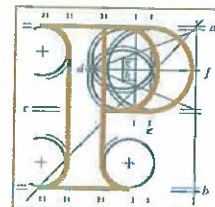


Our Case Number: ABP-317265-23



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Development Applications Unit
Government Offices
Newtown Road
Co. Wexford
Y35 AP90

Date: 03 August 2023

Re: Construction of Dyrick Hill Windfarm comprising 12 no. wind turbines and related works.
Townlands of Ballymacmague North, Ballymacmague South, Ballynaguilkee Lower, Ballynaguilkee Upper, Broemountain, Carrigaun (Mansfield) and others, Co. Waterford.

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

The Board will revert to you in due course in respect of this matter.

Please be advised that copies of all submissions / observations received in relation to the application will be made available for public inspection at the offices of the local authority and at the offices of An Bord Pleanála when they have been processed by the Board.

More detailed information in relation to strategic infrastructure development can be viewed on the Board's website: www.pleanala.ie.

If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact the undersigned officer of the Board or email sids@pleanala.ie quoting the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

PP LC

Ashling Doherty
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737160

PA09

Tell
Glao Áitiúil
Facs
Láithreán Gréasáin
Ríomhphost

Tel
LoCall
Fax
Website
Email
(01) 858 8100
1800 275 175
(01) 872 2684
www.pleanala.ie
bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902



Planning Ref: ABP-317265-23
(Please quote in all related correspondence)

2 August 2023

Secretary
An Bord Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Via email: sids@pleanala.ie

Re: Notification to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

Proposed Development: SID application for proposed development of Dyrick Hill Wind Farm in the townlands of Ballymacmague North, Ballymacmague South, Ballynaguilkee Lower, Ballynaguilkee Upper, Broemountain, Carrigaun (Mansfield), Castlequarter, Clooncogaile, Colligan More, Colliganwood, Corradoon, Dyrick, Farnane Lower, Farnane Upper, Garryclone, Garryduff, Killadangan, Kilcooney, Knockaunnaglokee Langanoran, Lickoran, Lickoranmountain, Lisleagh, Lisleaghmountain, Lyrattin, Mountaincastle South, Scartmountain, Sleadycastle in County Waterford.

A chara

I refer to correspondence received in connection with the above. Outlined below are heritage-related observations/recommendations co-ordinated by the Development Applications Unit under the stated headings.

Nature Conservation

The Department has no comment to make in relation to proposed turbines 1 – 6 and associated infrastructure. The Department does have significant concerns in relation to proposed turbines 8-13 and associated infrastructure located on Broemountain. These are located on upland habitats in largely undisturbed areas which contain habitats of conservation interest and provide habitat to species of high conservation concern. Turbines 8-13 and linked infrastructure would in our view adversely impact these interests.

Broemountain is the eastern extent of the larger upland habitat area of the Knockmealdown mountain range. It is not designated as a conservation area but

Aonad na nIarratas ar Fhorbairt

Development Applications Unit

Óifigí an Rialtais

Government Offices

Bóthar an Bhaile Nua, Loch Garman, Contae Loch Garman, Y35 AP90
Newtown Road, Wexford, County Wexford, Y35 AP90



contains significant expanses of Dry Heath which is listed in Annex I (4030) of the Habitats Directive and is assessed in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) as of national importance (Table 6.11). The overall national status of this habitat for the purpose of Article 17 reporting to the European Commission is currently assessed as "Bad"¹. The footprint of the development would directly remove 3.5ha of this habitat with additional removal of associated linked habitats. The EIAR assesses the loss of this Annex I habitat as a significant, permanent negative impact at the local scale with potential to result in impacts at the national/international scale. Proposed mitigation does include the restoration of a greater area of dry heath and acid grassland but changes in management could also achieve this without the permanent removal of existing quality habitat. The presence of other notable related or supporting habitats such as species rich *Nardus* acid grassland, which while not in this case Annex I, has close links to the Annex I classification, further indicates an area of ecological value.

Apart from specific annexed habitats the elevated open exposed nature of Broemountain provides a mosaic of upland habitats and species which are nationally declining, it forms a significant block of habitat on the eastern extent of the larger Knockmealdown area which is important for a range of open country species. Scale is important in conserving these species and it is important that they can range over large undisturbed areas and alternate between pieces of habitat which for various reasons (e.g. burning, forestry works etc.) may become temporarily unsuitable but will at a later stage be used again.

