

Section 3b RURAL AREA

1.0 OVERVIEW

1.1 Introduction

The rural area of the Waterville Functional Area Local Area Plan, shown in Figure 1, is defined as all the rural area within the functional area boundary and outside the boundaries of the town, villages and the small villages/development nodes. The rural area, as defined in this plan, is functionally linked to the settlements.

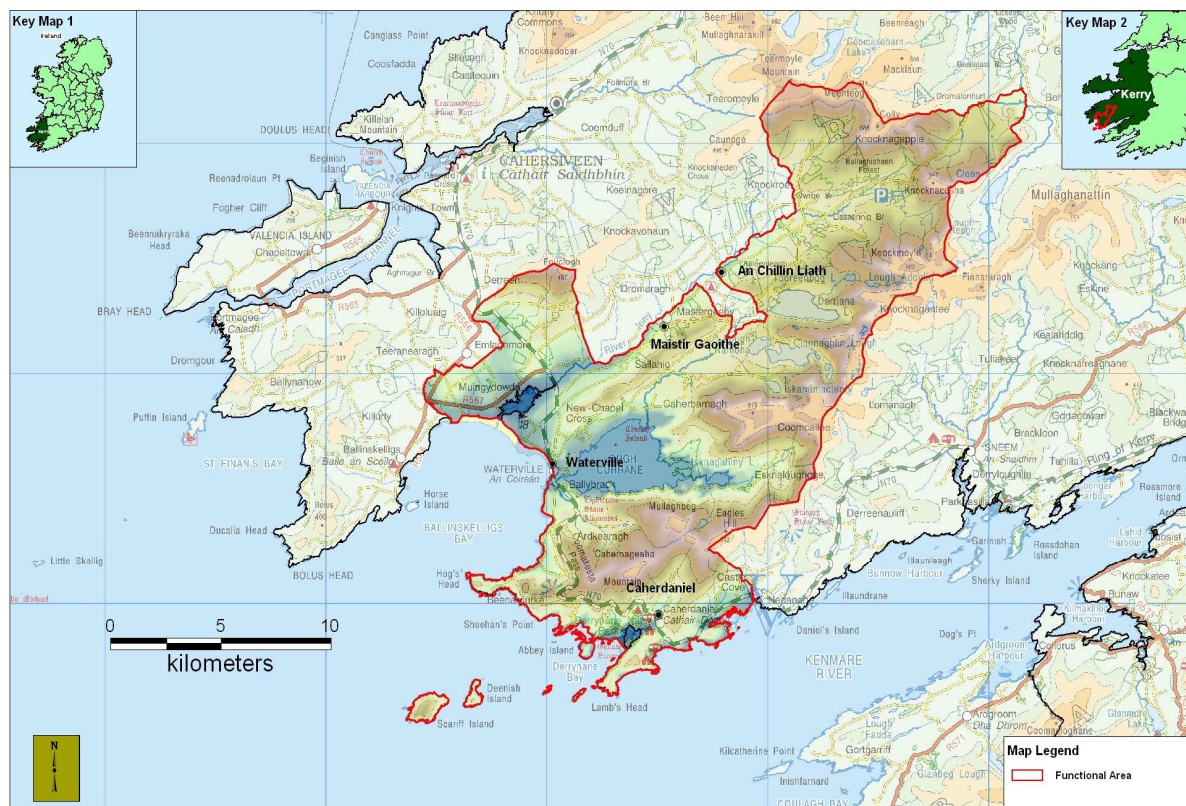


Figure 1: Waterville Functional Area

Those living in the rural area are largely dependant on the town and villages for services such as schools, services and employment. It is likely that a substantial proportion of people travel to larger towns such as Cahersiveen, Kenmare, Killarney and Killorglin for employment. Tourism and agriculture are strong in this area.

1.2 Purpose of Rural Area Plan

The functional area local area plan will;

- Look at rural area at a local level as opposed to the more strategic level of the County Development Plan.
- Identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats in the rural area.
- Gather information on the rural area.
- Identify protected structures in the rural areas.
- Identify objectives for the rural area that are not at the strategic County Development Plan level.

1.3 SWOT ANALYSIS FOR RURAL AREA

<i>Strengths</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A strong urban centre (Waterville Town) as a focal point
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Major tourist destination
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong cultural & linguistic heritage, Gaeltacht Uíbh Ráthaigh
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attractive and varied landscape/seascape with coastline, inlets, rivers, lakes, pastures and mountains
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong economic and social linkages between the rural area and urban settlements
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Villages have in the most part retained their character
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Area with some of the best scenery in the country
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On the Ring of Kerry tourist route
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Existing piers and outdoor pursuits e.g. bird watching, fishing, walking, hill and mountain climbing, marine leisure etc
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Renowned golf courses at Waterville
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blue Flag Beach at Derrynane
<i>Weaknesses</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peripheral location
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Difficulty in competing with the range of services and attractions on offer in Killorglin, Cahersiveen , Kenmare and Killarney
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reliance on tourism with seasonal nature
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited employment opportunities
<i>Opportunities</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conserve built heritage
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protect the natural environment and biodiversity
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase level of marine leisure activities, ecotourism and other niche markets in a sustainable manner.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote walking tours, hill and mountain climbing at a sustainable level.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote sustainable mari-culture
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greater use of the marine environment for sustainable leisure activities

<i>Threats</i>
• Over-development of rural area.
• Decrease in numbers speaking Irish
• Pollution of surface and groundwaters
• Loss in quality of landscape.
• Unemployment/emigration
• Loss of biodiversity
• External economic factors and competition from cheaper locations
• Affordability of transport fuel

1.4 Population

The population of the entire Functional Area in the 2006 Census was 2,173 persons and in 2011 it was 2,052. The population growth target indicates that the population of the entire plan area will grow by 160 persons between the years 2012 and 2018 to a total of 2,238.

