



## **Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination**

### **CP1140 Protection Upgrades: Athy 110 kV station (Co. Kildare), Carlow 110 kV station, Poulaphouca 110 kV station (Co. Wicklow), and Stratford 110 kV station (Co. Wicklow)**

In accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) and Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended ('The Regulations'), EirGrid has undertaken Appropriate Assessment screening to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of relevant European sites, if the proposed Protection Upgrades in Athy 110 kV station (Co. Kildare), Carlow 110 kV station, Poulaphouca 110 kV station (Co. Wicklow), and Stratford 110 kV station (Co. Wicklow) ('the proposed 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 proposed development, which does not overlap or adjoin European sites, is entirely within the boundaries of existing substations. The nearest European sites to the proposed works are

- The Slaney River Valley Special Area of Conservation (SAC<sup>1</sup>; 0.015 km to the Stratford 110 kV station at its nearest point); and
- The River Barrow and River Nore SAC<sup>2</sup> (0.9 km to the Athy 110 kV station at its nearest point).

The proposed development comprises the following:

- replacement of protection equipment on the Athy 110 kV Busbar;
- replacement of protection equipment (relays and CTs/VTs) on the Athy – Carlow 110 kV and Carlow – Poulaphouca/Stratford 110 kV Circuits;
- replacement of protection equipment on the Poulaphouca T101 Transformer; and,
- additional works within existing substations (if required to bring protection to required standard).

The works are estimated to take a maximum of 15 weeks for both substations combined, and will in all cases require the like-for-like replacement of hardware on areas of existing hardstanding within the boundaries of existing substations. The works will not require removal of semi-natural vegetation, and will not require instream works.

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

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<sup>1</sup>NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives: Slaney River Valley SAC 000781. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

<sup>2</sup> NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives: River Barrow and River Nore SAC 0002162. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

an Appropriate Assessment is not required as the proposed works individually or in combination with other plans or projects are 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 has been informed by a desktop assessment of best scientific knowledge, and had regard for the Conservation Objectives of relevant European sites.

This determination is based on the location, scale, extent and duration of the proposed 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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