An Bord Pleanála

Meath Section

Marlborough Street

Dublin 1

D01V902

Date: 30/08/19

A	N BORD PLEANÁLA
LDG-	018825 -19 nd is in
	evelopment regulations (as amend
nuted An E	0 2 SEP 2019
Fee: €	220 Type: Rostal ORDER
Time:	By: Res.

RE: Application for determination under S5 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 - 2018 (KAS51942)

My name is Patrick Moran. I live at Sillogue, Kilberry, Navan, Co. Meath. On the 29th of July, 2019 I applied for a determination under S5 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 – 2018 (KAS51942) as regards Drainage of wetland habitat (Raised Bog) and mechanical disturbance, extrusion of peat and removal of turf from a site at Drakerath, Wilkinstown, Co. Meath. On the 29th August I received a letter from Meath Co. Council informing me that Meath Co. Council had failed to deal with the application within the appropriate time frame and that should I wish I could refer the matter to An Bord Pleanála.

My application concerns an area of raised bog habitat (I am principal ecologist with FERS Ltd, an environmental consultancy) occurring at Drakerath, Wilkinstown, Co. Meath. Raised bog is a wetland habitat¹. Approximately 84% of Ireland's raised bog habitat has been affected by peat extraction, having implications for both climate and biodiversity². The site in question comprises approximately 88Ha (in total including areas of cutaway) wetland of high biodiversity value (and a regionally important carbon sink) that is being drained (the drain network discharges to the River Blackwater, a component of the River Boyne and River Blackwater Special Area of Conservation) and from which peat is being extracted by persons unknown. This development and similar developments nationwide are contributing to the climate and biodiversity emergency declared by the government. The development includes drainage of a wetland habitat (total area 88 ha approximately) where in excess of 2 ha of wetland habitat is being affected (cf 1 (c) part (2) schedule 5 of the planning and development regulations (as amended) 2001). This activity is having a significant impact on the environment. Even if considered sub-threshold, the impact on the environment of the development should require at minimum EIA screening in accordance with the planning and development regulations (as amended) 2001. The discharge of drains to the River Blackwater should, at minimum, require Appropriate Assesment screening.

Given the recent declaration of a "Climate and Biodiversity Emergency", the threats of An Taoiseach that Ireland will vote against the controversial Mercosur trade agreement unless Brazil takes steps to protect the Amazon and the recent publication in Nature³ that has illustrated that the upward change in mean annual flood discharge per decade (%) in Ireland during the period 1960 – 2010 has been driven by increasing rainfall and soil moisture, I would urge An Bord Pleanála to comprehensively

¹ Van Roon M (2012). Wetlands in the Netherlands and New Zealand: Optimising biodiversity and carbon sequestration during urbanisation. Journal of Environmental Management, 101, pp 143 – 150; Verhoeven J (2014). Wetlands in Europe: Perspectives for restoration of a lost paradise. Ecological Engineering, 66, pp 6–9.

² Renou-Wilson F, Moser G, Fallon D, Farrell C, Müller C and Wilson D (2019). Rewetting degraded peatlands for climate and biodiversity benefits: Results from two raised bogs. *Ecological Engineering*, **127**, pp 547–560.

³ Günter Blöschl, Julia Hall, Alberto Viglione, Rui A. P. Perdigão, Juraj Parajka, Bruno Merz, David Lun, Berit Arheimer, Giuseppe T. Aronica, Ardian Bilibashi, Miloň Boháč, Ognjen Bonacci, Marco Borga, Ivan Čanjevac, Attilio Castellarin, Giovanni B. Chirico, Pierluigi Claps, Natalia Frolova, Daniele Ganora, Liudmyla Gorbachova, Ali Gül, Jamie Hannaford, Shaun Harrigan, Maria Kireeva, Andrea Kiss, Thomas R. Kjeldsen, Silvia Kohnová, Jarkko J. Koskela, Ondrej Ledvinka, Neil Macdonald, Maria Mavrova-Guirguinova, Luis Mediero, Ralf Merz, Peter Molnar, Alberto Montanari, Conor Murphy, Marzena Osuch, Valeryia Ovcharuk, Ivan Radevski, José L. Salinas, Eric Sauquet, Mojca Šraj, Jan Szolgay, Elena Volpi, Donna Wilson, Klodian Zaimi & Nenad Živković (2019). Changing climate both increases and decreases European river floods. *Nature*, DOI https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-019-1495-6

AN BORD PLEANÁLA:

assess if the development at Drakestown is exempted development in view of 1 (c) part (2) schedule 5 of the planning and development regulations (as amended) 2001. Please find attached copy of the Application form for Declaration on development and exempted development as submitted to Meature Co. Council and postal order for €220 for referral of same to An Bord Pleanála.

