



Senior Executive Officer,
Planning Department,
Clare County Council,
New Road,
Ennis,
Co Clare.
V95 DXP2

28 March 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029

Further to the notice given to this Department of the preparation of the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029, the following submission outlines its observations in respect of a number of policy areas for which the Department is responsible.

Climate Action

The Department welcomes the manner in which Climate Action is addressed in the Draft Plan and, particularly, how for ease of reference it clearly sets out the Climate Action Objectives at Table 2.1. The reference to the Climate Action Plan 2021 is also welcomed and demonstrates that the Council is taking account of the most up to date policy positions on matters related to climate change. We would note, however, that additional references to specific actions and targets in the Climate Action Plan 2021 could be further incorporated across the Draft Plan in order to ensure greater consistency (some of which are referenced below). The focus on Climate Action throughout the Draft Plan is commended and this Department would welcome the opportunity for direct bilateral engagement on the proposed implementation of the objectives set out in the Draft Plan.



Renewable Energy – Wind and Solar

The Renewable Energy Strategy presented at Volume 5 of the Draft Plan is extremely comprehensive and sets out the Council's ambitions and objectives clearly in respect of a number of areas. It is the view of this Department that, in some specific areas, additional clarity or specificity would be beneficial:

- The strategy would benefit from a review to ensure consistency with the revised targets set out in the Climate Action Plan 2021 for up to 80% renewable energy (up to 8.2 GW of onshore wind, between 1.5 and 2.5 GW of solar and 5 GW of offshore wind - e.g. page 10 of the strategy refers to a 70% renewable energy target). Additional references to the spatial planning measures contained in the Climate Action Plan would also be welcomed. It is important that the spatial planning framework is fully supportive of the State's ambitions in this regard.
- Clarity around how the 550MW onshore wind capacity target will be met and whether adequate land is allocated to achieve same (noting that land has been allocated), having regard to project attrition and other factors, would be beneficial in ensuring that the overall ambition can be achieved. In this regard, while the strong progress of 153MW installed onshore wind capacity is noted, progress against the previous target should be clearly outlined and any shortfall should be factored into the new target (if it has not already been accounted for), given expected increases in overall energy consumption. An analysis of the reason why the previous target was not reached would also aid in establishing measures to ensure the new target is achieved, particularly as the national ambition is increasing. In this regard, it is also important that the capacity to deliver onshore wind isn't reduced further during the finalisation of the Plan.
- Clarity as to how the Strategy and the Wind Energy Strategy (at Volume 6) incorporates the requirements of the *"Interim Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Statutory Plans, Renewable Energy and Climate Change"* (DHLGH, 2017) would also be beneficial. Any further Material Amendments to the Draft Plan should also demonstrate compliance with these Guidelines where relevant.
- The Strategy sets out an overall solar target of 300MW out of a resource of some 11GW. In light of the increased ambition in the Climate Action Plan 2021, this Department would welcome further technical information on the methodology



employed in the sieve analysis to arrive at this figure and whether there is any capacity to revise this upwards. Furthermore, detail on the sieve analysis for calculation of the onshore wind energy target would also be welcomed.

- The clear support for Ireland's offshore wind ambitions is noted and this Department will engage further with local authorities on this particularly important aspect of the Country's renewable energy strategy. The Draft Plan's positive policy framework in respect of the land-side infrastructure for offshore wind is commended.

Officials from this Department can make themselves available to the Council during the finalisation of the Draft Plan and would welcome the opportunity to engage further on it.

District Heating Policy

The Department welcomes the local authority's intention to focus on district heating and its analysis of the feasibility of district heating for the county. The local authority's attention is drawn to the National Comprehensive Assessment of the potential for efficient heating and cooling in Ireland, which may further inform its analysis. The Climate Action Plan, 2021 contains the principal policy measures to be implemented in order to support the rollout of district heating and the local authority is invited to engage directly with the Department in relation to any queries about district heating policy. It is important that any policies related to district heating can accommodate any future or emerging policy framework.

