Water Level at Lady's Island Lake, 2025.

Jim Hurley

SWC Promotions - February 2026

Summary

Lady's Island Lake is a natural heritage site in south County Wexford in the extreme southeast corner of Ireland. It is among the largest and most important lagoon habitats in Ireland. It is also of international importance; it is a priority habitat type annexed in the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), and it supports the second largest breeding colony of Roseate Terns in Europe. The lake is drained regularly to prevent and/or to relieve flooding. That drainage activity results in significant changes in water level. These changes in water level have consequent impacts on the area's natural heritage resource values. The report titled *Water Level at Lady's Island Lake, 1984-1996* (Hurley, 1997) presented water level data collected during the 12-year period extending from September 1984 to September 1996 together with an overview of the natural history of the site and other relevant items regarding the state of the environment. The impacts of water level changes on the natural heritage resource values were discussed from a nature conservation and resource management point-of-view and in a contextual framework regarding the South Wexford Coast heritage coastline. The report was a contribution towards the advancement of the sustainable development of the area in that it laid the foundation for the drafting of both water level and water quality management plans. It also laid the foundation for an integrated coastal zone management strategy for Lady's Island Lake, its catchment and the coastal cell that supports the barrier-lagoon-catchment system.

The above-mentioned report (Hurley, 1997) was updated via a series of subsequent annual reports (Hurley, 1998 - Hurley, 2025). This report (Hurley, 2026) provides an update for the calendar year 2025. Each section of this report may contain up to four of the following items, as appropriate.

References:	Page numbers are given to reference entries in earlier reports.
Corrigenda:	Errors and/or inaccuracies in the earlier reports may be listed.
Addenda:	Relevant information not included in, or that came to hand after the publication of, the earlier reports may be given.
Updates:	Significant developments that occurred during the previous calendar year may be detailed in diary style.

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Produced, published, and distributed by SWC Promotions, Grange, Kilmore,
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First published: February 2026

Table of Contents

-o0o-

List of Figures

-o0o-

List of Tables

-o0o-

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 13. Hurley, 1998 page 11. Hurley, 1999 page 15. Hurley, 2000 page 17. Hurley, 2001 page 13. Hurley, 2002 page 15. Hurley, 2003 page 15. Hurley, 2004 page 15. Hurley, 2005 page 15. Hurley, 2006 page 15. Hurley, 2007 page 15. Hurley, 2008 page 15. Hurley, 2009 page 13. Hurley, 2010 page 13. Hurley, 2011 page 13. Hurley, 2012 page 13. Hurley, 2013 page 13. Hurley, 2014 page 13. Hurley, 2015 page 13. Hurley, 2016 page 13. Hurley, 2017 page 13. Hurley, 2018 page 13. Hurley, 2019 page 13. Hurley, 2020 page 16. Hurley, 2021 page 16. Hurley, 2022 page 17. Hurley, 2023 page 15. Hurley, 2024 page 15. Hurley, 2025 page 15.

Update. Inputs in the compilation of this report via 'personal communication' by the individuals, organisations, agencies, and public bodies named below are gratefully acknowledged. As always, I am again especially grateful to my wife, Rose, who continued to facilitate my fieldwork, research and writing at all stages and who always provided invaluable and unflagging logistic support.

Jim Hurley, February 2026.

2 INTRODUCTION

Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 1997 pages 15-19. Hurley, 2024 page 15. Hurley, 2025 page 15.

3 SURVEY METHOD

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2005 page 17. Hurley, 2008 page 17.

4 INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 1997 page 20.

5 DESCRIPTION OF THE REPORT AREA

5.1 Introduction

An overview is given (Section 5.1.1) together with details regarding human geography (Section 5.1.2), especially population (Section 5.1.2.1) and placenames (Section 5.1.2.2), and air quality (Section 5.1.3).

5.1.1 Overview

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 21and 28. Hurley, 1998, pages 13-17. Hurley, 1999 page 17. Hurley, 2000 page 37. Hurley, 2001 pages 15-16. Hurley, 2002 page 27. Hurley, 2003 page 18. Hurley, 2004 pages 18-19. Hurley, 2005 page 18. Hurley, 2006 pages 17-18. Hurley, 2007 page 18. Hurley, 2008 page 17. Hurley, 2022 page 18. Hurley, 2023 page 16.

5.1.2 Human geography

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2007 page 19. Hurley, 2017 page 13. Hurley, 2018 page 13. Hurley, 2024 page 16.

5.1.2.1 Population

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2000 pages 19-21. Hurley, 2003 page 19. Hurley, 2004 pages 20-21. Hurley, 2006 pages 18-21. Hurley, 2007 page 19. Hurley, 2008 page 18. Hurley, 2009 page 14. Hurley, 2011 page 14. Hurley, 2012 page 14. Hurley, 2013 pages 14-15. Hurley, 2016 page 14. Hurley, 2018 pages 13-14. Hurley, 2020 pages 17-18. Hurley, 2023 page 17. Hurley, 2024 pages 17-18.

5.1.2.2 Placenames

Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 2019 pages 14-15.

5.1.3 Air quality

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2001 page 16. Hurley, 2003 page 19. Hurley, 2004 page 21. Hurley, 2005 page 19. Hurley, 2006 page 22. Hurley, 2007 page 20. Hurley, 2009 page 14. Hurley, 2012 page 15. Hurley, 2013 page 16. Hurley, 2023 pages 17-18.

5.1.4 Astronomy

Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 2024 page 19. Hurley, 2025 pages 16-17.

5.2 Earth movements

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 21. Hurley, 2000 page 22. Hurley, 2001 page 16. Hurley, 2003 pages 20-21. Hurley, 2005 pages 20-21. Hurley, 2006 pages 23-24. Hurley, 2007 page 21. Hurley, 2009 page 15. Hurley, 2010 page 14. Hurley, 2011 page 14. Hurley, 2013 page 16. Hurley, 2014 pages 14-15. Hurley, 2015 page 14. Hurley, 2016 page 14. Hurley, 2019 page 16. Hurley, 2024 page 20. Hurley, 2025 page 18.

5.3 Bedrock geology

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1999 pages 22-23. Hurley, 2000 pages 24-30. Hurley, 2001 page 17. Hurley, 2002 page 19. Hurley, 2003 pages 22-23. Hurley, 2004 page 22. Hurley, 2005 pages 22-25. Hurley, 2006 pages 26-27. Hurley, 2007 pages 22-23. Hurley, 2008 page 19. Hurley, 2009 page 15. Hurley, 2010 page 14. Hurley, 2011, page 15. Hurley, 2012, page 16. Hurley, 2013 pages 17-18. Hurley, 2020 page 19. Hurley, 2021 page 17.

5.4 Minerals

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 23. Hurley, 2000 page 31. Hurley, 2001 page 18. Hurley, 2013, page 19. Hurley, 2016 page 15. Hurley, 2017 page 14. Hurley, 2022 page 19. Hurley, 2024 page 21.

5.5 Fossils

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 23. Hurley, 2003 page 23. Hurley, 2007 page 24. Hurley, 2014 page 16. Hurley, 2015 page 15. Hurley, 2017 page 14. Hurley, 2019 page 17. Hurley, 2023 page 19. Hurley, 2024 page 21.

5.6 Near shore seabed

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 23 and Figure 18b on page 98. Hurley, 1999 pages 24-26. Hurley, 2000 page 32. Hurley, 2001 pages 18-22. Hurley, 2018 page 15. Hurley, 2022 page 19.

5.7 Groundwater

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2010 page 16. Hurley, 2013 pages 20-21.

This section covers the groundwater resource in general (Section 5.7), springs and drilled wells (Section 5.7.1), piped potable water (Section 5.7.2) and protection regulations (Section 5.7.3). Groundwater is a key component of water supplies and ‘groundwater bodies’ are the management units of the River Basin District (RBD) projects currently being processed under the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD).

5.7.1 Springs and drilled wells

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 24. Hurley, 2001 page 23. Hurley, 2006 page 28. Hurley, 2007 pages 25-26. Hurley, 2013 page 21. Hurley, 2015 page 15.

5.7.2 Piped potable water

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1999 pages 27-28. Hurley, 2003 page 24. Hurley, 2004 page 25. Hurley, 2006 page 29. Hurley, 2007 page 26. Hurley, 2008 page 21. Hurley, 2009 page 16. Hurley, 2010 page 15. Hurley, 2011 page 17. Hurley, 2021 page 19. Hurley, 2022 page 20.

5.7.3 Protection regulations

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2000 pages 32-33. Hurley, 2001 page 23. Hurley, 2004 page 26. Hurley, 2008 page 21. Hurley, 2010 page 15. Hurley, 2011 page 17.

5.8 The glacial legacy

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 24. Hurley, 1999, page 29. Hurley, 2013 pages 22-23. Hurley, 2016 page 16. Hurley, 2017 page 15. Hurley, 2021 page 19. . Hurley, 2022 pages 21-22.

5.9 Climate and Weather

Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 2017 page 16.

This section gives climatological data (Section 5.9.1), has notes regarding on-going climate change (Section 5.9.2) and details some historical records of extremes of weather (Section 5.9.3). Coastal flooding is addressed elsewhere (Section 6.4.13).

5.9.1 Climatological data

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 25. Hurley, 2000 page 35 (Section 5.9.2). Hurley, 2001 page 23. Hurley, 2002 pages 22-25. Hurley, 2003 pages 25-31. Hurley, 2004 pages 27-30. Hurley, 2005 pages 27-30. Hurley, 2006 pages 30-35. Hurley, 2007 pages 28-33. Hurley, 2008 pages 22-25. Hurley, 2009 pages 17-18. Hurley, 2010 page 16. Hurley, 2011 pages 18-19. Hurley, 2012 page 19. Hurley, 2013 pages 24-26. Hurley, 2014 page 18. Hurley, 2015 page 16. Hurley, 2016 page 17. Hurley, 2017 page 17. Hurley, 2018 page 16. Hurley, 2019 page 18. Hurley, 2021 page 20. Hurley, 2023 page 20.

5.9.2 Climate change

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 25 (last two paragraphs). Hurley, 1998 page 18. Hurley, 2000 pages 35-36. Hurley, 2001 page 24. Hurley, 2002 pages 26-27. Hurley, 2003 pages 32-33. Hurley, 2004 page 31. Hurley, 2005 page 31. Hurley, 2006 page 36. Hurley, 2007 page 34. Hurley, 2008 pages 26-27. Hurley 2009, pages 19-20. Hurley, 2010 pages 16-17. Hurley, 2011 page 19. Hurley, 2012 page 20. Hurley, 2013 page 26. Hurley, 2014 page 18. Hurley, 2015 page 17. Hurley, 2016 page 18. Hurley, 2018 page 17. Hurley, 2020 page 21. Hurley, 2021 pages 21-22. Hurley, 2022 page 23. Hurley, 2023 pages 20-21. Hurley, 2024 pages 22-23.

Updates

Impacts at Lady's Island Lake. The impacts of climate change on the lagoon at Lady's Island Lake were identified as threefold (Table 1).

Change	Impact	Result
Increased winter rainfall	Causing water level in the lagoon to rise due to fluvial flooding	Need to breach more frequently
Sea level rise; predicted to be 0.5 to 1m	Causing water level in the lagoon to rise due to saline groundwater	
Increased storminess	Increased coastal erosion	a) Barrier retreating northwards b) Barrier being breached

Table 1. The impacts of climate change on Lady's Island Lake.

(Source: O'Connor *et al*., 2024, page 8)

SAPs. On 17 November 2025, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage published Sectoral Adaptation Plans (SAPs) identifying the risks posed by climate change and to safeguard the areas of Water Quality, Water Services Infrastructure, Built & Archaeological Heritage, and Biodiversity against its impacts. The plans were published as part of the Government's National Adaptation Framework which sets out the objective of transitioning to a climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050 (https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-housing-local-government-and-heritage/publications/sectoral-adaptation-planning/).

5.9.3 Extremes of weather

Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 2014 page 19. Hurley, 2022 page 24. Hurley, 2023 pages 21-22. Hurley, 2024 page 23.

5.10 Coastal hydrography

5.10.1 Characteristics of the inshore waters

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 27. Hurley, 2000 page 36. Hurley, 2001 pages 24-25. Hurley, 2004 page 32. Hurley, 2005 page 32. Hurley 2009, page 20. Hurley, 2010 page 17. Hurley, 2011 page 20. Hurley, 2012 pages 20-22. Hurley, 2014 page 19. Hurley, 2016 page 19. Hurley, 2017 page 18. Hurley, 2018 page 17. Hurley, 2019 page 19. Hurley, 2020 page 21. Hurley, 2021 pages 22-23. Hurley, 2022 page 24.

5.10.2 Marine climatology

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2001 pages 25-26. Hurley, 2004 page 32. Hurley, 2016 page 19. Hurley, 2017 page 18.

Update

A front-page press report highlighted the cause of a marine heatwave (*The Irish Times*, issue dated 23 May 2025, page 1)

'Extreme' marine heatwave in waters off Irish coast

SEÁN DUKE

Sea temperatures off the western and southern coasts of Ireland are above normal and constitute a marine heatwave, climatologists have said.

UK Met Office data placed the marine heatwave at the "extreme" end of the spectrum, with sea surface temperatures up to 4 degrees above normal.

"Yes, it is a marine heatwave currently," said Paul Moore, a climatologist at Met Éireann.

"This background warming is always there, but when atmospheric conditions are favourable, as they have been in our region during spring, this can enhance the warming in localised areas, leading to marine heatwaves."

Data showing above average temperatures has been confirmed from a number of sources, including figures gathered by Europe's Copernicus earth-monitoring satellite, and the Irish Marine Data Buoy Observation Network.

This spring was dominated by high-pressure weather conditions, mostly just to the north of Ireland and Britain, said Mr Moore. This has resulted in above average sunshine, he said, and below average winds, generally coming from an easterly direction.

"This has led to the top layer of seas around us warming up at an increased rate, leading to the sea surface temperatures we are seeing now."

The last time Ireland had sea surface temperatures this high was in June 2023.

"This followed a very dry and sunny period during the second half of May and early June that year. Research has linked the marine heatwave then to the record warm June in both Ireland and the UK."

The reason the west and south coasts had been most affected, said Mr Moore, was because of the mostly easterly winds those areas experienced during May. These easterlies carry warmer air off the land, and this warms the sea faster.

Marine heatwaves have had "devastating consequences" in other parts of the world over the last few years, said Moore.

"They can potentially cause widespread bleaching of coral reefs, the proliferation of harmful algal blooms, the displacement of marine species, and the disruption of entire food chains."

Dr Manuela Truebano, from the school of biological and marine sciences at the University of Plymouth, said the marine heatwave is "unprecedented because it is happening so early in the year".

5.11 The barrier

5.11.1 Overview

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 27-28. Hurley, 1998 page 18. Hurley, 2000 page 37. Hurley, 2013 page 27.

5.11.2 Structure of the barrier

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 28-29. Hurley, 1999 page 30. Hurley, 2000. Hurley, 2013 page 27.

5.11.3 Origin of the barrier

Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 1997 pages 29.

5.11.4 Transgressive nature of the barrier

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 29-30. Hurley, 1999 page 30. Hurley, 2007 page 36. Hurley, 2013 pages 28-29. Hurley, 2022 page 25.

5.11.5 Impacts of the barrier

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 30. Hurley, 1998 page 18.

5.11.6 Coastal erosion and protection

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2001 page 26. Hurley, 2002 page 29. Hurley, 2005 page 38. Hurley, 2007 page 37. Hurley 2008, pages 29-32. Hurley, 2009 pages 21-23. Hurley, 2010 page 18. Hurley, 2012 page 23. Hurley, 2013 page 30. Hurley, 2014 page 20. Hurley, 2015 pages 18-19. Hurley, 2017 page 19. Hurley, 2018 page 18. Hurley, 2020 page 22. Hurley, 2021 page 24. Hurley, 2022 page 26. Hurley, 2024 page 24. Hurley, 2025 page 20.

Addendum. On 26 April 2023, a climate change risk assessment for Co Wexford was published (RPS, 2023). The assessment identified 21 'erosion risk zones' in the county, four of which were located on the South Wexford Coast. The four mapped zones appear to be at (1) Newtown, Fethard, (2) Cullenstown, (3) Ballyteige Burrow, and (4) Ballygrangans to the White Hole (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Erosion risk zones on the South Wexford Coast.

(Source: RPS, 2023. Extract of Figure 6-4 on page 24)

Updates

Ballyhealy. In a press feature regarding coastal erosion at Ballyhealy, Kilmore, local farmer Chris Fortune, who was interviewed, claimed that the shoreline of his land had receded by "*five or six metres*" since "*the storm of April 2023*". (*Wexford People*, issue dated 22 January 2025, pages 8-9).

South Wexford Coast. On 11 May 2025, the Office of Public Works (OPW) published the Irish Coastal Protection Strategy Study - Phase 3 - South Coast (Carnsore Point to Bantry Bay), Work Package 9A - Strategic Assessment of Coastal Flooding Extents - Future Scenario. Two sets of flood maps were produced: Mid-Range Future Scenario (Parts 1 to 13) and High End Future Scenario (Parts 1 to 14) (https://www.gov.ie/ga/oifig-na-noibreacha-poibl%C3%AD/bailiuchain/irish-coastal-protection-strategy-study-phase-3-south-coast-2/).

5.12 Geomorphology

This section describes the lagoon (Section 5.12.1), gives its probable origin (Section 5.12.2) and placename (Section 5.12.3), and lists its islands (Section 5.12.4) and associated wetlands (Section 5.12.5).

5.12.1 Description of the lagoon

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 30-31 (Section 5.12). Hurley, 1999 page 31 (Section 5.12) and pages 34-35 (Section 5.12.6). Hurley, 2000 page 41 (Section 5.12) and page 42 (Section 5.12.6). Hurley, 2001 pages 26-27. Hurley, 2203 page 35. Hurley, 2204 pages 34-35. Hurley, 2008 pages 32-34. Hurley, 2013 page 31.

5.12.2 Origin of the lagoon

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 31. Hurley, 1999 pages 32-33.

5.12.3 Origin of the placename

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 31-32. Hurley, 1998 page 19. Hurley, 1999 page 34. Hurley, 2000 pages 41-42. Hurley, 2001 page 27. Hurley, 2005 page 34-35. Hurley, 2008 page 34.

5.12.4 Islands in the lagoon

References to earlier report. Hurley, 1997 pages 32-33 and page 34.

5.12.5 Associated wetlands

Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 1997 page 33.

5.13 Salinity

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 36-37. Hurley, 1998 page 19. Hurley, 1999 pages 36-37. Hurley, 2000 pages 42-43. Hurley, 2001 page 30. Hurley, 2005 pages 35-36. Hurley, 2013 pages 32.

Update. On 7 April 2025, Aoife Hennessy, Clerical Officer, Environment Section, Wexford County Council, forwarded to members of the Lady's Island Lake Drainage Committee, an email from Hazel Doyle, NPWS District Conservation Officer, advising that *"the NPWS Science Advice and Research Directorate team from Dublin are planning to install … salinity monitoring equipment … in the lagoon this week"* together with the attached image.

On 8 April 2025, Jim Hurley emailed Hazel Doyle seeking further information regarding the salinity monitoring devices. Details were promptly provided by Dr Norma O'Hea, Ecohydrologist, Scientific Advice and Research Directorate, NPWS, via Hazel Doyle.

The salinity monitoring devices are sondes. [A sonde is defined as *"an instrument probe that automatically transmits information about its surroundings from an inaccessible location, such as underground or underwater"* (Source: Google's English dictionary provided by Oxford Languages)]. During the second week of April 2025, four sondes were deployed in Lady's Island Lake housed within buoys: one north, one central, and two south (Figure 2). Additional sondes and buoys may be deployed at a later stage. The initial programme is a 12-month monitoring project.

Figure 2. Locations where the sondes are deployed.

(Source: Dr. Norma O'Hea, NPWS)

The devices used are 'In-Situ Aqua Troll 500 sondes' (https://in-situ.com/pub/media/support/documents/aquatroll-500-600-700-800-spec-sheet-ltr-en.pdf). The sondes have sensors that record temperature and conductivity. Salinity is calculated to 0.1psu accuracy from these two recorded parameters and the information is transmitted and/or stored every hour for processing.

5.14 Soils

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 38. Hurley, 1999 page 38. Hurley, 2000 page 43. Hurley, 2001 pages 27-28. Hurley, 2002 page 30. Hurley, 2003 page 36. Hurley 2007, page 39. Hurley, 2011 page 22. Hurley, 2015 page 20.

5.15 Kingdom Algae

5.15.1 Introduction to the group

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1999 page 118 (Section 11.16). Hurley, 2000 page 126. Hurley, 2003 page 36. Hurley, 2005 page 37. Hurley, 2011 page 22. Hurley, 2017 page 20. Hurley, 2020 page 23.

5.15.2 Algal blooms in the lagoon

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 38. Hurley, 1999 pages 118-119. Hurley, 2003 page 37.

5.15.3 Algal blooms in the sea

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 38. Hurley, 1999 page 40. Hurley, 2000 pages 44-45. Hurley, 2001 page 28. Hurley, 2002 page 31. Hurley, 2003 page 37. Hurley, 2005 page 38. Hurley, 2006 page 41. Hurley, 2007 page 40. Hurley, 2022 page 27.

5.15.4 Seaweeds

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 39. Hurley, 2000 pages 45-46. Hurley, 2002 page 32. Hurley, 2003 page 37. Hurley, 2004 pages 37-38. Hurley, 2006 page 41. Hurley, 2007 page 41. Hurley, 2009 page 24. Hurley, 2015 page 21. Hurley, 2017 pages 21-22. Hurley, 2019 page 20. Hurley, 2023 page 23. Hurley, 2025 page 21.

5.16 Kingdom Fungi

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1999 pages 40-41. Hurley, 2002 page 32. Hurley, 2003 page 37. Hurley, 2005 page 39. Hurley, 2006 page 41. Hurley, 2011 page 23. Hurley, 2021 page 25.

5.17 Lichens

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 39. Hurley, 1999 page 40. Hurley 2000 page 46. Hurley, 2003 page 38. Hurley, 2005 page 40. Hurley, 2006 page 41. Hurley, 2009 page 25. Hurley, 2011 page 23.

5.18 Mosses and Liverworts Phylum Bryophyta

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2000 page 46. Hurley, 2001 page 29. Hurley, 2002 page 33. Hurley, 2003 page 38. Hurley, 2005 page 40. Hurley, 2006 page 42. Hurley, 2007 page 42. Hurley, 2008 page 36. Hurley, 2011 page 23. Hurley, 2016 page 21. Hurley, 2019 page 20.

5.19 Ferns and their allies Phylum Pteridophyta

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2003 page 38. Hurley, 2006 page 42.

5.20 Seed plants Phylum Spermatophyta

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2003 pages 38-39. Hurley 2005, page 41. Hurley, 2006 page 43. Hurley, 2014 page 22. Hurley, 2015 page 21. Hurley, 2016 page 22. Hurley, 2017 page 23.

Sections follow regarding surveys, censusing, etc., (Section 5.20.1) and vegetation types in the Lady's Island Lake area (Section 5.20.2). These comprise aquatic, dune, stony lake shore, muddy shore, marsh, stream, and farmland vegetation types. Impacts of water level on vegetation (Section 5.20.3), rare plants (Section 5.20.4) and drift seeds (Section 5.20.5) are also addressed.

5.20.1 Surveys, censusing, etc.

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 39-40. Hurley, 2000 pages 46-49. Hurley, 2003 pages 39-40. Hurley, 2005 page 41. Hurley, 2006 page 43. Hurley, 2007 pages 43-44. Hurley, 2009 page 25. Hurley, 2010 page 20.

Hurley, 2011 page 24. Hurley, 2012 page 25. Hurley, 2017 page 23. Hurley, 2018 pages 20-21. Hurley, 2019 page 21. Hurley, 2020 page 24. Hurley, 2022 page 28. Hurley, 2024 pages 26-27. Hurley, 2025 page 22.

5.20.2 Vegetation types

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2004 page 39. Hurley, 2007 page 44.

Vegetation in the study area at Lady's Island Lake may be classified into seven broad types (5.20.2.1 to 5.20.2.7).

5.20.2.1 Aquatic vegetation

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 40-41. Hurley, 1999 page 41. Hurley, 2000 page 49. Hurley, 2001 page 30.

5.20.2.2 Dune vegetation

Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 1997 pages 41-42.

5.20.2.3 Stony lake shore vegetation

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 42. Hurley, 1999 page 42.

5.20.2.4 Muddy shore vegetation

Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 1997 page 42.

5.20.2.5 Marsh vegetation

Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 1997 pages 42-43.

5.20.2.6 Stream vegetation

Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 1997 page 43.

5.20.2.7 Farmland vegetation

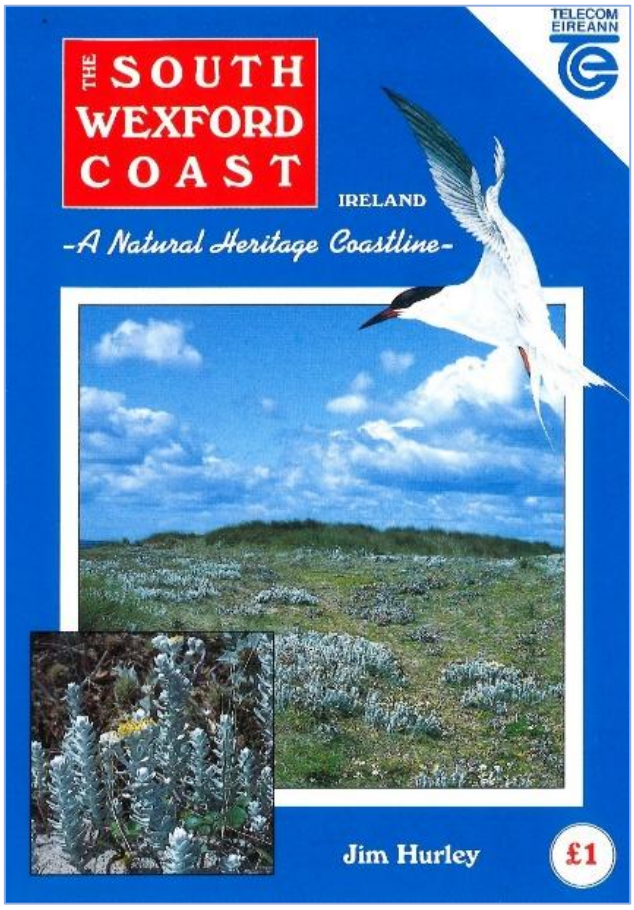
Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 1997 page 43.

5.20.3 Impacts of water level on vegetation

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 43-44. Hurley, 1999 page 42.

5.20.4 Rare plants

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 44-49. Hurley, 1998 page 19. Hurley, 1999 page 43. Hurley, 2000 pages 50-52. Hurley, 2001 page 31. Hurley, 2002, page 35. Hurley, 2003 page 41. Hurley, 2004 page 41. Hurley, 2005 page 43. Hurley, 2006 page 45. Hurley, 2007 page 46. Hurley, 2008 page 38. Hurley, 2009 pages 26-27). Hurley, 2010 page 21. Hurley, 2012 page 26. Hurley, 2014 pages 23-24. Hurley, 2015 page 23. Hurley, 2024 pages 28-29. Hurley, 2025 page 23.



Addendum. The extent of the stand of Cottonweed at The Cut at Lady's Island Lake in the early 1990s is shown on the cover of a 1994 publication (Hurley, 1994).

Update. On 3 December 2025, the BBC reported that Natural England was reintroducing Cottonweed to Sinah Common, a site of special scientific interest on Hayling Island in the borough of Havant in the county of Hampshire on the south coast of England. The species had been recorded growing there 400 years ago. The Rare British Plants Nursery, a specialist nursery which cultivates some of the rarest, most threatened native plants for habitat restoration schemes, grew hundreds of young Cottonweed specimens sourced from stock in Co Wexford (Source: https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c5yjg6x5v1xo).

5.20.5 Drift seeds

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 49. Hurley, 1998 page 19. Hurley, 1999 pages 43-44. Hurley 2000 pages 53-54. Hurley, 2001 page 31.

5.21 Invertebrates in the lagoon

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 50 (1st paragraph). Hurley, 1998 page 19. Hurley, 1999 page 44. Hurley, 2001 page 31. Hurley, 2005 page 44. Hurley, 2011 pages 25-26. Hurley, 2013 page 35. Hurley, 2014 page 25. Hurley, 2021 page 27.

This is a hold-all section for items of a general nature and/or items not covered by any of the sections below dedicated to taxonomic groups.

5.22 Invertebrates in the sea

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 50 (2nd paragraph). Hurley, 2000 page 62. Hurley, 2001 page 31. Hurley, 2003 pages 42-43. Hurley, 2005 page 44. Hurley, 2006 page 46. Hurley, 2015 page 24. Hurley, 2018 page 22. Hurley, 2020 page 25.

This is a hold-all section for items of a general nature and/or items not covered by any of the sections below dedicated to taxonomic groups.

5.23 Jellyfishes Phylum Cnidaria

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2000 pages 62-64. Hurley, 2002 page 36. Hurley, 2003 page 44. Hurley, 2004 pages 43-44. Hurley, 2005 pages 46-49. Hurley, 2006 page 47. Hurley, 2007 pages 48-49. Hurley, 2008 page 40. Hurley, 2010 page 22. Hurley, 2012 page 27. Hurley, 2014 page 25. Hurley, 2015 page 24. Hurley, 2016 page 23. Hurley, 2017 page 25. Hurley, 2018 page 23. Hurley, 2019 page 22. Hurley, 2020 page 26. Hurley, 2021 page 28. Hurley, 2025 page 23.

5.24 Molluscs Phylum Mollusca

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2000 pages 64-67. Hurley, 2001 page. Hurley, 2002 pages 36-37. Hurley, 2003 page 44. Hurley, 2004 pages 45-47. Hurley, 2005 page 49. Hurley, 2006 pages 47-48. Hurley, 2007 page 49. Hurley, 2008 page 40. Hurley, 2009 page 28. Hurley, 2010 page 22. Hurley, 2011 page 27. Hurley, 2012 page 28. Hurley, 2013 page 35. Hurley, 2014 page 26. Hurley, 2017 page 25. Hurley, 2022 page 29. Hurley, 2024 page 29.

5.25 Arthropods Phylum Arthropoda

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1999 page 44. Hurley, 2003 page 45.

The Irish fauna his phylum is representative of the following five major subphyla (DAHGI, 1999 pages 113-114): Water bears Tardigrada (41 species), Chelicerata (Section 5.26), Crustaceans Crustacea (see Sections 5.27-5.30), Myriapoda (38 species of Diplopods + 21 species of Chilopods) (Section 5.25.1) and Uniramia (Sections 5.31-5.34).

5.25.1 Millipedes and centipedes Subphylum myriapods

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2012 pages 29-30. Hurley, 2013 page 36.

5.26 Spiders and their allies Class Arachnida

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2000 page 67. Hurley, 2001 page 33. Hurley, 2002 page 38. Hurley, 2003 page 45. Hurley, 2005 page 50. Hurley, 2009 pages 29-31. Hurley, 2010 page 23. Hurley, 2020 page 26. Hurley, 2023 page 25. Hurley, 2025 page 24.

5.27 Crustaceans Class Crustacea

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1998 page 20. Hurley, 2001 page 33. Hurley, 2002 page 38. Hurley 2003, page 46. Hurley, 2005 page 51. Hurley, 2008 pages 41-42. Hurley, 2009 page 31. Hurley, 2012 page 31. Hurley, 2013 page 36. Hurley, 2014 page 26.

5.28 Barnacles Subclass Cirripedia

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2000 page 62. Hurley, 2002 page 38. Hurley, 2003 page 46. Hurley, 2004, page 48. Hurley, 2007 page 51. Hurley, 2013 page 37. Hurley, 2015 page 24. Hurley, 2016 page 24. Hurley, 2017 page 26. Hurley, 2025 page 24.

5.29 Isopods Order Isopoda

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2000 page. Hurley, 2019 page 21.

5.30 Decapods Order Decapods

Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 2003 page 47.

The order is divided into swimming decapods Nathanial (shrimps and prawns, Section 5.30.1) and walking decapods Reptantia (lobsters, Section 5.30.2, and crabs, Section 5.30.3).

5.30.1 Shrimps and prawns Natantia

Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 2003 page 47.

5.30.2 Lobsters Reptantia

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1999 page 58. Hurley, 2000 page 61. Hurley, 2002 page 39. Hurley, 2003 pages 47-48. Hurley, 2004 page 49. Hurley, 2006 page. Hurley, 2008 page 43. Hurley, 2009 page 31. Hurley, 2011 page 28. Hurley, 2017 page 26.

5.30.3 Crabs Reptantia

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2000 page 62. Hurley, 2005 page 52. Hurley, 2009 page 31. Hurley, 2010 page 23. Hurley, 2018 page 24. Hurley, 2019 page 21. Hurley, 2019 page 24.

5.31 Insects Class Insecta

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2003 page 49. Hurley, 2011 pages 28-29. Hurley, 2012 page 32. Hurley, 2013 page 38. Hurley, 2014 page 27. Hurley, 2015 page 25. Hurley, 2016 page 25. Hurley, 2017 page 27. Hurley, 2018 page 25. Hurley, 2019 page 24. Hurley, 2020 page 27. Hurley, 2021 page 29. Hurley, 2023 page 26. Hurley, 2024 page 30.

This section contains notes regarding assorted Orders of insects in random order. Separate sections are devoted to three other orders: dragonflies and damselflies (Section 5.32), beetles (Section 5.33) and butterflies and moths (Section 5.34).

5.31.1 Mayflies Order Ephemeroptera

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2001 page 34. Hurley, 2003 page 49. Hurley, 2013 page 38.

5.31.2 Grasshoppers and Crickets Order Orthoptera

References to earlier report. Hurley, 2004 page 49. Hurley, 2006 page. Hurley, 2008 page 44. Hurley, 2016 page 25.

5.31.3 Booklice Order Psocoptera

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2001 page 34. Hurley, 2003 page 49.

5.31.4 True Flies Order Diptera

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2001 page 34. Hurley, 2003 pages 49-50. Hurley, 2006 page 51. Hurley, 2007 page 53. Hurley, 2008 pages 44-45. Hurley, 2009 page 32. Hurley, 2013 page 39. Hurley, 2015 page 26. Hurley, 2016 page 26. Hurley, 2018 page 25. Hurley, 2019 page 25. Hurley, 2021 page 29. Hurley, 2022 page 31. Hurley, 2024 page 31.

5.31.5 Bees, Ants and Wasps Order Hymenoptera

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2001 page 34. Hurley, 2002 page 40. Hurley, 2003 page-50. Hurley, 2004 page 50. Hurley, 2005 pages 53-54. Hurley, 2006 page 51. Hurley, 2007 pages 53-54. Hurley, 2008 pages 45-46. Hurley, 2009 page 32. Hurley, 2010 page 24. Hurley, 2011 page 30. Hurley, 2012 page 33. Hurley, 2013 page 39. Hurley, 2015 page 26. Hurley, 2016 page 26-27. Hurley, 2018 pages 26-27. Hurley, 2019 page 25. Hurley, 2020 page 28. Hurley, 2023 page 27, Hurley, 2024 page 31.

5.31.6 Springtails Order Collembola

Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 2006 page 52.

5.32 Dragonflies and damselflies Order Odonata

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1999 pages 44-46 and Figure 13 on page 72. Hurley, 2000 pages 54-56. Hurley, 2001 pages 35-50. Hurley, 2002 pages 40-55. Hurley, 2003 pages 50-53. Hurley, 2004 pages 51-64. Hurley, 2005 pages 54-57. Hurley, 2006 pages 53-55. Hurley, 2007 pages 55-58. Hurley, 2008 page 46. Hurley, 2013 page 40. Hurley, 2014 page 28. Hurley, 2016 page 27. Hurley, 2020 page 29. Hurley, 2021 pages 30-31. Hurley, 2024 page 31.

5.33 Beetles Order Coleoptera

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 50 (4th paragraph). Hurley, 1999 pages 46-52. Hurley, 2001 page 51. Hurley, 2002 page 56. Hurley, 2003 page 54. Hurley, 2008 page 46. Hurley, 2009 page 33. Hurley 2010 pages 25-26. Hurley, 2011 page 31. Hurley, 2015 page 27. Hurley, 2016 page 28. Hurley, 2019 page 25. Hurley, 2020 page 29. Hurley, 2025 page 25.

Updates. Opportunistic records.

- On 11 October 2025, Brian O'Connor showed Jim Hurley a Harlequin Ladybird *Harmonia axyridis* and varieties, that he caught while both were at Fethard Castle, S793052.

