



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1272 Derryiron Temporary Bypass [Exempted Development] (County Offaly)

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 Derryiron 110 kV Station Temporary Works [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).

Development Description

The development consists of:

- A temporary "bypass" arrangement to keep critical circuits in operation during the planned works to uprate and extend the existing busbar apparatus
- Connecting Rhode and Kinnegad 110 kV circuits will be connected via a "flyover" arrangement. The flyover will consist of conductor traversing the length of the busbar, supported by two steel-frame structures (approx. 11.7m tall) at either end and one intermediate wooden poleset. Both circuits will be connected to this temporary flyover conductor and disconnected from the existing busbar. This arrangement is outlined in red on the right-hand side of the station layout below (note the outlined bay equipment is existing):
- Connecting Maynooth and Thornsberry circuits directly on the station side of their end masts via low-level conductor supported by post insulators (approx. 4m tall).

Analysis of Pathways to European sites

There are no European sites overlapping or adjacent the development. The nearest European site to the development is the Raheenmore Bog Special Area of Conservation (site code 582)¹,

All works within the Derryiron Station are on made ground entirely within the existing fencelines, requiring no vegetation removal.

There are no works elsewhere within or adjacent any other European sites.

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.

¹ NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: Raheenmore Bog SAC 000582. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

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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