

Sustainable Land Management
Agriculture and Rural Affairs Division
Welsh Government
Rhodfa Padarn
Llanbadarn Fawr
Aberystwyth
Ceredigion
SY23 3UR

27 March 2014

Dear Sir / Madam,

Consultation on Proposals for the Glastir Scheme, Part of the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2014-2020

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this consultation.

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. IfA's Wales / Cymru Group has over 100 members practising in the public, private and voluntary sector in Wales.

Proposals for the Glastir Scheme, Part of the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2014-2020

General

IfA welcomes the support that the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and, in particular, Glastir (and its predecessor agri-environment schemes), has provided for the historic environment.

The Institute responded to Welsh Government's consultation on *Common Agricultural Policy Reform – Rural Development Plan 2014-2020: Next Steps* by letter dated 23 April 2013 in which it raised concerns about the need for the historic environment to be more generally and explicitly integrated into CAP mechanisms to provide a clear basis for the continuation of that support.

In the current consultation IfA is pleased to see Welsh Government include as one of its strategic targets for the Glastir scheme going forward:

'5) To put in place measures and investment which maintain and enhance the characteristic components of the landscape and historic environment of rural Wales and to encourage increased public appreciation and access to the countryside.'

It is hoped that this recognition of the historic environment as an integral part of the scheme is reflected in its detailed provisions.

Specific Questions

Q1 Do you agree with Welsh Governments' proposals for a framework of agri-environment support under the next plan?

1.1 Yes, provided that the management and protection of the historic environment is fully integrated within that framework.

Q2 Do you agree with Welsh Governments' proposals to improve engagement with land managers under the next RDP?

2.1 Yes. IfA agrees that effective engagement is crucial to the success of Glastir. In particular, the availability of specialist advice with regard to archaeological remains and the wider historic environment and an increased awareness and understanding of issues relating to the historic environment are key to the effective management and protection of the historic environment.

Q3 Do you agree with Welsh Governments' proposals for future implementation of the Glastir entry scheme under the next plan?

3.1 IfA is concerned to see that management options relating to the historic environment (such as options 10, 39 and 45, 'historic feature options') are not removed from the scheme and that efforts are made to increase the uptake of such options.

Q4 What are your views on Welsh Governments' proposals for supporting capital investments to deliver environmental services under the next plan?

4.1 IfA would support the introduction of a small grant scheme if it would further facilitate the management and protection of the historic environment.

Q5 What are your views on Welsh Governments' proposals for supporting sustainable uplands through agri-environment measures?

5.1 No comment.

Q6 What are your views on Welsh Governments' proposals to support woodland management and creation under the next RDP?

6.1 IfA particularly supports the proposal to operate a joined-up advisory service covering all aspects of agri-environment and forestry. Such a service should have access to archaeological and other historic environment expertise (see, for instance, <http://www.archaeologists.net/regulation/accreditation>) and should be able to advise with regard to the implications for the historic environment of interventions.

Q7 What are your views on Welsh Governments' proposals to improve targeted interventions under the next RDP?

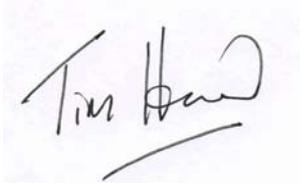
7.1 IfA would be concerned if the reduction of objective layers reduced in any way the ability, through targeted interventions, to produce benefits for the historic environment.

Q8 What are your views on Welsh Governments' strategic targets for Glastir and its proposed budgetary allocations under the next RDP?

8.1 IfA welcomes Welsh Government's strategic targets and, in particular, target (5) (see under General above).

If there is anything further that I can do to assist please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Howard". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Tim Howard LLB, Dip Prof Arch
Policy Advisor