



Planning Ref: ABP-307823-20

(Please quote in all related correspondence)

1 August 2023

Aisling Reilly,
Executive Officer,
An Bord Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1

Via email: info@pleanala.ie

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

Proposed Development: Substitute Consent for the constructed 4 no. bedroom residential dwelling at An Formna (Furmina), Inis Oírr (Inisheer), Oileáin Árann (Aran Islands), Chontae na Gaillimhe (County Galway).

A chara

I refer to correspondence received in connection with the above. Outlined below are heritage-related observations/recommendations co-ordinated by the Development Applications Unit under the stated headings.

Nature Conservation

These observations are intended to assist you in relation to identifying potential impacts on European sites, other nature conservation sites, and biodiversity and environmental protection in general, in the context of the current proposal. The observations here are not exhaustive, and are made without prejudice to any recommendation that may be made by this Department in the future.

The site is located within an Annex I - Dry grasslands & scrubland facies NPWS data set (2020), a Qualifying Interest for the Inisheer SAC 001275. Surveys were carried out to inform the original planning application.

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



The Department notes surveys carried out in 2014 (to inform the NIS) during the optimal survey period (August) found no evidence of the Annex I Dry grasslands & scrubland facies habitat on site (followed by two further surveys in April and June).

The current rNIS (remedial Natura Impact Statement) provided by MKO states: "A multidisciplinary walkover survey was conducted on the 21/11/ 2019 in line with NRA (2009) guidelines (*Ecological Surveying Techniques for Protected Flora and Fauna during the Planning of National Road Schemes*) by Olivia O' Gorman (BSc., MSc.). The ecological survey was undertaken within the optimal time of year to undertake a habitat and flora survey (Smith *et. al* 2011)." The Department highlights November is not optimal timing to carry out habitat surveys according to this guidance.

However, the Department agrees with the findings in the rNIS "No habitats of ecological significance were recorded within the site boundary" (the site is highly modified), and "the minor alterations to design and structural components have not and will not result in any direct or indirect adverse effects on any European site".

The Department takes this opportunity to remind An Bord Pleanála of their obligations under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). Competent national authorities, are to authorise activity only if they have made certain that it will not adversely affect the integrity of a European site and, consequently, not likely to give rise to deterioration or significant disturbances within the meaning of Article 6(2).

You are requested to send 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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Simon Dolan', written over a horizontal line.

Simon Dolan
Development Applications Unit
Administration



