Kilmore Quay Community Development Association CLG (KQCDA)

Biodiversity Action Plan

for 'the Burrow lands', the KQCDA property at Ballyteige Burrow, Co Wexford

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Plan compiled for the KQCDA and funded by Wexford Local Development

— Draft plan dated 7 September 2026 —

Plan compiled by Jim Hurley

SWC Promotions

Grange, Kilmore, Co Wexford Y35 YN35
Mobile: 086 163 7199
Email: southwexfordcoast@gmail.com
Website: www.southwexfordcoast.com

SWC Promotions
Promoting the South Wexford Coast

SWC Promotions: promoting the natural heritage resource values of the South Wexford Coast.

Note: The official placename '**Ballyteige**' is used throughout this report mindful that the preferred local spelling of the placename is '**Ballyteigue**'.

Document control sheet

Version of this report	Publication date	Distribution	For
Version 1: First draft	8 June 2026	First draft circulated to the Directors of the Kilmore Quay Community Development Association CLG only	Their approval and amendments
Version 2: Approved and amended draft	7 Sept 2026	Approved and amended draft circulated to stakeholders and other interested parties as per Appendix 3 below	Their information; comments, corrections, and suggestions
Version 3: Final report	TBC 2026	Public domain	Information

Coordinates. Throughout this report coordinates are given in round brackets, for example (52.178917, -6.59103), using latitude and longitude to define the location of a point described in the text. The location of the point in question can be viewed on an aerial photo of the Burrow lands by typing the coordinates in the blank 'Lat' and 'Long' boxes of the 'Irish Grid Reference Finder' at https://irish.gridreferencefinder.com/ and hitting 'Go'. For example, the coordinates given above are those of the small, public car park near Sofrimar. All points on the Burrow lands lie between latitudes 52.174 and 52.187 North and longitudes -6.591 and -6.606 West.

Photo and maps. Jim Hurley took all photographs used in this report during the period April-May 2026 and maps were created by him using QGIS open-source software (http://qgis.org) and Open Street Maps (https://www.openstreetmap.org).

— Summary of this Plan —

Ballyteige Burrow is a coastal townland on the south Co Wexford heritage coastline in the south-eastern extremity of the island of Ireland. The townland supports *"one of the most impressive shingle-based dune systems in the country"* (NPWS, 2020).

A portion of that shingle-based sand dune system is owned by the local community and the Directors of the Kilmore Quay Community Development Association CLG (KQCDA) hold that property in trust for the local community. The land in question is known locally as 'the Burrow lands' and is the subject of this report. A Development Plan for the property was compiled in 2008.

In 2025, the KQCDA applied to Wexford Local Development for grant aid to, among other things, update the outdated 2008 Development Plan for the Burrow lands and, instead, to produce a Biodiversity Action Plan for that property. That application was successful and the contract to compile the plan was awarded to SWC Promotions. This draft plan is the outcome.

This draft plan updates the now outdated 2008 Development Plan and reformats it as a Biodiversity Action Plan, identifies and outlines the natural heritage resource values of the Burrow lands, explores how best these values can be developed for local people and visitors alike to experience and enjoy and to contribute to reducing the loss of biodiversity via a list of actions to be taken that seek to conserve the fragile amenity.

This draft plan is open for consultation for a period of one month and submissions for consideration for inclusions in the final plan and/or suggestions for improvement are very welcome. Submissions should be emailed to Jim Hurley at southwexfordcoast@gmail.com or posted to him at Grange, Kilmore, Co Wexford Y35 YN35 not later than **10 October 2026**. Otherwise, he may be contacted by phone at 086 163 7199 to arrange a meeting for in-person inputs.

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— Acknowledgements —

I acknowledge with gratitude the freely-given and enthusiastic assistance of the Directors of the Kilmore Quay Community Development Association CLG during the compilation of this draft report. In particular, I thank Jim Moore who was lead for this project on behalf of the Development Association. He provided every assistance, sourced maps and other documents, answered several questions, engaged in very meaningful conversations, and freely shared his great knowledge of the local area.

I also thank all those who contributed to the drafting of the plan in any way. The positive assistance and support for conserving the natural heritage resource values of Ballyteige Burrow was both encouraging and inspirational.

Jim Hurley
7 September 2026

— Table of Contents —

— List of Figures —

— List of Tables —

— List of Plates —

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

1.1.1. During late 2025, the Directors of the Kilmore Quay Community Development Association recognised the need to update a 2008 plan for the land at Ballyteige Burrow that it holds in trust for the community, and to reconfigure that outdated plan as a Biodiversity Action Plan. To that end, application was made to Wexford Local Development for grant aid to fund the updating project. The application was successful.

1.2. Definitions

1.2.1. **The KQCDA**. The Kilmore Quay Community Development Association CLG (KQCDA) is a community-based organisation located in south County Wexford. The first Kilmore Quay Development Association was formed in June 1964. The present KQCDA followed in 1985 as a further community initiative. On 7 November 2007, the Charities Section of the Revenue Commissioners granted the company charitable tax exemption (Charity Number 12660) under Section 207 of the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997 (S.I. Number 39 of 1997). The five Directors of the company at present are John Grace (Chair), Mary Bates (Secretary), James Moore, Catherine Langan, and Paul Ryder.

For the benefit of the local community and to enhance the village of Kilmore Quay, the KQCDA has established and maintains a number of projects in the village of Kilmore Quay and its environs in close collaboration with national and local agencies, local landowners, Wexford County Council, and other interested parties. A portion of the sand dunes at Ballyteige Burrow is owned by the local community and the directors of the KQCDA hold that land in trust for the community. The land in question is known locally as 'the Burrow lands'.

The KQCDA actively promotes interest in local biodiversity and is keen to conserve the natural heritage resource values of the Burrow lands.

The KQCDA is based in the Stella Maris Centre, Kilmore Quay, Co Wexford Y35 TH9W (www.stellamariscentre.com) and the contact person is Bernie Doyle, Manager, Mobile +353 (85) 155 8160, Landline +353 (53) 912 9922, email manager@stellamariscentre.com.

1.2.2. **Ballyteige Burrow**. Ballyteige Burrow is a coastal townland on the south Co Wexford heritage coastline. The townland supports what is *"recognised as one of the most impressive shingle-based dune systems in the country".* The coastal site *"is of major ecological value for its range of good quality coastal habitats, The dune system is of excellent quality, physically well developed and with a rich flora"* (NPWS, 2020 page 3).

1.2.3. **The Burrow lands**. The Burrow lands is the local name used to mean the portion of Ballyteige Burrow owned by the local community and held in trust by the Directors of the KQCDA. The 42.22ha property was purchased by the local community by common subscription in 1986 for the sum of £30,727.25. The lands were purchased for use by the local community for recreational purposes. The company property adjoins the village of Kilmore Quay and extends north-westwards from it for a distance of almost 2km.

1.2.4. **Biodiversity**. Biodiversity is the variety of life forms found in a particular place, in this case the Burrow lands, part of the sand dune complex at Ballyteige Burrow.

1.2.5. **Biodiversity Action Plan**. A Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) is a comprehensive, strategic framework designed to protect, manage, and restore local or national ecosystems, habitats, and species. A local BAP is known as an LBAB. Originating from the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity (https://www.cbd.int/convention), it translates vague, general, and well-meaning environmental aspirations into concrete, measurable actions to combat biodiversity loss, strengthen ecological resilience, promote sustainable practices, and help contribute to achieving climate mitigation and climate adaptation objectives.

The Ballyteige Burrow local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) is a BAP targeted specifically at the sand dunes owned by the local community and held in trust by the KQCDA.

Following consultation with all relevant stakeholders and the local community, this draft plan will become a local community plan to enhance local biodiversity mindful of the objectives of:-

- the National Parks and Wildlife Service's Conservation Objectives for the Ballyteige Burrow Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (NPWS, 2014a),
- Wexford County Council's Draft Local Biodiversity Action Plan for County Wexford (WCC, 2026),
- the County Wexford Development Plan (WCC, 2022),
- the government's National Biodiversity Action Plan (NPWS, 2023), and
- other national strategies.

The LBAP will define the actions to be taken, and ensure that they are SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and timebound).

The KQCDA, in close cooperation with the local community, will be responsible for resourcing, funding and implementing the plan, and accountable for both achieving its targets and reporting on progress and outcomes.

1.2.6. **WLD**. Wexford Local Development (WLD) is one of 48 Local Development Companies in Ireland delivering a range of interlinked programmes on behalf of local and national Government to address the needs of individuals and communities. A registered charity (No: 20068691), WLD implements various government-funded programmes and provides grant aid, under initiatives such as LEADER, to support community-based voluntary groups (https://wld.ie/).

1.3. The present project

1.3.1. **Deliverables**. The deliverables and outcomes the KQCDA expects from the LBAP project were set out in the following description that accompanied the KQCDA Request for Quotation dated 22 December 2025 circulated to those invited to tender: "*The scope of the plan includes a review of the previous plan for the Burrow lands. The plan will consider and address the changes and challenges in the preservation of the diverse nature found on the lands. It is intended to review the exposure of the existing sand dune system to the changing climatic conditions. These form a natural defence barrier to coastal flooding and the current threats of rising sea levels and storm activities. Also, a review of the water quality of the existing land drainage systems which extend throughout the area. Consideration should be given to actions appropriate to the preservation, protection and promotion of the lands as well as opportunities to promote the significance of the lands with a range of educational activities*."

1.3.2. **Previous plan**. The previous plan (KQCDA, 2008) for the Burrow lands referred to above (paragraph 1.3.1) dates from 2008. On 7 February 2008, the KQCDA commissioned Jim Hurley, SWC Promotions, to compile a Development Plan for its property at Ballyteige Burrow. That Plan was produced on 3 July 2008 and is available to read and/or download at https://www.southwexfordcoast.com/ballyteige-burrow/ by scrolling down to Further reading > Habitats > Sand dunes > The Burrow lands.

1.3.3. **Present contract**. On 14 April 2026, the contract to compile the LBAP and develop the biodiversity project was awarded to SWC Promotions. On 22 April 2026, the KQCDA gave public notice both locally and in the press (*Wexford People*, issue dated 22 April 2026, page 38, Community News) (copy in the box, right) that a BAP was being prepared.

BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN FOR BALLYTEIGE BURROW

The Development Association is delighted to receive Leader funding to develop a biodiversity plan for the community owned lands on the Burrow. We look forward to sharing this plan when completed over the next few months.

1.3.4. **Project area**. For the purposes of the LBAP, the project area is 'the Burrow lands', the community land held in trust by the KQCDA. That area is described below (Section 3).

1.4. Terms of reference

1.4.1. **Remit**. The following report comprises a draft update of KQCDA, 2008 taking the four essential elements listed above (paragraph 1.3.1) into consideration, and re-formatting and adapting the earlier Development Plan as a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for the local area (LBAP).

The four overarching elements considered and addressed are:-

1. A review and update of the previous plan for the Burrow lands.
2. The changes and challenges in the preservation of the diverse nature found on the land, especially the exposure of the existing sand dune system to the changing climatic conditions.
3. Water quality of the existing land drainage systems which extend throughout the area.

4. Actions appropriate to the preservation, protection and promotion of the land, and opportunities to promote the significance of the land with a range of educational activities.

1.4.2. **Statement of competence**. Jim Hurley (B.Sc., UCD 1965; Zoology, Botany, Geology), trading as SWC Promotions, is an independent naturalist and conservationist. He has been involved in environmental and ecological matters and their related planning issues for many years and has successfully compiled several Ecology Reports, Biodiversity Action Plans, ARC Applications, Ecological Impact Statements, Appropriate Assessment Screening Reports, Natura Impact Statements, screening for Environment Impact Assessment, biodiversity chapters for Environment Impact Assessment Reports, etc. He compiled the former Development Plan for the Burrow lands (KQCDA, 2008), lives in Kilmore, and has enjoyed the amenities of the Burrow lands for some sixty years.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1.1. The methodology followed in compiling this report comprised the conducting and completion of the following elements: a desk study, several site visits and site walkovers, and compilation and production of this report.

2.1.2. A desk study was undertaken, and the following data and information sources were accessed and utilised. When available, relevant shapefiles were downloaded for use with QGIS software.

- Data provided by the KQCDA and used to inform this report included a site location map.
- Other online mapping reviewed included GeoHive and Tailte Éireann maps, aerial photography (https://www.tailte.ie/), EPA maps (https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/), and Wexford County Council's iMaps 2025 public map viewer (https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/87a80ce044604 a1e8616e73ab1625744).
- Electronic copies of planning files containing in Wexford County Council's online document and map-viewing facility at https://dms.Wexfordcoco.ie/index.php.
- Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 (https://consult.wexfordcoco.ie/en/consultation/wexford-county-develop ment-plan-2022-2028) and the draft County Wexford Biodiversity Plan 2026-2031 (https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/environment-and-climate-change/biodiversity-community-and-schools/biodiversity/local-biodiversity-action-plan-pre-draft-consultation-2025).
- National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Standard Data Forms, site boundaries, site synopses, qualifying interests, and conservation objectives for impacted Natura 2000 sites were studied (https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/edf34d92e28040fd87d3d14f55d8d95f).
- Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) online mapping (www.gsi.ie) for data regarding rocks, sediments, groundwater, etc.
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) geoportal mapping tool (https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/) for information on bedrock, soils, groundwater, aquifers, waterbodies, catchment areas, hydrological connections, flow paths, water quality, risk status, etc., and the EPA Catchments interactive online mapping and data (https://www.catchments.ie/).
- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Environmental Impact Assessment portal (https://housinggovie.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d7d5a3d48f104ecbb206e7e5f84b71f1).
- National Planning Application Map viewer (https://www.myplan.ie/national-planning-application-map-viewer/).
- Office of Public Works (OPW) National Flood Hazard Mapping website (https://www.floodinfo.ie/map/floodmaps/).
- Records from the National Biodiversity Data Centre (https://biodiversityireland.ie/) for relevant grid squares.
- Records from the Flora Protection Order 2022 Map Viewer (https://heritagedata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a41ef4e10227499d8de17a8abe42bd1e).

Other information sources consulted are referenced below as they arise.

2.1.3. The site of the proposed development and its environs were visited on several occasions during the study period (14 April 2026 – 31 May 2026).

2.2. Report structure

2.2.1. This report comprises thirteen sections as follows,

Section	Content
1	An introduction.
2	An outline of the methodology followed in compiling this report.
3	A definition and description of the project location and area.
4	A baseline description of the receiving environment.
5	An inventory of the natural heritage resources, protected areas and other relevant designations at the subject site.
6	A review of the former (2008) plan.
7	Identification of the changes and challenges since 2008.
8	An assessment of water quality in the drainage network.
9	Identification and analyses of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT).
10	A list of proposed actions to be taken.
11	Conclusions.
12	References and literature cited.
13	Appendices.

Table 1. Contents of this report by Section.

3. DEFINITION OF THE PROJECT AREA

3.1. Location of the project area

3.1.1. The project area is located on the south coast of Co Wexford in south-east Ireland (Figure 1) and is accessed from the village of Kilmore Quay.

Figure 1. Location of the project area on the South Wexford Coast.

3.1.2. Ballyteige Burrow is a townland on the South Wexford Coast (Figure 2, edged blue). The land-form is essentially a sand dune complex perched on a gravel barrier. Many of the dunes reach heights of 10m and over, some almost 20m tall. The dune system is rated *"one of the most impressive shingle-based dune systems in the country"* (NPWS, 2020 page 3). The long, narrow townland adjoins the village of Kilmore Quay and extends from it in a west-north-west direction for 9km approximately. The townland has an area of 349.38 hectares (863.34 acres). The townland name is interpreted as meaning "*the rabbit warren of Tadhg's homestead*" (Ó Crualaoich and Mac Giolla Chomhghaill, 2016).

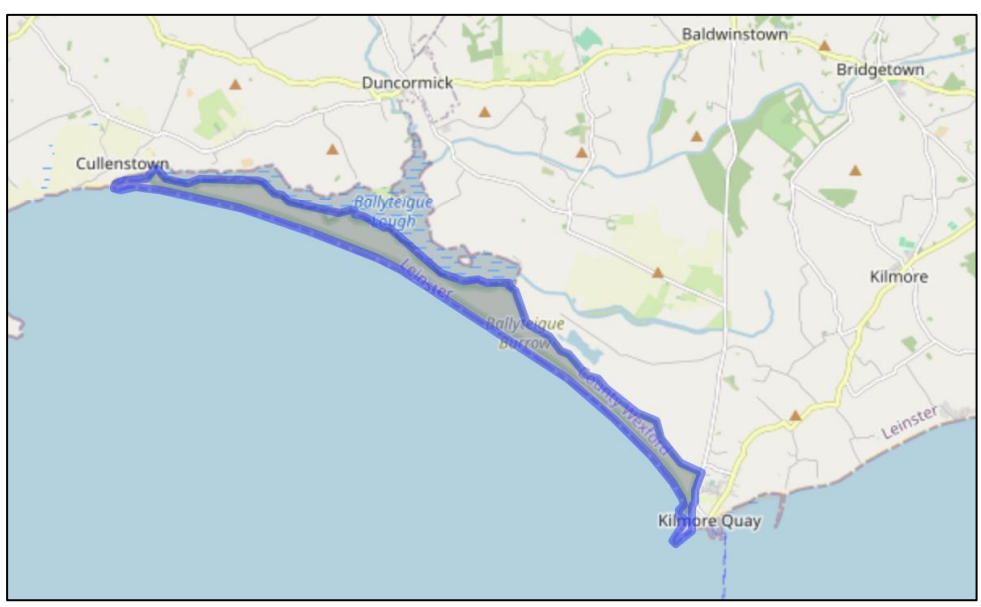


Figure 2. Ballyteige Burrow townland edged blue.

(Source: https://www.townlands.ie/wexford/bargy/kilmore/kilmore/ballyteige-burrow/)

3.1.3. To the north, Ballyteige Burrow borders several other townlands, the tidal waters of Ballyteige Lough, and the Duncormick estuary. To the south it borders the Celtic Sea. To the east it borders the townland of Crossfarnoge and the village of Kilmore Quay, and to the west it borders the townland of Cullenstown (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Neighbouring townlands at Ballyteige Burrow.

3.2. Property boundaries

3.2.1. The townland of Ballyteige Burrow has three owners: the State (Figure 4, pink), the local community (Figure 4, green), and a small plot enclosed by the local community property owned by Sofimar (acronym for the French: ***So**ciete **Fr**ance **I**rlande de **Mar**ee*) adjoining that company's shellfish processing facility at the extreme south-eastern end of the townland. While the State property is registered with the Land Registry office; the other two holdings are not featured as registered.

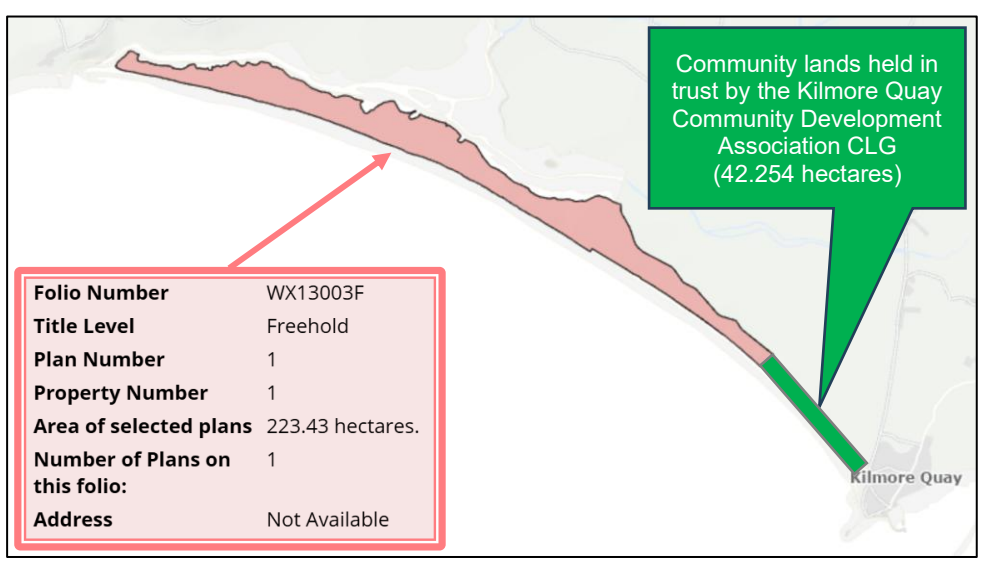


Figure 4. Land owners at Ballyteige Burrow.

(Source: https://www.landdirect.ie/pramap/)

3.2.2. The map of the Burrow lands provided by the KQCDA for the purposes of this report comprised three A3-size photocopied pages showing the Burrow property delineated on sections of Ordnance Survey Ireland six-inch Sheets Nos LI 8 and LI 12 sellotaped together. The map was scaled 1:2500, was signed by Albert Lennon, Chartered Engineer, Lennon O'Keefe Associates, Architects and Engineers, 10 Selskar Street, Wexford, and was dated "19/3/86". The Burrow lands were edged red, were marked "B" and their area was given as 42.254 hectares. A cropped composite of the three sheets is reproduced below (Figure 5) and the property is put in context of the entire sand dune system by featuring its indicative boundaries (Figure 6).

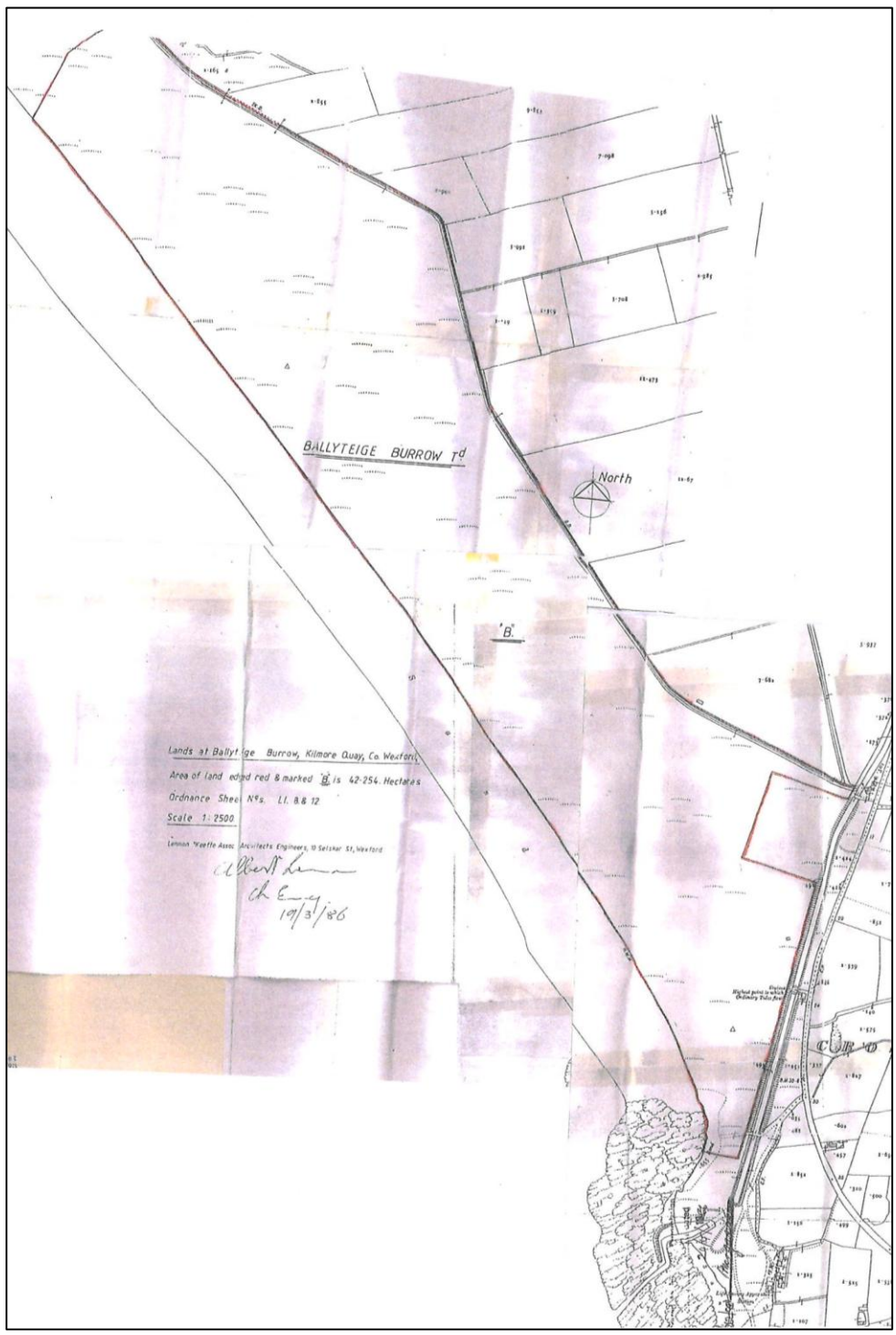


Figure 5. KQCDA map showing the Burrow lands.

