Environment Fund 2023-28

Environmental Statement Guidance Note

***Sustainability** at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.*

NIEA Northern Ireland Environment Agency
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

An Agency within the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Introduction

A project may have a positive, neutral or a negative effect on the environment. This can occur during the construction or operational phase of a project. The applicant has a duty to inform the Department of potential environmental effects from the proposal during the funding application stage.

Environmental Considerations

To fully assess a proposals impact, an Environmental Statement is generated as part of the application process as per Question 28. This should detail potential environmental impacts from the project and any proposed mitigation measures.
Below are possible topics and specific matters which effects/impacts may fall under, this list is not exhaustive:

Biodiversity / Ecology

- Designated Sites
- Protected Species – bats, birds, badgers, newts etc.
- Protected Habitats
- Ancient/Long-Established Woodland
- Invasive Species
- Cultural Heritage
- Any historic features located within area?

Water Environment

- Sedimentation? especially during construction.
- Loss of river habitat?
- Potential of increased runoff or for flooding?
- Fish can pass easily?
- Potential for significant spillages during construction?
- Hydrological linkages to designated sites?

Population / Waste

- Waste / litter generated during construction?
- Litter during operation?
- Potential of significant increase in footfall? destination tourist draw?

Landscape / Visual

- Will proposal have significant impact on landscape or visual appearance?

Geology

- Is it a geological ASSI site?
- Other geological reasons

Noise / Vibration /Air Quality / Community Effects including Vehicle movements

- Dust – traffic/plant (machinery) / weather
- Sensitive features? Such as priority species or designated sites?
- Movement of vehicles during construction
- Significant construction noise? Impact on priority species? Breeding season of birds?

As the applicant you are required to detail potential environmental effects of the project along with appropriate mitigation.

The following online resources which may assist with collating information of potential effects should it be felt that the applicant has missed any.

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

DAERA Natural Environment Map Viewer
https://appsd.daera-ni.gov.uk/nedmapviewer/

DfI Flood Mapping
https://dfi-ni.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=fd6c0a01b07840269a50a2f596b3daf6

River Basin and Quality Mapper
https://appsd.daera-ni.gov.uk/RiverBasinViewer/

DAERA Planning Guidance
https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/environmental-advice-planning/advice-and-guidance

Licences and Approvals

As the applicant you are required to ensure all appropriate licences / approvals / assessments have been applied for or are received for the terrestrial and marine environments.

A list of possible licences / approval / assessments are outlined below:

Terrestrial:

- Planning Permission (obtained from Planning Authority)
- Discharge Consent (if there is to be any discharge of trade or sewage waste to any waterway, or any water contained underground) (obtained from EMFG).
- Habitats Regulations Assessment (undertaken by the competent authority undertaking or approving project. Consultation with EMFG may be required. This assessment may have been undertaken for aspects of the project in conjunction with other permissions such as planning permission)
- ASSI Assent (if carrying out activity likely to damage an Area of Special Scientific Interest) (requires consultation with EMFG)
- Wildlife Licence (if a protected species is going to be disturbed) (obtained from EMFG)

Marine:

- Marine Construction Licence (obtained from EMFG)
- Marine Dredge Licence (obtained from EMFG)
- Waste Management Licence (if sediment that is being impacted is contaminated) (obtained from EMFG)
- Planning Permission (obtained from Planning Authority)
- Habitats Regulations Assessment (undertaken by the competent authority undertaking or approving project. Consultation with EMFG may be required. This

assessment may have been undertaken for aspects of the project in conjunction with other permissions such as planning permission)

- ASSI Assent (if carrying out activity likely to damage an Area of Special Scientific Interest) (requires consultation with EMFG)
- Wildlife Licence (if a protected species is going to be disturbed) (obtained from EMFG)
- Discharge Consent (if there is to be any discharge of trade or sewage waste to any waterway, or any water contained underground) (obtained from EMFG).

Other environmental related licences / approvals / assessments which are less likely to be required but may be relevant depending on project proposal would be for:

- Abstraction and impoundment of water licences (obtained from EMFG)
- Consent if there is a need to culvert a stream for access purposes (obtained from DfI Rivers)
- Obligations required if a right of way is to be diverted (initial considerations by councils).
- Terrestrial waste or groundwater licences (obtained from EMFG).
- Scheduled Monument or Listed Building Consent

DAERA will complete a check on the information provided by the applicant. Failure by the applicant to identify and adequately consider significant environmental impacts will result in the return of the application to the applicant requesting further clarity.

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