Lauren Murphy

From: LAPS
Sent: Monday 19 October 2026 09:44
To: SIDS
Subject: FW: ACP-324597-26; SID response, Leitrim
Attachments: SID-LE-2026-044.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Lauren

From: Simon Dolan (Housing) <Simon.Dolan@npws.gov.ie>
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2026 11:43 AM
To: LAPS <laps@pleanala.ie>
Subject: ACP-324597-26; SID response, Leitrim

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.

A chara,

Attached please find the Nature Conservation & Archaeological observations.

Regards,

Simon Dolan

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

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

Your Ref: ACP-324597-26
Our Ref: SID-LE-2026-044

(Please quote in all related correspondence)

16 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 Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID): Grid Connection Route ('GCR') and permanent on-site 110 kV substation associated with the previously submitted Lissinagroagh Wind Farm at Faughary, Co. Leitrim.

A chara

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

Archaeology

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 IAC Ltd (EIAR Chapter 14).

The EIAR acknowledges that there is a potential that previously unknown sub-surface archaeological features or deposits may be present within the proposed development site (PDS) which may be negatively impacted by the proposed development. It is noted that no advance archaeological investigations have been carried out within the PDS to inform the EIAR, other than a walkover survey. It is advised that advance archaeological test excavation should be carried out in advance of any development to determine if previously unknown sub-surface archaeological features or deposits are present. If such material is present, then additional mitigation measures to ensure the preservation in situ or preservation by record (i.e. full archaeological excavation) of such discoveries will be necessary. It is also advised that this can be addressed by the inclusion of an appropriate condition, if the development is permitted.

Notwithstanding this, 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 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 14 of the EIAR 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 pre-development archaeological testing in areas of proposed ground disturbance and to submit an archaeological impact assessment report for the written agreement of the planning authority, following consultation with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, 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 Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, 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.

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 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.

4. The planning authority and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, 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 observations are intended to assist An Coimisiún Pleanála in relation to identifying potential impacts on European and national nature conservation sites, biodiversity and environmental protection in general, in the context of the current proposal.

Matters relating to Appropriate Assessment

The Department draws attention to the proposed Grid Connection Route (GCR) in relation to the Lough Gill SAC (site code: 001976) as the primary ecological receptor. Works will be situated in close proximity to the Bonet River and associated tributaries, noting that Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) will be used as the primary method of riparian crossing at a total of 12 crossing points. In the first instance, the Department recommends that all relevant mitigations as outlined in the Lissinagroagh Wind Farm Natura Impact Statement are strictly adhered to with adequate qualified Environmental Clerk of Works (ECoW) supervision. Pre-construction confirmatory surveys are recommended to ascertain the presence of Annex II/IV Otter in line with TII Guidelines on the treatment of Otters[1] where works may be likely to lead to disturbance/displacement effects within 150m of the Bonet River system.

Matters relating to invasive species

Three invasive alien plants species of concern as listed under Schedule 1 of the European Union (Invasive Alien Species) Regulations 2024 (S.I. No. 374/2024)[2] are known to occur along the proposed GCR. In particular, Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) infestations are located at numerous locations along the route within roadside verges and adjacent lands. Himalayan Balsam is also present within affected sections of the Bonet River system. The Department notes the provision of an Invasive Species Management Plan (ISMP) and recommends that infestations will require careful specialist treatment and where appropriate, disposal under licence from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) to a licensed waste facility, as part of roadside operations. Strict protocols for the application of herbicides near sensitive watercourses should also be adhered to.

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

[1] https://www.tii.ie/media/wsmlbxmv/guidelines-for-the-treatment-of-otters-prior-to-the-construction-of-national-road-schemes.pdf
[2] https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2024/si/374/made/en/print