



At a meeting held on 22/01/2026, the Commission considered:

- (a) the objections made to the Compulsory Purchase Order,
- (b) the report of the Inspector who held the oral hearing and
- (c) the documents and submissions on file generally.

The Commission decided to confirm the Order without modification

#### **Reasons and Considerations**

Having considered the objections made to the Compulsory Purchase Order, the report of the Inspector, the purpose of the Compulsory Purchase Order to facilitate a footbridge project and having regard to:

- (i) the Constitutional and Convention protection afforded to property rights,
- (ii) the need to provide safe, segregated pedestrian infrastructure traversing from the Carrowmanagh Road area to the town centre in Oughterard,
- (iii) the community need, public interest served and overall benefits to be achieved from the construction of a pedestrian route with a footbridge

crossing providing safe, attractive and segregated passage for pedestrians over the Owenriff River,

- (iv) the chosen location, nature and scale of the works, which constitute a design response that is proportionate to the identified need, including the ancillary tree compensation area,
- (v) the suitability of the lands and the necessity of their acquisition to facilitate the provision of a footbridge,
- (vi) the provisions of the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028, encouraging enhancement of pedestrian infrastructure and a modal shift towards active travel, which the footbridge project would support the achievement of,

it is considered that, the acquisition of the subject lands at Fough West and Carrowmanagh townlands in Oughterard, County Galway, by Galway County Council, to facilitate the construction of a footbridge over the Owenriff River, including compensatory tree planting, as set out in the Compulsory Purchase Order and on the deposited maps, is necessary for the purposes stated, which is a legitimate objective being pursued in the public interest, and that the Compulsory Purchase Order and its effects on the property rights of affected landowners are proportionate to that objective and justified by the exigencies of the common good.

**Planning**

**Commissioner:**



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Paul Caprani

**Date:** 22/01/2026