



## Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

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

#### *Site Investigation Works: (Counties Tipperary and Clare)*

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 Site Investigation works for the Dunstown-Moneypoint 400 kV Line Refurbishment project (The proposed works), 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 works comprise Intrusive Foundation Investigations and/or Soil Investigations at a total of nine existing structures to inform the design of the proposed Dunstown-Moneypoint 400 kV Line Refurbishment project. The intrusive component of the proposed works comprises:

- Excavations to expose foundations requiring measurement;
- Drilling to extract concrete cores in existing foundations;
- Drilling to assess rock depth and shear strength where rock foundations are encountered; and,
- Dynamic probing of soils between 0 and 5 m below ground level.

The proposed works also include a non-intrusive works such as tower measurements, and other visual inspections.

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. 0.5 km from the proposed works at its nearest point (structure 463), and the River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA (site code 4077)<sup>2</sup>, located c. 1 km at its nearest (structure 463).

This determination has had regard for these and any other relevant European 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 is not likely to have a significant effect on any European

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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 (2012) Conservation Objectives: River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA 004077. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

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:



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