



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

Site Investigations for CP1235 Louth-Woodland 220 kV Uprate [Exempted Development] (Counties Louth and 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 Site Investigations for the CP1235 Louth-Woodland 220 kV Uprate [Exempted Development] ('the works') individually or in combination with other plans or projects would be likely to have a significant effect (s) on a European site(s).

The works consists of:

- Intrusive Foundation Investigations of towers using a concrete coring drill;
- Soil investigations using mini tracked rig to undertake Dynamic probing and window sampling
- Ancillary temporary works including use of storage compound for drill rigs

The works are not located within or adjacent any European sites. The nearest European sites to the works are the

- River Boyne and Blackwater Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (site code: 2299)¹, located c. 0.45 km from the works; and the,
- River Boyne and Blackwater Special Protection Area (SPA site code 4232)², located 0.65 km from the proposed works

There is no hydrological or other pathway for likely significant effects from the works on these or any other European sites, having regard for the conservation objectives of sites concerned. The risk of ex-situ impacts to the Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests roosting, foraging, or nesting away from European sites has also been excluded, following analysis of known and potential habitats for mobile bird and other animal populations.

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 read "Rf", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert Fennelly CEcol MCIEEM Lead Senior Ecologist

23 August 2022

¹ 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.

² NPWS (2022) Conservation objectives for River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA [004232]. Generic Version 9.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

