

PART 5:

Strategic Environmental Assessment

&

Appropriate Assessment

Part 5 Strategic Environmental Assessment & Appropriate Assessment

A3	Submission from the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment	
	Submission	CE Response
	Geological Survey Ireland, a division of Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, is the national earth science agency and has datasets on Bedrock Geology, Quaternary Geology, Geological Heritage Sites, Mineral deposits, Groundwater Resources and the Irish Seabed. These comprise maps, reports and extensive databases that include mineral occurrences, bedrock/mineral exploration groundwater/site investigation boreholes, karst features, wells and springs. Please see our website for data availability and we recommend using these various data sets, when undergoing the planning and scoping processes. Geological Survey Ireland should be referenced to as such and should any data or geological maps be used, they should be attributed correctly to Geological Survey Ireland.	Noted
	These are Geological Survey Ireland's comments on Wicklow's current County Development Plan 2016-2022: Heritage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County Geological Heritage Audit for Co. Wicklow was completed in 2014 and full details of the report can be found here. • All of the County Geological Sites listed in the County Audit should be included as part of the new County Development Plan 2021-2027. 	County Geological Sites have been considered in the preparation of this report and will be considered throughout the SEA process.
	Climate Change, Flooding, Coastal Zone Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We encourage the use of our landslide susceptibility mapping data on our Map Viewer, as well as keeping up-to-date with our on-going geohazard mapping programme. • Our Map Viewer is updated with our latest datasets and we suggest using these data in reports. A new 'Flood Risk Map' will be added to our online data sets, the result of a collaborative project between Geological Survey Ireland and the Environmental Protection Agency. • We recommend using Groundwater Flooding and Karst data from our Map Viewer where appropriate. • With climate change being an on-going process, our 'Coastal Vulnerability Index Mapping' data on our Map Viewer may be a useful tool with future planning and scoping requests. 	These sources of information will be considered by the SEA. The issues they relate to are included under relevant topics in the SEA Scoping Report.
	Natural Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We would like to draw your attention to our 'Active Quarries', 'Mineral Localities' and 'Aggregate 	This source of information will be considered by the SEA where appropriate.

	<p>Potential' layers on our Map Viewer. These can be used to promote sustainable development and reduce the carbon footprint of buildings by using local stone to build. We will be happy to assist in any way with advice on the sourcing of local building materials.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minerals are needed for the production of renewable energy resources; using local minerals further promotes sustainable development as the carbon footprint of sourcing materials may be reduced. Data, maps, interpretations and advice on matters related to minerals, their use and their development can be found in our Minerals section of the website. 	
	<p>Government of Ireland Climate Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We recommend that geothermal potential is referenced in the County Development Plan. Ireland has widespread shallow geothermal resources for small and medium-scale heating applications for both domestic and commercial use. Ireland also has recognised potential for deep geothermal resources. Geological Survey Ireland currently supports and funds research into this national energy resource, so we recommend keeping up to date with our data. For more information on Geological Survey Ireland's involvement in the Climate Action Plan and geothermal potential, click here and here respectively. 	<p>Noted. This information and recommendations will be considered throughout the SEA process.</p>

A7	Submission from the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly	
	Submission Summary	CE Response
	<p>The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly notes the publication of the Issues Booklet to inform the preparation of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2021-2027 and sets out hereunder observations on behalf of the Assembly. The submission has been reviewed by the executive and approved by the members of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly at the meeting of 13th December 2019.</p>	<p>Noted. The Plan will be set within the context of the strategic framework of and guided by the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region. The Plan will consist of a written statement and accompanying maps including a Core Strategy, Policies and Objectives in order to contribute towards balanced and sustainable growth in County Wicklow over the Plan period and beyond.</p>
	<p>Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) The Council will be aware of the finalisation of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region which was made on 28th June 2019. In line with the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the Planning Authority shall ensure, when making the County Development Plan, that it is consistent with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region, thus ensuring full alignment between local, regional and national planning policy. In this regard, the Assembly welcomes the publication of the Issues Booklet in preparation of the new Wicklow County Development Plan.</p>	
	<p>Legislative Context As required by Section 11(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the Regional Assembly received notice from the Council on November 5th 2019, of its intention to review its existing County Development Plan and to prepare a new County Development Plan for its area. Under Section 27A of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as inserted by Section 17 of the Planning and Development Act, 2010) the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly, is obliged to prepare submissions / observations to be submitted to the relevant Planning Authority and copied to the Office of the Planning Regulator. The submission of the Regional Assembly shall include, but shall not be limited to, recommendations regarding a number of matters including, policies or objectives of the Government in relation to national and regional population targets and the best distribution of residential development and related employment development with a view to promoting consistency with the RSES and assisting in drafting the Core Strategy; promoting regional development through maximising the potential of the region; planning for the best use of land having regard to location, scale and density of new development to benefit from investment of public funds in transport infrastructure and public transport services; and collaboration between the Planning Authority and the Regional Assembly in respect of integrated planning for transport and land use,</p>	

