



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

Replacement of Tower 92 on the Gorman-Louth 220 kV Circuit [Exempted Development] (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, if the proposed replacement of Tower 92 on the Gorman-Louth 220 kV Circuit ('the proposed 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 proposed development is not located within any European site. The closest site is Stabannon-Braganstown Special Protection Area¹ (site code 4091; c. 7.4 km distant). There are no Special Areas of Conservation within c. 5 km. This determination has had regard for the Stabannon-Braganstown SPA, and all other relevant European sites, through the application of best scientific knowledge.

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 proposed 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", is written above a horizontal line.

Robert Fennelly CEcol MCIEEM Lead Senior Ecologist

25 January 2021

¹NPWS (2020) Conservation objectives for Stabannon-Braganstown SPA [004091]. Generic Version 7.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.