

**COUNCIL FOR NATURE CONSERVATION
AND THE COUNTRYSIDE**
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Ms Jane Curley
Planning Headquarters
Millennium House
17-25 Great Victoria Street
Belfast
BT2 7BN
Via Email

Dear Ms Curley

Planning Application – A/2009/0868/F
Proposed Windfarm – MONNABOY WINDFARM, Greysteel, Co.Derry

This development is for 4 wind turbines of 121m overall height, and the site sits within Landscape Character Area (LCA) 34, Loughermore Hills. The Draft Supplementary Planning Guidelines and PPS18 should apply to this application.

The SPG states that this LCA is of low to medium sensitivity and well suited to wind energy development, and that the broad central massif of Loughermore Mountain, where this proposed windfarm is sited, is of the lowest sensitivity. The site is primarily degraded peatland with fields of improved grassland, and the four turbines appear to have been carefully sited to avoid the more sensitive soils and patches of species-rich and marshy grassland.

CNCC's only concern lies in the potential for silt and pollutants entering the stream that flows through the site, and eventually drains into the Burntollet River, part of the River Faughan ASSI and SAC. The risk is high during the construction phase of the windfarm's life, and great care should be taken to prevent release of any materials that might impact on salmonid populations. Since the Chapter dealing with Hydrology is missing from the ES it is difficult to know what mitigation measures are proposed, but we recommend that an Article 6 Assessment should be undertaken as a first step.

Yours sincerely



PATRICK CASEMENT
CHAIRMAN