

Re: Letter of Support – Nomination of Wildfowling for Inclusion in the UK Living Heritage Inventory

On behalf of Newtownards Wildfowling Association, I am writing to express our strong belief in that wildfowling is an important element of UK Living Heritage Inventory, and to confirm that we fully support the efforts of the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) to seek formal recognition of wildfowling in the UK Living Heritage Inventories.

Our wildfowling club was established in 2000 and has maintained an active wildfowling community for 26 years on the foreshore and wetlands of Strangford Lough and Lough Neagh. Wildfowling in our area represents a long-established traditional practice, sustained through shared knowledge, customary skills, carefully safeguarded and handed down from one generation to the next.

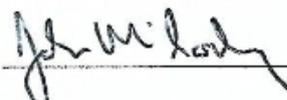
UK wildfowling has a history dating back centuries. It possesses a number of elements that set it aside as a living and evolving practice combining traditional knowledge and skills to maintain a sustainable harvest. It includes locally rooted knowledge of tides, weather, habitat conditions and the behaviour of the plants and animals found in coastal areas managed for wildfowling. These practices embody a close, beneficial relationship with nature underpinned by a strict ethical code, established safety practices, and a strong sense of responsibility towards the environment.

Historically wildfowling was an important source of livelihood in coastal areas and an affordable source of food within traditional coastal foodways. Wildfowling's role in shaping coastal areas and traditions is reflected in landscape, local language and customary practices.

Wildfowling skills and traditions continue to be transmitted through informal teaching, mentoring and community involvement supporting a strong connection to place, local identity, and conservation engagement with wetlands.

Inclusion in the UK Living Heritage Inventory would provide appropriate recognition of wildfowling as a living tradition and would help ensure that the associated knowledge, customs and community practices are recorded and safeguarded for future generations. For these reasons Newtownards Wildfowling Association is pleased to offer our full support for the nomination of wildfowling to the UK Living Heritage Inventory,

John McCoubrey
Secretary
Newtownards Wildfowling Association

Signature:  12/2/26