



Trinity
Consultants



awnconsulting

EIA Screening Report

Ballycummin 110kv Substation, Raheen, Co. Limerick

CLIENT

The Electricity
Supply Board
(ESB)

DOCUMENT REFERENCE



257501.5407

DATE

31 October 2025

DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET

Document Control Sheet		
Our Reference	257501.5407	
Original Issue Date	31 October 2025	
Client:	The Electricity Supply Board (ESB)	
Client Address:	One Dublin Airport Central Dublin Airport, Cloghran, Co. Dublin	
Revision	Revision Date	Description

Details	Written by	Approved by
Signature		
Name	Natalie Machado	Sarah Robertson
Title	Senior Environmental Consultant	Principal Consultant
Date	31 October 2025	31 October 2025

Disclaimer
This report considers the specific instructions and requirements of our client. It is not intended for third-party use or reliance, and no responsibility is accepted for any third party. The provisions in this report apply solely to this project and should not be assumed applicable to other developments without review and modification.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY	1-1
2. INTRODUCTION	2-4
2.1 EIA Screening Legislation and Guidance	2-5
2.2 Screening Methodology	2-6
2.3 Project Team and Contributors to The EIA Screening Report.....	2-8
3. SCREENING EVALUATION	3-1
3.1 Consideration under Part 1 of Schedule 5 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001.....	3-1
3.2 Consideration under Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (Threshold Development)	3-1
3.3 Consideration under Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (Sub-Threshold Development)	3-2
3.4 Conclusion – Sub Threshold Development.....	3-2
4. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION	4-3
4.1 Size and Design of The Proposed Development.....	4-3
4.2 Existing Environment and Use of Natural Resources.....	4-4
5. TYPES AND CHARACTERISTICS OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION AND MONITORING MEASURES	5-5
5.1 Biodiversity	5-6
5.1.1 Construction Phase	5-6
5.1.2 Operational Phase.....	5-7
5.2 Land, Soils, Geology, Hydrogeology and Hydrology	5-7
5.2.1 Construction Phase	5-7
5.2.2 Operational Phase.....	5-8
5.3 Air Quality and Climate	5-8
5.3.1 Construction Phase	5-8
5.3.2 Operational Phase.....	5-9
5.4 Noise and Vibration.....	5-9
5.4.1 Construction Phase	5-9
5.4.2 Operational Phase.....	5-10
5.5 Archaeological & Cultural Heritage.....	5-10
5.5.1 Construction Phase	5-10
5.5.2 Operational Phase.....	5-11
5.6 Landscape and Visual.....	5-11
5.6.1 Construction Phase	5-11
5.6.2 Operational Phase.....	5-12
5.7 Population and Human Health	5-12
5.7.1 Construction Phase	5-12
5.7.2 Operational Phase.....	5-13
5.8 Material Assets (Roads and Traffic, Waste Management and Utilities)	5-13
5.8.1 Construction Phase	5-13
5.8.2 Operational Phase.....	5-14
5.9 Interactions	5-14
6. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS	6-16
7. REFERENCES	7-17

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1-1 Summary of Findings	1-2
Table 2-1 Applicant Project Team	2-8
Table 3-1 Relevant Part 2 Schedule 5 Classes for EIA and determination of requirement of EIA (Classes 1-14 – Threshold Development)	3-1
Table 3-2 Relevant Part 2 Schedule 5 Class for EIA and determination of requirement of EIA (Class 15 – Sub-Threshold)	3-2
Table 5-1 Schedule of Impacts following EPA Guidelines	5-5

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2-1 Overall Project Layout	2-4
-----------------------------------	-----

1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Countries within the EU are required to carry out a specific form of assessment (referred to as Environmental Impact Assessment, or EIA) for certain types of developments that *may* have the potential to have significant impacts upon the environment. EIA commences with studying the likely impacts arising from a project and designing various means to mitigate these impacts and is conducted with the assistance of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). The EIAR assesses the final project and determines if, upon further analysis and project re-design there really is going to be a significant impact upon the environment or not.

In order to assist countries, the EU has created a list of certain projects that mandatorily require EIA which are called 'Annex 1' projects – referred in Ireland to 'Part 1' projects.

The project described herein is not a Part 1 project, and does not require EIA under this category

The EU has also created a second-tier list of other 'types' (in Ireland this can also be called a 'class') of projects which are not as potentially impactful to the environment, but could still, if not designed correctly have potential to significantly impact the environment. In Ireland we have established a threshold system for these classes, whereby projects at or exceeding the threshold would also mandatorily require EIA. The EU calls these projects 'Annex 2 types' and here in Ireland we call them 'Part 2 types'.

The project described herein is a Part 2 project, but it does not exceed any of the applicable thresholds, and does not require mandatory EIA under this category.

In instances where a project is a Part 2 type but does not exceed the thresholds (i.e. smaller or less intensive) there is a requirement from the EU for Ireland to determine if, despite the fact it does not exceed the threshold, there is still potential for significant impacts to the environment. This is referred to as 'EIA Screening'. In Ireland such a project is called a 'sub-threshold' project, and a Screening Assessment is needed to determine if EIA is required.

The project described herein is a Part 2 sub-threshold project, and hence is subject to EIA Screening.

This report has been prepared by environmental assessment experts to assist An Coimisiún Pleanála in determining if the project described herein is likely to have significant impacts upon the environment such that it needs to undergo EIA and hence an EIAR will need to be produced.

Under EU law, the competent authority is required to make this determination with respect to likely impacts upon the following environmental criteria:

- ▶ population and human health,
- ▶ biodiversity,
- ▶ land, soil, water, air and climate,
- ▶ material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape, and
- ▶ the interaction between the factors mentioned in subparagraphs

The conclusions presented in this report are informed by the impact assessment conducted as part of the **Environmental Report (ER)**, prepared by AWN Consulting (2025a), which accompanies and supports this application. Table 1-1 on the following page provides a summary of the findings of the ER, all of which support the conclusion that the project described herein does not require EIA.

Table 1-1 Summary of Findings

Environmental Criteria	Potential for Significant Impact to the Environment?	
	Yes	No
Population and Human Health		✓
Biodiversity		✓
Land, Soils, Geology, Hydrogeology, Hydrology		✓
Air, Climate, Noise and Vibration		✓
Material Assets (including Waste and traffic)		✓
Cultural Heritage and Archaeology		✓
Landscape and Visual Impact		✓
Cumulative		✓
Interaction		✓
EIA Screening Determination	Does the Project Described Herein Require EIA?	
	Yes	No
		✓

Conclusion: The project described herein is a Part 2 sub-threshold project and has been Screened as not requiring EIA under this category.

Where to Find Information to Support the Above Findings	
Section 2	Provides much greater detail of the legislative context for this report
Section 3	Provides more detail regarding how this project is considered to be a sub-threshold project.
Section 4	Provides an outline description of the Proposed Development. For a detailed description of the Proposed Development please refer to Section 3 of the submitted ER (AWN, 2025a).
Section 5	<p>This section presents the conclusions of the impact assessment, as informed by the submitted ER (AWN, 2025a). It evaluates the likely environmental effects arising from the Proposed Development, including cumulative impacts from other relevant projects, and considers applicable mitigation measures.</p> <p>Each environmental criterion has been assessed to determine whether the Proposed Development is likely to result in a significant environmental impact. The assessment concludes that, with the implementation of appropriate standard mitigation strategies, no significant adverse effects are anticipated across the evaluated criteria.</p>

	<p>For comprehensive details regarding the baseline environmental conditions and the assessment of potential impacts across individual environmental factors, please refer to the relevant sections of the ER report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Section 4 - Biodiversity ▶ Section 5 - Land, Soils, Geology, Hydrogeology and Hydrology ▶ Section 6 – Air Quality and Climate ▶ Section 7 – Noise and Vibration ▶ Section 8 - Archaeological & Cultural Heritage ▶ Section 9 – Landscape and Visual ▶ Section 10 - Population and Human Health ▶ Section 11 - Material Assets (Roads and Traffic, Waste management and Utilities)
--	--

