



Draft Scoping Checklist
Working Document

SEA Scoping Checklist for use by SEA / Plan-making Teams

Date	Comments
13/09/2022	Updated references to latest Government Department names and checked links

Water: Infrastructure and Quality

Waste Water Treatment

Current capacity and level of treatment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Predicted future capacity and predicted future requirement	<input type="checkbox"/>
Septic tanks	<input type="checkbox"/>
Performance of existing treatment plant(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scheduled phasing of upgrading/construction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring/maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposals to link with existing treatment plants	<input type="checkbox"/>
Existing problems – surface/groundwater quality	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foul drainage/surface drainage - linked/separate	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Storm water storage	<input type="checkbox"/>

Possible Task(s):

- Undertake assessment of wastewater infrastructural needs
- Short /medium/long-term programme for upgrade of wastewater treatment systems.
- Programme of maintenance of septic tanks
- Linkage of septic tanks to foul drainage system

Some Useful Information Source(s):

Updated Legislation

- Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009' 2009 (S.I. No 272 of 2009):
<http://www.housing.gov.ie/water/water-quality/water-framework-directive/water-framework-directive>
- [Waste Water Discharge \(Authorisation\) Regulations, 2007, S.I. No. 684 of 2007](#)

DHLGH: Water Services:

- <http://www.housing.gov.ie/water/water-quality/water>

EPA : *Urban Waste Water Discharge* reports.

<https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/waste-water/>

EPA: *Code of Practice Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (Population Equivalent ≤ 10)* (EPA, 2021):

https://www.epa.ie/publications/compliance--enforcement/waste-water/2021_CodeofPractice_Web.pdf

Existing Environmental Information:

Existing Environmental Problems:

Information Gaps:

Scoping Meeting Actions and Responsibilities

Water Supply

Source(s) – surface water/groundwater

Adequacy of supply

Existing capacity and level of treatment

Predicted future capacity and predicted future requirement

Existing problems – surface/groundwater quality

Percentage water loss through leaking infrastructure

Protection of significant water bodies from pollution

Possible Task(s):

Water leak monitoring programme

Undertake assessment of water supply infrastructure needs

Programme for replacement of infrastructure

Some Useful Information Source(s):

DHLGH: Water Services:

- <http://www.housing.gov.ie/>

Uisce Eireann:

- www.water.ie

EPA: *Drinking Water* Reports for Public Water Supplies:

- <https://www.epa.ie/publications/compliance--enforcement/drinking-water/annual-drinking-water-reports/>

Existing Environmental Information:

Existing Environmental Problems:

Information Gaps:

Scoping Meeting Actions and Responsibilities:

Watercourses/Surface Water Quality

Fisheries

Biological water quality: Q-values

Chemical water quality

Existing monitoring

Application of buffer zone along watercourses

Emergency plan regarding spillages

Climate change implications – low flow/drought

Some Useful Information Source(s):

DHLGH: Water Quality:

- <http://www.housing.gov.ie/water/water-quality/water>

EPA: Water Data:

Water Quality in Ireland reports

- <http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/water/waterqua/>
- <http://catchments.ie>

Existing Environmental Information:

Existing Environmental Problems:

Information Gaps:

Scoping Meeting Actions and Responsibilities:

Ground water

Drinking water

Aquifer characterisation

Aquifer vulnerability

Source protection

Saline intrusion (coastal locations)

Monitoring/mitigation

Possible Task(s):

Groundwater Protection Scheme

Groundwater Monitoring Programme

Some Useful Information Source(s):

Updated Legislation

European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I.9 of 2010):

- <https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2010/si/9/made/en/print>

European Union Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) (Amendment) Regulations 2016.

