



Your Ref: ACP-324420-26

Our Ref: SID-WD-2026-036

(Please quote in all related correspondence)

12 August 2026

The Secretary
An Comisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Via email to laps@pleanala.ie

Re: Notification under the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

Proposed Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID): The 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.

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I refer to correspondence received in connection with the above.

Outlined below are heritage-related observations/recommendations coordinated by the Development Applications Unit under the stated headings

Nature Conservation

The Department has the following observations in relation to this referral:-

The Department refers the Commission to the previous submission from this Department (Nature Conservation) in relation to the proposed development (ACP-317265-23) which still applies.

In relation to concerns over the loss of Annex I habitat Dry Heath, NPWS further notes that the most recent national conservation status assessment of Dry Heath is Unfavourable-Bad (*deteriorating*)¹. This represents a decline in status from the previous assessment (Unfavourable-Bad (stable)); based, in part, on continuing losses in habitat area.

In relation to concerns relating to impacts on Hen Harriers (Annex I) from habitat loss, This Department further notes that the 2024 report on the most recent national breeding Hen Harrier survey (undertaken in 2022)² described a loss of 33% in the total Irish breeding population, as well as a 27% contraction in breeding range.

Aonad na nIarratas ar Fhorbairt, Oifigí an Rialtais, Bóthair an Bhaile Nua, Loch Garman, Y35 AP90

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It is also noted that the ecological surveys undertaken to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) were carried out on dates between 2020 and 2022, and therefore the survey period only partially overlaps with published guidance on the validity period of survey data³, with consequent implications for the reliability of impact assessment for several ecological receptors, including (but not necessarily limited to) birds, bats and Otters.

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

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

Is mise le meas,

Julie Sullivan
Assistant Principal
Development Applications Unit
Administration