



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

Site Investigation Works for CP1273 CP1273 Dublin Central Eastpoint Bulk Supply 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 Site Investigation (SI) Works for CP1273 Dublin Central Eastpoint Bulk Supply Project ('the works') individually or in combination with other plans or projects would be likely to have a significant effect (s) on a European site(s).

The works comprise:

- 6 cable percussion boreholes (BH) with rotary core follow-on where required,
- 28 trial pits (TP),
- 4 slit trenches (ST),
- Installation of standpipes in boreholes and monitoring of groundwater levels (in selected boreholes).

Analysis of Pathways to European sites

The nearest European site to the works is South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) (site code 004024)¹ which is 170 m from the closest SI works (BH 6). There are no habitats offering suitable breeding or foraging sites within the footprint of the works. Due to the short-term nature of the works and the surrounding urban environment, there is no potential for disturbance effects to species within the SPA or any other European sites.

All GI locations are at least 70m away from watercourses. None of the works are within the catchment of any Qualifying Interest (QI) Freshwater Pearl Mussels *Margaritifera margaritifera*, Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*, or Lamprey species. None of the works require instream works.

There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the works via a source-pathway-receptor linkage.

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

Signed:

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.



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18 November 2025