



MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL

PART 8

Appropriate Assessment Screening

Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)

Date of Display: * 1st February 2024

*to be completed and attached to file on date of display

Lead Section: Capital Projects

Proposed Development: Construction of a new civic office building and all associated site works.

Site Location: Roosky and Tirkeenan, Monaghan Town

Under Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive and Regulation 30 of SI no. 94/1997 "European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations" (1997) any plan or project which has the potential to significantly impact upon the integrity of a Natura 2000 site (i.e. SAC or SPA) must be subject to an Appropriate Assessment.

An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report by Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants has been carried out with respect to the proposed development.

The Screening Report concludes:

"in view of the best and objective scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of the European sites reviewed, the proposed development individually or in combination with any plans and projects (either directly or indirectly) is not likely to have significant effects on any European Sites. It is therefore recommended to Monaghan County Council that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required".

The Planning Authority notes as follows:

- The site of the proposed development is located within 11km of Slieve Beagh SPA. The conservation objective of Slieve Beagh SPA is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Hen Harrier. It is considered that, given the nature of the development proposed and the distance of the proposed development from the Natura 2000 site, there will be no significant effects on the qualifying features of Slieve Beagh SPA.
- The Shambles River flows along the southern boundary of the site. The River is a tributary of the River Blackwater which eventually flows into Lough Neagh and Lough Beg SPA. Lough Neagh and Lough Beg SPA is located circa 60km from the proposed development. It is considered that as a result of the distance of the Lough Neagh and Lough Beg SPA, there will be no significant effects on the qualifying features of Lough Neagh and Lough Beg SPA.

It is the opinion of the planning authority therefore, that given the cumulative effects of both the proposed development and any other plan or project, the development is not of a nature or scale to

have any significant effects on the qualifying features of the Natura 2000 network and agrees with the recommendation of the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report carried out by Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required.

Signed

1. Helen H. H. H.

2. W. H. H.

3. C. H. H.

25.01.24