

Proposed Variation No. 5 to the Meath County Development Plan
2021-2027 (as varied): NPF Implementation.

Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

Meath County Council has prepared a proposed variation to the County Development Plan (Proposed Variation No. 5 to the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027). The proposed variation sets out the changes to the current Development Plan which will assist in achieving the revised housing targets as set out in the NPF Implementation Guidelines for the county. A number of amendments are therefore proposed to the relevant sections of Volume One of the Plan together with the corresponding Volumes 2 and 3 once the variation is adopted.

In accordance with requirements Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992), Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended and Part 6 of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (and SI 452 of 2025), Meath County Council has completed screening for appropriate assessment of the proposed variation and has determined that the likelihood of same giving rise to significant effects on European sites (either individually or in combination with other projects or other plans) cannot be excluded in view of the relevant sites conservation objectives, as a result of:

- Habitat loss and/or fragmentation
- Impacts to habitat structure
- Disturbance to species of conservation concern
- Mortality to species (such as roadkill)
- Noise pollution
- Emissions to air
- Emissions to water

There is the possibility that the rezoning and subsequent development of any of the sites subject to the Variation could result in significant effects on 13 European sites. Applying the precautionary principle therefore, and in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is required. It is therefore considered necessary for Meath County Council to complete an Appropriate Assessment of the proposed variation and to prepare a Natura Impact Report in support of same in accordance with sections 203 and 205 of the Planning and Development Act 2024 as amended.

I recommend the proposed determination as set out above.

Name: Alan Russell

Signature: 

Title: Senior Planner

Date: 30.03.2026