

An Bord Pleanála



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTS 2000 TO 2015

Louth County

Planning Register Reference Number: 14/350

An Bord Pleanála Reference Number: PL 15.245568

APPEAL by Irish National Seismic Network care of Declan Brassil and Company Limited of Lincoln House, Phoenix Street, Smithfield, Dublin and by the Ballymakellett and District Residents Group care of Declan Brassil and Company Limited of Lincoln House, Phoenix Street, Smithfield, Dublin against the decision made on the 10th day of September, 2015 by Louth County Council to grant subject to conditions a permission to Buncorp Group Limited of 7 Stapleton Place, Dundalk, County Louth.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT: Development consisting of the re-opening of an existing stone quarry for the production of road making and aggregate materials together with all associated site development works including temporary office, welfare facilities, weighbridge and wheel wash, all at Ballymakellett, Ravensdale, County Louth.

DECISION

REFUSE permission for the above proposed development based on the reasons and considerations set out below.

MATTERS CONSIDERED

In making its decision, the Board had regard to those matters to which, by virtue of the Planning and Development Acts and Regulations made thereunder, it was required to have regard. Such matters included any submissions and observations received by it in accordance with statutory provisions.

REASONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

Drumenagh Quarry is designated as a Site of Geological Interest in the Louth County Development Plan 2015 - 2021. The Irish Geological Heritage Programme of the Geological Survey of Ireland is identifying and selecting the very best national geological sites for designation as Natural Heritage Areas. This is reflected in Policy HER8 of the said Development Plan, which seeks to promote the designation of qualifying sites of geological interest, including the subject site, as Natural Heritage Areas and County Geological Sites. The audit of County Geological Sites in Louth states that Drumenagh Quarry constitutes the best exposure of the early-stage gabbro in the Carlingford Igneous Complex, and that consideration should be given to extending the boundaries of the proposed Trumpet Hill Natural Heritage Area to include it. It is considered that the documentation on file does not adequately demonstrate that the proposed development would not adversely affect the features that have given rise to the recommendation to designate this quarry, or the reasons for that recommendation. Having regard to its nature and scale, the Board is, therefore, not satisfied that the proposed development would not result in the direct loss of the features of geological interest of a site that is recommended for designation as a geological Natural Heritage Area. It is considered that the proposed development would fail to comply with the provisions of the "Geological Heritage Guidelines for the Extractive Industry" issued by the Geological Survey of Ireland as they apply to the management of geological heritage sites, and would conflict with Policy HER8 of the Development Plan. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

**Member of An Bord Pleanála
duly authorised to authenticate
the seal of the Board.**

Dated this day of 2016.