

Environmental Impact Assessment Section
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Johnstown Castle Estate
Wexford
Co. Wexford

By Registered Post

16th July 2021

NPWS Ref: NA0538

(Please quote the above reference in all relevant correspondence)

Re: Referral under Regulation 32 (1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011) regarding an Activity Requiring Consent in European Site, Cloonmoylan Bog candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC) (Site Code: 000248).

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The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, under Regulation 32 (1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, is referring a matter for determination by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine under the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Agriculture) Regulations 2011.

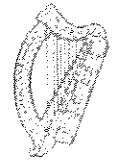
This matter relates to an application for consent to plough, reseed and use for grazing, two land parcels of degraded raised bog (spread grounds of old bog plots) at

within the Cloonmoylan Bogs European Site. The applicant is a

. The application form and maps which make up this application for consent are attached for your information. The applicant appears to be the registered owner of the lands to which this application applies, but it should be noted that there are burdens on the lands which may mean the proposed activities have implications for other parties.

The applicant proposes to carry out ploughing the two land parcels and reseeding with a traditional grass seed mix to provide summer grazing for animals (cattle). Associated works to include the removal of furze and filling in of drains through the land parcels is also proposed. It is proposed to carry out these works with a tracked machine and tractor.





This Department has reviewed the application and, for the following reasons, is of the opinion that the carrying out of the above described proposal are activities that come under the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Agriculture) Regulations 2011:

The ploughing, reseeding and subsequent use of the land for grazing falls within the Regulation 3(1)(b) project category, "commencing to use uncultivated land or semi-natural areas for intensive agriculture", and would be occurring within the European site, Cloonmoylan Bog candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC) (Site Code: 000248). In addition the proposed activities:

- a) Would be occurring within or would impact qualifying interest Annex I habitat and/or the habitat of Annex II species, or supporting habitat, within the cSAC;
- b) Would involve excavations, clearance, habitat loss or alteration, etc.;
- c) Would be likely to have a significant effect on the cSAC in view of its conservation objectives individually, or in combination with other plans or projects, including other on-farm activities, or the possibility of such an effect cannot be excluded;
- d) Would be likely to have a significant effect on aspects of the environment, including: biodiversity, flora and fauna (including watercourse, lake, surface waters, aquatic habitats/species).

This Department has contacted the applicant in relation to the above, and the applicant has expressed a wish to pursue the application. The applicant has been advised that your Department may require further information.

The application is referred for your determination. In the event that your Department reaches a determination that the activity does not fall under your legislation, please advise the undersigned at your earliest convenience. If you have any queries regarding this matter please contact the local Conservation Ranger, Jacinta Murphy, of the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department, by telephone at 087 9846261, or by email at jacinta.murphy@housing.gov.ie.

Yours sincerely,

Assumpta Carthy
Higher Executive Officer
Site Protection Unit
National Parks and Wildlife Service
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Newtown Road
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