



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Inspector's Report ABP-322413-25

Question

Whether a 20kV grid connection route consisting of 0.577km of overhead line and 3.636km of underground cable between the customer substation (X628, 378 Y 772,961) granted planning under REF: 23/60010 and the 38/20kV ESB substation (X 625, 508, Y 772, 744) in Lissanore, Lios an Oir, Co Longford is or is not development or is or is not exempted development

Location

Lissanore, Lios an Oir, Co Longford

Declaration

Planning Authority

Longford County Council

Planning Authority Reg. Ref.

DC25/10

Applicant for Declaration

Natural Forces Renewable Energy Ltd

Planning Authority Decision

No declaration

Referral

Referred by

Longford County Council

Owner/ Occupier

Natural Forces Renewable Energy Ltd

Observer(s)

None.

Date of Site Inspection

14/08/2025

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1.0 Site Location and Description

- 1.1. The site is located at Edgeworthstown and consists of an overland route through the site of a recently permitted wind turbine development (23/60010 and ACP Ref 317459) and a c. 3.7km length of the regional road into Edgeworthstown, terminating on the Bracklin Road.
- 1.2. The site of the wind turbine is undulating grassland. The section of the road in the rural area, where the grid connection route is proposed, is relatively uniform with good visibility and has sporadic residential/agricultural development. The road upon entering Edgeworthstown avoids the centre of the town, and traverses an edge of centre residential area, until terminating at an existing substation.

2.0 The Question

- 2.1. The question is whether a 20kV grid connection route consisting of 0.577km of overhead line and 3.636km of underground cable between the customer substation (X628, 378 Y 772,961) granted planning under REF: 23/60010 and the 38/20kV ESB substation (X 625, 508, Y 772, 744) in Lissanore, Lios an Oir, Co Longford is or is not development or is or is not exempted development.

3.0 Planning Authority Declaration

3.1. Declaration

No declaration was made.

3.2. Planning Authority Reports

3.2.1. Planning Reports

The Planning Report states that the applicant had not submitted supporting documentation to demonstrate that they are statutory undertakers for the purposes of the proposed development, and therefore it is unclear whether the grid connection is considered exempt under Class 26 and 27 Section 2 Part 1 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended. The question was referred to An Coimisiún Pleanála for determination.

3.2.2. Other Technical Reports

None

4.0 Planning History

23/60010 and **ACP Ref 317459** Permission granted and granted on appeal to Natural Forces Renewable Energy Ltd. for the construction of one Enercon E138 Wind Energy Converter on an 81m tower with an electrical rating of 4.2MW and an overall tip height of 149.38m. Installation of the hardstanding area for the Wind Energy Converter. Installation of underground circuit cables which will run in underground cable trenches (c.1.2m deep), from the proposed Wind Energy Converter to the proposed substation building on the site. Construction of the proposed substation building which will be located c. 98m from the proposed wind turbine and surrounded by stock proof fencing. It will be a single storey building, measuring 55m² and c.4.8m in height. Construction of proposed internal site access track, constructed from permeable material and which will run from the site entrance to the Wind Energy Converter hardstanding area. All associated ancillary infrastructure and preparatory works such as provision of the site entrance.

5.0 Policy Context

5.1. Development Plan

- 5.1.1. The relevant Development Plan is the Longford County Development Plan 2021 – 2027 (LCDP). The site is located in a rural, unzoned area, east of Edgeworthstown.

The Landscape Character identified is Inny Basin, the sensitivity of the landscapes in this unit are stated to be generally “low” as per the Landscape Character Assessment (Annex 7 of the LCDP). Potential areas of “medium” to “high” sensitivity are stated to exist in the vicinity of protected woodlands, riverbanks.

- 5.1.2. Chapter 11 Built and Cultural Heritage

CPO 11.22 Protect the setting of Protected Structures and refuse permission for development within the curtilage or adjacent to a Protected Structure which would adversely impact on the character and special interest of the structure, where appropriate.

CPO 11.47 Protect known and unknown archaeological areas, sites, structures, monuments and objects in the County.

CPO 11.48 Protect the integrity of the settings of archaeological areas, sites, structures, monuments and objects in the County.

CPO 11.49 Protect the National Monuments and monuments protected under Preservation Orders in the County (see Table 11.1: National Monuments In County Longford, Table 11.2: Monuments Protected under Preservation Orders and Appendix 6: Built and Cultural Heritage).

