

Habitats Directive Project Screening Assessment

Table 1: Project Details

Development Consent Type	Part 8- Local Authority Development
Development Location	Tramore Promenade
File Ref	
Description of the project	Proposed extension and redevelopment of existing playground at Promenade, Tramore, Co Waterford. Much of the equipment has deteriorated and will be replaced along with provisional of additional play space for children aged 2-5 years.

Table 2: Identification of Natura 2000 Sites (SACs and SPAs) which may be Impacted by the proposed development

Please answer the following five questions in order to determine whether there are any Natura 2000 sites which could potentially be impacted by the proposed development.

Impacts on SACs		
1	<p>Impacts On Freshwater Habitats <i>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include freshwater habitats, or in the catchment of same?</i></p> <p>Sites to consider: Blackwater River, Lower River Suir Habitats to consider: Rivers, Lakes and Lagoons</p>	No
2	<p>Impacts On Wetland Habitats <i>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include wetland habitats, or within 1 km of same?</i></p> <p>Sites to consider: Comeragh Mountains Habitats to consider: Bogs, Fens, Marshes and Wet Heaths.</p>	No
3	<p>Impacts on Intertidal and Marine Habitats <i>Is the development located within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include intertidal and/or marine habitats and species, or within the catchment of same.</i></p> <p>Sites to consider: Tramore Dunes and Backstrand, River Suir (Tidal Section), River Blackwater (Tidal Section), Waterford Estuary Habitats to consider: Mudflats, Sandflats, Saltmarsh, Estuary; Shingle, Reefs, Sea Cliffs.</p>	Approximately 700 due west of Tramore Dunes and Back Strand SAC and SPA
4	<p>Impacts On Woodlands , Grasslands and Dry Heaths <i>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying habitats include woodlands or grasslands habitats, or within 200m of same.</i></p> <p>Sites to consider: Glendine Wood Nire Valley Woods, Ardmore Head, Helvick Head Habitats to consider: Woodlands, Grasslands or Dunes.</p>	No
5	<p>Impacts On Birds <i>Is the development within a Special Protection Area, or within 1 km of same.</i></p> <p>Sites to consider: Tramore Backstrand, Dungarvan Bay, Blackwater Callows, Blackwater Estuary, Helvick Head –Ballyquin Coast, Mid Waterford Coast</p>	Approximately 700 due west of Tramore Dunes and Back Strand SAC and SPA

Conclusion Table 2:

If the answer to all of these questions is **No**, significant impacts can be ruled out for Natura 2000 sites. No further assessment is required, proceed to the Habitats Directive Conclusion Statement.

If the answer to any of these questions is **Yes** please refer to tables 3 and 4 below.

Table 3: Determination of Possible Impacts On Natura 2000 Sites.

Where it has been identified that there is a Natura 2000 site within the potential impact zone of the proposed development, it is necessary to try to determine the nature of the possible impacts. Please answer the following questions as appropriate.

1	Impacts on designated freshwater habitats (rivers, lakes streams and lagoons). Sites to consider: Blackwater River, Lower River Suir <i>Please answer the following if the answer to question 1 in table 2 was yes.</i> <i>Does the development involve any of the following:</i>	
	Works inside the boundary of designated site	
1.1	All works within the boundary of any SAC whose qualifying features include freshwater habitats/species, excluding small extensions/alterations to existing buildings.	
	Works outside the boundary of designated site	
1.2	Discharge to surfacewater or groundwater within the boundary of an SAC whose qualifying features include freshwater habitats/species.	
1.3	Abstraction from surfacewater or groundwater within 1km of the boundary of an SAC whose qualifying features include freshwater habitats or species.	
1.4	Removal of topsoil within 100m of the boundary of an SAC, whose qualifying features include freshwater habitats/species.	
1.5	Infilling or raising of ground levels within 100m the boundary of any SAC whose qualifying features include freshwater habitats/species.	
1.6	Construction of drainage ditches within 1km of the boundary of an SAC whose qualifying features include freshwater habitats/species.	
1.7	Installation of waste water treatment systems; percolation areas; septic tanks within 100 m of the boundary of an SAC site whose qualifying features include freshwater habitats/species.	
1.8	Construction within a floodplain of EU designated watercourse whose qualifying features include freshwater habitats/species.	
1.9	Crossing or culverting of rivers or streams within 1km of the boundary of any SAC whose qualifying features include freshwater habitats.	
1.10	Storage of chemicals hydrocarbons or organic wastes within 100 m of the boundary of an SAC whose qualifying features include freshwater habitats/species.	
1.11	Development of a large scale, within catchment of an EU designated watercourse or waterbody, which involves the production of an EIS.	
1.12	Development or expansion of quarries within catchment of an EU designated watercourse or waterbody.	
1.13	Development or expansion of windfarms within catchment of an EU designated watercourse or waterbody.	
1.14	Development of pumped hydro electric stations within catchment of an EU designated watercourse or waterbody.	

