

Habitat Directive Assessment  
Natura Impact Report

**CONCLUDING REPORT**

OF THE

**TRALEE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT  
LOCAL AREA PLAN  
2018-2024**

AND THE

**FIFTH VARIATION to the TRALEE TOWN  
DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2009-2015 (as extended)**

Environmental Assessment Unit  
Kerry County Council  
County Buildings  
Rathass, Tralee, Co. Kerry



October 2018

### **Habitats Directive Assessment (HDA)**

A HDA is an assessment of the potential for impact on Natura 2000 sites which are nature conservation sites of international importance. A Combined HDA was undertaken for the proposed 5th Variation of the Tralee Town Development Plan 2009-2015 (as extended) and the proposed Tralee Municipal District Local Area Plan 2018-2024. This approach facilitated the assessment of potential cumulative and in combination effects. The HDA reports prepared by the Environmental Assessment Unit have been adopted as those of Kerry County Council.

The land use plans underwent detailed Habitats Directive Assessment at various stages in the plan making process (Draft Plan and Variation, Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Plan and Variation and the final adopted Plan and Variation. It is noted that all recommendations contained in the HDA reports have been incorporated into the final land use plans. In addition, it is noted that further environmental protection safeguards have been incorporated into the final documents by way of the SEA and public consultation processes.

### **HDA Determination**

The land use plans, as adopted, in combination with other plans or projects, are not likely to adversely affect the integrity of a European site.

### **Reasons for Determination**

- The land use plan together with the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021 (as varied) and the Tralee Town Development Plan 2009-2015 (as varied and extended) contain policies and objectives safeguarding nature conservation interests.
- The relatively benign nature of the proposed land use plans from a Habitats Directive Assessment point of view.
- The development related land use zonings are generally removed from Natura 2000 sites and the proposed development of same as set out in the plan is not likely to either directly or indirectly impact on Natura 2000 sites
- Proposals for development within 'Existing Residential/Town/Village Centre Area/Built Up Areas' (R2/M2/M4 land use zonings) will be considered taking into account potential for impact on sites of nature conservation importance. This is expressly stated within the land use zoning provisions
- Policies and objectives contained within the plan will either:- not lead to development, are intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity, are intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment and are unlikely to have an effect on a Natura 2000 site, will positively steer development away from Natura 2000 sites and associated sensitive areas, positively make provision to ensure that implementation will not have a significant effect or adverse affect on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site, and or have been formulated using a caveat or conditional approach requiring, where necessary, a case by case environmental assessment / HDA
- A Winter Bird Survey was undertaken in Tralee Bay as part of the HDA. This indicated that the lands proposed to be zoned in Lohercannon fields were not regularly used by birds of Scientific Conservation Interest (SCI) for the Tralee Bay Complex SPA and that the lands are therefore likely to be of low importance for SCI.