



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1553 Bendinstown 110kV Station [Exempted Development] County Carlow

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 CP1553 Bendinstown 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 the installation of an interface kiosk in the fenceline between the Transmission Asset Owner (TAO) and Transmission System Operator (TSO) compound and associated cables.

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

Analysis of Pathways to European sites

Based on the works involved and the location of the works, there is no potential for likely significant effects as a result of the Development.

The Garreenleen River is located approximately 70m west of the proposed works and outside the substation boundary. While this watercourse is hydrologically connected ca. 7.6km to Slaney River Valley Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (site code 000781)¹ and ca. 15km to the River Barrow and River Nore SAC (site code 002162)². The Development comprises minor works on existing hardstanding within the boundary of the existing operational substation.

The Development is located within a catchment with previous records of freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera*, although the current status of the species is unknown. There is currently no catchment of SAC populations present.

As there are no waterbodies located within the station boundary, therefore likely significant effects from waterborne pollution are therefore excluded.

The minor and temporary nature of the Development is unlikely to be associated with significant disturbance impacts to any Qualifying Interest (QI) species of any SAC. For example, even if works were undertaken close to watercourses within the home ranges of QI otter *Lutra lutra*, such activities would be very short-term and minor in nature. Therefore, likely significant effects are excluded.

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

¹ NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives: Slaney River Valley SAC 000781. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

² NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives: River Barrow and River Nore SAC 002162. Version 2. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

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:



Susanne Dunne ACIEEM Senior Ecologist

09 July 2026