

## **Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination in respect of Moneymore /Castle Manor Pedestrian Link**

### **(a) The Project**

The Project consists of a path and road cross-section which will consist of a typical, 2 m-wide concrete footpath of approx. 69 m in length, with a chicane system to discourage motorbikes using the path. Road crossing points are to be provided on both ends of the footpath. This upgrade to an existing informal pedestrian route linking the housing development of Moneymore and Castle Manor to a formal, permanent footpath to facilitate access in the wider area.

A detailed description of the Project under the following headings and a site plan are contained within the Moneymore/Castle Manor Pedestrian Link Report to Inform Screening for Appropriate Assessment prepared by RPS (dated 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024) (Report):

- Proposed Path
- Land take
- Site Clearance
- Fencing Earthworks
- Drainage Utilities
- Kerbs and Paved Areas
- Lighting Landscaping
- Timing of the Proposed Works
- Compound Location



*Figure 1 Site Plan*

(b) Source-Pathway-Receptor model

Table 4-2 of the Report has used the Source-Pathway-Receptor model to identify eight European Sites within the Zone of Influence of the proposed project. It details their respective qualifying interests and special conservation interests and a measure of the distance and direction of each of the European Sites from the Project area.

I have reviewed these details and I am satisfied that the information is sufficient to allow for a complete assessment of the proposed development in view of the requirements of Appropriate Assessment and I also consider that the zone of potential influence in respect of the development, 17.5km is appropriate.

(c) Assessment

Table 5-1, entitled the Source-Pathway-Receptor Model for the Proposed Project, has examined the potential effect of the Project on each of the European Sites within the Zone of Influence. It has not identified any European Sites or their associated QIs or SCIs that could be significantly affected by the Project.

In combination effects including those of national, regional and local plans and projects, including planning applications, Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID), housing developments and Part 8 applications permitted in the past five years or in close proximity to the Project, are identified and discussed in Table 5-3.

It concludes that no pathways have been identified by which any plan or project could have a likely significant in-combination effect on any European Site(s) and that there is no potential for in-combination effects.

The RPS Report concludes that the proposed Project is not predicted to result in any Likely Significant Effects on any European Site(s) within the Zone of Influence of the Proposed Project and that as per Article 42(7) of the EU Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011-2015 -*“Appropriate Assessment of a plan or project is not required ...if it can be excluded on the basis of objective scientific information following screening under this Regulation, that the plan or project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European Site”*. It is thus the opinion of RPS that AA ('Stage 2') is not required.

(d) Determination

I concur with RPS's assessment as detailed above and as such I am satisfied that it has been ascertained that the Project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects would not adversely affect the integrity of any the European Sites within 17.5km of the Project in view of the sites' qualifying interests and Conservation Objectives or any other European Sites.



P. Hughes

Senior Executive Planner

5<sup>th</sup> December 2024