

**Appropriate Assessment (AA)**

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) is an assessment of the impact of plans or projects on sites that have been designated under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives (also referred to as *Natura 2000* sites). The appropriate assessment of the impact on the site focuses on the specific species or habitats for which the site was designated (also known as the site's *qualifying interests*).

Arborist

Arborists specialise in the cultivation, management and study of individual trees, shrubs, vines and other perennial woody plants. Arborists generally focus on the health and safety of individual plants and trees, rather than managing forests or harvesting wood.

Archaeology

Archaeology is the study of past human societies, either as a whole or of various aspects of them, through the material remains left by those societies and the evidence of their environment, and includes the study of, searching and prospecting for: (a) archaeological objects, (b) monuments, (c) buildings, or parts of any buildings, habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes, (d) landscapes, (e) seascapes, (f) wrecks, (g) climatological, ecological, geological or pedological factors, which may be relevant to the understanding of past human societies or the distribution or nature of any of the foregoing.

Archaeological Objects

An archaeological object is defined by the *Heritage Act, 1995* as any chattel whether in a manufactured or partly manufactured or an unmanufactured state, which by reason of the archaeological interest attaching thereto or of its association with any Irish historical event or person, has a value substantially greater than its intrinsic (including artistic) value, and the said expression includes ancient human, animal or plant remains. The archaeology of Ireland includes a wide array of monuments, objects, historical landscapes, environment and structures that were produced by the inhabitants of Ireland over the last nine to ten thousand years. These objects, when analysed correctly, become documents of our communal past, from the era of the neolithic farming conversion to the post-medieval industrial revolution.

Archaeology can overlap with other aspects of heritage such as architectural heritage. It is worth noting that under Section 2 of the *National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994* the Irish State is entitled to ownership of all archaeological objects on behalf of the Irish population. Although often unremarkable, the significance of archaeological objects in contributing to a local sense of place should not be underestimated.

Architectural Conservation Area (ACA)

An Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) is a statutory designation within the Irish Planning System that aims to recognise and value the importance of Ireland's unique architectural heritage within its cities, towns and villages. The *Planning & Development Acts 2000-2010* state that an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) is a place, area, group of structures or townscape, taking account of building lines and heights that is of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.



Architectural Heritage

This gives an idea of the breadth of types of interest or uniqueness that could be attributed to an area. The main difference this designation makes to property owners is that some of the classes of 'exempted development' that an undesignated area would have are removed in the ACA, if they would affect its defined and valued character.

Architectural Heritage is defined by the *Heritage Act, 1995* as including all 'structures, buildings, traditional and designed, and groups of buildings including streetscapes and urban vistas, which are of historical, archaeological, artistic, engineering, scientific, social or technical interest, together with their setting, attendant grounds, fixtures, fittings and contents, and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, includes railways and related buildings and structures and any place comprising the remains or traces of any such railway, building or structure'.

Biodiversity

Biodiversity is the variety of life on Earth, including at the species level, genetic level and the ecosystem level. It includes all wildlife and the habitats in which they live.

Character

Character is the unique identity of a place. It can be enhanced by taking into account and reinforcing local distinctive patterns of development, landscape and culture.

Collaborative Planning

Collaborative planning is an inclusive and integrative process aiming to bring as many stakeholders and groups together as possible in order to overcome institutional barriers and to create synergies. The approach is a democratic alternative to a traditional hierarchical approach to planning.

Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) was the first common policy introduced under the *Treaty of Rome signed in 1957*. The policy aims to support the incomes of farmers while also supporting the production of high quality food products. CAP is increasingly aimed at ensuring benefits to the environment, biodiversity and addressing climate change. CAP also supports the Rural Development Programme, which includes a wide range of support measures, including agri-environment schemes and provision of support to farmers in developing new economic opportunities. CAP is currently under reform, a process which will be complete in 2013.

Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP)

Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning is a strategic, forward-looking planning approach for regulating, managing and protecting the marine environment that addresses the multiple, cumulative, interactive and potentially conflicting uses of the sea. CMSP is seen as a way of improving decision making, involving a wide range of stakeholders and delivering a more eco-systems based approach to managing marine activities. It provides the context in which to make decisions about the use of resources, conservation, development and the management of activities within the marine environment.



