



# Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo Mayo County Council



## **Appropriate Assessment Determination N26 Ballina Bypass Phase 1**

In accordance with the Habitats Directive, the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) (“the Planning and Development Act”) and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended) (“the Habitats Regulations”). Mayo County Council appointed Roughan & O’Donovan Consulting Engineers Ltd to undertake an Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of relevant European sites, if the proposed construction works for the N26 Ballina Bypass Phase 1 project (‘the proposed development’) individually or in combination with other plans or projects would be likely to have a significant effect(s) on a European site(s).

The proposed development is located in the immediate environs of Ballina town and would connect the N26 Foxford/Dublin Road with the N59 Crossmolina Road. The proposed development comprises the following major elements:

- 2.24km national primary road (Type 2 Single Carriageway), incorporating active travel provisions for walking and cycling,
- 2 no. new Roundabouts to be provided on the N26 National Primary Road and on the N59 National Secondary Road
- Staggered at-grade junction arrangement between the proposed development and L5113 The Commons Road.
- Construction of active travel facilities remote from the proposed development, approximately 2km long including stopping up the vehicular access at Sweeney’s Road from Ch 0+565m to 1+090m.
- 1 no. railway underbridge is proposed where the proposed development over the existing Ballina/Manulla railway line.
- 1 no. underbridge with restricted headroom of 4m over the L1122 Commons Road.

The AA Screening Report has been completed to consider potential direct and indirect impacts of the proposed development on the integrity and interest features of the European designated site(s), alone or in combination with other plans and projects. In this context the following elements were considered:

- Description of the Proposed Development
  - Identification of Likely Significant Impacts
  - In-Combination Effects
  - Conclusions
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The AA Screening Report concluded, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed development, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, has the potential to give rise to impacts which would constitute significant effects on three European sites, River Moy SAC, Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA and the Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC in view of their Conservation Objectives.

Mayo County Council, having considered the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report, agrees with the conclusions and recommendations set out in the AA Screening Report and Mayo County Council has determined that the proposed development, N26 Ballina Bypass Phase 1 project, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, has the potential to give rise to impacts which could constitute significant effects on three European sites, River Moy SAC Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA and the Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC in view of their Conservation Objectives and that it is necessary to proceed to Stage 2 'Appropriate Assessment' and the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement (NIS).

Dated this 13<sup>th</sup> day of DECEMBER, 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Dolan', written over a horizontal line.

**Paul Dolan**  
**Head of Roads**