

AA SCREENING DETERMINATION

Of

Water Network Programme

at

Easter Hill, Ratheniska, Co. Laois

In accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) and Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended, Irish Water has undertaken Appropriate Assessment screening to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the site, if the project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on European Site(s).

The project consists of the installation of new watermains at Easter Hill, Ratheniska, Co. Laois. The works include the rehabilitation of approx. 1,846m of watermain in MA01990 with 125mm HDPE and transfer of any existing assets and connections to the new watermain as deemed necessary.

In this context, particular attention was paid to the European Site(s) listed below:

- 002162 River Barrow and River Nore SAC
- 002256 Ballyprior Grassland SAC

In accordance with Regulation 42(7) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended, **Irish Water has made a determination following screening that an Appropriate Assessment is not required** as the project is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the sites as European site(s) and **as it can be excluded**, on the basis of objective information and in light of the conservation objectives of the relevant European Site(s), **that the project, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, would have a significant effect on a European Site.**

This determination is based on the nature, location, scale and duration of the proposed works, including any temporary works, and excludes any consideration of mitigation measures.

Full records of the assessment, reports, surveys, consultations, and observations are held by the competent authority and available for public review as requested.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Casey', with a small mark to the right.

JOHN CASEY

CHIEF TECHNICAL ADVISOR

DATE: 27th February 2023