



## Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

### CP1174 Garvagh 110kV Station Works [Exempted Development] (County Leitrim)

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 CP1174 Garvagh 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 works within the existing Garvagh Station boundary, including an extension to the control room and the relocation of the entrance gate to another point along the palisade fence.

### Analysis of Pathways to European Sites

The closest European sites to the Development are the Boleybrack Mountain Special Area of Conservation (SAC, site code 002032)<sup>1</sup> and Lough Gill SAC (site code 001976)<sup>2</sup>, at approximate distances of 9km and 9.3km, respectively. Both SACs are designated for Qualifying Interest (QI) habitats that are sensitive to water quality impacts from construction works, such as natural dystrophic lakes and ponds, *Molinia* meadows, blanket bogs, natural eutrophic lakes and alluvial forests. However, a review of surface water catchments and watercourses on Tailte Eireann's Prime2 drainage ditches layer indicates that there is no hydrological connectivity with the area surrounding the Garvagh 110kV Station. This is situated in the Owengar (Leitrim) catchment, which drains southward into Lough Allen. Other European sites with water quality sensitivity, such as the Lough Arrow SAC (site code 001673)<sup>3</sup>, Lough Arrow Special Protection Area ((SPA), site code 004050<sup>4</sup>) and Unshin River SAC (site code 001898)<sup>5</sup>, lie even further away and also fall into different hydrological catchments.

The Lough Arrow SPA, at approximately 11.4km distance from the Development, is designated for the following mobile Special Conservation Interest (SCI) species: little grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, tufted duck *Aythya fuligula*, and its overall wetland and waterbird assemblage. While these species are mobile and may use habitat beyond the designated site boundary, they have small core foraging ranges (typically 1km) and are restricted to standing freshwater habitats. Therefore, there will be no likely significant disturbance from the Development to SCI species associated with the Lough Arrow SPA.

### 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.

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<sup>1</sup> NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives: Boleybrack Mountain SAC 002032. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

<sup>2</sup> NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives: Lough Gill SAC 001976. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

<sup>3</sup> NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives: Lough Arrow SAC 001673. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

<sup>4</sup> NPWS (2022) First Order Site-specific Conservation Objectives: Lough Arrow SPA [004050]. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

<sup>5</sup> NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives: Unshin River SAC 001898. 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 the temporary nature of works, and has not taken account of mitigation measures intended to avoid or reduce significant effects on European sites.

Signed:



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22 January 2025