



**COMHAIRLE CONTAE CILL MHANTAIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) Planning
and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)**

Proposed : Wicklow Port Access Road Link, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Determination

General

AECOM was commissioned by Wicklow County Council to prepare an Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report with regards to the Wicklow Port Access Road Link scheme (herein referred to as 'Wicklow PARL' or the 'Proposed Development'). The Proposed Development involves the construction of a new pedestrian and cycle bridge over the Dublin to Rosslare Railway Line and includes infrastructure such as access lifts and stairs to Wicklow Train Station's platforms, and a new parking and set-down facility to the north of the station.

It is intended to place the plans and particulars for the proposed development on public display in accordance with the requirements of the Part XI of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended).

Legislative Context

In Ireland, the habitats and/or species which are the reason(s) for designation of an SAC are referred to as 'Qualifying Interests' (QI). In relation to SPAs, the bird species for which a particular site is designated are referred to as 'Special Conservation Interests' (SCI). Under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, any plan or project which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site but would be likely to have a significant effect on such a site, either individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, must be subject to an AA of its implications for the SAC/SPA in view of the European site's Conservation Objectives. In Ireland, the requirements of Article 6(3)

are transposed into national law by Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) for planning matters, and by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 in relation to other relevant approvals/consents. Section 177U(1)(4) and (5) provide as follows:

(1) A screening for appropriate assessment of a draft Land use plan or application for consent for proposed development shall be carried out by the competent authority to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if that Land use plan or proposed development, individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the European site.

(4) The competent authority shall determine that an appropriate assessment of a draft Land use plan or a proposed development, as the case may be, is required if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the draft Land use plan or proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site.

(5) "The competent authority shall determine that an appropriate assessment of a draft Land use plan or a proposed development is not required if it can be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the draft Land use plan or proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site."

Section 177T (1)(b) and (2) provides:

(1) In this Part—

(b) A Natura impact statement means a statement, for the purposes of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive of the implications of a proposed development, on its own or in combination with other plans or projects, for one or more than one European site, in view of the conservation objectives of the site or sites.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), a Natura impact report or a Natura impact statement, as the case may be, shall include a report of a scientific examination of evidence and data, carried out by competent persons to identify and classify any implications for one or more than one European site in view of the conservation objectives of the site or sites.

Screening Conclusion

AECOM consultants have concluded the following;

In view of best scientific knowledge and on the basis of objective information in light of the Conservation Objectives of the relevant European Sites, it can be stated beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the Proposed Development will not have a significant effect

on any European site, either individually or in-combination with other plans and projects.

There is consequently no requirement to proceed to the next stage of Appropriate Assessment.

Based on the AA Screening Report prepared by Consultants AECOM dated 23rd September 2024 and for the reasons outlined above, it is recommended that Wicklow County Council accept the Consultants evaluation that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment will not be required for the Wicklow Port Access Road Link, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow

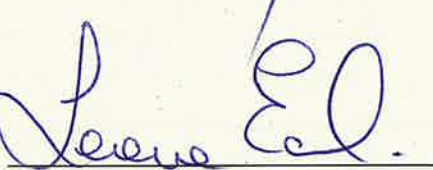
That Wicklow County Council as the competent Authority having considered the AA Screening Report prepared by AECOM Ltd makes a determination that, when considered either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment will not be required for the Wicklow Port Access Road Link, Wicklow Town Co. Wicklow.

Signed:


Michael Flynn
Senior Engineer, Wicklow County Council

Date: 8th October 2024

Signed:


Leonora Earls
Director of Services
Planning, Economic & rural Development

Date: 9th October 2024

