

## **Article 6 (3) Appropriate Assessment Screening Report**

Section 146(B) Request for  
an Amended Grid Connection  
Route – Ballinrea, Co. Cork





## DOCUMENT DETAILS

Client: **Ballinrea Solar Farm Ltd**

Project Title: **Section 146(B) Request for an Amended Grid Connection Route – Ballinrea, Co. Cork**

Project Number: **251139**

Document Title: **Appropriate Assessment Screening Report**

Document File Name: **AASR – F –2026.02.27 - 251139**

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| Rev | Status  | Date       | Author(s) | Approved By |
|-----|---------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| 01  | Draft   | 20/02/2026 | AMc       | PD          |
| 02  | Draft   | 26/02/2026 | AMc       | PD          |
| 03  | Final   | 27/02/2026 | AMc       | PD          |
| 04  | Final 2 | 03/03/2026 | AMc       | PD          |

# Table of Contents

|       |                                                                                                                         |           |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1.    | <b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>                                                                                                | <b>4</b>  |
| 1.1   | Background.....                                                                                                         | 4         |
| 1.2   | Statement of Authority.....                                                                                             | 4         |
| 1.3   | Methodology.....                                                                                                        | 4         |
| 1.3.1 | Appropriate Assessment Process.....                                                                                     | 4         |
| 1.3.2 | Ecological Survey Methodology.....                                                                                      | 5         |
| 1.3.3 | Desk Study Methodology.....                                                                                             | 5         |
| 2.    | <b>DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT.....</b>                                                                     | <b>6</b>  |
| 2.1   | Site Location.....                                                                                                      | 6         |
| 2.2   | Characteristics of the Proposed Development.....                                                                        | 6         |
| 2.2.1 | Description of the project.....                                                                                         | 6         |
| 2.2.2 | Baseline Habitats.....                                                                                                  | 12        |
| 3.    | <b>IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT EUROPEAN SITES.....</b>                                                                   | <b>17</b> |
| 3.1   | Identification of the European Sites within the Likely Zone of Influence.....                                           | 17        |
| 4.1   | Likely Cumulative Impact of the Proposed Works on European Sites, in-<br>combination with other plans and projects..... | 22        |
| 4.1.1 | Projects.....                                                                                                           | 22        |
| 4.1.2 | Plans.....                                                                                                              | 23        |
| 4.1.3 | Conclusion of in-combination/cumulative assessment.....                                                                 | 27        |
| 5.    | <b>ARTICLE 6(3) APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING STATEMENT AND<br/>CONCLUSIONS.....</b>                                 | <b>28</b> |
| 5.1   | Data Collected to Carry Out Assessment.....                                                                             | 28        |
| 5.2   | Concluding Statement.....                                                                                               | 28        |
|       | <b>BIBLIOGRAPHY.....</b>                                                                                                | <b>29</b> |

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

MKO has been appointed by Ballinrea Solar Farm Ltd to provide the information necessary to allow the competent authority to conduct an Article 6(3) Screening for Appropriate Assessment of an amended grid connection route – Ballinrea, Co. Cork. It is proposed to amend the permitted grid connection (An Comisiún Pleanála Case number: 317706) between the permitted Ballinrea Solar Farm (Cork County Council Planning Ref. No. 17/6784 & ABP-303013-18, as subsequently modified by Planning Ref. No. 23/4563 & ABP-318915-24) and the existing Raffeen substation. For the purpose of this report the proposed amended grid connection route is referred to as the “Proposed Development”.

Screening for Appropriate Assessment is required under Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive). Where it cannot be excluded that a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, would have a significant effect on a European Site then same shall be subject to an appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. The current project is not directly connected with, or necessary for, the management of any European Site consequently the project has been subject to the Appropriate Assessment Screening process.

The assessment in this report is based on a desk study and field survey undertaken on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2026. It specifically assesses the potential for the proposed development to result in significant effects on European sites in the absence of any best practice, mitigation or preventative measures.

This Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has been prepared in accordance with the following guidance:

- Methodological Guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2021)
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the ‘Habitats’ Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2018)
- Department of the Environment’s Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG, 2010)
- Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management. Office of the Planning Regulator, Dublin 7, Ireland OPR (2021).

## 1.2 Statement of Authority

A baseline ecological survey were carried out on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2026 by Pádraig Desmond (B.Sc.). This report has been prepared by Andrew McCarthy (B.Sc.) and reviewed by Pádraig Desmond. Pádraig holds an honours B.Sc. degree in Ecology and Environmental Biology and has over five years of professional experience in ecological consultancy. Pádraig has prepared a range of ecological assessments and reports for a wide variety of projects.

## 1.3 Methodology

### 1.3.1 Appropriate Assessment Process

**Screening** - The purpose of the screening stage is to determine, on the basis of a preliminary assessment and objective criteria, whether a plan or project, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have 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 has been confirmed by the case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU). Plans or projects that have no appreciable effect on a



European site may be excluded. The threshold at this first stage is a very low one and operates as a trigger in order to determine whether Appropriate Assessment of a project is required. Therefore, where significant effects are likely, uncertain or unknown at screening stage, an AA of the project will be required.

