



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1468 Kilvinoge 110 kV Station Works and Fibre Wrap of existing 110 kV Great Island – Kilkenny Overhead Line [Exempted Development] (Counties Kilkenny and 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 CP1468 Kilvinoge 110 kV Station (Castlebanny Wind Farm) 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).

The development comprises:

- Bay Equipment replacement and associated works within the 110 kV Kilkenny substation
- Bay Equipment replacement and associated works within the 220 kV Great Island substation
- Fibre wrap of Great Island – Kilkenny 110 kV OHL:

Fibre wrap of Great Island – Kilkenny 110 kV circuit

The closest European site is River Barrow and River Nore Special Area of Conservation (SAC; site code 002162), located 0.03km from Structure 15, which are the closest structures to a European site where works (non-intrusive) are required. Neither of these structures (or any other structures in proximity to this SAC) require replacement, foundation strengthening, or other intrusive works to enable fibre-wrapping. Neither the River Barrow and River Nore SAC, nor are there any other European sites within the zone of influence of likely significant effects from the development.

Development at Kilkenny 110 kV station

The development is not located within or near any European site; the closest such site is River Barrow and River Nore Special Area of Conservation (SAC; site code 002162), located 1.7 km to the west of the station boundary¹. This determination has had regard for this and any other relevant European sites.

There are no drainage ditches surrounding Kilkenny station and no flowing waterbodies within or in close proximity to the station. Thus, no potential for pollution to any European sites.

Development at Great Island 220 kV station

The development is located adjacent to River Barrow and River Nore SAC (site code 002162)¹. This determination has had regard for this and any other relevant European sites.

There are no drainage ditches or other watercourses surrounding Kilkenny station, providing a linkage to the Barrow River Estuary within site boundary. All works will be completed within the station boundary, thus, no potential for pollution to any 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-

¹ NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives: River Barrow and River Nore SAC 002162. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

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 of the development, or because the development boundaries are unsuitable for QI populations of a given species (e.g. which is the case lesser horseshoe bat, *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, and marsh fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia*).

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:



Robert Fennelly CEcol MCIEEM Lead Senior Ecologist

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