



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1345 Fibre Wrapping of Clogher-Golagh 110kV Circuit and Station Works within Clogher and Golagh Substations [Exempted Development] County Donegal

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 CP1345 Fibre Wrapping of Clogher-Golagh 110kV Circuit and Station Works within Clogher and Golagh Substations [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 following elements:

- Construction of a new bay within Golagh 110kV Station;
- Busbar extension and new cable bay within Clogher 110kV Station; and,
- Fibre wrapping of Clogher-Golagh 110kV overhead line (OHL) circuit.

Analysis of Pathways to European sites

The works at Clogher and Golagh Stations will occur entirely within the boundary of the existing stations. There will consequently be no loss of habitat, with all works taking place on constructed hard-standing.

The Development does not lie within any European site, thus there will be no direct loss of Qualifying Interest (QI) habitat.

The closest European site to the Development is Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (site code 000163¹), situated approximately 730m to the south. The QI of Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC are: the freshwater river habitat, petrifying springs with tufa formation, old sessile oak woods, freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera*, Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* and Killarney fern *Vandenboschia speciosa*. The works within both stations will occur within the existing hard-standing areas, and there is no potential for waterborne pollution to reach any watercourse which drains into Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC. The 110kV circuit between the two stations crosses several watercourses which are connected downstream to Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC. None of the structures require replacement, foundation strengthening, or other intrusive works to enable fibre-wrapping of the OHL.

River Finn SAC (site code 002301²) is located approximately 5.7km to the north of the Development. This SAC is designated for several habitat types as well as Atlantic salmon and otter *Lutra lutra*. There is a potential hydrological connection between River Finn SAC and the Development. While water from the Development would not flow to River Finn SAC (due to flow directions), this connection could enable QI otter from this European site to occur in proximity to the Development. Similarly, River Foyle and Tributaries SAC (site code UK0030320³), located approximately 8.2km south-east (in Northern Ireland) is also hydrologically connected to the

¹ NPWS (2019). Conservation Objectives: Lough Eske and Ardnamona Wood SAC 000163. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

² NPWS (2017). Conservation Objectives: River Finn SAC 002301. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

³ NIEA (2024). River Foyle & Tributaries SAC UK0030320: Site Conservation Objectives & Supporting advice. Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

Development and has otter as a qualifying feature. However, the works associated with the Development will be minor in nature, temporary and take place in a given location over a short period of time. Likely significant effects on otter, in the context of the Conservation Objectives of River Finn SAC and River Foyle and Tributaries SAC, are therefore excluded.

In the case of River Finn SAC, this European site is not located downstream of the Development, and there is no possibility of waterborne pollution reaching the SAC. Although River Foyle and Tributaries SAC is downstream of the Development, water first flows through the large standing waterbody of Lough Nalcaghany, which would act as a substantial buffer to any water pollution. Similarly, although Donegal Bay Special Protection Area (SPA) (site code 004151⁴) is downstream of the Development, water flowing from the Development towards this European site first enters Lough Eske, which would again act as a substantial buffer against any pollution. There are no other European sites with a hydrological connection to the Development. Likely significant effects from waterborne pollution are therefore excluded.

There are no European sites (or any habitat which is likely to be functionally-linked to such a site) within 200m of the Development, and likely significant effects from airborne pollution are excluded.

The closest SPAs to the Development are Pettigo Plateau Nature Reserve SPA (site code 004099⁵), approximately 5.8km to the south, Lough Derg (Donegal) SPA (site code 004057⁶), approximately 7.2m to the south-east, Donegal Bay SPA, approximately 8.3km to the south-west, and Lough Nillan Bog SPA (site code 004110⁷), located approximately 13.4km to the north-west. Any disturbance/displacement of SCI birds (which is very unlikely to occur) would take place over a short distance and for a short period of time. There would remain abundant alternative foraging areas in proximity to the SPAs. Likely significant effects on SCI bird species excluded.

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.

The impacts of the Development itself are so minor and will occur over a short period of time such that there is no possibility of the impacts of other projects or plans acting in-combination to give rise to likely significant effects on any European sites.

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:



⁴ NPWS (2012). Conservation Objectives: Donegal Bay SPA 004151. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

⁵ NPWS (2025). Conservation Objectives: Pettigo Plateau Nature Reserve SPA 004099. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

⁶ NPWS (2025). Conservation Objectives: Lough Derg (Donegal) SPA 004057. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

⁷ NPWS (2025). Conservation Objectives: Lough Nillan Bog SPA 004110. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

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