Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1380 Mullingar 110kV Substation [Exempted Development] County Westmeath

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 CP1380 Mullingar 110kV Substation [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 comprises:

- Protection upgrade on the Craddanstown (presently, Blundelstown) bay H2, including new distance protection, line differential protection and TEBIT teleprotection cards.
- Decommissioning of redundant bay H2 PLC/HF equipment.
- Trenching and ducting works from the Mullingar 110kV AIS Substation OHL end-mast (EM) to the substation blockwork trough to bring the FO cable into the substation Control Room.

All works are to be carried out entirely within the boundary of the existing energised substation.

Analysis of Pathways to European sites

The closest European sites to the Development are Lough Owel Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (site code 000688[1]) and Lough Owel Special Protection Area (SPA) (site code 004047[2]), which are both approximately 1.3km north-west ('as the crow flies'). There is no hydrological connectivity between the Development and the SAC or SPA. The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of the SAC comprise a range of Annex I habitats and white-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*. There is no hydrological connectivity between the Development and the SAC. Due to the absence of a hydrological connection, likely significant effects from the Development on Lough Owel SAC, or any other European site, regarding water quality are excluded.

All works will be carried out within the existing substation boundary containing hardstanding and electrical installations, an area containing no habitats that are suitable for foraging Special Conservation Interest (SCI) species of any SPA. The relatively minor nature of the works means that any noise disturbance of SCI birds occurring outside of an SPA boundary but in the vicinity of the Development will be immaterial. Therefore, there is no likelihood of likely significant effects on mobile SCI 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.

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.

[1] NPWS (2018) Conservation Objectives: Lough Owel SAC 000688. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

[2] NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives: Lough Owel SPA 004047. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

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 December 2025