

Board Direction BD-011518-22 ABP-313685-22

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a Board meeting held on 30/11/2022.

The Board decided to direct Wicklow County Council to prepare a Natura Impact Statement generally in accordance with the Inspector's recommendation, for the following reasons and considerations,

Reasons and Considerations

Having regard to:

- a) The location of the proposed development and the separation distance with the nearby European Sites,
- The nature and scale of the proposed development including excavation and earthwork operations, importation of construction materials and road and bridge construction works,
- c) The potential for hydrological and mobile species connections from the proposed development site to Wicklow Mountains SAC, Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC, Dalkey Islands SPA and South Dublin Bay and River Tolka SPA,
- d) The uncertainty with regards to in-combination effects with other plans and projects,
- e) The submission made by the third-party applicant received by the Board on 1st June 2022,
- f) The submission made behalf of the local authority, including Appropriate Assessment Screening Report received by the Board on 23rd June 2022,
- g) The report and recommendation of the Inspector,

It is considered reasonable to conclude that on the basis of the information available, which is considered adequate to issue a screening determination, that it cannot be ruled out that the proposed development, either individually and in combination with other plans or projects, would not be likely to have a significant effect on Wicklow Mountains SAC (002122), Rockabill to Dalkey Island SAC (003000), Dalkey Islands SPA (004172) and South Dublin Bay and River Tolka SPA (004024), in view of the conservation objectives of these sites and that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment and the submission of a Natura Impact Statement for the proposed development is, therefore, required.

Board Member Maria Sto Gerald Date: 01/12/2022

Maria FitzGerald