	2002 census	2006 census	2011 census	2012 estimate	2018 target
Waterville Functional Area	2,101	2,173	2,052	2,078	2,238

Table 1; Population change and population target in the Waterville Functional Area 2002-2018

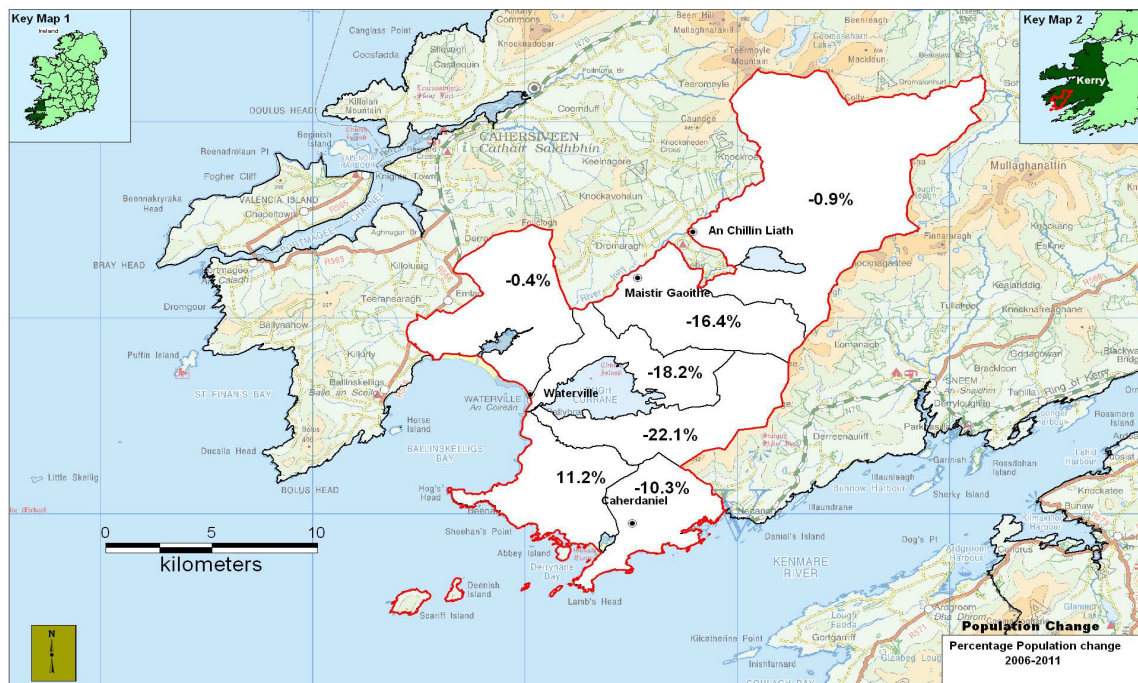


Figure 2: Population Change 2006-2011

1.5 Transport

The area is served by the N70, national secondary route (Ring of Kerry), the R567 regional road and a network of local roads. It is important that any development in the rural areas is acceptable in terms of traffic safety and does not impact negatively on the carrying capacity and general safety of public roads in accordance with Chapter 8 and section 13.9 of Chapter 13 in the Kerry County Development Plan 2009-2015.



Figure 3; Road Network in the Waterville Functional Area

1.6 Cyclepaths / Walkways

Marked paths and cycle routes are an important resource for attracting tourists and providing recreation for local residents. They can also open up potential for farm diversification into small-scale tourist services.

Numerous spectacular walking routes exist in the functional area. The Kerry Way (Slí Uíbh Rathach) walking trails also intersect through the plan area. The route splits in two just south of Maistir Gaoithe and encircles Lough Currane and rejoins at Waterville. These established walkways provide some of the most scenic views as well as isolated and dramatic countryside in the County. The Derrynane Mass Path is a 6km loop walk through the grounds and vicinity of Derrynane House.

Marked paths and cycle routes are an important resource for attracting tourists and providing recreation for local residents. They can also open up potential for farm diversification into small-scale tourist services.

However, in order to protect the underlying environmental attributes and resources in the area, upon which much of the tourist industry is based, it is important that due consideration is given to these when providing for new routes or intensifying use of less established routes

1.7 Water Supply

The area is served by public water mains, group water mains and private water supplies. It is imperative that groundwater is protected from polluting development. All development must have regard to the zones of influence for groundwater public water supplies and catchments for surface water public supplies.