Figure 6. Ballyteige Burrow (green) containing the Burrow lands project area (red).

Using the map provided for the present project, the indicative extent of the KQCDA Burrow lands is featured (Figure 7).

Figure 7. The KQCDA Burrow lands project area (red fill).

The four compass-point boundaries of the Burrow lands are addressed below.

3.2.3. **The southern boundary**. The southern boundary of the Burrow lands is featured below (Figure 8).

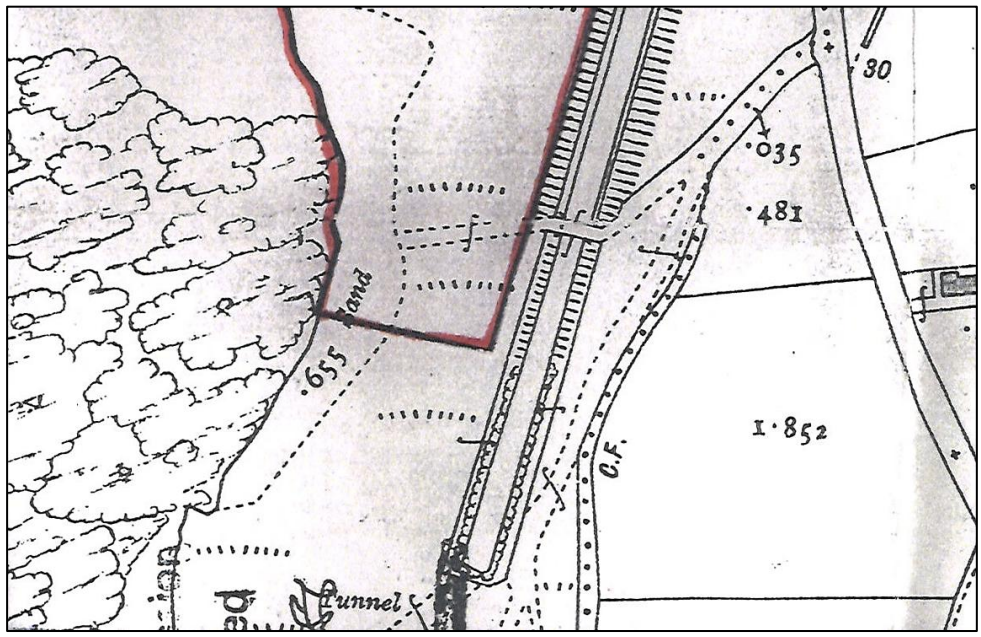


Figure 8. Southern boundary of the Burrow lands.

(Source: Enlarged extract of Figure 5 above)

The southern boundary is located immediately north of the existing viewing area and car park near the bridge over the drainage channel known locally as 'The Cutting' near the SPAR supermarket in Kilmore Quay. The eastern extremity of the southern boundary is taken here to be the start point for the description of the perimeter of the Burrow lands (Plate 1).

Plate 1. The southern boundary of the Burrow lands (foreground).

Plate 1 shows the bridge over 'The Cutting' (right) with SPAR supermarket in the background (extreme right) and the walking trail boardwalk ascending the dunes (left).

From the start point, the boundary runs north parallel to the drainage channel to the premises of the Sofrimar shellfish processing facility circumnavigating three sides of the perimeter of an approximately square plot of land owned by Sofrimar (Figure 9 and Plate 2).

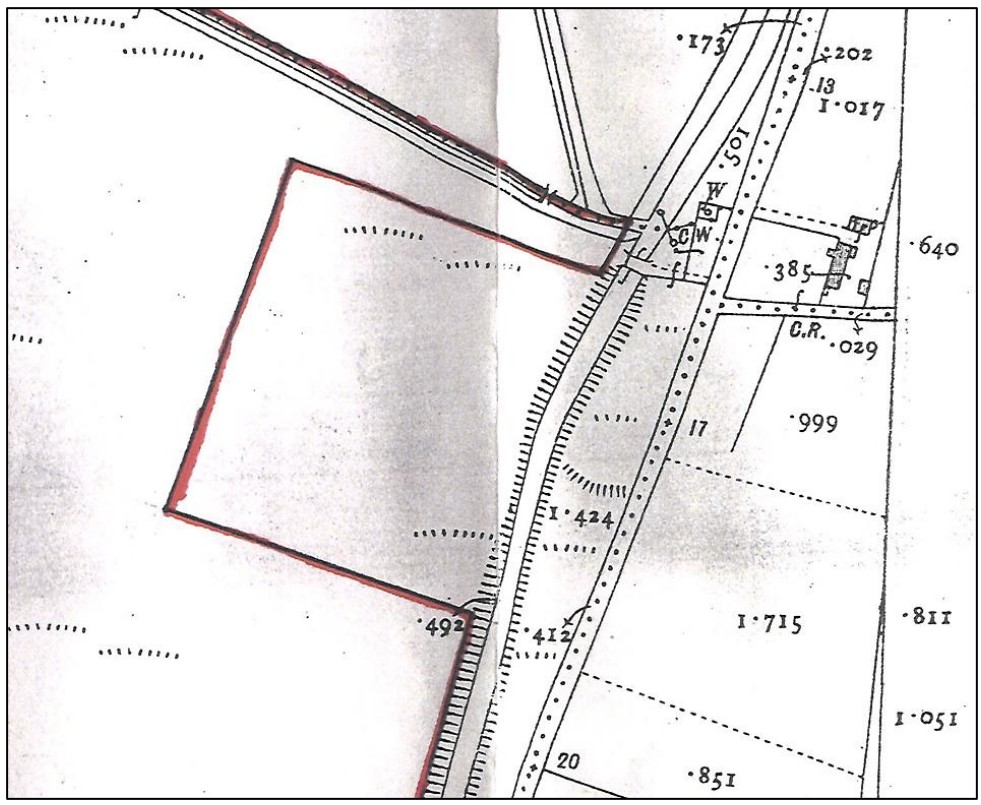


Figure 9. The Sofrimar plot.

(Source: Enlarged extract of Figure 5 above)

Plate 2. Part of the fenced Sofrimar plot.

The fencing posts and electric fence mark the extent of part of the Sofrimar plot.

The Kilmore Quay Walking Trail bisects the Sofrimar plot and a public right of way across the plot is presumed. An access corridor to the Kilmore Quay Walking Trail from the public car park at Sofrimar (52.178917, -6.59103), is part of the Burrow lands (Figure 9 and Plate 3). The corridor was requested from the National Parks and Wildlife Service by the KQCDA when the walking trail was originally established.

Plate 3. Access corridor from the public car park to the walking trail.

The fenced Sofrimar plot on the left with the sand dunes in the background are featured in Plate 3.

3.2.4. **The eastern boundary**. From Sofrimar the boundary continues north to the western end of Furlong's Road (52.187888,-6.606574) along the land drain bordering the Kilmore Quay Walking Trail (Plate 4 and Plate 5).

Plate 4. The Kilmore Quay Walking Trail with the fenced Sofrimar plot (left).

Plate 5. The north-western boundary.

Plate 5 features from left to right: the sand dunes, the hind-dune flat (grazed and fenced grassland), the Kilmore Quay Walking Trail (mowed), a vegetated berm of excavated spoil, and the boundary drain separating the townland of Ballyteige Burrow (left) from agricultural land in the townland of Inish and Ballyteige Slob (right). The boundary drain ends at Furlong's Road (Plate 6).

Plate 6. The northern end of the hind-dune drain (right).

Plate 6 features the western end of the hind-dune drain (right) with the western end of Furlong's Road (52.187888,-6.606574) lying out of view on the extreme left.

3.2.5. **The northern boundary**. The northern boundary of the Burrow lands is defined both by a paper boundary (Figure 10 with its northern extremity truncated) and on the ground by a curved fenceline, a permanent, physical boundary (Plate 7).

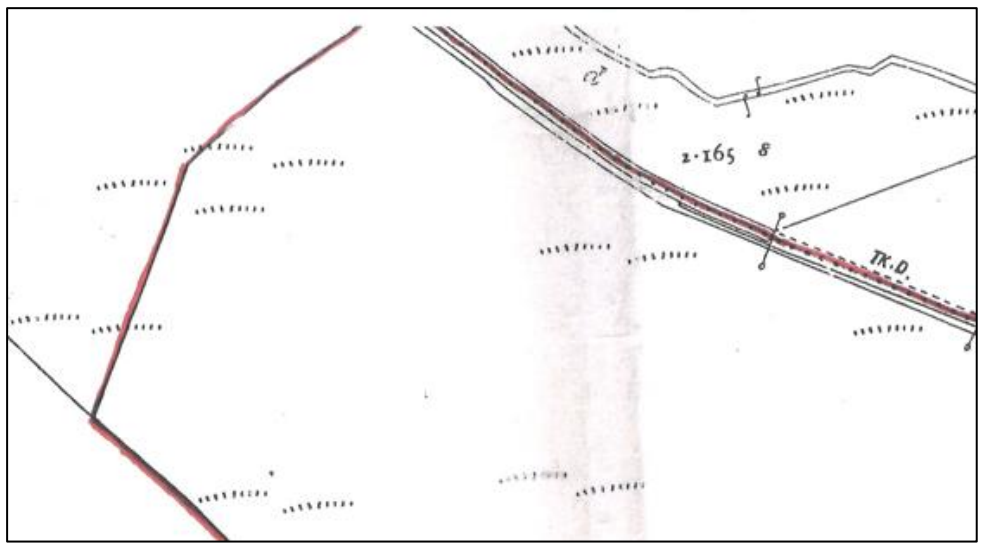


Figure 10. The northern boundary.

(Source: Enlarged extract of Figure 5 above)

Plate 7. The locked gate and pedestrian stile in the fenceline.

The walking trail (foreground) swings left past the stile and gate (52.187645,-6.607269) and follows the fenceline over the dunes to the beach.

The fence consists of wooden and concrete posts, with sheep wire attached and topped with barbed wire, separating the NPWS property (north) from the KQCDA Burrow lands (south). The original fence was erected by the late Ibar Power in the early 1960s. A second fence was subsequently erected by persons unknown immediately adjoining the original fence. As they were repaired and upgraded over time, the two fences merged into one.

The fenceline is bordered on the Burrow lands side by a very regularly-used track on eroded and exposed sand that links the outward hind-dune grassed path of the Kilmore Quay Walking Trail with the return route along the Burrow shore (Plate 8). The seaward end of the track is subject to wind erosion and features a developing blow-out (Plate 9).

Plate 8. View southwest along the northern boundary fenceline.

Plate 9. Significant wind erosion of the dune face.

Wind erosion is significant where the northern boundary and walking trail exits onto the beach (52.186558,-6.608577).

The southern boundary of the property at Ballyteige Burrow owned by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) differs slightly from the Burrow lands boundary in that the Burrow lands boundary is a curved line whereas the NPWS boundary is a straight line as featured on the extract of Folio No WX13003F at https://www.landdirect.ie/pramap/ superimposed on an aerial photograph with 50% transparency and with both images adjusted to the same scale (Figure 11). It is assumed that the straight-line boundary is the legally correct boundary.

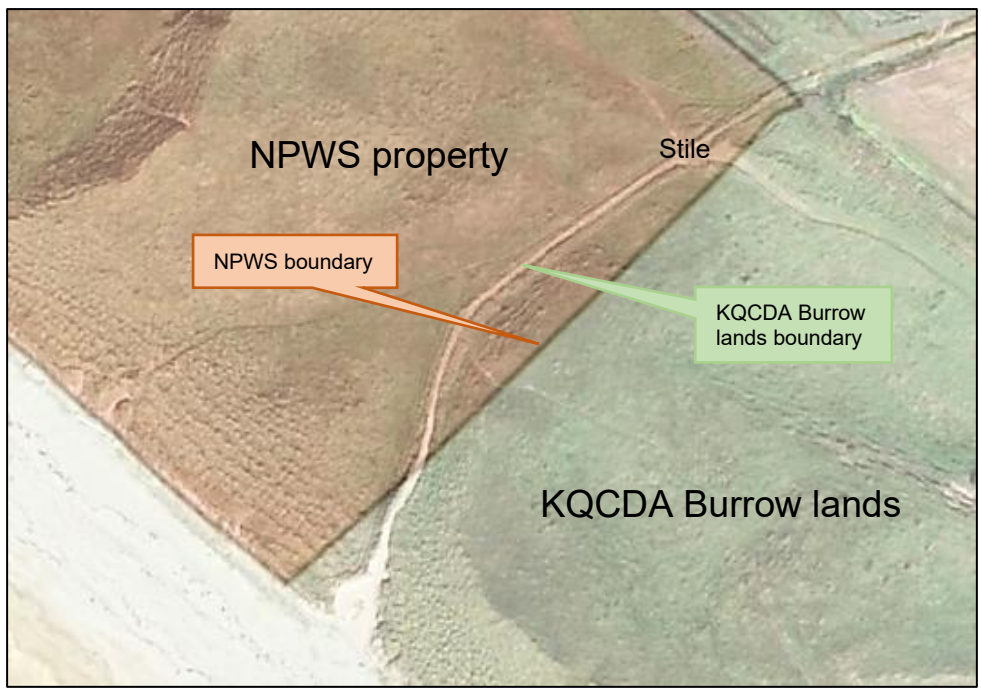
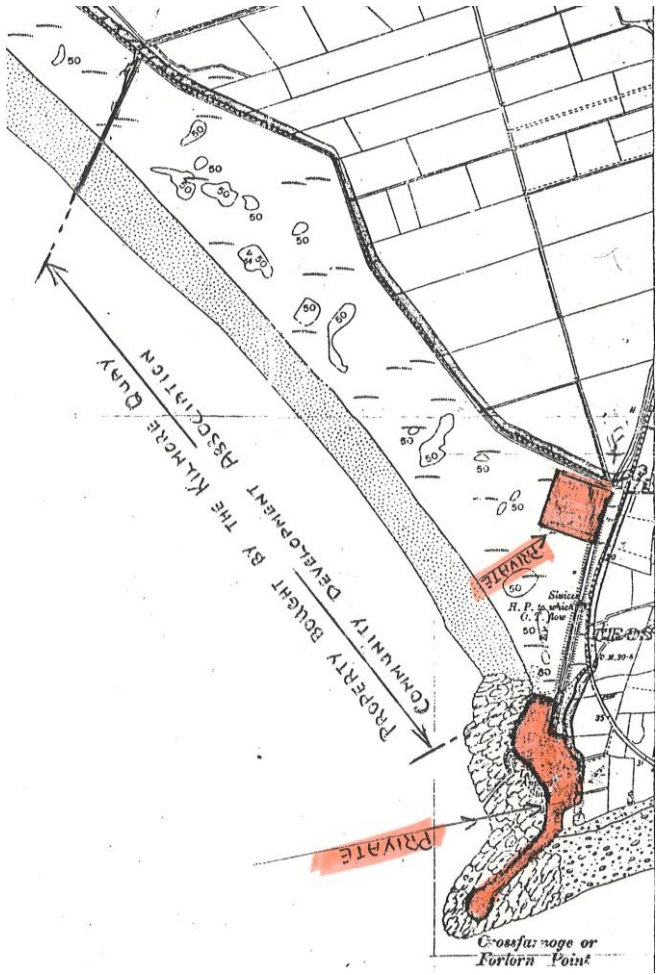


Figure 11. Two slightly different boundaries.



When the purchase of the Burrow lands was being negotiated in the mid-1980s, a circular letter seeking financial support dated 15 February 1986 publicly distributed by the Kilmore Quay Community Development Association and signed by both John Power, Chairperson, and Fr Jim Cogley CC, Committee, had a map of the property appended. That map showed a straight-line northern boundary (Figure 12). While the boundary line originated at the western end of Furlong's Road like other boundary lines, it traversed the dunes at a somewhat different angle.

Figure 12. Northern boundary line as featured in 1986.

In yet a fourth variation on the northern boundary, the map used for land parcel number LPIS Y13412004 by the REPS Mapping System shows a hybrid boundary (Figure 13). As with all other variations, the boundary starts at the western end of Furlong's Road and appears to follow the existing fenceline for some distance before veering north apparently following the pedestrian track to the beach visible in both Plate 8 and Figure 11. The map also features an unexplained straight-line that appears to coincide with the northern boundary featured in Figure 12.

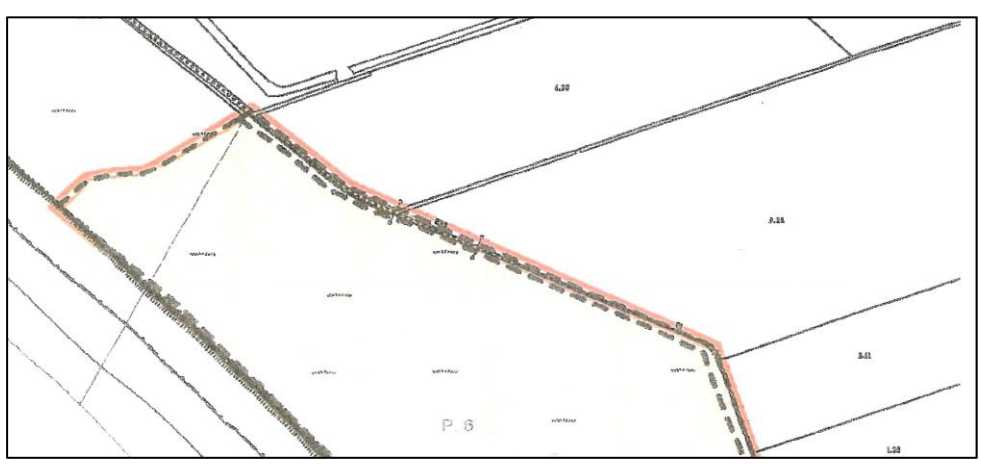


Figure 13. Extract of the REPS map for the Burrow lands.

(Source: Geoff Barry)

3.2.6. **The western boundary**. The western boundary of the Burrow lands (Plate 10) is the high water mark (HWM), mapped as effectively the limit of permanent vegetation along the toe of the dunes extending along the Burrow shore. Coast erosion appears to have caused the limit of permanent vegetation to retreat from the official HWM. The official HWM (Figure 14) is defined as the line of ordinary or medium tides. That boundary, maintained by Tailte Éireann (the Chief Boundary Surveyor), is based on historical 6-inch and 25-inch mapping updated with modern Maritime Orders.

Plate 10. The western boundary of the Burrow lands.

The western boundary ends near the steps to the boardwalk.

Figure 14. Official high water mark (blue line).

The southern boundary. The southern boundary of the Burrow lands is an imaginary line from a point on the Burrow shore due west of the start point (Plate 11).

Plate 11. The southern boundary.

The southern boundary extends from a point on the Burrow shore (extreme left) near the wooden steps and boardwalk to a point near the bridge over 'The Cutting' (extreme right). The shadow of the perimeter fence around the viewing point car park (52.174402,-6.593659) is visible (extreme right).

3.3. Access to the property

3.3.1. The Burrow lands can be accessed from three points, two at the southern end and one at the northern end.

- **Kilmore Quay village**. The seaside promenade (52.172089,-6.5903793) bordering the public car parks by the children's playground is part of the Kilmore Quay Walking Trail (Plate 12) and leads directly to the Burrow lands.

Plate 12. Start and finish of the looped Kilmore Quay Walking Trail.

Sofrimar. There is a small parking area for cars (52.178917, -6.59103) on the public road between the entrance to the factory premises of Sofrimar, fish processors, and the small roadside building that houses the sewage pumping station. The car park was developed and surfaced by Wexford County Council. Uisce Eireann own the adjoining sewage pumping station. Access from the parking area to the company property is via a concrete bridge over the drainage channel known locally as 'The Cutting' (Plate 3 and Figure 15).

Figure 15. Two access points in Kilmore Quay to the Burrow lands.

- **Furlong's Road**. Furlong's Road (Figure 16) is an un-surfaced, often potholed, farm laneway running from a point (52.191550,-6.587078) on the Kilmore Quay-Baldwinstown third class public road to agricultural lands in the townland of Inish and Ballyteige Slob (Figure 16). While primarily used by landowners in the area, the lane gives a traditional right of access to Ballyteige Burrow. Furlong's Road is very straight, is 1.4km-long, and has an exceedingly small parking area at its western end. Pedestrian access to the company property from the lane is via stiles.

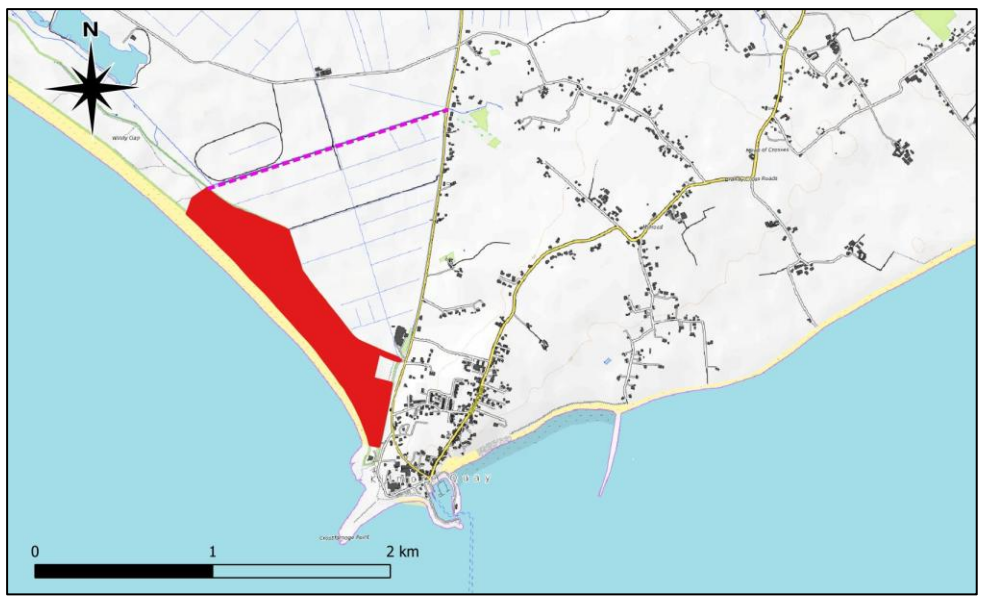


Figure 16. Furlong's Road (dotted magenta line).

3.4. Property usage and infrastructure

3.4.1. The Burrow lands property is managed by the Kilmore Quay Community Development Association CLG mainly for low-impact agriculture and recreational walking. Consequently, infrastructure on site is largely associated with these activities and is described below. The property also supports a small number of underground telecommunications cables.

3.4.2. **Agriculture**. Boundary fences and electric fences are in place and are maintained to confine stock. Two cast concrete cattle drinking troughs; one large new one (Plate 13) that is in use (52.176908,-6.592946) and one old chipped and disused one (52.185097,-6.601135), formerly flooded with rain water but subsequently emptied and used to contain a picnic fire that cracked it open.

Plate 13. Cattle drinking trough and electric fence.

Grazing on the Burrow lands comprises the following five episodes.

Pre-1956. The Burrow lands were grazed by Rabbits from the twelfth century to 1956 when the Rabbit population was decimated by an outbreak of myxomatosis (Monaghan, 2004 page 61). Grazing by Rabbits was so intense that the area did not support any grass for cattle (personal communication, the late Ibar Power). Henry Bruen from Oak Park, Co Carlow, was the last landlord to manage the Rabbit warren (KQCDA 2008, page 42). When the Rabbits died a flush of fresh grass emerged for the first time.

1957-1985. In 1957 the late Ibar Power purchased the dune system for grazing. He subsequently erected the fence line at Furlong's Road in the early 1960s to keep cattle off the eastern end of the dune system as they were causing problems by straying onto adjoining tillage land at Inish and Ballyteige Slob. There was intermittent grazing of the Burrow lands from the 1960s to 1985 when the local community purchased the property.

1985-1997. Grazing ceased in 1985 and did not resume until 1997. Damage to the vegetation due to the lack of grazing was later noted by the National Parks and Wildlife Service: *"… as a result, there is an increase in dune scrub encroachment and a decrease in species diversity."* (NPWS Site Synopsis dated 20 March 2003).

1997-2009. On 19 December 1994, the Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS) came into force. It was a pioneering, voluntary agri-environmental scheme introduced to reward farmers for environmentally friendly farming practices. In 1997, the then trustees of the Burrow lands joined REPS both to generate an income from the property and to address the issue of rank growth due to lack of grazing. Grazing resumed with management prescriptions for nature conservation prepared by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). Dated 4 December 1997, the overall aim of these prescriptions was that no major change in land use would take place without prior consultation with the NPWS. In the interests of managing the vegetation, cattle were to be grazed between 1st September and 31st March each year, the number of cattle grazed each year and the layout of fencing to be agreed with the NPWS. The REPS 3 management plan expired on 31 December 2009 and was replaced in 2010 by newer schemes.

