



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1364 Kellis 220kV Substation Works [Exempted Development] County Carlow

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 CP1364 Kellis 220kV 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:

- Installation and replacement of (existing) disconnects.
- Circuit breaker and voltage transformer works.

Analysis of Pathways to European sites

The closest European site to the Development is the Slaney River Valley Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (site code 000781¹), located approximately 4.6km away ('as the crow flies'). The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of the SAC comprise a range of Annex I habitats and Annex II species. There is no hydrological connection between the Development and Slaney River Valley SAC, and there is therefore no potential for likely significant effects relating to water quality.

An unnamed stream is present adjacent to the Development, identified on the Tailte Éireann PRIME2 Watercourses layer, which extends along the southern and eastern boundaries of the Development. This waterbody is hydrologically connected to Burren_050² (approximately 1.1km from the source of the stream), which drains into River Barrow and River Nore SAC (site code 002162³), approximately 12.3km downstream. The QIs of River Barrow and River Nore SAC comprise a range of Annex I habitats, killarney fern *Trichomanes speciosum* a range of fish species, otter *Lutra lutra*, freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera*, Desmoulin's whorl snail *Vertigo moulinsiana* and white-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*. Given the distance, and that the works will occur within the existing substation boundary (and any pollutants would therefore be contained within hardstanding areas of the substation), there is no potential for likely significant effects on River Barrow and River Nore SAC related to water quality. The unnamed stream adjacent to the Development is unlikely to be used by mobile QIs due to its small size and lack of suitable foraging opportunities, and in the unlikely event they occur, the minor and temporary nature of the works mean that this is no potential for likely significant effects on mobile QIs of river Barrow and River Nore SAC relating to visual and noise disturbance.

There are no Special Protection Areas (SPAs) or any 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

¹ NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives: Slaney River Valley SAC 000781. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

² Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) maps website <http://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/> (accessed 11 March 2025).

³ NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives: River Barrow and River Nore SAC 002162. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

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 March 2025