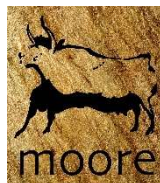


Report for the purposes of  
Appropriate Assessment Screening

DUB30 Kish Grid Connection


Prepared by: Moore Group – Environmental Services

6 November 2025



On behalf of Echelon

<b>Project Proponent</b>	Echelon
<b>Project</b>	DUB30 Kish Grid Connection
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## Abbreviations

AA	Appropriate Assessment
ACP	An Coimisiún Pleanála
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
EEC	European Economic Community
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EU	European Union
FWPM	Freshwater Pearl Mussel
GIS	Geographical Information System
LAP	Local Area Plan
NHA	Natural Heritage Area
NIS	Natura Impact Statement
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
OSI	Ordnance Survey Ireland
pNHA	proposed Natural Heritage Area
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage System
UÉ	Uisce Éireann
WFD	Water Framework Directive

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. General Introduction

This report for the purposes of Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening contains information required for the competent authority to make a determination on screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) in respect of alterations to the alignment of the proposed grid connection at Kish Business Park, Arklow, Co. Wicklow (hereafter referred to as the Proposed Development) to determine whether it is likely individually or in combination with other plans or projects to have a significant effect on any European sites, in light of best scientific knowledge.

Having regard to the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended (the "Planning Acts") (section 177U), the purpose of a screening exercise under section 177U of the PDA 2000 is to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on a European site.

If it cannot be *excluded* 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 then it is necessary to carry out a Stage 2 appropriate assessment under section 177V of the Planning Acts.

When screening the project, there are two possible outcomes:

- the project poses no potential for the possibility of a significant effect and as such requires no Stage 2 assessment; or
- the project has potential to have a significant effect (or this is uncertain and therefore cannot be excluded) and therefore a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment of the project is necessary.

This report has been prepared by Moore Group - Environmental Services to enable the competent authority to make a determination on AA screening in relation to the Proposed Development. The report was compiled by Ger O'Donohoe B.Sc. Applied Aquatic Sciences (ATU Galway, 1993) & M.Sc. Environmental Sciences (TCD, 1999) who has over 30 years' experience in environmental impact assessment and has completed numerous Appropriate Assessment Screening Reports and Natura Impact Statements on terrestrial and aquatic habitats for various development types.

## 1.2. Legislative Background - The Habitats and Birds Directives

Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive are transposed into Irish Law inter alia by the Part XAB of the Planning Acts (in particular section 177U and 177V) which governs the requirement to carry out appropriate assessment screening and appropriate assessment, where required, per Section 1.1 above.

The Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora) is the main legislative instrument for the protection and conservation of biodiversity in the European Union (EU). Under the Habitats Directive, Member States are obliged to designate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) which contain habitats or species considered important for protection and conservation in a EU context.

The Birds Directive (Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds), transposed into Irish law by the Bird and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011 as amended, and the Wildlife Act 1976, as amended, is concerned with the long-term protection and management of all wild bird species and their habitats in the EU. Among other things, the Birds Directive requires that Special Protection Areas (SPAs) be established to protect migratory species and species which are rare, vulnerable, in danger of extinction, or otherwise require special attention.

SACs designated under the Habitats Directive and SPAs, designated under the Birds Directive, form a pan-European network of protected sites known as Natura 2000. The Habitats Directive sets out a unified system for the protection and management of SACs and SPAs. These sites are also referred to as European sites.

Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the requirement for an assessment of proposed plans and projects likely to have a significant effect on Natura 2000 sites.

Article 6(3) establishes the requirement to screen all plans and projects and to carry out an appropriate assessment if required (Appropriate Assessment (AA)).

***Article 6(3):** “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 subjected to an appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In 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.”*

Article 6(4) establishes requirements in cases of imperative reasons of overriding public interest.

## 2. Methodology

The Commission’s methodological guidance (EC, 2002, 2018, 2021 see Section 2.1 below) promotes a four-stage process to complete the AA and outlines the issues and tests at each stage. An important aspect of the process is that the outcome at each successive stage determines whether a further stage in the process is required.

Stages 1 and 2 deal with the main requirements for assessment under Article 6(3). Stage 3 may be part of Article 6(3) or may be a necessary precursor to Stage 4. Stage 4 is the main derogation step of Article 6(4).

**Stage 1 Screening:** This stage examines the likely effects of a project either alone or in combination with other plans and projects upon a Natura 2000 site and considers whether it can be objectively concluded that these effects will not be significant. In order to screen out a project, it must be excluded, 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.

**Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment:** This stage considers whether the plan or project, alone or in combination with other projects or plans, will have adverse effects on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site, and includes any mitigation measures necessary to avoid, reduce or offset negative effects. The proponent of the plan or project will be required to submit a Natura Impact Statement, i.e. the report of a targeted professional scientific examination of the plan or project and the relevant Natura 2000 sites, to identify and characterise any possible implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives, taking account of in combination effects.

**Stage 3 Assessment of Alternative Solutions:** This stage examines alternative ways of implementing the project that, where possible, avoid any adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site.

**Stage 4 Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain:** Where imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) exist, an assessment to consider whether compensatory measures will or will not effectively offset the damage to the sites will be necessary.

To ensure that the Proposed Development complies fully with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and all relevant Irish transposing legislation, Moore Group compiled this report to enable the competent authority to make a determination on AA screening in relation to the Proposed Development to determine whether it can be excluded, 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).

## 2.1. Guidance

This report has been compiled in accordance with guidance contained in the following documents:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities. (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2010 rev.).
- Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular NPWS 1/10 & PSSP 2/10.
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provisions of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2018).
- Guidance document on the strict protection of animal species of Community interest under the Habitats Directive (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, 2021).
- Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management (OPR, 2021).
- Natura Impact Statement Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlement Guidelines for Planning Authorities (NPWS, 2024).