County/City Heritage Plans

Operating under the provisions of the *Heritage Act, 1995* County / City Heritage Plans set out how local authorities, their Heritage Officers and Heritage Fora in association with other stakeholders will identify, manage and conserve heritage for the benefit of all. Such plans detail strategic proposals for the management and promotion of heritage resources at a county level. The plans should also seek to influence key players and stakeholders in heritage and raise awareness of heritage. Collaboration on plans and a sharing of knowledge and experiences is possible due to the Heritage Council's Heritage Officer Network.

Demesne (Historic)

Demesnes are historically defined as the lands held by the manor – big house- for its own use and occupation. They evolved as separate social and economic areas with distinctive layouts incorporating farmlands, gardens (often walled) and buildings. Today their influence is still a significant man-made component of the historical landscape and they remain unique areas of outstanding archaeological, architectural and botanical value.

Development Plan ie. County/City

A development plan is the main public statement of planning policies and objectives for the local community, which will deliver proper planning and sustainable development within the administrative area. In Ireland, a plan sets out the land use, amenity and development objectives and policies of a planning authority, for a 6 year period. The Plan informs the community and other interested parties in its draft form of the intended objectives and affords the community and others an opportunity for inspection, consultation and revision. When formally adopted, the plan forms an '*environmental contract*'¹ embodying an agreement between a County or City Council and the local community that it will regulate private development in a manner consistent with the objectives stated in the plan. It is the legal duty of the local authority to secure the objectives stated within the plan. The planning authority and An Bord Pleanála are required to have regard to the provisions of the development plan in determining planning applications and planning appeals. A development plan must be consistent with the policies and objectives of the relevant Regional Planning Guidelines.

Ecosystem

An ecosystem is a community of living organisms such as plants, animals and microbes, interacting with the non-living components of their environment such as air, water and mineral soil.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is the *process under EU law*, by which the anticipated effects and likely impact on the environment of a proposed development or project are measured. If the likely effects are unacceptable, design measures or other relevant mitigation measures can be taken to reduce or avoid those effects. In summary, EIA aims to ensure that certain projects likely to have significant effects on the environment are subject to comprehensive assessment of those effects before consent is given.

¹ As described by the Supreme Court in *Attorney General (McGarry) v Sligo County Council [1991]* (Simons, 2004:p.2)

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**

Environmental Impact Statement (EIA) is the document produced from the Environmental Impact Assessment process, i.e., the output. An EIS is also accompanied by a Non-Technical Summary Report.

Fauna

The animal life of a given place or time².

Flora

All the plant life of a given time or place.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

A Geographical Information System (GIS) permits the capture, manipulation, storing, checking, analysis, integration and display of spatial data. This database of information can be easily updated and accessed. It is an extremely useful aid for the management, analysis, investigation and presentation of all types of geographical data, e.g. environmental, heritage and socio-economic data.

Geography

Geography is the science of place and space. It is the study of the inhabitants and the phenomena of the Earth. It can be broadly be split into two main branches: human geography and physical geography. Human geography focuses on how humans influence, create, manage and influence the space around them. Physical geography is concerned with the study of climates, land forms, vegetation, soils, and water.

Geology

Geology is the study of the planet Earth as a whole or in part, the materials of which it is made, the processes that act and have acted upon these materials, and the products and structures formed by such action, the physical and biological history of the planet since its origin including the history of life preserved as fossils in rocks and deposits at the surface or in layers beneath the surface of the earth, stratigraphic succession, caves, fossil content or any other items of scientific interest, and includes geomorphology, lithology and mineralogy.

Green Infrastructure (GI)

Green Infrastructure (GI) is a strategically planned and managed network featuring areas with high quality biodiversity (uplands, wetlands, peatlands, rivers and coast), farmed and wooded lands and other green spaces that conserve ecosystem values which provide essential services to society³.

Greenways/Community Greenways

Greenways, also known as a Community Greenways, are multifunctional trails, developed in both urban and rural areas, for non-motorised users typically leading along linear green corridors, historic trade routes, rivers and disused railways. Ideally, they are developed and managed by local authorities in collaboration with local people in order to encourage sustainable development and healthy lifestyle. Greenways provide a collaborative framework to support the development of innovative community-based initiatives and projects related to nature conservation, cultural heritage preservation, sustainable tourism and mobility. Greenways seek to address needs of locals and visitors and to provide a positive contribution to the local economy.