5.34 Butterflies and Moths Order Lepidoptera

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2001 pages 51-53. Hurley, 2002 pages 56-59. Hurley, 2003 page 54. Hurley, 2004 page 65. Hurley, 2005 page 58. Hurley, 2006 page 56. Hurley, 2007 pages 59-61. Hurley, 2008 pages 46-48. Hurley, 2009 page 33. Hurley, 2010 pages 26-27. Hurley, 2011 page 31. Hurley, 2012 page 34. Hurley, 2013 pages 40-42. Hurley, 2014 page 29. Hurley, 2015 page 27. Hurley, 2017 page 28. Hurley, 2020 page 29. Hurley, 2021 page 32. Hurley, 2022 pages 32-33.

Update. Opportunistic record.

- On 17 August 2025, Jim Hurley saw an adult Clouded Yellow at T119036, Carnsore Point. A bird watcher that he spoke to had just come from Tacumshin Lake and he reported seeing one there too.

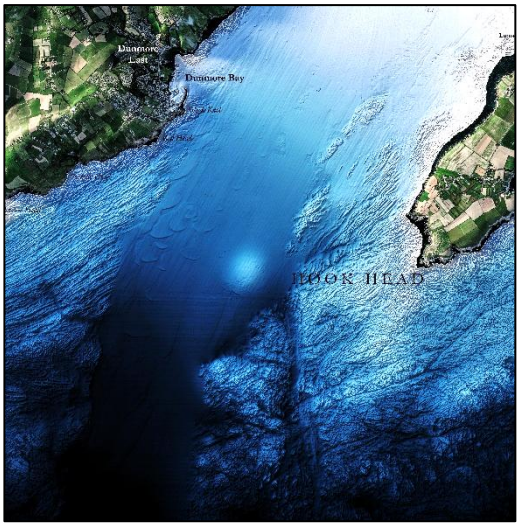
5.35 Fish Class Pisces

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2005 page 59. Hurley, 2011 page 32. Hurley, 2012 page 34. Hurley, 2013 page 42. Hurley, 2014 page 29.

Addendum. A paper explored the possibility that melting ice sheets at the end of the last ice age may have created temporary low-salinity plumes or corridors that facilitated the natural colonisation of Ireland by freshwater fishes (Quigley, 2014). The following paragraph speculated that such a corridor may have existed adjoining Hook Head (Quigley, 2014 page 127). Seabed mapping shows the features of the corridor (https://www.infomar.ie/galleries/node/565).

'FLEUVE HIBERNIA' (WATERFORD HARBOUR)

It is interesting to note that Gallagher (2002) discovered what appears to be an exceptionally large submerged palaeo-river channel extending over a distance of 22 km from the mouth of Waterford Harbour (SE Ireland) onto the nearshore continental shelf of the Celtic Sea to a depth of 56 m below present sea level. Gallagher estimated that this palaeo-river could have discharged up to 46 832 m^3/sec of freshwater, several orders of magnitude greater than those of the present river channel. Is it possible that the low salinity plume derived from this 'Fleuve Hibernia' may have coalesced with the freshwater plume of the Fleuve Manche, thereby facilitating the migration and colonisation of Ireland by stenohaline fishes?



5.35.1 Surveys

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 51-52. Hurley, 2000 page 68. Hurley, 2003 page 55. Hurley, 2004 page 66. Hurley, 2005 page 59. Hurley, 2006 page 57. Hurley, 2007 pages 61-68. Hurley, 2009 page 33. Hurley, 2010 page 28. Hurley, 2011 page 32. Hurley, 2014 pages 29-30. Hurley, 2017 page 28. Hurley, 2018 page 28. Hurley, 2019 page 26. Hurley, 2022 page 34.

5.35.2 Angling

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 50. Hurley, 1999 page 59. Hurley, 2000 pages 68-69. Hurley, 2001 page 54. Hurley, 2002 page 60. Hurley, 2003 pages 55-56. Hurley, 2004 pages 66-68. Hurley, 2005 page 60. Hurley, 2006 page 57. Hurley 2007, page 68. Hurley 2008, page 49. Hurley, 2009 page 34. Hurley, 2010 page 28. Hurley, 2011 page 33. Hurley, 2012 page 34. Hurley, 2013 page 43. Hurley, 2014 page 30. Hurley, 2016 page 28. Hurley, 2017 pages 29-30. Hurley, 2018 page 28. Hurley, 2019 page 27. Hurley, 2020 page 30. Hurley, 2023 page 28. Hurley, 2025 page 26.

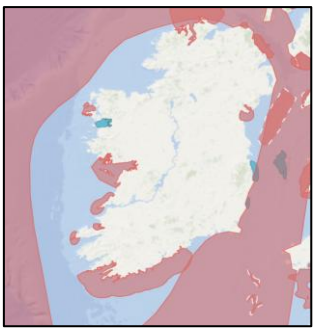
5.35.3 Basking Shark

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 53. Hurley, 1998 page 20. Hurley, 1999 page 59. Hurley, 2000 page 70. Hurley, 2001 page 54. Hurley, 2002 pages 60-61. Hurley, 2003 page 57. Hurley, 2009 page 34. Hurley, 2012 page 35. Hurley, 2017 page 30. Hurley, 2021 page 33. Hurley, 2022 page 34. Hurley, 2023 page 28.

Updates

Sightings. On 10 April 2025, Sian Tantrum reported two Basking Sharks off Baginbun Head to the IWDG. The following day, Deirdre Slevin reported three sharks off Baginbun Head to the IWDG and posted on WhatsApp that she was watching at least three and maybe four off Carnivan Head. On 23 April 2025, Deirdre Slevin posted a video on WhatsApp of the species swimming off the Saltees Islands.

ISRA. The South Wexford Coast has been identified an ISRA. The 'Important Shark and Ray Area' (ISRA) program (https://sharkrayareas.org/) is being executed by a growing international team of scientists, conservationists, policy-makers, and marine protected areas practitioners committed to advancing our knowledge on habitats that are critical for conserving sharks, rays, and chimaeras (https://sharkrayareas.org/about-isras/team/). Their e-Atlas defines ISRAs as "*discrete, three-dimensional portions of habitat, important for one or more shark species, that are delineated and have the potential to be managed for conservation*" (https://sharkrayareas.org/about-isras/).



5.35.4 Unusual species

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 53. Hurley, 2000 page 69. Hurley, 2001 pages 54-55. Hurley, 2002 page 61. Hurley, 2004 pages 68-69. Hurley, 2006 page 58. Hurley, 2008 page 50. Hurley, 2009 page 34. Hurley, 2011 page 33. Hurley, 2012 page 35. Hurley, 2017 page 30. Hurley, 2021 page 33. Hurley, 2023 page 29. Hurley, 2024 pages 32-33.

5.35.5 Commercial fishing

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2000 page 70. Hurley, 2001 pages 55-56. Hurley, 2002 pages 61-62. Hurley, 2003 page 57. Hurley, 2004 page 69. Hurley, 2005 page 61. Hurley, 2006 page 59. Hurley, 2007 page 70. Hurley, 2008 page 50. Hurley, 2009 page 35. Hurley, 2010 page 29. Hurley, 2011 page 33. Hurley, 2012 page 35. Hurley, 2014 page 31. Hurley, 2015 page 28. Hurley, 2018 page 29. Hurley, 2019 page 28. Hurley, 2020 page 31. Hurley, 2021 page 34. Hurley, 2022 page 35. Hurley, 2025 page 27.

Update

Sprat fishing. On 22 July 2025, the Government decided to implement a new policy directive that will support marine wildlife reliant on sprat in Ireland's inshore waters. Under the new directive, from 1 October 2025, vessels over 18 metres fishing for sprat within the six nautical mile zone will require authorisation and will be subject to a quota limit of 2,000 tonnes. From 1 October 2026, all vessels over 18 metres in length overall—including those targeting sprat—will be fully excluded from trawling inside the six nautical mile zone and inside baselines. This marks a notable change in the management of Ireland's inshore fisheries, with the aim of protecting sensitive marine habitats and supporting the sustainability of key species, including sprat (Source: Government press release).

5.36 Amphibians Class Amphibia

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2000 pages 70-71. Hurley, 2003 page 58. Hurley, 2004 page 70. Hurley, 2006 page 59. Hurley, 2007 page 70. Hurley, 2009 page 36. Hurley, 2010 page 29. Hurley, 2012 pages 35-36. Hurley, 2013 pages 43-46. Hurley, 2014 page 32. Hurley, 2015 page 28. Hurley, 2017 page 30. Hurley, 2022 page 36. Hurley, 2023 page 29. Hurley, 2025 page 27.

Update. Opportunistic record.

- On 2 October 2025, Jim Hurley spotted a Common Frog hopping across the public road at night in the rain at T027099, Silverspring, Ballycogley.
- On 16 October 2025, Jim Hurley spotted a small Common Frog hopping in the grass verge at T101049, Ringsherane, Lady's Island Lake.

5.37 Reptiles Class Reptilia

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2000 pages 71-75. Hurley, 2001 page 57. Hurley 2002, pages 62-63. Hurley, 2003 page 58. Hurley, 2004 page 71. Hurley, 2005 page 62. Hurley, 2006 page 59. Hurley, 2007 page 71. Hurley, 2008 page 50. Hurley, 2009 page 36. Hurley, 2010 page 29. Hurley, 2011 page 33. Hurley, 2012 page 36. Hurley, 2013 page 46. Hurley, 2014 page 33. Hurley, 2015 pages 28-29. Hurley, 2016 page 29. Hurley, 2017 page 31. Hurley, 2020 page 31. Hurley, 2024 page 33.

Update. Opportunistic records.

- On 22 May 2025, Jim Hurley saw a Common Lizard basking in the sun on concrete steps in his garden at Grange, Kilmore.
- On 30 July 2025, a dead, 1.9m-long, female Leatherback Turtle was reported stranded at Long Gap, Bannow, by Amanda Sutton and Deirdre Slevin.

5.38 Birds Class Aves

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2003 page 59. Hurley, 2005 page 63. Hurley, 2010 page 30. Hurley, 2015 page 30. Hurley, 2019 page 29. Hurley, 2022 pages 36-37. Hurley, 2023 page 29. Hurley, 2024 page 33.

5.39 Wetland birds

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2011 page 34. Hurley, 2013 page 47.

Addenda

1974. Page 98 of the "Report on Wetland of International and National Importance in the Republic of Ireland" dated November 1974 set out a description of Lady's Island Lake (Figure 3). John Wilson (Anon, 1974) may have compiled the report.

2020. Of the twenty-five hotspots for breeding waterbirds identified in Ireland, two were on the South Wexford Coast: Tacumshin Lake and Lady's Island Lake (Lauder and Lauder, 2020).

STATE Republic of Ireland PROVINCE Munster

NAME OF WETLAND AREA Lady's Island Lake

CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION IN THE DIRECTORY
5

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION
6°24'W 52°11'N. 14km SSE Wexford City, on the South coast of Co. Wexford

AREA
466 ha

ALTITUDE (metres above mean sea level)
At mean sea level

DEPTH
Not known but very shallow

WETLAND TYPE
Type 7

LEGAL PROTECTION STATUS OF WETLAND AREA
None

OWNERSHIP
Private multiple

EXISTING MANAGEMENT PRACTICES and/or FUTURE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES NEEDED
A drainage channel is cut through the enclosing shingle bank each spring to lower the lake level. Cattle are grazed along the shore. Until the ecology of the area is better understood future management policies cannot be recommended.

THREATS FROM EXISTING, PROPOSED OR POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENTS
Establishment of a permanent drainage channel would reduce the area of the lake. It lies about 1 mile west of a proposed nuclear.power station on Carnsore Point.

MAJOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
None

PRINCIPAL REFERENCE MATERIAL
None

Ecology

Like Lough Tacumshin, 4 km to the west, Lady's Island Lake has formed behind a shingle bank. The exit has been blocked much longer than that of the former, and marine inundations rarely occur. This has led to considerable vegetational changes although the relationship between the salinity of the water and the vegetation is not fully understood. Ruppia spp. were at one time abundant but now occur only in small quantities. The reasons are not fully understood. The marginal vegetation is very similar to Lough Tacumshin with extensive reed beds, containing Phragmites communis and Scirpus spp. The surrounding area is mainly cattle pasture, which becomes flooded during the winter.

Up to 15 species of wildfowl and 22 species of wader occur annually. In 1971/72 this small lake supported a wintering population of 5500 duck and up to 1000 swans, but in other years numbers have been considerably lower.

Figure 3. Scan of page 98 of the 1974 important wetlands inventory.

5.39.1 Definition
References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 53. Hurley, 2005 page 63.

5.39.2 Movements
References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 54. Hurley, 2000 page 75. Hurley, 2005 pages 63-64. Hurley, 2022 page 38. Hurley, 2023 page 30. Hurley, 2024 page 34.

5.39.3 Protection
References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 54. Hurley, 2000 pages 57-58.

5.39.4 Feeding
References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 54-56. Hurley, 2006 page 60. Hurley, 2012 page 36. Hurley, 2013 page 47.

5.39.5 Breeding
References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 56-58. Hurley, 2000 page 78. Hurley, 2002 page67. Hurley, 2005 page 65.

5.39.6 Disturbance
References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 58. Hurley, 2017 page 33.

5.39.7 Conservation
References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 58. Hurley, 2004 pages 76-77. Hurley, 2007 page 73. Hurley, 2008 pages 52-56. Hurley, 2018 page 30. Hurley, 2019 page 30.

Update. It was reported in the local press that 57 swans died from bird 'flu at Lady's Island Lake and that as a result the pilgrimage path was closed to the public (*Wexford People*, issue dated 26 November 2025, page 11).

5.39.8 I-WeBS results
References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2006 pages 61-62. Hurley, 2008 page 57. Hurley, 2009 page 37. Hurley, 2011 page 35. Hurley, 2013 page 48. Hurley, 2018 page 31. Hurley, 2020 page 33. Hurley, 2022 page 30. Hurley, 2023 page 30. Hurley, 2025 page 28.

5.40 Seabirds
References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2003 pages 64-65. Hurley, 2004 page 78. Hurley, 2005 pages 66-70. Hurley, 2006 pages 63-64. Hurley, 2009 pages 37-38. Hurley, 2011 pages 36-37. Hurley, 2013 page 48. Hurley, 2015 page 31. Hurley, 2016 page 31. Hurley, 2017 page 34. Hurley, 2018 page 31. Hurley, 2019 page 30. Hurley, 2020 page 34. Hurley, 2021 page 35. Hurley, 2022 page 39. Hurley, 2023 page 31. Hurley, 2024 page 35. Hurley, 2025 pages 28-29.

Update. On 25 August 2025, Dave Daly reported seeing *"about 60+ cormorants roosting in the trees at Pettit's farm* [on the western shore of Lady's Island Lake] *on Saturday evening and again last night."*. He could not recall seeing so many there before. Image: Dave Daly.

5.40.1 Terns Sub-family Sterninae

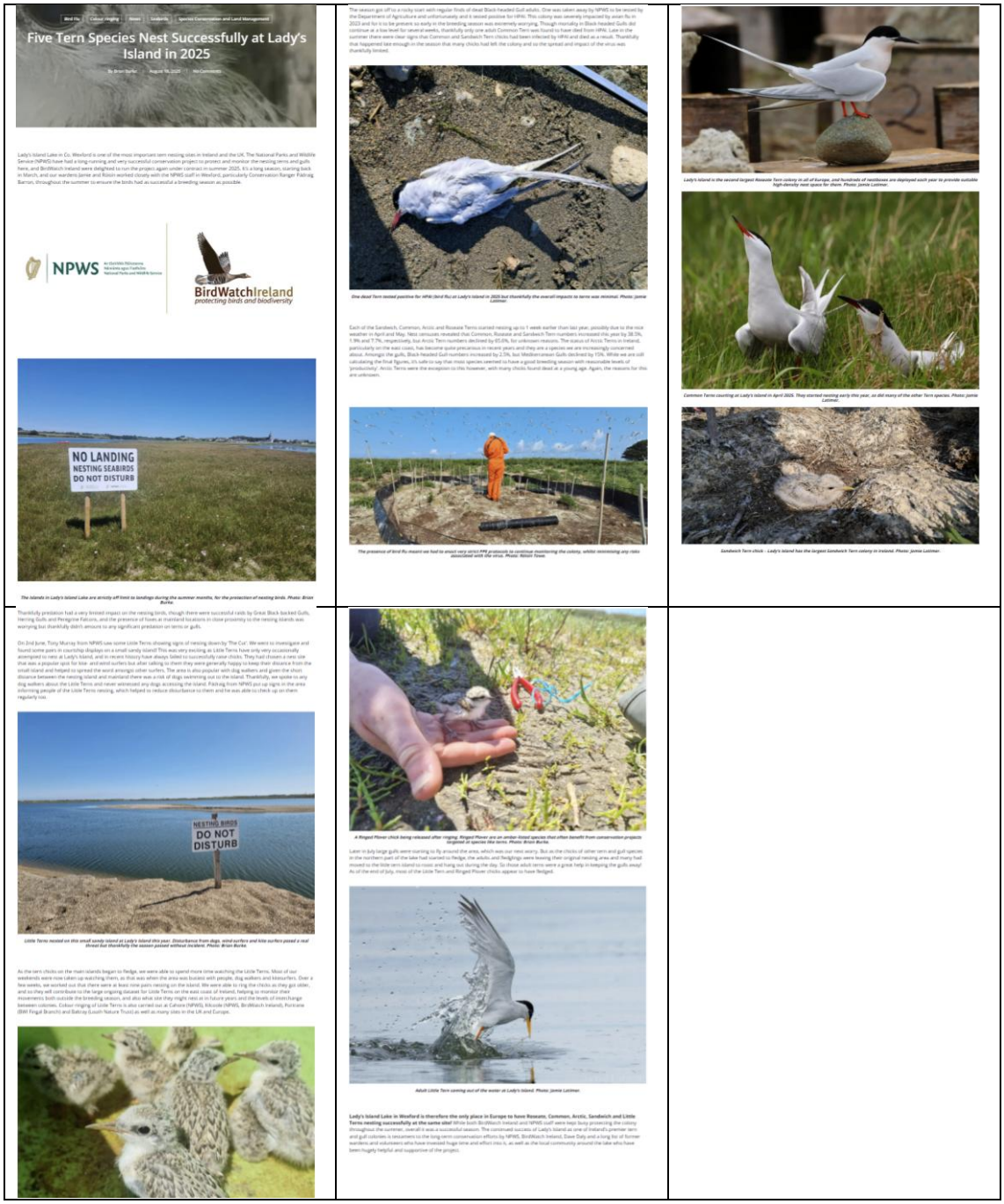
5.40.1.1 Breeding
References to earlier reports. Note: The tables and charts that follow are updated each year. Therefore, since each updated version of the tables and charts supersedes all previous versions, only the versions given in the current report are relevant. The following references contain updates other than those relevant to the tables and charts: Hurley, 1997 pages 59-66. Hurley, 1998 pages 22-24. Hurley, 1999 page 62. Hurley, 2003 page 65. Hurley, 2004 page 78. Hurley, 2005 page 71. Hurley, 2006 page 66-69. Hurley, 2008 pages 58-62. Hurley, 2009 pages 38-42. Hurley, 2010 pages 31-36. Hurley, 2011 pages 38-44. Hurley, 2012 pages 37-43. Hurley, 2013 pages 49-55. Hurley, 2014 pages 34-40. Hurley, 2015 pages 32-37. Hurley, 2016 pages 32-37. Hurley, 2017 pages 36-41. Hurley, 2018 pages 32-37. Hurley, 2019 pages 31-36. Hurley, 2020 pages 35-42. Hurley, 2021 pages 36-43. Hurley, 2022 pages 41-47. Hurley, 2023 pages 32-39. Hurley, 2024 pages 36-46. Hurley, 2025 pages 30-36.

Updates

Summer tern wardens. In early January 2025, BirdWatch Ireland advertised on its website a job vacancy for two tern Wardens at Lady's Island Lake for the summer of 2025. The closing date for applications was 22 January at 17:00 hours (https://birdwatchireland.ie/app/uploads/2025/01/Tern-Warden-Position-Ladys-Island-2025.pdf). The wardens subsequently appointed were Róisín Towe and Jamie Latimer.

Little Terns. On 16 July 2025 Dave Daly reported *"about ten pairs of little terns nesting on the sandbar in the lake. Two pairs of ringed plovers with well grown chicks there also. Many fledged chicks from Inish forming a crèche, so hopefully there won't be too much disturbance".* The sandbar in question lies immediately north of The Cut. (Photos: Dave Daly)

Report on the 2025 season. Number 191, the August 2025 issue of BirdWatch Ireland's eWings newsletter, contained a link to an article on their website regarding terns nesting at Lady's Island Lake during 2025 (https://birdwatchireland.ie/five-tern-species-nest-successfully-at-ladys-island-in-2025/). The article is reproduced below in five scans followed by both the captions on images and the body text of the article.



Top left. *The islands in Lady's Island Lake are strictly off limit to landings during the summer months, for the protection of nesting birds*. Photo: Brian Burke.

Top centre. *One dead Tern tested positive for HPAI (bird flu) at Lady's Island in 2025 but thankfully the overall impacts to terns was minimal*. Photo: Jamie Latimer. And *The presence of bird flu meant we had to enact very strict PPE protocols to continue monitoring the colony, whilst minimising any risks associated with the virus*. Photo: Róisín Towe.

Top right. *Lady's Island is the second largest Roseate Tern colony in all of Europe, and hundreds of nestboxes are deployed each year to provide suitable high-density nest space for them*. Photo: Jamie Latimer. *Common Terns courting at Lady's Island in April 2025. They started nesting early this year, as did many of the other Tern species*. Photo: Jamie Latimer. And *Sandwich Tern chick – Lady's Island has the largest Sandwich Tern colony in Ireland*. Photo: Jamie Latimer.

Bottom left. *Little Terns nested on this small sandy island at Lady's Island this year. Disturbance from dogs, wind-surfers and kite-surfers posed a real threat but thankfully the season passed without incident*. Photo: Brian Burke. And, *Little Tern chicks gathered together to be ringed, under NPWS licence, before being put back in the nesting area*. Photo: Brian Burke.

Bottom centre. *A Ringed Plover chick being released after ringing. Ringed Plover are an amber-listed species that often benefit from conservation projects targeted at species like terns*. Photo: Brian Burke. And *Adult Little Tern coming out of the water at Lady's Island*. Photo: Jamie Latimer.

Five Tern Species Nest Successfully at Lady's Island in 2025 by Brian Burke, 18 August 2025

Lady's Island Lake in Co Wexford is one of the most important tern nesting sites in Ireland and the UK. The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) have had a long-running and very successful conservation project to protect and monitor the nesting terns and gulls here, and BirdWatch Ireland were delighted to run the project again under contract in summer 2025. It's a long season, starting back in March, and our wardens Jamie and Róisín worked closely with the NPWS staff in Wexford, particularly Conservation Ranger Pádraig Barron, throughout the summer to ensure the birds had as successful a breeding season as possible.

The season got off to a rocky start with regular finds of dead Black-headed Gull adults. One was taken away by NPWS to be tested by the Department of Agriculture and unfortunately and it tested positive for HPAI. This colony was severely impacted by avian flu in 2023 and for it to be present so early in the breeding season was extremely worrying. Though mortality in Black-headed Gulls did continue at a low level for several weeks, thankfully only one adult Common Tern was found to have died from HPAI. Late in the summer there were clear signs that Common and Sandwich Tern chicks had been infected by HPAI and died as a result. Thankfully, that happened late enough in the season that many chicks had left the colony and so the spread and impact of the virus was thankfully limited.

Each of the Sandwich, Common, Arctic and Roseate Terns started nesting up to 1 week earlier than last year, possibly due to the nice weather in April and May. Nest censuses revealed that Common, Roseate and Sandwich Tern numbers increased this year by 38.5%, 1.9% and 7.7%, respectively, but Arctic Tern numbers declined by 65.6%, for unknown reasons. The status of Arctic Terns in Ireland, particularly on the east coast, has become quite precarious in recent years and they are a species we are increasingly concerned about. Amongst the gulls, Black-headed Gull numbers increased by 2.5%, but Mediterranean Gulls declined by 15%. While we are still calculating the final figures, it's safe to say that most species seemed to have a good breeding season with reasonable levels of 'productivity'. Arctic Terns were the exception to this however, with many chicks found dead at a young age. Again, the reasons for this are unknown.

Thankfully, predation had a very limited impact on the nesting birds, though there were successful raids by Great Black-backed Gulls, Herring Gulls and Peregrine Falcons, and the presence of foxes at mainland locations in close proximity to the nesting islands was worrying but thankfully didn't amount to any significant predation on terns or gulls.

On 2nd June, Tony Murray from NPWS saw some Little Terns showing signs of nesting down by 'The Cut'. We went to investigate and found some pairs in courtship displays on a small sandy island! This was very exciting as Little Terns have only very occasionally attempted to nest at Lady's Island, and in recent history have always failed to successfully raise chicks. They had chosen a nest site that was a popular spot for kite- and wind surfers but after talking to them they were generally happy to keep their distance from the small island and helped to spread the word amongst other surfers. The area is also popular with dog walkers and given the short distance between the nesting island and mainland there was a risk of dogs swimming out to the

island. Thankfully, we spoke to any dog walkers about the Little Terns and never witnessed any dogs accessing the island. Pádraig from NPWS put up signs in the area informing people of the Little Terns nesting, which helped to reduce disturbance to them, and he was able to check up on them regularly too.

As the tern chicks on the main islands began to fledge, we were able to spend more time watching the Little Terns. Most of our weekends were now taken up watching them, as that was when the area was busiest with people, dog walkers and kitesurfers. Over a few weeks, we worked out that there were at least nine pairs nesting on the island. We were able to ring the chicks as they got older, and so they will contribute to the large ongoing dataset for Little Terns on the east coast of Ireland, helping to monitor their movements both outside the breeding season, and also what site they might nest at in future years and the levels of interchange between colonies. Colour-ringing of Little Terns is also carried out at Cahore (NPWS), Kilcoole (NPWS, BirdWatch Ireland), Portrane (BWI Fingal Branch) and Baltray (Louth Nature Trust) as well as many sites in the UK and Europe.

Later in July large gulls were starting to fly around the area, which was our next worry. But as the chicks of other tern and gull species in the northern part of the lake had started to fledge, the adults and fledglings were leaving their original nesting area, and many had moved to the little tern island to roost and hang out during the day. So those adult terns were a great help in keeping the gulls away! As of the end of July, most of the Little Tern and Ringed Plover chicks appear to have fledged.

Lady's Island Lake in Wexford is therefore the only place in Europe to have Roseate, Common, Arctic, Sandwich and Little Terns nesting successfully at the same site! While both BirdWatch Ireland and NPWS staff were kept busy protecting the colony throughout the summer, overall, it was a successful season. The continued success of Lady's Island as one of Ireland's premier tern and gull colonies is testament to the long-term conservation efforts by NPWS, BirdWatch Ireland, Dave Daly and a long list of former wardens and volunteers who have invested huge time and effort into it, as well as the local community around the lake who have been hugely helpful and supportive of the project.

The Lady's Island Lake Tern Conservation Project is a National Parks and Wildlife Service project, delivered under contract in 2025 by BirdWatch Ireland.

Page 24 of Number 115, the Winter 2025 issue of BirdWatch Ireland's *Wings* magazine, contained the following table by Brian Burke showing the numbers of breeding pairs at tern colonies managed by BirdWatch Ireland in 2025, with changes since 2024 in brackets.

Site	Roseate Tern	Common Tern	Arctic Tern	Little Tern	Sandwich Tern
Lady's Island Lake	270 (+8%)	817 (+22%)	181 (-69%)	9+ (new)	1,710 (+8%)
Rockabill Island	1,671 (-6%)	842 (+4%)	c20 (no change)	-	-
Dublin Port	-	268 (+35%)	16 (+23%)	-	-
Kilcoole	-	-	-	121 (-57%)	-

Table 2. Numbers of breeding pairs at four sites.

2025 data. A 74-page report was made available in December (Towe *et al*., 2025). The site was wardened from 1 April to 27 July. The 2025 season was notable in the Little Terns bred successfully at the site. Tables and charts are updated below.

Year	All four	ST	C/AT	CT only	AT only	RT	LT
1978	734	354	160	NC	NC	220	
1979	710	204	220	NC	NC	286	
1980	524	106	274	NC	NC	144	
1981	917	350	291	NC	NC	276	
1982	235	120	105	NC	NC	10	
1983	8	4	3	NC	NC	1	
1984	256	191	30	NC	NC	35	
1985	294	291	3	NC	NC	0	
1986	555	524	31	NC	NC	0	
1987	932	708	216	NC	NC	8	
1988	615	412	195	NC	NC	8	
1989	1843	1317	450	NC	NC	76	
1990	1869	1395	414	NC	NC	60	
1991	1889	1469	360	NC	NC	60	
1992	1734	1129	529	NC	NC	76	
1993	1706	1254	376	NC	NC	76	
1994	2142	1447	555	NC	NC	140	
1995	1593	1130	401	NC	NC	62	
1996	2011	1358	529	386 (73%)	143 (27%)	124	
1997	1598	1050	500	354 (71%)	146 (29%)	48	
1998	1554	1015	459	281 (61%)	178 (39%)	80	
1999	1879	1048	715	440 (62%)	275 (38%)	116	
2000	>1149	1005	>66	NC	NC	>78	
2001	1552	1068	484	298 (62%)	186 (38%)	46	
2002	1474	825	649	400 (62%)	249 (38%)	95	
2003	>1329	1252	NC	NC	NC	77	
2004	1900	1161	673	311 (46%)	362 (54%)	66	
2005	1899	1122	703	NC	NC	74	
2006	2134	1309	732	NC	NC	93	
2007	2722	1800	833	NC	NC	89	
2008	2994	1945	940	NC	NC	109	
2009	3243	1958	1160	NC	NC	125	
2010	3068	1838	1112	NC	NC	118	
2011	3443	1931	1357	NC	NC	155	
2012	3416	1692	1506	968 (64%)	530 (35%)	126	
2013	3129	1669	1310	705 (54%)	605 (46%)	150	
2014	3450	1617	1659	881 (53%)	778 (47%)	174	
2015	3813	1799	1799	950 (53%)	849 (47%)	215	
2016	3747	1682	1856	1012 (53%)	844 (53%)	209	
2017	3583	1674	1690	1010 (60%)	680 (40%)	219	
2018	3616	1780	1609	916 (57%)	693 (43%)	227	
2019	3540	1739	1606	1088 (68%)	518 (32%)	195	
2020	4890	1659	1479	1044 (71%)	435 (29%)	273	
2021	3476	1629	1557	832 (53%)	725 (47%)	290	
2022	3876	1736	1827	1112 (61%)	715 (39%)	313	
2023	3204	1288	1625	919 (56%)	706 (43%)	291	
2024	3092	1588	1244	668 (54%)	576 (46%)	260	
2025	3985	1710	998	817 (82%)	181 (18%)	270	9
Year	**All four**	**ST**	**C/AT**	**CT only**	**AT only**	**RT**	**LT**

Table 3. Number of pairs of nesting terns / AONs by species by year since 1978.

(Sources: Data sources tabulated below; Table 4)

Note: ST = Sandwich Tern; CT = Common Tern; AT = Arctic Tern; RT = Roseate Tern; NC = no count.

Since the 2022 breeding season, the totals given are for Apparently Occupied Nests

(AONs) rather than the numbers of pairs of breeding birds, and since 2025 the numbers given for AONs refer only to primary nests.

Data sources by season:-

Season	Data sources
1978-1982	Goodwillie, 1986 page 6 (after Whilde, 1985 [All Ireland Tern Survey, 1984] and personal communication, Oscar Merne).
1983-1998	Stammers *et al.,* 1998 pages 18 and 30.
1999	Newton and Berridge, 1999, pages 4-5 and personal communication, Dr Stephen Newton.
2000	Personal communication, Dave Daly / Dúchas; Ratcliffe, 2000; and personal communication, Dr Stephen Newton.
2001	Merne *et al*., 2001 and personal communication, Dr Stephen Newton.
2002	Crowe, 2002 and personal communication, Dr Stephen Newton.
2003	Newton, 2003 and personal communication, Dr Stephen Newton.
2004	Daly *et al*., 2004 and personal communication, Dr Stephen Newton.
2005	Daly and Carroll, 2005.
2006	Daly and Carroll, 2006.
2007	Daly *et al*., 2008
2008	Daly *et al*., 2009
2009	Daly *et al*., 2010
2010	Daly *et al*., 2011
2011	Daly *et al*., 2011b
2012	Daly *et al*., 2012
2013	Daly *et al*., 2013
2014	Daly *et al*., 2014
2015	Daly *et al*., 2015
2016	Daly *et al*., 2016
2017	Daly *et al*., 2017
2018	Daly *et al*., 2018
2019	Daly *et al*., 2019
2020	Daly *et al*., 2020
2021	Daly *et al*., 2021
2022	Stubbings *et al.*, 2022
2023	Stubbings *et al.*, 2023
2024	Stubbings *et al.*, 2024
2025	Towe *et al*, 2025

Table 4. Data sources by season.

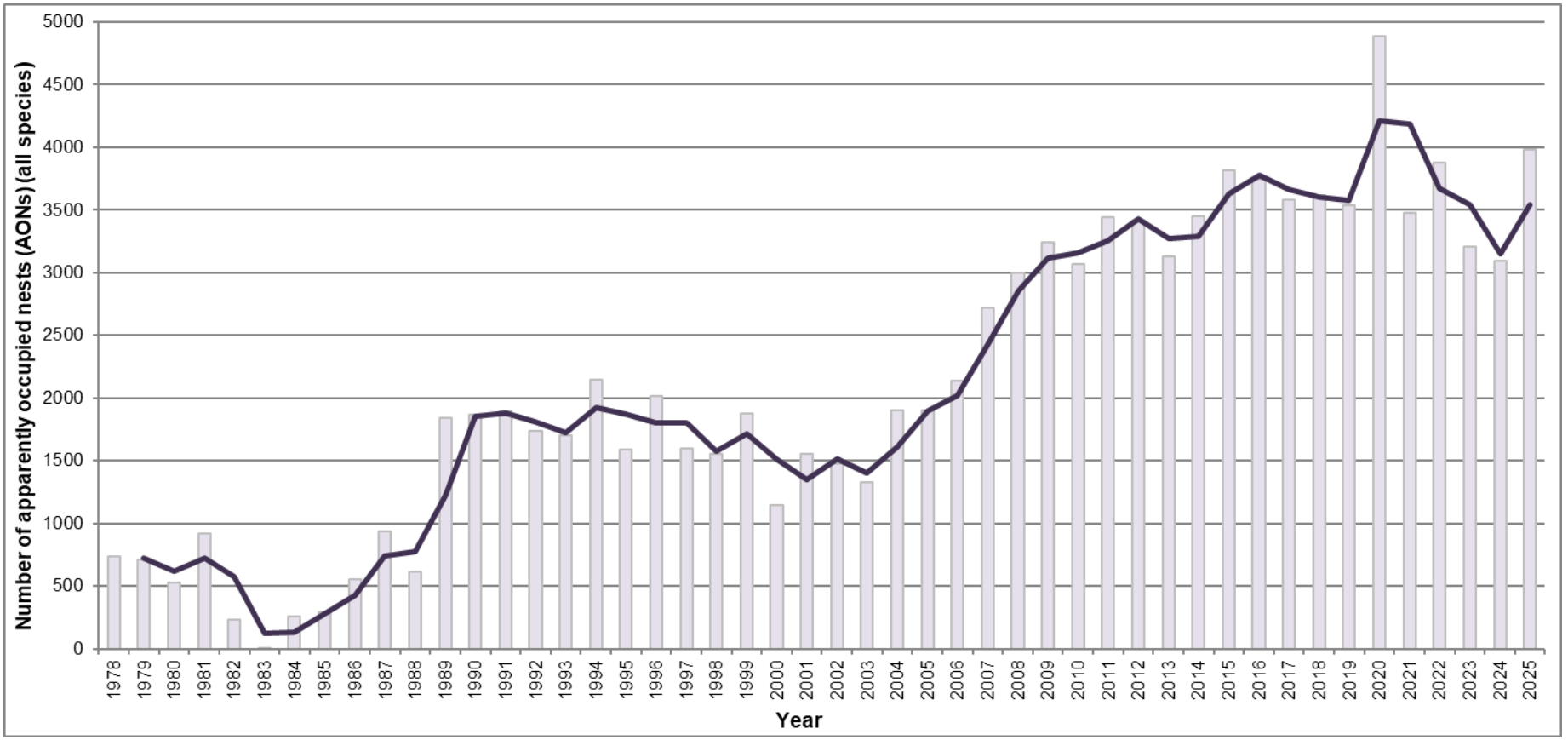


Figure 4: Trend for numbers of pairs of all nesting terns since 1978.

(Source: Table 3 above)

Note: Numbers are for the entire Lady's Island Lake area. The continuous line is a trendline, a plot of the 3-year moving average to smooth out annual fluctuations and thus indicate the general direction in which usage of the site by nesting terns changed over time. Usage of the site by nesting terns declined in the early 1980s, bottomed-out in 1983 but then rose rapidly to about 1800 pairs by the end of the decade. A plateau was maintained throughout the 1990s at or about that level. Numbers declined briefly in the early 2000s but started to rise again by mid-decade, rose steeply, peaked at 4890 in 2020 but fell back due to losses caused by bird 'flu before recovering somewhat.

