

**COUNCIL FOR NATURE CONSERVATION
AND THE COUNTRYSIDE**
An Advisory Council to the Department of the Environment

1st Floor, Calvert House, 23 Castle Place, Belfast, BT1 1FY

Tel: 028 90254835 Fax: 028 90254856

secretariat-hillst@doeni.gov.uk

www.cncni.gov.uk

1st June 2010

Strategic Planning
4 Pavilions Office Park
Kinnegar Drive
Holywood
BT18 9JQ

Dear Sir/Madam,

SEA SCOPING REPORT for the STRATEGIC RIVERSIDE MASTERPLAN for the RIVER FOYLE.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this consultation and please accept our apologies for the late submission. We hope are comments may still be considered.

Section 2 Relationship with other Relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Objectives

We believe that this should include reference to the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment carried out by the Rivers Agency under the EU Floods Directive.

Section 3.4.1 Proposed Data Sources

We suggest that included in this list should be the Wildlife and Natural Environment Bill, currently making its way through the legislative process and due to become law later in the year. This is referred to later in the Report, in Tables 3.6 and 3.7. Apart from setting out various categories of protected species this legislation also lists Invasive Non-Native species that may not be introduced (see 3.4.3) and places a general biodiversity duty on all public bodies.

Note that 'European Plant Conversation Strategy' should read 'European Plant Conservation Strategy'.

Section 3.7.1 Proposed data sources (Landscape)

We suggest that this should include the Supplementary Planning Guidance to PPS 18, Planning and Renewable Energy, and the European Landscape Convention, to which the UK is a signatory.

Yours sincerely



**PATRICK CASEMENT
CHAIRMAN**