## 2.2. Data Sources

Sources of information that were used to collect data on the Natura 2000 network of sites, and the environment within which they are located, are listed below:

- The following mapping and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) data sources, as required:
  - National Parks & Wildlife (NPWS) protected site boundary data;
  - Ordnance Survey of Ireland (OSI) mapping and aerial photography;
  - OSI/Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rivers and streams, and catchments;
  - Digital Elevation Model over Europe (EU-DEM);
  - Google Earth and Bing aerial photography 1995-2025;
- Online data available on Natura 2000 sites as held by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) from [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie) including:
  - Natura 2000 - Standard Data Form;
  - Conservation Objectives;
  - Site Synopses;
- National Biodiversity Data Centre records;
  - Online database of rare, threatened and protected species;
  - Publicly accessible biodiversity datasets.
- Status of EU Protected Habitats in Ireland. (National Parks & Wildlife Service, 2019); and
- Relevant Development Plans;
  - Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

## 3. Description of the Proposed Development

It is noted that section 146B of the Act provides that “any person who is carrying out or intending to carry out a strategic infrastructure development” can request alterations to said development under this section of the Act.

The proposed alterations to the Strategic Infrastructure Development, which this Section 146B relates to, can be summarised as the modification of the permitted alignment of the two 110kV underground transmission

lines, Circuit A and Circuit B, to realign Circuit B to run parallel to Circuit A, and along the same routing. Details of the proposed alterations are provided below. This alteration presents a reduced impact from the development (compared to the permitted layout), as it avoids the opening of roads and traversing lands along two routes.

In the proposed alterations, Circuit A generally follows the same alignment as in the permitted development, with some minor changes. As permitted, Circuit A proceeds westwards from the site of the substation, crossing the rail line. Next, instead of running along the R772, it traverses agricultural lands adjacent to the R772 travelling south-west, before rejoining a short section of the R772 and crossing underneath the M11 at Junction 21. It then proceeds along the L6817 before entering agricultural lands to the east of the L6187, terminating at the existing Arklow-Banoge overhead line.

Other minor changes to the alignment of Circuit A occur where the circuit connects to the substation; where it crosses the M11; and where it enters agricultural lands from the L6187 to connect drop down mast and overhead line.

The proposed modified Circuit B will proceed westwards from the site of the 110kV GIS substation, crossing the nearby rail line, then proceed south-west parallel to the R772 and Circuit A, cross the Moneylane Stream and then cross underneath the M11 motorway at Junction 21. It will then proceed along the L6187, continuing until it meets Knockenrahan, then proceed north-east along part of the Knockenrahan Road before entering agricultural lands adjacent to Knockenrahan Road to the south, terminating at the existing 110kV Arklow – Banoge overhead line.

The position of the permitted drop-down masts is also proposed to be adjusted slightly to facilitate the realignment of the circuits.

Figure 1 shows the Proposed Development location and Figure 2 shows a detailed view of the Proposed Development boundary on recent aerial photography. Figure 3 shows the layout of the Proposed Development.

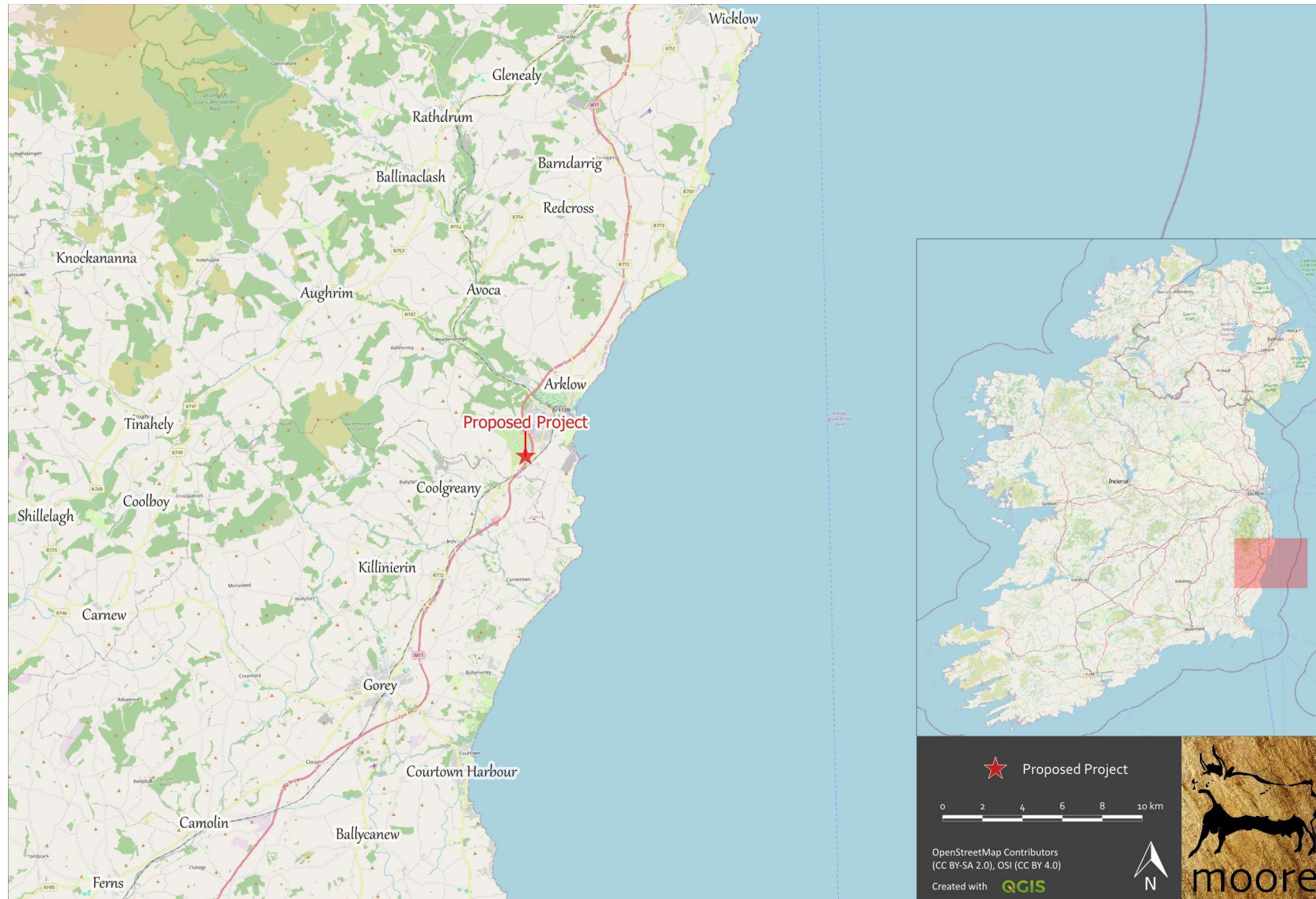


Figure 1. Showing the Proposed Development location at Arklow, Co. Wicklow.

