

N63 LISS TO ABBEY REALIGNMENT SCHEME

IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION TO AN BORD PLEANÁLA

FOR APPROVAL OF THE N63 LISS TO ABBEY REALIGNMENT SCHEME

ABP Ref. ABP-312875-22 and ABP-312877-22

ORAL HEARING

Part 3.1 – EIAR and NIS Errata

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Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe Galway County Council





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1 Introduction

The following forms Errata to the published Natura Impact Statement (NIS) and Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for the N63 Liss to Abbey Realignment Scheme (herein referred to as the "Proposed Development"). This Errata has been compiled to reflect corrections following comments submitted by An Bord Pleanála from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Development Applications Unit (DAU) on the EIAR.

2 Outline

This Section outlines how these errata are presented.

The relevant Sections of the EIAR subject to the errata are identified and quoted.

The text is appropriately amended as follows:

- Quoted text is outlined as: "Quoted text"
- Text to be deleted is crossed out: Deleted

Amended text is in bold (red): Amended text

3 Natura Impact Statement Errata

• Page 23, Section 3.1.3 Cumulative Impacts and Effects

Section title is replaced with: Cumulative and In-combination Impacts and Effects

The following text should be deleted:

At the time of writing, no further/other road construction or realignment projects within the ZoI of this Proposed Road Development are in planning or proposed.

And replaced with the following text:

At the time of writing, no further/other construction or realignment projects within the Zol of this Proposed Road Development are in planning or proposed.

Page 21, Section 5.2 Description of any Likely Changes to the Natura 2000 Sites

The following text should be deleted:

Loss	It is not anticipated that the loss of any species of conservation interest will occur as a result of the proposed works due to injury or mortality.
And replaced with the following text:	
Loss	There will be no loss of any species of conservation interest as a result of the proposed works due to injury or mortality.

4 EIAR Volume 1: Non-Technical Summary Errata

4.1 Volume 1 Non-Technical Summary Chapter 5. Description of the Proposed Road Development

• Page NTS-11, Section 5. Traffic Analysis

The following text should be deleted:

Therefore, there are no residual negative traffic effects anticipated.

And replaced with the following text:

Therefore, there will be no residual negative traffic effects.

Page NTS-11, Section 5. Traffic Analysis

The following text should be deleted:

No likely significant negative traffic impacts are anticipated as a result of the Proposed Road Development.

And replaced with the following text:

There will be no likely significant negative traffic impacts as a result of the Proposed Road Development.

4.2 Volume 1 Non-Technical Summary Chapter 13. Landscape and Visual

• Page NTS-23, Section 13 Landscape and Visual

The following text should be deleted:

Including views from the listed Galway County Development (2015-2021) Focal Point 26 at Knockmoy Abbey.

And replaced with the following text:

Including views from the listed Galway County Development Plan (2015-2021) Focal Point 26 at Knockmoy Abbey (Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 came into effect on 20th of June 2022, however it does not have an equivalent viewpoint of this area).

4.3 Volume 1 Non-Technical Summary Chapter 16. Material Assets

Page NTS-28, Section Material Assets

The following text should be deleted:

The significance of effect from the generation and management of solid waste streams arising from the Proposed Road Development is therefore considered to be imperceptible as no significant reduction or alteration in the capacity of waste infrastructure at a national scale is anticipated.

And replaced with the following text:

The significance of effect from the generation and management of solid waste streams arising from the Proposed Road Development is therefore considered to be imperceptible as there will be no significant reduction or alteration in the capacity of waste infrastructure at a national scale.

• Page NTS-28, Section Material Assets

With regards to the permanent acquisition of public road, as the lands are not associated with the property and no access restrictions are anticipated, effects on the existing land use will likely remain permanent, neutral, negligible and imperceptible as the viability of future land use will not be compromised.

And replaced with the following text:

With regards to the permanent acquisition of public road, as the lands are not associated with the property and there will be no access restrictions, effects on the existing land use will likely remain permanent, neutral, negligible, and imperceptible as the viability of future land use will not be compromised.

5 EIAR Volume 2: EIAR Errata

5.1 Volume 2 Chapter 2. Need for the Scheme and Planning Policy Context

Page 2-7, Section 2.2.7 Existing Traffic Issues

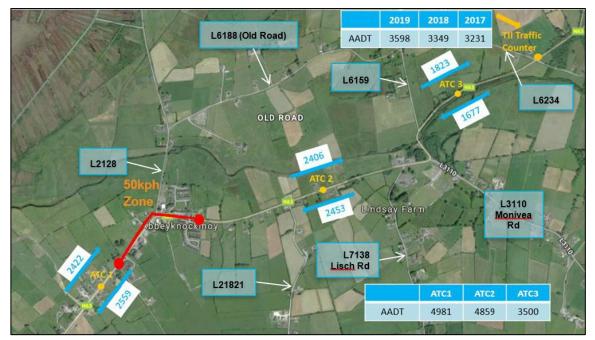
The following text should be deleted:

 Analysis of the traffic survey data indicates that the AADT flow on the N63, at Derreen townland (i.e. at the eastern end of the scheme), North East of Abbeyknockmoy village, in 2019 was 3,500 vehicles per day with 3.6% HGV.

And replaced with the following text:

 Analysis of the traffic survey data indicates that the AADT flow on the N63, at Derreen townland (i.e. at the eastern end of the scheme), North East of Abbeyknockmoy village, in 2019 was 3,600 vehicles per day with 3.6% HGV.

EIAR Figure 2-8 is deleted and replaced with the following which shows label L6234 in the correct location:



Page 2-9, Section 2.2.8, Existing Road Safety Issues

The following text should be deleted:

The accident data is twice that expected and results from the road collisions data shows there have been a number of incidents in the vicinity of the Liss Bridge and along the section of N63 between the community facilities and the residential area.

And replaced with the following text:

The accident data to the west of the existing Liss Bridge is twice that expected and results from the road collisions data shows there have been a number of incidents in the vicinity of the Liss Bridge and along the section of N63 between the community facilities and the residential area.

• Page 2-10, Section 2.2.91 Environment

The following text should be deleted:

The Abbey is a very well-preserved ruin of an important 13th- century Cistercian foundation, with royal patronage and at least one royal burial.

