



**Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) Determination  
pursuant to the Habitats Directive<sup>1</sup> and having regard to requirements  
of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)**

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for:

**Proposed Variation No. 4 to the Carlow County Development Plan 2022-2028**

A Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) determination<sup>2</sup> is being made by Carlow County Council regarding Proposed Variation No. 4 to the Carlow County Development Plan 2022-2028. This determination relates to whether the proposal to make Proposed Variation No. 4 would or would not necessitate the undertaking of Stage 2 AA under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, as amended).

As identified in the accompanying Screening for AA Report:

- The existing Carlow County Development Plan 2022-2028 has already been subject to Stage 2 AA, which concluded that the Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any adverse effect on the integrity of any European Site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects.
- Considering the nature and content of the Proposed Variation No. 4, as discussed above, it does not present any additional source for any likely significant effect on any European site that was not already considered as a result of existing Plan provisions relating to the development of the county as part of the Stage 2 AA (including AA NIR) conducted for the existing Plan. The tailored mitigation measures integrated into the existing Development Plan account for all uses and activities under the changes proposed and their potential effects.
- All lower tier plans/projects proposed within the area to which the Proposed Variation relates will continue to need to demonstrate compliance with the provisions of the existing Development Plan, including these mitigation measures ensuring the appropriate protection of European sites.
- Therefore, it is concluded in this Screening for AA report, that informs the competent authority carrying out the Screening for AA, that Proposed Variation No. 4 is not foreseen to have any likelihood for any significant effects on any European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. Therefore, any potential for a significant effect to any European site as a result of the implementation of the Proposed Variation No. 4 can be ruled out.
- This evaluation is made in view of the Conservation Objectives of the habitats or species for which these sites have been designated. Consequently, Stage Two AA (including the preparation of a Natura Impact Report) is not required.

The accompanying Screening for AA Report has been carefully considered and its reasoning and the conclusion presented agreed with and adopted.

It is hereby determined Proposed Variation No. 4 to the Carlow County Development Plan 2022-2028 will not give rise to any significant effect on any European Site, alone or in combination with any other plans or projects<sup>3</sup>; and that Stage Two AA (including the preparation of a Natura Impact Report) is not required for Proposed Variation No. 4.

Signed on behalf of Carlow County Council:

Date:

22/12/25

<sup>1</sup> Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended)

<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and having regard to requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)

<sup>3</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.