



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1291 Carlow 110 kV Station Busbar Thermal Capacity Need -[Exempted Development] County Carlow

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 CP1291 Carlow 110kV Station Busbar Thermal Capacity Need [Exempted Development] ('the Development') individually or in-combination with other plans or projects would be likely to result in Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) on a European site(s).

The Development comprises the upgrade of an existing busbar and placement of a sectionalising circuit breaker at the existing Carlow 110kV Station. All works are to be carried out entirely within the station boundary.

Analysis of Pathways to European sites

The nearest European sites to the Carlow 110kV Station are the Slaney River Valley Special Area of Conservation (SAC)¹ and River Barrow and River Nore SAC², both approximately equidistant (4.8km) from the development. There are no watercourses or drainage ditches within the Carlow Station area with hydrological connectivity to the European sites referred to above. Therefore, there is no potential for interactions with Qualifying Interest (QI) freshwater pearl mussel, Atlantic salmon or lamprey species.

Potential impacts to QIs and Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) roosting, foraging, or nesting away from European sites has also been excluded, following consideration of the works involved and appraisal of the habitat requirements of QI and SCI species.

There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the Development via a source-pathway-receptor link that may result in LSEs in view of the applicable site 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 risk of LSEs 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 mitigation measures intended to avoid or reduce significant effects on European sites.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Fennelly", is written above a horizontal line.

Robert Fennelly CEcol MCIEEM Lead Senior Ecologist

28 June 2023

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

² 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.