	+L	I+	?	0	0	0	+L	O	O	O	I+	I+	I+	Road improvements unlikely to have significant environmental impact on Kinsale town
Obj 4:	+I	O	+L	+L	+I	+I	O	O	O	O	O	+L	O	O	O	+I	+I	+L	Cycle paths are a sustainable form of transport therefore no negative impacts
General Transportation Statements																			
GTP1	0	0	+L	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	+I	
GTP2	0	0	+L	+L	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	+I	

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	B1	B2	PH1	PH 2	S1	S2	S3	W1i	W2i	W3	W4	A1	E1	M1	M2	CH 1	CH2	L1i	

GTP3	0	0	+L	+L	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	0	0	0	0	0	+I	
GTP4	0	0	+L	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	
GTP5	0	0	+L	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	+I	
GTP6	0	0	+L	+L	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+I
GTP7	0	0	+L	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Road Network Policy Statements: Road Construction Policy Statements																			
RCP1	-S	0	+L	+L	-I	-I	0	0	0	0	0	-I	0	0	0	0	0	-L	It is considered that new road developments generally have negative impacts in terms of biodiversity, air and landscape in the area to be developed however it is considered that the new road would have very positive impact in terms of all of the above within the town centre. In addition it is considered that the road would promote sustainable development by opening up backland areas for consolidated growth in the town.
RCP2	-S	-S	+L	+L	-L	-L	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	-I	As above
RCP3	-S	0	+L	+L	-L	-L	0	0	0	0	0	-I	0	0	0	0	0	-I	As above
Road Network Policy Statements: Road Improvements/Closure																			
RIP1	+I	+I	+L	+L	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	0	+L	0	0	0	+I	+I	+L	Cycle paths are a sustainable form of transport therefore no negative impacts
RIP2	-S	0	+L	+L	-I	-I	0	0	0	0	0	-I	0	0	0	0	0	-L	Please see comments under

Table 8.2 draft Kinsale Town Development Policy/Objective Assessment Matrix

Strategic Objectives	Biodiversity Flora & Fauna		Population & Human Health		Soil			Water				Air & Climate	Energy	Material Assets		Cultural Heritage		Landscap e	Comments	
	B1	B2	PH1	PH 2	S1	S2	S3	W1i	W2i	W3	W4	A1	E1	M1	M2	CH 1	CH2	L1i		
WCP3	0	0	+L	+L	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0		
WCP4	0	0	+L	+L	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0		
WCP5	0	0	+L	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0		
WCP6	0	0	+L	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0		
WCP7	0	0	+L	+L	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0		
WCP8	0	0	+L	+L	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Infrastructure																				
Overall Goal: To provide, in cooperation with Cork County Council, water in sufficient quantity and quality for domestic, commercial, industrial, agricultural and other uses and to provide a reliable system for the safe and adequate disposal of wastewater and solid waste in a manner which is sustainable. To promote and encourage energy efficiency and development of renewable technologies.	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+I	+I	+I	Sustainable as it improves services
Obj 1:	+I	+I	+L	+L	+L	+L	O	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	O	+L	+L	O	O	+I	Positive policy as it helps to protect the environment from degradation due to lack of services.	
Obj 2:	+I	+I	+L	+L	+L	+L	O	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	O	+L	+L	O	O	+I	As above	
Obj 3:	+I	+I	+L	+L	+L	+L	O	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	O	+L	+L	O	O	+I	As above	
Obj 4:	+I	+I	+L	+L	+L	+L	O	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	O	+L	+L	O	O	+I	As above	
Obj 5:	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	O	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	O	+L	+L	O	O	+L	As above	
Obj 6:	+I	+I	+L	+L	+L	+L	O	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	O	+L	+L	O	O	+I	As above	
Water Supply Policy Statements																				

Table 8.2 draft Kinsale Town Development Policy/Objective Assessment Matrix

Strategic Objectives	Biodiversity Flora & Fauna		Population & Human Health		Soil			Water				Air & Climate	Energy	Material Assets		Cultural Heritage		Landscap e	Comments
	B1	B2	PH1	PH 2	S1	S2	S3	W1i	W2i	W3	W4	A1	E1	M1	M2	CH 1	CH2	L1i	

GEE12	0	0	+I	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
GEE13	0	0	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
GEE14	0	0	0	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
GEE15	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
GEE16	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Enterprise and Employment Policy Statement																			
EEP1	0	0	+I	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
EEP2	0	+L	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Prevention of Major Accidents																			
Goal: To direct any future industries covered by the SEVESO Directive to suitable sites outside the Town Council area in consultation with Cork County Council.	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	
Obj 1	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	
MA1 -	0	+I	+I	+L	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	+I	0	
Retail & Commercial Development																			
Goal: To promote and encourage the enhancement and expansion of the retail floorspace and town centre functions of Kinsale, to further develop its competitiveness with	0	0	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	would improve retailing and employment within the town and prevent the need for unsustainable travel patterns outside the town.

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	B1	B2	PH1	PH 2	S1	S2	S3	W1i	W2i	W3	W4	A1	E1	M1	M2	CH 1	CH2	L1i	

nearby towns such as Bandon and its importance as a principal tourism and local service centre.																			
Obj 1	0	0	+L	+L	+L	+L	+I	0	0	0	0	+L	0	0	0	0	0	+I	Sustainable in terms of town centre consolidation
Obj 2	0	0	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-L	0	0	0	0	0	0	As Retail and Commercial Development Goal above.
Obj 3	0	0	+L	+L	+L	+L	+I	0	0	0	0	+L	0	0	0	0	0	+I	
Obj 4	0	0	+L	+L	+L	+L	+I	0	0	0	0	+L	0	0	0	0	0	+I	As objective 1 above
Obj 5: To ensure that the retail needs of the Kinsale catchment area are met.	0	0	+L	+L	+L	+L	+I	0	0	0	0	+L	0	0	0	0	0	+I	As objective 1 above
Obj 6:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Refers to Development Management
General Retail Policy Statements																			
GR1	0	0	+L	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	
GR2	0	0	+L	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	
GR3	0	0	+L	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	
GR4	0	0	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
GR5	0	0	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	
GR6	0	?	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	0	0	0	0	+I	0	potential adverse effects in terms of the Aquatic Environment and impacts on bathing water due to the construction of the boardwalk would be mitigated as a result of other protective policies within the plan
GR7	0	0	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	
GR8	0	0	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	

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Strategic Objectives	Biodiversity Flora & Fauna		Population & Human Health		Soil			Water				Air & Climate	Energy	Material Assets		Cultural Heritage		Landscap e	Comments
	B1	B2	PH1	PH 2	S1	S2	S3	W1i	W2i	W3	W4	A1	E1	M1	M2	CH 1	CH2	L1i	
TCEP1	+I	0	+I	+I	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	+I	+I	
TCEP2	+I	0	+I	+I	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	+I	+I	
TCEP3	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	+I	0	
TCEP4	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TCEP5	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	0	0	0	0	+I	0	
TCEP6	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	0	0	0	0	+I	0	
TCEP7	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	0	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	0	+I	+I	+I	+I	0	
TCEP8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TCEP9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TCEP10	+I	0	+I	+I	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	+I	+I	0	
TCEP11	0	0	+I	+I	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	+I	0	
TCEP12	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	0	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	0	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	
TCEP13	+I	0	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	+I	+I	+I	
TCEP14	+I	0	+I	+I	+I	+I	0	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	0	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	
Reuse and Regeneration Policy Statements																			
RR1	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	0	0	0	+L	+L	0	
RR2	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	0	0	0	+L	+L	0	
Public Realm Policy Statements																			
PR1	0	0	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+I	
PR2	0	0	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+I	
PR3	0	0	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+I	
PR4	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	
Tourism & Leisure																			
Overall Goal: To promote, protect, and improve the development of sustainable tourism in Kinsale	+I	+I	+L	+L	+L	+L	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	+L	0	+I	+I	+L	+L	+L	Generally very positive due to the protective nature of the objective
Obj 1	0	0	+L	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+I	

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	B1	B2	PH1	PH 2	S1	S2	S3	W1i	W2i	W3	W4	A1	E1	M1	M2	CH 1	CH2	L1i	
Obj 2	O	O	+L	+L	+I	+I	O	O	O	O	O	+I	O	O	O	+L	+L	O	Positive in terms of the population and human health of the town
Obj 3	-I	-I	+L	+L	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	+L	Positive in terms of promotion of agricultural uses, however there may be indirect impacts on the marine environment due to the promotion of waterway activities, therefore the provision of protective policies on the marine and aquatic environment should be included within the plan.
Obj 4	-I	-I	+L	+L	+I	+I	0	0	0	-I	-I	+L	0	0	0	0	0	+L	May be indirect impacts on the marine environment due to the promotion of marine activities, therefore the provision of protective policies on the marine and aquatic environment should be included within the plan.
General Tourism Policy Statements																			
GTO1	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	+I	0	
GTO2	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Positive in terms of creation of jobs
GTO3	0	0	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	+I	+I	
GTO4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
GTO5	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	+I	+I	
GTO6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
GTO7	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
GTO8	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	+L	+L	+L	
Water Based Tourism Policy Statement																			

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Strategic Objectives	Biodiversity Flora & Fauna		Population & Human Health		Soil			Water				Air & Climate	Energy	Material Assets		Cultural Heritage		Landscap e	Comments
	B1	B2	PH1	PH 2	S1	S2	S3	W1i	W2i	W3	W4	A1	E1	M1	M2	CH 1	CH2	L1i	

WBT1	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	Will also need to adhere to other protective Plan Policies and Objectives which would mitigate against potential adverse impacts
WBT2	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
WBT3	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	+L	+L	+L	+L	0	0	+L	+L	+I	+I	0	
WBT4	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Will also need to adhere to other protective Plan Policies and Objectives which would mitigate against potential adverse impacts
WBT5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Heritage Tourism Policy Statement																			
HT1	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	0	
HT2	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	0	
HT3	0	0	O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	0	
Agriculture & Fishing																			
Goal: To promote, protect, and improve the agriculture and fishing industry in Kinsale.	+I	+I	+L	+L	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	O	O	O	O	+L	
Obj 1	+I	+I	+L	+L	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	O	O	O	O	+L	
Obj 2	+I	+I	+L	+L	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	O	O	O	O	+L	
Agriculture and Fishing Policy Statement																			
AF1	+I	+I	+L	+L	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	O	O	O	O	+L	
AF2	+I	+I	+L	+L	+I	+I	0	+L	+L	+L	+L	+I	0	O	O	O	O	+L	
AF3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
AF4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
AF5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	+I	0	

Table 8.2 draft Kinsale Town Development Policy/Objective Assessment Matrix

Strategic Objectives	Biodiversity Flora & Fauna		Population & Human Health		Soil			Water				Air & Climate	Energy	Material Assets		Cultural Heritage		Landscap e	Comments
	B1	B2	PH1	PH 2	S1	S2	S3	W1i	W2i	W3	W4	A1	E1	M1	M2	CH 1	CH2	L1i	

AF6	0	0	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Housing																			
Goal: To ensure that every household has accommodation to meet its needs, suitably located, at a price or rent it can afford. The Council will attempt to consolidate growth within and around the existing town to develop a compact urban form and to attain the most efficient use of existing infrastructural services.	+I	0	+L	+L	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	Sustainable in terms of consolidation of the town, which has knock on positive effects for the environment
Obj 1	0	0	+L	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Not site specific objective, however positive in terms of population of Kinsale.
Obj 2	0	0	+L	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Not site specific objective, however positive in terms of population of Kinsale.
Obj 3	0	0	+L	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	+I	+I	Not site specific objective, however positive in terms of population and indirect positive impacts on cultural heritage and landscape due to good urban design
Obj 4	+I	0	+L	+L	+L	+L	0	0	0	0	0	+L	0	0	0	+I	+I	+I	Generally positive in terms of consolidation of the consolidation and self-sufficiency of the town, also allows for indirect positive impacts on the towns character of the town.

