



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1199 Derryiron-Thornsberry 110 kV Line Uprate [Exempted Development] (County Offaly).

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 Derryiron-Thornsberry 110 kV Overhead Line Uprate [Exempted Development] ('the 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 development will consist of the thermal uprating of all the components of the Derryiron – Thornsberry 110 kV Overhead Line including:

- the replacement ("restringing") of the existing overhead line circuit conductor wires with new conductor wires including a fibre telecommunications cable;
- the replacement of existing polesets, angle masts and their associated hardware and all associated site development works, including foundation and shear block upgrades - any replacement structures will be constructed at, or immediately adjacent to the existing structures they will replace, will be along the same alignment as existing, and will be of a generally similar height and appearance;
- all associated works within the existing associated substations to facilitate the uprated circuit including repairing, renewing, altering and/or removing existing apparatus; and
- all associated temporary site development works to gain access to and work at the existing structures include clearance of vegetation, disassembly and reassembly of gate posts / piers and removal and reinstatement of existing fencing.

The development is not located within or adjacent any European sites. The nearest European site to the development is the Raheenmore Bog Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (site code: 582)¹, located c. 0.17km to the north. This determination has had regard for the conservation objectives of 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 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 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 be "R.F.", is written above a horizontal line.

Robert Fennelly CEcol MCIEEM Lead Senior Ecologist

15 February 2022

¹ NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: Raheenmore Bog SAC 000582. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht