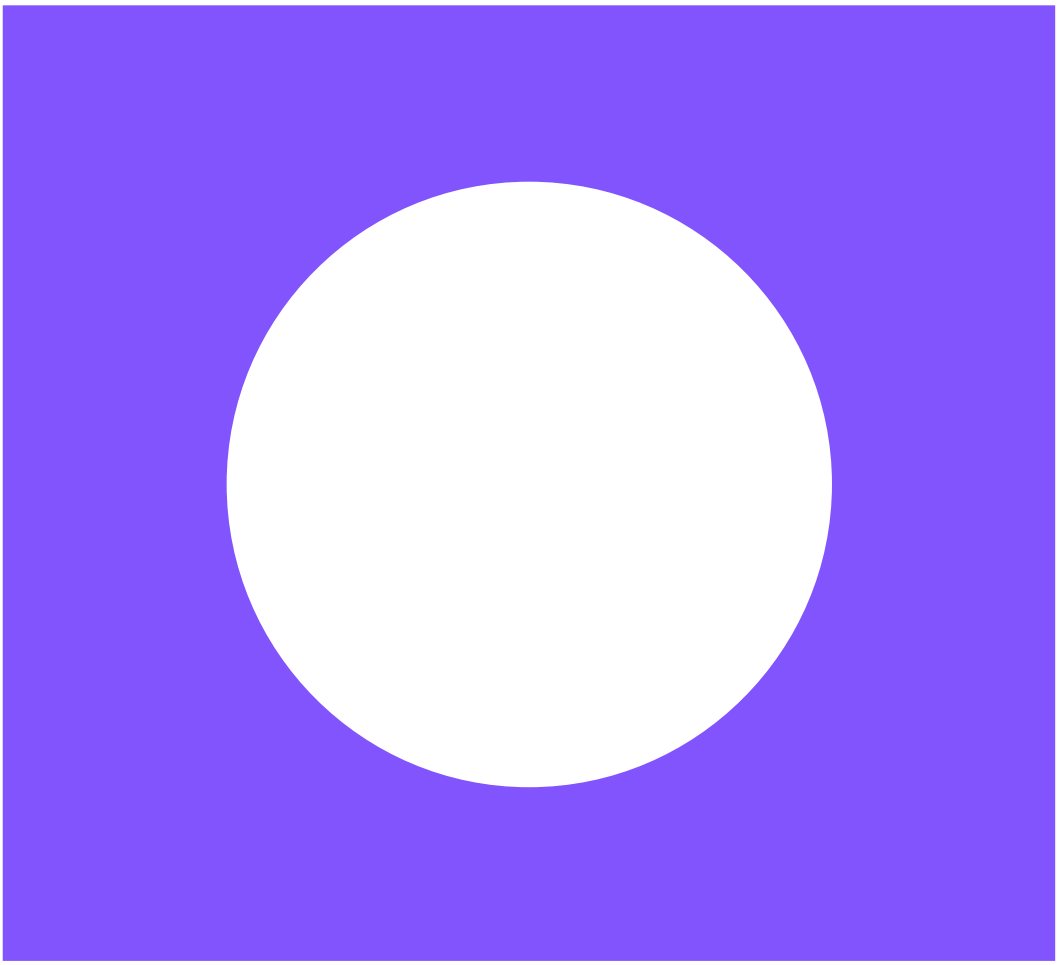

Walterstown 110 kV Substation

Report for the Screening of Appropriate Assessment

January 2026

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Walterstown 110 kV Substation

Report for the Screening of Appropriate Assessment

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Issue and Revision Record

Revision	Date	Originator	Checker	Approver	Description
PL1	January 2026	S. N Cheallaigh	R. Macnaughton	R. Macnaughton	For planning issue

Document reference: PL1 | 229101684-MMD-01-XX-RP-C-002

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1 Introduction

1.1 Project Overview

Mott MacDonald Ireland Limited (Mott MacDonald) has been appointed by the Electricity Supply Board to prepare this Screening of Appropriate Assessment (AA) to accompany a planning application for a new 110 kV/38 kV/MV Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) substation located in the townland of Walterstown, Dunboyne, County Meath.

The Electricity Supply Board, hereafter referred to as ESB or '*the Applicant*', is required to submit a strategic infrastructure development application to An Coimisiún Pleanála (formerly An Bord Pleanála) under Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) for the project.

The Proposed Development is located off Jarretstown Lane, in the townland of Walterstown, Dunboyne, County Meath.

The Proposed Development will consist of the construction of a 110 kV/ 38 kV/ Medium Voltage (MV) electrical substation and will include the following:

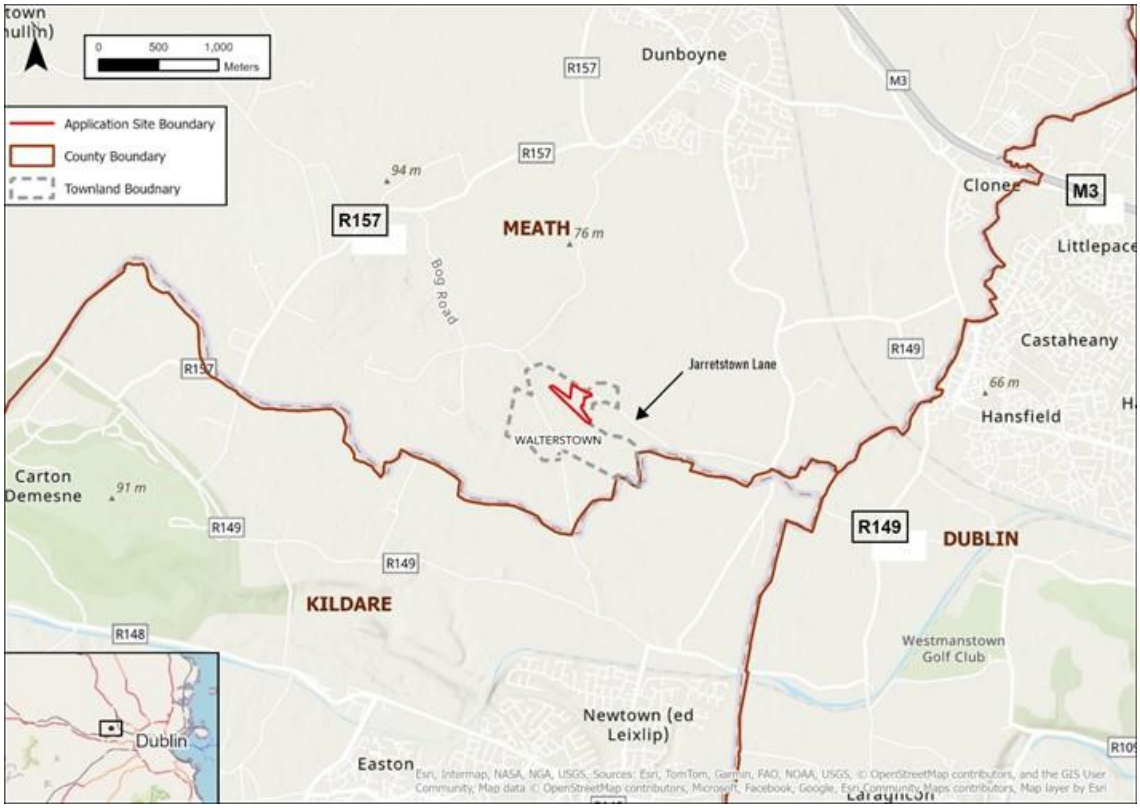
- Construction of 1 no substation compound (c. 5650sqm) securely enclosed` with 2.6m high palisade fencing and gates, containing:
  - 1 no. 110 kV Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) building (c. 707sqm footprint; c. 12m in height);
  - 1 no. 38 kV Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) building (c. 232sqm footprint; c. 7m in height);
  - 2 no. Bunded 110 / 38 kV Transformers (c. 5m in height) with associated electrical equipment, 2 no. Bunded 38 kV/ MV Transformers (c. 5m in height) with associated electrical equipment;
  - 2 no. fire walls (c. 5.5m height by c. 5m length) separating the 110 / 38 kV Transformers and 38 kV/ MV Transformers;
  - 3 no. bunded Arc Suppression Coils (c. 4m high) with associated electrical equipment;
  - Neutral earth resistor (c. 2m height) and neutral earth switch (c. 3.9m high);
  - 2 no. 110 kV double circuit Line Cable Interface Masts (LCIM) (c. 17m high);
  - Concrete post and rail fence (1.4m high);
  - Underground cabling between the 110 kV GIS building and the new Line Cable Interface Masts (LCIM);
- Dismantling of 1 no. existing 110 kV Overhead Line timber poleset (c. 20m height);
- Diversion of the existing 110 kV Dunfirth-Kinnegad-Rinawade overhead line to connect to the new Line Cable Interface Masts (LCIM) and,
- All associated site development works including provision of new site entrance, internal access, lighting poles (c. 4m height), 3 no. lightning monopoles measuring c.15m high, 1 no. Emergency, stand-by Diesel Generator, telecommunications, landscaping, site services including drainage and all other ancillary works.

The existing Dunfirth-Kinnegad-Rinawade 110 kV transmission circuit, to the south of the site, will loop into the new Walterstown 110 kV substation.

1.2 Location of the Proposed Development

The proposed site is located in the townland of Walterstown, approximately 2km south of Dunboyne Town Centre and approximately 1.9km north of Leixlip (Figure 1.1). The site is a greenfield site, currently in use for agriculture. Access to the site is from the local road, Jarretstown Lane, to the northern extent of the application site boundary. There are a number of residential dwellings and agricultural uses located in the surrounding area along the local road. Hansfield Rail Station is located approximately 3km to the east of the site and Leixlip (Confey) Rail Station is located approximately 2.5km to the south.

Figure 1.1: Location of Proposed Development



Source: Mott MacDonald

1.3 Requirement for Appropriate Assessment

1.3.1 European Law

Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora ('the Habitats Directive') is European Community legislation aimed at nature conservation including the protection of European sites designated as Special Areas of Conservation under the Habitats Directive or as Special Protection Areas under the Birds Directive (79/409/ECC as codified by Directive 2009/147/EC).

The Habitats Directive requires that where a plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a European site (s), (and where the plan or project is not directly connected with or necessary to the nature conservation management of the European site), the plan or project will be subject to 'Appropriate Assessment' (AA) to identify any implications for the European site(s)

in view of the site's Conservation Objectives. Specifically, Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states:

Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.

Case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) has determined that AA is required, if likely significant effects cannot be excluded on the basis of objective information. Case law has also clarified that measures intended to avoid or reduce harmful effects on European sites, must not be considered when determining whether it is necessary to carry out an AA.

1.3.2 Irish Law

In the context of the Proposed Development, the Habitats Directive is transposed into Irish law by Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) ('the Planning Acts'), and the Planning and Development Regulations 2000 as amended ('the Planning Regulations').

Under Section 177U (1) of the Planning Acts, a screening for AA of an application for consent for proposed development shall be carried out by the competent authority (in this application, Wexford County Council) to assess in view of best scientific knowledge, if the proposed development, individually or in combination with another plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect(s) on any European sites.

Under Section 177U (4) of the Planning Acts, the competent authority shall determine that an AA of a proposed development is required if it *cannot be excluded* [emphasis added], on the basis of objective information, that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site(s).

