

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 Archaeological recommendations. 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

In relation to application

Application Number	PT8GC231
Applicant Name	Galway County Council
Development Address	Eanach Dhúin/ Annaghdown Co. Galway



RECEIVED: 29/05/2025

Planning Ref: LA05/25
(Please quote in all related correspondence)

29 May 2025

Director of Services-Planning
Galway City Council
City Hall
College Road
H91 X4K8

Via email: planning@galwaycity.ie

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

Proposed Development: Construction of a new burial ground, car parking spaces and an internal link road in Eanach Dhúin, Co. 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.

Archaeology

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has reviewed the documents submitted in support of this planning proposal. These include:

- A report on the results of archaeological geophysical survey carried out at the proposed development site under licence from this Department (Minarex Geophysics Ltd; dated February 2025 – Licence Ref. 25R0004)
- A desk-based Archaeological Assessment report prepared by Through Time Ltd; dated February 2025.

The Department acknowledges the findings of the geophysical survey and desk-based assessment report and broadly concurs with the conclusions and recommendations set out in the latter report (page 33). Given the scale and location of the proposed development and in line with both national and local policy – see *Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage* (1999) and the relevant policy objectives and development management standards of the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 – the Department recommends that licensed archaeological monitoring of all groundworks required for the construction of the access road/s, car-parking

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facilities and road-widening (as described below) be included as a condition of any planning approval that may issue.

Note this condition aligns with Sample Condition C.4 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 the findings of the desk-based archaeological assessment report.

Archaeological Conditions:

1. The developer shall retain / engage a suitably qualified Archaeologist to monitor (licensed under the National Monuments Acts) all site enabling/preparatory works, site clearance works, topsoil stripping and groundworks required for the construction of the access roads, car-parking facilities, drainage and service installation and road widening. The use of appropriate machinery to ensure the preservation and recording of any surviving archaeological remains shall be necessary.
2. Should archaeological remains be identified during the course of archaeological monitoring, all works shall be suspended in the area of archaeological interest pending a decision of the Planning Authority, in consultation with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage regarding appropriate mitigation (preservation *in situ* / excavation).
3. The developer shall facilitate the Archaeologist in recording any remains identified. 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.
4. Following the completion of all archaeological work on site and any necessary post-excavation specialist analysis, the Planning Authority and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage shall be furnished with a final archaeological report describing the results of the monitoring and any subsequent required archaeological investigative work/excavation required. 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

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 Department has reviewed the screening for Appropriate Assessment. The Lough Corrib SPA is located 0.42km from the site boundary. The screening report has screened out the Lough Corrib SPA "*due to distance and the lack of any relevant ex-situ factors of significance to bird species*".

The Department highlights the proposed development is located within the boundary of a field of improved grassland. Greenland White fronted goose is a qualifying interest for this SPA, and their key foraging habitats include grasslands (...semi-improved grassland, and intensive grassland). A conservation objective for this species states "*Supporting habitat: area and quality - Sufficient area of utilisable habitat available in*



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ecologically important sites outside the SPA". Furthermore, Hen Harrier (a QI species) also forage in grasslands. The conservation objectives state adjacent areas outside the SPA are also likely used by hen harrier to forage during the non-breeding season.

Finally, Lesser Horseshoe Bat (QI species and Annex IV species) passes have been recorded on several of the Lough Corrib islands by NPWS staff just north of Addergoole Bog (which is approx. 4km south of the proposed development) and are generally under recorded in the area.

Recommendation:

Potential indirect impacts of the proposed development using the Source-Pathway-Receptor model should be further considered.

The Department takes this opportunity to remind Galway County Council 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). Any matters raised above should also be considered in the planning policy context for the proposed development, including the protective natural heritage and biodiversity objectives and policies in Galway County Development Plan.

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

Simon Dolan
Development Applications Unit
Administration