

13 August 2019

15 AUG 2019
LTR DATED _____ FROM _____
LDG- _____
ABP- _____

Attention: Mr. Kieran Summers
An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
Ireland

Project Name: Cork Line Level Crossings – Railway Order Application
Project Number: 32111000

Subject: Proposed Railway Order Application under the Transport (Railway Infrastructure) Act 2001 (as amended)

Replacement of 7No. manned level crossings on the main Dublin to Cork Railway Line – Section 47B request by Córas Iompair Éireann to open mandatory pre-application consultation.

Dear Mr. Summers

I refer to the above proposed development and on behalf of Córas Iompair Éireann (CIÉ) request pre-application consultation with An Bord Pleanála (ABP) prior to submission of a Railway Order Application to eliminate/de-man 7No. Level Crossings on the Cork to Dublin Railway Line.

Location

It should be noted that 5No. of the Level Crossings are within the jurisdiction of Cork County Council and 2No. are within the jurisdiction of Limerick County Council. The crossings are located within a 15mile section of the line and straddle the Cork/Limerick County boundary.

Figure 1 (attached) provides the site locations for all of the existing level crossings, comprising:

- XC187 Fantstown (Co. Limerick);
- XC201 Thomastown (Co.Limerick);
- XC209 Ballyhea (Co.Cork);
- XC211 Newtown (Co.Cork);
- XC212 Ballycoskery (Co.Cork);
- XC215 Shinanagh (Co.Cork); and
- XC219 Buttevant (Co.Cork).

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Replacement of 7No. manned level crossings on the main Dublin to Cork Railway Line – Section 47B request by Córas Iompair Éireann to open mandatory pre-application consultation.

Background

7No. manned level crossings are in operation on the Dublin to Cork Railway Line between Limerick Junction and Mallow Stations.

In 2010/2011 concept stage schemes were developed by CIÉ for overbridge schemes to eliminate/de-man each of the level crossings. However, the project was not progressed at that stage due to lack of funding.

In 2019 CIÉ undertook a feasibility study to investigate and appraise the options for the elimination/de-manning of the aforementioned level crossings. The options were then appraised using findings from a multi-criteria analysis and a preferred concept solution was identified for each of the level crossing.

Proposed Development

Following from the 2010/2011 concept stage schemes and the 2019 feasibility study, the options currently being considered for each of the sites include:

- 1) Closure of the level crossing;
- 2) Provision of alternative access through the construction of an access road and/or overbridge; and
- 3) Upgrade to CCTV level crossing.

Jacobs has been instructed by CIÉ to review, refine and optimise the proposed solutions previously developed by CIÉ for each of the level crossing sites and is in the process of developing a preliminary design.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Railway Order Application

The Transport (Railway Infrastructure) Act 2001 (No. 55 of 2001) as amended, sets out the process required for making an application for a Railway Order. Section 37(2) lists the required documentation when making an application. This includes a requirement for:

'(e) a statement of the likely effects on the environment (referred to subsequently in this Part as an "environmental impact statement") of the proposed railway works.'

It is therefore a mandatory requirement to submit an Environment Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) with the Railway Order application.

EIA screening is not required however, scoping is necessary. On behalf of CIÉ, Jacobs is prepared a Scoping Report that will be submitted to ABP in advance of the Railway Order application.

Pre-Application Consultation

It is the purpose of this letter to request a pre-application consultation with ABP under Section 47B of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended). At this meeting, we will discuss the preliminary design for the proposed development and any planning and environmental issues that are emerging.

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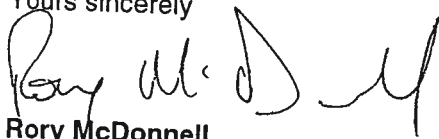
Replacement of 7No. manned level crossings on the main Dublin to Cork Railway Line – Section 47B request by Córas Iompair Éireann to open mandatory pre-application consultation.

The EIA Scoping Report is currently being prepared and it is proposed that the meeting takes place immediately after ABP is in receipt of the Scoping Report.

It is understood that the €4,500 fee for a pre-application consultation request has been paid directly to ABP on behalf of CIÉ by Mr Diarmuid Dunne of Iarnród Éireann on the 2nd August 2019.