**Appropriate Assessment** - This stage of the process is a focused and detailed examination, analysis and evaluation by the Competent Authority of the implications of the plan or project, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, on the integrity of a European site in view of that site's conservation objectives. Case law has established that such an Appropriate Assessment, to be lawfully conducted must:

- i. identify, in the light of the best scientific knowledge in the field, all aspects of the proposed project which may, by itself or in-combination with other plans or projects, affect the conservation objectives of the European site;
- ii. contain complete, precise and definitive findings and conclusions and may not have lacunae or gaps; and
- iii. may only include a determination that the proposed project will not adversely affect the integrity of any relevant European site where the competent authority decides (on the basis of complete, precise and definitive findings and conclusions) that no reasonable scientific doubt remains as to the absence of potential adverse effects. If adverse impacts can be satisfactorily avoided or successfully mitigated at this stage, so that no reasonable doubt remains as to the absence of the identified potential effects, then the process is complete. If the assessment is negative, i.e. adverse effects on the integrity of a site cannot be excluded, then the process must proceed to stage three (assessment of alternative) and, if necessary, stage four (IROPI).

### 1.3.2 Ecological Survey Methodology

A multidisciplinary walkover survey was conducted on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2026 in line with TII (2008) guidelines (*Ecological Surveying Techniques for Protected Flora and Fauna during the Planning of National Road Schemes*) by Pádraig Desmond of MKO. The ecological survey was undertaken within the optimal time of year to undertake a habitat and flora survey (Smith *et al.* 2011).

Habitats were classified in accordance with the Heritage Council's '*Guide to Habitats in Ireland*' (Fossitt, 2000). Plant nomenclature for vascular plants follows '*New Flora of the British Isles*' (Stace, 2019), while mosses and liverworts nomenclature follows '*Mosses and Liverworts of Britain and Ireland - a field guide*' (British Bryological Society, 2010). Habitat mapping was undertaken with regard to guidance set out in 'Best Practice Guidance for Habitat Survey and Mapping' (Smith *et al.*, 2011).

All habitats within and adjacent to the works area were readily identifiable during the site visit. A dedicated invasive species survey was also undertaken during the site visit. During the survey, the site was searched for species listed on the Third Schedule of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations (S.I. 477 of 2011).

### 1.3.3 Desk Study Methodology

In preparation of the report, the below sources were used to gather information.

- Review of NPWS Site Synopses, Conservation Objectives for European sites
- Review of 2019, 2013 and 2007 EU Habitats Directive (Article 17) Reports.
- Review of online web-mappers: National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), EPA, Water Framework Directive (WFD).
- Review of OS maps and aerial photographs of the site of the Proposed Development.
- Review of other plans and projects within the area.

## 2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

### 2.1 Site Location

The permitted development under ABP-317706-23 is located within the townlands of Ballinrea, Ballinrea South, Ardnacloghy, Shannonpark, Hilltown, Carrigaline Middle, Ballyhemiken, Carrigaline, Carrigaline East and Raffee, Co. Cork. The proposed amendment to the grid connection route, as described in section 2.2.1 below, is located solely within the townland of Shannonpark, Co. Cork, approximately 2.3 km north of Carrigaline and approx. 15 km south west of Cork city (Grid reference W 67637 71907). The site lies roughly 2.65km to the west of the Cork harbour SPA. The Proposed Development site is accessed off the L2473 via the Ballinrea Road and the Shannonpark Road, both of which are regional roads.

The site location is shown in Figure 2-1.

### 2.2 Characteristics of the Proposed Development

#### 2.2.1 Description of the project

The development of a 110 kV substation, grid connection and associated infrastructure at Ballinrea, Co. Cork has previously been granted permission by An Bord Pleanála as ‘Strategic Infrastructure Development’ (SID) under the provisions of Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended (Case Number ABP-317706-23).

This report is prepared in support of a request to An Comisiún Pleanála to alter the permitted SID scheme in accordance with Section 146B of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. In summary the proposed amendment comprises the relocation of c. 370m of the permitted 110kV grid connection from the public road (L2473 Shannonpark Road) to adjacent consented third party lands.

The proposed amendments, hereinafter referred to as the ‘Proposed Development’ includes for the following:

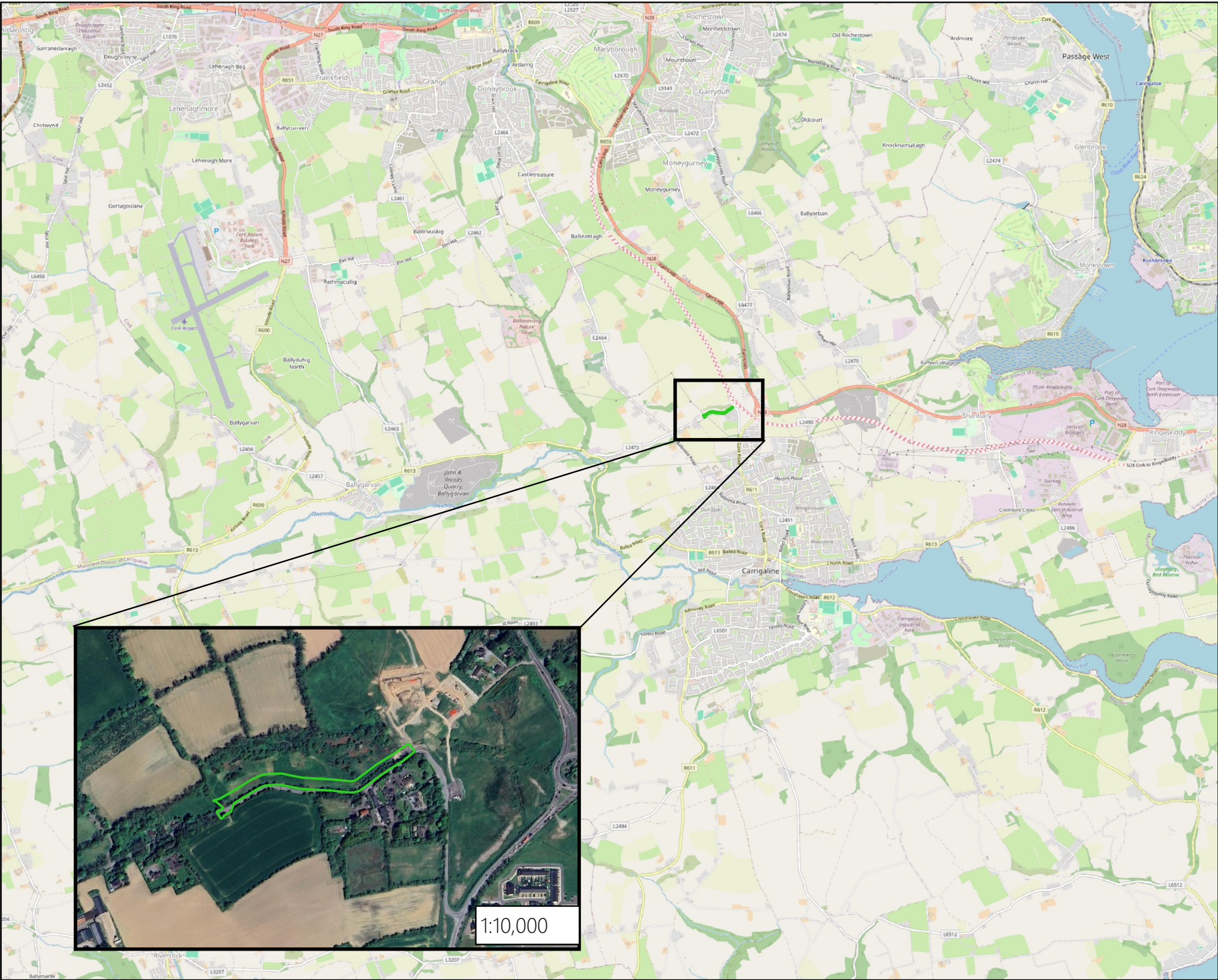
- The underground cable will leave the Shannonpark road, passing through an existing entrance onto consented third-party lands (Folio no. CK77185F) for approximately 370m before joining existing ducting at the M28 crossing in the east (as per the permitted SID route). The proposed works include the relocation of one joint bay (Joint Bay 06) to the consented third-party lands.
- A corridor of c. 5-10m in width will be required to accommodate the cable trenching works and installation of the joint bay. The underground cable works will consist of the installation of 6 No. ducts in an excavated trench to accommodate 3 No. power cables, 2 No. fibre communications cables and 1 No. earth continuity conductor. The altered grid route will be mainly through agricultural lands, and will require removal of c. 100m of scrub in proximity to the M28 crossing.
- Once the cable trenching is complete the ground will be reinstated with an access track c. 3m in width. This is required as per Eirgrid specifications to permit future access to the joint bay (bay refer to drawing no. 300101179-DR-807)

Details with regards the method of construction for the permitted cable grid route and substation were provided in the Construction Methodology, prepared by the TLI Group (Report ref 05887-R04-01, June 2023). TLI have prepared an addendum report to accompany this alteration application. Note that there will be no changes to the methodology for constructing the cable or joint bay in the proposed offroad sections.



The layout of the Proposed Development is indicated in Figure 2-2, Figure 2-3, and Figure 2-4.





Map Legend

Boundary of proposed works



Drawing Title

Site Location

Project Title

Ballinacorney Grid Connection  
Amendment

Drawn By

AMC

Checked By

PD

Project No.

251139

Drawing No.

