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## Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe Galway County Council

### Galway County Council

#### Ground Investigation Works adjacent to the proposed N59 Oughterard Footbridge

#### Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

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An Appropriate Assessment Screening decision regarding the above referenced Ground Investigation Works adjacent to the proposed N59 Oughterard Footbridge has been made by Galway County Council under Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora; the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended); and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477/2011) ("Habitats Regulations"). This decision has been informed by an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report titled "GI AA Screening – Eirspan 341 N59 Oughterard Footbridge" (dated 27/09/2024) prepared by AtkinsRéalis.

This screening report has examined the likely significant effects of the Ground Investigation Works on European Sites, in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of European Sites. The report sets out the nature of the Ground Investigation Works and assesses any potential for direct, indirect or cumulative impacts of the Ground Investigation Works on European Sites.

Having reviewed and considered this screening report, Galway County Council has been able to conclude and make this determination for the following reasons:-

- i. Galway County Council carried out a screening for Appropriate Assessment which adequately identified all of the relevant issues for consideration;
- ii. Galway County Council has all relevant information for the purpose of this determination on the Ground Investigation Works;
- iii. The duration of the works is extremely short, scheduled to be undertaken in 1 day. The works are very minor in nature and very limited in extent: drilling though the overburden and coring into the bedrock followed by a trial pit to expose rock head;
- iv. it is possible to rule out the likelihood of significant effects to European sites arising from the Ground Investigation Works individually or in combination with other plans or projects in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of the sites, and there is no doubt in that conclusion and that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC is not required.

Therefore, it is the view of Galway County Council, in relying on the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report "GI AA Screening – Eirspan 341 N59 Oughterard Footbridge" prepared by AtkinsRéalis and for the reason that it is possible to rule out likely significant effects arising from the Ground Investigation Works on European Sites, that an Appropriate Assessment is not required for the Ground Investigation Works.

This determination is available for inspection at Galway County Council Offices, Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway and on its website at [www.galway.ie](http://www.galway.ie)

Date:

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gavin J.', written over a horizontal line.

Director of Services

Physical Development, Fire and Emergency Services, Climate Change.