

Board Direction BD-009272-21 ABP-310147-21

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a Board meeting held on 15/10/2021.

The Board decided to direct the road authority NOT to prepare A Natura Impact Statement in respect of the proposed road development based on the reasons and considerations set out below.

REASONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

Having regard to:

- (a) The nature and scale of the proposed development,
- (b) The substantial separation distance between the proposed development site and the Dundalk Bay SAC and SPA, and the Stabannan-Braganstown SPA,
- (c) the length of the hydrological connection between the site and European sites at Dundalk Bay SAC and SPA,
- (d) the absence of a hydrological connection between the site and European site at Stabannan-Braganstown SPA,
- (e) the surface water management arrangements which form part of the overall project, and the separation distance to European Sites,
- (f) the submission made by the local authority, including the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report dated April 2021,

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

It is considered reasonable to conclude that on the basis of the information available, which is considered adequate to issue a screening determination, the proposed development, either individually and in combination with other plans or projects, would not be likely to have a significant effect on the Dundalk Bay SAC, Dundalk Bay SPA or Stabannan-Braganstown SPA, or any other European sites, in view of the conservation objectives of these sites and that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment and the submission of a Natura Impact Statement for the proposed development is not, therefore, required.

Chris McGarry

Board Member

Date: 15/10/2021