

AA SCREENING DETERMINATION

Of

Knocks WTP Run to Waste, 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 comprises the installation of a run to waste (RTW) line on the combined borehole raw water line upstream of the contact tank in order to remove turbidity generated from the borehole pumps or when the raw water doesn't meet Irish Water requirements. The RTW will be installed within the existing WTP site which is located on the R423 ca. 8km west of Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

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

- River Barrow and River Nore SAC (002162)
- Slieve Bloom Mountains SAC (000412)
- Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA (004160)

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 be 'John S.', is centered below the 'Signed:' label. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'S'.

JOHN CASEY

CHIEF TECHNICAL ADVISOR

DATE: 22nd December 2022