

**Mark KIELTY**

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**From:** Bord  
**Sent:** Wednesday 21 October 2020 10:17  
**To:** Appeals2  
**Subject:** FW: ABP-307939-20 Cleanrath Windfarm  
**Attachments:** Cleanrath Windfarm (002)SN.pdf

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**From:** Joanne Lyons <Joanne.Lyons@chg.gov.ie>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 20 October 2020 17:28  
**To:** Bord <bord@pleanala.ie>  
**Subject:** ABP-307939-20 Cleanrath Windfarm

A chara,

Please find attached submission on the above referral.

Le meas,  
Joanne

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**Joanne Lyons**  
*Higher Executive Officer*

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**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

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Tá an t-eolas sa ríomhphost seo faoi rún, chomh maith le gach comhad atá ceangailte leis, agus i gcomhair úsáid an duine nó an chórais a bhfuil sé dírithe air amháin. Má fhaigheann tú an ríomhphost seo trí bhotún, cuir scéal chugainn ag [webmaster@chg.gov.ie](mailto:webmaster@chg.gov.ie). Tá an ríomhphost seo arna sheiceáil ag scanóir víreas agus dealramh air go bhfuil sé glan.

The information in this email, and any attachments transmitted with it, are confidential and are for the intended recipient only. If you receive this message in error, please notify us via [webmaster@chg.gov.ie](mailto:webmaster@chg.gov.ie). This e-mail has been scanned by a virus scanner and appears to be clean.





Your Ref: ABP-307939-20

Our Ref: **Cleanrath Windfarm**

*(Please quote in all related correspondence)*

20 October 2020

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

Via email to [bord@pleanala.ie](mailto:bord@pleanala.ie)

**RE: Substitute consent for the Cleanrath Windfarm development at Townlands of Reananerree, Cloontycarthy, Cleanrath North, Derrineanig, Cleanrath South, Milmorane, Coombilane, Rathgaskig, Augeris, Gorteenakilla, Carrignadoura, Gurteenowen, Gurteenflugh, Lyrenageeha and Lackabaun, Co. Cork**

A chara

I refer to correspondence to the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht on 16/09/2020 received in connection with the above. Outlined below are heritage-related observations/recommendations of the Department under the stated heading(s).

#### **Nature Conservation**

The proposed Cleanrath wind-farm is not within or adjacent to a European site (cSAC, SAC, pSPA or SPA), or a proposed or designated Natural Heritage Area (NHA or pNHA). However, it is within the catchment of the Gearagh candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC no. 108). Conservation objectives for this site are available at [https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation\\_objectives/CO000108.pdf](https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO000108.pdf).

Species of conservation importance occurring in the area include Kerry slug and bat species, species listed in Annex IV of the EU Habitats Directive, white-tailed eagle and golden plover, both species listed in Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.

#### **White-tailed eagle (Subsection 7.6.7)**

In relation to the white-tailed sea eagle as referred to in Table 7.11 of the EIAR, the species is only establishing itself in Ireland after reintroduction, and although there was only one observation recorded during the monitoring period (notably 2020), this does not mean that eagles could not in future begin to roost close (in eagle terms) to the wind-farm, for instance at Lough Allua. If this was the case, collision mortality with the blades of upland turbines is a potential threat, such as occurred at Sillahertane wind-farm in the nearby



Roughly Valley (Co. Kerry), when three eagles were killed. In the absence of assessment of this risk in terms of the topography of the wind farm relative to Lough Allua, the following type of condition is recommended:

- a) Annual and adaptive monitoring for use of Lough Allua and the wind-farm area by white-tailed sea eagles will be undertaken by a competent qualified ornithologist. This monitoring will be undertaken over a sufficient observation period, and at suitable vantage points, which allow detection of roosting or overflying eagles, based on best practice. The monitoring will be carried out at the time of year when eagle use of the area is most likely, depending on the data available from breeding or roosting eagles in the region, or on the basis of reliable reports of roosting eagles in the vicinity of the wind-farm. Monitoring will be coordinated with similar monitoring being carried out at other wind-farms in the region (Cork/Kerry border). The results of eagle monitoring will be reported to regional staff of the National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- b) A precautionary management plan for eagle protection will be drawn up and implemented. This will include (i) managing, insofar as feasible, fallen animal carcasses within the wind-farm area so that they do not attract eagles into the wind-farm. In the event of regular eagle occurrence in the immediate area of the wind-farm, the management plan will (ii) have an effective protocol for reducing risk of collision with turbine blades.

Reason: To avoid attraction of sea eagles into the wind-farm, and avoid mortality of eagles due to turbine blade collision.

#### **Leisler's Bat**

According to the EIAR there is significant use of the wind-farm site by Leisler's bat, with one fatality recorded during monitoring to-date (pp. 6-65 – 6-66). Leisler's bat is particularly susceptible to turbine blade collisions, and, like all bat species, is listed in Annex IV of the EU Habitats Directive as a species requiring strict protection. If not already conditioned, the monitoring of bat fatalities by trained dog(s) should continue throughout the life-time of the operational wind-farm.

You are requested to send further communications to the Development Applications Unit (DAU) [manager.dau@chg.gov.ie](mailto:manager.dau@chg.gov.ie), or to the following address:

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

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Connor Rooney  
Development Applications Unit