



Inland Waterways Association of Ireland

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Submission to Monaghan County Council in relation to the N2 Clontibret to the Border Road Scheme

Dear Sir,

I write in relation to the N2 Clontibret to the Border Road Scheme ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCREENING & SCOPING REPORT N2-JAC-ENV-C2B-RP-P3-002 | PO1 which we received on 14/10/24.

The Inland Waterways Association of Ireland is a voluntary all Ireland organisation made up of people who share a keen enthusiasm for inland waterways. The IWAI advocates the use, maintenance, protection, restoration and improvement of the inland waterways of Ireland. It was formed in 1954 to promote the development use and maintenance of Ireland's navigable rivers and canals. When the Shannon was almost totally undeveloped for pleasure boating, the IWAI fought the building of low bridges, thus ensuring the development of the river as a national asset. In the 1960s IWAI successfully fought plans to close the Circular Line of the Grand Canal in Dublin. Later the association campaigned for the reopening of what is now the Shannon - Erne Waterway (formerly the Ballinamore & Ballyconnell Canal), the Naas Line of the Grand Canal.

The association is also campaigning for the restoration to full navigability of the Ulster Canal which in former times connected Upper Lough Erne to Lough Neagh via the River Blackwater. Waterways Ireland has already completed the first two sections of this restoration. This waterways is seen as the "missing link" in the Irish inland waterways network in that it would re-join the Shannon and Erne system and the waterways connected to them (Grand Canal, Royal Canal & Barrow Navigation) to Lough Neagh and the waterways connected to it (Upper and Lower Bann, Newry Canal, Lagan Navigation, Coalisland Canal).

IWAI has 24 branches mainly associated with the major navigations across the island. Membership is open to all and we have a special category for junior members. Our membership (2000+) is drawn from all walks of life and from people with a wide range of interests - boating, angling, walking, waterway conservation and restoration, wildlife and environment.

President: Kay Baxter **Executive:** **Vice-President:** John Fitzgerald **Past President:** Alan Kelly
Honorary Secretary: Graham Bartlett **Honorary Treasurer:** Alison Maddock **Membership Sec:** Bríd Joly
Directors: Denis Baker, Colin Becker, Kevin Clabby, Chris McCarney, Darragh Dolan, John Kearns, Steve Kitt
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IWAI is the voice of waterways users and enthusiasts and represents the views of members to governments, Waterways Ireland and other navigation authorities, local authorities and the range of statutory and state-sponsored bodies whose activities affect the waterways in one way or another.

Work parties are organised and funds raised to improve navigations and to restore derelict ones. Current projects include the Boyne Navigation, Newry Canal, Lagan Navigation, Coalisland Canal, Ulster Canal, Coalisland Canal and the Kilbeggan and Corbally lines of the Grand Canal. A project to restore Ram's Island on Lough Neagh is also underway.

IWAI organises a range of water-based events on most of the waterways around the country. Activities range from small boat outings and cruises in company to major boat rallies. Competitions held during rallies help to raise standards of boatmanship, seaworthiness and safety afloat. Canal walks are held on a regular basis and land-based events such as film shows, discussions and lectures are organised on a range of waterways topics including, safety, vessel maintenance, first-aid and waterways heritage.

The association's magazine Inland Waterways News is sent free of charge to all members four times a year. Our web-site (www.iwai.ie) is one of the largest single reference sources for waterways related material in Ireland and a major source of referrals for waterways related businesses.

IWAI notes the preferred route corridor for the above scheme and would make the following observation:

The corridor shown in the map on P11, appears to intersect the canal in the area of Silver Stream, east of Monaghan Town, an area where there are significant intact canal structures. (The map in the document is of insufficient quality to identify the exact location). It is essential that chosen route would not interfere with these existing structures or inhibit in any way the restoration of this waterways in the future.

Should the planned road not take the future restoration of the canal into account, or in any way compromise the built heritage of the canal, IWAI will object to any planning application for the development.

Yours Sincerely

Colin Becker

Director, Inland Waterways Association of Ireland

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