

Habitats Directive Assessment

Variation of the Westport Town & Environs Development Plan 2010-2016

H.D.A. Determination

November 2011



Westport Town Council



Mayo County Council

Variation of the Westport Town and Environs Development Plan 2010-2016

Habitats Directive Assessment Determination

The Variation of the Westport and Environs Development Plan 2010-2016 was made by the Members of Westport Town Council and Mayo County Council on 10th November 2011 (Westport Town Council) and on 14th November 2011 (Mayo County Council). The variation, as made, is summarised as follows:

1. The inclusion of an Area Plan for Westport House & Demesne into the Westport Town and Environs Development Plan 2010-2016.
2. The inclusion of an Area Plan for Colonel's Wood into the Westport Town and Environs Development Plan 2010-2016.
3. Minor text amendments of the written statement of the Westport Town and Environs Development Plan 2010-2016.

The Core Strategy originally proposed was not made.

Due to the similarities between the variation as made and the Westport Town and Environs Development Plan adopted in January 2010 Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment has been undertaken during the variation process (at modification stage) and was proposed based on the previous Appropriate Assessment carried out on the original plan.

The AA Conclusion Statement concluded that:

Taking into consideration the:

- i. application of the precautionary principle;*
- ii. cumulative impact of the land use zoning objectives of the Westport Town & Environs Development Plan 2010-2016;*
- iii. excessive re-zoning of lands adjacent to and in close proximity to the Natura 2000 site;*
- iv. excessive re-zoning of lands which may contribute to extensive development of the town and environs of Westport and*
- v. the environmental pressures/impacts of excessive development*

It is considered that it is likely that the plan will have a significant adverse effect on the Natura 2000 site, Clew Bay Complex.

During the variation process a meeting was held between representatives from Mayo County Council, Westport Town Council and the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government to discuss the proposed modifications. A revised zoning map (Core Strategy) was agreed in principle for consideration as an alternative Core Strategy for the plan. It was agreed that a new variation will be published in the coming weeks to include a revised Core Strategy based generally on the zoning map

presented at the meeting on 21st October 2011. The revised zoning map (Core Strategy) will ensure a sustainable and robust plan for the area for the remainder of the plan period (2012-2016) which will not have significant environmental impacts on the environment or have a negative impact on the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 site Clew Bay Complex.

Due to the agreement of the commencement of a new variation to the plan to incorporate a revised Core Strategy, based on the revised zoning map agreed at the meeting held on 21st October 2011 by the end of this year, the new variation, when made, shall counter act any possible adverse effects that the current variation may have on the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.

Variation No.2 (Core Strategy) of the Westport Town and Environs Development Plan 2010-2016 has now commenced.

J. Beirne
Director of Services
For the West Region
& County Engineer