



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1152 Arva – Gortawee 110kV Line Urgent Maintenance Works [Exempted Development] (Counties Leitrim and Cavan)

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 CP1152 Arva – Gortawee 110kV Line Urgent Maintenance Works [Exempted Development] ('the 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 comprises the carrying out of works for the purposes of replacing 98 no. polesets (due to pole top rot) on the Arva-Gortawee 110 kV Overhead Line. The pole rot, identified following ground, drone and helicopter surveys 2020-2022, has arisen due to the use of 'resized/cut poles' when replacing polesets during the uprate works completed in 2010.

The development is not located within or near any European site; the closest such sites are the

- Lough Oughter Complex Special Protection Area (SPA; site code 4049¹), located 3.2 km to the east of the development; and
- Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs Special Area of Conservation (SAC; site code 0007²); This determination has had regard for these 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.

The risk of ex-situ impacts to the Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests roosting, foraging, or nesting away from European sites has also been excluded, following analysis of known and potential habitats for mobile bird and other animal populations. The development is not located within the catchment of any Freshwater Pearl Mussels *Margaritifera*, or other sensitive aquatic species which are the Qualifying Interests of European sites.

No Likely Significant Effects will arise from potential temporary disturbance to SCIs of the Lough Oughter complex SPA, if present at East Ballinamore Lakes Irish Wetland Bird Survey site during works at structure 15. Impact pathways to other far-flying mobile QI/SCI species from distant European sites do not arise, due to the absence of supporting habitats for such species within the Zone of Influence of the development, or because the development is outside the range of populations (e.g. which is the case for lesser horseshoe bat, *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, and marsh fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia*).

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

 10 March 2023

Robert Fennelly CEcol MCIEEM Lead Senior Ecologist

¹ NPWS (2022) Conservation objectives for Lough Oughter Complex SPA [004049]. First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives Version 1.0. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

² NPWS (2021a) Conservation Objectives: Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs SAC 000007. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.