2. INTRODUCTION

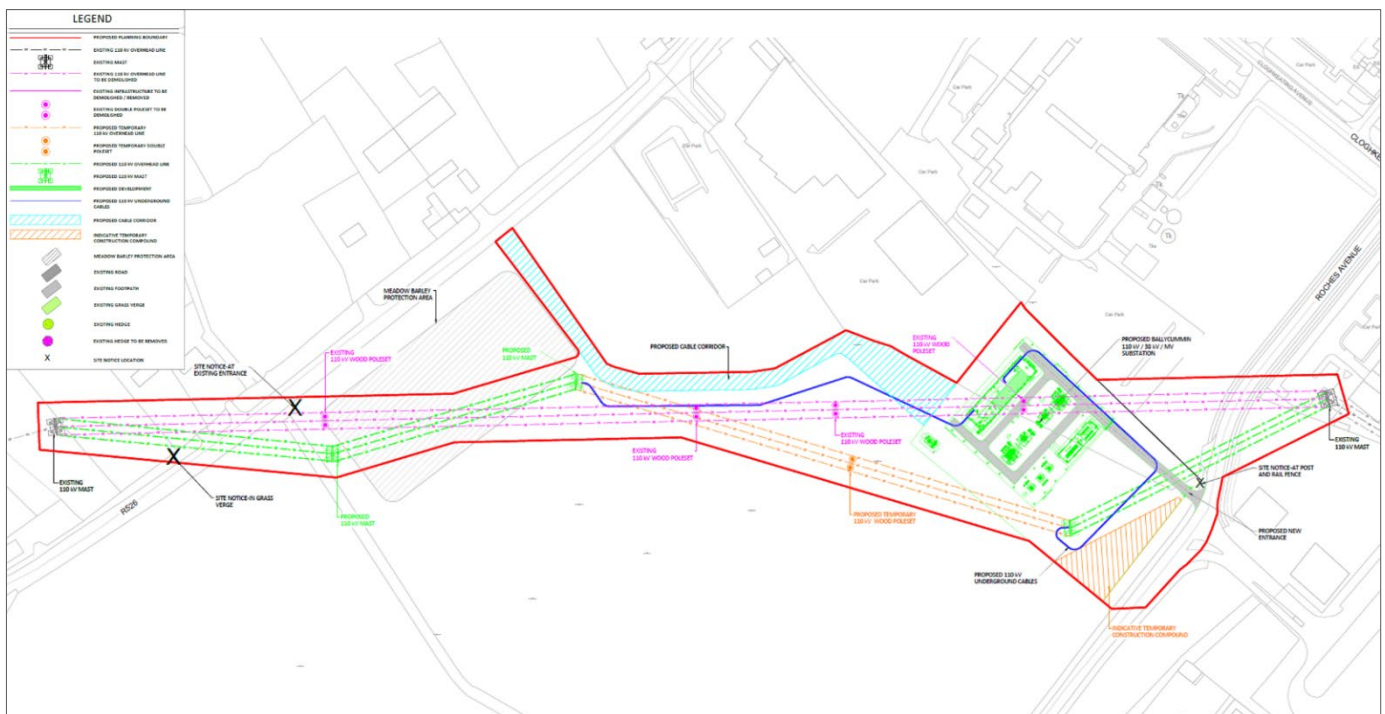
On behalf of the Electricity Supply Board (ESB) ('the Applicant'), AWN Consulting Limited ('AWN') has prepared the following Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Report in support of the Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) planning application to be submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála.

The development will comprise an indoor GIS (Gas Insulated Switchgear) double busbar C-type 110 kV transmission station containing No. 2 - 63 MVA 110/38 kV transformers and No. 2 - 15 MVA 38 kV/MV transformers. All 110 kV equipment will be designed and constructed in accordance with EirGrid standards.

The Proposed Development is being advanced by ESB Networks (ESBN) as a high-priority project to address load and supply constraints in the Greater Limerick Area. These constraints have arisen due to the existing Limerick 110/38 kV substation having reached full load capacity. The new substation is required to relieve the existing facility and to provide additional capacity to meet demand in the Greater Limerick Area, including the Raheen Business Park. The substation will be located in Ballycummin on lands within the Raheen Business Park, County Limerick.

The 'Proposed Development' site (hereafter referred to as 'the site') is outlined in red on Figure 2-1. The Proposed Development is described in further detail in Section 4 below and in Section 3 of the submitted ER (AWN, 2025a).

Figure 2-1 Overall Project Layout ¹



The purpose of this report is to provide the Competent Authority (An Coimisiún Pleanála) with the information for this sub-threshold project required under Schedule 7A² to demonstrate the likely effects on the environment, having regard to the criteria set out in Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended. This information will enable An Coimisiún Pleanála to undertake a

¹ Drawing no. PE492-184-067-002-001 included with this application

² Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)

screening determination for this sub-threshold project in respect of the need for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report for the Proposed Development.

There is a mandatory requirement for an EIA to be undertaken for types of development that meet or exceed the relevant 'thresholds' specified in Schedule 5 to the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). In addition to the mandatory requirement, there is a case-by-case assessment necessary for sub-threshold developments as they may be likely to have significant effects on the environment. If a sub-threshold development is determined to be likely to have a significant effect on the environment, then EIA will be required.

As the Proposed Development does not meet or exceed the 'thresholds' specified in Schedule 5, AWN have undertaken an assessment of the effects on the environment from the Proposed Development and has concluded that there is no likely significant environmental effects on the receiving environment, therefore a sub-threshold EIA is not required. The assessment is documented in Sections 4 and 5 and covers each aspect of the environment in accordance with guidance (refer to Section 2.1) including; Population and Human Health; Biodiversity; Land, Soils, Geology, Hydrogeology, and Hydrology; Air Quality, Climate, Noise and Vibration; Material Assets including traffic and waste; Cultural Heritage and Archaeology; Landscape and Visual Impact; and the interaction between these factors.

2.1 EIA Screening Legislation and Guidance

The legislation and guidance listed below has informed this report and the method to EIA Screening:

- ▶ Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports. (2022). Environmental Protection Agency.
- ▶ Environmental Impact Assessment Screening, OPR Practice Note PN02 (Office of the Planning Regulator, 2021).
- ▶ European Union (Planning & Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018.
- ▶ EU (2024) Interpretation of definitions of project categories of annex I and II of the EIA Directive. European Commission
- ▶ Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects – Guidance on Screening. (2017). European Commission.
- ▶ Commission notice regarding application of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU) to changes and extension of projects - Annex I.24 and Annex II.13(a), including main concepts and principles related to these (2021/C 486/01)
- ▶ Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment. (August 2018). Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.
- ▶ European Union Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU.
- ▶ Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).
- ▶ Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

The screening process followed in this report is in accordance with the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council as amended by 2014/52/EU and as transposed by the Act³ and the Regulations² and follows the format as per Section 3.2 of the EPA Guidelines (2022). The potential for significant effects of the Proposed Development has been considered against the criteria under Annex III of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU and Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 as amended.

It is noted that Article 27 of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended, states that the '*screening procedure should ensure that an environmental impact assessment is only required for projects likely to*

³ Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended)

*have significant effects on the environment*¹. This assessment is used to establish whether the Proposed Development is likely to have significant effects on the environment and if EIA is required.

Pursuant to Article 103 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, as amended, information on how the available results of other relevant assessments of the effects on the environment carried out pursuant to European Union legislation other than the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive have been taken into account and is included in this EIA Screening report.

The screening process that has been implemented, through Article 103 of the 2001 Regulations (as amended), comprises:

1. a 'preliminary examination' process (Art 103(1)), where the planning authority considers the nature, size or location of the development; and
2. (ii) a 'screening determination' process (Art 103(1B)) where the planning authority considers the information in Art 103(1A) and Schedule 7A of the 2001 Regulations, the criteria in Schedule 7 of the 2001 Regulations, and the other prescribed factors in Art 103(3) of the 2001 Regulations.

