

An  
Bord  
Pleanála

## Board Order ABP-309050-20

**Roads Acts, 1993 to 2015**

**Planning and Development Acts, 2000 to 2020**

**Planning Authority: Galway County Council**

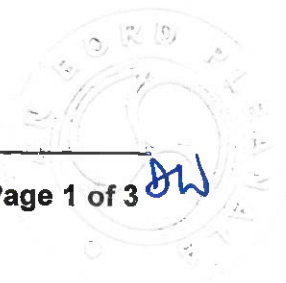
**Application** received by An Bord Pleanála from Galway County Council requesting it to exercise its powers under section 50(1)(b) of the Roads Act, 1993, as amended, seeking a direction from An Bord Pleanála as to whether or not the proposed N63 Liss to Abbey Realignment Scheme in County Galway requires the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

### 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 the following:

- (a) the criteria set out in Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended,
- (b) the nature and limited scale of the development which is below the threshold for prescribed road development set out in article 8(b) of the Roads Regulations, 1994, as amended,
- (c) the location of the proposed development, the characteristics of the proposed development and the characteristics of potential impacts,
- (d) The potential for significant effects on the area in terms of its architectural, archaeological and cultural heritage as well as on the natural environment, and
- (e) the submission of the planning authority, which concluded that the proposed development is likely to result in significant impacts on landscape, biodiversity and cultural heritage,

it is considered that the proposed development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, landscape, visual amenities, archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage and that the preparation and submission of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report is, therefore, required.

In not accepting the Inspector's recommendation, the Board considered that there would be significant impacts through both the construction and operational phases of the development and that it was not possible to rely solely on the detailed design of the scheme, which has not been submitted for consideration, to address these issues or to be satisfied that appropriate mitigation measures would be sufficient to address these impacts. While it was acknowledged that the preparation of a Natura impact statement would address the impacts associated with European sites in the area, it was considered that a more comprehensive assessment of the