Signed	Type:		D 100 1	100
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nhairle Chontae na Mí

Roinn Pleanáil, Teach Buvinda, Bóthar Átha Cliath, An Uaimh, Contae na Mí, C15 Y291 Fón: 046 - 9097500/Fax: 046 - 9097001 R-phost: planning@meathcoco.ie Web: www.meath.ie



Meath County Council

Planning Department Buvinda House, Dublin Road, Navan, Co. Meath, C15 Y291 Tel: 046 - 9097500/Fax: 046 - 9097001 E-mail: planning@meathcoco.ie Web: www.meath.ie

Mr. Patrick Moran, Sillogue, Kilberry, Navan, Co. Meath.

Our Ref: ML / SC Date: 28/08/2019

Re: Application for determination under S5 of the Planning & Development Acts 2000 - 2018 - KAS51942

Dear Sir,

I refer to your application for a declaration on development & exempted development lodged with the Planning Authority on 29th July, 2019. Meath County Council failed to deal with the application within the appropriate timeframe, ie. on or before 25th August, 2019. You can refer the application to An Bord Pleanála under Section 5(3)(b) of the Planning & Development Acts.

The referral must be done within 4 weeks from the date the decision was due, which was 25th August, 2019.

A refund of €80 will be made by contacting this office and giving card details.

Yours Sincerely,

Sean Clarke,

Senior Executive Officer.

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	one No: 0877573121 E-mail : dr patmoran@eircom.net
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	cation of Development and/or Subject Site: HE MUMIMIM TA BRIUGE
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DI	RAINAGE OF WETLAND (RAISED BOG) AND MECHANICAL DISTURBANCE
E	TRUSION OF PEAT AND REMOVAL OF TURF. AREA IS SUBJECT TO
T	1. Are you aware of any enforcement proceedings connected to YRABAIL
5. W	ill the development take place within the curtilage of a dwelling house?
	Please tick as appropriate: YES ylug NO\ "83 Y* ti _(d) t
	ill / does development take place in / on a Protected Structure or withi
the cu	rtilage of a Protected Structure?
the cu	Please tick as appropriate: YES NO _V == WE US NO _V == WE USV == WE USV == WE US NO _V == WE USV == WE
	Please tick as appropriate: YES NO _√ shaws up on A.S.
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9. List of plans / drawings etc. submitted:
MAPS OUTLINING AREA IN WHICH POTENTIAL UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT IS TAKING PLACE.
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPGH ILLUSTATING POTENTIAL UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING DRAINAGE OF A WETLAND HABITAT (TOTAL AREA 88 HA APPROXIMATELY) WHERE IN EXCESS OF 2 HA OF WETLAND HABITAT IS BEING AFFECTED (CF 1 (C) PART (2) SCHEDULE 5 OF THE

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS (AS AMENDED) 2001).

10. Please state applicants interest in this site 12 1218725780 to 4 another

THIS A WETLAND SITE OF HIGH BIODIVERSITY VALUE THAT IS BEING DRAINED AND FROM WHICH PEAT IS BEING EXTRACTED BY PERSONS UNKNOWN. THIS DEVELOPMENT AND SIMILAR DEVELOPMENTS NATIONWIDE ARE CONTRIBUTING TO THE CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY EMERGENCY DECLARED BY THE GOVERNMENT. THIS ACTIVITY IS HAVING A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT. EVEN IF CONSIDERED SUB-THRESHOLD, THE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT SHOULD REQUIRE AT MINIMUM EIAR SCREENING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS (AS AMENDED) 2001.

If applicant is not the owner of site, please provide name & address of owner: MUCH OF THE SITE IS OWNED BY COILLTE

11. Are you aware of any enforcement proceedings connected to this site?

Please tick as appropriate: Willy	5. Will the dev <u>ely aron't take plac</u> S
11 (b), If "YES" please supply details:	
e in / on a Protected Structure or within	
12. Are you aware of any previous planning	g application/s on this site?
Please tick as appropriate: YE	
12 (b), If "YES" please supply details:	
epplicables	6. State overall height of structure if MOT APPLICABLE
SIGNED: DA	
THE THE AN BOR	D PLEANÁLA 2 SEP 2019 FROM

NOTES

- 1. Application Fee of €80
- 2. Application shall be accompanied by:
 - 2 copies of site location map to scale 1:2500 clearly showing the site outlined in red and the extent of the site boundaries, the position of existing structures, etc., and the proposed work.
 - 2 drawings to scale (1:200) of the proposed development (including floor plan and elevations), if appropriate.
 - Two site layout plans to scale 1:500 if appropriate. Please submit 2 copies of any additional plans/reports etc. you may wish to include as part of the application.

