



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination CP1490 Barrymore 110kV Station Works [Exempted Development] County Cork

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 CP1490 Barrymore 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 will be within the existing Barrymore 110kV Station boundary.

The Development comprises:

- New 110kV Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) Enhanced "C-Type" Outdoor Tubular Busbar with 6 new 110kV AIS line bays and 110kV AIS Twin Sectionaliser.
- Control Room Extension.
- Removal of existing 110kV Overhead Line Conductor within the station.
- Installation of new Lightning Monopoles 110/220kV.
- Installation of a new Transformer 31.5 MVA 110/38kV to connect the new 110kV busbar to the existing 38kV busbar.

Analysis of Pathways to European sites

The closest European site to the Development is Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (site code 002170¹) which is approximately 2.7km away ('as the crow flies'). The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC comprise a range of Annex I habitats, a range of fish, white-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*, freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera*, otter *Lutra lutra* and Killarney fern *Trichomanes speciosum*. There are no waterbodies surrounding the substation, and therefore likely significant effects from the Development on Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC, or any other European site, regarding water quality are excluded.

Blackwater Callows Special Protection Area (SPA) (site code 004094²) is located approximately 5.3km from the Development. The SPA is designated for the mobile Special Conservation Interest (SCI) species whooper swan *Cygnus cygnus* and various waterbirds and wetland habitat. There is no potential for likely significant effects on mobile SCI associated with Blackwater Callows SPA because there is no suitable habitat for waterbirds near the Development. Moreover, whooper swan have a core foraging range of less than 5km³, and the Development is located beyond the core range of this 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.

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 (2012) Conservation Objectives: Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC 002170. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

² NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives: Blackwater Callows SPA 004094. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

³ Scottish Natural Heritage (June 2016) Assessing connectivity with Special protection Areas (SPAs) Guidance. 4pp.

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:



Robert Fennelly CEcol MCIEEM Lead Senior Ecologist

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