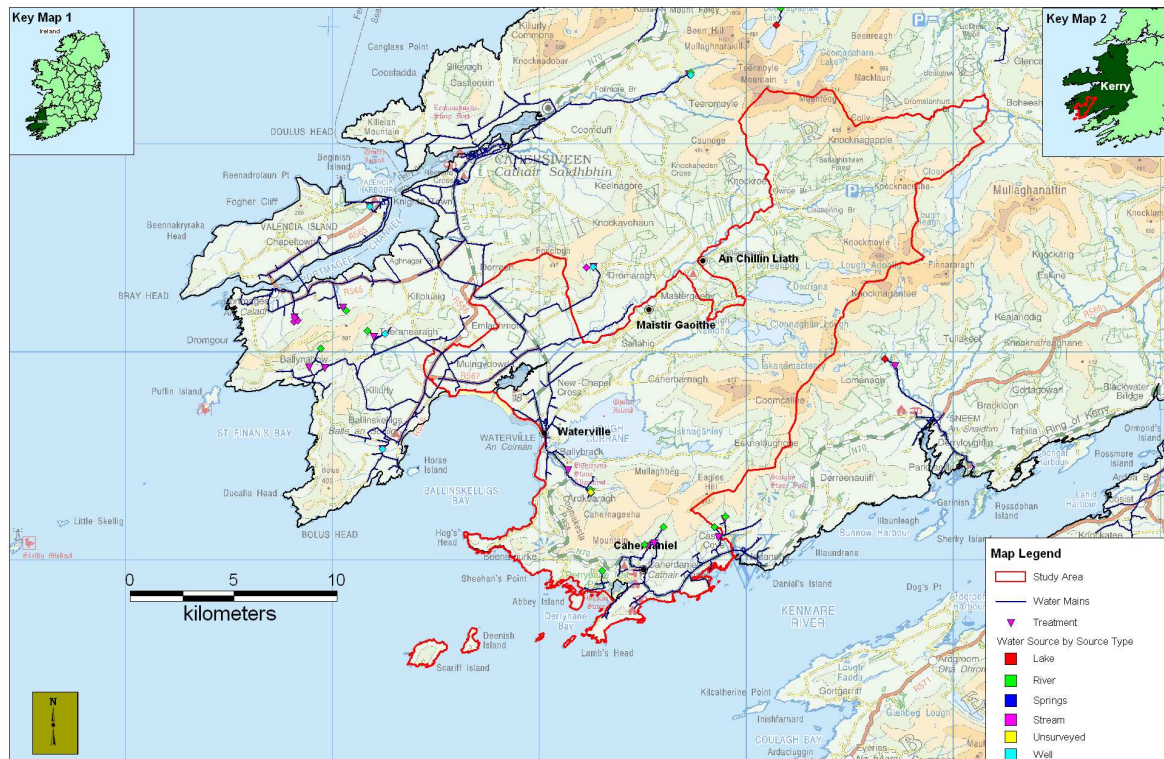


Figure 4: Water supply and source in the Waterville Functional Area

1.8 Wastewater Treatment

Developments in the rural area are served by individual septic tanks/treatment units based on an assessment of soil characteristics in accordance with the EPA's "*Code of practice- Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems serving Single House (p.e. ≤ 10)*" or any subsequent amendment or revision documents

1.9 Landscape

The study area located on the south western part of the Iveragh Peninsula is centered on the town of Waterville and delineated by the sea to the west and by a line of Mountain ranges to the south and east. Several different sub landscapes (Corine Data 2006) are notable here with the summits and upper slopes of the mountains and hills covered with peat bog/Moorland There are large areas of natural grassland/pastures and natural vegetation area in the lower areas and mountain foothills.

Ballinskelligs and Derrynane Bay comprises of a slightly varied topography and landscape than that of the remainder of the functional area. This area consists of sand dunes and marshes/lagoons.

The settlement patter in this function area is scattered on the lower topography around the main roads, services and smaller settlements.

Having regard to the spectacular landscape present here a number of views and prospects are designated in this functional area. These are illustrated in Figure 5 below.

