Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe
ar son na hAeráide & Comhshaoil
Department of Communications,
Climate Action & Environment

Geological Survey
Suirbhéireacht Gheolaíochta
Ireland | Éireann

Nisha Rehm

06 July, 2020

Re: Agri-food Strategy to 2030 SEA Scoping

Your Ref: n/a
Our Ref: 20/121

Geological Survey Ireland is the national earth science agency and has datasets on Bedrock Geology, Quaternary Geology, Geological Heritage Sites, Mineral deposits, Groundwater Resources and the Irish Seabed. These comprise maps, reports and extensive databases that include mineral occurrences, bedrock/mineral exploration groundwater/site investigation boreholes, karst features, wells and springs. Please see our website for data availability and we recommend using these various data sets, when undergoing the EIAR, planning and scoping processes. Geological Survey Ireland should be referenced to as such and should any data or geological maps be used, they should be attributed correctly to Geological Survey Ireland.

Dear Nisha,

With reference to your email received on June 11, concerning the Agri-food Strategy to 2030 SEA Scoping, Geological Survey Ireland (a division of Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment) would like to make the following comments with regards to groundwater, flood risk management and climate change.

Groundwater

Groundwater is important as a source of drinking water, and it supports river flows, lake levels and ecosystems. It contains natural substances dissolved from the soils and rocks that it flows through, and can also be contaminated by human actions on the land surface. As a clean, but vulnerable, resource, groundwater needs to be understood, managed and protected.

Through our Groundwater Programme, Geological Survey Ireland provides advice and maps to members of the public, consultancies and public bodies about groundwater quality, quantity and distribution. Geological Survey Ireland monitors groundwater nationwide by characterising aquifers, investigating karst landscapes and landforms and by helping to protect public and group scheme water supplies. **We recommend the use of GSI's National Aquifer, Vulnerability and Recharge maps. Further information is available on our** Map viewer.

With regard to Flood Risk Management, there is a need to identify areas for integrated mitigation and management. Our GWFlood project is a groundwater flood monitoring and mapping programme aimed at addressing the knowledge gaps surrounding groundwater flooding in Ireland. The project is providing the data and analysis tools required by local and national authorities to make scientifically-informed decisions regarding groundwater flooding. **We recommend using the GSI's** GWFlood **tools found under our programme activities to this end.**

With regards to Climate Change, there is a need to improve the monitoring capacity of groundwater levels in Ireland so that the potential impacts of climate change can be monitored and assessed. In this context the GSI has established the GWClimate project in January 2020. GWClimate will 1) establish a long-term strategic groundwater level monitoring network and 2) develop modelling and analytical approaches for evaluating the impacts of Climate Change to Irish groundwater systems. **Further information can be found on the Groundwater flooding page of the Groundwater Programme.**

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

Yours sincerely,

Trish Smullen
Geoheritage Programme
Geological Survey Ireland