

## Screening for Appropriate Assessment

**Determination**  
under the  
European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011  
(as amended)  
for the  
**Draft Westmeath Tourism Strategy 2023 - 2027**

In order to comply with the requirements of Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. No. 477), as amended, this determination has been made by Westmeath County Council relating to the potential for the Draft Westmeath Tourism Strategy to have effects on European sites.

In making the determination that further, Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (AA) is not required, the information on the potential effects on the integrity of European Sites presented in the "AA Screening Report for Draft Westmeath Tourism Strategy" has been taken into account. That report concludes as follows:

"This report to inform the AA screening determination for the Draft Westmeath Tourism Strategy 2023-2027 demonstrates that the implementation of the Draft Strategy will not result in potential significant effects to any European site.

....

Following the source-pathway-receptor model, the relevant attributes of European sites were assessed. No sources for effects to any European site would arise from the Draft Strategy that have not already been considered by the Stage 2 AA undertaken for the existing Ireland's Hidden Heathlands Regional Tourism Development Strategy 2023-2027 (the findings of which are provided in a Natura Impact Statement that accompanies the Strategy).

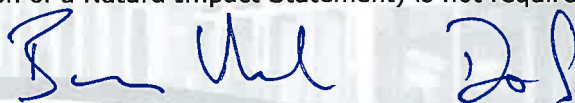
The risks to the safeguarding of the qualifying interests, special conservation interests and conservation objectives of the European sites have been addressed through existing, already in-force policies and objectives, including those within the Westmeath County Development Plan 2021-2027 and Fáilte Ireland's "Ireland's Hidden Heartlands" Regional Tourism Development Strategy (both of which were subject to Stage 2 AA) with which all lower tier plans/projects must comply. In addition, any future projects, plans etc. that may arise will themselves be subject to AA/screening for AA when further details of design and location are known.

It is thus concluded that the Draft Westmeath Tourism Strategy 2023-2027 is not foreseen to have any likelihood of significant effects on any European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects – and therefore any potential for significant effect to any European site as a result of the Draft Strategy can be ruled out.

This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species for which these sites have been designated. Consequently, a Stage Two AA (involving the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement) is advised as not being required."

The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusion presented above and in the "AA Screening Report for Draft Westmeath Tourism Strategy". The undersigned hereby determines pursuant to Regulation 42 of S.I. No. 477 of 2011, as amended, and for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive that the Draft Strategy is not foreseen to give rise to any significant adverse effects on any designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. Consequently, it is determined that a Stage Two AA (involving the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement) is not required.

**Signatory:**



**Date:**

23/2/2023.