I trust the above is in order, if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely



Rory McDonnell

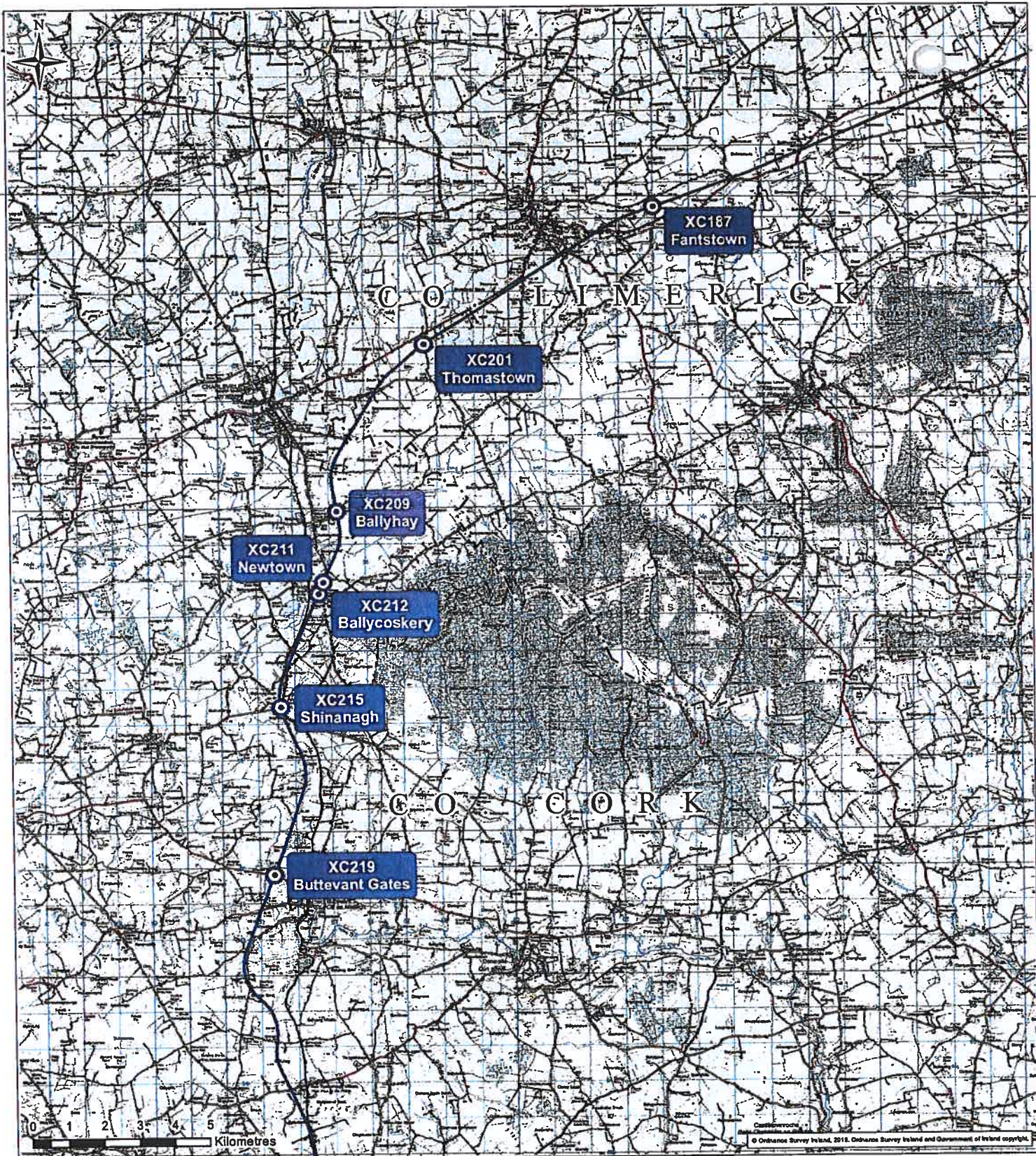
Technical Director

02890 260691

rory.mcdonnell@jacobs.com

Figure 1 – Site Location Plan

Pre-Application Consultation Fee - €4,500 (Reference 1700012576)



Legend

- Level Crossing
- Dublin to Cork Railway Line
- County Boundary

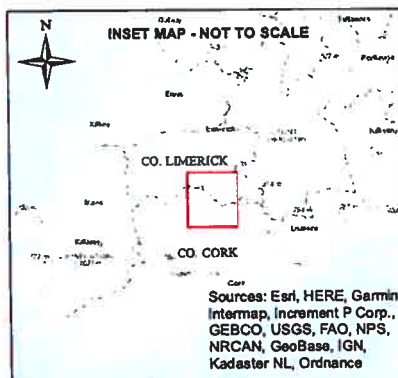


FIGURE 1

0	13/06/2019	Initial Issue	GS	RMAD	RMAD	TM
Rev	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Check'd	Rev'd	App'd
JACOBS The Rochester Building, 28 Adelaide Street, Dublin, D12 8GD UK. Tel: +44 (0)28 9033 4432 www.jacobs.com						
Client:						
Project:			CORK LINE LEVEL CROSSINGS			
Drawing Title:			SITE LOCATION PLAN			
Scale @ A3	1:100,000	DO NOT SCALE				
Jacobs No.	32111000					

