

An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



Environmental Impact Assessment Section
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Johnstown Castle Estate
Wexford
Co. Wexford

By Registered Post

12th October 2021

NPWS Ref: NA0542

(Please quote the above reference in all relevant correspondence)

RE:

A Chara,

Please find attached, an application received by this Department on 30th January 2021 from _____ seeking the consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, under Regulation 30 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, to spread slurry/fertilizer and reseed land at Castlesampson, Athlone, Co. Roscommon.

This Department has reviewed the application and, for the following reasons, is of the opinion that the proposed works are activities that come under the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Agriculture) Regulations 2011:

The proposed activities fall within the Regulation 3(1)(b) project category, "commencing to use uncultivated land or semi-natural areas for intensive agriculture", and the activities are likely to have a significant effect on a European Site (Castlesampson Easker Special Area of Conservation (SAC 001625)), alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

The activities are deemed likely to have a significant effect on a European Site due to its location within the Castlesampson Easker SAC, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, and because;

Water quality impacts, in combination with other water quality pressures, are likely to be significant. Loss of Easker habitat is likely to be significant. Conclusion; likely significant effects cannot be ruled out in relation to Easker habitat in the Castlesampson Easker Special Area of Conservation.





In accordance with regulation 32 of European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011); the Minister cannot consider further an application for consent for an activity that may require the consent of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in accordance with the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Agriculture) Regulations 2011-2017 pending its referral and a decision by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine as to whether or not that application requires that Minister's consent.

This Department has contacted the applicant in relation to the above, and the applicant has expressed a wish for this Department to refer the application to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. The applicant has been advised that your Department may require further information.

The application is referred for your determination. In the event that your Department reaches a determination that the activity does not fall under your legislation, please advise the undersigned at your earliest convenience.

Please contact the local District Conservation Officer of the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department, Carl-Byrne, by email at carl.byrne@housing.gov.ie if you have any queries regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Assumpta Carthy
Higher Executive Officer
Site Protection Unit
National Parks and Wildlife Service
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
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