



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1342 Louth 220kV [Exempted Development] County Louth

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 CP1342 Louth 220kV Project [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 a new bay location and underground cable. All works are to be carried out entirely within the station boundary.

Analysis of Pathways to European Sites

There are no waterbodies within or immediately surrounding Louth 220kV Station, thus no hydrological connectivity to any European sites. The closest European site to the station is Dundalk Bay Special Protection Area (SPA) (site code 004026)¹ which is 11.8km from the station. There are no other SPAs within 20km of the station. The primary sensitivities of the Special Conservation Interest (SCI) species of Dundalk Bay SPA relate to loss of functionally-linked habitat and noise and visual disturbance. However, there will be no loss of functionally-linked habitat for SCI bird species as the station comprises hardstanding and infrastructure which is unsuitable for roosting and foraging. The closest Special Area of Conservation (SAC) to the station is Dundalk Bay SAC (site code 000455)² which is 12.2km away. There is no hydrological link or possible ecological pathway between the station and the Qualifying Interests (QI) of the SAC.

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

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:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "RF", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert Fennelly CEcol MCIEEM Lead Senior Ecologist

11 September 2023

¹ NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives: Dundalk Bay SPA 004026. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

² NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives: Dundalk Bay SAC 000455. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.