



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

Nexans Ballyadam Site [Exempted Development] Co. 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 Nexans Ballyadam Site [Exempted Development] Co. Cork ('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 works for the placement of a Contractor's construction compound immediately to the north-east of the Ballyadam construction site associated with the Celtic Interconnector planning application (Bord Ref. VA04.310798).

Analysis of Pathways to European sites

There are no European sites overlapping or adjacent the works. The nearest European sites are the Cork Harbour Special Protection Area (SPA; site code 4030)¹, and Great Island Channel Special Area of Conservation (SAC; site code 1058)², both located c. 3.2 km from the development. There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the development via a source-pathway-receptor linkage.

There are no watercourses within the site with hydrological connectivity to European sites in Cork Harbour. There is no surface water system proposed which would carry pollutants into the distant Cork Harbour. Any overland surface water flow will filter to ground through the existing partially vegetated and stoned surface adjacent to the compound site

None of the works are within the catchment of any Qualifying Interest (QI) Freshwater Pearl Mussels *Margaritifera margaritifera*, Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*, or other pollution sensitive species. The site is karstic, but surveys for the Celtic Interconnector planning application identified no Groundwater-dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems within or adjacent the works.

No piling or other intrusive groundworks will be required to establish the development which would establish a pathway for pollutants to enter underground conduits and pass via subsurface groundwater flows to the distant Cork Harbour.

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 any European sites.

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. This follows analysis of known and potential habitats for mobile bird and other animal populations, including breeding and wintering bird survey, and otter surveys of the Celtic Interconnector planning application in 2019, 2020 and/or 2021.

AA Screening Statement

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

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

² NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives: Great Island Channel SAC 001058. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

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 development, including temporary works, and has not taken account of measures intended to avoid or reduce significant effects on European sites.

Signed:



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24 May 2023