

AA SCREENING DETERMINATION

Shannon Navigation Tree Pruning and Vegetation Maintenance (2026)

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 (2024).

Waterways Ireland has undertaken a Screening for Appropriate Assessment to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the sites, the proposed Shannon Navigation Tree Pruning and Vegetation Maintenance Works, as evaluated in the AA Screening Report prepared by the commissioned consultants (Ayesa, February 2026). This covers individual tree pruning and vegetation cutting at twelve (12) sites along the River Shannon. The sites are divided across the 'North Shannon', i.e. sites that lie north of Lough Ree, and the 'South Shannon', i.e. sites that lie south of Lough Ree. The sites span six counties, namely Leitrim, Roscommon, Longford, Galway, Offaly, and Tipperary. The Assessment considers whether the proposed vegetation maintenance works, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, are likely to have a significant effect on any European Sites. In this context, particular attention was paid to the European Sites hydrologically connected to the River Shannon corridor.

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 proposed Maintenance Works are not directly connected with or necessary for the management of any European sites and, on the basis of objective information in the field, the proposed works, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, are not likely to have a significant effect on the European sites listed above. This determination is based on the limited extent and small scale of the works elements, in addition to the short duration of the individual works elements themselves which are required for the management of the Shannon Navigation.

Signed:



Daireann McDonnell, Senior Ecologist
WI Environment, Heritage and Sustainability
Date: February 6, 2026



Paula Treacy, Section Head
WI Environment, Heritage and Sustainability
Date: February 6, 2026