



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1213 Belcamp Project [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 Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the Conservation Objectives of relevant European sites, if the CP1213 Belcamp Project [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 repair and maintenance works of an existing access track established as part of the CP0984 Belcamp-Shellybanks 220kV Project (now constructed) for its continued use as an additional, temporary construction access to Belcamp 220kV Station.

Analysis of Pathways to European Sites

The European sites that lie closest to the Development are the Baldoyle Bay Special Protection Area (SPA, site code 004016¹) and Baldoyle Bay Special Area of Conservation (SAC, site code 000199²), both at an approximate distance of 4.2km.

The Development comprises the maintenance and repair of an existing access track (i.e. brownfield development), such that there is no potential for the temporary or permanent loss of functionally-linked habitat.

The Special Conservation Interest (SCI) species and Qualifying Interest (QI) habitats of both designated sites are sensitive to potential water quality changes resulting from maintenance and/or repair works undertaken for the Development. While the Development lies in relatively close proximity to the Mayne River (which is hydrologically connected to the SPA/SAC), there are no streams, ditches or drainage channels connecting the Development to the Mayne River. Moreover, even if sediments or pollutants from the Development were to reach the river, a flowpath distance of 4.2km to the SAC (and further to the SPA) would allow for sufficient dilution and attenuation to take place. Therefore, likely significant effects of the Development on the Baldoyle Bay SPA/SAC resulting from water quality impacts can be excluded.

Several European sites designated for mobile SCI bird species are located in the wider area surrounding the Development, including the Baldoyle Bay SPA (approximately 4.2km distant), Malahide Estuary SPA (site code 004025³, approximately 4.9km distant), North Bull Island SPA (site code 004006⁴, approximately 5km distant), South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (site code 004024⁵, approximately 5.6km distant) and Rogerstown Estuary SPA (site code 004015⁶, approximately 9.7km distant). Some of the SCI wader and/or waterfowl SCI species of these European sites have particularly strong associations with roosting and foraging habitats (e.g. functionally-linked grassland and arable fields) beyond the respective designated site boundaries,

¹ NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Baldoyle Bay SPA 004016. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

² NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives: Baldoyle Bay SAC 000199. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

³ NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Malahide Estuary SPA 004025. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

⁴ NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: North Bull Island SPA 004006. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

⁵ NPWS (2015) 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.

⁶ NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Rogerstown Estuary SPA 004015. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

most notably light-bellied Brent goose *Branta bernicla hrota*, golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria* and greylag goose *Anser anser*.

There is significant data available on known inland feeding sites for wintering birds in the wider Dublin area⁷, which identifies, for instance the nearest known site for Brent goose ('Darndale/Belcamp Park') to be more than 160m south of the Development site, and screened from it by the Belcamp 220 kV Station, and significant intervening vegetation.

While potentially suitable habitats for certain wetland bird species are present adjacent to the Development, there will be no likely significant disturbance effects on SCI species based on the limited scale, intermittent nature and temporary duration of the works and use of the access route, and noting no such populations are known from existing data.

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 the temporary nature of works, and has not taken account of mitigation measures intended to avoid or reduce significant effects on European sites.

Signed:



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⁷ Including Benson (2009), Use of Inland feeding sites by Light-bellied Brent Geese in Dublin 2008-2009: a new conservation concern. Irish Birds 8, 563-370, Scott Cawley (2017) Natura Impact Statement. Proposed Development. St. Paul's College Raheny, Dublin 5., Enviroguide Consulting (2019) Natura Impact Statement- Information for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment. Proposed Strategic Housing Development, St Paul's College, Sybil Hill Road, Raheny, Dublin 5, and Jacobs (2024) Natura Impact Statement, East Meath -North Dublin Grid Upgrade. Unpublished Report produced for EirGrid.