2	<p>Impacts On Wetland Habitats <i>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include wetland habitats, or within 1 km of same?</i></p> <p>Sites to consider: Comeragh Mountains</p> <p>Habitats to consider: Bogs, Fens, Marshes and Wet Heaths.</p> <p><i>Please answer the following if the answer to question 2 in table 2 was yes.</i></p>	
	Works inside the boundary of designated site	
2.1	All works within the boundary of an SAC whose qualifying features include heath, marsh, fen or bog, excluding small extensions/alterations to existing buildings.	
	Works outside the boundary of designated site	
2.2	Construction of roads or other infrastructure on peat habitats within 1km of any SAC whose qualifying features include heath, marsh, fen or bog.	
2.3	Development of a large scale within 1km of any SAC, whose qualifying features include heath, marsh, fen or bog, which involves the production of an EIS.	
3	<p>Impacts on Intertidal and Marine Habitats <i>Is the development located within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include intertidal and/or marine habitats and species, or within the catchment of same.</i></p> <p>Sites to consider: Tramore Dunes and Backstrand, River Suir (Tidal Section), River Blackwater (Tidal Section), Waterford Estuary</p> <p><i>Please answer the following if the answer to question 1 in table 3 was yes.</i></p>	
	Works inside the boundary of designated site	
3.1	All works within the boundary of any SAC whose qualifying features include intertidal or marine habitats, excluding small extensions/alterations to existing buildings.	N
	Works outside the boundary of designated site	
3.2	Coastal protection works within 5km of any SAC whose qualifying features include intertidal or marine habitats.	N
3.3	Development of piers, slipways, marinas, pontoons or any other infrastructure within 5km of any SAC whose qualifying features include intertidal or marine habitats.	Redevelopment of an existing Playground 700 west of the Natura 2000 site
3.4	Dredging within 5km of any SAC whose qualifying features include intertidal or marine habitats.	N
3.5	Works within 1km of any SAC whose qualifying features include intertidal or marine habitats, which will result in discharges to rivers or streams directly connected to the designated site.	N
3.6	Infilling of coastal habitats within 500m of any SAC whose qualifying features include intertidal or marine habitats.	N
3.7	Removal of topsoil or infilling of terrestrial habitats within 100m of any SAC whose qualifying features include intertidal or marine habitats.	N
3.8	Development of a large scale within 1km of any SAC whose qualifying features include intertidal or marine habitats, which involves the production of an EIS.	N
4	Impacts on other designated woodlands and grasslands (woodland, upland grassland, lowland grassland, coastal grassland including dunes).	

	<p>Sites to consider: Glendine Wood Nire Valley Woods, Ardmore Head, Helvick Head <i>Please answer the following if the answer to question 4 in table 2 was yes.</i></p> <p><i>Does the development involve any of the following:</i></p>	
	Works inside the boundary of designated site	
4.1	All works within the boundary of any SAC whose qualifying interests include woodland or grassland habitat types excluding small extensions/alterations to existing buildings.	
	Works outside the boundary of designated site	
4.2	Development within 200m of any SAC whose qualifying interests include woodland or grassland habitat types.	
4.3	Development of a large scale within 1km of any SAC, whose qualifying interests include woodland or grassland habitat types, which involves the production of an EIS.	
5	<p>Impacts on birds in SPAs</p> <p>Sites to consider: Tramore Backstrand, Dungarvan Bay, Blackwater Callows, Blackwater Estuary, Helvick Head –Ballyquin Coast, Mid Waterford Coast</p> <p><i>Please answer the following if the answer to question 5 in table 2 was yes.</i></p> <p><i>Does the development involve any of the following:</i></p>	
	Works inside the boundary of designated site	
5.1	All works within the boundary of any SPA excluding small extensions/alterations to existing buildings.	N
	Works outside the boundary of designated site	
5.2	Erection of wind turbines within 1km of any SPA.	N
5.3	All construction works within 100m of any SPA.	N
5.4	Infilling of coastal habitats within 500m of intertidal SPA.	N
5.5	Works within 1km of coastal/wetland SPAs which will result in discharges to rivers or streams that are directly connected to designated sites.	N
5.6	Development of cycleways or walking routes within 100m of SPAs.	N
5.7	Construction works on feeding areas adjacent to SPAs	N

Conclusion Table 3: If the answer to all of the above is no or n/a, significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites can be ruled out. No further assessment is required, proceed to the Screening Conclusion Statement. If the answer to any question in table 3 is yes, you may require further information, unless you are satisfied that the project proponents have incorporated adequate mitigation into their design to avoid impacts on the Natura 2000 site (e.g. water pollution protection measures). Such information should be provided in the form of a Natura Impact Statement which should address the particular issues of concern as identified through the above.

