APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT
SCREENING REPORT –

OF THE
DRAFT VARIATION OF THE
CARRICK ON SHANNON LOCAL AREA PLAN
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF
ARTICLE 6(3) OF THE EU HABITATS DIRECTIVE

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September 2011
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1. Introduction
In accordance with the Planning & Development (Amendment) Act 2010 the Council incorporated a Core Strategy into the County Development Plan 2009 – 2015 (CDP), which came into effect on July 2011. It is now proposed to make a Variation to the Carrick on Shannon Local Area Plan 2010 – 2016 (LAP) in order to ensure that it is consistent with the CDP as amended.

This report is the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report (AA) of the Draft Variation of the LAP in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) and the requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2000 – 2010 (the Act).

2. The Appropriate Assessment Process

2.1 Requirement for an Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive

The requirement for an Appropriate Assessment is set out in the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). The aim of the European Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora) is to create a network of protected wildlife sites in Europe, maintained at a good conservation status. The network of sites is referred to as Natura 2000 sites. In Ireland, the Natura 2000 network of European sites comprises Special Areas of Conservation (SAC’s, including candidate SACs), and Special Protection Areas (SPA’s, including proposed SPA’S). SACs are selected for the conservation of vulnerable and threatened habitat types and species (other than birds). SPA’s are selected for the conservation of vulnerable and threatened species of birds and other regularly occurring migratory birds, and their habitats.

The European Habitats Directive (EHD) (Council of the European Communities 1992) was transposed into Irish legislation by the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997. The Directive specifies the scientific criteria on the basis of which Natura 2000 sites must be selected and sets out various procedures and obligations in relation to the nature conservation management which must be undertaken for the purpose of ensuring the protection of the Natura 2000 sites.

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states:

Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.

Furthermore, Article 6(4) states:

If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of social or economic nature, the Member State shall take all compensatory...
measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted. Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest.

2.2 Appropriate Assessment Guidance

The preparation of this Assessment has been informed by reference to the following guidance documents:

- Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites. Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission 2002)
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG 2009)

2.3 Stages in the Process

Article 6 of the Habitats Directive provides a strict assessment procedure for any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but which has the potential to have implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. The Draft Variation to the County Development Plan 2009-2015, therefore, falls under the remit of Article 6.

According to the European Commission's guidance document, it has become generally accepted that the assessment requirements of Article 6 establish a stage by stage approach. The stages proposed by the guidance document are:

**Stage One: Screening**
The process which identifies the likely impacts upon a Natura 2000 site of a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant.

**Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment**
The consideration of the impact on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site of the project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site’s structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are adverse impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts.

**Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions**
The process which examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site.

**Stage Four: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain**

An assessment of compensatory measures where, in the light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI), it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed.

This report documents the first of these stages. It examines the likely effects of the Variation to the LAP on Natura 2000 sites within a 15km buffer of the development envelop and considers whether it can be objectively concluded that these sites will not be significantly impacted.

The format of the following assessment is derived from the European Commission’s guidance document “Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites. Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC” (2002).

3. **The Draft Variation of the Carrick on Shannon Local Area Plan 2010 - 2016**

3.1 **Is the Draft Variation of the Leitrim County Development Plan 2009-2015 necessary to the Management of Natura 2000 Sites?**

The Habitats Directive makes clear that, for a project or plan to be ‘directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site’, the ‘management’ component must refer to management measures that are for conservation purposes, and the ‘directly’ element refers to measures that are solely conceived for the conservation management of a site and not direct or indirect consequences of other activities.

The Draft Variation of the LAP is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the Natura 2000 sites in the Plan area. It should be noted that there are no Natura 2000 sites within 15 Km of Carrick on Shannon. The County Development Plan 2009 – 2010 (CDP) which is the parent document includes, inter alia, measures to protect, conserve and manage the County’s natural heritage in a prudent and sustainable manner, including the Natura 2000 network, and to seek their enhancement where appropriate and feasible.

3.2 **Mitigating Measures in the Plan**

The CDP, which is the parent document to the LAP contains numerous measures which contribute to the conservation of Natura Sites in accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.

