



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1267 Arklow 220 kV Station (Co. Wicklow) [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 CP1267 Arklow 220 kV Upgrades (Co. Wicklow) [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).

The development includes the following at the existing Arklow 220 kV Substation:

- installing one transformer bay.
- installing protection relays.

The works will occur wholly within the existing 220 kV Gas Insulation Switchgear (GIS) building.

Analysis of Pathways to European sites

There are no European sites overlapping, adjacent or downstream of the development. There are no other European sites potentially connected to the development via a source-pathway-receptor linkage. The nearest European site to the development is the Buckroneys-Brittias Dunes and Fen Special Area of Conservation (SAC; site code 729¹), located 3.4km to the northeast.

All works within the Arklow 220 kV Station are on made ground entirely within the existing fencelines, requiring no vegetation removal.

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.

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

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

25 January 2023

¹ NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives: Buckroneys-Brittias Dunes and Fen SAC 000729. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.