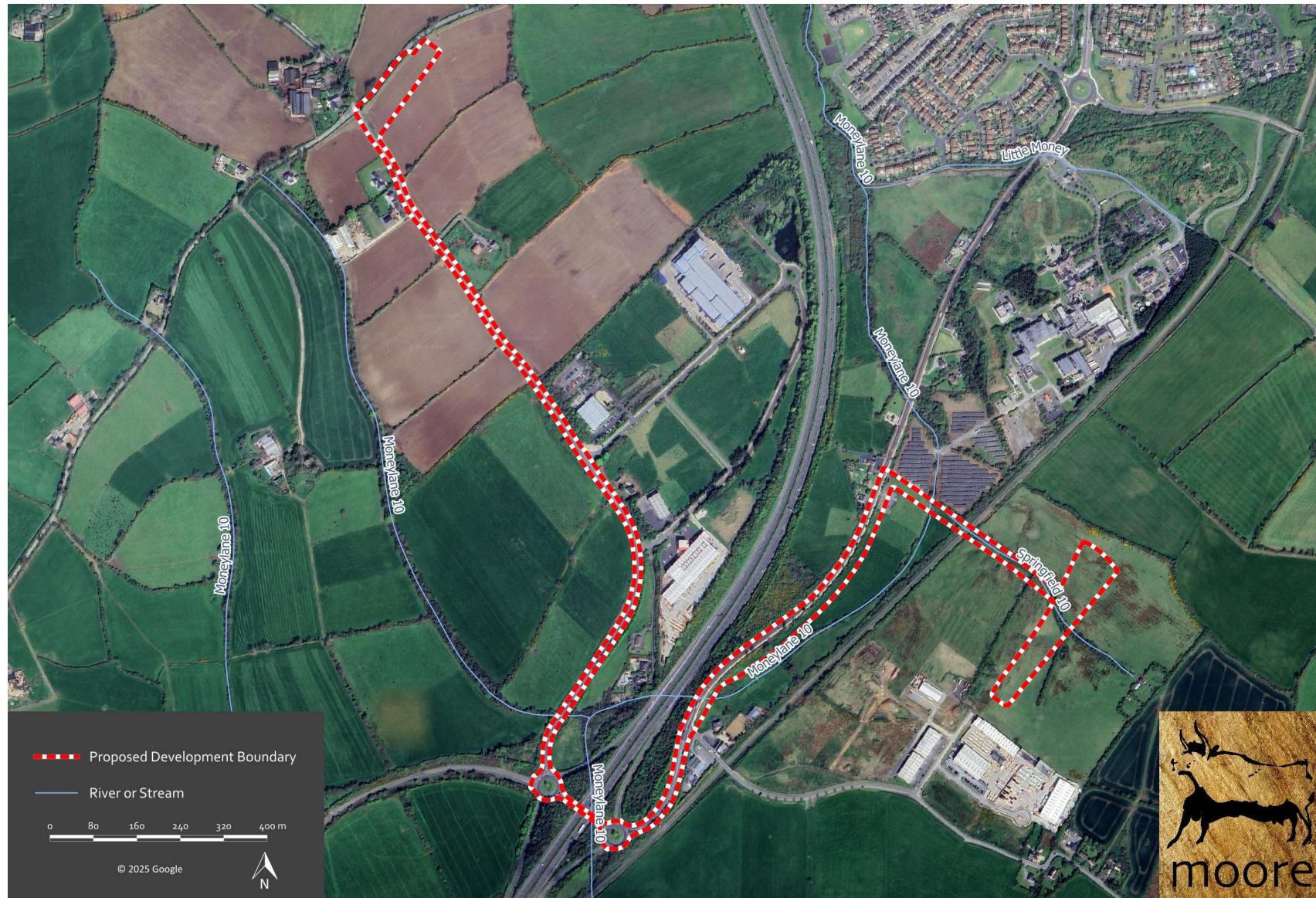


Figure 2. Showing the Proposed Development boundary on recent aerial photography.

