



An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Direction
BD-001749-18
ABP-300875-18

At a meeting held on 23 November 2018, the Board considered

- the submissions made in relation to the proposed development,
- the report of the Inspector, and
- the documents and submissions on file.

The Board decided to approve the proposed development in accordance with the following reasons, considerations and conditions.

Reasons and Considerations

In coming to its decision, the Board had regard to

- (a) the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC),
- (b) the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011,
- (c) the EU Water Framework Directive 2000 (2000/60/EEC),
- (d) the document entitled “Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (amended 2010),

- (e) the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019,
- (f) the submissions and observations received in relation to the likely effects on the environment,
- (g) the report and recommendation of the reporting inspector,
- (h) the likely consequences for the environment and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which it is proposed to carry out the proposed development and the likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European site.

Appropriate Assessment:

The Board completed an Appropriate Assessment screening exercise in relation to the potential effects of the proposed development on designated European sites.

The Board considered

- the nature, scale and location of the proposed development,
- the Natura Impact Statements submitted with the application,
- the submissions on file and the report of the Inspector.

Stage 1

The Board agreed with the screening assessment and conclusion carried out in the Inspector's report that the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and the River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA are the only European Sites in respect of which the proposed development has the potential to have a significant effect.

Stage 2

The Board considered the Natura Impact Statements and all other relevant submissions and carried out an appropriate assessment of the implications of the proposed development for European Sites, River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC (Site Code 002299) and the River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA (Site Code 004232) in view of the sites' Conservation Objectives. The Board considered that the information before it was adequate to allow the carrying out of an appropriate assessment.

In completing the appropriate assessment, the Board considered, in particular, the following:

- i. the likely direct and indirect impacts arising from the proposed development both individually or in combination with other plans or projects,
- ii. the mitigation measures which are included as part of the current proposal, and
- iii. the conservation objectives for the European Sites.

In completing the appropriate assessment, the Board accepted and adopted the appropriate assessment carried out in the Inspector's report in respect of the potential effects of the proposed development on the aforementioned European Sites, having regard to the sites' Conservation Objectives.

Conclusion

In overall conclusion, the Board was satisfied that the proposed development, by itself or in combination with other plans or projects, would not adversely affect the integrity of the European Sites, in view of the sites' Conservation Objectives.

Effects on the Environment

Having regard to the nature and scale of the proposed development and subject to the implementation in full of all mitigation measures outlined in the application and supporting documentation and the conditions set out below, the Board is satisfied that the proposed development would not give rise to unacceptable negative environmental effects.

Proper Planning and Sustainable Development

It is considered that, given the various locations and the nature, scale and extent of the proposed development, subject to compliance with the conditions set out below, the proposed development would not adversely affect the environment and would not seriously injure the recreational or other amenities of the area or of property in the vicinity. The proposed development would therefore be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Conditions

1. The proposed development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the plans and particulars, including the Ecological Impact Assessments and Natural Impact Statements and other associated documentation, lodged with An Bord Pleanála on the 31st August 2018, except as may otherwise be required in order to comply with the conditions set out below. Where any mitigation measures set out in the Ecological Impact Assessments and Natural Impact Statements or any conditions of this Approval require further details to be prepared by or on behalf of the local authority, these details shall be placed on the file and retained as part of the public record.

Reason: In the interest of clarity and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and to ensure the protection of the environment.

2. The mitigation measures and associated monitoring outlined in the plans and particulars submitted with the application, including the Ecological Impact Assessments and Natural Impact Statements shall be carried out in full except as may otherwise be required in order to comply with other conditions.

Prior to commencement of the development, details of a time schedule for

implementation of the mitigation measures and associated monitoring shall be prepared by the local authority.

Reason: In the interest of clarity and protection of the environment and in the interest of public health.

3. Prior to the commencement of development, the local authority or any agent acting on its behalf shall prepare in consultation with the relevant statutory agencies, a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), generally in accordance with the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan submitted with the application, that adheres to best practice environmental management. The CEMP shall include specific proposals for monitoring of the effectiveness of the environmental management measures outlined in the CEMP.

Reason: In the interest of protecting the environment, protection of European sites and in the interest of public health.

4. Prior to commencement of the development, details of measures to protect fisheries and the water quality of the river systems shall be outlined and placed on file by the local authority, generally in accordance with the Inland Fisheries Ireland's published updated guidelines for construction works near waterways (Guidelines on Protection of Fisheries during Construction Works in and Adjacent to Waters, 2016). A programme of water quality monitoring shall be prepared in consultation with the contractor, the local authority and relevant statutory agencies and the programme shall be implemented thereafter.

Reason: In the interest of protection of receiving water quality, fisheries and aquatic habitats.

5. A suitably qualified ecologist shall be appointed by the local authority to oversee the site set-up and construction of the proposed development in accordance with the mitigation measures set out in the Natura Impact Statements. Upon completion of the construction stage, an audit report of the site works shall be

prepared by the appointed ecologist and submitted to the local authority to be maintained on record.

Reason: To ensure the protection of the designated sites during construction.

6. During construction stage, all topsoil stripping associated with the proposed development at the Trim Castle and Navan Old Bridge sites shall be subject to full time archaeological monitoring by a suitably qualified archaeologist under licence from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Provision shall be made available for the resolution of any archaeological features or deposits that may be identified.

Reason: In order to conserve the archaeological heritage of the site and to secure the preservation and protection of any remains that may exist within the site.

Board Member

Date: 14/11/2018

Terry Prendergast