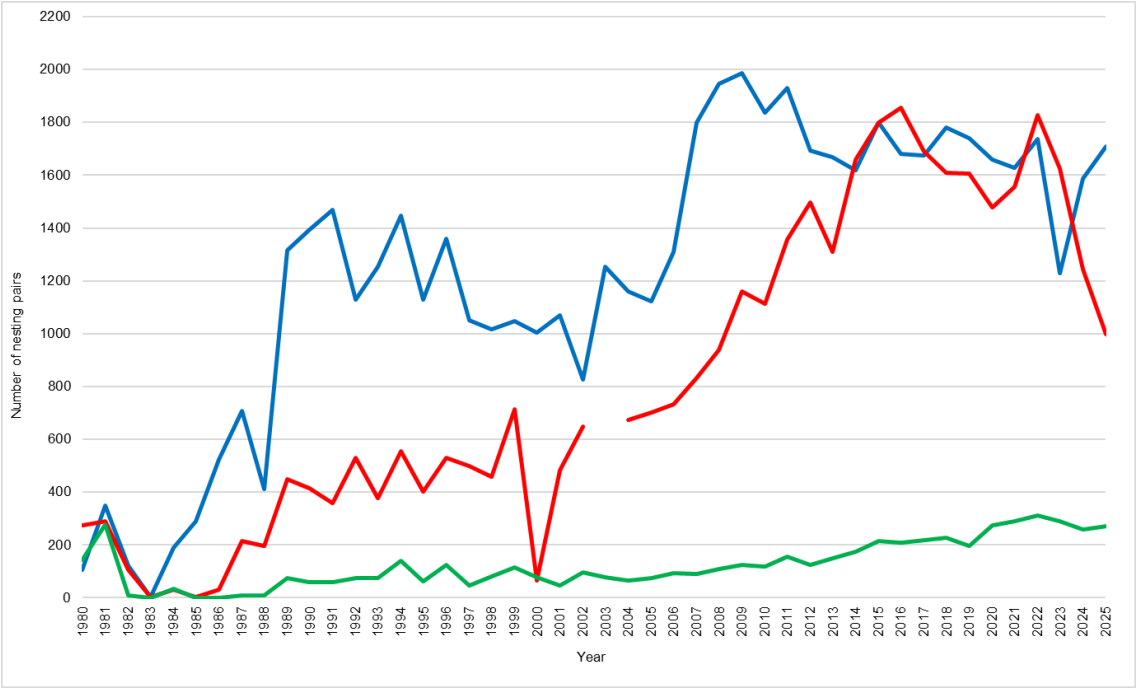


Figure 5: Number of pairs of nesting terns by species by year.

(Source: Table 3 above)

Note. The upper blue line represents Sandwich Terns. The central red line represents Common/Arctic Terns, and the lower green line represents Roseate Terns. Little Tern numbers are not included in the chart as their numbers are too low to register any trend.

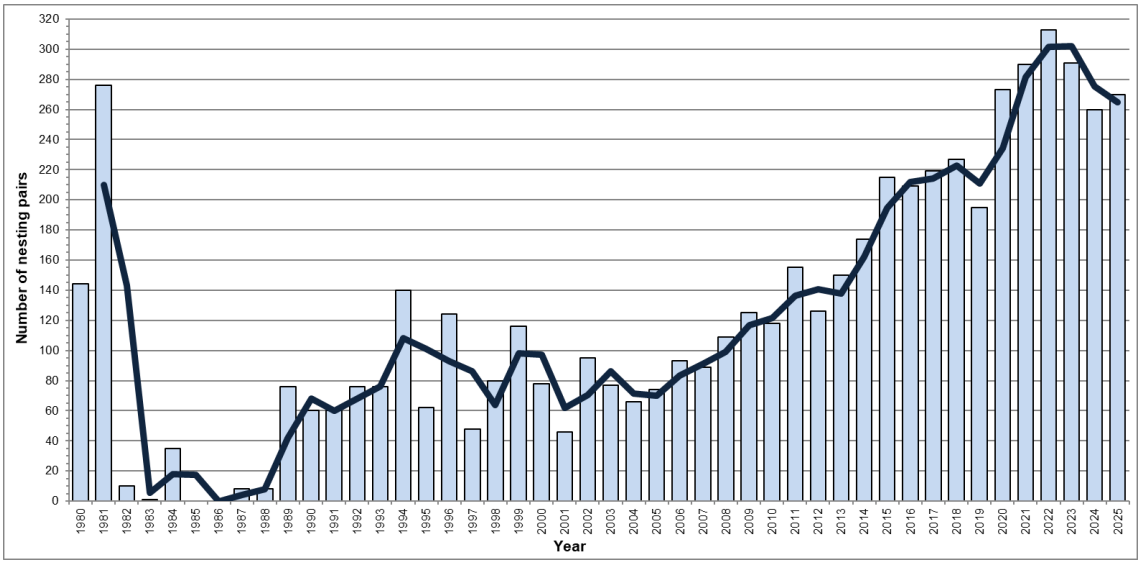


Figure 6: Number of pairs of nesting Roseate Terns by year.

(Source: Table 3 above)

Year	First eggs	Peak lay date	Main laying period	Median laying period	n (% of total eggs)
1997	17 May	27 May (22.6%)	24 May - 2 June (66.0%)	30 May	53(66.3%)
1998	21 May	27 May (23.7%)	23 May - 2 June (77.3%)	28 May	101(77.7%)
1999	5 May	May (12.2%)	16 May - 25 May (76.4%)	23 May	135 (77.1%)
2004	17 May				
2005	9 May		9 May – 7 June		131
2006	15 May		15 May – 2 July		142
2007	14 May				
2008	19 May				
2009	14 May				
2010	13 May				
2011	9 May				
2012	13 May		13 May – 19 June		
2013	27 May		27 May – 29 June		
2014	20 May		20 May – 24 June		
2015	14 May		14 May – 16 June		
2016	14 May		14 May – 16 June		
2017	8 May		8 May – 10 June		
2018	19 May		19 May – 21 June		
2019	13 May		13 May – 15 June		
2020	11 May		11 May – 13 June		
2021	7 May		7 May – 9 June		

Table 5. Egg-laying parameters of Roseate Terns nests.

(Sources: Table 4 above)

Parameter	2022	2023	2024	2025
First bird seen	13 April	15 April	16 April	12 April
First egg found	5 May	10 May	8 May	5 May
First chick found	2 June	4 June	2 June	27 May
First flying chick	Late June		28 June	25 June

Table 6. Firsts for Roseate Terns.

Year	ST	CT/AT	CT	AT	RT	LT
1993	1.3	No data			1.4	
1994	1.4	2.0			1.4	
1995	1.7	2.5			1.6	
1996	1.7	2.4			1.7	
1997	1.5	No data			1.7	
1998	1.4	2.2			1.6	
1999	1.5	No data			1.5	
2000	No data	No data			No data	
2001	No data	No data			No data	
2002	No data	No data			No data	
2003	No data	No data			No data	
2004	1.67	2.43			1.79	
2005	1.66	2.47			1.77	
2006	No data	No data			1.53	
2007	1.35	2.32			1.72	
2008	No data	1.91			1.34	
2009	No data	2.30			1.68	
2010	No data	No data			1.65	
2011	1.63	2.32			1.70	
2012	1.31		2.37	1.81	1.55	
2013	1.26		2.46	1.80	1.53	
2014	1.36		2.53	1.94	1.68	
2015	1.27		2.38	1.78	1.47	
2016	1.36		2.36	1.79	1.43	
2017	1.58		2.54	1.90	1.37	
2018	1.38		2.33	1.95	1.46	
2019	1.43		2.49	1.89	1.67	
2020	1.34		2.71	1.97	1.78	
2021	1.48		2.32	2.00	1.61	
2022	1.52		2.67	2.11	1.73	
2023	1.39		2.36	1.83	1.55	
2024	1.38		2.64	2.21	1.84	
2025	1.73		2.62	2.43	1.75	2.17
Year	**ST**	**CT/AT**	**CT**	**AT**	**RT**	**LT**

Table 7. Mean clutch size (eggs per AON) since 1993.

(Sources: Table 4 above)

Note: Mean clutch size (number of eggs per AON) is given for breeding Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis* (ST), undifferentiated (CT/AT) or differentiated Common Terns *Sterna hirundo* (CT) and Arctic Terns *Sterna paradisaea* (AT) and Roseate Terns *Sterna dougallii* (RT) at Lady's Island Lake.

Year	Productivity	Source
1996	1.07	Newton and Wallace, 1998.
1997	0.74-1.13	Newton and Wallace, 1998.
1998	1.04	Newton and Crowe, 2000 page 18, Table 2.10; see also Stammers *et al.*, 1998 pages 28-29.
1999	0.62-0.98	Newton and Crowe, 2000 page 18, Table 2.10; see also Newton and Berridge, 1999.
2000	No record	Believed low due to the wet summer (personal communication, Dave Daly / Dúchas).
2001	0.72 early →±0 late	Colony decimated by rats prior to fledging (Merne *et al.*, 2001).
2002	?	*"… cold snap in early July claimed its toll"* (Wilson, 2002).
2003	1.55	*"… 67 Roseate pairs have raised 104 chicks"* (Newton, 2003).
2004	1.24	Daly *et al.*, 2004. "66 nests, 118 eggs, 17 cold eggs, 101 chicks, 19 dead chicks, clutch size 1.79, success rate 69.5%" (Daly *et al.*, 2008 page 37)
2005	1.48	Daly and Carroll, 2005. "74 nests, 131 eggs, 6 cold eggs, 125 chicks, 19 dead chicks, clutch size 1.77, success rate 80.9%" (Daly *et al.*, 2008 page 37)
2006	1.52	*"... hatching success rate of 88.7% per egg laying pair"* (Daly and Carroll, 2006). "93 nests, 142 eggs, 13 cold eggs, 129 chicks, 3 dead chicks, clutch size 1.52, success rate 88.7%" (Daly *et al.*, 2008 page 37)
2007	1.72	"89 nests, 153 eggs, 13 cold eggs, 140 chicks, 33 dead chicks, clutch size 1.72, success rate 76.42%" (Daly *et al.*, 2008 page 37)
2008		*"… hatching success was 81.5%. Twenty-three chicks died prior to fledging (19.3%), and the overall productivity was 0.88 chicks per egg-laying pair."* (Daly *et al.*, 2009 page 31).
2009	0.73	*"… hatching success was 72%. An unprecedented 62 chicks died prior to fledging (40.5% mainly due to depredation by rats) … 18 eggs also disappeared 16 from boxes, one from a tyre and one from open vegetation."* (Daly *et al.*, 2010).
2010	1.54	*"A total of 195 eggs were laid in 118 nests, giving a mean clutch size of 1.65. Of these 191 were laid in boxes, 4 in open vegetation. There were 9 cold eggs and 1 missing. 11chicks were found dead with a further 4 (un-ringed) missing without trace. Of the 182 eggs to hatch, 111 were 'A' chicks (first to hatch) and 71 were 'B' chicks (second to hatch). Overall productivity was 1.54 chicks per egg-laying pair with a fledging success rate of 1.45."* (Daly *et al.*, 2011 page 41).
2011	1.30	*"A total of 155 breeding pairs of Roseate Terns were recorded on the southern end of Inish in 2011, an increase of 37 pairs (31%). The first eggs were recorded on the 9th May (4 days earlier than 2010 and the first chick hatched on the 3rd June. Mean clutch size was 1.7 and hatching success was 86.5%. 25 chicks died prior to fledging and overall productivity was 1.3 chicks per egg-laying pair."* (Daly *et al.*, 2011b page 43).
2012	1.55	Daly *et al.*, 2012 pages 28-30.
2013	1.53	*"… hatching success of 83%."* (Daly *et al.*, 2013 page 20).
2014	1.46	Hatching success *"87/88%"* (Daly *et al.*, 2014 page 19). Note: the productivity of 1.46 = 87% of the clutch size of 1.67 eggs.
2015	1.47	*"The mean clutch size was 1.47 per egg laying pair, with a hatching success of 91%."* (Daly *et al.*, 2015 page 19).
2016	1.43	*"The mean clutch size was 1.43 per egg laying pair, with a hatching success of 85%."* (Daly *et al.*, 2016 page 20).
2017	1.57	*"The mean clutch size was 1.57 per egg laying pair, with a hatching success of 90%."* (Daly *et al.*, 2017 page 26).
2018	0.98	*"hatching success 77.34%"* (Daly *et al.*, 2018 pages 8 and 27).
2019	1.20	*"hatching success of 90%"* (Daly *et al.*, 2019 pages 5 and 23).
2020	1.78	*"hatching success of 88.5%"* (Daly *et al.*, 2020 pages 5, 23 and 24).
2021	1.61	*"hatching success of 90%"* (Daly *et al.*, 2021 pages 5 and 27).
2022	1.36	Details are given on pages 27-29 (Stubbings *et al.*, 2022)
2023		"c*ould not be measured*" (see pages 8 and 38)
2024	0.63	0.63 is a combined result for two study plots (Plot C = 0.57 and Plot E = 0.70). Stubbings *et al.*, 2024 page 41, Tables 31-33.

Table 8. Productivity of Roseate Terns since 1996.

Note: Productivity is the number of young fledged per egg-laying pair. All numbers are estimates.

Year	ST	CT	AT	RT	LT
2025	0.84	1.38	0.36	1.18	1.33

Table 9. Productivity for all species (chicks per AON).

(Source: Annual tern reports)

5.40.1.2 Feeding

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 61. Hurley, 1998 page 22. Hurley 1999 page 62.

5.40.1.3 Conservation

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 63-64. Hurley, 1998 page 22. Hurley, 1999 page 62. Hurley, 2000 pages 79-80. Hurley, 2001 pages 67-71. Hurley, 2002 pages 73-74. Hurley, 2003 page 70. Hurley, 2004 pages 83-84. Hurley, 2005 pages 76-77. Hurley, 2008 page 63. Hurley, 2009 page 43. Hurley, 2010 page 36. Hurley, 2011 page 44. Hurley, 2012 page 44. Hurley, 2016 page 38. Hurley, 2018 page 37. Hurley, 2019 page 37. Hurley, 2021 page 44.

5.40.1.4 Movements

References to earlier reports. Hurley 1998 page 23 e). Hurley 1999 page 62. Hurley 2000 page 79. Hurley, 2001 page 70. Hurley, 2002 page 74. Hurley, 2012 page 45. Hurley, 2019 page 38. Hurley, 2020 page 43. Hurley, 2021 page 44.

5.41 Other birds

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2004 pages 85-86. Hurley, 2008 page 63. Hurley, 2015 page 38. Hurley, 2022 page 48. Hurley, 2023 page 40. Hurley, 2024 page 47.

5.41.1 Records

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 53. Hurley, 2000 page 82. Hurley, 2002 page 75. Hurley, 2003 page 71. Hurley, 2004 page 87. Hurley, 2005 page 78. Hurley, 2006 page 71. Hurley, 2009 page 43. Hurley, 2010 page 37. Hurley, 2011 page 45. Hurley, 2012 page 45.

5.41.2 Case Studies

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1999 pages 68-69. Hurley, 2003 page 71. Hurley, 2008 page 64. Hurley, 2010, pages 37-38.

5.41.3 Ring recoveries

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2001 page 71. Hurley, 2012 page 45. Hurley, 2013 page 45. Hurley, 2016 page 38. Hurley, 2017 page 42. Hurley, 2021 pages 45-47.

5.42 Mammals Class Mammalia

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2001 page 71. Hurley, 2012 page 46. Hurley, 2017 page 42. Hurley, 2018 page 38. Hurley, 2019 page 39.

5.42.1 Insectivores Order Insectivora

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2000 page 87. Hurley, 2001 page 72. Hurley, 2002 page 76. Hurley, 2003 page 72. Hurley, 2005 page 79-80. Hurley, 2006 page 72. Hurley, 2007 page 81. Hurley, 2008 page 65. Hurley, 2009 page 44. Hurley, 2010 page 38. Hurley, 2013 page 57. Hurley, 2014 page 41. Hurley, 2015 page 38. Hurley, 2016 page 39. Hurley, 2017 page 42. Hurley, 2019 page 39. Hurley, 2020 page 43. Hurley, 2021 page 48. Hurley, 2022 page 49. Hurley, 2023 page 40. Hurley, 2024 page 47. Hurley, 2025 page 37.

Update. Opportunistic records.

Pygmy Shrew

- On 3 June 2025, Jim Hurley spotted the fresh remains of an adult at S977055 in his garden pond at Grange, Kilmore.
- On 21 September 2025, Jim Hurley caught and released two live adults trapped in a sum in his garden at S977055, Grange, Kilmore.

5.42.2 Bats Order Chiroptera

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1999 pages 71-77. Hurley, 2000 pages 84-85. Hurley, 2001 page 72. Hurley, 2003 page 72. Hurley, 2004 pages 88-90. Hurley, 2005 page 80. Hurley, 2006 page 73. Hurley, 2007 page 81. Hurley, 2008 page 65. Hurley, 2009 page 44. Hurley, 2010 pages 38-39. Hurley, 2011 page 46. Hurley, 2012 pages 46-52. Hurley, 2013 pages 57-58. Hurley, 2014 pages 42-44. Hurley, 2015 pages 39-48. Hurley, 2016 page 39. Hurley, 2017 page 43. Hurley, 2019 page 39. Hurley, 2021 page 48. Hurley, 2025 page 38.

Updates. Opportunistic records.

- At 16:28h on 28 December 2025, Jim Hurley saw a lone pipistrelle-type bat hunting above the tree tops at S978069, Lannagh, Kilmore. The bat repeatedly circled one area before moving to another over the trees. High pressure prevailed. The day was dry, overcast, cool (8°C), and calm with a light, variable, north-easterly breeze.

5.42.3 Hares and Rabbits Order Lagomorpha

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2000 page 88. Hurley, 2001 page 72. Hurley, 2002 page 76. Hurley, 2003 page 73. Hurley, 2004 page 90. Hurley, 2005 page 80. Hurley, 2006 page 74. Hurley, 2007 page 82. Hurley, 2008 pages 65-66. Hurley, 2009 page 45. Hurley, 2010 page 39. Hurley, 2011 page 46. Hurley, 2012 page 52. Hurley, 2013 page 58. Hurley, 2014 page 45. Hurley, 2015 page 48. Hurley, 2017 page 43. Hurley, 2020 page 44. Hurley, 2021 page 49. Hurley, 2022 page 49. Hurley, 2023 page 41. Hurley, 2024 page 48. Hurley, 2025 page 38.

Updates. Opportunistic records.

Irish Hare

- On 6 May 2025, Jim Hurley saw two animals together on the roadway at S946060, Inish and Ballyteige Slob.
- On 11 August 2025, Jim Hurley saw one animal at S950057, Inish and Ballyteige Slob.
- On 21 December 2025, Jim Hurley saw an adult at T035055 running along the water's edge at Mountpill Burrow, Tacumshin Lake.

Rabbit

- On 15 May 2025, Jim Hurley saw three Rabbits sitting together in the sun at 19:44h by the hedgerow on the headland of a cattle pasture at S970042, Beak, Kilmore Quay.
- On 11 August 2025, Jim Hurley saw one live animal at S950057, Inish and Ballyteige Slob.
- On 2 September 2025, Jim Hurley saw two live animals at S970042, Beak.
- On 3 September 2025, Jim Hurley saw four live animals at S953056, Inish and Ballyteige Slob.

5.42.4 Rodents Order Rodentia

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2000 pages 85-86. Hurley, 2004 page 90. Hurley, 2005 page 81. Hurley, 2006 page 74. Hurley, 2007 page 82. Hurley, 2008 page 66. Hurley, 2009 pages 45-46. Hurley, 2010 pages 40-41. Hurley, 2012 page 52. Hurley, 2013 page 59. Hurley, 2014 page 45. Hurley, 2015 page 49. Hurley, 2017 page 43. Hurley, 2020 page 44. Hurley, 2021 page 49. Hurley, 2022 page 49. Hurley, 2025 page 39.

5.42.4.1 Red Squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris*

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2000 page 89. Hurley, 2009 page 49. Hurley, 2014 page 46. Hurley, 2017 page 46. Hurley, 2018 page 43. Hurley, 2019 page 44. Hurley, 2020 page 47. Hurley, 2023 page 43. Hurley, 2025 page 39.

5.42.5 Cetaceans Order Cetacea

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 67. Hurley, 1998 page 27. Hurley, 1999 page 70. Hurley, 2001 pages 72-79. Hurley, 2002 pages 76-78. Hurley, 2003 pages 73-79. Hurley, 2004 ages 91-98. Hurley, 2005 pages 81-86. Hurley, 2006 pages 75-77. Hurley, 2007 page 83. Hurley, 2008 pages 66-69. Hurley, 2009 pages 46-48. Hurley, 2010 pages 41-42. Hurley, 2011 pages 47-48. Hurley, 2012 pages 53-54. Hurley, 2013 pages 59-61. Hurley, 2014 page 46. Hurley, 2015 page 50. Hurley, 2016 pages 40-42. Hurley, 2017 pages 44-45. Hurley, 2018 pages 40-42. Hurley, 2019 pages 41-44. Hurley, 2020 pages 45-47. Hurley, 2021 pages 50-55. Hurley, 2022 pages 50-54. Hurley, 2023 pages 42-43. Hurley, 2024 pages 49-54. Hurley, 2025 pages 39-43.

Updates

Whaling. Catches of Minke Whales by Norwegian small whaling vessels around the coasts of Ireland in the late 1970s were concentrated off the South Wexford Coast (Figure 7).

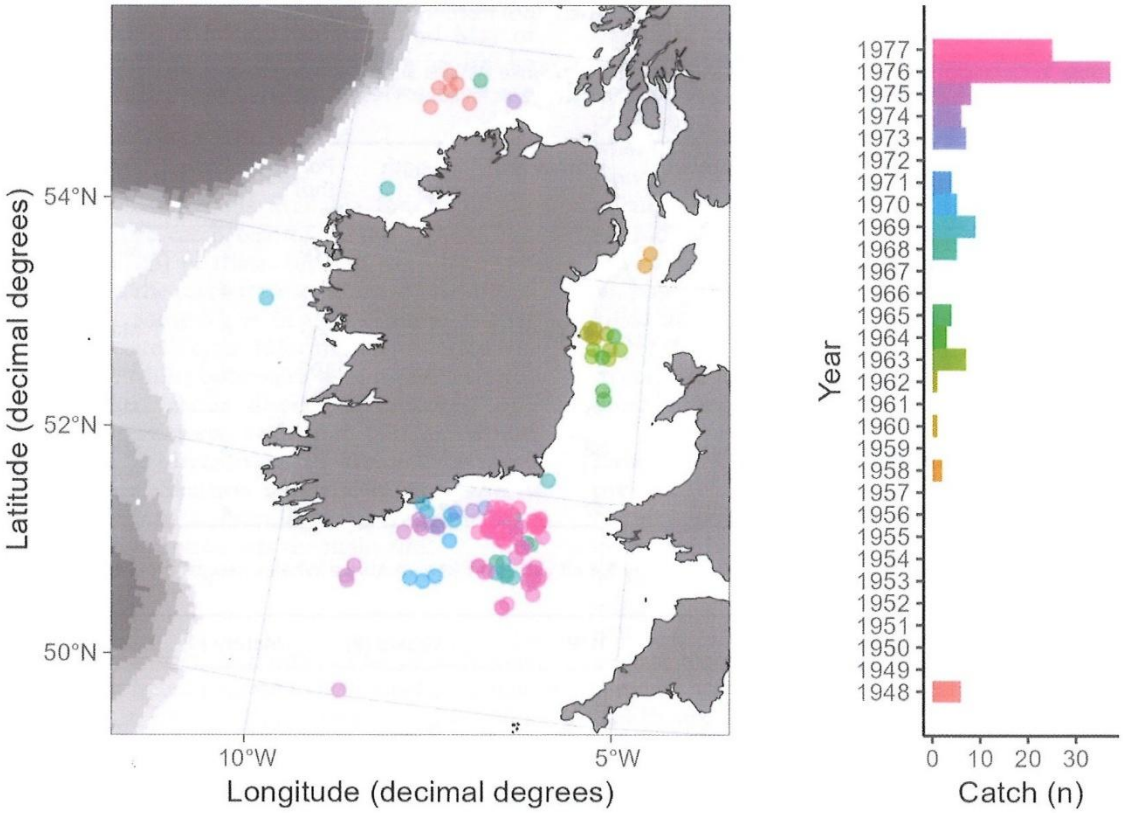


Figure 1. Spatial and temporal distribution of all known Minke Whale catches (n = 130) made by Norwegian small whaling vessels around Ireland. Locations are derived from a combination of cross-referenced sources: original catch logbooks and summaries thereof in Norwegian government annual whale catch reports and Allison (2020). For ease of reading, overlapping points have been jittered ± one symbol-width *i.e.* around a radius of 5 km. A single erroneous (possibly due to a transcription error) catch location for 1960 appears on land and has not been mapped. Basking Shark catch locations were too imprecise to map here (see Results section).

Figure 7. Minke Whale catches around the coasts of Ireland, 1948-177.

(Source: Ryan *et al*., 2024 page 9, Figure 1)

IWDG records. Stranding records from the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group (IWDG) for 2023 were published (Levesque *et al*., 2024). The notes and records contained the following 18 records for the South Wexford Coast (Table 10).

Species	Gender	Length	Location	Grid Ref	Date	Page
Minke Whale	Male	6.0m	Slade Head	X746985	03/05	149
Minke Whale	Unsexed	Unmeasured	Saltee Islands	Y123848	15/05	149
Minke Whale	Unsexed	*c*6.0m	Hook Head	X737976	19/06	149
Harbour Porpoise	Unsexed	Unmeasured	Ballyhealy Beach	T010049	13/08	150
Harbour Porpoise	Male	Unmeasured	Carnsore Point	T117037	14/08	150
Harbour Porpoise	Male	*c*1.37m	Carnsore Point	T117037	14/08	150
Long-finned Pilot Whale	Male	4.2m	Fethard	S803051	07/04	151
Common Dolphin	Female	Unmeasured	Fethard	S796032	01/01	151
Common Dolphin	Unsexed	Unmeasured	Ballyhealy Beach	T005048	10/01	151
Common Dolphin	Male	Unmeasured	Rostonstown	T053054	18/02	152
Common Dolphin	Unsexed	Unmeasured	Rostonstown	T079051	11/04	153
Common Dolphin	Male	Unmeasured	Rostonstown	T077051	12/04	153
Common Dolphin	Male	Unmeasured	Carnsore Point	T118036	13/04	153
Common Dolphin	Unsexed	Unmeasured	Ballyhealy Beach	T010048	05/05	153
Common Dolphin	Female	Unmeasured	Blackhall Bay	S857073	06/05	153
Common Dolphin	Male	2.1m	Kilmore Quay	S951047	16/12	154
Common Dolphin	Unsexed	1.15m	Rostonstown	T074052	19/12	154
Striped Dolphin or CD	Unsexed	Unmeasured	Ballyteige Bay	S949049	28/01	155

Table 10. IWDG stranding records for 2023 on the South Wexford Coast.

Stranding records logged by the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group during 2024 are detailed by Levesque *et al*., 2025.

Strandings during 2025

The IWDG online browser at https://iwdg.ie/browsers/strandings.php was checked and the following 17 recorded strandings were noted.

Stranding No 1.

Stranding ID: 2025-012.
Record ID: #7908.
Observer: Michael Snoek.
Event Date: 19/01/2025.
Location: Bannow,
52.208455, -6.765795.
Species: Common Dolphin.
Photo: Michael Snoek.
IWDG Ref.: https://iwdg.ie/browsers/showdetails.php?t=st&id=7908.

Stranding No 2.

Stranding ID: 2025-014.
Record ID: #7904.
Observers: Maria and Kate Moore.
Event Date: 19/01/2025.
Location: Ballyhealy Beach,
52.190599, -6.495070.
Species: Common Dolphin.
Photo: Maria.
IWDG Ref.: https://iwdg.ie/browsers/showdetails.php?t=st&id=7904.

Stranding No 3.

Stranding ID: 2025-019.
Record ID: #7911.
Observer: Ruaidhri Browne.
Event Date: 21/01/2025.
Location: Carnivan Bay, 52.174750, -6.839060.
Species: Common Dolphin.
Photo: Ruaidhri Browne.
IWDG Ref.: .
https://iwdg.ie/browsers/showdetails.php?t=st&id=7911.

Stranding No 4.

Stranding ID: 2025-024.
Record ID: #7913.
Observer: Kate Moore.
Event Date: 26/01/2025.
Location: Kilmore Quay, 52.176428, -6.574065.
Species: Common Dolphin.
Photo: Kate Moore.
IWDG Ref.:
https://iwdg.ie/browsers/showdetails.php?t=st&id=7913.

Stranding No 5.

Stranding ID: 2025_037. **Record ID**: #7943.
Observers: Kate Moore and Tom Gaul.
Event Date: 15/02/2025.
Location: St Patrick's Bridge, 52.176046, -6.572906.
Species: Baleen Whale. **Photo**: Kate Moore.
Notes: "Length without head or tail".
IWDG Ref:
https://iwdg.ie/browsers/showdetails.php?t=st&id=7943

Stranding No 6.

Stranding ID: 2025_040.
Record ID: #7949.
Observer: Kate Moore, Kevin Martin, and Azalea Roldan
Event Date: 17/02/2025.
Location: Ballyhealy Beach, 52.187009, -6.523400.
Species: Common Dolphin.
Photo: Kate Moore.
Notes: Teeth: UL 39, UR 40, LL 42, LR 42. Tip of dorsal fin appears cleanly cut.
IWDG Ref:
https://iwdg.ie/browsers/showdetails.php?t=st&id=7949

Stranding No 7.

Stranding ID: 2025_047.

Record ID: #7947.

Observer: Justin Aylward, Rhiannon Bruce, Paul Carrol, Gerard Doran, and Andy Callan.

Event Date: 21/02/2025.

Location: Carnivan Bay, 52.17447, -6.841164.

Species: Common Dolphin.

Photo: Justin Aylward. **IWDG Ref**: https://iwdg.ie/browsers/showdetails.php?t=st&id=7947.

Stranding No 8.

Stranding ID: 2025_051.

Record ID: #7981.

Observer: Isabel Farrelly Millar, Ewa Orchowska, David Temple, Colin Turner, Brid Marshall, Michael Snoek, and Lauren Scallan.

Event Date: 24/02/2025.

Location: Blackhall, 52.213903, -6.753596.

Species: Common Dolphin.

Photo: Isabel Farrelly Millar.

IWDG Ref: https://iwdg.ie/browsers/showdetails.php?t=st&id=7981.

Stranding No 9.

Stranding ID: 2025-015.

Record ID: #8021.

Observers: Kate Moore.

Event Date: 30/04/2025.

Location: Rostonstown, 52.184501, -6.404387.

Species: Common or Striped Dolphin.

Photo: Kate Moore.

IWDG Ref.: https://iwdg.ie/browsers/showdetails.php?t=st&id=8021.

Stranding No 10.

Stranding ID: 2025-014.

Record ID: #8018.

Observers: Kate Moore.

Event Date: 30/04/2025.

Location: Rostonstown, 52.185251, -6.409365.

Species: Common or Striped Dolphin.

Photo: Kate Moore.

IWDG Ref.: https://iwdg.ie/browsers/showdetails.php?t=st&id=8018.

Stranding No 11.

Stranding ID: 2025-013.
Record ID: #8017.
Observers: Kate Moore.
Event Date: 30/04/2025.
Location: Rostonstown, 52.187027, -6.417605.
Species: Common Dolphin.
Photo: Kate Moore.
IWDG Ref.: https://iwdg.ie/browsers/showdetails.php?t=st&id=8017.

Stranding No 12.

Stranding ID: 2025-158.
Record ID: #8073.
Event Date: 22/06/2025.
Location: Kilmore Quay, 52.179973, -6.599402.
Species: Risso's Dolphin.
Photo: Ana Mansa Cardoso.
Observers: Ana Mansa Cardoso, Mick Barry, Adrian, Sarah-Kim Watchorn, Niamh Lennon, Ann Marie Ryan, Tracy Rowe, Avion Phillips, Aoife Garrett, Pamela Shiel, Amber Dalton, Neil O'Sullivan, and Sandra Martin.
IWDG Ref.: https://iwdg.ie/browsers/showdetails.php?t=st&id=8073.

Stranding No 13.

Stranding ID: 2025-162.
Record ID: #8077.
Observers: Peter Bovenizer.
Event Date: 29/06/2025.
Location: Hook Head, 52.1125, -6.9300.
Species: Striped Dolphin.
Photo: Peter Bovenizer.
IWDG Ref.: https://iwdg.ie/browsers/showdetails.php?t=st&id=8077.

Stranding No 14.

Stranding ID: 2025-161.
Record ID: #8076.
Observers: Jessica Leahy, Bahargul Doner, Jim Hurley, and Denis Foley.
Event Date: 30/06/2025.
Location: Saltee Islands (JH =Great Saltee) 52.120719, -6.610877 (JH = 52.11975080, -6. 61623195)
Species: Minke Whale.
Photo: Jessica Leahy.
IWDG Ref.: https://iwdg.ie/browsers/showdetails.php?t=st&id=8076.

Stranding No 15.

Stranding ID: 2025-184.
Record ID: #8116.
Observer: Therese Maddock.
Event Date: 04/08/2025.
Location: Kilmore Quay
Species: Harbour Porpoise.
Photo: Therese Maddock.
IWDG Ref.: https://iwdg.ie/browsers/showdetails.php?t=st&id=8116.

Stranding No 16.

Stranding ID: 2025-201.
Record ID: #8134.
Observer: Mark Snoek and Deirdre Slevin.
Event Date: 25/08/2025.
Location: Long Gap, Bannow.
Species: Harbour Porpoise.
Photo: Mark Snoek.
IWDG Ref.:

https://iwdg.ie/browsers/showdetails.php?t=st&id=8134.

Stranding No 17.

Stranding ID: 2025-264.
Record ID: #8286.
Observer: Evelyn McGarry.
Event Date: 23/11/2025.
Location: Bastardstown.
Species: Whale species.
Photo: Evelyn McGarry.
IWDG Ref.:

https://iwdg.ie/browsers/showdetails.php?t=st&id=8286.

Sightings during 2025

The IWDG online browser at https://iwdg.ie/browsers/sightings.php was checked and the following recorded strandings noted.

Date	Sp	No	Location	Record	Recorder(s)	Notes
08/01	HP	3	Hook Head	49221	Paddy Roche	Feeding and milling. One S of Hook Head, one SW, and one SE.
30/04	MW	4	Fethard	50057	Deirdre Slevin	Two-hour watch from vessel
22/05	RD	5	Saltee Islands	50296	Joseph Batt and Rory O'Hanlon	Three adults and two juveniles. Resting. Images below.
22/05	HP/ D?	14	Carnsore Point	50299	Kate Moore	Feeding / Travelling
10/06	RD	7	Saltee Islands	50394	Dave Brady	From angling charter.
14/06	RD	1	Saltee Islands	50296	Siún Ní Cheallaigh	From eco tour charter
18/06	HP	15	Saltee Islands	50469	Siún Ní Cheallaigh	*"1st of 2 sightings during 4hr boat-based survey targeting Risso's dolphins between Carnsore point and Saltee Islands. Initially recorded acoustically using hydrophone and then observed visually. 10-20 individuals feeding, at least one calf."*
18/06	RD	7	Saltee Islands	50483	Siún Ní Cheallaigh	*"Observed during 4hr boat-based survey targeting Risso's dolphins. Initially 3 individuals were observed at the back of the Great Saltee. Echolocation clicks recorded using hydrophone, animals seemed to be deep diving and feeding. 3-4 more individuals observed a few minutes later 500m SW, investigating a fishing boat. At 10:03 a further 4-5 individuals observed closer to Carnsore point. Can't confirm they were a different group of Risso's, but my impression is they were unlikely to be the same individuals seen at the Great Saltee as we did not observe any travelling between the two locations."*
18/06	RD	20	Saltee Islands	50494	Alan Hinchy	
21/06	RD	12	Saltee Islands	50521	Sam Nunn	
21/06	MW	1	Saltee Islands	50511	Alan Hinchy	Juvenile
25/06	RD	6	Saltee Islands	50529	Sam Nunn	NW of Coningbeg Rocks
02/07	RD	6	Saltee Islands	50573	Sam Nunn	Close to shore
03/07	RD	6	Saltee Islands	50568	Sam Nunn	West of Great Saltee
11/07	RD	10	Kilmore Quay	50644	Sam Nunn	500m off the harbour
16/07	CD	3	Saltee Islands	50704	Siún Ní Cheallaigh and Sam Nunn	Bow-riding Saltee Safari RIB
16/07	CD	3	Baginbun Head	50715	Siún Ní Cheallaigh	180-minute effort watch
16/07	RD	5	Baginbun Head	50707	Siún Ní Cheallaigh	ditto
30/07	D	5	Saltee Islands	50945	Jessica du Bois	Seen from mainland at 06.30h
30/07	CD	8	Saltee Islands	50861	Alan Hinchy	Adults

30/07	BD	45	Saltee Islands	50864	Sam Nunn	Validated via video
30/07	RD	2	Baginbun Head	50876	Siún Ní Cheallaigh	180-minute effort watch
03/08	RD	10	Saltee Islands	50934	Sam Nunn	Breaching
03/08	BD	3	Carnivan	50924	Claire Cullen	Feeding
09/08	W	1	Kilmore Quay	51266	Tim Bourke	Travelling
20/08	RD	4	Ballyteige Bay	51114	Alan Hinchy	Adults; west of Saltee Islands
16/09	HP	1	Carnsore Point	51279	Kate Moore	Breaching
21/09	CD	3	Hook Head	51327	Andras Fabien	Travelling
21/09	CD	1	Hook Head	51328	Andras Fabien	
22/09	CD	7	Hook Head	51336	Andras Fabien	
23/09	HP	2	Slade	51352	Andras Fabien	
25/09	HP	3	Kilmore Quay	51378	Sarah Kineen	
12/10	BD	8	Baginbun Head	51550	Harm Deenan	
20/10	D	1	Hook Head	51636	Paddy Roche	1.5h effort watch
21/10	HP	2	Hook Head	51635	Paddy Roche	Close to shore
26/10	HP	2	Hook Head	51664	Paddy Roche	100-minute effort watch
18/11	HP	10	Baginbun Head	51818, 19, and 20	Harm Deenan	Cumulative for 95-minute effort watch

Table 11. Cetacean sightings on the South Wexford Coast, 2025.