And replaced with the following text:

The Abbey is a very well-preserved ruin of an important 12th- century Cistercian foundation, with royal patronage and at least one royal burial.

• Page 2-16, Section 2.3.2.6 Road Safety Authority Road Safety Strategy 2013 – 2020

The full Section 2.3.2.6 is replaced with the following text:

In October 2020, the Government launched "Programme for Government: Our Shared Future" outlining the policies and objectives over the term of the government. The proposed road

development aims to support the objectives and policies contained within the programme for a partnership government, by continuing "to invest in new roads infrastructure to ensure that all parts of Ireland are connected to each other."

The Programme also seeks to introduce an ambitious road safety strategy targeting the Vision Zero principle;

"Introduce a new road safety strategy focused on reducing death and injuries of vulnerable road users, pedestrians, and cyclists. Prioritise the consolidation of the existing road traffic legislation and use that as an opportunity to rectify any anomalies that may have developed which hinder appropriate enforcement."

The Proposed Road Development will directly assist this Programme by improving this important rural section of the national road network.

The Road Safety Authority (RSA) Road Safety Strategy 2021 – 2030, sets outs targets to be achieved in terms of road safety in Ireland as well as policy to achieve these targets. The government has adopted Vision Zero in the Programme for Government 2020 which underpins the EU Road Safety Policy Framework (2021–2030):

"At the core of the 2021–2030 strategy is our aim to achieve Vision Zero in Ireland by 2050. Vision Zero is an overarching, international, long-term goal aimed at the eventual elimination of deaths and serious injuries in road traffic collisions, with the focus of achieving not just fewer but zero deaths and serious injuries. In best practice, Vision Zero is supported by time-limited targets and performance indicators to reduce deaths and serious injuries. These targets and indicators are then used to drive effective, multi-sectoral interventions provided through enhanced mechanisms of delivery."

The primary target set out in the strategy is set out with:

"....the aim of achieving Vision Zero by 2050 in Ireland, the 2021–2030 strategy has set the following targets, in line with the EU and UN targets to reduce fatalities and serious injuries by 50% by 2030. We will reduce deaths on Ireland's roads by 50% from 144 to 72 or lower and reduce serious injuries on Ireland's roads by 50% from 1,259 to 630 or lower."

The long-term trend of previous road safety strategies have shown that roads in Ireland have become significantly safer for road users overall. While the target under the 2013–2020 strategy to reduce deaths from 162 in 2012 to 124 (25 per million population) or fewer in 2020 was not met, overall deaths reduced by 9% during this period.

These strategies have had significant positive progress since the first strategy was introduced in 1998. The challenge for the next strategy will be to further reduce fatalities and serious injuries and to deal with new issues in road safety. As mentioned in Section 2.3.2.5, the government has adopted Vision Zero in the Programme for Government 2020.

The principles of the proposed road development will support the proposed road safety strategy by providing essential transport infrastructure to meet these demands and ensure improved facilities are provided. This will reduce the levels of traffic congestion on the road network in proximity to the existing Liss Bridge, providing a corresponding reduction in collisions along this link. By segregating a significant proportion of the regional traffic and the local traffic there will be less chance of conflict between these two types of road users. In addition, the proposed road development will be compliant with the current design standards, which will help improve road safety through enhanced VRU provision.

5.2 Volume 2 Chapter 4. Description of the Proposed Road Development

• Page 4-21, Section 4.6.4.1 Pre-Construction Works

The following text should be deleted:

Archaeological investigation works, including testing and any follow-on resolution works, will be undertaken prior to the main works contract commencing onsite.

And replaced with the following text:

Ancillary engineering, ecological and environmental surveys, including ground investigations and water monitoring, and archaeological investigation works, including testing and any follow-on resolution works, will be undertaken prior to the main works contract commencing onsite.

5.3 Volume 2 Chapter 6. Population and Human Health

• Page 6-17, Section 6.6.1.2 Community Severance

The following text should be deleted:

Therefore, it is not expected that the additional construction traffic will result in any congestion considerable enough to deter local residents from accessing the workplaces, educational facilities, or community facilities which they use.

And replaced with the following text:

Therefore, the additional construction traffic will not result in any congestion considerable enough to deter local residents from accessing the workplaces, educational facilities, or community facilities which they use.

• Page 6-18, Section 6.6.1.4.1 Access to Healthcare Services and Other Social Infrastructure

The following text should be deleted:

In addition, the additional traffic as a result of the construction works is not expected to lead to an increase in congestion which will affect users' ability to access these resources, as the impact of the construction traffic on the surrounding road network is considered to result in a negligible effect (as outlined in Chapter 05 Traffic Analysis).

And replaced with the following text:

In addition, the additional traffic as a result of the construction works will not lead to an increase in congestion which will affect users' ability to access these resources, as the impact of the construction traffic on the surrounding road network is considered to result in a negligible effect (as outlined in Chapter 05 Traffic Analysis).

Page 6-23, Section 6.10.1 Land Use and Accessibility

The following text should be deleted:

None of the planning applications listed in Volume 4; Appendix A1-1 are expected to lead to significant effects on either the land use or accessibility to any residential properties and/or community resources in the study area as the majority of the planning applications refer to developments located approximately 1-4 km from the study area.

And replaced with the following text:

None of the planning applications listed in Volume 4; Appendix A1-1 will lead to significant effects on either the land use or accessibility to any residential properties and/or community resources in the study area as the majority of the planning applications refer to developments located approximately 1-4 km from the study area.

• Page 6-23, 6.10.3 Employment

The following text should be deleted:

Therefore, the cumulative effect on employment is not expected to be significant.

And replaced with the following text:

Therefore, the cumulative effect on employment will not be significant.

5.4 Volume 2 Chapter 7. Biodiversity

• Page 7-72, Section 7.7.1.3.7 Mitigation for Birds The following text should be deleted: Vegetation clearance for most areas will be restricted to the period from March to August (inclusive) during the 'nesting season'.

And replaced with the following text:

Vegetation clearance is not permitted during the nesting season (March to August inclusive).

