



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP0794: Aghada Station Refurbishment [Exempted Development] (County 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 ('The Regulations'), EirGrid has undertaken Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of relevant European sites, if the refurbishment of the existing Aghada 220 kV substation ('the development') individually or in combination with other plans or projects would be likely to have a significant effect (s) on a European site(s).

The development is located entirely within the existing 220 kV Aghada substation, Co. Cork. The development comprises:

- alterations of existing busbar to include spacers, post insulators;
- removal of electrical apparatus and diversion of services/links from former control room building (to remain in situ);
- alteration to existing control room building to include for additional electrical apparatus such as meters;
- alterations to protection apparatus to include replacement of relays
- installation of interface kiosks and communications chamber within existing compound;
- alterations to the existing earth grid;

The development is not located within any European site. The closest site is Cork Harbour Special Protection Area¹ (site code 4030; c. 0.020 km distant). There are no Special Areas of Conservation within c. 5 km. This determination has had regard for the Cork Harbour SPA, and all other relevant European sites.

In accordance with Regulation 42(7) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 SI 477 as amended, EirGrid has made a determination following screening that an Appropriate Assessment is not required as the project individually or in combination with other plans or projects is not likely to have a significant effect on any European sites. The risk of likely significant effects on European sites can be excluded on the basis of objective evidence.

This determination is based on the location, scale, extent and duration of the development, including temporary works, and has not taken account of measures intended to avoid or reduce significant effects on European sites.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "RF", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Robert Fennelly CEcol MCIEEM Lead Senior Ecologist

26 May 2022

¹NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives: Cork Harbour SPA 004030. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.