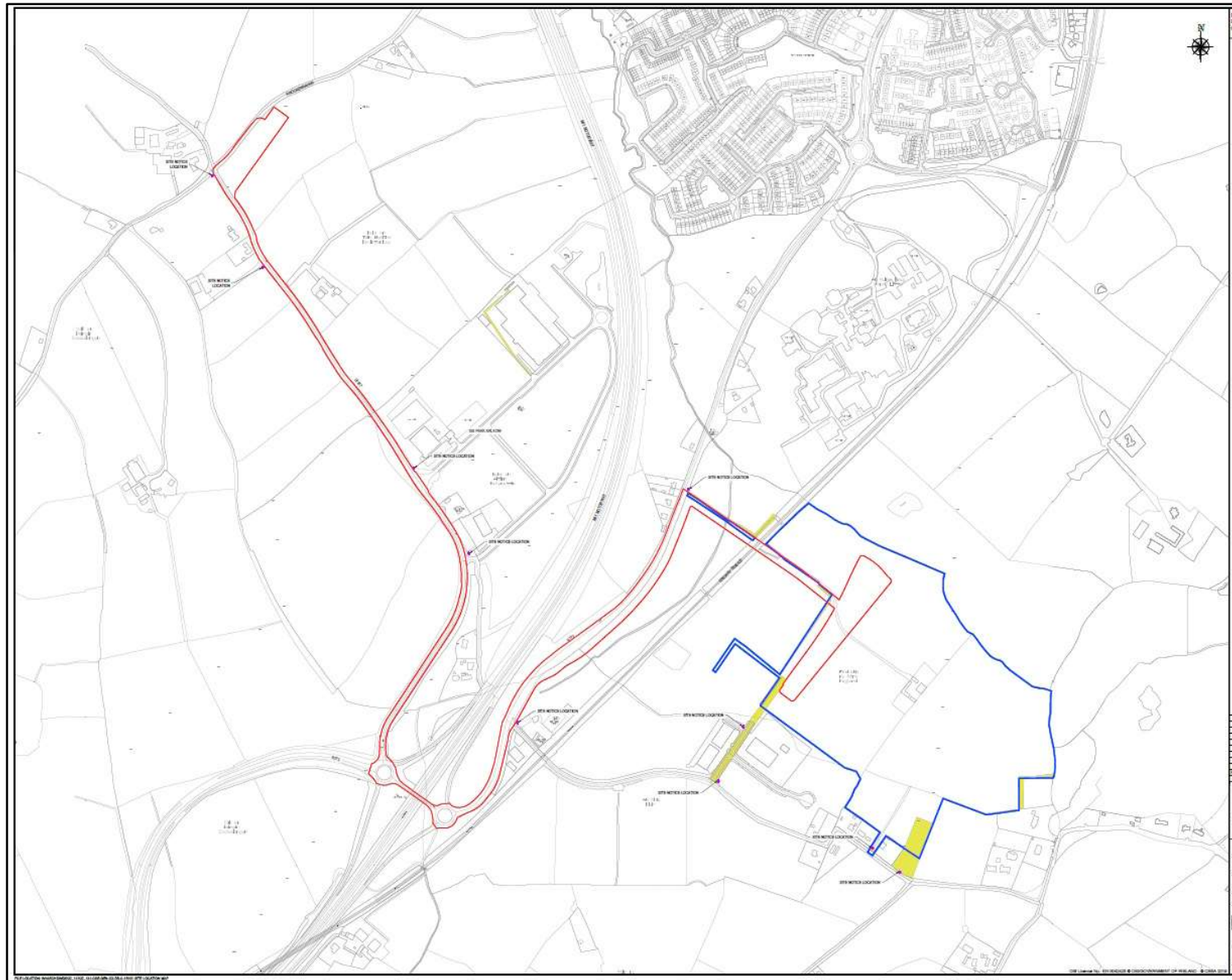


Figure 3b. Plan of the Proposed Development.

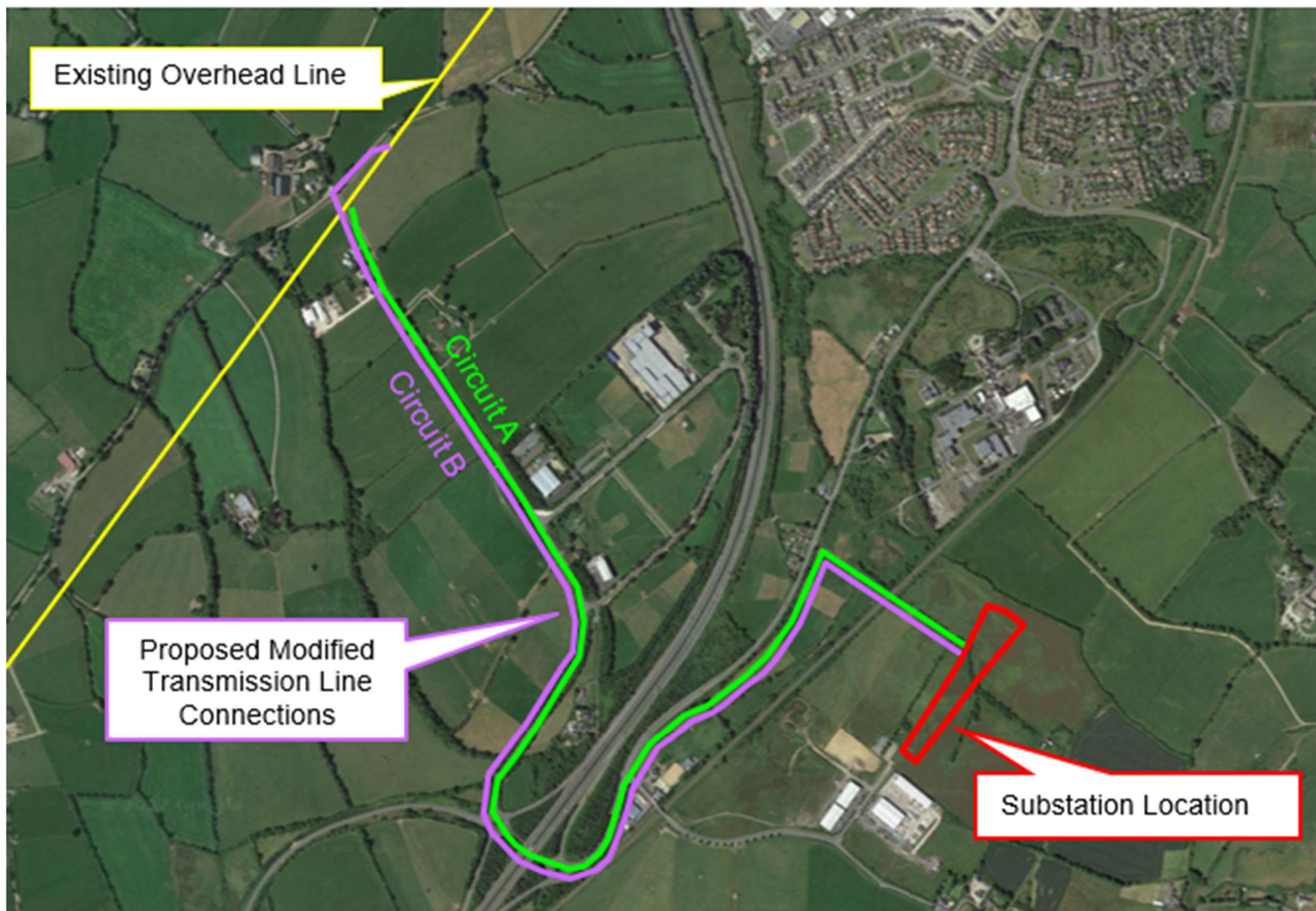


Figure 3b. Detailed Plan of the Proposed Development.

