



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1329: Stonestown 110 kV Station [Exempted Development] Co. Offaly

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 CP1329: Stonestown 110 kV Station [Exempted Development] Co. Offaly ('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 comprises works for the purpose of inspecting, repairing, renewing, altering or removing protection equipment at the following stations in Co. Offaly:

- Shannonbridge 110 kV Station
- Derrycarney 110 kV Station
- Dallow Tee 110 kV Station

All works are entirely enclosed within the existing fenced station sites, and there will be no requirement for vegetation removal, or instream works.

Analysis of Pathways to European sites

There are no European sites overlapping the works. The nearest European sites are as per Table 1. There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the development via a source-pathway-receptor linkage.

Table 1 Nearest European sites to works.

Station Requiring Protection Upgrades	Transformer	Nearest European Site (s)
Shannonbridge 220 kV		River Shannon Callows Special Area of Conservation (site code 216) ¹ . Middle Shannon Callows Special Protection Area (site code 4096) ² Both sites c. 50 m distant to west.
Derrycarney 110 kV		Moyclare Bog SAC (site code 581) ³ and Ferbane Bog SAC (site code 575) ⁴ are both c. 6km distant.
Dallow Tee 110 kV		200 m to Dovegrove Callows SPA (site code 4137) ⁵

The works within the Shannonbridge 220 kV station are screened from the adjacent SAC/SPA designations of the River Shannon by existing dense riparian woodland.

¹ NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives: River Shannon Callows SAC 000216. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

² NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives: Middle Shannon Callows SPA 004096. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

³ NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: Moyclare Bog SAC 000581. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

⁴ NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: Ferbane Bog SAC 000575. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

⁵ NPWS (2022) Conservation objectives for Dovegrove Callows SPA [004137]. First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

The works within the Dallow 110kV station are screened from the Dovegrove Calllows SPA by an existing perimeter hedgerow.

There are no watercourses or drainage ditches within any of the work sites, with hydrological connectivity to European sites.

None of the works are 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.

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:



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