

Local Development Plans

DAERA Environmental Evidence and Information

Version 2.1/ May 2017



'This evidence guide aims to assist councils develop an environmental information and evidence base for use in the preparation of local development plan documents.

This guide does not attempt to provide a detailed account of the legislation and policy that underpin the preparation of local development plans in Northern Ireland, and is not intended to be a source of definitive legal advice. Reference should always be made to the relevant legislation and if any discrepancy or conflict exists between the contents of this guide and the relevant legislation, the provisions of the legislation will prevail.

This guide is not intended to replace the need for judgement by planning officers in the local development plan making process.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The **Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011** (the 2011 Act) sets out the general requirements for local development plans (LDPs). Section 3 of the 2011 Act 'Survey of District' requires a council to keep under review the matters which may be expected to affect the development of its district or the planning of that development. Those matters include the principal physical, economic, social and environmental characteristics as well as population, communications, transport and traffic.
- 1.2 Whilst surveying and information gathering will be an ongoing function of a council, it will be particularly important at the early stage of plan preparation. The information gathered will enable the development of a reliable and comprehensive evidence base of the social, economic and environmental characteristics of the plan area which is vital to the plan preparation process:
- The preparation of the evidence base should enable a council to develop a context and strong understanding of the social, economic and environmental characteristics of the plan area as well as the main problems, issues and challenges facing the area which may need to be addressed.
 - Analysis of this information will help to inform and develop a council's distinctive vision for the plan area which will steer the general direction for the aims and objectives for the LDP.
 - The evidence base should help to show how policies and proposals in the LDP documents help to achieve the social, economic and environmental objectives for the plan area.
 - The information gathered could be used to help inform and justify the 'soundness' of LDPs.
 - The information gathered will help to inform sustainability and strategic environmental assessments.
- 1.3 **Consultation bodies** are set out in Regulation 2 of the **Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**. These include government departments, for example the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). Meaningful engagement with consultation bodies is considered key to a council producing better informed and locally distinctive plans. As such, consultees will play a key role in providing input at various stages of the plan preparation process.
- 1.4 The evidence gathering by councils during the preparation of LDPs should be proportionate and inform what is in the plan. The nature of the evidence required will vary according to the LDP document being prepared, the nature of the area and the type of issues that need to be addressed. The information requested from consultation bodies may range from strategic level information to information on a settlement by settlement basis. Some evidence will be pivotal in developing and testing options at the early Preferred Options Paper stage, other types of evidence may be more detailed e.g. information on smaller individual sites that will be required to make adjustments to settlement boundaries.

- 1.5 Councils are likely to initiate the consultation process by writing to each of the consultation bodies requesting strategic information and to highlight any relevant issues which should be considered at the early stage of plan preparation. The preparation of the evidence base should be regarded as a process with information being reviewed and kept up-to-date to ensure it remains reliable and relevant, particularly as policies and proposals evolve through the various stages of the plan preparation process. The receipt of more detailed information can be carried out in stages in line with the level of detail required for each document being prepared.
- 1.6 The **Preferred Options Paper (POP)** provides the basis for consulting with the public and stakeholders on a series of options dealing with key issues in the plan area. A council must prepare a POP to inform interested parties and individuals on the matters that may have a direct effect on the plan area and to set out:
- a series of options for dealing with key issues in the plan area;
 - evidence to appraise the different issues and options; and
 - a council's preferred options and its justification.

In preparing the POP, a council will need to consider the most appropriate level of detail of information. Whilst the POP should concentrate on strategic issues and options, insufficient detail will prevent stakeholders and the community from providing constructive input into the consultation process. However, too much detail may lead to an increased focus on site specific issues which should be dealt with at the later stages of plan preparation. There should be a sufficient level of detail / technical evidence about the various options to enable a clear understanding of the different outcomes of options considered and how a council's preferred options are justified. Further good practice guidance relating to POPs can be found at:

http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/advice/practice-notes/dp_practice_note_5_pop.pdf

- 1.7 A **Plan Strategy (PS)** must set out:
- the council's objectives in relation to the development and use of land in its district; and
 - its strategic policies for the implementation of those objectives.

The purpose of the PS is to provide the strategic policy framework for the plan area as a whole across a range of topics. It should establish the strategic direction early in the plan process in order to provide a level of certainty on which to base key development decisions in the area as well as the necessary framework for the preparation of the local policies plan. The PS should set out an ambitious but realistic vision for the council area as well as the objectives and strategic policies required to deliver that vision. Further good practice guidance relating to the PS can be found at:

http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/advice/practice-notes/dp_practice_note_7_ps.pdf

1.8 A **Local Policies Plan** (LPP) must set out;

- the council's policies in relation to the development and use of land in its district.

The LPP is likely to contain the local policies, including site specific proposals designations and land use zonings required to deliver the council's vision, objectives and strategic policies. Further good practice guidance relating to the PS can be found at:

http://www.planningni.gov.uk/index/advice/practice-notes/dp_practice_note_8_lpp.pdf

1.9 A council may wish to review and update the evidence base, if considered necessary, during the various different stages in the local development plan process.

2. DAERA environmental evidence base and information

- 2.1 The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), the Marine Division, and the Environmental Policy Division of DAERA and the Historic Environment Division (HED) of Department for Communities (DfC) are responsible for developing and implementing the Government's environmental policy and strategy in Northern Ireland¹. DAERA implement the Assembly's measures to protect the environment and provide advice to Government on environmental policy, strategies and planning.
- 2.2 One of the main responsibilities of DAERA is to survey, monitor and carry out research to provide sound evidence for environmental action.

