



Department for

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Date: 03/12/2021


HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DIVISION COMMENTS RE: SEA REPORT OF DRAFT COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2027

DfC Historic Environment Division (HED) operate via a Service Level Agreement with colleagues in DAERA in relation to SEA, whereby, we provide authoritative comment and advice in relation to matters of Cultural Heritage including archaeological and architectural heritage. We make the following comments in respect of the documentation received by our office on 09/11/2021.

HED provided comment on the SEA Scoping report for the draft Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) strategic plan 2023-2027 in April 2021. We are pleased to note that our comments have been taken into account and that potential impacts of the draft CAP on transboundary cultural heritage have been addressed, including consideration of the regional strategic planning policy context within Northern Ireland.

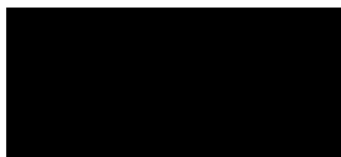
We also welcome that in addition to considering potential effects of the strategy on archaeological sites and monuments and cultural heritage assets, there is specific recognition of the potential for impacts on vernacular heritage, particularly on historic field boundaries, (stone walls and hedgerows) and gates and gate posts – features which support biodiversity, and reinforce the local distinctiveness and landscape character of a place. Table 6.1 outlines the Strategic Environmental Objective for Cultural Heritage, and the accompanying sub questions, to assess the potential effects. HED considers that the actions of the various initiatives and programmes, particularly under GAEC 9, Table 8.1, present opportunities to address these questions by identifying further training opportunities toward better protection for cultural heritage i.e. heritage skills training to maintain, re-use and conserve heritage assets on agricultural land, such as historic monuments and vernacular buildings and structures.

With regard to SEA monitoring, as outlined in Chapter 10, we refer to our Historic Environment datasets, which we maintain on behalf of the Department for Communities. HED datasets can provide an important evidence base to assist in the assessment of transboundary cultural heritage effects and include recorded designated and non-designated heritage assets, and are available at: <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/historic-environment-digital-datasets>. They can also be accessed via our Historic Environment Map Viewer <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/services/historic-environment-map-viewer>

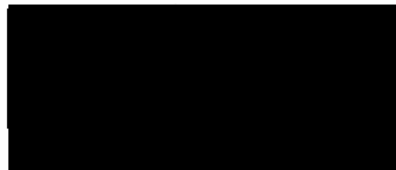
Datasets regarding Northern Ireland's marine historic environment may be obtained by contacting 

Should you have any queries in regard to the content of our response please contact us at the above address.

Yours sincerely



Senior Archaeologist



Senior Architect

HERITAGE RECORDS AND DESIGNATIONS BRANCH