



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1131 Gillinstown Solar [Exempted Development] (County 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 proposed Gillinstown Solar [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 development involves altering the existing Gorman-Platin 110 kV Line from Gorbally to Platin by:

- Wrapping approximately 6 km of fibre cabling on the line ; and,
- Replacing polesets 96 and 106.

A short stretch (c. 0.11 km) of the existing line oversails European sites, and the River Boyne. Specifically, the line oversails the River Boyne and River Blackwater Special Protection Area (SPA; site code 4232; oversailed by c. 0.05km)¹, and the River Boyne and River Blackwater Special Area of Conservation (site code 2299; oversailed by c. 0.11km)².

However there will be no intrusive works at ground level within the European sites at these locations, and there are no works elsewhere within or adjacent any European sites. There will be no vegetation removal, or breaking of ground required for the proposed works. This determination has had regard for the River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA/SAC 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. Fennelly".

Robert Fennelly CEng MCIEEM Lead Senior Ecologist

16 December 2021

¹NPWS (2020) Conservation objectives for River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA [4232]. Generic Version 7.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

² NPWS (2020) Conservation objectives for River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC [002299]. Generic Version 7.0. Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.