² Oxford English Dictionary.

³ There are many different definitions for Green Infrastructure, but for the purposes of this Glossary, we use the working definition from Comhar's 2010 report "Creating Green Infrastructure for Ireland":

<http://www.comharsdc.ie/files/Comhar%20Green%20infrastructure%20report%20final.pdf>



Heritage

Under Section 6 of the *Heritage Act, 1995* our National Heritage is defined as including: monuments, archaeological objects, heritage objects, architectural heritage, flora and fauna, wildlife habitats, landscapes, seascapes, wrecks, geology, heritage gardens and parks; and inland waterways. See also **County/City Heritage Plans** above.

Heritage Gardens and Parks

Heritage gardens and parks include areas of natural heritage, and gardens and parks whose plant collections, design, design features, buildings, setting, style or association are of significant scientific, botanical, aesthetic or historical interest. or which illustrate some aspect of the development of gardening or of gardens and parks. See also **Demesne** above.

Heritage Objects

According to the *Heritage Act, 1995* Heritage Objects refer to objects, at least 25 years old, which are works of art or of industry and of cultural importance, which are not covered by the definition of an archaeological object. This category can include agriculture tools, archives and documents, books, clothing, photographs, paintings, pottery and glass.

Heritage Officers

Local Authority Heritage Officers aim to promote levels of awareness, understanding, management, enhancement and preservation of the heritage assets within their local area through collaboration with communities and other interested stakeholders. For contact details, please see **Factsheet No. 1**.

History

History is the discovery, collection, organisation, and presentation of information about past events.

Inland Waterways

The *Heritage Act, 1995* defines inland waterways as canals, canalised sections of rivers and lakes, navigation channels in rivers and lakes, and their associated navigational features.

Landscape

Landscape is defined by the *European Landscape Convention (ELC)* and transposed into law through Section 4 of the *Planning and Development (Amendment) Act, 2010*, as an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors – and includes rural and urban areas. Landscape and landscape character includes the natural (geology, soils, landforms, etc), cultural and social (land use, settlement, historical landscapes, etc.) and perceptual and aesthetic (form, preferences, pattern, texture, and colour). Landscape Planning and Management is also required under the provisions of the *Planning and Development (Amendment) Act, 2010*.

Landscape Architecture

Landscape architecture may be defined as the analysis, planning, design, management, and stewardship of the natural and built environments and the art of composing landform, water, vegetation, buildings, paving and climate to make good outdoor space. Types of projects include: parks and recreation areas, monuments, public spaces, transport corridors, gardens and arboreta, security design, hospitality and resorts, institutional, historic preservation and restoration, reclamation, conservation, landscape art and earth sculpture; interior landscapes to name but a few.



Landscape Character Area

Landscape Character Areas are single unique areas and are the discrete geographical area of a particular landscape type. Each area has its own individual character and identity, even though it shares the same generic characteristics with other areas. This distinction is often reflected in the naming of types and areas, and landscape character areas may often take on the names of specific places. For example, the Wicklow Uplands, or The Burren – see Heritage Council’s 2006 LCA Evaluation Study.

Landscape Character Assessment (LCA)

The objective of a Landscape Character Assessment is to analyse the character, value, and sensitivity of landscapes identified within a particular area. By understanding how different landscapes developed and evolved from both a natural, historical and social perspective, decisions relating to the management and planning of the landscape can be made from an informed basis. Moreover, as landscape character assessments seek the views of communities living within particular areas, the process encourages debate and assists in gaining consensus on what is distinctive about each landscape. In turn, this facilitates a stronger understanding and engenders a greater appreciation of the considerable landscape resource of communities.

Landscape Character is a distinctive and recognisable pattern of elements that occurs consistently in a particular type of landscape. Particular combinations of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use, field patterns and human settlement create character. Character makes each part of the landscape distinct, and gives each its particular sense of place. Increasingly it is recognised that the assessment of landscape character should also encompass coastal and seascape character, as well as townscape character.

