



## Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

Site Investigations for CP0966 Kildare Meath Grid Upgrade [Exempted Development] (Counties Kildare and 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 Site Investigations for CP0966 Kildare Meath Grid Upgrade [Exempted Development] ('the works') individually or in combination with other plans or projects would be likely to have a significant effect (s) on a European site(s).

The works consists of:

- cable percussion (CP) boreholes
- rotary cores (RC)
- window samples (WS)
- trial pits (TP)
- slit trenches (ST)
- Groundwater monitoring t
- borehole locations
- Ancillary works including identified construction compound locations

The works are not located within or adjacent any European sites. The nearest European sites to the works are the

- Ballynafagh Bog Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (site code: 391)<sup>1</sup>, located c. 1.6 km from the works; and the,
- Ballynafagh Lake SAC (site code 1387)<sup>2</sup>, located 2.8 km from the proposed works

There is no pathway for potential effects from the works on either of these European sites. The nearest European site to the works, for which a potential pathway was identified is the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC (site code 1387)<sup>3</sup>, located 14.2 km from the works at its nearest point. Screening for AA on the basis of objective evidence, informed by best available scientific evidence in the form of desk surveys and multiple field surveys in 2021 and 2022 has determined there is no likelihood for significant effects on the River Boyne and Blackwater SAC or any other European site, having regard for the nature and locations of the works, and relevant conservation objectives.

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 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.

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<sup>1</sup> NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: Ballynafagh Bog SAC 000391. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

<sup>2</sup> NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives: Ballynafagh Lake SAC 001387. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

<sup>3</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.

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:



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Robert Fennelly CEcol MCIEEM Lead Senior Ecologist

25 July 2022

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