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Sent: Wednesday 27 April 2022 14:31
To: cdp <cdp@leitrimcoco.ie>
Subject: Draft Leitrim County Council County Development Plan 2023-2029

To whom it may concern

Leitrim and especially North Leitrim is of outstanding unspoilt natural beauty. The drumlin landscape with its marginal land supports a vast variety of plants, lichen, fungi and mosses and animals which have become scarce or have disappeared in other parts of Ireland or Europe.

One insect is the Marsh Fritillary, a butterfly protected by the European Habitats Directive, Annex II. It can still be found in several locations in North Leitrim on old unimproved molinia and heath grassland, where its sole foodplant, the Devil's Bit Scabious, grows.

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These are unique grass and peatland habitats in North Leitrim which need urgent protection. This protection needs to be reflected in the County Development plan by not allowing highly damaging industries such as goldmining, large scale windfarms, and further extended monoculture forestry to take place.

These industries are polluting and destroying habitats forever while in operation and in their construction and decommissioning.

The development plan has to take into account the importance of peat and grassland habitats in Leitrim as carbon sinks and their importance for biodiversity and to slow climate change.

Kind regards
Sabine Waniek