



## Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

### CP0823(a) Maynooth 220kV Station Works Project [Exempted Development] (County Kildare)

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, of the proposed substation works within Maynooth 220 kV Substation ('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). All development works will be undertaken inside the existing substation boundary. The development comprises:

- Decommission existing circuit breaker, current and voltage transformers and surge arresters
- Remove already decommissioned bypass disconnects from the bay
- Install replacement 220 kV air insulated switchgear (AIS) primary plant
- Replace the bay conductor
- Commission bay F7 protection and control system as per Protection Specification requirements
- Provide, install, and commission the associated Telecoms equipment, as required
- Final commissioning and energisation of Turlough Hill bay F7

The development is not located within any European site; the closest such site is Rye Water Valley/Carlton Special Area of Conservation (SAC; site code 001398)<sup>1</sup> which is 4.6 km north-east of the substation. There is no hydrological link between the development and the SAC or any other European site. This determination has had regard for this SAC and any other relevant European sites.

The risk of ex-situ impacts to the Qualifying Interests (QI) and Special Conservation Interests (SCI) roosting, foraging, or nesting away from European sites within the substation has also been excluded, following analysis of known and potential habitats for mobile bird and other animal populations.

The development is not located within the catchment of any freshwater pearl mussels *Margaritifera*, or other sensitive aquatic species which are the QIs of European sites. Impact pathways to other far-flying mobile QI/SCI species from distant European sites do not arise, due to the absence of supporting habitats for such species within the substation, or because the development is outside the range of QI populations of a given species (e.g. which is the case lesser horseshoe bat, *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, and marsh fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia*).

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

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be the initials "SA" or similar, written in a cursive style.

---

<sup>1</sup> NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives: Rye Water Valley/Carlton SAC 001398. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

---

Susanne Dunne Senior Ecologist

19 February 2025