2010-present. The former REPS was replaced by ACRES (Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme), a €1.5 billion national environmental scheme operated by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine under the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Strategic Plan. ACRES provides participants with income in exchange for implementing biodiversity-friendly and climate-conscious agricultural practices (https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-agriculture-food-and-the-marine/campaigns/agri-climate-rural-environment-scheme-acres/). Agricultural activity on the Burrow lands is confined to grazing cattle. It is a requirement of the scheme that no supplementary fee is introduced to the dunes. Grazing is confined to six months of each year (1 September – 31 March). Stocking rates and the grazing regime are regulated by a farm plan compiled by Teagasc in consultation with both the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, and the National Parks and Wildlife Service. A stocking rate of 32-35 cattle is considered appropriate to the Burrow lands. John Bates, a local farmer, manages the grazing on behalf of the KQCDA (Source: information provided by Jim Moore, KQCDA Director). *"The NPWS continues to monitor the conditions on the community land as well as on the adjacent land which is under the direct control of the State. The NPWS personnel relay their views to the landowner from time to time and its most recent discussions they confirmed that the performance of the farm management is satisfactory from their viewpoint."* (personal communication, Jim Moore, KQCDA Director). The purpose of conservation grazing is to enhance the biodiversity of the dunes while earning some income to fund activities on behalf of the local community.

3.4.3. **Walking trail**. Formally established in April 2017, most of the Kilmore Quay Walking Trail is contained within the Burrow lands. The 4.5km (2.8 mile) looped trail starts and finishes on the promenade adjoining the harbour car park in the village (Figure 17). Parking is free of charge, the trailhead coordinates are 52.172256, -6.591068, ascent is negligible, the trail is waymarking purple, is graded 'Moderate', and the walk takes about 1 hour to complete walking on mixed surfaces including concrete, wooden boardwalk, grass, and sand (https://wexfordwalkingtrail.ie/Trails/kilmore-quay-ballyteige-burrow-trail/).

The trail is managed by the KQCDA with the support of Wexford Walking Trails (https://wexfordwalkingtrail.ie/) and Wexford County Council. Wexford Walking Trails is responsible for signage and monitors a counter that records usage by walkers. Sport Ireland, the authority tasked with the development of sport in Ireland, provides insurance (https://www.sportireland.ie/). The KQCDA produces an annual report for Wexford Walking Trails regarding the trail.

The popular and much-used trail extends along the concrete promenade leading to the Burrow lands, ascends the dunes on a wooden boardwalk (Plate 14), and follows a grassed path to Sofrimar. From there a 2-3m-wide mowed, grassed, hind-dune track runs along the perimeter of the company property to the boundary fence at the nature reserve. Following the fenceline, a narrow track crosses the dunes and returns to the village along the beach. The looped trail rejoins the concrete promenade via a flight of wooden steps (Plate 15) and associated boardwalk (Figure 21 and Figure 23).

Figure 17. The Kilmore Quay Walking Trail (line of purple dots).

(Image source: https://wexfordwalkingtrail.ie/Trails/kilmore-quay-ballyteige-burrow-trail/)

Plate 14. Wooden boardwalk protecting the dunes from erosion.

Plate 15. Flight of wooden steps from the beach to a boardwalk.

The flight of wooden steps facilitating access to the beach was funded by both the local KQCDA and the government Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) following a funding application under that scheme. In addition to providing pedestrian access, the steps protect the skin of vegetation on the dunes from erosion by trampling.

Sporting activities. In addition to recreational walking, the Burrow lands are used for running, jogging, and sports training. Individuals conduct most activities; organised events by sporting clubs are rare. Paragliding is intermittently popular with participants jumping off the dunes on the beach face and using the updraught to fly along the upper beach (Plate 16).

Plate 16. Paragliding along the dunes in the Burrow lands.

Underground cables. In 1996 planning permission was granted by Wexford County Council for underground duct works to bring ESAT-1 fibre optics submarine cable ashore in the Burrow lands from Whitesands Bay in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, Wales. Two 100mm-diameter blue ducts, the cable duct and a contingency duct, covered with a blue tape bearing the words Esat Telecom were trenched under the dunes to an access chamber (52.175657,-6.593087) under a metal manhole cover (Plate 17) in the first hollow on the path by The Cutting.

Plate 17. Metal manhole cover.

Coastal erosion subsequently exposed the two blue ducts on the beach face (52.175810,-6.594551) and while some contingency works were conducted using a concrete mattress to cover the ducts, the cable had to be decommissioned.

Coastal erosion continued, resulting in both recession of the dune face and the permanent vegetation line and a lowering of the surface level of the beach exposing the abandoned cable ducts (Plate 18 and Plate 19).

On 12 May 2026 the average of the lengths of the two blue ducts exposed was 2.92m. Excesses of the exposed ducts are regularly trimmed back to the dune face.

Plate 18. Exposed blue cable ducts (arrowed).

Plate 19. Blue cable ducts and blue tape exposed on the eroding dunes.

On 9 May 2025, Wexford County Council granted planning permission subject to seven conditions to McMahon Design & Management Ltd on behalf of Amazon for the remediation of the existing telecoms ductwork infrastructure and the installation of 105m of replacement ductwork via horizontal directional drilling to avoid trenching the dunes. The drilled hole at an angle of less than 15 degrees was to follow the route of the existing ducts beneath the dunes and upper beach but at a deeper level (10-15 metres across 125m) (P A Reg Ref 20250330; https://planning.agileapplications.ie/wexford/application-details/128737). The proposed new subsea 'Beaufort' telecommunications fibre optic cable is to be connected to the existing Esat landfall terminus.

The other two submarine cables (code-named CELTIC and SOLAS) end in an underground concrete bunker near the southern boundary of the Burrow lands and are now obsolete. CELTIC was installed in 1994 by Telecom Éireann (now eir). SOLAS was installed in April 1999 by Vodaphone and had an end of service date of April 2024. It is proposed to replace both cables with Microsoft's TUSKAR subsea cable (MARA Licence No LIC230017) (https://www.maritimeregulator.ie/application/lic230017/).

An online search of planning applications revealed that apart from the proposed underground cable that Amazon has been granted planning permission for, no applications for planning permission were lodged, or are currently being considered, for the Burrow lands.

3.4.4. **Structures**. The ruined remains of cased concrete walls (Plate 20) can be seen in a hollow (52.177131,-6.592612) near The Sluice House. Local sources claim that the remains are those of part of a cow house in which the landlord's agent, the late Mag Redmond, kept her two milking cows during the 1940s.

Plate 20. Ruined remains of cased concrete walls.

3.4.5. **Signage**. Together with the usages described above (agriculture, walking trail, underground cables, etc) signage on the Burrow lands also includes notices regarding access to the beach, swimming, fishing, electric fences, health and safety, dog control, nature conservation, litter, etc.

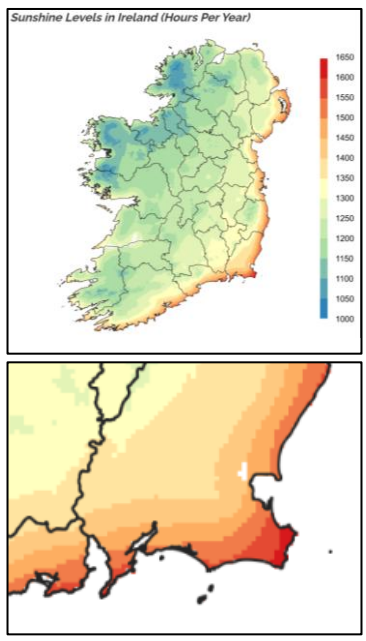
4. THE RECEIVING ENVIRONMENT

4.1. Baseline description of the study area

4.1.1. **Location**. The location of the Burrow lands property, access to the property, and its shape, size, elevation, and orientation are shown and described above (Section 3).

4.1.2. **Climate**. Within the national context, the weather patterns experienced in the Burrow lands is noteworthy due to their location in the south-eastern extremity of the island of Ireland with its mild, maritime climate, and exceptionally high number of days with bright sunshine coupled with a low level of rain days.

In terms of regional tourism, the five counties of Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford are collectively known as the 'Sunny South East', but meteorologically, the 'Sunny South East' area is confined to the coastal fringe (Figure 18). The south-east Wexford area is among the areas at the upper end of the sunshine gradient that extends diagonally across the country from the north-west to the south-east.



"Ireland normally gets between 1100 and 1600 hours of sunshine each year. The sunniest months are May and June. During these months, sunshine duration averages between 5 and 6.5 hours per day over most of the country. The extreme southeast gets most sunshine, averaging over 7 hours a day in early summer." (https://www.met.ie/climate/what-we-measure/sunshine).

Figure 18. Sunshine level in Ireland (with south Co Wexford enlarged).

(Source: https://www.bluejayliveability.com/sunshine/)

January and February are the coldest months (4°C to 9°C), while July and August are warmest (13°C to 22°C), average annual rainfall ranges from 800 to 1,200 mm, prevailing winds are on-shore from the south-west (Plate 21), frost is common in winter, but snowfall is relatively rare.

Plate 21. Hawthorn growth adapted to the strong on-shore prevailing wind.

Geology. No bedrocks are exposed in the Burrow lands. The bedrocks underlying the site comprise Kilmore Quay Group Precambrian gneisses (Figure 19, brown) to the south, Greenore Point Group Precambrian amphibolites (Figure 19,; green) centrally, and Killag Formation Permo-Triassic conglomerates (Figure 19, pink) to the north.

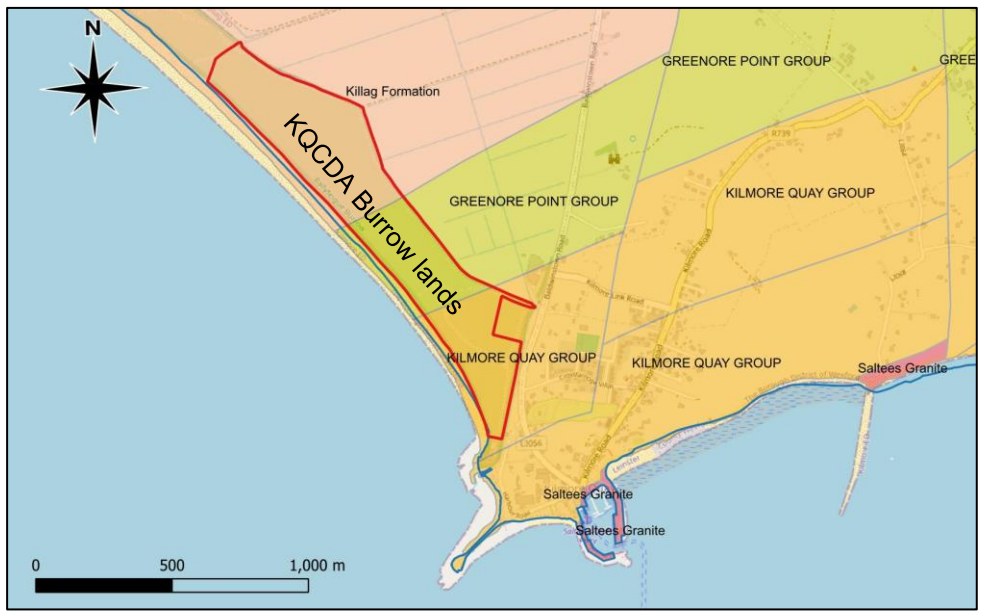


Figure 19. Bedrock geology within the Burrow lands boundary (red line).

(Source: https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=a30af518e87a4c0ab2fbde2aaac3c228)

4.1.3. **Quaternary**. The Quaternary is the period or subdivision of geological time characterised by a series of glaciations that happened during the last 2.6 million years. The most recent extreme cold event ─ the last ice age ─ began about 115,000 years ago and lasted until approximately 11,700 years ago. Sediments left behind in the Burrow lands (Figure 20, edged red) when the ice melted at the end of the last ice age were predominantly 'Windblown sands' (Code: Ws) (Figure 20, blue) with a fringe of 'Estuarine silts and clays' (Code: Mesc) (Figure 20, purple) where the Burrow lands overlap with small areas of reclaimed slob land.

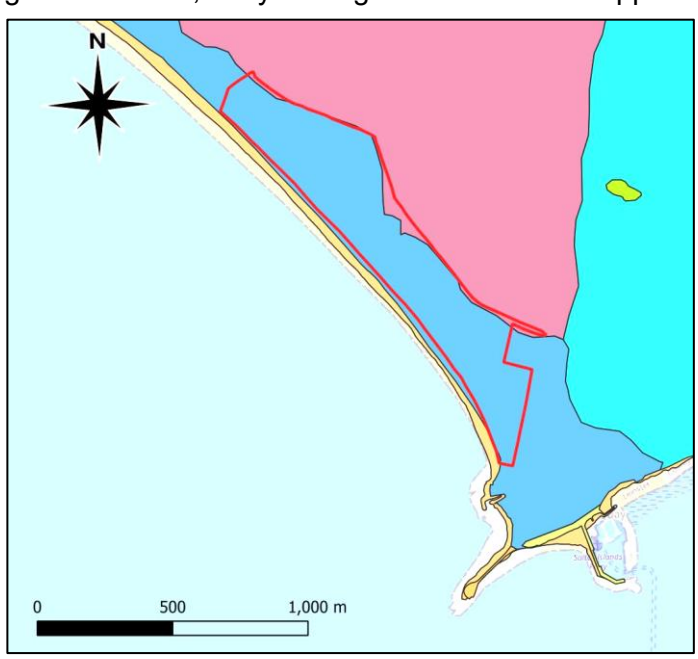


Figure 20. Quaternary sediments.

4.1.4. **Subsoils and soils**. The subsoil at the Burrow lands is sand, both on the beach and on the dunes (Figure 21; purple; EPA Code Ws) with the urban fabric of Kilmore Quay village (paler blue) to the south, and to the east estuarine silts and clays deposited by the sea before the wetlands were reclaimed (mustard; EPA Code Mesc), finer sediments dropped by ice sheets during the last ice age (darker blue; EPA Code TMp), and coarser sands and gravels (green; EPA Code GCsS).

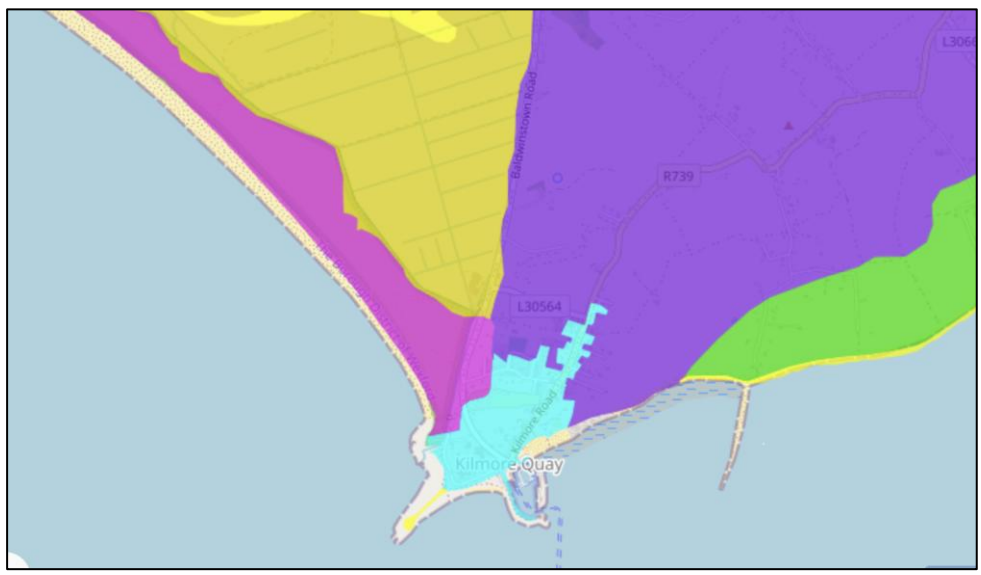


Figure 21. Subsoil map of the area.

(Source: https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/ Land & Soil / Subsoils and SIS National Soils)

The soils (Figure 22) that developed from these subsoil parent materials are classified as sand dunes (yellow) to the west, tidal marsh (green **X**s), with deep (>80m), coarse, well-drained, loamy, Clashmore Brown Earths (Association Unit: 1100c) (pale pink) to the east.

Figure 22. Soils map of the area.

(Source: https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/default)

4.1.5. **Geomorphology**. The nature and extent of sand dunes throughout Ireland varies according to a number of environmental factors of which sediment supply, wind direction, sea-level history and wave conditions are paramount (Carter and Wilson, 1991 page 18). The dune system at Ballyteige Burrow is of unknown age but it is at least several thousand years old. One borehole drilled at Ballyteige Burrow showed a sequence of layers of both washover and wind-blown sands on the barrier. A sub-dune soil in the sequence yielded a 14C date of 1955 ± 60 years before present (UB-2758) (Maloney, 1985). A geological heritage site report dates the dunes as *"forming 6,000-3,000 years ago"*. (Meehan *et al*, 2019).

It is believed that the land-form probably originated in the following way. The last ice age In Ireland started about 115,000 years ago and finished about 10,000 years ago (Coxon, 1997). Sometime during that time, a lobe of the Irish Sea ice sheet covered the eastern half of the South Wexford Coast (Whittow, 1974, Culleton, 1978 and Culleton, 1980). As the ice melted and retreated north large volumes of meltwater ran seawards in meltwater channels or temporary rivers. One of these rivers flowed from Mayglass to Bridgetown. As it flowed the meltwater channel carved a valley the remains of which may still be seen in the landscape today. The Rosslare-Waterford railway line runs along the floor of the present-day valley, the former glacial meltwater channel. The Bridgetown River also runs along the floor of the present-day valley as a misfit stream.

As the river of meltwater ran to the sea it carried large quantities of muds, clays, and silts suspended in the water together with sands, gravels and cobbles transported along the river bed. These sediments were dumped in the estuary of the former river and in the near-shore marine area. At the time, sea-level was lower than it is today as very large quantities of water were tied up in the ice. As the ice melted sea-level rose and sediments in the marine area were worked, re-worked and sorted by the actions of the sea. A long lens of gravels formed and was moved onshore by tidal currents. As time went by and the last of the ice melted, the supply of river water and sediment ran out. The ice sheets of the last Ice Age were the source of both sediment supply and the river currents that helped to sort the sediments. In the absence of river-based sorting and in the presence of rapidly rising sea-level, marine processes became the dominant forces.

On-going movement onshore caused the line of gravel to anchor its south-eastern end on Forlorn Point. Its north-western end remained free. The long line of gravels formed a fringing barrier that was the forerunner of the present townland of Ballyteige Burrow. The infant barrier impeded drainage to the sea and a very extensive flatland of tidal muds and silts formed behind it. That marsh land was the forerunner of the present-day townland of Inish and Ballyteige Slob.

The fact that the axis of the barrier lay at a right angle to the direction of the prevailing wing resulted in the wind drying sand on the beach and transporting it inland. Wind-blown sands from the beach collected on the barrier and sand hills started to form. Plants grew on the embryo dunes, and both stabilised the shifting sand system and acted as a trap for blowing sand. Over time the barrier was decorated by a magnificent series of sand dunes perched on top of the gravel foundation.

A sand spit formed at the north-western tip of the barrier and extended towards Cullenstown (Roche, 1976 pages 3-4). Growth of the spit is suggested by the interpretation of five recurved dune ridges that can be seen in the field and on aerial photographs as remnants of former recurved distal extremities of the spit (Ruz, 1989 page 532). Three movements were, therefore, taking place simultaneously: (1) the barrier continued to transgress inland due to coastal processes, (2) sand dunes continued to grow in height fed by sand from the beach, and (3) the spit on its north-western tip continued to grow causing erosion at Cullenstown as it attempted to re-align itself to the point of lowest wave energy in the wave-shadow of the Keeragh Islands. Spit growth accelerated following the intaking of Broad Water and part of Ballyteige Lough (Kinahan, 1879 page 43; Ruz, 1989 page 532).

The bar at the western end of the spit is called ‘the bar o’ Lough’. Presumably, the bar was located in the townland of Lough when it was originally named. It is now in the townland of Cullenstown (Figure 23) where its natural procession westwards is halted by a wall of rock armouring

Figure 23. The western tip of the Ballyteige Burrow spit.

The landform at Ballyteige Burrow comprises gravels and sands derived from glacial outwash. Since they had their origin in an event that that happened thousands of years ago, these sediments are part of the local glacial legacy. Furthermore, since the deposition of the sediments was a once-off event these sediments are a non-renewable resource that needs to be conserved.

The Tailte Éireann MapGenie "Last Edition Black" (undated) of the 6-inch (1:10,560) maps of Ireland in the basemap gallery of the GeoHive Map Viewer shows seventeen dune areas within the Burrow lands rising to heights in excess of 50 foot = 15.24m (Figure 24). Two trigonometrical points are marked giving the highest points in the Burrow lands at the time as dune crests at 64 foot = 19.5m (Figure 24, arrowed red) and 60 foot = 18.3m (Figure 24, arrowed green).

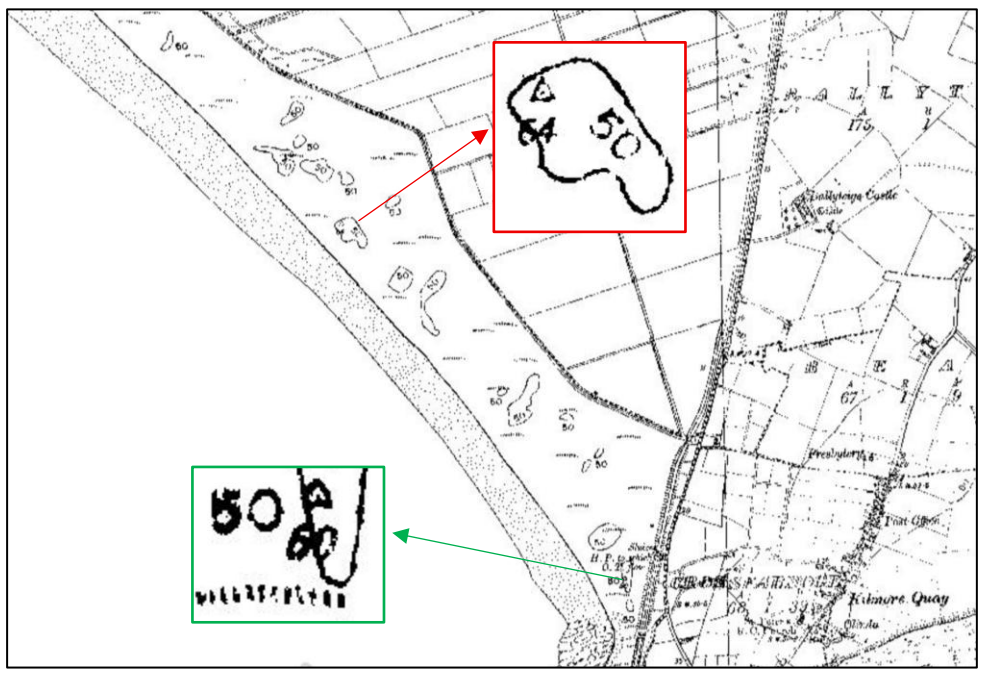


Figure 24. Map showing dunes higher than 15m.

(Source: https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=3ae19cc156bf4706a929304bf8fcc4f6)

More recently, the Office of Public Works has produced detailed, high-resolution LiDAR data for County Wexford captured as part of flood risk management projects. Detailed elevation models are available primarily through the Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) Open Topographic Data Viewer at https://opendata-geodata-gov-ie.hub.arcgis.com/apps/geodata-gov-ie::ie-gsi-open-topographic-lidar-data-ireland-itm-download-viewer/explore.

4.1.6. **Land use**. Level 3 land in the Burrow lands (Figure 25) is described as 'Beaches, dunes, sand' (Code 331, grey colour) with 'Artificial Surfaces' and 'Urban fabric' (Code 112; red colour) to the south around the village of Kilmore Quay, 'Agricultural Areas' (Codes 211. 231, and 242, other colours apart from grey and red) to the east and the Celtic Sea to the west (blue).

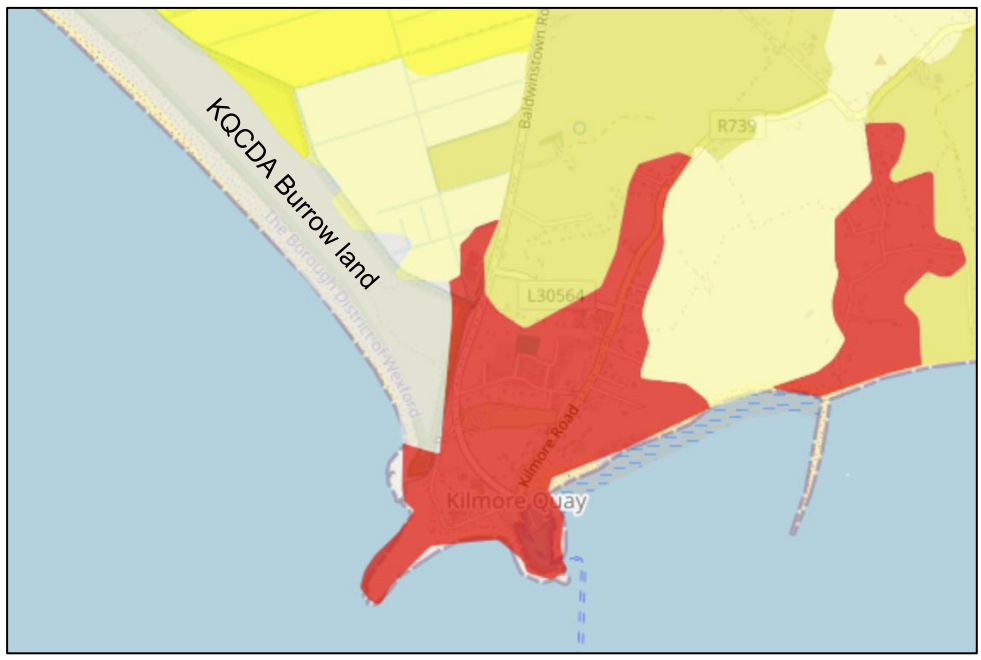


Figure 25. Corine 2018 land use categories.

