

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a Board meeting held on 11/03/2022.

The Board decided to direct the local authority to prepare a Natura Impact Statement in respect of the proposed Castletroy Link Road Scheme, based on the reasons and considerations set out below.

Reasons and Considerations

Having regard to:

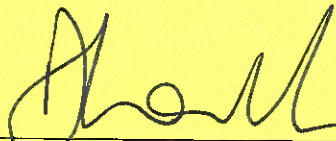
- a) The location of the proposed development and the separation distance with the adjoining a river which provides a hydrological connection to Lower River Shannon Special Area of Conservation (Site code: 002165) and its qualifying interests,
- b) The nature and scale of the proposed development, including excavation and earthwork operations, importation of construction materials, road and embankment construction works, the undertaking of works to existing watercourses and the installation of new drainage systems,
- c) The proximity of the proposed development to the River Groody,
- d) The uncertainty with regards to in-combination effects with other plans and projects,

e) The submission made on behalf of the local authority, including the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report received by the Board on the 10th day of January 2022, and

f) The report and recommendation of the Inspector,

it is considered reasonable to conclude that, on the basis of the information available which is considered adequate to issue a screening determination, it cannot be ruled out that the proposed development, either individually and in combination with other plans or projects, would not be likely to have a significant effect on the Lower River Shannon Special Area of Conservation (Site code: 002165), in view of the Conservation Objectives of the Site and that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment and the submission of a Natura Impact Statement for the proposed development is, therefore, required.

Board Member:



Dave Walsh

Date: 11/03/2022