	<p>and the promotion of sustainable transportation strategies in urban and rural areas, including the promotion of measures to reduce anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and address the necessity of adaptation to climate change.</p> <p>Accordingly, this report contains the opinion of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly in relation to the above matters along with recommendations as required under Section 27A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended.</p> <p>Ensuring Consistency with the RSES – Key Areas</p> <p>Notwithstanding the requirement of the Planning Authority to ensure, when making the County Development Plan, that the Plan in its entirety is consistent with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES), the following are key areas that the Assembly would like to bring attention to in order to inform the future Wicklow County Development Plan 2021-2027:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth Strategy of the RSES • Settlement Strategy 	
	<p>Issues Booklet</p> <p>The Regional Assembly welcomes the explicit recognition, contained as part of the Issues Booklet, of the policy hierarchy with which the Wicklow County Development Plan is required to be consistent with, including reference to the RSES and NPF. In addition, the broad areas outlined including the Core Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy, Climate Change, Flooding and Coastal Zone Management, Housing, Economic Development and Employment, Town and Village Centres and Retail, Tourism and Recreation, Heritage, Community Development, Transportation and Infrastructure, Town and Village Plans, and Environmental Assessments, are considered to provide a robust basis for scoping out and developing the overall strategy.</p> <p>This submission has detailed each of these sections below and consideration should be given to the following in order to ensure consistency with the RSES when formulating the County Development Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Vision • Core Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy • Climate Change, Flooding and Coastal Zone Management • Housing • Economic Development and Employment • Town and Village Centres and Retail 	<p>Noted. As part of the SEA scoping process, environmental authorities¹ specified under the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations (as amended), were notified that a submission or observation in relation to the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the SEA Environmental Report can be made to the Council.</p>

¹ The following authorities are being notified: Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht; Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment; Environmental Protection Agency; Wexford County Council; Carlow County Council; Kildare County Council; South Dublin County Council; and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism and Recreation • Heritage • Community Development • Transport & Infrastructure • Town and Village Plans • Environmental Assessment: The assembly acknowledge and welcome the statement as part of the Issues Booklet that the County Development Plan will be carried out in tandem with the required environmental processes, namely Strategic Environmental Assessment, Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. The Assembly recommend early engagement with the relevant bodies in this regard, including the Office of Public Works, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Environmental Protection Agency and Irish Water. • General <p>In formulating the County Development Plan, the Council are advised to give consideration to the style and legibility of the future Wicklow County Development Plan, in order to ensure that the information contained as part of the County Development Plan is as clear and accessible as possible for future users.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>The Regional Assembly welcome the publication of the Issues Booklet which marks the beginning of the alignment of planning policy at county and local levels with Regional and National Policy. The Assembly look forward to corresponding with the Council on the forthcoming stages of the County Development Plan process.</p> <p>It should also be noted that the officials of the Regional Assembly are available to discuss the matters raised above and will be available throughout the County Development Plan process.</p>	
--	--