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Strategic Objectives	Biodiversity Flora & Fauna		Population & Human Health		Soil			Water				Air & Climate	Energy	Material Assets		Cultural Heritage		Landscap e	Comments
	B1	B2	PH1	PH 2	S1	S2	S3	W1i	W2i	W3	W4	A1	E1	M1	M2	CH 1	CH2	L1i	

ET4	0	0	+L	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
ET5	0	0	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Childcare Policy Statement																			
CP1	0	0	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
CP2	0	0	+L	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Future Health Facilities Policy																			
FHF1	0	0	+L	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Community Facilities Policy Statement																			
CF1	0	0	+L	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Arts and Culture Policy Statement																			
AC1	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Environment and Heritage																			
Goal: To protect and preserve the environment of Kinsale	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	0	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	
Obj 1	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	
Obj 2	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	
Obj 3	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	
Obj 4	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	
Obj 5	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	+L	
Natural & Built Environment Policy Statements																			
NBE1	+L	+L	+I	0	0	+I	0	0	0	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+L	

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Strategic Objectives	Biodiversity Flora & Fauna		Population & Human Health		Soil			Water				Air & Climate	Energy	Material Assets		Cultural Heritage		Landscap e	Comments
	B1	B2	PH1	PH 2	S1	S2	S3	W1i	W2i	W3	W4	A1	E1	M1	M2	CH 1	CH2	L1i	

NBE2	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	
Soils and Subsoil's Policy Statements																				
SSS1	+I	+I	+I	0	+L	+L	0	+I	+I	+I	+L	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0		
Designated Sites Policy Statements																				
DS1	+L	+L	+I	0	0	+I	0	+I	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	
DS2	+L	+L	+I	0	0	+I	0	+I	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	
DS3	+I	+L	0	0	0	+I	0	+I	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	
Bio-Diversity Policy Statements																				
BD1	+L	+L	+I	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	
Tree Protection Policy Statement																				
TPP1	+I	0	+I	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	+I	+I	+L		
TPP2	+I	0	+I	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	+I	+I	+L		
TPP3	+I	0	+I	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	+I	+I	+L		
TPP4	+I	0	+L	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	+I	+I	+L		
TPP5	+I	0	+I	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	+I	+I	+L		
Landscape and Visual Amenity Policy Statement																				
LVA1	+I	+I	+I	+I	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+L		
LVA2	+I	0	+I	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	+I	+L		
LVA3	+I	+I	+I	+I	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+I		
LVA4	+I	0	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+I		

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	B1	B2	PH1	PH 2	S1	S2	S3	W1i	W2i	W3	W4	A1	E1	M1	M2	CH 1	CH2	L1i	

LVA5	+L	+L	+I	+I	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+L	
LVA6	0	-I	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
LVA7	0	0	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	
LVA8	-I	?	+L	0	0	0	0	0	?	?	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?	
LVA9	0	0	+L	+L	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	+I	+L		
LVA10	0	0	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+I		
LVA11	+I	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+L	+L	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+L		
Heritage																				
Goal: To conserve and protect the built, natural, archaeological and cultural heritage of Kinsale and to afford identified sites, species, monuments, artifacts and particular areas relevant statutory protection. The Council will aim to strike a reasonable balance between conservation and development objectives in the interests of the proper planning and sustainable development of Kinsale.	+L	+L	+I	0	-I	+I	0	0	+I	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+L		
Objective for Heritage: It is an objective of the Council to conserve, protect and enhance in general the character of Kinsale as defined by its natural heritage and biodiversity.	+L	+L	+I	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+L		

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	B1	B2	PH1	PH 2	S1	S2	S3	W1i	W2i	W3	W4	A1	E1	M1	M2	CH 1	CH2	L1i	

built environment, landscape and culture.																			
Heritage Objectives Volume 2, Page 70, Section 6.10.1	+L	+L	+I	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+L	
Archaeological Heritage Objectives																			
Obj 1	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+I	
Obj 2	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+I	
Obj 3	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+I	
Archaeological Heritage Policy Statements																			
AH1	0	0	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+I	
AH2	0	0	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+I	
Archaeological Assessment Requirements																			
AA1	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+I	
Archaeological Excavations																			
AE1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	0	
Architectural Heritage																			
Goal: To protect our architectural heritage and to encourage sensitive sustainable development so as to ensure its survival and maintenance for the future.	0	0	+L	+L	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+L	Positive in terms of protection of cultural heritage which has indirect positive impacts on population. Also promotes reuse of buildings which indirectly has a positive impact on soils
Obj1	0	0	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	0	
Obj 2	0	0	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	0	
Obj 3	0	0	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	0	

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	B1	B2	PH1	PH 2	S1	S2	S3	W1i	W2i	W3	W4	A1	E1	M1	M2	CH 1	CH2	L1i	

Obj 4	0	0	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	O	
Obj 5	0	0	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+L	Positive in terms of retaining landscape features
Obj 6	0	0	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+L	
Record of Protective Structures Policies																			
RPS1	0	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+I	
RPS2	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+I	
RPS3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+I	
RPS4	0	0	+I	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+I	
Architectural Conservation Areas																			
Goal: To protect the special character of the designated Architectural Conservation Area in Kinsale and to ensure that future development will enhance this character and contribute to the creation of a distinctive sense of place.	0	0	+L	+L	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+L	
Obj 1	+L	0	+L	+L	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+L	
Obj 2	0	0	+L	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+L	Positive in terms of population and urban design within the town centre. Help to promote the town centre as a place to live and work
Obj 3	0	0	+L	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+L	As above

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	B1	B2	PH1	PH 2	S1	S2	S3	W1i	W2i	W3	W4	A1	E1	M1	M2	CH 1	CH2	L1i	

Architectural Conservation Areas Policy Statements																			
ACA1	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+L	
ACA2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+I	
ACA3	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+I	
ACA4	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+I	
ACA5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	+I	
Land Use Zonings																			
Zone Obj A	0	0	+L	+I	-L	-S	O	0	0	0	0	+I	0	-L	+I	O	O	O	Need for new policy to ensure that no new development is permitted until the new sewerage treatment plant is operational.
Zone Obj B	0	0	+L	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	-I	+I	O	O	O	Long term impacts due to development of greenfield lands.
Zone Obj C	0	0	+L	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	-I	+I	O	O	+I	Prevents out of centre development.
Zone Obj D	0	0	+L	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	+I	+I	+I	+I	Helps to achieve a compact town centre and reduce expansion outwards
Zone Obj E	0	0	+L	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	+I	+I	+L	Helps to promote walking and cycling
Zone Obj F	0	0	+L	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	+I	+I	+L	Helps to promote walking and cycling
Zone Obj G	0	0	+L	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	Helps to create a sustainable town
Zone Obj H	0	0	+L	+I	0	-S	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	May have short term impacts when constructed.
Zone Obj I	0	0	+L	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	+I	+I	O	
Zone Obj J	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	+I	+I	+L	

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Strategic Objectives	Biodiversity Flora & Fauna		Population & Human Health		Soil			Water				Air & Climate	Energy	Material Assets		Cultural Heritage		Landscap e	Comments
	B1	B2	PH1	PH 2	S1	S2	S3	W1i	W2i	W3	W4	A1	E1	M1	M2	CH 1	CH2	L1i	

Zone Obj K	0	0	+L	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+L	+L	0	0	0	
General Infrastructure Specific Zoning Objectives																			
INF1	0	0	+L	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	
INF2	0	0	+L	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Enterprise and Employment Specific Zoning Objectives																			
EE1	0	0	+L	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	-I	0	0	0	0	Brownfield Development over greenfield development generally positive. Need to ensure sufficient waste water provision.
EE2	0	0	+L	+I	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	-I	0	0	0	0	Brownfield Development over greenfield development generally positive. Need to ensure sufficient waste water provision.
Established Town Centre Specific Zoning Objectives																			
TC1	0	0	+L	+I	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	-I	0	+I	+I	+I	Helps to achieve a compact town centre and reduce expansion outwards. Generally Positive.
TC2	0	0	+L	+I	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	-I	0	+I	+I	+I	Generally positive
TC3	0	0	+L	+I	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	-I	0	+I	+I	+I	Generally positive. Will also need to adhere to other protective policies in the Plan to ensure no negative impacts on waterfront area.
TC4	0	0	+L	+I	+L	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	-I	0	+I	+I	+I	Generally positive. Will also need to adhere to other protective policies in the Plan

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	B1	B2	PH1	PH 2	S1	S2	S3	W1i	W2i	W3	W4	A1	E1	M1	M2	CH 1	CH2	L1i	

																			to ensure no negative impacts.
Open Space, Sports, Recreation & Amenity Specific Zoning Objectives																			
NOSRA1	0	0	+L	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	+I	+I	+L	Promotes walking and cycling
NOSRA2	0	0	+L	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	+L	+L	+L	As above
NOSRA3	0	0	+L	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	+I	+I	+L	As above
OSRA1	0	0	+L	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	+I	+I	+L	As above
Future Health Facilities Specific Zoning Objectives																			
NEIC1	0	0	+L	+I	-L	-S	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	May have short term impacts when constructed. Long term impact in terms of development of greenfield lands.
NEIC2	0	0	+L	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	Generally positive due to re-use of existing building.
Amendments to draft Plan April 2009																			
EE2 Enterprise and Employment development of an appropriate scale, setting and intensity aimed at creating high value sustainable employment opportunities incorporating; retail,, warehousing, manufacturing, general industry, light industry, offices, business parks, start-up enterprises and other low density appropriate employment	0	0	+L	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	Overall considered positive as development is proposed on greenfield lands. Retail uses at this location will also promote shopping in Kinsale rather than going elsewhere outside the town.

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	B1	B2	PH1	PH 2	S1	S2	S3	W1i	W2i	W3	W4	A1	E1	M1	M2	CH 1	CH2	L1i	

uses excluding convenience retail.																				
EEP2 To ensure that likely demand for car and HGV parking / deliveries associated with industrial and enterprise development are met fully within the site, <i>to be sensitive to the amenity of adjacent residential areas</i> , to apply the highest standards of design, hard and soft landscaping and to ensure that pedestrian and public transport access is provided.	0	0	+L	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Considered positive, as it is a protective policy to ensure amenities are protected and also ensures that needs are met within site in terms of parking and deliveries.
A portion of land on Pier road that is as an expansive private garden will be rezoned from town centre to open space.	+I	+I	+I	+I	+L	+I	+I	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	+I	+I	+I	Overall positive as increase amount of designated open space within the town.	
New Objective NOSRA2 to provide – Passive Open Space and public car parking ancillary to proposed adjoining new town park.	-S	0	+I	+I	-I	0	0	0	0	0	0	+I	0	0	0	0	0	-S	May be slight negative impacts in the short terms during construction phase, however no significant impacts likely. Amendment just includes configuration of Open space and residential zoning on site, however quantum of both will remain the same. May be slight negative impacts	

9 SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS AND PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES

9.1 INTRODUCTION

Annex 1 (f) and (g) of the Directive requires that the Environmental Report describe the likely significant effects on the environment and their interrelationship and the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and/or offset as fully as possible any significant adverse effects on the environment from implementing the plan.

It should be noted that proposals to implement this plan may also require Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) at planning application stage. Other impacts and necessary mitigation measures or actions may be identified during this process.

The likely significant effects of the Draft Plan have been informed by trends and potential impacts as identified in section 5 of this report and from impacts arising in the assessment of policies and objectives of the Plan as set out in table 8.2 of this report.

The following table 9.1 links significant effects with potential trends and impacts with proposed mitigation measures and monitoring as set out in table 10.1 below.

The mitigation measures identified in this Environmental Report have been included in the Draft Plan where relevant by way of changes to or inclusion of additional objectives and or policies. The following table references where mitigation measures have been included within the plan.

Table 9.1 Significant Effects, Proposed Mitigation Measures and Proposed Monitoring of Kinsale Town Development Plan Environmental Report

Trend & Potential Impacts	Significant Effects	Mitigation Measures (and reference to where addressed in the Plan highlighted in brackets)	Monitoring (Refer to relevant Indicators, targets and responsibilities as indicated in table 10.1)
<p>Biodiversity</p> <p>The discharge of raw sewage from Kinsale town into Kinsale Harbour has serious implications for biodiversity in the harbour and is also a significant problem for implementation of the EU Shellfish Waters Directive.</p>	<p>Possibly significant if not mitigated against</p>	<p>SEA recommends inclusion of following text in Plan:</p> <p>“On the 30th of July 2007, Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources, Eamon Ryan T.D. announced that Kinsale Harbour will be one of 54 new sites to be designated as Shellfish Growing Waters under the EU Shellfish Waters Directive (79/923/EEC) as implemented in Ireland by the European Communities (Quality of Shellfish Water) Regulations 2006. Kinsale Harbour is listed as a designated Shellfish Water in the SEA of Cork County Development Plan published by Cork County Council Planning Policy Unit in December 2007.”</p> <p>“The regulations require regular sampling of water and of shellfish flesh in order to monitor a range of water quality parameters, and the establishment of a programme of action to ensure that the waters comply with certain (high) standards. The regulations state that: “In particular, the objective of such a programme must be to take reasonably practicable steps to reduce pollution in those waters.”</p> <p>SEA recommends the following policies:</p> <p>To ensure that there is no deterioration in the</p>	<p>Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: B2, W3, M1</p>

Table 9.1 Significant Effects, Proposed Mitigation Measures and Proposed Monitoring of Kinsale Town Development Plan Environmental Report

Trend & Potential Impacts	Significant Effects	Mitigation Measures (and reference to where addressed in the Plan highlighted in brackets)	Monitoring (Refer to relevant Indicators, targets and responsibilities as indicated in table 10.1)
		<p>water quality of Kinsale Harbour as a result of an increase in the volume of sewage entering the water from the town.</p> <p>To ensure that until the new sewage treatment plant is operational, no significant new developments, within Kinsale Town will be permitted that will increase the load on the sewage system.</p> <p>To endeavour to reduce pollution from Kinsale Town, particularly in the form of sewage, to a level where Kinsale Harbour can reach the high standard of water quality that is required under the European Communities (Quality of Shellfish Water) Regulations 2006.</p> <p>Para 10.1.14 – 10.1.16 and Policy WP8 of the Plan as proposed adequately address the issues outlined above.</p>	
<p>Potential impacts on the aquatic environment in the form of industrial and agricultural run-off, other municipal sources of pollution, fragmentation of river corridors and soil erosion. These risks apply in particular to Kinsale Harbour and the Bandon River. Under the Water Framework Directive, water quality must achieve “good status” by 2015.</p>	<p>Possibly significant if not mitigated against</p>	<p>SEA recommends the following policies:</p> <p>To ensure that future development within the town is sensitive to the principles of maintaining biodiversity where appropriate.</p> <p>(Heritage Objective 6.10.1 of the Plan sets out that it is an objective of the Council to conserve, protect and enhance in general the character of Kinsale as defined by its natural heritage and</p>	<p>Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: B1, B2</p>

Table 9.1 Significant Effects, Proposed Mitigation Measures and Proposed Monitoring of Kinsale Town Development Plan Environmental Report

