

An advisory Council to the
Department of the Environment

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Prof. Gabriel Cooney BA MA PhD
Chairman

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Ms A Lockwood
Planning and Environmental Policy Group
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Dear Anne

**Planning Policy Statement 21: Sustainable Development in the Countryside,
draft for public consultation, November 2008**

Historic Monuments Council Response March 2009

The Historic Monuments Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on this draft Planning Policy Statement.

As set out in the Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland 2025 and Sustainable Development Strategy, sustainable development is at the heart of Northern Ireland planning policy. It is a key theme underlying the Northern Ireland Environmental Agency's management of the built heritage. As a principle of sustainable development it is recognised that the archaeological and built heritage is a non-renewable resource requiring effective stewardship, so that it may be enjoyed today and passed on in good order to future generations.

In line with this the Historic Monuments Council is fully supportive of the NIEA in its aim to avoid development detrimental to the heritage, through best conservation practices and effective management of change in the countryside.

The Department of the Environment's policy position on the built heritage is set out in Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning, Archaeology and the Built Heritage.

The Historic Monuments Council welcomes the preparation of PPS 21 and the principles that underline it in the confidence that the policies set out in PPS 6 will fully inform the implementation of the planning policies for development in the countryside in this Draft Planning Policy Statement (PPS 21).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gabriel Cooney'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Professor Gabriel Cooney
Chair, Historic Monuments Council