



20 August, 2020

The Secretary,
An Bord Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
LDG-	<u>309434 - 20</u>
ABP-	<u>20 AUG 2020</u>
Fee: €	_____
Time:	By: _____

SID-2020-ME-99

Section 51(3)(b) of the Roads Act, 1993 as amended - Development by Meath County Council at Abbeyland, Navan, Co Meath (Local Distributor Road 4)

A Chara,

I refer to the notification received in relation to the above proposed development. The documents forwarded have been reviewed by the National Parks & Wildlife Service of this Department and comments arising are set out below. Reference to the Minister/Department for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht will, in the coming period, be amended to refer to the Minister/Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage once the relevant legislative provisions to give effect to this change are completed.

Having considered the Natura Impact Statement and the Environmental Impact Assessment Report submitted in support of this road proposal, the Department commends and endorses the approach taken by Meath County Council and its consultants in evaluating this project's potential impacts on flora and fauna, both in the River Boyne and River Blackwater Special Area of Conservation and River Boyne and River Blackwater Special Protection Area, which it traverses, and along the rest of the road's proposed route. Similarly the measures proposed to mitigate these impacts appear very appropriate for their purpose, such as the minimal lighting on the proposed bridge over the Blackwater to avoid detrimental effects on bats and fish including salmon and lampreys, and the mammal fencing to be installed along the entire route, which should prevent badger road casualties in particular. This Department recommends the measures to mitigate the impacts of this road project on flora and fauna set out in the NIS and EIAR should be implemented in full as proposed.

Kindly forward any further information received or in the event of a decision being made a copy of same should be referred to the address on the cover page. Alternatively, documentation associated with the above can be referred electronically manager.dau@chg.gov.ie

Is mise le meas,

Michael Murphy,
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