(Source: https://iwdg.ie/browsers/sightings.php)

BD	Bottlenose Dolphin	FW	Fin Whale	MW	Minke Whale
CD	Common Dolphin	HP	Harbour Porpoise	RD	Risso's Dolphin
D	Dolphin species	HP/D?	HP or dolphin	W	whale species
D?	possible dolphin	Lw	large whale species		

Figure 8. Risso's Dolphins off the Saltee Islands, 22 May 2025.

Source: Images by Joseph Batt @Dublin_Drone

Other sightings

- On 1 July 2025, while out sailing, John and Carol Gibbon saw 10 Risso's Dolphins around their boat about halfway between Kilmore Quay and the Saltee Islands (personal communication, Carol Gibbon).
- On 16 July 2025, Siún Ní Cheallaigh reported *"4-5 Risso's dolphins with a small group of common dolphins at 10:11, West of Great Saltee - I'm watching from Baginbun head"* (IWDG WW local group WhatsApp page).
- On 30 July 2025, Siún Ní Cheallaigh reported two Risso's Dolphins 1km off Baginbun Head and that Sam Nunn saw Bottlenose Dolphins at the Saltee Islands (IWDG WW local group WhatsApp page).
- On 31 July 2025, Siún Ní Cheallaigh reported: *"Sam from Saltee Sea Safari just text that there's 5 Risso's again today off the S side of the Saltees."* (IWDG WW local group WhatsApp page).

5.42.6 Carnivores Order Carnivora

5.42.6.1 Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2000 page 89. Hurley, 2002 page 78. Hurley, 2003 page 79. Hurley, 2004 page 98. Hurley, 2005 page 87. Hurley, 2008 page 70. Hurley, 2011 page 48. Hurley, 2013 page 61. Hurley, 2014 page 46. Hurley, 2015 page 50. Hurley, 2017 page 45. Hurley, 2019 page 44. Hurley, 2020 page 47. Hurley, 2022 page 55. Hurley, 2023 page 43.

5.42.6.2 Pine Marten *Martes martes*

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2000 page 89. Hurley, 2009 page 49. Hurley, 2014 page 46. Hurley, 2017 page 46. Hurley, 2018 page 43. Hurley, 2019 page 44. Hurley, 2020 page 47. Hurley, 2023 page 43. Hurley, 2025 page 44.

Update. Opportunistic record.

- The post on 6 April 2025 on the Facebook page of the Kilmore Quay Conservation Group (https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61571666303812&locale=ru_RU) featured an image captured by a night vision camera of a Pine Marten at S963038 on Ballyteige Burrow by the drainage channel between Sofrimar and the sluice cottage.

5.42.6.3 Irish Stoat *Mustela erminea*

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2000 page 90. Hurley, 2003 page 79. Hurley, 2005 page 87. Hurley, 2006 page 78. Hurley, 2007 page 84. Hurley, 2008 page 70. Hurley, 2009 page 49. Hurley, 2010 page 43. Hurley, 2011 page 49. Hurley, 2012 page 55. Hurley, 2014 page 47. Hurley, 2017 page 46. Hurley, 2024 page 54. Hurley, 2025 page 44.

5.42.6.4 American Mink *Neovison vison*

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 67. Hurley, 1999 page 71. Hurley, 2000 pages 83-84. Hurley 2007, page 84. Hurley, 2010 page 43. Hurley, 2012 page 55. Hurley, 2013 page 62. Hurley, 2014 page 47. Hurley, 2015 page 51. Hurley, 2017 page 46. Hurley, 2019 page 45. Hurley, 2023 page 44.

Update. Opportunistic record.

- On 16 June 2025, while involved in a litter pick at The Coalyard (S893082), Cullenstown, members of Tomhaggard Clean Coast Group spotted a Mink with a Rabbit emerging from a pipe (Source: https://www.facebook.com/p/Tomhaggard-Clean-Coasts-100081782781085/).

5.42.6.5 Badger *Meles meles*

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2000 page 91. Hurley, 2002 pages 78-79. Hurley, 2004 page 98. Hurley, 2005 page 88. Hurley, 2006 page 78. Hurley, 2007 page 85. Hurley, 2008 page 70. Hurley, 2010 page 44. Hurley, 2011 page 49. Hurley, 2012 page 55. Hurley, 2013 page 62. Hurley, 2014 page 47. Hurley, 2018 page 43. Hurley, 2019 page 45. Hurley, 2021 page 56. Hurley, 2022 page 55. Hurley, 2023 page 44. Hurley, 2024 page 55. Hurley, 2025 page 44.

Update. Opportunistic record.

- In mid-March, digging (Plate 1 left, arrowed) was noted in the mound between SPAR supermarket and the cutting at Ballyteige Burrow (S963036) in Kilmore Quay. On 20 March 2025, Emer Doyle captured an image of a live animal by the digging.

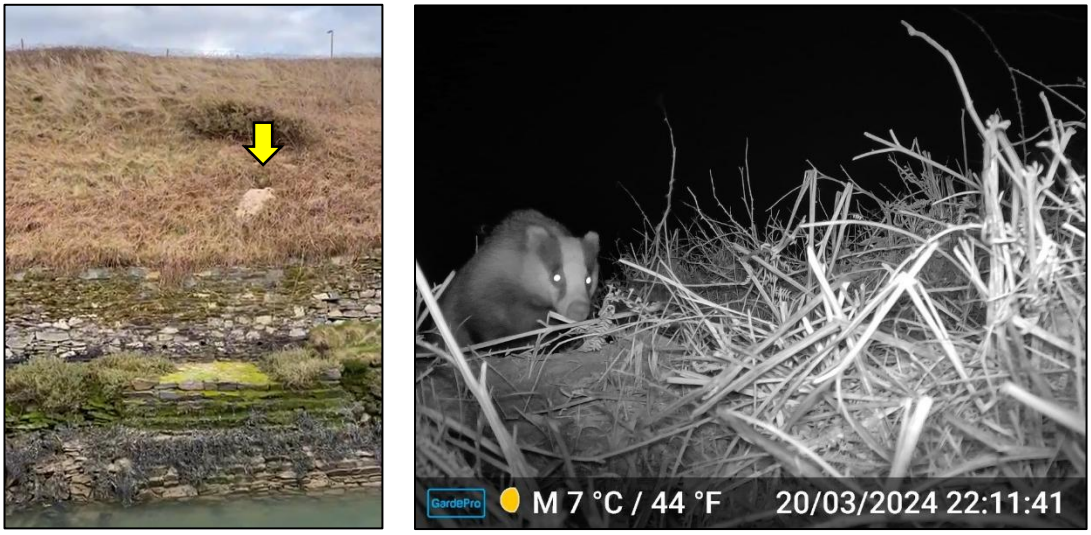


Plate 1. Spoil heap (left) and live animal (right) at Ballyteige Burrow.

(Source: Emer Doyle)

- On 2 October 2025, Jim Hurley spotted the remains of a road kill on the verge of the public road at T016085, Moortown Great.

5.42.6.6 European Otter *Lutra lutra*

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 66-67. Hurley, 1999 page 69. Hurley, 2000 page 83. Hurley, 2001 page 79. Hurley, 2002 page 79. Hurley, 2004 page 98. Hurley, 2005 page 88. Hurley, 2007 page 85. Hurley, 2008 page 71. Hurley, 2009 page 49. Hurley, 2011 page 49. Hurley, 2012 page 56. Hurley, 2013 page 62. Hurley, 2014 page 47. Hurley, 2015 page 51. Hurley, 2016 page 43. Hurley, 2017 page 46. Hurley, 2018 page 43. Hurley, 2019 page 45. Hurley, 2020 page 48. Hurley, 2021 page 56. Hurley, 2022 page 55.

Update. Opportunistic record.

- On 23 March 2025, Emer Doyle captured an image of two live animals at the Sluice House at Ballyteige Burrow (S963037), Kilmore Quay. She reported that spraints and footprints are common in the area

5.42.6.7 Other carnivores

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2002 page 79. Hurley, 2018 page 44.

5.42.7 Seals Order Pinnipedia

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 67. Hurley, 1998 page 27. Hurley, 1999 pages 69-70. Hurley, 2001 pages 79-80. Hurley, 2002 pages 79-83. Hurley, 2003 page 80. Hurley, 2004 page 99. Hurley, 2005 page 89. Hurley, 2006 page 97. Hurley, 2007 pages 86-89. Hurley, 2008 pages 71-73. Hurley, 2009 page 49. Hurley, 2010 page 44. Hurley, 2011 page 49. Hurley, 2012 page 56. Hurley, 2013 page 63. Hurley, 2014 page 48. Hurley, 2015 page 51. Hurley, 2017 page 47. Hurley, 2018 page 44. Hurley, 2019 page 46. Hurley, 2020 page 48. Hurley, 2021 page 57.

Update. Opportunistic record.

- On 21 December 2025, Jim Hurley saw the scavenged remains of a juvenile on the beach at T049054, Grogan Burrow, Tacumshin Lake.

5.42.8 Deer and goats Order Artiodactyla

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2009 pages 49-50. Hurley, 2012 page 56. Hurley, 2016 page 43. Hurley, 2022 page 56. Hurley, 2023 page 44.

6 NATURE CONSERVATION

6.1 Introduction

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 68. Hurley, 1999 page 78. Hurley, 2000 page 92. Hurley, 2003 page 81. Hurley, 2007 page 90. Hurley, 2008 page 74. Hurley, 2011 page 50. Hurley, 2013 page 63. Hurley, 2017 page 48. Hurley, 2018 pages 45-46. Hurley, 2019 pages 46-47. Hurley, 2020 page 49. Hurley, 2021 page 58. Hurley, 2022 pages 56-57. Hurley, 2023 page 45. Hurley, 2024 pages 55-56. Hurley, 2025 pages 45-46.

Updates

Nature Restoration Law. The Nature Restoration Regulation (EU2024/1991) came into force in August 2024. The Regulation is the first continent-wide, comprehensive law of its kind, and sets binding targets to restore degraded ecosystems, in particular those with the most potential to capture and store carbon and to prevent and reduce the impact of natural disasters. The National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) was appointed by Government to coordinate the development of a national Nature Restoration Plan (NRP) arising from the Regulation, to be submitted to the EU Commission by 1 September 2026. An Independent Advisory Group, chaired by Dr Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin was appointed at the end of 2024 to engage all parties and advise the Minister on the content of the Plan.

On 25 March 2025, the first meeting was held of senior decision-makers from national representative organisations, business, academia, and government to shape the vision for the national Nature Restoration Plan.

On 31 July 2025, a new website https://www.restorenature.ie/ was launched to function as a portal for public engagement with the development of Ireland's Nature Restoration Plan. A series of participatory, community-level, events open to the public was planned taking place all over the country from September 2025.

Biodiversity funding. On Tuesday 20 May 2025, the government announced €2.9 million funding awarded to local authorities for biodiversity projects under the National

Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Local Biodiversity Action Fund (LBAF). The funding awarded was up €0.1 million on the corresponding figure for 2024. The following seven Wexford County Council projects were funded to the tune of €88,790.28, down on the 2024 figure of €123,172. The projects funded were as tabulated below.

Project	Grant
Wetlands Survey	€29,901.00
Biodiversity Staff Training	€15,000.00
Nightjar Survey Phase 2	€14,174.00
Return to Nature	€11,500.00
Cherry Laurel Control Tintern Abbey	€10,612.00
Biodiversity Education and Awareness events	€6,375.00
Recording Irish mayfly – establishing conservation status	€1,228.28
Total:	**€88,790.28**

(Source: Government press release)

6.2 Intergovernmental Conventions and Treaties

6.2.1 The Ramsar Convention, 1971

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 68-69. Hurley, 1998 page 27. Hurley, 1999 page 78. Hurley, 2000 pages 92-93. Hurley, 2001 page 81. Hurley, 2003 pages 81-82. Hurley, 2005 pages 90-91. Hurley, 2006 pages 80-81. Hurley, 2013 page 63. Hurley, 2016 pages 44-45. Hurley, 2017 pages 49-50. Hurley, 2018 page 46. Hurley, 2021 page 58.

6.2.2 The CITES Convention, 1973

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2000 page 95. Hurley, 2001 page 81. Hurley, 2003 page 82. Hurley, 2007 page 91.

6.2.3 The Bonn Convention, 1979

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 69. Hurley, 1998 pages 27-28. Hurley, 1999 page 78. Hurley, 2001 pages 81-82. Hurley, 2004 page 101.

6.2.4 The Bern Convention, 1979

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 69. Hurley, 1998 page 27. Hurley, 2000 page 93. Hurley, 2001 page 82. Hurley, 2002 page 85. Hurley, 2003 pages 82-83. Hurley, 2005 page 92.

6.2.5 The Biodiversity Convention, 1992

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 70. Hurley, 1998 pages 28-29. Hurley, 1999 pages 78-79. Hurley, 2000 pages 93-94 and page 102. Hurley, 2001 page 82. Hurley, 2002 pages 85-87. Hurley, 2003 pages 83-84. Hurley, 2004 page 102. Hurley, 2005 page 92. Hurley, 2006 page 82. Hurley, 2007 page 92. Hurley, 2008 page 75. Hurley, 2009 pages 51-53. Hurley, 2010, page 45. Hurley, 2011 page 51. Hurley, 2012 pages 58-60. Hurley, 2013 page 64. Hurley, 2014 page 49. Hurley, 2015 page 52. Hurley, 2016 page 46. Hurley, 2017 page 51. Hurley, 2018 page 47. Hurley, 2019 page 47. Hurley, 2020 pages 50-53. Hurley, 2021 page 59. Hurley, 2024 page 57.

6.2.6 The Climate Change Convention, 1992

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1998 page 29. Hurley, 1999 page 80. Hurley, 2000 page 94. Hurley, 2001 pages 81-82. Hurley, 2002 page 87. Hurley 2003 page 84. Hurley, 2012 page 60. Hurley, 2020 page 53.

6.2.7 The OSPAR Convention, 1992

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1998 page 29. Hurley, 1999 page 80. Hurley, 2000 page 95. Hurley, 2001 page 83. Hurley, 2007 page 93. Hurley, 2011 page 52.

6.2.8 The Access to Information Convention, 1998

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1999 page 80. Hurley, 2012 page 61. Hurley, 2013 page 65. Hurley, 2016 page 46.

6.2.9 The Regulation of Whaling Convention, 1946

Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 2001 page 83.

6.2.10 The Pan-European Strategy, 1995
References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2001 page 83. Hurley, 2003 page 85.

6.2.11 The European Landscape Convention, 2000
References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2002 page 88. Hurley, 2003 page 85.

6.2.12 The London Convention, 1972
Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 2004 page 103.

6.2.13 The MARPOL Convention, 1973 and 1978
Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 2004 pages 103-104.

6.2.14 The World Heritage Convention, 1972
Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 2012 page 61.

6.3 Identifying critical areas and species
Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 2017 page 52.

6.3.1 Important Bird Areas (IBAs)
References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 70-71. Hurley, 1998 page 29. Hurley, 1999 page 80. Hurley, 2000 pages 95-96. Hurley, 2001 pages 83-84. Hurley, 2007 pages 94-96. Hurley, 2010 page 46. Hurley 2011, page 52. Hurley, 2013 page 66. Hurley, 2016 page 47. Hurley, 2017 page 53. Hurley, 2018 page 48. Hurley, 2019 page 49.

6.3.2 Important habitat types
References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 71. Hurley, 2000 page 96. Hurley, 2001 page 84. Hurley, 2006 pages 84-86. Hurley, 2007 page 96. Hurley, 2008 pages 77-78. Hurley, 2009 page 53. Hurley, 2010 page 46. Hurley, 2011 page 53. Hurley, 2024 page 58.

6.3.3 Important marine areas
References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 71. Hurley, 1998 page 29. Hurley, 1999 page 81. Hurley, 2000 page 97. Hurley, 2001 page 84. Hurley, 2002 pages 89-90. Hurley, 2006 page 86. Hurley, 2007 pages 96-99. Hurley, 2008 page 78. Hurley, 2009 page 54. Hurley, 2010 page 46. Hurley, 2013 page 67. Hurley, 2019 page 49.

6.3.4 Areas of Scientific Interest (ASIs)
Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 2010 pages 47-51.

6.3.5 Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs)
References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2010 pages 52-56. Hurley, 2013 pages 68-69. Hurley, 2014 pages 51-52. Hurley, 2016 page 48.

6.3.5.1 NPWS: Ecosystems, habitats, and species.

6.3.5.2 GSI: Geological and geomorphological
Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 2017 pages 54-58.

6.3.6 Areas of landscape importance
References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 73. Hurley, 1998 page 30. Hurley, 1999 page 86. Hurley, 2000 page 97. Hurley, 2001 pages 85-86. Hurley, 2002 page 91. Hurley, 2003 page 87. Hurley, 2007 page 101. Hurley, 2009 page 54. Hurley, 2012 page 62. Hurley, 2013 page 70. Hurley, 2016 page 49. Hurley, 2018 pages 55-60. Hurley, 2020 pages 55-60. Hurley, 2021 page 61.

Addendum. In 2021, the high nature value farmland and forests biodiversity (HNV_FarmForBio) project team produced a landscape classification map of Ireland (Figure 9 left with the South Wexford Coast enlarged right). The map was generated by geospatial and multivariate analysis of the Physiographic Units Map of Ireland (2018) and Corine Land Cover (2018). The map represented nine landscape classes, with a minimum mapping unit of 5km^2 and a working scale of 1:250,000. However, the key provided to identify these nine landscape classes did not feature the map colours used (https://hnvfarmforbio.ie/maps/a-landscape-classification-map-of-ireland-and-its-potential-use-in-national-land-use-monitoring/).

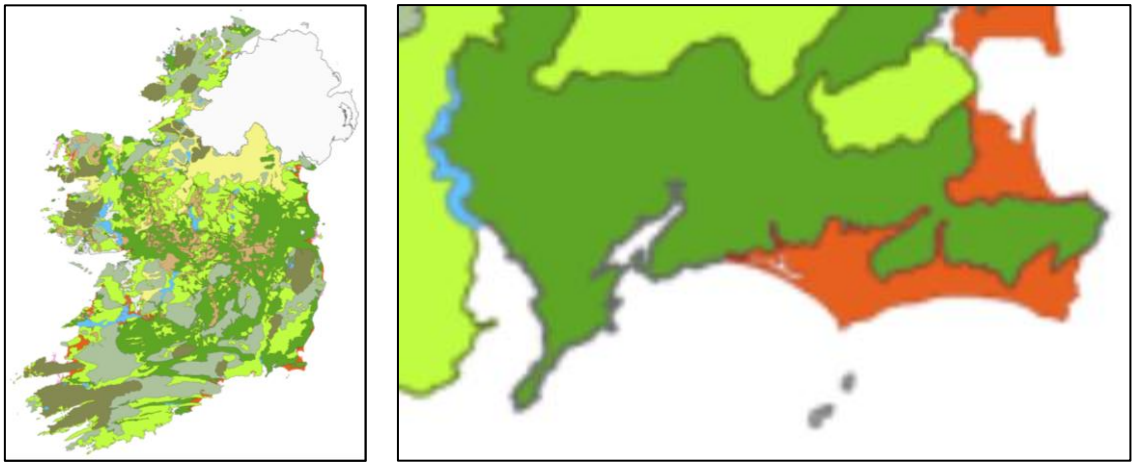


Figure 9. Landscape classification map.

(Source: https://hnvfarmforbio.ie/maps/a-landscape-classification-map-of-ireland-and-its-potential-use-in-national-land-use-monitoring/)

6.3.7 Red lists

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2001 page 87. Hurley, 2003 pages 87-88. Hurley, 2012 page 62. Hurley, 2013 page 70. Hurley, 2017 page 58. Hurley, 2018 page 49. Hurley, 2020 page 61. Hurley, 2021 page 61.

6.3.8 High Nature Value (HNV) areas

Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 2018 page 50.

6.4 Implementing EU Directives

6.4.1 Introduction

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2000 pages 97-98. Hurley, 2001 page 88. Hurley, 2002 page 92. Hurley, 2003 pages 88-89. Hurley, 2006 page 88.

6.4.2 The Birds Directive, 1979

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 74. Hurley, 1998 page 30. Hurley, 1999 pages 86-87. Hurley, 2000 pages 98 and 100. Hurley, 2001 pages 88-90. Hurley, 2002 page 93. Hurley, 2003 pages 89-92. Hurley, 2004 page 107. Hurley, 2005 page 98. Hurley, 2006 pages 89-95. Hurley, 2007 page 103. Hurley, 2008, page 80. Hurley, 2009 page 55. Hurley, 2010 pages 56-57. Hurley, 2011 pages 54-55. Hurley, 2013 page 71. Hurley, 2014 page 53. Hurley, 2015 page 54-56. Hurley, 2016 page 49. Hurley, 2018 page 50. Hurley, 2019 pages 46-47. Hurley, 2020 page 62. Hurley, 2021 page 62. Hurley, 2022 page 60. Hurley, 2023 page 48. Hurley, 2024 page 59. Hurley, 2025 pages 48-49.

Updates

Saltee Islands. In April 2025, advertisements started appearing online for Saltee Sea Safaris, 1.5h trips around the islands departing from Kilmore Quay, on the 9-metre commercial RIB "*James Joyce*" carrying twelve passengers and two crew. Sightseeing, sunrise, sunset, and custom trips were offered at €40+ per person.

Great Saltee Puffins. On Saturday 19 July 2025, Richard Nairn's article regarding Puffins on Great Saltee was published in *The Irish Times* (right).

Great Saltee. On 1 August 2025, a government press release announced that earlier in 2025 the NPWS had appointed KRC Environmental Consultants to run a seabirds conservation project on Great Saltee. Seabird Wardens were in place on the island from May and would continue until the end of August. The wardens erected signage and engaged with visitors to raise awareness, encourage people to keep their distance from nesting birds thereby reducing disturbance caused through recreational activity and increased visitor numbers.

RICHARD NAIRN

I saw 'selfies' with puffins being taken on the Saltee Islands. People should keep their distance

On a recent visit to the Saltee Islands off the coast of Co Wexford, I was amazed to find that up to 200 people are landing on the larger island every day in the summer.

Four ferry boats ply the 20-minute crossing from Kilmore Quay a number of times each day. Passengers fan out across the island carrying cameras, mobile phones and picnic lunches but the majority are heading for the puffin colonies on the steep grassy slopes. These iconic seabirds are the main draw for most tourists, the majority of whom have never seen a seabird up close, except for a cheeky gull searching the rubbish bins in a city park.

When I first went to the Saltees more than 50 years ago, the islands were deserted, a derelict farmhouse standing among the bracken-covered fields, left behind by a farming family many years earlier. We were taken there on a small inshore fishing boat and landed on the beach in a little wooden rowboat that was sculled with a single oar by the fisherman Jack Devereux.

There were few visitors, mostly birdwatchers who were there to study migrant songbirds and some scientists monitoring the seabirds. Among these was the late Oscar Merne, one of Ireland's most accomplished seabird experts. In the 1970s, Oscar was the joint author of a seminal book, Saltees: Islands of Birds and Legends, in which he estimated that there were about 830 pairs of puffins breeding there. These were idyllic days when one could wander freely on this beautiful island, which was and still is privately owned.

But times have changed. Now it can be necessary to book a place on one of the ferries a month or more ahead. On arrival at the larger island, the crowds are excited to see hundreds of puffins standing outside their nesting burrows. Underground, each burrow contains a single fluffy black puffin chick, waiting patiently in the dark for the next load of fish to be delivered by one or other of its parents.

In the previous decade, the number of puffins on the larger island had dwindled considerably, due partially to predation by rats which enter the burrows at night feeding on puffin eggs and chicks.

Puffins: Iconic seabirds. Photograph: Valerie O'Sullivan

But uncontrolled disturbance by visitors was also implicated. Many people unwittingly walked on the vulnerable burrows, causing them to collapse, or stayed too long in the nesting areas, preventing some of the adults from coming ashore with vital provisions for their offspring.

On my recent visit, I watched as some people photographed the adult puffins, at a range of little more than a metre, using the ubiquitous mobile phones. Some were even taking "selfies" with the birds or sitting on the burrows eating their picnics.

This behaviour is not confined to the Saltees. On Ireland's Eye, just off Howth Harbour, I have watched an unrestrained dog cause mayhem in a large colony of ground-nesting cormorants while its owner looked on apparently unconcerned. On Dalkey Island in Dublin Bay, visitors walked unwittingly among nesting terns, rendering the eggs and chicks vulnerable to predation by the large gulls, that are constantly present.

Researchers on the Pacific coast of Mexico, studying human disturbance of the related burrow-nesting Cassin's auklet, found that chicks in disturbed areas left the nests with lower body weights compared to chicks in the undisturbed areas. As the later survival of chicks at sea can be affected by their weights at fledging, many of these birds may not survive the first winter. They also reported that adult birds whose burrows were closer to paths more often abandoned their chicks and had lower breeding success compared to birds nesting further away from disturbance.

All this suggests that people should keep their distance if the welfare of the birds is a priority. However, this presents a paradox. For nature to flourish people need to engage with wild creatures. But if that engagement involves disturbance, then damage may be done.

Thankfully, the situation for puffins on the Saltee Islands has improved in recent years. Rangers, funded by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, are stationed on Great Saltee throughout the breeding season. They meet visitors coming off the boats, explaining to them what can be seen and asking for their co-operation in keeping a good distance from the nests. A programme of rat control has also had beneficial effects and the puffin population of the two islands is now estimated at about 1,100 pairs.

The late Oscar Merne would have been pleased to see this progress.

Richard Nairn is an ecologist and writer. His most recent book is Future Wild: Nature Restoration in Ireland

THE IRISH TIMES | Weekend | Saturday, July 19, 2025

Seas off Wexford candidate SPA. On 6 August 2025, public notice was given by the NPWS (*Wexford People*, issue dated 6 August 2025, page 4) that, further to the Regulation 15 public notice of January 2024, it was proposed to classify the Seas off Wexford candidate SPA under Regulation 16. Both Regulations referred to the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended (https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2021/si/293/made/en/print). Submissions were invited before 31 October 2025.

An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

NATURA 2000

GOVERNMENT NOTICE

FOR THE ATTENTION OF MARINE USERS IN COUNTIES WATERFORD AND WEXFORD

This notice is to advise you that under Regulation 16 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, and following on from the earlier Regulation 15 notice of January 2024, in respect of the same proposed classification, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage has identified the Seas off Wexford 004237 as eligible for classification as a Special Protection Area (SPA).

The site has been identified and selected on ornithological grounds and will be recognised as an internationally important site for birds. Ireland must take appropriate measures to protect such sites. The Minister has issued a Direction in respect of certain activities (Activities Requiring Consent) which must not be undertaken within or close to the site without permission having first been obtained from the Minister. Planning authorities will include the site in all relevant Development Plans. The classification of this site will be taken into account when assessing any future development proposals within or close to the site.

A map showing the area of the candidate SPA may be viewed in the public offices of the following in the locality or is available on request from the email/address below:

- Teagasc • National Parks & Wildlife Service
- Local Authority • Garda Stations
- Social Protection • County Libraries

Request for observations

Any person with a sufficient interest in the area selected for classification can submit an observation to the Minister. Observations must be supported by scientifically-based ornithological criteria and must be received at the address below by **Friday 31st October 2025.**

Objections to proposed designation

Any person, having or being entitled to an interest in the area selected for classification, can object to the classification or to the Ministerial Direction relating to the Activities Requiring Consent. Objections must be supported by scientifically-based ornithological criteria and must be received at the address below by **Friday 31st October 2025.**

Any person requiring further information, including the objection process, should contact **sitedesignations@npws.gov.ie** or write to **Designations Unit, National Parks and Wildlife Service, 90 King Street North, Dublin 7, D07N7CV.**

Seas off Wexford
candidate Special Protection Area 004237

	Latitude	Longitude
A	52° 32' 1" N	5° 52' 0" W
B	52° 0' 0" N	5° 54' 0" W
C	51° 58' 0" N	5° 54' 0" W
D	51° 58' 0" N	5° 57' 0" W
E	51° 57' 4" N	5° 57' 0" W

	Latitude	Longitude
F	51° 57' 47" N	6° 27' 10" W
G	51° 55' 6" N	6° 27' 19" W
H	51° 55' 27" N	6° 44' 45" W
I	52° 0' 50" N	6° 44' 29" W
J	52° 1' 9" N	7° 1' 57" W

Saltees Biosecurity Plan. On Tuesday 18th November 2025 the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) together with project facilitators Habitat Assessment & Restoration Ltd held a day-long open, drop-in stakeholder meeting in the Stella Maris Centre, Kilmore Quay, to discuss a proposed Saltee Islands Biosecurity and Incursion Response Plan. The aim was to strengthen measures to keep the Saltee Islands free from invasive species and to support the long-term protection of its seabird colonies and biodiversity.

6.4.3 The Habitats Directive, 1992

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 74-75. Hurley, 1998 page 30. Hurley, 1999 pages 87-89. Hurley, 2000 pages 98-101. Hurley, 2001 pages 91-92. Hurley, 2002 pages 94-98. Hurley 2003 pages 93- 96. Hurley, 2004 page 108. Hurley, 2005 pages 98-103. Hurley, 2006 pages 96-97. Hurley, 2007 pages 104-107. Hurley, 2008 pages 81-84. Hurley, 2009 pages 56-60. Hurley, 2010 pages 57-65. Hurley, 2011 pages 55-58. Hurley, 2012 pages 63-72. Hurley, 2013 page 72. Hurley, 2014 pages 53-59. Hurley, 2015 pages 57-58. Hurley, 2016 pages 50-52. Hurley, 2017 pages 59-81. Hurley, 2018 pages 50-56. Hurley, 2019 pages 46-47 and 51-57. Hurley, 2020 page 63-67. Hurley, 2021 pages 63-66. Hurley, 2022 pages 61-64. Hurley, 2023 pages 49-50. Hurley, 2024 pages 59-60. Hurley, 2025 page 50.

Updates

Lady's Island Lake. On 8 April 2025, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage published a 21-page 'Determination on Screening for Appropriate Assessment' regarding water quality monitoring measures within Lady's Island Lake Special Area of Conservation and Lady's Island Lake Special Protection Area to improve understanding of the dynamics of the lagoon and to inform the development of restoration proposals for the site (DHLGH, 2025). The project involved the installation of seven water quality and water level monitoring sondes within the Lady's Island Lake SAC. *"The equipment is required to monitor water levels and water quality parameters i.e. specific conductivity/salinity, temperature, dissolved oxygen and turbidity, on a near-continuous basis to provide information on the dynamics of the lagoon which will inform the development of restoration proposals for the site."* Six of the sondes were deployed on floating buoys in the lagoon, and a water level data logger was installed at Rostonstown Burrow to monitor changes in water levels (Figure 10).

Figure 10. Seven installation locations at Lady's Island Lake.

Ballyteige Burrow. On 4 November 2025, public notice was given by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage of the publication of a Determination on Screening for Appropriate Assessment regarding a 1km length of temporary livestock electric fencing for the management of livestock in sensitive coastal dune habitats within Ballyteige Burrows Special Area of Conservation and Ballyteige Burrows Special Protection Area (DHLGH, 2025).

Fishing in Natura 2000 sites. The European Commission published guidance to help Member States to correctly implement the provisions of Article 4 of the Birds Directive and Article 6 of the Habitats Directive for management of Natura 2000 sites as regards commercial and recreational marine fishing activities (EC, 2025).

Article 17 report. The Article 17 report for 2025 was released on 10 December 2025 in three volumes: Volume 1 (an overview report), Volume 2 (habitats) and Volume 3 (species) (https://www.npws.ie/publications/article-17-reports).

6.4.4 The EIA Directive, 1997

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 75. Hurley, 1999 page 89. Hurley, 2000 page 102. Hurley, 2001 page 92. Hurley, 2002 page 98. Hurley, 2003 page 97. Hurley, 2004 page 109. Hurley, 2011 pages 58-59. Hurley, 2012 pages 73-74. Hurley, 2013 page 73. Hurley, 2015 page 58. Hurley, 2018 page 56. Hurley, 2019 page 56. Hurley, 2020 page 68.

6.4.5 The Urban Waste Water Directive, 1991

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 75. Hurley, 2001 page 92. Hurley, 2002 page 98.

6.4.6 The Freedom of Information Directive, 2003

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1999 pages 90 and 145. Hurley, 2004 page 109. Hurley, 2008, page 84.

6.4.7 The Nitrates Directive, 1991

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1998 page 37. Hurley, 1999 page 105. Hurley, 2001 pages 92-93. Hurley, 2002 page 99. Hurley, 2003 pages 97-98. Hurley, 2004 pages 110-111. Hurley, 2005 pages 104-105. Hurley, 2006 page 98. Hurley, 2007 page 108. Hurley, 2008, page 85. Hurley, 2009 page 60. Hurley, 2010 page 65. Hurley, 2011 page 59. Hurley, 2012 page 74. Hurley, 2015 page 59. Hurley, 2018 page 57. Hurley, 2019 page 58.

Update. The Department of Agriculture published a map (Figure 11) showing maximum nitrates derogation stocking rate limits for 2025. The purple colour identifies areas where the Maximum Stocking Rate of 220kg livestock manure nitrogen per hectare applies for Nitrates Derogation Holdings in these areas from the 1st of December 2025 (a cut-back from 250kg to 220kg), while the brown colour indicates areas where the 220kg limit applied from the 1st of January 2024.

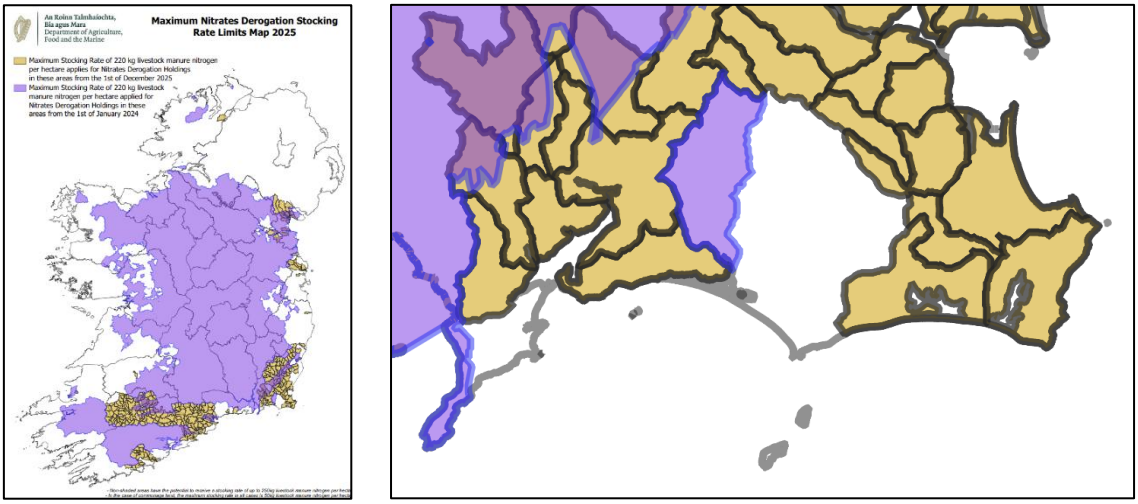


Figure 11. Maximum nitrates derogation stocking rate limits for 2025.