The County Development Plan 2009-2015 under Section 2.07.02a refers to Natura 2000 sites and states:

“*The Council shall take appropriate steps to avoid, in these areas, the deterioration of natural habitats and the habitats of species as well as disturbance of the species for which the areas have been designated, in so far as such disturbance could be significant in relation to the objectives of the Habitats Directive, 92/43/EEC Directive.*
Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to “appropriate assessment” of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4 of the Habitats Directive the Council shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.

If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, the Council shall take appropriate action so that all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. The Council shall take appropriate action to inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted. Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species, the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the European Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest.

The following specific policies and objectives in the CDP will contribute to the conservation of Natura 2000 sites in accordance with the Habitats Directive.

Policy 2.7a  It is the policy of the Council to protect and conserve Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas including “Candidate” and “Proposed” areas.

Policy 2.7b  Policy 7.2b  It is the Policy of the Council to ensure that all Plans and Projects that have the potential to negatively impact on the integrity of the Natura 2000 network, will be subject to a Habitats Directive Assessment (HDA), in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and in accordance with best practice and guidance.

Objective 7.2a  It is an objective of the Council to protect those sites identified as candidate Special Areas of Conservation as well as any other sites that may be so identified during the lifetime of this plan.

Objective 7.2b  It is an objective to protect the character, appearance and quality of the habitats and semi-natural features in County Leitrim such as woodlands, hedgerows, peatlands, wetlands and artificial waterways of historic or ecological importance.

Objective 7.2c  It is an objective of the Council in partnership with the relevant agencies to promote the development and implementation of codes of best practices through initiatives such as The Golden Mile Competition, Environmental Partnership and the Green Schools projects.

Objective 7.2d  It is an objective of the Council to protect the proposed Special Protection Areas and all others as they become proposed and designated during the lifetime of this plan.

3.3 Other Instruments
Numerous other higher level measures further mitigate potential impacts of the Draft Variation. These measures include EU Directives, National legislation and various guidelines. Principal among these are the following:

- **The National Biodiversity Plan** (NBP): UN Convention on Biological Diversity 1992 National Biodiversity Plan 2002 is as a result of this.
- **The Ramsar Convention** (R): Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar)

4. **Assessment Criteria/Screening Matrix**

4.1 **Brief Description of the Carrick on Shannon LAP and the proposed Variation**

The Carrick-on-Shannon LAP sets out a development framework for the planned, co-ordinated and sustainable development of Carrick-on-Shannon and for the conservation and enhancement of its natural and man made environment. The Plan seeks to provide guidance in the form of policies and objectives for the development of social, physical and environmental infrastructure in a sustainable manner for Carrick-on-Shannon. The Plan provides; a statutory land use framework and land-use zoning matrix, a detailed framework for determining planning applications and will establish a basis for co-ordinating development through prescribed development standards, polices and objectives while protecting and enhancing the natural and man-made environment. The LAP complies with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and the Strategic Assessment Regulations 2004.

The primary purpose of the Variation is to ensure that the LAP is consistent with the Core Strategy as set out in the County Development Plan 2009 – 2015 (CDP). In particular the Variation seeks to ensure that the residential land use requirements set out in the CDP are translated into the LAP.

4.2 **Natura 2000 Sites in and within 15km of the County Development Plan Area**

The zone of examination in respect to Natura 2000 Sites has been taken as a 15Km radius from the town. As can be seen from Map No 1 there are no such sites within this zone. Information, data and
maps of Irish Natura 2000 sites, including those identified below are available from the Maps and Data Section on the NPWS website at http://www.npws.ie/en/MapsData.
Map No 1  Extent of 15Km Buffer Zone and location of Natura 2000 sites.
4.3 Assessment Criteria

4.3.1 Describe the individual elements of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to impacts on the Natura 2000 site.

The Carrick LAP and its parent document, the County Development Plan 2009-2015 (CDP) are robust documents which act in combination with a host of other European, National and Regional Legislation, Plans and Guidance documents in terms of the management of the environment. The Draft Variation has been guided by, and operate within, the framework set out in National Plans and Guidance Documents and in particular by the County Development Plan 2009 – 2015, Regional Planning Guidelines 2010 – 2022 (RPG’s) and Circular Letter PSSP6/2010 (‘Core Strategies under the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010’ as issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government).

It is important to note that the CDP and the Regional Planning Guidelines have been the subject of Strategic Environmental and Appropriate Assessment processes as required by the Habitats Directive. The Draft Variation has also been the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report.