The area provides habitat for and supports species listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC as amended) such as hen harrier, golden plover and merlin. Other bird species present include species listed as of high (Red-list) conservation concern such as meadow pipit, kestrel and snipe in addition to birds of medium conservation concern (Amber-list) such as skylark. Previously extinct Annex I species re-introduced to Ireland such as white-tailed eagle and red kite have been recorded in the area and it is likely given the nature and location of this upland habitat, they would make future periodic use of the area. This Department believes the development would remove or degrade potential habitat for these species. The Southern Regional Assembly Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy (RSES) lists Regional Policy Objectives (RPOs) for this region and RPO1 states "*Any reference to support for all plans, projects, activities and development in the RSES should be considered to refer to 'environmentally sustainable development' that has no adverse effects on the integrity of European sites and no net loss of biodiversity*". The proposed project would in our view, cause a net loss of biodiversity.

The Department considers the open area on Broemountain to be good quality habitat for hen harriers, as was indicated by their repeated breeding there up until 2019 and producing 4/5 chicks annually (Allan Mee, pers. com.)². Some small habitat change has taken place in recent years but should be seen in context with other adjoining upland areas and remains entirely suitable foraging and nesting habitat. Such changes are very

¹ NPWS (2019). The status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland.

² Dr. Allan Mee carried out harrier survey work and satellite tagging in this area between 2015-2019 on behalf of the Golden Eagle Trust, Duhallow Raptor Life Project and as an independent ecologist. He also liaised with NPWS and is a recognised authority in this field.



minor compared to the proposed development and are likely temporary as agricultural regulation application and incentives change. As evidenced by the 2015 National Hen Harrier Survey³, the Broemountain area makes up the eastern extent of a larger unit of important hen harrier habitat where in 2015 five breeding harrier pairs nested. Five pairs constituted between 3.2 and 4.8% of the national population of the Annex I bird species. The survey also indicated the national population had declined by 8.7% since the last survey in 2010. This area was not selected as a Special Protection Area but to provide context of the value of this site, criteria used for SPA designation included if used regularly by 1% or more of the all-Ireland population of a species listed in Annex 1 of the Birds Directive in any season; the Knockmealdown area significantly exceeds this threshold. Article 4(4) of the European Birds Directive specifies that Member states shall strive to avoid pollution or deterioration of habitats and in case C-374/98⁴ the European Court of Justice held (paragraph 47) that *"It is clear, therefore, that areas which have not been classified as SPAs but should have been so classified continue to fall under the regime governed by the first sentence of Article 4(4) of the Birds Directive"*.

The 2015 national survey noted that *"Three of the five confirmed pairs in the Knockmealdowns are in heather moorland which is perhaps more extensive and of higher quality here than elsewhere in Munster. Use of heather moorland sites is likely to be more stable over time than afforested sites"*, one of these sites was within the Broemountain proposed development area. It is acknowledged the EIAR for this project did not find birds nesting at that location but we believe they were present up to 2019 (Alan Mee, pers. com) and if the habitat remains suitable, as we believe it is, could nest there again.

In relation to the EIAR and Hen Harrier, we note the Hinterland Surveys (Ornithology p44) recorded two sightings of harriers carrying prey. This is strongly indicative of an active nest as they do not generally carry prey other than to visit active nests. The assessment does not elaborate on, or has failed to see the significance of these sightings. Neither does there appear to have been any follow up to these significant sightings to establish where these hinterland nests might be located. The EIAR states (Table 7.22) *"No birds were recorded on site, although it is important to note that nesting has occurred historically"*; however, there is no discussion of the 2015 National Hen Harrier Survey which documented that the Knockmealdowns held five confirmed breeding pairs of hen harrier, one of which was within the proposed development site, one within 0.5km and one within 3km. The Department does not accept the EIAR assessment (Table 7.22) that harrier habitat on the site is highly degraded and *"deemed unlikely to be suitable for breeding"* or that it is sub-optimal for foraging, nor does the Department accept conclusions drawn that only 11.17ha of suitable habitat will be lost through the development. The EIAR has not mentioned or included in its evaluation the importance of nearby young pre-thicket forestry plantation which is also suitable

³ Ruddock, M., Mee, A., Lusby, J., Nagle T., O'Neill S., & O'Toole L. (2016). The 2015 National Survey of Breeding Hen Harrier in Ireland. *Irish Wildlife Manuals*, No. 93. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Ireland.

