



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1216 – Northwall-Poolbeg 220 kV Circuit: Onshore Cable 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 laying underground of c.1.7km 220 kV cables from the existing North Wall 220 kV station on Alexandra Road, to a location adjacent to the Irish Ferries Terminal Car Park and associated temporary works (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 is adjacent to one European site, but is not located within any European site. The closest European sites are the:

- South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA; site code 004024 ; 0.030 km from the development)¹;
- South Dublin Bay Special Area of Conservation (SAC; site code 000210; c. 0.9 km from the development)²;
- North Dublin Bay SAC (000206; c. 1.4km from the development)³;
- North Bull Island SPA (004006; c. 1.4 km from the development)⁴;
- Northwest Irish Sea SPA (004236; c. 2.9 km from the development)⁵;

This determination has had regard for these and any other relevant European sites.

Aside from an approximately 40 m long section through a patch of amenity grassland, which is outside European sites, and serves no ex-situ habitat to European site features, the entire development is within existing roadways.

As the Development does not intersect any SACs or SPAs, there is no potential for habitat loss, destruction, fragmentation or deterioration impacts on any European site(s). There is no potential for significant disturbance to the mobile Special Conservation Interest populations of SPAs in Dublin Bay, as few significant roosting SCI bird sites in this industrial part of Dublin Bay are screened from the development by intervening built urban fabric (and in the case of Alexandra Road, additionally by a c. 20m wide woodland plantation)

The development is not located within the catchment of any freshwater pearl mussels *Margaritifera*, or other sensitive aquatic species which are the QIs of European sites. Impact pathways to other far-flying mobile QI/SCI species from distant European sites do not arise, due to the absence of supporting habitats for such species within the Zone of Influence (ZoI) of the development, or because the development is outside the range of QI populations of a given species (e.g. which is the case lesser horseshoe bat, *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, and marsh fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia*).

¹ 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.

² NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: South Dublin Bay SAC 000210. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

³ NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: North Dublin Bay SAC 000206. 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 (2023) Conservation Objectives: North-west Irish Sea SPA 004236. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

As such, , the risk of ex-situ impacts to Qualifying Interests (QI) and Special Conservation Interests (SCI) roosting, foraging, or nesting away from European sites can be excluded, following analysis of known and potential habitats for mobile bird and other animal populations.

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 Development 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 proposed development, including temporary works, and has not taken account of measures intended to avoid or reduce significant effects on European sites.

Signed:



Robert Fennelly CEcol MCIEEM Lead Senior Ecologist

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