Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1471 Lisdrum-Louth 110kV Overhead Line (OHL) Dynamic Line Rating (DLR) and Lisdrum 110kV Station Works Project [Exempted Development] Counties Monaghan & Louth

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 CP1471 Lisdrum-Louth 110kV Overhead Line (OHL) Dynamic Line Rating (DLR) and Lisdrum 110kV 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 involves the installation, using a Mobile Elevated Working Platform (MEWP) of a small sized DLR device on the OHL for the real-time measurements of power flow, circuit temperature and circuit angle. There will also be minor works within the substation boundary of Lisdrum 110 kV station.

Analysis of Pathways to European Sites

There will be no breaking of ground for the Development, and no instream works.

There are no waterbodies within either Lisdrum 110kV or Louth 220kV Stations, however, in many locations the Development traverses the Fane River, which is hydrologically connected to the Dundalk Bay Special Area of Conservation (SAC, site code 002165)[1] and Dundalk Bay Special Protection Area (SPA, site code 004077)[2]. The SAC is designated for Qualifying Interest (QI) habitats, including estuaries, intertidal sand- and mudflats, perennial vegetation of stony banks, *Salicornia* and other annual colonising mud and sand, Atlantic salt meadows and Mediterranean salt meadows. The SPA is designated for a wide range of Special Conservation Interest (SCI) bird species, including waders, waterfowl and seabirds. Due to the nature and scale of the Development, which excludes vegetation removal, breaking of ground, or instream works

At a flowpath distance of approximately 17.9km (the Development's closest crossing point of the Fane River to the SAC/SPA), even if pollutants were released into the river, these would be sufficiently attenuated and/or diluted before reaching the designated site boundaries.

At approximate distances of 10.9km and 12.6km to the Stabannan-Braganstown SPA (site code 004091)[3] and Dundalk Bay SPA, respectively, the Development falls within the core foraging range of some of the designated SCI species.

For example, both greylag goose *Anser anser* and golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria* are highly mobile, often travelling long distances of up to 20km to foraging habitats beyond the designated site boundaries (also known as 'functionally-linked' habitats. There is no potential for a direct temporary and/or permanent loss of functionally-linked habitats. There will be no likely significant noise and visual disturbance of SCI species using functionally-linked arable fields or grassland along the OHL route.

There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the Development via a source-pathway-receptor link.

---

[1] NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives: Dundalk Bay SAC 000455 and Dundalk Bay SPA 004026. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
[2] NPWS (2011) Conservation Objectives: Dundalk Bay SAC 000455 and Dundalk Bay SPA 004026. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
[3] NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives: Stabannan-Braganstown SPA 004091. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

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 the temporary nature of works, and has not taken account of mitigation measures intended to avoid or reduce significant effects on European sites.

Signed:



_____

Robert Fennelly CEcol MCIEEM Lead Senior Ecologist

11 December 2025