Application shall be forwarded to: Meath County Council, Planning Department, Buvinda House, Dublin Road, Navan, Co. Meath.

Contact Details: Phone: 046 9097500 Fax: 046 9097001

Email: planning@meathcoco.ie

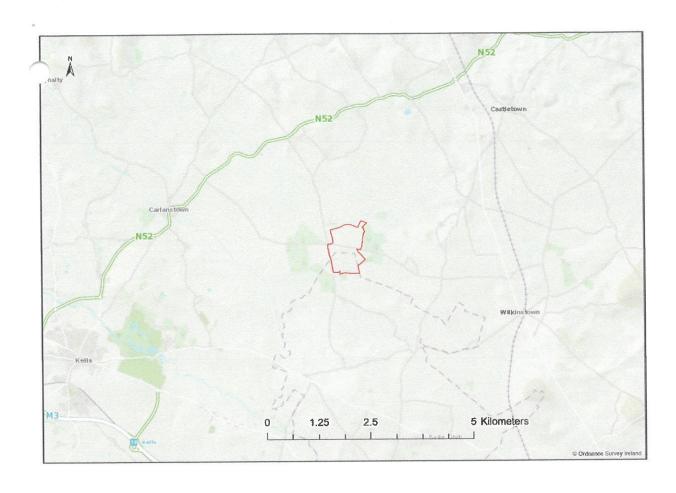
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- Application shall be returned by
- Toples of site forestian map in sinks 1:2500 clearly showing the site outlined in red and the extent of the site boundaries, the position or existing structures, etc., and the proposed works.
- 2 drawings to scale (1:20 of the proposed development final uding floor plan and elevations). If appropriate.
- Two site tayout plans to scale 1:500 if appropriate. Please cuttenist 2 copies of any additional plans/reports uto. you may wish to include as part of the opplication.

Application shall be forwarded to: Meath County Council, Planning Department, Buyinda Mouse, Dubiln Road, Navan, Co. Meath.
Contact Details: Phone: 046 9097500 Fam 045 9097001
Email: planning@meathcouc.ie



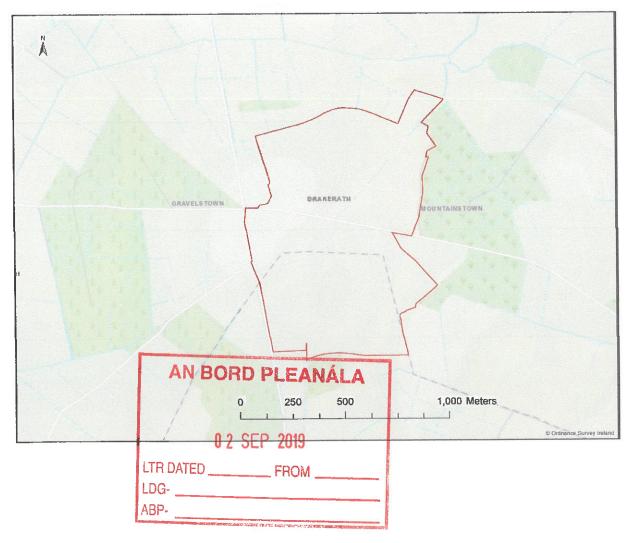
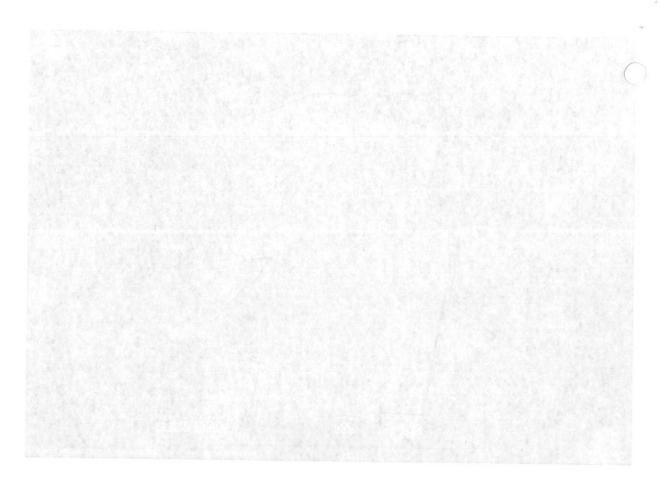




Figure 1: SATELLITE IMAGERY OF SITE

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Figure 1: DRAINAGE AND PEAT REMOVAL FROM NORTHERN SECTION OF BOG



Figure 2: DRAINAGE AND PEAT REMOVAL FROM SOUTHERN SECTION OF AN BORD PLEANÁLA

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