(Source: https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/ Land & Soil / Land / Corine 2018)

The main land uses on the Burrow lands are grazing by outwintering cattle, recreational walking and local amenity enjoyment. A "*Youth Survey*" conducted in 2018 as part of the Kilmore Quay & Environs Feasibility Study found that young people aged 12-18 years shared the same values as their parents and older members of the community in that they rated going to the Burrow as either "*Important*" or "*Very Important*" (KQCDA, 2018 pages 248-49).

4.1.7. **Archaeological sites**. There are no recorded archaeological sites or monuments in the townland of Ballyteige Burrow (Moore, 1996 page 258). Archaeologists of the future may make some unusual finds: in the summer of 1973 some large pits were dug in the dunes and decaying waste from fish processing enterprises at Kilmore Quay was dumped and buried (Nooren and Schouten, 1976 page 18).

4.1.8. **Hydrology**. The Burrow lands are in the KISHA_SC_010 sub-catchment (Sub-catchment Id: 13_4) of the Ballyteigue-Bannow catchment (Catchment Id: 13), District Code IESE. The Kisha subcatchment extends along the south Co Wexford coastal fringe from Duncormick to Carnsore Point (Source: https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/AAGeoTool / Catchments) (Figure 26).

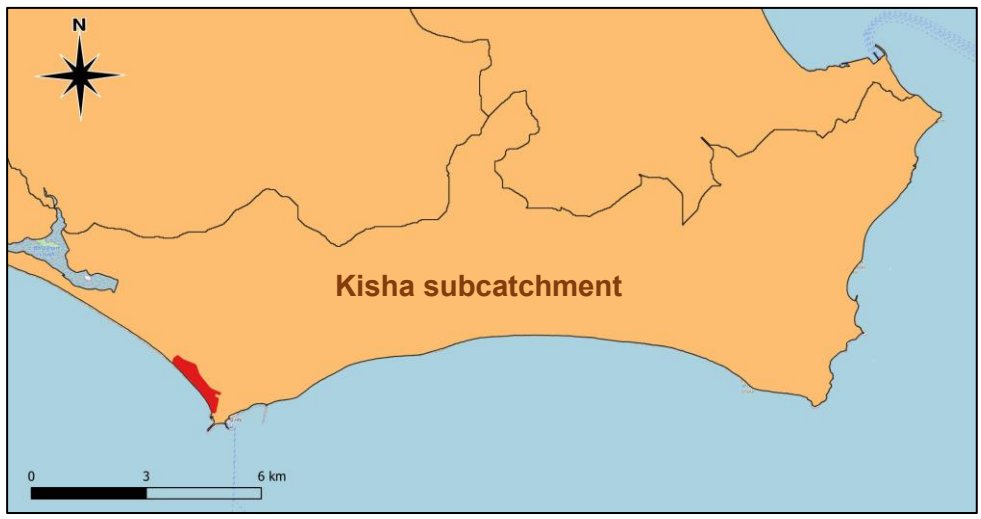


Figure 26. The Burrow lands (red fill) in the Kisha subcatchment.

4.1.9. **Hydrogeology**. Water occurring underground and water on the surface of the ground are addressed separately below.

Groundwater body. The bedrock underlying the proposed development site is classified as a 'Poorly productive bedrock' (Name: Bridgetown, EU_CD IE_SE_G_022) (Source: https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/Water / Water, Land & Soil / Water Features / Ground Waterbodies).

Aquifer vulnerability. The EPA risk tool rates vulnerability ("*the ease with which groundwater may be contaminated by human activities*") on the four-point scale: low (green), moderate (yellow), high (brown), extreme (red) with a purple colour indicating areas where the bedrock is near the surface. Groundwater vulnerability at the Burrow lands (Figure 27) is rated 'High' (brown) due to the prevalence of free-draining sand.

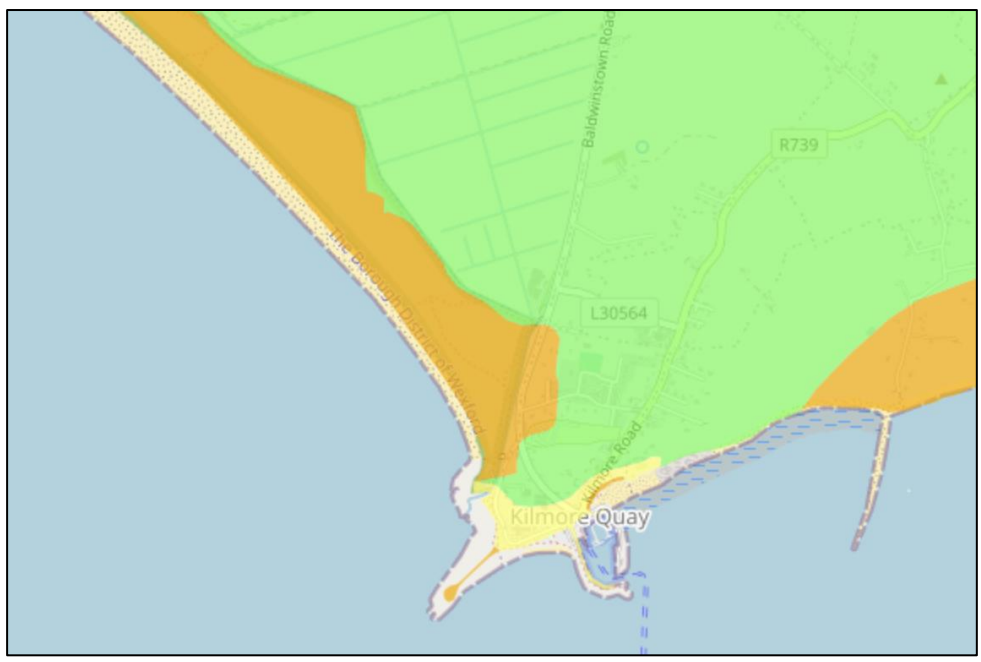


Figure 27. Aquifer vulnerability in the Burrow lands.

(Source: https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/Water / Water, Land & Soils / Hydrogeology / GSI Vulnerability)

Groundwater status and risk. The Water Framework Directive status of the groundwater was rated '*Good*' for each of the four periods 2010-2015, 2013-2018, 2016-2021, and 2019-2024. Its risk status was rated '*Not at Risk'* for both the 2nd Cycle and the 3rd Cycle of these reporting periods (https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/Water / Status & Risk).

Surface water. Apart from the network of drains and drainage channels on Inish and Ballyteige Slob (Figure 28, thin blue lines), there are no rivers or surface waterbodies in the immediate vicinity of the Burrow lands. However, because of its size, the main Office of Public Works (OPW) drainage channel discharging at the Cull Bank is regarded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a river waterbody (Figure 28, bold blue lines).

Figure 28. Surface waterbody adjacent to the Burrow lands.

The low-lying area at Inish and Ballyteige Slob east of the Burrow lands is criss-crossed with drains (Figure 29, blue lines) discharging to the network of drainage channels (Figure 29, magenta lines) of the Ballyteige Arterial Drainage Scheme maintained by the Office of Public Works (OPW).

Drainage works conducted by the OPW in the period 1959-1961 benefitted some 970 hectares (2,300 acres) of agricultural land. The OPW has statutory responsibility for, and conducts a programme of maintenance of, the scheme under the Arterial Drainage Act, 1945. Pursuant to Section 37 of that Act, the OPW is required to maintain drainage works in proper repair and effective condition. To that end the OPW maintains the network of drainage channels and the pumphouse on the Cull Bank.

The OPW code-names the main channel running to the Cull Bank ‘C2’. The side channel that extends southwards from C2 to the sea at Kilmore Quay, and that comprises the eastern boundary of the Burrow lands, is code-named ‘C2/5’ (Figure 29). The channel extending north from C2/5 is C2/2 and the channel bordering Furlong’s Road is C2/2/1/A (Figure 30).

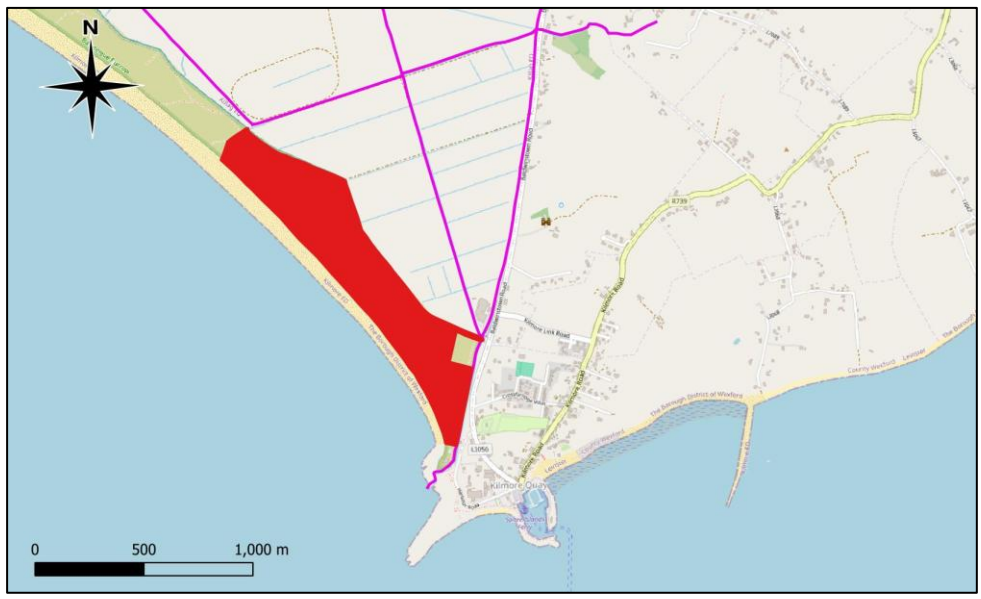


Figure 29. Three OPW channels adjoining the Burrow lands.

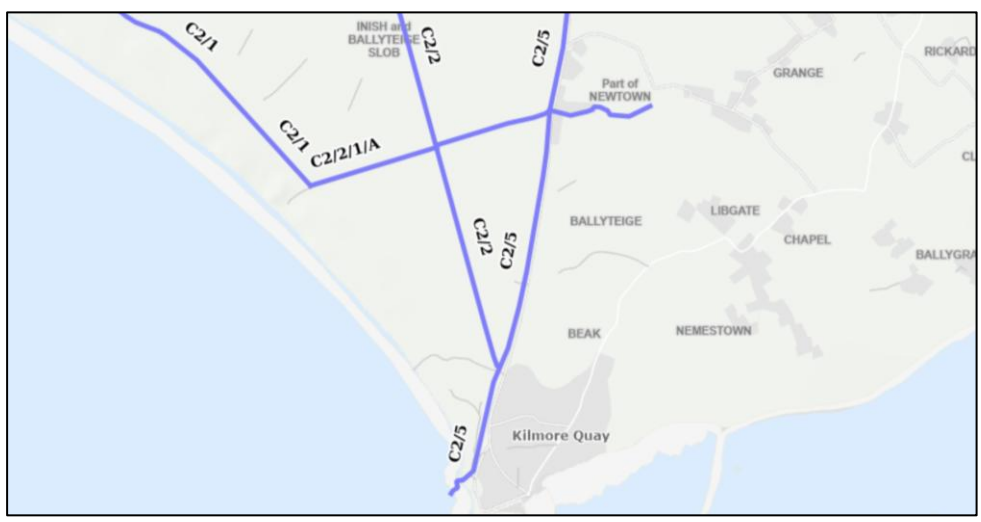


Figure 30. OPW drainage channel code names.

(Source: https://www.floodinfo.ie/map/drainage_map/#)

4.1.10. **Flood risk**. The entire eastern margin of the Burrow lands bordering the lands reclaimed from the sea is mapped as being in the Inish and Ballyteige Slob flood risk zone (Figure 31, pale blue), together with less than ten low-lying hollows scattered throughout the dune system (Source: https://www.floodinfo.ie/map/floodmaps/). Areas of the Burrow lands at risk of flooding are featured as the areas coloured pale pink in Figure 31. These lands support a significant length of the Kilmore Quay Walking Trail.

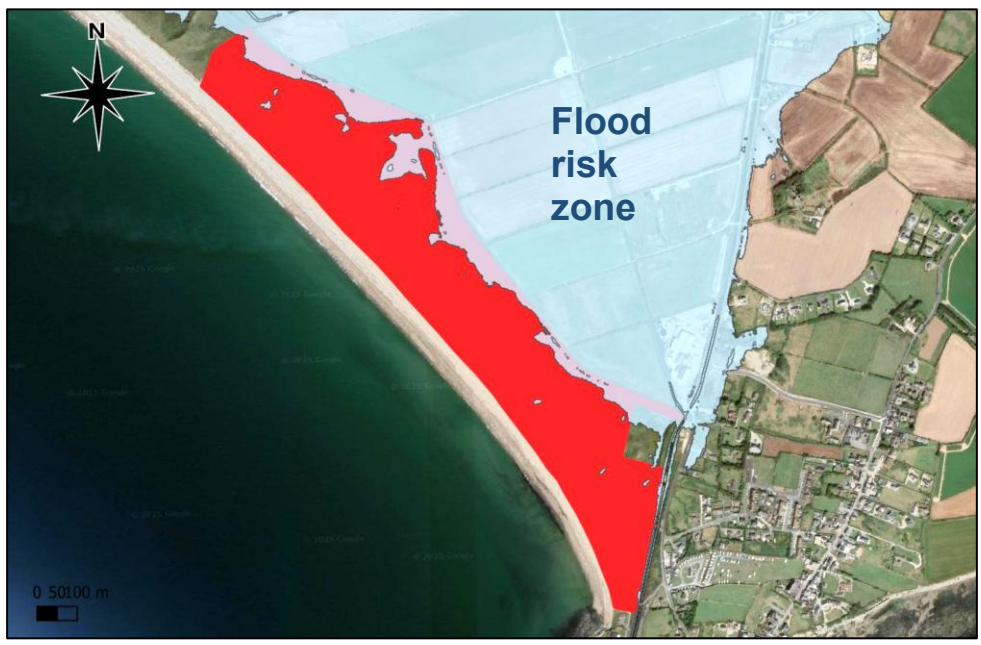


Figure 31. Flood risk mapping.

4.1.11. **Coastal erosion**. The seaward boundary of the Burrow lands is subject to ongoing coastal erosion. The Ballyteige Bay sediment compartment is characterised by a sediment deficit due to a low level of sediment input coupled with a high level of sediment output due to ongoing movement of sediment offshore to the Celtic Sea Basin. Consequently, there is an ongoing sediment deficit in the compartment. The deficit is met by coastal erosion to withdraw sediment from the land bank. Most of the Burrow shore is dominated by a destructive wave regime and longshore drift in an easterly direction. As a result, the beach is narrow and shelving with occasional rip currents; one of only two locations in Co Wexford where rip currents were identified as a result of a risk assessment of the county's coastal waters by Wexford County Council in collaboration with Water Safety Ireland. Consequently, appropriate signage is posted on site. While the beach is signposted as dangerous for swimming, it is popular for shore angling and sporadic surfing when conditions are favourable.

4.1.12. **Scientific interest**. The Burrow lands are an area of scientific interest and a natural heritage resource for the reasons outlined below (Section 5). Consequently, the area is afforded varying levels of protection to conserve its value as a natural heritage resource.

5. NATURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION

5.1. Introduction

5.1.1. The Burrow lands are an area of scientific interest and a natural heritage resource for several reasons and are afforded varying levels of protection to conserve their value as a natural heritage resource.

5.2. Natura 2000 site: SAC

5.2.1. A National Shingle Beach Survey (NSBS) was conducted in 1999 (Moore and Wilson, 1999). That survey reported only three shingle-based dune systems in Ireland: Ballyteige Burrow and one each in counties Sligo and Mayo. Of the three, Ballyteige Burrow was considered the most impressive example of a shingle-based dune system in the country (NPWS, 2007 Habitat type 1220, Backing document, page 5).

In the Coastal Monitoring Programme (CMP) the overall assessment of the dunes was '*unfavourable-inadequate'*. While the dune's structure and functions were assessed in that way "*due to decline in the habitat due to maturing"* the future prospects for the site were rated 'favourable' (NPWS, 2007 Habitat type 2130, Backing document, Appendix II, page 25, CMP Site code 041). All attributes assessed in the CMP for the Marram dunes were found to be 'favourable' (NPWS, 2007 Habitat type 2120, Backing document, Appendix II, page 17, CMP Site code 041).

The Ballyteige Burrow Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Site Code IE0000696, is a sand dune and wetland complex. The dunes are *"recognised as one of the most impressive shingle-based dune systems in the country*" (NPWS, 2020). The SAC has an area of 667.13ha and was designated in July 1999. All of the Burrow lands are part of the SAC (Figure 32). The Burrow shore is also part of the SAC (Figure 33).

Figure 32. Ballyteige Burrow SAC with Burrow lands (red fill, 50% transparency).

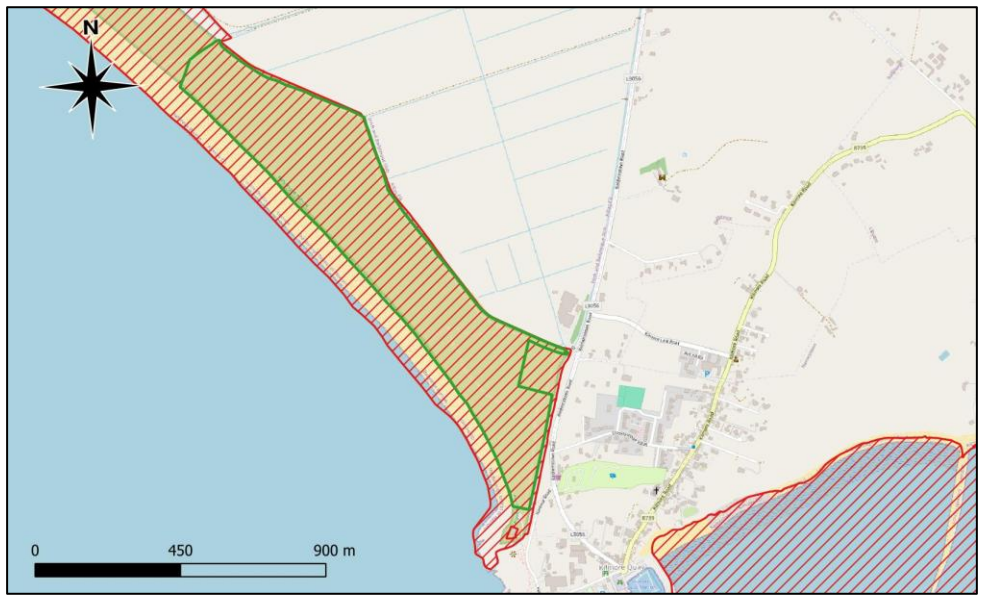


Figure 33. Ballyteige Burrow SAC with Burrow lands (edged green).

Extent: The SAC site comprises the sand dune system at Ballyteige Burrow, the hind-dune tidal wetlands at The Cull, the Ballyteige Channels artificial lagoon, the estuary of the Duncormick River, an ebb delta complex at Cullenstown, the Burrow shore, and part of the tidal waters of the Celtic Sea.

Qualifying interests: The qualifying interests of the site comprise the following fourteen habitat types. Three of the fourteen habitat types occur in the Burrow lands (highlighted green below).

- Estuaries [1130]
- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]
- Coastal lagoons [1150]
- Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]
- Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]
- *Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]
- Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) [1330]
- Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*) [1410]
- Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (*Sarcocornetea fruticosi*) [1420]
- Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]
- Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) [2120]
- Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]
- Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (*Calluno-Ulicetea*) [2150]
- Humid dune slacks [2190]

Of the three qualifying habitats that occur in the Burrow lands, ‘Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]’, short name ‘fixed dunes’, are the dominant habitat type (Figure 34, brown fill).

Figure 34. Fixed dunes (brown fill) and the Burrow lands (edged blue).

Fixed dunes. The EU habitat ‘Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130]’, short name ‘fixed dunes’, is so called because the underlying sand is fixed or anchored by a more-or-less permanent, stable cover of non-woody vegetation (Plate 22). Since the vegetation is often rich in grey-coloured lichens, these dunes are also known as ‘grey dunes’. The habitat is described in detail elsewhere (NPWS, 2025: Volume 1 page 20, and Volume 2, pages 298-318, and EC, 2013 pages 30-31).

While fixed dunes are rated an EU priority habitat requiring special conservation measures, their present overall status in Ireland *“is assessed as Bad with a deteriorating trend, as in the 2019 report, due to pressures associated with recreation, a wide range of invasive species (including rabbits) and ecologically unsuitable grazing practices.”* (NPWS, 2025: Volume 1 page 20, and Volume 2, pages 298-318).

Conservation objective: The conservation objective for the site is to maintain and/or restore the favourable conservation condition of the fixed dune habitat. Nine specific targets are detailed below (Section 13.2) and in a 22-page report (NPWS, 2014a).

Plate 22. Fixed dune habitat.

Marram dunes. 'Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes) [2120]', short name 'Marram dunes', (Figure 35 and Plate 23) are dunes that are not fixed, that support areas of bare sand and are therefore mobile as they are liable to move or shift due to wind erosion. They are called 'white dunes' or 'yellow dunes' because of the high percentage of exposed bare sand, and 'Marram dunes' as Marram (*Ammophila arenaria*) is the dominant plant that manages to colonise the shifting sand (Plate 23). Marram was formerly known locally as 'Bennett' or 'Bent'. Once Marram gets established it binds the sand and stabilises it. Marram dunes occur in a narrow strip along the seaward extremity of the fixed dunes (Figure 35) and are diminishing due to recreational pressure, coastal erosion and shoreline retreat. In windy weather, sand grains are blown inland by the prevailing wind. Blowouts, bowl-shaped depressions or hollows created when wind erodes patches of dune often triggered by vegetation damage from storms or human traffic, are considered to be Marram dune habitat.

Figure 35. Marram dunes (orange fill).

The habitat is described in more detail elsewhere (NPWS, 2025: Volume 1 page 19, and Volume 2, pages 279-297, and EC, 2013 page 29). The present overall status of Marram dunes in Ireland *"is assessed as Inadequate, which is unchanged from 2019. However, the overall trend has been assessed as deteriorating due to a slight decrease in the percentage of the habitat that is in good condition."* (NPWS, 2025: Volume 1 page 19, and Volume 2, pages 279-297).

Plate 23. Marram dune habitat.

Conservation objectives: The conservation objective for the site is to maintain and/or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Marram dune habitat. Seven specific targets are detailed below (Section 13.2) and in a 22-page report (NPWS, 2014).

Humid dune slacks. Habitat type 'Humid dune slacks [2190]', short name 'dune slacks', are hollows between the sand hills that are damp and liable to flood in very wet weather due to being close to the water table. They are mapped by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) as occurring at two locations in the Burrow lands (Figure 36, pale blue fill, circled).

Figure 36. Humid dune slacks (pale blue fill, circled).

The habitat is described in more detail elsewhere (NPWS, 2025: Volume 1 page 22, and Volume 2, pages 371-390, and EC, 2013 pages 33-34). The present overall status of humid dune slacks in Ireland *"is assessed as Inadequate with a stable trend, unchanged from the 2019 report."* (NPWS, 2025: Volume 1 page 22, and Volume 2, pages 371-390).

Plate 24. The southern humid dune slack indicated by a silvery colour.

The circular silvery colour in Plate 24 outlining the extent of winter flooding is due to the presence of Silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*) (Plate 25), a silvery-leaved, yellow-flowered, common member of the rose family that thrives in damp ground.

Plate 25. Silverweed (Potentilla anserina).

Conservation objectives: The conservation objective for the site is to maintain and/or restore the favourable conservation condition of the humid dune slack habitat. Specific targets are not defined.

Overlap: The Ballyteige Burrow SAC site adjoins and/or overlaps with parts of both the Ballyteige Burrow SPA and the Seas off Wexford SPA.