(Historic) Landscape Characterisation (HLC)

Historic Landscape Characterisation is a tool for understanding the evolution or the ‘time depth’ of the landscape that we see today with particular reference to its historical development. The Heritage Council considers HLC to be an integral part of **Landscape Character Assessment** – see above.

Landscape Character Type (LCT)

Landscape Character Types are distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogenous in character. They are generic in nature in that they may occur in different parts of the country, but wherever they occur they share broadly similar combinations of geology, topography, drainage patterns, vegetation and historical land use and settlement pattern. For example, drumlins and mountain moorlands are recognisable and distinct landscape character types.

Local Area Plan (LAP)

A Local Area Plan sets out a strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of a specific area within a local authority and for a timescale specified by the authority. The policies or objectives contained in a Local Area Plan must be consistent with the objectives of the Development Plan. A Local Area Plan can be prepared for an area that has been designated a town in the most recent census and has a population in excess of 5,000 people.



Monument

A monument as defined under the *National Monuments Act 1930 – 2004* to 'include any artificial or partly artificial building, structure, or erection whether above or below the surface of the ground and whether affixed or not affixed to the ground and any cave, stone, or other natural product whether forming part of or attached to or not attached to the ground which has been artificially carved, sculptured or worked upon or which (where it does not form part of the ground) appears to have been purposely put or arranged in position and any prehistoric or ancient tomb, grave or burial deposit, but does not include any building, which is for the time being habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes'.

Natura 2000 (Network)

A collective reference for the sites that have been designated for protection under the EU Birds and Habitats Directives (*i.e.* SACs and SPAs).

Planning for Real®

Planning for Real® is a hands-on community development and empowerment tool that enables communities and others to work together to make a model of their area that helps them put forward and prioritise how their area can be improved. The technique uniquely builds around a community-assembled model on which problems and improvements are identified through pictorial 'option' cards. The model and the cards have several underlying purposes: They overcome the difficulties of verbal communication by providing an 'alternative currency' to words as a means of exchanging views and information. The model provides a common reference point around which to structure inputs, and allows a broader perspective of issues as well as providing a physical base for placing suggestions. The process allows residents to register their views on a range of issues, to work together to identify priorities, and in partnership with local agencies go on to develop an action plan for change.

Public Policy

Public policy is defined as 'a course of action adopted or pursued by a government, political leader or statesman'. As such public policy can be considered as course of action or inaction, designed to achieve a particular outcome⁴. It should also be noted that a policy is not binding unlike a law which can compel a particular course of action.

Protected Structure

A protected structure⁵ is defined by Section 2 of the *Planning and Development Act, 2000* as 'any building, structure, excavation, or other thing constructed or made on, in or under any land, or any part of a structure'. In relation to a protected structure or proposed protected structure, the meaning of the term 'structure' is expanded to include:

- a) the interior of the structure,
- b) the land lying within the curtilage of the structure,
- c) any other structures lying within that curtilage and their interiors,
- d) all fixtures and features which form part of the interior or exterior of the above structures.

⁴ Hill, M (2009) *The Public Policy Process* (5th Ed)

⁵ Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011)

[http://www.ahg.gov.ie/en/Publications/HeritagePublications/BuiltHeritagePolicyPublications/Architectural%20Heritage%20Protection%20Guidelines%20\(2011\).pdf](http://www.ahg.gov.ie/en/Publications/HeritagePublications/BuiltHeritagePolicyPublications/Architectural%20Heritage%20Protection%20Guidelines%20(2011).pdf)



The Act requires that a protected structure be of special interest under one or more of the following categories:

- a) Architectural
- b) Historical
- c) Archaeological
- d) Artistic
- e) Cultural
- f) Scientific
- g) Technical
- h) Social

These categories are not mutually exclusive and a protected structure can be of both historical and architectural interest.

Public Realm

The Public Realm or public space refers to publically accessible spaces between buildings, including, streets, pavements and historic spaces within the urban fabric or other structures enclosed within them. This space is free to use and is experienced everyday by the user regardless of age or capability⁶.

Public Realm refers to the public parts of a village, town or city that are available without charge, for everyone to use or see, including streets, laneways, squares, parks and public and civic buildings and facilities⁷.

Another definition includes '*Publicly owned streets, sidewalks, rights-of-ways, parks and other publicly accessible open spaces, and public and civic buildings and facilities*'. (Source: Burlington Plan, Canada, cited in A. Harvey, 2006).

