



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 21 November 2022

## Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

### Overview

Project Name:	N25 New Ross Bypass PPP
Project Number:	2014-0019
Country:	Ireland
Project Description:	The N25 New Ross Bypass PPP Scheme includes the design, build, finance, operation and maintenance of sections of both the N25 and N30 routes, comprising approximately 14.3 km of dual carriageway (N25 & N30 routes). The Scheme also includes the design, build and finance (but not the operation and maintenance) of 1.2 km of single carriageway in the N30 route East of Corcoran's Cross' roundabout.

### Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

The project falls under Annex I of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU and an EIA was done in October 2007. A positive Environmental and Planning permit (An Bord Pleanála) was issued in December 2008 by the Competent Authority for the project. In addition the project results from the Wexford County Development Plan 2013 – 2019 and the Regional Planning Guidelines for the South East Region 2010-2022 which fall within the scope of the (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC and therefore, a Strategic Environmental Assessment, has been done.

The main impacts of the project were agriculture and forest land conversion, noise and vibration (2 areas by 8 dB), visual intrusion, and severance of communities and habitats, impacting migration routes and water runoff, archaeological (on six sites) and architectural heritage (8 features).

The project intersects designated conservation area or Natura 2000 area (River Barrow and Nore cSAC – site code 002162) and proposed Natural Heritage Area (estuarine area, Lower River Barrow pNHA - site code 000689). The bridge has three piers with one of the piers falling in the N2000 River. Mitigation measures were planned and implemented for these and other sensitive sites located nearby.

The EIB requested that the Competent Authority provides signed declarations (Forms A/B) regarding the significant impact, as a condition for disbursement against this scheme. This condition was satisfactorily met.

Measures to reduce negative impacts were implemented and consisted of installation of acoustic screens, further inventory gathering, some fencing and landscaping, screens and plantings, animal crossings, and restriction of working practices, drainage works, archaeological works and regular monitoring.

The project has some positive impacts including improved air quality in the town, safety and reduction of urban congestion.

No environmental issues were detected during the Design and Construction phase. All major planning permits have been obtained by the Promoter. All conditions included in the



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environmental permit for the project have been provided and these were fulfilled by the PPP Co during the construction.

### **Social Assessment**

Prior to the construction, all required land was expropriated by the NRA.

In total there were 133 Ha of land (117 Ha of agricultural) including 90 land owners, 5 dwellings and approx. 44 farms (10 dairy, 13 beef, 3 tillage, 17 mixed crops and livestock & 1 horse rearing).

No major outstanding concerns were reported.

### **Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:**

Based on the Promoter's reports, EIB supports the opinion that the project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.