ARCs. Conducting certain activities, known as Activities Requiring Consent (ARCs) and/or Notifiable Actions, in protected areas may require the consent of the Minister if they are exempt from planning permission. It is an offence to carry out an ARC without the prior consent of the Minister. (https://www.npws.ie/farmers-and-landowners/activities-requiring-consent). The complete list of ARCs comprises 38 activities. Further to Regulation 5, Schedule 4 of the European Union Habitats (Ballyteige Burrow Special Area of Conservation 000696) Regulations 2021 (https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2021/si/435/made/en/pdf) the ARCs that apply to Ballyteige Burrow SAC are as follows:-

- ARC 01 Reclamation, including infilling.
- ARC 02 Stocking or re-stocking with fish.
- ARC 03 Blasting, drilling, dredging or otherwise removing or disturbing fossils, rock, minerals, mud, sand, gravel or other sediment.
- ARC 05 Cutting, uprooting or otherwise removing plants. [Consent is not required for harvesting of cultivated crops, or for grazing or mowing.]
- ARC 06 Introduction, or re-introduction, of plants or animals not found in the area. [Consent is not required for the planting of crops on established reseeded grassland or cultivated land.]
- ARC 08 Undertaking scientific research involving the collection and removal of biological material.
- ARC 09 Construction or alteration of tracks, paths, roads, bridges, culverts or access routes.
- ARC 10 Construction, removal or alteration of fences, stone walls, hedgerows, banks or any field boundary other than temporary electric fencing. [Consent is not required for normal maintenance.
- ARC 11 Digging, ploughing, harrowing or otherwise disturbing soil or substrate. [Consent is not required for these activities on established reseeded grassland or cultivated land provided it is greater than 50m from a river, stream, floodplain, wetland, lake, turlough or pond.]
- ARC 12 Applying inorganic or organic fertiliser, including slurry and farmyard manure. [Consent is not required for these activities on established reseeded grassland or cultivated land provided it is greater than 20m from a river, stream or floodplain; or greater than 50m from a wetland, lake, turlough or pond.]
- ARC 13 Applying lime. [Consent is not required for this activity on established reseeded grassland or cultivated land provided it is greater than 20m from a river, stream or floodplain; or greater than 50m from a wetland, lake, turlough or pond.]
- ARC 14 Storage, burial, disposal or recovery of any materials. [Consent is not required for these activities on established reseeded grassland or cultivated land provided it is greater than 20m from a river, stream or floodplain; or greater than 50m from a wetland, lake, turlough or pond.]
- ARC 15 Burning, topping, clearing scrub or rough vegetation or reseeding. [Consent is not required for these activities on established reseeded grassland or cultivated land provided it is greater than 20m from a river, stream or floodplain; or greater than 50m from a wetland, lake, turlough or pond.]

- ARC 18 Application of pesticides, including herbicides. [Consent is not required for these activities on established reseeded grassland or cultivated land provided it is greater than 20m from a river, stream or floodplain; or greater than 50m from a wetland, lake, turlough or pond.]
- ARC 19 Supplementary feeding of livestock. [Consent is not required for this activity on established reseeded grassland or cultivated land provided it is greater than 20m from a river, stream or floodplain; or greater than 50m from a wetland, lake, turlough or pond.]
- ARC 20 Significant changes in livestock density (including introduction of grazing), changes in livestock type or grazing season, other than on established reseeded grassland. [Consent is not required for changes of less than 20% in livestock density unless notice has been given that a lower percentage is applicable to a particular site.]
- ARC 24 Works on, or alterations to, the banks, bed or flow of a drain, watercourse or waterbody.
- ARC 25 Drainage works including digging, deepening, widening or blocking a drain, watercourse or waterbody.
- ARC 27 Water abstraction, sinking of boreholes and wells.
- ARC 29 Planting of trees or multi-annual bioenergy crops.
- ARC 31 Developing or consenting to the development or operation of commercial recreational/visitor facilities or organised recreational activities.
- ARC 33 Using or permitting the use of land for car parking where it may damage the vegetation, soil or substrate.
- ARC 36 Harvesting marine invertebrate species in intertidal areas.
- ARC 37 Driving mechanically propelled vehicles in intertidal areas, except over prescribed access routes.

5.3. Natura 2000 site: Ballyteige Burrow SPA

5.3.1. Ballyteige Burrow Special Protection Area (SPA) Site Code IE0004020 was designated in March 1990. It has an area of 660.24ha and is a sand dune and wetland complex (Figure 37). The northern boundary of the Burrow lands (see paragraph 3.2.5) appears to be marginally within the SPA (Figure 38) but this report regards the Burrow lands as being effectively outside, but adjoining, the Ballyteige Burrow SPA.

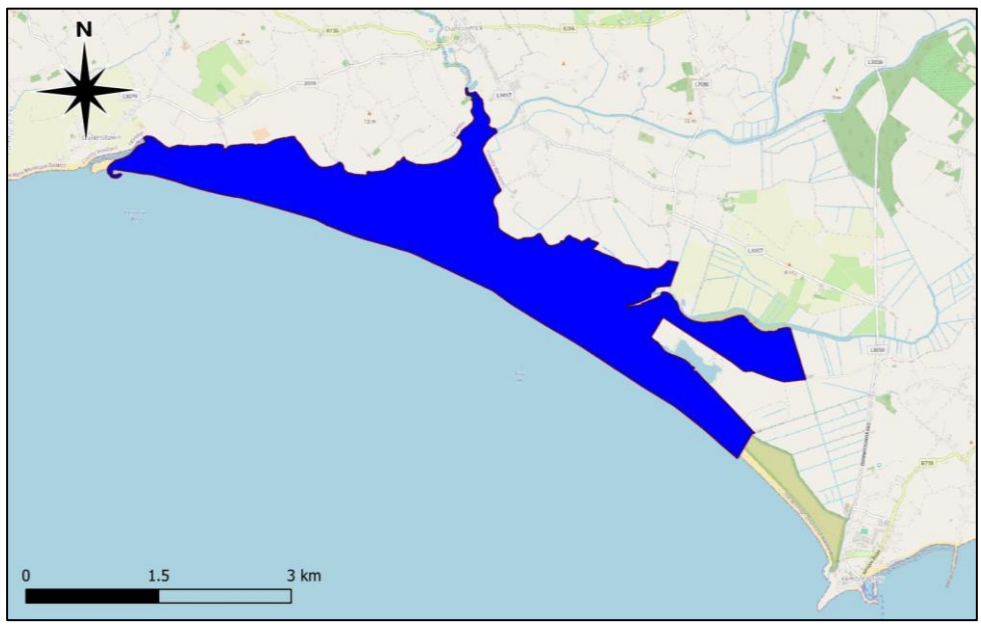


Figure 37. Ballyteige Burrow SPA (blue fill).

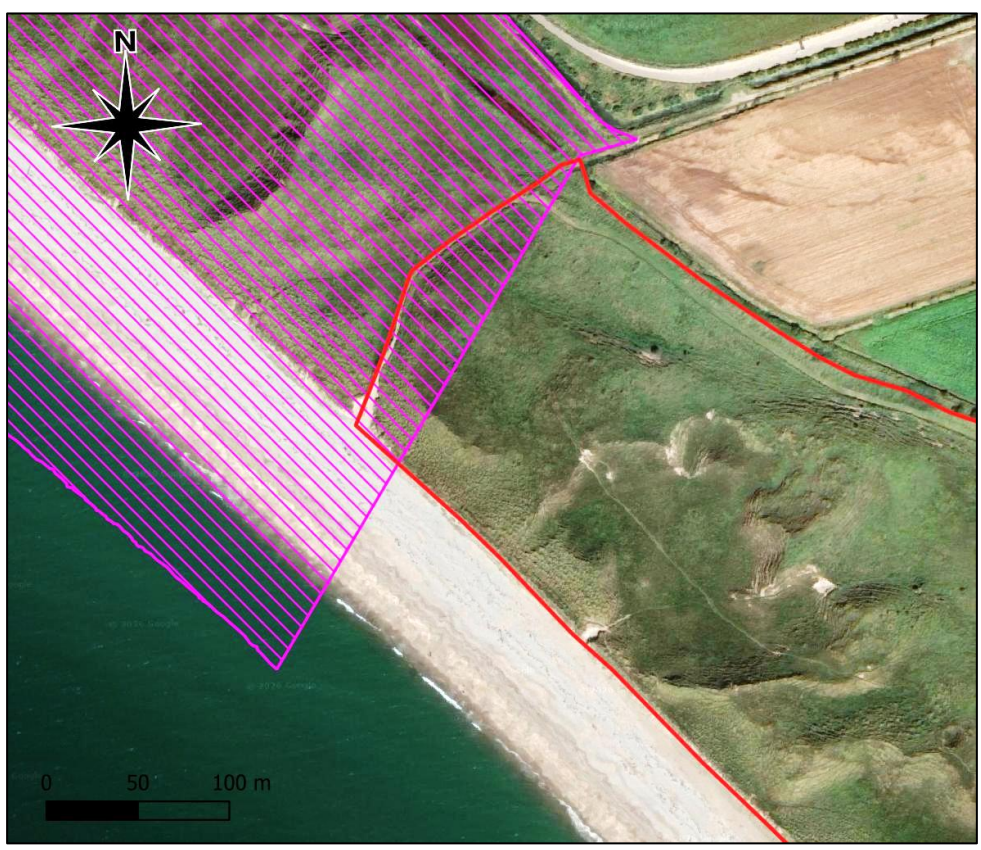


Figure 38. Ballyteige Burrow SPA south-eastern boundary (magenta hatching).

Extent: The SPA site comprises part of the sand dune system at Ballyteige Burrow , the hind-dune tidal wetlands at The Cull, the estuary of the Duncormick River, some agri-polders at Killag, the Burrow Shore, and part of the tidal waters of the Celtic Sea.

Qualifying interests: The qualifying interests of the site are 'Wetland and Waterbirds' [A999] together with the following seven named species of wild birds:-

- Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota* [A046]
- Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* [A048]
- Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* [A140]
- Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* [A141]
- Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* [A142]
- Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* [A156]
- Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* [A157]

Conservation objectives: The conservation objectives for the site are to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the aforementioned species. Conservation objectives, attributes and targets are detailed in a 22-page report (NPWS, 2014b).

Overlap: The Ballyteige Burrow SPA site adjoins and/or overlaps with parts of both the Ballyteige Burrow SAC and the Seas off Wexford SPA.

5.4. I-WeBS count unit

5.4.1. Since the mid-1990s the Irish Wetland Bird Survey (I-WeBS) has monitored the abundance and distribution of waterbirds and the status of the wetlands that support them. I-WeBS is a joint project of BirdWatch Ireland, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust in the United Kingdom. 'The Cull & Killag (Ballyteige)', Site Code 0O406, is a large site within which waterbirds are counted (Figure 39). The site stretches from Cullenstown to Kilmore Quay and north to Duncormick and Yoletown Bridge. The count unit includes the Burrow lands.

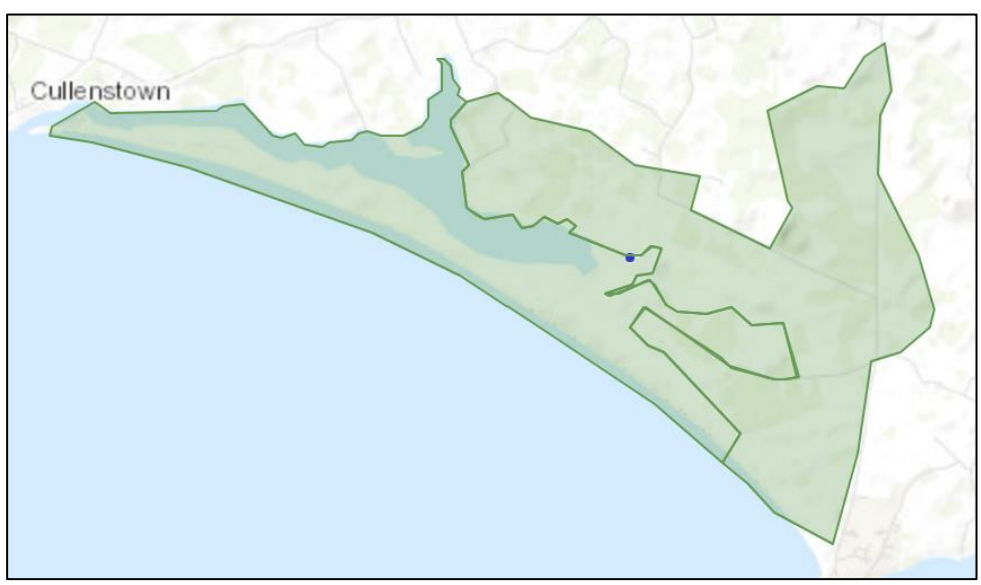


Figure 39. The Cull & Killag (Ballyteige) I-WeBS count unit (green fill).

(Source: I-WeBS Count Unit Definition Inventory (CUDI) at https://rpubs.com/bwi/iwebs-sites-subsites)

The primary focus of the I-WeBS site at Ballyteige is the Ballyteige Burrow SPA. Part of the Burrow lands form a small part of an associated large sub-site: the 'Ballyteigue (adjacent non-SPA fields)', Subsite Code 0O603 (Figure 40). The Burrow lands component stretches south-eastwards from the SPA boundary at Furlong's Road and is cut off diagonally along an undefined boundary (Figure 40).

Figure 40. Burrow lands and the I-WeBS subsite (edged green).

(Source: I-WeBS Count Unit Definition Inventory (CUDI) at https://rpubs.com/bwi/iwebs-sites-subsites)

5.5. Natura 2000 site: Seas off Wexford SPA

5.5.1. The Seas off Wexford Special Protection Area (SPA) Site Code IE0004237 is an extensive near-shore, marine area off both the eastern and the southern shores of Co Wexford and a very small area of Co Waterford. The site was officially announced and declared on 11 January 2024 by Minister of State for Nature, Heritage and Electoral Reform Malcolm Noonan. The site comprises the waters of both the Celtic Sea and the Irish Sea off the southern and eastern shores of respectively extending offshore to 'the 12-mile limit' approximately (Figure 41). Under international law and Ireland's Maritime Jurisdiction Act, Ireland's territorial sea extends 12 nautical miles from its baselines. Within this 12-mile zone, Ireland asserts sovereignty over the airspace, water column, seabed, and subsoil. The Seas off Wexford is presently the largest SPA in Ireland.

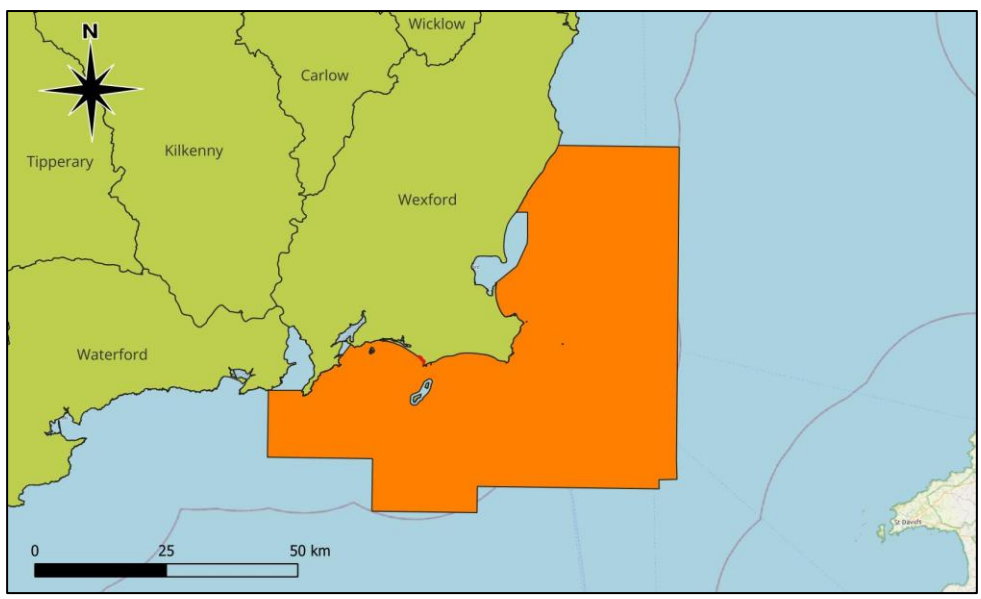


Figure 41. Seas off Wexford SPA (orange fill).

Extent: The Burrow lands property (Figure 42, red fill) is clearly not in the Seas off Wexford SPA (Figure 42, orange fill) but adjoins it.

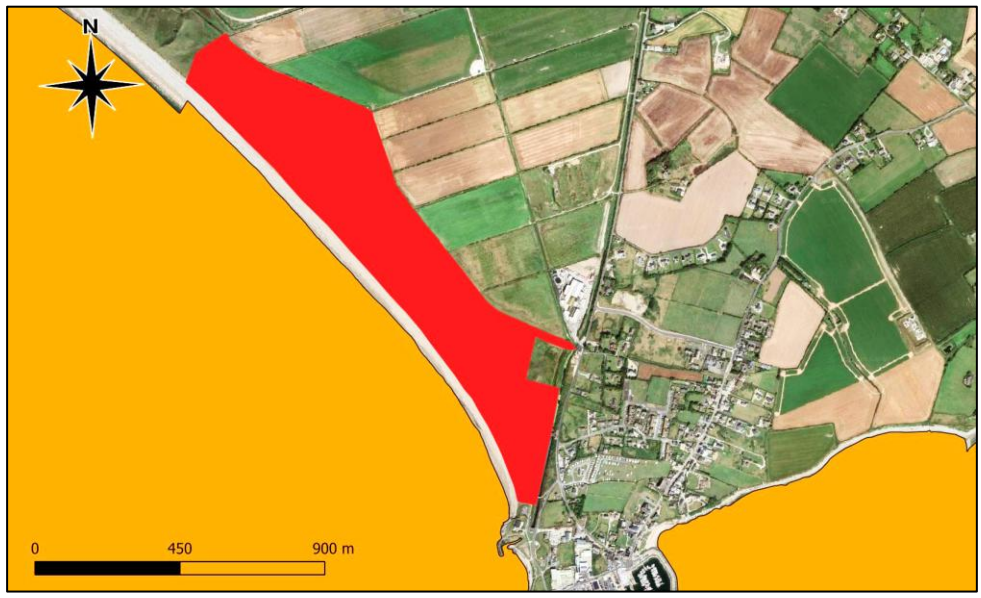


Figure 42. Enlarged extract of Figure 41.

Qualifying interests: The qualifying interests of the site are the following twenty named species of wild birds:-

- Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*) [A001]
- Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*) [A009]
- Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*) [A013]
- Gannet (*Morus bassanus*) [A016]
- Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) [A017]
- Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) [A018]
- Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) [A065]
- Mediterranean Gull (*Larus melanocephalus*) [A176]
- Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) [A179]
- Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) [A183]
- Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) [A184]
- Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) [A188]
- Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*) [A192]
- Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) [A193]
- Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) [A194]
- Guillemot (*Uria aalge*) [A199]
- Razorbill (*Alca torda*) [A200]
- Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*) [A204]
- Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*) [A863]
- Little Tern (*Sternula albifrons*) [A885]

Conservation objectives: The conservation objectives for the site are to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the aforementioned species. Conservation objectives, attributes and targets are detailed in a 45-page report (NPWS, 2024).

Overlap: The Seas off Wexford SPA site adjoins and/or overlaps with parts of several other Natura 2000 sites.

5.6. Nature Reserve

5.6.1. In 1985 an advertisement was published in the local press offering 700 acres (283.29ha) of land at Ballyteige Burrow for sale by directions of the owner [*The People* (Wexford), issue dated 11 October 1985, page 22]. With national backing, the Wexford branch of the Irish Wildbird Conservancy (now BirdWatch Ireland) and the Wexford Association of An Taisce encouraged the State to acquire the entire property as a nature reserve. While the matter was being considered by the State a letter was circulated on 15 February 1986 by the Kilmore Quay Community Development Association stating that "*The people of the area have successfully negotiated the purchase of 85 acres of Ballyteigue Burrow, at the Kilmore Quay end*." The letter noted the "*scientific, scenic and amenity values*" of the area and stated that the purpose of the purchase was *"… to keep the Burrow in its natural state, so that what we have enjoyed will be there for our children and generations to come*." A deposit of £2,800 had been raised locally and the circular letter invited financial assistance to raise the balance of the purchase price of £28,000 plus expenses.

On 20 December 1986 the Minister for Tourism, Fisheries and Forestry announced that the purchase of the remainder of Ballyteige Burrow by the State had been settled and that the area would be the subject of a nature reserve order. The reserve included adjoining wetland areas; these wetland areas comprised State foreshore and were of international importance for waterbirds. The total area of the nature reserve was 531ha. In 1990 the reserve was extended by the acquisition of an area of saltmarsh at Lacken, Duncormick.

5.6.2. Part of Ballyteige Burrow is a statutory nature reserve (Figure 43). The reserve was created on 28 September 1987 by S I No 279/1987 - *Nature Reserve (Ballyteige Burrow) Establishment Order, 1987* and came into operation on the 29 January 1990 on foot of S I No 8/1990 - *Nature Reserve (Balleyteige (sic) Burrow) Establishment Order, 1990*.

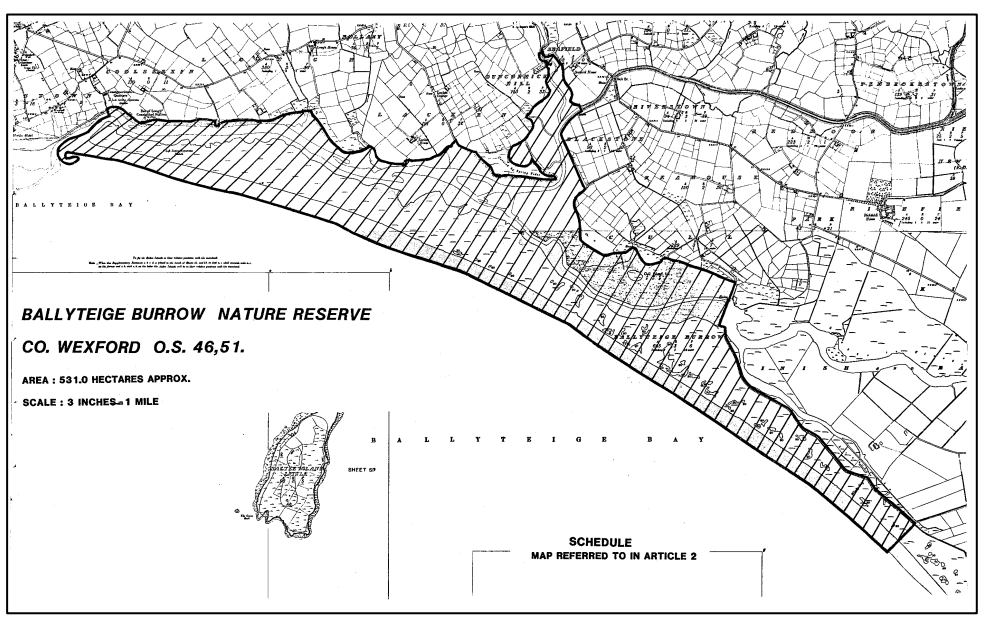


Figure 43. Map of Ballyteige Burrow Nature Reserve.

(Source: https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1987/si/279/made/en/print)

The Land Direct south-eastern boundary of the property owned by the NPWS (Figure 44, left) coincides with the boundary of the nature reserve (Figure 44, right).

Figure 44. NPWS property boundary (left) and nature reserve boundary (right).

The northern boundary of the Burrow lands (see paragraph 3.2.5) appears to be marginally within the nature reserve (Figure 45) but this report regards the Burrow lands as being effectively outside, but adjoining, the Ballyteige Burrow statutory nature reserve.

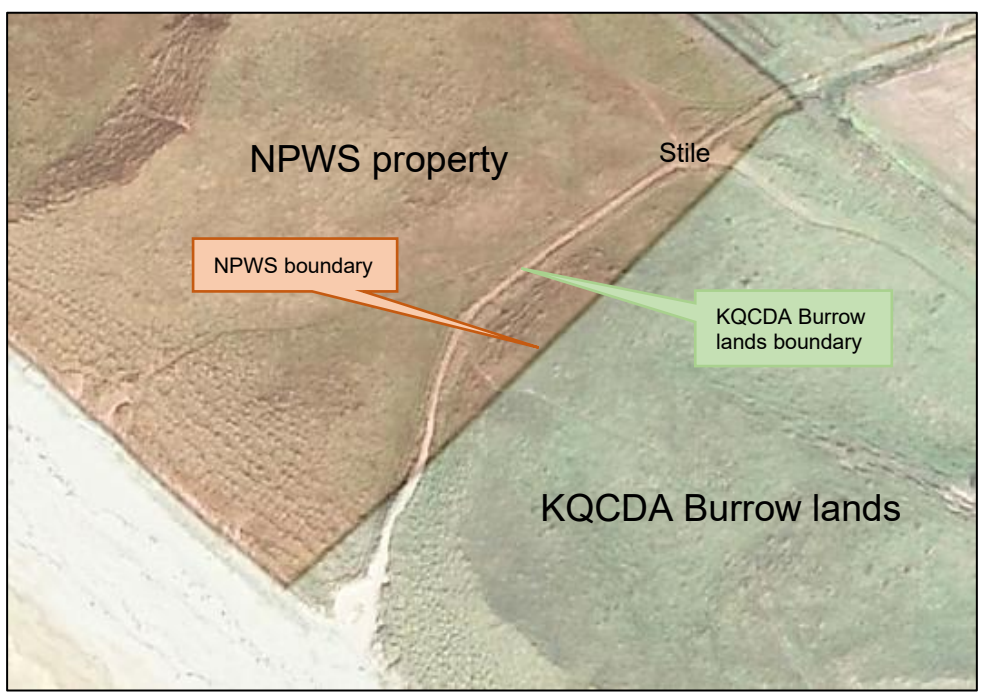


Figure 45. Two slightly different boundaries.

