

Appendix G

WCC EIA Screening Determination

Wicklow County Council

Director of Service Order No: 225/2020

BRAY SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT BRIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) SCREENING DETERMINATION

Wicklow County Council is proposing to develop the Bray Sustainable Transport Bridge and road link in Bray, County Wicklow. The proposed development will include the construction of a road link and bridge that will cater for sustainable modes of transport, and will not be accessible by private vehicles. The proposed bridge will be a bowstring arch bridge which crosses the river with a single span of c. 63m. The road link will be approximately 225m length north and 175m south of the river. A detailed description of the proposed development has been provided in Section 3 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report with drawings provided with the Part 8 process.

It is intended to place the plans and particulars for this development on public display in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 to 2012 – Part 8.

Given that the proposed bridge and link road development is considered to be a “road development” under the meaning of the Roads Act 1993 (as amended), the requirements for an EIA Screening under this legislation have been followed.

Having regard to EIA Directive 2014/52/EU and Section 50(1) as set out in the Roads Act 1993 (as amended by S.I. No 279 of 2019), the proposed project does not meet or exceed the thresholds outlined in Section 50 (1) (a) to trigger a mandatory EIA/EIAR. Section 50(1)(b) to (f) of the Roads Act 1993 (as amended) set out the requirement for an EIA Screening report. Given that the proposed project is interpreted under the legislation as the “construction of a public road”, Wicklow County Council must make an EIA Screening determination (having regard to Annex III of the EIA Directive).

Having regard to the EIA Directive and Roads Act 1993 (as amended) an EIA Screening report was prepared by Arup on behalf of Wicklow County Council. The EIA Screening report has recommended that this project, individually, and in combination with other plans and projects, does not require an EIA.

The EIA Screening Report has been carried out giving full considering to the EIA Directive and the project was assessed on a case-by case basis in accordance with the criteria for determining whether or not a development would or would not be likely to have a significant effect on the environment as outlined within Annex III of the EIA Directive. It is further considered that the EIA Screening Report contain a fair and reasonable assessment of the likelihood of significant effect of the project on the environment, having regard to the foregoing and in particular:

- The character, size and design of the whole project.
- Cumulating with other existing and/or approved projects.
- The use and effects on natural resources, in particular, land, soil, water and biodiversity
- Landscape and visual.