This document aims to:

- highlight the availability of DAERA strategic environmental spatial evidence and associated information that will assist in the preparation of LDPs (and undertaking associated Strategic Environmental Assessments);
 - highlight other DAERA associated strategic environmental evidence and information such as Environmental Plans, Studies, Strategies and Reports that will help Councils to assess the current state of the environment and the relationship of the LPD to the local environment.
- 2.3 **Section 3** of this document highlights the strategic DAERA environmental information that is available to assist with the LDP process. The information is provided for the following topic areas:
- Composite Environmental Data Sources
 - Biodiversity, flora and fauna;
 - Geo-Diversity / Soil;
 - Water;
 - Coastal and Marine;
 - Air;
 - Climatic Factors;
 - Cultural Heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage; ²
 - Landscape; and
 - Material Assets, Population and Human Health (open space and access)

¹ On 09 May 2016 the number of Departments reduced from twelve to nine. This resulted in the Department of the Environment, being completely transformed with all its current functions transferring to three new Departments. Environment functions from DOE (excluding Built Heritage) formed part of the new Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs. Built Heritage functions from DOE formed part of the new Department for Communities. Strategic Planning from DOE formed part of the new Department for Infrastructure.

² Information on Architectural and archaeological heritage is provided and maintained by DfC Historic Environment Division

- 2.4 Within each topic area a series of tables will highlight, where appropriate:
- i. Strategic spatial information to inform LDP preparation and proposals: - This will include spatial information about environmental assets (including statutorily designated sites which will be highlighted in bold) and environmental monitoring regimes; and
 - ii. Other strategic environmental information to inform LDP preparation and proposals: - This will include Environmental Plans, Studies; Strategies and Reports.

2.5 Much of the environmental information and spatial data referred to can be publicly obtained through web-pages. The tables below will in particular highlight any specific information that is not available via the web and which can only be obtained by direct consultation with the NIEA, the Marine Division and the Environmental Policy Division.

2.6 Various **digital datasets** held by DAERA are available for download from:

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/download-digital-datasets>

Datasets relating to the Historic Environment can be downloaded from

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/historic-environment-digital-datasets>

This data can be used by Geographical Information Systems (GIS). The datasets that can be downloaded are only digital boundaries - there is no background mapping. The digitising is based on Land & Property Services (LPS) / Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland (OSNI) maps and they can supply vector and raster maps for background mapping for Northern Ireland.

2.7 Various **Map-Viewers** can be found publicly on the web showing the location of environmental assets. Examples include:

Spatial NI: <https://www.spatialni.gov.uk/geoportal/catalog/main/home.page>

Historic Environment Map Viewer: <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/services/historic-environment-map-viewer>

River Basin Map Viewer: <http://apps.d.aera-ni.gov.uk/RiverBasinViewer/>

Natural Heritage Map Viewer: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/services/protected-areas-web-viewer>

Marine Division Map Viewer: Currently under development. For latest see <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/marine>

Some of this information will also be available to view on the Planning Portal mapping application (Uniform) which is accessible to council planning officials.

- 2.8 **Section 4** of this document highlights environmental assets that were designated specifically through the pre April 2015 development plan process. This will help inform the evidence and information base for the preparation of new plans. Some of these development plan designations were adopted a considerable time ago and would need revised, updated and added to following best practice methodology e.g. some Local Landscape Policy Areas. As a consequence new LDPs may wish to identify new areas requiring protection and carry out a review of the previously designated environmental assets to identify those areas that require continued protection.
- 2.9 This information is not available as a digital download, on a publicly available map viewer or from the Environmental sections of DAERA (although Strategic Planning of Department for Infrastructure (DfI) may have access to this information). The boundaries of these sites can be found in the relevant Development Plan documents and may be on the Planning Portal mapping application (Uniform) which is accessible to council planning officials.

3 DAERA Strategic Environmental Evidence and Information

3.1 Composite Environmental Data Sources

Table 3.1a: Spatial information to inform LDP preparation and proposals: Composite Environmental Data Sources

Designation / Information	Is Digital Download Available?	Can boundaries be viewed on a public map viewer?	Other information available
<p>Identification of land potentially affected by contamination (potential impacts on soil, water, human health)</p> <p>Information on historic land uses</p>	No	Yes	<p>The NIEA “Historic Land Use Database” is available to view and search through the publicly available SpatialNI website https://www.spatialni.gov.uk/geoportal/catalog/main/home.page</p> <p>Information on the processes, materials and wastes associated with individual industries for contaminated land risk assessment is available from the UK Environment Agency website: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/departments-of-environment-industry-profiles</p>

Table 3.1b: Other environmental information: Plans, Studies, Strategies and Reports:
Composite Environmental Data Sources

