



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1109 Protection Upgrades in Gorman 220 kV substation, Navan 110 kV substation, and Meath Hill 110 kV substation (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 Protection Upgrades in Gorman 220 kV station, Navan 110 kV station, and Meath Hill 110 kV station ('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 of the following equipment and civil works within substations (if required to bring protection to required standard):

- 110kV Circuits (between Gorman – Meath Hill; Gorman – Navan, lines 1 & 2; Knockumber - Navan);
- Transformers (Gorman T2101; Navan T141 & T142);
- Couplers (Gorman 220 kV K1-2; Gorman 110 kV K1-2); and
- Busbar: (Meath Hill 110kV Air Insulated Busbar).

The proposed development is not within any European site. The nearest European site to the proposed development site is the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC (site code 002299)¹, located c. 2.6 km from the proposed development, at its nearest point (specifically, from Navan 110 kV substation). 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 remove vegetation and 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 read "RF", is positioned above a horizontal line.

15 October 2020

Robert Fennelly MCIEEM CEcol Lead Senior Ecologist

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