



**Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Determination under the
Planning and Development Act 2024, as amended, for:**

Draft Masterplan for St. Canice's Campus

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening determination has been made by Kilkenny County Council regarding the Draft Masterplan for St Canice's Campus on the Dublin Road in Kilkenny.

The St Canice's Masterplan considers high level proposals for the enhancement of the plan area, and detailed designs, relevant approval process and construction techniques have not yet been developed or sought.

Proposed land use plans must undergo a formal 'test' or 'screening' to ascertain whether they are likely to result in any significant adverse effects on specific sites designated for their nature conservation importance. These sites are those designated under the European Commission's Natura 2000 network of sites (hereafter 'European sites'). These sites are designated based on the presence of certain habitats and species that are deemed to be of international importance. The Irish Government and planning authorities have a legal obligation to protect these sites. The EC Habitats and Birds Directives are the framework for the designation of these sites. The EC Habitats Directive requires the 'screening' of plans and projects under Article 6(3). If the screening process results in a judgement that likely significant effects may occur or cannot be ruled out, then a more detailed 'appropriate assessment' (AA) is required.

In accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive, Kilkenny County Council has undertaken Appropriate Assessment screening to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the European sites, if the above plan, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on a European Site(s).

Kilkenny County Council has determined following screening that an Appropriate Assessment is not required.

In conclusion, in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, on the basis of the objective information provided in the AA Screening Report and considering all matters relevant it has been determined that the St. Canice's Masterplan, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, has no likelihood of significant effects on European Sites and a Stage 2/Natura Impact Statement is not required. This determination is informed by the Appropriate Assessment Stage 1 Screening Report for the St Canice's Draft Masterplan.

Signed 
Arlene O'Connor,
Senior Executive Planner

Date 18/5/26