CPO 11.50 Protect the monuments of Archaeological, Historical and Cultural Interest in the County (see Table 11.3: County Longford Monuments of Archaeological, Historical and Cultural Interest and Appendix 6: Built and Cultural Heritage).

5.2. Natural Heritage Designations

Ardgullion bog SAC c 3.2 km to north east

Garriskail Bog SAC/SPA c. 8.2 km to south east hydrological connection 10km

Glen Lough SPA c 4.8m to south

Lough Iron SPA 10 km to south east

5.3. Built Heritage Designations

- LF015-064 Ringfort – Rath (On R395 on grid connection route c. 300m west of access point to wind turbine site)
- LF015-063002 – church (Adjacent grid connection route in centre of Edgeworthstown)
- RPS 279/ NIAH 13309022 Freestanding cast-iron vent pipe, located on a footpath to on Devine Crescent in Edgesworthstown

6.0 EIA Screening

The proposed development is not a class for the purposes of EIA as per the classes of development set out in Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended (or Part V of the 1994 Roads Regulations). No mandatory requirement for EIA therefore arises and there is also no requirement for a screening determination. Refer to Form 1 in Appendix 1 of this report.

7.0 The Referral

7.1. Referrer's Case

The Referrer is Longford County Council whose assessment/case relates only to the whether the applicant can be considered a statutory undertaker for the purposes of the proposed development.

7.2. Owner/ occupier's response

No response received from Natural Forces Renewable Energy Limited upon circulation of referral. (While the application form does not clearly state their legal interest in the site, no details of any other owner/occupier are provided on the application form.)

Outside the site of the wind turbine, the grid connection route is located within the public road.

7.3. Further Responses

None

8.0 Statutory Provisions

8.1. Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended ('the Act').

Section 2(1)

"works" include act or operation of construction, excavation, demolition, extension, alteration, repair or renewal...

“statutory undertaker” means a person, for the time being, authorised by or under any enactment or instrument under an enactment to—

(a)

(b) provide, or carry out works for the provision of, gas, electricity or telecommunications services, or

(c) provide services connected with, or carry out works for the purposes of the carrying on of the activities of, any public undertaking;

Section 3 (1)

“Development” means, except where the context otherwise requires, the carrying out of works on, in, over or under land or the making of any material change in the use of any structure or other land.

Section 4 (1) (a) – (l) sets out what is exempted development for the purposes of this Act.

Section 4(2)(a)(i) “The Minister may by regulations provide any class of development to be exempted development for the purposes of this Act where he or she is of the opinion that –

(i) By reason of the size, nature or limited effect on its surroundings, of development belonging to that class, the carrying out of such development would not offend against principles of proper planning and sustainable development, or”

Section 4 (4) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a), (i), (ia) and (l) of subsection (1) and any regulations under subsection (2), development shall not be exempted development if an environmental impact assessment or an appropriate assessment of the development is required.

Section 57 (1) Notwithstanding *section 4(1)(a), (h), (i), (ia), (j), (k), or (l)* and any regulations made under *section 4(2)*, the carrying out of works to a protected

structure, or a proposed protected structure, shall be exempted development only if those works would not materially affect the character of—

(a) the structure, or

(b) any element of the structure which contributes to its special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.

Section 177U(9)

In deciding upon a declaration or a referral under section 5 of this Act a planning authority or the Board, as the case may be, shall where appropriate, conduct a screening for appropriate assessment in accordance with the provisions of this section.

8.2. Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended ('the Regulations')

8.2.1. Article 6 (1) - Subject to article 9, development of a class specified in column 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 2 shall be exempted development for the purposes of the Act, provided that such development complies with the conditions and limitations specified in column 2 of the said Part 1 opposite the mention of that class in the said column 1.

8.2.2. The following classes of development are listed:

Class 26 - The carrying out by any undertaker authorised to provide an electricity service of development consisting of the laying underground of mains, pipes, cables or other apparatus for the purposes of the undertaking.

Class 27 - The carrying out by any undertaker authorised to provide an electricity service of development consisting of the construction of over-head transmission or distribution lines for conducting electricity at a voltage not exceeding a nominal value of 20kV.

