

# Screening Determination for Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Directive

## *For the Cavan County Council Noise Action Plan 2024-2028*

Cavan County Council as the Competent Authority for the Cavan County Council Noise Action Plan 2024-2028 have undertaken screening 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 24/339TE: Statement of Screening for Appropriate Assessment) dated 17th July 2024 prepared by Traynor Environmental Ltd for the Cavan County Council Noise Action Plan 2024-2028.

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 Cavan County Council 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 Cavan County Council 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 licensing 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.

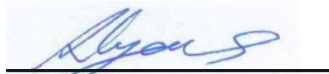
Stage 1: Screening has concluded that the NAP is not predicted, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, to have an impact on Natura 2000 sites identified within the Zone of Influence of the Cavan NAP.

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 impact. Consequently, a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required.

**Determination:**

In making the determination, the information contained within the AA Screening Report (REF24/339TE: Statement of Screening for Appropriate Assessment) has been taken into account and carefully considered. Cavan County Council hereby confirm agreement that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment, in respect of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive is **not** required for the Cavan Noise Action Plan 2024-2028.

Signed on behalf of the Cavan County Council:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alan Lyons', written over a horizontal line.

Alan Lyons  
Senior Executive Engineer  
Road Design

*Paddy Connaughton*

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