Trend & Potential Impacts	Significant Effects	Mitigation Measures (and reference to where addressed in the Plan highlighted in brackets)	Monitoring (Refer to relevant Indicators, targets and responsibilities as indicated in table 10.1)
		<p><u>biodiversity</u>, built environment, landscape and culture)</p> <p>To support the implementation and actions of the County Biodiversity Action Plan which is due to be published shortly.</p> <p>(Proposed Policy BD1 and BD2 as proposed in the s.12 Managers Report will fully address this policy)</p>	
<p>Invasive species: There is potential for invasive species to enter surface waters and marine systems from a number of sources including runoff from garden centres, from boats, by dumping of waste from fish tanks and garden ponds, and perhaps also from aquaculture facilities. There is therefore a need to include a policy in the new plan to prevent the introduction of those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species. The utilisation of native species in amenity planting and stocking along with change in community actions to reduce the introduction and spread of non-native species should be encouraged.</p>	<p>Possibly significant if not mitigated</p>	<p>SEA recommends the following policy:</p> <p>To ensure for the protection against invasive species within the town, including for the protection against garden centre invasive species also, and may include for the use of native local plant species in habitat recreation and landscaping.</p> <p>(Policy BD1 and proposed Policy BD2 as per the s.12 Managers Report adequately address this policy)</p>	<p>Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: B1</p>

Table 9.1 Significant Effects, Proposed Mitigation Measures and Proposed Monitoring of Kinsale Town Development Plan Environmental Report

Trend & Potential Impacts	Significant Effects	Mitigation Measures (and reference to where addressed in the Plan highlighted in brackets)	Monitoring (Refer to relevant Indicators, targets and responsibilities as indicated in table 10.1)
<p>Removal of Ecological Corridors: The removal of ecological networks / corridors is a significant issue. It is recognised that there has been a significant increase in hedgerow removal throughout Ireland in recent years.</p>		<p>SEA recommends the following policies:</p> <p>To maintain features of the landscape that serve as refuges for wild plants, such as hedgerows, trees, rivers, lakes, parklands, ponds and roadside verges.</p> <p>(Policy DS1 adequately addresses this policy)</p> <p>To support the development of a habitat map of Kinsale Town for the protection of ecological networks and habitats.”</p> <p>(Policy DS2 proposes to consider undertaking an audit of the natural resources of Kinsale that will identify ecologically important areas and provide an opportunity to create linkages between these areas.)</p> <p>To liaise with relevant stakeholders with respect to the protection of biodiversity within the town.</p> <p>(Policy BD1 and 2 as proposed in the s.12 Managers Report adequately addresses this policy)</p>	<p>Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: B1, S1, S2, S3</p>
<p>Climate Change: Until recently biodiversity losses have been attributed to the spread and increased environmental impact of people, however, it seems likely that future losses will increasingly result from human induced global climate change. Climate change considerations must therefore be seen as</p>	<p>No significant effect proposed as a result of the implementation of the Plan.</p>	<p>See Air and Climate Below</p> <p>(No reference to climate change in the policies or objectives within the Plan, however many sustainable policies and objectives which aim to achieve wider</p>	<p>Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: A1</p>

Table 9.1 Significant Effects, Proposed Mitigation Measures and Proposed Monitoring of Kinsale Town Development Plan Environmental Report

Trend & Potential Impacts	Significant Effects	Mitigation Measures (and reference to where addressed in the Plan highlighted in brackets)	Monitoring (Refer to relevant Indicators, targets and responsibilities as indicated in table 10.1)
central to the protection of the natural environment.		sustainable development goals)	
Population and Human Health			
<p>Kinsale Town Council and Kinsale environs (which is within the Cork County Council area) have grown rapidly in the period between 2002 - 2006, significantly beyond the projections outlined in the both the CASP Strategy 2001 and the Cork County Development Plan, 2003. However the large extent of this growth has taken place outside the Town Council area within the environs. A significant number of residential units, yet to be built, have the benefit of planning permission within the Town Council area. The extent and speed of growth has placed strain on the capacities of existing infrastructural facilities in the area so much so that significant upgrades are now required.</p> <p>In short, the recent development of the wider area, particularly the environs of Kinsale has been out of line with the regional strategic projections on settlement and population outlined in the CASP strategy. In addition the new population projections outlined in Kinsale Town Development Plan are not consistent with projections contained in both the Cork County Development Plan, 2007 and the CASP Update 2008.</p>	Possibly significant if not monitored	<p>Section 1.5 of the Plan sets out the goals of the Kinsale Development Plan. It is recommended that this section of the plan should outline that the Kinsale Development Plan will be consistent with environmental policies and objectives of International, national, regional and local importance as outlined within the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the plan.</p> <p>The SEA also recommends that this section of the plan should include reference to seeking to ensure the co-ordinated development of Kinsale town and its environs through enhanced and on-going co-operation and consultation with Cork County Council with regard to the provision of infrastructure and the development of lands for residential and other uses.</p> <p>(This is fully addressed in section 1.5, Volume 2 of the Plan)</p>	Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: PH2, M1,M2

Table 9.1 Significant Effects, Proposed Mitigation Measures and Proposed Monitoring of Kinsale Town Development Plan Environmental Report

Trend & Potential Impacts	Significant Effects	Mitigation Measures (and reference to where addressed in the Plan highlighted in brackets)	Monitoring (Refer to relevant Indicators, targets and responsibilities as indicated in table 10.1)
Soils			
<p>Greenfield sites - any proposed developments on greenfield sites involves changing the character of the ground and soil. New developments have the potential to contaminate the soil and underlying groundwater, particularly in the case of septic tanks and poor wastewater treatment facilities. Existing activities such as agriculture and manufacturing may also pose a risk to soil and groundwater.</p>	<p>Possibly significant if not mitigated</p>	<p>SEA recommends the following policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop brownfield sites over Greenfield sites; <p>(General promotion of brownfield lands in draft Plan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure adequate and appropriate investigation of the nature and extent of any soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development work, where Brownfield development is proposed in Kinsale. <p>(Policy SSS1 adequately addresses this policy)</p>	<p>Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: S1, S2,</p>
<p>Soil erosion – construction, agriculture and forestry can lead to soil erosion, which has a negative affects on water quality and aquatic biodiversity. Soil erosion results in a loss of nutrients in the upper layers of the soils also leading to a reduced water-holding capacity. Soil erosion can also lead to sediment movement and agricultural pollution into watercourses. This can lead to increased solids in</p>	<p>Possibly significant if not mitigated</p>	<p>SEA recommends the following policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Town Development Plan should include for implementation of the policies and objectives of the Soils Directive; 	<p>Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: S1, S2</p>

Table 9.1 Significant Effects, Proposed Mitigation Measures and Proposed Monitoring of Kinsale Town Development Plan Environmental Report

Trend & Potential Impacts	Significant Effects	Mitigation Measures (and reference to where addressed in the Plan highlighted in brackets)	Monitoring (Refer to relevant Indicators, targets and responsibilities as indicated in table 10.1)
watercourses, disruption of ecosystems and contamination of drinking water.		(Policy SSS1 and Environmental Objectives refer to the protection of soils)	
<p>Water</p> <p>Surface Water Pollution -Under the WFD The Bandon River is classified as "at Risk of Not Achieving Good Status". While the greater Kinsale Harbour and estuary are considered "strongly expected to achieve good status", both are directly related and may possibly at risk if controls are not enforced.</p> <p>Municipal Wastewater Treatment and Domestic Wastewater Treatment – There is a possibility of unchecked increase in demand for wastewater treatment with potential for increased pollution to surface waters. Therefore correct treatment of wastewater is an important factor to consider in the quality of surface water. It is essential that the WWTP operates to highest standards and that monitoring of the performance of wastewater treatment plant and sewerage network is undertaken to capture leakages to GW and SW.</p>	Possibly significant if not mitigated	<p>SEA Recommends the following New Policies/Objectives Required:</p> <p>Specifically planning applications for single rural dwellings Kinsale Town Council should insist on compliance with EPA's (2000) Wastewater Treatment Manual-Treatment System for Single Houses.</p> <p>(Adequately addressed in para. 7.12 of the Plan)</p> <p>Implement policies recommendation of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive 2001 including the scheduled provision of waste water treatment plants to facilitate critical infrastructure and other developments i.e. housing.</p> <p>(Infrastructure Strategic Objective 2 is 'to provide the necessary drainage facilities to serve the needs of all development within the town, and to prevent pollution' and objective 6 is 'to provide sufficient water to service all the lands zoned for development in this Plan,</p>	Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: W1, W2, W3, W4, M1

Table 9.1 Significant Effects, Proposed Mitigation Measures and Proposed Monitoring of Kinsale Town Development Plan Environmental Report

Trend & Potential Impacts	Significant Effects	Mitigation Measures (and reference to where addressed in the Plan highlighted in brackets)	Monitoring (Refer to relevant Indicators, targets and responsibilities as indicated in table 10.1)
		and to provide for future needs in the longer term.')	
Groundwater Pollution - The town centre of study area is considered "probably at risk of not achieving good status" for groundwater	Possibly significant if not mitigated	Promote the adoption of the Strategic Urban Drainage Solutions (SUDS), where the SUDS technique is aimed at minimising the adverse environmental effects of development on natural watercourses. (Policy WP11 as proposed adequately addresses this policy)	Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: W1, W2, W3, W4,M1, M2
Flooding- Flooding has been identified as important and a regular occurrence particularly in relation to areas adjacent to fluctuating tide volumes and low lying topography. However the threat of climate change and global warming may have an influence over meteorological conditions such that to increase flooding in the study area. Strict control of planning will be required in flood risk areas and the OPW's Guidelines on Flood Risk should be adhered to.	Possibly significant if not mitigated	(Policy Statements FP1 to FP8 adequately address potential flooding impacts)	Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: PH2, W1
Air and Climate			
Climate Change is a significant issue around the world today, therefore it is considered that consideration should be given to the promotion of Climate Change in the Plan.	Significant positive effect. Proposed Mitigation is pro-active rather than reactive.	SEA Recommends the following Policy/Objective to help to combat Climate Change: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to implement the objectives and measures of the National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012 (this should go in Section 1.7.2 under the goals of the 	

Table 9.1 Significant Effects, Proposed Mitigation Measures and Proposed Monitoring of Kinsale Town Development Plan Environmental Report

Trend & Potential Impacts	Significant Effects	Mitigation Measures (and reference to where addressed in the Plan highlighted in brackets)	Monitoring (Refer to relevant Indicators, targets and responsibilities as indicated in table 10.1)
		<p>plan also)</p> <p>(Reference is made to this Strategy in Volume 1 of the Plan, the Plan states “It is desirable that the central themes presented in this national policy document are reflected in the goals and objectives of the Kinsale Development Plan. The Plan contains many policy commitments that endeavour to achieve wider sustainable development objectives across a variety of sections in Volume 2”)</p>	
<p>Consideration should be given to the promotion of a sustainable transport system to reduce car dependence and reduce GHG emissions.</p>	<p>Significant positive effect.</p> <p>Proposed Mitigation is pro-active rather than reactive.</p>	<p>To integrate land use and transportation to ensure that future travel to and within Kinsale is carried out using the most convenient, sustainable and appropriate modes of transport.</p> <p>(Overall it is considered that the transport chapter of the Plan promotes sustainable transport, particularly Transportation Statement GTP2)</p>	<p>Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: A1, PH1</p>
<p>The plan should encourage utilisation of energy efficient technology in office and apartment block developments.</p> <p>Sustainable design should be encouraged for all new builds, which should incorporate clean and energy efficient technologies such as solar panels to provide hot water, high levels of fabric insulation, solar gain, and natural ventilation to reduce heating and cooling</p>	<p>Significant positive effect.</p> <p>Proposed Mitigation is pro-active rather than reactive.</p>	<p>SEA Recommends the inclusion of Policy/Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to promote energy efficient technology and sustainable design. • To promote the continual promotion of sustainable, renewable and clean technologies in order to reduce dependence on fossil fuels which will 	<p>Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: E1</p>

Table 9.1 Significant Effects, Proposed Mitigation Measures and Proposed Monitoring of Kinsale Town Development Plan Environmental Report

Trend & Potential Impacts	Significant Effects	Mitigation Measures (and reference to where addressed in the Plan highlighted in brackets)	Monitoring (Refer to relevant Indicators, targets and responsibilities as indicated in table 10.1)
<p>loads and maximise energy efficiency. The minimisation of waste production during the construction process and provision for recycling of construction and demolition should be considered in the design of sustainable buildings.</p>		<p>reduce emissions and provide a security of supply.</p> <p>(Policies EEF1 to EEF5 adequately cover this proposal)</p>	
Material Assets			
<p>Transport - A Traffic and Transportation study on Kinsale Town is currently being undertaken and recommendations have not yet been made.</p>	<p>Potential significant effects if not assessed.</p>	<p>The SEA Recommends that all new transport objectives that will be included within the plan should be assessed in terms of strategic environmental assessment</p>	<p>Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: A1</p>
<p>Wastewater Treatment – The existing town sewerage system is a totally combined system i.e. storm and foul flows are carried in the same pipe network. At present the sewers in existence are at capacity. Cork County Council propose to construct a modern municipal wastewater treatment facility at Cappagh to the west of the town on lands within the Kinsale Environs, which is administered by Cork County Council. This wastewater treatment plant will serve the needs of Kinsale Town and Environs. Funding is secured for this wastewater treatment facility and work is due to commence in August 2008.</p>	<p>Possibly significant if not mitigated</p>	<p>SEA recommends the inclusion of the following policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline a timeframe for the Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade. <p>(No timeframe set out in Plan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure no development takes place in the absence of the Waste Water Provision. <p>(Infrastructure Strategic Objective 2 is ‘to provide the necessary drainage facilities to serve the needs of all development within the town, and to prevent pollution’ and objective 6 is ‘to provide sufficient water to service all the lands zoned for development in this Plan,</p>	<p>Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: M1, W1, W2, W3, W4</p>

Table 9.1 Significant Effects, Proposed Mitigation Measures and Proposed Monitoring of Kinsale Town Development Plan Environmental Report