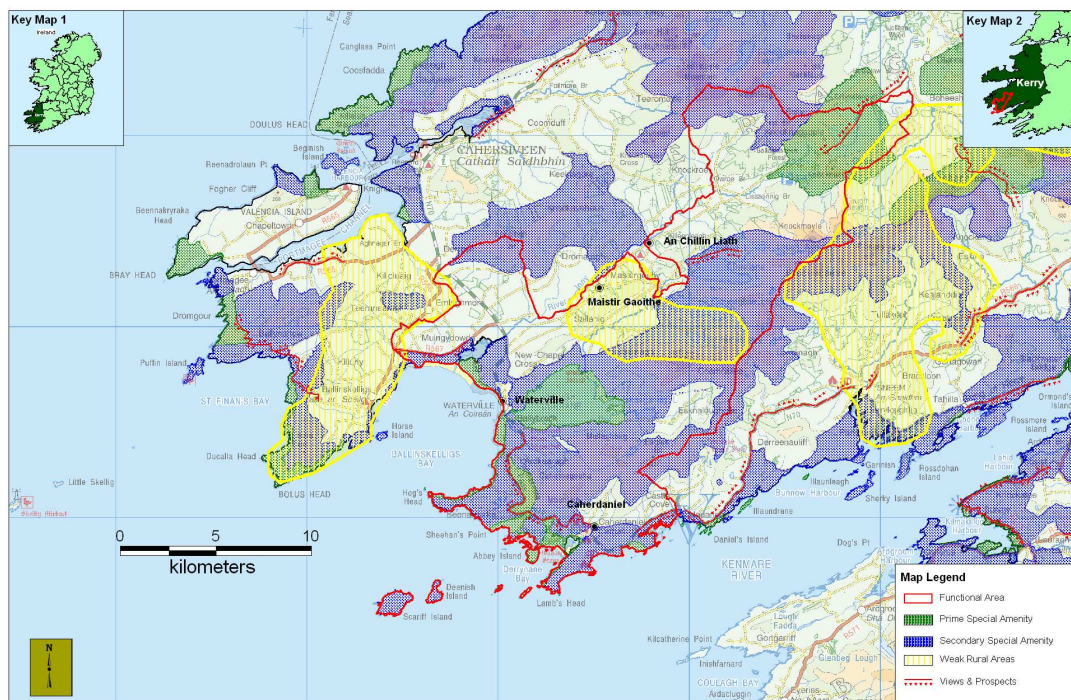


Figure 5: Views and Prospects and Special Amenity areas in the Rural area

1.10 Natural Environment

The Waterville functional area has a variety of spectacular physical features and biodiversity which combined produce some of the most intriguing natural environment in Ireland.

The extent of SPA (Special Protection Areas) and SAC (Special Areas of Conservation) areas are shown in Figures 6 & 7 and Map Ru-3 and are listed in Table 2. Natura 2000 site boundaries are subject to change refer to www.NPWS.ie for current boundaries.

Designation Type	Site Code	Site Name
SPA	004154	Iveragh Peninsula SPA
SPA	000335	Deenish Island & Scarriff Island
cSAC	004154	Ballinskelligs Bay & Inny Estuary
cSAC	000365	Killarney National Park, MacGillycuddy Reeks and Caragh River Catchment
cSAC	002158	Kenmare River

