



Arik Dondi
Deputy Director
Sustainable Land and Soils
Defra

arik.dondi@defra.gsi.gov.uk

28 June 2013

Dear Mr Dondi,

New Environmental Land Management Scheme (NELMS)

I write to you with regard to the concerns of the Institute and its members in respect of the development of the New Environmental Land Management Scheme (NELMS) to replace current agri-environment provision in 2014.

The Institute for Archaeologists

The Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) is a professional body for the study and care of the historic environment. It promotes best practice in archaeology and provides a self-regulatory quality assurance framework for the sector and those it serves.

IfA has over 3,000 members and more than 70 registered practices across the United Kingdom. Its members work in all branches of the discipline: heritage management, planning advice, excavation, finds and environmental study, buildings recording, underwater and aerial archaeology, museums, conservation, survey, research and development, teaching and liaison with the community, industry and the commercial and financial sectors.

Agri-environment schemes and the historic environment

Agri-environment schemes currently deliver widespread public benefit (both socially and economically as well as environmentally) through their support for the management and protection of the historic environment. This includes both designated and undesignated heritage assets and wider historic landscapes. Indeed, the vast majority of the historic environment in England is undesignated (approximately 95%) and agri-environment schemes have played a crucial role in managing and improving it. It is interesting to note that the suite of agri-environment schemes presently operating in England is regularly held up elsewhere in the United Kingdom as an example of good practice in relation to the historic environment.

Consequently, we have learnt with grave concern that the historic environment may not be an integral part of NELMS as it comes forward. IfA believes that landscape (of which the historic environment is an essential part) should be prioritised in any future programme. Not only would such an approach continue to provide enormous public benefit, but it would also accord with the European Landscape Convention.

IfA appreciates the budgetary constraints with which Defra has to contend. However, failure fully to recognise the historic environment in future agri-environment schemes is only likely to exacerbate the pressure on Government in view of the ongoing need to deal with the very large number of

heritage assets currently at risk. Moreover, investment in the historic environment has proved time and time again to deliver economic benefits (for instance, through tourism and regeneration). Nor would it be a satisfactory response to limit support through NELMS to designated heritage assets, given the nature and breadth of the undesignated historic environment.

What IfA would like to see is an agri-environment scheme which embraces a holistic approach the environment (recognising that it encompasses both the natural and the historic environment) and makes provision accordingly.

I hope that you can provide IfA and its members with some assurance that the historic environment will be fully recognised and supported in the New Environmental Land Management Scheme. In the meantime, my colleagues and I would be happy to discuss any of these matters further with you if that would be of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Hinton BA MifA FSA FRSA FIAM
Chief Executive, Institute for Archaeologists

cc Clive Porro (Defra); Sally Mousley, David Whelon, Martin Froment, David Finnie (Natural England)