Waste Policy & Resource Efficiency

In respect of waste and waste policies in the Draft Plan, the Waste Policy and Resource Efficiency Division recommends that the local authority consult directly with its Regional Waste Management Planning Office in the preparation of the final Plan to ensure a comprehensive approach to the finalisation of the policies contained therein.



Conclusion

The Department would be grateful if Clare County Council would take these matters under consideration in the preparation of the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023 – 2029.

Department officials can make themselves available for a discussion on any matters raised in this submission or any other matters within the remit of the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications relevant to the preparation of this plan.

Officials can provide support to the County Council in the following areas:

- Climate Action, Engagement and Adaptation
- The Circular Economy
- Energy Generation and Networks (including onshore and offshore renewables)
- Energy Use / Demand in the Built Environment
- Communications
- Environmental Policy and Governance
- Waste and Natural Resources

Please direct any requests for further consultation to planningadvisory@decc.gov.ie

Regards,

Corporate Support Unit

Department of Environment, Climate and Communications

Encl. Divisional observations from Geological Survey Ireland



Planning Department
Clare County Council
New Road
Ennis
Co Clare V95 DXP2

23 March 2022

Re: Preparation of Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029

Your Ref: n/a

Our Ref: 21/469 [c.f. 20/235]

Dear Sir/Madam,

Geological Survey Ireland is the national earth science agency and is a division of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. We provide independent geological information and advice and gather various data for that purpose. Please see our [website](#) for data availability. We recommend using these various data sets, when conducting the EIAR, SEA, planning and scoping processes. Use of our data or maps should be attributed correctly to 'Geological Survey Ireland'.

With reference to your email received on the 14 December 2021, concerning the Preparation of Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029, Geological Survey Ireland would like to acknowledge our previous submission, (20/235), in relation to the new draft CDP, and have the following additional comments to make.

Geoheritage

We are pleased to see the 45 Co Clare County Geological Sites (CGSs), and their description summaries listed in Appendix 3 'Natural Heritage Sites' in the draft CDP and in map form in Figure 5.8.4 'Geological Heritage Sites' of the draft SEA Environmental Report. In Chapter 15 'Biodiversity, Natural Heritage and Green Infrastructure', Section 15.2.5 'County Geological Sites', we welcome the inclusion of Geological Heritage Sites as a specific development plan objective CDP15.6:

Development Plan Objective: County Geological Sites	
CDP15.6	It is an objective of the Development Plan: a) To recognise the importance of Geological Heritage Sites and to conserve, manage and where possible to enhance the character and integrity of these sites and to promote increased understanding and awareness of the natural heritage of the County; and b) To promote and facilitate the development of geo-tourism in County Clare in accordance with Development Plan Objectives CDP15.3 and CDP15.4.

In the draft SEA Report, Section 5.8.8 'Issues and Threats in the Plan Area', we note that "...bedrock geology threats are present through construction – excavation of bedrock during earthwork operations for renewable energy infrastructure, restructuring of land without permission, etc. which can result in a loss of our geological heritage". We commend Clare County Council's recognition of vulnerable County Geological Sites (CGSs), such as St. Brendan's cave system and Carran enclosed depression that "...require protection and preservation from potential damage due to renewable energy development if they are not assessed as constraints".

The Geological Heritage Programme views the Local Authorities as critical partners in protecting, through the planning system, those CGS which fall within their county limits. In many cases these are often sites of high amenity or educational value, already zoned or listed in the plan.



Listing in the CDP provides protection of the sites against potentially damaging developments that normally require planning permission, such as building, quarrying, landfilling or forestry. It is also important that the democratic process of public consultation and approval by councillors of the CDP means that stakeholders in the sites and all the local community can buy into the process.

County geological Sites have been adopted in the National Heritage Plan, and will form a major strand of geological nature conservation to complement the various ecological and cultural conservation measures. It is important to note however, that management issues for the majority of geological heritage sites may differ from ecological sites, and in some cases development may facilitate enhanced geological understanding of a site by exposing more rock sections - for example, in a quarry extension. Consultation at the earliest stages can identify any issues relevant to an individual site or proposed development.

