

Environment Fund
Water Quality Improvement Grant
Environmental Statement Guidance Notes

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 proposals 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 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

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?

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

Cultural Heritage

- Any historic features located within area?

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

The applicant is required to detail all inter-actions 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.d.aera-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://apps.d.aera-ni.gov.uk/RiverBasinViewer/>

As the applicant you are required to ensure all appropriate licences/approvals/assessments have been applied for or 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 Environment Marine and Fisheries Group (EMFG) 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 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 / consent (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 they 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).

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.