



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination CP1500 Station works within Butlerstown 110kV Station, Cullinagh 220KV Station, and Killoteran 110kV Station [Exempted Development] County Waterford

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 CP1500 Station works within Butlerstown 110kV Station, Cullinagh 220KV Station, and Killoteran 110kV Station [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 involves:

In Butlerstown 110kV Station:

- Retire the existing 2 × 31.5MVA T141 & T142 transformers.
- Retire the existing AIS 38kV busbar.
- Build 2 × new transformer bays in Butlerstown.
- Build a new sectionaliser bay.
- Install a new modular GIS 38kV busbar.
- The Butlerstown H5 and H6 bay voltage transformer (VT) replacements.

In Cullinagh 220kV Station:

- VT replacement.

In Killoteran 110kV Station:

- VT replacement.

All works are to be carried out entirely within the boundary of the existing energised substations. All works for the Development will be carried out above ground. No vegetation clearance will be required for the Development.

Analysis of Pathways to European sites

Based on the works involved, the following possible impacts are considered potentially relevant to the Development:

- Disturbance of qualifying species (e.g. visual, noise, vibration or artificial light). According to published research¹, the maximum distance to which non-breeding bird species for which Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are designated may theoretically travel to forage is 20km from the boundary of such a site (though in reality, most species foraging distances are significantly lower than this). Cutts *et al.* (2013)² provides species-specific information on the sensitivity of several bird species which are qualifying features of SPAs to disturbance impacts from construction works.

¹ Scottish Natural Heritage (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Version 3 – June 2016 (online). Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/assessing-connectivity-special-protection-areas> (Accessed 19 January 2026).

² Cutts, N., Hemingway, K and Spencer, J. (2013). Waterbird Disturbance Mitigation Toolkit: Informing Estuarine Planning & Construction Projects. Produced by the Institute of Estuarine & Coastal Studies (IECS) University of Hull. (online). Available at: https://www.tide-toolbox.eu/tidetools/waterbird_disturbance_mitigation_toolkit/ (Accessed 27 January 2026).

The following European sites are therefore considered to be within the potential zone of influence (Zol) of the Development:

- Tramore Back Strand SPA (site code 004027³). Designated for the wintering Special Conservation Interest (SCI) species light-bellied brent goose *Branta bernicla hrota*, golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, grey plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, dunlin *Calidris alpina*, black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa*, bar-tailed godwit *Limosa lapponica*, and curlew *Numenius arquata*. The SPA is also designated for wetland habitats. The substations are located at the following distances from the SPA:
 - Butlerstown 110kV: located 6.6km southeast. No hydrological connectivity.
 - Cullenagh 220kV: located 12.8km south east. No hydrological connectivity.
 - Killoteran 110kV: located 8.8km south east. No hydrological connectivity.
- Mid-Waterford Coast SPA (site code 004193⁴). Designated for the breeding SCI species cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, peregrine *Falco peregrinus*, herring gull *Larus argentatus*, and chough *Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax*. The substations are located at the following distances from the SPA:
 - Butlerstown 110kV: location 9.7km south west. No hydrological connectivity.
 - Cullenagh 220kV: location 11.6km south west. No hydrological connectivity.
 - Killoteran 110kV: location 12.1km south west No hydrological connectivity.

There is no hydrological connectivity between the Development and any watercourse, therefore no pathway for a likely significant effect to occur to any European sites.

The substations do not provide suitable foraging habitat for the SCI species of Tramore Back Strand SPA. Some species, such as light-bellied brent goose, can range widely and may use agricultural or amenity grasslands as ex-situ feeding sites. Due to the minor and temporary nature of the Development, there will be no likely significant effect relating to visual and noise disturbance of SCI birds using functionally linked land associated with Tramore Back Strand SPA.

Mid-Waterford Coast SPA is designated for breeding SCI species associated with coastal habitats. These species are unlikely to forage in proximity to any of the substations associated with the Development, which are located in-land. The combination of unsuitable (non-coastal) foraging habitat and minor and temporary nature of the Development result in no pathways for likely significant effects related to visual and noise disturbance to the Mid-Waterford Coast SPA.

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 relevant European site's 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 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:

³ NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives: Tramore Back Strand SPA 004027. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Available at: https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO004027.pdf

⁴ NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives: Mid-Waterford Coast SPA 004193. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Available at: https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO004193.pdf



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