## 4. Identification of Natura 2000 Sites

### 4.1. Description of Natura Sites Potentially Significantly Affected

A Zone of Influence (Zoi) of a proposed development is the geographical area over which it could affect the receiving environment in a way that could have significant effects on the Qualifying Interests of a European site. In accordance with the OPR Practice Note (2021), PN01, the Zoi should be established on a case-by-case basis using the Source- Pathway-Receptor framework.

The European Commission's "Assessment of plans and projects in relation to Natura 2000 sites guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Methodological Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC" published 28 September 2021 states at section 3.1.3, that:

*"Identifying the Natura 2000 sites that may be affected should be done by taking into consideration all aspects of the plan or project that could have potential effects on any Natura 2000 sites located within the zone of influence of the plan or project. This should take into account all of the designating features (species, habitat types) that are significantly present on the sites and their conservation objectives. In particular, it should identify:*

- *any Natura 2000 sites geographically overlapping with any of the actions or aspects of the plan or project in any of its phases, or adjacent to them;*
- *any Natura 2000 sites within the likely zone of influence of the plan or project Natura 2000 sites located in the surroundings of the plan or project (or at some distance) that could still be indirectly affected by aspects of the project, including as regards the use of natural resources (e.g. water) and various types of waste, discharge or emissions of substances or energy;*
- *Natura 2000 sites in the surroundings of the plan or project (or at some distance) which host fauna that can move to the project area and then suffer mortality or other impacts (e.g. loss of feeding areas, reduction of home range);*
- *Natura 2000 sites whose connectivity or ecological continuity can be affected by the plan or project".*

*The range of Natura 2000 sites to be assessed, i.e. the zone in which impacts from the plan or project may arise, will depend on the nature of the plan or project and the distance at which effects may occur. For Natura 2000 sites located downstream along rivers or wetlands fed by aquifers, it may be that a plan or project can affect water flows, fish migration and so forth, even at a great distance. Emissions of pollutants may also have effects over a long distance. Some projects or plans that do not directly affect Natura 2000 sites may still have a significant impact on them if they cause a barrier effect or prevent ecological linkages. This may happen, for example, when plans affect features of the landscape that connect Natura 2000 sites or that may obstruct the*

*movements of species or disrupt the continuity of a fluvial or woodland ecosystem. To determine the possible effects of the plan or project on Natura 2000 sites, it is necessary to identify not only the relevant sites but also the habitats and species that are significantly present within them, as well as the site objectives.*

The Zone of Influence may be determined by considering the Proposed Development's potential connectivity with European sites, in terms of:

- Nature, scale, timing and duration of all aspects of the proposed works and possible impacts, including the nature and size of excavations, storage of materials, flat/sloping sites;
- Distance and nature of potential pathways (dilution and dispersion; intervening 'buffer' lands, roads etc.); and
- Location of ecological features and their sensitivity to the possible impacts.

The potential for source pathway receptor connectivity is firstly identified through GIS interrogation and detailed information is then provided on sites with connectivity. European sites that are located within a potential Zone of Influence of the Proposed Development are presented in Figures 4 and 5, below. Spatial boundary data on the Natura 2000 network was extracted from the NPWS website ([www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)) on 6 November 2025. This data was interrogated using GIS analysis to provide mapping, distances, locations and pathways to all sites of conservation concern including pNHAs, NHA and European sites.

The nearest European sites to the Proposed Development is the Kilpatrick Sandhills SAC (Site Code 001742), approximately 4.5km to the southeast. The site is in a coastal location with no connectivity to the proposed development. Similarly, the Buckronev-Brittis Dunes and Fen SAC is a coastal site located further north of Arklow Town and has no connectivity to the proposed development.

The Proposed Development is located within an area of farmland, public roads, and an industrial park to the southwest of Arklow, Co. Wicklow. The site is drained by a series of agricultural ditches, including the Springfield Stream, which flow into the Moneylane Stream and ultimately into the Avoca River.

There is no connectivity to any European sites within or outside the potential Zone of Influence.

