



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1110 - Woodland Station 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 Dunstown 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 comprises replacement with modern equivalent, of eight protection relays wholly within the fenceline of the existing 400 kV station.

The proposed development is not within any European site. The nearest European site to the proposed development site is the Rye Water Valley Special Area of Conservation (Site Code 1398)¹, located c. 9.5 km from the Dunstown 400 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 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 be "R.F.", is written above a horizontal line.

17 June 2020

Robert Fennelly MCIEEM CEcol Lead Senior Ecologist

¹ NPWS (2020) Conservation objectives for Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC [001398]. Generic Version 7.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.