Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1363 Blundelstown 110kV Station Works [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, whether CP1363 Blundelstown 110kV Station Works [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:

- Relocation of modular equipment / apparatus / structures within Blundelstown substation.

Analysis of Pathways to European sites

The nearest European site to Blundelstown 110kV Station is Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC[1], located approximately 6.6km away. The Development will occur within the existing substation boundary, containing hardstanding and electrical installations, an area containing no habitats that are suitable for QI / SCI species.
All works will be carried out within the existing station boundaries containing hardstanding and electrical installations, an area containing no habitats that are suitable for foraging SCI species. Moreover, there is an extensive resource of suitable agricultural fields much closer to SPAs outside the zone of influence. This, combined with the relatively minor nature of the works, means that any noise disturbance of SCI birds occurring outside of SPA boundaries but in the vicinity of the Development will be immaterial. Therefore, there is no potential for likely significant effects on mobile SCI associated with these European sites as a result of the Development.

There are no waterbodies surrounding Blundelstown 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.

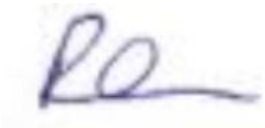
AA Screening Statement

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:

[1] NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives: Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC 001398. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.



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