5.5 Volume 2 Chapter 8. Land and Soils

• Page 8-12, Section 8.6.2.8 Changes in Groundwater Levels

The following text should be deleted:

De-watering is not anticipated to be required in association with the section of cut.

And replaced with the following text:

There will be no de-watering required in association with the section of cut.

5.6 Volume 2 Chapter 9. Water

• Page 9-11, Section 9.7.1.2 Sedimentation (Suspended Solids)

The following text should be deleted:

 The Contractor will construct elements of the permanent drainage system as early as practicable, such as the interceptor drains, to facilitate earthworks haul routes and control drainage from the works, to avoid flows onto adjacent land and/or untreated discharges to watercourses.

And replaced with the following text:

 The Contractor will be contractually obliged to construct elements of the permanent drainage system as early as practicable, such as the interceptor drains, to facilitate earthworks haul routes and control drainage from the works, to avoid flows onto adjacent land and/or untreated discharges to watercourses.

5.7 Volume 2 Chapter 10. Air Quality

• Page 10-16, Section 10.6.1 Air Quality Monitoring

The following text should be deleted:

VOCs (including benzene) and CO are not monitored in Zone D and are not expected to be at risk of exceedance in rural areas.

And replaced with the following text:

VOCs (including benzene) and CO are not monitored in Zone D and will not be at risk of exceedance in rural areas.

Page 10-22, Section 10.7.2.2 Calculation of Local Scale Pollutant Concentrations

The following text should be deleted:

The traffic flow on the N63, adjacent to this receptor is not anticipated to change due to the operation of the Proposed Road Development.

And replaced with the following text:

There will be no change to the traffic flow on the N63 adjacent to this receptor due to the operation of the Proposed Road Development.

5.8 Volume 2 Chapter 11. Climate

• Page 11-9, Section 11.4 Limitations and Assumptions

Therefore, presenting operational vehicle use emissions in CO₂ is not anticipated to have a material impact on the outcome of the assessment.

And replaced with the following text:

Therefore, presenting operational vehicle use emissions in CO_2 will not have a material impact on the outcome of the assessment.

• Page 11-12, Section 11.7.2.2 Operational Phase

The following text should be deleted:

However, the difference between CO₂ and CO₂e is considered to be minimal and is not anticipated to have a material impact on the outcome of the assessment.

And replaced with the following text:

However, the difference between CO_2 and CO_2e is considered to be minimal and will not have a material impact on the outcome of the assessment.

• Page 11-14, Section 11.7.2.3 Significance of Effect

The following text should be deleted:

As achieving the required reductions across Ireland's national emissions inventory, including emissions from Ireland's entire transport network, also relies on the success of such policies, it is not anticipated that the residual impacts associated with the Proposed Road Development will have a material impact on the ability of the Irish Government to meet its carbon reduction targets.

And replaced with the following text:

As achieving the required reductions across Ireland's national emissions inventory, including emissions from Ireland's entire transport network, also relies on the success of such policies, there will be no material impact on the ability of the Irish Government to meet its carbon reduction targets from the residual impacts associated with the Proposed Road Development,

5.9 Volume 2 Chapter 12. Noise & Vibration

• Page 12-11, Section 12.4 Limitations and Assumptions

The following text should be deleted:

A survey of vibration levels along the corridor of the Proposed Road Development was not undertaken, as levels associated with existing roads would not be expected to be of a magnitude sufficient to cause disturbance to people or structural damage to property.

And replaced with the following text:

A survey of vibration levels along the corridor of the Proposed Road Development was not undertaken, as levels associated with existing roads will not be of a magnitude sufficient to cause disturbance to people or structural damage to property.

• Page 12-17, Section 12.6.1.2 Construction Vibration

The following text should be deleted:

Considering the low vibration levels at very close distances to the piling rigs, vibration levels at the nearby sensitive buildings are not expected to pose any significance in terms of cosmetic or structural damage in proximity to the development works.

And replaced with the following text:

Considering the low vibration levels at very close distances to the piling rigs, vibration levels at the nearby sensitive buildings will not pose any significance in terms of cosmetic or structural damage in proximity to the development works.

5.10 Volume 2 Chapter 16. Material Assets

• Page 16-16, Section 16.5.2.2.1 Permanent Land Acquisition

The following text should be deleted:

As the lands are not associated with the property and no access restrictions are expected, it is anticipated that effects on the existing land use will be permanent, neutral and negligible on an existing environment of low sensitivity as the viability of future land use will not be compromised; therefore, the significance of effect is considered imperceptible.

And replaced with the following text:

As the lands are not associated with the property and there will be no access restrictions, it is anticipated that effects on the existing land use will be permanent, neutral and negligible on an existing environment of low sensitivity as the viability of future land use will not be compromised; therefore, the significance of effect is considered imperceptible.

• Page 16-26, 16.9.2 Infrastructure: Land Use and Property

The following text should be deleted:

None of the planning applications listed in planning applications outlined in Volume 4; Appendix A1-1 are expected to lead to significant effects on the land use or properties in the study area as the majority of the planning applications refer to developments located approximately 1-4 km from the study area.

And replaced with the following text:

None of the planning applications listed in planning applications outlined in Volume 4; Appendix A1-1 will lead to significant effects on the land use or properties in the study area as the majority of the planning applications refer to developments located approximately 1-4 km from the study area.

5.11 Volume 2 Chapter 18. Interactions

Page 18-8, Section 18.3.1 Land and Soil

The following text should be deleted:

De-watering is not anticipated to be required in association with the section of cut.

And replaced with the following text:

There will be no de-watering required in association with the section of cut.

Page 18-14, Section 18.5.2 Land and Soil

The following text should be deleted:

As such, likely significant effects on receiving land and soils environment are not anticipated.

And replaced with the following text:

As such, there will be no likely significant effects on receiving land and soils environment.

6 EIAR Volume 2 corrections in relation to the adopted Galway

County Council Development Plan 2022-2028

The Environment Impact Assessment Report has been reviewed in regard to the new Galway County Council Development Plan 2022-2028 and the Proposed Development is in full compliance with the policies outlined within it. Volumes 1 as well as Volume 2 have been reviewed, and the following sections and policies below have been corrected.

