

## Appropriate Assessment Determination

for

### Variation No. 1 (b) to the Carlow County Development Plan 2015-2021

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) determination has been made by Carlow County Council regarding Variation No. 1 (b) to the Carlow County Development Plan 2015-2021.

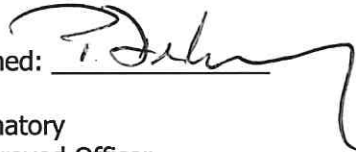
Carlow County Council is making a determination [pursuant to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive as to whether or not a plan or project would adversely affect the integrity of a European site and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)] as to whether Variation to the County Development Plan warrants the undertaking of AA.

In carrying out this screening, the Council is taking into account the relevant matters specified under Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), including:

- Existing Carlow County Development Plan 2015-2021 (and associated AA Natura Impact Report and Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report);
- The Variation; and
- The AA Screening Statement.

It is determined that the risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the qualifying interests, special conservation interests and conservation objectives of all European Sites have been addressed by the inclusion of achievable mitigation measures within the existing Carlow County Development Plan with which the Variation must comply. These prioritise the avoidance of effects in the first place and will reliably mitigate these effects where these cannot be avoided. In addition, any lower level plans and projects arising through the implementation of the Plan will themselves be subject to relevant stages of AA when further details of design and location are known.

Having incorporated these mitigation commitments; it is considered that Variation No. 1 (b) to the Carlow County Development Plan 2015-2021 is not foreseen to have any likely significant effects on the ecological integrity of any European Site<sup>1</sup>.

Signed:   
Signatory  
Approved Officer

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<sup>1</sup> Except as provided for in Section 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.