Table 2; SPA and SAC in the Rural Area

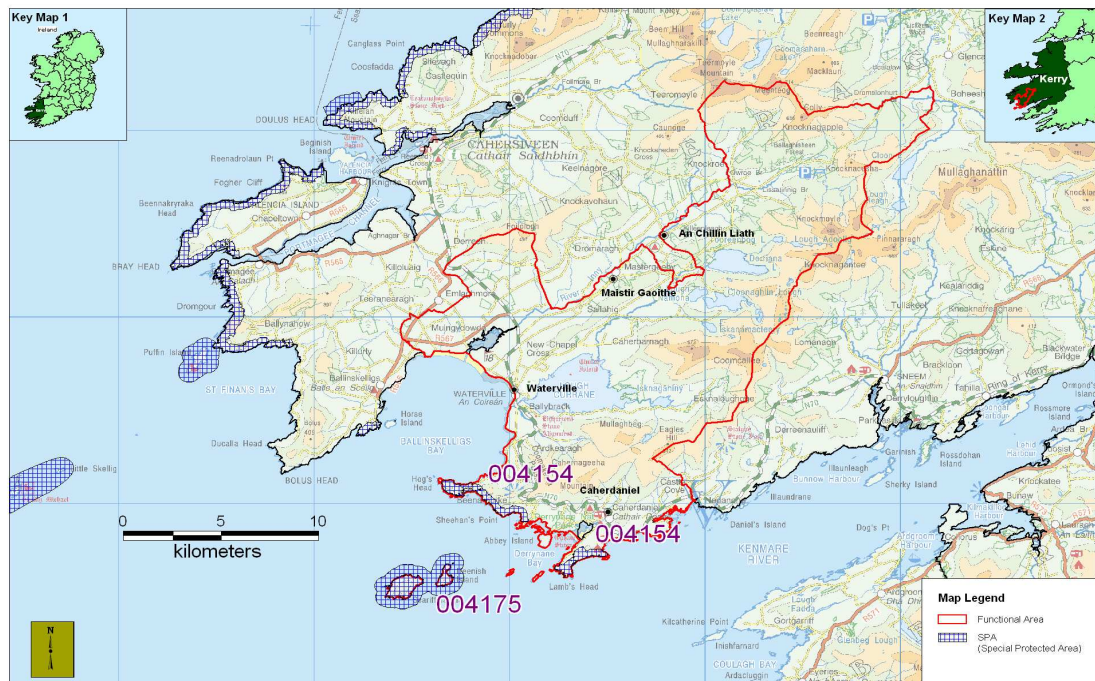


Figure 6: SPAs in the Rural Area

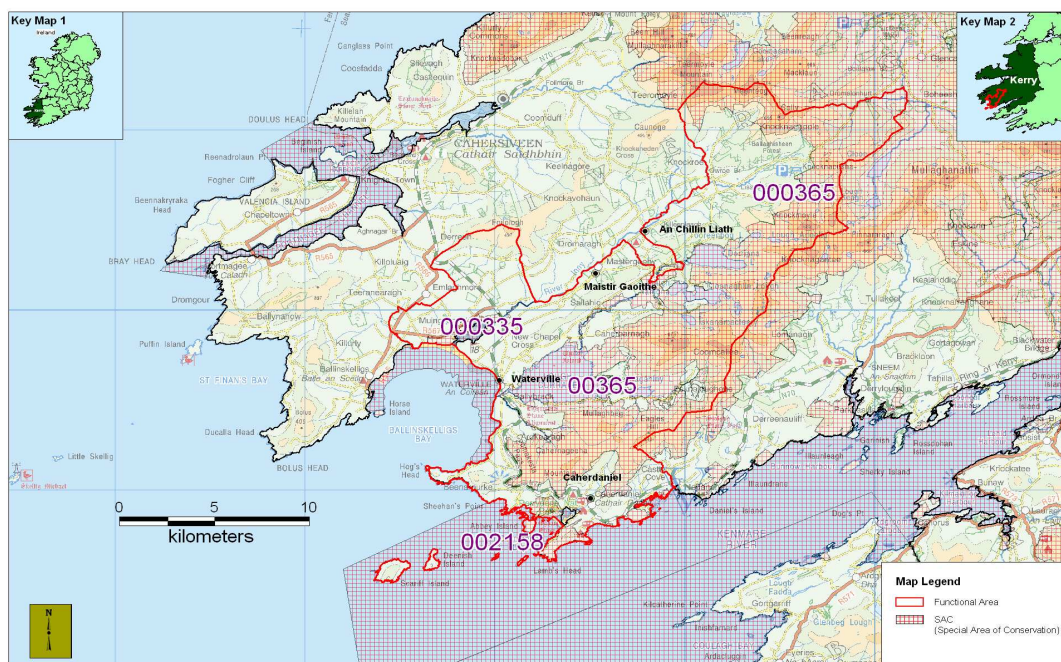


Figure 7: cSACs in the Rural Area

Designation Type	Site Code	Site Name
NHA	000366	Knockroe bog NHA

Table 3: NHA in the Rural Area

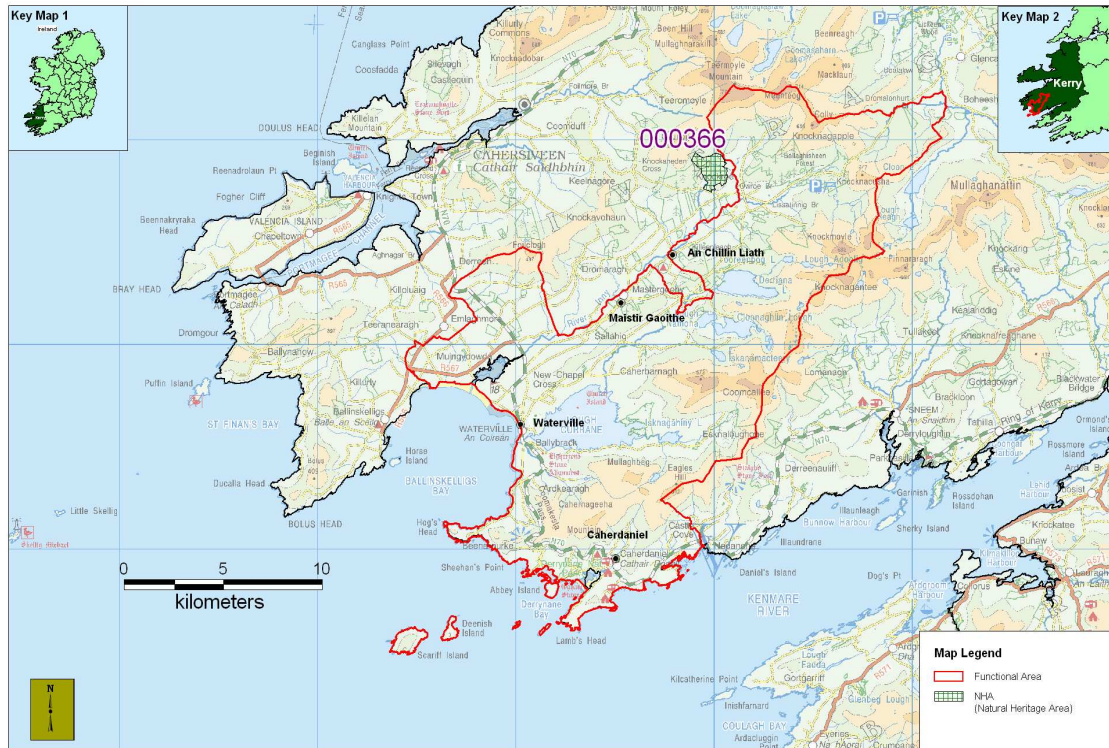


Figure 8: NHA in the Rural Area

There are a number of mature trees and woodlands in the area around Derrynane National Park which are important in terms of biodiversity and providing amenity areas to the public.

1.11 Amenity

The plan area has many fine beaches including Derrynane beach in the southern region of the plan area. This beach has a Blue Flag designation. The area contains Ballinskelligs Bay, Lough Currane and Derrynane Historic National Park and beach with one of the most attractive scenery and landscape on the south west coast of Ireland. Numerous coastal and mountain walks are dotted throughout the local landscape.

1.12 Tourism

Tourism is a significant industry in the Waterville Functional Area as it includes a large amount of attractive coastline and estuary, which contain features of historical, cultural and natural significance popular with visitors. This area attracts significant visitor numbers each year. Similarly, the Ring of Kerry provide internationally renowned attractions for day-trippers, long stay tourists, water-based activities and leisure breaks. Derrynane House and its associated National Park and adjacent beaches attract tourists to the area.

The attractive coastline and beaches in the area which have features of historical, cultural and natural significance also provide opportunities for shore angling, deep-sea fishing and walks. Lake Currane is renowned for the some of the best salmon and sea trout angling in Europe. Bird watching, whale, dolphin and shark spotting are becoming increasingly popular along the coast of the Iveragh Peninsula. Horse riding and other equestrian sports are popular in Caherdaniel and along the beaches.

