An Taisce
The National Trust for Ireland
5 Foster Place
Dublin 2, Ireland
D02 V0P9

Samantha Healy,
Chief Executive,
Longford County Council,
Áras an Chontae,
Great Water Street,
Longford,
N39 NH56.

Sent by email to: sahealy@longfordcoco.ie

20th October 2026

Re: Request for Action Under Section 59 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) – Dereliction of Carraigglas Demesne – Endangerment of Protected Structures at Manor and Gandon Yards.

Dear Ms. Healy,

An Taisce have been contacted by the organisers of what was an overflow attended public meeting regarding Carraigglas Demesne, held on the 8th of October in the Community Centre in Cullyfad. The consensus of the meeting was the seeking of remedial action on the dereliction of the historic buildings, opposition to further piecemeal commercial afforestation and the need for a public benefit plan for the entire Demesne, Manor House and Gandon Yards.

In this respect, we request the following action:

- **Request for issuing of Notice of Endangerment under Section 59 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), and Section 312 of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (as amended) when commenced.**

The Council should be aware that the longstanding failed maintenance of the Carraigglas Manor House and Gandon Yards, which was formerly the residence of the Lefroy Family and was initially sold to the Kearns Group before a subsequent resale to the Glennon Brothers in 2014, has been the subject of repeated requests to the Council for action under Sections 57 to 62 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) on the responsibilities of property owners to ensure that Protected Structures do not fall into endangerment and for planning authorities to take action if endangerment occurs. These provisions have been incorporated and amplified within Sections 311 to 314 of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (as amended).

The following are in Glennon Brothers' ownership (inclusive of National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) registration numbers and rating):

- The Demesne Boundary Walls (Reg. No. 13401421 – REGIONAL)
- The Main Manor House (designed by Daniel Robertson) (Reg. No. 13401414 – NATIONAL)
- The Gandon Stable Yard & Farmyard Complex (Reg. No. 13401415 – NATIONAL)
- The Neo-Classical Gandon Main Gate, Railings and Limestone Arch (Reg. No. 1340140 – NATIONAL)

Photographs in public circulation of the Manor and yards are attached below (see Appendix).

We do not have ownership information on the gardener's house and walled garden which have also faced longstanding dereliction and require action on endangerment also.

- The Gardener's House/Cottage and Curved Walled Garden (Reg. No. 13400911 and 13401913 – REGIONAL)

Request for Enforcement Action on Excavation Work in Demesne

The legal protection given to a 'Protected Structure' automatically extends to its entire curtilage and attendant grounds. This means the wider demesne requires protection. The 600-acre historic layout, including its mature parkland, woodlands, open vistas, and the historic tree-lined approach avenues, would require appropriate planning and forestry approval permissions in the event of alterations, clearances and commercial afforestation. The NIAH identifies Carraigglas as *"one of the most important demesnes in North Leinster."*[1]

We have been advised that earth-moving machines have been active over the past few weeks levelling ground in preparation for the afforestation in this Historic Demesne (subject of Contract Number: CN101589), without the benefit of forestry licence approval from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) which is pending a determination and the outcome of the public consultation process.

When Kearns Group started to develop the Manor, they received pushback from An Taisce because of the historical and natural importance of the Manor Estate. If new owners are utilising excavation machinery to clear trees and areas of land to facilitate afforestation in advance of any licence grant, this must be reported to the Alleged Illegal Forestry Section of DAFM.

Future of Carraigglas Demesne and Historic Buildings

The 'Use It or Lose It' principle should apply equally to the dereliction of historic demesnes as much as urban and village dereliction which is subject to 7% levy imposition under the Derelict Sites Act 1990.

There is now significant 'Urban and Rural Regeneration' funding available to local authorities for public amenity, heritage enhancement and tourism projects. Aside from the Dublin area local authorities, there are a number of exemplar cases nationally where local authorities have taken on public amenity projects for historic demesnes, gardens and associated historic buildings. These include Duckett's

[1] https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/13401414/carrigglas-manor-carrickglass-demesne-longford-by-longford

Grove (Co. Carlow), Woodstock (Co. Kilkenny) and Belvedere (Co. Westmeath). Clearly, Carraigglas would be a challenging project because of the extent of advanced dereliction which has been allowed to progress.

The future of Carraigglas is a nationally significant heritage issue.

We would like to advance a discussion on this matter with Longford County Council and would seek to arrange a meeting with you and your colleagues.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Lumley
Heritage Officer
An Taisce – The National Trust for Ireland

CC:

Paul Newell,
Director of Services,
Planning,
Longford County Council.
pnewell@longfordcoco.ie

Planning Enforcement Section,
Longford County Council.
Áras an Chontae,
Great Water Street,
Co. Longford.
planningenforcement@longfordcoco.ie

