



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1242 Great Island 220/110 kV Transformer Upgrades (Co. Wexford) [Exempted Development]

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 CP1242 Great Island 220/110 kV Transformer Upgrades (Co. Wexford) [Exempted Development] ('the 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 development includes the following at Great Island 220/110 kV Substation:

- the alteration of 2 no. existing transformers, involving their removal from the southern fence-line and relocation to the eastern fence-line.
- the alteration of associated underground cabling and associated joint bays, involving their removal and realignment to facilitate connection to the relocated transformers.

Analysis of Pathways to European sites

There are no European sites overlapping the development. The development is adjacent the River Barrow and River Nore Special Area of Conservation (site code 2162)¹. There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the development via a source-pathway-receptor linkage.

All works within the Great Island 220/110 Station are on made ground entirely within the existing fencelines, requiring no vegetation removal. There are no watercourses or drainage ditches within the site, with hydrological connectivity to the adjacent River Nore SAC. The development is not within the catchment of any Qualifying Interest (QI) Freshwater Pearl Mussels *Margaritifera margaritifera*.

The AA Screening assessment has reviewed the nature and scale of the works against hydrological connectivity and excluded the risk of downstream surface water impacts to any European sites. The risk of ex-situ impacts to the Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests roosting, foraging, or nesting away from European sites has also been excluded, following analysis of known and potential habitats for mobile bird and other animal populations.

There are no works elsewhere within or adjacent any other European sites.

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 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 read "RF", is written above a horizontal line.

Robert Fennelly CEcol MCIEEM Lead Senior Ecologist

10 November 2022

¹ NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives: River Barrow and River Nore SAC 002162. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

