



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

Site Investigation Works for CP1595 Hynestown Substation [Exempted Development] County Dublin

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 Site Investigation (SI) Works for CP1595 Hynestown Substation ('the Development') individually or in combination with other plans or projects would be likely to have a significant effect (s) on a European site(s).

The works to inform the Development comprise of:

- Non-intrusive topographical surveys.
- 13no. Rotary Drilled Borehole (RDB).
- 3 no. RDB with Standpipe.
- 4 no. Percolation Test Investigations.
- 9 no. Soil Resistivity Investigations.
- 17 no. Trial Pits

The works will occur within the boundary of the lands identified for the proposed CP1595 Hynestown Substation.

Analysis of Pathways to European sites

Informed by guidance published by NatureScot (formerly Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH))¹, 20km is a reasonable maximum distance, when considering 'ex-situ' (wetland) bird populations foraging or roosting beyond European sites. Three SPAs designated for mobile Special Conservation Interest (SCI) bird species are located within 20km of the Development as follows:

- South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (site code 0040242², approximately 17km distant)
- Wicklow Mountains SPA (site code 004040³, approximately 14.3km distant)
- Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA (site code 004063⁴, approximately 14.3km distant)

No SCI species from the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (which may forage 'ex-situ' on inland fields) have known foraging ranges extending from the European site to the Development site. The Development is near the outer limit of the foraging range (15-20km) for SCI Greylag goose from the Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA species. Desktop data⁵ for greylag geese

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

² 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.

³ NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives: Wicklow Mountains SPA 004040. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

⁴ NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives: Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA 004063. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

⁵ Including mapping from the National Biodiversity Data Centre, and mapping from the NPWS' Irish Wildlife Manual Boland, H. and Crowe, O. (2008) An assessment of the distribution range of Greylag (Icelandic-breeding & feral populations) in Ireland. Final report to the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency. Wicklow: BirdWatch Ireland. Available at: https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/Boland_&_Crowe_2008_Greylag_geese.pdf (Accessed: 18 August 2026).

indicates no evidence that the Development site is used by greylag geese, which are strongly site-faithful to coastal areas, and their core European sites. The Development site is not located within mapped fluvial flood extents or area identified as being at risk of groundwater flooding, which decreases the potential suitability of habitats to ex-situ SCI waterfowl species. As such, the risk of likely significant disturbance effects on SCI species can be excluded.

There are no direct hydrological connections between the Development and any European sites. 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.

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 works, 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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