



Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination

CP1509 Cathaleen's Fall-Srananagh 110kV Circuit No 2 Dynamic Line Rating, and Station Works within Cathaleen's Fall and Srananagh Substations.

[Exempted Development] County Donegal, County Leitrim and 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 carried out Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the Conservation Objectives of relevant European sites, whether CP1509 Cathaleen's Fall-Srananagh 110kV Circuit No 2 Dynamic Line Rating (DLR), and Station Works within Cathaleen's Fall and Srananagh Substations [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:

- Installation of DLR measurement devices on the overhead line (OHL) of Cathaleen's Fall-Srananagh 110kV circuit No. 2.
- Uprate of the lead-in in Cathaleen's Fall 110kV station to at least the equivalent rating of 238MVA (1250 A) in all seasons.
- Uprate of the bay conductor in Cathaleen's Fall 110kV station to at least the equivalent rating of 238MVA (1250 A) in all seasons.
- Uprate of the bay conductor in Srananagh 110kV station to at least the equivalent rating of 238MVA (1250A) in all seasons.
- Uprate of the line dropper in Srananagh 110kV station to at least the equivalent rating of 238MVA (1250A) in all seasons.
- Uprate of the busbar dropper in Srananagh 110kV station to at least the equivalent rating of 238MVA (1250A) in all seasons.
- Uprate of the CT in Srananagh 110 kV station to at least the equivalent rating of 238 MVA (1250 A) in all seasons.

DLR measurement devices will not be installed between polesets 40-42, 86-88, 154-155, 156-170, 175-176, 187-188, 197-198, 201-207, 218-220, which oversail European sites. There will be no works within the bounds of any European site. All works for the Development will be carried out above ground on existing overhead line (OHL), and no vegetation clearance or intrusive works are required.

The Development along the existing OHL comprises the installation of small DLR devices, which is non-intrusive. The works are minor in scale, short-term, and are of a temporary nature. Given the nature of the works, there is no potential for waterborne pollution.

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. visual, noise, vibration or artificial light). According to published research¹, the maximum distance to which non-breeding bird species for which Special Protection Areas (SPA) are designated may theoretically travel to forage is 20km from the boundary of such a site (although in reality, most species' foraging

¹ Scottish Natural Heritage (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Version 3 – June 2016 (online). Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/assessing-connectivity-special-protection-areas> (Accessed 14 March 2026).

distances are significantly lower than this). Cutts, Hemingway and Spencer (2013)² 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:

- Lough Melvin Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (site code 000428³). Oversailed by the OHL between polesets 40-42. Designated for Annex I habitats Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or *Isoeto-Nanojuncetea*, *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*) and the mobile Qualifying Interest (QI) species salmon *Salmo salar* and otter *Lutra lutra*.
- Arroo Mountain SAC (site code 001403⁴) is oversailed by the OHL between polesets 86-88 and located 60m from the OHL between polesets 101-102. Designated for Annex I habitats Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*, European dry heaths, Alpine and boreal heaths, Blanket bogs, Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*), Calcareous and calcshist scree of the montane to alpine levels (*Thlaspietea rotundifolii*) and Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation.
- Sligo/Leitrim Uplands SPA (site code 004187⁵) is oversailed by the Development between polesets 86-88. It is designated for the Special Conservation Interests (SCI) breeding peregrine *Falco peregrinus* and chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*.
- Glenade Lough SAC (site code 001919⁶) extends parallel to OHL between polesets 104 and 111, located at closest 95m west of polesets 104-105. Designated for the Annex I habitat Natural eutrophic lakes with *Magnopotamion* or *Hydrocharition* - type vegetation, the mobile QI white-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*, and slender naiad *Najas flexilis*.
- Lough Gill SAC (site code 001976⁷) is oversailed by the OHL between polesets 153-170, 175-176, 187-188, 197-198, 200-209 and 218-220. The SAC is designated for Annex I habitats Natural eutrophic lakes with *Magnopotamion* or *Hydrocharition* - type vegetation, Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*), Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles, Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*) and the mobile QI white-clawed crayfish, sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*, brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri*, river lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*, salmon and otter.
- Donegal Bay SPA (site code 004151⁸). Located 1.2km west of Cathleen's Fall Substation and 1km from the OHL is designated for a range of wetland and waterbirds, including the long-ranging light-bellied brent goose *Branta bernicla hrota* and wetland habitat.
- Ballysadare Bay SPA (site code 004129⁹) is located 8.9km west of the Development, from the Srananagh 110kV Substation. Designated for a range of wetland and waterbirds, including the long-ranging light-bellied brent goose, and wetland habitat.
- Cummeen Strand SPA (site code 004035¹⁰). The SPA is located 12.5km north-west of the Development, from Srananagh 110kV Substation. Designated for a range of wetland and waterbirds, including the long-ranging light-bellied brent goose, and wetland habitat.

² 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. (online). Available at: https://www.tide-toolbox.eu/tidetools/waterbird_disturbance_mitigation_toolkit/ (Accessed 14 March 2026).

³ NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives: Lough Melvin SAC 000428. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

⁴ NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives: Arroo Mountain SAC 001403. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

⁵ NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives: Sligo/Leitrim Uplands SPA 004187. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

⁶ NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives: Glenade Lough SAC 001919. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

⁷ NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives: Lough Gill SAC 001976. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

⁸ NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives: Donegal Bay SPA 004151. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

⁹ NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Ballysadare Bay SPA 004129. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

¹⁰ NPWS (2013) Conservation Objectives: Cummeen Strand SPA 004035. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

- Pettigo Plateau Nature Reserve SPA (site code 004099¹¹) is located 18.2km north-east of the Cathaleen's Fall Substation. Designated for the long-ranging SCI Greenland white-fronted goose *Anser albifrons flavirostris*.

The Development is not within or hydrologically connected to a known freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera* catchment. There is therefore no possibility of Likely Significant Effects to QI freshwater pearl mussel associated with any SAC.

DLR measurement devices will not be installed between polesets 40-42, 86-88, 154-155, 156-170, 175-176, 187-188, 197-198, 201-207, 218-220, which oversail European sites.

The Development along the existing OHL comprises the installation of small DLR devices, which is non-intrusive. Due to the exclusion of the spans mentioned above, the minor scale and the short-term, temporary nature of the Development, there will be no pathways for likely significant effects associated with noise and visual disturbance of QI species of any SAC.

Due to the exclusion of the spans mentioned above, the minor scale of the Development and the temporary nature of the works, there will be no likely significant effects associated with noise and visual disturbance of SCI species of SPAs potentially using functionally linked habitats (e.g. arable fields) along the existing OHL or in proximity to Cathaleen's Fall 110kV and Srananagh 110kV stations.

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:



Susanne Dunne ACIEEM Senior Ecologist

24 March 2026

¹¹ NPWS (2025) Conservation Objectives: Pettigo Plateau Nature Reserve SPA 004099. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.