



An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Direction
BD-005153-20
ABP-305118-19

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a Board meeting held on 14/02/2020.

The Board decided to approve the proposed development, subject to the reasons and considerations and subject to compliance with the conditions set out below, including conditions requiring compliance with the submitted details and with the mitigation measures as set out in the Section 11 of the Natura Impact Statement.

Reasons and Considerations

In coming to its decision, the Board had regard to the following:

- (a) the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC),
- (b) the European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2015,
- (c) 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,
- (d) the conservation objectives, qualifying interests and special conservation interests for the Lower River Suir Special Area of Conservation (site code: 002137),
- (e) the policies and objectives of the South Tipperary Development Plan, 2009 (as varied and extended),

(f) the nature and extent of the proposed works as set out in the application for approval,

(g) the information submitted in relation to the potential impacts on habitats, flora and fauna, including the Natura Impact Statement,

(h) the submissions and observations received in relation to the proposed development, and

(i) the report and recommendation of the person appointed by the Board to make a report and recommendation on the matter.

Appropriate Assessment:

The Board agreed with and adopted the screening assessment and conclusion carried out in the Inspector's report that the Lower River Suir SAC is the only European Site in respect of which the proposed development has the potential to have a significant effect.

The Board considered the Natura Impact Statement and associated documentation submitted with the application for approval, the mitigation measures contained therein, the submissions and observations on file, and the Inspector's assessment.

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 integrity of the aforementioned European Site, having regard to the site's conservation objectives.

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 Site, in view of the site's conservation objectives.

Proper Planning and Sustainable Development/Likely effects on the environment:

It is considered that, subject to compliance with the conditions set out below, the proposed development would not have significant negative effects on the environment or the community in the vicinity, would not give rise to a risk of pollution, would not be detrimental to the visual or landscape amenities of the area, would not seriously injure the amenities of property in the vicinity, would not adversely impact on the cultural, archaeological and built heritage of the area and would not interfere with the existing land uses in the area. The proposed development would, therefore, be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Conditions

1. The development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the plans and particulars lodged with the application, except as may otherwise be required in order to comply with the following conditions. Where any mitigation measures set out in the Natura Impact Statement or any conditions of 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 and monitoring measures outlined in the plans and particulars relating to the proposed development, including those set out in Section 11 of the Natura Impact Statement and proposed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI), shall be implemented in full or as may be required in order to comply with the following conditions. Prior to the commencement of development, details of a time schedule for implementation of mitigation measures and associated monitoring shall be prepared by the local authority and placed on file and retained as part of the public record.

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

3. Prior to the commencement of development, details of measures to protect fisheries and water quality of the river systems shall be outlined and placed on file. In-channel works shall adhere to the timing restrictions to avoid damage to spawning and juvenile fish and Lamprey. Full regard shall be had to Inland Fisheries Ireland's published 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 the protecting of receiving water quality, fisheries and aquatic habitats.

4. Riparian works for installation of rip-rap and bridge construction shall be carried out between July and September inclusive only.

Reason: In the interest of nature conservation and to ensure the protection of the European sites.

5. 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), an Environmental Operating Plan (EOP) and a Water Management Plan incorporating all mitigation measures indicated in the Natura Impact Statement, and as proposed by the NPWS and IFI, and a demonstration of proposals to adhere to best practice and protocols.

Reason: In the interest of protecting the environment, the landscape, European Sites, and sensitive receptors and in the interest of public health.

6. The County Council and any agent acting on its behalf shall ensure that all plant and machinery used during the works should be thoroughly cleaned and washed before delivery to the site and upon removal from the site to prevent the spread of hazardous invasive species and pathogens.

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

7. The construction of the development shall be managed in accordance with a Construction Management Plan, which shall be placed on the file and retained as part of the public record. This plan shall provide details of intended construction practice for the development, including:
 - (a) Location of the site and materials compound(s) including area(s) identified for the storage of construction refuse;
 - (b) Location of areas for construction site offices and staff facilities;
 - (c) Details of site security fencing and hoardings;
 - (d) Details of any on-site car parking facilities for site workers during the course of construction;
 - (e) Details of the timing and routing of construction traffic to and from the construction site and associated directional signage, to include proposals to facilitate the delivery of abnormal loads to the site;
 - (f) Measures to obviate queuing of construction traffic on the adjoining road network;
 - (g) Measures to prevent the spillage or deposit of clay, rubble or other debris on the public road network;
 - (h) Alternative arrangements to be put in place for pedestrians and vehicles in the case of the closure of any public road or footpath during the course of site development works;
 - (i) Details of appropriate mitigation measures for noise, dust and vibration, and monitoring of such levels;
 - (j) Containment of all construction-related fuel and oil within specially constructed bunds to ensure that fuel spillages are fully contained. Such bunds shall be roofed to exclude rainwater;

(k) Off-site disposal of construction/demolition waste and details of how it is proposed to manage excavated soil;

(l) Means to ensure that surface water run-off is controlled such that no silt or other pollutants enter local surface water sewers or drains.

A record of daily checks that the works are being undertaken in accordance with the Construction Management Plan shall be kept for inspection by the planning authority.

Reason: In the interest of amenities, public health and safety.

8. The County Council and any agent acting on its behalf shall facilitate the preservation, recording, protection or removal of archaeological materials or features that may exist within the site. A suitably qualified archaeologist shall be appointed by the County Council to oversee the site set-up and construction of the proposed development and the archaeologist shall be present on site during construction works. An Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment shall be carried out in advance of works commencing and shall be placed on the file and retained as part of the public record.

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.

9. All areas in proximity to the works area containing Japanese Knotweed shall be avoided and all areas accessed by machinery on the riverbanks shall be examined after vegetation cutting for seedling knotweed, prior to excavation. The works area shall be inspected for Japanese Knotweed one year after works are complete, and if found to be present, a three-year spraying programme shall commence to eradicate the plant from the works areas. Details of site inspections and any subsequent spraying programme shall be placed on the file and retained as part of the public record.

Reason: In the interest of nature conservation and to eradicate invasive species.

10. A suitably qualified ecologist shall be retained by the local authority to oversee the site set up and construction of the proposed development and implementation of mitigation measures relating to ecology set out in Natura Impact Statement and as proposed by IFI and the NPWS. The ecologist shall be present during site construction works. Upon completion of works, an ecological report of the site works shall be prepared by the appointed ecologist to be kept on file as part of the public record.

Reason: In the interest of nature conservation and the protection of terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity.

11. The site shall be examined by the project ecologist in mid-March prior to commencement of works for dipper, yellow wagtail or kingfisher nesting activity and if observed to be nesting in the works area, commencement of works shall no

Reason: To prevent disturbance to nesting bird species scheduled under the Wildlife Act and the EU Habitats Directive and in the interest of nature conservation.

Board Member

Date: 14/02/2020

Dave Walsh