



Leitrim County Council Planning Report

Reference No:	ED25-35
Applicant:	Paul and Clair Rosser
Location:	Country View, Gortnalamp, Mohill, Co. Leitrim
Application Type:	Declaration under Section 5 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended
Proposal:	Renovation and extension of existing dwelling house to include replacement roof, replacement windows and doors and provision of a new single storey rear extension measuring under 33m².
Date of Site Inspection:	05/08/2025
Due Date:	25/08/2025

Introduction

This subject request for a declaration under Section 5 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, was received by the Planning Authority on the 29th of July 2025 and relates to whether the proposed renovation and extension of an existing dwelling house to include replacement roof, replacement windows and doors and provision of a new single storey rear extension measuring under 33m² at Country View, Gortnalamp, Mohill, Co. Leitrim is or is not development and whether it is or is not exempted development.

Site Location and Context

The subject site is located within the rural townland of Gortnalamp, approximately 2.5km northwest of Cloone village and approximately 3.6km southwest of Mohill town centre. The subject site currently accommodates an existing single storey dwelling of traditional rural vernacular design, which is somewhat in a state of neglect/disrepair with extensive vegetation growing in and around the structure particularly at the end gables of the structure. Notwithstanding, the corrugated roof and exterior walls of the existing dwelling appear to be intact. The dwelling itself is setback approximately 140m east from the L-3482 Local Primary Road from which the subject site is accessed from via an existing entrance which is extensively overgrown. The boundaries of the site are defined by extensive mature hedgerows and trees. Much of the surrounding area is characterised by extensive tracts of commercial forestry planting, agricultural lands uses, farmyard complexes and some sporadic, one-off rural housing.

The nearest Natura 2000 site is Clooneen Bog Special Area of Conservation (SAC Site Code: 002348) which is located approximately 9.1km south of the subject site.

The nearest nationally designated site is Lough Rinn proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA Site Code: 001417) which is located approximately 2.7km east of the subject site.

The subject site is not located within any landscapes designated for amenity value in the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029.



Fig. 1 – Image of front elevation of subject dwelling



Fig. 2 – Image of rear of subject dwelling

Planning History

No documented planning history on file.

Relevant Legislation

Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended

Section 2 Interpretation

Section 2(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) provides an interpretation of 'works' as including 'any act or operation of construction, excavation, demolition, extension, alteration, repair or renewal...'. An "alteration" includes '...the replacement of a door, window or roof... that materially alters the external appearance of a structure so as to render the appearance inconsistent with the character of the structure or neighbouring structures...'.

Section 3 Development

Section 3(1) In this Act 'development' means, except where the context otherwise requires, the carrying out of any works on, in, or under land or the making of any material change in the use of any structures or other land.

Section 4 Exempted Development

Section 4(1) The following shall be exempted developments for the purposes of this Act—

(h) development consisting of the carrying out of works for the maintenance, improvement or other alteration of any structure, being works which affect only the interior of the structure or which do not materially affect the external appearance of the structure so as to render the appearance inconsistent with the character of the structure or of neighbouring structures;

S.4 (2) (a) The Minister may by regulations provide for any class of development to be exempted development for the purposes of this Act where he or she is of the opinion that—

(i) by reason of the size, nature or limited effect on its surroundings, of development belonging to that class, the carrying out of such development would not offend against principles of proper planning and sustainable development, or

(ii) the development is authorised, or is required to be authorised, by or under any enactment (whether the authorisation takes the form of the grant of a licence, consent, approval or any other type of authorisation) where the enactment concerned requires there to be consultation (howsoever described) with members of the public in relation to the proposed development prior to the granting of the authorisation (howsoever described).

(b) Regulations under paragraph (a) may be subject to conditions and be of general application or apply to such area or place as may be specified in the regulations.

(c) Regulations under this subsection may, in particular and without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (a), provide, in the case of structures or other land used for a purpose of any specified class, for the use thereof for any other purpose being exempted development for the purposes of this Act.

Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended

Article 6(1) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, states that:

Subject to article 9, development of a class specified in column 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 2 shall be exempted development for the purposes of the Act, provided that such development complies with the conditions and limitations specified in column 2 of the said Part 1 opposite the mention of that class in the said column 1.

Article 9(1) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, identifies restrictions on exemptions. Of relevance in this case would be the following:

(a) if the carrying out of such development would –

- (i) contravene a condition attached to a permission under the Act or be inconsistent with any use specified in a permission under the Act*
- (iii) endanger public safety by reason of traffic hazard or obstruction or road users*
- (vi), interfere with the character of a landscape, or a view or prospect of special amenity value or special interest, the preservation of which is an objective of a development plan for the area in which the development is proposed or, pending the variation of a development plan or the making of a new development plan, in the draft variation of the development plan or the draft development plan.*

Class 1 of Part 1, Schedule 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, allows for the following exemption subject to conditions and limitations as set out in column 2:

Description of Development:

Development within the curtilage of a house

The extension of a house, by the construction or erection of an extension (including a conservatory) to the rear of the house or by the conversion for use as part of the house of any garage, store, shed or other similar structure attached to the rear or to the side of the house.

