



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

Site Investigation Works for CP1000 Lanesboro-Mullingar 110 kV OHL [Exempted Development] Counties Longford and Westmeath

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 Site Investigation Works for CP1000 Lanesboro-Mullingar 110 kV OHL Co. Longford and Roscommon ('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 Intrusive Foundation Investigations (IFIs) and Dynamic Probing (DP) at ten existing 110 kV wooden polesets:

Co. Westmeath

- IFI & DP's at structures 150, 188, 205, and 227.
- DP's only at structures 230, 232.

Co. Longford

- IFI & DP's at structures 34, 52, 78, and 133.

Analysis of Pathways to European sites

The nearest element of the works to European sites is End Mast 1 (EM1). Although this is entirely within the fence line of the existing Lanesboro station, Intrusive Foundation Investigations at this tower are located c. 0.025km from the coincident boundaries of the Lough Ree Special Protection Area (site code 4064)¹ and the Lough Ree Special Area of Conservation (site code 440)².

Any surface water generated from the works at EM1 will percolate to, and in the process be filtered by free-draining crushed stone comprising the existing surface of the Lanesboro station. There are no watercourses or drainage ditches within any of the work sites, with hydrological connectivity to European sites. All works are outside the 'Medium Risk' (or 1 in one hundred year)³ flood plan from the nearby River Shannon.

None of the works are within the catchment of any Qualifying Interest (QI) Freshwater Pearl Mussels *Margaritifera margaritifera*, Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*, or Lamprey species.

All works for EM 1 are entirely enclosed within the existing fenced Lanesboro station, where there will be no requirement for vegetation removal.

None of the works require instream works, or works within or adjacent wetlands, or peatlands.

There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the development via a source-pathway-receptor linkage.

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,

¹ NPWS (2022) Conservation objectives for Lough Ree SPA [004064]. First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

² NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives: Lough Ree SAC 000440. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

³ 1% Annual Exceedance Probability Fluvial Flood event.

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.

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 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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