



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1663 Poolbeg 220kV Station Works Project [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 CP1663 Poolbeg 220kV Station Works Project [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 replacement of existing shunt reactors with new like-for-like shunt reactors. All works will be undertaken within the existing Poolbeg 220 kV Station.

Analysis of Pathways to European Sites

The European site that lies closest to the Development is South Dublin Bay Special Area of Conservation (SAC, site code 000210¹) at an approximate distance of 15m and South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Special Protection Area (SPA, site code 004024²), at an approximate distance of 18m. The SAC is not designated for any Qualifying Interest (QI) species. The Special Conservation Interest (SCI) of the SPA such as wader, waterfowl and seabird species are sensitive to visual and noise disturbance from construction activities. While the Development itself constitutes hardstanding, and, therefore, are not suitable as functionally-linked habitat, there is a potential for direct disturbance effects within the designated site boundary due to its proximity to the Development. Most elements of the Development will comprise lifting the old reactors out of place, placing the new ones and then the use of hand tools to connect the equipment. These works are generally associated with low noise profiles. Therefore, it is considered that likely significant effects of the Development regarding visual and noise disturbance can be excluded. This is due to the existing industrial nature of the surrounding area (with associated high noise levels), the temporary nature of the works and the large size of the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (offering ample habitat for SCI birds temporarily displaced over a short distance from the area adjoining the Development).

The SCI species in the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA and QI habitats in the partially overlapping South Dublin Bay SAC are sensitive to water pollution arising from construction works, such as the release of toxic (e.g. in fuels, oils and paints) and non-toxic (e.g. sediments) pollutants. The Development will not comprise any works which could produce toxic or non-toxic pollutants. The Development will not result in likely significant effects on these European sites regarding water quality.

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.

¹ NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: South Dublin Bay SAC 000210. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

² NPWS (2019) 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.

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

10 September 2026