A9	Submission from the Environmental Protection Agency	
	Submission	CE Response
	<p>The EPA is one of five statutory environmental authorities under the SEA Regulations. In our role as an SEA environmental authority, we focus on promoting the full and transparent integration of the findings of the Environmental Assessment into the Plan and advocating that the key environmental challenges for Ireland are addressed as relevant and appropriate to the plan. Our functions as an SEA environmental authority do not include approving or enforcing SEAs or plans.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
	<p>As a priority, we focus our efforts on reviewing and commenting on key sector plans. For land use plans at county and local level, we provide a 'self-service approach' via the attached guidance document 'SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans – EPA Recommendations and Resources'. This document is updated regularly and sets out our key recommendations for integrating environmental considerations into Local Authority land use plans. We recommend that you take this guidance document into account in preparing the Plan and SEA.</p>	<p>The 'SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans – EPA Recommendations and Resources' document have been considered in the preparation of this SEA Scoping Report and will be kept on file for reference throughout the SEA process.</p>
	<p>Critical service infrastructure In proposing and in implementing the Plan, you should ensure that the Plan is consistent with the need for proper planning and sustainable development. Adequate and appropriate critical service infrastructure should be in place, or required to be put in place, to service any development proposed and authorised during the lifetime of the Plan.</p>	<p>Noted. The SEA will ensure that the Plan is consistent with the need for proper planning and sustainable development and that it will provide for adequate and appropriate critical service infrastructure to service any development proposed and authorised during the lifetime of the Plan.</p>
	<p>Climate Action In preparing the Plan, you should take into account the need to align with national commitments on climate change mitigation and adaptation, including those set out in the new Climate Action Plan, as well as incorporating any relevant recommendations and measures in sectoral, regional and local climate adaptation and mitigation plans. The Agency recently published Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections for 2018-2040 (EPA, 2019) which should be taken into account in preparing the Plan, as appropriate and relevant.</p> <p>We have also published an update of our existing good practice guidance note on how to incorporate climatic factors into plans and programmes falling under the remit of the SEA Directive – Integrating Climatic Factors into the Strategic Environmental Assessment Process in Ireland (EPA, 2019). Key climate-related aspects to consider in the Plan and SEA, where relevant, include:</p>	<p>The SEA will seek to ensure that the Plan aligns with national commitments on climate change and adaptation, as well as relevant sectoral, regional and local adaptation plans.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Direct and indirect impacts of the Plan on greenhouse gas emissions and removals (Mitigation) - Direct and indirect impacts of climate change on the implementation of the Plan, e.g. the resilience of critical water service infrastructure to flooding and drought (Adaptation) - The linkages between mitigation and adaptation (inter-relationships). 	
<p>Coastal Zone Management</p> <p>The Plan should include specific coastal zone management objectives and should consider future climate scenarios in terms of predicted higher sea levels and periods of increased frequency of storm conditions and associated flooding. The Plan should ensure the protection of ecological buffers/marshlands/estuaries, in order that the effects of coastal squeeze on protected species/designated habitats can be managed appropriately where possible. The role which estuaries and marshes play in terms of flood alleviation could also be highlighted.</p>	<p>The SEA will seek to ensure that the Plan includes specific coastal zone management objectives and that it considers future climate scenarios in terms of predicted higher sea levels and periods of increased frequency of storm conditions and associated flooding. The SEA will also ensure that the Plan provides for the appropriate protection of ecological buffers, marshlands and estuaries.</p>
<p>Integration of transport & land-use planning</p> <p>The Plan should support the need for compact growth and better integration of transport and land-use planning, including walking and cycling infrastructure, public transport, park-and-ride facilities, etc.</p>	<p>The SEA will ensure that the Plan provides for robust measures to support the need for compact growth and better integration of transport and land-use planning, including walking and cycling infrastructure, public transport, park-and-ride facilities, etc.</p>
<p>Sustainable Development Goals</p> <p>Describing the links with the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) would help to frame the Plan (and SEA) within the context of the wider sustainable development agenda and ensure that the Plan is consistent with achieving the SDGs. Relevant targets and actions in Ireland’s SDG Implementation Plan (DCCAE, 2018) should be integrated as appropriate into the Plan.</p>	<p>The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and relevant targets and actions in Ireland’s SDG Implementation Plan (DCCAE, 2018) have been considered in the preparation of this SEA Scoping Report and will be kept on file for reference throughout the SEA process, as relevant and appropriate to the Plan.</p>
<p>Biodiversity</p> <p>Wicklow County Council should promote the need to protect non-designated aspects of biodiversity including ecological corridors / linkages / green infrastructure, areas of important local biodiversity, and to ensure appropriate control and management measures for invasive species. To help protect and/or to enhance biodiversity in the Plan area, there is merit in assessing and incorporating any relevant habitat mapping available.</p>	<p>Protection of non-designated aspects of biodiversity including ecological corridors / linkages / green infrastructure, areas of important local biodiversity, control and management of invasive alien species will also be considered in preparing the SEA.</p>
<p>State of the Environment Report – Ireland’s Environment 2016</p> <p>In preparing the Plan and SEA, the recommendations, key issues and challenges described within our most recent State of the Environment Report Ireland’s Environment – An Assessment 2016 (EPA, 2016) should be considered, as</p>	<p>The recommendations, key issues and challenges described within Ireland’s Environment will be considered in the preparation of the Plan.</p>

