

**Appropriate Assessment Determination under the
European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended)
for the
Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024**

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) Determination¹, pursuant to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, as to whether a plan or project would adversely affect the integrity of a European Site, and Regulation 42 (11) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended), is being made by the National Transport Authority.

In carrying out this AA, the National Transport Authority is taking into account the relevant matters specified under Regulation 42 (12) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended). The AA Natura Impact Report (which considers other plans and projects) has been carefully considered and its reasoning and conclusion agreed with and adopted. All other documents prepared and submitted during the preparation process for the Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024 were also considered in making this determination, including the Plan to be finalised and written submissions made on the Draft Plan and associated documents while they were on public display.

It is determined that the risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the qualifying interests and conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 network have been addressed by the inclusion of achievable mitigation measures that will prioritise the avoidance of impacts in the first place and reliably mitigate these impacts where they cannot be avoided. In addition, all lower level plans and projects arising through the implementation of the Plan will themselves be subject to AA as relevant when further details of design and location are known.

Having incorporated these mitigation commitments; it is determined that implementation of the Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024 will not have a significant adverse effect on the ecological integrity of any European Site, either individually or in combination with any other plan or project². Therefore, no further assessment is required.

Date: 15th May 2019

Signed: 
Signatory
Approved Officer

¹ Due to the potential, if unmitigated, for effects on European Sites to occur, it is determined that AA is required – this determination takes account, inter alia, the screening information that is presented in the accompanying AA Natura Impact Report.

² Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

- a) No alternative solution available,
- b) Imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and
- c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.