

## Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination CP1543 Tower Relocation at Srananagh 220kV Station [Exempted Development] County Sligo

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 CP1543 Tower Relocation at Srananagh 220kV Station [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 Tower 64 with a Line Cable Interface Mast (LCIM), which will be installed approximately 25-30 meters adjacent to Tower 64 (see Image 1 below). The LCIM will be installed on agricultural grassland.



Image 1

### Analysis of Pathways to European sites

The closest European site to the Development is Unshin River Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (site code 001898<sup>1</sup>), located approximately 4.9km away ('as the crow flies'). The SAC is designated for a range of Annex I habitats, otter *Lutra lutra* and Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*. The nearest waterbody is located approximately 228m east of the Development, identified on the Tailte Éireann PRIME2 Watercourses layer. Given the minor and temporary works involved, and the distance between the Development and the drain, there is no potential for likely significant effects on Unshin River SAC regarding water quality.

<sup>1</sup> NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives: Unshin River SAC 001898. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Ballysadare Bay Special Protection Area (SPA) (site code 004129<sup>2</sup>) and Cumeen Strand SPA (site code 004035<sup>3</sup>), located approximately 9.3km and 12.5km away from the Development, respectively, are both designated for the Special Conservation Interest (SCI) species light-bellied brent goose *Branta bernicla hrota* and various waterbirds. There is no potential for likely significant effects on mobile SCI associated with either SPA. This is because the works will be relatively minor and temporary and will be carried out adjacent to the existing substation. There is extensive resource of suitable agricultural fields much closer to both SPAs which has suitable habitat for foraging SCI light-bellied brent goose (or other SCI species).

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 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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Susanne Dunne ACIEEM Senior Ecologist

06 February 2026

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<sup>2</sup> NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Ballysadare Bay SPA 004129. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

<sup>3</sup> NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Cummeen Strand SPA 004035. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.