



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1069 Fibre-wrapping and refurbishment of Aughinish-Kilpaddocke 110kV Overhead Line [Exempted Development] County Limerick

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 CP1069 Fibre-wrapping and refurbishment of Aughinish-Kilpaddocke 110kV Overhead Line ('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:

- 5 km fibre wrapping between the new station Ballinknockane 110kV station and Aughinish 110 kV station, between Pole No. 1 and Pole No. 36 along the existing Aughinish - Kilpaddocke 110kV over headline (OHL)
- 1 No. Poleset replacement - Pole No. 26
- Member replacements and other minor works on polesets- Pole No. 22, No. 23, No. 27 and No. 28

Analysis of pathways to European sites

The works are partially within the Barrigone Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (site code 000432)¹ and partially within the Lower River Shannon SAC (site code 002165)² the following impacts are considered relevant to the development:

- Barrigone SAC: polesets 18, 19, 21, 22 and 23 are within the SAC. The SAC is designated for *Juniperus communis* formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands, semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates *Festuco-Brometalia*, limestone pavements and the species marsh fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia*.

¹ NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives: Barrigone SAC 000432. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

² NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives: Lower River Shannon SAC 002165. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

- Lower River Shannon SAC: polesets 3, 4, 5, 6 are within the southern boundary of the SAC. The SAC is designated for a variety of coastal including inter-tidal habitats, and freshwater habitats. The development will require no intrusive works and there will be likely significant effects on QI habitats. The SAC is also designated for mobile QI otter, which occurs widely in in watercourses outside European sites in Ireland. However, the non-intrusive and temporary nature of the works (which require no instream works) and absence of optimal (riparian) otter habitat within the Zol means there is no potential for likely significant disturbance effects on QI otter. There is no potential for the development to have likely significant effects on other QI species, which are not present within the Zol of likely significant effects.

An ecology survey focused on relevant QIs was undertaken on 14 July 2026 by EirGrid's lead Chartered Ecologist focused on the Barrigone SAC between structure 18 and 23. No QI habitats were recorded within the zone of influence of the development³. No QI *Juniper Juniperus communis*, were recorded during the survey and no evidence of marsh fritillary was recorded during the survey. There was no suitable habitat for marsh fritillary larval webs within the Zol.

There is no potential for likely significant pollution effects because works are non-intrusive, and require no instream works.

There are no other European sites nearby or potentially connected to the development via a source-pathway-receptor link that could result in likely significant effects in view of the relevant European sites' Conservation Objectives.

AA Screening Statement

In accordance with Regulation 42(7) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 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:

³ Barrigone SAC is listed as having limestone pavement habitat as a qualifying interest. The NPWS National Survey of Limestone Pavement and Associated Habitats in Ireland, considers the site to contain rocky outcrops rather than limestone pavement and therefore, it not listed in Table 13 'Sites containing Limestone pavement and associated habitats' of the publication.



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