County Geological Sites are the optimal way of addressing the responsibility of each authority under the Planning and Development Act 2000 and its amendments, to protect sites of geological interest.

As always we are available if you require any further information, please feel free to contact Clare Glanville (Clare.Glanville@gsi.ie).

Culture and Tourism

We are pleased to see the inclusion of geotourism as part of development plan objective CDP15.6 b:

b) To promote and facilitate the development of geotourism in County Clare in accordance with Development Plan Objectives CDP15.3 and CDP15.4.

Over the past number of years geology has become a large part of Irish tourism. Ireland currently has three UNESCO Global Geoparks, including the [Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark](#), Geological Survey Ireland provides financial and technical support to the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark, and we welcome the support provided to the Geopark by Clare County Council. As a significant asset to the County we would encourage the local authority to continue their ongoing support of the geopark. In Section 9.3.4 'Tourism in North Clare and the Burren', we note reference to the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark and we welcome its inclusion as part of development plan objective CDP9.24 part c:

Development Plan Objective: Tourism in North Clare and The Burren	
CDP9.24	<p>It is an objective of Clare County Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To maintain the Cliffs of Moher as one of Ireland's premier tourist attractions and harness its potential as a driver of tourism in County Clare through the implementation of the <i>Cliffs of Moher Strategy 2040</i> in accordance with the recommendations and mitigation measures as outlined in the accompanying SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report; b) To enhance and promote established attractions in the towns and villages of North Clare and the surrounding hinterland; c) To consolidate and improve the Burren as a vibrant, sustainable, world-class destination in order to retain its UNESCO Global Geopark status; d) To promote the development of ecotourism and agri-tourism and support the work of the Burren Ecotourism Network; e) To develop a year-round sustainable tourism product by ensuring linkages to other tourist products in the area; f) To support and promote, with the co-operation of private landowners, public access and interpretive signage at heritage sites and features where appropriate;



We note in development plan objective CDP9.24, part f, the objective to support interpretive signage and we would ask that the design of any future signage to consider the use of information panels as appropriate to highlight the significance of a County Geological Site or an area of geological and/or geomorphological interest that are in the vicinity of waymarked and signposted walking routes/trails.

In Section 9.2.10 'Educational Tourism', we note mention of the potential expand Co Clare's "educational tourism based on geological education in the Kilkee/Loop Head areas" and note development policy objective CDP9.9:

Development Plan Objective: Educational Tourism	
CDP9.9	It is an objective of Clare County Council: To support the promotion and expansion of the educational tourism sector in County Clare.

We would be happy to provide support to Clare County Council in relation to how best to present and promote the geological education of County Clare as a geotourism initiative, please contact Clare Glanville (Clare.Glanville@gsi.ie) for further advice and information.

Groundwater

In Chapter 11 'Physical Infrastructure, Environment and Energy', we welcome mention of our Groundwater Protection Scheme for County Clare and its incorporation into the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland and the inclusion of groundwater protection consideration in development plan objectives CDP11.26, CDP11.27, CDP11.30, CDP11.31 and CDP11.32.

We recommend the ongoing use of Geological Survey Ireland's Groundwater maps and datasets within the Development Plan. These maps and datasets are updated regularly and refined as new data becomes available, further information is available on our [Map viewer](#). Proposed County Development Plans should consider Groundwater Protection Schemes for groundwater protection (see Circular Letter SP 5-03). The Groundwater Protection Response overview and link to the report for County Clare is here: <https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/publications/Pages/Clare-Groundwater-Protection-Scheme-Reports.aspx>.

In the draft SEA Report, we are pleased to see use of our Groundwater data sets in Sections 5.10 'Water', and 5.10.6 'Groundwater' and as maps in Figure 5.10.4 'Groundwater Vulnerability Classification', Figure 5.10.5 'Groundwater Aquifer Classification & Source Protection Zones', Figure 5.10.7 'Groundwater Karst Features' and Figure 5.8.8 'Groundwater Flooding Probability'. Please ensure that use of our data or maps is attributed correctly to 'Geological Survey Ireland'.

