



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1137 Carlow-Kellis No. 1 110 kV Overhead Line Fibre Wrap [Exempted Development] (Co. Carlow)

In accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) and Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended ('The Regulations'), EirGrid has undertaken Appropriate Assessment screening to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of relevant European sites, if the Carlow-Kellis No. 1 110 kV Overhead Line Fibre Wrap [Exempted Development] ('the 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 development comprises

Carlow Station

- Installing surge arrestors (with associated steelwork);
- Replacing CTs & VTs with combined CT/VTs (with associated civil bases & steelwork);
- Replace existing protection relays and teleprotection interface;
- Integrate all bays into new BZP/CBF Scheme;
- Other associated and ancillary works to electrical apparatus within the existing station to facilitate the works described above.

The scope of the works shall occur wholly within the substation compound and there shall be no extension of existing roofed structures without further consideration

Kellis Station

- Installing surge arrestors (with associated steelwork)
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The scope of the works shall occur wholly within the substation compound and there shall be no extension of existing roofed structures without further consideration

Carlow-Kellis OHL

- Fibre Wrap earth wire on Carlow Kellis 1 and commission same. No UGC element required. No replacement of structures.

The works are estimated to take 15 weeks. The works will not require replacement of polesets, and there will be no removal of semi-natural vegetation, and will not require instream works.

The development does not overlap or adjoin European sites. The nearest European site to the development is the River Slaney Special Area of Conservation¹ (site code 781; 4.5 km from the development at its nearest point, but in a different catchment to the development). The River Barrow and River Nore Special Area of Conservation² (site code 2162; 9.4 km from the development at its nearest point), is also of relevance given its location in the downstream catchment.

The AA Screening assessment has reviewed the nature and scale of the works against hydrological connectivity and excluded the risk of downstream surface water impacts to relevant sites; namely the River Barrow and River Nore Special Area of Conservation.

The River Barrow and Rive Nore SAC is designated for pollution-sensitive aquatic Qualifying Interests including Freshwater Pearl Mussel (FWPM) *Margaritifera margaritifera*, but the development is not within the relevant catchment for SAC FWPM populations (i.e. ‘Barrow-Mountain’).

The risk of ex-situ impacts to the Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests roosting, foraging, or nesting away from European sites has also been excluded, following analysis of known and potential habitats for mobile bird and other animal populations. There is no increase to bird strike risk from the development, given no change to alignment, or extent of shield wiring on the existing overhead line.

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 works individually or in combination with other plans or projects are 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 has been informed by a desktop assessment of best scientific knowledge, and had regard for the Conservation Objectives of relevant European sites.

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

Signed:



1 November 2022

Robert Fennelly CEcol MCIEEM Senior Ecologist

¹ NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives: Slaney River Valley SAC 000781. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

² NPWS (2018) Conservation objectives for River Barrow and River Nore SAC [2162]. Detailed Version 1.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.