Figure 2-1

Scale

1:60,000

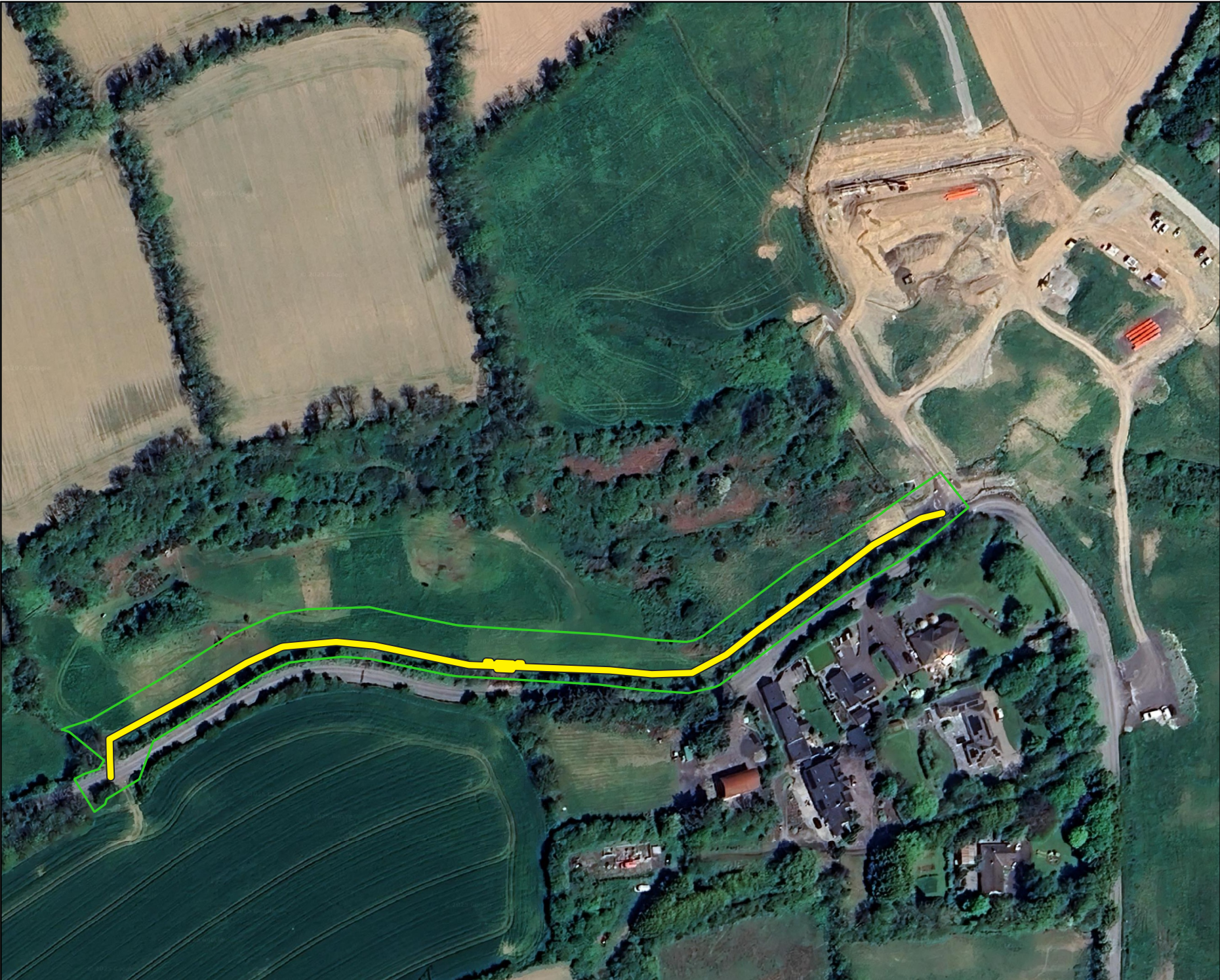
Date

04/03/2026



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Map Legend

- Proposed Grid Connection Amendment Route
- Boundary of Proposed Works



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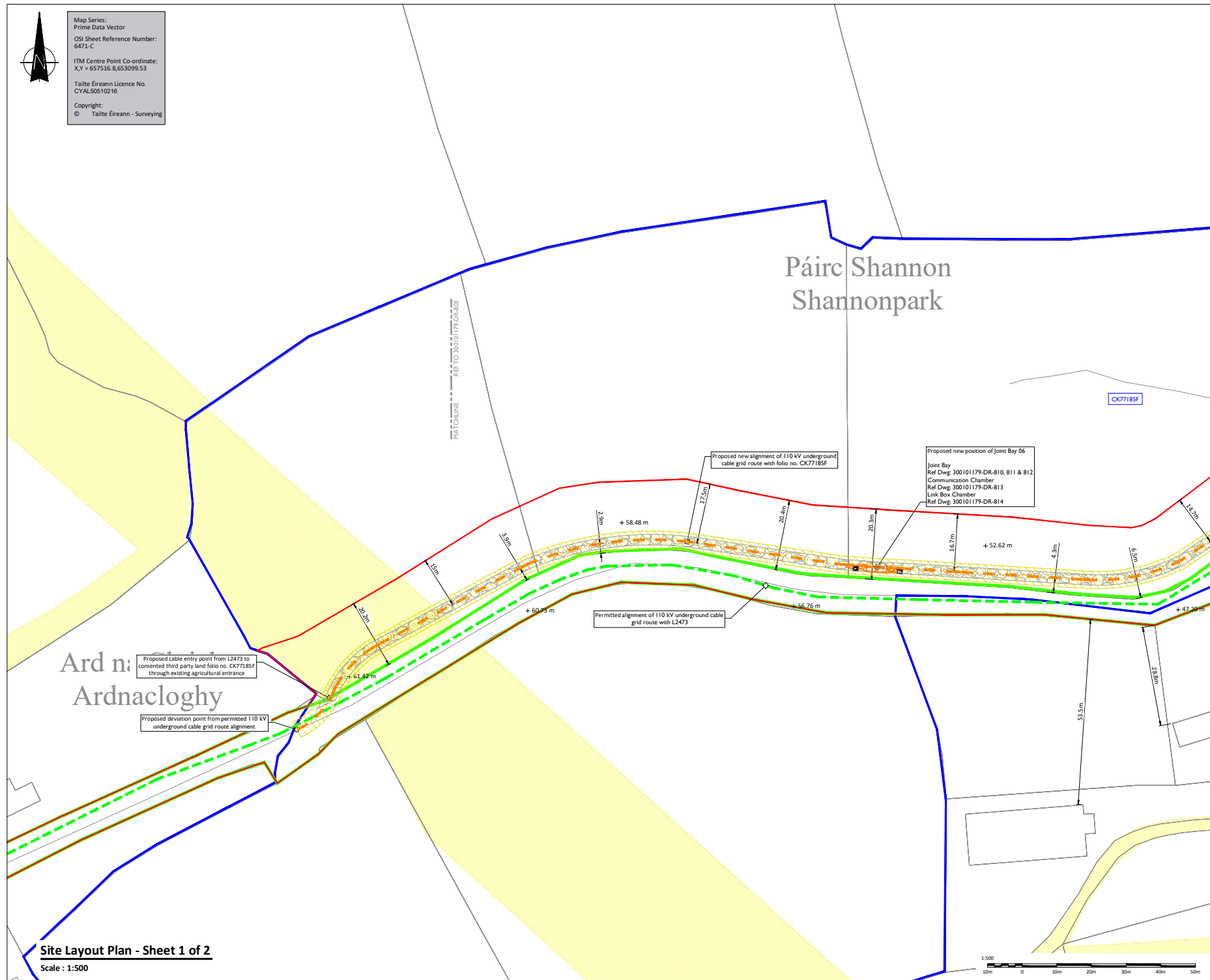
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| Drawing Title                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |             |
| Project Layout                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |             |
| Project Title                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |             |
| Ballinrea Grid Connection Amendment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |             |
| Drawn By                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Checked By  |
| AMc                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | PD          |
| Project No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Drawing No. |
| 251139                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Figure 2-2  |
| Scale                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Date        |
| 1:2,000                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 04.03.2026  |
| <div><div><b>MKO</b><br/>Planning and<br/>Environmental<br/>Consultants<br/>Tuam Road, Galway<br/>Ireland, H91 VW84<br/>+353 (0) 91 735611<br/>email:info@mkofireland.ie<br/>Website: ww.mkofireland.ie</div></div> |             |