AA is the process provided for under Article 6 (3) of the Habitats Directive to determine whether a project or plan could 'adversely affect the integrity' of any European sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, in light of the conservation objectives of the European sites in question.

Under Section 177V (1), An Appropriate Assessment *shall include a determination by the competent authority under Article 6.3 of the Habitats Directive as to whether or not a draft Land use plan or proposed development would adversely affect the integrity of a European site*

Under Section 177V (2), the competent authority shall, in carrying out an Appropriate Assessment under subsection (1), "*take into account each of the following matters*:

a. *the Natura Impact Report or Natura Impact Statement, as appropriate;*
b. *any supplemental information furnished in relation to any such report or statement;*
c. *if appropriate, any additional information sought by the authority and furnished by the applicant in relation to a Natura Impact Statement;*
d. *any additional information furnished to the competent authority at its request in relation to a Natura Impact Report;*
e. *any information or advice obtained by the competent authority;*

f. if appropriate, any written submissions or observations made to the competent authority in relation to the application for consent for proposed development;

any other relevant information."

1.4 Definitions

1.4.1 European Sites and Features

A network of European sites of conservation importance has been identified by each Member State, hosting habitats and/or species identified in the Directives as needing to be either maintained at or returned to 'favourable conservation status'.

The sites of conservation importance known as European sites comprise the Natura 2000 network.

European sites comprise areas designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and/or Special Protection Areas (SPAs) in Ireland. The process of designating cSACs as SACs is ongoing in Ireland. Candidate sites (In Ireland, comprising cSACs) have the same legal protection as those whose designation is complete.

The designation features of SACs are referred to as Qualifying Interests (QIs), and these comprise both species (excluding birds), and habitats.

The designation features of SPAs are referred to as Special Conservation Interests (SCIs), and these comprise bird species, as well as wetland bird habitats.

The designation features of European sites are identified in the Statutory Instruments for European sites where such sites have completed the designation process. In all cases, designation features are also identified in Conservation Objectives published by the National Park and Wildlife Service (NPWS).

1.5 Statement of Competence

Authors

- **Siún Ní Cheallaigh** BSc (Hons), MSc, ACIEEM (Ecologist, Mott MacDonald) drafted the report. Siún is an Ecologist with four years of post-graduate experience in ecological consultancy. She has prepared Appropriate Assessments (AA) Screening Reports and Natura Impact Statements (NIS) reports for a variety of projects. Siún has experience carrying out walkover field surveys for protected species including birds, mammals and amphibians. She also has experience performing Fossitt (2000) habitat surveys, breeding bird surveys, wintering bird surveys, and marine mammal surveys.
- **Roger Macnaughton** BSc (Hons), MSc, MCIEEM (Senior Associate Ecologist. Mott MacDonald) reviewed and approved the report. Roger is a qualified and experienced environmental consultant specialising in ecology. He has over twenty-three year's professional experience in the environmental consultancy sector and an additional seven years of primarily research-based experience in freshwater and marine ecology. He specialises in the delivery of Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) for a broad range of projects potentially affecting; terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecology. His project related experience to date includes two 400kV overhead lines, five 110 kV overhead lines, overhead line up-rates, electricity substations, underground power cables, 35 terrestrial wind farms, two marine wind farms and five solar farms. Roger has extensive experience carrying out and co-ordinating walkover field surveys for protected species (birds, mammals, amphibians), along with Fossitt (2000) botanic/ habitat surveys, aquatic and fishery assessment, and targeted invasive species surveys.

Surveyors

- **Fintan Damer** BSc (Hons), MSc (Hons) (Senior Ecologist, Mott MacDonald) conducted site surveys to establish baseline ecology on the site. Fintan is a qualified and experienced ecologist with over five years of full-time experience in ecological consultancy. He has thirty years of practical knowledge in undertaking ornithological field studies and surveys, consisting of breeding bird surveys, wintering wetland surveys and marine seabird surveys including a competent knowledge of ESAS (European Seabirds at Sea) seabird surveying methodologies. Fintan has conducted numerous baselines ecological surveys including those for otter, badger, invasive species, terrestrial botanical surveys, and bat surveys on a wide variety of project types. He also has good working knowledge for the baseline execution of freshwater aquatic surveys. He has been involved in the preparation of Ecological Impact Assessment (EIA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening reports as well as more focused biotic Environmental Reports.

1.6 Methodology

This report has been prepared in accordance with European Commission and Irish departmental guidance on AA methodologies including:

- EC (2021) Assessment of Plans and Projects in Relation to Natura 2000 Sites – Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC
- EC (2018) Managing Natura 2000 sites. The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC Commission Notice C (2018) 7621
- DEHLG (2009) Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland Guidance for Planning Authorities (Revised 2010).
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (2013) Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment –
- Streamlining AA, SEA and EIA Processes: Practitioners Manual. Environmental Protection Agency.
- European Commission (2018), Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the ‘Habitats’ Directive 92/43/EEC, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg.
- European Commission (2000a), Communication from the Commission on the Precautionary Principle, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg.
- European Commission (2013), Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats. Version EUR 28.
- European Commission (2006), Nature and biodiversity cases: Ruling of the European Court of Justice. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.
- Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG, 2010b), Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government Circular NPWS 1/10 and PSSP 2/10 on Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive – Guidance for Planning Authorities

This report has similarly been prepared with regard to relevant rulings by the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), and the Irish courts.

1.6.1 Desktop Study

A comprehensive desk study has been carried out to obtain information relevant to the completion of this report. This desk study, completed in July 2025 relied on the following sources of information:

- Data on European Sites (SACs and SPAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) and protected habitats/species as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites and https://www.npws.ie/maps-and-data. Refer to Section 3.8 for descriptions and locations of protected sites in the vicinity of the Proposed Development.
- Conservation Status Assessment Reports (CSARs), Backing Documents and Maps prepared in accordance with Article 17 of the Habitats Directive;
- Published and unpublished NPWS reports on protected habitats and species including Irish Wildlife Manual reports, Species Action Plans, and Conservation Management Plans; and
- Existing relevant mapping and databases e.g. waterbody status, species and habitat distribution etc. (sourced from the Environmental Protection Agency - http://gis.epa.ie/, the National Biodiversity Data Centre - http://maps.biodiversityireland.ie and the National Parks and Wildlife Services - http://www.npws.ie/mapsanddata/, and the Forestry Service (Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine).
- Information on the location, nature and design of the Proposed Development supplied by the applicant

A complete list of all publications consulted in the completion of this report is presented in footnotes throughout this document.

1.6.2 Field Survey

A site walkover survey was conducted on 31 July 2025 by Fintan Damer in order to assess and identify the habitats, presence of mammal activity, sensitive bird species, amphibians and aquatic species within the boundary of and in the vicinity of the Proposed Development.

1.6.2.1 Habitats and Flora

Habitat survey methods were conducted in accordance with the methodology described in *Best Practice Guidance for Habitat Survey and Mapping*[1]. Habitats were classified to level three according to the scheme outlined in the *Guide to Habitats in Ireland*[2]. Classification of European Annex 1 habitats was informed with reference to the *EU Interpretation Manual for EU Habitats*[3] having regard to the *Irish Vegetation Classification*[4] where relevant.

Additionally, the area was searched for species protected under the Flora (Protection) Order, 2022 or listed under the *Irish Red Data List of Irish Plants*[5].

Evidence of First Schedule invasive plant species (S.I. No. 374 of 2024) were also searched for.

The presence of any drains was noted to identify pathways for surface water pollutants to connect into the wider environment.

1.6.2.2 Fauna Surveys

Terrestrial Mammals (excl. Bats)

The presence or absence of terrestrial mammal species was surveyed through the detection of field signs such as tracks, markings, foraging signs, droppings and by direct observation.

[1] Smith G., O'Donoghue, P., O'Hora, K., Delaney, E., (2011) Best Practice Guidance for Habitat Survey and Mapping'

[2] Fossit, J (2000) A Guide to Habitats in Ireland"

[3] European Commission, (2013) Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats. EUR 28.Nature ENV B.3.

[4] https://biodiversityireland.shinyapps.io/vegetation-classification/

[5] Wyse Jackson *et al*. (2016) Red List assessment of the Irish flowering plants

Bats

A visual assessment of potential bat roost features in trees was undertaken during the site walkover, following the methodology outlined in *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines*[6]. Trees which may be affected by the Proposed Development works were examined for potential roost features.

Birds

No dedicated bird surveys were undertaken at the site. Birds were instead surveyed in an ad hoc fashion during the site walkover. Birds were identified by sight and by the identification of songs and calls. The general location and the activity of birds were recorded using the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) species and activity codes.

Other Protected Species

A visual assessment of the potential for habitats of other protected species, such as common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*), common frog (*Rana temporaria*), smooth newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*), marsh fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia*) and aquatic species was undertaken during the site walkover.

1.7 Consultation

A pre-application meeting was held with Meath County Council (MCC) on 11 November 2025 (reference PP2025/380C). This meeting was attended by Meath County Council, ESB and Mott MacDonald and an overview of the proposed development, need for the proposed development and status of the current application was discussed.

MCC acknowledged the proposed development complies with the land use zoning on site. Matters discussed related Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening, and the achievement of the required sightlines for the proposed new access onto the local road, landscape and visual assessment, and ecological surveys and inputs within and around the site.

An overview on the EIA screening for the proposed development is set out in the Planning and Environmental Considerations Report (PECR) submitted as part of this application. A sightline drawing is submitted as part of this planning application (planning drawing 229101684-MMD-00-XX-DR-C-0150), which illustrates that the required sightlines at the proposed new entrance onto the local road, can be achieved. Chapter 8 Biodiversity of the PECR discusses the ecology surveys undertaken and well as providing a biodiversity assessment, and Chapter 12 provides an assessment of landscape and visual impacts.

1.8 Limitations

No species-specific fauna surveys were completed, and fauna were instead recorded on an ad hoc basis during the multidisciplinary walkover survey on 31 July 2025. This is not considered to be a limitation as the Proposed Development is a relatively small project to install a new electricity distribution station in managed agricultural farmland where habitats of ecological value will largely be retained.

All areas of the Proposed Development site were accessible and considered sufficient to inform locations and evaluation of sensitive ecological receptors.

[6] Collins, J. (ed.) (2023) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edition). The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

2 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

2.1 Process for Screening for Appropriate Assessment

The purpose of this screening stage is to determine, on the basis of a preliminary assessment and objective criteria, whether a plan or project, alone and in-combination with the other plans or projects, could have likely significant effects on a European site in view of the site's conservation objectives.

There is no necessity to establish such an effect; it is merely necessary for the competent authority to determine that there may be such an effect. The need to apply the precautionary principle in making any key decisions in relation to the tests of Appropriate Assessment (AA) has been confirmed by the case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU). Plans or projects that are not likely to have a significant effect on a European site may be excluded. The threshold at this stage is a very low one and operates as a trigger in order to determine whether a Stage Two AA must be undertaken by the competent authority on the implications of the proposed development for the conservation objectives of a European site. Therefore, where significant effects are likely, uncertain or unknown at screening stage, a second stage AA will be required.