Table 4: Consideration of Potential Impacts on Protected Species

Many of our Special Areas of Conservation are designated for species as well as for habitats. These are listed below, alongside the sites for which they are designated. Included is a short list of the types of activities which could have an impact on these species. Please tick if you are concerned that the proposed development could have an impact on these species.

Species	Relevant Sites	Activities which could have impacts on species	Possible Impacts Identified? Y/N
Otter	Lower River Suir River Blackwater Waterford Estuary	Activities that interfere with river banks.	N
Bats (all species outside designated sites)	Blackwater River, Lower River Suir, Waterford Estuary Glendine Wood, Lismore Woods Nire Valley Woods Along with above, in general all sites with any of the following; woods, mature treelines and hedgerows, old buildings and bridges	Activities that result in loss of woodland or hedgerow habitat or causes disturbance to roost sites. Renovations of old buildings; Repointing of old bridges.	N
Salmon	Lower River Suir River Blackwater Waterford Estuary	Activities that interfere with water quality, levels or the river bed;	N
River Lamprey	Lower River Suir River Blackwater Waterford Estuary	Activities that interfere with water quality, levels or the river bed;	N
Brook Lamprey	Lower River Suir River Blackwater Waterford Estuary	Activities that interfere with water quality, levels or the river bed;	N
Sea Lamprey	Lower River Suir River Blackwater Waterford Estuary	Activities that interfere with water quality or the river bed – estuarine areas;	N
Twaite Shad Allis Shad	Lower River Suir River Blackwater Waterford Estuary	Activities that interfere with water quality or the river bed – estuarine areas;	N
White-clawed Crayfish	Lower River Suir River Blackwater Waterford Estuary	Activities that interfere with water quality or the river bed;	N
Freshwater Pearl Mussel	Lower River Suir River Clodiagh River Lickey River Blackwater	Activities that interfere with water quality, levels or the river bed ;	N
Whorled Snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>	River Blackwater	Activities that result in loss of fen, marsh or wet grassland habitat within or close to the SAC.	N
Killarney Fern	Glendine Wood Lismore Woods (River Blackwater)	Woodland clearance or other activities resulting in loss or disturbance to woodland habitat within the relevant SACs.	N

Species	Relevant Sites	Activities which could have impacts on species	Possible Impacts Identified? Y/N
Chough	Mid-Waterford Coast(Fenr-Ballyvoyle) Ballyquin- Helvick Head Coast	Activities that result in loss of grassland habitat within or close to the SPA. Activities that have potential to cause disturbance to nesting areas.	
Peregrine Falcon	Mid-Waterford Coast(Fenor-Ballyvoyle) Ballyquin- Helvick Head Coast	Activities that have potential to cause disturbance to nesting areas.	
Herring Gull	Mid-Waterford Coast(Fenor-Ballyvoyle) Ballyquin- Helvick Head Coast	Activities that interfere with water quality. Activities that have potential to cause disturbance to nesting areas.	
Cormorant	Mid-Waterford Coast(Fenr-Ballyvoyle) Ballyquin- Helvick Head Coast	Activities that cause reduction in water quality. Activities that have potential to cause disturbance to nesting areas.	
Kittiwake	Ballyquin- Helvick Head Coast	Activities that have potential to cause disturbance to nesting areas .	

