



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination CP1484 Srananagh 220kV Station Works [Exempted Development] County Sligo

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 CP1484 Srananagh 220kV 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:

- Civil enabling works, including the construction of a new retaining wall, and the installation of a new sectionaliser with all relevant equipment (i.e. circuit breakers, and current transformers at the existing Bay F0).
- Civil enabling works for the installation of new busbar disconnect and post insulators at bays F2, F6, F3 and F5 for future connections.
- Modification work at bay F1 (existing Flagford-Srananagh 220kV circuit).

Analysis of Pathways to European sites

The closest European site to the Development is Unshin River Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (site code 001898¹), located approximately 4.7km away ('as the crow flies'). The SAC is designated for a range of Annex I habitats, otter *Lutra lutra* and Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*. The nearest waterbody is a drain located approximately 120m west of the Development, identified on the Tailte Éireann PRIME2 Watercourses layer. Given the minor and temporary works involved, and the distance between the Development and the drain, there is no potential for likely significant effects on Unshin River SAC regarding water quality.

Ballysadare Bay Special Protection Area (SPA) (site code 004129²) and Cumeen Strand SPA (site code 004035³), located approximately 8.9km and 12.4km away from the Development, respectively, are both designated for the Special Conservation Interest (SCI) species light-bellied brent goose *Branta bernicla hrota* and various waterbirds. 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, an area containing no suitable habitat for foraging SCI light-bellied brent goose (or other SCI species), with an extensive resource of suitable agricultural fields much closer to both SPAs.

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 (2021) Conservation Objectives: Unshin River SAC 001898. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

² NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Ballysadare Bay SPA 004129. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

³ NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Cumeen Strand SPA 004035. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

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:



Robert Fennelly CEcol MCIEEM Lead Senior Ecologist

10 March 2025