



**Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland**

15/04/2024

East Meath-North Dublin Grid Upgrade Project (EirGrid Capital Project 1021)

Inland Fisheries Ireland is responsible for the protection, management and conservation of the inland fisheries resource. "Fisheries" includes all inland fisheries recreational and commercial, sea angling and mollusc fisheries stipulated under the Fisheries Acts, the physical habitat upon which the fishery relies, the facilities and access, the quantity and quality of the water and the plant and animal life on which fish depend for shelter and food and the spawning areas where in fish deposit their eggs. The protective role of IFI relates to all aspects of the aquatic environment and all factors that influence the biotic communities within waters.

We have reviewed the application and associated documentation and make the following observations:

- The proposed development will interact with several important catchments. The Tolka River supports Lamprey (Habitats Directive Annex II species) and Brown Trout populations in addition to other fish species.
The Ward River is an important salmonid system with Brown trout throughout and Salmon in the lower reaches.
The Sluice system also supports a resident population of Brown trout along with.
The Mayne River is a non-salmonid system, however IFI are currently assessing the viability of a salmonid reintroduction programme. The Mayne system (along with the above mentioned rivers) does however contain populations of European Eel again which are classified as critically endangered in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of threatened species.
- All works will be completed in line with a Construction Management Plan (CMP) which ensures that good construction practices are adopted throughout the construction period and contains mitigation measures to deal with potential adverse impacts identified in advance of the scheme. The CMP should provide a mechanism for ensuring compliance with environmental legislation and statutory consents.
- There can be no direct pumping of contaminated water from the works to a watercourse at any time, any dewatering must be treated by either infiltration over land, or to a suitably sized and sited settlement pond.
- As with any development, all measures necessary should be taken to ensure comprehensive protection of local aquatic ecological integrity, in the first place by complete impact avoidance and as a secondary approach through mitigation by reduction and remedy.



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- All cast –in- place concrete should be completed in the dry, and effectively isolated from any water that may enter the drainage network for a period sufficient to cure the concrete. Concrete delivery vehicles should be precluded from washing out at locations which would result in a discharge to surface waters. If cement is stored on site during construction work, it should be held in a dry secure area when not in use.
- Adequate drainage and silt trapping on construction roads, the planned construction and HDD compounds, and any temporary watercourse crossings must be in place to avoid allowing silt to enter watercourses.
- The disturbance of riparian habitats should be minimised. An undisturbed buffer zone between development area and riverbank should be maximized. Riparian vegetation should be retained in as natural a state as possible at all times.
- The short-term storage and removal / disposal of excavated material must be considered and planned such that risk of pollution from these activities is minimised. Drainage from the topsoil storage area may need to be directed to a settlement area for treatment. Excessive removal of top soil from the site can result in the generation of volumes of silted water, particularly after wet weather.
- Regular inspections of water courses should be carried out and recorded when working near them especially during rainfall events to check that mitigation measures to protect water quality and wildlife habitat are in place and working effectively.
- An Invasive Species and Biosecurity Plan should be included to treat and manage identified invasive species onsite.
- The closed season for instream construction works in salmonid river systems runs from October 1st to June 30th (inclusive) each year. All the planned open trench crossings which will involve instream works. The appointed contractor will consult IFI prior to a final decision being made on water crossing techniques and necessary mitigations required.
- It is recommended that there is a designated, suitably experienced and qualified person is assigned for the duration of the project, to monitor and ensure all conditioned and agreed environmental mitigation measures are implemented and functioning correctly. The contact details of this appointed person should be provided to all relevant agencies, including IFI.
- All discharges must be in compliance with the European Communities (Surface Water) Regulations 2009 and the European Communities (Groundwater) Regulations 2010.



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I trust you will take our observations on board.

Kind regards,

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