



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP0866 Great Island 220 kV and Cullenagh 220 kV Station Works Project [Exempted Development] (Counties Wexford and Waterford)

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 CP0866 Great Island 220 kV and Cullenagh 220 kV Station Works Project [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). All works for the development will be within the station boundaries and will comprise of protection upgrade works at each station.

Great Island Station

The development is not located within any European site. The River Barrow And River Nore Special Area of Conservation (SAC; site code 002162)¹ is located c. 0.150 km to the west of the station boundary. This determination has had regard for these and any other relevant European sites.

There are no groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystems (GWDTE) or surface water features within the ZoI of the works which could provide hydrological linkage to any European sites. There are also no habitats suitable to otter *Lutra lutra* within the ZoI of the works, due to the absence of wetland features, and the location of works within the substation, in close proximity to heavily disturbed industrial lands.

Cullenagh Station

The development is not located within or near any European site; the closest such site is Lower River Suir SAC (site code 002137), located 1.5 km to the south-east of the station boundary². This determination has had regard for these and any other relevant European sites.

There are no drainage ditches or flowing waterbodies within or in close proximity to the station. Thus, no potential for pollution to any 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.

The risk of ex-situ impacts to the Qualifying Interests (QI) and Special Conservation Interests (SCI) 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.

The development is not located within the catchment of any freshwater pearl mussels *Margaritifera*, or other sensitive aquatic species which are the QI 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 Zone of Influence of the development, 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*).

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.

¹ NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: River Barrow And River Nore SAC 002162. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

² NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives: Lower River Suir SAC 002137. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Signed:



Robert Fennelly CEcol MCIEEM Lead Senior Ecologist

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