

AA SCREENING DETERMINATION

Of



Water Network Programme Colliers Lane, Kilminchy, Portlaoise

In accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) and Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended, Irish Water has undertaken Appropriate Assessment screening to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the site, if the project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on European Site(s). In this context, particular attention was paid to the European Site(s) listed below:

- 000412 Slieve Bloom Mountains SAC
- 002141 Mountmellick SAC
- 002162 River Barrow And River Nore SAC
- 002256 Ballyprior Grassland SAC
- 004160 Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA
- 004233 River Nore SPA

In accordance with Regulation 42(7) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended, **Irish Water has made a determination following screening that an Appropriate Assessment is not required** as the project is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the sites as European site(s) and **as it can be excluded**, beyond reasonable scientific doubt, in view of best scientific knowledge, on the basis of objective information and in light of the conservation objectives of the relevant European Site(s), **that the proposed activity, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, would be likely to have a significant effect on all other European Site(s) listed above.**

This determination is based on the nature, location, scale and duration of the proposed works.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brian Deegan', on a light-colored background.

BRIAN DEEGAN

ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY LEAD

DATE: 26/01/2022