



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1297 Remote End Works in Tarbert, Kilpadogue and Glansillagh Stations [Exempted Development] (County Kerry)

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 CP1297 Remote End Works in Tarbert, Kilpadogue and Glansillagh Stations [Exempted Development] ('the Developments') individually or in-combination with other plans or projects will result in likely significant effects on a European site(s).

The Development comprises protection upgrades, including new protection relays, at Tarbert, Kilpadogue and Glansillagh 220kV Stations. The works are to take place wholly within the existing site boundary at all Stations.

Analysis of Pathways to European Sites

Tarbert, Kilpadogue & Glansillagh 220kV Station

The Development lies in close proximity to two European sites: the Lower River Shannon Special Area of Conservation (SAC, site code 002165)¹ and River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries Special Protection Area (SPA, site code 004077)². The SAC is designated for a range of Qualifying Interest (QI) habitats and species, such as freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera*, sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*, brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri*, river lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*, salmon *Salmo salar*, common bottlenose dolphin *Tursiops truncatus* and otter *Lutra lutra*. However significantly, the works are not located upstream of sensitive freshwater QI catchments, including freshwater pearl mussel.

The SPA is designated for various Special Conservation Interest (SCI) waders and waterbirds. Both the SAC and SPA support QIs and SCIs that are directly or indirectly dependent on adequate water quality. Despite the ecological sensitivity and proximity of these European sites, the Development is temporary and limited to minor infrastructure upgrades within the respective developed Station boundaries, therefore using the existing Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) present on site. Therefore, it is concluded that the Development will not have likely significant deterioration in the water quality in the Lower River Shannon SAC and River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA.

Some SCI species in the River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA and Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA (site code 004161)³, such as whooper swan *Cygnus cygnus*, light-bellied brent goose *Branta bernicla hrota*, wigeon *Anas Penelope*, golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, redshank *Tringa totanus* and hen harrier *Circus cyaneus*, are known to rely on functionally linked habitats outside the designated site boundary.

However, the Development comprises works wholly within the developed site boundaries of the Tarbert, Kilpadogue and Glansillagh 220kV Stations and thus directly impacting hardstanding only. The minor and temporary nature of the Development means that there would be no likely significant disturbance to SCI birds that are present within the boundary of the River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA (in the case of the Tarbert and Kilpadogue Stations) or habitats

¹ NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives: Lower River Shannon SAC 002165. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

² NPWS (2012). Conservation Objectives: River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA 004077. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

³ 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.

that are functionally linked to either SPA (e.g. improved grassland, arable fields) in proximity to the three Stations.

There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the Stations via a source-pathway-receptor link that may result in likely significant effects 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 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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