

Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

Three-phase conversion, Kells, Co. Kilkenny

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, ESB has undertaken Screening for Appropriate Assessment to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the site, if the project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on a European Site(s).

The project relates to works to facilitate conversion of an existing single phase MV overhead line to three phase. The conversion will require the replacement of 4 existing wooden poles adjacent to the King's River to the west of Kells village, Co. Kilkenny. In this context, particular attention was paid to the following European Sites, which the works are located within:

- *River Barrow and River Nore SAC (002162)*¹
- *River Nore SPA (004233)*²

In accordance with Regulation 42(7) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended, ESB has made a determination following screening that an Appropriate Assessment is not required as the project is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the sites as European sites and as it can be concluded, on the basis of objective information, that the project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is not likely to have a significant effect on any European sites.

This determination is based on the location, scale, extent and duration of the proposed development, including temporary works and excludes any consideration of mitigation measures.

Full records of the assessment, reports, surveys, consultations and observations are held by the competent authority and available for public review as requested.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Hamilton', written over a horizontal line.

Geoff Hamilton BA MSc MCIEEM

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Date: 26th August 2021

¹ <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac/002162>

² <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/spa/004233>