Trend & Potential Impacts	Significant Effects	Mitigation Measures (and reference to where addressed in the Plan highlighted in brackets)	Monitoring (Refer to relevant Indicators, targets and responsibilities as indicated in table 10.1)
		<p>and to provide for future needs in the longer term.')</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Plan should include a policy to ensure that all developments currently served by septic tanks should be connected to the WWTP where possible. <p>(Infrastructure Objective 4 aims 'To promote the changeover from septic tanks to mains connections in all cases where this is feasible.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure separation of foul and surface water effluents through the provision of separate collecting networks and to ensure that all new developments provide separate collecting systems. <p>(Infrastructure Objective 3 aims 'To separate the disposal of foul and surface water effluents through the provision of separate sewerage networks.)</p>	
<p>Water Supply - Due to vast growth within the town in recent years any additional demand for water supply in the area would require additional storage requirements and additional booster pumping. Cork County Council is currently in the process of upgrading the Kinsale Water Supply Scheme in order</p>	<p>Possibly significant if not mitigated</p>	<p>The SEA recommends that the Council should investigate and possibly install chlorine monitors to allow detection of faulty chlorinators in advance of contamination of the water supply.</p> <p>(Policy DWQ2 adequately addresses this</p>	<p>Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: M1,</p>

Table 9.1 Significant Effects, Proposed Mitigation Measures and Proposed Monitoring of Kinsale Town Development Plan Environmental Report

Trend & Potential Impacts	Significant Effects	Mitigation Measures (and reference to where addressed in the Plan highlighted in brackets)	Monitoring (Refer to relevant Indicators, targets and responsibilities as indicated in table 10.1)
to provide the necessary water supply infrastructure to service development lands in the area.		recommendation)	
Other – Need to ensure that there is sufficient electricity to cater for additional demand in the area.	Possibly effects if not mitigated, however not considered significant	SEA recommends the inclusion of the following policy: To ensure that there is sufficient electricity to cater for additional demand in the area. (Zoning objective K adequately addresses this policy)	
Cultural Heritage			
Any direct impacts on national monuments in State or Local Authority care or subject to a preservation order will require the consent of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government under Section 14 of the National Monuments Act 1930 as amended by Section 5 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 2004.	Possibly significant if not mitigated	SEA recommends following text: Any direct impacts on national monuments in State or Local Authority care or subject to a preservation order will require the consent of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government under Section 14 of the National Monuments Act 1930 as amended by Section 5 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 2004. (Policy AA1 adequately addresses this)	
Need to ensure that archaeological inter-tidal zone and archaeological assessments are undertaken	Possibly significant if not mitigated	SEA recommends following Policies:	Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated

Table 9.1 Significant Effects, Proposed Mitigation Measures and Proposed Monitoring of Kinsale Town Development Plan Environmental Report

Trend & Potential Impacts	Significant Effects	Mitigation Measures (and reference to where addressed in the Plan highlighted in brackets)	Monitoring (Refer to relevant Indicators, targets and responsibilities as indicated in table 10.1)
where relevant.		<p>The archaeological potential of the coastal and inter-tidal zone, where relevant, should be carefully considered.</p> <p>(no policy in the plan in relation to this)</p> <p>Any potential impacts on archaeological heritage should be subject to full archaeological assessment. (i.e. not just medium to major scale developments as noted in the plan).</p> <p>(Policy AA1 adequately addresses this policy)</p>	In Table 10.1: CH1, CH2
Landscape			
The implications of the development of the zoned lands proposed in the Plan on existing landscape form and features and on scenic views and routes should be investigated with a view to ensuring such views/ features are protected from proposed development of the area.	Possibly significant if not mitigated	<p>SEA recommended new Policies/Objectives:</p> <p>Ensure development of zoned lands within the Plan area does not impact negatively on the A63, A62 and A61 as outlined in the Cork County Development Plan 2003 (S/63, S62 and S61 Scenic Routes in the Cork County Development Plan 2007).</p> <p>Sea views from coastal roads should be protected and it should be an objective to recognise the importance of restricting development where it would be injurious to the character of the area.</p> <p>(Policies LVA1 to LVA11 adequately</p>	Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: L1

Table 9.1 Significant Effects, Proposed Mitigation Measures and Proposed Monitoring of Kinsale Town Development Plan Environmental Report

Trend & Potential Impacts	Significant Effects	Mitigation Measures (and reference to where addressed in the Plan highlighted in brackets)	Monitoring (Refer to relevant Indicators, targets and responsibilities as indicated in table 10.1)
		<p>addresses landscaping issues)</p> <p>Indicate Scenic Views, if any, in Plan. (Scenic views indicated in Volume 2 Mapping)</p>	

9.3 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

Cumulative effects are changes to the environment that are caused by an action in combination with other past, present and future human actions. Cumulative impacts can be created when insignificant impacts are joined together to create a cumulative impact. Cumulative effects can occur in various ways including 'Nibbling loss', Spatial and temporal crowding and growth inducing potential and are described as follows;

- **Nibbling loss'**: the gradual disturbance and loss of land and habitat
- **Spatial and temporal crowding**: Cumulative effects can occur when a lot of things are happening within too a small area and in too brief a period of time. This may result in the exceedance of a threshold and the environment may not be able to recover to pre-disturbance conditions and can occur quickly or gradually over a long period of time before the effects become apparent. Spatial crowding results in an overlap of effects among actions
- **Growth-inducing potential**: Each new action can induce further actions to occur. The effects of these "spin-off" actions (e.g., increased vehicle access into a previously unroaded hinterland area) may add to the cumulative effects already occurring in the vicinity of the proposed action, creating a "feedback" effect. Such actions may be considered as "reasonably-foreseeable actions".

Cumulative impacts of the draft Kinsale Town Development Plan have been assessed by way of consideration of significant effects of the draft Plan as indicated in Table 9.1 of this Report and from review of other relevant plans and projects within and adjoining the Plan area. It is not considered that the subject draft Development Plan would have any significant cumulative impacts on the environment of the area.

Table 9.2 Assessments of Cumulative Impacts

Environmental Topic	Description of Cumulative effects	Significance	Mitigation (refer to Chapter 9 below)	Residual Significance
Biodiversity	The nibbling loss of vegetation and associated species, habitats - and their flora and fauna of development such as roads, housing and other infrastructural developments occurring often replace semi-natural and natural areas with artificial surfaces causing a gradual loss of biodiversity, flora and fauna.	Possibly significant if not mitigated	New Policies and Objectives have been included to mitigate against this matter under Biodiversity in table 9.1 of this Report and within the draft Plan.	Not significant
Population	Potential spatial and temporal crowding cumulative impacts due to increase of population within town using resources such as water, increases sewage etc, increased people on the transport network could all have cumulative impacts on the town	Significant if not managed and mitigated	Policies to monitor population growth in line with provision of services are recommended within the SEA and are included within the draft Plan.	Not significant
Water Quality	Potential for cumulative impacts on the aquatic environment, and in particular on the River Bandon and Kinsale Harbour, in the form of residential, industrial and agricultural run-off; discharge of raw sewage from Kinsale town into Kinsale Harbour has serious implications for biodiversity in the harbour and is also a significant problem for implementation of the EU Shellfish Waters Directive.	Significant if not managed and mitigated	New Policies and Objectives to mitigate against this matter under Biodiversity, Water and Material Assets in table 9.1 of the environmental report and included in the plan.	Not significant

10 MONITORING

Article 10 of the SEA Directive (2001/42/EEC) requires Member States to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans “*in order, inter alia, to identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action*”. The primary purpose of monitoring is to cross-check significant environmental effects which arise during the implementation stage against those predicted during the plan preparation stage.

The Directive leaves considerable flexibility to Member States in deciding how monitoring shall be arranged, however it is generally agreed that a mixture of “quantitative and qualitative indicators are required. The Directive recognises that the monitoring does not necessarily require new research activity and that existing sources of information can be used. Monitoring programmes for different Plans can also be combined e.g. monitoring of within the Kinsale Development Plan can be combined with monitoring required for the Cork County Development Plans. This allows for consistency in monitoring across the county and assists in comparing results.

In addition monitoring can be used to identify any information gaps and/deficiencies that were identified as part of the SEA process. Furthermore, Government Guidelines state that monitoring should concentrate on the likely significant effects identified in the Environmental Report (DOEHLG, 2004).

Monitoring will be based around the SEA “Environmental Objectives, indicators and targets. The Objectives, indicators and targets for the various environmental topics are set out below in Table 10.1. The indicators that area used will show changes that would be attributable to the implementation of the Plan. The indicators chosen are at a level, which is relevant to the Plan and are collated on and reported on by a variety of government agencies including EPA, NPWS, OPW and WFD.

Monitoring proposals must concentrate on likely significant environmental effects, which have been identified in the Environmental Report and the measures identified as necessary to prevent, reduce, or offset any significant adverse effects. The indicators/monitoring will act as an early warning sign so that appropriate remedial action is undertaken.

Responsibilities and Frequency of Reporting

The Statutory Manager’s Report on progress in achieving objectives of the Town Plan, takes place two years after the adoption of the Town Plan and “shall include information in relation to the progress on, and the results of monitoring the significant environmental effects of implementation of the plan”. If an objective or policy is having a significant adverse effect a variation may be considered during the lifetime of the plan.

It is largely the responsibility of Cork County Council to undertake the monitoring, however it is the responsibility of Kinsale Town Council to interpret the monitoring data relevant to Kinsale and to ensure new studies recommended in the Environmental Report (i.e. habitat survey) are undertaken.

Identification of Significant Gaps in Environmental Information

During the preparation of this Environmental Report a number of gaps in environmental information have been identified, these comprise:

- The lack of local habitat surveys for non-designated sites and insufficient baseline data on habitats and species to allow for on-going monitoring. There is a need to prepare a local

biodiversity action plan, which is expected to occur during the lifetime of the new 2009-2015 Plan. It is recommended that Kinsale Town Council and/or Cork County Council undertake habitat surveys of the study area

- No detailed wetland inventory in County Cork
- No Landscape assessment for Kinsale Town
- Lack of information on fisheries
- Lack of monitoring on “Major Pressures reported in the assessment of Habitats and Species” in Kinsale

Table 10.1 Monitoring

Issue	Objective	Impact	Target	Indicator	Responsibility	Frequency
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna						
B1	To avoid significant adverse impacts (direct, cumulative and indirect), to protected habitats, species or their sustaining resources in designated ecological sites by development within or adjacent to these sites.	Loss of biodiversity and ecological networks and spread of invasive species	No significant adverse impacts, (direct, cumulative and indirect impacts), to relevant habitats, species or their sustaining resources in designated ecological sites.	Number of significant adverse impacts (direct, cumulative and indirect impacts), to relevant habitats and species in designated ecological sites.	KTC DoEHLG	Review each planning application as submitted
B2	To protect the marine environment, aquatic biodiversity, flora and fauna and to promote integrated coastal zone management strategies.	Loss of aquatic biodiversity, flora and fauna.	No significant adverse impacts, (direct, cumulative and indirect impacts), to relevant habitats, species or their sustaining resources in designated ecological sites.	Number of significant adverse impacts (direct, cumulative and indirect impacts), to relevant habitats and species in designated ecological sites.	KTC DoEHLG	Review each planning application as submitted
Population and Human Health						

Issue	Objective	Impact	Target	Indicator	Responsibility	Frequency
PH1	To improve the quality of life for the people of Kinsale through high quality residential, working and recreational environments, sustainable travel patterns.	Deterioration in: streetscape quality due to increased litter; in human health and quality of life; Lack of a diversity in employment and accommodation	To improve quality of life, provision of improved physical and social infrastructure, to reduce journey to work times and allow for a better match between place of residence and place of work.	Journey to work times.	CCC	Review during the lifetime of the Plan
PH2	To protect human health from hazards or nuisances arising from traffic and incompatible landuses.	Poor Drinking water quality Poor Air quality; deterioration in human health and quality of life.	No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors.	Occurrence of a spatially concentrated deterioration in human health.	KTC/CCC	Review during the lifetime of the Plan
Soils						
S1	To maximise the sustainable re-use of brownfield lands and the existing built environment, rather than developing greenfield lands.	Loss of biodiversity and quality soils through over use of greenfield sites instead of brownfield sites	All brownfield lands to be redeveloped at the end of the plan lifespan (subject to availability on the open market and demand for such land).	Area of brownfield land available.	KTC	Review during the lifetime of the Plan
S2	To maintain the quality of soils.	Loss of biodiversity and quality soils	To reduce contamination and safeguard soil quality and quantity.	Cannot specifically monitor at present, however, when soil directive comes into force, will be obliged to consider impacts of policies on soils.	CCC	Review during the lifetime of the Plan
S3	To minimise waste production and reduce the volume of waste to landfill and to operate sustainable waste management practices.	Negative impacts to groundwater quality and increased litter;	To meet national and EU targets on the recycling of municipal waste and its diversion from landfill.	Volume of waste recycled and volume of waste sent to landfill.	KTC/CCC	Annually
Water						

Issue	Objective	Impact	Target	Indicator	Responsibility	Frequency
W1i	Maintain or improve the quality of surface water to meet the requirements of the South Western River Basin Management Plan (SW RBMP) and Programme of Measures (POMs)	Negative impacts to surface water quality, fisheries and aquatic biodiversity	0 Faecal Coliform Counts per 100ml of groundwater.	Faecal Coliform Counts per 100ml of groundwater.	EPA KTC/CCC	
W1ii			To improve biotic quality ratings, where possible to Q5.	Changes in water quality as identified during water quality monitoring programmes.	EPA KTC/CCC	As per monitoring cycle in accordance with the WFD monitoring programme
W2i	To maintain and improve, where possible, the quality of rivers, lakes, surface water and estuarine and coastal waters.	Negative impacts to surface water quality, fisheries and aquatic biodiversity; Poor quality water	To maintain a biotic quality rating of Q4, in line with the requirement to achieve good water status under the Water Framework Directive, by 2015.	Biotic Quality Rating (Q Value) and Risk Assessment.	EPA KTC/CCC	Annually
W2ii			To improve biotic quality ratings, where possible, to Q5.	Biotic Quality Rating (Q Value) and Risk Assessment.	EPA KTC/CCC	Annually
W3	Promote sustainable water usage	Water wastage, leakage and over consumption usage	To introduce water measures to reduce water wastage, leakage and over consumption usage and to promote conservation measures at household and Industrial level by 2015.	Number of water conservation measures implemented during the lifetime of the Plan	EPA KTC/CCC	Annually

