



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination CP1615 Tipperary 110kV Station Works [Exempted Development] County Tipperary

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 carried out Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the Conservation Objectives of relevant European sites, whether CP1615 Tipperary 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 involves the installation and fit-out of a Transformer Bay, including:

- 110kV Busbar Disconnect.
- 110kV Circuit Breaker 110kV.
- 110 kV Current Transformers (CT)/Voltage Transformers (VT).
- 110kV Phase & Neutral Surge Arrestors.
- 110kV Bay Conductor.
- 110kV NVD VT.

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

Lower River Suir Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (site code 002137¹), located c. 4.6km east of the Development. Designated for the Annex I habitats Atlantic salt meadows *Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae*, water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation, Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels, old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles, alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*), and *Taxus baccata* woods of the British Isles. Also designated for the mobile Qualifying Interest (QI) species freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera*, white-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*, sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*, brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri*, river lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*, twaite shad *Alosa fallax fallax*, salmon *Salmo salar* and otter *Lutra lutra*.

The nearest watercourse, which connects to Lower River Suir SAC is the Fidaughta_010 watercourse, which is approximately 200m south of the Development. Given the distance from the Development to the nearest watercourse there is no likelihood of likely significant effects regarding water quality to Lower River Suir SAC.

The Development is within the Suir freshwater pearl mussel catchment, however, it is not a catchment categorised for SAC populations. For the same reasons as outlined in respect of waterborne pollution, there is no possibility of likely significant effects to QI freshwater pearl mussel associated with Lower River Suir or any SAC.

Due to the minor scale and the short-term, temporary nature of the Development, and its location well removed from the nearest watercourse, there are no pathways for likely significant effects associated with noise and visual disturbance of mobile QI species of Lower River Suir SAC using functionally linked watercourses. There are no Special Protection Areas

¹ NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives: Lower River Suir SAC 002137. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

(SPAs) located within 20km of the Development (i.e., the maximum core foraging range of mobile Special Conservation Interests (SCI)**Error! Bookmark not defined.**), and therefore no pathway exists for likely significant effects related to noise and visual disturbance to SCI species associated with any 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. Due to the nature of the Development, there is no potential for in-combination effects.

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:



Susanne Dunne ACIEEM Senior Ecologist

23 March 2026