

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING

**IN LINE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF ARTICLE 6(3) OF THE
EU HABITATS DIRECTIVE**

**RATHVILLY LOCAL AREA PLAN
2010-2016**

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Chapter1 Introduction and Terms of Reference

1.1 Introduction

This is an appropriate assessment screening of the Rathvilly Local Area Plan 2010-2016 in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC). The relevant provisions of the Directive are set out in Section 1.2 of this report.

This report complies with the European Communities (2000) Managing Natura 2000 sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats Directive' 92/43/EC. and was prepared in compliance with the European Communities (2002) Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. A 'Screening matrix' and a 'Finding of no significant effects matrix' have been completed. These can be found in Sections 2 and 3 of this report. The conclusions of this evaluation are set out in Section 4 of this report.

1.2 Terms of Reference

Appropriate assessment is an assessment carried out under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states:

'any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.

Article 6(4) states:

'if, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of economic or social nature, the Member State shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted. Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest.

Chapter 2 Screening Matrix

Brief Description of the Project or Plan

The LAP is intended to provide for the proper planning and sustainable development for Rathvilly town for a duration of six years, from adoption in 2010-2016, unless amended. It consists of a written statement and maps which give a graphic representation of the proposals of the Plan, indicating land use and other development standards together with various local objectives.

The overall goal of this LAP is to ensure the sustainable expansion and development of Rathvilly appropriate to and integrated with the existing town and to further enhance the role of Rathvilly as an attractive town to both reside in and for investment by both the private and public sector.

The purpose of the Rathvilly LAP is to endeavour to provide a framework, which will facilitate ongoing development of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational facilities. Rathvilly will fulfill its role as a key settlement within County Carlow.

The specific objectives in terms of the development of Rathvilly are set out in the Rathvilly Local Area Plan as follows:

- 1 Zoning lands for development purposes that will provide for a range and mix of uses and set out urban design and development control objectives for their development,
- 2 Zone individual sites for a range of residential, industrial and community purposes where appropriate
- 3 Identify infrastructure works of local and regional benefit.

Given the above objectives from the Rathvilly Local Area Plan which are directly applicable to its current population, it is envisaged that growth of this town, in line with population targets will lead to the following objectives being achieved:

- a strengthening of the service centre role of Rathvilly both in terms of the town proper and its immediate hinterland;
- maintaining the vitality and viability of the existing town, its centre and in particular ensuring the sustained provision of existing services, such as schools, shops, sports clubs, etc.;
- the avoidance of unsustainable ribbon development in the adjoining countryside by ensuring the designation of appropriate zoned lands within the town and thereby an efficient use of existing and planned service infrastructure.

The land use zoning framework which will form part of the Draft Local Area Plan for Rathvilly will need to translate the population horizon as set out above into the provision of an adequate amount of zoned land in the town which can cater for any population increase. The designation of future lands will need to be particularly guided by and adhere to objectives within the LAP by designating lands particularly on infill sites, vacant sites and on backland sites.

Description of the Natura 2000 sites

The only candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC) in Rathvilly is listed in the table below. Site synopses may be accessed on the National Parks and Wildlife Service's website at www.npws.ie/ConservationSites/. Individual site maps area also on this website.

SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: SLANEY RIVER VALLEY

SITE CODE: 000781

This site comprises the freshwater stretches of the Slaney as far as the Wicklow Mountains; a number of tributaries the larger of which include the Bann, Boro, Glasha, Clody, Derry, Derreen, Douglas and Carrigower Rivers; the estuary at Ferrycarrig and Wexford Harbour. The site flows through the counties of Wicklow, Wexford and Carlow. Towns along the site but not in it are Baltinglass, Hacketstown, Tinahely, Tullow, Bunclody, Camolin, Enniscorthy and Wexford. The river is up to 100 m wide in places and is tidal at the southern end from Edermine Bridge below Enniscorthy. In the upper and central regions almost as far as the confluence with the Derry River the geology consists of granite. Above Kilcarrig Bridge, the Slaney has cut a gorge into the granite plain. The Derry and Bann Rivers are bounded by a narrow line of uplands which corresponds to schist outcrops. Where these tributaries cut through this belt of hard rocks they have carved deep gorges, more than two miles long at Tinahely and Shillelagh. South of Kildavin the Slaney flows through an area of Ordovician slates and grits.

