

Submission Details

Submitter

Name	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Address	Custom House, Dublin, Ireland D01 W6X0
Note	A Chara, Attached please find the Nature Conservation observations/recommendations of the Department in relation to Planning Application 2360. Kind regards, ----- Edel Griffin 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

In relation to application

File Number	2360
Name	Teoranta Coillte
Address	Derryclare and Cloonnacartan Co. Galway



RECEIVED: 01/02/2024

Planning Ref: 23/60

(Please quote in all related correspondence)

1 February 2024

Director of Services – Planning
County Buildings,
Prospect Hill,
Galway
H91 H6KX

Re: Notification under Article 28 (Part 4) or Article 82 (Part 8) of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended.

Proposed Development: For a ten-year planning permission at Derryclare and Cloonnacartan, Co. Galway consisting of: i.) The felling/removal of some 343 hectares of conifer plantation for the purposes of peatland restoration and the establishment of native woodland. ii.) Measures to restore and rehabilitate approximately 281 hectares of Atlantic blanket bog and heathland that is currently planted with lodgepole pine and Sitka spruce forests and managed for commercial forestry. iii.) Conversion of 62 hectares of conifer forestry to native woodland. iv.) Main peatland restoration measures will include tree removal, drain blocking (manual and mechanical) and ground reprofiling. v.) The control of existing invasive species on site and continued control during the restoration works to prevent their spread. vi.) Drain-blocking all existing artificial drainage and artificial land drains currently existing within the peatland restoration areas in order to restore the high water table which is necessary for blanket bog growth. vii.) Provision of silt traps at outflows to block the pathway to the Twelve Bens/Garraun Complex Special Area of Conservation. viii.) Deer fencing to protect 62 hectares of proposed native woodland. ix.) Provision of a Harvest Management Phasing Plan for the proposed project. x.) Provision of new internal access road extending to 1.58 km. xi.) Across the site there will be 4 no. temporary water-crossings constructed in order to facilitate the harvesting of the timber at the site. xii.) Provision of informational signage. xiii.) Resurfacing of up to 8.23 km of existing forestry roads. xiv.) Resurfacing of existing car park to facilitate public access. xv.) Installation of water monitoring stations for real time water monitoring during operations. xvi.) Cutting of roadside trees to improved sightline visibility at site entrance. xvii.) The application is supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS)



RECEIVED: 01/02/2024

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 Galway County Council in meeting their obligations in relation to National and EU legislation and policies for nature conservation and biodiversity, in the context of the current application.

At the request of Galway County Council the National Parks and Wildlife Service of this Department engaged with applicant, Coillte Nature, in relation to the current application. The intention of the engagement was to clarify with the applicant the original comments made on this application by the National Parks and Wildlife Service of this Department, and to assist the applicant in providing further information to Galway County Council to facilitate their Appropriate Assessment (AA) determination.

The Department is satisfied that the further information provided by the applicant has addressed those comments raised by this Department on the original application. The Department also considers that Coillte Nature have provided Galway County Council with sufficient information to adequately undertake their Appropriate Assessment determination.

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

Is mise, le meas

Edel Griffin
Development Applications Unit
Administration