

Environment Fund

Water Quality Improvement

Grant

Environmental Statement Guidance

Notes

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

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.

To fully assess a proposal's impact an Environmental Statement Report will need to be produced as part of the application process. This should detail potential effects from the project and proposed mitigation measures.

Below are possible topics and specific matters that 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

- Significant construction noise? Impact on priority species? Breeding season of birds?

Cultural Heritage

- Any historic features located within area?

Water Environment

- Sedimentation? Especially during construction.
- Loss of river habitat?
- Potential for increased runoff or flooding?
- Can fish 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?

Geology

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

Landscape/Visual

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

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

The applicant is required to detail all interactions between factors and potential environmental effects of the project along with appropriate mitigation.

Below are several online resources which may assist with collating information of potential effects.

DoC Historic Environment Map Viewer

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

DAERA Natural Environment Map Viewer

<https://apps.daera-ni.gov.uk/nedmapviewer/>

DfI Flood Mapping

[https://dfi-](https://dfi-ni.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=fd6c0a01b07840269a50a2f596b3daf6)

[ni.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=fd6c0a01b07840269a50a2f596b3daf6](https://dfi-ni.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=fd6c0a01b07840269a50a2f596b3daf6)

NIEA Catchment Data Map Viewer

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/daera-map-viewers>

DAERA Planning Guidance

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/about-water-management-unit>

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/land-and-landscapes/development-management>

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/environmental-advice-planning>

As the applicant you are required to ensure all appropriate licences/ approvals/ assessments have been applied for or received for the terrestrial, marine and aquatic 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 Northern Ireland Environment Agency within DAERA).
- 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 / consent (if carrying out activity likely to damage an Area of Special Scientific Interest) (requires consultation with NIEA)
- Wildlife Licence (if a protected species is going to be disturbed) (obtained from NIEA)

Marine:

- Marine Construction Licence (obtained from DAERA Marine and Fisheries Group, MFG)

- Marine Dredge Licence (obtained from MFG)
- Waste management Licence (if sediment that is being impacted is contaminated) (obtained from NIEA)
- Planning Permission (obtained from Planning Authority)
- Habitats Regulations Assessment (undertaken by the competent authority undertaking or approving project: consultation with NIEA 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/ consent (if carrying out activity likely to damage an Area of Special Scientific Interest) (requires consultation with NIEA)
- Wildlife Licence (if a protected species is going to be disturbed) (obtained from NIEA)
- Discharge Consent (if there is to be any discharge of trade or sewage waste to any waterway, or any water contained underground) (obtained from NIEA).

Aquatic:

- Abstraction and impoundment of water licences (obtained from EMFG)
- Consent if they need to culvert a stream for access purposes (obtained from DfI Rivers)
- Discharge Consent (if there is to be any discharge of trade or sewage waste to any waterway, or any water contained underground) (obtained from NIEA).
- Waste management Licence (if sediment that is being impacted is contaminated) (obtained from NIEA)
- Planning Permission (obtained from Planning Authority)
- Habitats Regulations Assessment (undertaken by the competent authority undertaking or approving project: consultation with NIEA 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/ consent (if carrying out activity likely to damage an Area of Special Scientific Interest) (requires consultation with NIEA)
- Wildlife Licence (if a protected species is going to be disturbed) (obtained from NIEA)

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

- Obligations required if a right of way is to be diverted (initial considerations by councils).
- Terrestrial waste or groundwater licences (obtained from EMFG).

DAERA will complete a check on the environmental statement information provided by the applicant. Failure by the applicant to identify and adequately consider significant environmental effects (or if during the checking phase DAERA identifies additional effects) will result in the return of your application requesting further clarity.



For further information:

Integrated Catchment Planning Team
NIEA Water Management Unit
17 Antrim Road,
Tonagh,
Lisburn
Co. Antrim
BT28 3AL

Tel: 0300 200 7850

Email: catchmentplanning@daera-ni.gov.uk