

**Planning Authority Habitats Directive Appropriate Assessment
Screening Determination Statement**

For

**Ground Investigation (GI) Works for the Limerick City and Environs
Flood Relief Scheme (FRS).**

Stage I Appropriate Assessment Screening Statement Limerick City and County Council as Competent Authority determines that the proposed works, individually or cumulatively and in combination with other plans and projects, are likely to have a significant effect on a European site (Natura 2000 Sites), and as such, a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment / Natura Impact Statement is required

It is considered that the AA Screening Report prepared by RPS Consulting Engineers and as reviewed by the Heritage Officer, contains a fair and reasonable assessment of the likelihood of significant effects of the proposed ground investigation works on European sites. That assessment is adopted as the assessment of Limerick City and County Council. It is noted that the inclusion of likely significant effects is based wholly on objective information and the type and location of the works involved.

Reasons for Determination.

The proposed works are located both within and adjacent to two Natura 2000 sites, the Lower River Shannon Special Area of Conservation (002165) and the River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries Special Protection Areas (004077). The works have the potential of significant direct or indirect impact on qualifying habitats or species associated with these Natura 2000 sites, through leakage of pollutants and direct disturbance of both species and habitats within these Natura 2000 sites.

Due to the possibility of significant in-combination effects arising from both these works and other proposed and permitted developments in the vicinity, it is considered that the preparation of a Natura Impact Assessment Statement (NIS) is necessary.

Signed: _____

Nuala Gallagher, Director of Services

Planning, Environment & Place-Making

Date: _____

18 / 01 / 2022