



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination CP1198 Barnakyle 110kV Station Works [Exempted Development] County Dublin

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 an Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the Conservation Objectives of relevant European sites, whether CP1198 Barnakyle 110kV Station Works [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 will be completed within Barnakyle 110kV Station and comprise:

- Digging trench for an underground cable (UGC) route.
- Installing ducts in trench.
- Pull cables.
- Back fill trench.
- Terminating cables to existing Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) bays.

Analysis of Pathways to European sites

The closest European site to the Development is Rye Water Valley/Carton Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (site code 001398¹) which is approximately 6.1km away ('as the crow flies'). The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of the SAC comprise the Annex I habitat petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion), and the Annex II species narrow-mouthed whorl snail *Vertigo angustior* and Demoulin's whorl snail *Vertigo moulinsiana*. A waterbody has been identified on the Tailte Éireann PRIME2 Watercourses layer, which extends along the western boundary of the Development. However, this waterbody does not appear to be linked to any other waterbody, and due to the absence of a hydrological connection, likely significant effects from the Development on Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC or any other European site regarding water quality are excluded.

Poulaphouca Reservoir Special Protection Area (SPA) (site code 004063²) and South Dublin Bay and River Tolka SPA (site code 004024³) are located approximately 15km and 15.7km respectively from the Proposed Development. Both SPAs are designated for mobile Special Conservation Interest (SCI) species associated with foraging habitats beyond the designated site boundary (also known as 'functionally linked') habitat, greylag goose *Anser anser* and light-bellied brent-goose *Branta bernicla hrota*, respectively. There is no potential for likely significant effects on mobile SCI species because there are extensive resources of suitable agricultural fields much closer to both SPAs, combined with the relatively minor and temporary nature of the works to lay the UGC, meaning that any noise disturbance or loss of functionally-linked habitat would be immaterial.

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

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.

² 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.

³ NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives: South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA 004024. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

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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