<p>relevant and appropriate to the Plan. We are currently preparing the next iteration of Ireland’s Environment for 2020, which should be taken into account upon its publication.</p>	
<p>Community Engagement One of the key messages from our last State of the Environment Report (EPA, 2016) is the importance and value of Community Engagement. In preparing the Plan and carrying out the SEA (including developing alternatives), the need to proactively engage local communities should be a core consideration.</p>	<p>The public (including the local community) have been provided with an opportunity to input into the preparation of the Draft Plan and will be provided with an opportunity to make a submission on the Draft Plan and associated environmental documents during public display.</p>
<p>Available Guidance & Resources Our website contains various SEA resources and guidance, including: - SEA process guidance and checklists - Inventory of spatial datasets relevant to SEA - topic specific SEA guidance (including ‘Developing and Assessing Alternatives in SEA’, ‘Integrating Climatic Factors into SEA’ and ‘Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment’) You can access these resources at: www.epa.ie/monitoringassessment/assessment/sea/</p>	<p>These resources and guidance have been considered in the preparation of this SEA Scoping Report and will be accessed, as relevant, for reference throughout the SEA process.</p>
<p>Environmental Sensitivity Mapping (ESM) Webtool The ESM Webtool is a new decision support tool to assist SEA and planning processes in Ireland. The tool brings together over 100 datasets and allows users to explore environmental considerations within a particular area and create plan-specific environmental sensitivity maps. These maps can help planners anticipate potential land-use conflicts and help identify suitable development locations, while also protecting the environment. The ESM Webtool is available at www.enviromap.ie.</p>	<p>The ESM Webtool has been considered in the preparation of this report and will be considered throughout the SEA process, where relevant.</p>
<p>EPA SEA WebGIS Tool Our SEA WebGIS Tool, available through the EDEN portal (https://gis.epa.ie/EIS_SEA/), allows public authorities to produce an indicative report on key aspects of the environment in a specific geographic area. It is intended to assist in SEA screening and scoping exercises.</p>	<p>Available online EPA resources, including mapping resources, have been considered in the preparation of this report and will be considered throughout the SEA and AA processes.</p>
<p>EPA WFD Application Our WFD Application provides a single point of access to water quality and catchment data from the national WFD monitoring programme. The Application is accessed through EDEN https://wfd.edenireland.ie/ and is available to public agencies. Publicly available data can be accessed via the Catchments.ie website.</p>	
<p>EPA AA GeoTool Our AA GeoTool application has been developed in partnership with the NPWS. It allows users to a select a location, specify a search area and gather available information for each European Site within the area. It is available at: http://www.epa.ie/terminalfour/AppropAssess/index.jsp</p>	

<p>Environmental Authorities</p> <p>Under the SEA Regulations, you should also consult with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government • Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, and the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, where it appears that the plan or programme, or modification of the plan or programme, might have significant effects on fisheries or the marine environment • where it appears that the plan or programme, or amendment to a plan or programme, might have significant effects in relation to the architectural or archaeological heritage or to nature conservation, the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, and • any adjoining planning authority whose area is contiguous to the area of a planning authority 	<p>Notice has also been given to relevant environmental authorities as part of the SEA scoping process.</p>
---	---

A9	Submission from the An Taisce	
	Submission Summary	CE Response
	<p>As populations continue to grow, both urban and rural areas are often faced with increasing pressures and problems. The new Wicklow County Development Plan (CDP) should represent a catalyst for positive change and facilitate the development of the county in a plan-led, sustainable manner. The CDP should strive to establish a coherent framework for the coordinated sustainable economic, social, cultural and environmental development of the county in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.</p> <p>An Taisce made overall recommendations for the new Wicklow CDP under the following headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Planning and Zoning; • Sustainable Land Use and Transport; • Addressing the Climate Emergency; • Green Infrastructure; • Economic, Employment and Retail Development; • Water; and • Natural, Cultural and Built Heritage. 	<p>Noted. The SEA will seek to ensure that the Plan aligns with national commitments on climate change and adaptation, as well as relevant sectoral, regional and local adaptation plans.</p> <p>In compliance with the legislation, the following environmental components, and any relevant interrelationships, will be considered by the SEA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity and flora and fauna; • Population and human health; • Soil; • Water; • Air and climatic factors; • Material assets; • Cultural heritage; and • Landscape. <p>These topics will be addressed as relevant in the description (mapped and textual) of the environmental baseline, in Strategic Environmental Objectives, indicators and targets and in the identification of likely significant environmental effects, if any, and in the updating of existing Plan provisions (arising from superseded legislation, guidelines, etc.) and the inclusion of new Plan provisions for environmental protection and sustainable development.</p>
	<p>STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT</p> <p>The preparation of a draft Development Plan requires Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) under the SEA Directive by Wicklow County Council. An Taisce highlights the following key articles:</p>	<p>As part of the SEA scoping process, environmental authorities² specified under the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations (as amended), were notified that a submission or</p>

