



An
Bord
Pleanála

Addendum Report

ABP-317188-23

To: Board

From: Tomás Bradley, Senior Planning Inspector

Re: Supplemental Ecology Report

Date: 11th March 2024

The Board, made a direction of 29th January 2024 to refer the case back to the Inspectorate for:

- i. a review of the file and report by the Board's Ecologist of the issues raised in said direction;
- ii. an addendum report by the Planning Inspector on foot of any Ecologist's Report, and
- iii. a copy of both the Ecologist Report and Inspector's Addendum Report to be provided to the Board.

This direction was actioned on the 1st of February 2024 and the file was referred to the Board's Ecologist, Dr. Maeve Flynn, for review and consideration of the issues raised. On the 8th of March 2024, the Ecologist's Report was returned by Dr. Maeve Flynn on said issues to the Inspector. The Ecologist's Report is enclosed for the Board's attention.

The Ecologist's Report concludes based on the information presented on the proposed development, likely impact mechanisms, assessment of impacts and mitigation and control measures proposed, that the proposed solar farm will not prevent or delay the attainment of conservation objectives for the Lower River Suir Special Area of Conservation (SAC) including Freshwater Pearl Mussel, a Qualifying Interest (QI) feature restricted to the Clodiagh River. Similarly, it was concluded that the proposed development will not affect the achievement of conservation objectives

for other QI freshwater species and adverse effects can be excluded with confidence for white clawed crayfish, lamprey species, Salmon, Twaite Shad and Otter.

Therefore, the Ecologist was of the view that adverse effects on the overall site integrity of the Lower River Suir SAC can be excluded and there is no reasonable scientific doubt as to the absence of such effects from the project alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Having considered the Ecologist's Report, I am satisfied that the conclusion therein largely aligns with and supports that in the Inspector's Report dated 15th of November 2023 and in particular the Appropriate Assessment within it. The Ecologist's Report provides further certainty to Inspector's Report and does not give rise to any changes to the conclusions in the Inspector's Report and in particular the Appropriate Assessment.

ENCL: Ecologist's Report of 8th March 2024 prepared by Dr. Maeve Flynn

Tomás Bradley,
Senior Planning Inspector