



An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Order ABP-311412-21

Roads Acts, 1993 to 2015

Planning and Development Acts, 2000 to 2021

Planning 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, seeking a direction from An Bord Pleanála as to whether or not a proposed greenway/walking/cycle track between the townlands of Collooney to Bellaghy, County Sligo requires the preparation of an environmental impact assessment report.

Decision

NOT TO 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.

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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:

- (a) the information provided by the road authority to An Bord Pleanála,
- (b) the provisions of the Roads Act 1993, as amended,
- (c) the nature and scale of the proposed road development, which is below the thresholds for mandatory environmental impact assessment set out under section 50(1)(a) of the Roads Act 1993, as amended, and article 8 of the Roads Regulations 1994, as amended,
- (d) Annex III of EU Directive 2014/52/EU of the 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,
- (e) the document 'EIA of Projects - Guidance on Screening' (2017) issued by the European Commission,
- (f) the document 'Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-Threshold Development' issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in August 2003,
- (g) the characteristics of the proposed road development, including the use of an existing disused railway alignment and the proposed use of off-site manufactured lightweight steel bridges, where required, to avoid in-stream works and retain existing bridge structures,

Mof.

- (h) the nature and characteristics of the receiving environment and surrounding area, and
- (i) the report and recommendation of the Board's Inspector.

It is considered that the proposed road development would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment and that the preparation and submission of an environmental impact assessment report is not, therefore, required.

It is further considered that the likely significant effects on European Sites, the likely effects on the environment and the likely consequences for the proper planning and sustainable development of the area can be addressed in an application to the Board for approval under section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

Dr. Maria FitzGerald

Maria FitzGerald

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

Dated this *28th* day of *March* 2022

