



## **Appropriate Assessment Determination CP1464 Tullabeg 110kV Station Works [Exempted Development] County Wexford**

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 CP1464 Tullabeg 110kV Station Works [Exempted Development] ('the Development'), individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, will result in any pathways for likely significant effects on any European site(s).

The Development involves:

- Phase 2 T133 Transformer Bay at the Tullabeg 110kV Station.
- Phase Remote Terminal Unit (RTU) 2 modification.
- Phase 2 Power Quality Recorder (PQR) at Tullybeg 110kV Station.
- Phase 2 Metering.
- 110kV station anti-islanding protection scheme extension.
- 110kV underground cable at Tullabeg 110kV station.
- Phase 2 Cable Sealing Ends at Tullabeg 110kV station.
- RTU 3 Modification.
- Phase 2 PQR.
- Interface kiosk modification.
- Phase 2 interface kiosk.

All works for the Development will be carried out within the existing Tullabeg 110kV station. The Development will require no vegetation clearance or intrusive works, and no works beyond the boundary of the existing substation.

### **Analysis of Potential Pathways to European sites**

It was determined that disturbance of qualifying species (e.g. visual, noise, vibration or artificial light) may be relevant to the Development. According to published research<sup>1</sup>, the maximum distance to which non-breeding bird species for which SPAs are designated may theoretically travel to forage is 20km from the boundary of such a site (though in reality, most species foraging distances are significantly lower than this). Cutts et al. (2013)<sup>2</sup> provides species-specific information on the sensitivity of several bird species which are qualifying features of SPAs to disturbance impacts from construction works.

The following European sites are therefore considered to be within the potential zone of influence (Zoi) of the Development:

- Cahore Marshes Special Protected Area (SPA) (site code 004143<sup>3</sup>). Located 12.9km south-east of the Development. Designated for the long-ranging species Greenland white-fronted goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*, golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, lapwing *Venellus vanellus*, wigeon *Mareca penelope*, and wetlands.

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<sup>1</sup> Scottish Natural Heritage (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Version 3 – June 2016 (online). Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/assessing-connectivity-special-protection-areas> (Accessed 04 February 2026).

<sup>2</sup> Cutts, N., Hemingway, K and Spencer, J. (2013). Waterbird Disturbance Mitigation Toolkit: Informing Estuarine Planning & Construction Projects. Produced by the Institute of Estuarine & Coastal Studies (IECS) University of Hull. (online). Available at: [https://www.tide-toolbox.eu/tidetools/waterbird\\_disturbance\\_mitigation\\_toolkit/](https://www.tide-toolbox.eu/tidetools/waterbird_disturbance_mitigation_toolkit/) (Accessed 04 February 2026).

<sup>3</sup> NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives: Cahore Marshes SPA 004143. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

- Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA (site code 004076<sup>4</sup>). Located 18.4km south-west of the Development. Designated for number of wintering and wetland birds, including the long-ranging species Greenland white-fronted goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*, light-bellied brent goose *Branta bernicla hrota*, whooper swan *Cygnus cygnus* and Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, post-breeding/roosting hen harrier *Circus cyaneus*, and wetland habitat.

Visual and noise disturbance to Special Conservation Interest (SCI) birds may occur at a distance of up to 500m<sup>2</sup> from construction works. All works will be carried out within the existing substation boundary containing hardstanding and electrical installations, an area containing no suitable habitat for any SCI species. Moreover, the Development is located beyond the core foraging range of Greenland white-fronted goose, and there is an extensive resource of suitable agricultural fields much closer to the SPA. This, combined with the temporary nature and minor scale of the Development, means that any noise disturbance of SCI birds occurring outside of the SPA boundary but in the vicinity of the Development will be negligible. Therefore, there is no likelihood of likely significant effects on mobile SCI associated with Cahore Marshes SPA.

As detailed for Greenland white-fronted goose and Cahore Marshes SPA, there is no pathway for disturbance to any SCI species associated with Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA regarding noise and visual disturbance.

The Development is not within any catchment with extant populations of freshwater pearl mussel, and the Development is not in proximity to any watercourses.

There are no other European sites nearby or potentially connected to the Development via a source-pathway-receptor link that may result in any effects in view of the relevant European site's 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.

Signed:



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Susanne Dunne ACIEEM Senior Ecologist

05 February 2026

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<sup>4</sup> NPWS (2012). Conservation Objectives: Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA 004076. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.