(Source: https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-agriculture-food-and-the-marine/publications/rural-environment-sustainability-nitrates/#nitrates-derogation)

6.4.8 The Water Framework Directive, 2000

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2001 page 93. Hurley, 2003 page 98. Hurley, 2004 page 111-112. Hurley, 2005 page 105. Hurley, 2006 page 99. Hurley, 2007 page 109. Hurley, 2008, pages 85-87. Hurley, 2009 page 61. Hurley, 2011 pages 60-61. Hurley, 2015 page 59. Hurley, 2017 pages 82-83. Hurley, 2018 pages 57-64. Hurley, 2019 page 58. Hurley, 2022 page 65. Hurley, 2024 page 61.

6.4.9 The Integrated Pollution Control Directive, 1991

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2001 pages 93-94. Hurley, 2004 page 112. Hurley, 2005 page 106.

6.4.10 The Shellfish Directive, 2006

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2001 pages 93-94. Hurley, 2004 pages 112-113.

6.4.11 The Strategic Environmental Assessment, 2001

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2005 page 106. Hurley, 2008, page 88. Hurley, 2013 page 74. Hurley, 2014 page 60. Hurley, 2015 page 59. Hurley, 2020 page 69.

6.4.12 The Marine Strategy Framework Directive, 2008

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2010 page 66. Hurley, 2012 page 75. Hurley, 2013 page 74. Hurley, 2014 page 61. Hurley, 2015 pages 60-61. Hurley, 2016 pages 53-55. Hurley, 2017 page 84. (Hurley, 2018 page 64 moved to 6.4.16). Hurley, 2019 page 59. Hurley, 2020 page 71. Hurley, 2021 page 55. Hurley, 2022 pages 65-67. Hurley, 2023 pages 51-54. Hurley, 2024 pages 61-62. Hurley, 2025 pages 51-52.

NB: See Section 6.4.16 in previous reports for overlap.

Update. On 15 January 2025, Fine Gael published a 162-page 'Draft Programme for Government 2025' (https://www.finegael.ie/app/uploads/2025/01/Programme-for-Government-2025.pdf). The draft programme comprised an introduction and twelve chapters. The chapter titled 'Growing our Economy' contained a section regarding 'Fisheries and the Marine'. A sub-section on 'Coastal Communities' within that section stated: "This Government will" followed by eight bullet points. Bullet point number three committed the government to '*Review and strengthen conservation measures for marine ecosystems and wildlife. We will also expand Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and establish wildlife sanctuaries.'* (page 29). No mention was made regarding either the Marine Protected Areas Bill that has been stalled since 2023, or the €25 million MPA-LIFE-Ireland project (https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/project/LIFE22-IPE-IE-MPA-LIFE-IRELAND-101103680/mpa-life-ireland).

In August, Fair Seas reported that *"the Government is reconsidering how it will deliver Marine Protected Area (MPA) legislation. While a standalone MPA law had long been promised, officials now indicate a preference for incorporating MPAs into amendments to the Maritime Area Planning (MAP) Act. It was said that a final decision is expected after the Department of Climate, Environment and Energy (DCEE) takes over responsibility on August 1st."*

6.4.13 The Floods Directive, 2007

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2011 page 62. Hurley, 2012 pages 18 and 76. Hurley, 2013 page 75. Hurley, 2016 page 56. Hurley, 2017 page 85. Hurley, 2018 page 65. Hurley, 2019 page 60.

6.4.14 The INSPIRE Directive, 2007

Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 2012 page 77.

6.4.15 Waste Framework Directive, 2008

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2012 page 77. Hurley, 2013 page 76.

6.4.16 Maritime Spatial Planning Directive, 2014

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2017 page 85. Hurley, 2018 page 64 (transferred from 6.4.12). Hurley, 2019 pages 60-61. Hurley, 2020 page 71. Hurley, 2021 pages 68-73. Hurley, 2022 page 67. Hurley, 2023 page 54.

6.4.17 Other EU Directives

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2001 pages 93-94. Hurley, 2006 page 100. Hurley, 2012 page 77.

6.5 Enacting other domestic legislation

6.5.1 Introduction

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2001 page 94. Hurley, 2002 page 99. Hurley, 2017 page 86.

6.5.2 The Wildlife Acts, 1976-2000

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 75-77. Hurley, 1998 page 31. Hurley, 1999 pages 90-91. Hurley, 2000 pages 102-103. Hurley, 2001 page 94. Hurley, 2002 page 100. Hurley, 2003 page. Hurley, 2004 page 113. Hurley, 2005 pages 107-110. Hurley, 2006 page 101. Hurley, 2007 pages110-111. Hurley 2009, page 61. Hurley, 2010 page 66. Hurley, 2011 page 63. Hurley, 2013 page 76. Hurley, 2015 page 61. Hurley, 2016 page 58. Hurley, 2019 page 61.

Updates

Wexford County Biodiversity Action Plan. In early 2025, Wexford County Council (WCC) commenced work on the development of a Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) for the county. Key events in the development of the LBAP were as follows.

April. WCC gave public notice on its website that a LBAP was being prepared (https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/environment-and-climate-change/biodiversity-community-and-schools/biodiversity/local-biodiversity), a 16-page Pre-Draft Consultation Paper provided background to the development of the plan (https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/sites/default/files/content/Wexfor%20CoCo%20Local%20Biodiversity%20Pre%20draft%20Discussion%20Paper.pdf), and people were invited to either (1) consult in person with Claire Goodwin, WCC Biodiversity Officer, at events held in the four public libraries, or (2) to complete an online survey (https://consult.wexfordcoco.ie/en/content/local-biodiversity-action-plan-survey), and/or (3) to make a written submission to the Biodiversity Officer before 30 May 2025. On 16 April 2025, public notice was given in the local press of a vacancy on the Biodiversity Working Group for a PPN representative.

6.5.3 The Planning Acts, 1963-2000

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 77. Hurley, 1998 page 31. Hurley, 1999 pages 91-92. Hurley, 2000 pages 103-104. Hurley, 2001 pages 94-95. Hurley, 2002 pages 100-103. Hurley, 2003 pages 99-100. Hurley, 2004 page 114. Hurley, 2005 pages 110-111. Hurley, 2006 page 102. Hurley, 2007 pages 112-114. Hurley, 2008 pages 89-90. Hurley, 2009 page 61. Hurley, 2010 page 67. Hurley, 2011 page 63. Hurley, 2012 page 78. Hurley, 2013 pages 77-78. Hurley, 2015 page 62. Hurley, 2018 page 65. Hurley, 2021 page 74. Hurley, 2022 page 68. Hurley, 2023 page 55. Hurley, 2025 pages 52-53.

Updates

Marine planning. On 9 June 2025, public notice was given (*The Irish Times*, issue dated 9 June 2025, page 3) that representations were being sought by the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment on a draft Marine Planning Policy Statement (MPPS) before 7 July 2025 (https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-climate-energy-and-the-environment/consultations/consultation-on-the-marine-planning-policy-statement/).

In November 2019, the government published Ireland's first Marine Planning Policy Statement (MPPS) on a non-statutory basis, pending development of the National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) and adoption of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (MAP Act). The present document is the draft statutory MPPS. A revised draft of the MPPS will be prepared following this public consultation.

The Draft MPPS seeks to support the protection and restoration of biodiversity (page 9) and have environmental stewardship as a priority (page 10).

Walking trail. Planning permission granted by Wexford County Council for the Kilmore Quay Recreation Trail, a walking trail from Kilmore Quay to Ballyburn together with a trailhead car park (Ref 20240553), was appealed to An Coimisiún Pleanála (Ref 322097). On 25 November 2025, the Commission refused the permission granted on three grounds: (1) insufficient information regarding potential impacts on the architectural heritage of the southern portion of the trail, (2) gaps in the scientific information submitted and incomplete evaluation of impacts on the Natura 2000 network, together with inadequate mitigation measures to prevent water pollution, and (3) insufficient ecological surveys to inform an assessment.

6.5.4 The Foreshore Acts, 1933-1998

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 77. Hurley, 2011 page 63.

6.5.5 The Water Pollution Acts, 1977-1990

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 77. Hurley, 1999 page 92. Hurley, 2003 pages 100-101. Hurley, 2004 page 115.

6.5.6 Other relevant domestic legislation

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2001 pages 95-96. Hurley, 2002 pages 103-104.

6.6 Interpretation and Eco-tourism

6.6.1 Introduction

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1998 pages 31-32. Hurley, 2001 page 96. Hurley, 2002 page 104. Hurley, 2003 pages 101-102. Hurley, 2004 page 116. Hurley, 2005 page 113. Hurley, 2006 pages 103-104. Hurley, 2007 page 116. Hurley, 2008 pages 91-92. Hurley, 2009 page 62. Hurley, 2010 page 67. Hurley, 2011 page 64. Hurley, 2013 page 78. Hurley, 2014 page 63. Hurley, 2015 page 63. Hurley, 2016 page 59. Hurley, 2017 page 87. Hurley, 2018 pages 66-69. . Hurley, 2019 page 62. Hurley, 2020 page 72. Hurley, 2021 page 75. Hurley, 2022 page 69.

6.6.2 Designations by site

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2000 pages 104-106. Hurley, 2001 page 96. Hurley, 2002 page 105.

6.6.3 The Coastal Path

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2001 pages 96-97. Hurley, 2002 page 105. Hurley, 2005 page 105. Hurley, 2006 page 104. Hurley, 2007 pages 117-121. Hurley, 2008 page 92. Hurley, 2009 page 63. Hurley, 2010 page 68. Hurley, 2011 page 64. Hurley, 2012 page 79. Hurley, 2020 page 72. Hurley, 2023 page 56.

7 THE STAFF GAUGE

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 78-80. Hurley, 1999 page 92. Hurley, 2000 page 107. Hurley, 2002 page 105. Hurley, 2003 page 102. Hurley, 2005 page 114. Hurley, 2009 page 63. Hurley, 2012 page 80.

8 WATER LEVEL INSIDE THE BARRIER

8.1 Water inputs

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 81-87. Hurley, 1998 pages 32-33. Hurley, 1999 page 93. Hurley, 2002 page 106. Hurley, 2013 page 79.

8.2 Water outputs

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 87-90. Hurley, 2013 page 79.

9 WATER LEVEL OUTSIDE THE BARRIER

9.1 Introduction

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 91. Hurley, 2024 pages 63-64.

9.2 Measuring sea level

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 91-93. Hurley, 1998 page 33. Hurley, 2002 page 106. Hurley, 2003 page 103. Hurley, 2005 page 115. Hurley, 2008 page 93. Hurley, 2013 page 80. Hurley, 2022 page 69. Hurley, 2025 page 54.

9.3 Tides

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 93-94. Hurley, 2000 page 109. Hurley, 2001 page 98. Hurley, 2004 page 118. Hurley, 2005 page 116. Hurley, 2008 page 94. Hurley, 2012 page 80. Hurley, 2015 pages 64-65. Hurley, 2018 page 70. Hurley, 2021 page 76. Hurley, 2022 page 70.

9.4 Sea waves, surges, swells, etc.

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 94-97. Hurley, 1999 pages 94-96. Hurley, 2000 page 109. Hurley, 2002 page 107. Hurley, 2003 page 104. Hurley, 2008 page 94. Hurley, 2013 pages 80-81. Hurley, 2015 page 66. Hurley, 2023 pages 57-58.

9.5 Bedform

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 27 and 98-99. Hurley, 1998 page 18. Hurley, 1999 page 30. Hurley, 2000 pages 110-111. Hurley, 2004 page 119.

9.6 Wave set-up and wave run-up

Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 1997 page 99.

9.7 Synthesis: the combined effect

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 100-102. Hurley, 1998 pages 33-35. Hurley, 1999 pages 98-101. Hurley, 2000 pages 112-113. Hurley, 2001 pages 98-102. Hurley, 2002 page 108. Hurley, 2003 pages 104-105. Hurley, 2013 page 82. Hurley, 2019 page 63.

10 THE NEED TO REGULATE WATER LEVEL

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 103. Hurley, 2013 page 83.

10.1 Farming concerns

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 103-104. Hurley, 2005 page 118.

10.2 The Marian pilgrimage

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 104-106. Hurley, 1998 page 36. Hurley, 1999 page 102-103. Hurley, 2000 pages 119-120. Hurley, 2001 page 103. Hurley, 2002 page 109. Hurley, 2003 pages 105-106. Hurley, 2005 page 118. Hurley, 2007 page 125. Hurley, 2009 pages 65-68. Hurley, 2011 page 66. Hurley, 2012 page 81. Hurley, 2014 page 65.

10.3 Wildfowling

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 106-107. Hurley, 1999 page 102.

10.4 Water sports

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 107-108. Hurley, 1998 page 36.

10.5 Sewerage scheme

Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 2001 pages 103-104.

11 WATER QUALITY

11.1 Overview of non-marine waters

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 109. Hurley, 1999 page 120. Hurley, 2000 page 104. Hurley, 2004 pages 122-123. Hurley, 2005 page 119. Hurley, 2007 pages 126-127. Hurley, 2008 page 96. Hurley, 2009 page 68. Hurley, 2010 pages 70-72. Hurley, 2011 page 66. Hurley, 2012 page 82. Hurley, 2017 page 89. Hurley, 2019 page 64. Hurley, 2020 page 74. Hurley, 2021 page 77. Hurley, 2023 page 59. Hurley, 2024 page 65. Hurley, 2025 pages 55-56.

This section deals with international, national, regional, county and South Wexford Coast issues.

Update

HMWBs. On 18 December 2025, the government announced that following a series of detailed technical assessments and public consultations, Ireland was designating 466 water bodies as Heavily Modified Water Bodies (HMWBs) in order to bring clarity to their future management and to support a forthcoming review of arterial drainage practices, as committed to in the Water Action Plan 2024.

Four river waterbodies on the South Wexford Coast were classified as HMWBs (Table 12). Essentially, the waterbodies in question comprise (1) the drainage channels on Inish and Ballyteige Slob, and (2) three segments of the Bridgetown Canal. Details at https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/ and www.catchments.ie.

Water Body Name	Water Body Code
Ballyteige Burrow 010	IE_SE_13B330460
Bridgetown (Wexford) 020	IE_SE_13B010090
Bridgetown (Wexford) 030	IE_SE_13B010200
Bridgetown (Wexford) 040	IE_SE_13B010400

Table 12. HMWBs on the South Wexford Coast.

11.2 Lady's Island Lake

Results are presented separately for the lagoon (Section 11.2.1) and the waste water treatment plant (Section 11.2.2).

11.2.1 The lagoon

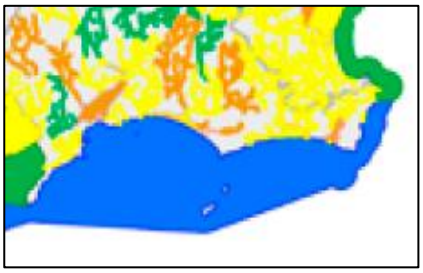
References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 109-113 plus page 116. Hurley, 1998 page 36. Hurley, 1999 pages 106-110. Hurley, 2000 page 122. Hurley, 2001 pages 104-105. Hurley, 2002 page 110. Hurley, 2003 page 107. Hurley, 2004 pages 123-137. Hurley, 2005 pages 123-137. Hurley, 2006 pages 110-112. Hurley, 2007 pages 128-134. Hurley, 2008 pages 96-97. Hurley, 2009 page 69. Hurley, 2010 page 73. Hurley, 2011 page 67. Hurley, 2012 pages 83-84. Hurley, 2016 pages 62-63. Hurley, 2017 page 89. Hurley, 2020 page 75. Hurley, 2021 pages 77-78. Hurley, 2022 page 71. Hurley, 2023 pages 60-61. Hurley, 2024 page 66. Hurley, 2025 page 56.

Updates

CLEAR report. On 9 January 2025, the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) published a 71-page report of the CLEAR project at Lady's Island Lake (O'Connor *et al.*, 2024) together with a one-page and video summary. The report made it clear that no improvement in the lake's ecology will be possible without a substantial reduction in nutrient run-off from land and that, consequently, society must address the conflict between the overuse of nutrients such as nitrogen and the impact that nutrients are having on our water resources. The report also contained the assessments regarding climate change and the proposed pipeline. Details regarding the reactions to the report are recorded at https://www.southwexfordcoast.com/ladys-island-lake/.

SNaP Project Team. A 14-person LIFE SNaP Ireland Project Team was put in place. That team included a "*lagoon expert*". A public invitation to apply for the post of Project Manager was published with a closing deadline of 24 January 2025 (https://assets.gov.ie/315903/242a2802-9f64-4f47-a96d-c2d375ac5f27.pdf).

EPA report. On 14 October 2025. The EPA published its report regarding water quality in Ireland during the period 2019-2024 (EPA, 2025). The ecological status of most rivers and streams on the South Wexford Coast was rated '*Poor*' (orange) or '*Moderate*' (yellow), but the status of coastal water was rated 'High' (blue) (page 7; extract right).The Ballyteigue-Bannow (13) catchment showed no improvements in status during the five-year period (page 30). As indicated by their lagoonal communities, both Ballyteige and Lady's Island Lake were "*in poor ecological status*" (page 59, Table 4.1). "*Bannow Bay was at poor status due to elevated growths of opportunistic macroalgae*." (pages 60 and 64).



Pollution incident. On 16 October 2025, Jim Hurley noted a patch of water with an off-white colour and a foul smell about halfway along the western shore of Lady's Island (Figure 12). He reported the incident to Wexford County Council. On 12 November 2025, Brendan Cooney replied: "*Re the scum on the lake we have caried out a number*

of drone flights on Ladys Is and on Tacumshine where it also appeared. We don't have any conclusive evidence yet as to what it is otherwise than it is probably some oligo/polysaccharides from algae in the lake, which can behave as surfactants, thus the foam."


Figure 12. Location (left) and close up (right) of pollution incident.

11.2.2 Waste water treatment plant

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 114, Table 16, together with text on pages 112-113. Hurley, 1998 page 39. Hurley, 1999 pages 111-114. Hurley, 2000 pages 122-123. Hurley, 2001 page 105. Hurley, 2002 page 111. Hurley, 2003 page 108. Hurley, 2004 pages 137-142. Hurley, 2005 page 121. Hurley, 2006 page 113. Hurley, 2007 pages 134-135. Hurley, 2008 page 98. Hurley, 2009 page 69. Hurley, 2010 page 74. Hurley, 2011 pages 68-70.

11.3 Other areas

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2006 page 113. Hurley, 2007 page 136. Hurley, 2010 page 74. Hurley, 2011 page 70. Hurley, 2012 page 85. Hurley, 2013 page 84. Hurley, 2014 page 67. Hurley, 2015 page 68. Hurley, 2018 page 71. Hurley, 2020 pages 75-76.

11.4 Pollution control by Wexford County Council

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 115. Hurley, 1998 page 37. Hurley, 1999 pages 119-120. Hurley, 2000 page 123. Hurley, 2001 pages 105-106. Hurley, 2002 pages 111-114. Hurley, 2003 page 108. Hurley, 2004 page 143. Hurley, 2005 pages 122-123. Hurley, 2006 pages 114-116. Hurley, 2008 page 98-99. Hurley, 2010 page 75. Hurley, 2011 page 70. Hurley, 2012 page 85. Hurley, 2013 page 85. Hurley, 2014 page 68. Hurley, 2015 pages 69-70. Hurley, 2019 page 64.

11.5 Clean-up campaigns by other agencies

While statutory responsibility for the control of pollution on the South Wexford Coast effectively rests with Wexford County Council, the following agencies are in a position to have a significant input: the Department of the Environment (Section 11.5.1), the Department of Agriculture (Section 11.5.2), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (Section 11.5.3), Teagasc, the agriculture and food development authority (Section 11.5.4), the Fisheries Boards (Section 11.5.5), the Irish Farmers' Association (IFA) (Section 11.5.6) and the Voice of Irish Concern for the Environment (VOICE) (Section 11.5.7).

11.5.1 Department of the Environment

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1998 pages 36-37. Hurley, 1999 page 104. Hurley, 2000 page 121. Hurley, 2001 pages 106-107. Hurley, 2002 pages 115-116. Hurley, 2003 page 109. Hurley, 2006 page 117. Hurley, 2011 page 71. Hurley, 2012 page 85.

11.5.2 Department of Agriculture

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1998 page 37. Hurley, 1999 pages 105-106 refers. Hurley, 2000 page 122. Hurley, 2002 page 117. Hurley, 2003 page 109.

11.5.3 The EPA

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1999 page 117. Hurley, 2000 page 125. Hurley, 2001 page 107. Hurley, 2002 page 118. Hurley, 2004 pages 144-145. Hurley, 2006 page 118. Hurley, 2008 pages 99-100. Hurley, 2015 pages 71-72. Hurley, 2017 pages 90-92. Hurley, 2018 page 72.

11.5.4 Teagasc

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1998 pages 37 and 38-39. Hurley, 1999, page 106. Hurley, 2000 page 122. Hurley, 2002 page 118. Hurley, 2003 page 110.

11.5.5 The Fisheries Board

Kiln Bay is the boundary between the area of the Southern Regional Fisheries Board (SRFB) and the Eastern Regional Fisheries Board (ERFB).

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1998 page 38. Hurley, 2003 page 110. Hurley, 2010 page 76.

11.5.6 The IFA

Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 1998 pages 37-38.

11.5.7 VOICE

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1998 page 38. Hurley, 2000 page 107.

11.6 Overview of marine waters

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2001 page 108. Hurley, 2004 page 147. Hurley, 2008 pages 100-101. Hurley, 2011 page 72. Hurley, 2013 page 85. Hurley, 2014 page 70. Hurley, 2015 page 73. Hurley, 2016 page 65. Hurley, 2017 page 92. Hurley, 2018 page 73. Hurley, 2019 page 66. Hurley, 2020 page 78. Hurley, 2021 pages 80-83. Hurley, 2022 page 73. Hurley, 2023 page 63.

11.7 Monitoring of marine pollutants

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2000 page 126 and pages 130-131. Hurley, 2001 pages 108-109. Hurley, 2002 pages 119-120. Hurley, 2003 page 111. Hurley, 2004 pages 147-148. Hurley, 2005 pages 125-126. Hurley, 2007 page 139. Hurley, 2008 pages 101-102. Hurley, 2009 pages 71-72. Hurley, 2010 pages 77-80. Hurley, 2011 page 72. Hurley, 2012 page 86. Hurley, 2013 pages 86-87. Hurley, 2014 page 70. Hurley, 2015 page 74. Hurley, 2016 page 65. Hurley, 2017 page 92. Hurley, 2018 page 73.

11.8 Ionising radiation

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 21-22. Hurley, 1998 page 18. Hurley, 1999 pages 18-20. Hurley, 2000 pages 127-129. Hurley, 2001 page 109. Hurley, 2002 pages 120-123. Hurley, 2003 pages 111-113. Hurley, 2004 pages 148-150. Hurley, 2007 page 140. Hurley, 2008 pages 102-103. Hurley, 2009 page 72. Hurley, 2010 page 80. Hurley, 2011 page 73. Hurley, 2013 page 87. Hurley, 2015 page 74. Hurley, 2016 page 65. Hurley, 2020 page 79.

11.9 Coastwatch Ireland surveys

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2000 pages 131-138. Hurley 2001 pages 109-110. Hurley, 2017 page 93.

11.10 Dumping at sea

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2000 pages 126-127. Hurley, 2001 page 110. Hurley, 2002 pages 123-124. Hurley, 2004 page 151. Hurley, 2005 page 127. Hurley, 2006 page 122. Hurley, 2007 pages 141-149. Hurley, 2009 page 72. Hurley, 2011 page 73. Hurley, 2013 page 87. Hurley, 2014 page 71. Hurley, 2016 page 66. Hurley, 2017 page 93. Hurley, 2018 page 74. Hurley, 2019 page 66. Hurley, 2020 pages 80-81. Hurley, 2021 pages 83-84. Hurley, 2024 page 68. Hurley, 2025 page 58.

12 WATER LEVEL MANAGERS

12.1 Lady's Island Lake

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 117-122. Hurley, 1998 pages 41-46. Hurley, 1999 pages 121-127. Hurley, 2000 pages 139-145. Hurley, 2001 pages 111-112. Hurley, 2002 pages 125-127. Hurley, 2003 pages 114-123. Hurley, 2004 pages 152-157. Hurley, 2005 pages 128-142. Hurley, 2006 pages 123-126. Hurley, 2007 pages 151-153. Hurley, 2008 pages 105-112. Hurley 2009, pages 73-79. Hurley, 2010 pages 81-91. Hurley, 2011 pages 74-84. Hurley, 2012 pages 87-90. Hurley, 2013 pages 88-99. Hurley, 2014 pages 71-79. Hurley, 2015 pages 75-79. Hurley, 2016 page 66-72. Hurley, 2017 pages 94-112. Hurley, 2018 pages 75-82. Hurley, 2019 pages 67-77. Hurley, 2020 pages 82-85.

Hurley, 2021 pages 85-90. Hurley, 2022 pages 74-77. Hurley, 2023 pages 64-65. Hurley, 2024 pages 69-76. Hurley, 2025 pages 59-63.

Updates

Meetings. Three meetings, the 68th, 69th and 70th, were held during 2025.

Hurley, 1997 page 121, Table 19 is updated as follows.

No	Meeting Date	Secretary
01	24 July 1990	Niall McDonnell
02	28 November 1990	Niall McDonnell
03	22 March 1991	Niall McDonnell
04	5 March 1992	Seán Mythen
05	18 March 1993	Peadar McDonald
06	26 November 1993	Peadar McDonald
07	12 January 1994	Noirín Byrne
08	28 April 1994	Martina Donoghue
09	14 October 1994	Peadar McDonald
10	18 January 1995	Peadar McDonald
11	23 March 1995	Peadar McDonald
12	19 January 1996	Martin McDonald
13	7 February 1996	Martin McDonald
14	16 September 1996	Martin McDonald
15	26 February 1997	Martin McDonald
16	16 September 1997	Martin McDonald
17	28 January 1998	Martin McDonald
18	16 February 1998	Martin McDonald
19	26 May 1998	Jim Power
20	8 February 1999	Martin McDonald
21	8 March 1999	Martin McDonald
22	29 July 1999	Martin McDonald
23	23 March 2000	Gerry Forde
24	6 September 2000	None
25	16 January 2001	Martin McDonald
26	24 May 2001	Martin McDonald
27	11 December 2001	Martin McDonald
28	12 March 2002	Alice Doyle
29	3 April 2002	Alice Doyle
30	10 April 2002	None
31	26 November 2002	None
32	10 December 2002	None
33	16 April 2003	Alice Doyle
34	26 May 2003	Alice Doyle
35	1 March 2004	Adrienne Larkin
36	29 March 2004	Adrienne Larkin
37	13 April 2005	Yvonne Mullooley
38	11 January 2006	Michele Brown
39	12 February 2007	Michele Brown
40	4 March 2008	Michele Brown
41	18 March 2008	Michele Brown
42	10 February 2009	Michele Brown
43	14 September 2009	Michele Brown
44	2 December 2009	Michele Brown
45	1 March 2010	Michele Brown
46	1 April 2010	Michele Brown
47	1 March 2011	Michele Brown
48	21 March 2012	Michele Brown
49	11 October 2012	Michele Brown
50	23 January 2013	Caroline O'Mara
51	4 February 2014	Anita Ryan
52	26 February 2015	Anita Ryan
53	1 February 2016	Anita Ryan
54	14 March 2016	Anita Ryan
55	4 July 2016	Anita Ryan
56	1 March 2017	Eimear Kennedy
57	29 January 2018	Anita Ryan
58	13 March 2019	Philip Knight
59	13 January 2020	Philip Knight
60	10 March 2020	Philip Knight
61	14 February 2022	Melissa Goff
62	16 March 2022	Melissa Goff
63	23 January 2023	Melissa Goff
64	13 April 2023	Melissa Goff
65	29 November 2023	Melissa Goff
66	4 March 2024	Melissa Goff
67	9 April 2024	Aoife Hennessey
68	18 February 2025	Nichola Gahan
69	28 July 2025	Aoife Hennessy
70	15 September 2025	Nichola Gahan

Table 13. Lady's Island Lake Drainage Committee meeting dates.

February meeting. On 12 February 2025, Aoife Hennessy, Clerical Officer, Environment Section, Wexford County Council circulated via email an invitation from Abraham Dunne, Senior Engineer, Environment, to attend a meeting of Our Lady's Island Drainage Committee in the Community Centre, Our Lady's Island, at 10.00am on Tuesday 18th of February 2025. The agenda comprised the following six items: (1) Election of Chair, (2) Minutes of Meeting held on 9th April 2024, (3) Matters Arising, (4) Cutting of the Lake, (5) Progress on Long Term Solution, and (6) Any Other Business.

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 April 2024 were appended and follow.

Minutes of Meeting

Our Lady's Island Lake Drainage Committee

Held on Tuesday 9th April 2024 at 2.00pm

In Our Lady's Island Community Centre

In the Chair: Councillor Jim Moore

Attendance: Cllr Ger Carthy, Val Byrne, George Colfer, Brendan Cooney, Richard Davis, Tony Murray, David Ormonde, Michael Vaughan, Hazel Doyle, Sandra Martin, Aoife Hennessy.

Apologies: from Gerry Forde and Jim Hurley.

Cllr Ger Carthy requested that Cllr Jim Moore chair the meeting.

Minutes from previous meeting: The Minutes from the 4th of March 2024 were signed by Cllr. Jim Moore. Proposed by David Ormonde and seconded by Richard Davis.

Matters arising:

Sandra Martin from Rosslare MD was welcomed to the committee.

Cutting of the Lake:

David Ormonde raised concerns about the lake being cut five times in a thirteen month period, questioning why an EIS was not needed. Tony Murray noted that the purpose of taking the cut is to protect the SPA, the level of the lake is currently at 4.5 and looks set to continue to heighten. Tony noted that the Terns are currently there. On the Southern side of Inis, using a live feed camera, the water can be seen pooling. Due to the time of the year, NPWS propose to cut the lake, let some of the water out and then close, hoping that the weather should pick up. David proposed that if we breach and block the sand should be spread. Tony explained that this could be considered if the material from the cut is saved.

Cllr Ger Carthy expressed concerns that there were no solutions coming from Wexford County Council or NPWS. He also noted that there is a reluctance to bring in foreign material and questioned that if local items were used, they would not be foreign. He also noted that the meetings are continuing with no solution coming to the table. Brendan Cooney explained that by taking material from one area and place in another, could affect the habitat or even destroy it. He also noted that George Colfer has been working on the long term solution and that we have never been closer to achieving this. Tony Murray noted that Natura Impact Statements would be needed. David Ormonde noted that there is no shortage of material as there are tonnes of sand available in the Lake. Tony Murray added that anything that is not part of the cut would require the appropriate health and safety plans as you would be entering the bed of the lake.

Cllr Jim Moore proposed that the promotion of marram grass be investigated as the marram grass stops the sand dunes from being blown away. He also noted that the cut will have to

[1]

be done, he suggested to contact the contractor about re-instatement works and asked George Colfer to investigate the use of marram grass. Tony Murray noted that if the cut is a success, then the re-instatement works could be looked at. Richard Davis noted that the cut should be closed and then wait for it to build up and then place material over it. Tony Murray noted that it is a narrow window of opportunity when closing, there is a risk of losing material. The consensus was that if the cut was closed successfully then the re-instatement works could be looked at.

Richard Davis mentioned that several years ago, dumpers were used to build up the sand. Brendan Cooney noted that this was mainly for a different project, David Ormonde was in disagreement with this, and he passed around a photo of the sand build up from that time. Brendan noted that this would be a huge project which would require numerous contractor and as it would be a larger project, more health and safety parameters would be required and he noted that Wexford County Council would be hesitant to get involved in this.

Progress on long term solution:

George Colfer explained that we are awaiting the signature from the minister to finalise the foreshore consent. Cllr Jim Moore noted that until we received signed approval, we can then talk about the contractor costs.

The target date for the cut was agreed to be the 16th of April. Hazel Doyle is to contact Denis Carroll to arrange for the cut to be carried out. The health and safety side is already completed by NPWS. NPWS are to notify Aoife Hennessy the details of the cut, which is then to be circulated by Aoife to the members of the committee. To conclude the meeting, on behalf of the committee, Cllr Ger Carthy wished Cllr Jim Moore all the best in his retirement. Cllr Jim Moore thanked everyone and said that it is a credit to the committee for everything that is being done.

Date of Next Meeting:

To be confirmed.

Signed By: _____
Chairperson

Dated this _____day of_____2024

[2]

The meeting was held as planned. It was decided to delay cutting the lake until the weather improved. Jim Hurley drew attention to the consultants advice that *"The optimum period for breaching with respect to lowering lake levels and flushing of the lower lake with coastal waters via tidal inflows is the cutting of the breach just prior to a high spring tide period."* (Source: EPA, 2024 page 6). The NPWS representatives announced that monitoring of salinity in the lagoon was imminent as the NPWS had concerns about its involvement in funding the proposed pipeline. Jim Hurley highlighted the consultants opinion that *"The strategy of employing a pipeline to replace breaching would enable control of lake flood levels, but such a pipeline in reverse would not be capable of providing sufficient saline inflows to replicate the saline inflows currently achieved from the physical breaching process."* (Source: EPA, 2024 page 9).

July meeting. On 14 July 2025, Aoife Hennessy, Clerical Officer, Environment Section, Wexford County Council circulated via email an invitation from Abraham Dunne, Senior Engineer, Environment, to attend a meeting of Our Lady's Island Drainage Committee in the Community Centre, Our Lady's Island, at 10.00am on Monday 28 July 2025. The agenda comprised the following five items: (1) Minutes of Meeting held on 18th February 2025, (2) Matters Arising, (3) Update from WCC regarding status & condition of the lake, (4) Progress on Long Term Solution, and (5) Any Other Business.

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2025 were appended and follow.

Minutes of Meeting

Our Lady's Island Lake Drainage Committee

Held on Tuesday 18th February 2025 at 10.00am

In Our Lady's Island Community Centre

In the Chair: Councillor Ger Carthy

Proposed by: David Ormonde **Seconded by**: Michael Vaughan.

Attendance: Cllr Ger Carthy, George Colfer, Brendan Cooney, Val Byrne, Richard Davis, Ciaran Foley, Jim Hurley, David Ormonde, Michael Vaughan, Sandra Martin, Hazel Doyle, Tony Pettit, Nichola Gahan.

Apologies: No apologies were received.

Minutes from previous meeting: The Minutes from 9th April were signed by Cllr. Ger Carthy Proposed by Michael Vaughan & Seconded by Tony Pettit.

Matters arising:

Cllr. Ger Carthy was appointed as Chair. He welcomed everyone to the meeting, expressed his thanks to Jim Moore and wished him well on his retirement. Cllr. Carthy stated that he was looking forward to working with Abraham Dunne who recently took over as Senior Engineer in the Environment Dept.

David Ormonde requested that consideration be given to appointing a permanent Chair instead of proposing a new chair for every meeting.

Cutting of the Lake:

The current level of the lake was stated as 5.3.

The committee agreed that NPWS would carry out the cut at the next possible opportunity which may be March as the weather forecast for next week is not suitable. Hazel Doyle advised that NPWS would look after Health & Safety requirements in respect of the cut. Brendan Cooney to arrange for signage and fencing.

It was discussed whether it was better for the cut to be carried out on a Spring Tide or a Leap Tide and it was decided that the cut should happen on a Leap Tide. Hazel Doyle confirmed that the current level of the lake is 5.3 and that NPWS are looking at lowering the level to 3.7 – 3.8. She explained that 3.7 was the lowest level the NPWS could go in order to protect the Terns.

[1]

It was agreed that NPWS would liaise with the relevant committee members regarding a suitable day, tide and weather conditions for the cut.

Progress on long term solution:

George Colfer advised that following ministerial foreshore consent last year, WCC met with NPWS to progress the project. He explained that before NPWS could come back with a proposal regarding funding, they confirmed that they would need to capture more data with regards to the salinity levels of the lake.

CLEAR report

A discussion took place about the CLEAR report, which was a project undertaken by the EPA in relation to bathing water in the lake.

Ciaran Foley stated that from NPWS point of view, the Clear Report from EPA questioned salinity levels and that was why NPWS were requesting more data and needed more questions answered. He advised that NPWS needed winter and summer data and that the time frame for collecting this would be minimum of 12 months. He also stated that before NPWS could commit to funding, they would require this additional data. David Ormonde advised that the project should not be delayed because NPWS had changed the goal posts.

Cllr. Carthy advised that in his opinion due diligence had been carried out and that we had a duty of care to deliver this project. He proposed that the permanent pipe solution be progressed to detailed design and tender stage and that this should be communicated to all parties involved.

Jim Hurley referred to a statement contained in the CLEAR report that the proposed pipeline solution would not be capable of providing sufficient saline inflows. Following discussion, it was noted that a significant amount of saline content comes from sea water breaching the natural sand barrier.

David Ormonde discussed historical salinity level and advised that 1.5 years had been spent discussing these levels which had already been submitted to An Bord Pleanala. He stated that there should be no deviation from what was agreed.

