

Appendix to Appropriate Assessment Report

Appendix A1: Finding of No Significant Effects (FONSE) Report

The data and descriptions in this appendix have informed the cumulative evaluations in the Appropriate Assessment Report.

Finding of No Significant Effects Report

In accordance with the EC (2001) guidance document, *Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites – Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*, A Finding of No Significant Effects Report has been completed for the UWF Grid Connection project. The standard matrix for this report provided in Annex 2 of the guidance document was followed. Line items in italics are taken directly from the guidance document.

Finding of No Significance Effects Report	
<i>Name and location of the Natura 2000 sites</i>	<p>The screening appraisal provided herein has examined potential effects via source pathway linkages on the designated SACs and SPAs within 15km of the UWF Grid Connection. This has been applied around UWF Grid Connection and further is extended to include a 15km area around all of the other elements of the Whole UWF Project in order to establish whether or not the UWF Grid Connection either alone or in-combination with the other elements of the Whole UWF Project is likely, or has potential, to have a significant effect on a European Site. There are 23 European Sites within the extended Study Area - nineteen Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and four Special Protection Area (SPA for birds):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anglesey Road SAC (002125), 2. Bolingbrook Hill SAC (002124), 3. Keeper Hill SAC (001197), 4. Silvermine Mountain SAC (000939), 5. Silvermine Mountain West SAC (002258), 6. Philipston Marsh SAC (001847), 7. Kilduff, Devilsbit Mountain SAC (000934), 8. Clare Glen SAC (000930), 9. Glenstal Wood SAC (001432), 10. Slieve Bernagh Bog SAC (002312), 11. Lough Derg, North-East Shore SAC (002241), 12. Glenomra Wood SAC (001013), 13. Tory Hill SAC (000439), 14. Ratty River Cave SAC (002316), 15. Askeaton Fen Complex SAC (002279), 16. Barrigone SAC (000432), 17. Curraghchase Woods SAC (000174), 18. Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA (004058), 19. River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA (004077), and 20. Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills & Mount Eagle SPA (004161) 21. Lower River Shannon SAC (002165) 22. Lower River Suir SAC (002137), and 23. Slieve Felim to Silvermines Mountain SPA (004165)

Finding of No Significance Effects Report	
<i>Description of the project or plan</i>	<p>Overview: The UWF Grid Connection project, presented for appraisal in the subject planning application to An Bord Pleanála and detailed in this Appropriate Assessment Report, will consist of a new electrical looped-in substation at Mountphilips (Mountphilips Substation), 30.5km of underground electrical cabling between the Mountphilips Substation site and the already consented Upperchurch Windfarm Substation location, and ancillary works at the Mountphilips Substation site.</p> <p>Purpose: The purpose of UWF Grid Connection is to connect the Consented UWF Substation at Upperchurch Windfarm to the now proposed substation at Mountphilips. The Mountphilips substation will in turn, be connected to the existing, adjacent Killonan - Nenagh 110kV overhead line and thereby export electricity, from Upperchurch Windfarm when constructed and operational, to the national grid.</p>
<i>Is the Project or Plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (provide details)?</i>	No
<i>Are there other projects or plans that together with the project of plan being assessed could affect the site (provide details)?</i>	<p>Yes: In addition to any in-combination effects from the individual Whole UWF Project Elements 1 to 5, the following projects were considered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 existing Rear Cross Quarry, 2 existing Milestone Windfarm, 3 consented Newport Town Park, 4 consented Castlewaller Windfarm (and potential grid connection), 5 <i>potential</i> Bunkimalta Windfarm (and consented grid connection), 6 proposed Quarry at Curraghduff, <i>and</i> 7 General Agriculture and Forestry operations, and turf-cutting
The Assessment of Significant Effects	
<i>Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) is likely to affect the Natura 2000 site</i>	<p>The results are that there is no <i>potential</i> for UWF Grid Connection to cause any effects to the following 19 no. European Sites (16 SACs, 3 SPAs):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anglesey Road SAC (002125), - Bolingbrook Hill SAC (002124), - Keeper Hill SAC (001197), - Silvermine Mountain SAC (000939), - Silvermine Mountain West SAC (002258), - Philipston Marsh SAC (001847), - Kilduff, Devilsbit Mountain SAC (000934), - Glenstal Wood SAC (001432), - Slieve Bernagh Bog SAC (002312), - Lough Derg, North-East Shore SAC (002241), - Glenomra Wood SAC (001013), - Tory Hill SAC (000439), - Ratty River Cave SAC (002316), - Askeaton Fen Complex SAC (002279),

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Barrigone SAC (000432),- Curraghchase Woods SAC (000174),- Lough Derg (Shannon) SPA (004058,- River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA (004077), and- Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills & Mount Eagle SPA (004161). <p>Therefore, these EU sites have been 'Screened Out' at Stage One of the Appropriate Assessment process.</p>		
<i>Explain why these effects are not considered significant</i>	Stage 1 Conceptual Models have been presented in respect of each European Site within the extended 15km study area. Within same, potential sources of effects have been examined. In respect of the European Sites listed above, the Potential for Significant Effects can be excluded, due to an absence of impact pathways and separation distance. We refer to Section 2.8 and 2.9 of the Appropriate Assessment Report for detailed examination.		
Name of Agency or Body Consulted	Summary of Response		
DAU; NPWS –Áine Lynch; IFI – Michael Fitzsimons, Jane Gilleran; Tipperary County Council	We refer Section 2.6.1 of the Appropriate Assessment Report for UWF Grid Connection, for details.		
Data Collected to Carry out the Assessment			
Who carried out the assessment	Sources of Data	Level of assessment completed	Where can the full results of the assessment be accessed and viewed
Inis Environmental Consultants Ltd. Suite 11, Shannon Commercial Properties, Information Age Park, Gort Road, Ennis, Co. Clare	A combination of consultation, desktop studies and comprehensive field surveys.	<p>Following screening it can reasonably be concluded that there is no possibility of Significant Effects on 19 of these 23 European sites as a result of the Development.</p> <p>With regard to the following listed EU Sites, Significant Effects, in the absence of mitigation (which is not considered at Screening Stage) are considered possible or likely via identified source-pathway linkages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Lower River Shannon SAC (002165)2. Lower River Suir SAC (002137)3. Clare Glen SAC (000930)4. Slievefelim to Silvermines SPA (004077) <p>As a result, there is an obligation on the Competent Authority to carry out</p>	<p>The public office for An Bord Pleanála, Dublin; the public office for Tipperary County Council, Nenagh, Co Tipperary.</p> <p>In addition, the Appropriate Assessment Reporting Documents can be viewed on the following website: www.upperchurchwindfarmgridconnection.ie</p>

*APPENDIX A1: Finding of No Significant Effects (FONSE) Report
AA 2019, Appropriate Assessment Report*

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		an Appropriate Assessment (i.e. Stage Two of the AA process) under Article 6 (3) of the Habitats Directive for this project, and in this context a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment Report has been completed.	