



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1197: AEG Circuit Breaker Replacement at Dunstown 400 kV Station and Woodland 400 kV Station [Exempted Development] Counties Kildare and Meath

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 CP1197: AEG Circuit Breaker Replacement at Dunstown 400 kV Station and Woodland 400 kV Station [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 works for the purpose of replacing the following at Dunstown 400/220 kV Station:

- 220 kV Scope
 - Replacement of 6 x 220 kV Circuit Transformers (CBs)
 - Replacement of 6 x 220 kV Circuit Transformers (CTs)
 - Replacement of 6 x 220 kV Voltage Transformers (VTs)
 - Installation of 5 x 220 kV Surge Arrestors (SAs)
 - Installation of 2 x 220 kV Maintenance Earth Switches
 - Replacement of 5 x Line Droppers

- 400 kV Scope
 - Replacement of 3 x 400 kV CBs
 - Replacement of 3 x 400 kV CTs
 - Replacement of 2 x 400 kV VTs
 - Installation of 2 x 400 kV SAs
 - Installation of 2 x 400 kV Maintenance Earth Switches

Analysis of Pathways to European sites

There are no works within or adjacent European sites. The closest such site is the Rye Water Valley/Carton Special Area of Conservation (SAC; site code 4063) located c. 9 km from the proposed development site. There are no watercourses or drainage ditches within any of the work sites, with hydrological connectivity to this or any other European sites.

None of the works are within the catchment of any Qualifying Interest (QI) Freshwater Pearl Mussels *Margaritifera margaritifera*.

All works are entirely within the fence line of existing stations. None of the works require vegetation removal or instream works.

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

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 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:



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