The European Commission Guidance 'Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites; Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC' (2021) prescribes a 4-step process in Screening for Appropriate Assessment as follows:

- Determine whether the project or plan is directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site.
- Describe the project or plan and describe and characterise other projects or plans that in combination have the potential for having significant effects on the Natura 2000 site.
- Identify the potential effects on the Natura 2000 site.
- Assess the significance of any effects on the Natura 2000 site.
- This report has been structured to reflect the 4-step screening process set out in the European Guidelines.

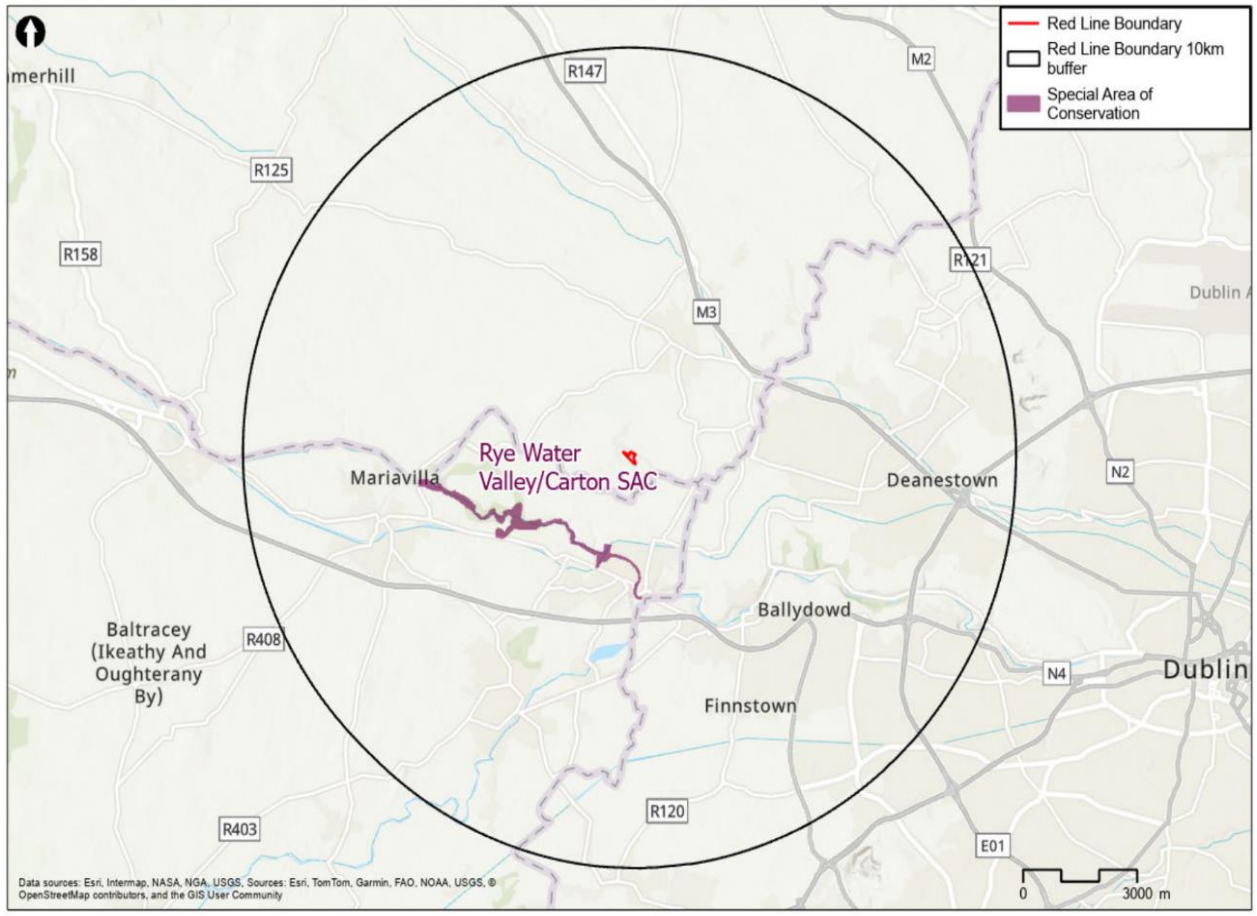
2.2 Management of European Sites

The Proposed Development is not directly connected with or necessary to the 'management' of European sites within the Natura 2000 Network having regard to Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. As such it is appropriate that the Proposed Development is subjected to screening for AA.

This screening assessment investigates, in view of best scientific knowledge, whether the Proposed Development, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, would be likely to have a significant effect on European sites. This report considers the likelihood of significant effects on European sites from the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. A summary of the Proposed Development has been described in Section 1.1.

The proposed development is not located within or adjacent to a European site. The closest European site is Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC located approximately 2.1km to the south. The location of the Proposed Development in relation to European sites is presented in Figure 2.1.

Figure 2.1: European Sites in the vicinity of the Proposed Development



Source: Mott MacDonald

2.3 Baseline Environment

The key ecology baseline as relevant to Appropriate Assessment is summarised as follows.

2.3.1 Habitats and Flora

A description of the habitats located within the Proposed Development site is present hereunder.

No rare or threatened species, species listed under the Flora (Protection) Order 2022, or Annex I habitats protected under the Habitats Directive, were recorded or are likely to occur within the site. There are no Annex I habitats present within the Proposed Development site or immediate vicinity. The habitat types and ecological valuations are described in greater detail in Chapter 8 of the PECR accompanying this application.

The desktop study did not find records of any Annex II flora within c. 2km of the Proposed Development. The field surveys undertaken at the Proposed Development site did not record any Annex II flora.

A habitat map of the Proposed Development and surrounding areas is provided in Figure 2.2.

The following habitat types classified using Fossit (2000) were identified within the Proposed Development site:

- Improved agricultural grassland (GA1)
- Hedgerow (WL1)
- Treeline (WL2)
- Drainage ditch (FW4)
- Depositing lowland river (FW2)

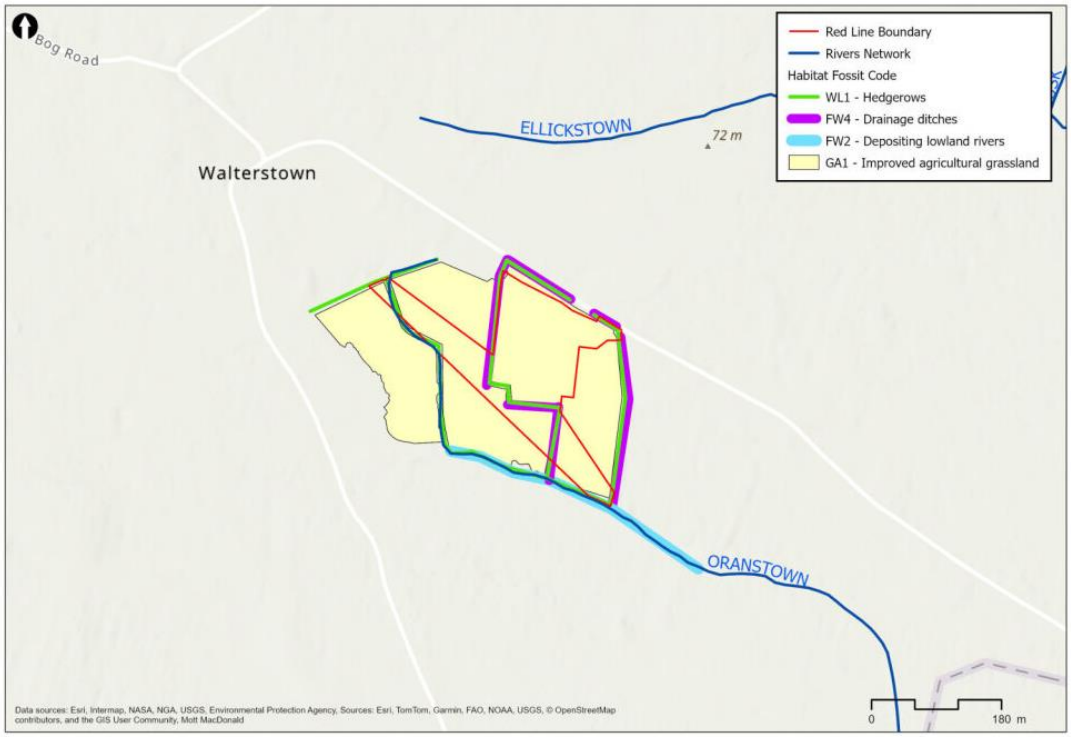
The site of the Proposed Development is primarily comprised of an improved agricultural grassland (GA1) field dominated by perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), with white clover (*Trifolium repens*), broad-leaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*) and curly dock (*Rumex crispus*).

The boundaries of the site are lined by hedgerows (WL1) containing hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), dogrose (*Rosa canina*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*), ivy (*Hedera helix*), Leyland cypress (*Cupressocyparis leylandii*), European gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and elder (*Sambucus nigra*).

To the south there is a mature sycamore with significant ivy cover that has potential to be used as an opportunistic roost by bats. This will not be impacted.

There are drainage ditches (FW4) present on the northern, northwestern and eastern boundaries of the main substation site. These are ephemeral drains which were partly dry at the time of survey. The Oranstown Stream (FW2) crosses through the site (planning) boundary only under the existing overhead line but is removed from the main substation site. The drainage ditches on the main substation site are hydrologically linked to the Oranstown Stream which further flows into the River Liffey approximately 2.1km downstream. The site is not directly hydrologically linked to any European site including Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC.

Figure 2.2: Habitats identified within the site of the Proposed Development



Source: Mott MacDonald

2.3.2 Mammals

No mammals or aquatic fauna (e.g. fish) listed as Qualifying Interest (QI) species for other European sites were recorded or are likely to regularly use the site.

2.3.3 Birds

The following Annex I listed bird species have been recorded over the last twenty years in the 10km^2 grid square (O03) which includes the site, refer to Table 2.1.

Table 2.1: Annex I bird species recorded in 10km^2 (O03) grid square overlapping the Proposed Development

Common, Scientific Name	BoCCI Status (Gilbert *et al*., 2021)
Golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*)	Red
Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)	Amber
Little egret (*Egretta garzetta*)	Green
Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)	Green
Whooper swan (*Cygnus cygnus*)	Amber

Source: NBDC

The site does not provide important habitat for any of these species. None of the species listed in Table 2.1 above are Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) to nearby European sites.

No evidence of any Qualifying Interest (QI) fauna or Special Conservation Interest (SCI) bird species were recorded within or in proximity to the Proposed Development during site visits. No mobile Special Conservation Interest (SCI) bird species were recorded, and the site is not likely to attract waterfowl or raptors including hen harrier (Annex 1).

2.3.4 Other Protected Species

No other ex situ QI fauna were recorded or are likely to use the site

2.3.5 Watercourses

The Oranstown stream flows along the application site boundary and is located approximately 90m from the nearest proposed construction works, refer to Figure 2.2 above and Site Layout (Figure 2.3). This stream has 'Poor' Water Framework Directive (WFD) status and flows under the Royal Canal Main Line, which has 'Good' WFD status according to the EPA. It then flows to the River Liffey at a point approximately 370m downstream of the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC. Therefore, there is no direct hydrological connectivity between the Proposed Development and the SAC.