8.2.3. Article 9(1)(a) sets out restrictions on exemptions for development to which Article 6 relates. The following sub-articles are listed:

- (i) contravene a condition attached to a permission under the Act or be inconsistent with any use specified in a permission under the Act,
- (iii) endanger public safety by reason of traffic hazard or obstruction of road users,
- (vi) interfere with the character of a landscape, or a view or prospect of special amenity value or special interest, the preservation of which is an objective of a development plan for the area in which the development is proposed or, pending the variation of a development plan or the making of a new development plan, in the draft variation of the development plan or the draft development plan,
- (vii) consist of or comprise the excavation, alteration or demolition (other than peat extraction) of places, caves, sites, features or other objects of archaeological, geological, historical, scientific or ecological interest, the preservation, conservation or protection of which is an objective of a development plan or local area plan for the area in which the development is proposed or, pending the variation of a development plan or local area plan, or the making of a new development plan or local area plan, in the draft variation of the development plan or the local area plan or the draft development plan or draft local area plan,
- (viiA) consist of or comprise the excavation, alteration or demolition of any archaeological monument included in the Record of Monuments and Places, pursuant to section 12(1) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994, save that this provision shall not apply to any or any works, pursuant to and in accordance with a consent granted under section 14 or a licence granted under Section 26 of the National Monuments Act 1930 (No. 2 of 1930) as amended
- (viiB) comprise development in relation to which a planning authority or An Bord Pleanála is the competent authority in relation to appropriate assessment and the development would require an appropriate assessment because it would be likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of a European site.

8.3. Other

Electricity Regulation Act 1999 Section 2(1) 'electricity undertaking' means any person engaged in generation, transmission, distribution or supply of electricity, including any holder of a licence or authorisation under this Act, or any person who has been granted a permit under section 37 of the Principal Act

8.4. Precedent

I have examined the referrals database and have found the following, which while not relevant to the subject site, have relevance to the subject matter of the current referral case, i.e. the meaning of 'statutory undertaker', and also the matter of works to lay underground cables within the road at the location of a National Monument.

319600 Whether the proposed 110kV underground grid connection cabling between the L30535 public road (to north of the existing Kellis 220kV substation) to a line bay in the substation, at Kellistown East, Co. Carlow, is or is not development and is or is not exempted development.

The Board concluded that (summary)

- the provision of the underground electricity connection and associated works involves the carrying out of works and, therefore, constitutes development,
- the underground electricity grid connection involves works carried out by an electricity undertaking, and would come within the scope of Class 26 of Part 1 of the Second Schedule to the Regulations, as amended
- none of the restrictions on exempted development provided for under section 4 (4) of the Act, as amended, apply in this case, and,
- the restrictions on exempted development provided for under Article 9 (1)(a) (viiB) of the Regulations, 2001, as amended, does not apply
- there are no other restrictions on exemption that would apply in this instance.

Therefore the Board decided that the underground grid connection cabling is development and is exempted development

319406 Whether the provision of a circa 4.995-kilometre underground connection on private lands and within the public road between the permitted Slanemore Solar Farm to the existing ESB Mullingar Substation is or is not development or is or is not exempted development.

The Board concluded that

- (a) the provision of the underground grid connection and associated works involves the carrying out of works and, therefore, constitutes development under Sections 2 and 3 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, which is not exempted development having regard to the provisions of Article 9(1)(a)(vii) and (viiA) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended,
- (b) there is no evidence on file that a licence has been granted under Section 26 of the National Monuments Act 1930 (No. 2 of 1930, as amended) as required by Article 9(1) (a) and (viiA) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, and
- (c) without a licence the proposed development would be contrary to policy objectives in Chapter 14 of the Westmeath County Development Plan 2021-2027, including Policy Objective CPO 14.7,

Therefore the Board decided that the said underground grid connection is development and is exempted development

319370 Whether the development of a 20kV underground grid connection to connect the permitted Keiloge Solar farm to the existing 38 kV Kilcarragh substation at townlands of Keiloge and Monamintra, County Waterford is or is not development or is or is not exempted development.

The Board concluded that (summarised):

- (a) the provision of a 20kV underground grid connection constitutes development
- (b) the works come within the scope of the exempted development provision provided at Class 26 of Part 1, Schedule 2 of the Regulations,

(c) none of the restrictions on exempted development provided for under Article 9(1)(a) of the Regulations apply.

Therefore the Board decided that the said underground grid connection is development and is exempted development

307927: Whether the provision of a circa 5.1 kilometres underground grid connection within the corridor of public roads and private lands which links a permitted solar farm at Clondardis and Slane More Townlands, Walshestown, Mullingar, County Westmeath to the existing ESB Mullingar 110kV substation at Irishtown Townland, Mullingar, County Westmeath is or is not development or is or is not exempted development.

