

1. In order to protect planning applicants and in an effort to achieve a high quality service, Kilkenny County Council has compiled a list of Site Suitability Assessors. This is a list of persons working in the Kilkenny area and having completed specific training in Site Suitability Assessment. All site characterisation tests must be carried out by a qualified and competent person.
 2. To be included on the list, assessors had to demonstrate their understanding of the EPA Site Assessment procedures by passing the FÁS course in “Site Suitability Assessment for onsite Wastewater Management”. This course is now provided by the Local Authority Services National Training Group. In addition site assessors must have professional liability indemnity cover of €1 million.
- Contact details for persons on this list are available on the Planning home page.
3. The list is provided to assist planning applicants. Applicants are advised however that the site assessors are employed directly by them and that Kilkenny County Council cannot take any responsibility for the quality of the reports produced.
 4. ... in accordance with the provisions of the EPA’s Code of Practice: Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (p.e. ≤ 10) also referred to as the EPA’s Code of Practice or EPA, 2009. This certificate must be submitted...
 5. ... required to meet the separation distances as set out in the EPA’s Code of Practice and the Groundwater Protection Scheme. These standards...
 6. Table 6.1 of the EPA’s Code of Practice below, sets out the required minimum separation distances. The minimum distance to a well varies from 15 to 60 m depending on site conditions and whether the well is up or down-gradient.

TABLE 6.1. MINIMUM SEPARATION DISTANCES IN METRES.

	Septic tank, intermittent filters, packaged systems, percolation area, polishing filters (m)
Wells¹	–
Surface water soakaway²	5
Watercourse/stream³	10
Open drain	10
Heritage features, NHA/SAC³	–
Lake or foreshore	50
Any dwelling house	7 septic tank 10 percolation area
Site boundary	3
Trees⁴	3
Road	4
Slope break/cuts	4

¹See Annex B: *Groundwater Protection Response*.

²The soakaway for surface water drainage should be located down gradient of the percolation area or polishing filter and also ensure that this distance is maintained from neighbouring storm water disposal areas or soakaways.

³The distances required are dependent on the importance of the feature. Therefore, advice should be sought from the local authority environment and planning sections (conservation officer and heritage officer) and/or from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG), specifically the Archive Unit of the National Monuments Section and the National Parks and Wildlife Service. If considering discharging to a watercourse that drains to an NHA/SAC the relevant legislation is Article 63 of the Habitats Directive. (NHA, National Heritage Area; SAC, Special area of Conservation.)

⁴Tree roots may lead to the generation of preferential flow paths. The canopy spread indicates potential root coverage.

7. ... All Site Characterisation tests (percolation tests, trial hole test, etc...) must be carried out by a suitably qualified and competent Site Assessor. A list of qualified site assessors working in Kilkenny is available on the Planning Section home page...

8. There are essentially three types: a trial hole, a percolation T test hole and a percolation P test hole.
The trial hole is larger of the three. The exact dimensions will vary but it should be excavated to a depth of at least 1.2 m below the invert of the lowest percolation trench. The trial hole is used to determine the water table level, depth to bedrock and to facilitate examination of the soil / subsoil.
The percolation T test is carried out at the depth of the invert of the percolation pipe and the holes are 300mm x 300mm x 400mm deep. The percolation P test holes are similar except the test is undertaken at the ground surface. There are a minimum of 3 holes per percolation tests and these tests are used to determine the percolation characteristics of the soil and subsoil.

9. The planning authority considers that the an interval in excess of 3 years would make it probably that additional testing will be required to verify the data submitted and the applicant should...

10. Kilkenny County Council recommends that Site Suitability Assessments are undertaken by competent and qualified persons. A list of persons working in the area and having completed the FETAC training course on the Site Suitability Assessments for On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems has been compiled by the Planning Department. If you have completed the course and wish your name to be included on the list please send a copy of your qualification certificate and a completed application form to:

**Senior Executive Officer
Planning Section
(marked Site Suitability Application)
Kilkenny County Council
County Hall
John Street
Kilkenny**