- <https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2016/si/366/made/en/print>

GSI: Groundwater (classification and vulnerability mapping):

- <http://www.gsi.ie/Mapping.htm>

EPA: Groundwater Data:

- <https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/freshwater--marine/groundwater/#d.en.71423>
- <http://catchments.ie>

Existing Environmental Information:

Existing Environmental Problems:

Information Gaps:

Scoping Meeting Actions and Responsibilities:

WFD River Basin District

River characteristics – River Characterisation Report

Risk category

Q-values

Fisheries value, e.g. oysters, salmonids

Linkages with groundwater

Possible Task(s):

Review River Characterisation Report

Some Useful Information Source(s):

EPA: River Water Quality Reports:

- *Water Quality in Ireland* reports
- <https://wfd.edenireland.ie/>
- <https://www.catchments.ie/>
- <https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/freshwater--marine/>

WFD: Draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027 (DHLGH, 2021)

WFD: River Characterisation Reports:

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Existing Environmental Information:

Existing Environmental Problems:

Information Gaps:

Scoping Meeting Actions and Responsibilities:

Beaches

Bathing water status: Blue Flag Criteria

Bathing water quality monitoring

Integrated Coastal Zone Management

Some Useful Information Source(s):

EPA: Bathing Water:

The Quality of Bathing Water in Ireland reports

- <https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/freshwater--marine>

An Taisce: Blue Flag Data:

- <http://www.antaisce.org>
- <https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/freshwater--marine>
www.beaches.ie

Existing Environmental Information:
Existing Environmental Problems:
Information Gaps:

Scoping Meeting Actions and Responsibilities:

Flood Protection

Flood risk management

Areas currently at risk

Development pressure on flood plains

Climate change - implications/adaptation/design standards

Possible Task(s):

Prepare a Flood Risk Management Plan for the area (utilising a catchment based approach)

Produce map of flooding extent (historical and predicted future) for the area

Some Useful Information Source(s):

The Planning System and Flood Risk Management - Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DHLGH/OPW, 2009):

- <http://www.housing.gov.ie/sites/default/files/migrated-files/en/Publications/DevelopmentandHousing/Planning/FileDownload%2C21709%2Cen.pdf>

Office of Public Works: Flood Prediction Site:

- <http://www.floodinfo.ie/>

Existing Environmental Information:

Existing Environmental Problems:

Information Gaps:

Scoping Meeting Actions and Responsibilities:

Harbours/Marinas - Generally for Harbour Plans

Waste recycling	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accidental spills	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emergency plan regarding spillages	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ballast water	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oil/waste oil storage	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hazardous waste	<input type="checkbox"/>
Code of practice regarding water quality	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dredging proposals	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disposal of dredging spoil	<input type="checkbox"/>
Invasive species	<input type="checkbox"/>
Presence of nearby Shellfish Waters?	<input type="checkbox"/>

Possible task:

- Implementation of Marina Water Quality Management Plan
- Implementation of Harbour Management Plan

<p>Existing Environmental Information:</p> <p>Existing Environmental Problems:</p> <p>Information Gaps:</p>

<p>Scoping Meeting Actions and Responsibilities:</p>
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Transport

Roads – proposed improvements, bypass schemes; status of same

Rail

Public transport

Cycle lanes

Walking routes

Installation of lighting and/or footpaths

Maintenance of existing transport infrastructure

Proposed construction/improvement of transport infrastructure

Parking facilities

Existing problems of congestion

Air travel/ exclusion zones

Rural transport

<input type="checkbox"/>
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Possible Task(s):

Development of Integrated Traffic Management Plan

Some Useful Information Sources:

Department of Transport

- <http://www.dttas.gov.ie/>

Transport Infrastructure Ireland

- <http://tii.ie/>

National Roads Authority:

- <http://www.nra.ie/>

Existing Environmental Information:

Existing Environmental Problems:

Information Gaps:

Scoping Meeting Actions and Responsibilities:

Built Environment

Heritage

Heritage features – historical importance, sense of place

Architectural features – individual sites/complexes

Archaeology – land/coast/marine based; known/potential

Architectural Conservation Areas

Industrial architecture

Historical features, battle sites

Historical landscapes/heritage landscapes, e.g. stone walls

<input type="checkbox"/>
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<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

Possible Task(s):

Promotion of linkages between different features/complexes of features by way of trails/walking routes, etc

Some Information Source(s):

National Inventory of Architectural Heritage:

- <http://www.buildingsofireland.ie/>

Heritage of Ireland:

- <http://www.heritageireland.ie/>

Existing Environmental Information:

Existing Environmental Problems:

Information Gaps:

Scoping Meeting Actions and Responsibilities:

