



**Appropriate Assessment Determination under the
European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended)
for the
River Bride (Blackpool) Certified Drainage Scheme**

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) Determination, pursuant to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, as to whether a plan or project would adversely affect the integrity of a European Site, and Regulation 42 (11) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended), is being made by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER).

In carrying out this AA, the DPER is taking into account the relevant matters specified under Regulation 42 (12) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended). The assessment process considered information contained in the following documents:

- The Natura Impact Statement (submitted with the initial application);
- The Natura Impact Statement Addendum Report (submitted following the further information request);
- The DPER Review of the NIS - including recommendations;
- All other relevant documents such as the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and associated appendices (including all addenda).

The AA process identified all mitigation measures provided within the NIS, NIS addendum and subsequent review report. It is determined that the risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the qualifying interests, special conservation interests and conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 network have been addressed by the inclusion of achievable mitigation measures that will prioritise the avoidance of effects in the first place and reliably mitigate these effects where they cannot be avoided.

Furthermore, ongoing maintenance works included in the scheme will have to comply, as relevant, with the various environmental considerations and approval from a dedicated environmental monitoring group to ensure the long-term compliance with the mitigation requirements set out in the scheme documents as modified by conditions attached to the Confirmation Order.

Having incorporated these mitigation commitments; it is determined that implementation of the River Bride (Blackpool) Certified Drainage Scheme will not have a significant adverse effect on the ecological integrity of any European Site, either individually or in combination with any other plan or project¹. Therefore, no further assessment is required.

Date: 12 MARCH 2021

Signed: Brian O'Malley
Signatory
Approved Officer

¹ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

- a) No alternative solution available,
- b) Imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and
- c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.