



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1552 Replacement of substation Back-up supply equipment within the South West 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 CP1552 Replacement of substation Back-up supply equipment within the South West 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 six substations comprising replacements of back up supply equipment. All works are to be carried out entirely within the boundaries of the following stations:

1. Glanagow 220kV;
2. Knockraha 220kV;
3. Longpoint 220kV;
4. Clashavoon 220kV;
5. Raffeen 220kV; and
6. Whitegate 110kV.

Analysis of Pathways to European Sites

Glanagow 220kV Station

The closest Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is approximately 23km north with no ecological pathway. Cork Harbour Special Protection Area (SPA) (site code 004030)¹ is, at closest, 1km distant from the substation. It is designated for various waterbirds. The hardstanding habitat of the substation does not offer suitable habitat. 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 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.

Knockraha 220kV Station

There are no waterbodies within or in proximity to Knockraha 220kV Station and thus no hydrological connectivity to any European sites. Great Island Channel SAC (site code 001058)² is 4.7km south of the substation and is designated for coastal habitats (mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; and Atlantic salt meadows), for which there is no ecological

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.

pathway. Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC (site code 002170)³ is 9km north of the station and designated (in part) for various habitats and plants to which there is no ecological pathway. It is additionally designated for otter *Lutra lutra* and various fish species; however, given that the nearest water body is 780m from the station, there is no means by which these Qualifying Interests (QIs) could be impacted by the Development.

Cork Harbour SPA (site code 004030)¹ is 4.6km south of the substation. The agricultural fields surrounding the (upland) substation location are not functionally-linked habitat for SCI species, with SCI populations well known and long established to use the abundant lower-lying fields in the immediate vicinity of Cork Harbour.

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.

Longpoint 220kV Station

The closest SAC is approximately 21km north with no ecological pathway.

Cork Harbour SPA (site code 004030)¹ is, at closest, 10m from the station. The hardstanding habitat of the substation does not offer suitable habitat. 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. Additionally, there is vegetation and buildings physically separating and screening the Development from the SPA, such that non likely significant disturbance effects will arise on SCI bird populations.

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.

Clashavoon 220kV Station

There are no waterbodies within Clashavoon 220kV Station; however, an unnamed stream runs along the substation perimeter. It drains into Inniscarra Reservoir approximately 10km downstream, and is not directly connected to any European sites.

The Gearagh SAC (site code 000108)⁴ is the closest SAC at 5.9km south-west of the Development. It is designated for various habitats, for which no ecological pathway exists. It is additionally designated for its otter population. Otter have large home ranges in Ireland (approximately 6.5 km - 13.2 km⁵). The SAC is approximately 12km downstream of the Development, within commuting distance of otter. However, given the extensive areas of more suitable foraging and refuge habitats closer to the SAC, the vicinity of the substation is not of importance to QI otter of this or any other SAC. The works associated with the Development are of a short duration and are minor in nature, and there will be no likely significant effects on otter.

Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains SPA (site code 004162)⁶ is 5.4km north-east of the substation and is designated for hen harrier *Circus cyaneus*. Hen harrier has a 2km core foraging

³ NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives: Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC 002170. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

⁴ NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives: The Gearagh SAC 000108. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

⁵ Reid, N., Hayden, B., Lundy, M.G., Pietravalle, S., McDonald, R.A. & Montgomery, W.I. (2013). National Otter Survey of Ireland 2010/12. Irish Wildlife Manuals No. 76. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Dublin, Ireland.

⁶ NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives: Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains SPA 004162. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

rangeError! Bookmark not defined. and so the substation is outside of the core range of the species. It is therefore unlikely that hen harrier would occur regularly in the vicinity of the substation and there will be no significant effects on the species.

Gearagh SPA (site code 004109)⁷ is 6.7km south-west of the substation and designated for its waterbirds. The hardstanding habitat of the substation does not offer suitable habitat. 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 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.

Raffeen 220kV Station

Cork Harbour SPA (site code 004030)¹ is 1km south and 1.4km north-east of the substation. The hardstanding habitat of the substation does not offer suitable habitat. 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 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.

Whitegate 110kV Station

The closest SAC is approximately 22.7km north with no ecological pathway.

Cork Harbour SPA (site code 004030)¹ is, at closest, 480m distant from the substation. The hardstanding habitat of the substation does not offer suitable foraging habitat. 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 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.

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

⁷ NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives: The Gearagh SPA 004109. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

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 ACIEEM Senior Ecologist

06 May 2026