



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1250 Sprecher and Schuh Circuit Breaker Replacements [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 CP1250 Sprecher and Schuh CB Replacements [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 relates to the following stations (all works are to be contained within each station and no works will occur outside of the stations):

1. Castlebar 110kV
2. Macroom 110kV
3. Dungarvan 110kV
4. Griffinrath 110kV
5. Knockearagh 110kV
6. Mallow 110kV
7. Newbridge 220kV
8. Rathkeale 110kV
9. Tralee 110kV
10. Midleton 110kV
11. Cashla 110kV
12. Marina 110kV
13. Cow Cross 110kV

The Development comprises the replacement of Sprecher and Schuh model of circuit breakers.

Analysis of Pathways to European Sites

Castlebar 110kV Station

The nearest European site to Castlebar 110kV Station is River Moy Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (site code 002298)¹ which is approximately 2.1km from the station boundary. There are no possible negative impacts on the water environment in this SAC from the Development due to the nature and small scale of the works (replacement of circuit breakers in an existing station is very unlikely to result in water pollution and/or changes to flow volumes), as well as the distance to the European site. Furthermore, there are no watercourses or drainage ditches directly adjoining the station. The station is 165m from Castlebar River which is hydrologically connected to River Moy SAC, however there is no hydrological pathway from the station to the river. Considering the scope of the works and the lack of a hydrological link / ecological pathway to the European site, it is considered that there will be no negative impacts on Qualifying Interest (QI) species using or depending upon functionally linked habitats, including freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera*, white-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*, lamprey species, Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* and otter *Lutra lutra*. Potential noise and visual disturbance impacts to QI species foraging, resting or ranging beyond the European site boundary are also excluded with cognisance of the location and nature of the works involved. For example, the

¹ NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives: River Moy SAC 002298. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

Development does not comprise in-stream works or noisy construction activities. Therefore, there is no potential for disturbance impacts to mobile QI species utilising functionally linked habitats.

Lough Conn and Lough Cullin Special Protection Area (SPA) (site code 004228)² is the closest SPA to the Development and is 10.4km away. At this distance, the SPA lies beyond the impact zone for visual and noise disturbance, and there is no direct disturbance potential for Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) within the designated site boundary. Moreover, the minor nature of the works means that it is highly unlikely that disturbance of SCI birds occurring outside of the SPA but in the vicinity of the Development would occur. All works will be carried out within the existing station boundary containing hardstanding and electrical installations, an area containing no habitats that are suitable for foraging / loafing SCI species, thus no potential for loss of functionally-linked habitat. Although Lough Carra SPA (site code 004051)³ and Lough Mask SPA (site code 004062)⁴ are within 20km of the Development (12.5km and 18.9km, respectively), for the reasons stated above, there is no potential for likely significant effects to the SCI of these SPAs.

There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the Development via a source-pathway-receptor link.

Macroom 110kV Station

There are no waterbodies in or around the station. The closest European site to the Development is The Gearagh SAC (site code 000108)⁵ which is 4.3km away. There is no impact source pathway to the QI species of the SAC given the lack of a hydrological link or ecological pathway.

The Gearagh SPA (site code 004109)⁶ is the closest SPA to the Development and is 5.6km away. At this distance, the SPA lies beyond the impact zone for visual and noise disturbance, and there is no direct disturbance potential for SCIs within the designated site boundary. Moreover, the minor nature of the works means that it is highly unlikely that disturbance of SCI birds occurring outside of the SPA but in the vicinity of the Development would occur. All works will be carried out within the existing substation boundary containing hardstanding and electrical installations, an area containing no habitats that are suitable for foraging / loafing SCI species, thus no potential for loss of functionally-linked habitat. Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains SPA (site code 004162)⁷ is 10.5km from the Development. For the reasons stated above for The Gearagh SPA, there is no potential for likely significant effects to the SCI of this SPA.

There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the Development via a source-pathway-receptor link.

