

AA SCREENING DETERMINATION

Of

Site Investigation Works at Athlone Water Treatment Plant, Co. Westmeath

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, Uisce Éireann 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 involves site or ground investigation works including rotary cores, boreholes, slit trenches and inspection pits to review the ground conditions. The WTP is located in the centre of Athlone town on Abbey Road in County Westmeath.

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

- Lough Ree SAC (000440)
- Lough Ree SPA (004064)
- River Shannon Callows SAC (000216)
- Middle Shannon Callows SPA (004096)

In accordance with Regulation 42(7) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended, **Uisce Éireann 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:



JOHN CASEY

CHIEF TECHNICAL ADVISOR

DATE: 22nd November 2023