6.1 Chapter 2. Need for the Scheme and Planning Policy Context

• Page 2-11, Section 2.3 Policy Review

- Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021
- Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028

And replaced with the following text:

- Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028
- Page 2-19, Section 2.3.4.1 Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021

The text under this section is deleted and replaced with Section 2.3.4.2 Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028.

• Page 2-23, Section 2.3.4.2 Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028.

The text under this section is deleted and replaced with the following:

A County Development Plan (CDP) is a requirement by law, for every planning authority in Ireland to set out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) has stated under Section 27(1);

"A planning authority shall ensure, when making a development plan or local area plan, that the plan is consistent with the regional spatial economic strategy in force for its area"

A primary aim of the CDP is to promote, guide and enforce high quality standards of development for urban and rural areas throughout the county. With the general emphasis to enhance the quality of life, environment, community, and economy that supports the sustainable development of each county.

The most relevant local level policy is the extant Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 (CDP) (GCC, 2022). In view of recent implementation of new policies on a national and regional level as referred to in Section 2.3.2 and 2.3.3, the CDP states to have considered these changes associated with these overarching policy frameworks in Ireland (GCC, 2022). The relevant national and regional objectives level have been developed further and translated into local objectives through the CDP. This CDP has been prepared in accordance with Sections 11 and 12 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

The overall vision of the CDP 2022-2028 aims to;

"Promote the creation of an attractive county to live, work, visit and enable businesses to flourish in an environment that offers a range of housing options, robust and diverse range of employment opportunities, access to quality infrastructure and community facilities with a high-quality sustainable environment for all."

A list of relevant policy objectives to the Proposed Road Development from the CDP are highlighted in Table 2-3.

Of further importance, Chapter 6 (Transport and Movement) of the CDP, sets out to;

"To encourage investment and improvements across all sectors of transport that will support targeted population, economic growth and more sustainable modes of travel including, walking, cycling and public transport."

The CDP has issued the Strategic Transport Network as seen in in Figure 2-12. This visually highlights the on-going intentions of GCC.

As stated in Policy Objective PRP 1 in Table 2-5, and summarised below;

"Galway County Council will facilitate the progression of the necessary infrastructure improvements including new roads/projects listed in Table 6.1: Priority Transportation Infrastructure Projects for County Galway 2022-2028 and those listed within Table 6.2: Regional/Local Projects Proposed for 2022-2028..."

The Proposed Road Development transverses land considered greenfield and predominantly rural in nature. The closest settlement is Abbeyknockmoy, County Galway. In the tiers set out in the hierarchy of towns, villages and settlements, Abbeyknockmoy is categorised as 'Rural Settlements'. For this settlement category, the CDP established Objective SS7 – Development of Rural Settlements and Rural Nodes:

"In the case of smaller settlements for which no specific plans are available, development shall be considered on the basis of its connectivity, capacity (including social, cultural, and economic, infrastructural and environmental capacity) and compliance with the Core Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy, good design, community gain and proper planning and sustainable development"

Figure 2-12 highlights the proximity to Tuam, which the CDP identifies as a Key Town. In addition, the CDP has listed Objective SS2 – Key Towns:

"Recognise the Key Towns of Ballinasloe and Tuam as important drivers of growth in the County and support their sustainable development in line with the Core Strategy, in order to sustain their commercial core, retain their population and accommodate additional population and commercial growth."

Table 6.2 of the CDP refers to regional/local projects proposed for 2022-2028. As shown in Figure 2-12, the Proposed Road Development is considered a regional road, of relevance, its further states that; "*Local and regional road networks within the County*", have an objective to; "*Continue strengthening, improvements and realignment work where necessary, to these networks*". The Proposed Road Development will greatly enhance the existing regional and local level linkages, by providing improved accessibility and social inclusion to community facilities and to heritage resources.

A primary aim of the CDP is to promote, guide and enforce high quality standards of development for urban and rural areas throughout County Galway. The general emphasis to enhance the quality of life, environment, community and economy in a manner that supports the sustainable development of the entire County. The concept, principles and design process of the Proposed Road Development is considered compliant with the policies and objectives set out in the CDP.

Table 2-3 Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021, Strategic Aims of the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021 is deleted.

• Page 2-27, Section 2.5 References

The following text should be deleted:

- GCC. (2015) Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021, Galway County Council.
- GCC. (2021) Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028, Galway County Council.

And replaced with the following text:

• GCC (2022) Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028, Galway County Council.

6.2 Chapter 3. Consideration of Alternatives

• Page 3-2, Section 3.2 Project Constraints Study

The following text should be deleted:

A number of policies and objectives are outlined within both the Galway County Development Plan 2015 – 2021 and the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 that support the preservation of national and recorded monuments and their setting such as objectives ARC 1 and ARC 7 of the Galway County Development Plan 2015 – 2021 and policy objectives ARC 4 and ARC 9 of the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028.

And replaced with the following text:

A number of policies and objectives are outlined within the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 that support the preservation of national and recorded monuments and their setting, such as policy objectives ARC 4 and ARC 9 of the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028.

• Page 3-2, Section 3.2 Project Constraints Study

The following objective should be deleted as it does not exist in the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028:

"Objective ARC 1 Protection of Archaeological Sites: Protect archaeological sites and monuments their settings and visual amenity and archaeological objects and underwater archaeological sites that are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places, in the ownership/guardianship of the State, or that are subject of Preservation Orders or have been registered in the Register of Historic Monuments and seek to protect important archaeological landscapes;

6.3 Chapter 4. Description of the Proposed Road Development

• Page 4-2, Section 4.3 Summary of the Proposed Road Development

The following text should be deleted:

The Proposed Road Development will facilitate a number of objectives in the Galway County Development Plan (2015-2021), including the provision of higher-quality national roads and the separation of a significant proportion of regional and local traffic.

And replaced with the following text:

The Proposed Road Development will facilitate a number of objectives in the Galway County Development Plan (2022-2028), including the maintenance, enhancement and safe operation of road networks.

6.4 Chapter 6. Population and Human Health

Page 6-2, Section 6.3.2 Data Sources

The following text should be deleted:

 Relevant planning documents including the local and county development plans including Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021.