⁴ Commission of the European Communities v The French Republic, Case C-374/98, European Court of Justice (sixth Chamber) 7 December 2000. [C-374/98, Commission v. France - Basses Corbières - Part II - Nature and biodiversity cases. Ruling of the European Court of Justice - Books and Journals - VLEX 457793](#)



breeding and foraging habitat supporting the adjoining open habitat. We are aware that hen harrier nested in young forestry at the Broemountain site in 2016 and a nearby site (0.5km) in 2019 and both pairs regularly foraged over pre-thicket forestry as well as heather moorland and grass moorland at the site (A. Mee pers. obs.).

Appendix 7.1 of the Ornithology report provides total duration of vantage point watches but no start or end times. This is important information in evaluating potential breeding. Table 2.5 provides details of breeding bird transects carried out using CBS based methods. CBS methods specify early visits should take place between 1st April and mid-May and late visits between mid-May and the end of June. However, table 2.5 documents that first CBS visits in 2020 were not carried out until 31-05-20 with late visits not carried out until 28-08-20, which is well outside acceptable survey dates for passerines, raptors or breeding waders and not likely to accurately reflect the breeding bird community. In addition only one of two transects was covered in the later visit. In 2021, early visits were not until 26-05-21 (with only two of three transects carried out) and late visits were on 29-06-21 (with only one of three transects carried out) and on 31-07-21, the latter date again well outside prescribed dates for surveying breeding birds and not acceptable under CBS methodology. In 2022 all transects were covered within the prescribed period but this provides only one season of data which is not sufficient for a project of this scale.

Apart from collision risk (predicted at 6.21 strikes/annum for golden plover, 2.72 for kestrel) and direct removal of habitat for infrastructure, it is generally accepted⁵ that wind turbines and associated infrastructure will cause displacement of certain species on adjoining habitat including hen harrier and golden plover but also other Red-list birds of conservation concern such as snipe and to a lesser extent Meadow pipit. While the extent of habitat displacement may be debated and varies between species, for hen harrier 2-300 metres is likely⁶ with reduced usage⁷ up to 500m. In the Broemountain area the suitable harrier and golden plover habitat occurs in a long narrow band varying in width around 400m. Due to the proposed turbine layout, if the development goes ahead we believe this entire band of habitat is likely to become unsuitable for hen harriers and golden plover, or at best be severely compromised. In addition to displacement from windfarm infrastructure, further sources of displacement will be associated human activity in this currently largely undisturbed area. Human related disturbance distances⁸ for hen harrier are considered to be 300-750m and for golden plover 200-500m with the upper limit of the disturbance buffer recommended for use. The EIAR acknowledges

⁵ Pearce-Higgins, J.W., Stephen, L., Langston, R.W., Bainbridge, I.P. and Bullman, R. (2009). The distribution of breeding birds around upland wind farms. *Journal of Applied ecology*, 46: 1323-1331.

⁶ Madders, M & Whitfield, D.P. (2006). Upland raptors and the assessment of windfarm impacts. *Ibis*, 148, 43-56.

⁷ Pearce-Higgins, J.W., Stephen, L., Langston, R.W., Bainbridge, I.P. and Bullman, R. (2009). The distribution of breeding birds around upland wind farms. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 46: 1323-1331.

⁸ Goodship, N.M. and Furness, R.W. (MacArthur Green) (2022). Disturbance Distances Review: An updated literature review of disturbance distances of selected bird species. NatureScot Research Report 1283



(Ornithology p93) *"the placement of turbines in the commonage area poses a significant risk of displacing Annex-1 protected golden plover"* and further notes this habitat is becoming increasingly at risk and *"There are several other projects which have either been consented or are proposed which also impose a risk to this habitat, thus further implicating the consequences"*. Therefore if the project as currently indicated proceeds, it is likely the area of currently suitable harrier and golden plover habitat at Broemountain will become unusable and this eastern portion of the greater Knockmealdown habitat complex will be lost. This impact will be further increased if proposals for the Knocknask area (Scart Mountain Wind Farm) also proceed.

Various conclusions (Percival evaluations) in the EIAR of the predicted impact of the development are subdivided into direct loss, collision risk and indirect loss rather than one assessment reflecting the eventual overall combined impact of the development and it appears the calculations of indirect loss do not accept a significant avoidance zone around turbines therefore in our view these significantly underestimate the zone of influence and the overall likely impact of the proposed Broemountain development.

