

## **Monaghan County Development Plan 2025-2031 (Monaghan County Council)**

### **Appropriate Assessment (AA) Determination under the EU's Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC**

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) Determination is being made on the potential for the Monaghan County Council's (MCC) County Development Plan (CDP) 2025-2031 to have adverse effects on the integrity of European sites.

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, as transposed by Section 177V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, requires that a final determination is made as to whether a plan or project would adversely affect the integrity of a European site.

A report to inform AA Screening was previously completed for the CDP. The purpose of this report was to identify whether the implementation of the CDP has the potential to have likely, significant effects on the integrity of European sites, alone or in-combination with other plans and projects.

It was concluded that the Plan was likely to have significant effects on 13 European Sites forming part of the Natura 2000 network (in the absence of mitigation), either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. These European sites are as follows:

1. Kilroosky Lough Cluster SAC (Site Code 001786)
2. Slieve Beagh SPA (Site Code 004167)
3. Magheravealy Marl Loughs SAC (Site Code UK0016621)
4. Slieve Beagh SAC (Site Code UK0016622)
5. Upper Lough Erne SPA (Site Code UK9020071)
6. Slieve Beagh-Mullaghfad-Lisnaskea SPA (Site Code UK9020302)
7. Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC (Site Code 000007)
8. Upper Lough Erne SAC (Site Code UK0016614)
9. Lough Oughter SPA (Site Code 004049)
10. Dundalk Bay SPA (Site Code 004026)
11. Dundalk Bay SAC (Site Code 000455)
12. Stabannan-Braganstown SPA (Site Code 004091)
13. Donegal Bay SPA (Site Code 004151)

The CDP provides a land use planning framework for the Plan Area of County Monaghan and supports various types of development, including housing and transport development. The implementation of CDP policies and objectives, which are supportive of various forms of development, have the potential to result in likely significant effects on European Sites from the following: loss/reduction of habitat area; habitat or species fragmentation; disturbance to key species; reduction in species density; changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.); and climate change.

MCC therefore determined that AA of the CDP is required and that a Natura Impact Report should be prepared for the CDP.

An NIR was produced for the Draft CDP. The NIR considered the potential for the Draft CDP to adversely affect the integrity of European sites, with regard to their Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests. The Draft CDP was informed by the NIR. Mitigation measures were integrated into the Draft CDP that mitigate its potential effects on any European Site. The NIR concluded that the Draft CDP would not give rise to any adverse effects on European Sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Material Alterations to the Draft CDP were made following a review of the issues raised during a period of prescribed public consultation period for the Draft CDP. Further Amendments to these Material Alterations were made following the review of the issues raised during a further period of prescribed public consultation on the Material Alterations. Further AA was carried out on the amendments to the Plan, as necessary. It was assessed however that the environmental mitigation measures integrated into the Plan will prevent Plan implementation

giving rise to potential adverse effects on European sites due to the implementation of the Plan, inclusive of all its amendments.

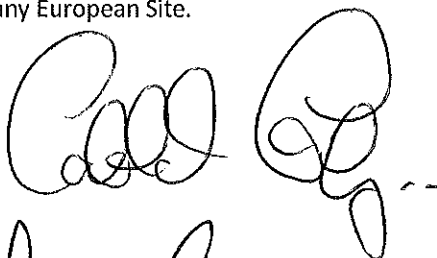
A consolidated NIR was produced for the CDP. This consolidated NIR concluded the following:

- The risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the qualifying interests, special conservation interests and conservation objectives of the European Sites have been addressed by the inclusion of mitigation measures that will prioritise the avoidance of adverse effects in the first place and mitigate adverse effects where these cannot be avoided. In addition, all lower-level plans and projects arising through the implementation of the Draft CDP will themselves be subject to AA when further details of design and location are known.
- In-combination effects from interactions with other plans and projects was considered in the assessment and the mitigation measures incorporated into the plan are seen to be robust to ensure there will be no adverse effects as a result of the implementation of the Draft CDP either alone or in-combination with other plans/projects.
- Having incorporated mitigation measures, it is concluded that the plan will not adversely affect the integrity of any European Sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species, for which these sites have been designated.

In light of the above, Monaghan County Council, pursuant to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, as transposed by Section 177V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, determines that the adoption and implementation of the CDP will not individually or in combination with any other plan or project adversely affect the integrity of any European Site.

Signed by:

Date:



26 Mar 2025