² The following authorities are being notified: Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht; Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment; Environmental Protection Agency; Wexford County Council; Carlow County Council; Kildare County Council; South Dublin County Council; and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.

<p>Article 5 requires the preparation of an Environmental Report “in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated.”</p> <p>Article 6 provides for public consultation.</p> <p>Article 8 on “Decision Making” requires that “the environmental report prepared pursuant to Article 5, the opinions expressed pursuant to Article 6 and the results of any transboundary consultations entered into pursuant to Article 7 shall be taken into account during the preparation of the plan or programme and before its adoption or submission to the legislative procedure.”</p> <p>Article 9(1)(b) on “Information on the Decision” requires that “a statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental report prepared pursuant to Article 5, the opinions expressed pursuant to Article 6 and the results of consultations entered into pursuant to Article 7 have been taken into account in accordance with Article 8 and the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted in the light of other reasonable alternative dealt with.”</p> <p>Wicklow County Council has a legal obligation to ensure that the SEA process is robust, effective, and identifies all likely significant effects on the environment under the range of considerations set out in the Annexes to the SEA Directive. To ensure integration of environmental considerations into the plan, a general policy or land use zoning should not be maintained where likely significant effects on the environment are identified.</p>	<p>observation in relation to the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the SEA Environmental Report can be made to the Council.</p> <p>Taking into account the scope detailed in the SEA Scoping Report, environmental impacts will be predicted, evaluated and mitigated. The findings of the assessment will be presented in SEA Environmental Report that will accompany the Draft Plan on public display as part of the required statutory public consultation. The findings of both the AA and SFRA will be integrated into the SEA Environmental Report. AA and SFRA documents will also accompany the Draft Plan on public display. The SEA will follow elements of Integrated Biodiversity Assessment.</p> <p>When the Plan is adopted, the SEA, AA and SFRA documents will be finalised and an SEA Statement, which will include information on how environmental considerations were integrated into the Plan, will be prepared. The Plan will be implemented and environmental monitoring will be undertaken.</p>
<p>IMPLEMENTATION AND MONTIORING</p> <p>In the absence of rigorous application of policy, the divergence between policy and practice results in unsustainable, economically inefficient, structurally weak and spatially dispersed settlement patterns. Therefore, it is of paramount importance that the PA moves beyond policy objectives within the text of the CDP and towards robust targets, actions and measures to achieve the tangible implementation of the plan’s objectives and policies. The success or otherwise of the forthcoming CDP can only be judged against quantifiable and implementable criteria which are subject to ongoing monitoring. This will be fundamental in creating a low carbon, low energy, sustainable, and healthy society.</p> <p>An Taisce requests your consideration of the above comments and would welcome further opportunities to engage in the review of the Wicklow County Development Plan.</p>	<p>The SEA Environmental Report will include the indicators and targets to be used for monitoring the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan, if unmitigated. Sources are identified for all indicators, under the “Source(s)” column. Frequencies are identified for most sources, also under the “Source(s)” column.</p> <p>The SEA Environmental Report will identify that: “Monitoring can enable, at an early stage, the identification of unforeseen adverse effects and the undertaking of appropriate remedial action”.</p>

