

RZLT 25SF1/005

Received: 25/03/2025

Parcel ID CELA0002143

Site area 0.913417

Date added 01/01/2024

Name: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Subject: Land Classification on Final Map 2025/2026

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to formally challenge the classification of a specific area of land on the Final maps. I believe that this land does not meet the criteria and I feel it should be exempt and would like to provide evidence to support my position. It has a domestic and residential purpose.

The land in question includes my garden, which has been identified on the map. Adjacent to this site is my property, which is currently in a derelict state, but I am actively restoring it to become my residential dwelling. The site area 0.913417 hectares is integral to my dwelling, serving as a source of food, water, and heat and a natural habitat for nature and education.

I utilise this land for permaculture gardening, which follows a holistic and ecologically sustainable approach. My gardening practices foster soil health, biodiversity, and wildlife preservation by closely mimicking natural ecosystems. Through organic gardening and biodiversity-focused techniques, I aim to create a self-sustaining environment that respects and nurtures the land.

As the garden evolves, I continuously experiment with different sustainable gardening techniques to determine the most effective methods for this specific landscape. My approach involves adapting traditional land management strategies while minimising environmental impact. This includes removing invasive species without resorting to chemical herbicides, thereby preserving soil health and maintaining ecological balance. To enhance my ability to manage this land in harmony with nature, I studied organic gardening at An Tionad Glás Organic College Dromcolliher Co Limerick equipping myself with the knowledge necessary to cultivate the land as nature intended.

To maintain soil health and prevent erosion, I harvest grass from the land twice a year for garden mulch and graze it in autumn for natural fertilising from sheep which soaks in during winter. Additionally, I have developed various habitat areas for wild animals and beneficial insects. My forage garden consists of native hedge species such as holly, blackthorn, willow, and guelder rose, which attract and support a diverse range of insects. Encouraging birds, mammals, and insects in the garden helps sustain local wildlife populations while naturally controlling garden pests through predator-prey interactions.

I also keep bee hives on my land, which provide essential pollination for my garden and contribute to the overall health of the surrounding ecosystem. Bees play a crucial role in food production, biodiversity, and environmental balance. Their presence supports plant reproduction, increases crop yields, and strengthens local ecosystems. Given the alarming global decline in pollinator populations, maintaining pollinator -friendly habitats is vital for long-term food security and biodiversity preservation. My efforts align with national and international conservation initiatives aimed at protecting pollinators and mitigating the risks of declining bee populations.

The land also hosts native tree and hedgerow species, which offer year-round food and shelter for insects, birds, bats, and other mammals. I regularly observe a variety of birds, butterflies, moths, fox, etc visiting my garden, benefiting from the rich ecosystem it provides. As part of my long-term vision, I intend to construct a pond to attract further wildlife, including frogs, dragonflies, and newts, while also serving as a water source for birds and pollinators. This pond will also assist in capturing water flow from the hill to enhance drainage and improve the land's condition.

My overarching goal is to preserve and educate others on the potential for sustainable living while fostering an environment where wildlife can thrive alongside human habitation. Additionally, by promoting carbon sequestration through tree planting, reducing reliance on external food sources, and fostering healthy soil ecosystems, my land use directly contributes to reducing emissions and mitigating global warming. Such sustainable practices can also lead to long-term cost savings for the government by alleviating pressures on public environmental initiatives and promoting self-sufficiency.

Furthermore, my land use aligns with several key national policies and legal frameworks that support sustainability and biodiversity:

1. **National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) 2023–2030** – This plan promotes community-led conservation and sustainable land management. My permaculture efforts, such as planting native hedgerows and fostering wildlife habitats, directly support these objectives.
2. **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) 2023–2027** – CAP emphasizes environmental stewardship, and my practices align with its goals of improving soil quality, biodiversity, and ecosystem services.
3. **Wildlife Act, 1976 (Amended 2000)** – This legislation prioritises the protection of wildlife and their habitats. By fostering native species and maintaining a biodiverse landscape, my land use supports the aims of this act.
4. **National Land Use Policy** – Ireland’s approach to sustainable land management includes promoting conservation efforts. My land serves as a model for integrating ecological restoration into local land use planning.
5. **Local Biodiversity Action Fund** – This initiative supports community-led nature-based projects. My land use could serve as an educational and ecological resource, benefiting both the local environment and wider community.

Given the ecological significance and sustainable use of this land, I respectfully request a reconsideration of its classification. My land contributes to biodiversity conservation, environmental sustainability, and community engagement, in alignment with national policies.

I appreciate your time and consideration of this matter. Please let me know if further information or site visits are required to support my challenge

Yours sincerely,

Sent as an email and accordingly bears no signature