There are a number of caravan/camping sites located in the Derrynane and Glanbegs area which are occupied on a seasonal basis. The Planning Authority will encourage the sustainable upgrading and the improvement of facilities in existing caravan parks in order to attract more tourists to the area and provide local employment.

The tourism industry relies on the quality and attractiveness of the built and natural heritage and the objectives in the Kerry County Development Plan 2009-15, that are directed towards the conservation of the built and natural environments must be respected not only for their own sake but because of their importance of these underlying resources to the local economy.

Efforts need to be made to lengthen the tourism season in this area and this could be achieved by further promoting ecotourism in the area. This is a form of tourism which appeals to the ecologically and socially conscious. Large numbers of waterbirds and waders overwinter within the plan area which could be used to attract tourists to the area in the off season. Similarly whale and sea eagle tours are possible during the winter months. When considering proposals for new tourism development, priority will be given to those that are encouraging longer visitor stays and add to the range of facilities available to people who live in the area all year round.

The area is also located in the Gaeltacht Uíbh Ráthaigh which is rich in traditional ways, folklore, writing, music, and historic and archaeological sites. The potential for a niche eco-tourism in the area is immense, but is not fully developed. Efforts need to be made to promote the use of the language as figures indicate that the overall numbers speaking Irish daily is at a critically low level.

1.13 Built Heritage

There are a number of existing protected structures in the rural area;

Reg no. 21308901 Mastergeehy School

Reg no. 21310601 Derrynane Abbey

Reg no. 21310602 Derrynane Abbey Lodge

Reg no. 21310603 Derrynane Abbey Summer House

Reg no. 21310605 Dwelling house ,West Cove

Reg no. 21310606 Former Coastguard Complex, Castlecove

It is proposed to add an additional structure to the list.

RPS KY 98-004 Ballybrack Cottage, Waterville

1.14 Archaeology

The archaeology of the Waterville area is representative of all periods from the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age transition to the medieval period. Wedge tombs are scattered throughout the area with a notable concentration at Coomatloukane while there is evidence for Early Bronze Age copper mining at Coad and Behaghane. The Inny valley has substantial numbers of Bronze Age ritual monuments such as standing stones, pairs and stone alignments, while the enigmatic alignment and enclosure at Eightercua is a National Monument. Early monastic enclosures such as Dromkeare and Kilpeacon attest to the ecclesiastical importance of the area while the island monastery on Church Island in Lough Currane, with its fine collection of cross slabs, is a National Monument.

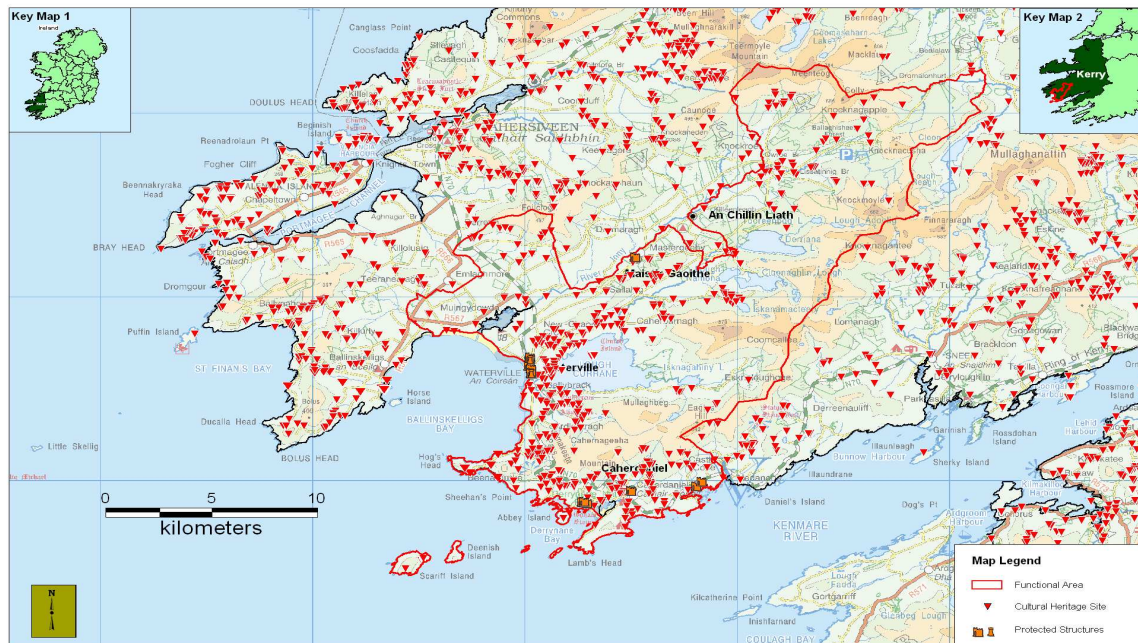


Figure 9: Archaeological monuments & protected structures

The Early Medieval secular settlement of the area is evidenced in the numbers of cashels (stone forts), particularly around Caherdaniel and Lough Currane, while the settlement complex at Beenbane and the fine fort at Loher are both National Monuments.

In general terms the Waterville Functional Area contains an archaeologically rich and diverse area of the county. There are approximately 410 monuments listed in the Record of Monuments & Places within the FAP area, including archaeological complexes comprising numerous individual monuments and features. The monuments range in date from the Late Neolithic to the Early Medieval period.

