



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

Site Investigation Works for CP0808 Maynooth 220 kV Station Refurbishment [Exempted Development] County Kildare

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 CP0808 Maynooth 220 kV Station Refurbishment [Exempted Development] ('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 comprises:

- Ground Penetrating Radar
- Boreholes (6 no.)
- Trial Pits (4 no.)

Analysis of Pathways to European sites

The development is c. 6.8 km (straight line distance) from the Rye Water Valley/Carton Special Area of Conservation (site code 1398)¹. The development is potentially upstream of and hydrologically connected to the Rye Water Valley/Carton Special Area of Conservation, via a series of local drains, and a headwater of the River Rye. However the SAC is solely designated for ground-water dependent tufa spring, and whorl snail species. As such there is no source-pathway receptor linkage between the polluting surface-water, if generated by the development, and the groundwater dependent features within the SAC.

There are no watercourses or drainage ditches with hydrological connectivity to European sites containing pollution-sensitive species.

None of the works are within the catchment of any Qualifying Interest (QI) Freshwater Pearl Mussels *Margaritifera margaritifera*, Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*, or Lamprey species.

None of the works require instream works, or works within or adjacent wetlands (including sites monitored by Birdwatch Ireland, bogs, or woodlands).

There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the development via a source-pathway-receptor linkage with likely significant effects.

The AA Screening assessment has reviewed the nature and scale of the works against hydrological connectivity and excluded the risk of downstream surface water impacts to any European sites. The risk of ex-situ impacts to the Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests roosting, foraging, or nesting away from European sites has also been excluded, following analysis of known and potential habitats for mobile bird and other animal populations.

AA Screening Statement

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

¹ NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives: Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC 001398. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

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:



Robert Fennelly CEcol MCIEEM Lead Senior Ecologist

9 July 2023