5.7. Biogenetic Reserve

In 1973, at a European Ministerial Conference on the Environment convened in Vienna, Austria, it was agreed to establish a pan-European network of areas that held representative examples of Europe's natural heritage that would be protected for nature conservation. These areas were to be known as Biogenetic Reserves and would be designated by the Council of Europe (Figure 46). Ireland has no legislation that enables the designation of Biogenetic Reserves as such. Instead, areas are designated Biogenetic Reserves when they are subject to protection under other legislation. On 28 September 1987 the State-owned lands at Ballyteige Burrow were designated a protected area under the Nature Reserve (Ballyteige Burrow) Establishment Order (paragraph 5.6.1). On foot of that ministerial order, the nature reserve was designated a Biogenetic Reserve on 10 March 1989, the shared designation making it part of the pan-European network.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS

RESOLUTION (79) 10

CONCERNING THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE EUROPEAN NETWORK OF BIOGENETIC RESERVES

(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 29 May 1979 at the 305th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies)

Figure 46. European network of Biogenetic Reserves.

(Source: https://rm.coe.int/native/0900001680507e96)

The northern boundary of the Burrow lands (see paragraph 3.2.5) appears to be marginally within the nature reserve (Figure 45) but this report regards the Burrow lands as being effectively outside, but adjoining, the Ballyteige Burrow statutory nature reserve and, consequently, being effectively outside, but adjoining, the biogenetic reserve.

5.8. Marine Protected Area (MPA)

5.8.1. As yet, there are no designated Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Ireland as enabling legislation has not been enacted.

However, on 3 June 2011, Ireland transposed the European Union's 2008 Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) into domestic legislation via the European Communities (Marine Strategy Framework) Regulations 2011 (SI No 249 of 2011) (https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2011/si/249/made/en/print). These regulations state that, as areas subject to "*spatial protection measures*" and as designated protected areas, existing marine Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in effect even though they are not formally recognised as such in law [Article 12, paragraphs 7(a) and 7(b)].

(7) A spatial protection measure referred to in paragraph (6) includes—

(a) special areas of conservation pursuant to the Habitats Directive,

(b) special protection areas pursuant to the Birds Directive, and

(c) marine protected areas as agreed by the Community, or such other marine protected areas as may be agreed by any Minister of the Government pursuant to an international or regional agreement to which the State is a party.

(Source: SI No 249 of 2011, Article 12, paragraphs 7)

Therefore, since Ballyteige Burrow SAC and SPA, and the Seas off Wexford SPA are all spatial protection sites of marine character and influence, these areas would, consequently, appear to qualify as *de facto* MPAs.

5.9. Natural Heritage Areas

5.9.1. The Burrow lands are not a Natural Heritage Area (NHA), but they are entirely within the boundary of the large Ballyteige Burrow proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA) (Figure 47).

Figure 47. The Ballyteige Burrow proposed Natural Heritage Area (purple).

5.10. Geological heritage sites

5.10.1. Forty-two sites in Co Wexford are rated as sites of geological or of geomorphological importance. Ballyteige Burrow is included in the inventory of geological heritage sites where it is known as 'Ballyteige Bay' (Meehan *et al*, 2019). All of the Burrow lands are included in the Ballyteige Bay geological heritage site (Figure 48).

Figure 48. Ballyteige Bay geological heritage site.

(Meehan, *et al*, 2019 at https://gsi.geodata.gov.ie/downloads/Geoheritage/Reports/WX003_Ballyteige_Bay.pdf)

5.11. Species

5.11.1. **Habitats Directive**. Annex IV of the Habitats Directive lists *"Animal and plant species of Community interest in need of strict protection"* (consolidated Version 1.1, 2007 at http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:1992L0043:20070101:EN:PDF). The following species listed in Annex IV are found in Ireland and require strict protection

- All bats (nine resident species and at least one vagrant)
- All cetaceans (whales, dolphins and the Harbour Porpoise *Phocaena phocaena*)
- The Eurasian Otter *Lutra lutra*
- The Leatherback Turtle *Dermochelys coriacea*
- The Natterjack Toad *Epidalea calamita*
- White-clawed Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*
- The Freshwater Pearl Mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera*
- The Kerry Slug *Geomalacus maculosus*
- The Killarney Fern *Vandenboschia speciosa*
- The Slender Naiad *Najas flexilis*
- The Marsh Saxifrage *Saxifraga hirculus*

Of those species listed above, bats and Otters occur adjacent to the Burrow lands. No other Annex IV species has been recorded, or is likely to occur, at the site.

5.11.2. **Protected animals**. Licences are required from the National Parks and Wildlife Service under the Wildlife Acts if there are impacts on protected species or their resting or breeding places (http://www.npws.ie/ licences/disturbance/). The issue of licences does not arise in the present case as there are no known Otter holts, Badger setts or bat roosts in the Burrow lands.

5.11.3. **Protected plants**. Ballyteige Burrow has been flagged the first in the top ten botanical hotspots in County Wexford and rated *"critical for specialised dune flora, saltmarsh, and strand line plants*" (https://bsbi.org/in-your-area/local-botany/co-wexford#heading1).

The Flora (Protection) Order 2022 (S I No 235/2022 available at https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2022/si/235/) lists wild plants that are legally protected. The NPWS Flora (Protection) Order 2022 Map Viewer was interrogated for records of protected plant species at or in the environs of the Burrow lands. The search returned one record of Wild Asparagus (*Asparagus prostratus*) on the sand dunes (Figure 49, blue square) and one record of Borrer's Saltmarsh-grass (*Puccinellia fasciculata*) in the boundary drain (Figure 49, circled red).

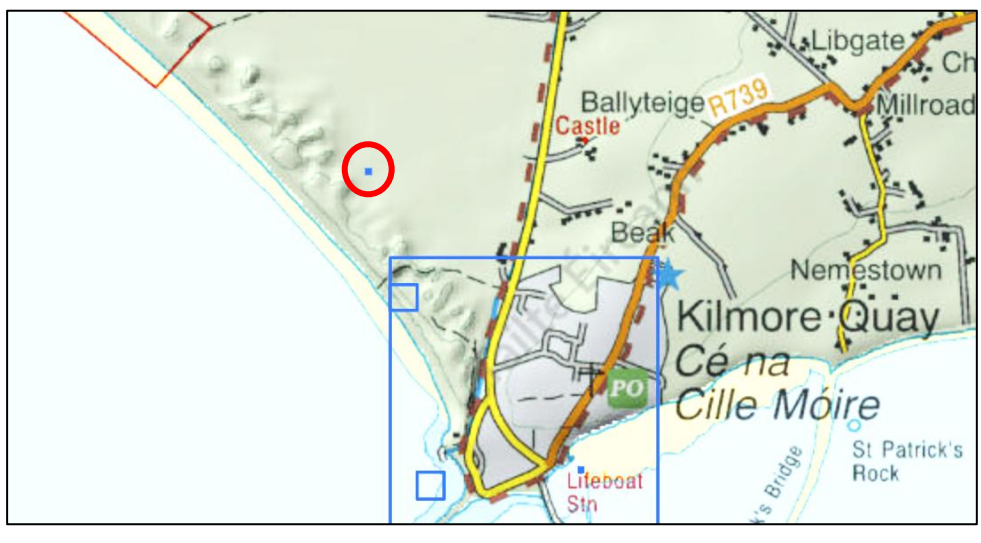


Figure 49. Flora (Protection) Order species.

(Source: https://heritagedata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a41ef4e10227499d8de17a8abe42bd1e)

Wild Asparagus (*Asparagus prostratus*) occurs intermittently throughout the Burrow lands,

Plate 26. Wild Asparagus (Asparagus prostratus) (outlined in red).

The clump of Wild Asparagus shown above (Plate 26) was growing on the crest of the eroding dune face beside the path running along the seaside edge of the Burrow lands with the Saltee Islands visible in the background. The plant supported a profusion of tiny greenish-yellow buds about to burst open revealing equally small, yellow, bell-shaped flowers (Plate 27). Red berries follow in autumn.

Plate 27. Wild Asparagus with flower buds (bottom) and a flower (top) inset.

A single stand of Borrer's Saltmarsh-grass (*Puccinellia fasciculata*) grows in a boundary drain with the plants typically flowering between late May (Plate 28) and August.

Plate 28. Borrer's Saltmarsh-grass (Puccinellia fasciculata) in a boundary drain.

5.11.4. **Nationally rare species**. The Burrow lands support a number of nationally rare species, especially plants (see paragraph 5.11.3) and invertebrates, mainly insects. In the national context, the importance of the South Wexford Coast for many insects is attributed to the combination of such factors as the abundance of sands, gravels and other fluvioglacial deposits, the presence of light soils, the latitudinal advantage of the southerly location, the surrounding low-lying coastal plain that mitigates against the formation of orographic cloud, the relatively dry climate, the highest mean annual number of hours of bright sunshine, and the proximity to Britain and mainland Europe with regard to both the post-glacial colonisation and present day immigration (O'Rourke, 1979 pages 1-2; Goodwillie, 1979 pages 12-13; and KQCDA, 1991 pages 74-75).

Nationally rare species recorded in the Burrow lands include the following:-

- **Woodlouse**. The rare Beach Pill Woodlouse *Armadillidium album*. "*A single specimen of this pill-woodlouse was recorded at Ballyteige Burrow. This woodlouse is a specialist of sandy shores and is known from The Raven and from 5 other 10-km squares on the east coast of Ireland in the atlas of 1985. On that evidence (of 21 years ago) Ballyteige Burrow is a small range extension*" (Allen, 2006 page 26). Biodiversity Maps, the national portal that compiles biodiversity data from multiple sources and makes it freely available on-line, features records from two sites on the South Wexford Coast: Ballyteige Burrow (both the Burrow lands and the nature reserve) and the barrier at Tacumshin Lake.
- **Bees**. Both the Great Yellow Bumblebee *Bombus distinguendus*, classed as 'Endangered' and believed to be "*very close to extinction*" (Fitzpatrick *et al*., 2006 pages 12-13) and the Shrill Carder Bee *Bombus sylvarum*, a rare southern species classed as 'Vulnerable' (Fitzpatrick *et al*., 2006 page 14) were formerly recorded in the Burrow lands.

- **Ants**. Seventy-nine percent of the ant species that occur in Ireland have been recorded in County Wexford (O'Rourke, 1979 page 12). The Turf Ant *Tetramorium caespitum* is a southern species. It was first recorded in Ireland in the very early 1930s at Ballyteige Burrow (O'Rourke, 1979 page 3). Since then, isolated colonies have been recorded at a small number of sites along the south coast between Wexford and Kerry. However, Ballyteige Burrow remains its stronghold in Ireland, and it is the dominant species of ant found there (personal communication, Dr John Breen, University of Limerick). It nests under stones in eroded slacks and needs warm, bare ground to nest in (Breen and O'Brien, 1990 pages 219-220). Tall grass habitats are avoided as the grasses shade and, therefore, cool the ground. The Turf Ant swarms in the morning at the end of June. It is the only species of ant in Ireland that gathers, stores, and eats seeds, so it needs wild flowers nearby as a food source. Seeds of Wild Thyme *Thymus polytrichus*, Mouse-ears *Cerastium* spp and Eyebrights *Euphrasia* spp are collected and eaten. Food sources vary according to season, perhaps due to availability of seed (O'Brien and Breen, 1990 page 91). The ants' source of honey dew at Ballyteige Burrow is an unusual species of green aphid that lives on Wild Thyme *Thymus polytrichus* (personal communication, Dr John Breen). Since it needs grazed coastal grassland habitats rich in wild flowers to ensure their continued survival, the present management strategy of winter conservation grazing in the company property to enhance floral diversity contributes to its conservation. An increase in the local Rabbit population would also appear to be of benefit to the ants. Turf Ant nests are very common at one eroded area in the Burrow lands. At least another five species of ants nest in the surrounding area (personal communication, Dr John Breen). Biodiversity Maps shows that the Turf Ant's distribution is confined to the south coast of Ireland.
- **Wasps**. All of the vespid wasp species that occur in Ireland have been recorded in County Wexford (O'Rourke, 1979 page 12). Wasps of note at Ballyteige Burrow include the Jewel Wasp *Hedychridium ardens*, and the small, predatory Silver Spiny Digger Wasp *Oxybelus argentatus* (NPWS, 2003 and NPWS, 1999). A female pimpline wasp caught on the dunes at Ballyteige Burrow on 12 June 1982 belonged to a rare species of ichneumonid new to Ireland (*Scambus eucosmidarum*) (O'Connor and Butler, 1992).
- **Beetles**. The Driftwood Weevil *Macrorhyncolus littoralis*. *"Macrorhyncolus littoralis, new to Ireland, third for the Palaearctic. This wood-boring weevil is thought to be a native of Australia. It is well-established in New Zealand and has also been recorded from South Africa, Chile and California. In 1987, two specimens were found on the Kent coast, with a third specimen being found elsewhere in Kent the following year. These appear to be the only records for Britain and indeed the only records for the entire Palaearctic region. 40 specimens in two colonies were found at Ballyteige Burrow under two pieces of driftwood on the sandy beach. Because of the significance of this record as a first for Ireland and a third Palaearctic record, the identification will need to be confirmed at the Natural History Museum."* (Allen, 2006 page 25). Biodiversity Maps features the Ballyteige Burrow record as *Conarthrus littoralis* as the only record for Ireland.

Further details regarding insects and other invertebrates are detailed elsewhere (Monaghan, 2004).

The Common Blue butterfly (Plate 29) is so abundant in the Burrow lands from late May to August that adventurous individuals stray into the surrounding environs and the village of Kilmore Quay. When the summer is unusually warm these insects can produce a second generation with adults on the wing from July to September.

Plate 29. Common Blue (Polyommatus icarus) on Ribwort Plantain.

5.11.5. **Wild birds**. Much of the South Wexford Coast, including all of the Burrow lands, is mapped as a Farmland Birds Hotspot (Figure 50). For background and details regarding the methodology used to identify these areas go to https://birdwatchireland.ie/our-work/species-habitat-conservation/ countryside-wetlands/hotspot-mapping/. For records of individual birds type the species name in the box top right in the Bird Atlas Mapstore at https://app.bto.org/mapstore/StoreServlet and click 'Show'.

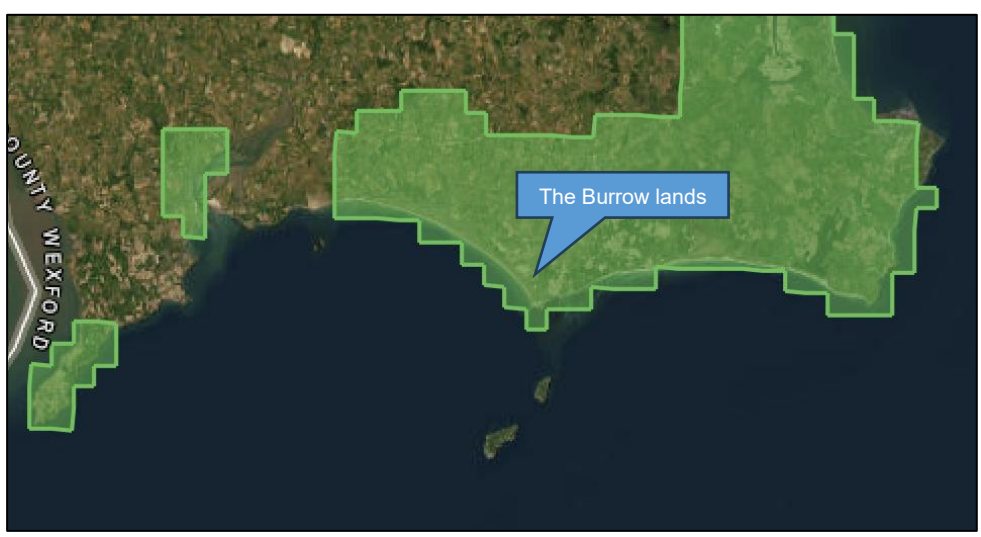


Figure 50. Farmland Birds Hotspots (green squares).

5.11.6. **Invasive Alien Species** (IASs). Eight species are featured on the List of Invasive Alien Species of Union Concern as updated on 12 September 2025 by the EU Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Committee pursuant to Regulation 9(1) of the IAS Regulations (SI 374/2024) (Source: https://www.npws.ie/news/ eu-invasive-alien-species-ias-committee-approves-update-list-invasive-alien-species-union). These eight species are:-

- North American Mink (*Mustela vison*)
- Sika Deer (*Cervus nippon*)
- Common Yabby (*Cherax destructor*)
- Obama Flatworm (*Obama nungara*)
- Australian swamp stonecrop (*Crassula helmsii*)
- Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*)
- Giant Knotweed (*Reynoutria sachalinensis*), and
- Bohemian Knotweed (*Reynoutria x bohemica*).

None of these eight species is known to be resident on the Burrow lands.

Species subject to restrictions under Regulation No 49 and No 50 of the *European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011*, S I No 477 of 2011 (https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2011/si/477/), are listed in the Third Schedule of these Regulations. These species comprise 35 named plants and over 40 named animals. A few of these species are known to occur in the Burrow lands.

5.11.7. **NBDC records**. The National Biodiversity Records Centre's dataset was interrogated for species recorded in a custom polygon containing the Burrow lands with the 'Spatial Intersection Type' set as 'Within'. The interrogation yielded 145 species (https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/Map). That recorded number does, obviously, not fully reflect of the wealth of biodiversity that the area supports. The Burrow lands are contained within two 1km squares of the Irish National Grid: S9504 and S9603 and eighteen 100m squares are wholly within the area's boundary (S953047-S962036) (image right, yellow dots) (https://database.bsbi.org/maps/.

Figure 51. Gridded map (100m x 100m squares) of the Burrow lands.

(Source: https://bsbi.org/recording/maps-data/distribution)

5.11.8. **iNaturalist records**. The Kilmore Quay Conservation Group use the American iNaturalist platform for their Ballyteige Burrow BioBlitz. Locals and visitors are encouraged to use the app to record species while exploring the Ballyteige Burrow SAC area. In June 2026 the database contained 157 records for the entire SAC area (dunes, seashore, wetlands, etc). It is not known how many of these records pertain to the Burrow lands.

5.12. Policy documents

5.12.1. **EU Biodiversity Action Plan**. The European Union calls its biodiversity action plan its 'Biodiversity Strategy for 2030'. The strategy seeks to protect nature, to reverse the present degradation of ecosystems, to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030, and to be a core part of the European Green Deal to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent (https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/biodiversity-strategy-2030_en).

5.12.2. **National BAP**. Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023–2030 (https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/files/4th_National_Biodiversity_Action_Plan.pdf) sets the national biodiversity agenda for the period 2023-2030 and aims to deliver the transformative changes required to the ways in which we value and protect nature.

5.12.3. **Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028**. With regard to biodiversity, the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 states:- "*In light of the climate change and biodiversity emergency there is a pressing need to mainstream biodiversity into decision making across all sectors and to raise awareness and appreciation of its value and the benefits it delivers. The protection, conservation, restoration and management of biodiversity and ecosystems forms an underlying theme of the Plan and is reflected in relevant chapters, strategies and objectives.*" (https://consult.wexfordcoco.ie/en/system/files/materials/1281/Wexford%20CC%20Development%20Plan%20Vol%201_0.pdf, pages 22-23)

Ballyteige Burrow is identified a "*distinctive landscape*" (*ibid*., page 473) and Objective NH04 seeks "*To protect the integrity of sites designated for their habitat and species importance and prohibit development which would damage or threaten the integrity of these sites. Such sites include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and candidate SACs, Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed NHAs, Nature Reserves, Refuges for Fauna and RAMSAR sites. To protect protected species wherever they occur.*" (*ibid*., page 553).

5.12.4. **RMD Strategic Plan**. There is no specific reference to either the Burrow lands or Ballyteige Burrow in the Rosslare Municipal District Strategic Plan 2024-2030 other than the identification of the existing Kilmore Quay Walking Trail on a map (RMD, 2024 page 25, Map 4).

5.12.5. **County Wexford BAP**. An updated County Wexford Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) is in preparation. The County Wexford Biodiversity Action Plan 2013-2018 (https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/sites/default/files/content/Environment/BiodiversityComm/Co.%20Wexford%20Biodiversity%20Action%20Plan%202013-2018.pdf) identifies Ballyteige Burrow as a "*natural heritage hotspot*" within the county (*ibid*., page 22).

5.12.6. **Beach Bye-laws**. With the exception of one small area at the southern extremity of the site, all of the Burrow lands are a scheduled area subject to the Wexford County Council Beach Bye-laws 2022 (https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/sites/default/files/content/2022.05.12-Wexford-County-Council-Beach-Bye-Laws-2022-Final-signed.pdf).

The bye-laws came into effect on 1 June 2022, apply throughout the year, and apply to the land as well as to the adjoining beach (Figure 52). The bye-laws detail lists of "*prohibited acts*" including, lighting fires, damaging the dunes, littering, causing nuisance, riding motorcycles, quads or other off-road vehicles, camping, trading, etc. (pages 4-5), horses (page 5), dogs and personal watercraft (pages 6-7), and filming (page 7).

A person who contravenes the bye-laws is liable to an on-the-spot-fine for a simple breach or a more significant fine on summary conviction (pages 8-9). Breaches of the bye-laws should be reported to the Environment Department of Wexford County Council at 053 919 6000 during office hours, email customerservice@wexfordcoco.ie, or use their online Environment Complaint Form at https://wexford-self.achieveservice.com/service/ Environment Report Illegal Dumping or write to Environment Depart-ment, Wexford County Council, County Hall, Carricklawn, Wexford, Y35 WY93.

Figure 52. Part of the Ballyteigue Beach Bye Laws area (edged red).

(Source: https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/sites/default/files/content/2022.05.16-Beach-Bye-Laws-2021-2022-Maps.pdf)

5.12.7. **NPWS Conservation Plan**. In March 2004, the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) produced and circulated its Conservation Plan for the Ballyteige Burrow complex of protected sites for the period 2003-2008. The plan noted: "*A partnership approach between the KQDA and the NPW on matters relating to the conservation of the sand dune system is now being adapted.*" (Anon, 2004 page 21). Objective 1 of the plan was to maintain the sand dunes and Strategy 1.1 was to continue the agreed level of conservation grazing (Anon, 2004 page 35). The NPWS sought to liaise with the KQCDA with regard to both the erection of signage (Anon, 2004 page 38 Strategy 6.1) and public access to the dunes (Anon, 2004 page 39 Strategy 8.4).

Work on the production of a revised plan for the period 2008-2013 was deferred and is still on hold.

The NPWS enjoys excellent relations with the KQCDA and is keen to strengthen its bond with the local community in the interests of nature conservation at the Burrow lands.

5.13. Summary

5.13.1. The main natural heritage resource values of the Burrow lands are:-

- **International level**. Three Annex I EU Habitats Directive habitats (fixed dunes, Marram dunes, and humid dune slacks). Fixed dunes are flagged a priority habitat for conservation.
- **National level**. Two *Flora (Protection) Order* species of wild plants (Wild Asparagus and Borrer's Saltmarsh grass).
- **Regional level**. Important wild plant communities and important insect communities.
- **Local level**. A natural heritage resource of significant value to the local community.

6. THE FORMER PLAN

6.1. Background

6.1.1. A Development Plan for the property at Ballyteige Burrow owned by the local community and held in trust for that local community by the Kilmore Quay Community Development Association (KQCDA) was published in July 2008. The former plan is available at https://www.southwexfordcoast.com/ballyteige-burrow/ by scrolling down to Further reading > Habitats > Sand dunes > The Burrow lands..

6.1.2. A Draft Plan was produced on 30 May 2008, a one-month period of consultation followed, and a public meeting was held on 13 June 2008 to maximise community involvement. The Draft Plan, as amended, was adopted by the KQCDA on 1 July 2008. Nine objectives for managing the Burrow lands over the five year period 2008-2013 were set out.

6.1.3. The reasons for devising the former plan were fourfold:-

- to have an agreed vision among members of the KQCDA for the future development of the Burrow lands,
- to protect and enhance the local natural environment by raising awareness, and by informing, engaging, and involving the local community,
- to identify needs for the development and promotion of the property as a local amenity while actively seeking to contribute to the conservation of the area's natural heritage resource values, and
- to have a more transparent and coherent basis for applications made by the KQCDA for funding from grant-awarding agencies for projects at the Burrow lands.