And replaced with the following text:

- Relevant planning documents such as the local and county development plans, including Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028.
- Page 6-8, Section 6.5.1.1 Overview

The following text should be deleted:

Abbeyknockmoy is defined in the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021 settlement hierarchy as; settlement and countryside.

And replaced with the following text:

Abbeyknockmoy is defined in the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 settlement hierarchy as; *Rural Settlements*.

6.5 Chapter 7. Biodiversity

• Page 7-3, Section 7.2.1.5.2 Other Plans

The following text should be deleted:

Galway County Development Plan (GCDP) 2015 2021

A Draft Galway County Development Plan (Draft CDP) 2022 2028 has been prepared by Galway County Council. The Draft CDP has not yet been adopted, however has been on public display and available for public consultation from the 20th May 2021 to the 30th July 2021. The adoption of the Draft CDP is required to be completed by May 2022. Reference should be made to Chapter 02 Need for the Scheme and Planning Policy Context for a summary of these plans.

And replaced with the following text:

- Galway County Development Plan (GCDP) 2022-2028
- Page 7-83, Section 7.10.5.3 Galway County Development Plan

A strategic aim of the plan is to prioritise development within the Hub town of Tuam, the Galway Metropolitan Area, Ballinasloe, the key towns and smaller towns, villages and settlements within the County, while supporting the role of the rural areas in sustaining the rural based economy (GCC, 2015, 2015a, 2018).

And replaced with the following text:

A strategic aim of the plan is to support the development of Key Towns such as Tuam as well as the maintenance of rural economy and population through a sustainable approach (GCDP, 2022).

• Page 7-92, Section 7.11 References

The following text should be deleted:

 Galway County Council, (2015). Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021. Galway County Council.

And replaced with the following text:

• Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028. Galway County Council.

6.6 Chapter 10. Air Quality

Page 10-3, Section 10.2.5.1 Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021

The text under this section is deleted and replaced with Section 10.2.5.2 Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028.

• Page 10-3, Section 10.2.5.2 Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028

The following text should be deleted:

In May 2021 GCC published the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 for public consultation. The Draft Plan sets out a range of proposed policy objectives for sustainable and environmentally sensitive development up to 2028.

Section 7.9 of the Draft Plan includes a range of policies specific to Environmental Protection, including Air Quality. Air Quality policy objectives include:

And replaced with the following text:

The Galway County Development Plan sets out the Council's proposed policies and objectives for the development of the County over the Plan period of 2022 to 2028 (GCC, 2022). The Development Plan seeks to develop and improve, in a sustainable manner, the social, economic, environmental, and cultural assets of the County.

Section 7.9 of the Plan includes a range of policies specific to Environmental Protection, including Air Quality. Air Quality policy objectives include:

6.7 Chapter 11. Climate

• Page 11-19, Section 11.13 References

The following text should be deleted:

- GCC. (2015) Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021, Galway County Council.
- GCC. (2019) Draft Climate Adaptation Strategy: Climate Proofing County Galway, Galway
 County Council.

And replaced with the following text:

- GCC. (2022) Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028, Galway County Council.
- GCC. (2019) Climate Adaptation Strategy: Climate Proofing County Galway, Galway County Council.

6.8 Chapter 13. Landscape and Visual

• Page 13-1, Section 13.2 Legislation, Policy, and Guidance

The following text should be deleted:

The Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 has been reviewed for information but has not been considered further due to its draft status

And replaced with the following text:

The Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 came into effect in 2022 and has thus been taken into consideration.

• Page 13-1, Section 13.2 Legislation, Policy, and Guidance

The following text should be deleted:

- Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021;
- Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028;

And replaced with the following text:

- Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028
- Page 13-10, Section 13.5.1 Landscape Character Assessment

The text under this section is deleted and replaced with the following:

The Galway County Development Plan 2022-208 contains supporting document Landscape Character Assessment which identifies the landscape character types, landscape units and landscape sensitivity for the county.

The study area, which lies along the shallow slopes of the Abbert River valley, is characterised by a patchwork field pattern. The existing N63 follows the river from the east along mature treelined riverbanks, before crossing the river at Liss Bridge. Here, at the junction with L3110 are several community facilities including the National School, GAA grounds and St. Bernard's Church, linked via the N63 to Abbeyknockmoy village 1.2 km to the west, from where a linear cluster of residential properties emerges along the south of the existing N63 with views across the low valley to the north.

The study area is located within the Landscape Character Type (LCT) 'Central Galway Complex Landscape Type'. This LCT is described as:

"An extensive plain of grasslands comprising medium-to-large fields with low enclosures and many areas of low stone walls. This area contains the majority of the county's population with associated high levels of rural housing, roads and settlements."; and

"This landscape contains a number of locally elevated lands that offer extensive views as well as local landmarks."

In terms of Landscape Sensitivity, the area of study is located within an area deemed as having Low Sensitivity and therefore "*unlikely to be adversely affected by change*".

There are several cultural heritage aspects to the landscape, including several Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) sites, one national monument under the stewardship of the Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (Knockmoy Abbey; GA058-004001) and one national monument subject to Preservation Order (earthworks and buildings associated with Knockmoy Abbey; GA058-004004). More information on cultural heritage features of the site is included in Chapter 14 - Cultural Heritage.

• Page 13-11, Section 13.6.2.5 Viewpoint 1 – Knockmoy Abbey

Plate 13-1 description corrected as: Landscape Character, Open Fields with Stone Wall Boundaries, Typical of the LCT "Central Galway Complex Landscape Type"

• Page 13-12, Section 13.6.2.6 Viewpoint 2 – Abbeyknockmoy Village

Table 13-3 is deleted.

• Page 13-12, Section 13.5.2 Sensitive Landscape Elements

The following text should be deleted:

The landscape sensitivity and landscape value of both LCAs in the study area outlined above have been ranked as below in Table 13-3.

As outlined in the "Landscape and Landscape Character Assessment", which forms part of the current Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021, landscape values were derived by consideration of environmental and cultural benefits; for example, aesthetics, historical and socioeconomic.