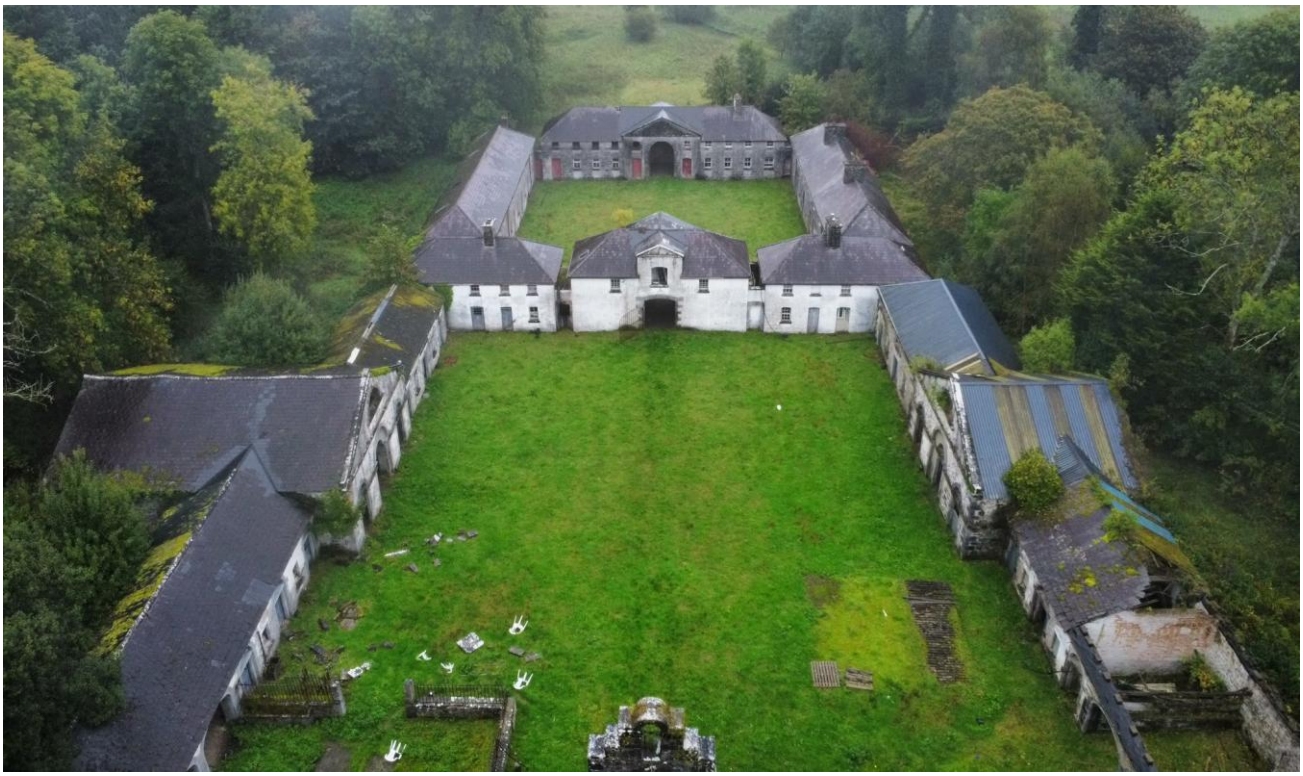
Mairéad Ní Chonghaile,
Heritage Officer,
Longford County Council.
heritage@longfordcoco.ie
mnichonghaile@longfordcoco.ie

John Brannigan,
Director of Services,
Economic Development.
jbrannigan@longfordcoco.ie

Mary Gouldsbury,
Director of Services,
Social Development.
mgouldsbury@longfordcoco.ie

Appendix





Manor in Current Dilapidated Condition





Other Features of Property in Advanced State of Dilapidation

Shroid Community - Longford

Pinned · 22 Sep ·

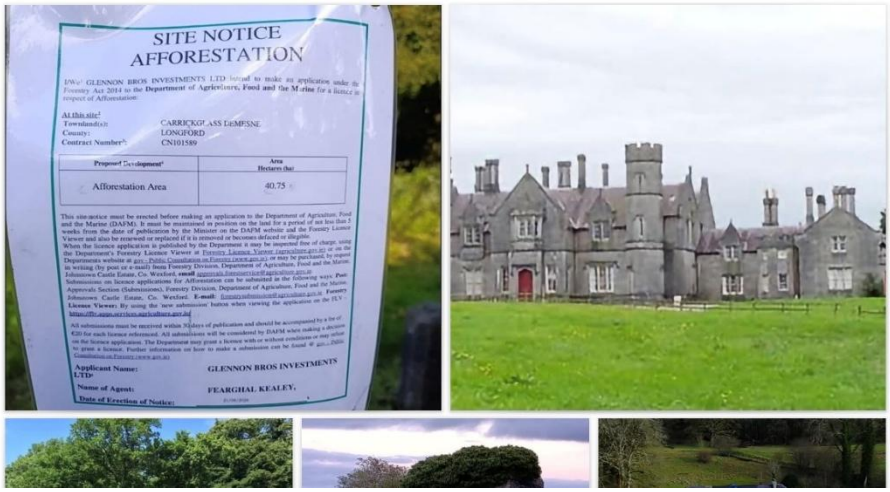
Love Longford ?

Notice erected this morning on the Gandon Gates of Carriglass Manor for the plantation of forestry on 40 hectares or 100 acres of land inside the walls of this historic Estate....

This is only the start of it - once 100 acres is planted it will follow with another 100 acres until the 600 plus acres will be covered in forestry

Huge amount of heritage going back to the 17th Century with so much tourism potential on the outskirts of Longford Town to be destroyed on our doorstep....

THIS CANNOT GO AHEAD AND MUST BE STOPPED - Please Share & Contact your local representatives



Facebook Post Concerning Afforestation Licence Proposal CN101589