The application cannot be seen on its own, there is in preparation another windfarm development proposal on land which is directly adjoining this site and which also, as currently indicated, proposes further development on upland open habitats. The current proposal must be seen in combination with that proposal and the in combination effects considered. Bird usage data collected in preparation for this other proposed adjoining windfarm will be available and will further inform this application. Birds and habitats clearly overlap the two sites and the two sites together form part of a larger ecological unit. An overall ecological assessment needs to be considered to avoid long-term very significant and cumulative effects.

Archaeology

It is noted that the EIAR submitted as part of the planning application includes a desk-based Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) which was carried out in relation to the proposed development by John Cronin & Associates (EIAR Chapter 13; date May 2023). NMS has reviewed the EIAR and is broadly in agreement with the findings in relation to Archaeology and Cultural Heritage as set out therein.

However, issues of particular concern remain unresolved in relation to:

- 1) ***Indirect impacts to the setting of certain sites subject to Preservation Orders within 10km of proposed development.*** Chapter 13 of the EIAR states that all National Monuments within 10km of the proposed development site (PDS) were incorporated within the scope of the AIA (see Section 13.2.1). However, sites subject to a Preservation Order are considered to be National Monuments as defined by the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1930-2014, are of similar national significance and enjoy equal legal protection. Two sites meeting these criteria appear to have been omitted from the assessment:



- a. **Church and Graveyard at Clashganny East, Co Tipperary** (Preservation Order No 4/1997)
- b. **Archaeological Complex at Coumaraglinmountain, Co. Waterford** (Preservation Order No 4/1996)

2) **Cumulative impacts to the setting of certain sites subject to Preservation Orders within 10km proposed development:** Due to their exclusion from the AIA the potential Cumulative Impact of this proposed development to the aforementioned sites listed under Point 1 has not been evaluated.

The church and graveyard at Clashganny East, Co. Tipperary (Preservation Order No 4/1997; RMP TS088-033----; TS088-033001-) are subject to statutory protection under Section 14 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1930-2014. These lie approximately 8km north of the PDS and so should have been evaluated to assess any potential indirect impacts/impacts on setting, based on the methodology and study area outlined in Section 13.2 of the EIAR. Review of the ZTV mapping (Figures 11.9, 11.10 and 11.11 of the EIAR) does suggest that the potential for such impacts is extremely low. However, this does not obviate the requirement for consistent application of the assessment methodology; the potential impacts of the development to this receptor should have been assessed.

The archaeological complex at Coumaraglin Mountain, Co. Waterford (Preservation Order No 4/1996) is also subject to statutory protection under Section 14 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1930-2014. The Preservation Order encompasses a complex of 116 individual, inter-related monuments extending across an area measuring c. 2km by c. 2km located on the south side of the Araglin valley:

SMR No.	Class	SMR No.	Class
WA014-033002-	Stone row	WA023-066025-	Hut site
WA014-033003-	Cairn - cairn circle	WA023-066026-	Field system
WA014-033004-	Barrow - ring-barrow	WA023-066027-	Standing stone
WA014-033005-	Fulacht fia	WA023-066028-	Cairn - unclassified
WA014-033006-	Fulacht fia	WA023-066029-	Cairn - unclassified
WA014-033007-	Kerb circle	WA023-066030-	Cairn - ring-cairn
WA014-033008-	Kerb circle	WA023-066031-	Cairn - unclassified
WA014-033009-	Kerb circle	WA023-066032-	Field system
WA014-033010-	Standing stone - pair	WA023-066033-	Hut site
WA014-033011-	Cairn - burial cairn	WA023-066034-	Hut site
WA014-033012-	Cairn - burial cairn	WA023-066035-	Hut site
WA014-033013-	Cairn - ring-cairn	WA023-066036-	Hut site
WA014-033014-	Cairn - cairn circle	WA023-066037-	Cairn - unclassified
WA014-033015-	Cairn - cairn circle	WA023-066038-	Standing stone
WA014-033016-	Cairn - cairn circle	WA023-066041-	Cairn - unclassified
WA014-033017-	Cairn - cairn circle	WA023-066042-	Cairn - unclassified