Issue	Objective	Impact	Target	Indicator	Responsibility	Frequency
W4a	To prevent pollution and contamination of bathing water.	Poor quality water; Negative impacts to fisheries and aquatic biodiversity and human health	≤ 5,000 Total Coliform Counts per 100ml of bathing water.	Total Coliform Counts per 100ml of bathing water.	KTC	Annually
W4b			≤ 1,000 Faecal Coliform Counts per 100ml of bathing water.	Faecal Coliform Counts per 100ml of bathing water.	EPA CCC	Annually
Air and Climate						
A 1	To maintain and improve air quality in Kinsale and reduce CO2 Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) to alleviate Climate Change.	Poor Air quality and increasing contributions to climate change through greenhouse gas emissions	Increased use of public transport. Increase numbers of cycle lanes and pedestrian routes in the study area. Increase number of permissions granted for renewable energy projects	Use of public transport. Provision of cycle lanes and walking routes. Number of permissions granted for renewable energy projects.	KTC/CCC	Review during the lifetime of the Plan
Energy						
E1	Use of renewable energy technology for projected power requirements over the lifetime of the Plan	Poor Air quality and increasing contributions to climate change	Encourage use of renewable energy for domestic and small businesses. Use of renewable energy to supply National Grid where applicable	Number and type of renewable energy technologies employed in new developments	KTC/CCC	Review during the lifetime of the Plan
Material Assets						
M1	To serve new development under the plan with appropriate wastewater treatment.	Inadequate WWT for increased population; poor quality water and contamination	No new developments granted permission which cannot be adequately served by a public waste water treatment plant over the lifetime of the	Number of new developments granted permission, which cannot be adequately served by a public waste water treatment plant over the lifetime of the	CCC NRA	Review during the lifetime of the Plan

Issue	Objective	Impact	Target	Indicator	Responsibility	Frequency
			plan.	plan.		
M2	To maintain and improve the quality of drinking water supplies.	Overuse of resources potentially resulting in inadequate water supply during the lifetime or post 2015.	To maintain and improve drinking water quality in Kinsale to comply with the requirements of the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations 2000.	Drinking water quality standards (Microbiological, Chemical and Indicator parameters).	EPA KTC/CCC	Review during the lifetime of the Plan.
Cultural Heritage						
CH1	To protect the archaeological heritage of Kinsale and; the context of the above within the surrounding landscape where relevant.	Impacts to RPS, RMPs, ACAs and the townscape of Kinsale	No unauthorised developments permitted over the lifespan of the plan which result in full or partial loss of: entries to the Record of Monuments and Places; entries to the Register for Historic Monuments; National Monument subject to Preservation Orders, and; the context of the above within the surrounding landscape where relevant.	Number of unauthorised developments permitted over the lifespan of the plan which result in full or partial loss of: entries to the Record of Monuments and Places; entries to the Register for Historic Monuments; National Monument subject to Preservation Orders, and; the context of the above within the surrounding landscape where relevant.	CCC Heritage Section Cork Heritage Forum DoEHLG	Review each planning application as submitted

Issue	Objective	Impact	Target	Indicator	Responsibility	Frequency
CH2	To preserve and protect the special interest and character of Kinsale's architectural heritage and the context of the above within the surrounding landscape where relevant.	Impacts to RPS, RMPs, ACAs and the townscape of Kinsale; Visual impact to the streetscape of Kinsale	No unauthorized developments permitted over the lifespan of the plan which result in physical loss or loss to the context in the surrounding landscape or streetscape of: entries to the Record of Protected Structures; Architectural Conservation Areas, or; entries to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage.	Number of unauthorized developments permitted over the lifespan of the plan which result in physical loss or loss to the context in the surrounding landscape or streetscape of: entries to the Record of Protected Structures; Architectural Conservation Areas, or; entries to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage.	CCC Heritage Section Cork Heritage Forum DoEHLG	Review each planning application as submitted
Landscape						
Li	To protect Kinsale's sensitive landscapes, landscape features and designated scenic routes and landscape	Visual impacts to the landscape	No unauthorised developments to be conspicuously located within sensitive landscapes or designated scenic landscape.	Number of unauthorised conspicuous developments located within sensitive landscapes or designated scenic landscape.	KTC/CCC	Review each planning application as submitted.
Lii	features and designated scenic routes and landscape		No unauthorized developments to adversely impact upon designated scenic views or scenic landscape.	Number of unauthorized conspicuous developments adversely impacting upon designated scenic views or scenic landscape.	KTC/CCC	Review each planning application as submitted

11 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

11.1 INTRODUCTION

This is a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the draft Kinsale Town Development Plan 2009 – 2015.

As part of the development plan process, RPS undertook a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) which is intended to identify and assess the issues facing the Kinsale Town Council area going forward. This Environmental Report forms part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on the draft Kinsale Development Plan. The purpose of this Environmental Report is to identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the proposed draft Kinsale Development Plan and should be read in conjunction with the draft Plan.

The SEA process was undertaken in parallel with each stage of the draft Plan making process and involved close consultation and meetings with the SEA Consultation Authorities, members of CB Planning Consultancy that drafted the Kinsale Town Development Plan 2009 - 2015, the SEA team and a number of specialists who focused on the significant environmental issues of the plan as identified during the screening and scoping phases and assessment of baseline information for the area. The Environmental Report has guided the preparation of objectives, policies and development scenarios for the Development Plan with an ultimate goal of achieving sustainable development within the Kinsale Town Council area.

11.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

The Kinsale Development Plan 2009 outlines the Council's policies for the development of Kinsale Town to 2015.

The plan has been prepared and developed against a backdrop of consultations by means of public meeting, individual meetings, and written submissions. The plan, as the main public statement of the town council, provides a vision for the town to evolve, giving statutory context for guiding development in the interests of the proper planning and sustainable development of the town.

The strategic aim of the plan is to set out a framework for the sustainable development of Kinsale to enable growth to take place in a co-ordinated and orderly manner, whilst protecting and preserving the town's intrinsic character, heritage and amenity and making a positive contribution to an improvement in the quality of life.

The general goals of the plan are designed to improve the quality of life for the population of Kinsale which the Council will endeavor to implement during the period of the Plan. These goals are as follows:

- To seek the extension of the administrative boundary of Kinsale Town Council to include the Environs, in order to ensure the co-ordinated and sustainable development of Kinsale Town and Environs.
- To be consistent with the policies and objectives of the statutory Cork County Development Plan 2003 – 2009, Cork Area Strategic Plan 2001 – 2020 and the Bandon Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2005 – 2011.
- To be consistent with policies and objectives of the National Spatial Strategy, Regional Planning Guidelines and Ministerial Guidelines.
- To guide the location and pattern of development whilst ensuring the retention of a compact town.

- To ensure that sufficient and suitably located land is zoned to meet the needs of the existing community and enable population and socio-economic growth in line with County and Regional projections.
- To sustain and enhance the role of Kinsale as a community and commercial service centre catering for the needs of the population within the Town, Environs and wider rural hinterland.
- To ensure the provision of sufficient and adequate land to enable enterprise and employment growth.
- To expand the existing town centre to enable the delivery of vital business, residential and community facilities.
- To adopt a sequential approach to the provision of retail and commercial development, embracing the Town Centre first principle.
- To provide a safe road network to meet the needs of motorists, cyclists and pedestrians and significantly improve the traffic management and car parking facilities within the town facilitating community and visitor need.
- To ensure the delivery of physical and social infrastructure in tandem with development.
- To facilitate the provision of improved amenities within the town and to encourage the redevelopment and renewal of neglected or derelict sites.
- To conserve and enhance the environment of the town through the preservation and restoration of buildings and other features of archaeological, historic or cultural.
- To protect residential and amenity lands from encroachment by incompatible types of development.
- To promote, protect, improve, encourage and facilitate the development of sustainable tourism and recreational facilities in Kinsale.
- To conserve and protect the natural heritage of Kinsale.
- To be consistent with environmental policies and objectives of international, national, regional and local importance.

11.3 METHODOLOGY

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a process for evaluating, at the earliest appropriate stage, the environmental quality and consequences of Policy, Plan or Programme initiatives by statutory bodies. The purpose is to ensure that the environmental consequences of plans and programmes are assessed both during their preparation and prior to adoption. The SEA process also gives interested parties an opportunity to comment on the environmental impacts of the proposed plan or programme and to be kept informed during the decision making process.

The European Directive (2001/42/EC) on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (the SEA Directive), was transposed into national legislation in Ireland by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435/2004) and the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 436/2004). The Strategic Environmental Assessment Stages include:

- **Screening** of Plans and Programmes establishes whether the relevant plan or programmes must undergo an SEA, in this case Kinsale Town Council determined during their screening process in November 2007 that an SEA was warranted.
- **Scoping** of the Environmental Report: The competent authority, in this case Kinsale Town Council, must give notice to the environmental authorities outlining that they are preparing an environmental report on the significant effects of implementing the Plan. The three statutory

consultees were notified in May 2008 outlining that the SEA process had begun and their views were sought.

- An **Environmental Report**: Kinsale Town Council commissioned RPS in April 2008 to continue the SEA process and prepare an Environmental Report. The Environmental Report investigates, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the Town Plan.

Specifically, the aim of this Environmental Report is to identify:

- Existing environmental issues in Kinsale Town;
 - The likely significant effects on the environment when the new Town Plan is implemented;
 - How the impact on the environment can be reduced or prevented; and
 - How to monitor environmental impacts over the lifetime of the Town Development Plan.
- A **Consultation period** on the Draft Plan and associated Environmental Report was carried out between the 8th of October 2008 and the 22nd of December 2008. The Plan is now at the amendment consultation stage to consult on the proposed amendments to the Plan and will be on public display from 3rd April to 5th May 2009.
- **SEA Statement**: when the updated Town Plan is adopted an Environmental Statement identifying how environmental considerations and consultations were integrated into the Final Plan will be made available to the public and available to view at Kinsale Municipal Hall, Kinsale.
- **Monitoring** - Kinsale Town Council is required to monitor the significant environmental effects arising from the implementation of the Kinsale Town Development Plan. This Environmental Report puts forward proposals for monitoring the Plan, which are adopted alongside the Kinsale Town Development Plan.

11.4 ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE

The following sections describe the baseline, or existing environmental conditions collected and assessed for each of the topics required under the SEA Directive i.e. biodiversity, population and human health, flora and fauna, water, soil, air and climate, material assets, cultural heritage, transportation and landscape. It was considered necessary to combine some topics in order to avoid unnecessary duplication.

As required by the SEA Directive, the environmental report also comments on the likely evolution of the various indicators in the absence of the implementation of the preparation of the Kinsale Development Plan 2009 - 2015.

The key findings of the baseline survey are described below and full details can be found in Chapter 5 of the Environmental report.

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

There are no designated sites within the town boundaries. The closest designated site is James Fort pNHA (Site Code: 001060), which lies on the eastern outskirts of Kinsale, across the Bandon River. A number of other sites designated for biodiversity conservation exist within 10km of the town.

The Bandon River flows through Bandon and Innishannon draining the agricultural catchment to the west of Kinsale Town. Upstream of Kinsale unspecified ammocoetes (lamprey larvae) have been recorded in the middle reaches of the Bandon River (Kurz & Costello 1998). Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) have been recorded in the Bandon River (Clabby *et al* 2003). All tributaries drain into the Bandon River through the eastern part of Kinsale town and forms the estuary in the centre of the town. The Bandon River flows from west to east to the south of the town where it takes the form of a fairly steep-sided 'drowned valley' with a narrow and steep intertidal zone.

Population and Human Health

The 2006 Census of population identified a population of 2,298 within the Kinsale Town Council boundary area reflecting a rate of population growth below the national average. This section of the report outlines the policies relevant to population in the Kinsale Town Council area and population, employment and household data primarily retrieved from the Census of Population 2006.

The draft Kinsale Town Development Plan population projections derive from geo-directory figures (April 2008), the 2006 Census of population and the number of extant planning permissions. Population projections are largely based on an average household size of 2.4, and a base year population of 2,486 people in April 2008 accounting for a potential population of 3,501 persons in the Town Council administrative area circa 2015.

A capacity study of the zoned lands within Kinsale was undertaken by Colin Buchanan Planning Consultants in preparation of the draft plan. As a result of this study an additional 1.1 hectares of land has been rezoned from Industrial to new residential zoning.

Sufficient lands will be rezoned for residential, employment and community uses within the town development boundary, which will contribute to the generation of critical mass within the town of Kinsale. The proposed plan should help to facilitate the growing population of Kinsale in a sustainable manner and in accordance population projections as outlined in the draft Kinsale Town Development Plan.

Soil and Geology

The town of Kinsale is situated within a sedimentary geological setting. The underlying rock comprises of bedded sediments from the Kinsale Formation with an associated member formation the Pig's Cove Member (located on the opposite bank of the River to the Town). The Kinsale Formation is made up of grey mudstone and subordinate sandstone and deposited by fluvial deposition during the Lower Carboniferous Period ~ 355 million years ago. The overlying Pigs Cove Formation sand-lensed mudstone also deposited during the Lower Carboniferous period.

According to the GSI, the underlying aquifer is classified as a locally important aquifer, moderately productive in local zones. Such an aquifer is capable of yielding enough water to springs and boreholes to supply single houses, small farms or small group water schemes. The GSI vulnerability rating in the Kinsale Town area is high to extreme with some extreme areas with rock near the surface.

