

Screening Determination for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) under SEA Directive 2001/42/EC as transposed into Irish law under S.I. 435/2004, as amended.

Concerning Coillte's proposed Land Use Strategic Implementation Plan

Coillte published a strategic vision for the organisation in 2022 titled *Strategic Vision for Our Future Forest Estate*. This vision underpins Coillte's commitment to deliver the multiple benefits of forests to society and set ambitions to managing the Coillte estate for the benefit of climate, nature, wood, and people.

As part of this strategic vision, Coillte developed the *Forest Estate Strategic Land Use Plan (FESLUP)*, a comprehensive framework that outlines the strategic objectives to balance the delivery of the organisation's ambitions until 2050. The FESLUP has already been subject to a full SEA. Coillte proposes developing a *Land Use Strategic Implementation Plan (LUSIP)*, which will translate the objectives outlined in the FESLUP into implementable and measurable actions over the period of 2026-2035.

Coillte, as the Competent Authority for the *Land Use Strategic Implementation Plan*, has undertaken screening for SEA under Directive 2001/42/EC¹. The screening assessment was carried out using the criteria for determining the likely significance of effects as set out in Schedule 1 of S.I. 435/2004, as amended².

Following the assessment of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of S.I. 435/2004, as amended, and having regard to the nature of the *Land Use Strategic Implementation Plan* and the potential for likely significant environmental effects from implementation of the Plan, Coillte has determined that the Plan has the potential to give rise to likely significant effects on the environment, and SEA is therefore required.

The principal reasons the LUSIP requires SEA are as follows:

- The Plan supports intensive forestry operations and infrastructural development that may give rise to likely significant effects on the environment, such as effects on biodiversity, flora, and fauna; hydrology and surface water quality; soils, geology and hydrogeology; and landscape character and visual amenity.
- The Plan will provide a framework for land use and has the potential to drive significant land use change.
- The Plan is national in scale, covering approximately 7% of land use in Ireland and over 50% of national forestry. Given the geographic scope and scale of the Plan, environmental effects have the

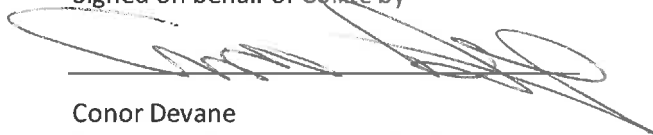
¹ Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32001L0042>

² S.I. No. 435 of 2004 (European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011 (European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011)

potential to be long-term and cumulative in nature along with other national and regional Plans/Programmes.

- The Plan relates to the forestry sector and may influence and support the future development of projects listed in Annex II to the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive³.
- The Plan, individually and/or in combination with other plans and projects, has the potential to have likely, significant effects on European sites within the zone of influence of the Plan, in view of site conservation objectives and best scientific knowledge (in the absence of mitigation measures).
- The Plan has the potential to influence other plans/programmes, including those in a hierarchy, to a significant degree.
- The Plan has the potential to generate transboundary environmental impacts and result in likely, significant effects on the environment in Northern Ireland. The Plan may give rise to impacts on environmental components which can be transmitted across boundaries (such as water quality, air quality, landscape character and visual amenity, climate, biodiversity etc.).

Signed on behalf of Coillte by



Conor Devane
Director of Forest Planning & ICT

Date: 11/9/25

³ Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU.

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Determination under the EU's Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC Article 6(3) as transposed into Irish law under Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 477/2011), as amended.

Coillte's proposed Land Use Strategic Implementation Plan

Coillte published a strategic vision for the organisation in 2022 titled *Strategic Vision for Our Future Forest Estate*. This vision underpins Coillte's commitment to deliver the multiple benefits of forests to society and set ambitions to managing the Coillte estate for the benefit of climate, nature, wood, and people.

As part of this strategic vision, Coillte developed the *Forest Estate Strategic Land Use Plan* (FESLUP), a comprehensive framework that outlines the strategic objectives to balance the delivery of the organisation's ambitions until 2050. The FESLUP has been informed by AA and a Natura Impact Report. Coillte proposes developing a *Land Use Strategic Implementation Plan* (LUSIP), which will translate the objectives outlined in the FESLUP into implementable and measurable actions over the period of 2026-2035.

Coillte has conducted an Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening for the proposed *Land Use Strategic Implementation Plan*. Following assessment and having regard to the nature of the Plan, it was concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt, on the basis of objective information, that for the purposes of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive¹, the *Land Use Strategic Implementation Plan* individually and/or in combination with other plans and projects, has the potential to have likely, significant effects on European sites within the zone of influence of the Plan, in view of site conservation objectives and best scientific knowledge (in the absence of mitigation measures). Taking account of the above, it is determined that full AA is required to be undertaken for the *Land Use Strategic Implementation Plan*.

The principal reasons the LUSIP requires AA are as follows:

- The Plan supports intensive forestry operations and infrastructural development that may give rise to likely significant effects on European sites.
- The Plan will provide a framework for land use and has the potential to drive significant land use change.
- The Plan is national in scale, covering approximately 7% of land use in Ireland and over 50% of national forestry. Approximately 90,000 ha of the Coillte lands subject to this plan are designated as either Special Protection Areas or Special Areas of Conservation. Given the geographic scope and scale of the Plan, as well as other factors, including the potential land-take, distance from and connectivity to European sites, potential resource requirements, emissions, excavations, transport requirements and duration of construction/operation/decommissioning; the Plan individually and/or in combination

¹ Directive 92/43/EEC.

with other plans and projects, has the potential to have likely, significant effects on European sites within the zone of influence of the Plan, in view of site conservation objectives and best scientific knowledge (in the absence of mitigation measures).

- The Plan has the potential to generate transboundary environmental impacts and result in likely, significant effects on European sites situated in Northern Ireland.

Signed on behalf of Coillte by



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