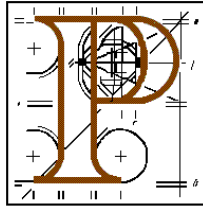


# An Bord Pleanála



## PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTS 2000 TO 2016

An Bord Pleanála Reference Number: 27.JA0037

### Wicklow County Council

**APPLICATION** by Wicklow County Council for approval under section 175 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, in accordance with plans and particulars, including an environmental impact statement and a Natura impact statement, lodged with An Bord Pleanála on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2016.

**PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT:** Development of a waste soils recovery facility to facilitate the recovery of surplus dredging spoil generated as a result of the River Dargle Flood Improvement Works. Following clearance of vegetation from the site, up to 200,000 tonnes of inert dredging spoil material will be deposited at the site. Upon completion of placement and levelling of material, the site will be developed as an ecopark for public access and use, with an upgraded entrance and other ancillary infrastructure, including temporary and permanent drainage works and dedicated Council yard. In the townland of Priestsnewtown, County Wicklow.

## **DECISION**

**REFUSE to approve the above proposed development based on the reasons and considerations set out under.**

## **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 nature and extent of the proposed development,
- the existing nature of the ecology on site,
- the planning history associated with the site and adjacent lands,
- the significant levels of recent urban development in the area, and
- the provisions of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022, including Objective NH13 which, inter alia, seeks to preserve this site in its existing state,

it is considered that the proposed development would give rise to significant levels of disturbance to the site's vegetation and ecology and introduce concerns in relation to the potential introduction of invasive species. The Board is not satisfied that the design and vision of the proposed ecopark and mini-depot is coherent or would be effective in delivering a high quality and usable local amenity. Furthermore, the Board does not consider that it has

been adequately demonstrated that there are no other suitable alternatives for disposal of dredge spoil from the River Dargle Flood Defence Scheme or that the loss of biodiversity on the site has been adequately justified. It is, therefore, considered that the proposed development would be contrary to the provisions of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022 and would be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

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

**Dated this        day of        2017.**