Dungarvan 110kV Station

There are no waterbodies in or directly around the station. The closest waterbody to the Development is Ballyconnery Upper which is 395m east of the Development. The closest SAC to the station is Glendine Wood SAC (site code 002324)⁸ which is 4.5km from the station. The SAC is designated for Killarney fern *Trichomanes speciosum* and there is no potential for impacts to this species given the minorscope of works and the lack of an ecological pathway to the SAC.

² NPWS (2022) Conservation objectives for Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA [004228]. First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

³ NPWS (2022) Conservation objectives for Lough Carra SPA [004051]. First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

⁴ NPWS (2022) Conservation objectives for Lough Mask SPA [004062]. First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

⁵ NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives: The Gearagh SAC 000108. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

⁶ NPWS (2022) Conservation objectives for The Gearagh SPA [004109]. First Order Sitespecific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

⁷ NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives: Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains SPA 004162. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

⁸ NPWS (2020) Conservation Objectives: Glendine Wood SAC 002324. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

The closest SPA to the Development is Dungarvan Harbour SPA (site code 004032)⁹ which is 575m south-east of the Development. All works will be carried out within the existing substation boundary containing hardstanding and electrical installations, an area containing no habitats that are suitable for foraging / loafing SCI species. At 575m distance, the SPA lies beyond the impact zone for visual and noise disturbance, and there is no direct disturbance potential for SCIs within the designated site boundary. Moreover, the minor nature of the works means that it is highly unlikely that disturbance of SCI birds occurring outside of the SPA but in the vicinity of the Development would occur. All works will be carried out within the existing substation boundary containing hardstanding and electrical installations, an area containing no habitats that are suitable for foraging / loafing SCI species, thus no potential for loss of functionally-linked habitat. Helvick Head to Ballyquin SPA (site code 004192)¹⁰, Mid-Waterford Coast SPA (site code 004193)¹¹ and Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC (site code 002170)¹² are within 20km of the Development (they are 9.5km, 9.8km and 16.9km away respectively). However, there is no potential for likely significant effects to the SCI of these SPAs for the reasons detailed above for Dungarvan Harbour SPA.

There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the Development via a source-pathway-receptor link.

Griffinrath 110kV Station

There are no waterbodies in or directly around the station. The closest waterbody to the Development is Toolestown which is 175m east of the Development and is hydrologically connected to European sites within Dublin Bay. Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC (site code 001398)¹³ is 3.8km from the station. There is no impact source pathway to the QI species of the SAC given the lack of a hydrological link or ecological pathway, thus no potential for likely significant effects.

Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA is 18.3km away from the station boundary. Owing to the SCIs of the site, its primary sensitivities relate to loss of functionally-linked habitat and noise and visual disturbance. All works will be carried out within the existing substation boundary containing hardstanding and electrical installations, an area containing no habitats that are suitable for foraging / loafing SCI greylag goose *Anser anser*. Lesser black-backed gull *Larus fuscus*, the other SCI species, are habitat generalists for which loss of functionally-linked habitat is not a primary concern. At 18.3km distance, the Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA (site code 004063)¹⁴ lies beyond the impact zone for visual and noise disturbance, and there is no direct disturbance potential for SCIs within the designated site boundary. Moreover, the minor nature of the works means that it is highly unlikely that disturbance of SCI birds occurring outside of the SPA but in the vicinity of the Development would occur.

There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the substation via a source-pathway-receptor link.

Knockearagh 110kV Station

There are no waterbodies within the station. There is a drainage ditch along the road adjacent to the station, however given the scope of works, there is no potential for this drainage ditch to be affected. The nearest European site to the Development is Killarney National Park,

⁹ NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives: Dungarvan Harbour SPA 004032. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

¹⁰ NPWS (2022) Conservation objectives for Helvick Head to Ballyquin SPA [004192]. First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

¹¹ NPWS (2022) Conservation objectives for Mid-Waterford Coast SPA [004193]. First Order Site specific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

¹² NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives: Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC 002170. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

¹³ NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives: Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC 001398. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

¹⁴ NPWS (2022) Conservation objectives for Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA [004063]. First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC (site code 000365)¹⁵ (approximately 1.9km distant). The SAC is designated for a variety of QI habitats and species. According to National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)¹⁶, some researchers have found that lesser horseshoe bats *Rhinolophus hipposideros* normally forage in woodlands / scrub within 2.5km of their roosts¹⁷. Therefore, a core foraging zone of 2.5km around roost sites is considered to be appropriate when assessing potential impacts. Therefore, Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC was identified as being within the potential zone of influence of the Development. However, there are no likely significant effects on this QI species given that all of the minor works will be within the existing station which consists of hardstanding, which does not provide opportunities for foraging or commuting.

