



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1549 Replacement of substation Back-Up supply equipment within the North-West Region [Exempted Development]

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 CP1549 Replacement of substation Back-up supply equipment within the North West Region [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 at two substations comprising replacements of back up supply equipment. All works are to be carried out entirely within the boundaries of the following stations:

1. Flagford 220kV; and
2. Cashla 220kV.

Analysis of Pathways to European Sites

Flagford 220kV Station

There are no waterbodies within Flagford 220kV Station. The River Killukin is situated c.26m from the substation perimeter. There is no possibility for significant overland flow to reach this river due to distance and topography.

The closest European site to the substation is Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (site code 001626)¹, which is 11.8km south of the substation with no hydrological connection. This SAC is designated for its Geyer's whorl snail *Vertigo geyeri* and alkaline fens. There is no pathway for likely significant effects to occur.

Three Special Protection Areas (SPAs) (Lough Gara SPA (site code 004048)²; Bellanagare Bog SPA (site code 004105)³; and Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA (site code 004101)⁴) are situated 19-20km from the substation. All three are designated for Greenland white-fronted goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*, and Lough Gara SPA is additionally designated for whooper swan *Cygnus cygnus*. Greenland white-fronted goose has a core foraging range of 5-8km⁵, and whooper swan of less than 5km⁵, and the substation site consists of hardstanding habitat which is unsuitable for both species. Therefore, there no likelihood for significant effects on the Special Conservation Interests (SCI) of these SPAs as they are highly unlikely to occur in the vicinity of the substation given the intervening distance and presence of more suitable habitats between the substation and the SPAs.

There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the substation via a source-pathway-receptor link that may result in likely significant effects in view of the applicable site Conservation Objectives.

¹ NPWS (2019) Conservation Objectives: Annaghmore Lough (Roscommon) SAC 001626. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

² NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives: Lough Gara SPA 004048. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

³ NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives: Bellanagare Bog SPA 004105. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

⁴ NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives: Ballykenny-Fisherstown Bog SPA 004101. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

⁵ Scottish Natural Heritage (June 2016) Assessing connectivity with Special protection Areas (SPAs) Guidance. 4pp.

Cashla 220kV Station

There are no waterbodies within or in proximity to Cashla 220kV Station, thus no hydrological connectivity to any European sites. The closest European site to the substation is Lough Corrib SAC (site code 000297)⁶ which is 3.8km from the substation with no hydrological connectivity between the SAC and the substation. Although the SAC is designated for lesser horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, the substation site consists of hardstanding habitat which is unsuitable for foraging bats. The substation is also outside the core sustenance zone for the species⁷, thus there is limited potential to impact them as they are unlikely to occur regularly in the vicinity of the substation.

The closest SPA to the substation is Inner Galway Bay SPA (site code 004031)⁸ which is 6.5km from the substation. Other European sites identified to be within the potential (Zone of Influence) Zol of the Development are Cregganna Marsh SPA (site code 004142)⁹, Lough Corrib SPA (site code 004042)¹⁰, Rahasane Turlough SPA (site code 004089)¹¹ and Slieve Aughty Mountains SPA (site code 004168)¹². The primary sensitivities of the SCI species of these SPAs relate to loss of functionally-linked habitat and noise and visual disturbance. However, there will be no loss of functionally-linked habitat for SCI bird species as the substation comprises hardstanding and there are plentiful other habitats in the surrounding area which SCI species could use. There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the substation via a source-pathway-receptor link that may result in likely significant effects in view of the applicable site Conservation Objectives.

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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 the temporary nature of works, and has not taken account of mitigation measures intended to avoid or reduce significant effects on European sites.

Signed:



⁶ NPWS (2017) Conservation Objectives: Lough Corrib SAC 000297. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

⁷ Bat Conservation Trust (2020). Core Sustenance Zones and habitats of importance for designing Biodiversity Net Gain for bats.

⁸ NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Inner Galway Bay SPA 004031. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

⁹ NPWS (2023) Conservation Objectives: Cregganna Marsh SPA 004142. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

¹⁰ NPWS (2023) Conservation Objectives: Lough Corrib SPA 004042. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

¹¹ NPWS (2023) Conservation Objectives: Rahasane Turlough SPA 004089. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

¹² NPWS (2022) Conservation Objectives: Slieve Aughty Mountains SPA 004168. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

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06 May 2026