The Kinsale area generally consists of glacial tills laid down during the last glaciation period over 10,000 years ago. The till matrix is made up of Devonian and Carboniferous sediments, which reflects the country rock that makes up the study area.

At present there are no mining activities in the Kinsale area. Likewise there are no quarrying or sand/gravel pits in operation in the area.

Water

Kinsale town lies along the estuary of the River Bandon as it enters the Atlantic Ocean. It forms a natural harbour, where the town is situated at the bottom of the steep valley. Numerous other tributaries drain off the steep hill sides at Scilly, Summercove, Charles Fort and Ringfinnan.

All rivers/streams within Kinsale (namely Bandon river Estuary and streams within the harbour) have received a "good status" in terms of water quality. However the Water Framework Directive (WFD) has categorised the Bandon River Estuary as "At Risk of Not Achieving Good Status". However the greater harbour mouth area is classed "As Strongly Expected to Achieve Good Status" due to greater dilution of ocean currents, therefore "Not at Risk".

Groundwater forms an integral part of all ecosystems and within the Kinsale area is a significant resource. A number of private drinking water supplies are taken from groundwater reserves. There are a variety of activities both within and outside the study area, which have the potential to impact on water quality. These include sewerage treatment works, domestic water treatment systems, housing, construction work, industry, landfill, spillages, increased road runoff and agriculture.

Flooding in Kinsale is considered to be a problem as Kinsale has undergone flooding at a significant number of locations within the town centre and approach roads. Most recently (2005) flooding was reported at the following locations – Dromderrig, Pier Rd, Guardwell St, Eastern Road, the Glen, and Scilly. Flooding is typically caused by high tides and may also be influenced by heavy rainfall.

Section 2.7 of the draft Plan outlines a number of comprehensive safeguarding policies to mitigate against potential future flooding within the town. Particularly, the plan outlines that any developments greater than 0.5 hectare the developer must submit surface water attenuation proposals, so that the risk of increased flooding due to rapid discharge of surface water is minimised.

Policy FP1 also outlines that development will need 'To take cognisance of the recently published Planning System and Flood Risk Guidance published by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and OPW.'

Air and Climate

Sustainability is a key constraint for future development. Emissions to the atmosphere, energy consumption and climate change are all interlinked. Future developments should give consideration to passive design and clean and energy efficient technologies such as renewables, district heating and co-generation.

In Ireland the transport sector is the fast growing contributor of GHG emissions. A reliable efficient public transport system within the Kinsale area would reduce car dependence and combat rising CO₂ emissions from vehicle exhausts.

Kinsale is a coastal town and an area of high visual amenity. It will be important to ensure that for future energy developments and the associated infrastructure does not impact adversely on the landscape. Kinsale urban area has been identified as a strategically unsuitable zone for wind development in the Cork County Development Plan.

Material Assets

Traffic - A Traffic and Transportation study on Kinsale Town is currently being undertaken and recommendations have not yet been made. Therefore it is recommended that all new transport objectives that will be included within the plan should be assessed in terms of strategic environmental assessment. In addition it is also considered that any large-scale proposals should undergo Environmental Impact Assessment. Consideration should also be given to the environmental policies and objectives of the current and proposed plan should any of the proposed options be implemented.

Wastewater Treatment – The existing town sewerage system is a totally combined system i.e. storm and foul flows are carried in the same pipe network. At present the sewers in existence are at capacity. Cork County Council propose to construct a modern municipal wastewater treatment facility at Cappagh to the west of the town on lands within the Kinsale Environs, which is administered by Cork County Council. This wastewater treatment plant will serve the needs of Kinsale Town and Environs. Funding is secured for this wastewater treatment facility and work is due to commence in August 2008.

Water Supply – Due to vast growth within the town in recent years any additional demand for water supply in the area would require additional storage requirements and additional booster pumping. Cork County Council is currently in the process of upgrading the Kinsale Water Supply Scheme in order to provide the necessary water supply infrastructure to service development lands in the area.

Cultural Heritage

There are currently 50 structures listed for protection in the Record of Protected Structures (Draft Kinsale Development Plan, 2009). These structures range from cottages, houses, shop fronts, arches and schools.

The built heritage of County Cork and Kinsale town is also offered protection through the designation of Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs). Most of the Town Centre of Kinsale is designated as an ACA.

Kinsale Town has a diverse range of monuments ranging from a number of historic eras. Monuments within the area include Holy Wells, Market Houses, Churches, Graveyards, Enclosures etc. There are 24 monuments and places, including 2 national monuments recorded within the boundaries of Kinsale Town. It is deemed that the Plan area is of high archaeological potential due to the potential for the presence of hitherto unknown sub-surface archaeological remains. This determination is based on the presence of substantial archaeological remains from many periods of the past within the Town Council area.

Currently there are no tree preservation orders in the Plan, however policy ENV4 outlines that Development on the Friary lands, lands at Blackhorsefield; Glanbeg; and the New Road sites will require a full tree survey and assessment to be carried out before the commencement of works.

Landscape

According to the draft Cork County Council Landscape Strategy the landscape of Kinsale town is of very high value and of national importance. The sensitivity of this landscape is also very high according to the draft County Landscape Strategy. Kinsale town is classed as indented estuarine

coast. This landscape type comprises of gently undulating topography incised by shallow river estuaries or 'drowned' valleys formed by glacial activity. Indented Estuarine Coast is valued both nationally and internationally for its scenic amenity, its built and natural heritage, including such areas as Kinsale Harbour. The area attracts significant numbers of domestic and overseas visitors and tourists based on the unique quality of its scenic landscape, and its towns and villages of exceptional quality.

It is important to recognise that Kinsale Town Council area is quite finite in its extent, and therefore limited area remains undeveloped, or free from constraints. Tourism supports the town's economy and vibrancy. There is a large yachting marina close to the town centre, it is proposed to develop this area further for leisure, sailing and other purposes. Areas to the south west of the town are sensitive to development in terms of steep slopes and elevated areas over 60metres highly elevated and steep. The town has developed Elevated lands to the north and south of the town are sensitive to development. Lands to the east and south east of Kinsale town are designated as Scenic Landscape Coastline in the Cork County Development Plan 2003 and Draft Cork County Development Plan 2007.

Scenic Routes make up those areas of natural beauty and the important views and prospects that people in Cork (and visitors to the county) value most highly. There are three scenic routes located in close proximity to the town, these include Scenic Route A63, A62 and A61 as outlined in the Cork County Development Plan 2003.

11.5 CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES AND INFLUENCE OF SEA ON THE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF THE PLAN

Article 5 of the SEA Directive requires the environmental report to consider "*reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme*" and the significant effects of the alternatives selected. Therefore as part of the SEA process three alternative development strategies for the Plan area were assessed in order to determine the preferred development strategy for the Plan area with the least environmental effects. The three alternatives considered include a 'Do-nothing approach', an alternative to 'Rezone sufficient lands as a natural extension of the town centre'; and an alternative to 'Extend new development zonings on remaining undeveloped Greenfield lands within the town boundary'.

Based on the policy context, issues and needs facing the town it was considered that the preferred alternative as set out in the SEA was to rezone sufficient lands as a natural extension of the town centre in accordance with projected growth for the area and through the intensification and consolidation of the existing Town Centre. It was considered that this development strategy would allow for the intensification of the town centre and the consolidation and expansion of existing services to accessible lands. Accordingly this alternative is reflected in the following goal of the draft plan: 'To guide the location and pattern of development whilst ensuring the retention of a compact town'. This alternative is also reflected in the development strategy of the plan, which seeks to protect and underpin town centre uses, ensuring a strong and compact centre that fosters a sense of vitality. It is also reflected in the development strategy of the Plan, which places a new emphasis on the northern quarter of the town, providing development opportunities that will be linked by a new linear town park.

11.6 SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS AND MITIGATION

The likely significant effects of the Draft Plan have been informed by trends and potential impacts as identified in the review of European, National, Regional and Local planning and environmental legislation and guidance documents, existing environment as indicated from the environmental

baseline study and from impacts arising from the assessment of policies and objectives of the Plan. This process enabled an overview of where potential environmental trends and impacts may arise from implementation of the draft Plan and allowed for a cross check and where necessary provision of additional mitigatory measures including provision of new policies/objectives to be incorporated where possible in the draft Plan.

Chapter 9 of this environmental report sets out likely significant effects of the draft plan and where relevant proposes mitigation measures to ameliorate against any potential impacts. All of which have been successfully been incorporated into the draft plan. Potential impacts are also linked to the monitoring programme proposed for the Kinsale Town Development Plan 2009 once adopted. Mitigation involves ameliorating significant negative environmental effects.

11.7 MITIGATION AND MONITORING

A Monitoring programme of the identified significant effects is set out in table 10.1 above (tables have not been included in this non technical summary as it was considered unnecessary in terms of duplication), which aims to prevent against deterioration of the environmental quality of the area during the lifetime of the plan. Monitoring proposals must concentrate on likely significant environmental effects, which have been identified in the Environmental Report and the measures identified as necessary to prevent, reduce, or offset any significant adverse effects. The indicators/monitoring will act as an early warning sign so that appropriate remedial action is undertaken.

Appendix 1 Designated Sites

SITE NAME: SOVEREIGN ISLANDS SPA

SITE CODE: 004124

The Sovereign Islands are two very small islands located approximately 1 km off the Cork coastline at the entrance to Oysterhaven Bay. The islands are rocky stacks separated by a narrow sound of about 20 m width. The eastern island is flat-topped and rises to 24 m above sea level, the western one is more peaked and rises to 30 m. The geology is Lower Carboniferous limestones and shales. Both islands are largely devoid of soil apart from small amounts of organic matter trapped in cracks. Vegetation is sparse, with species such as Sea Beet (*Beta vulgaris*), Spurrey (*Spergularia* spp.) and Orache (*Atriplex* spp.) recorded. The surrounding seas to a distance of 200m, where seabirds forage, bathe and socialise, are included in the site.

The islands are important for breeding seabirds, with most on the eastern stack. A Cormorant colony has been known since the late 1960s and in 1999 156 nests were counted. Herring Gulls and Great Black-backed Gulls also breed, with 10 and 75 pairs respectively in 1999. The only other seabird which has been recorded breeding in recent years is Black Guillemot, with 10 individuals in April 1999.

This site is of ornithological importance mainly for the breeding colony of Cormorant, which is the largest in County Cork and is of National Importance. The population of Great Black-backed Gulls is also of National Importance. The site provides a very safe refuge for the nesting birds. Regular monitoring of the seabird populations has been carried out since the 1980s.

10.11.2003

SITE NAME: OLD HEAD OF KINSALE SPA

SITE CODE: 004021

The Old Head is a 5 km long headland formed of steeply inclined beds of rock. These show a cross section of the transition between the Devonian and Carboniferous periods and so have considerable interest from a geological point of view. The site comprises a section of the cliffs on the western side of the narrow isthmus leading to the Head. These are vertical rock cliffs providing optimum habitat for ledge nesting seabirds. Maritime grassland and heath occurs above the steep cliffs though part of this has now been converted to amenity grassland as a golf course. The cliff-top vegetation is characterised by such species as Autumn Gorse (*Ulex gallii*), Bell Heather (*Erica cinerea*), Bent Grasses (*Agrostis* spp.) and Heath Bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*), with Sea Campion (*Silene maritima*), Thrift (*Ameria maritima*), Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*) and Burnet Rose

(*Rosa pimpinellifolia*) also present. The site includes a 500 m seaward extension, where the seabirds forage, rest and socialise.

The site is a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the E.U. Birds Directive, of special conservation interest for the following species: Kittiwake and Guillemot.

The Old Head is the largest seabird colony on the south coast between the Bull Rock and the Saltee Islands. It supports nationally important populations of Kittiwake (951 pairs in 2001) and Guillemot (3,477 individuals in 2001), as well as smaller numbers of Fulmar (37 pairs), Shag (26 pairs), Herring Gull (11 pairs) and Razorbill (59 occupied sites). The populations of Kittiwake and Razorbill have declined since the late 1980s for reasons unclear but perhaps due to depleted prey stocks. Chough and Peregrine, which breed elsewhere on the Head, are regularly seen within the site. The seabird populations are well monitored. The site is a designated Refuge for Fauna.

7.9.2006

SITE NAME: SOVEREIGN ISLANDS NHA

SITE CODE: 000105

The Sovereign Islands are two very small islands located approximately 1 km off the County Cork coastline at the entrance to Oysterhaven Bay. The islands are rocky stacks separated by a narrow sound of about 20 m width. The eastern island is flat-topped and rises to 24 m above sea level, whilst the western one is more peaked and rises to 30 m. The geology is Lower Carboniferous limestones and shales. Both islands are largely devoid of soil apart from small amounts of organic matter trapped in cracks. Vegetation is sparse, with species such as Sea Beet (*Beta vulgaris*), Spurrey (*Spergularia* spp.) and Orache (*Atriplex* spp.) recorded. The surrounding seas, where seabirds forage, bathe and socialise, are included in the site.

The islands are important for breeding seabirds, with most on the eastern stack. A Cormorant colony has been known since the late 1960s and in 1999 156 nests were counted. Herring Gull and Great Black-backed Gull also breed, with 10 and 75 pairs respectively recorded in 1999. The only other seabird which has been recorded breeding in recent years is Black Guillemot, with 10 individuals in April 1999.

This site is of ornithological importance mainly for the Cormorant breeding colony, which is the largest in County Cork and is of National Importance. The Great Black-backed Gull population is also of significance. The site provides a very safe refuge for the nesting birds. Regular monitoring of the seabird populations has been carried out since the 1980s. The site is also designated a Special Protection Area under the E.U. Birds Directive.