The sensitivity of a landscape to development and therefore to change will vary according to its character and to the importance which is attached to any combination of landscape values. The sensitivity value of the character area was derived by consideration of designations including Special Protection Areas (SPA), Natural Heritage Areas (NHA) and National Parks.

• Page 13-13, Section 13.5.5 Determination of Sensitive Receptors

The following text should be deleted:

The majority of the northern section of the study area is located within a designated focal point/view (No. 26) as identified in the Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021. The protected focal point/view is associated with the Abbey, located in the north west section of the study area.

Page 13-20, Section 13.6.2.3 Landscape Effects

The following text should be deleted:

The Proposed Road Development is located within an area of Low Sensitivity and Low Value (Galway County Development Plan).

And replaced with the following text:

The Proposed Road Development is located within an area of Low Sensitivity (Galway County Development Plan).

• Page 13-21, Section 13.6.2.3 Landscape Effects

The following text in Table 13-4 Summary of Landscape Effects should be deleted as LCA1 & LCA2 no longer exist:

LCA 1 Northeau Galway (Propose Road Developmen contained within this LCA)	ed ht	Low	Medium	Direct & Indirect	Slight Adverse (localised effects)	
LCA 2 East Central Galway	Low	Low	Medium	Direct & Indirect	Slight Adverse (localised effects)	
And replaced with the following text:						
Central Galway	Low	Low	Medium	Direct &	Slight Adverse	

Central GalwayLowMediumDirect &Slight AdverseComplexIndirectIndirect(localisedLandscapeeffects)

• Page 13-32, Section 13.6.2.13 Effects on Focal Points and Views

This section should be deleted.

• Page 13-36, Section 13.8.1 Residual Landscape Effects

The following text in Table 13-4 Summary of Landscape Effects should be deleted:

LCA 1 - Northeast Low	Low	Medium	Slight Adverse	Slight Neutral
Galway				

LCA 2 – East	Low	Low	Medium	Slight Adverse	Slight Neutral
Central Galway					

And replaced with the following text:

Central Galway	Low	Low	Medium	Slight adverse	Slight Neutral
Complex					
Landscape					

• Page 13-40, Section 13.12 References

The following text should be deleted:

- Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021.
- Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028

And replaced with the following text:

• Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028

6.9 Chapter 14. Cultural Heritage

• Page 14-1, Section 14.2 Legislation, Policy and Guidance

The following text should be deleted:

Galway County Development Plan 2015 - 2021 (GCC, 2015);

And replaced with the following text:

- Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 (GCC, 2022).
- Page 14-2, Section 14.2.1.1 Galway County Development Plan 2015 2021

The following Policies and Objectives should be deleted and replaced as per the current CDP 2022-2028:

- Policy GH 2 is replaced with: CUH 1 Cultural heritage Protect and promote the cultural heritage assets and the intangible cultural heritage assets of County Galway as important social and economic assets.
- Policy GH 4 is replaced with: AH 9 Local Landscape and Place Assessment To support proposals from local communities including Tidy Town Committees, Chambers of Commerce and residents' groups in analysing the character of their place and promoting its regeneration for their own use and enjoyment and that of visitors to the area.
- Policy ARC 1 is replaced with: ARC 1 Legislative Context Support and promote the preservation, conservation and appropriate management and enhancement of the County's archaeological sites and monuments, together with the settings of these monuments, having regard to the legislative, statutory and policy provisions relevant to the conservation of the archaeological heritage.
- Policy ARC 2 is replaced with: ARC 2 Archaeological Sites Seek to encourage and promote awareness of and access to archaeological heritage of the County for all, through the provision of information to landowners and the community generally, in co-operation with statutory and other partners.
- Policy ARC 6 is replaced with: ARC 3 Archaeological Landscapes To facilitate where possible the identification of important archaeological landscapes in the County.
- Objective ARC 1 is replaced with ARC 4 Protection of Archaeological Sites Protect archaeological sites and monuments their settings and visual amenity and archaeological objects and underwater archaeological sites that are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places, in the ownership/guardianship of the State, or that are subject of Preservation Orders or have been registered in the Register of Historic Monuments, or that are newly discovered and seek to protect important archaeological landscapes.

- Objective ARC 2 is replaced with: ARC 5 Development Management All planning applications for new development, redevelopment, any ground works, refurbishment, and restoration, etc. within areas of archaeological potential or within close proximity to Recorded Monuments or within the historic towns of County Galway will take account of the archaeological heritage of the area and the need for archaeological mitigation.
- Objective ARC 3 is replaced with: ARC 4 Protection of Archaeological Sites (described above)
- Objective ARC 6 is replaced with: ARC 8 Underwater Archaeological Sites To protect and preserve the archaeological value of underwater archaeological sites and associated features. In assessing proposals for development, the Council will take account of the potential underwater archaeology of rivers, lakes, intertidal and subtidal locations.
- Objective ARC 7 is replaced with: ARC 9 Recorded Monuments Ensure that any development in the immediate vicinity of a Recorded Monument is sensitively designed and sited and does not detract from the monument or its visual amenity.
- Policy AH 1 is replaced with: AH 1 Architectural Heritage Ensure the protection of the architectural heritage of County Galway which is a unique and special resource, having regard to the policy guidance contained in the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines 2011 (and any updated/superseding document).
- Objective AH 1 replaced with: AH 1 Architectural Heritage (described above)
- Objective AH 2 is replaced with: AH 2 Protected Structures (Refer to Appendix 6) (a) Ensure the protection and sympathetic enhancement of structures including their curtilage and attendant grounds included and proposed for inclusion in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) that are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest, together with the integrity of their character and setting. (continues).
- Objective AH 5 is replaced with: AH 2 Protected Structures (Refer to Appendix 6) (f) Prohibit development proposals, either in whole or in part, for the demolition of protected structures, save in exceptional circumstances; and AH 4 Architectural Conservation Areas (Refer to Appendix 7) (a) Protecting all buildings, structures, groups of structures, sites, landscapes and all features which contribute to the special character of the ACA from demolition and non-sympathetic alterations.
- Objective AH 6 is replaced with: AH 6 Vernacular Architecture Recognise the importance of the contribution of vernacular architecture to the character of a place and ensure the protection, retention and appropriate revitalisation and reuse of the vernacular built heritage including structures that contribute to landscape and townscape character and resist the demolition of these structures.

