Marie Fay

Subject:

FW: INTEGRATE POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL LICENCE APPLICATION

REF. REG. NO. P0966-01 BY KIERNAN BREEDING STOCK

Attachments:

DAU-LG-P0966-01.pdf; ATT00001.txt; ATT00002.htm

From: Manager Dau [mailto:Manager.Dau@ahg.gov.ie]

Sent: 29 August 2012 17:01 **To:** Wexford Receptionist

Subject: INTEGRATE POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL LICENCE APPLICATION REF. REG. NO. P0966-01 BY

KIERNAN BREEDING STOCK

FAO: Marie Fay

A Chara,

I refer to your notification with respect to the above proposed development application, please find hereunder nature conservation observations and recommendations of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, for consideration by your Authority.

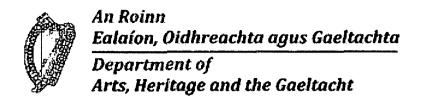
Emmet Deegan,
Development Applications Unit,
Built Heritage and Architectural Policy,
Newtown Road,
Wexford

t: (053) 911 7384

e: emmet.deegan@ahg.gov.ie

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29/08/2012

Our Ref:

DAU-2012-LG-LG-P0966-01

Your Ref.

P0966-01

Office of Climate, Licensing and Resource Use, Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Headquarters, P.O. Box 3000, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford.

RE: INTEGRATE POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL LICENCE APPLICATION REF. REG. No. P0966-01 BY KIERNAN BREEDING STOCK FOR THE REARING OF PIGS IN A INSTALLATION, WHETHER WITHIN THE SAME COMPLEX OR WITHIN 100M OF THE SAME COMPLEX, WHERE THE CARACITY EXCEEDS 285 PLACES FOR SOWS IN AN INTEGRATED UNIT AT ARDAGULLION, GRANARD, CO. LONGFORD.

A Chara,

I refer to your notification with respect to the above proposed development application, please find hereunder nature conservation observations and recommendations of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, for consideration by your Authority.

It is noted that the proposed development is situated adjacent to and in a location likely to significantly impact on the Ardagullion Bog Special Area of Conservation Site No. SAC 002341. Please see the site synopses at www.npws.ie for a description of the site.

The Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht is of the view that this proposal could significantly damage/destroy water dependent habitats and species, including active raised bogs, degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration and depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion, all of which are habitat types listed in Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora).

The potential impacts would be caused by the deterioration of the water quality within the Special Area of Conservation resulting from pollution/eutrophication caused by the inappropriate landspreading of animal wastes associated with the development.

In order to mitigate for this potential impact we recommend that the following conditions be attached to the grant of the licence:

• There should be no landspreading of animal manures associated with the development within the adjacent Special Area of Conservation. All spreading of animal wastes associated with the development should be in accordance with the European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations, 2010.

Kindly forward any further information received or in the event of a decision being made a copy of same should be referred to the following address:

The Manager,
Development Applications Unit (DAU),
Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht,
Newtown Road,
Wexford

Alternatively, documentation associated with the above can be referred electronically to the DAU at the following address:

manager.dau@ahg.gov.ie

In addition, please acknowledge receipt of these observations by return.

"please note the change to e-mail addresses which take effect from 12:00pm on Monday, 15th August 2011"

Is mise le meas,

Emmet Deegan,

Development Applications Unit

Tel: (053) 911 7384

SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: ARDAGULLION BOG

SITE CODE: 002341

Ardaguillion Bog is located 5 km north-east of Edgeworthstown, mainly in the townlands of Cloonshannagh (Coolamber Manor Demesne) and Ardaguillon in Co. Longford. The site comprises a raised bog that includes both areas of high bog and cutover bog. The site is bounded in the north-east by the local road running to Coolagherty.

The site is a candidate Special Area of Conservation selected for active raised bog, degraded raised bog and Rhynchosporion, habitats that are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. Active raised bog comprises areas of high bog that are wet and actively peat-forming, where the percentage cover of bog mosses (*Sphagnum* spp.) is high, and where some or all of the following features occur: hummocks, pools, wet flats, *Sphagnum* lawns, flushes and soaks. Degraded raised bog corresponds to those areas of high bog whose hydrology has been adversely affected by peat cutting, drainage and other land use activities, but which are capable of regeneration. The Rhynchosporion habitat occurs in wet depressions, pool edges and erosion channels where the vegetation includes White Beak-sedge (*Rhynchospora alba*) and/or Brown Beak-sedge (*R fusca*), and at least some of the following associated species, Bog Asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*), Sundews (*Drosera* spp.), Deergrass (*Scirpus cespitosus*), Carnation Sedge (*Carex panicea*).

This site is the remnant of a much larger bog that is now cutover and afforested. There are areas of hummocks and pools in the centre of the high bog and the ground is wet and quaking. There is one flush in the centre of the high bog. There is a small area of coniferous forestry on a section of high bog and cutover in the south-west of the site. Cutover is found all around this site.

Much of the high bog has vegetation typical of a Midland Raised Bog, consisting of Ling Heather (Calluna vulgaris), Cranberry (Vaccinium oxycoccos), Hare's-tail Cottongrass (Eriophorum vaginatum), White Beak-sedge, Bog Asphodel and Bog-rosemary (Andromeda polifolia). The bog mosses Sphagnum papillosum, S. capillifolium and S. magellanicum are common on the high bog and S. imbricatum is found at the centre of the site. At the centre of the high bog there are frequent pools that all contain the bog moss S. cuspidatum Great Sundew (Drosera anglica) is found in all the pools in the centre of the bog and Bogbean (Menyanthes trifoliata) is present in some. The inter-pool areas have a high bog moss covers Many hummocks have good clumps of the lichens Cladonia portentosa and C. uncialis. On the south-west margins of the high bog there are some young Lodgepole Pine (Pinus contorta) but none are thriving. There is one very wet flush in the centre of the high bog with Common Cottongrass (E. angustifolium), extensive lawns of the bog moss S. cuspidatum and some Purple Moor-grass (Molinia caerulea). The cutover in the north-west, east and south-east is dominated by Purple Moor Grass, Soft Rush (Juncus effusus) and Common Cottongrass. There is some Gorse (Ulex europaeus) scrub in the east of the site and extensive Downy Birch (Betula pubescens) scrub in the south-east.

Current landuses on the site include forestry, peat-cutting and agriculture. The forestry is found on a small section of high bog and adjoining cutover in the south-west of the site. Areas of cutover in the south and west of the site that were previously forested have only recently been clear-felled. Active peat-cutting is taking place in the north-west, east and south-east of the site. Two fields in the north of the site have been reclaimed for agriculture. Damaging activities associated with these landuses include drainage throughout the site and burning of the high bog. There is also evidence of old burning in the northern part of the high bog. All these activities have resulted in the loss of habitat and damage to the hydrological status of the site, and pose a continuing threat to its viability.

Ardagullion Bog is a site of considerable conservation significance comprising as it does a raised bog, a rare habitat in the E.U. and one that is becoming increasingly scarce and under threat in Ireland. The site supports a good diversity of raised bog microhabitats, including hummocks and pools. Active raised bog is listed as a priority habitat on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. Priority status is given to habitats and species that are threatened throughout the E.U. Ireland has a high proportion of the total E.U. resource of this habitat type (over 60%) and so has a special responsibility for its conservation at an international level.