Under the 2001 Regulations², developers have the opportunity to enter directly into the screening determination process, by submitting the information specified in Article 103(1A) and Schedule 7A of the 2001 Regulations, as provided for in Art 103(1B).

The applicant has elected to provide the information specified in Article 103(1A) and Schedule 7A. The information, as provided in this report, supports a conclusion that the development, i.e. the Proposed Development, can be screened out at the 'screening determination' stage (Article 103(1B)).

Further, and in addition to the information included in this report and in the submitted ER (AWN, 2025a) report relevant to Article 103, an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has been prepared by Moore Group (2025) in relation to the likely significant effects on European sites.

2.2 Screening Methodology

The screening process followed in this report is in accordance with the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council as amended by 2014/52/EU and follows the format as per Section 3.2 of the EPA Guidelines (2022).

The key steps to screen for an EIA is set out in Section 3.2 of the EPA Guidelines (2022) are as follows:

1. Is the development a type that requires EIA?
2. Is it of a type that requires mandatory EIA?
3. Is it above the specified threshold?
4. Is it a type of project that could lead to effects? and/or
5. Is it a sensitive location? and/or
6. Could the effects be significant?

An assessment of the points 1 to 3 above has been made by AWN against the relevant legislation and thresholds set out in Schedule 5 of the Regulations, this evaluation is documented in Section 3 of this report.

In order to address Steps 4 to 6 above, an evaluation of the characteristics of the project, the sensitivity of the location of the retained development, and the potential for significant impacts has been made with regard to Schedule 7 of the Regulations² (Sections 4 to 5 of this report).

Schedule 7 of the Regulations of 2001 sets out the criteria for the Competent Authority to determine whether a development would or would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment. The criteria are broadly set out under the three main headings:

- ▶ Characteristics of Proposed Development (Refer to Sections 4 of this report and 3 of the submitted ER (AWN, 2025a)).
 - a. the size and design of the whole of the Proposed Development,
 - b. cumulation with other existing development and/or development the subject of a consent for proposed development for the purposes of section 172(1A)(b) of the Act and/or development the subject of any development consent for the purposes of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive by or under any other enactment (Section 5),
 - c. the nature of any associated demolition works,
 - d. the use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity,
 - e. the production of waste,
 - f. pollution and nuisances,
 - g. the risk of major accidents, and/or disasters which are relevant to the project concerned, including those caused by climate change, in accordance with scientific knowledge, and
 - h. the risks to human health (for example, due to water contamination or air pollution).
- ▶ Location of Proposed Development (Refer the submitted ER (AWN, 2025a)).
 - a. the existing and approved land use,
 - b. the relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground,
 - c. the absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the following areas:
 - i. wetlands, riparian areas, river mouths;
 - ii. coastal zones and the marine environment;
 - iii. mountain and forest areas;
 - iv. nature reserves and parks;
 - v. areas classified or protected under legislation, including Natura 2000 areas designated pursuant to the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive and;
 - vi. areas in which there has already been a failure to meet the environmental quality standards laid down in legislation of the European Union and relevant to the project, or in which it is considered that there is such a failure;
 - vii. densely populated areas;
 - viii. landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance.
- ▶ Types and Characteristics of Potential Impacts (Refer to Section 5 of this report and the submitted ER (AWN, 2025a))

The likely significant effects on the environment of proposed development in relation to criteria set out under paragraphs 1 and 2, with regard to the impact of the project on the factors specified in paragraph (b)(i)(I) to (V) of the definition of 'environmental impact assessment report' in section 171A of the Act, taking into account —

- a. the magnitude and spatial extent of the impact (for example, geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected),
- b. the nature of the impact,
- c. the transboundary nature of the impact,
- d. the intensity and complexity of the impact,
- e. the probability of the impact,
- f. the expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact,
- g. the cumulation of the impact with the impact of other existing and/or development the subject of a consent for proposed development for the purposes of section 172(1A)(b) of the Act and/or development the subject of any development consent for the purposes of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive by or under any other enactment, and

- h. the possibility of effectively reducing the impact.

Following a review of the EIA Directive (2011/92/EU), as amended by 2014/52/EU), Annex III of the Directive determines that the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas, which are likely to be affected by a project, must be considered for case-by-case screening. The list of criteria is identical to those stated in Schedule 7 of the Regulations of 2001 above (i.e. Characteristics of Proposed Development; Location of Proposed Development; and Types and characteristics of proposed impact).

It is important to note that with respect to Schedule 7A – (Information to be provided by the applicant or developer for the purposes of screening sub-threshold development for environmental impact assessment), states '*The compilation of the information at paragraphs 1 to 3 [of Schedule 7A] shall take into account, where relevant, the criteria set out in Schedule 7* that the main body of this report (Sections 4 and 5) will cover Schedule 7A fully (as detailed above), but it has been set out to present the information under the headings provided in Schedule 7 in order to assist the Competent Authority in their screening assessment.

2.3 Project Team and Contributors to The EIA Screening Report

This EIA Screening Report and the Proposed Development has been informed by the accompanying documents submitted with the application (and the relevant listed mitigation and monitoring measures as included therein). The preparation and co-ordination of this screening report has been completed by AWN and has relied on specialist input from the project design team and applicant, as per Table 2-1.

Table 2-1 Applicant Project Team

Role	Contributor
Planning, Architectural Design, Structural and Civil Engineering	ESB
Environmental, including: Environmental Report (ER); Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP); Resource and Waste Management Plan (RWMP).	AWN Consulting
Ecology; Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report	Moore Group
Archaeology	CRDS

This EIA Screening Report was prepared by Sarah Robertson and Natalie Machado.

Sarah Robertson is a Principal Consultant in AWN Consulting with responsibility for IED licence applications, GMM and DAFM ABP certificates. She also provides EIAR management and specialist input to EIAR chapters. Sarah has over ten years experience working in the environmental field in impact assessment, EIAR management, environmental masterplans, urban planning, waste management, specialist ecological surveys, AA screening and Natura Impact Statements. Sarah holds a BA. Hons (mod Science), MSc. and a Diploma in Environmental Engineering, and has worked in Ireland, the UK, and the USA.

Natalie Machado is a Senior Environmental Consultant with AWN Consulting and holds an MBA in Project Management & Environmental Sustainability and a BSc in Biological Sciences. Natalie specializes in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and has prepared and managed numerous Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIARs) and EIA Screenings for a diverse range of projects across Ireland. Natalie has experience managing multidisciplinary teams and also brings a background in freshwater ecotoxicology, applied ecology, and scientific research to her role.

The Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report, the conclusions of which are relied on in the ER and in this report, was compiled by Ger O'Donohoe, of Moore Group Environmental Services. Ger holds a B.Sc.

Applied Aquatic Sciences (ATU Galway, 1993) and M.Sc. Environmental Sciences (TCD, 1999) and has 30 years' experience in environmental impact assessment. He has completed numerous Appropriate Assessment Screening Reports and Natura Impact Statements on terrestrial and aquatic habitats for various development types.

3. SCREENING EVALUATION

Schedule 5 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, as amended, sets out a number of types (classes) and scales of development that require EIA.

3.1 Consideration under Part 1 of Schedule 5 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001

The Proposed Development is not of any project type listed under Part 1 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended.