- Path of cable route and location of associated Joint Bays, Link Boxes and Comms Chambers may vary depending on site conditions and following detailed design. Deviations will remain within the planning boundary at all times.
- Other services may be encountered along the route
- Final levels may vary depending on local ground condition.

- |                                                         |           |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Proposed Planning Amendment Red Line Boundary           |           |
| Permitted Planning Application Boundary                 |           |
| Consented Third Party Landowner Boundary                |           |
| Permitted 110 kV Underground Cable Grid Route           |           |
| Proposed 110 kV Underground Cable Grid Route Amendment  |           |
| Proposed 3 m Wide Permanent Access Track                |           |
| Statutory Wayleave in Respect of the 110 kV Cable Route |           |
| Spot Height                                             | + 47.20 m |
| Existing Wayleave                                       |           |

|     |          |                               |
|-----|----------|-------------------------------|
|     |          |                               |
|     |          |                               |
|     |          |                               |
| P5  | 02.03.26 | Issued for Planning Amendment |
| P4  | 25.02.26 | Issued for Planning Amendment |
| P3  | 09.02.26 | Issued for Planning Amendment |
| P2  | 03.02.26 | Issued for Planning Amendment |
| P1  | 12.12.25 | Issued for Planning Amendment |
| I/R | DATE     | DESCRIPTION                   |



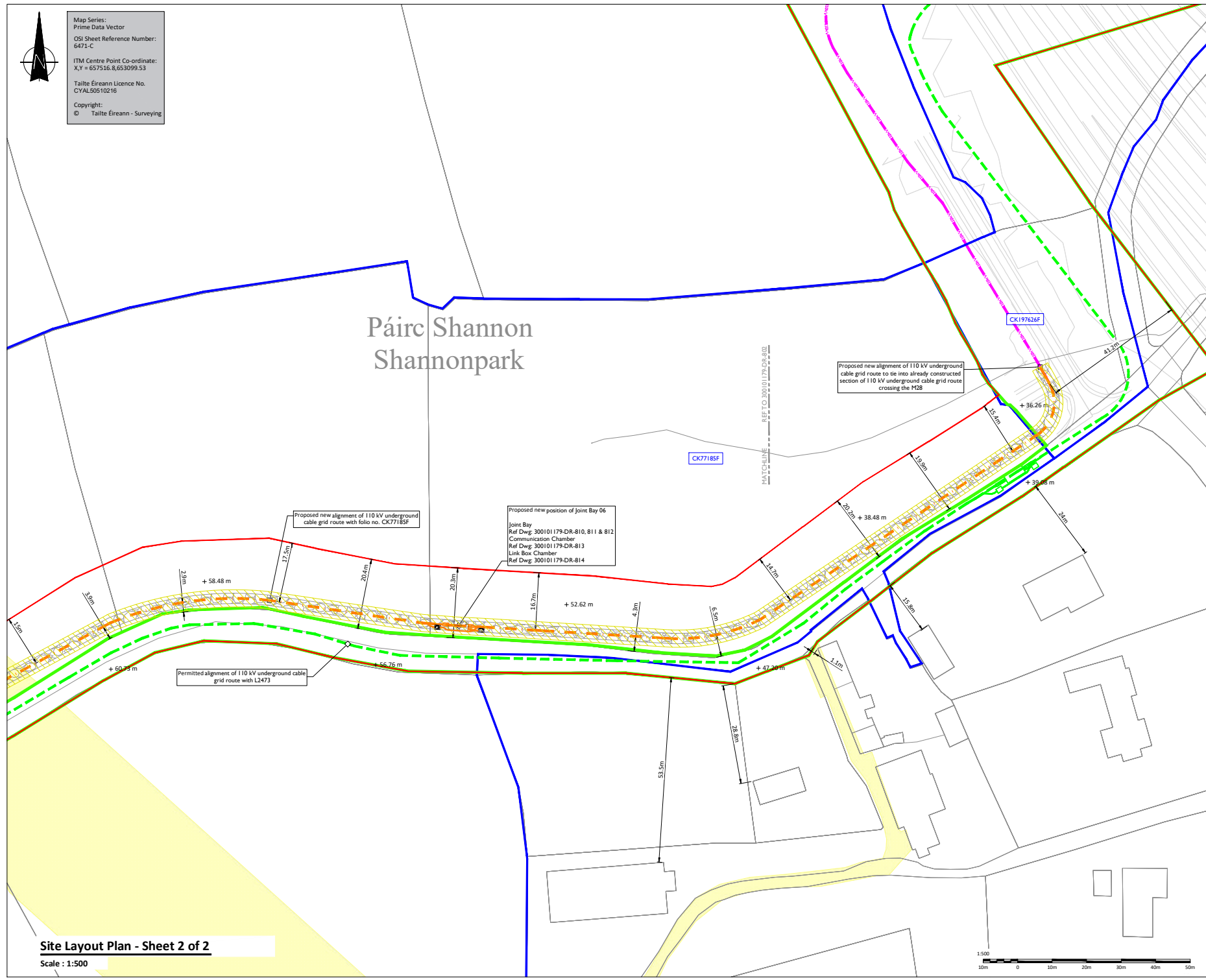
ISO A1594mm x 841mm

Project Management Initials: Designer: PDS Checked: ER Approved: AC



Map Series:  
Prime Data Vector  
OSI Sheet Reference Number:  
6471-C  
ITM Centre Point Co-ordinate:  
X,Y = 657516.8,653099.53  
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## Páirc Shannon Shannonpark



