



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1141 Protection Upgrades: Kellis 220 kV station (Co. Carlow)

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 Kellis 220 kV station ('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 boundary of the existing substation. The nearest European sites to the proposed development is the Slaney River Valley Special Area of Conservation (SAC¹) 5 km from the proposed development at its nearest point.

The proposed development comprises the following:

- replacement of protection equipment on the Kellis 220 kV and Kellis 110 kV Busbars;
- replacement of protection equipment on the Kellis 220 kV K1-2 Coupler and Kellis 110 kV K1-2 Coupler;
- Replacement of protection equipment on the Kellis T2101 & T2102 Transformers; 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 boundary of the existing substation. 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 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.

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

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:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'R.F.', is positioned above a horizontal line.

06 November 2020

Robert Fennelly CEcol MCIEEM Senior Ecologist