3.2 Consideration under Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (Threshold Development)

In considering the wider context and the component parts of the Proposed Development, the project types of relevance to the Proposed Development from Part 2 of Schedule 5 (Classes 1 to 14)² are set out in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1 Relevant Part 2 Schedule 5 Classes for EIA and determination of requirement of EIA (Classes 1-14 – Threshold Development)

Development for the Purposes of:	Project Type?	Related Development Details	Exceeds Threshold?	Threshold Screening Conclusion
<p>3. Energy Industry</p> <p>(a) Industrial installations for the production of electricity, steam and hot water not included in Part 1 of this Schedule with a heat output of 300 megawatts or more.</p>	No	<p>The development will comprise an electrical substation that will support electricity distribution, with no energy generation involved.</p> <p>Therefore, the Proposed Development is not applicable to the outlined threshold for Schedule 5, Part 2, 3(a).</p>	N/A	The Proposed Development site is not applicable to the threshold set out for the Energy Industry category in Class 3(a); therefore, an EIA is not mandatory under this Project Class.
<p>10. Infrastructure projects</p> <p>(a) Industrial estate development projects, where the area would exceed 15 hectares.</p>	Yes	<p>The Proposed Development is located within the Raheen Business Park on a site of 5.45 ha. hectares. In this instance, the proposed substation will be located in an established industrial state, however, it will be below the 15 hectares threshold for EIA.</p> <p>The Proposed Development is therefore below the outlined thresholds for Schedule 5, Part 2, 10(a).</p>	No	The Proposed Development site is not equal to, nor does it exceed the limit, quantity or threshold set out in Class 10(a); therefore, an EIA is not mandatory under this Project Class.

As can be seen in Table 3-1 the Proposed Development is outside the mandatory requirements for EIA, and is considered to be sub-threshold for Schedule 5, Part 2, 10(a).

3.3 Consideration under Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (Sub-Threshold Development)

EIA is still required by Schedule 5, Part 2, Class 15 of the Regulations² for development which would be of a project type listed in Schedule 5, Part 2 Classes 1-14 of the Regulations², but be sub-threshold and considered likely to have significant effects on the environment, having regard to the criteria set out in Schedule 7². In considering the Proposed Development in the context of Section 3.2 above, the project type of relevance to the Proposed Development from Part 2 of Schedule 5² is Class 15 as set out in Table 3-2.

Table 3-2 Relevant Part 2 Schedule 5 Class for EIA and determination of requirement of EIA (Class 15 – Sub-Threshold)

Development for the Purposes of:	Project Type?	Related Development Details	Potential for Significant Effects?	Sub-Threshold Screening Conclusion
15. Any project listed in this Part which does not exceed a quantity, area or other limit specified in this Part in respect of the relevant class of development but which would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, having regard to the criteria set out in Schedule 7.	Yes	The Proposed Development is of a type in Part 2 (Class 10(a)) but is below the relevant threshold for Classe 10(a).	The Proposed Development is of sufficient quantum that there could be a slight potential for significant effects on the environment, having regard to the criteria set out in Schedule 7.	Seek Screening Determination

3.4 Conclusion – Sub Threshold Development

The Proposed Development is 'of a type set out in Schedule 5 which does not exceed a quantity, area or other limit specified in that Schedule in respect of the relevant class of development²'. The development is outside the mandatory requirements for EIA and is considered to be sub-threshold (Class 15) for the relevant project type (Class 10(a)).

Therefore, it is necessary to consider whether EIA is required because the development will be likely to have significant effects on the environment, even though it does not meet nor exceed the relevant thresholds in Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations².

Section 3 of the prepared EPCR (AWN, 2025a) provides detailed information on the characteristics of the Proposed Development; in order to provide information on the likelihood of the project (including construction, and operation) to have significant effects on the environment, having regard to the criteria set out in Schedule 7². Please refer to the submitted EPCR for further information on the Proposed Development characteristics.

An outline description of the Proposed Development is also included in Section 4 below.

4. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION

This section includes an outline description of the Proposed Development. For further detail on the proposed scheme including information on the proposed construction and operational phases, please refer to **Section 3 of the submitted ER (AWN, 2025a)**, which accompanies this application.

The cumulation of the Proposed Development with other existing development and/or development the subject of a consent for proposed development for the purposes of section 172(1A)(b) of the Act³ and/or development the subject of any development consent for the purposes of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive⁴ by or under any other enactment is described in Section 3.5 of the ER.

4.1 Size and Design of The Proposed Development

The Proposed Development site is situated on Roches Avenue, immediately adjacent to the Eli Lilly facility, within an area primarily occupied by industrial and commercial uses. The development will comprise an indoor GIS double busbar C-type 110 kV transmission station containing No. 2 - 63 MVA 110/38 kV transformers and No. 2 - 15 MVA 38 kV/MV transformers. All 110 kV equipment will be designed and constructed in accordance with EirGrid standards.

Associated works will also be undertaken to facilitate connection of the new substation to the transmission network. These works will involve modifications to the existing 110 kV overhead line, including the replacement of some existing structures and the underground cabling of certain sections of the line. The new station will be looped into the existing Limerick–Moneteen 110 kV transmission circuit.

The proposed development constitutes the provision of a new 110 /38 / 20 kV Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) electrical substation and will include the following elements:

- ▶ Removal of four existing 110 kV Overhead Line timber pole sets (c. 15 m in height) and c.800 m of Overhead Line conductor;
- ▶ Relocation of existing Interface Transformer;
- ▶ Construction of:
 - A new substation compound (c. 5,950 sq.m.) with a 2.6 m high palisade fencing;
 - A new 110 kV GIS building with eight 110 kV bays (c. 700 sq.m.; 12 m in height);
 - A new 38 / 20 kV GIS building with fourteen 38 kV bays and eighteen MV (20 kV) bays (c. 235 sq.m.; 7 m in height);
 - Two bundled 110 / 38 kV power transformers in transformer bays (c. 5 m high) with associated electrical equipment;
 - Two bundled 38 / 20 kV power transformers in transformer bays (c. 5 m high) with associated electrical equipment;
 - Three bundled Arc Suppression Coils (c. 4 m high) with associated electrical equipment;
 - Two new 110 kV double circuit overhead (OHL) line / cable interface end masts (c. 17m in height)
 - One new 110 kV double circuit overhead (OHL) line angle mast (c. 17 m in height)
 - One temporary 110 kV Overhead Line timber pole set (c. 16 m in height)
 - Temporary diversion of the existing 110 kV overhead line to the temporary timber pole set (c. 320 m of OHL conductor)
 - Diversion of the existing 110 kV overhead line to the new end masts (c. 510 m of OHL conductor);
 - 110 kV underground cabling between the 110 kV GIS building and the new line / cable interface end masts;
 - Associated and ancillary outdoor electrical equipment and other apparatus, including installation of underground cables and ducts;

- ▶ Site development works including provision of access roads, car parking area, lighting, telecommunications, fencing, landscaping, site services including drainage and all other ancillary works.

4.2 Existing Environment and Use of Natural Resources

The Proposed Development site area comprises a total 5.45 ha. and is situated within an area predominantly characterised by commercial and industrial land use, forming part of the wider Raheen Business Park. The surrounding environment has been substantially modified through existing and ongoing development, with established infrastructure and a connected public road network. The area designated for the proposed substation mostly comprises a mix of grassland and a temporary construction compound, including construction-related parking, which is being utilised to support ongoing construction within the Eli Lilly site (permitted developments of LCC Planning references 22/190 (as amended) and 24/61160).

The site is located within the IDA Raheen Business Park on the outskirts of Limerick City, approximately 5.2 km southeast of the city centre and around 18.4 km southeast of Shannon Airport. It is predominantly surrounded by Eli Lilly lands, with Regeneron lands to the east and a mix of stand-alone residential properties and undeveloped areas to the west. The site crosses both Roches Avenue to the east and the R526 regional road to the west.

The Environmental Report (ER), which informs this EIA screening report, provides a comprehensive overview of the existing environment, the estimated use of natural resources, and assessment of potential impacts, as outlined in its respective sections:

- ▶ **Section 4** – Biodiversity
- ▶ **Section 5** – Land, Soils, Geology, Hydrogeology and Hydrology
- ▶ **Section 6** – Air Quality and Climate
- ▶ **Section 7** – Noise and Vibration
- ▶ **Section 8** – Archaeological and Cultural Heritage
- ▶ **Section 9** – Landscape and Visual
- ▶ **Section 10** – Population and Human Health
- ▶ **Section 11** – Material Assets (Roads and Traffic, Waste Management and Utilities)

For a complete description of the existing environment and assessment of impacts, please refer to the submitted **ER (AWN, 2025a)**.