There are 6 National Monuments located here of which 4 are in state ownership, 1 is in state guardianship and 1 is subject to a preservation order. A further 3 monuments have been entered in the Register of Historic Monuments (Registration).

The National Monuments and Registered Monuments within the functional area are listed below in Tables 4 and 5, while particularly important landscapes with high densities of recorded monuments in two particular areas are outlined in the following pages. Finally general and specific archaeological objectives for the plan are suggested.

TOWNLAND	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	RMP	NM_No
Loher	Cashel	Ownership	KE106-015----	611
Darrynane Beg	Ogham Stone	Guardianship	KE106-013----	346
Cloghanecarhan	Ringfort & Ogham Stone	Ownership	KE089-011----	228
Beenbane	Complex	Ownership	KE098-108, 30, 34, 29	380/492
Church Island	Ecclesiastical Site	Ownership	KE098-039-	60
Eightercua	Alignment & Enclosure	Preservation	KE098 047	PO152

Table 4: National Monuments within Waterville Functional Area

Townland	Description	RMP No	Reg No
Caherdaniel	Cashel	Ke106 06302	1114
Dromkeare	Monastic Enclosure	Ke098 021	1161
Eightercua	Stone Alignment	Ke098 04702	1167

Table 5: Registered Monuments within the Waterville Functional Area

1.15 Flood Risk Management

Flood Risk Data for the functional area has been mapped on figure 10, using soil maps, recorded flood event locations and lands benefitting from OPW drainage schemes (available on www.floodmaps.ie). In addition the OPW have published draft preliminary flood Zone Maps for the County. Flood Risk Management in the area will be in accordance with the 2009 Government Guidelines on ‘The Planning System and Flood Risk Management’, the relevant development objectives of this plan and with Section 11.4 of the Kerry County Development Plan 2009-2015.

Figure 10 shows recorded flood locations and other potentially vulnerable areas. Kerry County Council has a policy to limit and manage the permitted runoff from all new developments, in order to protect river water quality and to avoid downstream flooding of the sewer network or river. Any large scale developments must incorporate Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) to restrict the discharge of stormwater from developments. Kerry County Council has a number of interim standards covering river quality protection, river regime protection and river and coastal flooding protection.

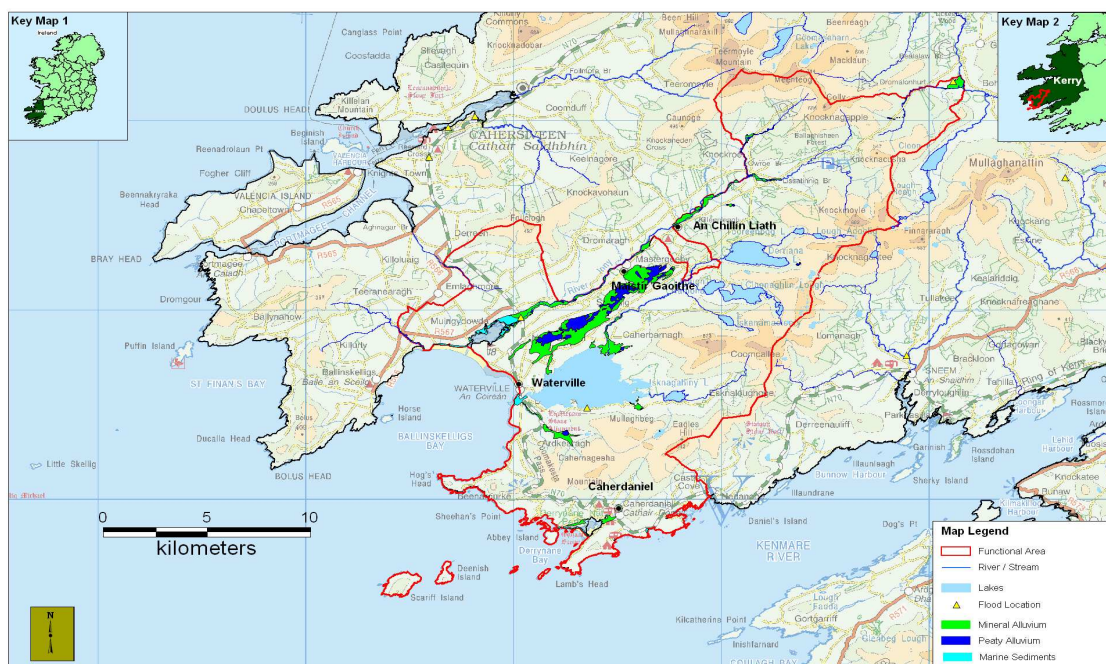


Figure 10: Flood Data in the Rural Area

1.16 Windfarms

Kerry County Council is preparing a Renewable Energy Strategy. The draft strategy is currently on public display. The adopted strategy will be incorporated into the County Development Plan

1.17 Piers / Harbours

There are a number of small piers and harbours located around the coast of the functional area. These piers are used for various purposes including fishing, tourism and leisure. These piers are maintained by Kerry County Council. It is the policy of Kerry County Council to maintain and repair these piers for public use and to support the sustainable development of the piers as potential economic generators for the area and support the maintenance of other facilities such as slipways and to protect them from inappropriate uses.