### Site Layout Plan - Sheet 2 of 2

Scale : 1:500



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#### PROJECT

**Ballinrea 110kV Grid Route  
S146B Alteration Application**

#### CLIENT



#### CONSULTANTS

Issued for Planning Amendment  
Not for Construction  
02.03.2026

#### NOTES:-

- Path of cable route and location of associated Joint Bays, Link Boxes and Comms Chambers may vary depending on site conditions and following detailed design. Deviations will remain within the planning boundary at all times.
- Other services may be encountered along the route.
- Final levels may vary depending on local ground condition.

#### LEGEND:-

|                                                         |           |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Proposed Planning Amendment Red Line Boundary           |           |
| Permitted Planning Application Boundary                 |           |
| Consented Third Party Landowner Boundary                |           |
| Permitted 110 kV Underground Cable Grid Route           |           |
| Proposed 110 kV Underground Cable Grid Route Amendment  |           |
| Built 110 kV Underground Cable Grid Route               |           |
| Proposed 3 m Wide Permanent Access Track                |           |
| Statutory Wayleave in Respect of the 110 kV Cable Route |           |
| Spot Height                                             | + 47.20 m |
| Existing Wayleave                                       |           |

#### ISSUE/REVISION

| IR | DATE     | DESCRIPTION                   |
|----|----------|-------------------------------|
| P5 | 02.03.26 | Issued for Planning Amendment |
| P4 | 25.02.26 | Issued for Planning Amendment |
| P3 | 09.02.26 | Issued for Planning Amendment |
| P2 | 03.02.26 | Issued for Planning Amendment |
| P1 | 12.12.25 | Issued for Planning Amendment |

#### PROJECT NUMBER

300-101179

#### SHEET TITLE

Site Layout Plan  
Sheet 2 of 2

#### SHEET NUMBER

300101179-DR-803

## 2.2.2

## Baseline Habitats

Assessing the impacts of any project and associated activities requires an understanding of the ecological baseline conditions prior to and at the time of the project proceeding. Ecological Baseline conditions are those existing in the absence of proposed activities (CIEEM 2018).

A multidisciplinary walkover survey was conducted on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2026 by Pádraig Desmond (B.Sc.) of MKO in line with TII (2008) guidelines (Ecological Surveying Techniques for Protected Flora and Fauna during the Planning of National Road Schemes). Habitats were identified in accordance with the Heritage Council's 'Guide to Habitats in Ireland' (Fossitt, 2000). Plant nomenclature for vascular plants follows 'New Flora of the British Isles' (Stace, 2019), while mosses and liverworts nomenclature follows 'Mosses and Liverworts of Britain and Ireland - a field guide' (British Bryological Society, 2010).

During the surveys, the site was searched for species listed on the Third Schedule of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations (S.I. 477 of 2011) and the First Schedule of the European Union (Invasive Alien Species) Regulations 2024 (S.I. No 374 of 2024).

The Proposed Development will consist of a minor localised amendment to the permitted grid connection route on the Shannonpark road. The works involve moving the cable out of the public road into private lands, offsetting from the original route.

The proposed amended grid route diverges from the permitted grid route, leaving the Shannonpark road (L2473) and enters agricultural fields via an existing farm gate.

The agricultural fields are best classified as **Improved agricultural grassland (GA1)** along the western section of the route (Plate 2-1) and **Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2)** (Plate 2-2) with encroaching **Scrub (WS1)** in eastern section (GS4). These are delineated from the existing Shannonpark road by a combination of **Treelines (WL2)**, **Hedgerows (WL1)**, and areas of Scrub (WS1), examples of which are provided in Plate 2-3, Plate 2-4, and Plate 2-5, respectively.

Improved agricultural grassland (GA1) was recorded along the western section of the amended route and consisted of dominant perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), with occasional recordings of chickweed (*Stellaria media*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*), and docks (*Rumex* spp.).

Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2) with encroaching Scrub (WS1) was recorded adjacent to the eastern section of the proposed route, and was dominated by Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), with frequent to occasional recordings of lesser celandine, ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*), thistles (*Cirsium* spp.), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), and common sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*).

Treelines (WL2) recorded delineating the agricultural fields from the Shannonpark road were dominated by blackthorn (*Prunus Spinosa*) and grey willow (*Salix cinerea*), with occasional mature ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), as well as ash saplings in the understory.

Hedgerows (WL1) were recorded as small sections of the above treeline where canopy height was less than 5m. Species composition was similar to that of Treelines (WL2), with a thick understory of gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) Scrub (WS1).

The proposed grid connection will travel through approx. 100m of gorse dominated scrub within the eastern section of the route.

An unmapped watercourse was recorded within the Proposed Development site, which enters the site via a culvert from the Shannonpark Road, and ran parallel to the Treeline (WL2) in an eastern direction. This watercourse was classified as an Upland eroding stream (FW1), and very small, with an average depth of 2cm following a period of heavy rainfall and presented no fisheries value. Examples are shown in Plates 2-6 and 2-7.

No habitats listed under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive were recorded within the site of the Proposed Development and no suitable supporting habitat for species listed under Annex II of the EU



Habitats Directive was identified during the walkover survey. No birds listed under Annex I of EU Birds Directive, nor significant suitable habitat, were recorded within the Proposed Development site during the walkover survey.

