



An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Order ABP-300441-17

Roads Acts, 1993 to 2015

Planning and Development Acts, 2000 to 2017

Road Authority: Sligo County Council

Application received by An Bord Pleanála from Sligo County Council requesting it to exercise its powers under section 50(1)(b) of the Roads Act, 1993, as amended, to direct the road authority to prepare an environmental impact assessment report in respect of the proposed N16 Lugatober (Drumkilsellagh to Lugnagall) Road Project, Sligo.

Decision

DIRECT the road authority to prepare an environmental impact assessment report in respect of the above proposed road development based on the reasons and considerations set out below.

Matters Considered

In making its decision, the Board had regard to those matters to which, by virtue of the Planning and Development Acts and Regulations made thereunder, it was required to have regard.

Reasons and Considerations

Having regard to:

- (i) article 27 of the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations, 1989 (as amended),
- (ii) EU Directive 2014/52/EU of 16th April, 2014, amending Directive 2011/92/EU (the EIA Directive) on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Public and Private Projects on the Environment,
- (iii) the Roads Act, 1993 (as amended),
- (iv) the document 'Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects – Guidance on Screening' (2017) issued by the European Commission,
- (v) the document 'Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-Threshold Development' issued by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in August 2003,
- (vi) the ecological and hydrogeological sensitivity of the receiving environment, including the Annex I Priority Habitats in the EU Habitats Directive, Petrifying Springs (Code: 7220) and Alkaline Fens (Code: 7230), and the Crockauns/Keelogyboy Bogs Natural Heritage Area (site code: 002435),
- (vii) the nature, scale and characteristics of the proposed road development, including significant engineering embankment and cut works,
- (viii) the characteristics of the potential environmental impacts on ecology, protected habitats, the fabric and settings of features of cultural heritage and the visual impact within a sensitive rural landscape and along a scenic route,
- (ix) the information provided by the Road Authority to An Bord Pleanála, and
- (x) the report and recommendation of the Board's Inspector.

The Board concluded that, given the description of the proposed road development and the nature of the receiving environment, the proposed road development is likely to have significant effects on the environment and that the preparation of an environmental impact assessment report is required.

**Member of An Bord Pleanála
duly authorised to authenticate
the seal of the Board.**

Dated this day of 2018