

An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Order ABP-318278-23

Planning and Development Acts, 2000 to 2022

Planning Authority: Donegal County Council

Application by Patrick Noel King of Straboe, Cockhill, Buncrana, County Donegal requesting An Bord Pleanála to exercise its powers under article 250(3)(a) of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended, whether the local authority should be directed to prepare a Natura Impact Statement in respect of the restoration and upgrade of the existing visitor experience at Fort Dunree, Buncrana, County Donegal.

Decision

TO DIRECT the local authority to prepare a Natura Impact Statement in respect of the proposed development, based on 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:
 - i. Horn Head to Fanad Head Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004194)
 - ii. Lough Swilly Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004075)
 - iii. Fanad Head Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004148)
- (c) the substantial separation distance between the project elements of the proposed development and the European Site at:
 - i. North Inishowen Coast Special Area of Conservation (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:
 - i. Ballyhoorisky Point to Fanad Head Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 001975)
 - ii. Lough Swilly Special Area of Conservation (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 Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 002012)

- Ballyhoorisky Point to Fanad Head Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 001975), and
- Lough Swilly Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 002287)

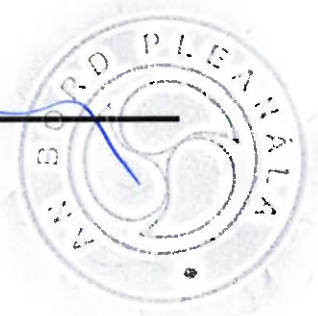
and that the proposed development, either individually and in combination with other plans or projects, would be likely to have a significant effect on the:

- Horn Head to Fanad Head Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004194)
- Lough Swilly Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004075)
- Fanad Head Special Protection Area (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.



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



Dated this 28th day of March 2024