



## **Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination CP1465 Lisdrum 110kV Station Busbar Thermal Capacity Need Works [Exempted Development] County Monaghan**

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 CP1465 Lisdrum 110kV Station Busbar Thermal Capacity Need 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:

- New modular equipment/apparatus/structures within the substation.
- Replacement of modular equipment/apparatus/structures within the substation.
- Decommissioning of equipment/apparatus/structures within the substation

### **Analysis of Pathways to European sites**

The nearest European site to the Development is Slieve Beagh Special Protection Area (SPA) (site code 004167<sup>1</sup>) which is approximately 13.4km away ('as the crow flies'). Slieve Beagh is an upland area spanning the border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, and Slieve Beagh SPA adjoins two European sites in Northern Ireland: Slieve Beagh-Mullaghfad-Lisnaskea SPA (site code UK9020302<sup>2</sup>) and Slieve Beagh Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (site code UK0016622<sup>3</sup>).

Both Slieve Beagh SPA and Slieve Beagh-Mullaghfad-Lisnaskea SPA are designated for the Special Conservation Interest (SCI) species breeding hen harrier *Circus cyaneus*. Hen harrier have a core foraging range of 2km, with a maximum range of 10km<sup>4</sup>. The Development is located well beyond the core foraging range of the SCI, and there is no potential for any likely significant effects from disturbance of foraging birds using functionally-linked habitat. The Qualifying Interests (QIs) of Slieve Beagh SAC comprise various Annex I habitats. There is no hydrological connectivity between the Development, Slieve Beagh SAC and any European site. Due to the absence of a hydrological connection, likely significant effects regarding water quality are 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.

### **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

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<sup>1</sup> NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives: Slieve Beagh SPA 004167. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

<sup>2</sup> Enlander, I. (2015). Slieve Beagh-Mullaghfad-Lisnaskea SPA UK9020302 Conservation Objectives. DAERA, Northern Ireland. Available at: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/doe/slieve-beagh-mullaghfad-lisnaskea-SPA-conservation-objectives-2015.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> McKeown, R. (2017). Slieve Beagh SAC UK0016622 Conservation Objectives. DAERA, Northern Ireland. Available at: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/doe/Conservation%20Objectives%20%282017%29.%20%20Slieve%20Beagh%20SAC.%20%20Version%202.1%20-%20amendment%2010.10.2017.%20PDF..PDF>

<sup>4</sup> Scottish Natural Heritage (June 2016) Assessing connectivity with Special protection Areas (SPAs) Guidance. 4pp.

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:



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Robert Fennelly CEcol MCIEEM Lead Senior Ecologist

03 March 2025