

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTS 2000-2010

DECISION under SECTION 34 of the ACT of 2000

Reference Number: 23/60

Date of Receipt of Application: 23/02/2023

Coillte Teoranta
c/o MKO
Tuam Road
Galway
H91 VW84

**I hereby give you NOTICE that the Galway County Council has by order
dated 28th March 2024 decided to REFUSE PERMISSION**

to the above named, for development of land, in accordance with documents lodged, namely For a ten-year planning permission consisting of: i.) The felling/removal of some 343 hectares of conifer plantation for the purposes of peatland restoration and the establishment of native woodland. ii.) Measures to restore and rehabilitate approximately 281 hectares of Atlantic blanket bog and heathland that is currently planted with lodgepole pine and Sitka spruce forests and managed for commercial forestry. iii.) Conversion of 62 hectares of conifer forestry to native woodland. iv.) Main peatland restoration measures will include tree removal, drain blocking (manual and mechanical) and ground reprofiling. v.) The control of existing invasive species on site and continued control during the restoration works to prevent their spread. vi.) Drain-blocking all existing artificial drainage and artificial land drains currently existing within the peatland restoration areas in order to restore the high water table which is necessary for blanket bog growth. vii.) Provision of silt traps at outflows to block the pathway to the Twelve Bens/Garraun Complex Special Area of Conservation. viii.) Deer fencing to protect 62 hectares of proposed native woodland. ix.) Provision of a Harvest Management Phasing Plan for the proposed project. x.) Provision of new internal access road extending to 1.58 km. xi.) Across the site there will be 4 no. temporary water-crossings constructed in order to facilitate the harvesting of the timber at the site. xii.) Provision of informational signage. xiii.) Resurfacing of up to 8.23 km of existing forestry roads. xiv.) Resurfacing of existing car park to facilitate public access. xv.) Installation of water monitoring stations for real time water monitoring during operations. xvi.) Cutting of roadside trees to improved sightline visibility at site entrance. xvii.) The application is supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) in the townland of Derryclare and Cloonnacartan

for the reasons set out in the Schedule hereto.

In deciding this Planning Application Galway County Council has, in accordance with section 34(3) of the Act, had regard to any submissions or observations received.

SCHEDULE REFERRED TO - PLANNING REFERENCE NO. 23/60

Main reasons and considerations on which the decision is based:-

The proposed development has been assessed, within the restrictions imposed by the principles of proper planning and sustainable development and having regard to the policy objectives of Galway County Council as set out in the 2022 – 2028 County Development Plan. Based on this assessment it is considered that the proposed development would be contrary to the proper planning policies as set out in the County Development Plan.

Signed this 28th day of MARCH 2024 on behalf of Galway County Council

Anne Power
pp COUNTY SECRETARY

**SEE ATTACHED SCHEDULE
(REASON(S) 1)**

Please see attached sheet for important Notice regarding Planning Appeals

SCHEDULE REFERRED TO - PLANNING REFERENCE NO. 23/60

1. Having regard to:
 - The location of the subject site partially within The Twelve Bens/Garraun Complex SAC;
 - The hydrological connectivity downstream to Connemara Bog Complex SAC and SPA;
 - The nature, scale and location of the proposed development within the receiving environment which is an environmentally complex and sensitive area;
 - The absence of trialled and tested mitigation measures contained in the NIS and CEMP and the potential issues that may arise as a result of this uncertainty.

The Planning Authority consider that adverse impacts on the integrity of The Twelve Bens/Garraun Complex SAC and Connemara Bog Complex SAC and other European sites in view of their conservation objectives cannot be excluded. Therefore, if permitted as proposed the development would materially contravene Policy Objectives NHB 1, NHB 2 and NHB 3 and DM Standard 50 of the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 and would be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Footnote:

An appeal against a decision of a Planning Authority under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) may be made to An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902. (Tel. (01) 8588100) during office hours.

1. You have four weeks beginning on the date the planning authority makes its decision. This is a strict time limit.
1. You must put your appeal in writing (either typed or handwritten).
2. You must clearly state your own name and address. If someone is acting for you, like a planning agent they must clearly state their own name and address as well as your name and address.
3. You must give enough details to allow An Bord Pleanála to identify the application you wish to appeal.
4. You must provide your planning grounds of appeal (reasons and arguments) for your appeal and any items you wish to support your grounds of appeal.
5. If you are a third party, you must include the written acknowledgement given to you by the planning authority to confirm it received your submission at planning application stage.
6. You must pay the correct fee.

For more information on how to make an appeal see www.pleanala.ie