



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1485 Wexford 110kV Substation 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, whether CP1485 Wexford 110kV Substation Works [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 construction of a temporary mobile bay within the existing boundary of the substation. All works will occur within the boundary of the existing substation.

Analysis of Pathways to European sites

According to published research¹, the maximum distance to which non-breeding bird species for which Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are designated will typically travel to forage is 20km from the boundary of such a site. European sites designated for Special Conservation Interest (SCI) non-breeding bird species located within 20km of the Development are:

- Wexford Harbour and Slob SPA [004076]² (located 1.3km away),
- The Raven SPA [004019]³ (located 10.6km away);
- Tacumshin Lake SPA [004092]⁴ (located 14.6km away);
- Ballyteige Burrow SPA [004020]⁵ (located 15.2km away);
- Lady's Island Lake SPA [004009]⁶ (located 17.4km away); and,
- Bannow Bay SPA [004033]⁷ (located 17.5km away).

When considering the distance to the SPAs and availability of suitable roosting and foraging habitats available nearer to them, the likelihood that significant aggregations of individuals would be present in the vicinity of the Development is low. Furthermore, the limited scale and duration of the works which will occur solely within the existing boundary of the substation mean that is unlikely significant disturbance impacts will occur. Therefore, likely significant effects from disturbance of SCI birds using likely significant effects are excluded.

The nearest Special Area of Conservation (SAC) to the Development is the Slaney River Valley SAC [000781]⁸, which is located approximately 1.3km away. The SAC is not hydrologically-linked to the Development. There is no suitable source-pathway to the SAC. Likely significant effects are therefore excluded.

¹ SNH (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Version 3 – June 2016.

² NPWS (2012). Conservation Objectives: Wexford Harbour and Slob SPA. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

³ NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives: The Raven SPA. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

⁴ NPWS (2025). Conservation Objectives: Tacumshin Lake SPA. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

⁵ NPWS (2014). Conservation Objectives: Ballyteige Burrow SPA. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

⁶ NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives for Lady's Island Lake SPA. First Order Site Specific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

⁷ NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives: Bannow Bay SPA. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

⁸ NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives: Slaney River Valley SAC 000781. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

There are no direct hydrological connections between the Development and any European sites, nor are there any other European sites nearby which are connected to the Development that may result in likely significant effects to the 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.

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:



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