



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1427 Remote End Works at Gallanstown and Platin 110kV Stations [Exempted Development] (Counties Dublin and Meath)

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 Remote End Works at Gallanstown and Platin 110kV Stations [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:

- Remote end works including bay equipment replacement and associated works within the 110 kV Gallanstown substation
- Remote end works including bay equipment replacement and associated works within the 110 kV Platin substation

Analysis of Pathways to European Sites

There are no waterbodies within the substation boundaries, however there is a drainage ditch outside the site boundary to the north of Gallanstown substation. The drainage ditch is hydrologically-linked to Malahide Estuary Special Area of Conservation (SAC, site code 000205)¹ and Malahide Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA, site code 004025)² by a minimum distance of 13 km. Due to the Development being located within existing substation boundaries, the minor nature of the Development and the great intervening distance (with associated dilution), there is no potential for a likely significant effect from the Development on the water quality in the Malahide Estuary SAC, Malahide Estuary SPA, or any other European site.

The closest European sites to Platin substation are the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC (site code 002299)³ and SPA (site code 004232)⁴ (at approximate distances of 3.4km and 4.3km, respectively). The River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC is designated for Qualifying Interest (QI) river lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*, salmon *Salmo salar*, otter *Lutra lutra* and habitats that depend on water supply (i.e.. alkaline fens fed by groundwater, and alluvial forests primarily fed by surface water). The River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA is designated for SCI kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*. While these European sites are sensitive to water quality changes, they lie in a different catchment with no hydrological connectivity to the Platin substation. Therefore, there is no ecological pathway between the Development and the SAC/SPA.

There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the Development via a source-pathway-receptor link that could result in likely significant effects in view of the applicable site Conservation Objectives.

AA Screening Statement

¹ NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Malahide Estuary SAC 000205. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

² NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Malahide Estuary SPA 004025. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

³ NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives: River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC 002299. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

⁴ NPWS (2022) Conservation objectives for River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA [004232]. First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

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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