2.4 Description of the Proposed Development

The Proposed Development is located off Jarretstown Lane, in the townland of Walterstown, Dunboyne, County Meath.

The Proposed Development will consist of the construction of a 110 kV/ 38 kV/ Medium Voltage (MV) electrical substation and will include the following:

- Construction of 1 no substation compound (c. 5650sqm) securely enclosed` with 2.6m high palisade fencing and gates, containing:
  - 1 no. 110 kV Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) building (c. 707sqm footprint; c. 12m in height);
  - 1 no. 38 kV Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) building (c. 232sqm footprint; c. 7m in height);
  - 2 no. Bunded 110 / 38 kV Transformers (c. 5m in height) with associated electrical equipment, 2 no. Bunded 38 kV/ MV Transformers (c. 5m in height) with associated electrical equipment;
  - 2 no. fire walls (c. 5.5m height by c. 5m length) separating the 110 / 38 kV Transformers and 38 kV/ MV Transformers;
  - 3 no. bunded Arc Suppression Coils (c. 4m high) with associated electrical equipment;
  - Neutral earth resistor (c. 2m height) and neutral earth switch (c. 3.9m high);
  - 2 no. 110 kV double circuit Line Cable Interface Masts (LCIM) (c. 17m high);
  - Concrete post and rail fence (1.4m high);
  - Underground cabling between the 110 kV GIS building and the new Line Cable Interface Masts (LCIM);
- Dismantling of 1 no. existing 110 kV Overhead Line timber poleset (c. 20m height);
- Diversion of the existing 110 kV Dunfirth-Kinnegad-Rinawade overhead line to connect to the new Line Cable Interface Masts (LCIM) and,
- All associated site development works including provision of new site entrance, internal access, lighting poles (c. 4m height), 3 no. lightning monopoles measuring c.15m high, 1 no. Emergency, stand-by Diesel Generator, telecommunications, landscaping, site services including drainage and all other ancillary works.

The new substation will loop into the existing transmission Dunfirth-Kinnegad-Rinawade 110 kV circuit.

The substation will be a combined Transmission and Distribution substation with the 110 kV circuits feeding the substation, the 110 kV GIS building and 110 / 38 kV transformers forming part of the 110 kV Transmission Network operated by EirGrid as the Transmission System

Operator (TSO). The 38 kV & MV electrical equipment will be part of the Distribution Network operated by ESB Networks as the Distribution System Operator (DSO). The combined substation will be owned by ESB Networks as the Transmission Asset Owner (TAO) and the Distribution Asset Owner (DAO).

The planning drawings referenced below are provided in the planning application pack.

2.4.1 Substation Compound

The new substation compound is c. 5,650sq. m. in size. The proposed 110 kV/38 kV/MV substation compound consists of a 110 kV GIS building (approximately 12m in height, 14m in width and 50.5m in length) and 38 kV GIS building (approximately 7m in height, 8m in width and 29.175m in length).

The 110 kV GIS building is c. 700sq. m. in size and consist of eight 110 kV bays whereas the 38 / 20 kV GIS building is c. 235sq. m. in size and consist of fourteen 38 kV bays and eighteen MV (20 kV) bays.

The GIS buildings will house the GIS plant and contain auxiliary services equipment such as control and telecommunications equipment, an emergency standby diesel generator, batteries and welfare facilities (i.e. toilets, washing facilities etc).

The 110 kV GIS building will comprise an industrial form, with a portalised structural steel frame clad with lightweight insulated cladding to the walls and roof. Masonry internal partition walls will be adopted, except where specific load carrying requirements necessitate the use of reinforced concrete walls.

The buildings cladding will be factory finished in accordance with the requirements of the EirGrid specification. The monopitch roof will have a shallow inclination. The roof cladding will bear onto cold formed steel purlins that span between primary steel rafters. The building will have access gantries and walkways for access to equipment.

The colour under consideration for the building is olive green. The ultimate choice of finish and colour of the metal cladding coating will be determined at the detailed design stage of development and agreed with local authority prior to the commencement of construction.

There are two 110 / 38 kV TSO transformers and two 38 kV DSO transformers located between the GIS buildings and are separated by fire walls.

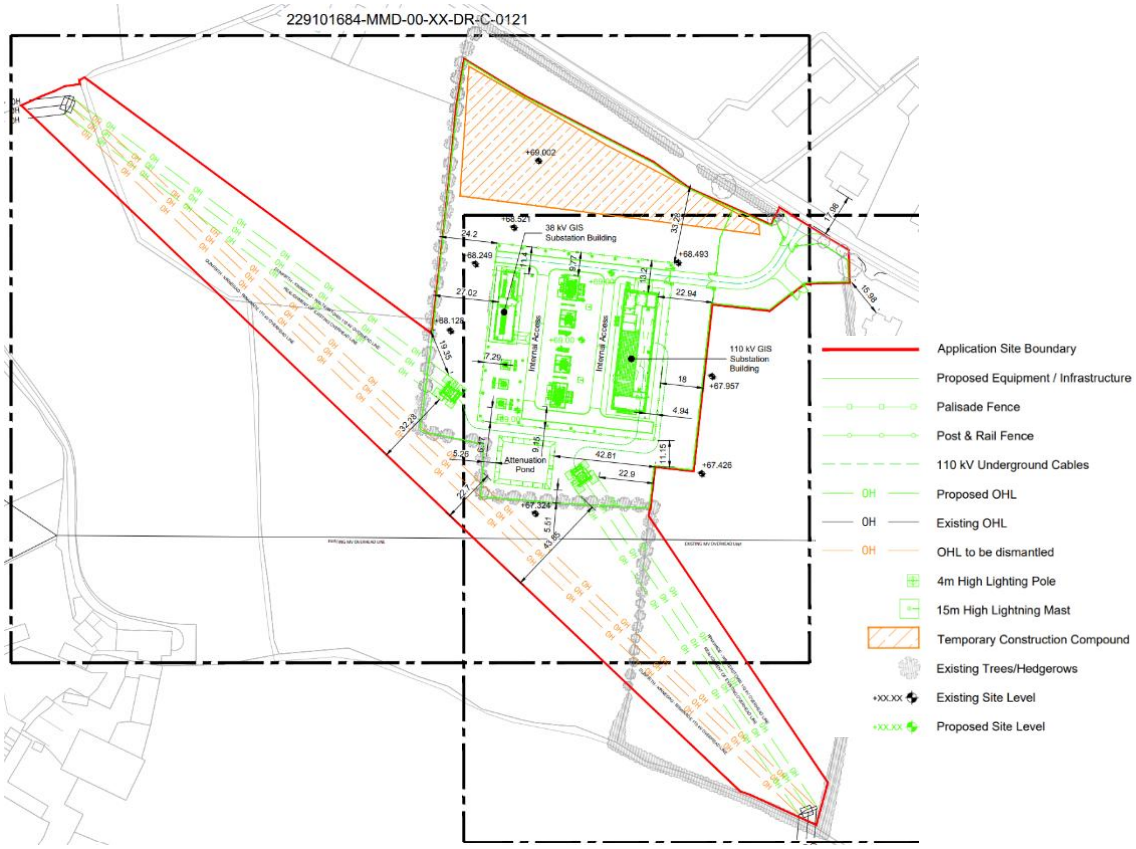
The substation compound will also include one standby diesel generator next to the 110 kV GIS building and three bunded Arc Suspension Coils (ASC). The diesel generator and the three ASCs will be used during fault/emergency operations.

The underground cables will connect with the substation via the recessed ground floor, which will be designed to prevent any water ingress.

Three no. lightning monopoles (15m in height) are proposed within the substation site.

The proposed site layout is shown in Figure 2.3.

Figure 2.3: Proposed Development Site Layout



Source: Extract from planning drawing 229101684-MMD-00-XX-DR-C-0120

2.4.2 110 kV Circuits Transfer

The Proposed Development will comprise the dismantling and removal of existing 110 kV Overhead Line timber poleset (c. 20m in height) of the existing Dunfirth-Kinnegad-Rinawade 110 kV circuit.

It includes installation of two new 110 kV double circuit Line Cable Interface Masts (LCIM) (16m height) to the south of the site boundary. The existing Dunfirth-Kinnegad-Rinawade 110 kV circuit will be connected to the new substation by diverting the circuit through two new LCIMs, as shown in the planning drawing 229101684-MMD-00-XX-DR-C-0160.

New 110 kV underground cables will be installed to connect the 110 kV GIS building to the new LCIMs.

2.4.3 Access Road

The proposed site will be accessed via an existing entrance from the local public road (Jarretstown Lane) to the northern boundary of the site which will connect to regional road R149 (to the east) and the regional road R157 (to the northwest). Both regional roads link to the M3 Motorway.

Inward and outward movements of all vehicles including HGVs, cars and light maintenance vehicles will utilise local public road during the lifetime of the GIS substation as there are no present alternative entrances to the site.

A new internal access road will be constructed within the proposed GIS substation site (approximately 67m in length and 5m in width). A small stretch of road (approximately 12m in length and 5m wide) is proposed which connects the access road to the private property to the east of the site. The geometric design for the direct access is in accordance with the Geometric Design of Junctions (priority junctions, direct accesses, roundabouts, grade separated, and compact grade separated junctions) (TII, 2023)[7].

For safety, visibility checks for the proposed access road approaching the local road were conducted in accordance with TII, 2023[7]. Visibility checks help verify that drivers have adequate sight distance to see and react to hazards, safely stop or overtake, navigate curves and intersection.

2.4.4 Services and Utilities

2.4.4.1 Water Supply

A new potable water supply is required for proposed welfare facilities (toilet and hand wash basin) within the GIS building. The potable water demand will be relatively low as the proposed substation will normally be unmanned and operated remotely.

Potable water supply for the GIS building is proposed to be sourced via a new connection from the existing public watermain located within Jarretstown Lane, subject to connection request application to Uisce Éireann. A Confirmation of Feasibility (CoF) was received from Uisce Éireann on 12 November 2025 (pre-connection enquiry reference CDS25007947), as provided in Appendix 3.2 of the PECR.

2.4.4.2 Wastewater Drainage and Collection

During construction, portable chemical toilets will be provided for the duration of the works and all waste material will be removed from site and disposed of to an appropriately licensed facility.

Once the substation is operational, domestic type wastewater will be produced by the onsite welfare facilities (toilet, wash hand basin and mess room sink). The wastewater will be collected in a proposed waste water storage tank. The waste water storage tank will be located outside the substation compound (refer to planning drawing 229101684-MMD-00-XX-DR-D-0100), near the entrance gate of the substation compound. This will ensure easy access for wastewater to be tankered off the site, as necessary, by a licenced haulier.

2.4.5 Surface Water Management

To comply with established best practice, a surface water drainage system incorporating Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) features will be constructed to manage the quantity and quality of runoff during rainfall events.

The proposed drainage strategy complies with the recommendations as outlined in Volume 2 - New Development of the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study (GDSDS).

Surface water runoff from the substation compound will be collected via a gravity drainage system (consisting of filter and carrier drains) and managed using an attenuation pond/retention basin with a flow control device on the outlet.