Killarney National Park SPA (site code 004038)¹⁸ and Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA (site code 004161)¹⁹ are the only SPAs within 20km. They are 5km and 12km away, respectively. All works will be carried out within the existing substation boundary containing hardstanding and electrical installations, an area containing no habitats that are suitable for foraging / loafing SCI species. Both SPAs lie beyond the impact zone for visual and noise disturbance, and there is no direct disturbance potential for SCIs within the designated site boundaries. Moreover, the minor nature of the works means that it is highly unlikely that disturbance of SCI birds occurring outside of the SPA but in the vicinity of the Development would occur. There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the Development via a source-pathway-receptor link.

Mallow 110kV Station

There are no waterbodies in or directly around the station. The closest European site is Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC which is 890m from the Development. There is no impact source pathway to the QI species of the SAC given the minor scope of the works and lack of a hydrological link or ecological pathway, thus no potential for likely significant effects.

The only SPA within 20km of the Development is Kilcolman Bog SPA (site code 004095)²⁰. The SPA is 11km from the Development. All works will be carried out within the existing substation boundary containing hardstanding and electrical installations, an area containing no habitats that are suitable for foraging / loafing SCI species. At 11km distance, the SPA lies beyond the impact zone for visual and noise disturbance, and there is no direct disturbance potential for SCIs within the designated site boundary. Moreover, the minor nature of the works means that it is highly unlikely that disturbance of SCI birds occurring outside of the SPA but in the vicinity of the Development would occur. There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the substation via a source-pathway-receptor link.

Newbridge 110kV

There are no waterbodies in or around the station. The closest European site to the Development is Pollardstown Fen SAC (site code 000396)²¹ which is 405m from the Development. Potential noise and visual disturbance impacts to QI species foraging, resting or ranging beyond the designated site boundary are excluded with cognisance of the location and nature of the works

¹⁵ NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives: Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC 000365. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

¹⁶ NPWS (2018) Conservation objectives supporting document – lesser horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*) Version 1. Conservation Objectives Supporting Document Series. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Dublin, Ireland.

¹⁷ Bontadina, F., Schofield, H. and Naef-Daenzer, B. (2002) Radio-tracking reveals that lesser horseshoe bats (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*) forage in woodland. *Journal of Zoology* 258: 281–290.

¹⁸ NPWS (2022) Conservation objectives for Killarney National Park SPA [004038]. First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

¹⁹ NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives: Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA 004161. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

²⁰ NPWS (2022) Conservation objectives for Kilcolman Bog SPA [004095]. First Order Sitespecific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

²¹ NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives: Pollardstown Fen SAC 000396. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

involved. For example, the Development does not comprise noisy construction activities. Therefore, there is no potential for disturbance impacts to mobile QI species utilising functionally linked habitats. There is no hydrological link between the Development and the SAC, thus no potential for waterborne pollution.

The easternmost section of the Development is situated approximately 18.8km from the Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA, which is designated for mobile greylag goose. According to guidance published by Scottish Natural Heritage (now NatureScot), the core foraging range of greylag goose is 15-20km²², placing the Development within the wider area potentially used by this SCI species. However, the scope of the works does not involve conversion of greenfield land to development. Therefore, there is no potential for the loss of functionally linked foraging habitat of greylag goose. Given the minor nature of the works, it is highly unlikely that disturbance of SCI birds occurring outside of the SPA but in the vicinity of the Development would occur. There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the Development via a source-pathway-receptor link.

Rathkeale 110kV

There are no waterbodies in or around the station. The closest European site to the station is Askeaton Fen Complex SAC (site code 002279)²³ which is 2.1km away. The SAC is designated for QI habitats, and there is no potential for impact to these habitats as there is no ecological pathway / hydrological link between the Development and the SAC.

