



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1302 Killonan-Shannonbridge 220kV Refurbishment of Phase 1 (angle mast 72-220 inclusive) [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 CP1302 Killonan-Shannonbridge 220kV Refurbishment of Phase 1 (angle mast 72-220 inclusive) [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 overhead line (OHL) refurbishment works between angle mast 72-220 inclusive, which involve the replacement of insulators, hardware; and conductors.

Analysis of Pathways to European sites

Kilcarren-Firville Bog Special Area of Conservation (SAC)¹, Lough Derg, North-east Shore SAC², Lough Derg (Shannon) Special Protection Area (SPA)³, and Lower River Shannon SAC⁴ all lie downstream of the Development, oversailing watercourses (as shown on the OSi PRIME2 Watercourses dataset) which flow into these European sites. The works do not comprise tower replacements so the works associated with the Development are not of a type that will generate sediment which could run-off into these watercourses, given the distances between the works locations and watercourses. Considering these points, likely significant effects on QI habitats as a result of waterborne pollution are excluded.

The Lower River Shannon SAC is designated for terrestrial and freshwater Annex I habitats and Annex II species, including otter *Lutra lutra*. The OHL oversails some watercourses which are hydrologically connected to this SAC, and it is possible that otter could move between the European site and the vicinity of works areas. However, the works are relatively minor in nature and will take place over a short period of time. Most works will also take place during daylight hours (when otters are typically inactive) and do not involve intrusive works, and thus there is no potential for disturbance/displacement. There would consequently be no effect on the favourable conservation condition of QI otter, and likely significant effects are excluded.

All SPA sites within proximity to the Development are beyond the distance at which disturbance of Special Conservation Interest (SCI) birds (a typical disturbance zone is usually 300m, in line with research⁵). Given the relatively minor nature of works associated with the Development, as well as their intermittent and temporary duration, any disturbance/displacement which could be caused to SCI birds would only extend over short distances and periods of time. Likely significant effects as a result of disturbance/displacement of non-breeding SCI birds using functionally-linked habitat are, therefore, excluded.

¹ NPWS (201c) Conservation Objectives: Kilcarren-Firville Bog SAC 000647. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

² NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives: Lough Derg, North-east Shore SAC 002241. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

³ NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives: Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA 004058. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

⁴ NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives: Lower River Shannon SAC 002165. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

⁵ Cutts, N., Hemingway, K. and Spencer, J. (2013). Waterbird Disturbance Mitigation Toolkit: Informing Estuarine Planning & Construction Projects. Produced by the Institute of Estuarine & Coastal Studies (IECS) University of Hull.

Due to the nature of the Development, which involve refurbishment works to an existing powerline, there will be no permanent loss of any habitat, including loss of any functionally-linked habitat which could be used by SCI bird species (breeding or non-breeding).

There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the Development 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 temporary works, and has not taken account of measures intended to avoid or reduce significant effects on European sites.

Signed:



Susanne Dunne ACIEEM Senior Ecologist

24 November 2025