



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1116 Proposed Tipperary, Cahir and Connected Stations Protection Upgrade (Counties Tipperary and Limerick)

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 Tipperary, Cahir 110 kV Station and Connected Stations (Cauteen 110 kV Station and Knockraha 220 kV Station) 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:

- replacing protection relays and teleprotection interfaces (Cahir, Cauteen, Tipperary 110 kV Stations).
- replacing of three circuits is also required on the system (Knockraha 220kV station).
- renewing protection systems (Tipperary, Cahir, Cauteen 110 kV Station; Knockraha 220 kV Station).
- installing of a new combined current transformer/Voltage transformer (CT/VT) on T141 (Tipperary 110 kV Station).

The proposed development is not within any European site. The nearest European site to the proposed development site is the Lower River Suir Special Area of Conservation (Site Code 2137)², located c. 1. 7 km from the Cahir 110 kV station. There are no European sites within c. 5 km of the Knockraha, Cauteen, and Tipperary stations. 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:

16 June 2020

Robert Fennelly MCIEEM CEcol Lead Senior Ecologist

² NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives: Lower River Suir SAC 002137. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

³ Including additional Transformer Protection Works required at the Cahir substation under CP111.