The Draft Variation will not alter the core principles of the Plan.

The land use targets as set out in the CDP and RPG’s set out the level of residential land zoning requirements i.e. 21Ha or a population increase of 600 for the period up to 2016. Considering the high level of residential zoning (83 Ha) and level of available housing in terms of vacant units and those under construction (equivalent to 6 Ha), it is proposed to reduce the level of residential zoning from 83 Ha to 21 Ha through the rezoning of lands away from residential use. Considering the high level of vacant units and units under construction, the variation provides for a ‘justification test’ to be applied to proposals for new housing schemes. Considering the foregoing and taken in conjunction with the weak state of the construction industry generally, it is anticipated that activity in the construction sector will be weak. Accordingly, the risk of any adverse environmental impacts arising from construction activity is likely to be low.

It is considered that the Draft Variation will have an overall positive economic, social and environmental effect and will have no significant adverse impact on the Natura 2000 network.

4.3.2 Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the Natura 2000 site by virtue of:

a) size and scale, area and land-take

The Draft Variation will result in quantum of lands being available for housing being reduced from circa 83 Ha to circa 21 Ha. A significant portion of the lands zoned primarily residential will now be zoned residential reserve/support. Also lands zoned general development will be rezoned ‘Commercial Town Expansion’, under which it is anticipated that the level of housing provision will be significantly reduced and the level of commercial development increased. The Draft Variation does not propose any additional zoning of land or any interference with the Natura 2000 network.
No projects giving rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts upon the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites, having regard to their conservation objectives, arising from their size, scale, area and land take, shall be permitted on the basis of the draft Variation (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects)\(^1\).

b) **Distance from the Natura 2000 site or key feature of the site**
The Variation to the LAP does not relate to a specific location but relate to the entire area within the development boundary. There are no Natura 2000 sites within the development envelope or within 15Km of the town.

c) **Resource requirements (water abstraction etc)**
The level of water supply and extraction has been considered during the consideration of the settlement strategy within the County Development Plan.

Notwithstanding the fact that a population target of 600 for Carrick-on-Shannon for the period up to 2016, it is anticipated that population growth will be slow in the short term at least considering current economic circumstances.

The existing public water supply and wastewater treatment facilities (including those of the Cortoer area) are adequate to accommodate anticipated demand. Furthermore, water conservation and network management is now an integral component of the Water Services Investment Programme and is key to the sustainable use of water resources.

No projects giving rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts upon the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites, arising from their resource requirements are facilitated or shall be permitted on the basis of the draft Variation to the County Development Plan (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects)\(^1\).

d) **Emissions and Waste (disposal to land, water or air)**

It is not anticipated that the proposed Variation will give rise to any significant change in the level of emissions or waste. The new procedures for managing water resources at River Basin District level has resulted in the carrying out of a comprehensive assessment of water quality within the region and its catchment area. Accordingly, the updated policies in the CDP in respect of implementation of the recommendations of the River Basin District Plans, will assist in securing good water quality standards and associated habitats within the region.

The river Shannon forms the southern boundary of the development zone and is associated with significant amenity/recreational uses (mainly boating). It also receives discharges of surface water and treated wastewater form public drains and is the source of the South Leitrim Water Supply Scheme, which serves Carrick on Shannon and the greater part of the southern half of the County. Whereas the Shannon River, per-se, is not a designated Natura site, it flows into the Lough Forbes Complex Natura 2000 site, located approximately 19Km,

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\(^1\) Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive.
(a) No alternative solution available;
(b) Imperative reasons for overriding public interest, including those of a social and economic nature; and,
(c) Adequate compensatory measures to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected.
(c30Km by river) from Carrick on Shannon. Considering the nature and extent of the proposals under the Variation and the location of the site relative to Carrick on Shannon, and in particular the measures set out in the CDP, LAP and other relevant measures in relation to the protection of water quality; it is considered that the proposed Variation would not give rise to any significant adverse impact on the integrity of the Lough Forbes Complex.

