



## **Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination CP1639 Tawnaghmore 110kV Station Works [Exempted Development] County Mayo.**

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 CP1639 Tawnaghmore 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 involves the installation of:

- Tawnaghmore Peakers RTU Modification.
- Tawnaghmore Peakers Power Quality Recorder.
- H8 Bay Protection Upgrade.
- H1 Bay Protection Upgrade.
- Tawnaghmore Peaker Metering T101.
- Tawnaghmore Peaker Metering T104.
- New Tawnaghmore Peaker H1 Bay Upgrade.
- New Tawnaghmore Peaker H8 Bay Upgrade.

All works are to be carried out entirely within the boundary of the existing energised substation. All works for the Development will be carried out above ground. No vegetation clearance will be required for the Development.

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

Based on the works involved, the following possible impacts are considered potentially relevant to the Development:

- Disturbance of qualifying species (e.g. due to visual, noise, vibration or artificial light). According to published research<sup>1</sup>, the maximum distance to which non-breeding bird species for which Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are designated may theoretically travel to forage is 20km from the boundary of such a site (though in reality, most species foraging distances are significantly lower than this). Cutts *et al.* (2013)<sup>2</sup> provides species-specific information on the sensitivity of several bird species which are qualifying features of SPAs to disturbance impacts from construction works.

Consequently, the following European sites are considered to be within the potential zone of influence (Zol) of the Development:

- Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA (site code 004036<sup>3</sup>) located approximately 1.9km north of the Development at closest. Designated for the wintering Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, grey plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, sanderling *Calidris alba*, dunlin *Calidris alpina*, bar-tailed godwit *Limosa lapponica*, curlew *Numenius arquata*, redshank *Tringa totanus*, and wetland habitat. There is no hydrological connectivity between the SPA and the Development.

<sup>1</sup> Scottish Natural Heritage (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Version 3 - June 2016. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/assessing-connectivity-special-protection-areas> (Accessed 18 May 2026).

<sup>2</sup> Cutts, N., Hemingway, K and Spencer, J. (2013). Waterbird Disturbance Mitigation Toolkit: Informing Estuarine Planning & Construction Projects. Produced by the Institute of Estuarine & Coastal Studies (IECS) University of Hull.

<sup>3</sup> NPWS (2013). Conservation Objectives: Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA 004036. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

- Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA (site code 004228<sup>4</sup>) located approximately 10.5km south-west of the Development at closest. Designated for the wintering SCIs tufted duck *Aythya fuligula*, common scoter *Melanitta nigra*, common gull *Larus canus*, Greenland white-fronted goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*, and wetland and waterbirds. There is no hydrological connectivity between the SPA and the Development.

There is no hydrological connectivity between the Development and any European site. The Development is not within or hydrologically connected to a known freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera* catchment. The closest watercourse to the Development is located approximately 0.5km from the site. There is therefore no potential for likely significant effects on freshwater pearl mussel associated with any European site.

All works associated with the Development will take place within the existing substation boundary, comprising hardstanding and electrical installations. These areas contain no suitable habitat for foraging SCI species of Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA and Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA. Greenland white-fronted goose is a relatively long-ranging SCI associated with Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA, with a core foraging range of approximately 5-8km<sup>1</sup>. However, the SPA is located approximately 10.5km from the Development, beyond the core foraging range of SCI geese. Furthermore, the fields surrounding the Development appear to have mature field boundaries, and are therefore unlikely to be used by SCI geese, which prefer to forage in open habitat. The remaining SCI species of these SPAs are waterfowl, with no suitable habitat for these within or in the vicinity of the Development. There is therefore no possibility of likely significant effects relating to visual and noise disturbance of SCI birds using functionally linked land associated with or Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA and Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA.

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 relevant European site's Conservation Objectives. Due to the nature of the Development, there is no potential for in-combination effects.

#### **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

27 May 2026

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<sup>4</sup> NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives: Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA 004228. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.