The site is a candidate SAC selected for alluvial wet woodlands, a priority habitat on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. The site is also selected as a candidate SAC for floating river vegetation, estuaries, tidal mudflats and old oak woodlands, all habitats listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. The site is further selected for the following species listed on Annex II of the same directive - Sea Lamprey, River Lamprey, Brook Lamprey, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Twaite Shad, Atlantic Salmon and Otter.

Floating river vegetation is found along much of the freshwater stretches within the site. Species present here include Pond Water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus peltatus*), Water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus* spp.), Canadian Pondweed (*Elodea canadensis*), Broad-leaved Pondweed (*Potamogeton natans*), Water Milfoil (*Myriophyllum* spp.), Common Club-rush (*Scirpus lacustris*), Water-starwort (*Callitriche* spp.), Hemlock Water-dropwort, Fine-leaved Waterdropwort (*Oenanthe aquatica*), Common Duckweed (*Lemna minor*), Yellow Water-lily (*Nuphar lutea*), Unbranched Bur-reed (*Sparganium emersum*) and the moss *Fontinalis antipyretica*. Two rare aquatic plant species have been recorded in this site: Short-leaved Water-starwort (*Callitriche truncata*), a very rare, small aquatic herb found nowhere else in Ireland; and Opposite-leaved Pondweed (*Groenlandia densa*), a species that is legally protected under the Flora Protection Order, 1999.

Good examples of wet woodland are found associated with Macmine marshes, along banks of the Slaney and its tributaries and within reed swamps. Grey Willow (*Salix cinerea*) scrub and pockets of wet woodland dominated by Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) have become established in places. Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Birch (*Betula pubescens*) are common in the latter and the ground flora is typical of wet woodland with Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*), Yellow Iris, Horsetail (*Equisetum* spp.) and occasional tussocks of Greater Tussock-sedge (*Carex paniculata*). These woodlands have been described as two types: one is quite eutrophic, is dominated by Willow and is subject to a tidal influence. The other is flushed or spring-fed subject to waterlogging but not to flooding and is dominated by Alder and Ash.

Old oak woodlands are best represented at Tomnafinnoge though patches are present throughout the site. At Tomnafinnoge the wood is dominated by mature, widely spaced Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*), which were planted around 1700, with some further planting in 1810. There is now a varied age structure with overmature, mature and young trees; the open canopy permits light to reach the forest floor and encourages natural regeneration of Oak. As well as Oak, the wood includes the occasional Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), Birch (*Betula* sp.), Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) and Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*). The shrub layer is well-developed with Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) occurring. The ground layer consists of Great Wood-rush (*Luzula sylvatica*) and Bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*), with some Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and Brambles (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.). Herbaceous species in the ground layer include Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*), Wood-sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), Common Cow-wheat (*Melampyrum pratense*) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*). Many of the trees carry an epiphytic flora of mosses, Polypody Fern (*Polypodium vulgare*), and lichens such as *Usnea comosa*, *Evernia prunastri*, *Ramalina* spp. and *Parmelia* spp.

Tomnafinnoge Wood is a remnant of the ancient Shillelagh Oak woods, and it appears that woodland has always been present on the site. In the past, the wood was managed as a Hazel coppice with Oak standards, a common form of woodland management in England but not widely practised in Ireland. The importance of the woodland lies in the size of the trees, their capacity to regenerate, their genetic continuity with ancient woodland and their historic interest. The nearest comparable stands are at Abbeyleix, Co. Laois and Portlaw, Co. Waterford.

Below Enniscorthy there are several areas of woodland with a mixed canopy of Oak, Beech, Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Ash and generally a good diverse ground flora. Near the mouth of the river at Ferrycarrig is a steep south facing slope covered with Oak woodland. Holly and Hazel are the main species in the shrub layer and a species-rich ground flora typical of this type of Oak woodland has abundant ferns - *Dryopteris filix-mas*, *Polystichum setiferum*, *Phyllitis scolopendrium* - and mosses - *Thuidium tamariscinum*, *Mnium hornum*, *Eurynchium praelongum*. North of Bunclody, the river valley still has a number of dry woodlands though these have mostly been managed by the estates with the introduction of Beech and occasional conifers. The steeper sides are covered in a thick scrub from which taller trees protrude. At the southern end of the site, the Red Data Book species Yellow Archangel (*Lamiastrum galeobdolon*) occurs. Three more Red Data Book species have also been recorded from the site: Basil Thyme (*Acinos arvensis*), Blue Fleabane (*Erigeron acer*) and Small Cudweed (*Filago minima*). A nationally rare species Summer Snowflake (*Leucjum aestivum*) is also found within the site.

