



## Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

### CP1322: Cathaleen Falls-Coraclassy 110 kV Dynamic Line Rating [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, if the CP1322: Cathaleen Falls-Coraclassy Dynamic Line Ratings [Exempted Development] ('the development') individually or in combination with other plans or projects would be likely to have a significant effect (s) on a European site(s).

The development comprises works for the purposes of installing of Dynamic Line Rating Sensor devices on conductors of the Cathaleen Falls-Coraclassy 110 kV Overhead line (excluding spans 38-39; 46-48, 110-112, 292-300)

#### Analysis of Pathways to European sites

There are no works within European sites. The works are adjacent the Lough Melvin Special Area of Conservation (SAC; site code 428<sup>1</sup>), and the Cuilcagh -Anierin Uplands SAC (site code 584<sup>2</sup>).

There are no watercourses or drainage ditches within any of the work sites, with hydrological connectivity to European sites.

None of the works are within the catchment of any Qualifying Interest (QI) Freshwater Pearl Mussels *Margaritifera margaritifera*. None of the works require instream works.

There are no other European sites nearby, or potentially connected to the development via a source-pathway-receptor linkage.

The AA Screening assessment has reviewed the nature and scale of the works against hydrological connectivity and excluded the risk of downstream surface water impacts to any European sites. The risk of ex-situ impacts to the Qualifying Interests and Special Conservation Interests roosting, foraging, or nesting away from European sites has also been excluded, following analysis of known and potential habitats for mobile bird and other animal populations.

#### 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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<sup>1</sup> NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives: Lough Melvin SAC 000428. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

<sup>2</sup> NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives: Cuilcagh - Anierin Uplands SAC 000584. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

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