



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination CP1511 Castlevew 110kV Substation Works [Exempted Development] County Cork

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 CP1511 Castlevew 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 following elements:

- Installation of transformer bay in spare bay H6;
- Installation of 110/10kV transformer and maintenance of earth, in the place of removed gas insulated substation (GIS); and,
- Laying of 110kV cable, connecting transformer to bay H6.

Analysis of Pathways to European sites

The Development will occur entirely within the boundary of the existing Castlevew 110kV Substation. There will consequently be no loss of habitat, with all works taking place on constructed hard-standing.

The closest European sites to the Development are Cork Harbour Special Protection Area (SPA) (site code 004030¹), approximately 670m to the south-west, and Great Island Channel Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (site code 001058²), approximately 2.0km to the north-east and east.

The Special Conservation Interest (SCI) species of Cork Harbour SPA are a range of non-breeding waterbirds, as well as wetland and waterbirds generally. According to published research, these species may be disturbed by construction activities occurring at distances of up to approximately 300m³. The Development is therefore located sufficiently distant from the SPA that there is no possibility of disturbance of SCI birds occurring within the European site boundary. The Development is located in an urban location, surrounded by roads, industrial and leisure facilities. This habitat is unsuitable for the SCI species of Cork Harbour SPA and/or is subject to significant levels of existing disturbance. This would apply to the SCI of other SPAs located more distantly. For these reasons, likely significant effects from disturbance/displacement of SCI can be excluded.

Great Island Channel SAC is designated for the Qualifying Interest (QI) habitats mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide, and Atlantic salt meadows. There are no watercourses within or immediately adjacent to the Development boundary; the closest is approximately 240m to the north, and appears to be underground. There is consequently no

¹ NPWS (2014). Conservation Objectives: Cork Harbour SPA 004030. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

² NPWS (2014). Conservation Objectives: Great Island Channel SAC 001058. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

³ 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. Available from: https://www.tide-toolbox.eu/tidetools/waterbird_disturbance_mitigation_toolkit/.

hydrological connection between the Development and Great Island Channel SAC. Likely significant effects from waterborne pollution are therefore excluded.

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.

The impacts of the Development itself are so small and will occur over a short period of time such that there is no possibility of the impacts of other projects or plans acting in-combination to give rise to likely significant effects on any European sites.

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:



Susanne Dunne ACIEEM Senior Ecologist

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