



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1083 Gorman Energy Storage (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 Gorman Energy Storage Project ('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 requires the installation of a new 110 kV transformer bay and associated 110 kV underground cable at the existing Gorman 220 kV/110 kV Electrical Substation. The proposed development is required to connect to a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) proposed in the agricultural land immediately east of the existing substation. The scope of the proposed development shall occur wholly within the substation compound.

The proposed development is not located within or near any European site; the closest such site is the River Boyne and River Blackwater Special Area of Conservation (SAC; site code 2299¹) located 2.8 km from the proposed development, and the River Boyne and River Blackwater Special Protection Area (SPA; site code 4232²).

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

Construction of the proposed development will be estimated to take c. 6-9 months and will require localised breaking of ground and pouring of concrete. However, with the exception of a c. 10 m portion of underground cabling entering farmland on the eastern side of the existing substation, all works are located on hardstanding within the existing Gorman substation. There will be no 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 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.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "RF", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Robert Fennelly CEcol MCIEEM Lead Senior Ecologist

17 June 2020

¹ NPWS (2020) Conservation objectives for River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC [002299]. Generic Version 7.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

² NPWS (2020) Conservation objectives for River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA [004232]. Generic Version 7.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

