



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1429 Dalton 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 CP1429 Dalton 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:

- Uprating of the bay conductor in Dalton 110kV station to at least the equivalent rating of the overhead line conductor (i.e. 430mm² ACSR at 80°C) plus 10% short term overload capability rating.
- Replacing the current transformers (CT) at Dalton 110kV station with CT at least the equivalent rating of the overhead line conductor (i.e. 430mm² ACSR at 80°C) plus 10% short term overload capability rating. Installing ducts in trench.

Analysis of Pathways to European sites

The closest European site to the Development is River Moy Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (site code 002298¹), which is approximately 6.9km away ('as the crow flies'). The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of the SAC comprise a range of the Annex I habitats, a range of fish species, white-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* and otter *Lutra lutra*. A drain has been identified on the Tailte Éireann PRIME2 Watercourses layer, which extends along the western boundary of the Development. However, this drain does not appear to be linked to any other waterbody, and due to the absence of a hydrological connection, likely significant effects from the Development on River Moy SAC or any other European site regarding water quality are, therefore, excluded.

Lough Corrib SAC (site code 000297²) is located approximately 9.9km from the Development and is designated for a range of Annex I habitats and Annex II species, including the mobile QI species lesser horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros*. Lesser horseshoe bats normally forage within 2.5km of their roosts³, and the 'core sustenance zone' (CCZ) for this species extends to around 2km from a roost site⁴. The Development is located well beyond the foraging range of QI lesser horseshoe bat, and there is no potential for any likely significant effects from disturbance of foraging QI bats using functionally-linked habitat.

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.

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

¹ NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives: River Moy SAC 0022988. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

² NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives: Lough Corrib SAC 000297. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

³ Bontadina M F., Schofield, H., and Naef-Daenzer, B (2002) Radio-tracking reveals that lesser horseshoe bats (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*) forage in woodland. *Journal of Zoology* 258: 281-290.

⁴ BCT (2020). Core Sustenance Zones and habitats of importance for designing Biodiversity Net Gain for bats. Bat Conservation Trust, London.

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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10 March 2025