



## Board Direction

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**Ref: 22.JP0042**

At a meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2017, the Board considered:

- (a) the submissions made in relation to the proposed development,
- (b) the report of the Inspector, and
- (c) the documents and submissions on file generally.

The Board was satisfied that there was satisfactory material on file on which to complete the necessary assessments and that the need for further information did not arise.

The Board decided to approve the proposed development, generally in accordance with the recommendation of the Inspector, and for the reasons, considerations and conditions set out below.

### REASONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

In coming to its decision, the Board had regard to the following:

- (a) the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC),
- (b) the European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2015,
- (c) the conservation interests and conservation objectives of the Lower River Suir Special Area of Conservation (site code: 002137),
- (d) the policies and objectives of the South Tipperary County Development Plan 2009 as varied and the Carrick on Suir Town Development Plan 2013,
- (e) the nature and extent of the proposed Old Bridge rehabilitation works as set out in the application for approval,
- (f) the information submitted in relation to the potential impacts on habitats, flora and fauna, including the Natura impact statement,

- (g) the submissions and observations received in relation to the likely effects on the environment, and on the likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European Site,
- (h) the likely consequences for the environment and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which it is proposed to carry out the proposed development and the likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European Site,
- (i) the report and recommendation of the person appointed by the Board to make a report and recommendation on the matter.

### **Appropriate Assessment:**

The Board agreed with the screening assessment and conclusion carried out in the Inspector's report that the Lower River Suir Special Area of Conservation (site code: 002137) is the only European Site in respect of which the proposed development has the potential to have a significant effect.

The Board considered the Natura impact statement and associated documentation submitted with the application for approval, the mitigation measures contained therein, the submissions and observations on file, and the Inspector's assessment. The Board completed an appropriate assessment of the implications of the proposed development for the affected European Site, namely the Lower River Suir Special Area of Conservation (site code: 002137), in view of the site's conservation objectives. The Board considered that the information before it was adequate to allow the carrying out of an appropriate assessment.

In completing the appropriate assessment, the Board considered, in particular, the following:

- i) the likely direct and indirect impacts arising from the proposed development both individually or in combination with other plans or projects,
- ii) the mitigation measures which are included as part of the current proposal, and
- iii) the conservation objectives for the European Site.

In completing the appropriate assessment, the Board accepted and adopted the appropriate assessment carried out in the Inspector's report in respect of the potential effects of the proposed development on the aforementioned European Site.

In overall conclusion, the Board was satisfied that the proposed development, by itself or in combination with other plans or projects, would not adversely affect the integrity of the European Site, in view of the site's conservation objectives.

## **Proper Planning and Sustainable Development:**

It is considered that, subject to compliance with the conditions set out below, the proposed development

- would result in an appropriate repair and rehabilitation programme to secure the ongoing integrity of this important historical structure;
- would not have detrimental effects on the community in the vicinity,
- would not give rise to an unacceptable risk of environmental pollution,
- would not be detrimental to the visual or landscape amenities of the area, would not seriously injure the amenities of property in the vicinity,
- would not adversely impact on the cultural, archaeological and built heritage of the area and would not interfere with the existing land uses in the area.

The proposed development would, therefore, be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

## **Conditions**

1. The development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the plans and particulars lodged with the application except where otherwise may be required in order to comply with the following conditions.

**Reason:** In the interest of clarity.

2. The mitigation measures identified in the Natura Impact Statement shall be implemented in full by the local Authority.

4: In order to minimise the impact of construction activities on species and habitats of conservation interest in the interest of proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

3. All repair works to the protected structure shall be carried out under the supervision of a qualified professional with specialised conservation expertise and in accordance with best conservation practice as detailed in “Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities” issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in 2011. The repair works shall retain the maximum amount possible of surviving historic fabric in-situ, and shall be designed to give rise to minimum interference with the fabric of Old Bridge.

**Reason:** To ensure that the character and integrity of the protected structure is maintained and that Old Bridge is protected from unnecessary damage and loss of fabric.

4. The proposed method statement for the works shall be updated in relation to the grouting of the bridge structure to ensure that:
  - grout with lowest possible toxicity level is employed in the works, and
  - control and monitoring measures are included to prevent release of grout to the aquatic environment during grouting exercises.

**Reason :** To ensure the protection of water quality

5. The local authority shall engage the services of a project ecologist for the duration of the bridge rehabilitation works to monitor the site set up and construction of the proposed development in accordance with the mitigation measure proposed. On completion of the works, an audit report of the site works shall be prepared by the appointed person within a period of three months, which shall be maintained on record by the local authority.

**Reason :** In the interest of clarity and to ensure the protection of local ecology in the area.

Board Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017  
Conall Boland