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Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) Determination Pursuant to the Habitats Directive¹ and having regard to requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)

For:

Proposed Variation No. 3 to the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027.

An AA Screening determination² is being made by Meath County Council regarding Proposed Variation No. 3 to the Meath County Development Plan 2021 -2027.

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

- The Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027, including associated Stage 2 AA Natura Impact Report; and
- The Screening for AA Report and associated determination prepared for Variation No. 1 and 2 to the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027.
- The Screening for AA Report prepared for Proposed Variation No. 3 to the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027.

The Screening for AA Report has been carefully considered and its reasoning and conclusion agreed with and adopted.

The Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027 provides for sustainable development and proper planning within the administrative area of Meath County Council. The Meath County Development Plan 2021 -2027 was subject to Stage 2 AA, which identified sources for likely significant effects on European Sites and facilitated the integration of measures into the Plan to ensure the appropriate protection and management of European Sites with which all lower tier plan/projects must comply.

Following the source-pathway-receptor model, the relevant attributes of European sites were assessed. There are no additional sources for any likely significant effect on any European site introduced by the Proposed Variation No. 3 that were not already considered by the Stage 2 AA undertaken for the County Development Plan (the findings of which are provided in a

¹ Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats of Wild Fauna and Flora (as amended)

² 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 having regard to requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)

Natura Impact Report that accompanies the Plan). As there are no provisions in the Proposed Variation No. 3 that introduce any additional sources for any likely significant effect on any European site, there are no in combination likely significant effects identified.

Therefore, it is determined that Proposed Variation No. 3 is not foreseen to have any likelihood for significant effects on any European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects – and therefore any potential for a significant effect to any European site as a result of implementing Proposed Variation No.3 can be ruled out. This determination is made in view of the conservation objective of the habitats or species for which these sites have been designated. Consequently, Stage Two AA (including the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement) is not required.

Signatory: 
Chief Executive