The following policies are no longer applicable to the current CDP 2022-2028 and should be removed:

- Policy GH 1 Conserve, protect and enhance the special character of the County as defined by its natural heritage and biodiversity, its built environment, landscape and cultural, social and sporting heritage;
- Policy GH 3 Implement the legislative provisions of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), which offers protection to the architectural, archaeological and natural heritage
- Policy ARC 3 Consultation: Consult with the National Monuments Service of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in relation to Proposed Developments adjoining archaeological sites.
- Policy ARC 4 Management of Archaeological Sites and Monuments: Support the preservation, conservation and management of archaeological sites and monuments, together with the settings of these monuments.
- Policy ARC 5 Archaeological Heritage: Ensure the protection and sympathetic enhancement of archaeological heritage in the plan area, in particular by implementing the relevant provisions of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), The National

Monuments Act, 1930 (as amended), and The National Policy on Town Defences, 2008 (Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government).

7 NIS & EIAR Volume 1 & 2 corrections in relation to EPA

Guidelines

The Natura Impact Statement and the Environment Impact Assessment Report (Volumes 1 & 2) have been reviewed in regard to the updated EPA Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Assessment Reports (2022). The following sections have been corrected.

• NIS, Page 4, Section 1.3.1 Zone(s) of Influence and Study Areas

The following text should be deleted:

It is also important to acknowledge, as per draft EPA guidance (EPA, 2017) "that the absence of a designation or documented feature does not mean that no such feature exists within the site".

And replaced with the following text:

It is also important to acknowledge, as per EPA guidance (EPA, 2022) "that the absence of a designation or documented feature does not mean that no such feature exists within the site".

• EIAR Volume 2, Page 6-1, Section 6.2 Legislation, Policy and Guidance

The following text should be deleted:

- 'Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements' (EPA, 2002);
- Page 9-17, Section 9.12 References

The following text should be deleted:

- EPA. (2002). EPA Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements. Environmental Protection Agency, Co. Wexford, Ireland.
- EIAR Volume 2, Page 17-1, Section 17-2 Legislation, Policy and Guidance

The following text should be deleted:

This chapter is prepared having regard to the standard guidelines for environmental assessment published by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2002, 2003 and draft guidelines published in 2015 and 2017.

And replaced with the following text:

This chapter is prepared having regard to the standard guidelines for environmental assessment published by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2022.

EIAR Volume 2, Page 17-14, Section 17.12 References

- EPA. (2002). EPA Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements. Environmental Protection Agency, Co. Wexford, Ireland.
- EPA. (2015a). Revised Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements, Draft September 2015, Environmental Protection Agency, Co. Wexford, Ireland.
- EIAR Volume 2: Across all following locations, all mentions of the "EPA Draft Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Assessment Reports (2017)" are replaced with "EPA Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Assessment Reports (2022)".
 - Page 1-2, Section 1.3 EIA Legislation and Guidance
 - Page 1-20, Section 1.7 References
 - Page 5-1, Section 5.2 Legislation, Policy and Guidance
 - Page 5-8, Section 5.3.8 Determination of Sensitive Receptors
 - Page 5-21, Section 5.11 References

- Page 6-1, Section 6.2 Legislation, Policy and Guidance
- Page 6-3, Section 6.3.4 Determination of Sensitive Receptors
- Page 6-5, Section 6.3.5.4 Human Health
- Page 6-7, Section 6.3.6 Significance of Effect
- Page 6-28. Section 6.12 References
- Page 7-3, Section 7.2.1.6 Guidance
- Page 7-5, Section 7.3.1 Zone(s) of Influence and Study Areas
- Page 7-92, Section 7.11 References
- Page 8-1, Section 8.2 Legislation, Policy and Guidance
- Page 8-3, Section 8.3.3 Determination of Sensitive Receptors
- Page 8-20, Section 8.12 References
- Page 9-1, Section 9.2 Legislation, Policy and Guidance
- Page 9-2, Section 9.3.3 Determination of Sensitive Receptors
- Page 9-17, Section 9.12 References
- Page 10-4, Section 10.3.1 Overall Approach
- Page 10-32, Section 10.13 References
- Page 11-16, Section 11.10 Residual Impacts and Effects
- Page 12-2, Section 12.2 Legislation, Policy and Guidance
- Page 12-7, Section 12.3.4 Describing Potential Effects
- Page 12-30, Section 12.12 References
- Page 13-1, Section 13.2 Legislation, Policy, and Guidance
- Page 13-5, Section 13.3.4.3 Determination of Potential Effects
- Page 13-40, Section 13.12 References
- Page 14-1, Section 14.2 Legislation, Policy and Guidance
- Page 14-4, Section 14.3.3 Determination of Sensitive Receptors
- Page 14-6, Section 14.3.4.1 Criteria for Assessing the Magnitude of Effect
- Page 14-29, Section 14.12 References
- Page 15-2, Section 15.2 Legislation, Policy and Guidance
- Page 16-1, Section 16.1 Introduction
- Page 16-2, Section 16.2.1 Utilities, Land Use and Property
- Page 16-28, Section 16.11 References
- Page 17-1, Section 17-2 Legislation, Policy and Guidance
- Page 17-14, Section 17.12 References
- EIAR Volume 2: Across all following locations, all mentions of the "EPA Draft Guidelines" are replaced with "EPA Guidelines".
 - Page 1-8, Section 1.4.2.1 Screening
 - Page 1-9, Section 1.4.2.1 Scoping
 - Page 1-10, Section 1.4.2.3 General Approach to Assessment
 - Page 1-11, Section 1.4.2.3.2 Determining Impacts and Effects
 - Page 1-11, Section 1.4.2.3.3 Classifying Significance
 - Page 1-12, Section 1.4.2.3.5 Residual Impacts and Effects
 - Page 1-13, Section 1.5 Structure of the EIAR
 - Page 3-3, Section 3.3 'Do-Nothing' Alternative
 - Page 5-8, Section 5.3.8 Determination of Sensitive Receptors
 - Page 5-9, Section 5.3.9 Describing Potential Effects
 - Page 5-9, Section 5.3.10 Significance of Effects
 - Page 6-5, Section 6.3.5.3 Employment
 - Page 6-5, Section 6.3.5.4 Human Health
 - Page 6-7, Section 6.3.6 Significance of Effect
 - Page 6-22, Section 6.8 Residual Impacts and Effects
 - Page 7-5, Section 7.3.1 Zone(s) of Influence and Study Areas
 - Page 7-14, Section 7.3.5.1 Baseline Conditions
 - Page 7-14, Section 7.3.5.2 Valuing Ecological Features
 - Page 7-15, Section 7.3.5.3 Potential Impacts
 - Page 7-15, Table 7-5
 - Page 7-16, Section 7.3.5.4 Determining Effect Significance
 - Page 7-80, Section 7.8 Residual Impacts and Effects
 - Page 8-2, Section 8.3.3 Determination of Sensitive Receptors

