



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

Lanesboro - Mullingar 110 kV Overhead Line: Safety Measures at Polesets 64 and 65^{1,2} [Exempted Development] (County Longford).

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 Lanesboro - Mullingar 110 kV Overhead Line: Safety Measures at Polesets 64 and 65 [Exempted Development] (County Longford). ('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 take an estimated 1 week will consist of :

- Removing existing poleset 64¹ and replacing it (and cable stays) approximately 30-40 metres south-east of its existing location on same alignment Poleset 65²
- Associated raising of conductor between Structures 64-65 by approximately 6-7 metres in height
- Associated temporary works, including use of Mobile Elevated Working Platform, 4 x 4, 2 No. 13 Tonne Excavators, and lorry-mounted crane for poleset delivery (Hiab)

The development is not located within or adjacent any European sites. The nearest European sites to are the Lough Ree Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (site code: 440)³, and Lough Ree Special Protection Area (SPA) (site code: 4047)⁴ both located c. 4.8 km south of the development. This determination had regard for the conservation objectives of these and other relevant European sites.

The AA Screening assessment has reviewed the nature and scale of the works against hydrological connectivity and other pathways, and excluded the risk of likely significant effects from surface water run-off to the Lough Ree SAC/SPA.

The risk of ex-situ impacts to the Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests of roosting, foraging, or nesting away from European sites has also been excluded, following analysis of the duration and location of works, and known and potential habitats for mobile bird and other animal populations. There is no significant increase to bird strike risk from the development, as there is no shield wiring on the existing overhead line, and no change to alignment.

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 (25 August 2022)

¹ Number 64 in ESBN HV GIS dataset used by EirGrid; referenced 67 in updated dataset used by ESBN.

² Number 65 in ESBN HV GIS dataset used by EirGrid; referenced 68 in updated dataset used by ESBN

³ NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives: Lough Ree SAC 000440. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

⁴ NPWS (2022) Conservation objectives for Lough Ree SPA [004064]. Generic Version 9.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.