

Westport Town Council & Mayo County Council



Aquila in Sinistra
(in the shadow of the eagle)

Westport Town Council



Mayo County Council

Variation No. 3 of the Westport Town and Environs Development Plan 2010-2016

Habitats Directive Assessment Conclusion Statement

Variation No. 3 of the Westport and Environs Development Plan 2010-2016 was made by the Members of the Planning Authorities (Westport Town Council and Mayo County Council) on 09th July 2012.

The variation includes the rerouting of the proposed road corridor north of Westport Town (N5 Westport to Turlough Road Project). The route will be moved northwards. The variation will result in the allocation of zoned land for industrial use in one single zoned site as opposed to the current arrangement of two industrial zones severed by the proposed N5 route corridor. The proposed Variation No. 3 results in the opening up of the site, thus allowing development in an unrestricted manner.

In preparing the variation consideration was given to the direct, indirect and secondary effects on the Natura 2000 site adjoining the plan area – Clew Bay Complex, including habitat loss, disturbance, pollution etc. Any risks to the integrity of the Natura 2000 site were considered and the avoidance of these impacts was prioritised in drafting the Variation.

Habitats Directive Assessment Stage 1 Screening of Variation No.3 to the Westport Town and Environs Development Plan 2010-2016 determined that full Appropriate Assessment is not required for the variation. The variation has been made without any material amendments so this determination still stands.

There are existing commitments in the Plan to protect the Natura 2000 sites through the inclusion of policies and objectives which will ensure the town can develop in a sustainable manner; facilitating future development whilst protecting designated sites and the natural heritage of the town. Any proposals within the plan area that could potentially impact negatively upon the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites will be subject to Habitats Directive Assessment.

Having regard to the above it is considered that Variation No. 3 will not result in significant adverse effects on the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.

Martin Keating
Director of Services
for the West Region

July 2012