The Board concluded that

- (a) the provision of the underground grid connection involves the carrying out of works and, therefore, constitutes development under sections 2 and 3 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, and Class 26 of Part 1 of the Second Schedule to the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended,
- (b) the underground electricity grid connection involves works carried out by an electricity undertaking and, having regard to the nature of those works, would come within the scope of Class 26 of Part 1 of the Second Schedule to the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended,
- (c) the underground electricity grid connection involves works within the existing public road carriageway structure, including the stretch of existing public road located in the original area of Recorded Monument (WM19-087) and, as a consequence, the proposed development would not comprise the excavation, alteration or demolition of any archaeological features and, therefore, would not fall within the scope of limitation of exemption, as set out at articles 9(1)(a)(vii) and 9(1)(a)(viiA) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, and,
- (d) there are no other restrictions on exemption set out in the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and/or the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 that would apply in this instance.

Therefore, the Board decided that the said underground grid connection is development and is exempted development.

9.0 Assessment

9.1. It should be stated at the outset that the purpose of this referral is not to determine the acceptability or otherwise of the grid connection in respect of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, but rather whether or not the matter in question constitutes development, and if so falls within the scope of exempted development.

9.2. Is or is not development

9.2.1. The proposal entailing a 20kV grid connection route consisting of 0.577km of overhead line and 3.636km of underground cable between the customer substation granted planning under 23/60010 and the 38/20kV ESB Lissanore, Lios an Oir, Co Longford constitutes 'works' as defined in section 2(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, and comes within the definition of development as set out in section 3(1) of the said Act.

9.3. Is or is not exempted development

- 9.3.1. Class 26, Part 1, Schedule 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, provides that the carrying out by any undertaker authorised to provide an electricity service or development consisting of the laying underground of mains, pipes, cables or other apparatus for the purposes of the undertaking is exempted development.
- 9.3.2. Class 27 provides that the carrying out by any undertaker authorised to provide an electricity service of development consisting of the construction of over-head transmission or distribution lines for conducting electricity at a voltage not exceeding a nominal value of 20kV is exempted development.
- 9.3.3. I note that 'any undertaker authorised' is not, of itself, defined. I have regard to the definition of 'Statutory Undertaker' in Section 2 of the Act as set out in section 8.1 of

this report above and to the definition of ‘electricity undertaking’ as set out in Section 2(1) of the Electricity Regulation Act set out in section 8.3 of this report above.

- 9.3.4. I consider that the applicant, Natural Forces Renewable Energy Limited falls under the category ‘any undertaker authorised’ in view of the fact that it currently has planning permission under section 34 of the Act for the development related to the provision of electricity, namely the construction of a wind turbine.
- 9.3.5. In this context I refer the Commission to the precedent cases as summarised in section 8.4 of this report, in which it was determined that the applicants granted permission for an electricity generating development fall within the scope a statutory undertaker, and which is applicable to Class 26 and 27.
- 9.3.6. In view of the above I am satisfied that the development falls within the scope of Class 26 (underground cables) and Class 27 (overhead transmission/distribution lines). I note that the proposal specified a voltage of 20kV which is within the limits of the exemption under Class 27.

9.4. Restrictions on exempted development

I refer to the restrictions on exemptions outlined at 8.2.3 above and I have examined same.

- 9.4.1. I note that the proposed development would not be inconsistent with permission granted under 23/60010 / ACP Ref 317459 and would not contravene any condition of that permission. Furthermore, while there would be some disruption to road users during construction, this can be managed through standard protocols such as a Road Opening Licence and Traffic Management Plan, and the development itself would not cause traffic hazard or obstruction to road users. In addition, the development would not interfere with any protected landscape or views/prospects. I am therefore satisfied in relation to Articles 9(1)(a)(i), 9(1)(a)(iii), and 9(1)(a)(vi) of the Regulations.
- 9.4.2. With reference to Article 9(1)(a)(vii) of the Regulations, there is potential for alteration of a feature of historical/scientific interest, the conservation of which is an objective for protection under the LCDP and which is also a Protected Structure, RPS 279. This is a free-standing cast-iron vent pipe, located on a footpath on Devine Crescent within Edgeworthstown. I note that this feature is positioned at the

extremity of the road edge adjacent a wall. I note from site inspection that there is evidence of ducting and underground utility installation in the vicinity of same with re-surfacing right up to same. I note that the Construction Methodology Report submitted with the Section 5 states that the trench will be provided within the centre of the road to a maximum width of 450mm. On this basis I consider that the proposed development can be carried out without any alteration or impact on this feature and without materially affecting its character. Therefore, I do not consider that the presence of RPS 279 constitutes a restriction on the Class 26 exemption under Article 9(1)(a)(vii) in this case, or presents any conflict with Section 57 (1) of the Act.