Conditions and Limitations:

- 1. (a) Where the house has not been extended previously, the floor area of any such extension shall not exceed 40 square metres.*
(b) Subject to paragraph (a), where the house is terraced or semi-detached, the floor area of any extension above ground level shall not exceed 12 square metres.
(c) Subject to paragraph (a), where the house is detached, the floor area of any extension above ground level shall not exceed 20 square metres.

- 2. (a) Where the house has been extended previously, the floor area of any such extension, taken together with the floor area of any previous extension or extensions constructed or erected after 1 October 1964, including those for which planning permission has been obtained, shall not exceed 40 square metres.*
(b) Subject to paragraph (a), where the house is terraced or semi-detached and has been extended previously, the floor area of any extension above ground level taken together with the floor area of any previous extension or extensions above ground level constructed or erected after 1 October 1964, including those for which planning permission has been obtained, shall not exceed 12 square metres.
(c) Subject to paragraph (a), where the house is detached and has been extended previously, the floor area of any extension above ground level, taken together with the floor area of any previous extension or extensions above ground level constructed or erected after 1 October 1964, including those for which planning permission has been obtained, shall not exceed 20 square metres.

- 3. Any above ground floor extension shall be a distance of not less than 2 metres from any party boundary.*

- 4. (a) Where the rear wall of the house does not include a gable, the height of the walls of any such extension shall not exceed the height of the rear wall of the house.*
(b) Where the rear wall of the house includes a gable, the height of the walls of any such extension shall not exceed the height of the side walls of the house.
(c) The height of the highest part of the roof of any such extension shall not exceed, in the case of a flat roofed extension, the height of the eaves or parapet, as may be appropriate, or, in any other case, shall not exceed the height of the highest part of the roof of the dwelling.

- 5. The construction or erection of any such extension to the rear of the house shall not reduce the area of private open space, reserved exclusively for the use of the occupants of the house, to the rear of the house to less than 25 square metres.*

- 6. (a) Any window proposed at ground level in any such extension shall not be less than 1 metre from the boundary it faces.*

(b) Any window proposed above ground level in any such extension shall not be less than 11 metres from the boundary it faces.

(c) Where the house is detached and the floor area of the extension above ground level exceeds 12 square metres, any window proposed at above ground level shall not be less than 11 metres from the boundary it faces.

7. The roof of any extension shall not be used as a balcony or roof garden.

Assessment

Referral Question

Upon inspection of the submitted application documentation relating to this referral, it is considered that referral question is based simply on whether the proposed renovation and extension of an existing dwelling house to include replacement roof, replacement windows and doors and provision of a new single storey rear extension measuring under 33m² at Country View, Gortnalamp, Mohill, Co. Leitrim is or is not development and whether it is or is not exempted development.

Is or is not development

In relation to whether the proposed works are development, regard is had to Section 3(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, which defines 'development' as comprising of two possible components: "the carrying out of any works on, in, over or under land", or "the making of any material change in the use of any structures or other land".

Section 2(1) of the Act provides an interpretation of 'works' as "the carrying out of any works on, in over, or under land" including "any act or operation of construction, excavation, demolition, extension, alteration, repair or renewal...".

The issue of whether or not the proposed works constitute development is not disputed. Having regard to the definition of "works" as set out in Section 2 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, it is clear that the proposed works constitute development within the meaning of the Act.

Is or is not exempted development

Given the various elements associated with the proposed works, each of these elements is assessed individually.

In consideration of the renovation works to the dwelling, including the stated replacement of the existing corrugated roof sheeting with a similar material, regard is had to the provisions of Section 4(1)(h) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, which states:

(h) development consisting of the carrying out of works for the maintenance, improvement or other alteration of any structure, being works which affect only the interior of the structure or which do not materially affect the external appearance of the structure so as to render the appearance inconsistent with the character of the structure or of neighbouring structures;

The subject dwelling is considerably removed from the public road (140m) on a heavily screened site. Based on the on-site conditions, the existing and proposed roof finishes and their degree of conformity, it is considered that the proposed roof replacement works would be within the definition of section 4(1)(h) in relation to the maintenance, improvement or other alteration of the structure and does not materially affect the external appearance of the structure so as to render the appearance inconsistent with the character of the structure or of neighbouring structures. Accordingly, these proposed works are considered to be development and is exempted development.

In relation to the any proposed internal works, these are clearly in compliance with the provisions of Section 4(1)(h) of the Act and will not materially affect the external appearance of the structure and is therefore considered to be development that is exempted development.