Species	Relevant Sites	Activities which could have impacts on species	Possible Impacts Identified? Y/N
Whooper Swan	Blackwater Callows	Activities that result in loss of grassland habitat within or close to the SPA. Activities that cause disturbance to roosting or foraging areas. Activities that increase collision risk.	
Light-bellied Brent Goose	Dungarvan Harbour Tramore Back Strand	Activities that cause reduction in water quality. Activities that cause disturbance to roosting or foraging areas. Activities that result in loss of grassland habitat within or close to the SPA. Activities that increase collision risk.	N
Wigeon	Blackwater Callows Blackwater Estuary	Activities that cause reduction in water quality. Activities that cause disturbance to roosting or foraging areas.	
Teal	Blackwater Callows	Activities that cause reduction in water quality. Activities that cause disturbance to roosting or foraging areas.	
Black-tailed Godwit	Blackwater Callows Blackwater Estuary Dungarvan Harbour Tramore Back Strand	Activities that cause reduction in water quality. Activities that cause disturbance to roosting or foraging areas.	N
Bar-tailed Godwit	Blackwater Estuary Dungarvan Harbour Tramore Back Strand	Activities that cause reduction in water quality. Activities that cause disturbance to roosting or foraging areas.	N
Golden Plover	Blackwater Estuary Dungarvan Harbour Tramore Back Strand	Activities that cause reduction in water quality. Activities that cause disturbance to roosting or foraging areas.	N
Grey Plover	Dungarvan Harbour Tramore Back Strand	Activities that cause reduction in water quality. Activities that cause disturbance to roosting or foraging areas.	N
Oystercatcher	Dungarvan Harbour	Activities that cause reduction in water quality. Activities that cause disturbance to roosting or foraging areas.	
Lapwing	Blackwater Estuary Dungarvan Harbour Tramore Back Strand	Activities that cause reduction in water quality. Activities that cause disturbance to roosting or foraging areas.	N
Dunlin	Blackwater Estuary Dungarvan Harbour Tramore Back Strand	Activities that cause reduction in water quality. Activities that cause disturbance to roosting or foraging areas.	N
Knot	Dungarvan Harbour	Activities that cause reduction in water quality. Activities that cause disturbance to roosting or foraging areas.	
Turnstone	Dungarvan Harbour	Activities that cause reduction in water quality. Activities that cause disturbance to roosting or foraging areas.	
Curlew	Blackwater Estuary Dungarvan Harbour Tramore Back Strand	Activities that cause reduction in water quality. Activities that cause disturbance to roosting or foraging areas.	N
Redshank	Blackwater Estuary Dungarvan Harbour	Activities that cause reduction in water quality. Activities that cause disturbance to roosting or foraging areas.	

Species	Relevant Sites	Activities which could have impacts on species	Possible Impacts Identified? Y/N
Great Crested Grebe	Dungarvan Harbour	Activities that cause reduction in water quality. Activities that cause disturbance to roosting or foraging areas.	
Shelduck	Dungarvan Harbour	Activities that cause reduction in water quality. Activities that cause disturbance to roosting or foraging areas.	
Red-breasted Merganser	Dungarvan Harbour	Activities that cause reduction in water quality. Activities that cause disturbance to roosting or foraging areas.	

Conclusion Table 4: If the answer to all of the above is no, significant impacts on species can be ruled out. If the answer to any of the above is yes, then further information is likely to be required in relation to potential for impact on that particular species. Where potential impacts on the above listed species are within designated sites, then further information should be sought in the form of a Natura Impact Statement. Where impacts are outside designated sites, then a species specific survey should be requested.

Habitats Directive Screening Conclusion Statement

Development Type	Part 8- Local Authority Development
Development Location	Tramore Promenade
Natura 2000 sites within impact zone	Tramore Dunes and Back Strand SAC and SPA
Planning File Ref	
Description of the project	
Proposed extension and redevelopment of existing playground at the Promenade, Tramore, Co Waterford. Much of the equipment has deteriorated and will be replaced along with provisional of additional play space for children aged 2-5 years.	
Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) could affect Natura 2000 site(s)	
The site of the existing playground is 700m west of Tramore Dunes and Back Strand SAC and SPA. The playground has been a longstanding element of the recreation and amenity offering of Tramore promenade and will not incur loss of ecological footprint from the boundary of Tramore Dunes and Backstrand SAC and SPA nor cause disturbance to species that are qualifying interests of the SAC and SPA.	
If there are potential negative impacts, explain whether you consider if these are likely to be significant, and if not, why not.	
The proposal involves upgrades to an existing playground which is located approximately 7000m from the boundary of Tramore Dunes and Back Strand SAC and SPA and will not incur habitat loss from the ecological footprint of the Natura 2000 site. It is considered the proposed extension and redevelopment will not incur an increased level of usage to give rise to potential for significant effects on the conservation objectives for the qualifying interests of Tramore Dunes and Back Strand SAC and SPA. Appendix 1 details the conservation objectives for the qualifying species and habitats for Tramore Dunes and Back Strand SAC and SPA. As the playground will experience highest demand in summer months level of usage shall not cause disturbance that could lead to significantly affect a percentage change in population trend or distribution of birdlife in the SPA which is designated for wintering waders and wildfowl. The development will not impact the area covered by wetland habitat of 676ha maintenance of which is a conservation objective of the SPA. Conservation targets for sand dunes and saltmarsh within the SAC include no change to habitat area, habitat distribution, physical structure and vegetation structure. The playground in itself will not give rise to direct significant effects on the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 network. While there is potential for indirect effects with recreational users of the playground also using the dunes and back strand it is anticipated this will not be to a level to incur significant effects on the conservation objectives of Tramore Dunes and Back Strand SAC and SPA nor significantly increasing on existing usage of the playground and Tramore promenade.	
Conclusion of assessment	
No potential for significant effects on the conservation objectives of the qualifying interests of Tramore Dunes and Back Strand SAC and SPA. No further assessment required.	
Documentation reviewed for making of this statement.	
WCCC internal GIS	