Environmental Plans, Studies, Strategies and Reports	Is Info On Web?	Content
Northern Ireland State of the Environment Reports	Yes	<p>The reports draw together statistical and other information across indicators and presents an overview of how our environment is performing across land, water, sea and air. The report summarises changes to our environment and provides a commentary on key challenges and emerging trends that will assist policy makers, businesses and the public understand our environment better and develop solutions to environmental issues.</p> <p>https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/state-environment-report-2013</p>
Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Reports	Yes	<p>This publication provides information on over 60 environmental indicators focusing on eight key themes, ranging from biodiversity to waste management. Most indicators provide data on trends over time, and where applicable, performance against quantified targets.</p> <p>https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/northern-ireland-environmental-statistics-report</p>
Northern Ireland State of the Seas Report	Yes	<p>In 2011 DOE and the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) produced the first comprehensive report on the state of the seas around Northern Ireland. The report is largely structured around the requirements of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, although other aspects of the marine environment are also considered.</p> <p>https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/state-seas-report</p>
Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessments	Yes	<p>Landscape briefs are available for each of the 130 local landscape character areas in Northern Ireland. It provides a baseline description of the landscape at a point in time based upon local patterns of geology, land form, land use, cultural and ecological features.</p> <p>https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/landscape-character-northern-ireland#toc-1</p>

Table 3.1b continued: Other environmental information: Plans, Studies, Strategies and Reports: Composite Environmental Data Sources

Environmental Plans, Studies, Strategies and Reports	Is Info On Web?	Content
Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment	Yes	<p>Landscape briefs of each of the 26 Regional Landscape Character areas were published recently. The assessment provides a strategic overview of the landscape and subdivides the countryside into 26 Regional Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) based upon information on people and place and the combinations of nature, culture and perception which make each part of Northern Ireland unique.</p> <p>https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/services/regional-landscape-character-areas-map-viewer</p>
OSNI Historic maps	Yes	<p>Although this is not DAERA information these maps are a valuable evidence and information resource.</p> <p>https://mapshop.nidirect.gov.uk/Catalogue/Digital-products/Historical-products</p>

3.2 Biodiversity, flora and fauna

Table 3.2a: Spatial information to inform LDP preparation and proposals: Biodiversity, flora and fauna

Designation / Information	Is Digital Download Available?	Can boundaries be viewed on a public map viewer?	Other information available
Natura 2000/ European Sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Special Protection Areas (SPAs) ▪ Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) 	Yes	Yes	Site descriptions / Data-forms: Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) / NIEA web-sites: Conservation Objectives: NIEA web-site: http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/ https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/biodiversity-land-and-landscapes/protected-areas Condition Assessments: Contact NIEA
RAMSAR sites	Yes	Yes	Site descriptions / Information Sheets: Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) / NIEA web-sites (as above)
Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs)	Yes	Yes	Site descriptions / Citation documents: NIEA web-Site (as above) Condition Assessments: Contact NIEA
National Nature Reserves; Nature Reserves	Yes	Yes	Site descriptions: NIEA web-Site (as above)

Table 3.2a continued: Spatial information to inform LDP preparation and proposals: Biodiversity, flora and fauna

Designation / information	Is Digital Download Available?	Can boundaries be viewed on a public map viewer?	Other information available
Local Nature Reserves	No	No	Site locations and description available from NIEA web-site. Councils hold information about site boundaries and information on biodiversity interests of declared LNRs.
Local Wildlife Sites	No	No	<p>NIEA will provide Local Planning Authorities with unpublished information that will help them identify where some of these interests have the potential to occur: Contact NIEA</p> <p>Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCI) and Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs) identified in Development Plans pre April 2015 may contain info about local wildlife interests. This information is not available as a digital download, on a public map viewer. The boundaries of these sites can be found in the relevant Development Plan documents. Preparatory SLNCI and LLPA survey material may be available for plan areas that do not contain SLNCIs and LLPAs: See Section 4 - Contact NIEA</p>

Table 3.2a continued: Spatial information to inform LDP preparation and proposals: Biodiversity, flora and fauna.

Designation / information	Is Digital Download Available?	Can boundaries be viewed on a public map viewer?	Other information available
Priority Habitats	No	No	NIEA hold various datasets that would assist in identification of the location of some priority habitats. NIEA will provide Local Planning Authorities with unpublished information that will help them identify where some of these interests have the potential to occur: Contact NIEA.
Priority Species	No	No (Broad distribution data available at CEDaR)	The Centre for Environmental Data and Recording (CEDaR) provides guidance in relation to priority species in Northern Ireland and holds the most comprehensive set of records and spatial datasets for these assets: http://www.nmni.com/cedar http://www.habitas.org.uk/priority/ Biodiversity profiles of Landscape Character Areas and Local Biodiversity Action Plans identify some of the priority species that would occur in an area: NIEA or Council web-sites.
Ancient and Long Established Woodland	No	Yes (Non NIEA)	Interactive map and information from Woodland Trusts Back on the Map site: http://www.backonthemap.org.uk/ Some of this information will have been incorporated into info provided to Planning Authorities relating to priority habitats.

Table 3.2b: Other environmental information: Plans, Studies, Strategies and Reports: Biodiversity, flora and fauna

