

An Bord Pleanála



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTS 2000 TO 2015

Galway County

Planning Register Reference Number: 15/1546

An Bord Pleanála Reference Number: PL 07.246274

APPEAL by John Sisk and Son care of Oliver Higgins Chartered Engineers of Unit 4B, Oranmore Business Park, Oranmore, County Galway against the decision made on the 17th day of February, 2016 by Galway County Council to refuse permission.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT: Use of land as a borrow pit for the extraction of stone and gravel from a parcel of land measuring 1.1 hectares, for use as fill material on the adjoining N17/N18 Gort to Tuam Motorway which is currently under construction. The depth of extraction will not exceed 4.2 metres. Access to the borrow pit will be directly off the N17/N18 Gort to Tuam Motorway site only. The land will be remediated and returned to agricultural grassland upon completion of the works at Greethill Townland, Athenry, County Galway.

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

Having regard to the location of the proposal over a regionally important Karstified aquifer of extreme vulnerability, to the absence of trial hole or other site investigation techniques which would confirm the nature of the substratum at the location of the site, including whether there were conduit waterway links to underground water bodies, the Board cannot be satisfied that the proposed development would not be likely to have a significant effect on European sites (Rahasane Turlough Special Area of Conservation (Site Code 000322) and Galway Bay Complex Special Area of Conservation (Site Code 000268) in view of those sites conservation objectives. In such circumstances, the Board is precluded from granting approval/permission.

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

Dated this day of 2016.