

**Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Determination under the
Planning and Development Acts 2000, as amended for:**

Urlingford Town Centre Masterplan

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening determination has been made by Kilkenny County Council regarding the Urlingford Town Centre Masterplan.

The obligation to undertake AA derives from Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive as transposed through the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended (Part 5). Regulation 42 requires that a screening for AA of a plan or project for which an application for consent is received, or which a public authority wishes to undertake or adopt (and which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site as a European Site) is carried out by the public authority to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of the site, if that plan or project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on the European site. Subsequent Articles set out the requirements for Stage 2 AA etc.

The Regulations define a "plan" as: any plan, programme or scheme, statutory or non-statutory, that establishes public policy in relation to land use and infrastructural development in one or more specified locations or regions, including any development of land or on land and the carrying out of land use activities, that is to be considered for adoption or authorisation or approval or for the grant of a licence, consent, permission, permit, derogation or other authorisation by a public authority.

Given the location of the site and the broad definition of 'plan' included in the Regulations, including "non-statutory", a precautionary approach was adopted and an AA Screening was undertaken by RSK Ireland on behalf of Turley Ireland and Kilkenny County Council.

The AA screening process has found that the Urlingford Town Centre Masterplan does not require any further assessment to demonstrate compliance with the directive in accordance with the methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.

Taking into account the findings of the AA process that are detailed in an AA Screening Report that accompanies this Determination, Kilkenny County Council have determined that the Urlingford Town Centre Masterplan will not result in any effects on European Sites and consequently Stage 2 AA is not required.

Signed A. O' Connor

Date 27th July, 2023

Arlene O' Connor
Senior Executive Planner