Mixed woodlands occur at Carrickduff and Coolaphuca in Bunclody. Oak trees, which make up the greater part of the canopy, were originally planted and at the present time are not regenerating actively. In time, if permitted, the woodland will probably go to Beech. A fair number of Yew (*Taxus baccata*) trees have also reached a large size and these, together with Holly give to the site the aspect of a south-western Oak wood.

The site is considered to contain a very good example of the extreme upper reaches of an estuary. Tidal reedbeds with wet woodland are present in places. The fringing reed communities support Sea Club-rush (*Scirpus maritimus*), Grey Club-rush (*S. tabernaemontani*) and abundant Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*). Other species occurring are Bulrush (*Typha latifolia*), Reed Canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and Branched Bur-reed (*Sparganium erectum*). The reed-swamp is extensive around Macmine, where the river widens and there are islands with swamp and marsh vegetation.

Further south of Macmine are expanses of intertidal mudflats and sandflats and shingly shore often fringed with a narrow band of salt marsh and brackish vegetation. Narrow shingle beaches up to 10 m wide occur in places along the river banks and are exposed at low tide.

Upslope the shingle is sometimes colonised by Saltmarsh Rush (*Juncus gerardi*), Townsend's Cord-grass (*Spartina townsendii*), Common Saltmarsh-grass (*Puccinellia maritima*), Sea Aster (*Aster tripolium*), Hemlock Water-dropwort (*Oenanthe crocata*) and Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*).

Wexford Harbour is an extensive, shallow estuary which dries out considerably at low tide exposing large expanses of mudflats and sandflats. The harbour is largely sheltered by the Raven Point to the north and Rosslare Point in the south.

Other habitats present within the site include species-rich marsh in which sedges such as *Carex disticha*, *Carex riparia* and *Carex vesicaria* are common. Among the other species found in this habitat are Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*), Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) and Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*). Extensive marshes occur to the west of Casltebridge associated with the tidal areas of the River Sow.

The site supports populations of several species listed on Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive including the three Lampreys - Sea Lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*), River Lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*) and Brook Lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*), Otter (*Lutra lutra*), Salmon (*Salmo salar*), small numbers of Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) and in the tidal stretches, Twaite Shad (*Alosa fallax fallax*). A survey of the Derreen River in 1995 estimated the

population of Freshwater Pearl Mussel at about 3,000 individuals. This is a significant population, especially in the context of eastern Ireland. The Slaney is primarily a spring salmon fishery and is regarded as one of the top rivers in Ireland for early spring fishing. The upper Slaney and tributary headwaters are very important for spawning.

The site supports important numbers of birds in winter. Little Egret are found annually along the river. This bird is only now beginning to gain a foothold in Ireland and the south-east appears to be its stronghold. Nationally important numbers of Black-tailed Godwit, Teal, Tufted Duck, Mute Swan, Little Grebe and Black-headed Gull are found along the estuarine stretch of the river. The mean of the maximum counts over four winters (1994/98) along the stretch between Enniscorthy and Ferrycarrig is: Little Egret (6), Golden Plover (6), Wigeon (139), Teal (429), Mallard (265), Tufted Duck (171), Lapwing (603), Shelduck (16), Blacktailed Godwit (93), Curlew (81), Red-breasted Merganser (11), Black-headed Gull (3030), Goldeneye (45), Oystercatcher (19), Redshank (65), Lesser Black-backed Gull (727), Herring Gull (179), Common Gull (67), Grey Heron (39), Mute Swan (259) and Little Grebe (17). Wexford Harbour provides extensive feeding grounds for wading birds and Little Terns, which are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive have bred here in the past.

