



An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Direction
BD-006119-20
ABP-305536-19

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a Board meeting held on 17/07/2020.

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

Environmental Impact Assessment

The Board agreed with the Inspector's conclusion with regard to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and considered that sufficient information is not provided to demonstrate the absence of significant environmental effects and, hence, to complete an EIA.

Reasons and Considerations

1. Having regard to:

- (a) the location of the appeal site in proximity to Slieve Beagh Special Protection Area (004167) and the Slieve Beagh – Mullaghfad -Lisnaskea Special Protection Area (UK9020302) and within the foraging range of Hen Harrier, which is the bird species of special conservation interest for the Special Protection Areas;

- (b) the lack of comprehensive surveys on the hen harrier beyond the boundaries of the development site and, notwithstanding the sub-optimal nature of such foraging habitats within the development site, it is considered that insufficient information has been provided in the application and appeal documentation regarding foraging patterns and current population trends, and the failure to demonstrate a comprehensive up to date understanding of activity by the hen harrier in the wider development area;

the Board cannot be satisfied that the proposed development will not impact adversely on the designated sites, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, in view of the sites' conservation objectives. In such circumstances, the Board is precluded from granting permission.

2. North Monaghan is identified as a nationally important area for breeding curlew, a priority conservation species. The proposed development traverses an area which supports breeding curlew and the associated wind energy development includes identified nesting sites. The Board is not satisfied that the proposed development, when taken in combination with the wind energy development, would not negatively impact on the achievement and maintenance of a stable breeding population of Curlew in North Monaghan by reason of disturbance and displacement effects on the species. The proposed development would therefore be contrary to the proper planning and development of the area.

Board Member

Date: 21/07/2020

Stephen Bohan