



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

**Board Direction**  
**BD-015890-24**  
**ABP-318278-23**

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a Board meeting held on 21/03/2024.

The Board agreed with the Inspector and determined that the restoration and upgrade of the existing visitor experience at Fort Dunree, Dunree, Buncrana, Co. Donegal and associated site works, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, would be likely to have a significant effect on three European sites in view of the conservation objectives of these sites.

The Board, therefore, directs Donegal County Council that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment and the submission of a Natura Impact Assessment for the proposed development is required, for the reasons and considerations set out below.

### **Reasons and Considerations**

Having regard to:

- (a) The nature and scale of the proposed development,
- (b) The mobile connection between the proposed development site and the following European sites:
  - a. Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (Site code: 004194)
  - b. Lough Swilly SPA (Site code: 004075)
  - c. Fanad Head SPA (Site code: 004148)
- (c) The substantial separation distance between the project elements of the proposed development and the European site at:

a. North Inishowen Coast SAC (Site code: 002012)

(d) The wastewater treatment and surface water management arrangements which form part of the overall project, and the substantial separation distance to European Sites at:

a. Ballyhoorisky Point to Fanad Head SAC (Site code: 001975)

b. Lough Swilly SAC (Site code: 002287)

(e) the submission made by the local authority, including the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report dated October 2023,

(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 and in combination with other plans or projects, would not be likely to have a significant effect on the:

- North Inishowen Coast SAC (Site code: 002012)
- Ballyhoorisky Point to Fanad Head SAC (Site code: 001975)
- Lough Swilly SAC (Site code: 002287)

and that the proposed development, either individually and in combination with other plans or projects, would be likely to have a significant effect on the:

- Horn Head to Fanad Head SPA (Site code: 004194)
- Lough Swilly SPA (Site code: 004075)
- Fanad Head SPA (Site code: 004148)

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**



Martina Hennessy

**Date:** 21/03/2024