

N2 Slane Bypass Balloon Test

Proposal to An Bord Pleanála

It is proposed as part of the N2 Slane Bypass Development Consent to use a balloon test to illustrate the proposed bridge in the surrounding environs. A tentative date for this test has been set for Friday 11th and Saturday 12th of March 2011 subject to suitable weather conditions.

Two blimp type balloons (see Figure 1 below) are to be positioned on the north and south bank of the River Boyne at the location of the proposed bridge, approximately 1km east of the existing Slane Bridge. The balloons will be set up to represent 2 possible bridge heights, one at 18m above ground level and a second at 12m above ground level. Balloons for the preferred bridge height (18m) will be set in position between 10am and 1.30pm of each morning and will support a red banner (see Figure 1 below). The balloons will then be set at 12m (lower bridge option) for the afternoon session between 2pm and 5pm of each day and will support a blue banner.

Each balloon is approximately 6.1 m in length and 3.7 m in height. Attached banners are 3.7m in length and 1.2 m in height.

Access has been arranged to view the balloons/blimps at the monument at Knowth and a car park will be opened for visitors to the site. Visiting times for the monument will be between 12pm and 3pm of each day.

Please note that this balloon test is highly dependent on weather conditions, to assist in the steady positioning of the balloons and to provide for good visibility from distances of up to 2.5km.

Any variation to the proposed dates for the test will be advertised on the Meath County Council website www.meathcoco.ie and in the local media.

Figure 1: Illustration of the proposed Balloon/Blimp to be used for the N2 Slane Bypass Balloon Test.

