



## Draft Naas Local Area Plan 2021-2027

### **Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Determination in accordance with the EU's Habitats Directive Article 6(3) and the Section 177U of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)**

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening determination has been made by Kildare County Council regarding the Draft Naas Local Area Plan 2021-2027.

The Draft Naas Local Area Plan, through a series of Objectives and Policies, will set out the vision and direction for the future development of the Naas area up to 2027. Proposed land use plans and proposed variations must undergo a formal 'test' or 'screening' to ascertain whether they are likely to result in any significant adverse effects on specific sites designated for their nature conservation importance. These sites are those designated under the European Commission's Natura 2000 network of sites (hereafter 'European sites'). These sites are designated on the basis of the presence of certain habitats and species that are deemed to be of international importance. The Irish Government and local planning authorities have a legal obligation to protect these sites. The EC Habitats and Birds Directives are the framework for the designation of these sites. The EC Habitats Directive requires the 'screening' of plans and projects under Article 6(3). If the screening process results in a judgement that likely significant effects may occur or cannot be ruled out, then a more detailed 'appropriate assessment' (AA) is required.

#### **Determination**

Having regard to the content of the Draft Naas Local Area Plan 2021-2027 and consideration of the potential for significant impacts arising from its implementation which may have the potential to adversely affect any Natura 2000 site; with regard to their Qualifying Interests and Conservation Objectives, it was determined as part of the Screening for Appropriate Assessment on the basis of the findings of the report for Appropriate Assessment Screening, it is concluded that the Draft Naas Local Area Plan (LAP) 2021-2027 will not have an adverse impact on the integrity of European Sites. This decision has been informed by analysis prepared by ARUP in addition to the Issues Paper and other material pertinent to the European Sites held by the Council.

It was also determined as part of this screening that there was no potential for effects or in-combination effects on European sites as a result of the implementation of the LAP.

In conclusion, in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and Section 177U of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 (as amended), taking into account all matters relevant it has been determined that, on the basis of objective information available at this stage, that the Draft LAP, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not have a significant effect on any European site.

A final AA determination will be made on the LAP before adoption takes place. This determination will take into account any other documents prepared and submitted during the plan preparation process and any written submissions made on the draft plan and associated documents while they are on public display.

**Signed**



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**Date**

8<sup>th</sup> of March 2021

**Signatory (Approved Officer):**

**Director of Services, Planning and Strategic Development**