



## Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Determination

for:

### Proposed Variation No. 3 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied)

An Appropriate Assessment Screening determination<sup>1</sup> is being made by Wicklow County Council regarding Proposed Variation No. 3 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied). This determination relates to whether the proposal to make Proposed Variation No. 3 to the Wicklow County Development Plan, as varied, would or would not necessitate the undertaking of Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, as amended).

In carrying out this Screening for AA, the Council is taking into account matters specified under Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), including:

- The AA Screening Report prepared for Proposed Variation No. 3 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied);
- The Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028, including associated Stage 2 AA Natura Impact Report;
- The AA Screening Report and associated determination prepared for Variation No. 1 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028;
- The AA Screening Report and associated determination prepared for Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028; and
- The Draft Blessington Local Area Plan, including associated Stage 2 AA Natura Impact Report.

As identified in the AA Screening Report:

- The Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 was subject to Stage 2 AA, which identified sources for likely significant effects on European Sites and facilitated the integration of measures into the Plan to ensure the appropriate protection and management of European Sites with which all lower tier plans/projects must comply.
- The Draft Blessington Local Area Plan, which itself is being subject to Stage 2 AA, requires compliance with these measures and includes additional such measures that must be complied with. The emerging conclusions of the Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment for the Local Area Plan are in alignment with no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site as a result of the implementation of the Local Area Plan, either alone or in combination with the wider planning framework, including the existing County Development Plan (as varied).
- Following the source-pathway-receptor model, the relevant attributes of European sites were assessed. There is no additional source for any likely significant effect on any European site that would be introduced by Proposed Variation No. 3 that have not already been considered by the Stage 2 AA undertaken for the County Development Plan and/or the emerging Stage 2 AA being undertaken for the Blessington Local Area Plan.
- The findings of each assessment are provided in a Natura Impact Report accompanying each Plan. As there is no additional source for any likely significant effect on any European site that would be introduced by Proposed Variation No. 3, there is no likely significant in combination effect that would result from the implementation of Proposed Variation No. 3.
- Therefore, it is considered that Proposed Variation No. 3 is not foreseen to have any likelihood for any significant effect on any European site, alone or in combination with other plans or

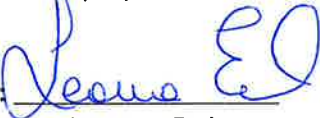
<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and having regard to the requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)

projects – and therefore any potential for a significant effect to any European site as a result of implementing Proposed Variation No. 3 can be ruled out.

The Planning Authority has carefully considered the AA Screening Report and agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusion presented.

It is hereby determined Proposed Variation No. 3 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (as varied) will not give rise to any effects on the ecological integrity of any European Site, alone or in combinations with any other plans, programmes or projects in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species for which these sites have been designated; and that Stage Two AA (including the preparation of a Natura Impact Report) is not required for Proposed Variation No. 3.

The AA Screening process will consider any future amendments to the Proposed Variation or Draft Local Area Plan and such consideration may require subsequent determination by the Council, where amendments are proposed.

**Signatory:** 

Leonora Earls  
Director of Services  
Planning, Economic and Rural Development.

**Date:** 25/10/24