



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1551 Replacement of substation Back-up supply equipment within the South East Region [Exempted Development]

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 CP551 Replacement of substation Back-up supply equipment within the South East Region [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 works at two substations comprising replacements of back up supply equipment. All works are to be carried out entirely within the boundaries of the following stations:

1. Irishtown 220kV; and
2. Arklow 220kV.

Analysis of Pathways to European Sites

Irishtown 220kV Station

The closest Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is 8.4km north with no ecological pathway.

South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) (site code 004024)¹ is, at closest, 240m from the substation, and North Bull Island SPA (site code 004006)² is, at closest 2.6km from the substation. Existing noise and visual disturbance associated with maintenance activities and human presence is already part of the baseline disturbance regime at the existing operational substation, such that any ex-situ populations present in adjoining agricultural land would be habituated to a level of existing disturbance. The existing substation fenced perimeter additionally forms a clear physical barrier between the temporary construction works, and habitats potentially used by wintering birds, which further determines there will be no likely significant disturbance effects, to any Special Conservation Interests (SCI) birds present within the zone of influence of works.

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

Arklow 220 kV Station

There are no waterbodies or drainage ditches within the substation. There are drainage ditches surrounding the substation but all works will be confined to the substation boundary so there is no potential for impact to the water environment. There are no European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the substation 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 (2015) 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 (2015) Conservation Objectives: North Bull Island SPA 004006. 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:



Susanne Dunne Senior Ecologist

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