5. TYPES AND CHARACTERISTICS OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS, MITIGATION AND MONITORING MEASURES

This section sets out the likely significant effects on the environment of Proposed Development in relation to criteria set out under paragraphs 1 and 2 (as set out in Section 4 above), with regard to the impact of the project on the factors specified in paragraph (b)(i)(I) to (V) of the definition of '*environmental impact assessment report*' in section 171A of the Act³ (as amended).

The impacts outlined in Section 5 are based on findings from the Environmental Report (2025a), prepared by AWN Consulting in support of this application.

The quality, magnitude and duration of potential impacts are defined in accordance with the criteria provided in the *Guidelines on Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports* (EPA 2022) and these criteria are duplicated in Table 5-1 and assessed in Section 5.

Table 5-1 Schedule of Impacts following EPA Guidelines

Characteristic	Term	Description
Quality of Effects	Positive	A change which improves the quality of the environment
	Neutral	No effects or effects that are imperceptible, within normal bounds of variation or within the margin of forecasting error.
	Negative/Adverse	A change which reduces the quality of the environment
Describing the Significance of Effects	Imperceptible	An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences
	Not significant	An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences
	Slight Effects	An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities
	Moderate Effects	An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner that is consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends
	Significant Effects	An effect, which by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment
	Very Significant	An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity significantly alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment.
	Profound Effects	An effect which obliterates sensitive characteristics
Describing the Extent and Context of Effects	Extent	Describe the size of the area, the number of sites, and the proportion of a population affected by an effect.
	Context	Describe whether the extent, duration, or frequency will conform or contrast with established (baseline) conditions (is it the biggest, longest effect ever?)
Describing the Probability of Effects	Likely Effects	The effects that can reasonably be expected to occur because of the planned project if all mitigation measures are properly implemented.
	Unlikely Effects	The effects that can reasonably be expected not to occur because of the planned project if all mitigation measures are properly implemented.
Describing the Duration and Frequency of Effects	Momentary Effects	Effects lasting from seconds to minutes
	Brief Effects	Effects lasting less than a day
	Temporary Effects	Effects lasting less than a year
	Short-term Effects	Effects lasting one to seven years.
	Medium-term Effects	Effects lasting seven to fifteen years

	Long-term Effects	Effects lasting fifteen to sixty years
	Permanent Effects	Effects lasting over sixty years
	Reversible Effects	Effects that can be undone, for example through remediation or restoration
	Frequency of Effects	Describe how often the effect will occur. (once, rarely, occasionally, frequently, constantly – or hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, annually)
Describing the Type of Effects ^a	Indirect Effects (a.k.a secondary or Off-site effects)	Effects on the environment, which are not a direct result of the project, often produced away from the project site or because of a complex pathway.
	Cumulative Effects	The addition of many minor or insignificant effects, including effects of other projects, to create larger, more significant effects.
	'Do Nothing Effects	The environment as it would be in the future should the subject project not be carried out
	'Worst case' Effects	The effects arising from a project in the case where mitigation measures substantially fail
	Indeterminable Effects	When the full consequences of a change in the environment cannot be described
	Irreversible Effects	When the character, distinctiveness, diversity, or reproductive capacity of an environment is permanently lost
	Residual Effects	The degree of environmental change that will occur after the proposed mitigation measures have taken effect
	Synergistic Effects	Where the resultant effect is of greater significance than the sum of its constituents (e.g. combination of Sox and NOx to produce smog)

- a. For the purposes of facilitating the Competent Authority in conducting Environmental Impact Assessment as defined by Annex 1 of the EU Directive⁴, the terms 'imperceptible effects', 'not significant effects', 'slight effects', and 'moderate effects' used within this report, while exhibiting varying degrees of impact, are all considered to be without significant consequence.

5.1 Biodiversity

Section 4 of the ER (AWN, 2025a) was prepared by the project ecologist from Moore Group and assesses and evaluates the potential impacts of the development on biodiversity aspects of the site and surrounding area. In assessing likely potential and predicted effects, account is taken of both the importance of the attributes and the predicted scale and duration of the likely effects.

As outlined in Section 4.4 of the ER (AWN, 2025a), according to the AA Screening prepared by Moore Group (2025) for the Proposed Development, significant effects on any European sites as a result of the Proposed Development can be ruled out and potential significant effects on European sites can be excluded at screening stage..

5.1.1 Construction Phase

Section 4.4.1 of the ER (AWN, 2025a) assesses the potential impacts of the Proposed Development on biodiversity during the construction phase. The report highlights that construction activities may result in habitat loss, increased site lighting, and disturbance to local fauna, particularly bats and birds. In a worst-case scenario, the ER concludes that the potential impact would be of **negative** quality and **slight** significance.

However, by implementing the mitigation and monitoring measures detailed in Section 4.5.1 and Appendix B (Schedule of Mitigation and Monitoring Measures) of the ER, as well as those outlined in the CEMP

⁴ European Union Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU

(AWN, 2023b) prepared for the Proposed Development, any impacts will be limited to **short-term**, **negative** and **not-significant** effects.

In terms of Cumulative Impact, Section 4.8 of the ER states that with the employment of appropriate mitigation measures with regard to local biodiversity, the cumulative effect during construction is considered to be **negative**, **imperceptible** and **short-term**.

Having regard to the foregoing, there is no likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the Proposed Development in respect of biodiversity impacts during the construction phase. Therefore, a requirement for sub-threshold EIA does not arise.

5.1.2 Operational Phase

Section 4.4.2 of the ER (AWN, 2025a) assesses the potential impacts of the Proposed Development on biodiversity during the operational phase. The report states that the overall site development will result in a neutral modification of habitats which have already been modified with development.

A Landscape Plan (Macro Works, 2025a) has been developed to enhance biodiversity wherever feasible. Key measures include the preservation of existing laneway hedgerows to support local ecosystems, and the strategic planting of native species and wildflowers in suitable areas. Furthermore, the development will include bat-sensitive lighting to minimise disturbance to bat populations during operations.

Section 4.7.2 of the ER states that the Proposed Development will result in a **positive**, **slight** and **long-term** residual effect on biodiversity.

In terms of Cumulative Impact, Section 4.8 of the ER states that with the employment of appropriate mitigation measures with regard to local biodiversity, the cumulative effect during operation is considered to be **neutral**, **imperceptible** and **long-term**.

Having regard to the foregoing, there is no likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the Proposed Development in respect of biodiversity impacts during the operational phase. Therefore, a requirement for sub-threshold EIA does not arise.

5.2 Land, Soils, Geology, Hydrogeology and Hydrology

Section 5 of the ER (AWN, 2025a) assesses and evaluates the potential impacts of the development on land, soils, geology, hydrogeology and hydrology aspects of the site and surrounding area. In assessing likely potential and predicted effects, account is taken of both the importance of the attributes and the predicted scale and duration of the likely effects.

5.2.1 Construction Phase

Section 5.4.1 of the ER (AWN, 2025a) assesses the potential impacts of the Proposed Development on land, soils, geology, hydrogeology and hydrology during the construction phase. The report states that construction activities may pose a risk to the environment in terms of soils, groundwater and surface water contamination as result of spills, leaks, contaminated discharges and contaminated runoff, among others. In a worst-case scenario, the ER concludes that the potential impact would be **negative**, **slight**, and **short-term**.

However, by implementing the mitigation and monitoring measures detailed in Section 5.5.1 and Appendix B (Schedule of Mitigation and Monitoring Measures) of the ER, as well as those outlined in the CEMP (AWN, 2023b) and RWMP (AWN, 2025c) prepared for the Proposed Development, any impacts will be limited to **short-term**, **neutral** and **imperceptible** effects with a **negligible** magnitude.

In terms of Cumulative Impact, Section 5.7 of the ER states that no significant effects between the Proposed Development and committed/ permitted developments will occur with respect to soils, geology, hydrogeology, and hydrology during the construction phase.

Having regard to the foregoing, there is no likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the Proposed Development in respect of land, soils, geology, hydrogeology, and hydrology during the construction phase. Therefore, a requirement for sub-threshold EIA does not arise.

