



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

GP0037 Proposed Ground Investigation Works: Celtic Interconnector Project (County Cork):

In accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) and Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended ('The Regulations'), EirGrid has undertaken Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of relevant European sites, if the proposed Ground Investigation Works: Celtic Interconnector Project ('the proposed development') individually or in combination with other plans or projects would be likely to have a significant effect (s) on a European site(s).

The proposed development consists of:

- Site preparation works;
- Ground investigation works comprising various intrusive and non-intrusive methods; and
- Monitoring and testing involving non-intrusive gas and groundwater monitoring at monthly intervals until such time as the construction phase for Celtic Interconnector commences, subject to the relevant consents.

There will be no works within European sites required as part of the proposed development. The nearest European sites to the proposed development are the Ballymacoda Bay Special Protection Area (SPA; site code 4023; c. 1.7 km distant)¹, the Cork Harbour SPA (site code 4030; c.2.3 km distant)², and the Great Island Channel SAC (site code 1058 c.2.3 km distant).³

This determination has had regard for these and any other relevant European sites.

In accordance with Regulation 42(7) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 SI 477 as amended, EirGrid has made a determination following screening that an Appropriate Assessment is not required as the project individually or in combination with other plans or projects is not likely to have a significant effect on any European sites. The risk of likely significant effects on European sites can be excluded on the basis of objective evidence.

This determination is based on the location, scale, extent and duration of the proposed development, including temporary works, and has not taken account of measures intended to avoid or reduce significant effects on European sites.

Signed:

Robert Fennelly CEcol MCIEEM Lead Senior Ecologist

10 November 2020

¹ NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: Ballymacoda Bay SPA 004023. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

² NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives: Cork Harbour SPA 004030. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

³ NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives: Great Island Channel SAC 001058. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.