



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1136 Protection relays and associated electrical infrastructure at existing Baltrasna and Drybridge 110 kV Stations, and fibre wrapping of existing 110 kV overhead line between these stations (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 relays and associated electrical infrastructure at the existing Baltrasna and Drybridge 110 kV Stations in County Meath ('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 will partially overlap the River Boyne and River Blackwater Special Area of Conservation¹ (SAC; site code 2299); and the River Boyne and River Blackwater Special Protection Area² (SPA; site code 4232). This determination has had regard for these and any other relevant European sites.

The proposed development, which is estimated to take 4 weeks, will not require any breaking of ground, removal of vegetation, pouring of concrete or 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

18 December 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.

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