Geohazards

In the draft SEA Report, we are pleased to see use of our online mapping data sets for Landslide Events and Landslide Susceptibility in Section 5.8.6 'Geohazards' and as a map in Figure 5.8.7 'Landslide Susceptibility & Landslide Events'.

In the 'Groundwater Flooding' in Section 5.8.6 'Geohazards', we welcome mention of Geological Survey Ireland's collaboration with Trinity College Dublin and Carlow Institute of Technology who undertook the GWFlood Project and are pleased to see our Figure 5.8.8 'Groundwater Flooding Probability' map included in the draft SEA Environmental Report. [GWClimate](#) is the current groundwater monitoring and modelling project that aims to investigate the impact of climate change on groundwater in Ireland. This is a follow on from the previous project (GWFlood) and the data may be useful in relation to Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and management plans. Maps and data are available on the [Map viewer](#).

Geological Survey Ireland's Marine and Coastal Unit in partnership with the Marine Institute, jointly manages [INFOMAR](#), Ireland's national marine mapping programme and we welcome use of our datasets in 'Coastal Vulnerability' in Section 5.8.6 'Geohazards'.



Geothermal Energy

We are pleased to see the inclusion of Figure 5.8.6 'Geothermal Suitability' map of Co Clare in the draft SEA Report.

We would like to draw to your attention to two new Geothermal publications. The Roadmap for a Policy and Regulatory Framework for Geothermal Energy was launched at the Geoscience 2020 Conference in November 2020. The [Assessment of Geothermal Resources for District heating in Ireland](#) and the [Roadmap for a Policy and Regulatory framework for Geothermal Energy in Ireland](#) documents have been developed to support the Government's commitments under the Climate Action Plan 2019 and the Programme for Government.

For further information please see our [Geoenergy pages](#) on our website or contact the [Groundwater and Geothermal Unit](#) of the Geological Survey Ireland directly.

This data would be of benefit to development plan objective CDP2.17 'Renewable Heat' and in Volume 5 Clare Renewable Energy Strategy Report, Chapter 12 'Renewable Heat'.

Natural Resources (Minerals/Aggregates)

In Chapter 8 'Rural Development and Natural Resources', we welcome the inclusion of development plan objective CDP 8.14:

Development Plan Objective: Minerals, Mining and Quarrying	
CDP 8.14	It is an objective of Clare County Council: To promote the extraction of minerals and aggregates and their associated processes where such activities do not have a significant negative impact on the environment, landscape, public health, archaeology or residential amenities of the receiving environment and where such operations are in compliance with all national regulations and guidelines applicable to quarrying and mining activities.

We would welcome an amendment to CDP 8.14, to include that development for aggregates/mineral extraction does not have a significant negative impact on County Geological Sites and/or sites of geological importance.

Geological Survey Ireland would request that Clare County Council might assist our geological heritage goals with the following (and ideally this would be written into the restoration / closure plan) and be included as a condition of planning as deemed appropriate by the planning authority:

1. Allowing access to quarry faces by appropriate scientists (upon request and with due regards to Health and Safety requirements) during quarrying to check for interesting new stratigraphies / relationships as they might become exposed and to establish if the quarry site is worthy of recognition post extraction and through aftercare/restoration planning.
2. If deemed appropriate in (1) above, leaving a representative section of the quarry face at the end of the quarry life or inclusion of information panels to promote the geology to the public or develop tourism or educational resources if appropriate depending on the future use of the site. Natural exposures are few, or deeply weathered, this measure would permit on-going improvement of geological knowledge of the subsurface.

The Geoheritage Programme tries to promote a partnership between geological heritage and active quarrying, with such measures as those outlined in the 'Geological Heritage Guidelines for the Extractive Industry', which can be downloaded [here](#). This document, written in association with Irish Concrete Federation, acts as a comprehensive guide in the sustainable extraction of natural resources while preserving the geological heritage of Ireland.



In Section 5.8.5 'Quarrying, Minerals & Aggregates' of the draft SEA Report, we are pleased to see mention of our Aggregate Potential mapping and welcome the inclusion of the mineral Localities and active quarries map in Figure 5.8.5.

