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**From:** Byrnes, Emmet  
**Sent:** Friday 23 May 2025 16:12  
**To:** Windle, Robert; Maurus, Sonja  
**Cc:** Dunne, Seamus; Dowling, Conor; Fahy, Orla; Collins, Kevin  
**Subject:** RE: bog restoration  
**Attachments:** FIR to Applicant.pdf; Response to Request for Further Information - Archaeology.pdf; NMS Submission.pdf; Executive Summary.pdf

Hi Robbie,

Yes, the Director of Forestry also shared the good news on RTE.

[Council approves 'crucial' Conamara restoration project \(rte.ie\)](https://www.rte.ie/news/2025/05/23/council-approves-crucial-conamara-restoration-project/)

**Planning Reference: 2461711**

There seems there may be a number of elements of the parent project where DAFM will be a 'second authority', and/or where requests for funding might be made to DAFM?

The final decision has yet to be published on the Galway County Council planning website, including the Schedule of Conditions attached to the PP.

However, it is interesting from my professional perspective to see from what is up there already, that NMS, DHLGH, recommended an FIR on the Cultural Heritage Chapter of the EIAR around the assessment methodologies employed by the Consultant Archaeologists.

Regards,

Emmet

**Emmet Byrnes**

*Forestry Inspector Grade 1/ Senior Archaeologist  
Head of Section – Archaeology and Built Heritage  
Forest Service Inspectorate*

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**Planning Reference: 2461711**

**Ref Number:**2461711

**Applicant Name:** Coillte Te

**Received:** 12/12/2024

**Application Type:** PERMISSION

**Location:** Doire an Chláir Cuil na Ceártan , Cloonnacartan (Cúil na Ceártan) , Co. Galway

**Description:** For a ten-year development, this will consist 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 conifer forests and managed for productive 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 surface smoothing.
- 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 highwater 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. Maintenance 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)

**Status:** New Application

**Decision:** n\

**Decision Date:** n\

**Decision Due Date:** 22/05/2025

**Withdrawn Date:** n\

**Grant Date:** n\

**Expiry Date:** n\

**Appeal Ref Number:** n\

**Appeal Decision:** n\

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**From:** Windle, Robert <Robert.Windle@agriculture.gov.ie>

**Sent:** Friday 23 May 2025 15:39

**To:** Maurus, Sonja <Sonja.Maurus@agriculture.gov.ie>; Byrnes, Emmet <Emmet.Byrnes@agriculture.gov.ie>

**Subject:** bog restoration

Emmet / Sonja

Looks like this will be back to us soon.

[Council approves 'crucial' Conamara restoration project \(rte.ie\)](#)

Robert Windle

**Cigire Foraoiseachta Dúiche, Seirbhís Foraoiseachta**  
*Forestry Inspector, Forest Service*

*Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine*

**Johnstown Castle Estate, Wexford, Y35 PN52**

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