Cllr. Ger Carthy expressed his agreement with David Ormonde and added that the goal posts could not be moved. He advised that Minister James Browne was very well aware of the situation in Our Lady's Island and that he was going to meet him next week. Cllr. Carthy also mentioned that Kevin "Boxer" Moran would be visiting in approximately 6 weeks and that he wanted an update to put before him.

George Colfer stated that the estimated cost of the next stage (detailed design and site investigations) is €130,000. Following a request from Cllr Carthy, George Colfer undertook to investigate possibility of using WCC monies to fund this stage.

[2]

He also stated that should there be any delays that he was to receive a phone call and not an email advising him of the issues. Cllr. Carthy said that he had no issue with NPWS carrying out further tests and investigations but that he would not allow these tests to stop progress.

Cllr. Carthy requested that Ciaran Foley update him with regards to when NPWS are going to place data equipment in the lake. Ciaran Foley confirmed that he would make enquiries this afternoon and Cllr. Carthy stated that he would copy in committee members once he had received results from Ciaran.

Any Other Business:

None.

Date of Next Meeting:

To be confirmed.

Signed By: _____
Chairperson

Dated this _____day of_____2025

The July meeting was held as planned. Abraham Dunne replaced Gerry Forde as Senior Executive Engineer, and Enda Brennan replaced George Colfer as Coastal Engineer. The minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2025 were not read or adopted and agenda items 'Matters Arising' and Any Other Business' were not tabled. The entire meeting was taken up with a discussion regarding agenda items 3 and 4.

With regard to the condition of the lake (item 3) it was reported that consultants were being engaged and that a plan would be formulated in the coming months

With regard to 'Progress on Long Term Solution' (item 4) everything is now "*on hold*" pending further investigations. The position, as discussed, can be summarised as follows, arranged in chronological order:-

1. To address concerns regarding the ability of the proposed two 1.2m diameter pipelines to allow sufficient saltwater to enter the lake, provision was made, and permission was sought, for an emergency cut structure to accompany the proposed pipelines.
2. The NPWS raised concerns with An Bord Pleanála regarding the impact of the proposed emergency cut structure on vegetated shingle, a qualifying interest of the SAC. An Bord Pleanála corresponded with Wexford County Council and Malachy Walshe & Partners, and it was decided to drop the proposed emergency cut structure in favour of getting permission for the two 1.2m diameter pipelines. The permission sought for the pipelines was granted by the Board on 3 September 2021 (Ref No 307432).
3. In November 2024, a six-person deputation from the NPWS met privately with WCC to discuss the pipelines (Abraham Dunne).

4. In January 2025, the CLEAR report advised that two pipelines would not be capable of delivering the required volume of seawater (page 9).
5. The target for salinity in the lagoon is *"Annual median salinity and temporal variation within natural range*". (Conservation Objectives, 2019 page 7) with the following note: *"Lady's Island Lake is recorded as a meso-euhaline lagoon. See the lagoons supporting document for further details."* Meso-euhaline = 5-40psu. Annual median salinity = 22.5psu when the relationship is linear. *"If 1.5m ODM (4.09m ODP) is taken to be the median water level in the lake, then the volume is about 5Mm^3. If a mesohaline salinity status is to prevail, the volume of seawater required would be about 2.5Mm^3."* (Hurley, 2025 page 6). As salinity data is now regarded as "*old*" by the NPWS, that service now requests "*a year or more, … maybe two or three*" (Ciarán Foley) to gather salinity data to inform its position. Wexford County Council supports their request (Eamonn Hore).
6. The planning permission granted in September 2021 expires in October 2026 (Ger Carthy).
7. The number of pipelines may need to be increased from two to four (Abraham Dunne). The proposed increase may not need planning permission if the change is not deemed to be "*significant*" (Eamonn Hore).

September meeting. On 3 September 2025, Aoife Hennessy gave notice via email of a meeting on Monday 15 September 2025 at 11am in Our Lady's Island Community Centre with tea/coffee on arrival. The agenda comprised: (1) Minutes of Meeting held on 28th of July 2025, (2) 2. Matters Arising, (3) Progress on Long Term Solution, and (4) Any Other Business. The minutes of the meeting held on 28 July 2025 were appended and follow.

Minutes of Meeting

Our Lady's Island Lake Drainage Committee

Held on Monday 28th July 2025 at 10.00am

In Our Lady's Island Community Centre

Attendance: Cllr Ger Carthy, Enda Brennan, Brendan Cooney, Abraham Dunne, Val Byrne, Richard Davis, Ciaran Foley, Jim Hurley, Eamonn Hore, David Ormonde, Michael Vaughan, Tony Pettit, Eoin Kinsella, Noirin Cummins, James Furlong, Aoife Hennessy

Apologies: Bob Butler

Matters arising:

Cllr Ger Carthy opened the meeting and thanked Eamonn Hore, Director of Environment in Wexford County Council for attending and welcomed Abraham Dunne and Enda Brennan. He also welcomed James Furlong to the meeting.

Update from WCC Regarding status and condition of the lake:

Eamonn Hore gave a brief update on the Oireachtas committee meeting which took place on the 11th of June 2025 in Leinster House to discuss the CLEAR report that was published by the EPA regarding the decline of the condition of Our Lady's Island Lake. It was noted that there is a commitment to fund, but the upgrading works will take time to show improvements. It is a work in progress.

Abraham Dunne spoke briefly about the need to know an appropriate salinity level for the lake. The salinity levels monitoring equipment have been put in place on the lake however we do not know how much data is required. He also mentioned that there are older results there, but we do not know if these are useable.

David Ormonde stated that the pipelines were agreed, the funding was agreed, and we cannot change the plans now. He mentioned that the problem with salinity levels of the lake may arise from issues with the period of time the lake is being allowed to tide for. He noted that the department were not in favour of an emergency cut. The committee agreed to cancel the emergency cut. NPWS pulled out of agreements from the screening meetings. Wexford County Council noted that further information was required regarding the emergency cut. David posed the question of what direction is next.

Ciaran Foley responded that there is not enough information in relation to salinity levels of the lake for NPWS to get involved with funding. They will require a year to collect information.

David noted that the chair had received confirmation from George Colfer that the project would proceed regardless of NPWS input. David asked why go backwards and noted that there seemed to be no issue up until the emergency cut.

Eamonn noted that NPWS are the body that are tasked with the environmental issues with the lake, we don't want to destroy any plants or affect wildlife but did ask that if the readings

from the monitors are inadequate will it delay the project even longer. He noted that we need the NWPS advice and input for the project to work.

Cllr Ger Carthy summed up that the salinity of the lake is now an issue. We have consent and we have planning. He posed the question asking if the NPWS are in favour of it or not as there doesn't appear to be much confidence in it. He noted that if this is not the right direction, we need to know what is. Money is not of concern but rather why everyone was on board and suddenly there appears to be a problem. David Ormonde added that there appeared to be no issues at the steering committee. No objections were raised. Cllr Ger Carthy also mentioned that any meeting that is held regarding our lady island should have members of this committee on it as decisions should not be made without consulting the committee. Abraham noted that there was a meeting, not of this committee, in November 2024 where salinity levels in the lake were raised. Cllr Ger Carthy noted that the meeting in February was the first time the committee were made aware of these issues. He noted that we need to work together.

David Ormonde noted that he received a phone call from Ciara in NPWS regarding the emergency cut being pulled.

Cllr Ger Carthy asked the question of who agreed to pull the emergency cut. Brendan Cooney, Eoin Kinsella, Abraham Dunne and Eamonn Hore were not aware of who pulled it. Cllr Carthy asked for any further comments and noted that the steering committee may be required again.

David Ormonde referred to a letter from An Bord Pleanála to Wexford County Council regarding an alternative that would not allow overtopping, but that further information would be required. David read out the letter and requested to know was that information provided. Eamonn Hore requested to know what the alternative could be to an emergency cut. David noted that the department had agreed that the pipes were adequate along with rock armour. Eamonn Hore proposed that contact be made with the department asking what information they require, he noted it may be the salinity data but would have to confirm.

Cllr Ger Carthy asked can it progress to tender in the absence of salinity data and that an answer would be required soon. Cllr Carthy also mentioned the issue with pollution of the lake and asked who is taking the responsibility and the drive for the solution. Eamonn Hore noted that it was agreed at the Oireachtas meeting, Wexford County Council will drive the solution to the pollution.

Abraham Dunne mentioned that consultants Malachy Walsh were happy with the size of the pipes to maintain a salinity of up to 14, the salinity results we have at present are outdated. The current design may not work if the salinity level of the lake is required to be higher than 14. Ultimately, we have a responsibility to ensure that the design of it is correct. The NPWS have to confirm the desired salinity range within the lake.

Eamonn Hore noted that we need to go with recommendations from NPWS.

Brendan Cooney noted that he took samples from the lake to ensure that there was no lapse of time when the salinity monitors hadn't arrived as scheduled. Eamonn Hore noted that the

higher levels of NPWS need to be at the meetings to discuss what is needed. Ciaran noted that he is not aware of what occurs at the bigger meetings. Eamonn requested that the NPWS provide a definitive statement.

Brendan Cooney presented a slideshow about the lake showing the headlines from the newspapers about the condition of the lake. He noted that the nutrient input to the lake would need to reduce 10-fold. There are 12 feeder streams into the lake. There is phosphorous coming out of the sewage treatment plant, but it is also in the streams that feed into the lake. There was a similar problem in Duncannon and the EIP project was used to help the situation significantly. Brendan noted that he is hoping to get more information and talk to the local farmers to help input measures to reduce the level of nutrients entering the lake. They would put together proposals, amending as they go along and talk to the community to get their input and feedback.

Any Other Business:

Richard Davis asked what can be done about the overgrowth of reeds in the lake. Brendan noted that the sediment levels are high in the lake, the reeds need to be removed regularly as this sediment accumulates at the roots of the reeds, and they multiply rapidly. He noted that the removal of sediment would need to be looked at in conjunction with the NPWS and then the sediment could be given back to farmers for their lands. Ciaran noted that the activity would have to be screened.

David Ormonde wished to know how often the report regarding the breaching of the barrier is sent to the European Commission. Ciaran noted that he believes it is every 3 years.

Tony Petitt asked if the treatment plant was causing a problem in the lake. Eamonn noted that it accounts for roughly 1% of the issue only. It is relatively small, and it may be possible to pipe it to the harbour but that would be a huge project. Tony questioned that if it is working efficiently, why is it being emptied so often. Eamonn noted that we could request a comment from Uisce Eireann in relation to it.

Richard asked how the nitrogen is ending up in the lake noting that the cost of nitrogen is so high that farmers are not going to waste it. Brendan responded that only 35% of the nitrogen that is spread is used by the plants. 65% is lost to groundwater/streams/lakes. Eoin noted that it depends on your land type, time of application and location of application. He emphasized that soil sampling is important.

Date of Next Meeting:

September but date to be confirmed.

Signed By: _____
Chairperson

Dated this _____day of_____2025

[3]

The September meeting was held as planned. All four agenda items were merged and a general discussion followed. Ciara O'Mahoney advised that the oversight group was being chaired by Eamonn Hore and, in reply to a query from Jim Hurley, that the group's remit was confined to water quality, and that its terms of reference were being finalised. The chair announced that another meeting would be held in November, however, that proposed meeting did not take place.

12.2 Tacumshin Lake

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2002 page 127. Hurley, 2003 pages 123-4. Hurley, 2004 page 158. Hurley, 2014 page 79. Hurley, 2017 page 113.

13 BREACHING THE BARRIER

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 123. Hurley, 2001 page 113.

Addendum

A 9inch x 9inch aerial image (Figure 13) was purchased from Ordnance Survey Ireland, cost £40 in May 1995. The image was captured at 11:52am GMT on 11 September 1990 from an aircraft flying at an altitude of 5,000 feet (1524m) and appears to show the locations of a number of former breach sites east of the present cut.

Figure 13. Aerial image of The Cut in September 1990.

(Source: Ordnance Survey Ireland)

13.1 The normal sequence

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 123-124. Hurley, 1999 page 128.

13.2 The location of the breach

Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 1997 pages 125-127.

13.3 Timing of the breach

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 128. Hurley, 1998 page 46. Hurley, 1999 page 128. Hurley, 2000 page 151. Hurley, 2001 pages 112-113. Hurley, 2005 pages 144-145. Hurley, 2007 pages 154-155.

13.4 Frequency of breaching

Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 1997 page 129.

13.5 Opening the breach

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 129-130. Hurley, 1998 page 46.

13.6 How the water flows

Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 1997 pages 130-137.

13.7 Closing the breach

Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 1997 pages 137-141.

13.8 Breaching since 1997

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1998 pages 46-48. Hurley, 1999 pages 128-137. Hurley, 2000 pages 151-153. Hurley, 2001 pages 115-117. Hurley, 2002 pages 129-133. Hurley, 2003 pages 125-134. Hurley, 2004 pages 159-163. Hurley, 2005 pages 147-153. Hurley, 2006 pages 129-131. Hurley, 2007 pages 157-159. Hurley, 2008 pages 112-116. Hurley, 2009 pages 81-82. Hurley, 2010 pages 92-94. Hurley, 2011 pages 86-88. Hurley, 2012 pages 91-92. Hurley, 2013 pages 100-102. Hurley, 2014 pages 80-81. Hurley, 2015 pages 81-84. Hurley, 2016 pages 74-82. Hurley, 2017 pages 115-124. Hurley, 2018 pages 83-93. Hurley, 2019 pages 79-91. Hurley, 2020 pages 87-107. Hurley, 2021 pages 91-102. Hurley, 2022 pages 78-86. Hurley, 2023 pages 66-70. Hurley, 2024 pages 77-86. Hurley, 2025 pages 64-70.

Updates

Start of year position. The day-mean water level on 31 December 2024 in the lagoon was 2.09mODM (= 4.68mODP) with a minimum of 2.064m and a maximum of 2.12m (https://waterlevel.ie/hydro-data/#/overview/Waterlevel/station/11405/Ladys%20Island/Waterlevel?period=P1Y).

Logger malfunction. The automatic recorder stopped functioning at 05:00 hours on 11 January at water level 4.899m and resumed at 14:30 hours on 13 January at water level 4.941m.

Storm Éowyn (say 'Ay-oh-win'). At midday on Monday 20 January 2025, Met Éireann issued a 'moderate weather advisory' for Wexford. A deepening low-pressure system was forecast to track close to Ireland on Thursday night and during Friday bringing high winds with the potential for damaging wind gusts, high seas and spells of heavy rain. On Tuesday, the low-pressure system was upgraded to a named storm, and the system was forecast to track across Ireland. It was reported that when the low-pressure system interacted with the accelerating jet stream that it became supercharged as it approached Ireland. On Wednesday, Met Éireann issued a 'severe weather warning for wind for Wexford' with 'gale force southerly winds becoming westerly bringing severe, damaging and destructive winds with gusts of up to 130km/h widely, with even higher gusts for a time.' The storm event was forecast to impact on Wexford from 2am to 10am on Friday 24 January.

Nationwide, Storm Éowyn was rated the worst storm event in 80 years. While damage was significant on the western seaboard, the impact on the South Wexford Coast was less severe. However, trees and electricity poles were felled, over 6,000 people in the county suffered power cuts, and an estimated €70,000 worth of damage was caused at Bannow Bay Nursery in Duncormick with the loss of six polytunnels and their contents (*Wexford People*, issue dated 29 January 2025, pages 9-11). The storm was followed immediately by east to southeast gales on 25-26 January. Water level in Lady's Island Lake rose 30mm before the storm (5.015-4.985), 45mm during the storm (5.060-5.015) and 20mm (5.08-5.06) after the storm event; all calculations approximate (Figure 14).

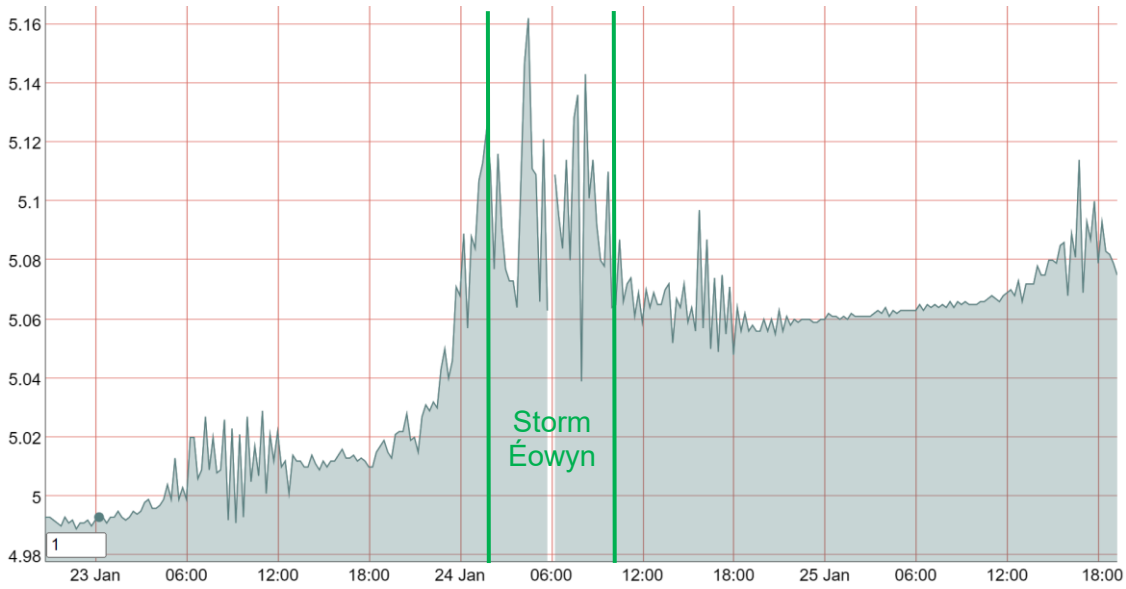


Figure 14. Impact of Storm Éowyn on water level.

(Source: https://waterlevel.ie/0000013070/0001/)

As Storm Éowyn passed, water level in the lagoon continued to rise, presumably due to overwashing of the weakened barrier, and was over 5.2m at the end of the month (Figure 15)

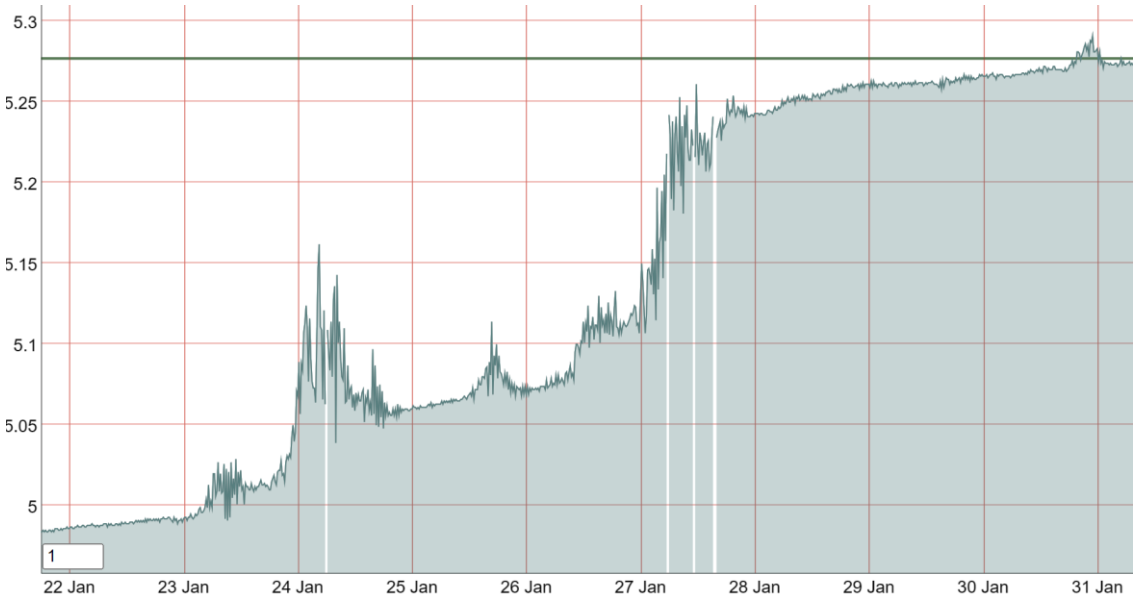


Figure 15. Rise in water level at the end of January.

(Source: https://waterlevel.ie/0000013070/0001/)

The bold dark green line at the top of the chart indicates the OPW median flood level (5.227m) for the lagoon.

February peak water level. Water level in the lagoon peaked at 5.482m ODP at 02:30h on 26 February (Source: https://waterlevel.ie/0000013070/0001/). The was a period of dry settled weather in early March and water level fell by 39mm before breaching (5.482-5.443).

Logger malfunction. The automatic recorder stopped functioning briefly on 2 March and again on 7 March.at.

March 2025 breach

Decision to breach. The decision to breach the barrier was taken at the 68th meeting of the Drainage Committee held on 18 February 2025. It was agreed that the NPWS would cut the lake for tern conservation when weather conditions were suitable.

Date on which the excavation work started: The breach was opened on Monday 10 March (personal communication David Ormonde).

Water level in the lagoon before breaching: Water level stood at 5.443m ODP at 00:00 hours on Monday 10 March (http://waterlevel.ie/0000013070/).

Tidal cycle and phase of the Moon: The Moon was in its waxing gibbous phase. Tides were rising with the Full Moon forecast on Friday 14 March.

Weather: Ireland was under a high pressure system resulting in a protracted period of fine, dry, sunny, but chilly weather with north-easterly winds.

Location of the breach: The line of the breach was at the traditional location. All the spoil was heaped on the eastern (Carnsore Point) side of the breach.

Opening the breach. Online data showed that the lake fell by 0.080m (5.443-5.353) from 00:00 hours on Monday 10 March before the breach was opened to 00:00 hours on Sunday 16 March before the barrier burst. Water level in the lagoon fell by 1.740m from a peak of 5.443m at 00:00 hours on Monday 10 March before breaching to a low of 3.703m at 07:15 hours on Tuesday 18 March (Figure 16). Tide tables indicated the time of high water to be 07:59h. The six-day period before the barrier burst was attributed to a shoal of sand in the lake blocking the outlet. The shoal could not be removed by the track excavator as it required a dragline to excavate a channel through it (personal communication David Ormonde). Water level bottomed out at 3.703m and rose to 3.730m. Following an instruction from the NPWS to the excavator operator the breach was closed on Tuesday 18 March to prevent it from tiding (personal communication David Ormonde).

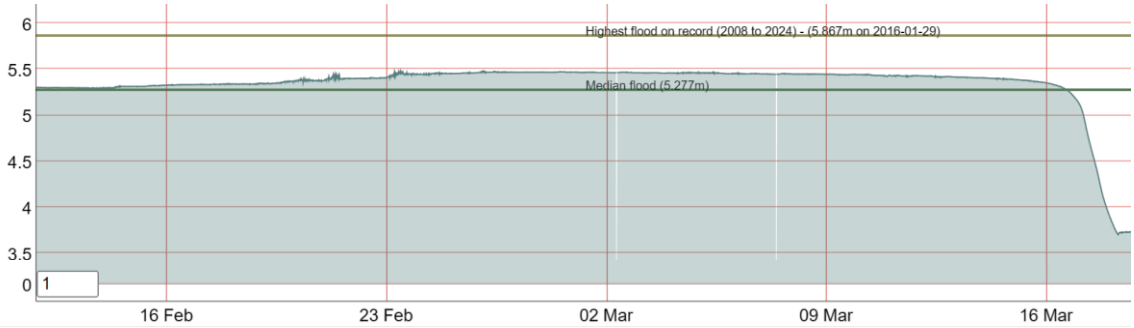


Figure 16. Barrier breach, March 2024.

(Source: http://waterlevel.ie/0000013070/0001/)

The number of breaches per year is updated below (Table 14 and Figure 17).

Period	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	No
1975-2020	4	10	23	11	3	2			1			1	55
2021		2											2
2022			1										1
2023		1			1							1	3
2024			1	1									2
2025			1										1
Total per month	4	13	26	12	4	2	0	0	1	0	0	2	64
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	

Table 14. Number of breaches per year by month, 1975-2025.

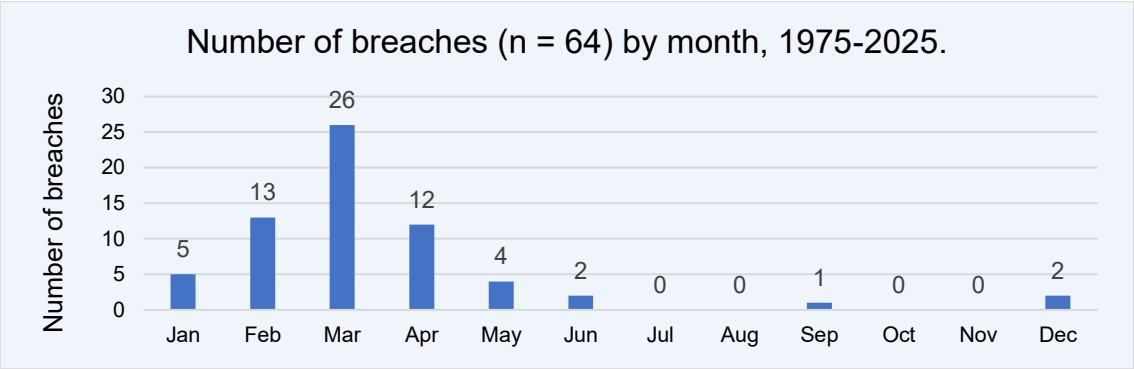


Figure 17. Breaches by month, 1975-2025.

(Source: Table 14 above)

Subsequent events. When water level in the lagoon bottomed out on 18 March and the breach was closed, it rose marginally over the next three days and rose more significantly on 22-23 March to level off at 3.8m ODP (Figure 18). Tiding was prevented so the rise was possibly due to a combination of overwashing and erosion of the closing bund, rainfall, and landward seepage of seawater.

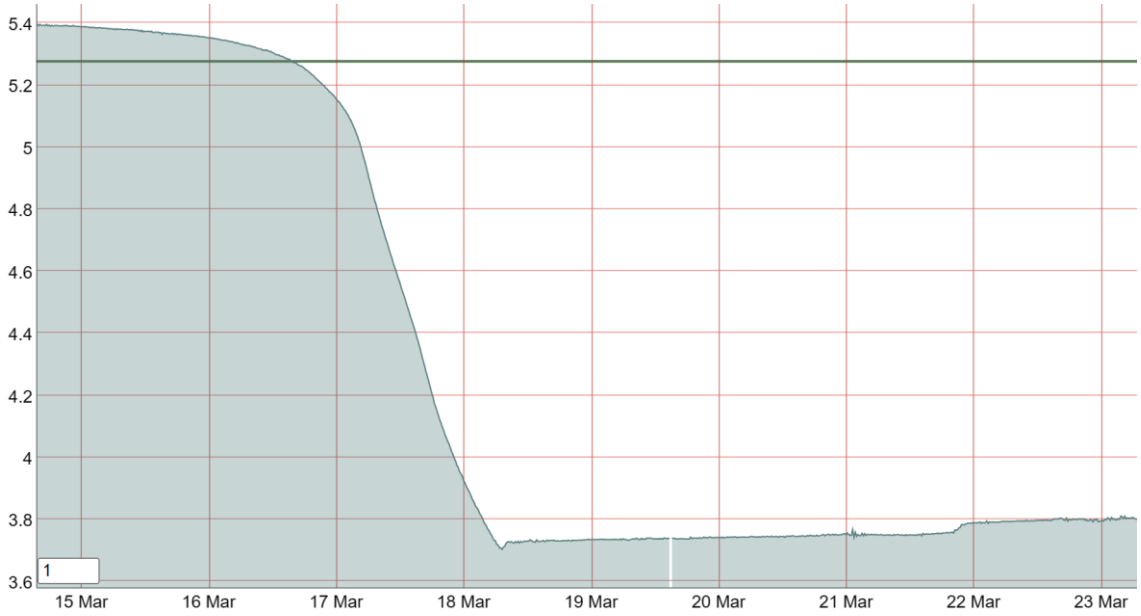


Figure 18. Water level bottomed out and started to rise.

(Source: http://waterlevel.ie/0000013070/0001/)

A period of settled weather followed, and the water level remained at 3.8m approximately to mid-April (Figure 13).

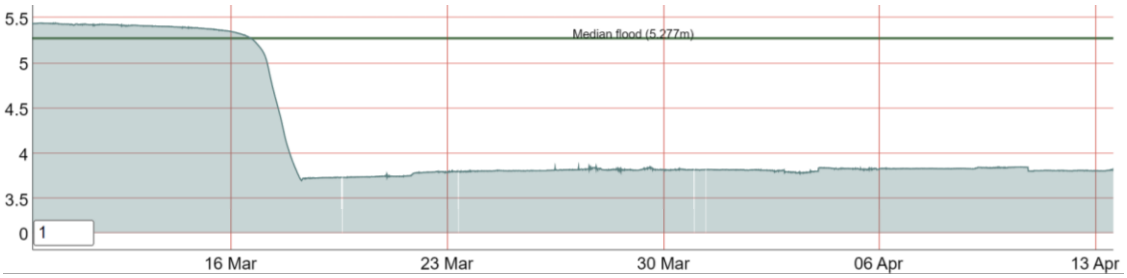


Figure 19. Water level stabilises at 3.8m approximately.

(Source: http://waterlevel.ie/0000013070/0001/)

A sudden drop of 42mm in the stable water level from 3.851m at 20:00h on 10 April to 3.809m 15 minutes later is unexplained (Figure 20).

Figure 20. Sudden unexplained drop in water level on 10 April.

(Source: https://waterlevel.ie/hydro-data/#/overview/Waterlevel/station/11405/Ladys%20Island/Waterlevel?period=P7D)

May 2025 was a dry, warm, calm, and sunny month. Water level in the lagoon fell from 3.989m at 12 noon on 1 May to 3.854m at noon on 31 May (Figure 21). Since water level was low (<4m), it is assumed that the fall of 135mm was due mainly to evaporation.

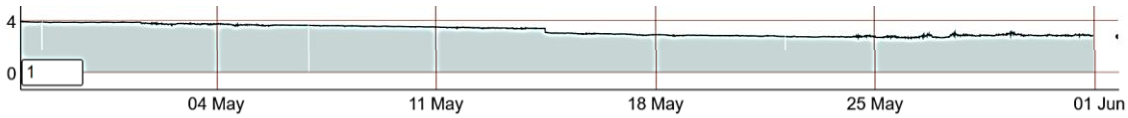


Figure 21. Water level fell during May.

(Source: http://waterlevel.ie/0000013070/0001/)

Water level stayed below 4m during June and July.

Storm Floris. On Friday 1 August 2025, Met Éireann issued a weather advisory that Storm Floris was developing in the Atlantic Ocean from a frontal wave and was likely to clip the north of Ireland bringing wet and unseasonably windy weather over the bank holiday weekend as it tracked eastwards and north-eastwards in an usually strong jet stream (https://www.met.ie/forecasts/meteorologists-commentary). Named by the British Met Office, Storm Floris was the sixth named storm of the 2024/2025 season. The storm's impact on the South Wexford Coast was minimal. Bank Holiday Monday started wet but the rain cleared rapidly. The day was windy with fresh to strong and gusty southwest winds that veered westerly through the morning and moderated by evening.

Subsequent events. Water level remained relatively stable throughout the summer at 3.8m ODP approximately.

Storm names. On 1 September 2025, Met Éireann, in partnership with the National Meteorological Services of the UK (Met Office) and the Netherlands (KNMI), launched the list of names for the 2025/26 storm season, 1 September 2025 to 31 August 2026. The names were: Amy, Bram, Chandra, Dave, Eddie, Fionnuala, Gerard, Hannah, Isla, Janna, Kasia, Lilith, Marty, Nico, Oscar, Patrick, Ruby, Stevie, Tadhg, Violet, and Wubbo.

Storm Amy. On Thursday evening 2 October 2025, there was strong wind and exceptionally heavy rain in Co Wexford. The following day, Storm Amy, the first storm of the season, moved in from the Atlantic and tracked north-eastwards through the morning bringing rain and near gale force south-westerly winds with damaging gusts. The impact of the storm was slight on the South Wexford Coast but was significant in the west and northwest of Ireland. The rain cleared in late afternoon and was followed by scattered showers and strong, gusty wings. Saturday on the South Wexford Coast was a fine, dry, sunny, mild day with a strong, gusty wind and exceptionally good drying. Water level in the lake on Thursday rose from 3.835 to 3.855 (20mm) approximately due to the heavy rain and from 3.855 to 3.875 (another 20mm) approximately due to Storm Amy, some rainfall, and the unknown impact of overtopping (Figure 22). In Figure 22 the aforementioned three days are divided by the green vertical bars, and the approximate times of high water are Thursday: 01:34 and 20:33, Friday 03:13 and 21:44, and Saturday: 04:17 and 22:40 (prediction for Cobh + 24 minutes).

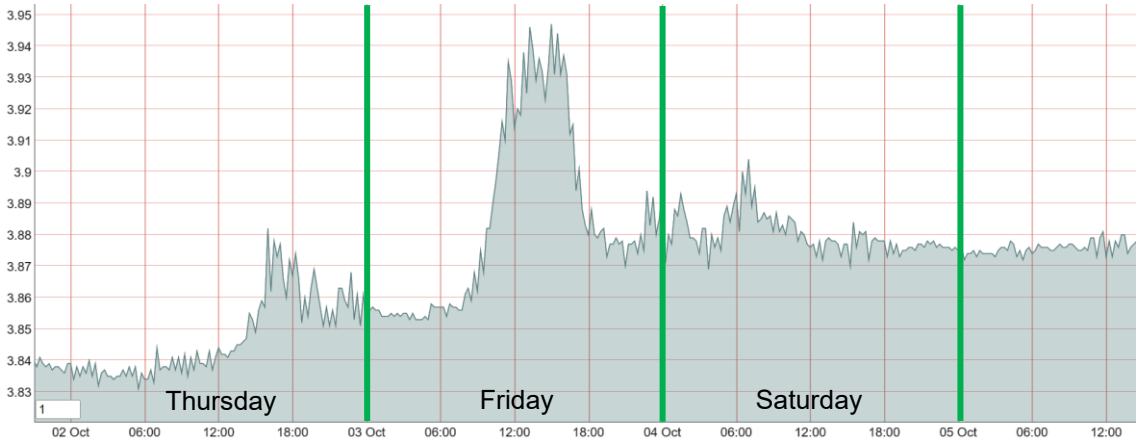


Figure 22. Water level during storm Amy.

(Source: http://waterlevel.ie/0000013070/0001/)

November rain event. On the evening of Friday 14 November and into the following day, ex-Storm Claudia from Spain tracked slowly northwards over Wexford bringing persistent heavy rain and causing flooding in Bridgetown. Water level in Lady's Island Lake rose by almost 0.3m (4.25-4.55) (Figure 23Figure 23. Water level mid-November.).

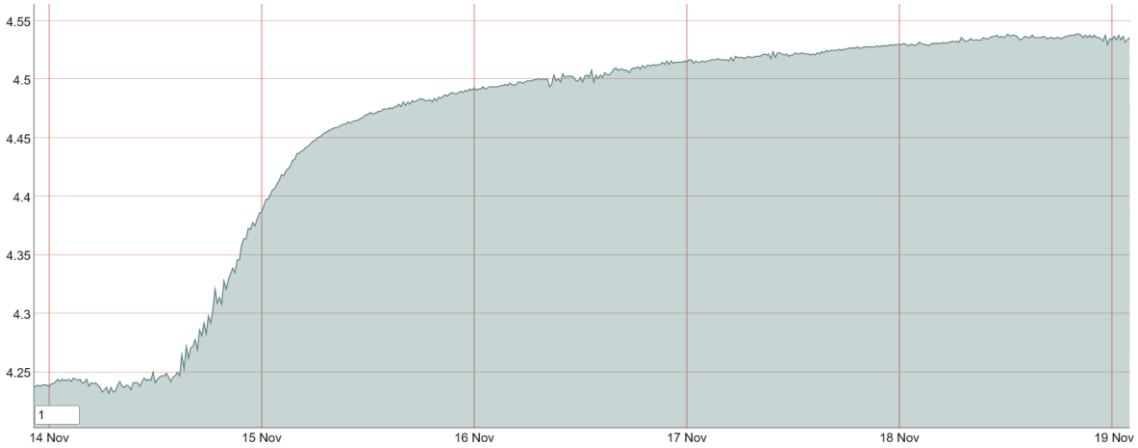


Figure 23. Water level mid-November.