Geochemistry of soils, surface waters and sediments

Geological Survey Ireland provides baseline geochemistry data for Ireland as part of the Tellus programme. Baseline geochemistry data can be used to assess the chemical status of soil and water at a regional scale and to support the assessment of existing or potential impacts of human activity on environmental chemical quality. Tellus is a national-scale mapping programme which provides multi-element data for shallow soil, stream sediment and stream water in Ireland. At present, mapping consists of the border, western and midland regions. Data is available at <https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/data-and-maps/Pages/Geochemistry.aspx>. This page also hosts Geochemical Mapping of Agricultural and Grazing Land Soil of Europe (GEMAS) and litho-geochemistry (rock geochemistry) from southeast Ireland datasets. Geological Survey Ireland and partners are undertaking applied geochemistry projects to provide data for agriculture ([Terra Soil](#)), waste soil characterisation ([Geochemically Appropriate Levels for Soil Recovery Facilities](#)) and mineral exploration ([Mineral Prospectivity Mapping](#)).

Marine and Coastal Unit

We welcome use of the Marine and Coastal Unit datasets in 'Coastal Vulnerability' in Section 5.8.6 'Geohazards' of the draft SEA Report.

We would recommend Clare County Council to continue use of our Marine and Coastal Unit datasets available on our [website](#) and [Map Viewer](#). These datasets will be of benefit to the CDP policy aims and objectives contained in Chapter 2 'Climate Action', Chapter 9 'Tourism', Chapter 12 'Shannon Estuary' and Chapter 13 'Marine and Coastal Zone Management' and in the SEA Report. In Volume 5 Clare Renewable Energy Strategy, Chapter 9 'Marine Renewables', we would recommend use of our Marine and Coastal Unit datasets which would also be of benefit to the 'Objectives and Targets' in this chapter of the report.

Physiographic Units

Physiographic Units are cartographic representations of the broad-scale physical landscape of a region. They delineate physical regions showing internal uniformity with respect to one or more environmental attributes that can be clearly differentiated from neighbouring regions. They are valuable for regional land-use planning, and in studies of the influence of physical landscape on the ecological environment. This map is produced in support of the actions to be implemented in National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015 – 2025. Physiographic Units map data can be viewed online under the Physiographic Units tab on the online [Map Viewer](#). **We would encourage you to use our physiographic units map data in relation to Section 14.2.1 'Landscape Character Assessment of County Clare' in Chapter 14 'Landscape' of the draft CDP and Section 5.13 'Landscape' of the draft SEA Report.**

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

Yours sincerely,

Clare Glanville
Senior Geologist
Geological Survey Ireland

Enc: Table - Geological Survey Ireland's Publicly Available Datasets Relevant to Planning, EIA and SEA processes.

Geological Survey Ireland's Publicly Available Datasets Relevant to Planning, EIA and SEA processes
following European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018
(S.I. No. 296 of 2018)

