

Appropriate Assessment Determination
pursuant to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive
Variation No. 3 to the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029, as varied

Pursuant to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive as to whether or not a plan or project would affect the integrity of any European site(s) and in order to comply with the requirements of Part 6 of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (SI No. 34), as amended, this Appropriate Assessment (AA) determination is being made by Galway City Council relating to the potential for the Variation No. 3 to the Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029 that is being made¹ to have effects on the integrity of European sites. In carrying out this Appropriate Assessment (AA), the Council is taking into account the matters including the following:

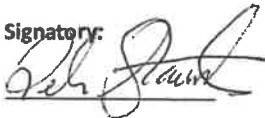
- The Natura Impact Report prepared for the Proposed Variation;
- The Consolidated Natura Impact Report;
- Written submissions made during the Proposed Variation preparation process; and
- Ongoing advice on AA from the Council's agents.

As part of the AA, it was identified that the Proposed Variation may, if unmitigated, have likely significant effects on 9 (no.) European Sites. The elements of the Proposed Variation that present sources with pathways for potential significant effects to European sites as a result of its implementation are:

- Potential increases in visitor pressures (including amenity and leisure activities) on European sites from the proposed increases in population densities and housing targets, including from associated active travel infrastructure such as greenways, blueways and cycleways;
- Increase in built environment across greenfield areas; and
- Increases in greenhouse gas emissions as a result of an increase in development.

The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusions presented and determines that having incorporated mitigation measures² into the Variation and taking into account the measures already in force through the existing Plan, it has been demonstrated that the Variation to be made³ is not foreseen to give rise to any significant adverse effects to any designated European site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects⁴. This demonstration has been made in view of the Conservation Objectives of the habitats and/or species, for which these sites have been designated.

Signatory:



Date:

05/06/26

¹ Incorporating the Proposed Variation and any modification/alteration considered by the AA process.

² A. 30: Amend Policy 5.2 Protected Spaces: Sites of European, National and Local Ecological Importance, A. 17: Amend Policy 3.1 Housing Strategy, A.40 Amend Policy 10.5 Ardaun, A.43 Amend Policy 10.6 Murrough, A.55 Murrough, and several measures already in place in the existing Galway City Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied) relating to the requirement for Appropriate Assessment of all relevant projects within the area to which the proposed Variation relates, and the appropriate management and treatment of invasives species across the area to which the proposed variation relates ensure that there will be no adverse effects to European sites as a result of the Variation.

³ Incorporating the Proposed Variation and any modification/alteration considered by the AA process.

⁴ 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.