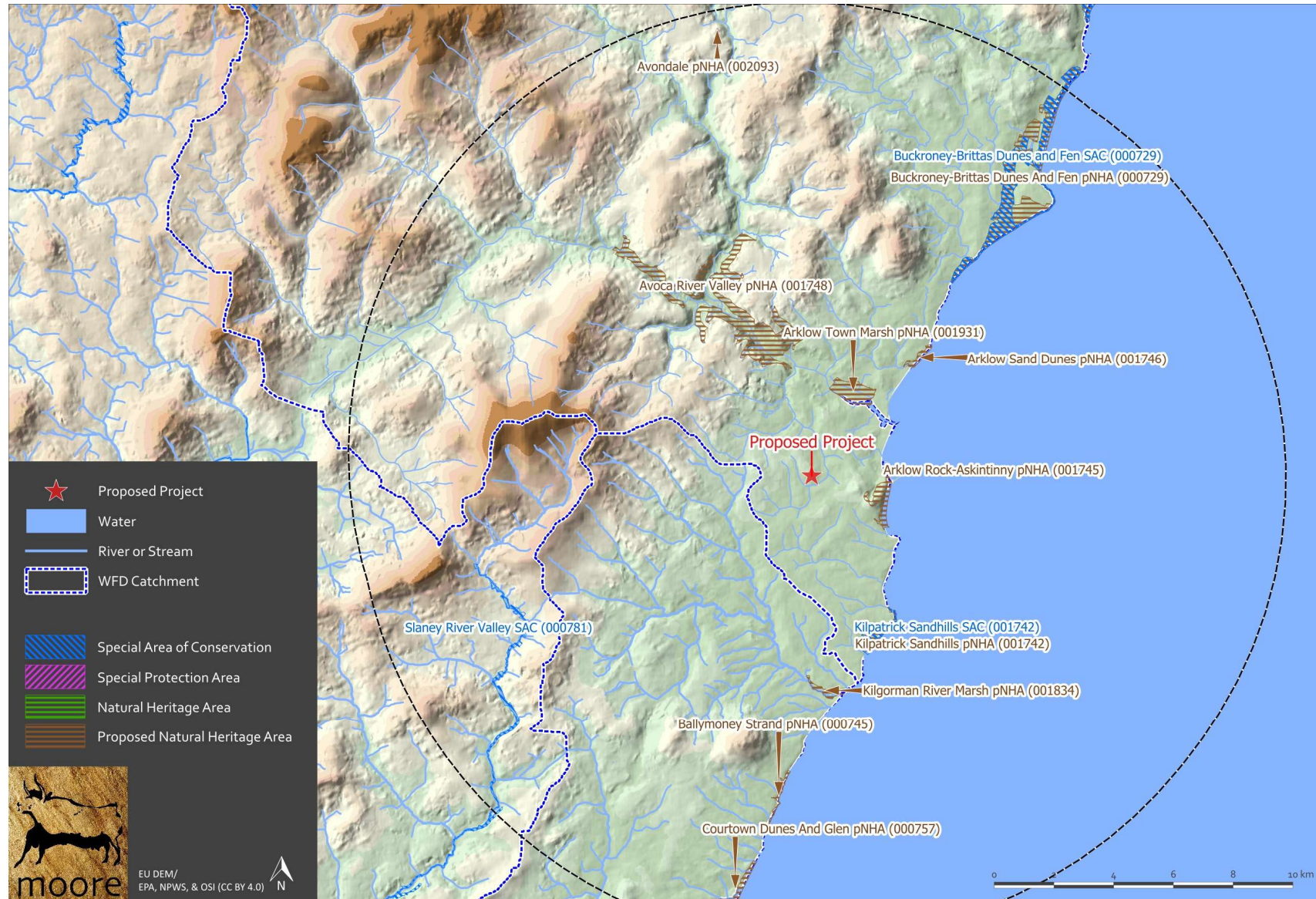


Figure 4. Showing European sites and NHAs/pNHAs within the wider Potential Zone of Influence of the Proposed Development.



Figure 5. Detailed view of European sites in the nearer Potential Zone of Influence of the Proposed Development.

## 4.2. Ecological Network Supporting Natura 2000 Sites

A concurrent GIS analysis of the proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA) and designated Natural Heritage Areas (NHA) in terms of their role in supporting the species using Natura 2000 sites was undertaken along with GIS investigation of European sites. These supporting roles mainly relate to mobile fauna such as mammals and birds which may use pNHAs and NHAs as ecological corridors or “stepping stones” between Natura 2000 sites.

Article 10 of the Habitats Directive and the Habitats Regulations 2011 place a high degree of importance on such non-Natura 2000 areas as features that connect the Natura 2000 network. Features such as ponds, woodlands and important hedgerows were taken into account in the decision process and during the preparation of this AA Screening report.

The NHAs and pNHAs identified in Figure 4 are located outside the Zone of Influence, and there are no areas of supporting habitat that will be impacted by the proposed development.

## 5. Identification of Potential Impacts & Assessment of Significance

The Proposed Development is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the sites considered in the assessment and therefore potential impacts must be identified and considered.

### 5.1. Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

The Proposed Development is located within an area of farmland, public roads, and an industrial park to the southwest of Arklow, Co. Wicklow. The site is drained by a series of agricultural ditches, including the Springfield Stream, which flow into the Moneylane Stream and ultimately into the Avoca River.

There is no connectivity to any European sites within or outside the potential Zone of Influence.

The consideration of all potential direct and indirect impacts that may result in significant effects on the conservation objectives of a European site, taking into account the size and scale of the Proposed Development are presented in Table 1.

*Table 1. Assessment of Likely Significant Effects.*

<b>Identification of all potential direct and indirect impacts that may result in significant effects on the conservation objectives of a European site, taking into account the size and scale of the project.</b>	
<b>Impacts:</b>	<b>Significance of Impacts:</b>
<b>Construction phase e.g.</b>	None

<p>Vegetation clearance</p> <p>Demolition</p> <p>Surface water runoff from soil excavation/infill/landscaping (including borrow pits)</p> <p>Dust, noise, vibration</p> <p>Lighting disturbance</p> <p>Impact on groundwater/dewatering</p> <p>Storage of excavated/construction materials</p> <p>Access to site</p> <p>Pests</p>	<p>The Proposed Development site is located within areas of agricultural grassland, light industrial parks and public roads.</p> <p>There will be no connectivity to the Springfield Stream, which flows into the Moneylane Stream which will be under passed by Horizontal Directional Drilling.</p> <p>No mitigation is required to ensure there will be no impacts on any European sites or on their conservation objectives.</p>
<p><b>Operational phase e.g.</b></p> <p>Direct emission to air and water</p> <p>Surface water runoff containing contaminant or sediment</p> <p>Lighting disturbance</p> <p>Noise/vibration</p> <p>Changes to water/groundwater due to drainage or abstraction</p> <p>Presence of people, vehicles and activities</p> <p>Physical presence of structures (e.g. collision risks)</p>	<p>All foul and surface water runoff, once the facility is operational, will be contained on site and discharged to urban drainage systems.</p> <p>There is no real likelihood of any significant effects on European Sites in the wider catchment area.</p> <p>The facility is located at a distance of removal such that there will be no disturbance to qualifying interest species in any European sites.</p>
<p><b>Describe any likely changes to the European site:</b></p>	
<p><b>Examples of the type of changes to give consideration to include:</b></p> <p>Reduction or fragmentation of habitat area</p> <p>Disturbance to QI species</p> <p>Habitat or species fragmentation</p> <p>Reduction or fragmentation in species density</p> <p>Changes in key indicators of conservation status value (water quality etc.)</p>	<p>None.</p> <p>The Proposed Development site is not located adjacent or within a European site, therefore there is no risk of habitat loss or fragmentation or any effects on QI habitats or species directly or ex-situ.</p>