(Source: http://waterlevel.ie/0000013070/0001/)

Storm Bram. On Sunday 7 December 2025, Met Éireann issued a status Yellow rain warning for several counties including Wexford valid from 21:00 on Monday to 09:00 on Tuesday followed by a status Orange wind warning for several counties including Wexford valid from 07:00 on Tuesday to 15:00 on the same day as Storm Bram approached from the southwest and tracked northwards close to Ireland. Storm Bram was forecast to bring heavy thundery rain and very windy or stormy conditions with strong to gale force southerly winds veering westerly through the day. Water level in Lady's Island Lake rose by 0.1m approximately (100mm) from 5.02m to 5.12m due to a combination of rainfall and overtopping (Figure 24). Morning high water on 9 December was predicted to occur at 08:22h.

Figure 24. Water level rise during Storm Bert.

(Source: http://waterlevel.ie/0000013070/0001/)

End of year position. While December 2025 was an exceptionally wet month in south Wexford, a cold, dry spell prevailed at the end of the month and, though drying was not exceptionally god, water level in the lagoon fell by 25mm approximately (Figure 25) leaving water level standing at 5.416m ODP at 23:45h on 31 December 2025.

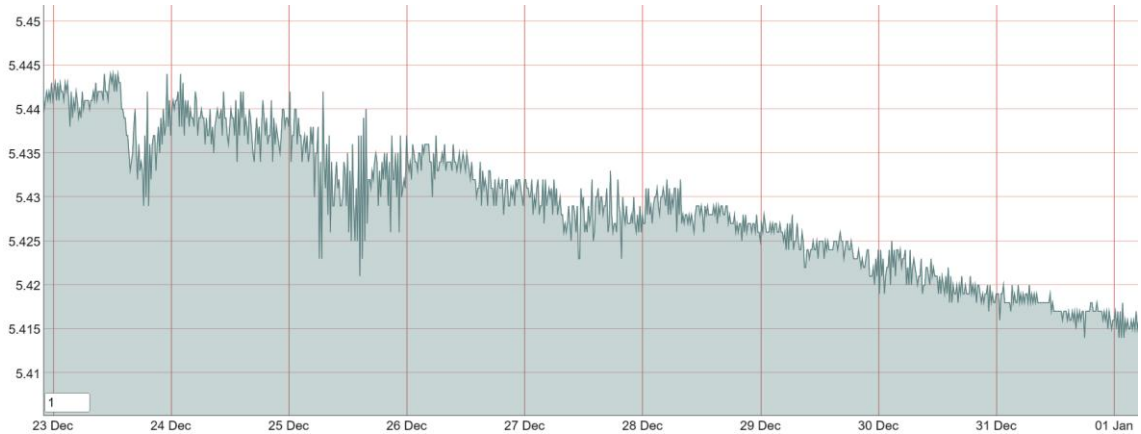


Figure 25. Water level at the end of December 2025.

(Source: http://waterlevel.ie/0000013070/0001/)

14 CHANGES IN WATER LEVEL

14.1 Lady's Island Lake

Changes in water level in the lagoon were recorded in two ways: manually on a staff gauge (Section 14.1.1) and automatically (Section 14.1.2).

14.1.1 Staff gauge data

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2003b consolidates all tables of water level data from September 1984 to the end of May 2003. The following references to earlier reports refer to matter other than tables of water level data. Hurley, 1998 page 49. Hurley, 1999 page 138. Hurley, 2000 pages154-158. Hurley, 2001 page 118. Hurley, 2002 pages 134-135. Hurley, 2003 pages 135 -137. Hurley, 2004 pages 164-166. Hurley, 2005 pages 154-156. Hurley, 2006 pages 132-134. Hurley, 2007 pages 160-162. Hurley, 2008 pages 117-119. Hurley, 2009 pages 83-84. Hurley, 2010 pages 94-96. Hurley, 2011 pages 88-90. Hurley, 2012 pages 92-95. Hurley, 2013 pages 102-104. Hurley, 2014 pages 83-84. Hurley, 2015 pages 85-87. Hurley, 2016 pages 83-84. Hurley, 2017 pages 126-127. Hurley, 2018 pages 94-96. Hurley, 2019 pages 93-94. Hurley, 2020 pages 109-110. Hurley, 2021 pages 104-105. Hurley, 2022 pages 87-88. Hurley, 2023 page 71. Hurley, 2024 pages 87-88. Hurley, 2025 pages 71-72.

Update. Jim Hurley took some opportunistic readings of water level at Lady's Island Lake and the data obtained during 2025 are tabulated below (Table 15).

Date	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1												
2												
3												
4			5.46									
5					4.92							
6		5.32										
7												
8	4.86											5.00
9											4.15	
10												
11									3.74			
12												
13		5.28									4.29	
14												
15									3.78			
16								3.65		3.86		
17												
18												
19												
20												
21											4.55	
22			3.80									
23												
24												
25												
26												
27												
28												
29												
30												
31												

Mean estimated or trend water level for month.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4.86	5.30	3.80	4.00	4.92	-	-	3.65	3.76	3.86	4.33	5.00

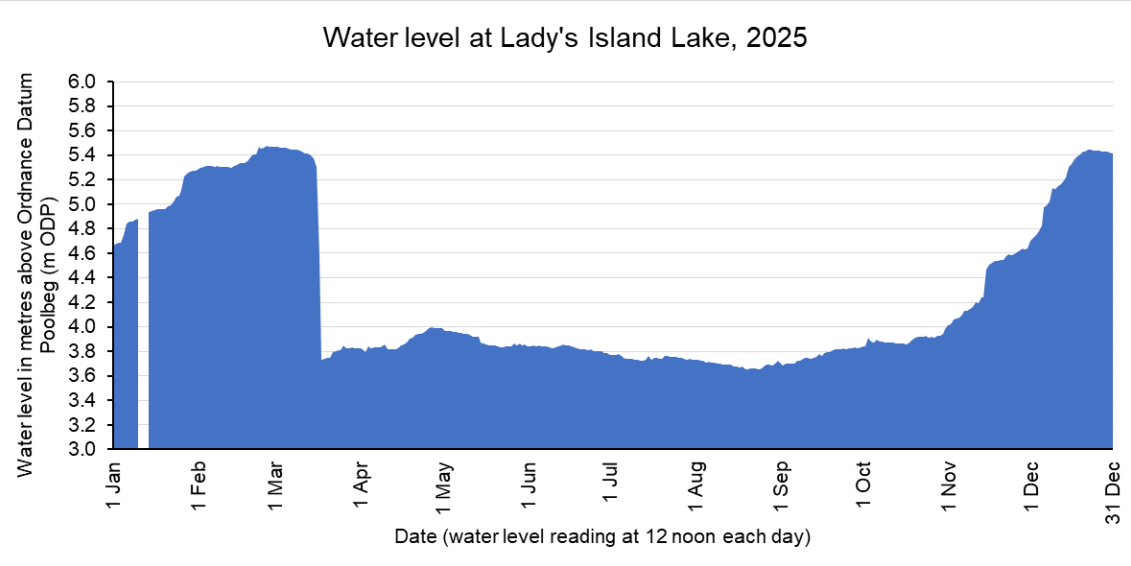
Table 15: Water level during 2025.

Notes on the table. Some water level readings are estimates due mainly to the surface of the lake being choppy but due also to the graduations on the staff gauge being unclear because of fouling and/or fading. The greyed cell indicates the date on which the barrier was breached during the year (10 March 2025). Water level fell so low during the summer that the staff gauge could not be read due to heavy fouling.

14.1.2 Automatic recorder data

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1999 page 154. Hurley, 2000 page 158. Hurley, 2001 page 120. Hurley, 2002 page 137. Hurley, 2011 page 90. Hurley, 2012 page 95. Hurley, 2015 pages 87-89. Hurley, 2016 pages 85-87. Hurley, 2017 pages 127-129. Hurley, 2018 pages 96-98. Hurley, 2019 pages 94-95. Hurley, 2020 pages 111-114. Hurley, 2021 pages 105-106. Hurley, 2022 pages 88-89. Hurley, 2023 pages 72-73. Hurley, 2024 pages 88-89.

Update



During 2025, the barrier was breached once (10 March). Values for water level in the lagoon at 12 noon each day during 2025 are tabulated below (Table 16). Levels are measured in metres above Ordnance Datum Poolbeg (m ODP) and are extracted from the Office of Public Works (OPW) webpages for Station 13070 Lady's Island at http://waterlevel.ie/0000013070/. Online results were not available for the period 11-13 January. Third parties using these data should be aware of the notes, warnings and conditions-of-use set out in the OPW disclaimer at the link given.

Date	Value
01/01/2025	4.663
02/01/2025	4.674
03/01/2025	4.682
04/01/2025	4.685
05/01/2025	4.750
06/01/2025	4.840
07/01/2025	4.856
08/01/2025	4.860
09/01/2025	4.875
10/01/2025	4.880
11/01/2025	
12/01/2025	
13/01/2025	
14/01/2025	4.935
15/01/2025	4.942
16/01/2025	4.950
17/01/2025	4.956
18/01/2025	4.958
19/01/2025	4.961
20/01/2025	4.963
21/01/2025	4.980
22/01/2025	4.989
23/01/2025	5.022
24/01/2025	5.059
25/01/2025	5.069
26/01/2025	5.114
27/01/2025	5.225
28/01/2025	5.251
29/01/2025	5.262
30/01/2025	5.269
31/01/2025	5.273
01/02/2025	5.287
02/02/2025	5.292
03/02/2025	5.304
04/02/2025	5.311
05/02/2025	5.311
06/02/2025	5.312
07/02/2025	5.307
08/02/2025	5.311
09/02/2025	5.305
10/02/2025	5.300
11/02/2025	5.304
12/02/2025	5.301
13/02/2025	5.297
14/02/2025	5.308
15/02/2025	5.320
16/02/2025	5.331
17/02/2025	5.338
18/02/2025	5.338
19/02/2025	5.350
20/02/2025	5.385
21/02/2025	5.407
23/02/2025	5.406
23/02/2025	5.467
24/02/2025	5.456
25/02/2025	5.459
26/02/2025	5.472
27/02/2025	5.468
28/02/2025	5.471
01/03/2025	5.468
02/03/2025	5.469
03/03/2025	5.463
04/03/2025	5.461
05/03/2025	5.458
06/03/2025	5.450
07/03/2025	5.447
08/03/2025	5.446
09/03/2025	5.441
10/03/2025	5.436
11/03/2025	5.427
12/03/2025	5.413
13/03/2025	5.412
14/03/2025	5.397
15/03/2025	5.374
16/03/2025	5.305
17/03/2025	4.564
18/03/2025	3.730
19/03/2025	3.736
20/03/2025	3.744
21/03/2025	3.750
23/03/2025	3.796
23/03/2025	3.803
24/03/2025	3.810
25/03/2025	3.811
26/03/2025	3.847
27/03/2025	3.828
28/03/2025	3.825
29/03/2025	3.834
30/03/2025	3.824
31/03/2025	3.826
01/04/2025	3.821
02/04/2025	3.818
03/04/2025	3.791
04/04/2025	3.839
05/04/2025	3.824
06/04/2025	3.834
07/04/2025	3.836
08/04/2025	3.836
09/04/2025	3.844
10/04/2025	3.852
11/04/2025	3.816
12/04/2025	3.815
13/04/2025	3.816
14/04/2025	3.817
15/04/2025	3.831
16/04/2025	3.848
17/04/2025	3.853
18/04/2025	3.873
19/04/2025	3.902
20/04/2025	3.913
21/04/2025	3.932
23/04/2025	3.940
23/04/2025	3.942
24/04/2025	3.951
25/04/2025	3.964
26/04/2025	3.987
27/04/2025	3.994
28/04/2025	3.991
29/04/2025	3.988
30/04/2025	3.988
01/05/2025	3.989
02/05/2025	3.968
03/05/2025	3.965
04/05/2025	3.963
05/05/2025	3.957
06/05/2025	3.956
07/05/2025	3.951
08/05/2025	3.949
09/05/2025	3.944
10/05/2025	3.941
11/05/2025	3.933
12/05/2025	3.921
13/05/2025	3.919
14/05/2025	3.922
15/05/2025	3.869
16/05/2025	3.864
17/05/2025	3.852
18/05/2025	3.845
19/05/2025	3.849
20/05/2025	3.845
21/05/2025	3.841
22/05/2025	3.832
23/05/2025	3.833
24/05/2025	3.841
25/05/2025	3.837
26/05/2025	3.839
27/05/2025	3.867
28/05/2025	3.850
29/05/2025	3.862
30/05/2025	3.848
31/05/2025	3.854
01/06/2025	3.837
02/06/2025	3.841
03/06/2025	3.849
04/06/2025	3.842
05/06/2025	3.846
06/06/2025	3.842
07/06/2025	3.837
08/06/2025	3.838
09/06/2025	3.833
10/06/2025	3.827
11/06/2025	3.832
12/06/2025	3.837
13/06/2025	3.850
14/06/2025	3.857
15/06/2025	3.851
16/06/2025	3.847
17/06/2025	3.839
18/06/2025	3.832
19/06/2025	3.821
20/06/2025	3.817
21/06/2025	3.820
23/06/2025	3.818
23/06/2025	3.812
24/06/2025	3.813
25/06/2025	3.798
26/06/2025	3.802
27/06/2025	3.802
28/06/2025	3.800
29/06/2025	3.787
30/06/2025	3.785
01/07/2025	3.772
02/07/2025	3.771
03/07/2025	3.772
04/07/2025	3.778
05/07/2025	3.764
06/07/2025	3.749
07/07/2025	3.738
08/07/2025	3.741
09/07/2025	3.738
10/07/2025	3.731
11/07/2025	3.729
12/07/2025	3.722
13/07/2025	3.720
14/07/2025	3.733
15/07/2025	3.764
16/07/2025	3.733
17/07/2025	3.745
18/07/2025	3.744
19/07/2025	3.737
20/07/2025	3.735
21/07/2025	3.761
23/07/2025	3.764
23/07/2025	3.755
24/07/2025	3.755
25/07/2025	3.755
26/07/2025	3.747
27/07/2025	3.746
28/07/2025	3.739
29/07/2025	3.733
30/07/2025	3.737
31/07/2025	3.730
01/08/2025	3.728
02/08/2025	3.727
03/08/2025	3.719
04/08/2025	3.720
05/08/2025	3.711
06/08/2025	3.712
07/08/2025	3.709
08/08/2025	3.711
09/08/2025	3.701
10/08/2025	3.699
11/08/2025	3.692
12/08/2025	3.688
13/08/2025	3.694
14/08/2025	3.692
15/08/2025	3.672
16/08/2025	3.673
17/08/2025	3.668
18/08/2025	3.673
19/08/2025	3.664
20/08/2025	3.655
21/08/2025	3.658
23/08/2025	3.660
23/08/2025	3.660
24/08/2025	3.656
25/08/2025	3.662
26/08/2025	3.679
27/08/2025	3.691
28/08/2025	3.690
29/08/2025	3.680
30/08/2025	3.701
31/08/2025	3.722
01/09/2025	3.697
02/09/2025	3.687
03/09/2025	3.703
04/09/2025	3.698
05/09/2025	3.696
06/09/2025	3.699
07/09/2025	3.721
08/09/2025	3.722
09/09/2025	3.740
10/09/2025	3.746
11/09/2025	3.744
12/09/2025	3.739
13/09/2025	3.744
14/09/2025	3.754
15/09/2025	3.778
16/09/2025	3.762
17/09/2025	3.786
18/09/2025	3.792
19/09/2025	3.791
20/09/2025	3.809
21/09/2025	3.820
22/09/2025	3.816
23/09/2025	3.820
24/09/2025	3.821
25/09/2025	3.818
26/09/2025	3.824
27/09/2025	3.825
28/09/2025	3.830
29/09/2025	3.828
30/09/2025	3.829
01/10/2025	3.837
02/10/2025	3.844
03/10/2025	3.914
04/10/2025	3.876
05/10/2025	3.873
06/10/2025	3.893
07/10/2025	3.881
08/10/2025	3.878
09/10/2025	3.875
10/10/2025	3.873
11/10/2025	3.869
12/10/2025	3.868
13/10/2025	3.867
14/10/2025	3.864
15/10/2025	3.862
16/10/2025	3.861
17/10/2025	3.859
18/10/2025	3.871
19/10/2025	3.896
20/10/2025	3.907
21/10/2025	3.918
23/10/2025	3.919
23/10/2025	3.921
24/10/2025	3.926
25/10/2025	3.914
26/10/2025	3.921
27/10/2025	3.912
28/10/2025	3.923
29/10/2025	3.923
30/10/2025	3.945
31/10/2025	3.981
01/11/2025	4.009
02/11/2025	4.022
03/11/2025	4.061
04/11/2025	4.064
05/11/2025	4.078
06/11/2025	4.101
07/11/2025	4.126
08/11/2025	4.132
09/11/2025	4.145
10/11/2025	4.158
11/11/2025	4.201
12/11/2025	4.194
13/11/2025	4.236
14/11/2025	4.241
15/11/2025	4.470
16/11/2025	4.502
17/11/2025	4.521
18/11/2025	4.537
19/11/2025	4.540
20/11/2025	4.541
21/11/2025	4.547
23/11/2025	4.567
23/11/2025	4.590
24/11/2025	4.586
25/11/2025	4.592
26/11/2025	4.609
27/11/2025	4.625
28/11/2025	4.641
29/11/2025	4.629
30/11/2025	4.637
01/12/2025	4.704
02/12/2025	4.725
03/12/2025	4.745
04/12/2025	4.777
05/12/2025	4.827
06/12/2025	4.974
07/12/2025	4.989
08/12/2025	5.021
09/12/2025	5.129
10/12/2025	5.127
11/12/2025	5.149
12/12/2025	5.163
13/12/2025	5.191
14/12/2025	5.217
15/12/2025	5.306
16/12/2025	5.326
17/12/2025	5.363
18/12/2025	5.391
19/12/2025	5.403
20/12/2025	5.429
21/12/2025	5.429
23/12/2025	5.443
23/12/2025	5.443
24/12/2025	5.438
25/12/2025	5.435
26/12/2025	5.433
27/12/2025	5.430
28/12/2025	5.429
29/12/2025	5.425
30/12/2025	5.421
31/12/2025	5.417

Table 16. Values for water level in the lagoon at 12 noon each day during 2025.

(Source: http://waterlevel.ie/0000013070/)

14.2 Tacumshin Lake

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2002 page 137. Hurley, 2006 page 135. Hurley, 2007 page 163. Hurley, 2013 page 104. Hurley, 2014 page 84. Hurley, 2015 page 90. Hurley, 2016 page 88. Hurley, 2017 pages 130-132. Hurley, 2018 pages 99-100. Hurley, 2019 page 96. Hurley, 2020 page 114. Hurley, 2021 page 107. Hurley, 2022 page 90.

14.3 Inish and Ballyteige Slob

15 TOWARDS A BETTER SOLUTION

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 159-160. Hurley, 1999 page 140. Hurley, 2001 page 120.

16 UNRESOLVED ISSUES

Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 1997 page 161.

16.1 Special Protection Area (SPA)

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 161-162. Hurley, 1998 page 52. Hurley, 1999 page 140. Hurley, 2000 page 159. Hurley, 2002 page 138.

16.2 Planning permission for works

Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 1997 pages 162-163.

16.3 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 1997 page 163.

16.4 Foreshore licence for breaching

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 163. Hurley, 1998 page 52.

16.5 Removal of beach material

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 163-164. Hurley, 1999 page 140. Hurley, 2000 page 159.

16.6 Defining the lake foreshore

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 164-165. Hurley, 1998 page 52. Hurley, 1999 pages 140-141. Hurley, 2000 pages 160-162. Hurley, 2007 page 165. Hurley, 2008 page 120.

16.7 Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 165. Hurley, 1998 pages 53-58. Hurley, 1999 pages 141-144. Hurley, 2000 page 163.

17 MANAGEMENT ISSUES

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 166-169. Hurley, 1998 page 58. Hurley, 2001 page 123.

Update. In the published results of the assessment conducted by the Environment Protection Agency of the environmental enforcement performance by local authorities during 2023, Wexford County Council was ranked 28th of the 31 local authorities in Ireland. The assessment was based on 20 national enforcement priorities across for categories (waste, water, air, and noise) (*New Ross Standard*, issue dated 15 January 2025, page 15).

17.1 Global issues

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1998 page 58. Hurley, 1999 page 144.

17.2 EU issues

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1998 pages 58-59. Hurley, 1999 page 145. Hurley, 2002 page 141. Hurley, 2003 page 140.

17.3 National plans

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2000 page 165. Hurley, 2002 page 141. Hurley, 2003 page 140.

17.4 Management tools

Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 2003 page 141.

17.5 Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1998 pages 59-60. Hurley, 1999 page 145. Hurley, 2000 pages 165-166. Hurley, 2001 pages 123-125. Hurley, 2002 pages 142-143. Hurley, 2003 page 141. Hurley, 2004 page 170. Hurley, 2005 pages 160-161. Hurley, 2006 page 138. Hurley, 2007, pages 167-168. Hurley, 2008 page 121. Hurley, 2010 page 98. Hurley, 2014 page 86. Hurley, 2018 page 102.

17.6 Waste management

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2000 page 166. Hurley, 2002 page 143. Hurley, 2003 page 142. Hurley, 2006 page 139. Hurley 2007, page 169. Hurley, 2009 page 87. Hurley, 2010 pages 98-99. Hurley, 2011 page 92. Hurley, 2012 page 97. Hurley, 2013 page 106. Hurley, 2014 page 87. Hurley, 2015 page 92. Hurley, 2016 page 90. Hurley, 2019 page 98. Hurley, 2021 page 108. Hurley, 2022 page 91.

17.7 Wildlife management

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1999 page 145. Hurley, 2005 page 162. Hurley, 2012 page 97. Hurley, 2013 page 107. Hurley, 2014 page 87. Hurley, 2015 page 92. Hurley, 2016 page 90. Hurley, 2017 pages 134-135. Hurley, 2018 pages 102-103. Hurley, 2019 page 99. Hurley, 2020 pages 116-117. Hurley, 2021 page 109 Hurley, 2022 page 92. Hurley, 2023 page 76. Hurley, 2024 page 91. Hurley, 2025 page 75.

Updates

Tidy Towns. The SuperValu Tidy Towns competition results were published on 24 October 2025. Marks awarded in the 'Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality' category for entrants on the South Wexford Coast since 2010 are tabulated in alphabetical order (Table 17). Marks are awarded out of a maximum total of 50. The categories are A (small village with <200 population), B (bigger village, 201-1,000) and C (small town, 1,001-2,500) (Source: https://www.tidytowns.ie/reports/?report_year=2025&report_county=wexford&seed=1696616035).

Entrant by year of entry	Bally-cullane	Bridge-town	Carrick	Duncor-mick	Fethard	Foulks-mill	Tagh-mon	Welling-ton-bridge
Category	**B**	**B**	**B**	**A**	**-**	**A**	**C**	**B**
2010			18			22	16	
2011			18	20		21	17	
2012			19	21	20	20	18	
2013			19	21	20	20	18	
2014			20	24	22	22	19	
2015		15	-	25		23	18	
2016		18	-	26		24	21	21
2017		21	-	27		24	23	22
2018		22	-	30		25	-	23
2019		23	-	32		26	-	23
2020		-	-	-		-	-	-
2021		23	20	34		27	-	25
2022	24	23	21	36		28	23	26
2023	24	24	22	37		30		26
2024	25	25	23	38		31		26
2025	26	27	26	40		33		27

Table 17. Tidy Towns marks awarded for Nature and Biodiversity.

17.8 Golf courses

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1998 pages 61-62 and 99-107. Hurley, 1999 pages 145-149. Hurley, 2002 pages 143-147. Hurley, 2003 pages 142-149. Hurley, 2004 page 171. Hurley, 2005 page 162. Hurley, 2021 pages 110-112.

Addenda

Ballyteige Burrow 1971. On 7 July 1971, James Pike, on behalf of Dublin-based architects Delany MacVeigh and Pike, applied to Wexford County Council on behalf of their client P. J. O'Kelly, who had an option to purchase the sand dunes, for outline planning permission to develop 665 acres of Ballyteige Burrow to provide two golf courses, a club house, a 20-bedroom hotel with restaurant, bars, swimming pool, etc., and 80 chalets/bungalows. It was also proposed to develop horse riding, and a sailing club at Saintkierans. Access to the proposed development was to be via the Cull Bank subject to OPW permission. The hotel, chalets, club house were to be located immediately south of the Cull Bank with a golf course extending both east and west. The permission sought was refused. Members of the District Committee of the Council requested that the County Development Plan be altered *"in order to give the applicants an opportunity to develop Kilmore to be regarded as a specific case"* (*Wexford People*, issue dated 18 December 1971).

Ballyteige Burrow 1991.On 5 September 1991, Reg Jarvis made a submission to the Kilmore Quay Community Development Association (KQCDA) seeking LEADER funding from the Wexford Organisation for Rural Development (WORD) for a number of projects in and around the village. One project was described as follows:-

KILMORE QUAY GOLF SOCIETY

The local Golfing Society, formed originally to raise funds for the lightship has proved very popular and already has over 66 members.

The Burrow, which is 104 acres of coastal dunes, adjacent to Ballyteigue Bay was purchased by the Kilmore Quay Development Association and it is proposed to establish a practise golf driving range and 2/3 three par practise holes for use by the Golfing Society, and it would be hoped that it could be laid out for use by visitors and tourists for the same use.

This would not detract from preserving the area for its natural beauty and for the use of the residents.

The preparation costs and initial survey and layout in such a way that additional holes could be added year by year are estimated at £20,000.00. The cost of making the first three holes would be in the region of £40,000.00.

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(Source: page 6 of 11-page submission)

On 9 November 1991, Jim Hurley wrote to Mr Jarvis, Chairman of the Guillemot Golfing Society, pointing out that the lands in question were, at the time, an identified Area of Scientific Interest (ASI), that they supported a number of legally-protected wild plants, that it was an objective of the 1985 Wexford County Development Plan (page 73) to preserve and protect the area, and suggesting a meeting to discuss these issues. The suggested meeting did not take place, and the project was not advanced.

In December 1993, a further longer and more detailed submission was prepared by the KQCDA for submission to WORD. All sections of the local community were encouraged to contribute ideas resulting in a set of 47 proposals. Proposal No 47 was short and to the point and read as follows:-

47. Golf Course

It is intended to develop a Golf Course on Ballyteigue Burrow which will provide an alternative activity in the area. The course will be links and one of only approximately 30 courses of the countries 600 plus courses to meet this criteria.

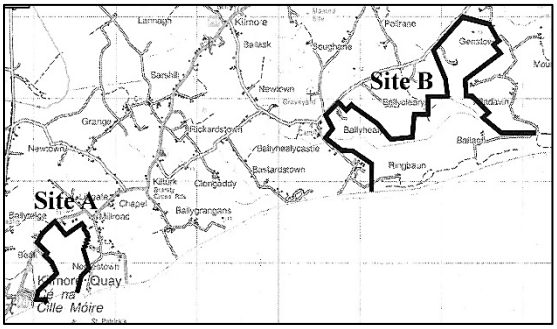
Expenditure £750,000

The cost of the project rose from approximately £60,000 in September 1991 to £750,000 in December 1993. The project was not advanced.

On 10 March 1996, the question of a golf course was raised at the AGM of the KQCDA with a revised cost of £150,000. Whether the matter should be considered was put to a vote. Result: 40 for, 15 against (*The People* (Wexford), issue dated 20 March 1996, page 3). The project was not advanced.

Ballyhealy. In 2005, Seashore Leisure Limited, Ballyseskin House, Kilmore, proposed to build an integrated resort development on the South Wexford Coast. The proposed development comprised four main elements located at two sites:-

- (1) a 180-bedroom, 5-star, conference hotel with spa and leisure facilities, associated residential lodges, etc., and (2) a 300-berth marina with on-shore facilities, etc., at Beak, Kilmore Quay (Site A, circa 40ha), and
- (3) an 18-hole, championship golf course, club house, golf academy, etc., and (4) an equestrian centre at Ballyhealy, Kilmore (Site B, circa 225ha).



Following pre-planning meetings between the developers and senior officials in the Planning and Development Department of Wexford County Council, ecological issues were identified as the most likely major constraint on advancing the proposed golf course at Ballyhealy. On 26 April 2005, the developers commissioned Jim Hurley, SWC Promotions, to conduct a preliminary ecological study and independent assessment of relevant issues prior to the preparation of an application for planning permission. The report that followed on 3 June 2005 concluded: *"If it is confined to existing agricultural land, advancement of the proposed development is not likely to have significant impacts on the existing environment. Adverse impacts are likely to arise only for hedgerows, treelines and drainage channels with consequent knock-on implications for the survival of bats, nesting birds and other wildlife in the area. A proper assessment of the likely significant impacts of the proposed development cannot be made until detailed plans of the proposed works become available."* (page 26 of 30). While the proposed golf course was not advanced, the hotel element of the project was advanced twenty years later (see paragraph 17.25 below).

17.9 Land management

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1998 page 62. Hurley, 2004 page 171. Hurley, 2008 page 122. Hurley, 2009 page 88. Hurley, 2010 page 99. Hurley, 2013 page 107. Hurley, 2015 page 93.

17.10 All-terrain vehicles (ATVs)

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1998 page 62. Hurley, 1999 page 149. Hurley, 2000 page 166. Hurley, 2002 page 147. Hurley, 2003 page 150. Hurley, 2005 page 163. Hurley, 2007 page 170. Hurley, 2008 page 122. Hurley, 2009 page 88. Hurley, 2010 page 99. Hurley, 2011 page 93.

17.11 Temporary dwellings

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1998 pages 62-64. Hurley, 1999 page 149-150. Hurley, 2000 pages 167-169. Hurley, 2001 page 125. Hurley, 2002 pages 147-148. Hurley, 2003 page 150. Hurley, 2008 page 122. Hurley, 2019 page 100.

17.12 Outdoor musical events

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1998 page 65. Hurley, 2002 pages 148-149. Hurley 2004, page 172.

17.13 Swimming

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1999 page 151. Hurley 2004, page 172. Hurley 2005, page 164. Hurley, 2012 page 98. Hurley, 2013 page 108. Hurley, 2014 page 88. Hurley, 2017 page 136. Hurley, 2018 page 104. Hurley, 2019 page 100. Hurley, 2020 page 118. Hurley, 2021 page 113. Hurley, 2022 page 93. Hurley, 2023 page 78. Hurley, 2025 page 76.

Update. On Thursday 15 May 2025, An Taisce announced its 2025 Blue Flag and Green Coast Awards. The five 2024 sites recognised on the South Wexford Coast maintained their awards status: one for a blue flag (Kilmore Quay Marina) and four for green coast awards (Baginbun Beach, Grange, Cullenstown Strand, and Ballyhealy).

17.14 Shooting

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1999 page 151. Hurley, 2006 page 140. Hurley, 2007 page 171. Hurley, 2008 page 123. Hurley, 2009 page 89. Hurley, 2010 page 100. Hurley, 2012 page 98. Hurley, 2014 page 88. Hurley, 2015 page 94. Hurley, 2016 page 91. Hurley, 2019 page 100. Hurley, 2021 page 113.

17.15 The extractive industry

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1999 pages 151-152. Hurley, 2001 page 125. Hurley 2004, page 173. Hurley 2005, page 164. Hurley, 2007 pages 172-176. Hurley, 2009 page 89. Hurley, 2011 page 94. Hurley, 2012 page 98. Hurley, 2019 pages 100-101. Hurley, 2020 page 118. Hurley, 2022 page 93.

Addenda

Restricted areas. On 6 April 1967, during question time in Dáil Éireann, Sir Anthony Esmonde asked the Minister for Transport and Power if there were restricted areas for the extraction of sand and gravel from the foreshore. In his reply the Minister listed two areas on the South Wexford Coast: "*between Forelorn* (sic) *Point and Madjeen Reef*" and "*the seashore opposite the townland of Rostonstown*" (Dáil Éireann ,Volume 227, Questions and Oral Answers, 6 April 1967).

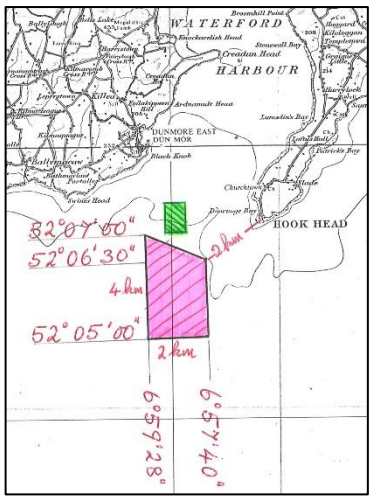
Court Order. At a sitting of Wexford Circuit Court on 4 May 1987, Wexford County Council was granted a court order restraining James Devereux and Walter Kelly from removing beach material from between Rosslare Point and "*the Western Tip of Ballyteige Burrow Townland*" (Record No 498/86).

Kiln Bay, Bannow. Gravel was removed from the beach during the Christmas 1990 holiday season.

Burrow (E.D. Lady's Island). On 13 August 1991, outline planning permission was sought by James Redmond, 70 Pinewood Estate, Wexford, via his agent John Doyle, Sleedagh, Murrintown, for the "*Extraction and removal of sand and gravel at the Burrow, Carne*" (PA Peg Ref No 91/1012) at a 133 acre site extending from The Chour to Carnsore Point. Notice was published in the national press (*The Irish Press*, issue dated 10 August 1991, page 25). On 21 August 1991, the Planning Authority wrote to the applicant requesting an Environment Impact Statement. The Planning Authority subsequently wrote to the applicant refusing the permission sought on the grounds that it is obliged to refuse outline planning permission for any development that requires Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and advising the applicant to apply for full planning permission and to submit an EIA with that application.

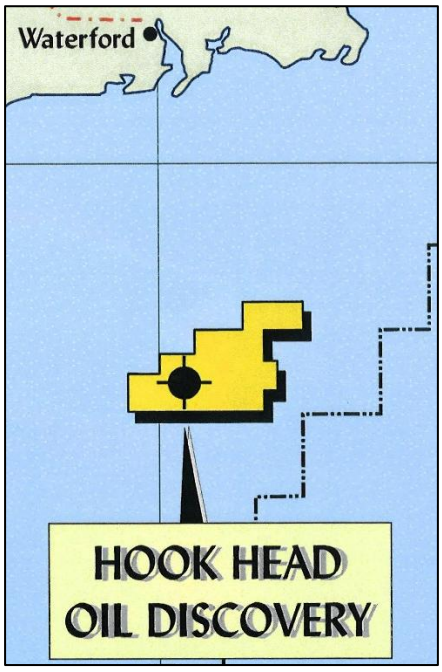
Court injunction being sought. At the February 1992 meeting of Wexford County Council, the County Manager stated that there was a problem with sand being stolen from beaches in the county, that the Council was frustrated going through the courts, and an injunction was being sought to put a stop to the practise of illegal extraction (*The People* (Wexford), issue dated 13 February 1992, page 13). The issue was raised again with one person at Bannow alleged to be the cause of the problem (*The People* (Wexford), issue dated 20 February 1992, page 3).

Hook Head offshore. In September 1993, Waterford-based dredging company Bilberry Shipping & Stevedores Limited obtained a licence from the Department of the Marine for a trial extraction of 200t of sand and gravel for research purposes to assess the quality of the aggregates. If the quality was acceptable, the company planned to extract 6,000t per day for sale to the building industry. The proposed extraction site is shown left, coloured pink with the existing dump site for spoil dredged from both New Ross port and Waterford port shown coloured green. Jim Hurley expressed concerns to the Department of the Marine, the NPWS, and GSI. A growing number of groups objected to the proposed development (*The Echo*, issue dated 16 September 1993, page 56). In 1996, Galway-based Aquafact compiled a comprehensive EIA and a shorter non-technical summary. The issue received national press reporting (*The Irish Times*, issue dated 26 November 1997, page 2, and a mention in Michael Viney's *Another Life* on 7 March 1998). The proposed development was subsequently not advanced.



Inish and Ballyteige Slob. On 29 May 1995, Jim Hurley sent a fax to Wexford County Council (WCC) highlighting ongoing unauthorised extraction of aggregate on both sides of the ruin of Inish House. A map showing the location of the was attached. The letter was copied to the NPWS. Roz Nixon, WCC's Senior Executive (Planning) replied that her department could not respond due to inadequate staffing levels. Two weeks later he wrote complaining that WCC engineers working on the upgrading of the Kilmore road were directing lorries drawing aggregate from the unauthorised development. On 11 July 1995, he wrote again regarding the ongoing works. WCC replied that the matter was being referred to the County Engineer and the Environment Section. He wrote to Brendan Howlin TD, Minister for the Environment, who referred the matter to the County Manager who advised that it was receiving attention. The Minister pursued the matter and WCC advised that "*our Environment Engineers*" would investigate "*the alleged works*". However, the Environment Engineers professed difficulty in locating the site in question. The Minister continued to pursue the issue and on 22 November 1995 was informed by WCC that it *"could find no evidence that any materials had been removed"* even though there were significant craters onsite. (At the time, the unauthorised works were supplying aggregate to WCC for construction work on both the Barntown road and the Wexford Main Drainage Scheme.) The Minister continued to pursue the issue and on 6 February 1996, WCC's Environment Engineer confirmed to the Minister that the alleged works were indeed taking place but that since they were more a planning matter than an engineering issue the case was being referred back to the planning department. The Minister continued to pursue the issue and on 25 June 1996 was informed by WCC that the developers of the unauthorised extraction were told to cease work on site and to regularise matters by applying for planning permission. (The admission coincided with both the conclusion of works on the Barntown road and the cessation of work on the Wexford Main Drainage Scheme when the main contractors, the Wallace Howlin Group, went into receivership.) One year later, on 27 May 1997, Jim Hurley wrote to the County Secretary pointing out that the developers had not ceased work and had not applied for planning permission. On 18 July 1997, more than two years after the initial correspondence and after some fourteen letters from the Minister, WCC wrote to Jim Hurley copying a letter from the developers stating that they had to cease work due to a complaint being made against them.