- 9.4.3. A National Monument, LF015-064 Ringfort – Rath, is mapped within the route of the underground cabling of the grid connection. The development may therefore comprise the excavation, alteration or demolition of a features of archaeological interest, the protection of which is an objective of the LCDP under CPO 11.47 to CPO 11.49, and therefore Articles 9(1)(a)(vii) must be considered with regard to same. In addition, the development may comprise the excavation, alteration or demolition of an archaeological monument included in the Record of Monuments and Places, and Article 9(1)(a)(viiA) of the Regulations must be considered.
- 9.4.4. The National Monuments Service Sites and Monuments Record for this monument describes this monument as has having been “divided into roughly equal portions by a NE-SW roadway, field bank and drain. The rath has been levelled to the NW of these but its outline may still be traced.”
- 9.4.5. The monument at this location has already been demolished and excavated to form the subsurface of the road. The road is a regional road and features on the 1837 historic maps. I note from details within the Section 5 application that the proposed ducting will be within a trench to a maximum of 1m deep and 450mm wide. Given the limits of excavation proposed and the long existence of this road and likely disturbance from construction, I consider it likely that the proposed works would not result in any further excavation, alteration or demolition of the monument. I note that the Board made such a conclusion in comparable circumstances on ABP Ref 307927, in relation to National Monument WM19-087, as set out at 8.4 above.

- 9.4.6. However, I also note subsequent case 319406, also set out at section 8.4 above, also affecting WM19-087 on the regional road R383 in the same manner. In this case the Board concluded that such works were not exempted development having regard to the provisions of Article 9(1)(a)(vii) and (viiA) of the Act, and noted that there was no evidence a licence had been granted under Section 26 of the National Monuments Act.
- 9.4.7. I note the inconsistency in the above cases. In my opinion, while it is likely that the proposed works would not result in any further excavation, alteration or demolition of the monument, this cannot be definitively concluded. As the route of the cable runs directly within the monument, I conclude that the works would comprise the excavation, alteration or demolition of any archaeological monument included in the Record of Monuments and Places. There is no evidence of any licence under S26 or consent under S14 of the National Monuments Act having been obtained. Therefore, the restriction on exemption under Article 9(1)(a)(viiA) applies.
- 9.4.8. Similarly, as the work involves excavation of a feature of archaeological interest, the protection of which is an objective of the LCDP, the restriction under Article 9(1)(a)(vii) also applies.
- 9.4.9. The works therefore are development, and not exempted development.

10.0 Appropriate Assessment Screening

I have considered the 20kV grid connection route consisting of 0.577km of overhead line and 3.636km of underground cable in light of the requirements S177U of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended.

The subject site is located within and outside Edgeworthstown c. 3km from the nearest European Site.

The proposed development comprises 0.577km of overhead line, supported by 7 No. poles at 12m height and 3.636 km of underground cable within 1m x 450mm trenches under the public road.

No nature conservation concerns were raised in the referral.

Having considered the nature, scale and location of the project, I am satisfied that it can be eliminated from further assessment because it could not have any effect on a European Site. The reason for this conclusion is as follows:

- The nature and small scale of the works
- The lack of connections to European sites other than Garriskail Bog SAC 8.2 km to south east.
- The weak connection to Garriskail Bog SAC, due to flow distance of 10km, and the presence of an existing culvert where the road crosses the connecting watercourse.

I conclude, on the basis of objective information, that the proposed development would not have a likely significant effect on any European Site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Likely significant effects are excluded and therefore Appropriate Assessment (under Section 177V of the Planning and Development Act 2000) is not required.