Geological Survey Ireland Programme	Dataset	Relevant EIA Topic	Coverage	Description / Notes / Limitations	Link to Geological Survey Ireland map viewer
Geohazards	Landslide: National landslide database and landslide susceptibility map	Land & Soil/Climate/Landscape	National	Associated guidance documentation relating to the National Landslide Susceptibility Map is also available.	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b68cf1e4a9044a5981f950e9b9c5625c
Geohazards	Groundwater Flooding (Historic)	Water	Regional	Provide information of historic flooding, both surface water and groundwater. [A lack of flooding presented in any specific location of the map only indicates that a flood has not been detected. It does not indicate that a flood cannot occur in that location at present or in the future]	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=848f83c85799436b808652f9c735b1cc
Geohazards	Groundwater Flooding (Predictive)	Water	Regional	Provides information on the probability of future karst groundwater flooding (where available). [The maps do not, and are not intended to, constitute advice. Professional or specialist advice should be sought before taking, or refraining from, any action on the basis of the flood maps]	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=848f83c85799436b808652f9c735b1cc
Geohazards	Radon Map	Land & Soils/Air	National		http://www.epa.ie/radiation/radonmap/
Geoheritage	County Geological Sites as adopted by National Heritage Plan and listed in County Development Plans	Land & Soils/Landscape	Regional	All geological heritage sites identified by Geological Survey Ireland are categorised as CGS pending any further NHA designation by NPWS.	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=a30af518e87a4c0b2fbd2aaac3c228
Geological Mapping	Bedrock geology:	Land & Soils	National	1:100,000 scale and associated memoirs.	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7e1b6ab8d58&scale=0
Geological Mapping	Bedrock geology:	Land & Soils	Regional	1:50,000 scale	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7e1b6ab8d58&scale=0
Geological Mapping	Quaternary geology: Sediments	Land & Soils	National	1:50,000 scale	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7e1b6ab8d58&scale=0
Geological Mapping	Quaternary geology: Geomorphology	Land & Soils	National	1:50,000 scale	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7e1b6ab8d58&scale=0
Geological Mapping	Physiographic units:	Land & Soils	National	Broad-scale physical landscape units mapped at 1:100,000 scale in order to be represented as a cartographic digital map at 1:250,000 scale	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=afa76a420f54877843aca1bc075c62b
Geological Mapping	GeoUrban: Spatial geological data for the greater Dublin and Cork areas	Land & Soils	Regional	Includes 3D models	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9768f4818b794c16093beb2212a850ce6&scale=0
Geological Mapping	Geotechnical database	Land & Soils	National	Digitised geotechnical and Site Investigation Reports and boreholes which can be accessed through online downloads	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a21718be1873d47a585a3f0415b4a724c
Goldmine	Historical data sets including geological memoirs and 6" to 1 mile geological mapping records	Land & Soils/Water	National	available online	https://secure.dcaa.gov.ie/goldmine/index.html
Groundwater & Geothermal	Groundwater resources (aquifers)	Water	National	Data limited to 1:100,000 scale; sites should be investigated at local scale	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef
Groundwater & Geothermal	Groundwater recharge.	Water	National	Data limited to 1:40,000 scale; sites should be investigated at local scale; long term annual average recharge	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef
Groundwater & Geothermal	Groundwater vulnerability.	Water	National	Data limited to 1:40,000 scale; sites should be investigated at local scale	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef
Groundwater & Geothermal	Group scheme and public supply source protection areas.	Water	National	Not all PWS / GWS have SPZ / ZOC. Check with IW / coco / NFGWS for private supplies.	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef
Groundwater & Geothermal	Groundwater Protection Schemes	Water	National	Data is limited to scale of 1:40,000. Data does not include all of the source protection areas	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef
Groundwater & Geothermal	Catchment and WFD management units.	Water	National		https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef
Groundwater & Geothermal	karst specific data layers	water	National	For areas underlain by limestone, includes karst features, tracer test database; turf/lough water levels (gwlevel.ie)	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef
Groundwater & Geothermal	Wells and Springs	Water	National	Not comprehensive, there may be unrecorded wells and springs	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef
Groundwater & Geothermal	Groundwater body Descriptions	Water	National	Not exhaustive; only those in designated SACs; could be other GWDTEs; for more information contact NPWS / EPA / site investigations Also, Roadmap for a Policy and Regulatory Framework for Geothermal Energy, November 2020	https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/groundwater-and-geothermal-unit/activities/understanding-ireland-groundwater/Pages/Groundwater-bodies.aspx
Groundwater & Geothermal	Geothermal Suitability maps	Land & Soils/Water	National		https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9e46be08de41278b90a991160c0b9e
Marine & Coastal Unit	INFOMAR - Ireland's national marine mapping programme; providing key baseline data for Ireland's	Water	National		https://secure.dcaa.gov.ie/GSI/INFOMAR_VIEWER/
Marine & Coastal Unit	CHERISH - Coastal change project (Climate, Heritage and Environments of Reefs, Islands, and Headlands)	Water	Regional		http://www.cherishproject.eu/en/
Marine & Coastal Unit	Coastal Vulnerability Index (CVI).	water / Land & Soils	Regional	Currently the project is being carried out on the east coast and will be rolled out nationally	https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/marine-and-coastal-unit/projects/Pages/Coastal-Vulnerability-Index.aspx
Minerals	Aggregate potential	Land & Soils/Material Assets	National	Consideration of mineral resources and potential resources as a material asset which should be explicitly recognised within the environmental assessment process	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ee8c4c285a49413aa6f1344416dc9956
Minerals	Active quarries	Land & Soils	National		https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ee8c4c285a49413aa6f1344416dc9956
Minerals	Historic mines	Land & Soils/Cultural Heritage	National	Inventory and Risk Classification 2009. Environmental Protection Agency, Economic Minerals Division and Geological Survey Ireland (DECC).	https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/default?zesting=7&northing=7&lid=EPA:LEMA_Facilities_Extractive_Facilities https://www.epa.ie/enforcement/mines/
Tellus	Geochemical data: multi-element data for shallow soil, stream sediment and stream water	Land & Soils	Regional	A national mapping programme	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=6304e122b733498b99642707f72754
Tellus	Airborne geophysical data including radiometrics, electromagnetics and magnetics	Land & Soils	Regional	A national mapping programme	https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=6304e122b733498b99642707f72754
Tellus	urban geochemistry mapping (Dublin SURGE project).	Land & Soils	Regional		https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=6304e122b733498b99642707f72754

