From: Housing Manager DAU <Manager.DAU@npws.gov.ie>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 8:43 AM
To: LAPS <laps@pleanala.ie>
Subject: ACP-324433-26 County Donegal

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Good morning,

Please find attached heritage-related observations and recommendations of this Department for the above mentioned consultation.

I should be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of same.

Kind regards,
Colette

Colette McCormack
Executive Officer

An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Aonad na nIarratas ar Fhorbairt
Development Applications Unit
Oifigí an Rialtais, Bóthar an Bhaile Nua, Loch Garman, Contae Loch Garman, Y35 AP90
Government Offices, Newtown Road, Wexford, Co Wexford, Y35 AP90

An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

Your Ref: ACP-324433-26
(Please quote in all related correspondence)

5 October 2026

The Secretary
An Coimisiún 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 Development: Substitute Consent pursuant to Section 177E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. Development consists of the retention of the partial construction of a 19-turbine wind farm previously permitted under ABP 300460-17 (as amended by ABP-303729-19), which shall be referred to as the Existing Development, and the completion of construction, operation and subsequent decommissioning of that 19 turbine wind farm, which shall be referred to as the Prospective Development. Application is accompanied by a remedial Environmental Impact Assessment Report (rEIAR) and a remedial Natura Impact Statement (rNIS) in relation to the Existing Development, and an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) in relation to the Prospective Development in the townlands of Meenbog, Croaghonagh, Cashelnavean, Tawnawully Mountains, Friarsbush, Ardinawark, Keadew Upper, Keadew Lower, Cullionboy and Tievecloghoge, County Donegal.

A chara,

I refer to correspondence received in connection with the above.

Outlined below are heritage-related observations/recommendations of the Department co-ordinated by the Development Applications Unit under the stated headings.

Aonad na nIarratas ar Fhorbairt, Oifigí an Rialtais, Bóthair an Bhaile Nua, Loch Garman, Y35 AP90
Development Applications Unit, Government Offices, Newtown Road, Wexford, Y35 AP90
manager.dau@npws.gov.ie
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Archaeological

It is noted that the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (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 Tobar Archaeological Services Ltd (EIAR Chapter 14; date 26 June 2026). The Department notes that the AIA has been informed by the archaeological investigations carried out in advance of and in parallel with the construction of the extant elements of the wind farm development.

The Department therefore, advises that the following should be included as a condition of any grant of permission. Note these recommended conditions align with Sample Conditions 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 14 of the EIAR (date 26 June 2026) shall be implemented in full, except as may otherwise be required in order to comply with the conditions of this Order.

2. 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 14 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.

3. The Planning Authority and the 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.

Nature Conservation

The Department has reviewed the Impact Statement in relation to potential effects on River Finn Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (Site Code: 002301), Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC (Site Code: 000163), and Croaghonagh Bog SAC (Site Code: 000129). Based on the information submitted, the Department recommends the following conditions:

1. Prior to recommencement of construction, the current Peat Stability Assessment should be fully implemented through the CEMP, including controls on excavation and loading of peat, appropriate ground monitoring, rainfall/ground-condition trigger levels, stop-work procedures and a clearly defined emergency response in the event of peat movement.

2. Construction and Biodiversity Mitigation Enhancement Plan (BMEP) works should incorporate robust surface-water and sediment controls to protect the River Finn SAC, Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC, Croaghonagh Bog SAC and downstream aquatic receptors, with appropriate upstream/downstream water-quality monitoring and corrective-action triggers.

3. The hen harrier BMEP should be secured for the operational lifetime of the development and implemented sufficiently in advance of major turbine construction to provide functional alternative foraging habitat. Monitoring should include measurable habitat-condition and hen-harrier-use targets, together with adaptive management where objectives are not achieved.

4. Updated pre-construction surveys should be undertaken for hen harrier, merlin, snipe and other breeding birds. Where active nests or territories are identified, appropriate species-specific exclusion zones should be established by a suitably qualified ornithologist and/or Ecological Clerk of Works, with works suspended where necessary.

5. Post-construction ornithological monitoring should assess hen harrier displacement, use of the BMEP lands, breeding activity and collision mortality, with provision for additional mitigation where observed effects exceed those predicted.

6. Peatland restoration and habitat enhancement areas should be subject to long-term vegetation and hydrological monitoring, with remedial management where restoration targets are not achieved.

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

Colette McCormack
Development Applications Unit
Administration