The proposed surface water management system will be designed to ensure that no flooding of the proposed site occurs for the critical storm with a 1 in 100-year return period, including a 30%

[7]Geometric Design of Junctions (priority junctions, direct accesses, roundabouts, grade separated, and compact grade separated junctions) (TII, 2023) Doc no. TII-DN-GEO-03060 https://cdn.tii.ie/publications/DN-GEO-03060-03.pdf

allowance for climate change. A line-end attenuation basin will be proposed to allow the discharging flow to be restricted to the pre-development greenfield runoff rate.

A proprietary flow control device (e.g. a 'Hydro-Brake' or similar) will be used to restrict discharge from the pond to pre-development 'greenfield' equivalent runoff rates. The allowable discharge rates will be calculated using the Institute of Hydrology Report 124 methodology and selected in accordance with the requirements of Volume 2 of the GDSDS. The flow will be discharged via a headwall outfall to the existing field ditch located along the southern boundary of the site. No works are proposed to the Oranstown Stream or in the vicinity of here.

Surface water runoff from the site access road will be locally dispersed to the ground. The dispersed surface water from the road will locally infiltrate into the ground and evaporate. Surface water runoff from roads within the site will be collected via infiltration drains located along the side of these roads.

The four transformers are proposed to be constructed within raised concrete bunds. The surface water within these bunds will be pumped and treated via oil/water separator pumps (e.g. Entexol Bund-Sep or similar) and discharged into the proposed surface water drains. Rainwater collected from building roofs will be collected via surface water drains. The filter drains will connect to the surface water drains which discharge into the proposed attenuation basin.

The proposed surface water management system will incorporate the following features to reduce the risk of pollution and improve the quality of surface water which will be discharged from the site, following the recommendations of GDSDS.

- Concrete bunds and oil separator dewatering pumps at the transformer areas;
- Runoff from the road surfaces will be intercepted by filter drains or local dispersion, to provide source control;
- Attenuation basin with impermeable geomembrane lining to reduce the risk of potentially contaminated surface water infiltration into the groundwater;
- Silt trap chamber and oil/fuel interceptor located upstream of the attenuation basin to remove pollutants which may have become entrained in runoff;
- Emergency shut-off valve chambers located upstream and downstream of the attenuation basin to prevent discharge from the drainage network in an emergency event and during periodic maintenance.

The proposed surface water drainage layout is shown on planning drawing 229101684-MMD-00-XX-DR-D-0100.

2.4.6 Lighting

Lighting will not be a continuous feature of the operational substation and will be manually operated by an activation switch located within the GIS substation. Lighting will be sensor activated. For operation and maintenance purposes, it is anticipated that a two person crew will be visiting the substation three days in a week, at a maximum.

Site lighting is proposed around the perimeter of the site. A total of 20 no. lighting poles (4m in height) is proposed to be erected and are indicated on the planning drawing 229101684-MMD-00-XX-DR-C-0121.

All temporary lighting associated with the construction works will be placed strategically by the Contractor, following consultation with a suitably qualified ecologist such that illumination beyond the works area is controlled. Lighting will be cowled and directional to reduce significant light splay. Only low-pressure sodium, high pressure sodium or LED luminaires will be used on site to ensure there is no impact on bats. Column height will be carefully considered to minimise light spill.

2.4.7 Fencing and Barriers

Due to the strategic nature of the proposed GIS substation, preventative security measures have been incorporated within the design to ensure that there will be no unauthorised access to the site, particularly to the GIS building.

Site security arrangements to prevent unauthorised access at the substation include the following:

- Access to the site will be via palisade double gates.
- A 2.6m high palisade fencing is proposed around the substation compound, with the exception of the site entrances.
- A 1.4m high concrete post-and-rail property fence is proposed along the north and east of the site boundary.
- A CCTV system will also monitor the entrance to the substation.

2.4.8 Biodiversity Enhancement Measures

Native woodland planting and low maintenance management of grassland are proposed within the site. There will be a net increase (c. 0.5Ha) in woody vegetation relative to minor hedgerow loss within the site and locality. In addition, c. 0.8Ha of grassland within the site will be managed for pollinator insects and to promote natural regeneration of native grassland.

These proposed biodiversity enhancement measures will increase the extent of woodland habitat in the local area and with grassland management will create a habitat of greater ecological value then the baseline which is intensively managed farmland. The proposed biodiversity enhancement measures will provide increased foraging habitat for bats and passerine birds, and greater nesting habitat for passerine birds.

The new attenuation pond will provide a potential additional food source for bats and breeding area for common frog.

2.4.9 Construction Phase Activities

2.4.9.1 Construction Schedule

The construction works will include site preparation works, construction of the main building and structures, and site finishing works. It is envisaged that the civil works will take approximately 12 months to complete. Following this, electrical installation and commissioning will take place, for approximately 18 months. This is subject to availability of required outages of the existing 110 kV overhead line from the electrical transmission system operator, EirGrid and the time of year, weather conditions and the availability of specialised equipment.

Table 2.2: Outline Construction Schedule

Phase	Activity	Approximate Timeline	Total
Civil Construction	Site Preparation	8 weeks	52 weeks
	Civil Construction	44 weeks	
Electrical Installation	Electrical Installation	52 weeks	78 weeks
	Electrical Commissioning	26 weeks	

2.4.9.2 Construction Plant and Machinery

The typical plant to be utilised during construction of the substation is presented in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3: Construction Plant & Machinery

Phase	Plant	BS5228-1 Reference
Site Preparation	Track Excavator	C2.22
	Pneumatic Breaker	D2.11
	Dump Truck	C1.11
	Wheeled Loader Lorry	C2.26
	Dozer	C2.10
Foundations	Track Excavator	C2.22
	Pneumatic Breaker	D2.11
	Concrete Pump	C3.25
	Compressor	C3.19
	Poker Vibrator	C3.19
Steel Erection	Tower Crane	C4.48
	Articulated Lorry	C11.10
	Electric Impact Torque Wrench	
General Construction	Hand Tools	
	Pneumatic Circular Saw	D7.79
	Internal Fit Out	
Landscaping	Dozer	C2.10
	Dump Truck	C1.11
	Surfacing	D8.25

Source: ESB, 2025

2.4.9.3 Construction Methodology

Site Preparation and Enabling Works

All personnel involved in site preparation and groundwork will undertake a comprehensive site induction and be briefed on the existing site constraints and restrictions before any works commence.

The site preparation and groundworks are envisaged to be carried out in the following sequence:

- Demarcation of construction works area, including site levelling to prepare the works area.
- Topsoil will be stripped using excavators and stockpiled within the construction compound.
- Stone for compound surfacing and access road will be delivered in a tipper truck and graded into place using an excavator.
- Once the stone base is in place, temporary perimeter fencing and gates will be erected, all within the Proposed Development site boundary.
- Once compound fencing and gates are in place, mobilisation of the site offices and construction compound will commence.

GIS Building

The main civil works associated with the construction of the substation comprise the following:

- The foundation works will commence after the completion of the site grading. The foundation installation includes – excavation, form work, steel reinforcement and concrete placement.

Excavated materials will be reused on site or disposed off-site to an appropriately licensed facility.

- Following the installation of the foundation, construction activities for the erection of structural steelwork will commence.
- Cladding and building finishing work and the installation of building services, e.g., drainage, internal access road, will be undertaken once the structural frame and steel support structures are completed.
- Construction of permanent surface water drainage works.
- Miscellaneous civil works including paving, permanent fencing, landscaping and completion of works.

110 kV Circuit Transfer

The cable trenches will be planned in advance in order to ensure that the work is completed in the most efficient manner without disruption to existing services on site.

The existing Dunfirth-Kinnegad-Rinawade 110 kV circuit will be diverted from the two new 110 kV double circuit Line Cable Interface Masts (LCIM) and the 110 kV underground cable is proposed to be installed connecting the new masts and the transformer within the 110 kV substation.

Removal of the 110 kV Timber Poleset

The Proposed Development comprises dismantling and removal of existing 110 kV Overhead Line timber poleset of the exiting Dunfirth-Kinnegad-Rinawade 110 kV circuit. The poleset is located to the south of the proposed substation.

The methodology for the dismantling and removal of the OHL tower is as per the following:

- Set up of temporary working area with fencing installed around the tower location.
- The conductor will be disconnected from the poleset by releasing the line tension and winching of conductors onto drums.
- The poleset will then be cut down at ground level and removed from site, which together with other hardware and fittings will be removed from the construction area site for disposal by licensed waste contractors in accordance with the Waste Management Act, as amended and associated regulation.

Installation of the new 110 kV Underground Cables

The Proposed Development will include installation of new 110 kV underground cables from the two proposed LCIMs to the proposed 110 kV substation. The new cables will be ducted, and the ducts laid mostly in trefoil formation.

The methodology for the installation of new 110 kV underground cables is as per the following:

- A trench will be excavated in accordance with the planning drawing PE424-D7001-001-003-011.
- Ducts for the cables will be laid in the trench and compacted in layers to backfill around them and will be encased in Hydraulically Bound Granular Material A (HBM) in accordance with the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) specification CC-SPW-00800.[8] The compaction will be as per Clause 3.4.2.1 and Table 3.11 of these specifications (TII, 2023).

[8] Road Pavements – Unbound and Hydraulically Bound Mixtures CC-SPW-00800 (TII, 2023)

- To ensure the ducts remain in trefoil formation during backfilling, cable ties, non-metallic straps or ropes will be wrapped around them. Red marker strips will be placed above the ducts followed by the backfill of the rest of the trench.
- Yellow warning tape will be laid within this backfill.
- Once excavations are backfilled, the top layer (topsoil or road pavement) will be reinstated as timely as practicably possible.

Installation of new 110 kV Line Cable Interface Masts

The Proposed Development will include installation of two new 110 kV LCIMs to the south of the site boundary.

The methodology for the installation of LCIMs is as per the following:

- Site clearance and site preparation works will be carried out.
- Foundation excavations will be carried out specifically for the type of foundation required depending on ground conditions. When each leg is excavated, concrete is poured to provide a stable base on which the tower stubs will rest. Once concrete is cured, the tower stubs are lowered in position and subsequently concrete is repoured into the foundation. Once this pour is completed and the shear block is shaped, the tower foundations are backfilled, one leg at a time, with material already excavated.
- Once the foundation erection is completed, the tower body steelwork can be assembled. Tower sections are typically assembled on the ground and lifted in place, via a crane. A derrick pole may also be utilised, to lift small sections of steel into place using the derrick and a winch.
- Once excavations are backfilled, the lands around the LCIM foundations will be reinstated as timely as practicably possible.

Access Road

A new internal access road will be constructed within the proposed GIS substation site (approximately 67m in length and 5m in width). The corner radius of 9m is proposed where the access road ties-in to the local road. There A small stretch of road (approximately 12m in length and 5m wide) is proposed which connects the access road to the private property to the east of the site. The geometric design for the direct access is in accordance with the Geometric Design of Junctions (priority junctions, direct accesses, roundabouts, grade separated, and compact grade separated junctions) (TII, 2023)[9].

The proposed internal access road from the entrance to the substation site to the substation compound will be a concrete road. Based on the available preliminary ground information details, a concrete pavement slab of 175mm thickness laid on a 225mm sub-base is proposed. Beneath these two layers, a granular capping layer will be proposed to enhance the ground stiffness. The alignment for the proposed access road is detailed in the planning drawing 229101684-MMD-00-XX-DR-C-0120 to 0122.

