



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP0824 Moneypoint to Oldstreet 400kV Line Refurbishment Project [Exempted Development] (County Clare)

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, if the CP0824 Moneypoint to Oldstreet 400kV Line Refurbishment Project [Exempted Development] the development') individually or in combination with other plans or projects would be likely to have a significant effect (s) on a European site(s).

Development Description

The development consists of:

- Replacement of Steel Members (Structures 1, 2, 5, 10, 46, 48, 55, 56, 59, 101)
- Replacement of Insulators (Structure 16)
- Replacement of Hardware Structure 92)
- Replacement of Earthwire (Structure 92)
- Tower Painting (Structure 92)

Analysis of Pathways to European sites

The works are not located within or adjacent any European sites. The nearest European sites to the works are in the Shannon estuary, both located c. 0,6 km from the development

- Lower River Shannon Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (site code: 2299)¹, and,
- River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries Special Protection Area (SPA) (site code: 4077);

There is no hydrological or other pathway for likely significant effects from the works on these or any other European sites, having regard for the conservation objectives of sites concerned. The risk of ex-situ impacts to the Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests roosting, foraging, or nesting away from European sites has also been excluded, following analysis of known and potential habitats for mobile bird and other animal populations. There is no increase to bird strike risk from the development, given no change to alignment, or shield wiring on the existing overhead line.

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:

¹ NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives: Lower River Shannon SAC 002165. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

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