



## Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

### **CP1167 Site Investigations on existing 110 kV Drybridge Platin overhead line [Exempted Development] (County Meath and 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 Site Investigations on existing 110 kV Drybridge Platin overhead line [Exempted Development] ('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 consists of:

- Drone survey for tower and Stations portal structures to be retained to assess steel condition
- Intrusive Foundation Investigation at 1no. locations (EM31) to see if it can be retained (Type 31 tower) and also at Station portal structure
- Dynamic probing at 8no. locations
- Outage required for pole tip checks

The proposed development is not located within or near any European site; the closest such sites are the River Boyne and Blackwater Special Area of Conservation (SAC; site code 2299<sup>1</sup>), and River Boyne and Blackwater Special Protection Area (SPA; site code 4232)<sup>2</sup> both located c. 3.7 m from the proposed development site. This determination has had regard for 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 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 read "R.F.", is positioned above a horizontal line.

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Robert Fennelly CEcol MCIEEM Lead Senior Ecologist

21 July 2021

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<sup>1</sup> NPWS (2021) Conservation objectives for River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC [002299]. Generic Version 8.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

<sup>2</sup>NPWS (2021) Conservation objectives for River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA [004232]. Generic Version 8.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.