Regarding the proposed construction of a single storey rear extension measuring under 33m² to the existing dwelling, the Planning Authority notes condition/limitation 1(a) of Class 1 of Part 1, Schedule 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, which sets out that where “*the house has not been extended previously, the floor area of any such extension shall not exceed 40 square metres*”. Upon visual inspection of the subject dwelling, there is no evidence that this dwelling has been previously extended. The proposed rear extension is under 40m² and therefore satisfies condition/limitation 1(a) of Class 1 of Part 1, Schedule 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended. Similarly, the proposed rear extension is not less than 2m from any party boundary nor will it give rise to a reduction in private open space serving the dwelling to less than 25m². Furthermore, the proposed rear extension will not give rise to any overlooking impacts on any neighbouring property. Accordingly, it is considered that the proposed rear extension meets the applicable conditions and limitations set out in Class 1 of Part 1, Schedule 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended.

Accordingly, it is considered that the proposed works which are the subject of this application under Section 5 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, is development and is exempted development.

Appropriate Assessment

The proposal has been assessed having regard to the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive. The subject development has been screened for Appropriate Assessment (AA), and it has been determined that an AA is not required. See Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening report attached.

Environmental Impact Assessment

Having regard to the limited nature and scale of the proposed development and the fact that the development proposed is not of a development type or class set out in Part 1 or Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, it is concluded that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the subject development having regard to the criteria set out in Schedule 7 to the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended. It is therefore concluded that EIA is not required.

Recommendation

Having regard to the foregoing, I recommend that the Planning Authority issue the following Declaration under Section 5 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended:

WHEREAS a question has arisen as to whether the proposed renovation and extension of an existing dwelling house to include replacement roof, replacement windows and doors and provision of a new single storey rear extension measuring under 33m² at Country View, Gortnalamp, Mohill, Co. Leitrim is or is not development and whether it is or is not exempted development;

AND WHEREAS the said question was referred to Leitrim County Council by Paul and Clair Rosser on the 29th of July 2025;

AND WHEREAS Leitrim County Council, in considering this referral, had regard particularly to –


- (a) Sections 2(1), 3(1) and 4(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended,
- (b) Articles 6(1) and 9(1) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended,
- (c) Class 1 of Part 1, Schedule 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended,

AND WHEREAS Leitrim County Council has concluded that:

- (a) the renovation works to the dwelling, including the stated replacement of the existing corrugated roof sheeting with a new corrugated iron roof sheeting finish constitutes development which is exempted development under the provisions of Section 4(1)(h) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, as these works are works which affect only the interior of the structure or which do not materially affect the external appearance of the structure so as to render the appearance inconsistent with the character of the structure or of neighbouring structures;
- (b) the proposed construction of a single-storey extension measuring under 33m² to the rear of the existing dwelling constitutes development which is exempted development with the provisions of Class 1 of Part 1, Schedule 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, applying in this instance.

NOW THEREFORE Leitrim County Council, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 5(2)(a) of the 2000 Act, as amended, hereby declares that:

The proposed renovation and extension of an existing dwelling house to include replacement roof, replacement windows and doors and provision of a new single storey rear extension measuring under 33m² at Country View, Gortnalamp, Mohill, Co. Leitrim is development that is exempted development.



Liam Flynn
Senior Executive Planner
Date: 05/08/2025

Note to Applicants

You are advised that this declaration of exempted development afforded to the proposed rear extension is based on compliance with the conditions and limitations of Class 1 of Part 1, Schedule 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended. As such, the proposed rear extension shall conform to these conditions and limitations.



Appropriate Assessment Screening and Determination

STEP 1. Description of the project/proposal and local site characteristics:

(a) File Reference No:	ED25-35 Error! Reference source not found. Error! Reference source not found.
(b) Brief description of the project or plan:	As per planning report
(c) Brief description of site characteristics:	As per planning report
(d) Relevant prescribed bodies consulted: e.g. DHLGH (NPWS), EPA, OPW	No
(e) Response to consultation:	N/A

STEP 2. Identification of relevant Natura 2000 sites using Source-Pathway-Receptor model and compilation of information on Qualifying Interests and conservation objectives.

European Site (code)	List of Qualifying Interest/Special Conservation Interest	Distance from proposed development (km)	Connections (Source- Pathway- Receptor)	Considered further in screening Y/N
Clooneen Bog SAC (002348)	https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/002348	9.1km	None	No
Please Select				

STEP 3. Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

(a) Identify all potential direct and indirect impacts that may have an effect on the conservation objectives of a European site, taking into account the size and scale of the project under the following headings:

Impacts:	Possible Significance of Impacts: (duration/magnitude etc.)
Construction phase e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vegetation clearance Demolition Surface water runoff from soil excavation/infill/landscaping (including borrow pits) Dust, noise, vibration Lighting disturbance Impact on groundwater/dewatering Storage of excavated/construction materials Access to site Pests 	No significant potential impacts.
Operational phase e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct emission to air and water Surface water runoff containing contaminant or sediment Lighting disturbance Noise/vibration Changes to water/groundwater due to drainage or abstraction 	No significant potential impacts.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of people, vehicles and activities • Physical presence of structures (e.g. collision risks) • Potential for accidents or incidents 	
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In-combination/Other No significant potential impacts.