No projects giving rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts upon the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites, arising from Emissions and Waste are facilitated or shall be permitted on the basis of the draft Variation to the LAP (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects)\(^1\).

e) Transportation Requirements

It is not anticipated that the proposed Variation will give rise to any significant change in Transportation requirements. Section 2.05 of the County Development Plan 2009-2015 incorporates a sustainable framework for transportation. It should be noted that Variation No 1 of the CDP incorporated the N4 Carrick on Shannon to Dromod preferred route into the CDP. This route includes the Carrick on Shannon by-pass. In this regard Map 8, Appendix A – Book of Maps attached to the LAP has been revised. Whereas the constraints area associated with the route included a significant portion of the development zone of the town, the constraints area is now outside the zone.

f) Duration of Construction, operation, decommissioning, etc

The period of the LAP 2010-2015 extends until 6th June 2016, after which the LAP will be replaced or its period extended.

g) Other

No projects giving rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts upon the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites are facilitated or shall be permitted on the basis of the draft Variation to the County Development Plan (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects)\(^1\).

4.3.3 Describe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of:

a) Reduction of habitat area

As mentioned previously there are no Natura 2000 sites located within the development zone or within 15 Km of Carrick on Shannon. The Variation will therefore not result in any reduction in habitat area.

b) Disturbance to key species

The Council shall take appropriate steps to avoid the disturbances of key species within designated sites in accordance with the statement, policies and objectives set out in Section 2.07.02 of the CDP.

c) Habitat or species fragmentation
The Council shall take appropriate steps to avoid habitat or species fragmentation within designated sites in accordance with the statement, policies and objectives set out in Section 2.07.02 of the CDP.

d) **Reduction in Species Density**
The Council shall take appropriate steps to avoid reduction in species density within designated sites in accordance with the statement, policies and objectives set out in Section 2.07.02 of the CDP.

e) **Changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc)**
The new procedures for managing water resources at River Basin District level has resulted in the carrying out of a comprehensive assessment of water quality within the region and its catchment area. Accordingly, the policies in respect of implementation of the River Basin District Plans and related policies, as set out in the CDP, will assist in securing good water quality standards and associated habitats within the region.

Therefore there will be no likely changes to the Natura 2000 network arising as a result of changes in key indicators of conservation value (e.g. water quality) arising from the Draft Variation.

f) **Climate change**
The existing policies and objectives set out in the CDP, in particular those relating to ‘Climate Change’, ‘Sustainable Transport’ and ‘Flood Risk Management’ will have a positive impact on the protection of Natura 2000 network. Particular consideration has been given in the existing LAP and also in the Variation to the issue of Flood Risk Management.

4.3.4 **Describe any likely impacts on the Natura 2000 site as a whole in terms of:**

a) **Interference with the key relationship that define the structure of the site**
The Draft Variation will not impact on the relationships that define the structure of Natura 2000 sites.

b) **Interference with key relationships that define the function of the site**
The Draft Variation will not impact on the relationships that define the function of Natura 2000 sites.

4.3.5 **Provide Indicators of significance as a result of the identification of effects set out above in terms of;**

a) Loss
b) Fragmentation
c) Disruption
d) Disturbance
e) Change to key elements of the site (e.g. water quality etc).
It is considered that the Draft Variation will not give rise to any significant adverse impacts on the integrity of any Natura 2000 site. Leitrim County Council shall take appropriate steps to secure the integrity of these designated sites in accordance with the statement, policies and objectives set out in Section 2.07.02 of the CDP.

4.3.6 **Describe from the above those elements of the project or plan, or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale or magnitude of impacts is not known.**

It is considered that the Draft Variation will not give rise to any significant adverse impacts on the integrity of any Natura 2000 site.

