



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

## Record of Executive Business and Chief Executive's Orders

Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)  
Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended)

### **Determination on the requirement for Appropriate Assessment for Housing Development of 3 no. Housing Units at Hillcrest Estate, Loughrea, Co. Galway ('the development').**

I refer to the above and confirm that the local authority has considered the document titled 'Appropriate Assessment Screening Report' prepared by *Enviroplan Consulting Ltd.* for this project, to determine, based on the best available scientific information, that the development will not affect the integrity of any European site or sites.

Galway County Council ('the Council') has noted that the Appropriate Assessment Screening report uses the following guidance and has been collated and reviewed to inform the Article 6 assessments within this report:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidelines for Planning Authorities, 2009 (as amended);
- Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular NPWQ 1/109 & PSSP 2/10, 2008;
- European Commission, 2021. Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites – Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC
- CIEEM. Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing, 2017

According to NPWS (2009), the AA Stage 1: Screening Exercise can result in one of three conditions:

1. An AA is not required i.e., where the plan/proposal is associated with the management of the site;
2. There is no potential for significant effects i.e., the project must either proceed to Stage 2:AA or be rejected.
3. The proposed development was screened for potential significant adverse impacts upon European sites within 15km of the site boundary.

It has been concluded that the development will not lead to significant adverse impacts upon any European sites. No likely significant effect is foreseen upon these European sites as a result of the proposals, either alone or in combination with any other development.



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This screening report, based on the best available scientific information, finds that the development does not pose any risk of significant adverse effects on European sites. It is therefore considered that AA is not required.

In accordance with Article 81A(6) of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as inserted by the Planning and Development (Section 179A) Regulations 2023 a screening for appropriate assessment (AA) has been carried out and has concluded, using the best scientific knowledge, that there is no likelihood of significant effects, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, on a European Site or Sites. Accordingly, a determination has been made that an appropriate assessment (AA) of the housing development is not required and, accordingly, the housing development complies with the requirements of Section 179A(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

**Order:**

That Galway County Council as the Competent Authority having considered the AA Screening Report prepared by *Enviroplan Consulting Ltd.* makes a determination that, when considered either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment will not be required to accompany the Social Housing Development consisting of 3 no. housing units at Hillcrest Estate, Loughrea, Co. Galway.

**Signed:**

**Liam Conneally**

**Chief Executive  
Galway County Council**