Conservation Objectives for Tramore Dunes and Back Strand SAC and SPA (NPWS)	
Completed By	Bernadette Guest
Date	21 st January 2025

Appendix 1

Conservation Objectives for Tramore Dunes and Back Strand SAC and SPA

Conservation Objectives for : Tramore Dunes and Backstrand SAC [000671]

1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide in Tramore Dunes and Backstrand SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	The permanent habitat area is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes. See map 3	Habitat area was estimated using OSi data as 548ha
Community extent	Hectares	Maintain the extent of the <i>Zostera</i> -dominated community, subject to natural processes. See map 4	Based on an intertidal survey undertaken in 2008 (ASU, 2008). See marine supporting document for further information
Community structure: <i>Zostera</i> density	Shoots/m ²	Conserve the high quality of the <i>Zostera</i> -dominated community, subject to natural processes	Based on an intertidal survey undertaken in 2008 (ASU, 2008). See marine supporting document for further details
Community distribution	Hectares	Conserve the following community types in a natural condition: Intertidal fine sand with <i>Bathyporeia pilosa</i> and <i>Nephtys cirrosa</i> community; Intertidal muddy sand with <i>Pygospio elegans</i> and <i>Tubificoides benedii</i> community complex. See map 4	Based on an intertidal survey undertaken in 2008 (ASU, 2008). See marine supporting document for further details

Conservation Objectives for : Tramore Dunes and Backstrand SAC [000671]

1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Annual vegetation of drift lines in Tramore Dunes and Backstrand SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession. For sub-site mapped: Tramore - 0.44ha. See map 6	Based on data from the Coastal Monitoring Project (CMP) (Ryle et al., 2009). Annual vegetation of driftlines was surveyed and mapped at a single sub-site, giving a total estimated area of 0.44ha. NB further unsurveyed areas may be present within the site. Habitat is very difficult to measure in view of its dynamic nature which means that it can appear and disappear within a site from year to year. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes. See map 6	Based on data from Ryle et al. (2009). This habitat was recorded from the Burrow and Bass Point and is absent along considerable stretches of the beach, particularly at the western end where recreational pressures are greatest. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: functionality and sediment supply	Presence/ absence of physical barriers	Maintain the natural circulation of sediment and organic matter, without any physical obstructions	Dunes are naturally dynamic systems that require continuous supply and circulation of sand. Accumulation of organic matter in tidal litter is essential for trapping sand and initiating dune formation. Physical barriers can lead to fossilisation or over-stabilisation of dunes, as well as beach starvation resulting in increased rates of erosion. Rock gabions and fencing have been erected at

			Tramore. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain the range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession	Based on data from Gaynor (2008) and Ryle et al. (2009). Transitional communities occur between sand dune and saltmarsh habitats. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities	Percentage cover at a representative number of monitoring stops	Maintain the presence of species-poor communities with typical species: sea rocket (<i>Cakile maritima</i>), sea sandwort (<i>Honckenya peploides</i>), prickly saltwort (<i>Salsola kali</i>) and orache (<i>Atriplex spp.</i>)	Based on data from Ryle et al. (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: negative indicator species	Percentage cover	Negative indicator species (including non-natives) to represent less than 5% cover	Based on data from Ryle et al. (2009). Negative indicators include non-native species, species indicative of changes in nutrient status and species not considered characteristic of the habitat. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details

1.2.20 Perennial vegetation of stony banks

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Perennial vegetation of stony banks in Tramore Dunes and Backstrand SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession	Current area unknown. The site was visited during the National Shingle Beach Survey (NSBS) (Moore and Wilson, 1999) but the extent of the habitat was not mapped. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes	Based on data from Moore and Wilson (1999) and Ryle et al. (2009). Current distribution is unclear but it is known to be associated with the shingle ridge at Tramore Burrow. There is also some shingle on the east side of the channel at Bass Point as well as behind the main strandline above the saltmarsh. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: functionality and sediment supply	Presence/ absence of physical barriers	Maintain the natural circulation of sediment and organic matter, without any physical obstructions	Based on data from Moore and Wilson (1999). Shingle features are relatively stable in the long term. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession	Based on data from Moore and Wilson (1999). Transitions to intertidal, saltmarsh and sand dune habitats occur at this site. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities	Percentage cover at a representative sample of monitoring stops	Maintain the typical vegetated shingle flora including the range of sub-communities within the different zones	Based on data from Moore and Wilson (1999). The rare species sea kale (<i>Crambe maritima</i>) and sea knotgrass (<i>Polygonum maritimum</i>) have previously recorded at the site, though their current status is unclear. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: negative indicator species	Percentage cover	Negative indicator species (including non-natives) to represent less than 5% cover	Based on data from Moore and Wilson (1999). Negative indicators include non-native species, species indicative of changes in nutrient status and species not considered characteristic of the habitat. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details

