**CIfA Response to Review of Strategic Planning Policy on Renewable Energy**

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) is the leading professional body representing archaeologists working in the UK and overseas. We promote high professional standards and strong ethics in archaeological practice, to maximise the benefits that archaeologists bring to society, and provide a self-regulatory quality assurance framework for the sector and those it serves.

 CIfA has over 3,450 members and around 80 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.

CIfA is a member of the Northern Ireland Environment Link (NIEL). We have seen a copy of the NIEL submission to this review and endorse its contents.

In addition, and given our particular interest in the historic environment, we would like to add the following:

The Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS) in dealing with Renewable Energy should make more explicit:

1. that in addition to the impact of development to provide renewable energy upon the setting and appearance, such development can also have a direct impact upon heritage assets with archaeological interest through necessary groundworks. This should be made clear, for instance, in the first bullet point of paragraph 6.219 of the current SPPS
2. the criteria for assessing such impact (and other impacts). The reference in paragraph 6.218 to realising *‘the benefits of renewable energy without compromising other environmental assets of acknowledged importance’* [my underlining] is not sufficiently clear and arguably does not include undesignated assets, many of which are of regional or wider importance.