



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1197 Dunstown 400 kV Station - [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 CP1197 Dunstown 400 kV asset replacement [Exempted Development] ('the Development') individually or in-combination with other plans or projects will result in likely significant effects on a European site(s).

The Development comprises the replacement and refurbishment of assets associated with each bay to ensure reliable performance of these assets for the future. All works are to be carried out entirely within the boundary of the existing Dunstown 400kV substation.

Analysis of Pathways to European sites

The substation is approximately 7.8km from the closest European site which is Poulaphouca Reservoir Special Protection Area (SPA) (site code 004063)¹.

There are no watercourses or drainage ditches within the work site, thus no potential for hydrological connectivity to any European sites. None of the works require instream activities, or works within or adjacent wetlands (including sites monitored by Birdwatch Ireland, bogs, or woodlands).

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.

Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA is designated for greylag goose *Anser anser* and lesser black-backed gull *Larus fuscus*. The Development is within the core foraging range of greylag goose as their core foraging range is 15-20km² and the Development is 7.8km from the SPA. However, a review of aerial imagery shows no suitable habitat within the Development for foraging given it comprises hard-standing and buildings.

There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the Development via a source-pathway-receptor link that may result in likely significant effects in view of the applicable site Conservation Objectives.

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.

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.

² Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) (2016) Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

Signed:



Robert Fennelly CEcol MCIEEM Lead Senior Ecologist

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