Conservation Objectives for : Tramore Dunes and Backstrand SAC [000671]

1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*)

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*) in Tramore Dunes and Backstrand SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession. For sub-site mapped: Tramore - 1.54ha. See map 5	Based on data from the Saltmarsh Monitoring Project (SMP) (McCorry, 2007). Mediterranean Salt Meadow (MSM) was surveyed and mapped at a single sub-site, giving a total estimated area of 1.54ha. NB further unsurveyed areas maybe present within the site. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, subject to natural processes. See map 5 for known distribution	Based on data from McCorry (2007). Saltmarsh has a wide distribution throughout the site. The largest area of saltmarsh occurs at The Cush, which is enclosed by the Malcolmson Embankment. Two small patches occur along the northern section of the Back Strand at Tramore Intake in the west and Lissellan in the east. MSM was recorded from Tramore Intake and Lissellan but was absent from The Cush. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: sediment supply	Presence/absence of physical barriers	Maintain natural circulation of sediments and organic matter, without any physical obstructions	Based on data from McCorry (2007). The development of the Malcolmson Embankment in the 1860s affected sedimentation in the area. Reclamation and drainage works have occurred in the past at Lissellan and Tramore Intake. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: creeks and pans	Occurrence	Maintain creek and pan structure, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession	Based on data from McCorry (2007). The saltmarsh topography at Lissellan is quite well developed. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: flooding regime	Hectares flooded; frequency	Maintain natural tidal regime	Mediterranean salt meadows is found high up in the saltmarsh but requires occasional tidal inundation. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain range of saltmarsh habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession	Based on data from McCorry (2007). Saltmarsh zonation is particularly well developed along The Cush. At Tramore Intake there is a mosaic of saltmarsh habitats present. Transitional communities occur between saltmarsh and sand dune habitats. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: vegetation height	Centimetres	Maintain structural variation in the sward	Based on data from McCorry (2007). Stock grazing is currently absent from the site, but is known to have occurred in the past at Lissellan. Natural grazing by wildfowl occurs throughout the site. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: vegetation cover	Percentage cover at a representative sample of monitoring stops	Maintain more than 90% of area outside creeks vegetated	See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities	Percentage cover at a representative sample of monitoring stops	Maintain range of sub-communities with characteristic species listed in SMP (McCorry and Ryle, 2009)	Based on data from McCorry (2007). Sharp rush (<i>Juncus acutus</i>) is a species of local distinctiveness in the MSM at the site. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: negative indicator species - <i>Spartina anglica</i>	Hectares	No significant expansion of common cordgrass (<i>Spartina anglica</i>), with an annual spread of less than 1% where it is already known to occur	Based on data from McCorry (2007). <i>Spartina</i> has been recorded from the site since the 1960s and has expanded significantly since then. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details

Conservation Objectives for : Tramore Dunes and Backstrand SAC [000671]

2110 Embryonic shifting dunes

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Embryonic shifting dunes in Tramore Dunes and Backstrand SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession. For sub-site mapped: Tramore - 4.30ha. See map 6	Based on data from the Coastal Monitoring Project (CMP) (Ryle et al., 2009). Embryonic dunes were surveyed and mapped at a single sub-site, giving a total estimated area of 4.30ha. Habitat is very difficult to measure in view of its dynamic nature. This habitat is present along much of the southern side of Tramore Burrow. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, subject to natural processes. See map 6 for known distribution	Based on data from Ryle et al. (2009). Embryonic dunes are particularly well developed at the tip of the spit, but are absent where recreational pressures are greatest near the west end of the site. Embryonic dunes were also recorded at Bass Point by the CMP. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: functionality and sediment supply	Presence/ absence of physical barriers	Maintain the natural circulation of sediment and organic matter, without any physical obstructions	Based on data from Ryle et al. (2009). Dunes are naturally dynamic systems that require continuous supply and circulation of sand. Physical barriers can lead to fossilisation or over-stabilisation of dunes, as well as beach starvation resulting in increased rates of erosion. Rock gabions and fencing have been erected at Tramore. Sand extraction was noted by the CMP at Bass Point. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain the range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession	Based on data from Gaynor (2008) and Ryle et al. (2009). Transitional communities occur between sand dune and saltmarsh habitats. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: plant health of foredune grasses	Percentage cover	More than 95% of sand couch (<i>Elytrigia juncea</i>) and/or lyme-grass (<i>Leymus arenarius</i>) should be healthy (i.e. green plant parts above ground and flowering heads present)	Based on data from Ryle et al. (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities	Percentage cover at a representative number of monitoring stops	Maintain the presence of species-poor communities with typical species: sand couch (<i>Elytrigia juncea</i>) and/or lyme-grass (<i>Leymus arenarius</i>)	Based on data from Ryle et al. (2009). The Burrow and Bass Point support characteristic dune flora. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: negative indicator species	Percentage cover	Negative indicator species (including non-native species) to represent less than 5% cover	Based on data from Ryle et al. (2009). Negative indicators include non-native species, species indicative of changes in nutrient status and species not considered characteristic of the habitat. Sea-buckthorn (<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>) should be absent or effectively controlled. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details