5.2.2 Operational Phase

Section 5.4.2 of the ER (AWN, 2025a) evaluates the potential impacts of the Proposed Development on land, soils, geology, hydrogeology, and hydrology during the operational phase. According to the report, the expansion of hardstanding surfaces will reduce the extent of permeable ground, resulting in increased surface water runoff. Additionally, the presence of a proposed backup generator and power transformers introduce a potential risk of spills and leaks, which could further affect the surrounding environment.

However, mitigation by design including the provision of an adequate surface water drainage designed to mimic the natural drainage patterns along with the provision and bunding will result in a ***neutral, imperceptible, and long-term*** potential impact.

During operations, the maintenance of appropriate generator bunding and surface water drainage system, including interceptors, and foul sewer is recommended to minimise any accidental discharges to soil or groundwater. As outlined in Section 5.6.2 of the ER, residual impacts are anticipated to be ***neutral, imperceptible, and long-term*** with a ***negligible*** magnitude.

In terms of Cumulative Impact, Section 5.7 of the ER states that no significant effects between the Proposed Development and committed/ permitted developments will occur with respect to soils, geology, hydrogeology, and hydrology during the operational phase.

Having regard to the foregoing, there is no likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the Proposed Development in respect of land, soils, geology, hydrogeology, and hydrology impacts during the operational phase. Therefore, a requirement for sub-threshold EIA does not arise.

5.3 Air Quality and Climate

Section 6 of the ER (AWN, 2025a) assesses and evaluates the potential impacts of the development on air quality and climate aspects. In assessing likely potential and predicted effects, account is taken of both the importance of the attributes and the predicted scale and duration of the likely effects.

5.3.1 Construction Phase

Section 6.4.1 of the ER (AWN, 2025a) evaluates the potential impacts of the Proposed Development on air quality and climate during the construction phase. According to the report, the greatest potential impact on air quality during the construction phase of the Proposed Development is from construction dust emissions and the potential for nuisance dust resulting in a ***direct, short-term, negative and slight*** impact in the absence of mitigation. There will be also a minor potential for traffic emissions to affect air quality and construction greenhouse gas emissions to affect climate with a ***short-term, negative and imperceptible*** effect for both identified potential impacts.

As per Section 6.6.1 of the ER, by implementing the mitigation measures detailed in Section 6.5.1 and Appendix B (Schedule of Mitigation and Monitoring Measures) of the ER, as well as those outlined in the CEMP (AWN, 2023b) prepared for the Proposed Development, impacts to air quality and climate will be no greater than ***negative, imperceptible and short-term*** during construction phase.

In terms of Cumulative Impact, Section 6.7 of the ER states that in the event of simultaneous construction happening no significant effects between the Proposed Development and committed/ permitted developments will occur with respect to air quality and climate.

Having regard to the foregoing, there is no likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the Proposed Development in respect of air quality and climate impacts during the construction phase. Therefore, a requirement for sub-threshold EIA does not arise.

5.3.2 Operational Phase

Section 6.4.2 of the ER (AWN, 2025a) evaluates the potential impacts of the Proposed Development on air quality and climate during the operational phase. According to the report, once operational, the proposed development will not introduce any significant emission sources that could adversely affect air quality, nor will the operational traffic emissions be of sufficient quantum to result in significant impact. The development will also facilitate the access and implementation of decarbonized electricity and achievement of key ESB Networks' Net Zero objectives of and Ireland's climate related policies and targets. Potential impacts during operations are anticipated to be *neutral* to *positive* and *long-term* for both air quality and climate.

Section 6.5.2 of the ER states that no mitigation is proposed for the operation phase of the proposed development. Therefore, residual impacts will remain *neutral* to *positive* and *long-term* during operations (Section 6.6.2 of the ER).

In terms of Cumulative Impact, Section 6.7 of the ER states that in the event of simultaneous construction happening no significant effects between the Proposed Development and committed/ permitted developments will occur with respect to air quality and climate.

Having regard to the foregoing, there is no likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the Proposed Development in respect of air quality and climate impacts during the operational phase. Therefore, a requirement for sub-threshold EIA does not arise.

5.4 Noise and Vibration

Section 7 of the ER (AWN, 2025a) assesses and evaluates the potential impacts of the development with respect to noise and vibration. In assessing likely potential and predicted effects, account is taken of both the importance of the attributes and the predicted scale and duration of the likely effects.

An environmental noise survey and a noise model were undertaken to support the conclusions of the noise impact assessment.

5.4.1 Construction Phase

Section 7.4.1 of the ER (AWN, 2025a) evaluates the potential impacts of the Proposed Development with respect to noise and vibration during the construction phase. According to the report, due to the large distances between identified areas of construction works, the associated noise levels at the nearest noise sensitive receivers are relatively low. During works on mast sites, predicted noise levels range from negligible to minor in significance. Vehicle movements during construction are not expected to represent a large increase in the total number of vehicle on surrounding roads.

With respect to vibration impacts, the resultant vibration levels are expected to be well below a level that would cause disturbance to building occupants or even be perceptible.

The effect on the noise environment due to construction activities will be transient in nature and good practice noise reduction measures will be implemented to minimise the effect of construction activities on the surroundings.

The potential noise and vibration impacts are anticipated to be ***negative, slight to moderate*** and ***short-term***. The implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in Section 7.6.1 and Appendix B (Schedule of Mitigation and Monitoring Measures) of the ER, as well as those outlined in the CEMP (AWN, 2023b) prepared for the Proposed Development will result in not significant impacts.

In terms of Cumulative Impact, Section 7.5.1 of the ER states that on the basis that the majority of construction works will take place within the substation site footprint, the potential for significant cumulative effects is low, even in the scenario that other construction works are ongoing simultaneously, due to the large separation distances to the nearest NSLs and the industrial and commercial nature of the surroundings and the associated low sensitivity to noise in this area.

Having regard to the foregoing, there is no likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the Proposed Development in respect of noise and vibration impacts during the construction phase. Therefore, a requirement for sub-threshold EIA does not arise.

5.4.2 Operational Phase

Section 7.4.2 of the ER (AWN, 2025a) evaluates the potential impacts of the Proposed Development with respect to noise and vibration during the operational phase. According to the report, the assessment of operational noise levels at the nearest identified NSLs are significantly below the background noise levels for day and night-time, therefore it is expected that there will be no negative adverse impact as a result of the operation of the identified plant items with a ***neutral, imperceptible*** and ***long-term*** potential impact..

In terms of Cumulative Impact, Section 7.5.2 of the ER states that during the operational phase, the predicted noise emissions associated with the proposed development are of a negligible magnitude and as such, even when added to existing plant noise prevailing in the area, the cumulative noise level of all emissions will not increase. There will be also no potential for negative traffic noise cumulative effects.

Having regard to the foregoing, there is no likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the Proposed Development in respect of noise and vibration impacts during the operational phase. Therefore, a requirement for sub-threshold EIA does not arise.

5.5 Archaeological & Cultural Heritage

Section 8 of the ER (AWN, 2025a) was prepared by the project archaeologist from CRDS and assesses and evaluates the potential impacts of the development with respect to archaeological & cultural heritage. In assessing likely potential and predicted effects, account is taken of both the importance of the attributes and the predicted scale and duration of the likely effects.

A site walkover survey was undertaken to support the conclusions of the archaeological & cultural heritage impact assessment.

5.5.1 Construction Phase

Section 8.4.1 of the ER (AWN, 2025a) evaluates the potential impacts of the Proposed Development with respect to archaeological & cultural heritage during the construction phase. According to the report, given the number of archaeological sites found in previous archaeological investigations at the site, there is the potential for further features to be encountered during ground disturbance of greenfield areas. Should such features occur, they will be negatively impacted on by construction works with a potential ***negative, slight*** and ***permanent*** impact.

As per Section 8.6.1 of the ER, by implementing the mitigation measures detailed in Section 8.5.1, also included in Appendix B (Schedule of Mitigation and Monitoring Measures) of the ER, impacts to

archaeological & cultural heritage will be ***neutral, not significant*** and ***permanent*** during construction phase.

