

Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023

Re: Determination under Section 177Vof the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) as to whether the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 would adversely affect the integrity of a European site.

I refer to the making of the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 on the 19th of December 2016. This determination is a record of the planning authorities' conclusion in accordance with the Appropriate Assessment which was carried out in line with Article 6 (3) of the Habitats Directive and Section 177U(4) of the Planning and Development Act.

Determination

Having regard to the content of the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 and consideration of the potential for significant impacts arising from the implementation of the Plan that may have the potential to adversely affect any European site; with regard to their qualifying interests and conservation objectives, it was determined that in assuming the successful implementation of the Objectives in the Written Statement, compliance with the Municipal District Settlement Plans and application of the mitigation measures identified, there will be no adverse effects on integrity of European Sites in isolation or in combination with other Plans and Projects acting in the same area. However, based on the resolution by the Elected Members to zone lands at Ardcloony for Tourism against the recommendation of the Chief Executive and the Department Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government and taking into consideration the previously unseen reports entitled "Appropriate Assessment (Stage 2) of the Zoning of Lands at Ardcloony, Co. Clare for Integrated Tourism" dated December 2016 and documents submitted as part of the members resolution of the 19th December 2016 it cannot be concluded that there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of the Lower River Shannon cSAC specifically and therefore the Plan contravenes Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

The NIR describes the nature of the Plan, the European sites within its zone of influence and the relationship between the two such that any impact pathways were identified. It also identified any potential for direct, indirect or cumulative impacts of the Plan on all relevant European Sites.

Forbairt Eacnamaíochta

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Following a detailed assessment as part of the preparation of the Natura Impact Report (NIR) consultation was undertaken with the statutory environmental consultees, measures for impact reduction were incorporated into the Plan, including mitigation measures proposed in the NIR for avoidance and reduction of impacts on the qualifying interest features and conservation objectives of the designated European sites. Clare County Council as the competent authority undertook the Appropriate Assessment.

In conclusion, in accordance with Section 177V of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), taking into account all matters relevant and subject to the full and proper implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in the NIR it has been determined that the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 adopted as part of the resolution dated 19th December 2017, is likely to have any adverse effects on the integrity of any European site within, or adjacent to the plan area.

The Natura Impact Report recorded the decisions that were taken during the preparation of the County Development Plan. It determined that,

The finalised Resolution and all Volumes of the County Development Plan can be viewed at the offices of Clare County Council, New Rd, Ennis, Co. Clare or on www.clarecoco.ie

Signed Shela Downes.

Signed

Sheila Downes,

Environmental Assessment Officer

Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner

Bruan M' Carlly

26th January 2017

Forbairt Eacnamaíochta

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