



An  
Coimisiún  
Pleanála

## Commission Order ACP-323461-25

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**Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended**

**Planning Authority: Sligo County Council**

**Application** by Sligo County Council for approval under section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, in accordance with plans and particulars, including a Natura Impact Statement, lodged with An Coimisiún Pleanála on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of August 2025.

**Proposed Development:** The proposed repair and refurbishment of Markievicz Bridge includes:

- repair scour damage to existing bridge piers and abutments,
- repair scour damage to riverbed under and in the curtilage of the structure, and
- cleaning, removing vegetation, and repointing of masonry of structure.

All located at Markievicz Bridge, Bridge Street, Sligo, County Sligo.

### Decision

**APPROVE** the above proposed development based on the reasons and considerations set out below.

## Reasons and Considerations

In performing its functions in relation to the making of its decision, the Commission was consistent with Section 15(1) of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, as amended by Section 17 of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, and the requirement to, in so far as practicable, perform its functions in a manner consistent with Climate Action Plan 2024 and Climate Action Plan 2025 and the national long term climate action strategy, national adaptation framework and approved sectoral adaptation plans set out in those Plans and in furtherance of the objective of mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the effects of climate change in the State.

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

- (a) European Union Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC),
- (b) European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended,
- (c) 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,
- (d) the conservation objectives, qualifying interests and special conservation interests for the Lough Gill Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 001976), the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 000627), and the Cummeen Strand Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004035),
- (e) the policies and objectives of the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030,
- (f) the nature and extent of the proposed works as set out in the application for approval,
- (g) the information submitted in relation to the potential impacts on habitats, flora and fauna, including the Natura Impact Statement,
- (h) the submissions received in relation to the proposed development, and

- (i) the report and recommendation of the person appointed by the Commission to make a report and recommendation on the matter.

### **Appropriate Assessment: Stage 1:**

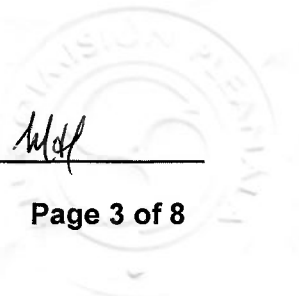
The Commission agreed with and adopted the screening assessment and conclusion carried out in the Inspector's report that the Lough Gill Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 001976), the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 000627), and the Cummeen Strand Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004035), are the only European Sites in respect of which the proposed development has the potential to have a significant effect.

The Commission 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.

### **Appropriate Assessment: Stage 2:**

The Commission completed an appropriate assessment of the implications of the proposed development for the affected European Sites, namely the Lough Gill Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 001976), the Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay) Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 000627), and the Cummeen Strand Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004035) in view of the Sites' conservation objectives. The Commission considered that the information before it was adequate to allow the carrying out of an appropriate assessment. In completing the appropriate assessment, the Commission 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 Sites.



In completing the appropriate assessment, the Commission 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 integrity of the aforementioned European Sites, having regard to the Sites' conservation objectives.

In overall conclusion, the Commission 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 Sites, in view of the Sites' conservation objectives.

### **Proper Planning and Sustainable Development/Likely effects on the environment**

It is considered that, subject to compliance with the conditions set out below, the proposed development would not have significant negative effects on the environment or the community in the vicinity, would not give rise to a risk of 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, would not interfere with the existing land uses in the area, and would not interfere with traffic and pedestrian safety. The proposed works are consistent with the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030, including policy P-RLR-3, to repair and preserve the County's bridges. The proposed development would, therefore, be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

## Conditions

1. The proposed development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the plans and particulars lodged with the application, except as may otherwise be required in order to comply with the following conditions. Where any mitigation measures set out in the Natura Impact Statement or any conditions of approval require further details to be prepared by or on behalf of the local authority, these details shall be placed on the file and retained as part of the public record.

**Reason:** In the interest of clarity and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and to ensure the protection of the environment.

2. The mitigation and monitoring measures identified in the Natura Impact Statement submitted with the application shall be implemented in full. Prior to the commencement of development, details of a time schedule for implementation of mitigation measures and associated monitoring shall be prepared by the local authority and placed on file and retained as part of the public record.

**Reason:** In the interest of protecting the environment, the protection of European Sites, and in the interest of public health.

3. A suitably qualified ecologist shall be retained by the local authority to oversee the site set up and construction of the proposed development and implementation of mitigation measures relating to ecology. The ecologist shall be present during the works. Upon completion of works, an ecological report of

the site works shall be prepared by the appointed ecologist to be kept on file as part of the public record.

**Reason:** In the interests of nature conservation and biodiversity.

4. Prior to the commencement of development, the local authority, or any agent acting on its behalf, shall prepare in consultation with the project ecologist and relevant statutory agencies, a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), incorporating all mitigation measures indicated in the Natura Impact Statement and Ecological Impact Assessment and demonstration of proposals to adhere to best practice and protocols. The CEMP shall include:
  - (a) all mitigation measures indicated in the Natura Impact Statement and Ecological Impact Assessment,
  - (b) location and extent of silt fencing and other silt management measures to be installed on site,
  - (c) specific proposals as to how the measures outlined in the CEMP will be measured and monitored for effectiveness, and
  - (d) a Traffic Management Plan for the construction phase.

**Reason:** In the interest of protecting the environment and European Sites.

5. The following nature conservation requirements shall be complied with:
  - (a) Prior to the commencement of development, details of measures to protect fisheries and water quality of the river system shall be outlined and placed on file. Full regard shall be had to Inland Fisheries Ireland's published guidelines for construction works near waterways (Guidelines on Protection of Fisheries during Construction Works in and Adjacent to Waters, 2016). A programme of water quality monitoring shall be prepared in consultation with the contractor, the local authority and relevant statutory agencies and the programme shall be implemented thereafter.

- (b) No in-stream works shall take place outside the period of the 1<sup>st</sup> day of July to the 30<sup>th</sup> day of September, inclusive, without the written approval of the Ecological Clerk of Works. Such approval shall be placed on the public file.
- (c) A pre-construction otter survey by a suitably qualified ecologist shall be carried out before works commence.
- (d) A pre-construction bat survey shall be carried out by a suitably qualified ecologist during the active bat season, and any destruction of bat roosting sites or relocation of bat species shall be carried out by a suitably qualified ecologist under a Derogation Licence granted by the Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

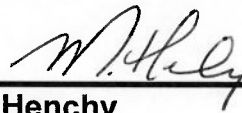
**Reason:** In the interests of biodiversity and nature conservation.

- 6. All mitigation measures in relation to archaeology and cultural heritage as set out in the Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment submitted with the application shall be implemented in full, except as may otherwise be required in order to comply with the conditions of this permission. The National Monuments Service shall be furnished with a final archaeological report describing the results of any archaeological investigative work/ excavation required, following the completion of all archaeological work on site and any necessary post-excavation specialist analysis. All resulting and associated archaeological costs shall be borne by the local authority.

**Reason:** To ensure the continued preservation either in situ or by record of sites, features or other objects of archaeological interest.

7. The local authority, and any agent acting on its behalf, shall ensure that all plant and machinery used during the works should be thoroughly cleaned and washed before delivery to the site to prevent the spread of hazardous invasive species and pathogens.

**Reason:** In the interest of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and to ensure the protection of the European Sites.



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**Mary Henchy**

**Planning Commissioner of An Coimisiún**

**Pleanála duly authorised to authenticate the  
seal of the Commission.**

Dated this 28<sup>th</sup> day of April

2026

