

**Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Determination under:
Europeans Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended) for:
Gas Networks Ireland Network Development Plan 2021**

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening determination has been made by Gas Networks Ireland relating to the Network Development Plan (NDP) 2021.

In accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended), Gas Networks Ireland, as a public authority, is responsible for undertaking an AA screening assessment to determine if the NDP 2021, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, is likely to have a significant effect on any European site(s).

The determination has been made by Gas Networks Ireland following consideration of the information contained in the Report for the Purposes of AA Screening, as prepared by Arup Consultants (accompanying this determination), the content of the NDP 2021 and the statutory consultation responses received. Following analyses and evaluation of the information, Gas Networks Ireland has made a determination that an AA is not required for the NDP 2021, by virtue of the fact that:

- The NDP 2021 is not directly connected with or necessary for the management of any European site;
- The NDP is a supply/demand analysis and capacity statement. While the NDP does outline the capital investment proposals to be implemented over the next 10 years, it does not define the exact location, nature, size/operating conditions of any proposals, or allocates resources to a specific area in Ireland. As no specific development proposals are provided, there is no potential for the NDP 2021 to give rise to significant effects on any European site(s); and
- No potential for transboundary or cumulative effects have been identified.

Gas Networks Ireland is satisfied that the NDP 2021 will not give rise to likely significant effects on the qualifying interests of any European sites, in view of best scientific knowledge, and in view of the conservation objective of the sites concerned, and that it does not require stage 2 AA.

This determination and associated documentation are available on Gas Networks Ireland's website at <https://www.gasnetworks.ie> and for public inspection at the offices of Gas Networks Ireland during office hours (8.30am – 5.30pm) in Gas Networks Ireland Headquarters, Gasworks Road, Cork, T12 RX96.

Signed: 

Date: 07th December 2021

On behalf of:

GAS NETWORKS IRELAND LIMITED