11.0 Recommendation

11.1. I recommend that the Commission should decide this referral in accordance with the following draft order.

WHEREAS a question has arisen as to whether a 20kV grid connection route consisting of 0.577km of overhead line and 3.636km of underground cable between the customer substation (X628, 378 Y 772,961) granted planning under REF: 23/60010 and the 38/20kV ESB substation (X 625, 508, Y 772, 744) in Lissanore, Lios an Oir, Co Longford is or is not development or is or is not exempted development:

AND WHEREAS Natural Forces Renewable Energy Limited requested a declaration on this question from Longford County Council

AND WHEREAS Longford County Council referred the question for determination by An Coimisiún Pleanála on the 28th day of April 2025:

AND WHEREAS An Coimisiún Pleanála, in considering this referral, had regard particularly to –

- (a) Sections 2(1), 3(1), 4 (2)(a)(i), 4 (4), 57 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended,
- (b) Articles 6(1) and article 9(1)(a) of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended,
- (c) Part 1 Class 26 and Class 27 of Part 1 of Schedule 2 to the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended,
- (d) the planning history of the site in particular ACP Ref 317459

AND WHEREAS An Coimisiún Pleanála has concluded that:

- (a) the provision of the overhead and underground electricity grid connection and associated works involves the carrying out of works and, therefore, constitutes development, under sections 2 and 3 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended,
- (b) the overhead and underground electricity grid connection involves works carried out by an electricity undertaker, and, having regard to the nature of those works, would come within the scope of Class 26 and Class 27 of Part 1 of Schedule 2 to the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended, and would, therefore, constitute exempted development,
- (c) none of the restrictions on exempted development provided for under section 4 (4) or section 57 (1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, apply in this case, and,
- (d) restrictions on exempted development provided for under Article 9 (1) (a)(vii) and 9(1) (a)(viiA) of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended, apply in this case, and,
- (e) none of the other restrictions on exempted development provided for under Article 9 (1)(a) of the Planning and

Development Regulations, 2001, as amended, apply in this case, and,

- (f) there are no other restrictions on exemption set out in the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and/or the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 that would apply in this instance.

NOW THEREFORE An Coimisiún Pleanála, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 5 (3) (a) of the 2000 Act, hereby decides that the proposed 20kV grid connection route consisting of 0.577km of overhead line and 3.636km of underground cable between the customer substation (X628, 378 Y 772,961) granted planning under REF: 23/60010 and the 38/20kV ESB substation (X 625, 508, Y 772, 744) in Lissanore, Lios an Oir, Co Longford is development and is not exempted development.

I confirm that this report represents my professional planning assessment, judgement and opinion on the matter assigned to me and that no person has influenced or sought to influence, directly or indirectly, the exercise of my professional judgement in an improper or inappropriate way.

Bébhinn O'Shea

Senior Planning Inspector

8th September 2025

Appendix 1: EIA Pre-Screening

Form 1 - EIA Pre-Screening

Case Reference	322413
Proposed Development Summary	A 20kV grid connection route consisting of 0.577km of overhead line and 3.636km of underground cable between the customer substation (X628, 378 Y 772,961) granted planning under REF: 23/60010 and the 38/20kV ESB substation (X 625, 508, Y 772, 744) in Lissanore, Lios an Oir, Co Longford
Development Address	Lissanore, Lios an Oir, Co Longford
	In all cases check box /or leave blank
1. Does the proposed development come within the definition of a 'project' for the purposes of EIA? (For the purposes of the Directive, "Project" means: - The execution of construction works or of other installations or schemes, - Other interventions in the natural surroundings and landscape including those involving the extraction of mineral resources)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, it is a 'Project'. Proceed to Q2. <input type="checkbox"/> No, No further action required.
2. Is the proposed development of a CLASS specified in Part 1, Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, it is a Class specified in Part 1. EIA is mandatory. No Screening required. EIAR to be requested. Discuss with ADP.	State the Class here
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, it is not a Class specified in Part 1. Proceed to Q3	
3. Is the proposed development of a CLASS specified in Part 2, Schedule 5, Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) OR a prescribed type of proposed road development under Article 8 of Roads Regulations 1994, AND does it meet/exceed the thresholds?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, the development is not of a Class Specified in Part 2, Schedule 5 or a prescribed type of proposed road	

development under Article 8 of the Roads Regulations, 1994. No Screening required.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the proposed development is of a Class and meets/exceeds the threshold. EIA is Mandatory. No Screening Required	State the Class and state the relevant threshold
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the proposed development is of a Class but is sub-threshold. Preliminary examination required. (Form 2) OR If Schedule 7A information submitted proceed to Q4. (Form 3 Required)	State the Class and state the relevant threshold

4. Has Schedule 7A information been submitted AND is the development a Class of Development for the purposes of the EIA Directive (as identified in Q3)?	
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	
No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pre-screening determination conclusion remains as above (Q1 to Q3)

Inspector: _____ **Date:** _____