

AA SCREENING DETERMINATION

Vegetation Maintenance Cutting, Marlborough to Victoria Lock, Co. Offaly

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 2011-2015 and the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2019, as amended.

Waterways Ireland has reviewed the Appropriate Assessment screening for these works, completed by MKO Planning and Environmental Consultants, who were commissioned by the OPW on behalf of the Shannon Flood Risk State Agencies Co-ordination Working Group. As the agency completing the vegetation clearance within and adjacent to the navigation corridor WI has completed an assessment, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the site, as to whether the proposed vegetation clearance individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on any European Sites. In this context, particular attention was paid to the European Sites listed below:

- River Shannon Callows SAC (00216)
- Middle Shannon Callows SPA (004096)

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 following screening that an Appropriate Assessment is not required. This conclusion has determined that the potential for significant effects can be excluded, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, as the proposed vegetation clearance works are not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European sites and on the basis of objective information in the field. This determination is based on the limited extent and small scale of the works, in addition to their short duration.

Signed:



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