

Appropriate Assessment Conclusion

Of



National Lead in Water Mitigation Strategy – Limerick Priority Project

In accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) and Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended, Irish Water has undertaken Appropriate Assessment of the proposed Limerick orthophosphate priority project.

A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) was produced which considered the potential for significant impacts arising from the proposed Limerick orthophosphate priority project to adversely affect any Natura 2000 site; with regard to their qualifying interests, associated conservation status, the structure/function of the site and overall site integrity.

The proposed priority project study area is partly located within the following sites:

- Lower River Shannon SAC (site code 002165)
- River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA (site code 004077)

The potential for direct, indirect and cumulative impacts affecting the above designations was assessed in the NIS. The appraisal undertaken in the NIS was informed by modelling and specialist reporting with reference to the ecological communities and habitats potentially affected by the proposed priority project, in order to provide a scientific basis for evaluations.

The Appropriate Assessment determined that there will not be any significant direct, indirect or cumulative impacts which would have the potential to adversely affect the qualifying interests/special conservation interests of the Natura 2000 sites within the study area with regard to their conservation objectives.

It is therefore concluded, beyond reasonable scientific doubt, that the proposed orthophosphate priority project will not give rise to significant impacts, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, in a manner which adversely affects the integrity of any designated site within the Natura 2000 network.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Galvin'.

GERRY GALVIN

CHIEF TECHNICAL OFFICER

DATE: 3rd October 2016