2.0 OVERALL OBJECTIVES

	It is an objective of the Council to:
Ru-1	Provide for balanced growth throughout the area by promoting the strengthening of rural communities and provide the infrastructure to facilitate job creation and diversification in these areas in a sustainable manner.
Ru-2	Ensure that development on un-serviced lands comply fully with the “Code of Practice; Waste water treatment and disposal systems serving single houses” and where necessary “Wastewater Treatment Manuals - Treatment Systems for Small Communities, Business, Leisure Centres and Hotels.
Ru-3	Ensure that all fish bearing watercourses within the plan area and their riparian zones including flood plains are protected from significant harmful development and from the effects of wastewater discharges.

3.0 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

	Archaeology Objectives It is an objective of the Council to:
Ru-A-1	Ensure the preservation of all archaeological monuments and features in the plan area as included or scheduled for inclusion in the Record of Monuments & Places’.
Ru-A-2	Any proposed development within the lands highlighted as representing the zone of archaeological potential around a monument listed in the Record of Monuments & Places (RMP) will be referred to the National Monuments Section, DoAH&G. Such developments will be the subject of archaeological impact assessment and may require further subsequent archaeological mitigation – buffer zones/exclusion zones, monitoring, pre-development archaeological testing, archaeological excavation and/or refusal of planning.

	Amenity & Tourism It is an objective of the Council to
Ru-AT-1	Encourage the development of walking routes within the plan area and associated car parking facilities at appropriate locations so as to facilitate sustainable outdoor recreational activities in the plan area.
Ru-AT-2	Encourage the improvement of sensitively designed tourist information boards and signage at appropriate locations.
Ru-AT-3	Protect and encourage the development of literary, musical, artistic, sporting and other cultural heritage initiatives.
Ru-AT-4	Facilitate the sustainable extension and diversification of tourist facilities
Ru- AT-5	Encourage the upgrading and the improvement of facilities in existing caravan parks in a sustainable manner.
Ru-AT-6	Protect the sand dunes / dune system in the plan area ,in particular Waterville and Caherdaniel area, and prohibit any development that would damage or lead to erosion of any dune system.
Ru-AT-7	Protect from inappropriate development the protected views and prospects in the plan area as identified in figure 5.

	Built Environment It is an objective of the Council to:
Ru B-1	Encourage the appropriate reuse and sensitive restoration of unused/derelict properties.

	Employment and Economic Activity It is an objective of the Council to :
Ru-EE-1	Facilitate sustainable diversification of the rural economy.
Ru-EE-2	Provide the infrastructure and support for the sustainable development and expansion of employment opportunities, including indigenous knowledge based industries.

APPENDIX 1

Proposed Protected Buildings

Unique identity number: RPS KY 98-004

Address: Ballybrack Cottage, Waterville

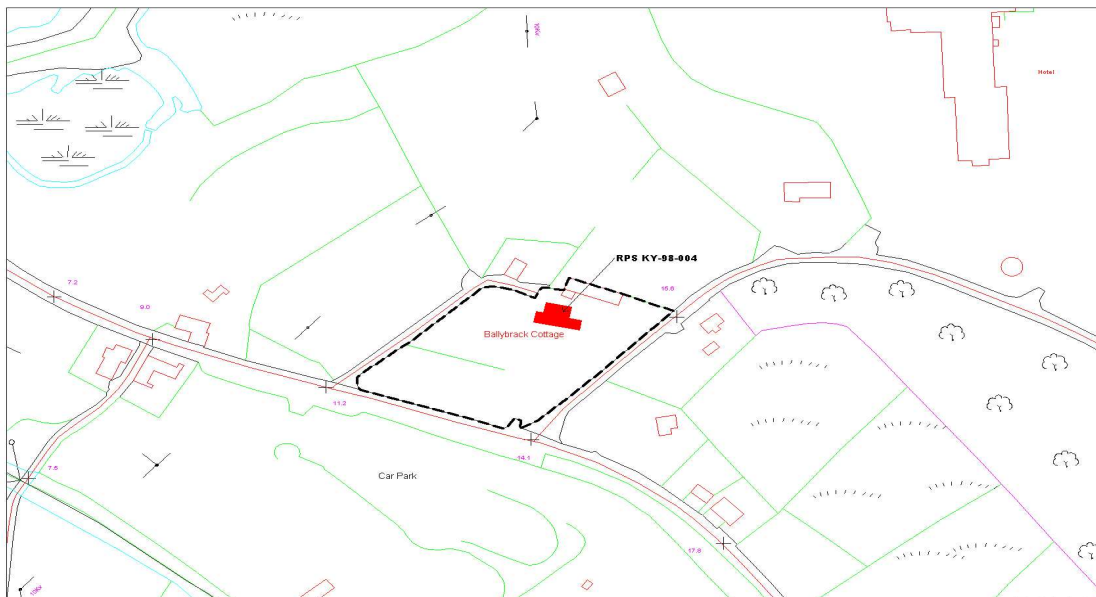
Description: T shaped detached one and a half storey, three bay dwelling house, with four equidistant prominent chimney stacks. Modern porch

Ordnance Survey Map: 6440D

National Grid co-ordinates: 50,623m, 65,179m

Site features: Garden area to front, outhouses to the rear of the building.

Special interest; Architectural



Location Map (not to scale)

Appraisal: Depicted in the 1st. edition OS map (1842) as a Post Office. A member of Daniel O Connell's extended family resided here for many decades. The symmetrical form and the proportions of the house add to its attractions. This building is an important element of the architectural history of the Waterville area.