



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1114: Protection Upgrades to 110 kV substation in Drybridge (Co. Louth) and 110 kV substation in Platin (Co. Meath)

In accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) and Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 as amended ('The Regulations'), EirGrid has undertaken Appropriate Assessment screening to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of relevant European sites, if the proposed renewal works to the existing 110 kV substation ('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, which does not overlap or adjoin European sites, are entirely within the boundaries of the existing substations. The nearest European site to the proposed works is the River Boyne and Blackwater Special Area of Conservation¹ (site code 2299; c. 170 m from the proposed works at their nearest point), and the River Boyne and River Blackwater Special Protection Area² (site code 4232; c. 400 m from the proposed works at their nearest point)..

The proposed development comprises replacement of the following equipment and enabling works or works required to bring protection to required standard:

- 110 kV Circuits (between Gorman - Platin);
- Transformers (Platin T101/T102/T103/T104);
- Couplers (Gorman 220 kV K1-2; Gorman 110 kV K1-2); and
- Busbar (Platin 110 kV Air Insulated Busbar).

The works are estimated to take a maximum of 15 weeks for both substations combined, and will in all cases require the like-for-like replacement of hardware on areas of existing hardstanding within the boundaries of existing substations. The works will not require removal of semi-natural vegetation, and will not require 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 proposed works individually or in combination with other plans or projects are 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.

¹ NPWS (2018) Conservation objectives for River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC [002299]. Generic Version 6.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

² NPWS (2018) Conservation objectives for River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA [004232]. Generic Version 6.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

This determination has been informed by a desktop assessment of best scientific knowledge, and had regard for the Conservation Objectives of relevant European sites.

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:



15 October 2020

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