



## Draft Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029

### **Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Determination in accordance with the EU 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 Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029.

The Draft Kildare Town Local Area Plan (LAP), through a series of Objectives and Policies, will set out the vision and direction for the future development of the Kildare Town area up to 2029. 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. There are five European designated sites within the ZoI of the Draft Plan, namely Pollardstown Fen SAC, Mouds Bog SAC, Ballynafagh Lake SAC, River Barrow and River Nore SAC and Ballynafagh Bog SAC.

### **Determination**

Having regard to the content of the Draft Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029 and consideration of the potential for significant effects 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 as well as considering other plans and projects, and applying the precautionary principle, it is the view of Kildare County Council that it is clear that there is no likelihood of significant effects on any European sites.

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 the draft Plan, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, there is no likelihood of significant effect on a European Site and a Natura Impact Statement is not required for the draft Plan.

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

Date

20<sup>th</sup> of March 2023

Signatory (Approved Officer):

Director of Services, Planning and Strategic Development