SMR No.	Class	SMR No.	Class
WA014-033018-	Kerb circle	WA023-066043-	Cairn - unclassified
WA014-033019-	Kerb circle	WA023-066044-	Cairn - unclassified
WA014-033020-	Booley hut	WA023-066045-	Fulacht fia
WA014-033021-	Booley hut	WA023-066046-	Hut site
WA014-033022-	Booley hut	WA023-066047-	Hut site
WA014-033023-	Booley hut	WA023-066048-	Hut site
WA014-033024-	Booley hut	WA023-066049-	Field system
WA014-033025-	Booley hut	WA023-066050-	Standing stone
WA014-033026-	Booley hut	WA023-066051-	Cairnfield
WA014-033027-	Booley hut	WA023-066052-	Enclosure
WA014-033028-	Booley hut	WA023-066053-	Hut site
WA014-033029-	Kiln - lime	WA023-066054-	Hut site
WA014-033030-	Cist	WA023-066055-	Hut site
WA014-033031-	Cist	WA023-066056-	Cairnfield
WA014-033032-	Cist	WA023-066057-	Hut site
WA014-033033-	Cist	WA023-066058-	Hut site
WA014-033034-	Standing stone	WA023-066059-	Hut site
WA014-033035-	Cairn - unclassified	WA023-066060-	Hut site
WA023-066001-	Cairn - cairn circle	WA023-066061-	Hut site
WA023-066002-	Fulacht fia	WA023-066062-	Fulacht fia
WA023-066003-	Fulacht fia	WA023-066063-	Fulacht fia
WA023-066004-	Standing stone	WA023-066064-	Standing stone
WA023-066005-	Fulacht fia	WA023-066065-	Kerb circle
WA023-066006-	Fulacht fia	WA023-066066-	Cairn - unclassified
WA023-066007-	Standing stone	WA023-066067-	Cairn - ring-cairn
WA023-066008-	Hut site	WA023-066068-	Cairn - unclassified
WA023-066009-	Enclosure	WA023-066069-	Standing stone
WA023-066010-	Hut site	WA023-066070-	Standing stone
WA023-066011-	Enclosure	WA023-066071-	Standing stone
WA023-066012-	Kerb circle	WA023-066072-	Hut site
WA023-066013-	Cairn - unclassified	WA023-066073-	Hut site
WA023-066014-	Kerb circle	WA023-066075-	House - indeterminate date
WA023-066015-	Standing stone	WA023-066077-	House - indeterminate date
WA023-066016-	Cairnfield	WA023-066078-	Booley hut
WA023-066017-	Standing stone	WA023-066079-	Booley hut
WA023-066018-	Kerb circle	WA023-066080-	Standing stone
WA023-066019-	Cairn - cairn circle	WA023-066081-	Burnt mound
WA023-066020-	Barrow - pond barrow	WA023-066082-	Cairn - ring-cairn
WA023-066021-	Hut site	WA023-066083-	Enclosure



SMR No.	Class	SMR No.	Class
WA023-066022-	Hut site	WA023-066084-	Hut site
WA023-066023-	Enclosure	WA023-066085-	Hut site
WA023-066024-	Hut site	WA023-076----	Megalithic tomb - unclassified

These monuments range in date from the Neolithic to the post-medieval periods, though prehistoric monument types predominate, suggesting a relict prehistoric landscape. They include three cairnfields, three field systems, four prehistoric enclosures, twelve fulachta fiadh, twenty three hut sites, twelve standing stones, a stone pair, two possible stone rows, thirteen cairns, four ring-cairns, seven cairn circles, nine kerb circles, a ring-barrow and an embanked enclosure. For a more detailed discussion of the archaeological complex see: Moore, M. (1995). A Bronze Age settlement and ritual centre in the Monavullagh Mountains, County Waterford, Ireland. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, 61, 191-243. doi:10.1017/S0079497X0000308X. Many of these monument types are (individually) particularly vulnerable to impacts on setting/visual impacts, in addition to the collective vulnerability of the overall archaeological complex.

Approximately 40% of the overall footprint of this complex lies within 10km of the PDS and so should have been evaluated to assess any potential indirect impacts/impacts on setting based on the methodology and study area outlined in Section 13.2 of the EIAR. While the AIA did assess the indirect impact of the proposal to three individual elements of this archaeological complex—WA014-033002- (Stone row), WA014-033010- (Standing stone – pair) and WA023-076---- (Megalithic tomb – unclassified)—these were only considered in isolation and not as part of this larger inter-related archaeological landscape/complex of monuments. Review of the ZTV mapping (Figures 11.9, 11.10 and 11.11 of the EIAR) suggests that all proposed turbines would be visible from almost all areas within this protected archaeological complex and that it would also potentially be vulnerable to cumulative indirect impact as existing/permited turbines would be visible as well. The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) includes one relevant viewpoint—VP22 from local road at Coumaraglin, located at the southern extent of the archaeological complex. This was considered to be a location of high sensitivity in terms of its vulnerability to visual impacts in the LVIA. All 12 turbines are visible in the prepared photomontages and wireframe models, but were only considered to be a sub-dominant visual presence in the landscape, so the significance of the impact was considered to be moderate-slight negative. However, the presence of the protected archaeological complex was not a factor in selecting the view point for assessment or in the evaluation of its sensitivity and vulnerability to impact.

