



## Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

### **Proposed Dunstown-Moneypoint 400 kV Line Refurbishment:**

#### *Part of Phase 2: Angle Mast 186 to Angle Mast 340 (Counties Laois and Tipperary)*

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 proposed Dunstown-Moneypoint 400 kV Line Refurbishment project (Part of Phase 2; Structures 186 to 340) individually or in combination with other plans or projects would be likely to have a significant effect (s) on a European site(s).

This determination refers to a c. 57 km section of the existing 400 kV line (155 structures), between the townlands of Corraun in Co. Laois, and Gortycullane in Co. Tipperary. This corresponds to part of the overall Phase 2, which extends further west to Structure 382. None of the proposed development overlaps European sites, or is within 2 km of a European site.

The nearest European sites to the proposed development are the Lower River Shannon Special Area of Conservation (site code 2165)<sup>1</sup> located c. 2.8 km from structure 330, and the Slievefelim to Silvermines Mountains Special Protection Area (site code 004165)<sup>2</sup>, located c. 3.2 km from structure 331.

This determination has had regard for these and any other relevant European sites.

The proposed development requires a series of superficial works (including for instance recording of measurements, tower painting, hardware replacement, and erection of notices). The following more intrusive works are required comprising vegetation clearance and/or earthworks:

- Foundation strengthening at one structure (316), requiring excavations;
- Remedial works to all shear blocks (as a worst-case assumption); and,
- Timber cutting at 31 sites.

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<sup>3</sup> 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.

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<sup>1</sup> NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives: Lower River Shannon SAC 002165. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

<sup>2</sup> NPWS (2020) Conservation objectives for Slievefelim to Silvermines Mountains SPA [004165]. Generic Version 7.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

<sup>3</sup> Including Phase 1 of the proposed development, and works to be carried out under further phases.

This determination was informed by a document entitled: “Dunstown To Moneypoint 400 Kv Line Refurbishment. AA Screening Report (towers 186 to 578)” produced by EirGrid’s Consultants TEP Ltd in May 2020.

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.

Signed:



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26 May 2020

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