

COUNCIL FOR NATURE CONSERVATION AND THE COUNTRYSIDE

An Advisory Council to the Department of the Environment

4th Floor, Clarence Court, 10-18 Adelaide Street, Belfast, BT2 8GB

Tel: 02890 541071

secretariat-hillst@doeni.gov.uk

www.cncni.gov.uk

Date 9 February 2011

Mrs. M. McNeill,
Planning Service,
Millenium House,
17-25 Great Victoria Street,
Belfast,
BT2 7BN
Via email

Dear Mary,

**Re Planning Application K/2009/0243/F
Windfarm extension at Thornog, Drumquin, Co.Tyrone**

In CNCC's earlier response to this planning application we stated that we believed that this site was 'worthy of nature conservation designation'. Since then NIEA has brought forward proposals for an ASSI at Gortnasool Glebe and Meenadoan, which includes much of the proposed windfarm, including two turbines and a significant length of roadway. CNCC discussed this proposed designation and agreed that it should proceed. We therefore consider that it would be wholly inappropriate for this planning application to be granted on this important site which is in the process of being designated as one of our most important areas of a priority habitat under both the EU Habitats Directive and the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy. We are not convinced that the integrity of the ASSI can be maintained if construction is permitted, particularly with regard to the drainage and hydrology which are vital to the survival of the blanket bog which is the ASSI selection feature.

Yours sincerely,



**Patrick Casement
Chairman**