Seascape

The *Heritage Act, 1995* refers to the seascape as areas and sites of coastal water including: estuaries, bays and lagoons of significant scenic, geological, ecological or other scientific interest. Seascape can also encompass any area of any extent or scale which includes the sea as a key feature. Seascape has physical and experiential attributes, and encompasses the interrelationship between the sea and the sky, and may include land.

Seascape Assessment

A seascape assessment is a process to assess the unique effect of historic and cultural issues related to the marine environment, the amenity functions and uses of the coastal area, the principles of visual movement and inter-visibility, the difficulties of scale and distance and the functions and uses of the sea. It is a two step process comprising of the characterisation - the describing, classifying and mapping seascape character, showing how one area is distinct from another and evaluation - the process of making judgments about seascape to inform decision making.

Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

A Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is a site designated under the *European Union Habitats Directives*. The main aim of the Habitats Directive is to conserve the best examples of natural and semi natural habitats and species of flora and fauna throughout the EU.

⁶ Dublin City Council Public Realm Plan (2012).

⁷ CABE.



candidate Special Area of Conservation

Each member state is required to designate Special Areas of Conservation to protect those habitats and species which are listed in the annexes of the Directive. Irish annexed habitats include raised bogs, blanket bogs, turloughs, sand dunes, machair (flat sandy plains on the north and west coasts), heaths, lakes, rivers, woodlands, estuaries and sea inlets. The 25 Irish species which must be afforded protection include Salmon, Otter, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Bottlenose Dolphin and Killarney Fern.

These are candidate sites for designation under the *EU Habitats Directive*. They are fully protected by law once the Minister has given notice of his intention to designate the sites, and are part of the Natura 2000 network.

Special Protection Area (SPA)

A Special Protection Area or SPA is a site designated under the *European Union Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds*. The objective of the Directive is to protect and manage all species of wild birds within the European Union. Member States have to take measures to maintain bird populations. Different species of bird are included in different Annexes to the Directive and the Annex in which a species is included determines the type of protection that applies to the species.

candidate Special Protection Area

This is similar in principle to the **Candidate Special Area of Conservation - cSAC**.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

SEA is a systematic process for evaluating the environmental consequences of proposed policy, plan or programme. The objectives of the SEA process are to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to promote sustainable development by contributing to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of specified plans and programmes. The European SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) specifies that SEAs must be carried out in the following 11 sectors agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning. For further information see www.epa.ie.

Tholsel/Tólsail

A Tholsel/Tólsail refers to extant or former public buildings in Ireland's towns and cities, which have traditionally been used as a town hall, courthouse, towngate, a prison, market house, council chamber or market house or toll point.

Townscape

In essence, townscape is the relationship between the various forms that make up the unique historic character, urban form and fabric such as buildings, streets, laneways, landmarks, public spaces, landscaping etc. These elements interact and connect to create vistas and views which change depending on the point from which they are observed.

Urban Design

Urban design is the art of making and shaping places and is an important part of the overall concept of environmental management, particularly given the global trend for increased urbanisation. The discipline involves the design of buildings, groups of buildings, spaces and landscapes, in villages, towns and cities and the establishment of frameworks and the processes, which combine and connect to facilitate the planning and management of successful and sustainable places.



Urban design is key to creating sustainable developments and the conditions for a flourishing economic life, for the prudent use of natural resources and for social progress⁸.

Urbanism

Urbanism is the study of how inhabitants of towns and cities interact with the built and natural environment. Urbanism focuses on the geography, economy, politics and social characteristics of the urban environment, as well as the effects on, and caused by, the built and natural environment.

Wrecks

The *Heritage Act, 1995* refers to a wreck ‘as a vessel, or part of a vessel, lying wrecked on, in or under the sea bed or, on or in land covered by water, and any objects contained in or on the vessel, and any objects that were formerly contained in or on a vessel and are lying on, in or under the sea bed or on or in land covered by water’.

Wildlife Habitats

The natural environment in which a species occurs and the physical environment that surrounds it.

Prepared by Kate Moloney, Heritage Council (October 2012)

⁸ www.designcouncil.org.uk/documents/documents/publications/cabe/by-design.pdf