



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination CP1331 Rosspile 110kV Substation Works [Exempted Development] County Wexford

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 CP1331 Rosspile 110kV Substation Works [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 new underground ducting within the boundary of the existing substation.

Analysis of Pathways to European sites

The nearest Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is Bannow Bay SAC [000697]¹, designated for a range of estuarine, salt meadow, and dune habitats. This SAC is located approximately 330m from the Development. Intervening habitats between the Development and Bannow Bay SAC include woodlands, treelines, and fields containing solar panels. The proposed works will occur within the existing boundary of the substation. Therefore, there is no pathway to the qualifying features of this site, and likely significant effects are excluded.

According to published research², the maximum distance to which non-breeding bird species for which Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are designated will typically travel to forage is 20km from the boundary of such a site. European sites designated for Special Conservation Interest (SCI) non-breeding bird species located within 20km of the Development are Bannow Bay SPA [00403]³ (located 4.1km away), Ballyteige Burrow SPA [004020]⁴ (located 9.6km away), Keeragh Islands SPA [004118]⁵ (located 10.9km away), and Wexford Harbour and Slobbs SPA [004076]⁶ (located 14.5km away). Works will only occur within the existing boundary of the substation and there is treeline/woodland habitat present between the Development and any fields suitable for SCI species, thus providing noise and visual screening. There will be no temporary or permanent disturbance of SCI birds using functionally-linked habitat, and likely significant effects are excluded.

There are no direct hydrological connections between the Development and any European sites, nor are there any other European sites nearby which are connected to the Development that may result in likely significant effects to the Conservation Objectives.

AA Screening Statement

¹ NPWS (2012). Conservation Objectives: Bannow Bay SAC. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

² SNH (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Version 3 – June 2016.

³ NPWS (2012). Conservation Objectives: Bannow Bay SPA. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

⁴ NPWS (2014). Conservation Objectives: Ballyteige Burrow SPA. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

⁵ NPWS (2025). Conservation Objectives: Keeragh Islands SPA. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

⁶ NPWS (2012). Conservation Objectives: Wexford Harbour and Slobbs SPA. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

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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24 June 2025