

An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Order ABP-313685-22

Planning and Development Acts, 2000 to 2021

Planning Authority: Wicklow County Council

Application by O'Connell & Clarke Solicitors LLP of Suite 142, The Capel Building, Mary's Abbey, Capel Street, Dublin requesting An Bord Pleanála to exercise its powers under article 250(3)(b) of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended, whether Wicklow County Council should be directed to prepare a Natura Impact Statement in respect of the proposed construction of the Bray Sustainable Transport Bridge, link road and associated works, Bray, County Wicklow.

Decision

DIRECT the local authority to prepare a Natura Impact Statement in respect of the proposed development, based on the reasons and considerations set out below.

Reasons and Considerations

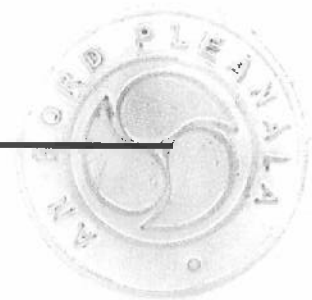
Having regard to:

- (a) the location of the proposed development and the separation distance with the nearby European Sites,
- (b) the nature and scale of the proposed development including excavation and earthwork operations, importation of construction materials and road and bridge construction works,
- (c) the potential for hydrological and mobile species connections from the proposed development site to Wicklow Mountains Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 002122), Rockabill to Dalkey Island Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 003000), Dalkey Islands Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004172), and South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004024),
- (d) the uncertainty with regards to in-combination effects with other plans and projects,
- (e) the submission made by the third party received by the Board on 30th day of May 2022,
- (f) the submission made on behalf of the local authority, including the appropriate assessment screening report received by the Board on 23rd day of June 2022, and
- (g) the report and recommendation of the Inspector,

it is considered reasonable to conclude that on the basis of the information available, which is considered adequate to issue a screening determination, that it cannot be ruled out that the proposed development, either individually and in combination with other plans or projects, would not be likely to have a significant effect on Wicklow Mountains Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 002122), Rockabill to Dalkey Island Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 003000), Dalkey Islands Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004172) and South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004024), in view of the conservation objectives of these sites and that a stage 2 appropriate assessment and the submission of a Natura Impact Statement for the proposed development is, therefore, required.

Dr. Maria Fitzgerald

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



Dated this *5th* day of *December* 2022