(b) Describe any likely changes to the European site:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of the type of changes to give consideration to include: • Reduction or fragmentation of habitat area • Disturbance to QI species • Habitat or species fragmentation • Reduction or fragmentation in species density • Changes in key indicators of conservation status value (water or air quality etc.) • Changes to areas of sensitivity or threats to QI • Interference with the key relationships that define the structure or ecological function of the site 	No significant potential impacts.
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(c) Are 'mitigation' measures necessary to reach a conclusion that likely significant effects can be ruled out at screening? Yes No

Step 4. Screening Determination Statement

The assessment of significance of effects:
Describe how the proposed development (alone or in-combination) is/is **not likely** to have **significant** effects on European site(s) in view of its conservation objectives.

Having regard to the information on file, the nature and scale of the proposed development, its distance from European sites, the lack of direct connections with regard to the Source-Pathway-Receptor model, it is concluded that the proposed development, either alone or in-combination with other developments, is not likely to have any significant effects on any European site in view of its conservation objectives.

Conclusion:

	Tick as Appropriate:	Recommendation:
(i) It is clear that there is no likelihood of significant effects on a European site.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The proposal can be screened out: Appropriate assessment not required.
(ii) It is uncertain whether the proposal will have a significant effect on a European site.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Request further information to complete screening <input type="checkbox"/> Request NIS <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse planning permission
(iii) Significant effects are likely.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Request NIS <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse planning permission

Signature of Recommending Planner:		Date: 05/08/2025
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Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Pre-Screening

Establishing if the proposal is a 'sub-threshold development'

File Reference No: ED25-35 **Error! Reference source not found. Error! Reference source not found.**

Development Summary: As per Planning Report

Was a Screening Determination carried out under Section 176A-C?:

Yes – No further action required

No – Proceed to Part A

Part A - Schedule 5 Part 1 - Does the development comprise a project listed in Schedule 5, Part 1, of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)? (Tick as appropriate)

Yes – specify class: **EIA is mandatory**
No screening required

No **Proceed to Part B**

Part B - Schedule 5 Part 2 - Does the development comprise a project listed in Schedule 5, Part 2, of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) and does it meet/exceed the thresholds? (Tick as appropriate)

No, the development is not a project listed in Schedule 5, Part 2 **No screening required**

Yes, the project is listed in Schedule 5, Part 2 **and** meets/exceeds the threshold, specify class (including threshold): **EIA is mandatory**
No screening required

Yes, the project is of a type listed **but** is *sub-threshold*: **Proceed to Part C**

Part C – If yes, has Schedule 7A information/screening report been submitted?

Yes, Schedule 7A information/screening report has been submitted by the applicant **Screening Determination required**

No, Schedule 7A information/screening report has not been submitted by the applicant **Preliminary Examination required**

EIA Preliminary Examination:

The Planning Authority shall carry out a preliminary examination of, at the least, the nature, size or location of the development.

	Comment:	Yes/No/Uncertain:
Nature of the development: <i>Is the nature of the proposed development exceptional in the context of the existing environment?</i>		

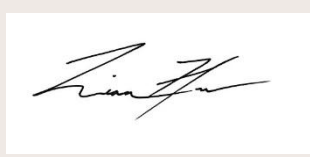
<p><i>Will the development result in the production of any significant waste, or result in significant emissions or pollutants?</i></p>		
<p>Size of the development: Is the size of the proposed development exceptional in the context of the existing environment?</p> <p>Are there cumulative considerations having regard to other existing and/or permitted projects?</p>		
<p>Location: Is the proposed development located on, in, adjoining or does it have the potential to impact on an ecologically sensitive site or location?</p> <p>Does the proposed development have the potential to affect other significant environmental sensitivities in the area?</p>		

Preliminary Examination Conclusion:

Based on a preliminary examination of the nature, size or location of the development. (Tick as appropriate)

<p style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>There is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment.</p> <p>EIA is not required.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>There is real likelihood of significant effects on the environment.</p> <p>An EIAR is required.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>There is significant and realistic doubt regarding the likelihood of significant effects on the environment.</p> <p>Request the applicant to submit the Information specified in Schedule 7A for the purposes of a screening determination.</p> <p>Proceed to Screening Determination.</p>
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Signature of Recommending Planner:



Date: 05/08/2025