

Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) Determination

for the

Longford County Outdoor Recreation Plan 2025-2030 to be adopted

This determination whether the Longford County Outdoor Recreation Plan 2025-2030 to be adopted, also referred to as "the Plan", would or would not necessitate the undertaking of Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (AA) under Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended) and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended).

An accompanying Screening for AA Report has been prepared to inform this determination. As identified in that report:

- Following the source-pathway-receptor model, the QIs, SCIs and Conservation Objectives of the relevant European sites were assessed in the context of the provisions of the Plan. As part of the screening assessment, all plans and projects within the area to which the Plan relates and receiving environment have been considered in combination with any and all lower tier plans and projects, including those that may arise due to the implementation of the Plan. No source(s) for likely significant effect on any European site assessed were identified to result from the implementation of the Plan.
- The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework, all of which have been subject to legislative requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment. As such, the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements of the provisions set out in these documents throughout the implementation of the Plan, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection, and environmental management that have been integrated into these documents, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions.
- The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and will not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on consent-related decisions. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management. The Plan solely will set out recommendations that may be considered for integration into the relevant parts of the decision-making and consent-granting framework – in particular the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027.
- In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. Implementation of the Plan shall comply with such existing measures from the County Development Plan 2021-2027 that are already in force.
- Thus, it is concluded in this Screening for AA Report to inform the competent authorities carrying out the AA Screening, that the Longford County Outdoor Recreation Plan 2025-2030 to be adopted is not foreseen to have any likelihood for any significant effect on any European site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects – and any likelihood for significant effect to any European site as a result of implementing Plan can be ruled out.
- This evaluation is made in view of the Conservation Objectives of the QIs and SCIs for which these sites have been designated. Consequently, Stage Two AA (including the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement) is not required.

The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusion presented above and in the "Screening for Appropriate Assessment Report". The undersigned hereby determines that the Longford County Outdoor Recreation Plan 2025-2030 to be adopted is not likely to result in significant effects on European sites, alone or in combination with any other plans, programmes, and projects etc. Consequently, Stage Two AA (including the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement) is not required.

Signatory:



Samantha Healy (Director of Services) Date:

11/02/2026