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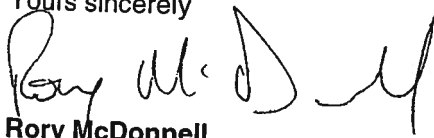
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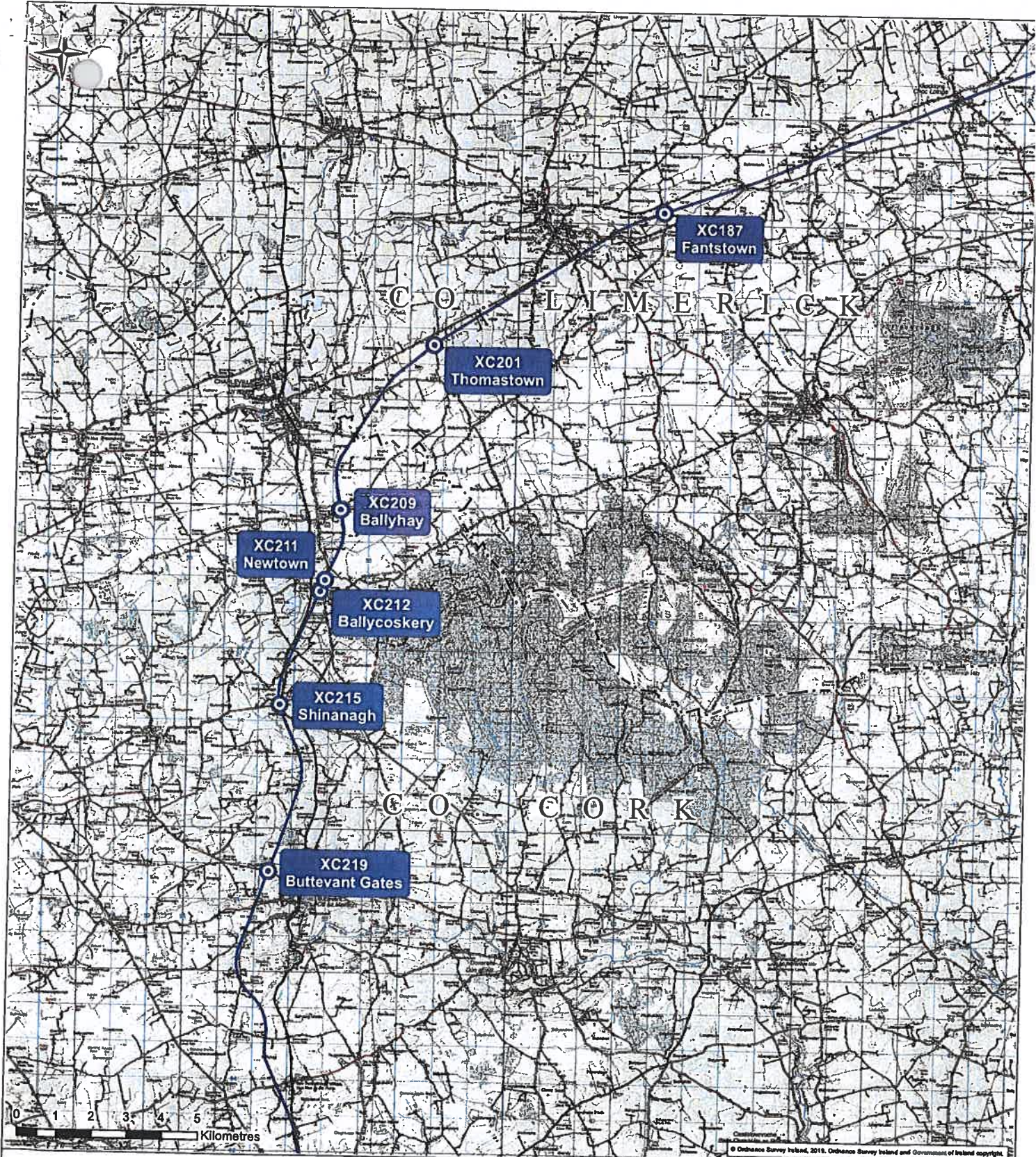
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Figure 1 – Site Location Plan




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Legend

-  Level Crossing
-  Dublin to Cork Railway Line
-  County Boundary

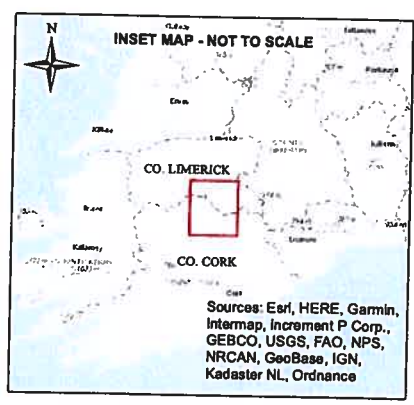



FIGURE 1

0	13/02/2018	Initial Issue	GB	RfMCD	RfMCD	TfM
Rev.	Date	Purpose of Revision	Drawn	Checked	Rev'd	Appr'd
JACOBS						
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Project: CORK LINE LEVEL CROSSINGS						
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