

AA SCREENING DETERMINATION

Grand Canal – Maintenance Dredging Works, Daingean, Co. Offaly

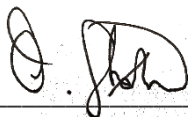
The requirement to carry out an Appropriate Assessment (AA) comes from Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. The process aims to determine whether a plan or project, alone or together with other plans and projects, is likely to have significant effects on a European Site(s). This is in view of best 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 undertaken an Appropriate Assessment screening to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the site, if the proposed dredging works, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on any European Site(s). A number of sites were considered including Raheenmore Bog SAC (Site code: 000582), Split Hills and Long Hill Esker SAC (Site code: 001831), and Charleville Wood SAC (Site code: 000571).

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 is determined as the project 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 works individually or in combination with other plans or projects, are not likely to have a significant effect on the European site(s) listed above. This determination is based on no hydrological pathways for effects to arise to European sites identified within the likely zone of influence (Zoi), the intervening distances to additional European sites, and very slow flows exhibited at the work's location resulting in likely immediate and localised settlement of suspended sediments within the enclosed canal system.

Signed:



Otto Storan, Ecologist
Climate, Environment & Heritage Section
Waterways Ireland
Date: January 14, 2026



Paula Treacy,
Head of Climate, Environment & Heritage
Section, Waterways Ireland
Date: January 14, 2026