



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1124 Lysaghstown Solar 110 kV Station (Wrap and poleset replacement) [Exempted Development] (County Cork).

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 Lysaghstown Solar 110 kV Station (Fibre Wrap only) [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).

The development will consist of works for the purpose of wrapping telecommunication cables on the Knockraha-Midleton 110 kV OHL* including:

- the wrapping of conductor from structures 1-57 on the Knockraha-Midleton 110 kV OHL; and,
- the replacement of structures 1-37, and structure 42 only on the Knockraha-Midleton 110 kV OHL
- new cross arms on polesets 42 & 39.

The development is not located within or adjacent any European sites. The nearest European sites to the development are the Great Island Channel Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (site code: 1058)¹, and Cork Harbour Special Protection Area (SPA) (site code: 4030)² both located c. 1 km to the north of the development. This determination has had regard for the conservation objectives of these and any other relevant European sites.

The AA Screening assessment has reviewed the nature and scale of the works against hydrological connectivity³ and excluded the risk of downstream surface water impacts to relevant coastal sites; namely the Great Island Channel Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (site code: 1058), and Cork Harbour Special Protection Area. 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.

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:

Robert Fennelly CEcol MCIEEM Lead Senior Ecologist

22 September 2022

¹ NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives: Great Island Channel SAC 001058. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

² NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives: Cork Harbour SPA 004030. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht..

³ Including analysis of both Environmental Protection Agency and Ordnance Survey Ireland (Prime 2) watercourse mapping.