The internal road running east-west within the substation compound will be asphalt and the internal road running north-south within the substation compound will be concrete.

A suitable road design will be developed following pre-construction ground investigation works. The concrete road pavement details are shown in drawing 229101684-MMD-00-XX-DR-C-0162.

[9]Geometric Design of Junctions (priority junctions, direct accesses, roundabouts, grade separated, and compact grade separated junctions) (TII, 2023) Doc no. TII-DN-GEO-03060 https://cdn.tii.ie/publications/DN-GEO-03060-03.pdf

Temporary Construction Compounds/Laydown Areas

A temporary construction compound/laydown area is proposed to the north of the substation.

The appointed contractor(s) will be responsible for organising site compounds in consultation with the Environmental Manager or Environmental Clerk of Works (EnCoW).

The Contractor's Environmental Manager will be responsible for the management of the site compounds in accordance with the CEMP. The contractor's compounds will be used for storage of construction materials, as well as construction equipment and machinery.

The contractor will ensure that the proposed compound is secured, either with existing hedgerows/treelines, or new palisade fencing.

Re-fuelling of plant and machinery will take place within the compounds is areas no less than 50m from any watercourses or abstraction wells including public water supplies. Temporary welfare facilities will be provided.

Construction Traffic and Personnel

During construction phase, the anticipated material volumes are approximately 8,000m^3 of stone fill and approximately 2,000m^3 of excavation material.

Based on these volumes, it is estimated that traffic movements will peak at 30 HGV vehicle (60 HGV movements) per day during the civil construction works. In total approximately 2800 HGV vehicle movements are anticipated, to import site equipment, plant, materials, including stone & concrete during civil works, the majority of which will be front loaded in the early stage of the construction works. The above vehicle assumptions are for the estimated volume of imported and exported materials.

The estimated number of construction personal on site during peak construction is expected to be 45. Assuming vehicle occupancy of 1.25 persons per vehicle, up to 36 vehicles are expected per day during the civil construction works.

The delivery of the transformers to the site will constitute abnormal load.

Construction Access

Construction plant and vehicles will access the site via the existing rural road (Jarretstown Lane) to the northern boundary of the site.

Haul Routes

It is envisaged that the construction traffic to the site will use the regional road R149 (east of the proposed development site) or the regional road R157 (northwest of the proposed development site). Both regional roads are off the M3 Motorway.

Construction Working Hours

Construction activities will be undertaken during 07:00 – 19:00 Monday to Friday and 08:00 – 14:00 on Saturday, subject to agreement with local authority and conditions of planning.

No construction works will take place outside these hours, unless such work:

- is required under exceptional circumstances; or
- is carried out with the prior written approval of local authority.

2.4.9.4 Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)

A CEMP has been prepared and submitted as part of this planning application. The CEMP will be implemented during the construction phase. The CEMP will remain a 'live' document which

will be reviewed regularly and revised as necessary in consultation and agreement with the local authorities to ensure that the measures implemented are effective.

The CEMP will be a key contract document, which will ensure that all mitigation measures, which are considered necessary to protect the environment are implemented. The primary objective of the CEMP is to safeguard the environment, site personnel and nearby sensitive receptors from site activity which may cause harm or nuisance. As such, the CEMP sets out a project framework to ensure that key mitigation measures and conditions set out as part of the planning consent process are translated into measurable actions and are appropriately implemented during the construction phase of the Proposed Development. As part of this framework, transparent and effective monitoring of the receiving environment during construction will be used to inform and manage on-going activities on site and to demonstrate effectiveness of the measures outlined therein.

In addition to the above, the CEMP includes an Emergency Incident Response Plan (Section 5 of the CEMP). In the unlikely event of an incident, the Emergency Incident Response Plan will ensure that any incident is dealt with effectively, and that the response is timely and appropriate. This plan will be further developed by the appointed Contractor, in line with the mitigation measures detailed in the CEMP, to describe the procedures, lines of authority and processes that will be followed to ensure that all incident response efforts are prompt, efficient and appropriate to the particular incident. Inland Fisheries Ireland and the EPA will be notified, if appropriate, in the event of an incident or accident.

Resource Waste Management Plan (RWMP)

Prior to commencement of the development, the appointed Contractor will implement the construction phase Resource and Waste Management Plan (RWMP) (included as an Appendix to the CEMP) which will ensure that optimum levels of waste prevention, reduction, reuse, recycling, and recovery are achieved throughout the duration of the Proposed Development. As with the CEMP and construction TMP, the RWMP will remain a ‘live’ document and will be reviewed regularly and revised as necessary in consultation and agreement with local authority to ensure that the measures implemented are effective.

The plan has been prepared in accordance with waste management guidance and principles as outlined in *Best practice guidelines for the preparation of resource & waste management plans for construction & demolition projects* (EPA, 2021) and Design Out Waste: A design team guide to waste reduction in construction and demolition projects (EPA, 2015). All operations at the site will be managed and programmed in such a manner as to prevent/minimise waste production and maximise upper tier waste management (i.e. reuse, recycle, and recovery) in line with the Waste Hierarchy where technically and economically feasible.

The requirement to develop, maintain and operate the construction phase RWMP will form part of the contract documents for the Proposed Development and will be updated by the appointed Contractor in advance of the commencement of construction activities on site. Waste sent off site for recovery or disposal will only be conveyed by an authorised waste Contractor and transported from the Proposed Development site to an authorised site of recovery/disposal in a manner which will not adversely affect the environment. All employees will be required to comply with the obligations under this RWMP.

Traffic Management Plan (TMP)

The appointed Contractor will implement and develop the construction phase Traffic Management Plan (TMP) included as an Appendix B to the CEMP in ongoing consultation with local authority. The TMP will remain a ‘live’ document and will be reviewed regularly and revised as necessary in consultation and agreement with the local authority to ensure that the measures implemented are effective.

The implementation of the TMP will mitigate potential construction traffic impacts on the public road network. All construction activities, including construction traffic, will be managed through the CEMP.

2.4.9.5 Environmental Supervision and Monitoring

An Environmental Clerk of Works (EnCoW) will be employed to oversee implementation of mitigation measures. This will include monitoring and auditing the works and contractor programmes and works method statements, to ensure mitigation is correctly implemented.

The EnCoW will be appropriately qualified and will have demonstrable experience in ecological supervision. The role of EnCoW role can be fulfilled by one personnel or a team of several people at different stages, as appropriate.

The EnCoW will also ensure any disturbance licenses, if required are arranged based on relevant details and any significant findings of confirmatory pre-construction surveys outlined in the Planning and Environmental Considerations Report (PECR). The EnCoW will advise on mitigation measures implementation including the scheduling of works and will be included in regular liaison meetings between project teams to ensure that plans are co-ordinated, and effects are minimised.

An EnCoW / ecologist from ESB will review and comment on the pre-construction survey reports, mitigation proposals, monitoring and compliance reports generated by the EnCoW. The EnCoW / ecologist will have the necessary experience and knowledge appropriate to the role.

An Environmental Manager will also be appointed who will be a suitably qualified, competent and experienced professional to perform the necessary tasks, review environmental procedures and consult with the members of the construction team and stakeholders as required. The Environmental Manager will be responsible for managing and responding to environmental incidents and ensuring that all incidents are recorded and reported in an appropriate manner.

All monitoring reports will be provided to the Employer's Representative team (ie the ESB), to and to local authority or other parties where required by condition.

For further detail on the role and responsibilities of the EnCoW and Environmental Manager, refer to the CEMP.

2.4.10 Operation and Maintenance

During operations, the Proposed Development will be operated 24-hours per day, seven days per week. The substation will be mostly unmanned. For operation and maintenance purposes, it is anticipated that a two person crew will be visiting the substation three days in a week, at a maximum.

2.5 European Sites in the Zone of Influence

2.5.1 Introduction

In the context of on ecological impact assessment generally (CIEEM, 2024) the zone of influence (ZoI) for a Proposed Development is defined as:

"*The area over which ecological features may be affected by biophysical changes as a result of the proposed project and associated activities. This is likely to extend beyond the project site, for example where there are ecological or hydrological links beyond the site boundaries*" and that "*the zone of influence will vary for different ecological features depending on their sensitivity to an environmental change*."

The ZoI varies depending on the construction and operational activity and the sensitivity of the receptor (e.g., flora, birds, terrestrial mammals) to the effect encountered.

The ZoI identified for various ecological receptors, having regard to the potential for impact as outlined previously are as detailed below:

- The footprint of the Proposed Development for direct damage to habitats
- No significant dust effects are likely based on the Proposed Development. However localised dust deposition may occur during construction. Dust effects to ecological receptors was identified as 50m based on guidance from the Institute of Air Quality Management[10] . As such, the ZoI is taken as 50m for dust effects within this AA.
- 74m for moderate noise effects (>65dB LAeq)[11] to wetland bird species, based on noise modelling conducted for the project (refer Chapter 5 accompanying PECR). This assessment indicates that the noise levels drop to 65dB at 74m from noise source during construction phase of the Proposed Development i.e. imperceptible effect. Worst case noise levels during operational phase are 36dB at 74m from the noise source (imperceptible effect).
- 300m for visual disturbance to waterfowl[12]
- 150m for breeding otter holts[13]
- Catchment wide ZoI for surface waterbodies
- 250m for groundwater dependant terrestrial ecosystems (GWDTEs)[14]
- 8km for marsh fritillary (*Euphrydryas aurinia*)[15]
- 1km for breeding raptors[16]
- No other mobile Qualifying Interest species are likely to be within the ZoI.

2.5.2 Source-Pathway-Receptor and Impact Assessment

Projects have the potential to impact on European sites beyond the footprint of the project itself. National Guidance[17] states that screening for AA should be carried out for any European site within the likely ZoI of a plan or project. For projects, the guidance recommends that ZoI must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reference to the nature, size and location of the project, the sensitivities of the ecological receptors, and the potential for in-combination effects.

In order to establish the ZoI of the Proposed Development, desktop and field survey data on protected habitats and species was mapped using a Geographic Information System (GIS). The

[10] Institute of Air Quality Management (2024) Guidance on the assessment of dust from demolition and construction.

[11] Cutts, N., Phelps, A., & Burdon, D. (2009). Construction and waterfowl: Defining sensitivity, response, impacts and guidance. Report to Humber INCA by the Institute of Estuarine and Coastal Studies, University of Hull. EN (2003) The Humber Estuary European Marine Site: English Nature's advice given under Regulation, 33

[12] Cutts, N., Hemingway, K., Spencer, J., (2013) Waterbird Disturbance Mitigation Toolkit Informing Estuarine Planning and Construction Projects.

[13] National Roads Authority (2006). Guidelines for the Treatment of Otters prior to the Construction of National Road Schemes.

[14] Kilroy G, Dunne F, Ryan J, O'Connor A, Daly D, Craig M, Coxon C, Johnston P and Henning M (2008). A Framework for the Assessment of Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems under the Water Framework Directive. Environmental Research Centre Report. Environmental Protection Agency Ireland.

