



## Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

### CP1334 Newbarn (Finglas) Station Works 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 proposed CP1334 Newbarn (Finglas) Station Works Project [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). All works for the development will be within the station boundary and will comprise:

- Installation of final section of underground cable (UGC) from the boundary of the Finglas substation to the gas insulated switchgear (GIS) building
- Any associated construction work within the building to bring the cable to the spare bay
- Work within the existing GIS substation control room (remote terminal unit (RTU), power quality recorder (PRQ), Protection and metering and any other works).

The development is not located within or near any European site; the closest such site is South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA; site code 004024), located 7.5 km to the east of the station boundary<sup>1</sup>. This determination has had regard for these and any other relevant European sites.

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.

The risk of ex-situ impacts to the Qualifying Interests (QI) and Special Conservation Interests (SCI) 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.

The development is not located within the catchment of any freshwater pearl mussels *Margaritifera*, or other sensitive aquatic species which are the QI of European sites. Impact pathways to other far-flying mobile QI/SCI species from distant European sites do not arise, due to the absence of supporting habitats for such species within the Zone of Influence of the development, or because the development is outside the range of QI populations of a given species (e.g. which is the case lesser horseshoe bat, *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, and marsh fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia*).

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 be "R", written over a horizontal line.

Robert Fennelly CEcol MCIEEM Lead Senior Ecologist

21 August 2024

<sup>1</sup> 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.