

Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

38 kV Overhead Line Uprate Works & Installation of Bird Diverters, Cloondara, Co. 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, ESB has undertaken Screening for Appropriate Assessment to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the relevant site(s), if the project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect(s) on a European Site(s).

The project comprises the widening of the cross-arms from the current width of 2 m to 3 m at 13 polesets located along the existing Richmond-Fisherstown 38 KV OHL (approximately 1.7 km in length) and at 12 polesets located along the existing Fisherstown-Glebe 38 kV OHL (approximately 1.7 km in length). This requires the replacement of existing polesets. It also includes the installation of bird diverters.

The relevant European Sites identified as being within the zone of influence of the project, and which were considered within the Screening for Appropriate Assessment are:

- Lough Forbes Complex SAC (001818)
- Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA (004101)

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 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 project, including temporary works and excludes any consideration of mitigation measures.

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

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Kate-Marie O'Connor'.

Kate-Marie O'Connor, Senior Ecologist, ESB Engineering and Major Projects

Date: 11th August 2023