



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1212 Bandon-Raffeen 110kV Uprate Project [Exempted Development] County Cork

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 CP1212 Bandon-Raffeen 110kV Uprate 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 works comprise:

- replacement of 27.433 km of 200 mm² ACSR "Wolf" conductor with 430 mm² ACSR "Bison" conductor;
- replacement of 15 steel towers;
- replacement of 11 wooden polesets;
- retention of six existing lattice towers with member strengthening and painting;
- ten existing suspension monopoles are to be retained;
- all suspension monopoles are to be painted;
- retention of 109 polesets;
- crossarm replacement at five poleset locations;
- both station gantries are to be painted;
- replacement of suspension clamps and vibration dampers at all 131 sites with full insulator replacement at eight sites;
- plumb poles at ten sites; and,
- timber cutting at a minimum of 41 site locations.

Analysis of Pathways to European Sites

The substation is approximately 990m from the closest European site which is Cork Harbour Special Protection Area (SPA) (site code 002299)¹. Cork Harbour SPA, designated for a variety of wetland and waterbird Special Conservation Interest (SCI) species is sensitive to direct noise / visual disturbance impacts on birds using functionally-linked habitat), and to a loss of functionally-linked habitat. Any disturbance impacts to SCI birds utilising functionally-linked habitats will be negligible based on the limited scale and the temporary nature of the works.

A section of the Development oversails the Owenboy River which is 5.4km upstream of Cork Harbour SPA. The Development also oversails the Sall River which is more than 34km downstream of Bandon River Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (site code 002171)². The Bandon River SAC is designated for Qualifying Interest (QI) habitats and also freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera* and brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri*. Given the minor nature of the proposed works and attenuation / dilution processes along the flowpath, any hydrological impacts on these European sites would be insignificant.

There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the Development via a source-pathway-receptor link that may result in likely significant effects in view of the applicable site Conservation Objectives.

¹ NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives: Cork Harbour SPA 004030. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

² NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives: Bandon River SAC 002171. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

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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