

**Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) Determination  
further to the original AA Determination<sup>1</sup> of 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022  
under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)  
for Additional Proposed Material Alteration to the  
Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028**

A Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) Determination is being made by Galway County Council regarding Additional Proposed Material Alteration Ref. No. 4.18 to the Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 (the Draft Plan).

Section 12 (7) (aa) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), requires, inter alia, a determination to be made as to whether Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Plan warrant the undertaking of AA.

The existing Draft Plan has already been informed by a Stage 2 AA and a Natura Impact Report has been prepared. As part of that AA, it was identified that the Plan may, if unmitigated, have significant effects on 126 (no.) European sites. Plan elements that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites include:

- Provisions (such as those relating to: settlement; housing; placemaking, regeneration and urban living; rural living and development; economic, enterprise and retail; transport and movement; infrastructure and utilities; tourism and landscape; marine and coastal management; green infrastructure; community development and social infrastructure; Gaeltacht and islands; and climate change, energy and renewable resources) that introduce sources for effects through construction phase such as habitat destruction, light pollution, hydrological interactions and disturbance effects;
- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments – these sources could result in habitat loss, disturbance effects, interactions with water quality and habitat fragmentation; and
- Increasing visitors to sensitive areas during the operational phase of, for example, recreational and tourism developments.

Mitigation was integrated into the Draft Plan that allowed the Natura Impact Report to conclude that, subject to additional recommendations to be integrated into the Plan in advance of adoption, the Draft Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any significant effects on designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. The Draft Plan and AA Natura Impact Report were placed on public display and submissions were invited. Some of these submissions resulted in Material Alterations being proposed to the Plan.

Galway County Council has determined that an AA of Proposed Material Alteration Ref. No. 4.18 to the Draft Plan is not required, as Proposed Material Alteration Ref. No. 4.18, alone or in combination with any other plan or projects, on the basis of objective scientific information and in view of the conservation objectives of the relevant European Sites, following screening carried out by Galway County Council, will not have any significant effects on any European Site.

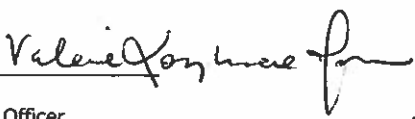
Galway County Council has made this determination on the basis of the following reasons:

1. This alteration would further contribute towards provisions related to this topic that are already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is advised that there is no potential for effects to arise on the integrity of any European site. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required. Refer also to Section 5.
2. A future plan/ study/ investigation of potential would not result in different environmental outcomes or effects. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required. Was such an investigation to be followed by action such actions would have to be subject to AA screening and other requirements as appropriate.
3. The update to terminology/language/wording would not change the effects arising from the Plan. As such, this alteration would not be considered as having the potential to affect the integrity of any European site. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.
4. This alteration relates to Plan text that provides clarification to Plan provisions. It does not interact with existing Plan provisions to an extent that it would have the potential to affect the integrity of any European site. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.
5. This alteration removes more detail but would not change the effects arising from the Plan. As such, this alteration would not be considered as having the potential to affect the integrity of any European site. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.
6. This alteration provides consistency with other parts of the Plan and/or with the wider planning and policy framework. It would not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have the potential to affect the integrity of any European site. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.
7. Removal of this provision would remove the potential for environmental effects from this provision; however, removal of the provision would not have the potential to affect the integrity of any European site. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.
8. These changes relate to supporting documents but would not change the effects arising from the Plan. As such, this alteration would not be considered as having the potential to affect the integrity of any European site. Consequently, Stage 2 AA is not required.

This determination and all accompanying information is available for inspection at Galway County Council Offices, Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway and on its website at [www.galway.ie](http://www.galway.ie).

<sup>1</sup> Available at <https://consult.galway.ie/en/consultation/galway-county-development-plan-2022-2028:material-alterations>

This determination is part of the ongoing and overall AA process that is being undertaken alongside the preparation of the Draft Plan. All Draft Plan and AA related documentation will be considered by Galway County Council in advance of the adoption of the Draft Plan and a final AA Determination will be prepared prior to adoption. An AA Conclusion Statement will be prepared prior to adoption, which will detail the AA process undertaken for the Draft Plan.

Signed: Valerie Foran   
Signatory  
Approved Officer  
February 2022 SP.