Environmental Plans, Studies, Strategies and Reports	Is Info On Web?	Content
Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy	Yes	<p>The Strategy sets out how NI plans to meet its international obligations and local targets to protect biodiversity.</p> <p>https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/biodiversity-strategy-northern-ireland-2020-0</p>
Local Biodiversity Action Plans	Yes (Councils)	<p>LBAPs aim to conserve biodiversity through local partnerships and highlight local biodiversity interests and priorities and are prepared by district councils.</p>
Landscape Character Areas Biodiversity Profiles	Yes	<p>Biodiversity profiles are available for each of the 130 Local Landscape Character areas in Northern Ireland. NIEA web-site.</p> <p>https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/landscape-character-northern-ireland</p>
Digest of Statistics for Salmon and Inland Fisheries for the Inland Fisheries DAERA Jurisdiction	Yes	<p>This annual report draws together data collected by Inland Fisheries, DAERA, to inform policy relating to Fisheries Conservation and Recreational Angling Development, Licensing and Fisheries Enforcement. It presents an overview of the status of the various fisheries licensing and enforcement activity and outlines the recreational angling opportunities provided by the Department. It should be noted that the report does not cover the Loughs Agency jurisdiction of the catchment areas of Lough Foyle and Carlingford Lough.</p> <p>https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/angling-and-inland-waterway-statistics</p> <p>More detailed data is available upon request from Inland Fisheries</p> <p>anglingcorrespondence@daera-ni.gov.uk</p>

3.3 Geo-Diversity / Soil

Table 3.3a: Spatial information to inform LDP preparation and proposals: Geo-Diversity / Soil

Designation / Information	Is Digital Download Available?	Can info be viewed on a public map viewer?	Other information available
Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast World Heritage Site	Yes	Yes	Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and Management Plan for the Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast World Heritage Site 2013 – 2019 https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/giants-causeway-world-heritage-site
Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs)	Yes	Yes	Site descriptions / Citation documents: NIEA Web-Site https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/land-and-landscapes/areas-special-scientific-interest
Earth Science Conservation Review Sites	No	No	ESCR site list and description can be found at: http://www.habitas.org.uk/escr/ NIEA have a digital dataset showing point location of these sites: Contact NIEA
Local Geo-Diversity Sites	No	No	Sites of Local Nature Conservation identified in Development Plans pre April 2015 Preparatory SLNCI survey material or other baseline evidence may be available for plan areas that do not currently contain SLNCIs: See Section 4 - Contact NIEA
Bedrock and superficial geology	Yes	Yes	Information provided by the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland are available via Spatial NI and http://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/GSNI_Geoindex/home.html

Table 3.3b: Other environmental information: Plans, Studies, Strategies and Reports: Geo-Diversity / Soil

Environmental Plans, Studies, Strategies and Reports	Is Info On Web?	Content
Landscape Character Areas Geo-diversity Profiles	Yes	Geo-diversity profiles are available for each of the 130 local landscape character areas in Northern Ireland: NIEA web-site: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/landscape-character-northern-ireland

3.4 Water

Table 3.4a: Spatial information to inform LDP preparation and proposals: Water

Designation / Information	Is Digital Download Available?	Can info be viewed on a map viewer?	Other information available
Protected Areas	Yes	Yes	Drinking Water Protected Areas; Freshwater Fish; Shellfish Waters; Bathing Waters; Nutrient Sensitive Areas; and Water Dependent Natura 2000 sites. Aquatic monitoring results and River Basin Plans including Local Management Area Action Plans: NIEA web-site. https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/water
WFD Lakes	Yes	Yes	Aquatic monitoring results and River Basin Plans including Local Management Area Action Plans: NIEA web-site (as above).
WFD Rivers	Yes	Yes	Aquatic monitoring results and River Basin Plans including Local Management Area Action Plans: NIEA web-site (as above).
WFD Transitional Waters	Yes	Yes	Aquatic monitoring results and River Basin Plans including Local Management Area Action Plans: NIEA web-site (as above).
WFD Groundwaters	Yes	Yes	Aquatic monitoring results and River Basin Plans including Local Management Area Action Plans: NIEA web-site (as above). Aquifer classification and groundwater vulnerability (in co-operation with the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland): http://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/GSNI_Geoiindex/home.html Risks to groundwater associated with certain land uses or activities as outlined in the groundwater protection policy for England https://www.gov.uk/government/collecti- ons/groundwater-protection

Table 3.4b: Other environmental information: Plans, Studies, Strategies and Reports: Water

Environmental Plans, Studies, Strategies and Reports	Is Info On Web?	Content
River Basin Management Plans	Yes	<p>River basin planning takes an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment. It applies to groundwater (underground water) and to all surface water bodies, including rivers, lakes, transitional (estuarine) and coastal waters out to one nautical mile, as well as wetlands which are directly associated with ground or surface water.</p> <p>NIEA web-site: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/water/river-basin-management</p>

3.5 Coast and Marine

Table 3.5a: Strategic spatial information to inform LDP preparation and proposals: Coast and Marine

Designation / Information	Is Digital Download Available?	Can info be viewed on a map viewer?	Other information available
Protected Areas	Yes	Yes	Shellfish Waters; Bathing Waters; Nutrient Sensitive Areas; and Water Dependent Natura 2000 sites and Marine Conservation Zones. Aquatic monitoring results and River Basin Plans including Local Management Area Action Plans: DAERA web-site. https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/marine
WFD Coastal Waters	Yes	Yes	Aquatic monitoring site locations and results. River Basin Plans including Local Management Area Action Plans: DAERA web-site: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/marine
Priority Marine Features	No	No	Habitat, species and geodiversity information for Northern Ireland coastal waters is available from CEDaR. http://www.nmni.com/cedar
Marine Uses & Activities Data	Not at present	Not at present	A map-viewer is currently under development which will display spatial information relating to the NI Marine Area including marine and coastal uses and activities data (such as Shipping, Fishing, Energy, Military, Cables/Pipelines, Recreation data etc). Most of the Uses and Activities information will be Third Party. For further information please contact marinedivision.inforequests@daera-ni.gov.uk
Marine Licensing	No	Not at present	Marine Structures, Dredging, Disposal & Sediment Sampling Locations: Contact Marine Division.

