

Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

Carrigwohill/ Merck, Co.Cork – Underground Cable

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 excavation of one 38kV substation and medium voltage (MV) trench (approximately 2.4 km total length) for the installation of ducts and cable along the local road. The single trench will then split into two separate trenches as it runs along the regional road (MV trench: 1.1km total length and 38kV trench: 0.6km total length). The total length of the proposed works is approximately 3.4km and is entirely located within the existing local and regional road network.

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:

- Great Island Channel SAC (001058)
- *Cork Harbour SPA (004030)*

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, appearing to read 'David Daly', written over a horizontal line.

David Daly, Ecologist, ESB Engineering and Major Projects

Date: 2nd July 2024