



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

**Commission Order
PL-501187-GY-26**

Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended

Planning Authority: Galway County Council

Planning Register Reference Number: 26/60157

Appeal by Michael Maloney against the decision made on the 31st day of March, 2026 by Galway County Council to refuse permission for the proposed development.

Proposed Development: Retention and continuation of quarrying activities for the extraction, by mechanical means only (wire and chainsaws), of dimension stone that includes: Extraction within an area of 2.4 hectares; processing and storage of quarried material; provision of a wheel wash; provision of a hardstand area and hydrocarbon interceptor; all ancillary siteworks; for a period of seven years and all within an application area of 4.5 hectares, at Ballydonnellan Townland, Headford, County Galway.

Decision

REFUSE permission for the above proposed development in accordance with the reasons and considerations set out below.

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 proposed development would, therefore, be 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. Therefore, it 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.



Paul Caprani

Planning Commissioner of An Coimisiún

**Pleanála duly authorised to authenticate
the seal of the Commission.**

Dated this 20th day of August 2026.

