

**Appropriate Assessment Determination
under the Planning and Development Act 2024, as amended,
for Variation No. 1 to the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028**

Pursuant to Section 205 of Part 6 of the Planning and Development Act 2024, as amended, and for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the European Habitats Directive, as amended, this Appropriate Assessment (AA) determination is being made by Wexford County Council relating to the potential for the Variation No. 1 to the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 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:

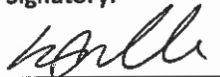
- The Natura Impact Report prepared for the Proposed Variation;
- The Screening for AA Report and Determination for Proposed Material Alterations;
- The Consolidated Natura Impact Report prepared towards the end of the process to inform this final AA determination;
- Written submissions made during the 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 27 (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:

- Increases in the capacity required for infrastructure, including wastewater treatment services; and
- 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.

Pursuant to Section 205 of Part 6 of the Planning and Development Act 2024, as amended, and for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the European Habitats Directive, as amended, 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, no reasonable scientific doubt exists as to the absence of adverse effects on the integrity of any European site as a result of the implementation of Proposed Variation No. 1³ to be made to the Wexford County Development Plan 2022–2028, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects⁴. This determination has been arrived at in view of the Conservation Objectives of the habitats and/or species, for which these sites have been designated.

Signatory:



Eddie Taaffe
Chief Executive

Date:

13/7/26

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

² Objective COMAH03 and NRT25, Objective COMAH04, Objective COMAH05, Objective COMAH06, Objective E01, Objective E02 and NRT02, Objective E03 and NRT03, Objective E04 and NRT04, Objective E05, Objective E06, Objective E07 and NRT07, Objective E16 and NRT19, Objective E18 and NRT22, Objective E19 and NRT23, Objective E20, Objective E21 and NRT30, Objective E22 and NRT31, Objective NRT28, Objective NRT01, Objective NRT05, Objective NRT06, Objective NRT20, Objective NRT24.

³ Incorporating the Proposed Variation and any alteration/modification 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.

