



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination CP1251d Refurbishment of Finglas 220kV Substation [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, whether CP1251d Refurbishment of Finglas 220kV Substation [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:

- Finglas F9 Bay Works.
- Minor civil/commissioning works at Finglas Station.
- Removal and decommissioning of the high voltage (HV) Cable Sealing Ends (i.e., HV cable terminations)
- Removal and decommissioning of the HV cable tails (i.e., ca.90 m) between the HV cable joint bay JB-1 and the above cable sealing end.

All works will occur within the boundary of the existing substation.

Analysis of Pathways to European sites

According to guidance published by NatureScot (formerly Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH))¹, the maximum distance to which non-breeding bird species for which Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are designated will typically travel to forage is 20km from the boundary of such a site. Several SPAs designated for mobile Special Conservation Interest (SCI) non-breeding bird species are located within 20km of the Development as follows:

- South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (site code 004024², approximately 7.6km distant);
- Malahide Estuary SPA (site code 004025³, approximately 10km distant),
- North Bull Island SPA (site code 004006⁴, approximately 10.5km distant),
- Baldoyle Bay SPA (site code 004016⁵, approximately 11.5km distant); and,
- Rogerstown Estuary SPA (site code 004015⁶, approximately 13.7km distant).

Some of the SCI wader and/or waterfowl SCI species of these European sites have particularly strong associations with roosting and foraging habitats beyond the respective designated site boundaries (i.e. functionally-linked habitat), most notably light-bellied brent goose *Branta bernicla hrota*, golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria* and greylag goose *Anser anser*. There will be no likely significant disturbance effects on SCI species based on the limited scale, intermittent nature and temporary duration of the works, which will all take place within the existing,

¹ SNH (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Version 3 – June 2016.

² 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.

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 (2013) Conservation Objectives: Baldoyle Bay SPA 004016. 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.

fenced boundary of the substation. It should also be noted that suitable roosting and foraging habitats are available much closer to all SPAs, reducing the likelihood that significant numbers of SCI birds would be present in the vicinity of the Development.

The Development comprises minor works associated with the refurbishment of an existing substation. All works will take place within the boundary of the existing substation, such that there is no potential for the temporary or permanent loss of functionally-linked habitat.

There are no direct hydrological connections between the Development and any European sites. 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.

Signed:



Susanne Dunne ACIEEM Senior Ecologist

29 April 2025