

Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

River Lee 10 kV Underground Cables Crossing Upgrade, Morrison's Quay, Co Cork

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 UGC upgrade works include decommissioning the three existing cables. These cables will be cut and capped at the low water mark. The sections of the cables crossing the River Lee will be made safe and left in situ on the riverbed. The cables above the low water mark will be removed from the quay walls. Once the old cables have been removed and capped the new cables will be pulled through the existing ducts in the quay walls and across the River Lee (as per the old cables) before connecting to the network at ducts within 20 m of the quay walls.

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:

- 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 'Owen Twomey'.

Owen Twomey, Senior Ecologist, ESB Engineering and Major Projects

Date: 15th September 2025