



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1119 Cashla-Flagford 220kV Refurbishment Project [Exempted Development] County Roscommon

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 CP1119 Cashla-Flagford 220kV Refurbishment Project [Exempted Development] ('the Development') individually or in-combination with other plans or projects will result in likely significant effects on a European site(s).

The Development comprises works for the purpose of

- Refurbishments between Towers 139 and 250 on the existing Cashla-Flagford 220KV Line, entailing reinforcement to tower concrete foundations and recapping of shear blocks, in addition to minor non-intrusive works (such as tower painting, and replacement of hardware)
- Bay and cabling works entirely within the existing compound of the Flagford 220kV Substation.

Analysis of Pathways to European Sites

Between poles 139 and 250, the Cashla-Flagford 220kV Line passes several European sites including the Kilsallagh Bog Special Area of Conservation (SAC)¹ (489m distant), Corliskea / Trien / Cloonfelliv Bog SAC² (2.7km distance), Mullygollan Turlough SAC³ (778m distance), Bellanagare Bog SAC⁴ / Special Protection Area (SPA)⁵ (8km distance), Cloonshanville Bog SAC⁶ (9.2km distance) and Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC⁷ (5.8km distance).

The main impact pathways that are relevant to European sites with Qualifying Interest (QI) bog habitats (i.e. the Kilsallagh Bog SAC, Corliskea / Trien / Cloonfelliv Bog SAC, Bellanagare Bog SAC / SPA and Cloonshanville Bog SAC) are deterioration in water quality and change in hydrology. For impacts to occur, a hydrological connection to the relevant European sites must be present. Review of waterbodies crossed by the Overhead Line (OHL) Route and flow directions indicates that most of the European sites lie westward from the OHL and waterbodies crossed by the Development drain in an easterly direction, away from any sensitive QIs / Special Conservation Interest (SCIs). Exceptions to this are the Mullygollan Turlough SAC and Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC, which are situated downstream from the Development in the Scramoge catchment. However, it is considered that the minor nature of the proposed works and

¹ NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: Kilsallagh Bog SAC 000285. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

² NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives: Corliskea / Trien / Cloonfelliv Bog SAC 002110. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

³ NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives: Mullygollan Turlough SAC 000612. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

⁴ NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: Bellanagare Bog SAC 000592. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

⁵ NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives: Bellanagare Bog SPA 004105. First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

⁶ NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives: Cloonshanville Bog SAC 000614. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

⁷ NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives: Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC 001626. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

attenuation / dilution processes along the flowpath would render any hydrological impacts on these sites insignificant.

The Bellanagore Bog SPA, designated for SCI Greenland white-fronted goose *Anser albifrons*, is sensitive to direct noise / visual disturbance impacts (both within the designated site boundary and functionally linked habitat) and loss of functionally linked habitat. There will be no disturbance impacts to SCIs within the SPA boundary as it lies far beyond a precautionary 300m screening distance for such impacts. Furthermore, any disturbance impacts to geese utilising functionally linked habitats will be negligible based on the limited scale (e.g. no piling or blasing works) and the temporary nature of the works.

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

Signed:



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