- Page 8-4, Section 8.3.4 Describing Potential Effects
- Page 8-5, Section 8.3.5 Significance of Effects
- Page 8-16, Section 8.8 Residual Impacts and Effects
- Page 9-2, Section 9.3.3 Determination of Sensitive Receptors
- Page 9-3, Section 9.3.4 Describing Potential Effects
- Page 9-4, Section 9.3.5 Significance of Effects
- Page 9-6, Section 9.5.11 Summary of Baseline Conditions
- Page 9-13, Section 9.8 Residual Impacts and Effects
- Page 10-6, Section 10.3.5 Describing Potential Effects
- Page 10-10, Section 10.4.1 Human Receptors
- Page 10-11, Section 10.4.1 Human Receptors
- Page 10-30, Section 10.10 Residual Impacts and Effects
- Page 12-7, Section 12.3.4 Describing Potential Effects
- Page 12-8, Section 12.3.5 Significance of Effect
- Page 12-17, Section 12.6 Assessment of Impacts
- Page 12-22, Section 12.6 Assessment of Impacts
- Page 14-22, Section 14.8 Residual Impacts and Effects
- Page 15-23, Section 15.9 Residual Impacts and Effects
- Page 16-3, Section 16.2.2.4 Guidance
- Page 16-4, Section 16.3.3 Determination of Sensitive Receptors
- Page 16-6, Section 16.3.4 Describing Potential Effects
- Page 16-7, Section 16.3.5 Significance of Effect
- Page 16-23, Section 16.8 Residual Impacts and Effects
- Page 17-4, Section 17.3.5 Significance of Effect
- Page 17-4, Table 17-4
- Page 17-11, Section 17.8 Residual Impacts and Effects
- EIAR Volume 2: Across all following locations, all mentions of the source "(EPA, 2017)" are replaced with "(EPA, 2022)".
 - Page 1-3, Section 1.4.1 Consultation
 - Page 1-8, Section 1.4.2.1 Screening
 - Page 1-9, Section 1.4.2.1 Scoping
 - Page 1-11, Section 1.4.2.3.2 Determining Impacts and Effects
 - Page 1-11, Section 1.4.2.3.3 Classifying Significance
 - Page 1-12, Section 1.4.2.3.5 Residual Impacts and Effects
 - Page 1-13, Section 1.5 Structure of the EIAR
 - Page 5-9, Section 5.3.9 Describing Potential Effects
 - Page 5-9, Section 5.3.10 Significance of Effects
 - Page 6-4, Section 6.3.5 Describing Potential Effects
 - Page 6-5, Section 6.3.5.3 Employment
 - Page 6-22, Section 6.8 Residual Impacts and Effects
 - Page 7-3, Section 7.2.1.6 Guidance
 - Page 7-5, Section 7.3.1 Zone(s) of Influence and Study Areas
 - Page 7-14, Section 7.3.5.1 Baseline Conditions
 - Page 7-14, Section 7.3.5.2 Valuing Ecological Features
 - Page 7-15, Section 7.3.5.3 Potential Impacts
 - Page 7-15, Table 7-5
 - Page 7-16, Section 7.3.5.4 Determining Effect Significance
 - Page 7-16, Table 7-6
 - Page 7-80, Section 7.8 Residual Impacts and Effects
 - Page 8-2, Section 8.3.3 Determination of Sensitive Receptors
 - Page 8-4, Section 8.3.4 Describing Potential Effects
 - Page 9-2, Section 9.3.3 Determination of Sensitive Receptors
 - Page 9-3, Section 9.3.4 Describing Potential Effects
 - Page 9-4, Section 9.3.5 Significance of Effects
 - Page 9-6, Section 9.5.11 Summary of Baseline Conditions
 - Page 10-6, Section 10.3.5 Describing Potential Effects
 - Page 10-11, Section 10.4.1 Human Receptors
 - Page 10-11, Section 10.4.1 Human Receptors

- Page 10-30, Section 10.10 Residual Impacts and Effects
- Page 11-16, Section 11.10 Residual Impacts and Effects
- Page 12-7, Section 12.3.4 Describing Potential Effects
- Page 12-8, Section 12.3.5 Significance of Effect
- Page 12-17, Section 12.6 Assessment of Impacts
- Page 12-22, Section 12.6 Assessment of Impacts
- Page 14-22, Section 14.8 Residual Impacts and Effects
- Page 15-23, Section 15.9 Residual Impacts and Effects
- Page 16-3, Section 16.2.2.4 Guidance
- Page 16-4, Section 16.3.3 Determination of Sensitive Receptors
- Page 16-6, Section 16.3.4 Describing Potential Effects
- Page 16-7, Section 16.3.5 Significance of Effect
- Page 16-23, Section 16.8 Residual Impacts and Effects
- Page 17-4, Section 17.3.5 Significance of Effect
- Page 17-11, Section 17.8 Residual Impacts and Effects
- Across all following locations, the source is amended as EPA Guidelines (EPA, 2022).
 - Page 1-8, Figure 1-2
 - Page 1-12, Figure 1-3
 - Page 6-7, Figure 6-2
 - Page 13-6, Figure 13-1
 - Page 14-6, Table 14-2
 - Page 14-7, Table 14-3
 - Page 17-4, Table 17-4