

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a meeting held on 18 August 2026.

The Commission decided to refuse permission, generally in accordance with the Inspector's recommendation, for the following reasons and considerations.

Reasons and Considerations

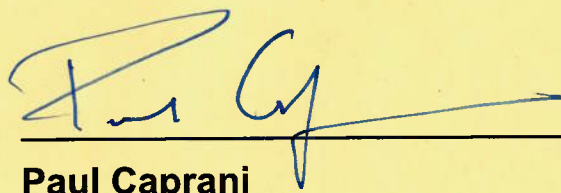
1. The vehicular entrance for which retention of planning permission is sought adjoins a national secondary road, the N84 is not consistent with 'Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2012), Policy Objective NR 1 (Protection of Strategic Roads) and Policy Objective NR 4 (New Accesses Directly on National Roads) of the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 all of which seek to avoid the creation of additional access points which could impact on the carrying capacity of national roads. The proposal is therefore contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.
2. The applicant has also failed to demonstrate that adequate sightlines would be provided in accordance with DM Standard 28 and Table 15.3 of the Development Plan where 215 metres is required and this is dependent on lands on the opposite side of the road to the south-east outside the control of

the applicant which would need to be kept clear of vegetation. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to policy and would interfere with the safety and free flow of traffic on the public road and would endanger public safety by reason of a traffic hazard. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

3. Having regard to the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 and the existence of the Priority Annex I limestone habitat on parts of the subject site, there has been a failure to demonstrate how such priority habitat could be significantly impacted upon to date as a result of quarrying activities on site for which retention of planning permission is sought and how it would not be further significantly impacted by the proposed development.

It therefore cannot be concluded that the priority Annex 1 habitat would be protected in line with the requirements of Policy NHB 1 (Natural Heritage and Biodiversity of Designated Sites, Habitats and Species) and DM Standard 50 (Environmental Assessments) of the County Development Plan. Such failure to protect a Priority Annex I limestone habitat would materially contravene the above policies of the Development Plan and would therefore be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Planning Commissioner:



Paul Caprani

Date:

20th day of August 2026