



An Roinn Iompair
Turasóireachta agus Spóirt

Department of Transport,
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Appropriate Assessment Determination
under the:
European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats)
Regulations 2011 (as amended)
for the:
Dublin to Galway Greenway Plan

An Appropriate Assessment determination [pursuant to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive as to whether or not a plan or project would adversely affect the integrity of a European site and Regulation 42 (11) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended)] is being made by the Minister of Transport, Tourism and Sport.

In carrying out this Appropriate Assessment, the Minister of Transport, Tourism and Sport is taking into account the relevant matters specified under Regulation 42 (12) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended), including:

- Written submissions made on the Draft Greenway Plan and associated documents while they were placed on public display; and
- The Natura Impact Statement (which considers other plans and projects and has taken into account submissions and observations received during public display).

It is determined that the risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the qualifying interests, special conservation interests and conservation objectives of European Sites have been addressed by the inclusion of achievable mitigation measures that will prioritise the avoidance of effects in the first place and will reliably mitigate effects where they cannot be avoided. In addition, all lower level plans and projects arising through the implementation of the Greenway Plan will themselves be subject to Appropriate Assessment when further details of design and route are known.

Having incorporated these mitigation commitments; the Minister of Transport, Tourism and Sport considers that the Greenway Plan will not significantly affect the ecological integrity of European Sites¹.

Date: 20/04/2017

Signed: _____

Signatory

¹ Except as provided for in Section 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

- a) no alternative solution available,
- b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and
- c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.