[15] Zimmermann K, Fric Z, Jiskra P, Kopeckova M, Vlasanek P, Zapletal M, Konvicka M (2011) Mark-recapture on large spatial scale reveals long distance dispersal in the Marsh Fritillary, Euphydryas aurinia. Ecol Entomol 36:499–510

[16] Ruddock, M. and Whitfield, D.P. (2007). A Review of Disturbance Distances in Selected Bird Species. A Report from Natural Research (Projects) Ltd to Scottish Natural Heritage. Scottish Natural Heritage.

[17] Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland, Guidance for Planning Authorities, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2009

potential ZoIs associated with the project are outlined in Section 2.5.1. GIS data was then interrogated for source-pathway-receptor connectivity.

The source (potential impacts from the Proposed Development), pathways (hydrological, physical or ecological connectivity) and receptors (QIs and SCIs of the European sites) were identified through a combination of bespoke field survey, and desktop survey including use of GIS software and through examination of aerial photography. Having regard to these ZoIs. any European sites identified to have a viable source-pathway-receptor link to the Proposed Development were then examined further to determine the potential for significant effects.

The location of the application site boundary for the Proposed Development in relation to European sites is provided in Figure 2.1 (above).

The results of the source-pathway-receptor assessment are presented in Table 2.4.

Table 2.4: Source-Pathway-Receptor Assessment

Site Name (Code) and Conservation Objectives	Distance between the Proposed Development and European Site (straight line) at closest point	Qualifying Interests (QIs) / Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of the European Site (* denotes priority habitat, breeding birds only noted otherwise wintering)	Source-Pathway-Receptor Assessment	Potential for Significant Effects
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)				
Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC [001398][18]	2.1km	• Petrifying springs with tufa formation (*Cratoneurion*) [7220] • *Vertigo angustior* (Narrow-mouthed whorl snail) [1014] • *Vertigo moulinsiana* (Desmoulin's whorl snail) [1016]	The Proposed Development is located entirely outside of the SAC boundary. As such, there is no potential for impacts within the SAC itself. There is a drainage ditch to the southwest and south of the Proposed Development boundary with a shallow flow to the southeast, into the Oranstown stream. The Oranstown stream flows under the Royal Canal Main Line approximately 3.3km to the south, which is downstream of the SAC. Therefore, there is no viable hydrological connectivity between the Proposed Development and the SAC.	As the Proposed Development is located entirely outside the boundary of the SAC, there is no potential for significant impacts to this European Site in terms of direct habitat loss. Additionally, there is no viable hydrological connectivity between the Proposed Development and the SAC. Therefore, there is no potential for the Proposed Development to have significant direct or indirect effects on this SAC, or on its QI habitats and species.

[18] NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives: Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC 001398. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

European sites in Dublin Bay and Irish Sea are considered in this assessment as there is tenuous hydrological connectivity. Given the small scale of the proposed development relative to the catchment area and extensive distance (>25km) no adverse effects are likely to European sites in Dublin Bay and the Irish Sea.

2.6 Plans and Projects that May Act in Combination

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires that:

"Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives."

It is therefore required that the potential impacts of the Proposed Development are considered in combination with any other relevant plans or projects.

177U (1) A screening for appropriate F918 [assessment of a draft Land use plan or application for consent for proposed development] shall be carried out by the competent authority to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if that Land use plan or proposed development, individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the European site.

An assessment of plans and projects with the potential for in combination effects in association with the Proposed Development was undertaken.

A search of planning applications[19] submitted within the last 5 years within 3km of the Proposed Development was undertaken in August 2025 to examine projects with potential for in combination effects. Five years is considered an acceptable timeframe for this search given the rural location, potential impacts identified for the project alone, and relatively small scale and localised nature and extent of impacts associated with the Proposed Development.

Given the location of these projects is outside European sites and the relatively small-scale nature of the Proposed Development, there is no potential for in-combination effects.

Appendix A outlines the planning applications considered and assesses the potential for in-combination effects. In summary, no potential for in-combination effects was identified.

2.7 Summary of Potentially Significant Effects

The Proposed Development is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site and must therefore be assessed for the likelihood for significant effects, i.e., screened for the need to be subjected to Appropriate Assessment.

Table 2.5 provides a summary screening assessment of the Proposed Development.

Table 2.5: Screening Matrix of the Project (Proposed Development)

Project Plan	
Brief description of the project or plan	The Proposed Development comprises a new 110 kV/38 kV/MV Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) substation on a c. 3.6 ha site located in the townland of Walterstown, Dunboyne, Co. Meath, as illustrated in Figure 1.1.

[19] Planning Websites: Map Search | An Bord Pleanála (pleanala.ie), https://www.eplanning.ie/MeathCC/searchtypes

	The Proposed Development is predominantly within improved agricultural lands with field boundaries delineated by mature hedgerows. The Oranstown stream runs along the boundary of the site, and is approximately 90m west of closest construction works
Natura 2000 Site	
Brief description of the Natura 2000 site(s)	The application site is located close to one European site (Figure 2.1). This site is considered the only European sites possibly within the Zone of Influence of the Proposed Development: ● Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC There is no hydrological connectivity between the Proposed Development and this European Site, as the Oranstown stream flows under the Grand Canal Main Line, which is located downstream of the SAC. Nationally available data on protected habitats and species and hydrological pathways was mapped using Geographical Information Systems (GIS). This data plus aerial photography was interrogated for source-pathway-receptor connectivity between the Proposed Development and European Sites. Considering the location of the project site boundary and absence of connectivity (hydrological, physical or ecological), no source-pathway-receptor link was identified between the Proposed Development and any European site.
Assessment Criteria	
Describe the individual elements of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to impacts on the Natura 2000 site.	● No individual element of the Proposed Development will adversely effect any Natura 2000 site.
Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the Natura 2000 site by virtue of: ● Size and scale; ● Land-take; ● Distance from the Natura 2000 site or key features of the site; ● Resource requirements (water abstraction etc); ● Emissions (disposal to land, water or air); ● Excavation requirements; ● Transportation requirements; ● Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning etc; ● Other.	● There will be no land take within the European site boundaries. ● Water and other resources will not be taken from the site. ● No impacts are predicted as a result of transportation. ● There is no potential for the Proposed Development to cause water quality degradation of the Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC as there is no hydrological connection between the Proposed Development and the SAC. ● The construction works have the potential to result in the disturbance of wildlife due to an increase in noise, lighting and visual disturbance locally but not in any European site. ●
Describe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of: ● Reduction in habitat area; ● Disturbance to key species; ● Habitat or species fragmentation; ● Reduction in species density; ● Changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.);	● Vegetation clearance and excavation of lands to accommodate the works will increase soil erosion, dust and runoff from site resulting in increased sedimentation locally but will not present a risk of impact to European sites ● Release of construction pollution may cause a sudden change in the chemical composition of the site e.g. change in alkalinity from concrete runoff but will not present a risk of impact to European sites. ● Operational discharge of contaminated water is possible in the absence of a suitable contaminated storage tank incorporated in the design and maintenance of same. No risk of impact to European sites is likely.

• Climate change.	
Describe any likely impacts on the Natura 2000 site as a whole in terms of: • Interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the site; • Interference with key relationships that define the function of the site.	• There will be no impacts to any Natura 2000 site QI habitats/species because of the Proposed Development.
Provide indicators of significance as a result of the identification of effects set out above in terms of: • Loss; • Fragmentation; • Disruption; • Disturbance; Change to key elements of the site.	• There will be no impacts to any Natura 2000 site QI habitats/species because of the Proposed Development.
Describe from the above those elements of the project or plan, or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale or magnitude of impacts is not known	• There will be no impacts to any Natura 2000 site, or any QI habitats/species, because of the Proposed Development.

3 Appropriate Assessment Screening Conclusion

The current assessment investigates the potential for significant effects arising from the proposed works on the SCIs and QIs of European sites within the Natura 2000 network. The assessment considers whether the proposed works, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, will have a significant effect on these European Sites.

It is concluded that there is no potential for significant effects on any European Sites from the project, alone or in-combination, with other plans or projects.

The findings of this report for screening for Appropriate Assessment are summarised in the Findings of no Significant Effects Matrix in Table 3.1 and are presented to aid the Competent Authority in their screening assessment.

Table 3.1: Findings of No Significant Effects Matrix

Name of project or plan	**Walterstown 110 kV Substation**
Name and location of European sites	Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC [001398]
Description of the project or plan	New 110 kV/38 kV/MV distribution station on a c. 3.6ha site located in the townland of Walterstown, approximately 3.8km south of Dunboyne, Co. Meath.
Is the project or plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site?	No
Are there other projects or plans that together with the project or plan being assessed could affects the site?	No
Assessment of Significant Effects	
Describe how the project or plan (alone or in-combination) is likely to affect the Natura 2000 site	No likely effects were determined from the Proposed Development
Explain why these effects are not considered significant	No likely effects were determined, therefore, there can be no alteration of the conservation condition or objectives of the European Site due to the proposed works
List of agencies consulted: provide contact name, telephone and/or email address	None
Response to consultation	N/A
Data collected to carry out the assessment	
Who carried out the assessment?	Siún Ní Cheallaigh, Ecologist with Mott MacDonald
Sources of data	Referenced provided throughout report within footnotes
Level of assessment	Desktop study and site visit

Appendices

A. In-Combination Effects

Table A.1: Plans, Projects and Proposals that Might Act In-Combination with the Proposed Development

Planning Authority	Application Number	Development Description	Appropriate Assessment Findings and Potential for Significant Impact
Kildare County Council	16406	Replacement and relocation of an electrical switch room serving the Fab 10 facility. The replacement switch room is single storey 25.2m by 12.2m by 9.8m high and will be located in the utilities yard to the rear of the Fab 10 manufacturing facility. The replaced switch room will be decommissioned and demolished as part of these works. The Intel Ireland production site is licensed under Part IV of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 (as amended for the Protection of the Environment Act, 204) and the Intel Ireland production site is an establishment within the meaning of the European Communities (Control of Major Accident Hazards involving Dangerous Substances) Regulations 2006.	The planning report notes in relation to Appropriate Assessment "An Appropriate Assessment has been carried out and a Screening report accompanies this application which concludes that no element of the proposed development will affect the Natura 2000 network of sites." Given the nature, scale and location (>3km distance) of the development, no potential for in-combination effects is identified.
Kildare County Council	226	to amend the design of the approved development (Planning Reference 16/848) which comprises consent for a Solar PV Energy Development. Proposed amendments include: (1) Substation to increase in size and relocate; (2) Customer substation to be removed, (3) Storage container to relocate, (4) Transformer containers to relocate, increase in size and reduce in numbers, (5) Change in height and layout of deer fencing, (6) Reduction in height and number of CCTV cameras, (7) Slight alteration to the access tracks, (8) Change in height and angle of solar panels, (9) MW output to be reduced from 10MW to 8.2MW, and (10) Project lifetime proposed to be extended from 30 to 35 years. Revised by Significant Further Information which consists of the duration allowed for the works permitted under planning application reference 16/848 is sought to be increased to 10 years from the date of the final grant of permission (9th March 2017); and Condition 18 is sought to be amended to allow construction of both Confey Solar Farm (16/848) and Towerhill Solar Farm (16/777 to occur at the same time	The planning and environmental report notes in relation to Appropriate Assessment "This assessment concluded that there will be no significant direct, indirect, secondary or in-combination effects on any Natura 2000 site." Given the nature, scale and location (>3km distance) of the development, no potential for in-combination effects is identified.

