



An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Direction
BD-008459-21
ABP-309050-20

At a meeting held on 08/06/2021, 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 N63 Liss to Abbey Re-alignment Scheme in County Galway, including its proximity to European nature conservation sites and its location within areas of high scenic amenity. The Board decided to direct the Road Authority to prepare an environmental impact assessment report in respect of the proposed N63 re-alignment scheme, based on the reasons and considerations set out below

Reasons and Considerations

Having regard to the following:

- (a) The criteria set out in Schedule 7 of the Planning and Regulations 2001, as amended,
- (b) The nature and limited scale of the development which is below the threshold for prescribed road development set out in article 8(b) of the Roads Regulations, 1994, as amended,
- (c) The location of the proposed development, the characteristics of the proposed development and the characteristics of potential impacts,
- (d) The potential for significant effects on the area in terms of its architectural, archaeological and cultural heritage as well as on the natural environment, and

(e) The submission of the planning authority, which concluded that the proposed development is likely to result in significant impacts on landscape, biodiversity and cultural heritage,

it is considered that the proposed development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, landscape, visual amenities, archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage and that the preparation and submission of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report is therefore required.

In not accepting the Inspector's recommendation, the Board considered that there would be significant impacts through both the construction and operational phases of the development and that it was not possible to rely solely on detailed design of the scheme, which has not been submitted for consideration, to address these issues or to be satisfied that appropriate mitigation measures would be sufficient to address these impacts. While it was acknowledged that the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement would address the impacts associated with European sites in the area, it was considered that a more comprehensive assessment of the archaeological, architectural, cultural heritage and landscape impacts would be provided as part of a formal Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

Board Member:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dave Walsh', written over a horizontal line.

Dave Walsh

Date: 08/06/2021