



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1115 Proposed Drybridge and Connected Stations Protection Upgrade (County Meath)

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 Drybridge 110 kV Station and Connected Stations (Baltrasna and Gorman 110 kV Stations) Protection Upgrade ('the proposed 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 proposed development relates to the:

- replacing protection relays and teleprotection interfaces (Drybridge, Baltrasna, Gorman 110 kV Stations).
- renewing of protection systems (Drybridge, Baltrasna, and Gorman 110 kV Stations).
- installing of a 110 kV bus zone protection scheme (Baltrasna 110 kV Station)
- installing of new current and voltage transformers in on T141 and T142 (Drybridge 110 kV Station).

The proposed development is not within any European site. The nearest European site to the proposed development site is the River Boyne and Blackwater Special Area of Conservation (Site Code 2299)², located 0.2 km from the Drybridge 110 kV station. There are no European sites within c. 3 km of the Gorman 110 kV station, and no European sites within c. 16 km of the Baltrasna 110 kV station. This determination has had regard for these and any other relevant European sites.

All works will be entirely contained within the fenceline of the existing substation sites. There will be no requirement to pour concrete, break ground, or remove vegetation. There will be no requirement for instream works.

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 projects³ 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.

Signed:

12 June 2020

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² NPWS (2020) Conservation objectives for River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC [002299].

Generic Version 7.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

³ Including Transformer Protection Works required at the 220 kV part of the Gorman substation (CP1109).