- Notes:
1. The maps and data listed above are available on the Geological Survey Ireland map viewer <https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/data-and-maps/Pages/default.aspx>
2. Please read all disclaimers carefully when using Geological Survey Ireland data
3. Geological Survey Ireland and Irish Concrete Federation published guidelines for the treatment of geological heritage in the extractive industry in 2008.



NOTICE OF THE PREPARATION OF THE DRAFT CLARE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2023-2029

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Part II, Section 12 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, (as amended), that Clare County Council has prepared a Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 for the functional area of the Council. The Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029, on adoption will replace the existing Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023, as varied.

The Draft Plan is accompanied by a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report, prepared in accordance with the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) and the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No 436 of 2004) (as amended), and an Appropriate Assessment (AA) Natura Impact Report pursuant to the Habitats Directive (91/43/EEC) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) also accompanies the Draft Plan.

Volume 5 contains the Draft Clare Renewable Energy Strategy (RES) which has been subject to a separate Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) and the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No 435 of 2004) (as amended). The associated consultation with respect to this assessment is also covered by this notice with the consultation running in tandem. Please note the findings of the SEA associated with the Draft Clare Renewable Energy Strategy have been incorporated into the Strategic Environmental Assessment-Environmental Report of the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029.

The Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 comprises the following draft documents:

- Volume 1 - Written Statement
- Volume 2 - Maps
- Volume 3 - Municipal District Written Statement & Settlement Plans
 - 3a Ennis Municipal District
 - 3b Shannon Municipal District
 - 3c Killaloe Municipal District
 - 3d West Clare Municipal District
- Volume 4 - Record of Protected Structures
- Volume 5 - Clare Renewable Energy Strategy & Strategic Environmental Assessment – Environmental Report
- Volume 6 - Clare Wind Energy Strategy
- Volume 7 - Clare Retail Strategy
- Volume 8 - Clare Housing Strategy
- Volume 9 - Strategic Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) for the Shannon Estuary
- Volume 10 - Environmental Appraisal of the Plan
 - 10a Appropriate Assessment – Natura Impact Report
 - 10b(i) Strategic Environmental Assessment – Environmental Report
 - 10b(ii) Strategic Environmental Assessment – Non-Technical Summary
 - 10c Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

The Draft Plan includes proposals to make additions, deletions and modifications to **Volume 4-Record of Protected Structures** and in accordance with Section 12 (3) of the Planning Act, the Planning Authority shall serve on each person who is the owner or occupier of the proposed protected structure or the protected structure, as the case may be, a notice of the proposed addition, deletion or modification including the particulars.

