



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination CP1368 Crosspatrick 110kV Station Works [Exempted Development] County Mayo

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 CP1368 Crosspatrick 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 comprises:

- Commissioning of cable sealing ends at Crosspatrick 110kV station;
- Installation and commissioning of cable sealing ends at Tawnaghmore 110kV station;
- Design, commissioning and installation of Mullafarry BESS RTU at Crosspatrick 110kV station;
- Provision and installation of Mullafarry BESS Metering in Crosspatrick 110kV Station; and
- Provision, design, installation and commissioning of Crosspatrick 110kV Temporary Communication Equipment.

Analysis of Pathways to European sites

The closest European site to the Development is Killala Bay / Moy Estuary Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (site code 000458¹), located approximately 1.6km northeast of the Development. The SAC is designated for a range of Annex I habitats, narrow-mouthed whorl snail *Vertigo angustior*, sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* and harbour seal *Phoca vitulina*. The nearest waterbody is an unnamed stream located approximately 280 m northeast of the Development, identified on Tailte Éireann PRIME2 Watercourses layer. This unnamed stream is hydrologically linked to the Palmerstown River, approximately 5km downstream, which flows into Killala Bay / Moy Estuary SAC². Given the minor and temporary works involved, and the distance between the Development and the stream, there is no potential for likely significant effects on Killala Bay / Moy Estuary SAC regarding water quality.

Killala Bay / Moy Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) (site code 004036³) and Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA (site code 004228⁴), located approximately 1.9km north and 10.8km southwest from the Proposed Development, respectively, are both designated for Special Conservation Interest (SCI) wetland and waterbird species. There is no suitable habitat for these species present within or adjacent to the Development. As such, there is no potential for likely significant effects on mobile SCI associated with either SPA. This is because the works will be relatively minor and temporary and will be carried out within the existing substation boundary containing electrical installations and hard standing, areas containing no suitable habitat for foraging SCI species.

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 applicable site Conservation Objectives.

¹ NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives: Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC 000458. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

² Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) maps website <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/> (accessed 14 April 2025)

³ NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA 004129. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

⁴ NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives: Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA 004228. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

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

30 April 2025