Any EIA must be must be informed by an adequate characterisation and understanding of the baseline archaeological and cultural heritage environment. The methodologies used to establish this baseline must be applied equally and consistently. Any divergences to include or exclude specific receptors must be clearly justified. Where there are significant omissions of vulnerable receptors from the characterisation of the



baseline environment then there is potential that certain likely impacts or effects of a proposed development might not be identified.

If Further Information is being requested by the Board, it may be beneficial to consider including clarification of the aforementioned points as part of the request.

Notwithstanding this, the National Monuments Service (NMS), Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage advises that the following should be included as a condition of any grant of permission. Note these recommended conditions align with Sample Conditions C3, C5 and C6 as set out in *OPR Practice Note PN03: Planning Conditions* (October 2022), with appropriate site-specific additions/adaptations based on the particular characteristics of this development and informed by the findings of the EIAR.

Archaeological Requirements:

1. All mitigation measures in relation to archaeology and cultural heritage as set out in Chapter 13 of the EIAR (John Cronin & Associates; date May 2023) shall be implemented in full, except as may otherwise be required in order to comply with the conditions of this Order.
2. The developer shall engage a suitably qualified archaeologist to advise on, and establish appropriate Exclusion Zones around the external-most elements of vulnerable Heritage Assets (as identified from Chapter 13 of the EIAR) including Recorded Monuments WA013-020001- (Hut site), WA013-020002- (Standing stone), WA013-021---- (Standing stone) and WA013-022---- (Ringfort – rath) and the area of archaeological potential associated with a stone cairn near Turbine 13.
 - a. Exclusion Zones shall be fenced off or appropriately demarcated for the duration of construction works in the vicinity of the monuments. The location and extent of each Exclusion Zone and the appropriate methodology for fencing off or demarcating at each location shall be agreed in advance with the National Monuments Service and the planning authority.
 - b. No groundworks of any kind (including but not limited to advance geotechnical site investigations) and no machinery, storage of materials or any other activity related to construction will be permitted within Exclusion Zones.
3. The developer shall engage a suitably qualified archaeologist (licensed under the National Monuments Acts) to carry out pre-development archaeological testing in areas of proposed ground disturbance within the wind farm site and to submit an archaeological impact assessment report for the written agreement of the planning authority, following consultation with the National Monuments Service, in advance of any site preparation works or groundworks, including site investigation works/topsoil stripping/site clearance and/or construction works.
 - a. The report shall include an archaeological impact statement and mitigation strategy. Where archaeological material is shown to be present, avoidance, preservation in-situ, preservation by record (archaeological excavation) and/or monitoring may be required.



- b. Any further archaeological mitigation requirements specified by the planning authority, following consultation with the National Monuments Service, shall be complied with by the developer.
 - c. No site preparation and/or construction works shall be carried out on site until the archaeologist's report has been submitted to and approval to proceed is agreed in writing with the planning authority.
4. The Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) shall include the location of any and all archaeological or cultural heritage constraints relevant to the proposed development as set out in Chapter 13 of the EIAR and by any subsequent archaeological investigations associated with the project. The CEMP shall clearly describe all identified likely archaeological impacts, both direct and indirect, and all mitigation measures to be employed to protect the archaeological or cultural heritage environment during all phases of site preparation and construction activity.
5. The planning authority and the National Monuments Service shall be furnished with a final archaeological report describing the results of all archaeological monitoring and any archaeological investigative work/excavation required, following the completion of all archaeological work on site and any necessary post-excavation specialist analysis. All resulting and associated archaeological costs shall be borne by the developer.

Reason: To ensure the continued preservation (either *in situ* or by record) of places, caves, sites, features or other objects of archaeological interest.

You are requested to send further communications to this Department's Development Applications Unit (DAU) at manager.dau@npws.gov.ie where used, or to the following address:

The Manager
Development Applications Unit (DAU)
Government Offices
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90

Is mise, le meas



Simon Dolan
Development Applications Unit
Administration