



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination CP1466 Meath Hill 110kV Station Busbar Thermal Capacity Need Station Works and Fibre-wrapping of Louth-Meath Hill 110kV Overhead Line [Exempted Development] County Meath and County Louth

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, whether CP1466 Meath Hill 110kV Station Busbar Thermal Capacity Need works and fibre-wrapping of Louth-Meath Hill 110kV overhead line (OHL) [Exempted Development] ('the Development') individually or in-combination with other plans or projects will result in likely significant effects on a European site(s).

The Development comprises:

- Fibre Wrapping of the Louth-Meath Hill 110kV OHL circuit.
- New modular equipment/apparatus/structures within Meath Hill substation.
- Replacement of modular equipment/apparatus/structures within Meath Hill substation.
- Decommissioning of equipment/apparatus/structures within Meath Hill substation.
- Upgrade the palisade fence within Meath Hill substation to meet current EirGrid standards.

Analysis of Pathways to European sites

Fibre Wrapping of the Louth-Meath Hill 110kV OHL Circuit

The closest European site to Louth-Meath Hill 110kV OHL is Stabannan-Braganstown Special Protection Area (SPA) (site code 004091¹), located approximately 11.1km away ('as the crow flies'), at closest. None of the structures require replacement, foundation strengthening, or other intrusive works to enable fibre-wrapping.

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

Development within Meath Hill 110kV Station

The nearest European site to Meath Hill 110kV Station is Stabannan-Braganstown SPA **Error! Bookmark not defined.**, located approximately 17.1km away. The Development will occur within the existing substation boundary, containing hardstanding and electrical installations, an area containing no habitats that are suitable for foraging Special Conservation Interest (SCI) species. Moreover, there is an extensive resource of suitable agricultural fields much closer to the SPA. This, combined with the relatively minor and temporary nature of the works, means that any noise disturbance of SCI birds occurring outside of the SPA boundary but in the vicinity of the Development will be immaterial. There is no potential for likely significant effects on mobile SCI species of Stabannan-Braganstown SPA or any other SPA.

There are no waterbodies surrounding Meath Hill 110kV Station, and there is therefore no potential for pollution to any European site. There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the Development via a source-pathway-receptor link that may result in likely significant effects in view of the applicable site Conservation Objectives.

AA Screening Statement

¹ NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives: Stabannan-Braganstown SPA 004091. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

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:



Robert Fennelly CEcol MCIEEM Lead Senior Ecologist

03 March 2025