Table 3.5a continued: Spatial information to inform LDP preparation and proposals: Coast and Marine

LDP proposals/ information	Is Digital Download Available?	Can info be viewed on a public map viewer?	Other information available
Marine Strategy Framework Directive	Not at present.	Not at present.	Although data gathered in implementing the Directive is not yet available on line information on the Directive can be found at https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/marine-strategy-framework-directive
Northern Ireland Regional Seascape Character Assessment	Yes	Yes	Twenty-four different regional seascape character areas have been identified round the coast of Northern Ireland. Descriptions of the key characteristics and the different influences that mould each as a unique part of our coastline are available: DAERA web-site: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/seascape-character-areas#toc-0

Table 3.5b: Other environmental information: Plans, Studies, Strategies and Reports: Coast and Marine

Environmental Plans, Studies, Strategies and Reports	Is Info On Web?	Content
Marine Litter Strategy	Yes	A copy of the strategy is available from https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/marine-litter
Marine Plan*	No	Draft Marine Plan for Northern Ireland due to be published for public consultation shortly. See latest at https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/marine-plan-northern-ireland
UK Marine Policy Statement*	Yes	This sets out the framework for taking decisions affecting the marine area and is available via https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69322/pb3654-marine-policy-statement-110316.pdf

*The **Marine and Coastal Access Act (MCAA) 2009** and the **Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013** set out the requirements for decisions affected by marine policy documents, including the UK Marine Policy Statement and a marine plan. Under Section 58 of the MCAA and Section 8 of the Marine Act public authorities (including councils) must take any authorisation or enforcement decision that affect or might affect the marine area in accordance with the appropriate marine policy documents, unless other relevant considerations indicate otherwise.

3.6 Air

Table 3.6a: Spatial information to inform LDP preparation and proposals: Air

Designation / Information	Is Digital Download Available?	Can info be viewed on a public map viewer?	Other information available
Smoke Control Areas (SCAs)	No	Yes	Councils with SCAs are highlighted on www.airqualityni.co.uk and also via Spatial NI. Individual Councils hold information on location of SCAs.
Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs)	No	Yes	Some information available at www.airqualityni.co.uk and also via Spatial NI and http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/aqma/maps Individual Councils hold information on location of AQMAs.
Air quality monitoring results and data archive	No	Yes	www.airqualityni.co.uk Councils also hold information on air quality monitoring results and levels, available in their Review and Assessment Reports.
National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory	No	Yes	Modelled emissions maps available at: www.naei.org.uk Latest report available at: https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/assets/documents/reports/cat07/1609130909_Devolved_Administrations_Air_Quality_Pollutant_Inventories_1990-2014_Issue1.1.pdf
Critical load exceedences for aerial deposition of pollutants	No	Yes	http://www.apis.ac.uk/search-by-location Note: whereas other air quality information is focussed on protection of human health, information on critical loads is used in assessing sensitive habitat damage and protection.

Table 3.6b: Other environmental information: Plans, Studies, Strategies and Reports: Air

Environmental Plans, Studies, Strategies and Reports	Is Info On Web?	Content
UK Air Quality Strategy	Yes	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-air-quality-strategy-for-england-scotland-wales-and-northern-ireland-volume-1
NI Local Air Quality Management Policy Guidance	Yes	https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/protect-environment/air-and-environmental-issues
Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance	Yes	https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69334/pb13081-tech-guidance-laqm-tg-09-090218.pdf

3.7 Climatic Factors

Table 3.7a: Other environmental information: Plans, Studies, Strategies and Reports: Climatic Factors

Environmental Plans, Studies, Strategies and Reports	Is Info On Web?	Content
Northern Ireland Climate Change Risk Assessment (NI CCRA)	Yes	Contains the findings of an assessment of climate change risks for Northern Ireland, which has been completed as part of the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment. https://www.theccc.org.uk/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-2017/national-summaries/northern-ireland-2/
Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Plan (NICCAP)	Yes	Contains a range of actions and activities constituting the Government's response to priority risks and opportunities identified in the Climate Change Risk Assessment for NI (NI CCRA). https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-climate-change-adaptation-programme
Cross Departmental Working Group Annual Progress Report	Yes	Contains an update on progress made across NI Departments and the action plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/cross-departmental-working-group-climate-change
DAERA statistics web page	Yes	Contains statistics and research on a range of environmental and climate change issues. The initial page is: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics For details of progress made to date the greenhouse gas inventory can be viewed at: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/northern-ireland-greenhouse-gas-inventory The projection tool used to forecast future emissions reductions can be viewed at: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/northern-ireland-greenhouse-gas-projections#toc-0

3.8 Cultural Heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage

The majority of information for this topic is held by the Department for Communities but is included for completeness.