A16	Submission from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht	
	Submission Summary	CE Response
	<p>Nature Conservation Draft comments</p> <p>The Department refers to the notice given in accordance with Part II Section 11 (1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) that Wicklow County Council intends to review the Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022 and prepare a new County Development Plan for its functional area for the period 2021-2027. The process is currently at predraft stage 1. An Issues Paper has been prepared by the council to encourage dialogue on the key topics important to the County, as well as promote and support involvement at an early stage.</p> <p>The Department in its submission provided a number of observations under the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Natural Heritage Policies and Green Infrastructure Strategy • Integrated assessment Wicklow County Council is the competent authority in relation to the screening for Appropriate Assessment, and Appropriate Assessment, if required, of the draft Plan. The Appropriate Assessment process should take place in consultation with the teams working on the draft Plan, the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and the Flood Risk Assessment, as each process can help inform the other to ensure that the objectives and policies in the draft Plan will have no significant effects on the natural heritage. The SEA and draft plan should be guided by results of monitoring of the significant environmental effects of implementation of the previous development plan. Environmental assessment of the draft Plan should include the impacts of nitrogen deposition on Natura 2000 sites, particularly from road, bioenergy and agriculture plan objectives. Impacts of nitrogen deposition include acidification and eutrophication which leads to biodiversity loss. The Department advises that the AA screening report should include an assessment of the impacts of nitrogen deposition on Natura 2000 sites within the draft Plan's zone of influence. Consideration should also be given to monitoring nitrogen deposition in the SEA. Details of nitrogen deposition mapping and impacts on habitats are included in NPWS, 20195. • Green infrastructure network review 	<p>Noted. In compliance with available guidance at European and National levels, the AA will follow a standard source-pathway-receptor modelling process that considers, inter alia, the Qualifying Interests (QIs) and Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of European Sites. This process will be informed by the site-specific conservation objectives, where available. The AA will consider all sources of potential effects on the Qis and SCIs, including those potentially arising from nitrogen deposition.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenways • Maintenance of Roads within Wicklow Mountains National Park 	
	<p>Archaeology</p> <p>The number of recommendations to be taken into account during the Plan preparation and associated environmental assessments processes, were made under the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory Obligations of Local Authorities • The European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valetta, 1992) • Protecting the Archaeological Heritage as an Objective within the Wicklow County Development Plan • Specific Section/Chapter entitled 'Archaeological Heritage' as part of the Wicklow County Development Plan • Proposed wording of the section on archaeological heritage within the Wicklow Development Plan • Designation of remains, sites and areas of archaeological interest as part of the landscape character assessment model within the lifetime of the County Development Plan. • General information which should be placed in an appropriate location within the development plan. • The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) • Historic Towns and Town Defences • Underwater Archaeology • Monument or sites included in the Record of Monument and Places (RMP) located within the land holding of development proposals. • Specific Operational Development Control Section on 'Archaeological Heritage • Inclusion of Recorded Monuments on Maps 	<p>The SEA Environmental Report will include relevant information on the archaeological heritage of County Wicklow, including that relating to designations such as entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, as per Section 3 of the SEA Scoping Report.</p>

<p>C1 D12 D13 D15 D21 D31 D41 D87</p>	<p>PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS</p> <p>Submission Summary</p> <p>These submissions made a number of recommendations/observations in relation to a wide range of topics including biodiversity, nature conservation and environmental assessments.</p> <p>CE Response</p> <p>Various provisions including those related to biodiversity and nature conservation will be integrated into the Draft Plan and associated environmental assessments.</p> <p>In compliance with the SEA Directive and transposing Regulations, SEA Environmental Report that will accompany the Draft Plan on public display will include information on state of the environment in the County, including maps of individual environmental components, environmental sensitivity mapping and a description under the topics identified by the SEA Directive and transposing Regulations (i.e. biodiversity and flora and fauna, population and human health, soil, water, air and climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors).</p> <p>The SEA will consider available information on designated ecological sites and protected species, ecological connectivity (including stepping stones and corridors) and non-designated habitats. The SEA will also identify data sources which may be appropriate to local, project level development and assessments.</p> <p>Information to be considered by the SEA under this topic includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs); • Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs); • Nature Reserves; • National Parks; • Wildfowl Sanctuaries (see S.I. 192 of 1979); • Certain entries to the Water Framework Directive Register of Protected Areas; • Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchments; • Salmonid Waters; • Flora Protection Order sites; • Tree Preservation Orders; • Ecological connectivity and networks; • CORINE Landcover; • Special Amenity Area Order; • Watercourses, wetlands and peatlands data; and • Other sites of high biodiversity value or ecological importance. <p>The SEA will make use of available data sources including those from the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the EPA’s Framework National Ecological Network for Ireland and CORINE land cover mapping.</p> <p>The SEA will be informed by the findings of the AA and will follow elements of Integrated Biodiversity Assessment with reference made to the EPA’s 2013 Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment - Streamlining AA, SEA and EIA Processes: Practitioner’s Manual.</p>
---	---