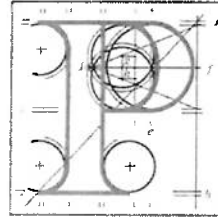


Our Case Number: ACP-324447-26



**An
Coimisiún
Pleanála**

Development Applications Unit
c/o The Manager
Government Offices
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90

Date: 17 September 2026

Re: Proposed Upgrades to the Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment Plant and Kilkenny Road Pumping Station
Carlow, County Carlow

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Coimisiún 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 Commission will revert to you in due course in respect of this matter.

Please be advised that a copy of all submissions / observations received in relation to the application will be made available for inspection on the Commission's website at the following link:

<https://www.pleanala.ie/en-ie/case/324447>

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

If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact the undersigned officer of the Commission. Please quote the above-mentioned An Coimisiún Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Commission.

Yours faithfully,


Muirín Gowen
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8049323

PA09

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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
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D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Muirin Gowen

From: David OConnor (Housing) <David.OConnor@npws.gov.ie>
Sent: Monday 14 September 2026 15:30
To: LAPS; SIDS
Subject: ACP-324447-26
Attachments: Carlow SID-CW-2026-034.pdf

Caution: This is an **External Email** and may have malicious content. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact the ICT Helpdesk.

Our Reference SID-CW-2026-034

A chara

Please find attached Archaeological and Nature Conservation observations/recommendations for the above-mentioned ACP notification.

Kindly forward a copy of your decision to manager.DAU@npws.gov.ie as soon as it issues.

In addition, please acknowledge receipt of the attached letter (as required under Article 29(2) of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001).

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

Kind regards,

David O'Connor
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
Government Offices
Bóthar an Bhaile Nua, Loch Garman, Contae Loch Garman, Y35 AP90
Newtown Road, Wexford, County Wexford, Y35 AP90

David.oconnor@npws.gov.ie
Manager.DAU@npws.gov.ie



Your Ref: ACP-324447-26

Our Ref: SID-CW-2026-034

14 September 2026

The Secretary
An Coimisiún 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 Proposed upgrade to Mortarstown Wastewater Treatment Plant and Kilkenny Road Pumping Station

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 heading:

Nature Conservation

The Natura Impact Statement has been reviewed in relation to potential effects on River Barrow and River Nore SAC (002162). Based on the information submitted, the NPWS considers that further information is required.

Relevant European site context

The application site is within River Barrow and River Nore SAC (002162). The Qualifying Interests of greatest relevance to the Proposed Development are Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) [1029], White-clawed Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) [1092], Sea Lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*) [1095], Brook Lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*) [1096], River Lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*) [1099], Twaite Shad (*Alosa fallax fallax*) [1103], Salmon (*Salmo salar*) [1106], Otter (*Lutra lutra*) [1355], and the habitat Water Courses of Plain to Montane Levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* Vegetation



[3260], due to the direct hydrological connection between the works and the River Barrow within the River Barrow and River Nore SAC (002162).

Review of NIS

The NIS does identify the relevant European site(s), qualifying interests/special conservation interests and conservation objectives. The NIS does provide an assessment of source-pathway-receptor links. The NIS does assess construction, operational and in-combination effects. However, further detail is required to ensure no significant impacts on the site integrity of the River Barrow and Nore SAC.

Key issue(s)

Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)

It is noted that in terms of project phasing, the project interfaces directly with the River Barrow and River Nore SAC (002162), the outfall/cofferdam works are constrained to July-September for a period of up to 3 weeks, and that micro tunnelling, dewatering, shaft construction and WwTP expansion works have no durations defined within the submitted CEMP. There is also no overall construction period stated.

Accordingly, the Department notes that the CEMP is currently in outline stage. The final CEMP must contain full details of the construction programme, including the duration of each phase. It should also provide detail on the timing overlap between micro tunnelling, outfall construction and WwTP works. Furthermore, specific detail is needed on the duration of works within the River Barrow and Nore SAC (002162), and the duration of dewatering activities.

Biosecurity and Invasive Species

Whilst biosecurity and invasive species management are addressed in the CEMP, given the potential impacts on the aquatic and riparian habitats within the River Barrow and River Nore SAC, the Department would request a site-specific Biosecurity Management Plan to accompany the final CEMP. This should include mapped invasive species exclusion zones, defined monitoring triggers and reporting procedures, and more detailed control measures for movement and disposal of potentially contaminated tunnel spoil.

SAC Qualifying Interest Protection Measures

It is noted that potential impacts on qualifying interest habitats and species have been presented within the NIS. However, the Department would request that the detailed CEMP demonstrates the protection of the qualifying interests of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC throughout the construction and operational phases.

The response should specifically address measures relating to:

- Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*);
- White-clawed Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*);
- Sea Lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*);



- Brook Lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*);
- River Lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*);
- Salmon (*Salmo salar*);
- Otter (*Lutra lutra*);
- Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (*Vertigo moulinsiana*);
- Watercourses (3260 habitat); and
- Any other qualifying interests with potential impact pathways from the proposed development.

The detailed CEMP should identify the specific mitigation measure(s) applicable to each qualifying interest and indicate the stage of implementation (pre-construction, construction, operation, and post-construction).

Water Quality Protection and Monitoring

Particular regard should be had to the conservation objectives of the Freshwater Pearl Mussel qualifying interest, which is subject to a conservation objective of Restore favourable conservation condition within the River Barrow and River Nore SAC. Therefore, the Department would request a detailed surface water protection plan. This should include proposed water quality monitoring locations upstream and downstream of the works, trigger levels and corrective actions for exceedances, monitoring frequency during high-risk construction activities, and procedures for cessation of works should monitoring identify deterioration in water quality.

Recommendation

The Department considers that the Natura Impact Statement and associated reports does not currently provide sufficient information to enable the competent authority to complete Appropriate Assessment.

Further information is requested comprising the detailed CEMP with the construction programme and phases, a Biosecurity Management Plan, SAC Qualifying Interest Protection Measures, and Water Quality Protection and Monitoring.

Until this information is submitted and assessed, it has not been demonstrated beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the proposed development would not adversely affect the integrity of River Barrow and River Nore SAC (002162), alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Archaeology

It is noted that the EIAR submitted as part of the planning application incorporates a desk-based Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) which was carried out in relation to the proposed development by John Cronin & Associates Ltd (EIAR Chapter 13; date 17 June



2026). NMS has reviewed the EIAR and is broadly in agreement with the findings in relation to Archaeology and Cultural Heritage as set out therein.

Therefore, the National Monuments Service (NMS), Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage advise that the following should be included as a condition of any grant of permission. Note these recommended conditions align with Sample Conditions C4 and C5 as set out in *OPR Practice Note PN03: Planning Conditions* (October 2022), with appropriate site-specific additions/adaptations based on the 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 (date 17 June 2026) shall be implemented in full, except as may otherwise be required in order to comply with the conditions of this Order.
2. A Project Archaeologist shall be appointed to oversee and advise on all aspects of the scheme from design, through inception to completion.
 - a. The Project Archaeologist shall liaise with the National Monuments Service (NMS) and the Planning Authority to agree in advance an overall strategy for archaeological works to be carried out both in advance of and in parallel with construction of the development.
 - b. This shall include the scope of any Archaeological Monitoring, as well as any additional mitigation measures that may be required to protect archaeological heritage (including provision for preservation in situ or preservation by record).
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 (date 17 June 2026) 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 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 any 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

David O'Connor
Development Applications Unit
Administration