



## **Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination**

### **CP1236 Timoney 110kV Substation Works [Exempted Development] County Tipperary**

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, whether CP1236 Timoney 110kV Substation Works [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 the erection of an approximately 20m tall pole that is located within the confines of the existing Timoney substation.

#### **Analysis of Pathways to European sites**

According to published research<sup>1</sup>, the maximum distance to which non-breeding bird species for which Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are designated will typically travel to forage is 20km from the boundary of such a site. There are two SPAs designated for Special Conservation Interest (SCI) non-breeding bird species located within 20km of the Development: Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA [004160]<sup>2</sup> (located 4.0km away) and the River Nore SPA [004233]<sup>3</sup> (located 7.1km away).

There is no potential for significant disturbance effects to occur based on the very limited scale and temporary duration of the works, all of which will occur within the existing boundary of the substation. Abundant alternative habitat for SCI species is available in the wider landscape, including in closer proximity to the SPA. Therefore, likely significant effects from disturbance of SCI species using functionally-linked habitat are excluded.

The nearest Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is the Slieve Bloom Mountains SAC [000412]<sup>4</sup>, which is located approximately 9.0km from the Development. This SAC is designated for peatland and woodland habitat. As all the works are confined within the boundary of the existing substation, and there is no pathway to this or any other SAC. Likely significant effects are therefore excluded.

There are no direct hydrological connections between the Development and any European sites, nor are there any other European sites nearby which are connected to the Development that may result in likely significant effects in view of the Conservation Objectives.

#### **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

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<sup>1</sup> SNH (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Version 3 – June 2016.

<sup>2</sup> NPWS (2022). Conservation Objectives: Slieve Bloom Mountains SPA. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

<sup>3</sup> NPWS (2024). Conservation Objectives: River Nore SPA. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

<sup>4</sup> NPWS (2016). Conservation Objectives: Slieve Bloom Mountains SAC. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

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:



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Susanne Dunne ACIEEM Senior Ecologist

24 June 2025