Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1548 Replacement of substation Back-up supply equipment within the Central Region [Exempted Development]

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 CP1548 Replacement of substation Back-up supply equipment within the Central Region [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 works at three substations comprising replacements of back up supply equipment. All works are to be carried out entirely within the boundaries of the following stations:

1. Kellis 220kV;
2. Cushaling 110kV; and
3. Thornsberry 110kV.

Analysis of Pathways to European Sites

Kellis 220kV Station

There are no waterbodies within or in proximity to Kellis 220kV Station, with the exception of a drainage ditch 24m from the substation, that is not connected to any European sites.

The closest European site to the substation is Slaney River Valley Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (site code 000781)[1] which is 4.9km east of the substation. There is no ecological pathway between the substation and the SAC.

There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the substation via a source-pathway-receptor link that may result in likely significant effects in view of the applicable site Conservation Objectives.

Cushaling 110 kV Station

There are no waterbodies or drainage ditches within the substation. There are drainage ditches surrounding the substation but all works will be confined to the substation boundary so there is no potential for impact to the water environment. There are no European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the substation via a source-pathway-receptor link that may result in likely significant effects in view of the applicable site Conservation Objectives.

Thornsberry 110kV Station

There are no waterbodies within or in proximity to Thornsberry 110kV Station, thus no hydrological connectivity to any European sites. The closest European site to the substation is Lough Ennell Special Protected (SPA) (site code 004044)[2], located c. 16.2km north of the station. Designated for wetlands and waterbirds, including pochard *Aythya ferina*, tufted duck *Aythya*

[1] NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives: Slaney River Valley SAC 000781. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
[2] NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives: Lough Ennell SPA 004044. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

fuligula and coot *Fulica atra*. Based on published research[3], the maximum distance that non-breeding waterbird species for which SPAs are designated, may travel up to 20km from SPA boundary to forage. Although the SPA falls within this foraging range, all works associated with the development will take place within the existing substation boundary containing hardstanding and electrical installations, an area containing no suitable habitat for foraging Special Conservation Interest (SCI) species of Lough Ennell SPA.

There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the substation via a source-pathway-receptor link that may result in likely significant effects in view of the applicable site 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.

This Determination is based on the location, scale, extent and duration of the Development, including the temporary nature of works, and has not taken account of mitigation measures intended to avoid or reduce significant effects on European sites.

Signed:



_____

Susanne Dunne ACIEEM Senior Ecologist

27 July 2026

[3] Scottish Natural Heritage (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Version 3 – June 2016 (online). Available at: https://www.nature.scot/doc/assessing-connectivity-special-protection-areas (Accessed 19 January 2026).