Changes to areas of sensitivity or threats to QI	
Interference with the key relationships that define the structure or ecological function of the site	
Climate change	

## 5.2. Assessment of Potential In-Combination Effects

Cumulative effects are described by the EPA as *the addition of many minor or insignificant effects, including effects of other projects, to create larger, more significant effects*. In combination effects are considered in the appropriate assessment process as an assessment of the potential adverse effects of a plan or project in combination with other plans or projects. The underlying intention of the in-combination provision is to take account of cumulative effects.

As part of the Screening for an Appropriate Assessment, in addition to the Proposed Development, other relevant plans and projects in the area must also be considered at this stage. This step aims to identify at this early stage any possible significant in-combination effects of the Proposed Development with other such plans and projects on European sites.

A review of the National Planning Application Database was undertaken. The database was then queried for developments granted planning permission within 1000m of the Proposed Development within the last three years, these are presented in Table 2 below.

*Table 2. Planning applications granted permission in the vicinity of the Proposed Development.*

Planning Ref.	Description of development	Comments
221100	alterations and revisions to the already approved permission granted under PRR 20/632 . Retention permission is sought for (1) an additional 275m <sup>2</sup> of floor area to the already approved 2,300m <sup>2</sup> manufacturing & engineering industrial unit now totalling 2,575m <sup>2</sup> with minor alterations and revisions to the elevations and (2) minor alterations and revisions to the elevations, floor plan and internal layout of the connecting office building providing an additional 200m <sup>2</sup> of office floor area to the original 2nd floor approved storage area with an additional 60m <sup>2</sup> fire escape stairwell to the already approved 440m <sup>2</sup> office building, now totalling 700m <sup>2</sup> . All associated site development works including storage yard, car parking, signage, and connection to the existing services and the same as approved under PRR 20/632	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
221213	erecting an extension to existing workshop with associated site development works	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
221328	domestic garage and independent living unit on site of an existing dwelling house	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.

Planning Ref.	Description of development	Comments
221343	the construction of a bungalow with garage, new entrance and driveway, new effluent treatment system to EPA current standards and all ancillary site works	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
22366	Construction of 29 no. dwellings comprising: - 16 no. 3-bedroom semi-detached 2-storey houses; 8 no. 4-bedroom semi-detached 2-storey houses; 2 no. 4-bedroom detached 2-storey houses; 1 no. 3-bedroom detached 2-storey house; 2 no. 3 bedroom detached single storey houses. Vehicular and pedestrian access from Meadowvale via a new internal access road and pedestrian link to The Rise; 60 no. car parking spaces; Demolition of section of existing wall; Public open spaces, landscaping, boundary treatments and all associated site works and services	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
22778	to construct a boundary wall in replacement of existing planted hedgerow to the front/roadside boundary of existing dwelling with ancillary works	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
23177	for an extension to the side and rear of the existing house (75m <sup>2</sup> ), removal of existing sheds, reconfiguration of existing internal layout, new window opens and external insulation to the existing house, widening of the existing entrance gate, new wastewater treatment system, and all associated site works	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
23485	to erect a 532m <sup>2</sup> commercial building comprising a 432m <sup>2</sup> manufacturing/industrial unit with an ancillary 100m <sup>2</sup> office space along with all associated site development works including storage yard, car parking and connect to the existing services	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
2350	to erect circular slurry storage tank	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
2360167	erect 14,500.77 m <sup>2</sup> of photovoltaic panels on a ground mounted system with all associated site works at Servier (Ireland) Industries Limited. The development will comprise of a 2.0 MWp Solar PV farm on 3.36 hectares of land located to the south of our existing pharmaceutical manufacturing plant. The electricity generated will be used by Servier (Ireland) Industries Limited. The development will comprise of photovoltaic panels with ground mounted frames together with all ancillary cabling and electrical infrastructure; 1 no. transformer cabin; 1 no. spare parts cabin; using all temporary ways and temporary construction compound / set-down area included on the application	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
2360318	installation of 6 no. 16m high floodlights and all associated site works	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
2360464	construction of a new single storey industrial unit with ancillary 2 storey office accommodation (Total Floor Area 2310 sq.m) and all associated site development works	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
2360490	construction of internal estate road and all associated site works	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.

