



Kildare Town Renewal Masterplan 2024

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Determination in accordance with the EU Habitats Directive Article 6(3) and the Section 177U of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening determination has been made by Kildare County Council regarding the Kildare Town Renewal Masterplan 2024. The Kildare Town Renewal Masterplan sets out the vision and direction for the future development of Kildare town centre with a focus on pedestrian focused and flexible public spaces and a vibrant, liveable, accessible historic town centre.

Proposed land use plans and proposed variations must undergo a formal 'test' or 'screening' to ascertain whether they are likely to result in any significant adverse effects on specific sites designated for their nature conservation importance. These sites are those designated under the European Commission's Natura 2000 network of sites (hereafter 'European sites'). These sites are designated based on the presence of certain habitats and species that are deemed to be of international importance. The Irish Government and local planning authorities have a legal obligation to protect these sites. The EC Habitats and Birds Directives are the framework for the designation of these sites. The EC Habitats Directive requires the 'screening' of plans and projects under Article 6(3).


If the screening process results in a judgement that likely significant effects may occur or cannot be ruled out, then a more detailed 'appropriate assessment' (AA) is required. There are two European designated sites within the ZoI of the Kildare Town Renewal Masterplan, namely River Barrow and River Nore SAC and Pollardstown Fen SAC.

Determination

There is no European site within the Plan Area. There are no feasible pathways linking the Plan Area to any other European sites. Having regard to the content of the Kildare Town Renewal Masterplan, 2024 and consideration of the potential for significant effects arising from its implementation which may have the potential to adversely affect any Natura 2000 site with regard to their Qualifying Interests and Conservation Objectives as well as considering other plans and projects, and applying the precautionary principle, it is the view of Kildare County Council that it is clear there is no likelihood of significant effects on any European sites.

In conclusion, in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and Section 177U of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 (as amended), on the basis of the objective information provided in the AA Screening Report and considering all matters relevant it has been determined that the Kildare Town Renewal Masterplan, 2024, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, there is no likelihood of significant effect on European Sites and a Stage 2/Natura Impact Statement is not required.

Signed
Signatory (Approved Officer)
Date



Director of Services, Housing & Regeneration
8th May 2024