



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1452 Poolbeg 220kV 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 CP1452 Poolbeg 220kV Station Works 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 the design, installation/construction and commissioning of the Poolbeg Open Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT) temporary connection Remote Terminal Unit (RTY), power quality recorder, temporary connection metering and T2001 transformer bay, as well disconnection works associated with the existing R2001 reactor bay in the existing Poolbeg 220 kV Station.

Analysis of Pathways to European Sites

The European site that lies closest to the Development is the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Special Protection Area (SPA, site code 004024¹), at an approximate distance of 161m. The Special Conservation Interest (SCI) wader, waterfowl and seabird species are sensitive to visual and noise disturbance from construction activities. While the Development itself and adjoining areas all constitute brownfield land, and, therefore, are not suitable as functionally-linked habitat, there is a potential for direct disturbance effects within the designated site boundary due to its proximity to the Development. Most elements of the Development will comprise electrical cabling works that are associated with low noise profiles. However, moderate construction noise is likely to be created by construction of the transformer bay. Notwithstanding this, it is considered that likely significant effects of the Development regarding visual and noise disturbance can be excluded. This is due to the existing industrial nature of the surrounding area (with associated high noise levels), the temporary nature of the works and the significant intervening visual screening between the works and bird areas to the south, provided by existing buildings and electrical equipment associated with the Poolbeg 220 kV and Shellybanks 220 kV stations, and an existing flood protection berm and trees along Pigeon House Road..

The SCI species in the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA and Qualifying Interest (QI) habitats in the partially overlapping South Dublin Bay Special Area of Conservation (SAC, site code 000210²) are sensitive to water pollution arising from construction works, such as the release of toxic (e.g. in fuels, oils and paints) pollutants. However, any construction works for the Development will be undertaken within the Poolbeg 220kV Station boundary, which has a functional Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) in place. This will ensure that any pollutants are attenuated sufficiently before entering coastal habitats. The Development will not result in likely significant effects on these European sites regarding water quality, both as a result of the operational SuDS within Poolbeg 220kV Station and because of mixing conditions that are present in the open marine environment.

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

AA Screening Statement

¹ NPWS (2010) 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.

² NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: South Dublin Bay SAC 000210. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

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:



Robert Fennelly CEcol MCIEEM Lead Senior Ecologist

21 May 2024