



Ref: ABP-319612-24

22 July 2024

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

Via email: laps@pleanala.ie

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

Development Application for substitute consent under Section 37L for Quarry, Aghnaskew, Scotshouse, County Monaghan

A Chara,

I refer to correspondence received in connection with the above.

Outlined below are heritage-related observations/recommendations of the Department coordinated by the Development Applications Unit under the stated heading:

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 Charles Mount Consultant Archaeologist (EIAR Chapter 13; date March 2024).

The Department notes, however, the scale of the proposed development encompasses a greenfield site extending to c. 8.1ha (Zone B), in addition to a further 6.5ha where quarrying activity has already occurred and for which substitute consent has been applied for (Zone A). While there are no known archaeological sites within the proposed development site (PDS) a number of Recorded Monuments—MO021-006---- (Ringfort – rath), MO021-007---- (Ringfort – cashel), MO021-008---- (Ringfort – rath) and MO021-011---- (Linear earthwork)—are located in close proximity to the PDS. The Department notes that no advance archaeological investigations have been carried out within the PDS to inform the EIAR, other than a walkover survey. The Department also notes that there is no record of any advance archaeological investigations or archaeological monitoring of groundworks for the existing



quarry or Zone A lands (for which substitute consent has been applied). The EIAR acknowledges that there is a potential that previously unknown sub-surface archaeological features or deposits may be present within the greenfield section of the PDS (Zone B). The Department strongly advises that advance archaeological geophysical survey and advance archaeological test excavation should be carried out prior to any development of the greenfield section of the site (Zone B).

Therefore, the Department 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 (Charles Mount Consultant Archaeologist; date March 2024) 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 (licensed under the National Monuments Acts) to carry out a pre-development Archaeological Geophysical Survey and a pre-development Archaeological Test Excavation of the development site and to submit an archaeological impact assessment report for the written agreement of the planning authority, following consultation with the Department, in advance of any site preparation works or groundworks, including site investigation works/topsoil stripping/site clearance and/or construction works. This shall be in addition to any mitigation measures outlined in Chapter 13 of the EIAR.
 - a. The Archaeological Geophysical Survey must be carried out under licence from this Department and in accordance with an approved method statement. The geophysical survey shall include all areas of potential ground disturbance within the greenfield lands designated as Zone B; the archaeologist shall liaise with this Department in this regard. Having completed the work, the archaeologist shall submit a written report to this Department and the Planning Authority describing the results of the geophysical survey.
 - b. The archaeologist shall liaise with this Department to establish—based on the results the Archaeological Geophysical Survey—the appropriate scope of the Archaeological Test Excavation to adequately characterise the character and extent of any potential sub-surface archaeological material within the development site.
 - c. The report on the Archaeological Test Excavation 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.
- d. Any further archaeological mitigation requirements specified by the planning authority, following consultation with this Department, shall be complied with by the developer.
 - e. 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.
3. 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 (Charles Mount Consultant Archaeologist; date March 2024) 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.
 4. The planning authority and this Department 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 any further communications to this Department's Development Applications Unit (DAU) at manager.DAU@npws.gov.ie, where used, or to the following address:

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Is mise, le meas

David O'Connor
Development Applications Unit
Administration