



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1314 and CP1315 Dynamic Line Rating for Baroda Newbridge and Baroda Monread [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 CP1314 and CP1315 Dynamic Line Rating (DLR) for Baroda Newbridge and Baroda Monread [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 DLR installations on two inter-linked 110KV lines in Kildare, with no requirement to break ground.

Analysis of Pathways to European Sites

The OHLs do not pass through any European sites.

The OHLs pass over several rivers and streams that are tributaries of the River Liffey, which drains into Dublin Bay, and works will involve a Mobile Elevated Working Platform accessing structures where DLRs are to be installed

There is therefore a hydrological connection to Rye Water Valley/Carton Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (site code 001398)¹, South Dublin Bay SAC (site code 000210)², South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) (site code 004024)³, North Dublin Bay SAC (site code 000206)⁴, and North Bull Island SPA (site code 004006)⁵. However, all of these are further than 30km downstream of the Development; at this distance, and given the minor nature of the Development (which exclude in-stream works, and exclude any storage of fuels or other pollutants at the work sites), there is no reasonable means by these European sites may result in likely significant effects in view of their Conservation Objectives.

Pollardstown Fen SAC (site code 000396)⁶ is 405m west of Newbridge station and 14.1km west of Monread station. Potential noise and visual disturbance impacts to Qualifying Interest (QI) species foraging, resting or ranging beyond the European site boundary are excluded with cognisance of the location and nature of the works involved. For example, the Development does not comprise noisy construction activities. Therefore, there is no potential for disturbance impacts to mobile QI species utilising functionally linked habitats. There is no hydrological link between the Development and the SAC, thus no potential for waterborne pollution.

¹ NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives: Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC 001398. Version 1.

National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

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 (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.

⁴ NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: North Dublin Bay SAC 000206. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

⁵ NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives: North Bull Island SPA 004006. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

⁶ NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives: Pollardstown Fen SAC 000396. Version

1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Mouds Bog SAC (site code 002331)⁷ is 420m from Newbridge station and 9.7km south-west of Monread station. It is designated for its peatland habitats and as there is no ecological pathway from the Development to this SAC, therefore no effect is possible.

Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA (site code 004063)⁸ is 11.8km south-east of Monread station and 18.8km south-east of Newbridge station, and is designated for greylag goose *Anser anser*. According to guidance published by Scottish Natural Heritage (now NatureScot), the core foraging range of greylag goose is 15-20km⁹, placing the Development within the wider area potentially used by this Special Conservation Interest (SCI) species. However, the scope of the works does not involve conversion of greenfield land to development. Therefore, there is no potential for the loss of functionally-linked foraging habitat of greylag goose. Given the minor nature of the works, it is highly unlikely that disturbance of SCI birds in the vicinity of the Development would occur. There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the Development via a source-pathway-receptor link.

Wicklow Mountains SPA (site code 004040)¹⁰ is 16.5km south-east of Monread station and 25.5km south-east of Newbridge station, immediately beyond Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA. It is designated for merlin *Falco columbarius* and peregrine *Falco peregrinus*. Merlin has a core foraging range of 5km and peregrine of 2km⁹; therefore, it is highly unlikely that disturbance of SCI birds occurring outside of the SPA but in the vicinity of the Development would occur.

There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the substation 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 the temporary nature of works, and has not taken account of mitigation measures intended to avoid or reduce significant effects on European sites.

Signed:



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⁷ NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: Mouds Bog SAC 002331. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

⁸ NPWS (2022) Conservation objectives for Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA [004063]. First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

⁹ Scottish Natural Heritage. (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs). 4pp.

¹⁰ NPWS (2022) Conservation objectives for Wicklow Mountains SPA [004040]. First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.