18.9.2006

SITE NAME: JAMES FORT

SITE CODE: 001060

James Fort occupies a promontory in the middle of Kinsale harbour opposite the town. Its diamond-shaped enclosure and the slopes down to the sea on the north and east sides are included in this site.

The sandstones rock outcrops in several places where it is colonised by Bell Heather (*Erica cinerea*), Sheepsbit (*Jasione montana*), English Stonecrop (*Sedum anglicum*) and annual grasses (*Aira* spp., *Vulpia bromoides*). On deeper soil Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*), Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) are frequent and there are a few clumps of Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*).

The buildings and fortifications on the headland form a habitat in their own right. The banks have a dry grassland flora including Yellow Oak (*Trisetum flavescens*), Common Vetch (*Vicia sativa*), Birdsfoot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and Wild Thyme (*Thymus polytrichus*) as well as the grasses Cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*), False Oat (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) and Ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*). There is much Pellitory (*Parietaria judaica*), Ivy-leaved Toadflax (*Cymbalaria muralis*) and ferns (*Polypodium* spp., *Asplenium trichomanis*, *A. adiantum-nigrum*) on the walls while the Blockhouse on the coast has, in addition, Parsley (*Petroselinum crispum*), Wall Valerian (*Centranthus ruber*), Biting Stonecrop (*Sedum acre*) and Musk Storksbill (*Erodium moschatum*).

Below the fort on the north side an old meadow occurs in which Sweet Vernal Grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), False Oat (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*) and Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*) are the main species. Mixed with these are Smooth Hawksbeard (*Crepis capillaris*), Lesser Stitchwort (*Stellaria graminea*), Catsear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*) and Clovers (*Trifolium pratense*, *T. repens*). There is also a constant presence of Soft Brome (*Bromus hordaceus*), Changing Forget-me-not (*Myosotis discolor*), Trailing St. John's Wort (*Hypericum humifusum*) and Yellow Clover (*T. dubium*) which gives an unusual look to the community.

The site is included as an NHA because it is floristically rich with a good number of less common plants, some of them introduced. In addition there is a species-rich meadow of some ecological interest.

SITE NAME: GARRETTSTOWN MARSH**SITE CODE: 001053**

The beach on the western side of the base of the Old Head of Kinsale impedes the natural drainage to form two adjacent marshes - Garrettstown and Garrylucas which is also an NHA. Garrettstown lies in the valley of a N-S stream which empties through a sluice at the eastern end of the strand. There is little fine material on this beach so that only the very southern end of the marsh is affected by blown sand. For the most part it is on a clay or peat substrate, including some small scraws and some firmer ground.

The seaweed end of the marsh consists of a bed of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) enclosing one or two small pools. There is some salt influence which is shown by the occurrence of Scurvy Grass (*Cochlearia officinalis*) and, at the sea end, of Celery-leaved Buttercup (*Ranunculus sceleratus*) and Distant Sedge (*Carex distans*). The Reeds give way to a stand of Pond Sedge (*C.*

riparia) on the landward side in which Yellow Flag (*Iris pseudacorus*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Great Willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*) and Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*) are also important constituents.

Outside this 'tall fen' community there is usually grazing land with abundant Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*), Flote Grass (*Glyceria fluitans*), Yellow Flag and Lady's Smock (*Cardamine pratensis*). In particular wet areas Water Starwort (*Callitriche stagnalis*), Ivy-leaved Crowfoot (*Ranunculus hederaceus*), Sharp-flowered Rush (*J. acutiflorus*) and Water Horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*) are found and there is one swampy site on the eastern side overgrown by Grey Willow (*Salix cinerea*) and Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) where Bur Reed (*Sparganium erectum*), Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*) and Bottle Sedge (*Carex rostrata*) combine to produce a treacherous scraw. A little Gypsywort (*Lycopus europaeus*) grows here too.

Some recent reclamation has been attempted on the same side and wet fields with Amphibious Bistort (*Persicaria amphibia*), Foxtail grasses (*Alopecurus geniculatus*, *A. pratensis*) and Crisped Dock (*Rumex crispus*) are the result. There is Lesser Spearwort (*Ranunculus flammula*) and Forget-me-not (*Myosotis scorpioides*) in abundance with some Ragged Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*) and Arrowgrass (*Triglochin palustre*), and Fleabane (*Pulicaria dysenterica*) where the ground is firmer.

The birdlife of the marsh includes expected species like Sedge Warbler, Reed Bunting, Mallard, Snipe, Moorhen and Mute Swan. The latter species are associated with the small ponds where additional Teal and Mallard are likely in winter.

Although the overall bird numbers are small the site has significant value as an example of a lagoonal marsh with characteristic plants and a relatively untouched centre.

SITE NAME: GARRYLUCAS MARSH

SITE CODE: 000087

Garrylucas Marsh is situated approximately 6km south of Kinsale behind Garristown beach. The following description of the site is based largely upon the 1986 An Foras Forbartha County Report.

Garrylucas Marsh is coastal, lime-rich and unpolluted. There are one or two pools of open water but, in many places, a rather open stand of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) exists, beneath which a local species, Marsh Dern (*Thelypteuus palustris*), and Water Horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*) commonly occur. More open places are colonised by Great Fen-sedge (*Cladium mariscus*), Blunt-flowered Rush (*Juncus sibnodulosus*) or Lesser Pond-Sedge (*Carex acutiflorus*), White Water Dock (*Rumex hydrolapatium*), Mares-tail (*Hippunz vulgaris*) and Lesser Water-parsnip (*Benila erecta*) are scattered throughout.

The main recorded zoological interest of the site is Hen Harriers, which the recent NHA Survey notes as feeding in the area. Wildfowl are also reported to use the site.

Nearby Garristown is subject to substantial recreational pressures and the marsh could be affected by future tourist developments in the area.

The AFF Report describes the site as being of interest because "this area is of an unusual type for the Cork coast, probably because of the influence of shell sand". More recent reports of feeding Hen Harriers, a legally protected species listed in Annex I of the EU Birds Directive, add to the interest of the site.

SITE NAME: OLD HEAD OF KINSALE

SITE CODE: 000100

Old Head is a 5 km long headland formed of steeply inclined beds of rock. These show a cross section of the transition between the Devonian and Carboniferous periods and so have considerable interest from a geological point of view. The site consists of the terminal 2 km or so where the rocks are all Devonian, either mudstones (which form the weakest coastline and the highest cliffs) or sandstones.

The outer part of Old Head formerly contained fields of pasture centrally merging into maritime grassland and heath as the cliffs were approached. Much of the area has now been converted to a golf course which extends in places into the heath, especially as tee boxes. This area is excluded from the NHA. Where the vegetation is left it is based on Autumn Gorse (*Ulex gallii*), Bell Heather (*Erica cinerea*), Bent Grasses (*Agrostis* spp) and Heath Bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*) with Sea Campion (*Silene uniflora*), Wood Sage (*Teucrium scorodonia*) and Burnet Rose (*Rosa pimpinellifolia*) at intervals. Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) occurs on the eastern side but not on the (more exposed) west. The heath is particularly well developed near Pig's Cove where a solid 40cm high mat occurs, moulded by the wind.

Rock outcrops through the area carry Sheep's Fescue (*Festuca ovina*), English Stonecrop (*Sedum anglicum*), Sheepsbit (*Jasione montana*) and Hair Grass (*Aira* spp.) while deeper soils have more grass, e.g. Red Fescue (*F. rubra*), Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and Meadow Grass (*Poa pratensis*). The sea influence is never far away and maritime plants such as Sea Mayweed (*Tripleurospermum maritimum*), Sea Plantain (*Plantago maritima*), Scurvy Grass (*Cochlearia officinalis*) and Sea Pink (*Armeria maritima*) are present in many places. On the western side they form a close turf on a section of drift soil with Wild Thyme (*Thymus polytrichus*), Kidney Vetch (*Anthyllis vulneraria*), Catsear (*Hypochaeris radicata*) and Eyebright (*Euphrasia tetraquetra*, *E. scottia* etc). Here also there are some small springs which bring sedges (*Carex flacca*, *C. distans*), Moorgrass (*Molinia caerulea*) and Marsh Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle vulgaris*) into the vegetation. A large colony of Sea Radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*) is noticeable on cliffs at the north-east corner of the site.

Old Head is a major seabird colony, and cliffs for this reason were designated a Refuge for Fauna in 1989 under the Wildlife Act. It has also been designated a Special Protection Area under the (E.U. Birds directive). It is the largest colony on the south coast apart from the Saltee Islands and in 1987 had the following numbers: Guillemot 4500 (i), Razorbill 320 (i), Black Guillemot 8 pairs, Kittiwake 1259 prs, Fulmar 52 prs, Herring Gull 45 pairs and Shag 43 prs. there are annual fluctuations in these totals, particularly among the guillemot and kittiwake. In addition Peregrine and Kestrel breed and there are cliff-nesting House Martins. It is a moderately important breeding site for Choughs and a flock of 35 birds has been seen. The Peregrine and Chough are listed in Annex 1 of the EU Birds Directive and their Irish populations are considered to be of international importance.

20/12/1995

SITE NAME: BANDON VALLEY BELOW INISHANNON**SITE CODE: 001515**

The Bandon Valley flows almost due east for much of its course, following a natural synclinal valley that itself extends to Cloyne. At Inishannon however, the river turns abruptly to the south crossing several ridges before reaching the sea at Kinsale. The interest of the valley lies partly in its aquatic habitats since the river has not been deepened artificially as is so often the case. Four areas of scientific interest are located along the river. This site below Inishannon is the most downstream of the four sites and is located approximately 7km east of Bandon.

Below Inishannon the river becomes tidal before it becomes brackish and extensive reedbeds develop of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), Reed Sweet-grass (*Glyceria maxima*) and some sedges. Summer Snowflake (*Leucojum aestivum*), Yellow Loosestrife (*Lysimachia vulgaris*) and Sweet Flag (*Acorus calamus*) occur locally with a sedge (*Carex laevigata*) and Millet Grass (*Milium effusum*) associated with the woodlands.

Shippool wood is a former separate area of scientific interest which is now joined to the Bandon Valley site. This wood is reported in 1972 in the An Forbas Forbartha report to be a deciduous woodland on the banks of the Bandon River with some Oak (*Querus sp.*) and Birch (*Betula sp.*) and other deciduous species. The woodland has been underplanted with coniferous trees. In 1981 An Foras Forbartha reports the wood in some parts are semi-natural in character and have an ecologically interesting flora and fauna. A recent survey of this woodland found it to be predominantly conifer trees.

In 1986 the Hairstreak butterfly was reported to occur in Shippool wood.

This site is important for its wetlands including the extensive areas of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) and the more diverse areas of wetland vegetation. The general flora surrounding Shippool wood may also be of interest.

5/12/1995

SITE NAME: BANDON VALLEY ABOVE INISHANNON**SITE CODE: 001740****AUTHOR: HELEN LEACH**

The Bandon Valley flows almost due east for much of its course, following a natural synclinal valley that itself extends to Cloyne. At Inishannon however, the river turns abruptly to the south crossing several ridges before reaching the sea at Kinsale. The interest of the Valley lies partly in its aquatic habitats since the river has not been deepened artificially as is so often the case. Four areas of scientific interest are located along the river. This site covers a section of the river 3km east of Bandon running approximately a further 4km downstream to Inishannon.

The recent survey of this area reports it to be very scenic. Woodlands occur where the meanders of the valley approach the Valley's edge and create steep slopes. The woodlands are semi-natural, mostly planted with species such as Sycamore (*Acer pseudopentanus*) and Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) mixed in with the native Oaks (*Querus* sp.). Some areas of commercial plantation occur near the railway tunnel and at Drumkeen Wood. The spread of Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) is limited to small areas of the site.

Lower down in the Bandon Valley birdlife is more associated with Woodland and involves characteristic species like Owls, Sparrowhawks, Woodcocks and Jays.

Cormorants and herons fish throughout the river.

The Valley is reported to have otters in many places, a species listed in Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive as it is threatened within the EU.

This area is important as it contains an example of oak woodland on steep valley sides. The Bandon Valley is specially valuable for its woodlands and unmodified river bed, which are a rare habitat in a European context.

Source: AFF Report (1986)

6/12/1995

APPENDIX 2

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT OF THE POTENTIAL FOR KINSALE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2009 - 2015 TO NEGATIVELY IMPACT UPON THE CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES OF NATURA 2000 SITES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	METHODOLOGY	3
3	STAGE 1 – SCREENING	5
3.1	INTRODUCTION TO THE SCREENING PROCESS	5
3.2	CORK HARBOUR SPA	6
3.3	OLD HEAD OF KINSALE SPA	6
3.4	COURTMACSHERRY ESTUARY CSAC	6
3.5	SEVEN HEADS SPA	7
3.6	SOVEREIGN ISLANDS SPA	7
4	STAGE 2 – APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT	9

1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of Appropriate Assessment of local authority plans is to ensure that protection of the integrity of European 'Natura 2000' sites is included as an integral part of the planning process at a local level. By carrying out an Appropriate Assessment, Kinsale Town Council also ensure that in accepting and implementing the Development Plan 2009 – 2015 they are not likely to be in breach of the provisions of Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive.

The requirement for Appropriate Assessment of plans or projects originates from Article 6 (3) and (4) of *European Union (EU) Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora*, commonly known as the 'Habitats Directive', which is implemented in Ireland through the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations of 1997. The wording of Article 6 (3) of the directive is as follows:

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

The wording of Article 6 (4) of the directive is as follows:

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

In February 2008, the statutory requirement for an Appropriate Assessment of all land use plans was further emphasised by a Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government Circular Letter (SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08), which was issued to all County and City Managers, Directors of Services for Planning and Town Clerks. The Circular Letter entitled 'Appropriate Assessment of Land Use Plans' emphasises the fact that an appropriate assessment of the ecological implications of any plan or project is required, whether it is within or outside a designated site, if it may impact upon the conservation objectives of that site. In May 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency circulated this letter as part of their guidance on the process to be employed in Strategic Environmental Assessment as part of "SEA Pack Vol. II 16 05 08".