6.1.4. Management of the Burrow lands over the past forty years (1986-2026) falls into the following three phases:-

- An initial ten-year period (1986-1996) characterised by the absence of an agreed plan for the company property with various differing, and sometimes conflicting, interests competed for support as to how the sand dunes should be managed: development (a golf course, motorbike scrambling, wind turbines, etc) versus conservation (leaving the area for biodiversity to thrive to have an amenity where recreational walking could be enjoyed).
- The second management phase extended from 1997 to 2008 and was characterised by a series of initiatives that, both individually and in combination, impacted on the management of the company property and constrained inappropriate development: classification of the entire dune system as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), acceptance by the European Commission that the area was a Site of Community Importance (SCI), the introduction by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of a list of Notifiable Actions, participation by the company in the Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS), drafting and adoption of the County Development Plans 2001 and 2007, a Local Area Plan for Kilmore Quay 2002, the Wexford County Council Beach Bye-laws 2004, and the formulation by the NPWS of a Conservation Plan for the period 2003-2008 that applied to the Burrow Lands.

- The third and the present management initiative (2008-2026) sought to pull together all the different elements and to integrate them in an agreed vision for the short-term future as outlined in a Development Plan for the Burrow lands (KQCDA, 2008). The objectives of that Plan addressed public access, car parking, information and interpretation, the walking trail, anti-social behaviour, The Cutting, the Sluice House, coastal defences, and blow-outs.

This draft seeks to build on that foundation and to develop a framework to enhance the biodiversity of the Burrow lands.

6.1.5. The nine objectives for managing the Burrow lands over the five year period 2008-2013 are summarised below.

6.2. Management objectives

6.2.1. Objectives for managing the Burrow lands over the five year period 2008-2013 were arranged in the following nine categories in no particular order of importance or priority:-

1. Conservation grazing
2. Public access
3. Car parking
4. Information and interpretation
5. Walking trail
6. Anti-social behaviour
7. The Cutting
8. The Sluice House
9. Coastal defences

6.2.2. Objectives for managing the Burrow lands over the five year period 2008-2013 were broken down into 20 proposed actions. These proposed actions are summarised below (Table 2).

Management categories	Proposed actions
1 Conservation grazing	a) Extend the conservation grazing regime when the REPS 3 management plan expires on 31 December 2009.
	b) Address health and safety issues for members of the public that arise when cattle are present on the dunes.
	c) Consider a break, or breaks, in the long length of live electric fence to allow access for people to and from the walking trail, dunes, and beach.
2. Public access	a) Improve public access to the Burrow lands from the Viewing Point.
	b) Investigate facilities and/or access for wheelchair-users and/or those with limited mobility.
	c) Prioritise access for the emergency services to the dunes and the beach.
3. Car parking	a) Pursue the provision of better car parking facilities at the Viewing Point, near the bridge over The Cutting, and at Sofrimar.
4. Information and interpretation	a) Continue to promote the rich natural heritage of the Burrow lands and to increase awareness and appreciation of the amenity as a product in local tourism.
	b) Investigate how the amenity might be better marketed as a product in local tourism via signage, leaflets, websites, etc.
5. Walking trail	a) Continue to develop the Kilmore Quay Walking Trail.
	b) Address concerns regarding uneven surface in places.
	c) Develop strategies to encourage responsible dog behaviour.
	d) Find a solution to flooding of one portion of the trail during winter.
	e) Consider the provision of an all-weather shelter and seating at suitable locations.
6. Anti-social behaviour	a) Resist the use of the company property for camping, picnics, holding parties, lighting fires, etc. b) Review the effectiveness of Wexford County Council's Beach Bye-laws in preventing damage by horses, quads, etc.
7. The Cutting	a) Consider the need to prevent people, especially children, from falling into The Cutting. b) Investigate if anything can be done regarding unpleasant smells from rotting seaweed in warm summer weather.
8. The Sluice House	a) Investigate if the Sluice House could be developed for use as a small museum or interpretative centre.
9. Coastal defences	a) Address concerns regarding the long-term ability of the dunes to resist breaching by the sea due to global warming, climate change, increased storminess, and rising sea level.

Table 2. Proposed actions arising from the management objectives.

6.3. Management outcomes

6.3.1. Outcomes are summarised at the following three levels:- ‘Completed’, ‘In progress’, and ‘Not started’.

6.3.2. Assessments cover both the plan period (2008-2013) and subsequent years (2014-2026).

6.3.3. The outcomes regarding the twenty proposed actions in the nine management categories are assessed below both in summary (Table 3) and in more detail (Table 4).

Outcome level	Number (of 20)
Completed	15 (75%)
In progress	3 [2b), 4a), and 4b)]
Not started	2 [1c) and 9a)]

Table 3. Summary table of management outcomes.

Twenty proposed actions in nine management categories	Outcomes (2008-2025)
1 Conservation grazing	
a) Extend the conservation grazing regime when the REPS 3 management plan expires on 31 December 2009.	**Completed**. Paragraph 3.4.2 above refers. During the winter of 2009/2010 about 50 cattle were out-wintered on the Burrow lands. The animals had access to a large field at Inish and Ballyteige Slob via a walkway from the dunes bordered by an electric fence. They grazed on a fodder crop growing in the field and on provisions provided in a round feeder by day and had dry lying at night on the dunes. On joining the ACRES scheme, stocking numbers were reduced to 32-35 animals. No significant issues arose regarding grazing.
b) Address health and safety issues for members of the public that arise when cattle are present on the dunes.	**Completed**. No issues arose as the period of maximum use of the Burrow lands by people (April-September) coincided with the period when cattle were not present and the electric fence was not live.
c) Consider a break, or breaks, in the long length of live electric fence to allow access for people to and from the walking trail, dunes, and beach.	**Not started**. See 1 b).
2. Public access	
a) Improve public access to the Burrow lands from the Viewing Point.	**Completed**. A concrete path and boardwalk now provide direct access from the Viewing Point to the Burrow lands.
b) Investigate facilities and/or access for wheelchair-users and/or those with limited mobility.	**In progress**. Access is still quite restricted. A boardwalk leading to the beach was installed at the extreme southern end of the site, but it proved ineffective as it was repeatedly buried by wind-blown sand and clearing it was eventually abandoned. Both soft sand and the uneven nature of the natural ground surface continues to pose a challenge.
c) Prioritise access for the emergency services to the dunes and the beach.	**Completed**. The Coast Guard and other emergency services have full access to the Burrow lands and use the site for training purposes.

… / continued

3. Car parking	
a) Pursue the provision of better car parking facilities at the Viewing Point, near the bridge over The Cutting, and at Sofrimar.	**Completed**. Resurfacing and upgrading of pavements has been conducted by Wexford County Council. Funding is being secured for the proposed provision of a new car park at the existing Stella Maris Centre. It is intended that the new car park will provide trailhead amenities for the walking trail on the Burrow lands.
4. Information and interpretation	
a) Continue to promote the rich natural heritage of the Burrow lands and to increase awareness and appreciation of the amenity as a product in local tourism.	**In progress**. The Stella Maris Centre website is being redesigned and upgraded at present. It is planned to have a dedicated webpage or specific section for the Burrow lands. A plethora of signs of different sizes, shapes and colours has been erected over the years. The need to address signage clutter is recognised and the issue is being addressed. The need for professional guidance is recognised. The June 2018 *Kilmore Quay and Environs Feasibility Study* (KQCDA, 2018) is being revisited and reviewed with a view to promoting the Burrow lands.
b) Investigate how the amenity might be better marketed as a product in local tourism via signage, leaflets, websites, etc.	
5. Walking trail	
a) Continue to develop the Kilmore Quay Walking Trail.	**Completed**. Paragraph 3.4.3 above refers. Development of the trail has been conducted and is ongoing with the support of Wexford Walking Trails, Wexford County Council, and Sport Ireland.
b) Address concerns regarding uneven surface in places.	**Completed**. Warning signage is in place.
c) Develop strategies to encourage responsible dog behaviour.	**Completed**. Bags and bins have been provided and are actively managed. While many dog owners are responsible, some persist in hanging bags of dog fouling on the fence line or positioning them on top of fence posts. Signs ask that dogs are kept on leads, but the perception persists with some people that the trail is a place to let a dog off a lead for a run around.
d) Find a solution to flooding of one portion of the trail during winter.	**Completed**. The specific issue at one location has been resolved. The longer term risk of flooding remains a concern.
e) Consider the provision of an all-weather shelter and seating at suitable locations.	**Completed**. The provision of an all-weather shelter and seating at suitable locations was considered but was abandoned on the grounds that (1) there was no demand from walkers for such amenities, and (2) the provision of such amenities was considered likely to invite anti-social behaviour and/or vandalism.

… / continued

6. Anti-social behaviour	
a) Resist the use of the company property for camping, picnics, holding parties, lighting fires, etc. b) Review the effectiveness of Wexford County Council's Beach Bye-laws in preventing damage by horses, quads, etc.	**Completed**. Experience has shown that anti-social behaviour is not a significant issue on the Burrow lands; it tends to be sporadic, temporary, weather-dependent, and of relatively low impact. The Wexford County Council's Beach Bye-laws refer to all of the Burrow lands, not just the beach, and people are encouraged to report alleged breaches (see paragraph 5.12.6 above for reporting contact details).
7. The Cutting	
a) Consider the need to prevent people, especially children, from falling into The Cutting. b) Investigate if anything can be done regarding unpleasant smells from rotting seaweed in warm summer weather.	**Completed**. While, in the past, people frequented the area adjoining the boundary wall of The Cutting, they no longer do so as the new pathway layout designed in July 2010 encourages people to follow the path away from the dangerous area. Consequently, the former concern is no longer an issue. The pumping of water by the OPW at the Cull Bank has made the sluice redundant as pumping keeps the water level below the level of the sluice gates. The Cutting is therefore no longer used and the OPW is considering a number of options for its use going forward. In any event, The Cutting is not part of the Burrow lands, and the issue is regarded as one of low priority.
8. The Sluice House	
a) Investigate if the Sluice House could be developed for use as a small museum or interpretative centre.	**Completed**. The Sluice House is owned by the OPW and is not part of the Burrow lands. It is considered too small to accommodate an interpretative centre and is further hampered by both its poor state of repair and the absence of any parking facilities.
9. Coastal defences	
a) Address concerns regarding the long-term ability of the dunes to resist breaching by the sea due to global warming, climate change, increased storminess, and rising sea level.	**Not started**. The issue remains of great concern and is regarded as a priority for focus going forward.

Table 4. Proposed actions arising from the management objectives.

6.3.4. The overall assessment of management outcomes is that the original objective of contributing to biodiversity conservation has been successful with most (75%) objectives of the 2008 Development Plan for the Burrow lands achieved. With the sole exception of the natural loss of some mobile fore dune habitat due to coastal erosion, there is no evidence of any significant deterioration of the natural heritage resource values of the subject site since 2008.

7. CHANGES AND CHALLENGES

7.1.1. One of the deliverables the KQCDA requires from the LBAP project is: "*The plan will consider and address the changes and challenges in the preservation of the diverse nature found on the lands.*"

7.1.2. The challenges in 2026 are essentially the changes that have taken place in the Burrow lands since 2008: accelerating coastal erosion, opening up of blowouts, loss of dunes, shoreline recession, increased risk of coastal flooding, increased visitor footfall, increased threat to the native flora as a result of colonisation by invasive aliens, etc.

7.1.3. The following series of four aerial images of the seaward dune face from the limits of the Burrow lands (from point A in Plate 30 to point E in Plate 33) shows that there appears to be a correlation between the presence of blowouts, the presence of paths, and distance from the centre of human population. Many of the blowouts occur at the seaward ends of paths. It is not known how much people and cattle each contribute to the formation of these paths but the fact that the largest blowouts are near the centre of population in Kilmore Quay suggests that human pedestrian footfall is a significant cause of dune erosion.

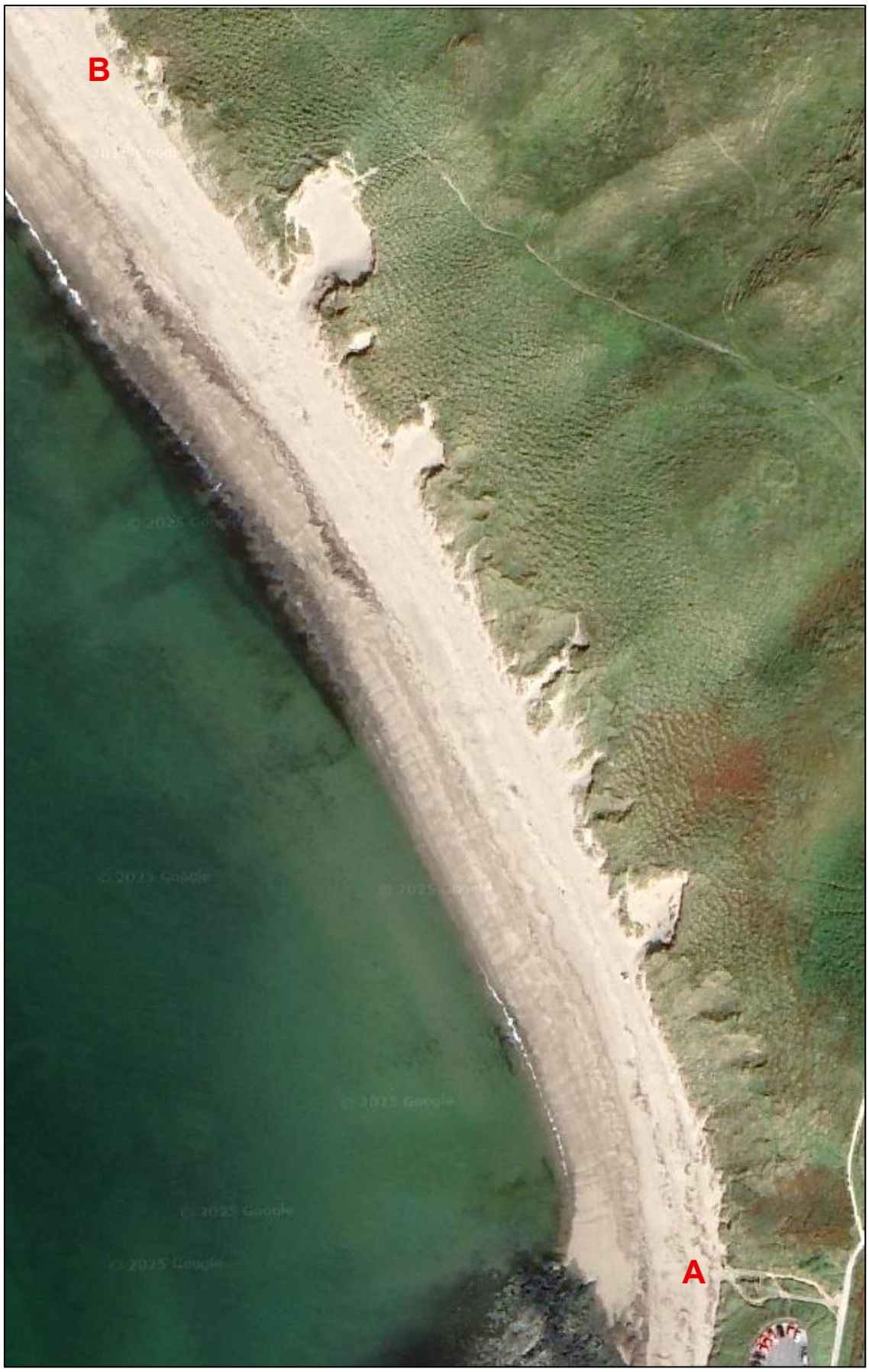


Plate 30. Blowouts and paths on the Burrow lands, image 1 of 4.

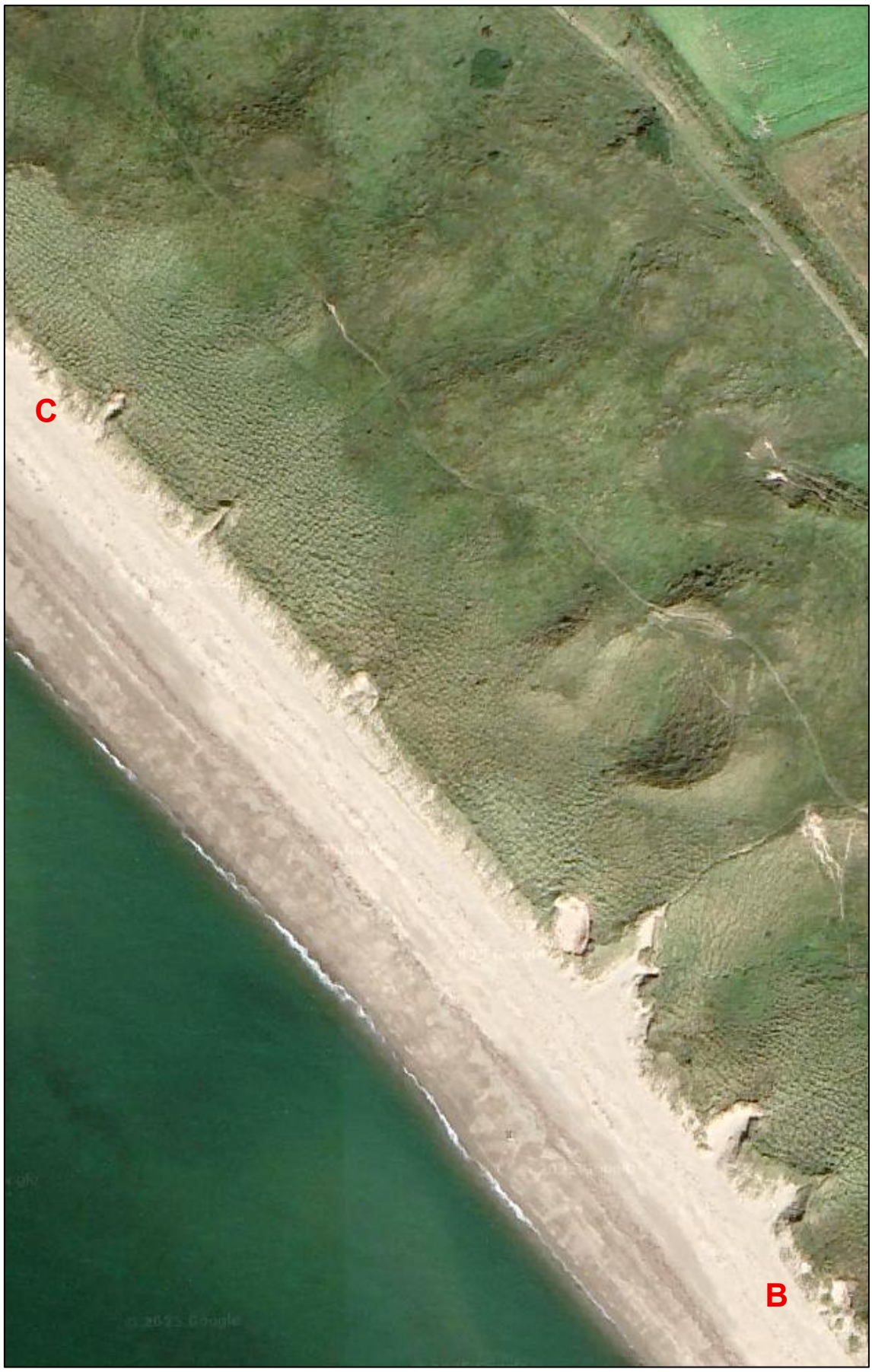


Plate 31. Blowouts and paths on the Burrow lands, image 2 of 4.

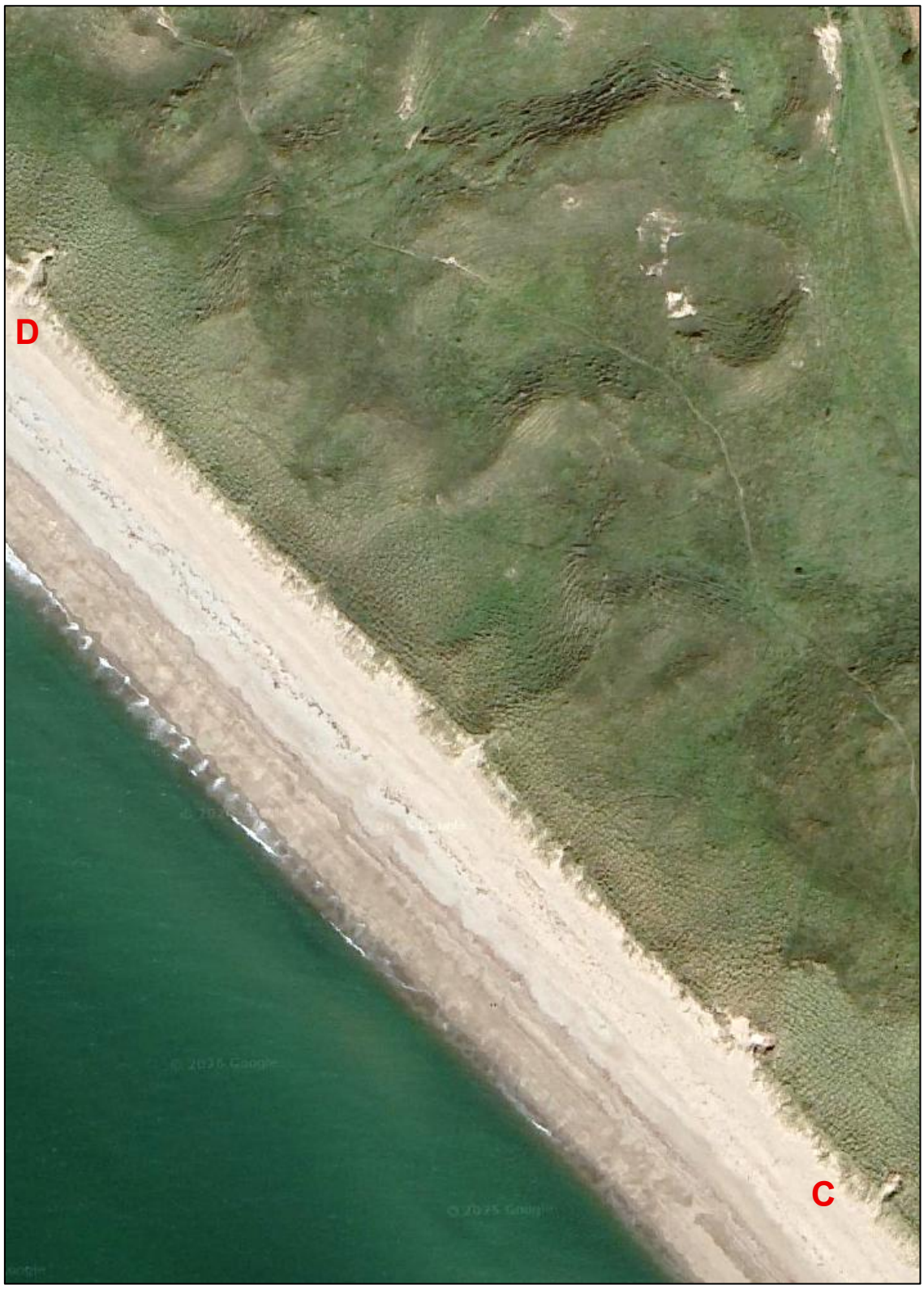


Plate 32. Blowouts and paths on the Burrow lands, image 3 of 4.