Off Hook Head. In contrast to the present objective to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, the discovery by Provident Resources of oil off Hook Head in 2007 was heralded as black gold worth up to five billion dollars (*New Ross Standard*, issue dated 17 October 2007, pages 1 and 12).



17.16 Housing and development

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1999 page 152. Hurley, 2000 pages 170-173. Hurley, 2001 pages 125-128. Hurley, 2002 pages 149-151. Hurley 2004, pages 173-174. Hurley 2005, page 164. Hurley 2006, page 141. Hurley, 2008 page 123. Hurley, 2010 page 101. Hurley, 2014 pages 88-89.

Addendum: The following is a case study regarding the impact on the dunes at Ballyteige Burrow of a proposed pig farm at Inish and Ballyteige Slob. On 22 November 1995, Waterford-based Queally Pig Farms applied to the Planning Authority of Wexford County Council for planning permission for the "*Erection of a 500 sow integrated unit at the existing pig fattening site of Inish Farmers Co-Op. An environmental impact statement has been submitted*".(Ref No 950056 at https://planning.agileapplications.ie/wexford/application-details/1835). On 12 January 1996, the proposed development was granted the permission sought subject to 22 conditions. On 5 February 1996, the grant of permission was appealed to An Bord Pleanála (PL26.098127). An oral hearing took place on 2 July 1996. Objections included the poor state of the drainage channels adjoining the existing piggery, slurry spreading, nitrogen enrichment of the dunes at Ballyteige Burrow via air-borne ammonia, traffic hazard, lack of sight-lines, etc. On 30 September 1996, permission was refused by the Board for the following three reasons:

1. The site of the proposed development is located in an area which is recognised as an area of national and international scientific importance and which is designated in the current Wexford County Development Plan as an area of scientific interest (Natural Heritage Area) and an Area of Special Control. It is an objective of the planning authority, as expressed in the development plan, to protect, preserve and facilitate the management of this area and to control development in such areas in order to maintain their scientific value. This objective and policy are considered to be reasonable. Having regard to its location, scale and traffic generated by the proposed development, it is considered that the proposed development would seriously injure and be detrimental to the maintenance of the scientific and amenity value of the area. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the provisions of the development plan and to the proper planning and development of the area.

… / continued

2. The site is located in an area which is designated in the current Wexford County Development Plan as an area of landscape importance. It is the policy of the planning authority, as expressed in the plan, to control development in such areas in order to maintain scenic values, recreational utility and existing character. This designation and policy are considered to be reasonable. Having regard to the location and scale of the proposed development within the coastal zone, the open character of the area and the recreational and touristic value of the adjoining dunes, it is considered that the proposed development would be visually obtrusive and would seriously injure the visual amenities of the area. The proposed development would, therefore, conflict with the policy as stated in the development plan and would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and development of the area.

3. It is considered that the proposed development, by reason of its scale, the inadequate sightline in a southerly direction and the traffic movements generated by the proposed development, would endanger public safety by reason of traffic hazard.

Update. On 16 October 2025 an application for planning permission at Reedstown, Tacumshin, was lodged by Joanne Golden (No 20251322W) for "*Permission for the conversion of an existing silage pit structure to 2 no. self-contained dwellings units for short-term tourist related lettings that will be described as Birdwatcher's Huts, the installation of an on-site wastewater treatment system to serve the huts and all associated site works.*" The application was removed from the register by the Planning Authority as it was deemed either invalid or withdrawn.

17.17 Wind farming

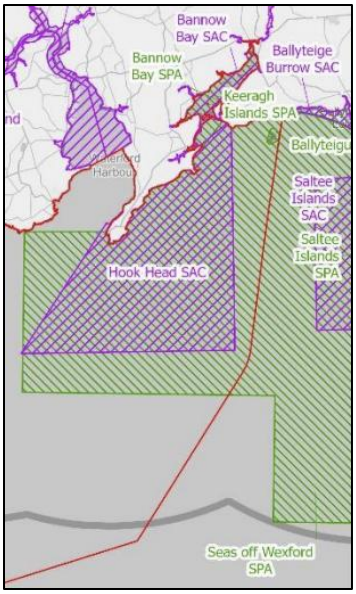
17.17.1 Introduction

References to earlier reports. Hurley 2004, pages 174-175. Hurley 2005, page 166. Hurley 2006, page 142. Hurley, 2007 page 177. Hurley, 2008 page 123. Hurley, 2010 pages 101-102. Hurley, 2011 page 94-95. Hurley, 2012 page 99. Hurley, 2012 page 98. Hurley, 2013 page 109. Hurley, 2015 pages 94-95. Hurley, 2020 page 119. Hurley, 2023 page 78. Hurley, 2024 pages 92-93. Hurley, 2025 page6 76-80.

Updates

EirGrid . On 29 April 2025, EirGrid circulated a 31-page independent consultants' report (M-CO, 2025) regarding the 33 responses received further to the consultation process conducted by EirGrid regarding its two proposed offshore sub-stations and seven landfall sites together with its own 11-page answers to FAQs (EirGrid, 2025).

On 21 May 2025, a full-page public notice in the local press (*New Ross Standard*, issue

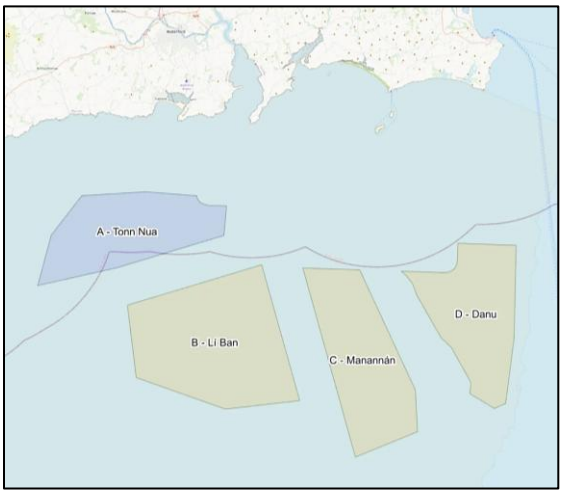


dated 21 May 2025, page 9) invited written submissions before 23 June 2025 regarding an application from EirGrid to MARA for a maritime usage licence (MUL) (Ref No MUL240036) for site investigation (SI) works to inform the engineering design and environmental assessments for two offshore substations (OSS) in the Tonn Nua Area A (as identified in the South Coast Designated Maritime Area Plan), potential offshore transmission cable corridors, approaches to seven potential landfall zones, and seven landfall zones. Three of the seven potential landfall zones were on the South Wexford Coast between Carnivan and Cullenstown.

On 10 July 2025, the requested MUL was awarded to EirGrid by MARA. EirGrid awarded the marine survey contract surveys to Fugro UK Ltd, who planned to complete the work in the period July 2025 to September 2025. The beaches in Co Wexford flagged for non-intrusive surveys were Carnivan, Long Gap (Crosslake), and Blackhall.

The 10 November 2025 update from EirGrid reported that the first phase of marine and coastal surveys finished in October 2025, with four vessels surveying a total of 3,771km, as well as aerial and land surveys, and that the company was working to assess the results of these surveys for potential cable route corridors to connect into the national grid.

Tonn Nua. In late November 2025, the auction of the Tonn Nua site was won by



Helvick Head Offshore Wind DAC, a joint venture between the ESB and Ørsted, the Danish energy company. The developer is contracted to provide electricity at €98.719 per megawatt hour (MWh) for a 20-year period. The developer now has to go through the planning process, including a full environmental impact assessment report (EIAR) for the proposed 900MW wind farm off the Waterford coast. While the development of wind farms and MPAs was supposed to be advanced in parallel, the Tonn Nua wind farm is being advanced before any MPA has been designated. (Source: https://iwdg.ie/esb-and-orsted-to-build-900mw-wind-farm-off-waterford-coast/).

17.17.2 Hook Head

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2004 page 180. Hurley, 2005 page 171. Hurley, 2020 pages 120-121.

17.17.3 Richfield

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2020 page 121. Hurley, 2021 page 113. Hurley, 2022 page 94. Hurley, 2023 page 93. Hurley, 2025 page 81.

Updates

Extension of the operational duration. On 19 March 2025, the resubmitted application (Register No: 20241547) for an extension of operational duration of the existing windfarm was granted planning permission for a period of 20 years subject to 13 conditions.

Community funding. SSE Airtricity announced over €280,000 in funding for sustainability projects in Wexford and Carlow through its Generation Green Community Fund. The five projects are among 56 community-led sustainability initiatives across the island of Ireland to receive full funding through the €5 million fund (Source: South East Radio report by Siobhán Murphy,7 August 2025).

Bird monitoring report. Ted Walsh's bird monitoring report for the winter season September 2024-March 2025 at Richfield Wind Farm could not be sourced online. In the past, the annual report was normally posted online in April under the tab "Correspondence with Planning Authority" at https://dms.wexfordcoco.ie/application.php?q=20050156#; Planning Authority (PA) Register Reference Number 20050156. These reports do not appear to readily available since the Council's planning search function changed to a new format called the Citizen Portal (https://planning.agileapplications.ie/wexford/search-applications/).

17.17.4 Carnsore Point

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1999 pages 152-153. Hurley, 2000 pages 174, 192 and Annex 1 (8 pages) and Annex 2 (5 pages). Hurley, 2001 page 129 updates and Annex 1 on page 142 (19 pages). Hurley, 2002 page 151. Hurley, 2003 pages 151-166. Hurley, 2004 pages 175-176. Hurley 2005, pages 167-170. Hurley 2006, pages 143-145. Hurley, 2007 page 178. Hurley, 2008 page 124. Hurley, 2010 page 102. Hurley, 2017 page 136. Hurley, 2018 page 105. Hurley, 2020 page 121. Hurley, 2022 page 95. Hurley, 2024 page 94.

17.17.5 Ballycogley

Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 2025 pages 81-82.

17.17.6 Aborted offshore wind farms

Developer-led wind farms on the South Wexford Coast that were aborted in favour of a government plan-led initiative are described at Hurley, 2022 page 94, Hurley, 2023 pages 79-83, and Hurley, 2024 pages 94-95.

17.17.7 Opposition to offshore wind farms

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2023 page 83.

17.18 Horses

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2000 pages 169-170. Hurley, 2001 page 129. Hurley, 2002 page 152. Hurley, 2005 pages 171-172. Hurley, 2006 page 146. Hurley, 2007 page 179. Hurley, 2008 page 124.

17.19 Byelaws

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2000 page 170. Hurley, 2001 page 129. Hurley, 2005 pages 172-173. Hurley, 2006 pages 146-147. Hurley, 2007 page 179. Hurley, 2008 page 124. Hurley, 2009 page 90. Hurley, 2019 page 101. Hurley, 2021 page 115. Hurley, 2022 page 95.

17.20 Forestry

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2001 pages 129-130. Hurley, 2003 page 157. Hurley, 2007 page 180. Hurley, 2008 page 125. Hurley, 2009 page 90. Hurley, 2011 page 96. Hurley, 2012 page 101-102. Hurley, 2014 page 90. Hurley, 2016 page 92. Hurley, 2017 pages 137-138. Hurley, 2020 page 122.

17.21 Water sports

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2002 page 152. Hurley, 2003 pages 157-158. Hurley, 2004 pages 180-181. Hurley, 2005 pages 173-174. Hurley, 2006 pages 147. Hurley, 2007 page 181-186. Hurley, 2008 pages 125-126. Hurley, 2009 page 90. Hurley, 2011 page 97. Hurley, 2012 pages 102-103. Hurley, 2013 page 110. Hurley, 2014 page 91. Hurley, 2015 page 96. Hurley, 2016 page 92. Hurley, 2017 page 138. Hurley, 2018 page 105-106. Hurley, 2019 page 103. Hurley, 2020 page 122. Hurley, 2022 page 96. Hurley, 2024, page 96.

17.22 Beach parties

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2002 pages 152-153. Hurley, 2003 page 160. Hurley, 2004 page 181. Hurley, 2005 pages 174-175. Hurley, 2007 page 186. Hurley, 2013 page 110.

17.23 Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS)

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2002 page 153. Hurley, 2004 pages 181-182. Hurley, 2005 page 175. Hurley, 2006 page 148. Hurley, 2007 page 187. Hurley, 2008 page 126. Hurley, 2010 page 103. Hurley, 2011 page 97.

17.24 Aircraft

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2004 page 182. Hurley, 2009 page 91. Hurley, 2010 page 103. Hurley, 2011 page 97.

17.25 Infrastructure

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2001 pages 18-19. Hurley, 2004 page 182. Hurley 2005, page 25. Hurley, 2010 page 101. Hurley, 2011 pages 97-98. Hurley, 2012, page 103. Hurley, 2013 pages 111-112. Hurley, 2014 page 92. Hurley, 2017 page 139. Hurley, 2018 page 106. Hurley, 2019 pages 104-105. Hurley, 2020 pages 123-124. Hurley, 2021 page 116. Hurley, 2022 pages 96-97. Hurley, 2023 page 84. Hurley, 2024, pages 97-98. Hurley, 2025 pages 82-83.

Updates

Subsea cable. Amazon confirmed that it proposed, subject to all necessary permissions, to remove the now out-of-service existing ESAT cable, and reusing the existing duct infrastructure, to replace it with a new subsea fibre optics cable connecting Kilmore Quay to South Wales (*Wexford People*, issue dated 22 January 2025, page 4). Marine Notice No. 19 of 2025 dated 08/04/2025 advised that works by the "*TSM Ouessant*" (Call sign FLZM) was due to commence on 15 April 2025 and conclude on 22 April 2025, subject to operational and weather constraints, and charted the works corridor (Figure 26).

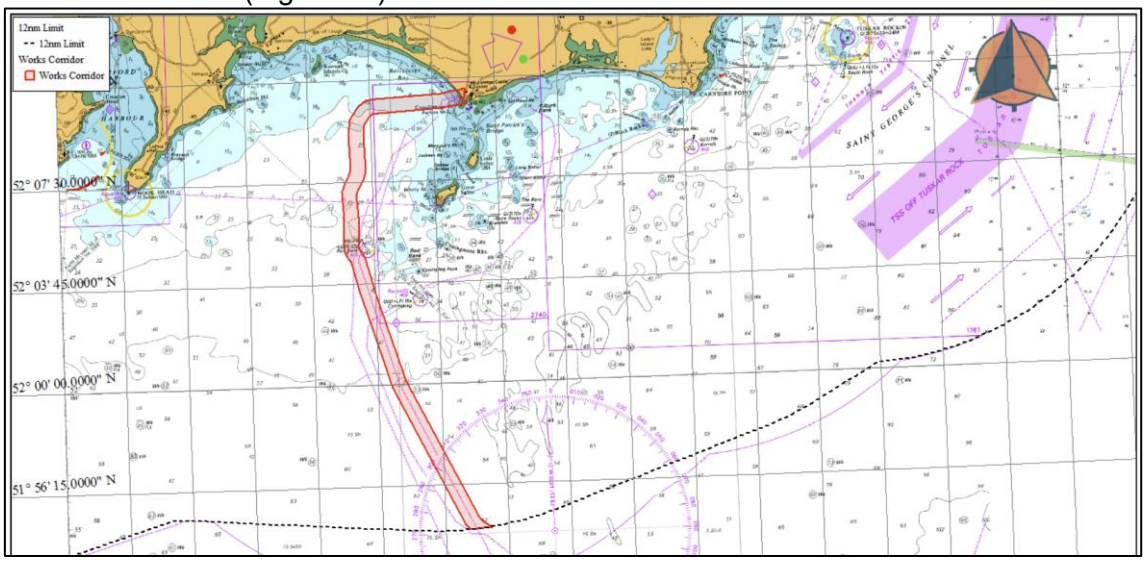


Figure 26. Works corridor (edged red with pink fill) for a subsea fibre optics cable.

An application for planning permission was lodged McMahon Design & Management

Ltd on 25 March 2025 (No 20250330) on 9 May 2025 the permission sought was granted subject to seven conditions.

Kilmore Quay hotel. On 2 May 2025, an information event was held in the Stella Maris Centre regarding a proposed world-class 163 bedroom, 5-star integrated resort hotel with 42 family suites and 55 self-catering lodges, bars and restaurant, events complex, spa, and leisure centre in the townlands of Beak and Nemestown close to St Patrick's Bridge (lower right-hand corner of the accompanying image). "*Supporting the biodiversity of the region*" was a stated objective of the proposed development. A planning application was lodged on 5 August 2025 (20250962W), permission was granted on 6 October 2025 subject to 34 conditions, that grant was appealed to An Coimisiún Pleanála on 21 October 2025 (PL-500109-WX), and that Commission had a target decision date of 4 March 2026.

17.26 Fires

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2002 page 153. Hurley, 2004 page 182. Hurley, 2005 page 176. Hurley, 2012 page 104. Hurley, 2013 page 112. Hurley, 2014 page 92. Hurley, 2015 page 97. Hurley, 2016 page 92.

17.27 People pressures

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2004 pages 182-183. Hurley, 2005 page 176. Hurley, 2008 page 126. Hurley, 2012 pages 104-105. Hurley, 2013 pages 113-114. Hurley, 2017 page 140. Hurley, 2018 page 106. Hurley, 2019 page 105. Hurley, 2020 page 125. Hurley, 2021 page 117. Hurley, 2023 page 85. Hurley, 2025 page 83.

Update. On 11 June 2025, Fáilte Ireland gave public notice (*Wexford People*, issue dated 11 June 2025, page 4) of the publication of its 'Draft Wexford Destination & Experience Development Plan' (Fáilte Ireland, 2025) and invited submissions (https://www.failteireland.ie/FailteIreland/media/WebsiteStructure/Documents/Irelands%20Ancient%20East/Wexford%20DEDP/Wexford-DEDP-Draft-21-5-25-(1).pdf). The 48-page draft plan identified Wexford's 260km of coastline as one of the county's strengths. The follow-on objective was to *"establish the county as a coastal tourism destination of excellence"* (*ibid*., page 6). The Hook Peninsula was the only site on the South Wexford Coast identified in the 48-page draft plan for visitor experience development. Action 3.1 sought to "*Deliver the Hook Head Peninsula Master Plan adopting a sustainable tourism approach*" (*ibid*., page 33). With regard to biodiversity county-wide, action 11.3 of the five-year plan sought to *"Develop a network of biodiversity experiences linking the marine, ornithology and nature reserve experiences that exist within the county linked to coastal destinations."* The time limit for that action was medium term with Wexford County Council as lead and local community groups as partners (*ibid*., page 37). The deadline for receipt of submissions was 8 July 2025.

17.28 Aquaculture

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2009 page 91. Hurley, 2010 page 103. Hurley, 2011 page 99. Hurley, 2013 page 114. Hurley, 2014 page 92. Hurley, 2015 page 97. Hurley, 2019 page 106. Hurley, 2020 pages 125-127. Hurley, 2022 page 98. Hurley, 2023 page 85. Hurley, 2024, pages 99-100. Hurley, 2025 pages 83-84.

Update. On 15 January 2025, public notice was given in the press by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine that the Minister had decided to grant a foreshore licence to Ballyteigue Oysters Ltd to cultivate Pacific Oysters using bags and trestles at site Ref No T03/038A in the Ballyteige Burrow Natura 2000 site. The public notice advised that the reasons for that decision were set out at www.gov.ie/aquaculture-

decisions (*Wexford People*, issue dated 15 January 2025, page 19).

The website referred to gave the following two reasons for the Minister's decision:-

- "Section 82 of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act, 1997 stipulates that the Minister, in considering an application for a licence under the Foreshore Acts, which is sought in connection with the carrying on of aquaculture pursuant to an Aquaculture Licence, shall have regard to any decision of the licensing authority in relation to the Aquaculture Licence.
- An Aquaculture Licence has been granted for the cultivation of pacific oysters using bags and trestles on this site."

The background was that in late 2024, An Taisce initiated a judicial review of the decision by the Aquaculture Appeals Board (ALAB) to grant an oyster cultivation licence to an operator in Ballyteige Bay raising significant concerns about impacts on protected bird species on foot of the aquaculture activity, which the environmental assessments had highlighted as a risk. ALAB initially resisted the judicial review but in June 2025, ALAB conceded to it.

On 15 September 2025, the case was heard in the High Court before Mr Justice Humphreys (Record No: 2024 1610 JR). The court quashed ALAB's decision due to inadequate reasoning about environmental impacts, sent the case back to the Appeals Board for reconsideration in accordance with the law, and ordered ALAB to pay An Taisce's legal costs (document AP4/1-2/2023 - Perfected Order 2024 1610 JR dated 15 September 2025 at https://alab.ie/activeappeals/appealsyearsreceived/appealsreceivedin2023/ap41-22023/#d.en.186658).

On 4 November 2025, ALAB gave notice that it would reconsider the case and determine the appeal by 5 October 2026, and that it would consolidate the two original appeals, reference numbers AP4/1/2023 (An Taisce) and AP4/2/2023 (SWC Promotions), into one new appeal with reference number AP13/1-2/2025.

17.29 Solar farming

Applications for planning permission for solar farms are tabulated (Table 18) and figured (Figure 27) below, as updated and amended.

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 2017 pages 140-142. Hurley, 2018 pages 107-108. Hurley, 2019 pages 107-108. Hurley, 2020 pages 128-130. Hurley, 2021 pages 118-120. Hurley, 2022 pages 99-102. Hurley, 2023 pages 86-88. Hurley, 2024, pages 101-105. Hurley, 2025 pages 85-87.

Site No	Application number	Application date	Applicant	Location	Site Area (ha)	Farm Output (MW)	Decision	Final grant date / decision date
01	20140392	4 June 2014	Sarah O'Flaherty	Coolroe, Tintern	10.19	5	Granted	(22 Dec 2014)
	PL 26.244351	16 Jan 2015					Granted	9 Jul 2015
02	20160008	8 Jan 2016	Philip Hore	Ballycarran, Rosslare	10.00	4	Granted	31 Mar 2016
03	20160009	8 Jan 2016	John Hore	Ballycarran, Rosslare	10.00	4	Granted	31 Mar 2016
04	20160520	17 May 2016	Wexford Solar Ltd	Ballycarran, Rosslare	10.00	4	Granted	16 Aug 2016
	20210793	24 May 2021	Ballycarran Solar Limited			6	Granted	9 Jul 2021
05	20160644	10 Jun 2016	Arena Capital Partners Ltd	Ballykereen, Rosslare	22.75	11	Granted	22 Jul 2016
06	20160690	17 Jun 2016	Highfield Solar Limited	Two separate sites: (6a) Grahormick west (Ballycogly) and (6b) Grahormick east (Killinick)	89.46	N/A	Refused	(10 Aug 2016)
	PL 26.247217	6 Sep 2016					Refused	2 Feb 2017
	High Court	15 Nov 2017					Case settled and resubmitted to the Board	
	PL 26.301321	3 Apr 2018					Granted	11 Jan 2019
07	20160811	15 Jul 2016	Harmony Solar Ralphtown Limited	Two separate sites: (7a) Ralphtown, Muchtown, Kilcowan, and (7b) Newtown Big, Baldwinstown	31.28 (= 19.5 at 7a + 11.7 at 7b)	17	Refused (see No 9 and 10 below)	(7 Sep 2016)
	PL 26.247366	4 Oct 2016					Granted for (7b) but refused for (7a)	23 Mar 2017
08	20161096	4 Oct 2016	Solas Éireann Development Ltd	Ballybrennan Little, Rosslare	9.91	5.9	Refused	(25 Nov 2016)
	PL 26.247780	22 Dec 2016					Refused	9 Feb 2018
09	20161110	7 Oct 2016	Harmony Solar Dennistown Limited	Murntown Lower, Newtown, Milltown, Dennistown, Sallystown, Gregorystown, and Rathaspeck	39.857	N/A	Granted	(14 Mar 2017)
	PL26.247801	4 Jan 2017					Granted	14 Feb 2018
	20200441	17 Apr 2020					Split	10 Jul 2020
10	20180389	29 Mar 2018	Harmony Solar Ralphtown Limited	Ralphtown, Muchtown, Kilcowan; see (7a) above.	8.90 (reduced from 19.5)	N/A	Granted (but see No 15 below)	18 May 2018
11	20180837	19 Jun 2018	Highfield Solar Limited	Raheenduff, Haresmead, Rosspile, Coolcliffe, Horetown North, Horetown, Clongeen, and Ballymitty	152.80	N/A	Refused	10 Aug 2018
	PL26.302475	3 Sep 2018					Granted	5 Jul 2019
	20191353	2 Oct 2019					Refused	22 Nov 2019
	PL26.306129	11 Dec 2019					Refused	12 May 2020
	PL26.308623	10 Nov 2020					Granted	27 Jan 2021
12	20181768	19 Dec 2018	Harmony Solar Mayglass Limited	Gardamus Great, Mayglass	32.72	N/A	Granted	22 Feb 2019
	PL26.303994	20 Mar 2019					Granted	16 Jul 2019

…/ continued

Site No	Application number	Application date	Applicant	Location	Site Area (ha)	Farm Output (MW)	Decision	Final grant date / decision date
13	20210807	26 May 2021	Highfield Solar Limited	Rochestown, Moortown Little and Harperstown	86.6	63,000-82,000	Granted	2 Feb 2022
14	20220900	5 July 2022	Ballygowny Solar Farm Limited	Ballygowny, Killesk	12.6	-	Granted	26 Aug 2022
15	20221551 PL26.247366	23 Nov 2022	Harmony Solar Ralphtown Limited	Ralphtown and Kilcowan (this is a renewal of No 10 above)	8.9	-	Granted	21 Apr 2023
16	20231080	11 Sep 2023	SSE Renewables (Ireland) Ltd	Hooks, Yoletown, Kilcowan	-	21	Granted	7 June 2024
17	20251194W	22 Sep 2025	Gen 7 Renewable Energy Limited	Ballygarvan, Cloonagh and Nash (Gusserane)	121.5	92.68		
18	20251333W	17 Oct 2025	Shelbourne Solar Limited	Dunmain, Garryduff, Ballykeerogemore, Ballykeerogebeg, Knockea, Killesk, and Whitechurch	141.03	-		

Table 18. Planning applications for solar farms.

(Source: https://planning.agileapplications.ie/wexford/search-applications/ replacing http://planning.wexford.ie/index.php)

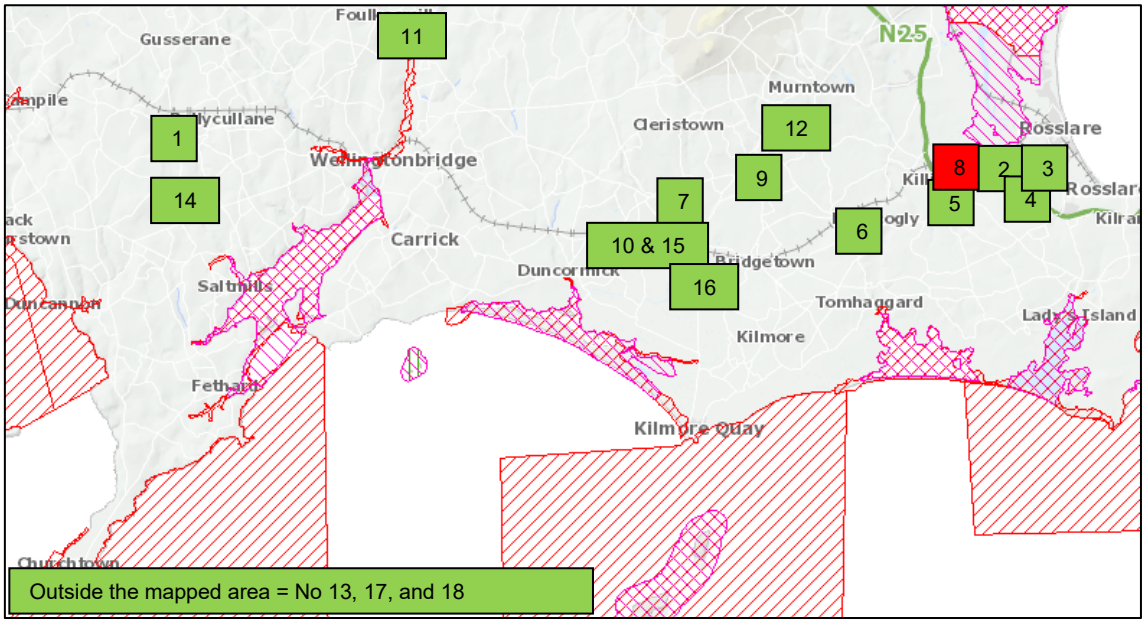


Figure 27. Planning applications for solar farms.

(Source: http://webgis.npws.ie/npwsviewer/)

Updates

Shelburne Energy Farm. On 22 September 2025, Gen7 Renewable Energy Limited submitted a planning application to Wexford County Council regarding:-

- a 92.68MWp photovoltaic (PV) solar energy farm spilt into three distinct solar array areas,
- a co-located Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), and
- a connection to the national electricity grid (Ref No 20251194W).

The proposed development occupied a total area of approximately 121.5ha in the townlands of Ballygarvan, Cloonagh and Nash at Gusserane, and was collectively referred to as the Shelburne Energy Farm. A NIS prepared by Mott MacDonald Ireland Limited accompanied the application (Mott MacDonald, 2025).

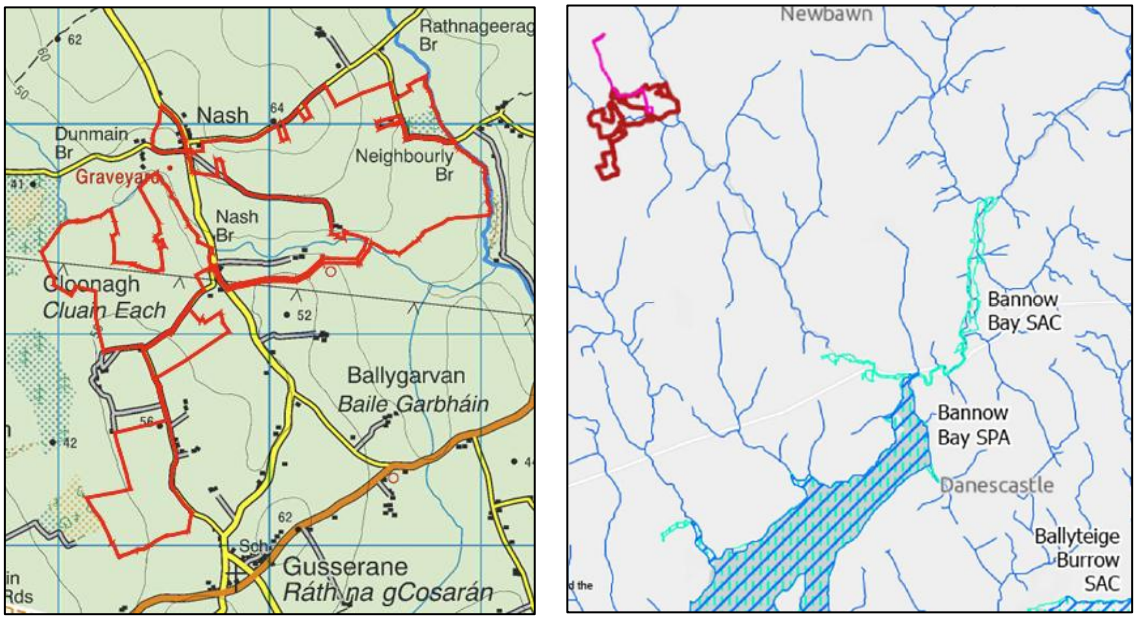
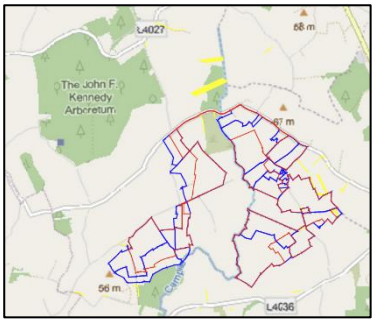


Figure 1. Location map (left) and Natura 2000 sites (right).

[Planning file (left) and Mott MacDonald, 2025 Figure 2-10, page 53 (right)]



Dunmain. On 17 October 2025, Shelbourne Solar Limited applied for permission for a solar farm on a 141.03ha site at Dunmain, Garryduff, Ballykeerogemore, Ballykeerogebeg, Knockea, Killesk, and Whitechurch adjacent to the John F Kennedy Arboretum. W

18 PROPOSED ENGINEERING SOLUTION

This section addresses engineering solutions proposed to relieve flooding at Lady's Island Lake (Section 18.1), at Tacumshin Lake (Section 18.2), and at other locations on the South Wexford Coast (Section 18.3).

18.1 Lady's Island Lake

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 170-180. Hurley, 1998 pages 65-76. Hurley 1999 page 153. Hurley, 2000 pages 175-178. Hurley, 2004, page 184. Hurley, 2025 page 87.

Update. Hydrological modelling of the lagoon for the CLEAR project showed that while replacing the present system of barrier breaching with a 1.2m-diameter, sub-barrier

pipeline was considered feasible from a flood management perspective, it would radically reduce lagoonal salinity to the extent that the waterbody would be more of a shallow freshwater lake and would no longer qualify as a lagoon (O'Connor *et al*., 2024 pages 8 and 9).

18.2 Tacumshin Lake

References to earlier reports. Hurley 1999 page 153-154. Hurley, 2000 pages 174 and 179-180. Hurley, 2001 page 130. Hurley, 2002 page 155. Hurley, 2014 page 93.

Addendum

The 1946 Shapland Carew Papers are relevant to the lake (http://www.irishmanuscripts.ie/digital/The%20Shapland%20Carew%20Papers.pdf).

18.3 Drainage works at other areas

19 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Reference to earlier report. Hurley, 1997 page 183.

19.1 Management Plan

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 183. Hurley, 1998 pages 77, 79 (Figure 19) and 71 (Figure 13). Hurley, 1999 page 154. Hurley, 2000 page 180.

19.2 Breaching the barrier

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 183. Hurley, 1998 page 77. Hurley, 1999 page 154. Hurley, 2000 page 181.

19.3 EU co-financing

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 183. Hurley, 1998 page 77. Hurley, 1999 page 155. Hurley, 2000 page 181. Hurley, 2001 page 131.

19.4 Nutrient survey

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 183. Hurley, 1998 page 77. Hurley, 1999 page 155.

19.5 Water Quality Management Plan

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 183. Hurley, 1998 page 77. Hurley, 1999 page 155. Hurley, 2000 page 182. Hurley, 2001 page 131.

19.6 Local Development Plan

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 183. Hurley, 1998 page 78. Hurley, 1999 page 155. Hurley, 2000 page 182. Hurley, 2001 page 131.

19.7 Nature Reserve

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 page 183. Hurley, 1998 page 78. Hurley, 1999 page 155. Hurley, 2000 page 182. Hurley, 2001 page 131.

19.8 Barrier height

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1999 page 156. Hurley, 2000 page 182. Hurley, 2001 page 131. Hurley, 2003 page 162.

19.9 Salinity

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1999 page 156. Hurley, 2000 page 182. Hurley, 2001 page 131. Hurley, 2003 page 162.

20 ORDNANCE DATUM CONVERSION TABLE

References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 184-185. Hurley, 1999 page 156.

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References to earlier reports. Hurley, 1997 pages 187-196. Hurley, 1998 pages 81-83. Hurley, 1999 pages 157-161. Hurley, 2000 pages 183-187. Hurley, 2001 pages 132-135. Hurley, 2002 pages 158-160. Hurley, 2003 pages 163-165. Hurley, 2004 pages 187-189. Hurley, 2005 pages 180-182. Hurley, 2006 pages 152-153. Hurley, 2007 pages 190-193. Hurley, 2008 pages 129-131. Hurley, 2009 pages 93-95. Hurley, 2010 pages 105-107. Hurley, 2011 pages 101-103. Hurley, 2012 pages 108-110. Hurley, 2013 pages 116-118. Hurley, 2014 pages 95-96. Hurley, 2015 pages 99-100. Hurley, 2016 pages 95-97. Hurley, 2017 pages 144-145. Hurley, 2018 pages 110-111. Hurley, 2019 pages 110-112. Hurley, 2020 pages 132-134. Hurley, 2021 pages 122-123. Hurley, 2022 page 104. Hurley, 2023 pages 91-92. Hurley, 2024 pages 108-109. Hurley, 2025 pages 89-90.

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