



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination CP1360 Derryiron 110kV Station Works and Timahoe 110kV Station Works [Exempted Development] County Offaly and County Kildare

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 carried out an Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the Conservation Objectives of relevant European sites, whether CP1360 Derryiron 110kV Station Works and Timahoe 110kV Station 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 involves remote end works in Derryiron 110kV station and Timahoe 110kV station.

All works for the Development will be carried out above ground on existing structures within the boundary of the existing stations. No vegetation clearance or intrusive works will be required for the Development.

Analysis of Pathways to European sites

Based on the works involved, the following possible impacts are considered potentially relevant to the Development:

- Disturbance of qualifying species (e.g. visual, noise, vibration or artificial light). According to published research¹, the maximum distance to which non-breeding bird species for which Special Protection Areas (SPA) are designated may theoretically travel to forage is 20km from the boundary of such a site (though in reality, most species foraging distances are significantly lower than this). Cutts *et al.* (2013)² provides species-specific information on the sensitivity of several bird species which are qualifying features of SPAs to disturbance impacts from construction works.

Consequently, the following European sites are considered to be within the potential zone of influence (Zol) of the Development

- River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA (site code 004232³), located c.18km from Derryiron 110kV station and c.13.6km from Timahoe 110kV station. The site is designated for kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*.
- Lough Ennell SPA (site code 004044⁴), located c.15.6km from Derryiron 110kV station and c.36km from Timahoe 110kV station. Designated for wetland habitats, pochard *Aythya ferina*, tufted duck *Aythya fuligula* and coot *Fulica atra*.

There is no direct hydrological connectivity between the Development and any European site, and the Development will not involve any intrusive works. The Development is not within or hydrologically connected to a known freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera* catchment. There is therefore no potential for likely significant effects related to water quality on any European site.

¹ Scottish Natural Heritage (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Version 3 - June 2016 (online). Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/assessing-connectivity-special-protection-areas> (Accessed 19 January 2026).

² 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. (online). Available at: https://www.tide-toolbox.eu/tidetools/waterbird_disturbance_mitigation_toolkit/ (Accessed 27 January 2026).

³ NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives: River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA 004232. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

⁴ NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives: Lough Ennell SPA 004044. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

All works associated with the Development will take place within the existing Derryiron 110 kV station and Timahoe 110kV station boundaries, both of which comprise hardstanding and electrical installations. These areas do not provide suitable habitat for kingfisher, the Special Conservation Interest (SCI) species of River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA. Kingfisher is associated with freshwater habitats and river corridors, which are absent from both substations. Given the separation distance, the absence of any suitable supporting habitat or impact pathways, and the minor and temporary nature of the works, there is no potential for likely significant effects on kingfisher or the conservation objectives of River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA.

Lough Ennell SPA is designated for three waterbird species. Given the absence of suitable habitat for SCI birds, the separation distance and the minor and temporary nature of the works, there is no possibility for likely significant effects relating to disturbance on SCI birds of Lough Ennell SPA as a result of the Development.

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 relevant European site's Conservation Objectives. Due to the nature of the Development, there is no potential for in-combination effects.

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

22 July 2026