



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination CP0841 Trial Composite Pole Installation on Arva to Carrick-on-Shannon 110kV OHL [Exempted Development] County Longford

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 CP0841 Trial Composite Pole Installation on Arva to Carrick-on-Shannon 110kV OHL [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 the replacement of three existing wooden pole sets (58, 59 and 60) with three new composite poles on the Arva to Carrick-on-Shannon 110kV OHL.

Analysis of Pathways to European sites

The closest European sites to the Development are Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (site code 000007¹) and Lough Oughter Complex Special Protection Area (SPA) (site code 004049²) which are approximately 9.8km and 12.9km northeast ('as the crow flies') respectively. There is no hydrological connectivity between the Development and any European site.

The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of the SAC comprise the Annex I habitats natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation and bog woodland and the Annex II species otter *Lutra lutra*. Due to the absence of a hydrological or other ecological connection between the Development and the SAC, or any other European site, likely significant effects from the Development regarding water quality are excluded.

The Special Conservation Interest (SCI) species of Lough Oughter Complex SPA are great crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, wigeon *Mareca penelope* and whooper swan *Cygnus cygnus*. The SPA is also designated for its wetlands which support migratory waterbirds. Great crested grebe and wigeon are waterbirds, and there is no suitable habitat for these species in proximity to the Development. Whooper swan has a core foraging range of less than 5km³, and therefore the Development is located beyond the core foraging range of this SCI species. Furthermore, the fields in which the existing pole sets are located are considered to be suboptimal for whooper swan foraging, being bounded by hedgerows with trees, and there is an extensive resource of suitable agricultural fields much closer to the SPA. As with the SAC, likely significant effects from the Development regarding water quality are excluded.

Therefore, there is no likelihood of significant effects on mobile SCI or wetlands associated with Lough Oughter Complex SPA/Ramsar site.

The only other SPA located within 20 km (the largest core foraging range for any SCI species) of the Development is Ballykenney-Fishertown Bog SPA (site code 004101⁴), which is approximately 19.9 km southwest. Greenland white-fronted goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris* is the only SCI species of the SPA and have a core foraging range of 5-8km⁴. The Development is therefore well beyond the core foraging range of the SCI species. Therefore, there is no likelihood of likely

¹ NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives: Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC 000007. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

² NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives: Lough Oughter Complex SPA 004049. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

³ Scottish Natural Heritage (June 2016) Assessing connectivity with Special protection Areas (SPAs) Guidance. [Online] Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2022-12/Assessing%20connectivity%20with%20special%20protection%20areas.pdf>

⁴ NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives: Ballykenney-Fishertown Bog SPA 004101. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

significant effects on mobile SCI associated with Ballykenny-Fishertown Bog SPA as a result of the Development.

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 relevant European site's 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:



Susanne Dunne ACIEEM Senior Ecologist

19 December 2025