Table 3.8a: Strategic spatial information to inform LDP preparation and proposals: Cultural Heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage

Designation / Information	Is Digital Download Available?	Can info be viewed on a public map viewer?	Other information available
Listed Buildings	Yes	Yes	Northern Ireland Building Database: Provides info such as address, grade, description and history of buildings. https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/services/buildings-database
Scheduled Sites and Monuments and associated Scheduled Zones	Yes	Yes	Some sites and monuments have specific protected (scheduled) zones around them. Relevant, site specific material is available through the Sites and Monuments Record online database: https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/services/sites-and-monuments-record Additional supporting survey material may also be available for consultation from the DfC Monuments and Buildings Record. The schedule of monuments is published annually at https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/scheduled-monuments
Sites and Monuments	Yes	Yes	The Sites and Monuments Record is a list of all known archaeological sites and monuments in Northern Ireland. Relevant, site specific material is available through the Sites and Monuments Record online database (as above)
Monuments in State Care	Yes	Yes	The location of each state care monument is available digitally. Relevant, site specific material is available through the Sites and Monuments Record online database. Please contact Historic Monuments Unit for any other queries. mbr-enquiries@communities-ni.gov.uk

Table 3.8a continued: Spatial information to inform LDP preparation and proposals: Cultural Heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage

Designation / Information	Is Digital Download Available?	Can info be viewed on a public map viewer?	Other information available
Areas of Archaeological Potential	Yes	Yes	Areas of Archaeological Potential form a subset of a larger dataset known as the Gazetteer of Historic Nucleated Urban Settlement (GNHUS). Not all of the GNHUS has been fully digitised but further and supporting survey material is available for consultation from the Monuments and Buildings Record. Please contact Historic Monuments Unit for further information.
Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest	Yes	Yes	Supporting survey material may be available for consultation from the Monuments and Buildings Record. Please contact Historic Monuments Unit for further information.
Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes	Yes	Yes	The Register of Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes of Special Historic Interest contains two categories of sites. The first, full register sites, is available digitally; the second, supplementary sites, is partially available digitally. Information on supplementary sites and supporting material on all sites is available for consultation from the Monuments and Buildings Record. Please contact Historic Monuments Unit for further information. https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/historic-parks-and-gardens
Industrial Heritage Record	Yes	Yes	The completion and digitisation of the Northern Ireland Industrial Heritage Record is an ongoing process and not all sites and information are available digitally. Please contact Historic Monuments Unit for further information. https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/industrial-archaeology
Defence Heritage	Yes	Yes	The completion and digitisation of the Northern Ireland Defence Heritage Record is an ongoing process and not all sites and information are available digitally. Please contact Historic Monuments Unit for further information. https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/defence-heritage

Table 3.8a continued: Spatial information to inform LDP preparation and proposals: Cultural Heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage

Designation / Information	Is Digital Download Available?	Can info be viewed on a public map viewer?	Other information available
Shipwreck Inventory	No	No	Supporting survey material may be available for consultation from Marine and Fisheries Division, Marine Division, DAERA. Please contact Marine Division for further information marinedivision.inforequests@daera-ni.gov.uk .
Historic Battlefields	No	No	Supporting survey material may be available for consultation from the Monuments and Buildings Record. Please contact Historic Monuments Unit for further information. mbr-enquiries@communities-ni.gov.uk
Local Heritage Interests	No	No	LLPAs identified in some Development Plans pre April 2015 (This information is not available as a digital download, on a map viewer or from NIEA. The boundaries of these sites can be found in the relevant Development Plan documents). Pre-April 2015 preparatory LLPA survey material may be available for plan areas that do not contain LLPAs: Contact Historic Environment Division https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/historic-environment-division-structure-and-contacts

Other environmental information: Plans, Studies, Strategies and Reports: Cultural Heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage Cultural Heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage

The Northern Ireland Monuments and Buildings Record contains a great deal of information and DfC Historic Environment Division welcome contact from the public and other government and local government officials on any heritage query.

3.9 Landscape

Table 3.9a: Spatial information to inform LDP preparation and proposals: Landscape

Designation / Information	Is Digital Download Available?	Can info be viewed on a public map viewer?	Other information available
Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast World Heritage Site	Yes	Yes	Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and Management Plan for the Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast World Heritage Site 2013 - 2019 https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/giants-causeway-world-heritage-site
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs).	Yes	Yes	AONB Management Plans(Web-pages of Management Bodies)
Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment Series	Yes	Yes	Landscape briefs are available for each of the 130 local landscape character areas in Northern Ireland. It provides a baseline description of the landscape at a point in time. https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/landscape-character-northern-ireland
Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment	Yes	Yes	Landscape briefs of each of the 26 Regional Landscape Character areas were published in September 2015. The assessment provides a strategic overview of the landscape and subdivides the countryside into 26 Regional Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) based upon information on people and place and the combinations of nature, culture and perception which make each part of Northern Ireland unique. https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/services/regional-landscape-character-areas-map-viewer
Northern Ireland Regional Seascape Character Assessment	Yes	Yes	Twenty-four different regional seascape character areas have been identified round the coast of Northern Ireland. Descriptions of the key characteristics and the different influences that mould each as a unique part of our coastline are available: NIEA web-site. https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/seascape-character-areas#toc-0 https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-regional-seascape-character-assessment

Table 3.9a continued: Spatial information to inform LDP preparation and proposals:
Landscape

LDP proposals/ information	Is Digital Download Available?	Can info be viewed on a map viewer?	Other information available
Local Landscapes (Local Landscape Policy Areas)	No	No	Local Landscape Policy Areas LLPAs identified in some Development Plans pre April 2015 (This information is not available as a digital download, on a map viewer or from NIEA. The boundaries of these sites can be found in the relevant Development Plan documents). Pre-April 2015 preparatory LLPA survey material may be available for plan areas that do not contain LLPAs: Contact NIEA
Areas of Scenic Quality	No	No	Baseline evidence of Areas of Scenic Quality can be found in the Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment series. These informed the designation of Areas of High Scenic Value (AoHSV) in some Development Plans pre April 2015.
Special Countryside Areas	No	No	SCAs identified in Development Plans pre April 2015 (This information is not available as a digital download, on a map viewer or from NIEA. The boundaries of these sites can be found in the relevant Development Plan documents).