Conservation Objectives for : Tramore Dunes and Backstrand SAC [000671]

2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes)

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ('white dunes') in Tramore Dunes and Backstrand SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession. For sub-site mapped: Tramore - 4.12ha. See map 6	Based on data from the Coastal Monitoring Project (CMP) (Ryle et al., 2009). Habitat was surveyed and mapped at a single sub-site, giving a total estimated area of 4.12ha. Habitat is very difficult to measure in view of its dynamic nature. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes. See map 6 for known distribution	Based on data from Ryle et al. (2009). Embryonic dunes occur at both The Burrow and Bass Point. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: functionality and sediment supply	Presence/ absence of physical barriers	Maintain the natural circulation of sediment and organic matter, without any physical obstructions	Dunes are naturally dynamic systems that require continuous supply and circulation of sand. Marram grass (<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>) reproduces vegetatively and requires constant accretion of fresh sand to maintain active growth encouraging further accretion. Rock gabions and fencing have been erected at Tramore. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain the range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession	Based on data from Gaynor (2008) and Ryle et al. (2009). Transitional communities occur between sand dune and saltmarsh habitats. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: plant health of dune grasses	Percentage cover	95% of marram grass (<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>) and/or lyme-grass (<i>Leymus arenarius</i>) should be healthy (i.e. green plant parts above ground and flowering heads present)	Based on data from Ryle et al. (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities	Percentage cover at a representative number of monitoring stops	Maintain the presence of species-poor communities dominated by marram grass (<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>) and/or lyme-grass (<i>Leymus arenarius</i>)	Based on data from (Ryle et al. (2009). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: negative indicator species	Percentage cover	Negative indicator species (including non-natives) to represent less than 5% cover	Based on data from Ryle et al. (2009). Negative indicators include non-native species, species indicative of changes in nutrient status and species not considered characteristic of the habitat. Sea-buckthorn (<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>) should be absent or effectively controlled. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details

Conservation Objectives for : Tramore Dunes and Backstrand SAC [000671]

2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)

To restore the favourable conservation condition of Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes') in Tramore Dunes and Backstrand SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession. For sub-site mapped: Tramore - 57.47ha. See map 6	Based on data from Coastal Monitoring Project (CMP) (Ryle et al. 2009). Fixed dunes were surveyed and mapped at a single sub-site, giving a total estimated area of 57.47ha. Most of the fixed dune occurs on The Burrow while less than 5ha occurs at Bass Point. NB Further unsurveyed areas may be present within the site. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes. See map 6 for known distribution	Based on data from Ryle et al. (2009). Fixed dune is the most abundant sand dune habitat within the SAC. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: functionality and sediment supply	Presence/ absence of physical barriers	Maintain the natural circulation of sediment and organic matter, without any physical obstructions	Based on data from Ryle et al. (2009). Physical barriers can lead to fossilisation or over-stabilisation of dunes, as well as beach starvation resulting in increased rates of erosion. Rock gabions and fencing have been erected at Tramore. Sand extraction was noted by the CMP from the fixed dunes at Bass Point. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain the range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession	Based on data from Ryle et al. (2009). Transitional communities occur between sand dune and saltmarsh habitats. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: bare ground	Percentage cover	Bare ground should not exceed 10% of fixed dune habitat, subject to natural processes	Based on data from Gaynor (2008) and Ryle et al. (2009). Within The Burrow, recreational pressures are high, causing localised patches of severe erosion. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: sward height	Centimetres	Maintain structural variation within sward	Based on data from Gaynor (2008) and Ryle et al. (2009). Grazing is absent from Tramore Burrow, which has led to the development of a rank, species-poor vegetation. Cattle graze Bass Point dunes but supplementary feeding has led to considerable areas dominated by nitrophilous vegetation. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities	Percentage cover at a representative sample of monitoring stops	Maintain range of sub-communities with typical species listed in Ryle et al. (2009)	Based on data from Gaynor (2008) and Ryle et al. (2009). Rare elements of the flora include the Red Data Book species, wild asparagus (<i>Asparagus officinalis</i> var. <i>prostratus</i>) and bee orchid (<i>Ophrys apifera</i>). Patches of wild privet (<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>) are also a notable feature as it is uncommon in Irish dune systems. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: negative indicator species (including <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>)	Percentage cover	Negative indicator species (including non-natives) to represent less than 5% cover	Based on data from Ryle et al. (2009). Negative indicators include non-native species, species indicative of changes in nutrient status and species not considered characteristic of the habitat. Sea-buckthorn (<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>) should be absent or effectively controlled. This species is currently absent from the site, however, bracken (<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>) is common both at Tramore and Bass Point dunes. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details

