



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1232 Derryiron 110 kV Station Temporary Works [Exempted Development] (County Offaly)

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 Derryiron 110 kV Station Temporary Works [Exempted Development] ('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).

Development Description

The development consists of: a temporary "bypass" arrangement. The bypass will work by temporarily tying the Rhode and Kinnegad circuits together so that they can electrically feed each other while disconnected from the main busbar. A similar arrangement is proposed for tying the Maynooth and Thornsberry circuits together.

Analysis of Pathways to European sites

There are no European sites overlapping or adjacent the development. The nearest European site to the development is the Raheenmore Bog Special Area of Conservation (site code 582)¹,

All works within the Derryiron Station are on made ground entirely within the existing fencelines, requiring no vegetation removal.

There are no works elsewhere within or adjacent any other European sites.

The AA Screening assessment has reviewed the nature and scale of the works against hydrological connectivity and excluded the risk of downstream surface water impacts to any European sites. The risk of ex-situ impacts to the Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests roosting, foraging, or nesting away from European sites has also been excluded, following analysis of known and potential habitats for mobile bird and other animal populations.

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:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rf", is written above a horizontal line.

Robert Fennelly CEcol MCIEEM Lead Senior Ecologist

04 October 2022

¹ NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: Raheenmore Bog SAC 000582. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

