



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

Proposed Dunstown-Moneypoint 400 kV Line Refurbishment:

Phase 1: End Mast 1 to Intermediate Mast 185 (Counties Kildare and Laois)

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 screening to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of relevant European sites, if the proposed Proposed Dunstown-Moneypoint 400 kV Line Refurbishment (Phase 1) project individually or in combination with other plans or projects would be likely to have a significant effect (s) on a European site(s). Phase 1 of the project relates to minor works to a 66.9 km section of existing 400 kV line (185 lattice towers), between the Dunstown in Co. Kildare, and the townland of Corraun in Co. Laois. None of the works overlap European sites. Only two towers are within 100 m of a European site, namely:

- Towers respectively within 20 m and 89 m of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC (site code 2162)¹; and,
- One tower within 20 m of The River Nore SPA (site code 4233)².

This determination has had regard for these and any other relevant European sites. Phase 1 of the proposed project comprises works to existing structures only; predominantly comprising 'superficial' works (including recording of measurements, tower painting, hardware replacement, erection of notices), localised tree trimming, and minor localised earthworks and concrete pouring to repair shear blocks at existing tower bases. The project does not require foundation reinforcements, replacements of towers or any other works requiring significant earthworks.

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 proposed development 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 proposed development, including temporary works, and has not taken account of measures intended to avoid or reduce significant effects on European sites.

¹ Detailed Conservation Objectives Version 1.0 (19 July 2011).

² Generic Conservation Objectives Version 6.0 (21 February 2018).

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'R.F.', is positioned above a horizontal line.

31 January 2020

Robert Fennelly CEcol MCIEEM Senior Ecologist