



Northern Ireland Environment Agency
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Our Ref: 62240291

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via email: CDP@daera-ni.gov.uk
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CONFIDENTIAL

A5 Western Transport Corridor: McKean's Moss ASSI Management Plan Consultation

WSP UK Limited (WSP) (formerly Mouchel) were commissioned by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) (formerly TransportNI) to produce an Environmental Statement (ES)¹ in 2016, for the proposed A5 dual carriageway scheme, the 'A5 Western Transport Corridor' (A5WTC).

Two Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs), located to the west of the A5WTC and collectively referred to as 'McKean's Moss'^{2,3} (approximate central grid reference C 36440 03146), occur within approximately 100m of the proposed A5WTC.

The A5WTC 2016 ES concluded that no significant hydrological, ecological, or air quality impacts were predicted to affect McKean's Moss ASSIs as a result of the A5WTC's construction or operation.

A public local inquiry was held in 2016 and again in 2020, with a subsequent 'Interim Report' produced by the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) for the 2020 inquiry (hereafter the 'PAC Report')⁴. The PAC Report recommends that, measures similar to those being delivered by Ulster Wildlife Trust to restore Tully Bog SAC and ASSI, are implemented at the McKean's Moss ASSIs, including a management structure to protect, restore and thereafter maintain the special interest features present and to ensure that those measures are successfully implemented (PAC, 2020, paras 3.128-3.129).

DfI has committed to delivering a management plan for the McKean's Moss ASSIs and wishes to seek NIEA's input on the design and implementation of this plan. To assist with initiating this consultation, WSP request that NIEA confirms their interest in inputting on this matter and to initiate discussions regarding:

- specific expectations or aspirations from the plan;
- the plan's objectives (tasks for implementation), including maintenance and monitoring; and
- potential funding mechanisms for the plan's implementation.

¹ A5WTC Environmental Statement. Available: <https://www.a5wtc.com/Environmental-Statement>

² McKean's Moss ASSI. Available: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/protected-areas/mckean-moss-assi>

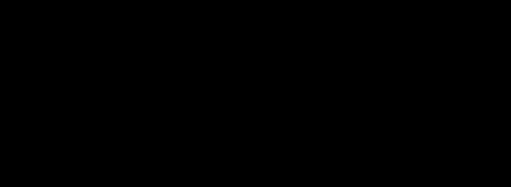
³ McKean's Moss Part 2 ASSI. Available: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/protected-areas/mckean-moss-part-2-assi>

⁴ PAC (2020). Public Local Inquiry into the A5 Western Transport Corridor Dual Carriageway Scheme Environmental Statement Addendum 2019 and Related Matters. Interim Report. Commission Reference: 2019/D001. Planning Appeals Commission, Belfast.



We hope that you can assist with this request and look forward to hearing back from you soon. Similarly, if you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully



Associate Director, Ecology