In general proposal for development within the LAP development zone will be assessed in accordance with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. The requirements of Article 6 in respect to Appropriate Assessment will apply, as appropriate, to proposals for development that have the potential to impact on the Natura 2000 network.
5. Finding of no significant effects report matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of project/plan</th>
<th>Proposed Variation to the Carrick on Shannon Local Area Plan 2010 – 2016 (LAP)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name and location of Natura 2000 site(s)</td>
<td>The zone of examination in respect to Natura 2000 Sites has been taken as a 15Km radius from the town. As can be seen from Map No 1 there are no such sites within this zone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description of the project/plan</td>
<td>The LAP set out a development framework for the planned, co-ordinated and sustainable development of Carrick-on-Shannon and for the conservation and enhancement of its natural and man-made environment. The Plan seeks to provide guidance in the form of policies and objectives for the development of social, physical and environmental infrastructure in a sustainable manner for Carrick-on-Shannon. The primary purpose of the Variation is to ensure that the LAP is consistent with the Core Strategy as set out in the County Development Plan 2009 – 2015 (CDP). In particular the Draft Variation seeks to ensure that the residential land use requirements set out in the CDP are translated into the LAP. The main effect of the Variation will be to reduce the quantum of residential zoned land from 83 Ha to 21 Ha. This will be achieved primarily by rezoning lands zoned 'Primarily Residential' to residential reserve/support and by rezoning lands zoned General Development to 'Commercial Town Expansion'.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the project directly connected or necessary to the management of the site</td>
<td>The Draft Variation is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the Natura 2000 sites in the Plan area. It should be noted that there are no Natura 2000 sites within 15 Km of Carrick on Shannon. The County Development Plan 2009 – 2010 (CDP) which is the parent document includes, inter alia, measures to protect, conserve and manage the County’s natural heritage in a prudent and sustainable manner, including Natura 2000 sites, and to seek their enhancement where appropriate and feasible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there other projects or plans that together with the project plan being assessed could affect the site</td>
<td>The Carrick LAP and its parent document, the County Development Plan 2009-2015 (CDP) are robust document which acts in combination with a host of other European, National and Regional Legislation, Plans and Guidance documents in terms of the management of the environment. It is considered that the Draft Variation will have an overall positive economic, social and environmental effect and will have no significant adverse impact on the Natura 2000 network.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The assessment of significance of effects

| Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) is likely to affect the Natura 2000 sites | It is considered that the Draft Variation, taken in conjunction with the CDP, will have an overall positive economic, social and environmental effect and will have no significant adverse impact on the Natura 2000 network. |
Explain why these effects are not considered significant

As mentioned previously there are no Natura 2000 sites within 15Km of Carrick on Shannon. The LAP is governed by the CDP which together with other Plans and Guidance Documents will act to secure the integrity of the Natura 2000 network. Proposal for development within the LAP development zone will be assessed in accordance with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. The requirements of Article 6 in respect to Appropriate Assessment will apply, as appropriate, to proposals for development that have the potential to impact on the Natura 2000 network.

List of agencies consulted

This Screening Report as part of the Draft Variation to the LAP shall be referred to the prescribed bodies listed in Appendix 1 attached to the Draft Variation.

Response to consultation

To be completed

Data collection to carry out the assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who carried out the assessment?</th>
<th>Sources of data</th>
<th>Level of assessment completed</th>
<th>Where can the full results of the assessment be accessed and viewed?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Forward Planning Unit, Leitrim County Council | • National Parks and Wildlife Services,  
• Carrick-on-Shannon Local Area Plan 2010-2016  
• Leitrim County Development Plan 2009-2015,  
• Draft Variation to the Leitrim County Development Plan 2009-2015  
• The Draft Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report for the Variation to the Carrick on Shannon LAP 2010-2016 | Stage 1 – Screening Report Desktop Study | The Appropriate Assessment Screening Report of the Draft Variation to the County Development Plan shall be placed on public display and will also be accessible on the council website. |

6. Initial Determination

This Screening Report for the Appropriate Assessment of the proposed Variation to the Carrick on Shannon Local Area Plan 2010 – 2016 (LAP), has been carried out in accordance with the Methodological guidance on the provision of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC as published by the European Commission and in accordance with the Planning and Development Acts 2000 - 2010.

The Screening Report finds that it can be objectively concluded that there are not likely to be significant effects on the network of Natura 2000 sites as a result of the Draft Variation to the LAP. It is considered that the Draft Variation, the LAP, and the parent document the CDP have been formulated to ensure that uses, development and effects arising from permissions based upon this
Variation (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) shall not give rise to any significant effect on the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.

Therefore, in accordance with the Methodological guidance on the provision of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, it is concluded that the draft Variation to the Carrick on Shannon Local Area Plan 2010 – 2016 does not require any further assessment in order to demonstrate compliance with the Directive.

7. **Recommendation**

It is recommended that this initial determination be placed on public display and referred to the relevant prescribed bodies including, adjoining Local Authorities and the National Parks and Wildlife Service for their consideration. Relevant submission and any material amendments to the Draft Variation should be assessed, prior to making a final determination. The final determination should be made available for public inspection.