



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council

Local Authority Climate Action Plan for the Roscommon County Functional Area 2024-2029



Gníomhaithe ar Son
na hAeráide Ros Comáin
Climate Action
Roscommon

Appropriate Assessment (AA) determination under the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC Article 6(3) as transposed into Irish Law under Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477/2011), as amended

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) determination has been made in relation to the potential for the Roscommon County Council Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP) 2024-2029 to have effects on the integrity of European Sites.

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, as transposed by S.I. No. 477/2011 as amended, requires that a final determination is made as to whether a plan or project would adversely affect the integrity of a European Site.

AA screening of the Draft LACAP concluded that the plan was likely to have significant effects on European sites forming part of the natural 2000 network (in the absence of mitigation), either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

This screening process concluded that a Natural Impact Report (NIR) should be prepared for the Draft LACAP. The focus, scope and technical wording of the actions contained within the draft LACAP were carefully considered in the context of avoidance or minimization of potential adverse effects on the integrity of European Sites and their qualifying and special conservation interests, and an NIR prepared in this context. The Draft LACAP was informed by the AA process, and an NIR was prepared outlining the likely significant environmental effects of the LACAP on the network of Natura 2000 sites in accordance with the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Measures to mitigate any potential effects on European sites were integrated into the Draft LACAP as part of this process.

A Statutory public consultation period was held on the draft LACAP and associated AA and strategic Environmental assessments from 27th of October 2023 to 13th December 2023. Issues raised during this period were collated and analysed in a Chief Executive's report that made recommendations on modifications to the draft. This report was presented to the elected members for their consideration on 22nd of January, 2024. Having regard to the nature of these modifications to the Draft LACAP and the potential for significant environmental effects arising as a result of these modifications, in view of the best scientific knowledge, and having regard to conservation objectives of the relevant European Sites, Roscommon County Council concluded that the modifications to the Draft LACAP would not give rise to any significant effects on the Natura 2000 Network and its designated sites, alone, or in combination with, other plans or projects. An AA screening determination was made to this effect.

The NIR was subsequently consolidated and finalized to reflect the final LACAP, concluding the following:

- Stage 1 AA screening and Stage 2 AA of the Roscommon LACAP 2024-2029 has been conducted and concludes that there the implementation of the LACAP has the potential, if unmitigated, to result in effects on the integrity of European Sites.
- Mitigation measures have been included to ensure the safeguarding and integrity of the qualifying interests, special conservation interests and conservation objectives of European

Sites, to prioritise the avoidance of these potential effects and mitigate this potential where they cannot be avoided. All lower level plans and projects developed as a result of the implementation of the LACAP will be subject to the provisions of the Habitats directive as they arise.

- In-combination effects with other plans and projects were assessed in the AA process. Mitigation measures have been incorporated into the LACAP to ensure that there will be no significant adverse effects on the integrity of European sites as a result of the implementation of the LACAP, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.
- Having incorporated mitigation measures, it is concluded that the Roscommon County Council LACAP 2024-2029 is not likely to give rise to any significant adverse effects on designated European Sites, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. This evaluation is made in the context of the conservation objectives of the habitats and/or species for which these sites have been designated.

In consideration of the above, Roscommon County Council, pursuant to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, as transposed by S.I. No. 477/2011 as amended, determines that the adoption and implementation of the LACAP will not, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, adversely affect the integrity of any European Site.

Signed by: _____

Shane Tiernan, Chief Executive, Roscommon County Council

Date: _____