The station is 6.7km to River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA and 8.1km to Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA. All works will be carried out within the existing station boundary containing hardstanding and electrical installations, an area containing no habitats that are suitable for foraging / loafing SCI species. At the distances detailed above, the SPAs lie beyond the impact zone for visual and noise disturbance, and there is no direct disturbance potential for SCIs within the designated site boundaries. Moreover, the minor nature of the works means that it is highly unlikely that disturbance of SCI birds occurring outside of the SPAs but in the vicinity of the Development would occur. There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the Development via a source-pathway-receptor link.

Tralee 110kV

The station is 85m from the River Big, however it is across the Oakpark Road and through scrub habitat, and there is no realistic hydrological pathway to this watercourse. The river is hydrologically linked 4km downstream to Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula, West to Cloghane SAC (site code 002070)²⁴ and Tralee Bay Complex SPA (site code 004188)²⁵. There are no possible negative impacts on the water environment in this SAC from the Development due to the nature and small scale of the works (replacement of circuit breakers in an existing station is very unlikely to result in water pollution and/or changes to flow volumes), as well as the distance to the European site.

The scope of the works does not involve conversion of greenfield land to development. Therefore, there is no potential for the loss of functionally linked foraging habitat for any SCI species. All works will be carried out within the existing station boundary containing hardstanding and electrical installations, an area containing no habitats that are suitable for foraging / loafing SCI species. At more than 4km distance, the SPA lies beyond the impact zone for visual and noise disturbance, and there is no direct disturbance potential for SCIs within the designated site boundary. Moreover, the minor nature of the works means that it is highly unlikely that disturbance of SCI birds occurring outside of the SPA but in the vicinity of the Development would

²² Scottish Natural Heritage. (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs). 4pp.

²³ NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives: Askeaton Fen Complex SAC 002279.

Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

²⁴ NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives: Tralee Bay and Magharees Peninsula, West to Cloghane SAC 002070. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

²⁵ NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives: Tralee Bay Complex SPA 004188. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

occur. The closest SAC to the Development is Ballyseedy Wood SAC (site code 002112)²⁶ which is 3.5km from the Development. This SAC is designated for alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*). There is no potential for likely significant effects to this SAC given the small scope of works, QI habitat and distance to the SAC. Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA and Castlemaine Harbour SPA (site code 004029)²⁷ are within 20km of the Development (3km and 15.4km, respectively). For the reasons detailed above, there is no potential for likely significant effects on any SCI species of these sites.

There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the Development via a source-pathway-receptor link.

Midleton 110kV

There are no waterbodies in or around the station. The closest European sites to the station are Cork Harbour SPA (site code 004030)²⁸ and Great Island Channel SAC (site code 001058)²⁹ which are 3km from the Development. There is no ecological pathway / hydrological link for an impact to occur to QI habitats / species of the SAC. The scope of the works does not involve conversion of greenfield land to development. Therefore, there is no potential for the loss of functionally linked foraging habitat for any SCI species of the SPA. All works will be carried out within the existing station boundary containing hardstanding and electrical installations, an area containing no habitats that are suitable for foraging / loafing SCI species. At more than 3km distance, the SPA lies beyond the impact zone for visual and noise disturbance, and there is no direct disturbance potential for SCIs within the designated site boundary. Moreover, the minor nature of the works means that it is highly unlikely that disturbance of SCI birds occurring outside of the SPAs but in the vicinity of the Development would occur.

Ballycotton Bay SPA (site code 004022)³⁰ and Ballymacoda Bay SPA (site code 004023)³¹ are within 20km of the Development. As detailed above, there is no potential for likely significant effects on any SCI species of any SPA within the Zol.

There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the Development via a source-pathway-receptor link.

Cashla 220kV

There are no waterbodies within or in proximity to Cashla 220kV Station, thus no hydrological connectivity to any European sites. The closest European site to the station is Lough Corrib SAC (site code 000297)³² which is 3.8km from the station with no hydrological connectivity between the SAC and the station. Although the SAC is designated for lesser horseshoe bat, the station site consists of hardstanding habitats which are unsuitable for foraging bats. The station is also outside the core sustenance zone for the species³³, thus limited potential to impact them as they are unlikely to occur regularly in the vicinity of the station.

