



An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Direction
BD-001220-18
ABP-301952-18

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a Board meeting held on 28/09/2018.

The Board decided to refuse permission, generally in accordance with the Inspector's recommendation, for the following reasons and considerations.

Reasons and Considerations

1. Having regard to the information provided in the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report dated 14th June 2018, the Board could not be satisfied that the exclusion from the Natura impact statement of the European Sites Cregganna Marsh Special Protection Area (SPA) (Site Code: 004142) and Rahasane Turlough SPA (Site Code: 004089), on the basis that the development is entirely outside the designated sites with no complete source-pathway-receptor chain, was appropriate given the possible use of the development site by the Greenland White-fronted Goose, which is listed as a species of Special Conservation Interest for both SPAs.
2. The Natura impact statement does not consider the potential for effects on Special Conservation Interest bird species of the Inner Galway Bay SPA (Site Code: 004031) and the Cregganna Marsh SPA (Site Code: 004142) including as a result of increasing disturbance and potential increases in recreational and amenity pressures, or the potential effects on qualifying interest alkaline fen habitats within the Galway Bay Complex Special Area of Conservation

(Site Code: 000268). The Board therefore cannot be satisfied, beyond reasonable scientific doubt, that the proposed development, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, would not adversely affect the integrity of these European sites, Galway Bay Complex Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 000268), Inner Galway Bay SPA (Site Code: 004031), Cregganna Marsh SPA (004142) and Rahasane Turlough SPA (004089), in view of the sites' conservation objectives.

The Board considered that the proposed development would contravene materially Policy NHB 1 of the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021 for the conservation and preservation of European sites and species. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Board Member

Date: 28/09/2018

Terry Ó Niadh