



Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2019

Planning Authority: Sligo County Council

Planning Register Reference Number: P18/345

APPEAL by Peter Sweetman and on behalf of Wild Ireland CLG care of Peter Sweetman and Associates of 14 Postnet, 113 Lower Rathmines Road, Dublin and by Brendan and Darragh McDonagh of Drumiskabole, Ballisodare, County Sligo against the decision made on the 16th day of October, 2019 by Sligo County Council to grant subject to conditions a permission to Lagan Bitumen Limited care of SLR Consulting Ireland of 7 Dundrum Business Park, Dundrum Road, Windy Arbour, Dublin.

Proposed Development: The continued use and operation of the existing permitted quarry (planning register reference number 02/271), the deepening of the quarry area by a further bench, from -34.5 metres Ordnance Datum to -50 metres Ordnance Datum, within an extraction area of circa 10.9 hectares and the provision of a settlement lagoon (circa 2,830 square metres), all within an overall application area of circa 18 hectares (planning application register reference number P18/345), all at Aghamore Near and Carrownamaddoo townlands, County Sligo. Further public notices were received by the planning authority on the 23rd day of August, 2019 which included the following: The application is accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura impact statement (NIS).

Decision

REFUSE permission for the above proposed development in accordance with 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

1. On the basis of the information provided with the planning application and the appeal, including the Natura impact statement, the Board is not satisfied that the proposed development either individually, or in combination with other plans or projects would not adversely affect the integrity of Lough Gill Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 001976), Cummeen Strand Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004035), Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 000627), Ballysadare Bay Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004129) and Ballysadare Bay Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 000622), in view of the conservation objectives of these sites. The Board noted, in particular, the absence of information in relation to the impact of reduced groundwater resulting from dewatering arising from the proposed development and to the cumulative impacts of the proposed development and the adjacent associated processing area. In such circumstances, the Board is precluded from granting permission.

2. Notwithstanding local planning policy supporting quarrying on the site, having regard to the nature, scale and extent of the proposed development, and the inadequacy of information to comprehensively identify and demonstrate the cumulative impacts on the environment of the proposed development and the adjacent associated processing area, in particular in relation to water quality and biodiversity, it is considered that, in the absence of such adequate information, the proposed development could be detrimental to receiving freshwater habitats and could be prejudicial to public water supplies sourced from Lough Gill and could lead to loss or disturbance of habitat and/or species in the adjacent associated processing area. It has not, therefore, been demonstrated that the proposed development would not be prejudicial to public health and be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

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

Dated this day of 2020.