

Screening Determination for Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Directive

For the Wicklow County Council Noise Action Plan 2024-2028

Wicklow County Council (WCC), the Action Planning Authority (APA) has undertaken screening of the Wicklow County Council Noise Action Plan 2024-2028 for Appropriate Assessment (AA) pursuant to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directives. The assessment for screening is set out in the AA Screening Report (Ref: 13354A-20-R029-01-F01) dated 20th January 2025 prepared by Logika Consultants Ltd. on behalf of Noise Consultants Ltd for WCC.

Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) determines the requirement for public authorities to conduct a screening for Appropriate Assessment on a plan or project which the authority wishes to adopt. The screening assessment was carried out using criteria for determining whether the WCC NAP would adversely affect the integrity of a European site and could result in likely significant effects on any European site in view of the conservation objectives. Furthermore, the screening assessment was undertaken to determine if the NAP could result in likely significant effects on any European site in view of the conservation objectives in combination with other plans and projects.

The WCC NAP is not directly connected with or necessary for the management of any Natura 2000 sites, and the NAP is not identified as having any direct or indirect impacts on Natura 2000 sites for the following reasons:

- The NAP is designed to reduce noise pollution and protect quiet areas, which contributes positively to environmental quality and does not adversely affect the integrity of Natura 2000 sites because there is no pathway for potential Likely Significant Effects (LSE) as the NAP does not propose any measures which could increase or negatively affect existing noise levels.
- The reduction in noise in areas near to Natura 2000 sites will ultimately contribute to a beneficial effect of Natura 2000 sites and their Qualifying Interests / Special Conservation Interests features. This is however not considered to be significant.
- Any potential impacts from noise-related activities are mitigated through existing planning and licencing processes, which include Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA).
- The NAP adheres to the requirements of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), ensuring that it aligns with EU legislation aimed at protecting designated sites.

Stage 1: Screening has concluded that the NAP is not predicted, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, to have LSE upon the one Natura 2000 site identified within the Zone of Influence of the WCC NAP.

Therefore, in alignment with the Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, it is determined that the NAP will generate no potential for LSE. Consequently, a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required.

Determination: In making the determination, the information contained within the AA Screening Report (Ref: 13354A-20- R029-01-F01) has been taken into account and carefully considered. The

APA hereby confirms agreement that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment, in respect of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive is **not** required for Wicklow County Council Noise Action Plan 2024-2028.

Signed on behalf of Wicklow County Council:

Signature: _____

Dated: _____

J. Kan
27/1/2025