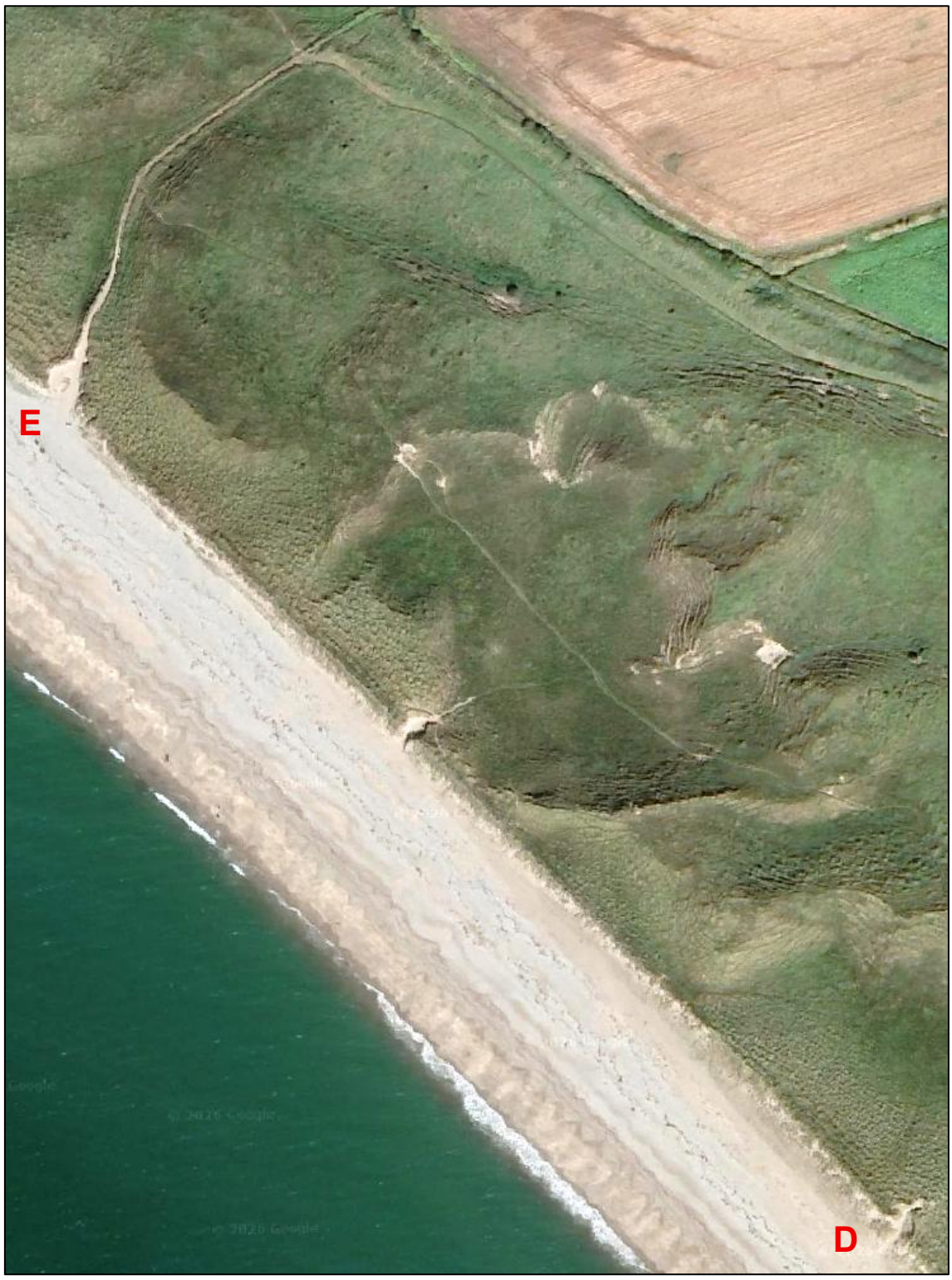


Plate 33. Blowouts and paths on the Burrow lands, image 4 of 4.

8. WATER QUALITY

8.1. Introduction

8.1.1. The outcomes the KQCDA expects from the LBAP include "*… a review of the water quality of the existing land drainage systems which extend throughout the area*."

8.1.2. The area surrounding the Burrow lands comprises the river sub-basin code name: BALLYTEIGE_BURROW_010, EU Code No: IE_SE_13B330460, with an area of 26.7km^2. The sub-basin extends east from Blackstone to Kilmore village and south from Bridgetown to Kilmore Quay (Figure 53).

Figure 53. The Ballyteige Burrow river sub-basin (edged pink).

(Source: https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/Water)

8.1.3. In addition to the extensive Office of Public Works drainage network (Figure 28, Figure 29 and Figure 30), three river waterbodies are featured within the Ballyteige Burrow sub-basin (Figure 53, blue lines). All of the water from the sub-basin drains to the Ballyteige Channels (Figure 53, green fill) and onwards to the Celtic Sea (Figure 53, blue fill).

8.1.4. 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' or 'Moderate', but the status of coastal water was rated 'High'. The Ballyteigue-Bannow (13) catchment showed no improvements in status during the five-year period (*ibid*., page 30). As indicated by their lagoonal communities, both the Ballyteige Channels and Lady's Island Lake were "*in poor ecological status*" (*ibid*., page 59, Table 4.1).

8.1.5. Lagoons are flagged as priority habitats for conservation. The South Wexford Coast is one of the most important areas in Ireland for lagoons as it supports three examples: the Ballyteige Channels, Tacumshin Lake and Lady's Island Lake (Figure 54). Together these three lagoons represent some 30% of the habitat type in the country.

Figure 54. Three lagoons on the South Wexford Coast (purple).

8.1.6. On the EPA five-point scale, water quality in the sea in the Ballyteige Burrow river sub-basin in the period 2019-2024 was rated 'HIGH', dropping rather sharply to 'MODERATE' in the Cull estuary, dropping to 'POOR' in the Ballyteige Channels, and 'POOR' in the three featured river water-bodies. No rating was given for the OPW drainage channels, but the implication is that they are all probably 'POOR'.

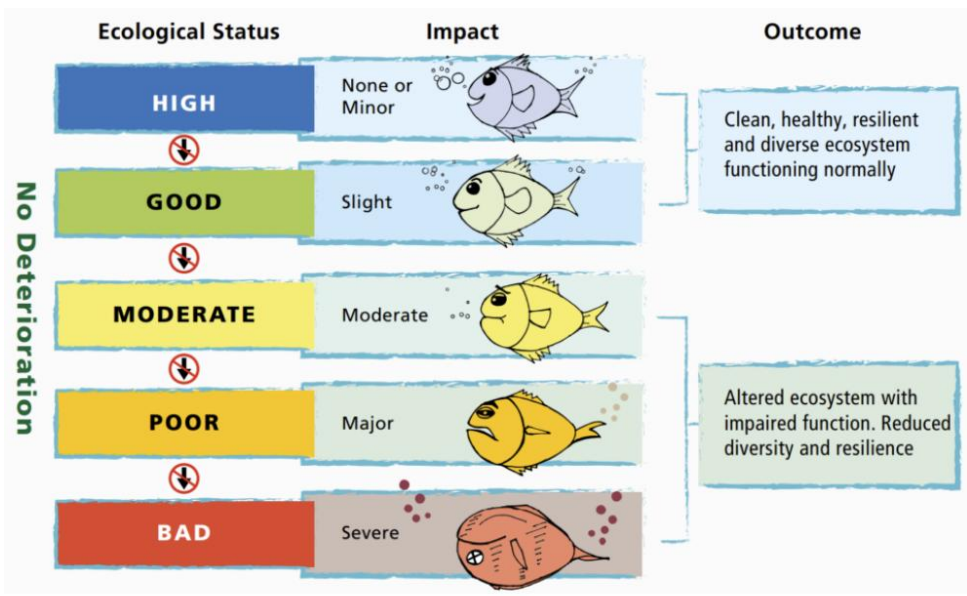


Figure 55. EPA five-point scale of water pollution.

(Source: https://www.epa.ie/environment-and-you/freshwater-and-marine/water-quality-and-agriculture/)

9. SWOT ANALYSIS

9.1. Introduction

9.1.1. This section identifies and analyses the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) of the Burrow lands for biodiversity.

9.2. Strengths

- National recognition. The government's National Parks and Wildlife Service rates the sand dune system at Ballyteige Burrow of national importance as it is "*recognised as one of the most impressive shingle-based dune systems in the country*", and is "*of major ecological value for its range of good quality coastal habitats … The dune system is of excellent quality, physically well developed and with a rich flora …"* (https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/synopsis/SY000696.pdf).
- Unique combination. Biologically and environmentally the area owes its natural heritage significance and its important plant and insect communities to its location in the south-eastern extremity of the island of Ireland — the "Sunny South East" — with its mild, maritime climate, exceptionally high number of days with bright sunshine, low level of rain days, abundance of sand, past history and present management.
- A relatively intact natural dune system of good quality supporting good examples of native wildlife with a low level of invasive alien species.
- A high level of environmental awareness locally and a strong desire among the local community to protect the resource.
- Excellent support from Wexford County Council, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, other agencies, and local environmental organisations.
- Published conservation objective to restore the favourable conservation condition of the habitats that the site supports (https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO000696.pdf).
- Legal protection on foot of national legislation, and local bye-laws.
- Active site management featuring a management regime that promotes practices such as controlled conservation grazing to maintain the vegetation.
- Excellent pedestrian access, the Kilmore Quay Ballyteige Burrow Looped Walking Trail (https://wexfordwalkingtrail.ie/Trails/kilmore-quay-ballyteige-burrow-trail/), and exciting potential for further development. The natural capital amenities, environmental services and supporting infrastructure that people enjoy are provided entirely free of charge and are widely used.
- The high level of commitment and voluntary input by the directors of the KQCDA and their supporters.
- The KQCDA engages very well with both the local community and statutory authorities and, consequently, is well placed to implement any actions it seeks to advance to promote biodiversity.

9.3. Weaknesses

- The small number (five) of Directors of the KQCDA relative to their very significant workload.
- The consequent slow rate of progress in advancing plans. The first Development Plan was produced in 2008 for implementation in the five-year period 2008-2013 implying a review and update in or around 2014. That review and update did not happen until 2026, twelve years later.
- Since the population of Kilmore Quay is small, and since the age profile is increasing, the pool of local people willing to be actively involved in KQCDA biodiversity projects is limited.

9.4. Opportunities

- The Burrow lands could contribute significantly to advancing biodiversity awareness, environmental sustainability, and nature conservation and are very well placed to do so.
- The Kilmore Quay area could have a greater impact in creating additional local leisure amenities and attractions for residents, visitors, and tourists thereby creating local employment opportunities.
- Voluntary groups with an environmental agenda are either emerging or are established and active in the area and are keen to be involved. There is a significant pool of younger people with energy, talent, ambition, vision and fresh ideas to be tapped into.

9.5. Threats

- Climate change impacts due to man-made global warming, particularly increased incidence of storms, sea level rise, coastal erosion, shoreline retreat, loss of habitat, and increasing flood risk are all significant concerns.
- Footfall from increased visitor numbers could adversely impact on the very amenities that the KQCDA is seeking to conserve and protect.
- Colonisation by invasive alien species with a potential to out-compete the native biodiversity.

10. PROPOSED ACTIONS

The table below (Table 5) sets out the suite of actions to be initiated and/or achieved during the plan period 2026-2031 to enhance biodiversity in the Burrow lands. Actions are arranged in order of priority and should all be addressed, and hopefully achieved, within the five-year plan period subject to the availability of funding and personnel. The thirteen proposed actions are considered SMART in that they are **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**chievable, **R**elevant, and **T**imebound.

No	Proposed action	Why?	How?
01	Continue the present regimes of promoting biodiversity, conservation grazing, development of the walking trail, etc.	To maintain the status quo as it is known to be effective and satisfactory.	As per existing practice.
02	Appoint a Biodiversity Officer	To have a dedicated person to drive the Biodiversity Action Plan forward	Advertise locally inviting a volunteer to accept the position.
03	Design a logo	To have uniform branding for KQCDA projects	Consider using the existing Stella Maris Centre logo. Otherwise, either design a bespoke logo or hold a local competition to get ideas specifically for the Burrow lands.
04	Address the threat of coastal erosion	To respond to accelerating rates of erosion	Laise with the appropriate authorities to devise a strategy and/or contingency plan.
05	Address the signage issue	To resolve the present clutter	Investigate the availability of both signage expertise, and low-maintenance, environmentally friendly, branded, biodiversity information signs for the areas of greatest tourist footfall, existing walking trails, areas of greatest impact, etc.
06	Network with other like-minded groups active in the area	To pool resources	Reach out to and interconnect with other groups to share information, resources, and/or personnel to get things done, e.g., the Kilmore Quay Conservation Group, the Tomhaggard Clean Coasts Group, Seashore Explore, Coastwatch, Wexford Sub-aqua Club, Wexford Naturalists' Field Club, etc.

07	Strengthen linkages with statutory bodies and others	To discuss areas of mutual interest and plans they may have to promote biodiversity in the project area	Consult with Wexford County Council, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the National Biodiversity Data Centre, the Wexford Walking Trails network, Sport Ireland, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Local Authorities Waters Programme, Fáilte Ireland, the Climate Action Regional Office, the Office of Public Works, environmental NGOs, etc.
08	Strengthen community engagement	To promote local biodiversity	Have a dedicated biodiversity social media page and/or newsletter. Visit local schools to give talks and encourage involvement. Engage with local people interested in biodiversity, school students, and local third level students following courses in natural science subjects to be involved in projects such as monitoring butterflies and bumblebees in the Burrow lands. Consider applying for grant funding including the NPWS Grants for Small Recording Projects for surveys, support for publications, updating of websites and support to purchase specialist survey equipment etc.
09	Encourage people in the project area to participate in citizen science initiatives	To promote local biodiversity, to encourage people to buy in to the project and to develop both a personal bond with, and a sense of ownership of, their natural heritage	Encourage people to become citizen scientists and to record biodiversity on the Burrow lands (https://records.biodiversityireland.ie/start-recording), record anything they find on the beach (https://exploreyourshore.ie/), participate in Coastwatch surveys (https://www.coastwatch.org/surveys), report sightings and strandings of whales and dolphins (https://iwdg.ie/), etc.
10	Commission a botanist to identify the locations of invasive alien plants in the Burrow lands	To encourage native plants	Identify the locations of invasive alien plants, remove them, and dispose of them appropriately.
11	Support the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan	To encourage insects	See https://pollinators.ie/.

12	Establish current levels of wildlife disturbance	To function as a baseline to inform future projects	Assess disturbance of wildlife, and negative impacts associated with visitor usage and tourism.
13	Each year, review progress on implementing this plan	To monitor progress and plan for the coming year	Annual report to the KQCDA AGM.

Table 5. Actions to enhance biodiversity in the Burrow lands.

11. CONCLUSIONS

11.1.1. The terms of reference for this plan were: *"The scope of the plan includes a review of the previous plan for the Burrow lands. The plan will consider and address the changes and challenges in the preservation of the diverse nature found on the lands. It is intended to review the exposure of the existing sand dune system to the changing climatic conditions. These form a natural defence barrier to coastal flooding and the current threats of rising sea levels and storm activities. Also, a review of the water quality of the existing land drainage systems which extend throughout the area. Consideration should be given to actions appropriate to the preservation, protection and promotion of the lands as well as opportunities to promote the significance of the lands with a range of educational activities."*

11.1.2. The four overarching themes considered and addressed in this plan are:-

- A **review and update** of the previous plan for the Burrow lands. The review includes an assessment of that has been achieved between 2008 and 2026. The update flags changes since 2008.
- The **changes and challenges** in the preservation of the diverse nature found on the land, especially the exposure of the existing sand dune system to the changing climatic conditions.
- **Water quality** of the existing land drainage systems which extend throughout the area.
- **Actions** appropriate to the preservation, protection and promotion of the land, and opportunities to promote the significance of the land with a range of educational activities.

11.1.3. Both the site description and the SWOT analysis evidence that the Burrow lands and their environs possess significant biological and environmental strengths and suggests that the project area could contribute significantly to advancing biodiversity awareness, environmental sustainability, and nature conservation.

11.1.4. The Kilmore Quay Community Development Association CLG (KQCDA) is a well-established, competent, and well-respected group with a proven track record in promoting biodiversity in its local area. With appropriate support, the KQCDA is well placed to advance this Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

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13. APPENDICES

13.1. Appendix 1. The Natura 2000 network

Natura 2000 is a network of areas designated to protect threatened species and habitats throughout the European Union (EU). It is the largest coordinated network of protected areas in the world, extending across all 27 EU member states, both on land and at sea. In 2023, there were 27,165 Natura 2000 sites, covering 18.6% of the European Union land area and 10.5% of its marine territory. The network is constantly being developed (Source: https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/_analysis/indicators/natura-2000-sites-designated-under).

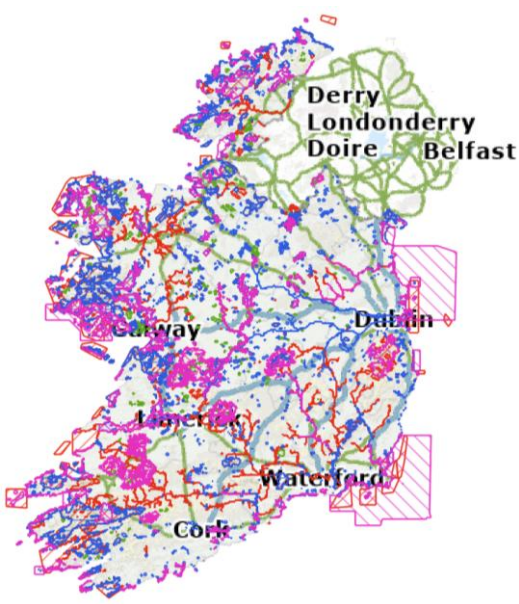
In 1979, the Birds Directive (as amended in 2009) established an EU-wide protection regime for all bird species naturally occurring in the EU. It included classification by member states of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for 194 particularly threatened bird species and for all migratory birds.

This approach was extended through the 1992 Habitats Directive, which also provided for the establishment of a representative system throughout the EU of legally protected habitats (places) and species other than birds. The areas are named Sites of Community Importance (SCI) and aim for the conservation of the 233 habitat types listed in Annex I of the Directive and the 900 plus species listed in Annex II. Member States identify SCIs and designate them as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs).

SPAs under the Birds Directive and SACs under the Habitats Directive together make up the Natura 2000 network.

The target of both directives, specifically set out within the Habitats Directive and echoed in the Birds Directive, is to ensure the long-term sustainability of the habitats and species they have been set up to protect.

Natura 2000 sites in Ireland



The requirement under the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive to designate Natura 2000 sites is transposed into national legislation by Part XAB, Section 177U of the *Planning and Development Act, 2000 S I No 30/2000* as amended, and Regulation 42 of the *European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011*. Natura 2000 sites are known in Irish legislation as 'European sites'.

Of the 27,031 Natura 2000 sites in the European Union, 604 are in the Republic of Ireland (IE) covering an area of 19,480km^2 or 13% of the country's land area (*Natura 2000 Barometer*, No 52, August 2022).

All 604 Natura 2000 sites found in Ireland are detailed on the website of the government's National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) at https://www.npws.ie/ with site descriptions, maps, aerial photographs, legislation, etc.

13.2. Appendix 2. NPWS Conservation Objectives.

Conservation Objectives for : Ballyteige Burrow SAC [000696]

2130 Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)

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

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession. For sub-site mapped: Ballyteige Burrow - 225.65ha. See map 8	Based on data from the Sand Dunes Monitoring Project (SDM) (Delaney et al., 2013). One sub-site was mapped, giving a total estimated area of 225.65ha. Ballyteige has one of the most significant areas of fixed dune habitat in the country. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes. See map 8 for known distribution	Based on data from Delaney et al. (2013). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: functionality and sediment supply	Presence/ absence of physical barriers	Maintain the natural circulation of sediment and organic matter, without any physical obstructions	Based on data from Delaney et al. (2013). Physical barriers can lead to fossilisation or over-stabilisation of dunes, as well as beach starvation resulting in increased rates of erosion. Ballyteige Burrow is a dynamic system that is strongly influenced by tidal currents. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain the range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession	Based on data from Delaney et al. (2013). At Ballyteige there are transitions between dune habitats as well as zonations to saltmarsh habitats. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: bare ground	Percentage cover	Bare ground should not exceed 10% of fixed dune habitat, subject to natural processes	Based on data from Gaynor (2008) and Delaney et al. (2013). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: sward height	Centimetres	Maintain structural variation within sward	Based on data from Gaynor (2008), Ryle et al. (2009) and Delaney et al. (2013). There is limited grazing at Ballyteige Burrow as part of the management regime within the Nature Reserve which maintains the dwarf grassland sward mosaic. In contrast, the land under private ownership is undergrazed and dominated by marram (*Ammophila arenaria*) with large patches of bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) present. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities	Percentage cover at a representative number of monitoring stops	Maintain range of sub-communities with typical species listed in Delaney et al. (2013)	Based on data from Gaynor (2008), Ryle et al. (2009) and Delaney et al. (2013). The presence of the Red Data Book species asparagus (*Asparagus officinalis* var. *prostratus*) is an indicator of local distinctiveness. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: negative indicator species	Percentage cover	Negative indicator species (including non-natives) to represent less than 5% cover	Based on data from Delaney et al. (2013). Negative indicators include non-native species, species indicative of changes in nutrient status and species not considered characteristic of the habitat. Sea-buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*) should be absent or effectively controlled. Large patches of bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) were recorded in the eastern section of Ballyteige Burrow. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: scrub/trees	Percentage cover	No more than 5% cover or under control	Based on data from Delaney et al. (2013). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details

Conservation Objectives for : Ballyteige Burrow SAC [000696]

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

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

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession. For sub-site mapped: Ballyteige Burrow - 8.11ha. See map 8	Habitat was mapped during the Sand Dunes Monitoring Project (SDM) (Delaney et al., 2013). Habitat mapped at one sub-site to give a total estimated area of 8.11ha. Habitat is very difficult to measure in view of its dynamic nature. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Habitat distribution	Occurrence	No decline, or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes. See map 8 for known distribution	Based on data from Delaney et al. (2013). This habitat occurs along the length of the beach at Ballyteige. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Physical structure: functionality and sediment supply	Presence/ absence of physical barriers	Maintain the natural circulation of sediment and organic matter, without any physical obstructions	Based on data from Delaney et al. (2013). Dunes are naturally dynamic systems that require continuous supply and circulation of sand. Marram grass (*Ammophila arenaria*) reproduces vegetatively and requires constant accretion of fresh sand to maintain active growth encouraging further accretion. The coastal spit at Ballyteige is dynamic and strongly influenced by tidal currents. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation structure: zonation	Occurrence	Maintain the range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession	Based on data from Gaynor (2008), Ryle et al. (2009) and Delaney et al.(2013). At Ballyteige there are transitions between dune habitats as well as excellent zonations to saltmarsh habitats. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: plant health of dune grasses	Percentage cover	More than 95% of marram grass (*Ammophila arenaria*) and/or lyme grass (*Leymus arenarius*) should be healthy (i.e. green plant parts above ground and flowering heads present)	Based on data from Delaney et al. (2013). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities	Percentage cover at a representative number of monitoring stops	Maintain the presence of species-poor communities dominated by marram grass (*Ammophila arenaria*) and/or lyme-grass (*Leymus arenarius*)	Based on data from Delaney et al. (2013). See coastal habitats supporting document for further details
Vegetation composition: negative indicator species	Percentage cover	Negative indicator species (including non-natives) to represent less than 5% cover	Based on data from Delaney et al. (2013). Negative indicators include non-native species; species indicative of changes in nutrient status and species not considered characteristic of the habitat. Sea-buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*) should be absent or effectively controlled. See coastal habitats supporting document for further details

(Source: NPWS, 2014a)

13.3. Appendix 3: List of consultees.

On 7 September 2026, the following stakeholders, local community groups, and interested parties were circularised with a copy of the draft local Biodiversity Action Plan for their information and for their comments and inputs, if desired. Comments were invited on or before 10 October 2026 and a reminder of the deadline was circulated on 5 October 2026.

- Kilmore Quay Community Development Association (John Grace, Mary Bates, Jim Moore, Catherine Langan, Paul Ryder and John Bates)
- Wexford County Council Biodiversity Officer and Climate Action Team (Claire Goodwin, Frank Burke, and Sandra Martin)
- Wexford County Council Environment Department (Abraham Dunne and Enda Brennan)
- Wexford County Council Planning Authority (Diarmuid Houston, Sonia Hunt, Colm Moriarty)
- Rosslare Municipal District (RMD office)
- The National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DAU, Ciara O'Mahoney, Aoife Delaney, Ciarán Foley, Hazel Doyle, Rory O'Hanlon, Tony Murray, and Jason Monaghan)
- The Office of Public Works (Noel Fitzpatrick)
- Wexford Walking Trails (WWT office)
- Sport Ireland (A Brennan).
- Sofrimar (Leslie Bates and Lorcan Barden)
- The River Basin Management Service (Ruth Hennessy, Hans van de Ven and Jennifer Cooney)
- BirdWatch Ireland (I-WeBS office)
- Dr Yvonne Byrne Rural Development Consultancy (Yvonne Byrne)
- BSBI, Vice-county Recorders (Paul Green and Paula O'Meara)
- Kilmore Quay Conservation Group (Aude Bates, Larry Bates and Patsi Bates)
- Tomhaggard Clean Coasts Group (Anne Marie Kirwan and Aodán Power)
- Seashore Explore (Thérèse Maddock)
- Coastwatch (Karin Dubsky and Mick Berry)
- Wexford Naturalists' Field Club (Mary Foley and Jonathan Derham)
- Kilmore GAA Club (Kevin McGeever)
- Kilmore United Football Club (online Contact Form)
- Kilmore Athletics Club (Mary Kehoe)

Feedback from consultation is outlined below (Appendix 4, paragraph 13.4).

13.4. Appendix 4: Some responses of consultees.

The following responses were received as a result of consultation regarding the draft local Biodiversity Action Plan for the Burrow lands. The ideas, suggestions, and recommendations made in these responses are gratefully acknowledged as they add to and improve the draft local Biodiversity Action Plan for the Burrow lands and have consequently been incorporated into the text at the appropriate places.

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