

## **AA SCREENING DETERMINATION**

### **Royal Canal – Embankment Repair and Maintenance at Hill of Down, Co. Meath**

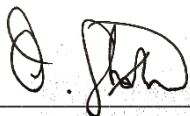
The requirement to carry out an Appropriate Assessment (AA) comes from Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. The process aims to determine whether a plan or project, alone or together with other plans and projects, is likely to have significant effects on a European Site(s). This is in view of best 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 embankment repair works and maintenance works, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on any European Site(s). This has been completed with particular attention to the following European sites:

- Mount Hevey Bog SAC (Site code: 002342)
- River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC (Site code: 002299)
- River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA (Site code: 004232)

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 the distance of separation between the proposed works location and receptors as well as an absence of impact pathways of the proposed works which are located outside of any designated European site.

Signed:



Otto Storan, Ecologist  
Climate, Environment & Heritage Section  
Waterways Ireland  
Date: October 8, 2025



Paula Treacy,  
Head of Climate, Environment & Heritage  
Section, Waterways Ireland  
Date: October 8, 2025