



## Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

### CP1522 Lodgewood 220kV Station Works [Exempted Development] County 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, whether CP1522 Lodgewood 220 kV 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:

- Installation of a 250 MVA transformer T2101 in the 220kV (bay F3) and 110kV (bay H5)
- Installation of new transformer protection panels in both the 220kV and 110kV building control rooms

#### Analysis of Pathways to European sites

The closest European site to the Development is Slaney River Valley Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (site code 000781<sup>1</sup>), which is located approximately 1.7km southeast ('as the crow flies'). The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of the SAC comprise a range of the Annex I habitats, a range of fish species, freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera*, otter *Lutra lutra* and harbour seal *Phoca vitulina*. The Development is present within a freshwater pearl mussel catchment area of extant populations. There is currently no catchment of SAC populations present. A drain has been identified on the Tailte Éireann PRIME2 Watercourses layer, present approximately 50m south of the Development extends along the southern boundary of the Development which flows into the Bann\_070 River<sup>2</sup>. The Bann\_070 River runs approximately 100m east of the Development, and is separated from the Development by broadleaved woodland. This unnamed drain and the Bann\_070 River provides a hydrological connection to the Slaney River Valley SAC, which is located approximately 2km downstream (following the course of these surface waters). Given the minor and temporary works involved, and the hydrological distance between the Development and the Slaney River Valley SAC, there is no potential for likely significant effects to QI habitats / species of Slaney River Valley SAC. There are no Special Protection Areas (SPAs) within the zone of influence of the Development. Should Special Conservation Interest (SCI) species occur within agricultural fields in proximity to the Development, they will be screened from the Development by intervening habitat of woodland and trees. There is no potential for likely significant effects on SCI species as a result of the Development.

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 with other plans or projects is not likely to have a significant effect on any European sites. The

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<sup>1</sup> NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives: Slaney River Valley SAC 0022988. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

<sup>2</sup> Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) maps website <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/> (accessed 27 February 2025)

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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Susanne Dunne ACIEEM Senior Ecologist

30 April 2025