



Administrative Officer
Forward Planning
Wicklow County Council
Station Road
Wicklow Town
County Wicklow

27 November 2019

Re: Review of Wicklow County Development Plan and preparation of new County Development Plan 2021-2027

Your Ref:

Our Ref: 19/249

A chara,

Thank you for your email received on 27 September 2019, concerning the review of the current Wicklow County Development Plan and the preparation of the new County Development Plan 2021-2027.

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.

These are Geological Survey Ireland's comments on Wicklow's current County Development Plan 2016-2022:

Heritage

- 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.

Climate Change, Flooding, Coastal Zone Management

- 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.

Natural Resources

- We would like to draw your attention to our 'Active Quarries', 'Mineral Localities' and 'Aggregate 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.



- 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.

Government of Ireland Climate Action Plan

- 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.

I hope that these comments are of assistance, and if we can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to contact me, or my colleague Clare Glanville (Clare.Glanville@gsi.ie).

Le meas,

Amrine Dubois Gafar
Geoheritage Programme