The Reed Warbler, which is a scarce breeding species in Ireland, is regularly found in Macmine Marshes but it is not known whether or not it breeds in the site. The Dipper also occurs on the river. This is a declining species nationally.

The site supports many of the mammal species occurring in Ireland. Those which are listed in the Irish Red Data Book include Pine Marten, Badger, Irish Hare and Daubenton's Bat. Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*), another Red Data Book species, also occurs within the site. Agriculture is the main landuse. Arable crops are important. Improved grassland and silage account for much of the remainder. The spreading of slurry and fertiliser poses a threat to the water quality of this salmonid river and to the populations of Annex II animal species within it. Run-off is undoubtedly occurring, as some of the fields slope steeply directly to the river bank. In addition, cattle have access to the site in places. Fishing is a main tourist attraction along stretches of the Slaney and its tributaries and there are a number of Angler Associations, some with a number of beats. Fishing stands and styles have been erected in places. Both commercial and leisure fishing takes place. There are some gravel pits along the river below Bunclody and many of these are active. There is a large landfill site adjacent to the river close to Hacketstown and at Killurin. Boating, bait-digging and fishing occur in parts of Wexford Harbour.

Waste water outflows, runoff from intensive agricultural enterprises, a meat factory at Clohamon and a landfill site adjacent to the river and further industrial development upstream in Enniscorthy and in other towns could all have potential adverse impacts on the water quality unless they are carefully managed. The spread of exotic species is reducing the quality of the woodlands.

The site supports populations of several species listed on Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive, and habitats listed on Annex I of this directive, as well as important numbers of wintering wildfowl including some species listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive. The presence of wet and broad-leaved woodlands increases the overall habitat diversity and the occurrence of a number of Red Data Book plant and animal species adds further importance to the Slaney River site.

Assessment Criteria

Describe the individual elements of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to the Natura 2000 sites.

The Plan has been formulated to ensure that uses, developments and effects arising from permissions based upon this Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) shall not give rise to significant adverse impacts on the integrity of this Natura 2000 sites.

Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the Natura 2000 sites by virtue of:

➤ size and scale;

No projects giving rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of this Natura 2000 site arising from their size or scale shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects).

➤ land take;

No projects giving rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of this Natura 2000 site arising from their land take shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects).

➤ distance from the Natura 2000 site or key features of the site;

No projects giving rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of this Natura 2000 site or their key features arising from their proximity shall be permitted on the basis of the Rathvilly Local Area Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects).

➤ resource requirements (water abstraction etc.)

No projects giving rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of this Natura 2000 site or their key features arising from their proximity shall be permitted on the basis of the Rathvilly Local Area Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects).

➤ emissions (disposal to land, water or air);

No projects giving rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of this Natura 2000 site or their key features arising from their proximity shall be permitted on the basis of the Rathvilly Local Area Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects).

➤ excavation requirements;

No projects giving rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of this Natura 2000 site or their key features arising from their proximity shall be permitted on the basis of the Rathvilly Local Area Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects).

➤ transportation requirements;

No projects giving rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of this Natura 2000 site or their key features arising from their proximity shall be permitted on the basis of the Rathvilly Local Area Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects).

➤ duration of construction, operation, decommissioning, etc.;

No projects giving rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of this Natura 2000 site or their key features arising from their proximity shall be permitted on the basis of the Rathvilly Local Area Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects).

➤ other;

No projects giving rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of this Natura 2000 site or their key features arising from their proximity shall be permitted on the basis of the Rathvilly Local Area Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects).

Describe any likely changes to the sites arising as a result of:

➤ reduction of habitat area;

No projects giving rise to reduction of habitat areas for this Natura 2000 site shall be permitted on

the basis of the Rathvilly Local Area Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects).

➤ **disturbance to key species;**

No projects giving rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of this Natura 2000 site or their key features arising from their proximity shall be permitted on the basis of the Rathvilly Local Area Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects).

➤ **habitat or species fragmentation;**

No projects giving rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of this Natura 2000 site or their key features arising from their proximity shall be permitted on the basis of the Rathvilly Local Area Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects).

➤ **reduction in species density;**

No projects giving rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of this Natura 2000 site or their key features arising from their proximity shall be permitted on the basis of the Rathvilly Local Area Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects).

