



## Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

### CP1377 Gorman 220kV Station Works Project [Exempted Development] (County Cavan)

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, of the proposed substation works within Gortawee 110 kV Substation ('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 comprises the installation of the following, all at Gorman 110 kV Substation:

- Gorman - Rathcoon Fibre Link
- Gorman Solar Farm Remote Terminal Unit (RTU)
- Gorman Solar Farm Power Quality Recorder
- Gorman Solar Farm Metering
- Rathcoon 110 kV Temporary Communication Equipment
- Gorman 110 kV A3/B3 Busbar
- Coupler Bay in Gorman 110 kV Station
- Rathcoon 110 kV Station AIS cable bay at Gorman 110 kV Station

The development is not located within or near any European site; the closest such site is River Boyne and River Blackwater Special Area of Conservation (SAC; site code 002299), located 2.7 km to the south-east of the substation<sup>1</sup>. This determination has had regard for these and any other relevant European sites. There are drainage ditches outside the substation boundary which are hydrologically-linked more than 3 km to the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and the River Boyne and River Blackwater Special Protection Area (SPA; site code 004232)<sup>2</sup>. However all works will be undertaken within the substation and pollution downstream will not result in Likely Significant Effects due to the assimilation and adsorption of any pollutants in the catchment intervening between the substation and the 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.

The risk of ex-situ impacts to the Qualifying Interests (QI) and Special Conservation Interests (SCI) 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.

The development is not located within the catchment of any freshwater pearl mussels *Margaritifera*, or other sensitive aquatic species which are the QIs of European sites. Impact pathways to other far-flying mobile QI/SCI species from distant European sites do not arise, due to the absence of supporting habitats for such species within the Zone of Influence (ZoI) of the development, or because the development is outside the range of QI populations of a given species (e.g. which is the case lesser horseshoe bat, *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, and marsh fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia*).

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.

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<sup>1</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>2</sup> NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives: River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA 004232. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Signed:

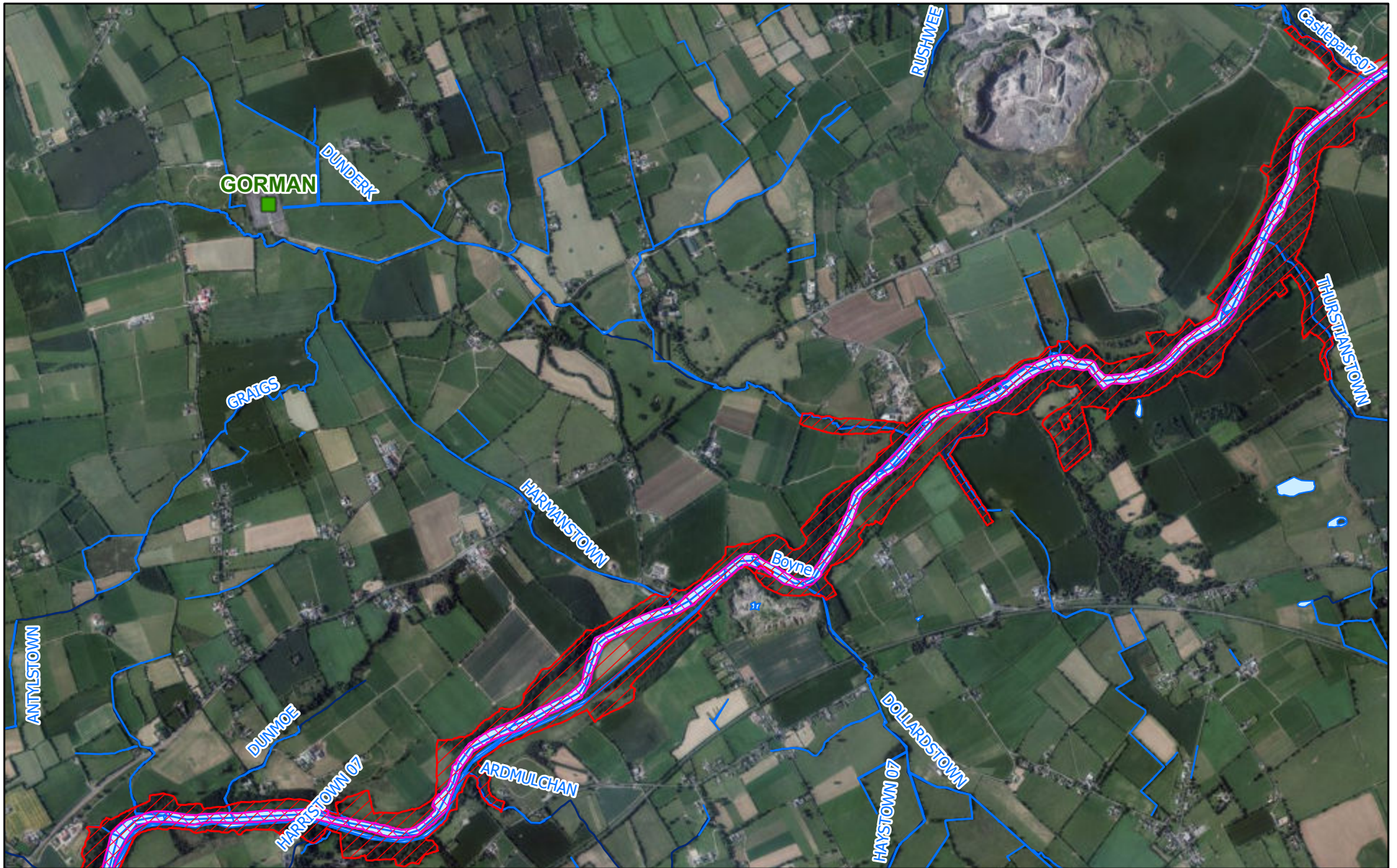


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13 January 2025

# CP1377 Gorman 220 kV Station



30/07/2024

-  ESNB 220kV Stations
-  Special Area of Conservation
-  Special Protection Areas
-  Rivers