Public Consultation

A copy of the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 with associated Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report will be on public display on **10th December, 2021 to 28th March 2022** and will be available to view online at <https://clarecdp2023-2029.clarecoco.ie/stage2-draft/display/> and may also be inspected during normal opening hours at the following locations:

- Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis.
- Shannon Municipal District Office, Town Hall, Shannon.
- West Clare Municipal District Office, Town Hall, The Square, Kilrush.
- Ennistymon Area Office, Ennis Road, Ennistymon.
- Killaloe Municipal District Office, Mountshannon Road, Scarriff and
- At all public libraries in County Clare during opening hours.

Copies of the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 are also available for purchase from the Planning Department.

Public consultation events on the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 will take place throughout the County as follows, subject to Covid-19 guidance in place at the time:

VENUE	DATE	TIME
Lisdoonvarna Pavillion, Lisdoonvarna	Tuesday 25th January 2022	4.00 - 8.00pm
Scouts Hall (beside Ennis Parish Office), Station Road, Ennis	Wednesday 26th January 2022	4.00 - 8.00pm
Clonlara Community Sports & Leisure Centre, Clonlara	Thursday 27th January 2022	4.00 - 8.00pm
Kilkee Community Hall, Kilkee	Tuesday 1st February 2022	4.00 - 8.00pm
Killaloe Hotel & Spa, Killaloe	Wednesday 2nd February 2022	4.00 - 8.00pm
Clarecastle Community Hall, Clarecastle	Thursday 3rd February 2022	4.00 - 8.00pm
Kilmihil Community Hall, Kilmihil	Tuesday 8th February 2022	4.00 - 8.00pm
Tulla Cultural Centre, Tulla	Wednesday 9th February 2022	4.00 - 8.00pm
Newmarket on Fergus Community Hall, Newmarket on Fergus	Thursday 10th February 2022	4.00 - 8.00pm

Submission/Observations

Clare County Council hereby invites any interested parties to make submissions or observations with regard to the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023–2029. Submissions/observations may be made during the period from 10th of December 2021 to 4pm on 28th of March 2022 inclusive. Submissions received will be taken into consideration before the making of the Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029.

In respect of making a submission or observation please note the following:

- Please insert the heading “Draft Clare Draft Development Plan 2023-2029” on your submission
- Please make your submission by one medium **only** i.e. via on-line form, email or by post. This will avoid the duplication of submission reference numbers and will streamline the process.
- Submissions/observations should include your name and may include address, a map (for identification purposes) and, where relevant, details of any organisation, community group or company etc., which you represent. Clare County Council is subject to the provisions of the Data Protection Act (as amended) and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). In order to assist us in complying with Data Protection and GDPR please include your name and contact details (and where relevant, details of any organisation, community group or company etc., which you represent), on a separate sheet to the content of your submission/observation. This processing of your personal data is lawful under Article 6 (1)(e) of the GDPR regulations. The Council’s Data Protection Policy is available on the Council website.
- Children, or groups or associations representing the interests of children, are particularly encouraged to make submissions or observations regarding the foregoing.
- Please be advised that all submissions received will be published online in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and will be summarised in the Chief Executive’s Report, which will be published. You should ensure that no vexatious, libellous or confidential information, including confidential information relating to a third party (in respect of which the third party has not, expressly, or impliedly in the circumstances, consented to its disclosure) is included in your submission. The Planning Authority reserves the right to redact any submission or part thereof that does not comply with this requirement.

The planning process is an open and public process and therefore your submission (in part or in total) will be available to view online at <https://clarecdp2023-2029.clarecoco.ie/>. All observations or submissions received during the above time period will be taken into consideration before the making of the Clare County Development 2023-2029.

A submission/observation can be submitted by one of the following methods:

- Online: <https://clarecdp2023-2029.clarecoco.ie/make-a-submission/>
- In writing to: Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029, Planning Department, Clare County Council, New Road, Ennis, Co Clare. V95 DXP2
- By email to: devplan@clarecoco.ie. Subject headline should read “Submission to Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029”

The deadline for receipt of submissions/observations is 4pm on Monday 28th March 2022. Please note late submissions will not be considered.

If you have any queries or require more detail, please contact the Forward Planning Section by email at: forwardplan@clarecoco.ie or by phone at 065-6846407/6846451.

**Liam Conneally, Director of Service,
Economic Development**

10th December 2021