Vegetation composition: scrub/trees	Percentage cover	No more than 5% cover or under control	Based on data from Ryle et al. (2009). At Tramore Burrow, scrub composed of dewberry (<i>Rubus caesius</i>) occurs throughout the fixed dunes. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
-------------------------------------	------------------	--	---

Conservation Objectives for : Tramore Back Strand SPA [004027]

A046 Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Light-bellied Brent Goose in Tramore Back Strand SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by light-bellied brent goose, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 waterbird survey programmes is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

Conservation Objectives for : Tramore Back Strand SPA [004027]

A140 Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Golden Plover in Tramore Back Strand SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by golden plover, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 waterbird survey programmes is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

Conservation Objectives for : Tramore Back Strand SPA [004027]

A141 Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Grey Plover in Tramore Back Strand SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by grey plover, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 waterbird survey programmes is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

Conservation Objectives for : Tramore Back Strand SPA [004027]**A142 Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus***

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Lapwing in Tramore Back Strand SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by lapwing, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 waterbird survey programmes is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

Conservation Objectives for : Tramore Back Strand SPA [004027]**A149 Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina***

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Dunlin in Tramore Back Strand SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by dunlin, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

Conservation Objectives for : Tramore Back Strand SPA [004027]**A156 Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa***

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Black-tailed Godwit in Tramore Back Strand SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by black-tailed godwit, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

Conservation Objectives for : Tramore Back Strand SPA [004027]**A157 Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica***

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Bar-tailed Godwit in Tramore Back Strand SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by bar-tailed godwit, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 waterbird survey programmes is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

Conservation Objectives for : Tramore Back Strand SPA [004027]**A160 Curlew *Numenius arquata***

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Curlew in Tramore Back Strand SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by curlew, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 waterbird survey programmes is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

Conservation Objectives for : Tramore Back Strand SPA [004027]**A999 Wetlands**

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of wetland habitat in Tramore Back Strand SPA as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it. This is defined by the following attribute and target:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	The permanent area occupied by the wetland habitat should be stable and not significantly less than the area of 676 hectares, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	The wetland habitat area was estimated as 676ha using OSi data and relevant orthophotographs. For further information see part three of the conservation objectives supporting document

Conservation Objectives for : Tramore Dunes and Backstrand SAC [000671]

1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide in Tramore Dunes and Backstrand SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	The permanent habitat area is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes. See map 3	Habitat area was estimated using OSi data as 548ha
Community extent	Hectares	Maintain the extent of the <i>Zostera</i> -dominated community, subject to natural processes. See map 4	Based on an intertidal survey undertaken in 2008 (ASU, 2008). See marine supporting document for further information
Community structure: <i>Zostera</i> density	Shoots/m ²	Conserve the high quality of the <i>Zostera</i> -dominated community, subject to natural processes	Based on an intertidal survey undertaken in 2008 (ASU, 2008). See marine supporting document for further details
Community distribution	Hectares	Conserve the following community types in a natural condition: Intertidal fine sand with <i>Bathyporeia pilosa</i> and <i>Nephtys cirrosa</i> community; Intertidal muddy sand with <i>Pygospio elegans</i> and <i>Tubificoides benedii</i> community complex. See map 4	Based on an intertidal survey undertaken in 2008 (ASU, 2008). See marine supporting document for further details

Conservation Objectives for : Tramore Back Strand SPA [004027]

A999 Wetlands

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of wetland habitat in Tramore Back Strand SPA as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it. This is defined by the following attribute and target:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	The permanent area occupied by the wetland habitat should be stable and not significantly less than the area of 676 hectares, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	The wetland habitat area was estimated as 676ha using OSI data and relevant orthophotographs. For further information see part three of the conservation objectives supporting document

