

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Determination under:

European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) concerning the Gas Networks Ireland Network Development Plan (NDP) 2018

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening determination has been made by Gas Networks Ireland regarding the Network Development Plan (NDP) 2018.

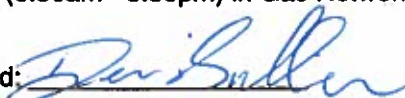
In accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended), Gas Networks Ireland, as the competent authority responsible for developing the NDP 2018 has undertaken an AA Screening to determine if the NDP 2018, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect on any European site(s).

The determination has been made by Gas Networks Ireland following consideration of information contained in the AA Screening Report prepared by RPS consultants (accompanying this determination), the text of the NDP 2018 and the consultation responses received in Q4 of 2019. Following analysis and evaluation of the information, Gas Networks Ireland has made a determination that an AA is not required for the NDP 2018, by virtue of the fact that:

- The NDP 2018 is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site;
- The NDP is a supply/demand analysis and capacity statement. It is prepared by Gas Networks Ireland and is an annual statement which looks forward on a rolling 10-year horizon;
- The NDP 2018 includes specific reference to Gas Networks Ireland's environmental and planning assessment procedure for all works designed and planned for Gas Networks Ireland (Envirokit and Enviroplan). These bespoke tools specifically relate to requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive and the Habitats Directive and associated legislation relating to water, biodiversity, soils, etc. Assessment of risk of likely significant effects on European sites associated with consent of any projects under the NDP 2018 will always be included during the aforementioned assessment process.
- By virtue of the fact that the NDP 2018:
 - Is a supply and demand analysis and capacity statement, and
 - Envirokit and Enviroplan have been designed to reflect the requirements of the EU Habitats directive 92/43/EEC), such that no works designed and planned for Gas Networks Ireland will have adverse effects on any European site,

Gas Networks Ireland is satisfied that the NDP 2018 will not give rise to likely significant effects on the qualifying interests of any European sites, in view of best scientific knowledge, and in view of the conservation objectives of the sites concerned.

This determination and associated documentation are available on Gas Networks Ireland's website at <https://www.gasnetworks.ie> and for public inspection at the offices of Gas Networks Ireland during office hours (8.30am - 5.30pm) in Gas Networks Ireland Headquarters, Gasworks Road, Cork, and T12 RX96.

Signed: 

Date: 4/2/2020

On behalf of:

GAS NETWORKS IRELAND LIMITED