



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1217: Philipstown 110kV Station (Fibre Wrap) [Exempted Development] Co. 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 CP1217 Philipstown 110kV Station (Fibre Wrap) [Exempted Development] (Co. Wexford) [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 comprises works for the purpose of wrapping fibre on the conductor between Structure 1 and Structure 2 on the Cushaling – Portlaoise 110kV Circuit.

Analysis of Pathways to European sites

There are no European sites overlapping or in the vicinity of the development. The nearest European site is the Long Derries, Edenderry Special Area of Conservation (site code 925)¹. There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the development via a source-pathway-receptor linkage.

There are no watercourses or drainage ditches within the site, with hydrological connectivity to the adjacent European sites. The development is not within the catchment of any Qualifying Interest (QI) Freshwater Pearl Mussels *Margaritifera margaritifera*.

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 read "R. Fennelly", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Robert Fennelly CEcol MCIEEM Lead Senior Ecologist

05 December 2022

¹ NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives: The Long Derries, Edenderry SAC 000925. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage