



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

**Board Direction**  
**BD-005184-20**  
**ABP-305740-19**

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At a meeting held on 19/02/2020, the Board considered the submissions and reports on the file, the report of the Inspector, and the characteristics, nature, scale and location of the proposed development associated with the Northwest Greenway Project – Route 1, including its proximity to European nature conservation sites and its location within areas of high scenic amenity. The Board decided that the Road Authority be directed to prepare an environmental impact assessment report in respect of the proposed Northwest Greenway Project – Route 1, based on the reasons and considerations set out below

### **Reasons and Considerations**

Having regard to:

- (i) the information provided by the Road Authority to An Bord Pleanála;
- (ii) the Roads Act, 1993 (as amended);
- (iii) Annex III of EU Directive 2014/52/EU, amending Directive 2011/92/EU (the EIA Directive) on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Public and Private Projects on the Environment;
- (iv) the document 'EIA of Projects - Guidance on Screening' (2017), issued by the European Commission;

(v) the document 'Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-Threshold Development', issued by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in August 2003,

(vi) the ecological sensitivity of the receiving environment, including Lough Swilly SPA and SAC (Site Codes 004075 and 002287, respectively), Lough Swilly including Big Isle, Blanket Nook & Inch Lake pNHA and the Inch Levels Wildfowl Reserve;

(vii) the nature, scale and characteristics of the proposed Greenway development, including significant construction works in ecologically, environmentally and visually sensitive coastal areas;

(viii) the characteristics of the potential environmental impacts on biodiversity, water, landscape and visual amenities, cultural heritage, and land/material assets, including agricultural severance; and

(ix) the report and recommendation of the Board's Inspector.

it is considered that the potential for significant adverse effects on the environment arising from the proposed Greenway development cannot be ruled out and accordingly, that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report is required.

**Board Member:**

**Date:** 19/02/2020

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Dave Walsh