Table 3.9b: Other environmental information: Plans, Studies, Strategies and Reports:
Landscape

Environmental Plans, Studies, Strategies and Reports	Is Info On Web?	Content
Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment 2000	No	'An appreciation and analysis of the Landscapes in the Region'. Only hard copies are available. Contact NIEA.
Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessments	Yes	Landscape briefs are available for each of the 130 local landscape character areas in Northern Ireland: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/landscape-character-northern-ireland Associated Landscape Analysis maps are only available in hard copy and pdf on request: Contact NIEA.

3.10 Material Assets, Population, Human Health (open space / access)

Table 3.10a: Spatial information to inform LDP preparation and proposals: Material Assets, Population, Human Health (open space / access)

Designation / Information	Is Digital Download Available?	Can info be viewed on a map viewer?	Other information available
Public Rights of Ways asserted by the councils	No	Yes	Information held on SpatiaNI. NIEA have a digital dataset showing location of these sites: Contact NIEA
Ulster Way Route	No	Yes	The Route of the Ulster way is accessible from the WalkNI website which is updated by ORNI. http://www.walkni.com/ NIEA have a digital dataset showing location of the route: Contact NIEA
NIEA properties	No	No	NIEA own and manage a number of properties. NIEA hold a database that indicates the location (Grid Reference) of these sites. Contact NIEA.

Table 3.10b: Other Environmental Information: Plans, Studies, Strategies and Reports: Material Assets, Population, Human Health (open space / access)

Environmental Plans, Studies, Strategies and Reports	Is Info On Web?	Content
Outdoor Recreation Action Plan (ORAP)	Yes	It provides key recommendations for actions and challenges that need to be addressed to make Northern Ireland a place where outdoor recreation can deliver: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Healthy active lifestyles for local people from all communities. 2. Economic growth through encouraging visitors to come and enjoy the outdoors 3. Protection of landscapes and ecosystems for future generations. Available in PDF format on NIEA website. http://www.outdoorrecreationni.com/publication/other-organisations/strategic-partners/sport-ni/our-great-outdoors-the-outdoor-recreation-action-plan-for-northern-ireland
The Red Book 'A Guide to Public Rights of Way and Access to the Countryside'.	Yes	A guide on how councils/The Department/ The Public can implement the Access to the Countryside (Northern Ireland) Order 1983. Available in PDF format on NIEA website.
Accessibility of publicly owned land across Northern Ireland for outdoor recreation	Yes	Available on the Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland website. http://www.outdoorrecreationni.com/useful-info/publications/

4. DAERA environmental evidence within existing Development Plans and preparatory material pre-April 2015.

4.1 Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

Current Development Plan Covering Area	Environmental Designations in Development Plan
Antrim Area Plan 2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Space • Rural Policy Areas
Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015 (Newtownabbey District)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas of Archaeological Potential • Areas of High Scenic Value • Areas of Townscape Character • Coastal Areas • Community Greenways • Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes • Local Landscape Policy Areas • Rural Landscape Wedge • Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Information gathered by NIEA for environmental designations during preparation for other Development Plans pre April 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Landscape Policy Areas: Antrim • Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance: Antrim

4.2 Ards and North Down Borough Council

Current Development Plan Covering Area	Environmental Designations in Development Plan
Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015 (North Down District)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Area of High Scenic Value ▪ Areas of Townscape Character ▪ Areas of Archaeological Potential ▪ Areas of Village Character ▪ Community Greenways ▪ Coastal Areas ▪ Historic Park Garden and Demesnes ▪ Local Landscape Policy Areas ▪ Open Space ▪ Rural Landscape Wedges ▪ Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Ards and Down Area Plan 2015 (Ards District)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Areas of Archaeological Potential ▪ Areas of High Scenic Value ▪ Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest ▪ Areas of Townscape Character ▪ Historic Park Garden and Demesnes ▪ Local Landscape Policy Areas ▪ Open Space ▪ Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Information gathered for environmental designations during preparation for other Development Plans pre April 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None

4.3 Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

Current Development Plan Covering Area	Environmental Designations in Development Plan
Armagh Area Plan 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes ▪ Local Landscape Policy Areas ▪ Open Space ▪ Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Banbridge, Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015 (Banbridge District)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Areas of Archaeological Potential ▪ Areas of Townscape Character ▪ Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes ▪ Local Landscape Policy Areas ▪ Open Space ▪ Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance ▪ Special Countryside Areas
Craigavon Area Plan 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Areas of Constraint on Mineral Development ▪ Areas of Townscape Character ▪ Community Woodlands ▪ Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes ▪ Local Landscape Policy Areas ▪ Open Space ▪ Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Information gathered by NIEA for environmental designations during preparation for other Development Plans pre April 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Additional Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance: Armagh

4.4 Belfast City Council

Current Development Plan Covering Area	Environmental Designations in Development Plan
Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Areas of High Scenic Value ▪ Areas of Archaeological Potential ▪ Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest ▪ Areas of Townscape Character and Character Areas ▪ Coastal Areas ▪ Community Greenways ▪ Historic Park Garden and Demesnes ▪ Lagan Valley Regional Park ▪ Local Landscape Policy Areas ▪ Open Space ▪ Rural Landscape Wedges ▪ Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance ▪ Urban Landscape Wedges
Information gathered for environmental designations during preparation for other Development Plans pre April 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None