Amenity

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Open space | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Estates, gardens | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Public realm/towns | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Community facilities – playing areas | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cycle/Walking routes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Waterside/Lakeside/Coastal features | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Historical/archaeological trails | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Boating/sailing/wind surfing and other water based activities | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other sporting/recreational activities | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Some Information Source(s):

Go Outdoor Ireland:

- <http://www.gooutdoorireland.com/>

Existing Environmental Information:
Existing Environmental Problems:
Information Gaps:

Scoping Meeting Actions and Responsibilities:

Biodiversity

Designated sites (SACs, SPAs, NHAs) – need for appropriate assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Designated sites (SACs, SPAs, NHAs) – management plan/notifiable activities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Habitats – habitat mapping, quality	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buffer zone application (e.g. designated features, water bodies, valuable habitats)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Habitats of value/importance (e.g. woodlands, wetland features)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hedgerows	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trees/groups of trees, Tree Protection Order's	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fisheries	<input type="checkbox"/>
Protected species – e.g. otters, bats, badgers, salmonids, seals, etc	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other species of value	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local biodiversity – ponds, ditches, watercourses, lakes, ecological networks	<input type="checkbox"/>
WFD – RBDs – River/Water body characterisation, monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/>
Invasive species, e.g. Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed, Zebra mussel	<input type="checkbox"/>

Possible Task(s):

SAC/SPA Management/Maintenance Plan

Habitat Mapping – water features, woodlands, trees and hedgerows, etc.

Some Information Source(s):

Regulations: *European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011*

- <https://www.npws.ie/legislation>

NPWS: Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland- Guidance for Planning Authorities:

- <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/guidance-appropriate-assessment-planning-authorities>
- Undertaking Non-Energy Extractive Activities in Accordance with Natura 2000 Requirement:
- <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/69b6d6c1-bfc1-4fe5-9252-08af20a95cfe/>

Wind Energy:

- [Guidance document on wind energy developments and EU nature legislation](#)

Invasive Species:

- <http://www.invasivespeciesireland.com/>

National Biodiversity Data Centre:

- <http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/>

EPA: Environmental Maps:

- <http://gis.epa.ie/SeeMaps>

Existing Environmental Information:

Existing Environmental Problems:

Information Gaps:

Scoping Meeting Actions and Responsibilities

Geo-diversity/Mining/Quarries

Features of geological/geomorphological interest

Mining exploration (current and past)

Quarry – sand/gravel/rock

Possible Task(s):

Preparation of register of known features of geological/geomorphological interest

Preparation of register of active and closed mines/quarries

Remediation of closed mines/quarries

Information Source(s):

The Geological Survey of Ireland:

- <http://www.gsi.ie/>

Existing Environmental Information:

Existing Environmental Problems:

Information Gaps:

Scoping Meeting Actions and Responsibilities:

Landscape

Characteristics of local landscape, lakescape, riverscape, townscape, streetscape	<input type="checkbox"/>
Green Infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>
Landscape Character Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unique landscape features – e.g. stone walls, woodlands, estuaries	<input type="checkbox"/>
Landscape, landform, contours	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tree lines and groups/Tree Protection Orders	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seascape – outward views, inward views	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scenic areas, routes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gardens	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historical landscape	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dereliction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brownfield Development	<input type="checkbox"/>
Building design – height restrictions, suitable design for surroundings	<input type="checkbox"/>

Possible Task(s):

- Landscape Character Assessment
- Landscape Visual Assessment
- Designation and protection of sensitive landscapes
- Protection of scenic views and scenic routes
- Guidelines on visual assessment of significant developments in context of key landscape features

Some Information Source(s):

Landscape Policy Development:

- National Landscape Strategy (DHLGH, 2015)
<https://assets.gov.ie/95852/388d4758-50c1-42bd-9adc-0bdf1291765.pdf>
- <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/projects/landscape>

Heritage Council:

- http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/publications/LCA_2006/index.html

Green Infrastructure:

- <https://www.irishlandscapeinstitute.com/>
- [Green infrastructure: better living through nature-based solutions — European Environment Agency \(europa.eu\)](https://www.environment.europa.eu/en/infrastructure)
- <https://www.socialjustice.ie/system/files/file-uploads/2021-09/2010-08-leafletoncreatngreeninfrastructureforireland-comhar.pdf>

