



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

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

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 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 includes the following at Dunstown 400 kV Substation:

- the replacement of 5 no. 220 kV Line Dropper Replacement
- the installation of 1 no. Trafo Bay Maintenance Earth Switches

Analysis of Pathways to European sites

There are no European sites overlapping or adjacent the development. The nearest European site to the development is the Poulaphouca Special Protection Area (site code 4063)¹, c. 13 km distant.

All works within the Dunstown Station are on made ground entirely within the existing fencelines, requiring no vegetation removal.

There are no works elsewhere within or adjacent any other European sites.

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:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "R.F.", is written above a horizontal line.

Robert Fennelly CEcol MCIEEM Lead Senior Ecologist

10 November 2022

¹ NPWS (2022) Conservation objectives for Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA [004063]. First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