In terms of Cumulative Impact, Section 8.7.1 of the ER states that during the construction phase, there is low potential for cumulative impact as the lands on which the Proposed Development is sited have been extensively and significantly developed in the past. However, the excavation of any archaeological features uncovered during archaeological investigations and monitoring of construction works will add knowledge to the academic record with a ***permanent, moderate, positive*** net cumulative impact from the academic knowledge gained from the excavation of these features.

Having regard to the foregoing, there is no likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the Proposed Development in respect of archaeological and cultural heritage impacts during the construction phase. Therefore, a requirement for sub-threshold EIA does not arise.

5.5.2 Operational Phase

Section 8.4.2 of the ER (AWN, 2025a) evaluates the potential impacts of the Proposed Development with respect to archaeological and cultural heritage during the operational phase. According to the report, no impacts on archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage are expected as a result of the operational phase of the Proposed Development.

As such, no mitigation measures are required, no residual effects are anticipated and no potential for cumulative impact will occur as there will be no disturbance to ground during the operational phase.

Having regard to the foregoing, there is no likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the Proposed Development in respect of archaeological and cultural heritage impacts during the operational phase. Therefore, a requirement for sub-threshold EIA does not arise.

5.6 Landscape and Visual

Section 9 of the ER (AWN, 2025a) assesses and evaluates the potential impacts of the development with respect to landscape and visual. In assessing likely potential and predicted effects, account is taken of both the importance of the attributes and the predicted scale and duration of the likely effects.

5.6.1 Construction Phase

Section 9.4.1 of the ER (AWN, 2025a) evaluates the potential impacts of the Proposed Development with respect to landscape and visual during the construction phase. According to the report, there is potential for negative impacts due to the change of landscape of the green area to the north of the Eli Lilly site into a construction compound. There will be also the potential for negative visual impacts as the proposed substation compound is directly adjacent to the road and lacks substantial screening, making construction works visually exposed. Overall, without the implementation of mitigation measures, it is anticipated that landscape and visual impacts will be ***negative, slight, and short-term*** during the construction phase of the Proposed Development.

However, by implementing the mitigation measures detailed in Section 9.5.1 and Appendix B (Schedule of Mitigation and Monitoring Measures) of the ER, as well as those outlined in the CEMP (AWN, 2023b) prepared for the Proposed Development, landscape and visual impacts will be no greater than ***negative, not significant*** and ***short-term*** during construction.

In terms of Cumulative Impact, Section 9.7.1 of the ER states that potential cumulative impacts are expected to be not significant, short-term in nature and effectively managed through coordinated mitigation efforts.

Having regard to the foregoing, there is no likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the Proposed Development in respect of landscape and visual impacts during the construction phase. Therefore, a requirement for sub-threshold EIA does not arise.

5.6.2 Operational Phase

Section 9.4.2 of the ER (AWN, 2025a) evaluates the potential impacts of the Proposed Development with respect to landscape and visual during the operational phase. According to the report, the Proposed Development will integrate into the largely modified industrial setting of the Raheen area and will not appear visually intrusive or out of character. Additionally, the proposed substation will not be visible from the nearest sensitive receptors (residential dwellings) located along the R526 Road and visibility from the Roches Avenue will be screened via boundary planting. Meadow areas featuring native species will also be provided, reducing potential negative landscape impacts from the change of a previous greenfield into an electrical substation.

The overall potential impact on landscape and visual during operations is considered ***negative, imperceptible, and long-term***. To ensure the successful establishment of the landscape proposals, the operational phase must implement monitoring and post-planting care measures in accordance with the Landscape Management and Maintenance Schedule (Macro Works, 2025b) submitted with this application (Section 9.5.2 of the ER).

In terms of Cumulative Impact, Section 9.7.2 of the ER states that it is anticipated that no significant cumulative impacts will arise during its operational phase, particularly given the existing industrial context and the nature of surrounding developments.

Having regard to the foregoing, there is no likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the Proposed Development in respect of landscape and visual impacts during the operational phase. Therefore, a requirement for sub-threshold EIA does not arise.

5.7 Population and Human Health

Section 10 of the ER (AWN, 2025a) assesses and evaluates the potential impacts of the development with respect to human health and population. In assessing likely potential and predicted effects, account is taken of both the importance of the attributes and the predicted scale and duration of the likely effects.

5.7.1 Construction Phase

Section 10.4.1 of the ER (AWN, 2025a) evaluates the potential impacts of the Proposed Development with respect to human health and population during the construction phase. According to the report, during the construction phase the Proposed Development will indirectly generate a positive impact on the economy and employment of the local and wider area. There will be also potential negative impacts due to the risk of accidental pollution incidences from spills and leaks, suspended solids and wastewater arising from accidental discharge from on-site toilets and washrooms. Negative impacts also may arise from construction dust emissions, noise emissions and traffic congestion on roads, increased queuing, increased conflict between pedestrians / cyclists and vehicular traffic and severance of pedestrian and cycle routes.

Overall, it is considered that without the implementation of mitigation measures, the impact on human health and population as a result of the Proposed Development will be ***imperceptible to not significant, negative, and short-term*** during construction phase.

However, by implementing the mitigation measures detailed in Section 10.5.1 and Appendix B (Schedule of Mitigation and Monitoring Measures) of the ER, as well as those outlined in the CEMP (AWN, 2023b) prepared for the Proposed Development, population and human health impacts will be no greater than ***imperceptible, negative, and short-term*** during construction.

In terms of Cumulative Impact, Section 10.7 of the ER states that no significant cumulative impacts are expected to arise during either the construction or operational phases of the project.

Having regard to the foregoing, there is no likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the Proposed Development in respect of population and human health impacts during the construction phase. Therefore, a requirement for sub-threshold EIA does not arise.

5.7.2 Operational Phase

Section 10.4.2 of the ER (AWN, 2025a) evaluates the potential impacts of the Proposed Development with respect to human health and population during the construction phase. According to the report, once operational the Proposed Development will be typically unmanned and will have no effect on increased employment opportunities in the area. Proposed operations will not involve any main emission sources that could adversely affect air quality and will not represent any intrusive noise to the closest residential NSLs. All surface water generated at the site during operations will be catered within the proposed surface water drainage network and foul water discharges will be minimal and will be directed into the existing municipal foul sewer network. The design ensures there is no risk of contamination that could pose a threat to human health.

The development will represent an intensification of the existing land use in its vicinity and is therefore considered to be a consistent form of development in the context of the overall study area. Additionally, the operational phase will result in a negligible change in the traffic environment.

Overall, it is considered that without the implementation of mitigation measures, the impact on human health and population as result of the Proposed Development will be *imperceptible, neutral to negative*, and *long-term* during operational phase. As per Section 10.5.1 of the ER, no mitigation is deemed required for the operational phase of the Proposed Development in terms of impacts to human health and populations.

In terms of Cumulative Impact, Section 10.7 of the ER states that no significant cumulative impacts are expected to arise during either the construction or operational phases of the project.

Having regard to the foregoing, there is no likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the Proposed Development in respect of population and human health impacts during the operational phase. Therefore, a requirement for sub-threshold EIA does not arise.

5.8 Material Assets (Roads and Traffic, Waste Management and Utilities)

Section 11 of the ER (AWN, 2025a) assesses and evaluates the potential impacts of the development with respect to material assets including roads and traffic, waste management and utilities. In assessing likely potential and predicted effects, account is taken of both the importance of the attributes and the predicted scale and duration of the likely effects.

5.8.1 Construction Phase

Section 11.4.1 of the ER (AWN, 2025a) evaluates the potential impacts of the Proposed Development with respect to material assets during the construction phase. According to the report, without the implementation of mitigation measures the Proposed Development has the potential to adversely affect local traffic conditions. This includes increased congestion, extended queuing times, irregular parking behaviour, and heightened safety risks for other road users. Additionally, improper management and storage of waste materials could result in littering and pollution, not only within the development site but also impacting adjacent areas. Also, there is the potential for the surface water network being impacted by contaminated discharges, and for temporary disruption of service to occur.

