



An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Order ABP-307969-20

Planning and Development Acts, 2000 to 2020

Planning Authority: Meath County Council

Application by Ashbourne Greenspace Conservation Group care of Jason McCann of 78 Millbourne Drive, Slane Road, Ashbourne, County Meath requesting An Bord Pleanála to exercise its powers under article 250(3)(b) of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended, whether Meath County Council should be directed to prepare a Natura impact statement in respect of the construction of 74 housing units including all site development works with access from existing Education Campus Link Road at Castle Street, Ashbourne, County Meath.

Decision

Direct the local authority not to prepare a Natura impact statement in respect of the proposed development, based on the reasons and considerations set out below.

Matters Considered

In making its decision, the Board had regard to those matters to which, by virtue of the Planning and Development Acts and Regulations made thereunder, it was required to have regard.

Reasons and Considerations

Having regard to:

- (a) the nature and scale of the proposed development,
- (b) the substantial separation distance between the proposed development site and the Malahide Estuary Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 000205) and the Malahide Estuary Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004025),
- (c) the length of the hydrological connection between the site and European Sites,
- (d) the treatment processes and capacity in the Ashbourne Wastewater Treatment Plant and the separation distance to European Sites,
- (e) the submission made by the local authority, including the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report dated the 15th May 2020, and
- (f) the report and recommendation of the person appointed by the Board to make a report and recommendation on the matter,

it is considered reasonable to conclude that, on the basis of the information available, which is considered adequate to issue a screening determination, the proposed development, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, would not be likely to have a significant effect on the Malahide Estuary Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 000205) or the Malahide Estuary Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004025), or on any other European Sites, in view of the Conservation Objectives of these sites and that, consequently, a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment, and the preparation of a Natura impact statement, is not, therefore, required.

Maria FitzGerald

**Member of An Bord Pleanála
duly authorised to authenticate
the seal of the Board.**

Dated this day of 2020