

An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Direction
ABP-321766-25

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a meeting held on 09/10/2026.

The Commission decided, as set out in the following Order, that

Commission Order as follows:-

WHEREAS a question has arisen as to whether the extraction of peat on a 27.13-hectare site at Derrymore, Moydow, County Longford is or is not development or is or is not exempted development,

AND WHEREAS Derrymore Peat Limited requested a declaration on this question from Longford County Council and the Council did not issue a declaration,

AND WHEREAS Longford County Council referred this matter for review to An Coimisiún Pleanála on the 28th day of January, 2025,

AND WHEREAS An Coimisiún Pleanála, in considering this referral, had regard particularly to:

- (a) Section 2(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended,
- (b) Section 3(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended,
- (c) Section 4(4) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended,

- (d) Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended,
- (e) Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended,
- (f) Article 6(3) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended,
- (g) Class 17 of Part 3 of Schedule 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended,
- (h) Article 9(1)(viiB) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended,
- (i) the documentation on file,
- (j) relevant case law, and
- (k) the report and recommendation of the Inspector,

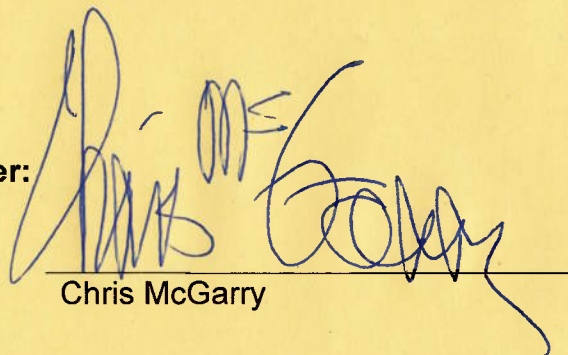
AND WHEREAS An Coimisiún Pleanála has concluded that

- (a) the extraction of peat on a 27.13-hectare site is development as it comprises excavation works on, in, over and under land,
- (b) there is significant and realistic doubt regarding the likelihood of significant effects on the environment, and the Commission cannot be satisfied that Environmental Impact Assessment is not required, on the basis of the EIA screening report not identifying the proposed measures to avoid or prevent what might otherwise have been significant effects on the environment, the absence of any information regarding the settlement lagoons to manage surface water, the absence of any information regarding hydrological connections to other peatlands and similar development in the area, and the absence of any analysis in relation to the climate impact of peat harvesting,

- (c) It is not possible to conclude with certainty, in the absence of mitigation, that the development associated with the matter in question alone would not give rise to likely significant effects on the Lough Forbes Complex Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 001818) and the Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004101) having regard to the potential water quality effects associated with peat extraction and the absence of any analysis within the Appropriate Assessment screening report on the hydrological connection between the site and aforementioned European Sites, and the absence of information regarding the measures that will be taken to prevent any potential pollution from the development.
- (d) the extraction of peat on a 27.13-hectare site is not exempted development by reference to Section 4(4) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and Article 9(1)(viiB) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, on the basis of the information submitted with the documentation on file,

NOW THEREFORE An Coimisiún Pleanála, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 5(4) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, hereby decides that the extraction of peat on a 27.13-hectare site at Derrymore, Moydow, County Longford is development and is not exempted development.

**Planning
Commissioner:**



Chris McGarry

Date: 09/10/2026