

Forest Service,
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine,
Johnstown Castle Estate,
Co. Wexford

Our Ref: HRA 08/14

10 October 2014

Dear Sir / Madam

Re: Natura Impact Statement- Draft Forestry Programme for the period 2014-2020-The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Thank-you for the email of 10th September 2014 enclosing links to the Natura Impacts Statement and accompanying documents for the Draft Forestry Programme for the period 2014-2020. The Department of the Environment Northern Ireland have considered the Natura Impact Statement and our opinions are set out below.

We note that trans-boundary impacts have been taken into account where it was identified that Forestry Programme measures have the potential to impact on Natura 2000 sites in Northern Ireland. Generic impacts on feature species and habitats have been considered and potential impacts have been identified in both the Natura Impacts Statement and the associated Strategic Environmental Assessment.

We note the recommendation that all proposed forestry projects should be subject to an assessment of their impacts and the proximity of Natura 2000 habitats and species should be taken into account when proposals are generated. We consider that such assessments should also consider proximity of and impacts on Natura 2000 sites in Northern Ireland.

The Department of the Environment Northern Ireland would be keen to engage in further consultations and information sharing to ensure that Natura 2000 sites in Northern Ireland are considered in relation to future proposals and that any potential adverse impacts are avoided or minimised.

Please contact the SEA Team at seateam@doeni.gov.uk should you have any queries or require clarification.

Yours sincerely



Dr Mark Hammond

SEA Co-ordinator

SEATeam@doeni.gov.uk

mark.hammond@doeni.gov.uk