



## **Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination**

### **CP1194 Woodland Station - 400kV [Exempted Development] 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 CP1194 Woodland 400kV Station [Exempted Development] ('the Development') individually or in-combination with other plans or projects will result in Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) on a European site(s).

The Development comprises undertaking minor works within the Woodland 400kV Substation, including the replacement and upgrading of several types of electrical apparatuses. All works are to be carried out entirely within the boundary of the energised substation.

#### **Analysis of Pathways to European sites**

The nearest European site to the Woodland 400kV Substation is the Rye Water Valley / Carton Special Area of Conservation (SAC)<sup>1</sup>, approximately 9.2km from its boundary, designated for petrifying springs with tufa formation, narrow-mouthed and Desmoulin's whorl snail.

Any potential negative impacts on the water environment in the Rye Water Valley / Carton SAC are excluded based on the limited scale and duration of the works, as well as the hydrological setting surrounding Woodland Substation. While the substation lies close to the River Tolka, this drains to an area that is not in hydrological connectivity with the SAC. Furthermore, the substation does not lie within an area of a 0.1% AEP (1 in 1000 year) flood event. Therefore, there is no potential for negative interactions with petrifying springs, and narrow-mouthed and Desmoulin's whorl snail via impacts on water quality and/or flow. Similarly, no hydrological connection is present to the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC<sup>2</sup> or River Boyne and River Blackwater Special Protection Area (SPA)<sup>3</sup> approximately 14.1km to the north-west of Woodland Substation.

Potential impacts on QIs / SCIs in the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC / SPA reproducing or foraging in habitats that are functionally linked to these sites was also excluded following consideration of the minor works involved and appraisal of the habitat requirements of relevant species. The works will be limited to the existing substation boundary, with no suitable foraging, resting or breeding sites for the relevant QIs and SCIs.

There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the Development via a source-pathway-receptor link that may result in LSEs in view of the applicable site Conservation Objectives.

#### **AA Screening Statement**

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 LSEs on European sites can be excluded on the basis of objective evidence.

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<sup>1</sup> NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives: Rye Water Valley / Carton SAC 001398. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

<sup>2</sup> NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives: River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC 002299. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

<sup>3</sup> NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives for River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA 004232. First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

This Determination is based on the location, scale, extent and duration of the Development, including the temporary nature of works, and has not taken account of mitigation measures intended to avoid or reduce significant effects on European sites.

Signed:



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28 June 2023