

AA SCREENING DETERMINATION

Waterways Ireland - Heritage & Biodiversity Plan 2030 (April 2025)

The requirement to carry out an Appropriate Assessment (AA) comes from Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. The process aims to determine whether a plan or project, alone or together with other plans and projects, is likely to have significant effects on a European Site(s). This is in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the site(s). European Sites are those identified as sites of European Community importance designated as Special Areas of Conservation under the Habitats Directive or as Special Protection Areas under the Birds Directive.

The above requirement has been implemented in the Republic of Ireland by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2021 and the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2019, as amended.

Waterways Ireland commissioned ARUP Ltd. to undertake an Appropriate Assessment screening to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of any site, whether the proposed Waterways Ireland Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2030 (as described in the Screening Assessment), individually or in combination with other plans or projects are likely to have a significant effect on any European Sites. This has been completed with particular cognisance of the nature of the Plan and the objectives set out therein, in view of the conservation objectives of any European Site.

In accordance with Regulation 42(7) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended, Waterways Ireland as a Public Authority has made a determination, on the basis of the Screening Report prepared by ARUP consultants as qualified and competent authors, that an Appropriate Assessment is not required. This conclusion is determined as the Plan is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European sites and, on the basis of objective information in the field, the Plan, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is not likely to have a significant effect on any European site. This determination is based on the nature and scope of the Plan and its objectives.

Signed:



Daireann McDonnell, Senior Ecologist
Waterways Ireland Environment & Heritage
Section



Paula Treacy
Head of Environment, Heritage, and Sustainability,
Waterways Ireland

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