



Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Determination relating to the Draft Variation no. 1 of Sligo CDP 2024-2030

Alignment with the Housing Growth Requirements Guidelines 2025 and rezoning of two sites following determinations on RZLT submissions

This determination relates to whether the Draft Variation No. 1 of the current Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030 (CDP) would – or would not – necessitate the undertaking of Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, as amended).

The Planning Authority has initiated the process of aligning the CDP with the Housing Growth Requirements Guidelines 2025 (ministerial guidelines issued under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended). This would involve amendments to the narrative and to the Strategic Land Reserve policies in Volume 1 of the CDP. In addition, the Planning Authority proposes to rezone two sites (0.2 ha in Ballysadare and 0.61 ha in Collooney), on the basis of RZLT determinations.

As identified in the AA Screening Report:

- The elements of the Draft Variation have been considered in the wider context of the CDP, with respect to the known threats and pressures related to European sites. There are no additional sources of effects introduced by the Draft Variation that were not already considered by the AA processes already undertaken for the current Plan.
- The risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the qualifying interests, special conservation interests and conservation objectives of the European sites have been addressed through existing, already in force, mitigating policies and objectives contained within the Sligo CDP (which was subject to Stage 2 AA), with which all lower-tier plans/projects must comply. In addition, any future projects, plans etc. that may arise will themselves be subject to AA, or screening for AA, when further details of design and location are known.
- The Habitats Directive requires the assessment to consider other plans or programmes that might, in combination with the Draft Variation, have the potential to adversely impact upon European sites. There are no provisions in the Draft Variation that would introduce any sources of effects. Therefore, there are no in-combination effects identified.
- It is concluded that Draft Variation No. 1 of the current CDP will not give rise to any effects on the ecological integrity of any European Site, alone or in combination with any other plans, programmes, projects etc.

The Planning Authority has carefully considered the information referred to above, agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusion presented above and in the AA Screening Report.

It is hereby determined that the proposal to align the current Development Plan with the Housing Growth Requirements Guidelines 2025 (by amending the narrative and the Strategic Land Reserve policies) and to rezone two sites will not give rise to any effects on the ecological integrity of any European Site, alone or in combination with any other plans, programmes, and projects.

Stage 2 AA (Natura Impact Report) is not required for the Draft Variation No. 1 of the current Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030.

Signed: 

Date: 16 December 2025

Emer Concannon

Director of Placemaking, Sligo County Council