



## Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

### CP1347 - Dunbrody 110 kV Station (Kilmannock Battery Storage Facility Phase 2) Works Project [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, if the proposed CP1347 Dunbrody 110 kV Station (Kilmannock Battery Storage Facility Phase 2) works project [Exempted Development] ('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). All works for the development will be within the station boundary and will comprise:

- Installation of final section of underground cable (UGC) from the boundary fence of Great Island 110 kV Substation)
- Any associated construction work within the building to bring the cable to the spare bay including installation of Cable sealing ends and supports (Note a spare AIS bay is to be utilised and cable terminations at Great Island indoor 110 kV Substation.)
- Work within the existing AIS substation control room (remote terminal unit (RTU), power quality recorder (PRQ), Protection and metering and any other works).

The development is not located within any European site. The River Barrow And River Nore Special Area of Conservation (SAC; site code 002162)<sup>1</sup> is located c. 0.150 km to the west of the station boundary. This determination has had regard for this and any other relevant European sites. 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.

The risk of ex-situ impacts to the Qualifying Interests (QI) and Special Conservation Interests (SCI) 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.

The development is not located within the catchment of any freshwater pearl mussels *Margaritifera*, or other sensitive aquatic species which are the QI of European sites. Impact pathways to other far-flying mobile QI/SCI species from distant European sites do not arise, due to the absence of supporting habitats for such species within the Zone of Influence (ZoI) of the development, or because the development is outside the range of QI populations of a given species (e.g. which is the case lesser horseshoe bat, *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, and marsh fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia*). There are no groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystems (GWDTE) or surface water features within the ZoI of the works which could provide hydrological linkage to any European sites. There are also no habitats suitable to otter *Lutra lutra* within the ZoI of the works, due to the absence of wetland features, and the location of works within the substation, in close proximity to heavily disturbed industrial lands.

This determination is based on the location, scale, 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:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be the initials "RQ".

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<sup>1</sup> NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: River Barrow And River Nore SAC 002162. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

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