comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

Teach Buvinda, Bóthar Átha Cliath, An Uaimh, Contae na Mí. C15 Y291
Buvinda House, Dublin Rd., Navan, Co.Meath. C15 Y291

Our Ref: TRA 04-023-12-1-4
Your Ref: ACP-323799-25

, Transportation Section
27th January 2026

An Coimisiún Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1,
Ireland.

Proposed road improvement scheme at Newtownmoyaghy Stream, Kilcock
Submission re observation from the Inland Fisheries Ireland

Dear Sir / Madam,

We acknowledge receipt of your correspondence of 22nd December 2025 which included eight submissions received by An Coimisiún Pleanála in relation to the above proposed development and an invitation to provide observations in relation to the submissions received.

Regarding the submission from the Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI), we make the following observations:

- It is acknowledged that the proposed development is located in the catchment of the River Ryewater. As noted in the Planning and Environmental Considerations Report (PECR), the proposed development includes a diversion of the Newtownmoyaghy Stream (WFD code Rye_Water_020; IE_EA_09R010300; Segment Code 09_1535) to the northeast of the existing channel. A visual aquatic assessment of the section of Newtownmoyaghy Stream to be diverted, was undertaken during ecological surveys. Results are outlined in Section 3.3 of the Natura Impact Statement (NIS) and Section 4.2.4 of the PECR. No evidence of protected species was recorded, and the watercourse is considered to have limited salmonid potential due to the lack of oxygen-rich gravel beds and signs of poor water quality.

- The potential for ground preparation and associated construction works to cause the release of sediment and pollutants into surrounding watercourses is identified in the NIS and the PECR. Mitigation measures to avoid or reduce the significance of such potential impacts are included in both the NIS (Section 8.1.5) and PECR (Section 4.5) and include measures to manage topsoil and spoil storage to prevent deleterious material entering surface waters.

- As noted in the PECR (Section 6.5.1), no direct discharge to the stream will be permitted at any time during the work. Any sediment collected by settlement tanks/silt fencing will be transported off site by a licensed waste operator for appropriate disposal.

- Section 8.1.5 of the NIS notes the proposed mitigation measures relating to Water Quality and includes details relating to silt fencing installation, inspection and removal once the works are complete.

- There will be a contract requirement to provide a method statement based on the details in Section 8 of the NIS and Section 6.5 of the PECR associated with the realignment works and this will be submitted to the IFI for discussion / agreement in advance of the realignment works commencing on site.

- The required width of the proposed culvert is dictated by the hydrological requirements and Section 50 applications for the current designs of both the road culvert and the field crossing culvert have been approved by the Office of Public Works (OPW), where the capacity of the channel and culvert will replicate the operation of the existing stream i.e. will not impede capacity.

- From a constructability and structural integrity point of view the proposed box culverts are considered the preferred option for the two locations where vehicles are to cross over the newly constructed channel. Clear-span bridge type construction for such crossings are generally only utilised when crossing existing sensitive water channels to avoid the need for in-stream works. As these two structures are to be constructed in an existing green field site prior to the stream diversion they do not require in-stream works to be carried out for their construction. The proposed box culverts will be embedded 200-300mm below the new stream bed level and natural material will be laid through the culvert to form a covering to the concrete base. As noted above Section 50 consent has already been obtained from the OPW for the proposed culverts.

- As referenced in Section 8.1.1 of the NIS, a suitably qualified Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be appointed by the Contractor (the details of which will be made available to IFI when confirmed). The ECoW will be available for the duration of the Construction Phase and will ensure that all mitigation measures are implemented during the proposed construction works.

- We note that surface water runoff from the Newtownmoyaghy Road is not currently collected or treated and discharges directly into the Newtownmoyaghy stream posing an environmental risk downstream. For the proposed scheme, surface water runoff from the Newtownmoyaghy Road will be filtered through a standard filter drain and then passed through a petrol interceptor as outlined in Section 3.6.1 and 8.2 of the NIS and Section 4.4.3.1 of the PECR.

The existing road edge and verge of the L-6219 Newtownmoyaghy Road has, in discrete sections, collapsed into the adjacent stream due to erosion from stream flood events compounded by vehicles passing close to the road/stream interface. The present narrow road width increases the risk of vehicles travelling on, and on occasion over, the edge of the road and into the existing stream. This has become both a health and safety risk for road users and an environmental risk due to the potential release of hydrocarbons and other vehicle pollutants entering the adjacent stream.

The proposed scheme will relocate a circa 550m long portion of the stream into a green field area east of the existing road. This will greatly reduce the risk of vehicles leaving the road and entering the stream, and the resulting safety and environmental consequences. In addition to this the proposed scheme will also replace the existing over-the-edge road drainage, which currently runs directly into the stream untreated, with a filter drain and a petrol interceptor.

The MCC Project Team will liaise further with the IFI at detailed design stage to discuss their requirements regarding the design of the new stream channel, while noting the constraints relating to the need for OPW consent and flooding implications.

Yours faithfully,

Signed: Paul Phelan

On behalf of Meath County Council