The closest SPA to the substation is Inner Galway Bay SPA, which is 6.5km from the station. Other European sites identified to be within the potential zone of influence of the Development are

²⁶ NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives: Ballyseedy Wood SAC 002112. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

²⁷ NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives: Castlemaine Harbour SPA 004029. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

²⁸ NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives: Cork Harbour SPA 004030. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

²⁹ NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives: Great Island Channel SAC 001058. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

³⁰ NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives: Ballycotton Bay SPA 004022. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

³¹ NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives: Ballymacoda Bay SPA 004023. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

³² NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives: Lough Corrib SAC 000297. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

³³ NPWS (2018) Conservation objectives supporting document – lesser horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*) Version 1. Conservation Objectives Supporting Document Series. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Dublin, Ireland.

Cregganna Marsh SPA (site code 004142)³⁴, Lough Corrib SPA (site code 004042)³⁵, Rahasane Turlough SPA (site code 004089)³⁶ and Slieve Aughty Mountains SPA (site code 004168)³⁷. The primary sensitivities of the SCI species of these SPAs relate to loss of functionally-linked habitat and noise and visual disturbance. However, there will be no loss of functionally-linked habitat for SCI bird species as the station comprises hardstanding. There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the station via a source-pathway-receptor link.

Marina 110kV

The River Lee is adjacent to the station boundary and is hydrologically linked to Great Island Channel SAC and Cork Harbour SPA. 'As the crow flies', the SPA is 2.9km from the Development. There are no possible negative impacts on the water environment in these European sites from the Development due to the nature and small scale of the works (replacement of circuit breakers in an existing station is very unlikely to result in water pollution and/or changes to flow volumes), as well as the distance to the sites. The scope of the works does not involve conversion of greenfield land to development. Therefore, there is no potential for the loss of functionally linked foraging habitat for any SCI species of the SPA. All works will be carried out within the existing station boundary containing hardstanding and electrical installations, an area containing no habitats that are suitable for foraging / loafing SCI species. At more than 2.9km distance, the SPA lies beyond the impact zone for visual and noise disturbance, and there is no direct disturbance potential for SCIs within the designated site boundary. Moreover, the minor nature of the works means that it is highly unlikely that disturbance of SCI birds occurring outside of the SPAs but in the vicinity of the Development would occur, especially given the surrounding noisy environment within the Port of Cork.

There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the station via a source-pathway-receptor link.

Cow Cross 110kV

There are no waterbodies in or around the station. The closest European sites to the station are Cork Harbour SPA and Great Island Channel SAC, which are 2km from the Development. There is no ecological pathway / hydrological link for an impact to occur to QI habitats of the SAC. The scope of the works does not involve conversion of greenfield land to development. Therefore, there is no potential for the loss of functionally linked foraging habitat for any SCI species of the SPA. All works will be carried out within the existing station boundary containing hardstanding and electrical installations, an area containing no habitats that are suitable for foraging / loafing SCI species. At more than 2km distance, the SPA lies beyond the impact zone for visual and noise disturbance, and there is no direct disturbance potential for SCIs within the designated site boundary. Moreover, the minor nature of the works means that it is highly unlikely that disturbance of SCI birds occurring outside of the SPAs but in the vicinity of the Development would occur.

Ballycotton Bay SPA is 18km from the Development. For the reasons detailed above, there is no potential for significant effects on the SCI of this SPA.

There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the Development via a source-pathway-receptor link.

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.

³⁴ NPWS (2023) Conservation Objectives: Cregganna Marsh SPA 004142. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

³⁵ NPWS (2023) Conservation Objectives: Lough Corrib SPA 004042. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

³⁶ NPWS (2023) Conservation Objectives: Rahasane Turlough SPA 004089. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

³⁷ NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives: Slieve Aughty Mountains SPA 004168. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

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:



Robert Fennelly CEcol MCIEEM Lead Senior Ecologist

07 September 2023