Planning Ref.	Description of development	Comments
2362	amendments to the information and communication technology (ICT) facility development permitted under Reg. Ref. 20/1088. The proposed amendments comprise the following: Provision of a three-storey Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) building with a gross floor area (GFA) of c.13,787 sq.m, located to the southeast of the permitted ICT Building 3. The proposed building will accommodate battery storage rooms and circulation areas, with photovoltaic panels at roof level, and with an overall height of c.16.8 metres. Associated buildings including a single storey power trunk building (to accommodate a control room and cable rooms, with a GFA of c.539 sq.m and an overall height of c.5.3 metres), a single storey BESS switch room building (to accommodate control rooms and a relay room, with GFA of c.396 sq.m and an overall height of c.5.3 metres) and a transformer compound area to the southwest of the proposed BESS facility. Provision of a fire water storage area and a single storey fire pump house with a GFA of c.39 sq.m to the northeast of the BESS facility. All associated amendments including new amendments to the internal access routes, landscaping and planting, boundary treatments, lighting, and all associated and ancillary works	
24119	to erect a 1,555m <sup>2</sup> extension to the rear and 720m <sup>2</sup> extension to the side of the existing 2,575 m <sup>2</sup> manufacturing & engineering industrial unit & 700m <sup>2</sup> office building along with all associated site development works	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
24325	a 7-year permission for a Large-Scale Residential Development. Construction of 476 no. residential units, Communal open space. All internal residential access roads. Provision of 930 no. car parking spaces and 400 no. bicycle parking spaces. 37 no. visitor bicycle parking spaces. Provision of a new public park facilitating active and passive open spaces to the south of the site. Construction of a three-storey mixed use building. Retail units at ground floor level, a community centre and office space at first floor level.. Construction of a two storey Childcare Facility. Temporary upgrade works to the existing Railway bridge. Construction of part of the Port Access Road.. All associated site development works.	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
24350	construction of a fully serviced dormer dwelling house with detached domestic garage and associated site works and new access drive to existing shared entrance	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
24490	construction of domestic single storey extensions to the rear of existing dwelling, the construction of a domestic garage, the construction of a home office, the construction of dog kennels, changes to existing boundary wall, changes to elevations of existing domestic dwelling with all associated works	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
245	a new pedestrian entrance only and omission of the secondary vehicular entrance to the new approved front boundary wall as opposed to that granted under P.R.R.: 22/778 along with all associated site development works	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
2460171	Construction of a single storey office building Provision of permeable surfaced parking area, Provision of surface water drainage infrastructure; and All associated and ancillary works,	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
2460253	single storey industrial unit (Gross Area 945 Sqm) and all associated site works	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.

Planning Ref.	Description of development	Comments
2460614	saw enclosure(Gross Area 145 Sqm) to end of Unit 2 and all associated site works	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
2460707	retention permission is being sought for the existing single storey front entrance porch extension to the front elevation of the existing dwelling at No.64 The Maples Arklow Co. Wicklow	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
2488	In summary, the development comprises the replacement of the 3 no. part one and part two storey ICT facility buildings permitted on site, with 5 no. part two and part three storey ICT facility buildings with a reduced building footprint, along with an energy centre compound. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) has been prepared and will be submitted to the planning Authority with the planning application. An EPA-Industrial Emissions Directive (IE) licence will be applied for to facilitate the operation of the proposed development	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
2560350	amendments to the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) permitted on site, under WCC Reg. Ref.: 23/62 The provision of a BESS compound with a total area of c. 1.2 ha which will accommodate self-contained batteries and integral fire suppression equipment, climate control equipment and associated electrical components A single storey BESS Switchroom located to the south of the BESS facility, Water Services Plant and Storage equipment, All associated amendments including amendments to internal access routes, landscaping and planting, boundary treatments. The operation of the development on site will require an EPA Industrial Emissions Directive (IE) Licence	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
2560384	erect a 8,875m2 manufacturing & engineering industrial extension with 1,020m2 additional office space to the side of the existing 5,550m2 manufacturing & engineering industrial & office building along with all associated site development works	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.
2560399	1) construction of a single storey extension to existing office building. 2) construction of a single storey extension to existing production building and 3) all associated and ancillary works, including reconfiguration of existing external steps and footpaths and connections to existing surface water collection network, all at existing facility	No potential for in-combination effects given the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.

The Wicklow County Development Plan in complying with the requirements of the Habitats Directive requires that all Projects and Plans that could affect the Natura 2000 sites in the same potential Zone of Influence of the Proposed Development site would be initially screened for Appropriate Assessment and if requiring Stage 2 AA, that appropriate employable mitigation measures would be put in place to avoid, reduce or ameliorate negative impacts. In this way any, in-combination impacts with Plans or Projects for the proposed development area and surrounding townlands in which the proposed development site is located, would be avoided.

The listed developments have been granted permission in most cases with conditions relating to sustainable development by the consenting authority in compliance with the relevant Local Authority Development Plan and in compliance with the Local Authority requirement with regard to the Habitats Directive. The development

cannot have received planning permission without having met the consenting authority requirement in this regard.

There are no predicted in-combination effects given that it is predicted that the Proposed Development will have no effect on any European site.

Any new applications for the Proposed Development area will be assessed on a case by case basis *initially* by Wicklow County Council which will determine the requirement for AA Screening as per the requirements of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

## 6. Conclusion

There are no predicted effects on any European sites given:

- The lack of direct connectivity between the Proposed Development and any hydrological pathways; there are no watercourses within the Proposed Development boundary and there is no connectivity between the Proposed Development site and any watercourses that lead to any European sites.
- There are no predicted emissions to air, water or the environment during the construction or operational phases that would result in significant effects.

It has been objectively concluded by Moore Group Environmental Services that:

1. The Proposed Development is not directly connected with, or necessary to the conservation management of the European sites considered in this assessment.
2. The Proposed Development is not likely to either directly or indirectly significantly affect the Qualifying interests or Conservation Objectives of the European sites considered in this assessment.
3. The Proposed Development, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, is not likely to have significant effects on a European site.
4. It is possible to conclude that significant effects can be excluded at the screening stage.

It can be excluded, 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 any European site, in the absence of any mitigation.

An appropriate assessment is not, therefore, required.

A final determination will be made by the competent authority in this regard.

## 7. References

Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2010) Guidance on Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland (as amended February 2010).

European Commission (2007) Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the 'Habitats Directive '92/43/EEC: Clarification of the concepts of: alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interests, compensatory measures, overall coherence and opinion of the Commission. European Commission, Brussels.

European Commission (2018) Managing Natura 2000 sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC.

European Commission (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, Brussels 28.9.21.

European Commission (2021) Guidance document on the strict protection of animal species of Community interest under the Habitats Directive, Brussels 12.10.21.

NPWS (2019) The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin.

NPWS (2025) National Parks and Wildlife Service Metadata available online at <https://www.npws.ie/maps-and-data>

Office-of-the-Planning-Regulator (2021) Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management OPR Practice Note PN01. March 2021