The process is in its infancy in Ireland and to date very few Appropriate Assessments of local authority plans have been completed and there are currently no formal guidelines on the procedure to be employed. Staff from National Parks and Wildlife Service, the competent statutory authority, are however becoming increasingly familiar with the requirements of Appropriate Assessment, and this document has been produced in consultation with NPWS staff. It is our understanding that guidelines are currently being prepared by the EPA, however until these become available, this on-going liaison and consultation process ensures that the Appropriate Assessment has been carried out in a manner that is acceptable to the relevant competent authorities.

In addition to the advice available from NPWS, the EU has published a number of documents which provide guidance on the requirements of Appropriate Assessment, including, *Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 sites - Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*, which sets out the principles of how to approach decision making during the process and this have been followed as closely as possible. There are however a number of restrictions when attempting to apply this document in an Irish context, including first and foremost, the lack of formal statutory guidelines; and also, importantly, the relative lack of published data on many of the faunal and floral elements of the environment which comprise the conservation objectives of European sites.

2 METHODOLOGY

The Appropriate Assessment process progresses through four stages as follows:

- Stage 1 – Screening of Kinsale Development Plan;
- Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment of Kinsale Development Plan;
- Stage 3 – Assessment of alternative solutions; and
- Stage 4 – Assessment of compensatory measures.

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

A key consideration of Appropriate Assessment is that other plans and projects must be considered and that the assessment must take account of the impacts on Natura 2000 sites of these developments 'in combination' with the plan or project that is under consideration.

Cork Area Strategic Plan 2001 to 2020; Cork Draft County Development Plan 2009 – 2015 (2007) and Cork County Heritage Plan 2005 – 2010, have been reviewed in this regard and no 'in combination' impacts resulting from policies in these documents have been identified. Broader scale plans such as the National Development Plan and the National Heritage Plan are delivered through these local plans and hence it is reasonable to suppose that there is no requirement for an additional review of these documents.

No projects are known of that could interact with Kinsale Development Plan to result in impacts on any Natura 2000 sites. The large distance between Kinsale and most Natura 2000 sites (the only site within 8km is the *Sovereign Islands* SPA which lies offshore, see Section 3) means that any such plan would need to be on a fairly large scale. It is probably reasonable to suppose that any project large enough to have potential 'in combination' impacts would therefore be widely known.

Stage 1 – Screening

The aim of Stage 1, 'Screening' is to determine whether or not Stage 2, the Appropriate Assessment is required, i.e. to determine whether or not the objectives and policies of the Kinsale Development Plan are likely to negatively affect the conservation objectives on any Natura 2000 site. This is done by examining the objectives and the policies of the plan; and the conservation objectives of any Natura 2000 sites that might potentially be affected.

Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment

The aim of Stage 2, the 'Appropriate Assessment' proper, is to propose changes to Kinsale Development Plan that will Avoid and Mitigate any negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites and thereby avoid the need to progress to Stage 3, which would effectively constitute a rejection of the plan in its current form and require the Town Council to implement Compensatory measures for impacts on Natura 2000 sites.

Stages 3 and 4 - Assessment of Alternative Solutions and Compensatory Measures

Provided the recommendations of Stage 2 are incorporated into future drafts of Kinsale Development Plan, Stages, 3 and 4, which relate to alternative solutions and Compensatory measures under Article 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive, will not be required.

Revisions of this Appropriate Assessment Document

Any future revised drafts of Kinsale Development Plan, including revisions to zoning proposals, will be reviewed in order to ascertain whether or not revisions to this Appropriate Assessment are required. If a revised Appropriate Assessment is required, it will be prepared by RPS and issued to the Town Council. This process will continue at each revision stage of the Town Plan until published of the final version of the Plan.

3 STAGE 1 – SCREENING

3.1 INTRODUCTION TO THE SCREENING PROCESS

This stage involves establishing whether or not the plan is likely to have a significant effect on the conservation objectives of any Natura 2000 site. The screening process requires an initial review of the draft plan to identify any policies or objectives that might potentially have impacts upon Natura 2000 sites. These might include for example policies and objectives that include a requirement for new development land; policies or objectives that may result in increases in disturbance to sensitive fauna and flora; policies and objectives that could result in deterioration in water quality, etc.

Screening also requires a review of all Natura 2000 sites that could potentially be subject to the impacts that have been identified. Clearly a key variable that will determine whether or not a particular Natura 2000 site is likely to be negatively effected by the draft plan's policies and objectives is its physical distance from Kinsale, and it will generally, but not necessarily, be the case that the greater the distance the lower the possibility of impacts. It is not considered that any of the policies or objectives of Kinsale Development Plan 2009 – 2015 have the potential to impact upon any Natura 2000 sites more than 15km from the town. A total of five Natura 2000 sites are located within 15km of the town. These are shown in Table 1, which also gives the distance and direction of each site from Kinsale. Each site is then discussed with respect to its requirement or not for an Appropriate Assessment.

Table 1: Details of the Natura 2000 Sites located within 15km of Kinsale

Site Name	Site Designation	Site Code	Location Relative to Kinsale
Sovereign Islands	SPA	004124	5km to the southeast of Kinsale (offshore)
Old Head of Kinsale	SPA	004021	8.5km to the south of Kinsale 'as the crow flies'; 13km overland
Courtmacsherry Estuary	cSAC	001230	11km to the southeast of Kinsale
Seven Heads	SPA	004191	15km to the southwest of Kinsale
Cork Harbour	SPA	004030	15km to the northeast of Kinsale

For definition purposes the Natura 2000 site(s) include Special Areas of Conservation (habitats) and / or Special Protection Areas (birds). With regard to SACs, Annex I refers to habitats and Annex II refers to species listed in the Habitats Directive. With regard to SPAs, Annex I refers to the EU Birds Directive. Also, a site that could have the potential to contain important bird populations but that has not already been designated as an SPA should be taken into consideration.

Data and information for this screening assessment was collected from the following sources, direct consultation with staff from NPWS, Natura 2000 Forms, 'Notice of Intention to Designate' Forms, NPWS Site Synopses, other published data on rare and protected species, and personal knowledge of the sites.

3.2 CORK HARBOUR SPA

Cork Harbour SPA includes several separate portions of Cork Harbour. The portion that lies closest to Kinsale, some 15km distant, is centred on the Owenboy Estuary at Carrigaline. Cork Harbour is an internationally important wetland site, regularly supporting in excess of 20,000 wintering waterfowl, making it one of the top five sites in the country. Of particular note is that the site supports an internationally important population of Redshank. A further 15 species have populations of national importance, as follows: Great Crested Grebe, Cormorant, Shelduck, Wigeon, Gadwall, Teal, Pintail, Shoveler, Red-breasted Merganser, Oystercatcher, Lapwing, Dunlin, Black-tailed Godwit, Curlew, Greenshank and the largest population of Shelduck in the country. Cork Harbour has a nationally important breeding colony of Common Tern. The birds have nested in Cork Harbour since about 1970, and since 1983 on various artificial structures, notably derelict steel barges and the roof of a Martello Tower. Currently, this colony is split between a small artificial island in an artificial lake in Monkstown Creek and a rocky island in Lough Beg.

A number of factors make it very unlikely that any Policies or Objectives of Kinsale Development Plan 2009 - 2015 could have impacts within this SPA. The distance between *Cork Harbour* SPA and Kinsale is relatively large; and two locations lie within entirely different river catchments. None of the policies or objectives in the plan is considered likely to have any negative impact on any wader or wildfowl populations, or on Common Terns. As no impacts are anticipated the plan could not have 'in combination' impacts either. **Appropriate Assessment of Kinsale Development Plan 2009 - 2015 in relation to the potential for negative impacts on *Cork Harbour* SPA is not required.**

3.3 OLD HEAD OF KINSALE SPA

The site comprises a section of the cliffs on the west side Old Head of Kinsale at the narrow isthmus leading out to the head itself. The site includes vertical cliffs which support nesting seabirds; maritime heath and grassland; and the adjacent marine area to a distance of 200m from the cliff base. The site is the largest seabird colony on the south coast between the Saltee Islands in Co Wexford; and The Bull, off the tip of the Beara Peninsular. The site supports important numbers of Kittiwake and Common Guillemot (3% of the national population of each) along with smaller numbers of Fulmar and Razorbill. Chough and Peregrine, both of which are listed under Annex I of the EU Birds Directive occur regularly within the SPA but breed elsewhere on the Old Head of Kinsale.

The only problems mentioned in the Natura 2000 Form is the recent decline in numbers of Kittiwake and Common Guillemot which may be a result of changes in the availability of food; and the conversion of part of the Old Head to a golf course which may reduce the available feeding habitat for Chough. It is not considered that either of these problems could be exacerbated by policies or objectives of Kinsale Town Plan, and the distance of the site from Kinsale greatly reduces the potential for any other indirect impacts.

It is not considered that any of the policies or objectives of Kinsale Town Development Plan 2009 – 2015 could have impacts on these seabird populations, and hence could not have 'in combination' impacts either. **Appropriate Assessment of Kinsale Development Plan 2009 – 2015 in relation to the potential for negative impacts on *Old Head of Kinsale* SPA is not required.**

3.4 COURTMACSHERRY ESTUARY CSAC

This site is located more than 10km to the east of Kinsale. The estuary consists of the drowned valley of the Argideen River, which is now filled with sediments, resulting in an

extensive mudflat. The site contains a complex of coastal habitats including ten habitats listed on Annex I, including the priority habitat 'fixed (grey) dunes'. The majority of the site is composed of 'mudflats and sandflats' and 'estuaries'. Other Annex I habitats present are; 'shifting (white) dunes', 'embryonic shifting dunes', 'Mediterranean salt meadows', 'Atlantic salt meadows', 'perennial vegetation of stony banks', 'annual vegetation of drift lines' and 'Glassworts (*Salicornia*) and other annuals colonizing mud and sand'.

The site is also of ornithological importance for the non-breeding waders and wildfowl that feed on the mud and sandflats, including the Birds Directive Annex I species Golden Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit. Winter flocks of Golden Plover and Black-Tailed Godwit occur in nationally important numbers.

The Natura 2000 Form for the site states that there are no serious threats to the site and cites eutrophication from surrounding farmland, the spread of *Spartina* (cord grasses) and increases in amenity use as the only problems. It is not considered possible that any of these factors could be significantly affected by Kinsale Town Plan.

Due to the relatively large distance from Kinsale town; and the fact that none of the potential threats listed for the site is likely to be influenced by Kinsale Town Plan, it is considered very unlikely that any policies or objectives of Kinsale Development Plan 2009 - 2015 could have impacts within this cSAC. No projects or plans that might have 'in combination' impacts are known of. **Appropriate Assessment of Kinsale Development Plan 2009 - 2015 in relation to the potential for negative impacts on Courtmacsherry Estuary cSAC is not required.**

3.5 SEVEN HEADS SPA

The closest part of this new SPA site lies 15km to the west of Kinsale and extends westwards to a distance of some 22km. The site is designated on the basis of its important breeding population of the Birds Directive Annex I species Chough, which is a largely sedentary species. It is very unlikely that Choughs from Seven Heads ever occur in the vicinity of Kinsale town, and it is also considered very unlikely, due to the large distance, that there could be any indirect negative impacts or 'in combination' impacts on the site as a result of activities within the town. **Appropriate Assessment of Kinsale Development Plan 2009 - 2015 in relation to the potential for negative impacts on Seven Heads SPA is not required.**

3.6 SOVEREIGN ISLANDS SPA

The SPA consists of two very small islands located approximately 1km off the Cork coastline at the entrance to Oysterhaven Bay, approximately 5km from Kinsale. The islands are rocky stacks separated by a narrow sound of about 20m width. The eastern island is flat-topped and rises to 24m above sea level, the western one is more peaked and rises to 30m. Both islands are largely devoid of soil apart from small amounts of organic matter trapped in cracks. This site is of ornithological importance mainly for the breeding colony of the Annex I species' Cormorant, which is the largest in County Cork and is of National Importance. The population of Great Black-backed Gulls is also of National Importance. Herring Gull and Black Guillemot also breed. The surrounding seas to a distance of 200m, where seabirds forage, bathe and socialise, are included in the SPA.

The only threat to the site mentioned in the Natura 2000 Form is the possibility that increased fishing in the area could deplete fish stocks, a potential problem that will not be influenced by policies or objectives of Kinsale Town Plan.

Whilst the site lies fairly close to Kinsale (less than 5km), the breeding bird populations on the Sovereigns are not likely to be highly sensitive to any disturbance impacts other than direct

landings by people on the islands or other very immediate factors such as low flying aircraft in the vicinity. It is not considered likely that routine boat traffic or land-based activities associated with Kinsale are likely to have any negative impacts on the birds. It is not considered that any of the policies or objectives of Kinsale Development Plan 2009 – 2015 could have impacts on these seabird populations, and no potential 'in combination' impacts are known of. **Appropriate Assessment of Kinsale Development Plan 2009 – 2015 in relation to the potential for negative impacts on *Sovereign Islands* SPA is not required.**

4 STAGE 2 – APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

The Screening Stage (Stage 1) has concluded that no policies, objectives and proposals (i.e. critical infrastructure) of Kinsale Development Plan 2009 - 2015 might potentially impact negatively, including potential 'in combination' impacts, on the conservation objectives of any Natura 2000 Site, and it is not necessary to progress to Stage 2 of the Appropriate Assessment process. Consultation with the Appropriate staff in NPWS indicate that they are in agreement with this conclusion.

Hence, implementation of 'Avoidance' or 'Mitigation' measures, which would require amendments to Kinsale Development Plan 2009 – 2015, is not required.

