

An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Direction
BD-018291-24
ABP-312479-22

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a Board meeting held on 22/11/2024.

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

Reasons and Considerations

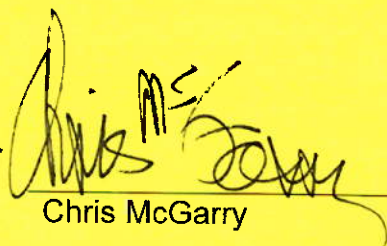
1.

The Board is not satisfied on the basis of the information on file, that the applicant has demonstrated beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the proposed development would not adversely affect the integrity of the Wicklow Mountains Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 002122) and the Poulaphouca Reservoir Special Protective Area (Site Code: 004063), in view of the conservation objectives of these Sites. Specifically, in the absence of detailed information on the impact of the proposed development on water quality within watercourses leading to the reservoir and the reservoir itself, the Board cannot rule out the possibility of adverse effects on the integrity of the above-mentioned European Sites, having regard to the reliance of Special Conservation Interest species on the water environment. Furthermore, the Board is not satisfied on the basis of the information on file, that adverse disturbance and displacement impacts on foraging and roosting Special Conservation Interest bird species will be adequately mitigated having regard to the increased presence of pedestrians and cyclists associated with the proposed greenway, and the uncertainty as to the usage of the site and surrounding area by Special Conservation Interest bird species. In this regard it is noted that the Board can place no reliance on post consent monitoring to identify any further adverse effect or apply additional mitigation measures. In overall conclusion, the Board is not satisfied on the basis of the information on file, that the proposed development would not adversely affect the integrity of the European Sites in view of the Sites' conservation objectives. The Board is therefore precluded from granting permission.

2.

The site of the proposed development is located around the shoreline of Poulaphouca Reservoir, which is one of two major sources of water supply for the Greater Dublin Area. The protection of the reservoir as a drinking water source is of national importance. Having regard to the sensitivity of the reservoir, and the proximity of the proposed greenway, the Board is not satisfied, on the basis of the information on file, that the proposed development will not adversely affect the treatability of the drinking water source and has also failed to adequately demonstrate that the proposed development would not give rise to a potential deterioration of the Water Framework Directive status of the adjoining waterbody. The proposed development would, therefore, give rise to a potential source of water pollution, would be prejudicial to public health and be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Board Member



Chris McGarry

Date: 22/11/2024