4.5 Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

Current Development Plan Covering Area	Environmental Designations in Development Plan
<p>Northern Area Plan 2016</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Areas of Archaeological Potential ▪ Areas of Constraint on Mineral Development ▪ Area of Significant Archaeological Interest ▪ Areas of Townscape Character ▪ Areas of Village Character ▪ Historic Park Garden and Demesnes ▪ Local Landscape Policy Areas ▪ Open Space ▪ Rathlin Island ▪ Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance ▪ World Heritage Site ▪ World Heritage Site Distinctive Landscape Setting
<p>Information gathered for environmental designations during preparation for other Development Plans pre April 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None

4.6 Derry City and Strabane District Council

Current Development Plan Covering Area	Environmental Designations in Development Plan
Derry Area Plan 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Area of Archaeological Potential ▪ Areas of Constraint on Mineral Development ▪ Areas of High Scenic Value ▪ Areas of Local Nature Conservation and Amenity Importance ▪ Areas of Townscape Character ▪ Community Woodlands ▪ Historic Park Garden and Demesnes ▪ Open Space
Strabane Area Plan 2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy Areas ▪ Recreation and Open Space
Information gathered for environmental designations during preparation for other Development Plans pre April 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None

4.7 Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

Current Development Plan Covering Area	Environmental Designations in Development Plan
Fermanagh Area Plan 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas of Archaeological Potential • Areas of Constraint on Mineral Development • Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest • Areas of Townscape Character • Areas of Village Character • Historic Parks and Gardens • Islands Countryside Policy Areas (now Special Countryside Area) • Local Landscape Policy Area • Ulster Canal
Omagh Area Plan 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amenity Policy Areas • Landscape Policy areas • Recreation and Open Space
Information gathered by NIEA for environmental designations during preparation for other Development Plans pre April 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (Fermanagh)

4.8 Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council

Current Development Plan Covering Area	Environmental Designations in Development Plan
Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Areas of High Scenic Value ▪ Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest ▪ Areas of Archaeological Potential ▪ Areas of Townscape Character ▪ Areas of Village Character ▪ Community Greenways ▪ Historic Park Garden and Demesnes ▪ Lagan Valley Regional Park ▪ Local Landscape Policy Areas ▪ Open Space ▪ Rural Landscape Wedges ▪ Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance ▪ Urban Landscape Wedges
Information gathered for environmental designations during preparation for other Development Plans pre April 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None

4.9 Mid and East Antrim Borough Council

Current Development Plan Covering Area	Environmental Designations in Development Plan
Ballymena Area Plan 2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Open Space ▪ Rural Policy Areas
Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015 (Carrickfergus District)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Areas of Archaeological Potential ▪ Area of High Scenic Value ▪ Areas of Townscape Character ▪ Coastal Areas ▪ Community Greenways ▪ Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes ▪ Local Landscape Policy Areas ▪ Rural Landscape Wedges ▪ Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Larne Area Plan 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Area of Constraint on mineral Development ▪ Area of Significant Archaeological Interest ▪ Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes ▪ Nature Conservation Sites ▪ Open Space ▪ Sites of Nature Conservation Significance ▪ Undeveloped Coast Countryside Policy Area now Special Countryside Areas
Information gathered by NIEA for environmental designations during preparation for other Development Plans pre April 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local Landscape Policy Areas: Ballymena and Larne ▪ Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance: Ballymena and Larne

4.10 Mid Ulster District Council

Current Development Plan Covering Area	Environmental Designations in Development Plan
Cookstown Area Plan 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Areas of Archaeological Potential ▪ Areas of Constraint on Mineral Development ▪ Area of Significant Archaeological Interest ▪ Areas of Townscape Character ▪ Community Woodlands ▪ Historic Park Garden and Demesnes ▪ Local Landmarks and Important Views ▪ Local Landscape Policy Areas ▪ Open Space ▪ Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Dungannon and South Tyrone Area Plan 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Areas of Archaeological Potential ▪ Areas of Constraint on Mineral Development ▪ Areas of Townscape Character ▪ Community Woodlands ▪ Historic Park Garden and Demesnes ▪ Historic Waterways ▪ Local Landscape Policy Areas ▪ Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Magherafelt Area Plan 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Areas of Archaeological Potential ▪ Areas of High Scenic Value ▪ Areas of Townscape Character ▪ Community Woodlands ▪ Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes ▪ Local Landscape Policy Areas ▪ Open Space ▪ Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Information gathered by NIEA for environmental designations during preparation for other Development Plans pre April 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None

4.11 Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Current Development Plan Covering Area	Environmental Designations in Development Plan
Banbridge, Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015 (Newry and Mourne District)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Areas of Archaeological Potential ▪ Area of Significant Archaeological Interest ▪ Areas of Townscape Character ▪ Community Woodland ▪ Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes ▪ Local Landscape Policy Areas ▪ Open Space ▪ Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance ▪ Special Countryside Areas
Ards and Down Area Plan 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Areas of Archaeological Potential ▪ Areas of High Scenic Value ▪ Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest ▪ Areas of Townscape Character ▪ Community Woodlands ▪ Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes ▪ Local Landscape Policy areas ▪ Open Space ▪ Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance
Information gathered by NIEA for environmental designations during preparation for other Development Plans pre April 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None



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