Planning Authority	Application Number	Development Description	Appropriate Assessment Findings and Potential for Significant Impact
An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP)	301908	Greater Dublin Drainage Project consisting of a new wastewater treatment plant, sludge hub centre, orbital sewer, outfall pipeline and regional biosolids storage facility	The Natura Impact Statement report concludes "beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the proposed project with the implementation of the prescribed mitigation measures will not give rise to significant impacts either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, in a manner which adversely impacts the integrity of any designated site within the Natura 2000 network." Given the nature, scale and location (>3km distance) of the development, no potential for in-combination effects is identified.
An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP)	301923	Construction of a new 220kV substation compound, associated underground 220kV cables and associated works to facilitate a new data centre campus.	The Inspector's report concludes "it is reasonable to conclude that on the basis of the information on the file … that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects would not be likely to have a significant effect on European Site No. 001398 (Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC), or any other European Site." Given the nature, scale and location (>3km distance) of the development, no potential for in-combination effects is identified.
An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP)	303636	Photovoltaic Solar Farm	The Inspector's report concludes "it is reasonable to conclude that on the basis of the information on the file … that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects would not be likely to have a significant effect on Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC (Site Code 001398), Ballynafagh Bog (Site Code 000391) and the Ballynafagh Lake SAC (Site Code 001387), or any other European Site." Given the nature, scale and location (>3km distance) of the development, no potential for in-combination effects is identified.

Planning Authority	Application Number	Development Description	Appropriate Assessment Findings and Potential for Significant Impact
An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP)	303878	110 kV substation and associated compound, ancillary equipment, and connection to facilitate the connection of a consented solar farm.	The Inspector's report concludes "it is reasonable to conclude that on the basis of the information on the file … that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects would not be likely to have a significant effect on Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC (Site Code 001398), South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (Site Code 004024), South Dublin Bay SPA (Site Code 000210), or any other European Site." Given the nature, scale and location (>3km distance) of the development, no potential for in-combination effects is identified.
An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP)	304862	220 kV Gas Insulated Switchgear substation, 2 no. 220 kV underground circuits forming a loop-in/loop-out to the existing Maynooth-Woodland 220 kV Overhead Line and 6 no. 220 kV underground circuits and associated low voltage and communication underground cabling connecting the proposed substation with electricity transformers within the Intel Ireland Facility, and all associated and ancillary site development works.	A Natura Impact Statement report accompanies this planning application and concludes that following the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, the proposed development is not likely to have a significant effect on European Sites. Given the nature, scale and location (>3km distance) of the development, no potential for in-combination effects is identified.
An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP)	305962	The proposed construction of a Data Centre (accommodating Date Halls, Plant and Equipment Rooms); associated External Plant area and all associated site works.	The Inspector's report concludes "... the proposed development is not considered likely to have significant effects River Rye Water SAC having regard to its conservation objectives." Given the nature, scale and location (>3km distance) of the development, no potential for in-combination effects is identified.
An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP)	306834	Provision of a double circuit 220kV transmission line and a 220kV gas insulated switchgear (GIS) substation along with associated and ancillary works.	The Inspector's report concludes "... the proposed development does not have the potential to affect any European sites having regard to the conservation objectives of the relevant site …."

Planning Authority	Application Number	Development Description	Appropriate Assessment Findings and Potential for Significant Impact
			Given the nature, scale and location (>3km distance) of the development, no potential for in-combination effects is identified.
An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP)	308585	Clutterland 110 kV GIS Substation building and 2 underground single circuit transmission lines	The Inspector's report concludes." …it has been concluded that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects would not be likely to have significant effects on European sites No's 004024, 004006, 000210, 000206, 001398 or any other European site … " Given the nature, scale and location (>3km distance) of the development, no potential for in-combination effects is identified.
An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP)	309951	Provision of two 110 kV transmission lines. Connecting Coolderrig 110 kV GIS Substation to Grange Castle - Kilmahud circuits.	The Inspector's report concludes." …it has been concluded that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects would not be likely to have significant effects on European sites No's 004024, 004006, 000210, 000206, 001398 or any other European site … " Given the nature, scale and location (>3km distance) of the development, no potential for in-combination effects is identified.
An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP)	312131	Greater Dublin Drainage Project consisting of a new wastewater treatment plant, sludge hub centre, orbital sewer, outfall pipeline and regional biosolids storage facility	A Natura Impact Statement report accompanies this planning application and concludes that following the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, the proposed development is not likely to have a significant effect on European Sites. Given the nature, scale and location (>3km distance) of the development, no potential for in-combination effects is identified.
An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP)	313757	Permission for a Synchronous Compensator (Electricity Grid stabilisation) development. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) was submitted with this application.	A Natura Impact Statement report accompanies this planning application and concludes that following the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures,

Planning Authority	Application Number	Development Description	Appropriate Assessment Findings and Potential for Significant Impact
			the proposed development is not likely to have a significant effect on European Sites. Given the nature, scale and location (>3km distance) of the development, no potential for in-combination effects is identified.
An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP)	313892	Bus Connects Blanchardstown to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme	A Natura Impact Statement report accompanies this planning application and concludes that following the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, the proposed development is not likely to have a significant effect on European Sites. Given the nature, scale and location (>3km distance) of the development, no potential for in-combination effects is identified.
An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP)	314232	DART+ West Railway Order - Dublin City to Maynooth and M3 Parkway	A Natura Impact Statement report accompanies this planning application and concludes that following the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, the proposed development is not likely to have a significant effect on European Sites. Given the nature, scale and location (>3km distance) of the development, no potential for in-combination effects is identified.
An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP)	314567	Underground 110 kV transmission line connections between the permitted Kishoge 110 kV GIS substation and the permitted Aungierstown - Castlebaggot underground 110 kV transmission line.	The Inspector's report concludes." …by itself and in combination with other developments in the vicinity, the proposed development would not be likely to have significant effects on any European site in view of the Sites' Conservation Objectives." Given the nature, scale and location (>3km distance) of the development, no potential for in-combination effects is identified.

Planning Authority	Application Number	Development Description	Appropriate Assessment Findings and Potential for Significant Impact
An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP)	314894	Proposed development of a 220kV Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) substation on lands at Kilshane Road, and an underground 220kV transmission line connection to the existing Cruiserath 220kV substation.	The Inspector's report accompanying this planning application concludes that Stage 2 AA Screening and NIS is not required. Given the nature, scale and location (>3km distance) of the development, no potential for in-combination effects is identified.
An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP)	315725	Upgrades to existing network and provision of new pipeline. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) was submitted with this application.	A Natura Impact Statement report accompanies this planning application and concludes that following the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, the proposed development is not likely to have a significant effect on European Sites. Given the nature, scale and location (>3km distance) of the development, no potential for in-combination effects is identified.
An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP)	316119	DART+ South West Electrified Heavy Railway Order - Hazelhatch & Celbridge Station to Heuston Station, and Hesuton Station to Glasnevin	A Natura Impact Statement report accompanies this planning application and concludes that following the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, the proposed development is not likely to have a significant effect on European Sites. Given the nature, scale and location (>3km distance) of the development, no potential for in-combination effects is identified.
An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP)	316372	'Kildare-Meath Grid Upgrade' - Proposed development of a 400 kV underground cable between Dunstown 400 kV substation and Woodland 400 kV substation.	A Natura Impact Statement report accompanies this planning application and concludes that following the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, the proposed development is not likely to have a significant effect on European Sites. Given the nature, scale and location (>3km distance) of the development, no potential for in-combination effects is identified.

Planning Authority	Application Number	Development Description	Appropriate Assessment Findings and Potential for Significant Impact
An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP)	316828	Tallaght/Clondalkin to City Centre BusConnect Core Bus Corridor Scheme.	A Natura Impact Statement report accompanies this planning application and concludes that following the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, the proposed development is not likely to have a significant effect on European Sites. Given the nature, scale and location (>3km distance) of the development, no potential for in-combination effects is identified.
An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP)	317304	Alterations to overhead electricity power line. A Natura Impact Statement and Environmental Impact Assessment Report accompany the application.	A Natura Impact Statement report accompanies this planning application and concludes that following the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, the proposed development is not likely to have a significant effect on European Sites. Given the nature, scale and location (>3km distance) of the development, no potential for in-combination effects is identified.
An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP)	317822	Solar PV energy development	A Natura Impact Statement report accompanies this planning application and concludes that following the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, the proposed development is not likely to have a significant effect on European Sites. Given the nature, scale and location (>3km distance) of the development, no potential for in-combination effects is identified.
An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP)	319422	Proposed development of a 400 kV underground cable	A Natura Impact Statement report accompanies this planning application and concludes that following the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, the proposed development is not likely to have a significant effect on European Sites. Given the nature, scale and location (>3km distance) of the development, no potential for in-combination effects is identified.

Planning Authority	Application Number	Development Description	Appropriate Assessment Findings and Potential for Significant Impact
An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP)	320738	Proposed development of 220kV 'Loop in' Substation, Battery Energy Storage System, Overhead lines, and associated works	A Natura Impact Statement report accompanies this planning application and concludes that following the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, the proposed development is not likely to have a significant effect on European Sites. Given the nature, scale and location (>3km distance) of the development, no potential for in-combination effects is identified.
An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP)	320755	Construction of a solar farm and underground grid connection route and all associated site works. Natura Impact Statement submitted with this application. Significant further information/revised plans submitted on this application.	A Natura Impact Statement report accompanies this planning application and concludes that following the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, the proposed development is not likely to have a significant effect on European Sites. Given the nature, scale and location (>3km distance) of the development, no potential for in-combination effects is identified.
An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP)	320789	Construction of two Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) buildings and all ancillary works including associated temporary works at construction stage. Planning permission is sought for a period of 10 years. Natura Impact Statement submitted with the application.	A Natura Impact Statement report accompanies this planning application and concludes that following the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, the proposed development is not likely to have a significant effect on European Sites. Given the nature, scale and location (>3km distance) of the development, no potential for in-combination effects is identified.
An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP)	248544	Construction of a data storage facility. An Environmental Impact Statement was lodged with the application. Site bounded by the R121 Cruiserath Road, R121/Church Road and	The Inspector's report accompanying this planning application concludes that "…the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is not likely to have a significant effect on European sites…" Given the nature, scale and location (>3km distance) of the development, no potential for in-combination effects is identified.

Planning Authority	Application Number	Development Description	Appropriate Assessment Findings and Potential for Significant Impact
An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP)	PA0043	Health Infrastructure Development comprising National Paediatric Hospital, Innovation Centre and Family Accommodation Unit at St James' Hospital Campus, Satellite Centres at Tallaght and Connolly	The Inspector's report accompanying this planning application concludes that Stage 2 AA Screening and NIS is not required. Given the nature, scale and location (>3km distance) of the development, no potential for in-combination effects is identified.
An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP)	VA0019	West Dublin 220/110 kV substation and associated works in the Grange Castle area,	The Inspector's report accompanying this planning application concludes that Stage 2 AA Screening and NIS is not required. Given the nature, scale and location (>3km distance) of the development, no potential for in-combination effects is identified.