Overall, without mitigation the potential impacts on material assets are anticipated to be ***short-term, negative*** and ***not significant***.

By implementing the mitigation measures detailed in Section 11.5.1 and Appendix B (Schedule of Mitigation and Monitoring Measures) of the ER, as well as those outlined in the CEMP (AWN, 2023b) and RWMP (AWN, 2025c) prepared for the Proposed Development, impacts on material assets will be no greater than ***imperceptible, negative, and short-term*** during construction.

In terms of Cumulative Impact, Section 11.7.1 of the ER states that no significant cumulative impacts are expected to arise during the construction phase of the project.

Having regard to the foregoing, there is no likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the Proposed Development in respect impacts on material assets impacts during the construction phase. Therefore, a requirement for sub-threshold EIA does not arise.

5.8.2 Operational Phase

Section 11.4.2 of the ER (AWN, 2025a) evaluates the potential impacts of the Proposed Development with respect to material assets during the operational phase. According to the report, the proposed facility will typically operate without on-site personnel, resulting in minimal changes to existing traffic patterns. Operational traffic is expected to remain consistent with current baseline levels. Similarly, waste generation will be limited to standard office and domestic waste, with all materials managed in accordance with established waste separation protocols. As such, the development is not anticipated to have any adverse impact related to operational waste.

Given the unmanned nature of the substation, foul water discharges and overall water consumption will be negligible, posing no risk to the public water network. Furthermore, a suitably designed surface water drainage system will be implemented, ensuring no potential for negative environmental impact.

Once operational, the substation will play a vital role in enhancing energy security within the Raheen area. It will contribute to relieving load pressures and addressing supply constraints on the Limerick 110/38 kV medium-voltage network, thereby delivering a positive and strategic improvement to the region's electrical infrastructure with an overall ***neutral, imperceptible and long-term*** impact on the surface water infrastructure, foul infrastructure and on water supply and a ***positive, moderate and long-term*** impact on the electrical infrastructure.

As per section 1.5.1, no mitigation is deemed necessary during the operational phase of the Proposed Development.

In terms of Cumulative Impact, Section 11.7.2 of the ER states that once operational the Proposed Development will have a positive impact on the local electrical infrastructure as it will assist in alleviating loading pressures and supply constraints on the Limerick 110/38 kV medium-voltage network. Therefore, cumulative impacts are expected to have a positive quality and not significant significance.

Having regard to the foregoing, there is no likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the Proposed Development in respect of impacts on material assets during the operational phase. Therefore, a requirement for sub-threshold EIA does not arise.

5.9 Interactions

Section 12 of the ER (AWN, 2025a) evaluates the potential for interactions between the assessed environmental aspects as a result of the Proposed Development during its construction and operational phases.

As per Section 12.1.1 of the ER, the construction phase of the Proposed Development presents potential risks to human health, air quality and climate, biodiversity, and residential amenity as a result of interactions with noise, vibration, dust emissions, waste mismanagement, sediment runoff, and increased traffic. However, these risks are short-term, and the implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in the ER, CEMP and RWMP (AWN, 2025a, 2025b, 2025c) will ensure that no significant impacts and negative interactions will occur.

In terms of neutral interactions, Section 12.1.2 states that no significant impacts on human health are expected during construction or operation due to the absence of sensitive receptors like groundwater wells or direct water pathways. Operational drainage is designed to prevent runoff and flooding, and traffic changes will be minimal resulting in neutral interaction with air quality, climate, noise, and vibration.

The excavation of any archaeological features uncovered during the construction phase will cause a positive interaction with archaeology and population as it will enrich cultural and historical understanding (Section 12.1.3 of the ER). The development will also facilitate the access and implementation of decarbonized electricity, resulting in a positive interaction between material assets and air quality and climate. Furthermore, during the operational phase of the Proposed Development, the ongoing maintenance and maturation of the proposed landscape measures will support on-site biodiversity

6. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Proposed Development and component parts have been considered against the thresholds outlined in Schedule 5 in the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). On the basis of the evaluation set out in Section 3 an EIA for the Proposed Development is not mandatory; the Proposed Development is considered to be a sub-threshold development and therefore there is discretion over the need to undertake EIA and seek the submission of an EIAR with the planning application.

This EIA Screening Report provides the information required under Schedule 7A to demonstrate the likely effects on the environment, having regard to the criteria set out in Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended. This report considers whether as per the Commission Guidance⁵, the EPA Guidance⁶ and the OPR Practice Note⁷ the Proposed Development '*is likely to have significant effects on the environment*' as per the criteria set out in Schedule 7².

The competent authority is required to assess whether the Proposed Development is likely to have significant effects on the environment in order to determine whether EIA and the submission of an EIA Report is required. The information necessary to deliver a Screening Determination has been provided in this report and the methodology used has been informed by the available guidance, legislation and Directives.

AWN has considered the Proposed Development and assessed the potential for significant environmental effects and the need for EIA, which is documented in Sections 3, 4 and 5. The continued implementation of the mitigations included in the submitted ER (AWN, 2025a), CEMP (AWN, 2025b) and RWMP (AWN, 2025c) and compliance with planning conditions will prevent potential short-term nuisances (such as dust, noise and vibration, and traffic). As appropriate drainage and attenuation is proposed, there is no risk for water contamination or offsite flooding.

The Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report (Moore Group, 2025) noted that there is no connectivity to any European sites within the potential zone of Influence.

It is concluded, based on the evidence documented in Sections 4 and 5, that this Schedule 5, Part 2, Class 15² project is **not** considered likely to have significant effects on the environment (direct, indirect or cumulatively with other development), having regard to the criteria set out in Schedule 7², and therefore it is considered that Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is **not required** in this instance.

⁵ EU (2017) Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects – Guidance on Screening. (2017). European Commission.

⁶ EPA (2022) 'Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports', EPA

⁷ OPR (2021) Environmental Impact Assessment Screening, OPR Practice Note PN02, Office of the Planning Regulator, 2021

7. REFERENCES

- ▶ EU (2017a) Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects Guidance on Screening. EU Luxembourg: 2017.
- ▶ EU (2017b) Guidance on the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report. EU Luxembourg: 2017.
- ▶ EC (2017) Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects – Guidance on Screening. European Commission.
- ▶ EC (2021) Commission notice regarding application of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU) to changes and extension of projects - Annex I.24 and Annex II.13(a), including main concepts and principles related to these (2021/C 486/01)
- ▶ DHPLG (2018) Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment. Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.
- ▶ EC (2017) Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects: Guidance on the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, European Commission, 2017 <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/eia-support.htm>
- ▶ EU (2024) Interpretation of definitions of project categories of annex I and II of the EIA Directive. European Commission
- ▶ OPR (2021) Environmental Impact Assessment Screening, OPR Practice Note PN02 (Office of the Planning Regulator).
- ▶ EPA (2022) Environmental Protection Agency. Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports. EPA.
- ▶ TII (2011) Guidelines for the Treatment of Air Quality During the Planning and Construction of National Road Schemes. Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- ▶ Environmental Report (ER) , Ballycummin 110 kV Substation. AWN. 2025a.
- ▶ Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), Ballycummin 110 kV Substation. AWN. 2025b.
- ▶ Resource & Waste Management Plan (RWMP), Ballycummin 110 kV Substation. AWN. 2025c.
- ▶ Report for the purposes of Appropriate Assessment Screening, Ballycummin 110kV Substation. Moore Group. 2025.
- ▶ Landscape Plan. Ballycummin 110 kV Substation. Macro Works. 2025a.
- ▶ Landscape Management and Maintenance Schedule. Ballycummin 110kV Substation. Macro Works. 2025b.
- ▶ Engineering Services Report. Ballycummin 110 kV Substation. ESB Networks. 2025a.
- ▶ Flood Risk Assessment. Ballycummin 110 kV Substation. ESB Networks. 2025b.