

Screening for Appropriate Assessment

Determination

under the
European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended)
for the
Draft Wind Energy Development Guidelines

In order to comply with the requirements of Regulation 42(8)a of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. 477, as amended), this determination has been made by the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government relating to the potential for the Draft Wind Energy Guidelines to have likely significant effects on European sites¹.

In making the determination that AA is required, the information on the likely significant effects on European Sites arising from the Draft Guidelines has been taken into account (this information is presented in the AA Screening Report in Appendix A). The process of screening for Appropriate Assessment was undertaken at an early stage in the drafting of the Guidelines. The screening process assessed whether the Draft Guidelines was likely to have significant effects on any European sites, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

The screening process concluded that an appropriate assessment of the Draft Guidelines would be required, as it was not directly connected with or necessary to the management of European Sites and it could not be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the Draft Guidelines, individually, or in combination with other plans and projects would have likely significant effect on a European site.

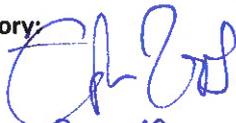
The Draft Guidelines will contribute to the planning consent process for future wind energy plans and projects. In the absence of specific mitigation measures, significant effects to European sites as a result of wind energy development in Ireland cannot be ruled out. According to the AA Screening Report (see Appendix A), these potential effects may include:

- Barotrauma/Collision Risk;
- Subsidence or Soil Stability Interactions;
- Water Quality Interactions; and
- Habitat Loss/Fragmentation.

Therefore, Stage 2 AA (including the preparation of the Natura Impact Statement) is required for the Draft Guidelines.

The Minister of Housing, Planning and Local Government, having carefully considered the information in the AA Screening Report and having regard to the advice of his officials, agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusion of the AA Screening Report. The Minister hereby DETERMINES pursuant to Regulation 42 of S.I. 477 of 2011 and for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive that it could not be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the Draft Guidelines, individually, or in combination with other plans and projects would have likely significant effect on a European site and therefore an appropriate assessment would be required.

Signatory:



Date:

10 Dec 19

Attached: Appendix A: AA Screening Report by CAAS Ltd. dated 4 December 2019

¹ As defined by S.I. 477 of 2011.