➤ **changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.);**

No projects giving rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of this Natura 2000 site or their key features arising from their proximity shall be permitted on the basis of the Rathvilly Local Area Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects).

It is an aim of the Rathvilly Local Area Plan to improve water quality of the River Slaney with future upgrading of the existing treatment plant capable of dealing with the projected population increase for the area.

➤ **climate change;**

No projects giving rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of this Natura 2000 site or their key features arising from their proximity shall be permitted on the basis of the Rathvilly Local Area Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects).

Describe any likely impacts on the Natura 2000 sites as a whole in terms of:

➤ **interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the site;**

No projects giving rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of this Natura 2000 site or their key features arising from their proximity shall be permitted on the basis of the Rathvilly Local Area Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects).

➤ **interference with key relationships that define the function of the site;**

No projects giving rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of this Natura 2000 site or their key features arising from their proximity shall be permitted on the basis of the Rathvilly Local Area Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects).

Provide indicators of significance as a result of the identification of effects set out above in terms of:

➤ **loss;**

Not applicable.

➤ **fragmentation;**

Not applicable.

➤ **disruption;**

Not applicable.

➤ disturbance;

Not applicable.

➤ change to key elements of the sites (e.g. water quality etc.);

Not applicable.

Describe from the above those elements of the project or plan, or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale or magnitude of impacts is not known.

Not applicable.

Chapter 3 Finding of no significant effects report matrix

Name of project or plan

Rathvilly Local Area Plan 2010-2016

Name and Location of Natura 2000 site

Slaney River Valley, running through the centre of the town of Rathvilly.

Description of the project or plan

As given in Chapter 2, pg. 4.

Is this project or plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the sites (provide details)?

The Plan includes policies and objectives to protect, conserve and manage in a prudent and sustainable manner the natural and built heritage of Rathvilly town, including its Natura 2000 site and also seeks to enhance this resource where appropriate.

Are there other projects or plans that together with the project or plan being assessed could affect the sites (provide details)?

The plan has been formulated to ensure that uses, developments and effects arising from permissions based upon this Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) shall not give rise to significant adverse impacts on the integrity of this Natura 2000 site.

The assessment of significance of effects

Describe how the project of plan (alone or in combination) is likely to affect the Natura 2000 site

The Plan has been formulated to ensure that uses, developments and effects arising from permissions based upon this Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) shall not give rise to significant adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site within Rathvilly.

Explain why these effects are not considered significant.

The policies and provisions of the Plan have been devised to anticipate and avoid the need for developments that would be likely to significantly and adversely affect the integrity of this Natura 2000 site. Furthermore, such developments as will be permitted on foot of the provisions of this Plan shall be required to conform to the relevant regulatory provisions for the prevention of pollution, nuisance or other environmental effects likely to significantly and adversely affect the integrity of this Natura 2000 site.

List of agencies consulted.

SEA Screening letters were sent to the following:

The Manager, Development Applications Unit, Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG), Dun Sceine, Harcourt Lane, Dublin 2. 01 833 3190

Frank O'Brien, Co-ordination Unit, Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, (DCMNR), Lesson Lane, Dublin 2. 01 6783051

Tadhg O'Mahony, Environmental Protection Agency, Regional Inspectorate, Inniscarra, County Cork. 021 4875540

Data collected to carry out the assessment

Who carried out this assessment?

Carlow County Council Planning Department

Sources of data

Existing data

Level of assessment completed

Desktop study

Where the full results of the assessment can be accessed and viewed?

This document contains the full results of the Appropriate Assessment Screening exercise.

Chapter 4 Conclusions

Following the review of the draft plan in accordance with the ‘Methodological guidance on the provision of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43’, a Screening Matrix and Findings of No Significant Effects Matrix have been completed.

This screening process was carried out to ascertain if the Plan were likely to have significant effects on a Natura 2000 site. If this were the case then it would be necessary to carry out Appropriate Assessment. The draft Plan has been formulated to ensure that developments and effects arising from permissions based upon this draft Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) shall not give rise to significant adverse impacts on the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites.

This screening report finds that the Rathvilly draft Local Area Plan Plan does not require further appropriate assessment.