Existing Environmental Information:

Existing Environmental Problems:

Information Gaps:

Scoping Meeting Actions and Responsibilities

Agriculture

Type and intensity of agriculture

Forestry

Fisheries

Market Gardening

Size of farm units

Quality of soil/sub-soil

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

Possible Task(s):

Investigate opportunities for protection of best-quality soils through land use zoning

Information Source(s):

Teagasc: Soil Surveys:

- <http://www.teagasc.ie/>

Corine Land Use Database:

- <http://www.epa.ie/soilandbiodiversity/soils/land/corine/>

EPA: EPA GIS Maps:

- <http://gis.epa.ie/SeeMaps>

Teagasc – EPA: Soils Information System:

- <https://www.teagasc.ie/environment/soil/irish-soil-information-system/>

Existing Environmental Information:
Existing Environmental Problems:
Information Gaps:

Scoping Meeting Actions and Responsibilities:

Waste Management

- General Waste
- Recycling facilities/initiatives
- Litter, Litter Warden
- Hazardous materials
- Illegal dumping
- Construction waste recycling/disposal
- Contaminated soil
- Historical closed landfill sites

Possible Task(s):

- Preparation of Integrated Waste Management Plan
- Community based recycling initiatives
- Remediation of historical landfill sites

Some Information Source(s):

DECC: Litter:

- <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/5a64c-national-litter-pollution-monitoring-scheme/>

DECC: Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy

- <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/b542d-whole-of-government-circular-economy-strategy-2022-2023-living-more-using-less/>

EPA: Waste:

- <http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/waste/>

Existing Environmental Information:
Existing Environmental Problems:
Information Gaps:

Scoping Meeting Actions and Responsibilities:

Energy/Communications

Conservation – building standards, insulation
 Renewables – wind, geothermal, solar, hydro, tidal, wave
 Energy efficiency in buildings, sustainable building design
 Transmission networks – current capacity and condition
 Transmission networks – replacement and extension of infrastructure
 Visual impact of infrastructure (energy and telecommunications)

Possible Task(s):

Formulation of policies and objectives regarding energy conservation
 Formulation of policies and objectives regarding renewable energy

Information Source(s):

Sustainable Energy Ireland:

- <http://www.sei.ie/>

Department of Environment, Climate and Communications:

- <http://www.decc.gov.ie/>
- Energy Policy ([gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie) - [Energy \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie))

Existing Environmental Information:

Existing Environmental Problems:

Information Gaps:

Scoping Meeting Actions and Responsibilities:

Air/Climate

Power plants

Greenhouse gasses

Climate change

Noise

Traffic

Information Source(s):

DECC: Air Quality:

- [gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie) - [Consultation on the Clean Air Strategy for Ireland \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)

National Climate Change Strategy:

- [gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie) - [Climate Action \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)

EPA: Air Quality

- <http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/air/>

Existing Environmental Information:

Existing Environmental Problems:

Information Gaps:

Scoping Meeting Actions and Responsibilities:

Tourism

Major projects
Sufficient infrastructural linkages
Cater for increased numbers during the Summer
Consolidate development in tourist related areas

Possible Task(s):

Preparation of Tourism Plan
Promotion of linkages between features/groups of features
Promotion of cycle ways, walking routes, waterways/navigational corridors as tourist trails

Some Information Source(s):

Fáilte Ireland:

- <http://www.failteireland.ie/>

Existing Environmental Information:

Existing Environmental Problems:

Information Gaps:

Scoping Meeting Actions and Responsibilities:

Some Examples of Possible Key Issues

- Infrastructural requirements
- Water quality (surface water/groundwater/estuarine/coastal)
- Landscape
- Biodiversity & ecological connectivity
- Flooding
- Significance of proposed population changes
- Waste management
- Traffic management
- Climate change
- Forward planning

Some Examples of Possible Challenges

Options

- Land use zoning
- Restrictions/buffers
- Protection of landscapes/green belt areas
- Flood Risk Areas

Nature of zoning

- Protected areas
- Flood risk areas
- Riverside/Water body buffer
- High amenity areas
- Protected landscape/streetscape/lakescape

Mixture of zoning

- Density
- Extent and need for further zoning