No protected floral species including those listed on the Annex II of the Habitats Directive, Ireland Red List No. 10 Vascular Plants (Wyse Jackson *et al*, 2016) or protected under the Flora (Protection) Order, 2022 were recorded within the Proposed Development site.

No invasive plant species listed on the First Schedule under Part 1 of the European Union (Invasive Alien Species) Regulations 2024 (S.I. No. 374 of 2024) were recorded.



Plate 2-1 Improved agricultural grassland (GAI) in the western section of the route.





*Plate 2-2 Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2) in the section of the route, with encroaching Scrub (WS1).*



*Plate 2-3 Blackthorn dominated Treeline (WL2) with occasional ash.*





Plate 2-4 Gorse dominated Scrub (WSI) within the footprint of the proposed route.



Plate 2-5 Gorse dominated Scrub (WSI) within the footprint of the proposed route. M28 construction works visible in the background.





*Plate 2-6 Culvert entering the Proposed Development site from the Shannonpark Road.*



*Plate 2-7 Unmapped watercourse flowing east, from the culvert.*

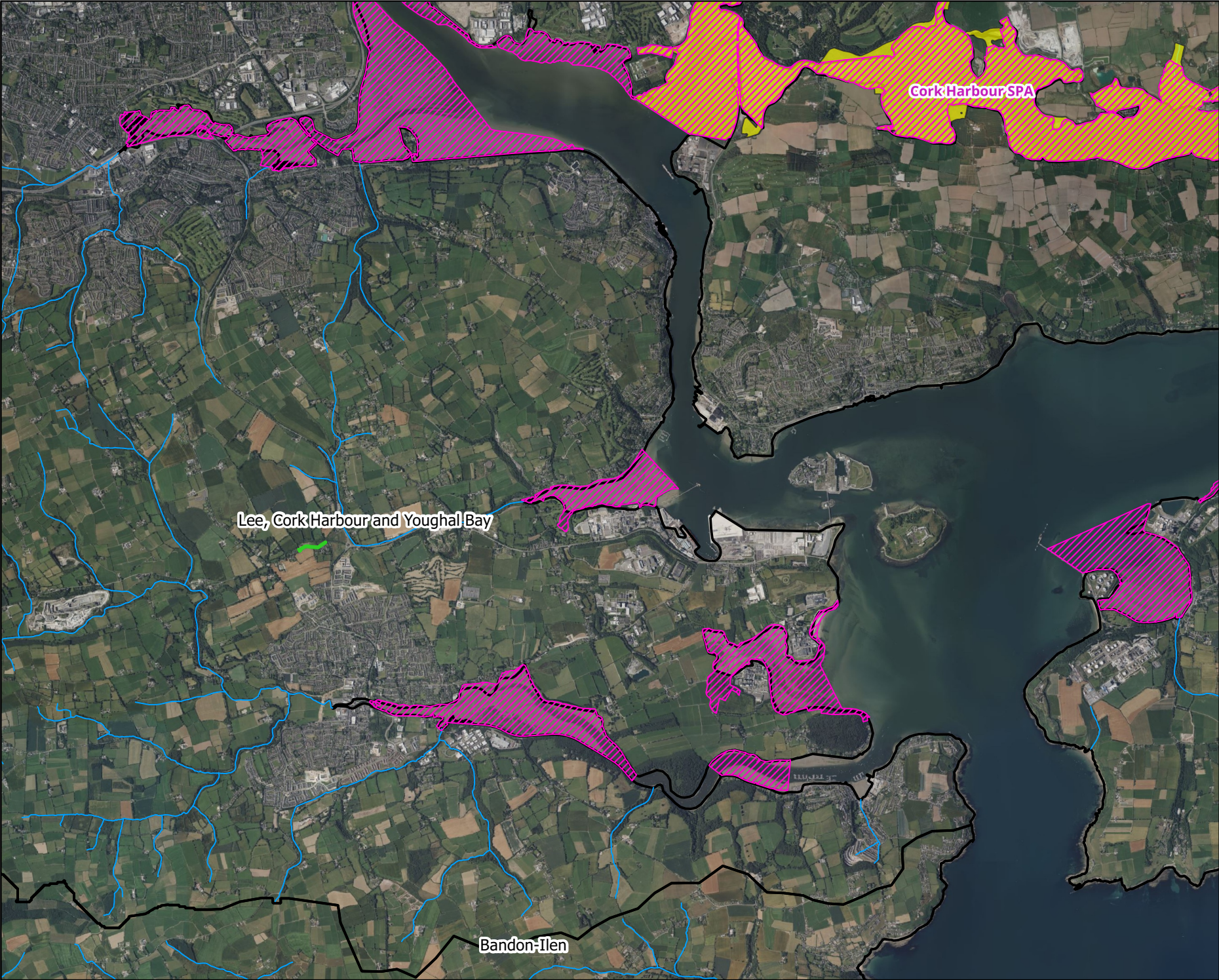
### 3. IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT EUROPEAN SITES

#### 3.1 Identification of the European Sites within the Likely Zone of Influence

The following methodology was used to establish any European Sites upon which there is a potential for a likely significant effect to occur either individually or in combination with other plans and projects as a result of the proposed development:

- Initially the most up to date GIS spatial datasets for European designated sites and water catchments were downloaded from the NPWS website ([www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)) and the EPA website ([www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie)).
- All European Sites that could potentially be affected were identified using a source-pathway - receptor model. To provide context for the assessment, European Sites surrounding the development site are shown on Figure 3-1. Information on these sites according to the site-specific conservation objectives is provided in Table 3-1.
- The catchment mapping was used to establish or discount potential hydrological connectivity between the site of the proposed development and any European Sites. The hydrological catchments are also shown in Figure 3-1.
- In relation to Special Protection Areas, in the absence of any specific European or Irish guidance in relation to such sites, the Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Guidance, '*Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPA)*' (2016) was consulted. This document provides guidance in relation to the identification of connectivity between proposed development and Special Protection Areas. The guidance takes into consideration the distances species may travel beyond the boundary of their SPAs and provides information on dispersal and foraging ranges of bird species which are frequently encountered when considering plans and projects.
- Table 3-1 provides details of all relevant European Sites as identified in the preceding steps and assesses the potential for likely significant effects on each.
- The assessment considers any likely direct or indirect impacts of the proposed development, both alone and in combination with other plans and projects, on European Sites by virtue of criteria including the following: size and scale, land-take, distance from the European Site or key features of the site, resource requirements, emissions, excavation requirements, transportation requirements and duration of construction, operation and decommissioning were considered in this assessment.
- The site synopses and conservation objectives of these sites, as per the NPWS website ([www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)), were consulted and reviewed at the time of preparing this report.
- The potential for the proposed development to result in cumulative impacts on any European Sites in combination with other plans and projects was considered in the assessment that is presented in Table 3-1. Plans and projects considered include those that are listed in Section 3.2.





Map Legend

- WFD Hydrological Catchments
- WFD River Waterbodies
- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
- Special Protected Areas (SPAs)
- Boundary of Proposed Works



Drawing Title  
European Designated Sites within  
the Likely Zone of Influence

Project Title  
Ballinrea Grid Connection  
Amendment

|                       |                           |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Drawn By<br>AMC       | Checked By<br>PD          |
| Project No.<br>251139 | Drawing No.<br>Figure 3-1 |
| Scale<br>1:65,000     | Date<br>04.03.2026        |

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Table 3-1 Identification of Designated sites within the Likely Zone of Influence

| European Sites and distance from Proposed Development                                         | Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a> <sup>2</sup> ) | Conservation Objectives                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Potential for Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)</b>                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                 |
| Great Island Channel SAC [001058]<br><br>Distance: 7.1km<br><br>Hydrological connectivity: No | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]</li> <li>➤ Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330]</li> </ul>            | Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, June 2014), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at <a href="https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO001058.pdf">https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO001058.pdf</a> | <p>The AA Screening Report and NIS for the permitted grid connection route found no pathways for likely significant effects on this SAC. The permitted grid connection is located ~7.1 km from this SAC and there is no hydrological connectivity, where indirect effects could occur. The recorded watercourse within the Proposed Development site does not provide any connectivity to this SAC.</p> <p>Given the nature and scale of the proposed amendments, the absence of hydrological connectivity to this SAC, and terrestrial distance between the site, no pathway for likely significant effects on this SAC, as a result of the Proposed Development, exists.</p> <p><b>No pathway for likely significant effect on this European Site was identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or cumulatively with other plans or projects. This site</b></p> | No                                              |

<sup>2</sup> Accessed at <<https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/conservation-management-planning/conservation-objectives>>

| European Sites and distance from Proposed Development                                         | Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a> )                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Conservation Objectives                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Potential for Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | is not within the Likely Zone of Influence of the proposed amendments. Therefore, it is not considered further in this assessment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                 |
| Special Protection Area (SPA)                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                 |
| <p>Cork Harbour SPA [004030]</p> <p>Distance: 2.65km</p> <p>Hydrological connectivity: No</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) [A004]</li> <li>➤ Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005]</li> <li>➤ Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017]</li> <li>➤ Grey Heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>) [A028]</li> <li>➤ Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048]</li> <li>➤ Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052]</li> <li>➤ Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054]</li> <li>➤ Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069]</li> <li>➤ Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130]</li> <li>➤ Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]</li> <li>➤ Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141]</li> <li>➤ Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142]</li> </ul> | <p>Detailed conservation objectives for this site, (Version 1, December 2014), were reviewed as part of the assessment and are available at: <a href="https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO004030.pdf">https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO004030.pdf</a></p> | <p>The location of the Proposed Development does not overlap with the boundary of the Cork Harbour SPA. The location of the amendments are approximately 2.65 km to the west of the SPA. Therefore, there is no potential for the Proposed Development to result in any direct effect on this European site.</p> <p>The Proposed Development represent minor modifications to the permitted grid connection. The AA Screening report and NIS for the permitted development were reviewed to inform this assessment.</p> <p>The AA Screening Report and NIS for the permitted development identified hydrological connectivity to this SPA. Therefore, the potential for likely significant adverse effects on this SPA was considered, as a result of deterioration of water quality arising from run-off or percolation of pollutants to surface and/or ground water during the construction and operational phase of the permitted grid connection. However, the Proposed</p> | No                                              |



| European Sites and distance from Proposed Development | Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests for which the European site has been designated (Sourced from NPWS online Conservation Objectives, <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a> )                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Conservation Objectives | Identification of Source-Pathway-Receptor chain                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Potential for Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
|                                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149]</li> <li>➤ Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156]</li> <li>➤ Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157]</li> <li>➤ Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160]</li> <li>➤ Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162]</li> <li>➤ Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179]</li> <li>➤ Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182]</li> <li>➤ Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183]</li> <li>➤ Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193]</li> <li>➤ Wigeon (<i>Mareca penelope</i>) [A855]</li> <li>➤ Shoveler (<i>Spatula clypeata</i>) [A857]</li> <li>➤ Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]</li> </ul> |                         | <p>Development represent minor modifications to the permitted development. While the Proposed Development is adjacent to an unmapped watercourse with downstream connectivity to this SPA, there is no new pathway for likely significant effect that is not already mitigated for in the NIS for the permitted development. Additionally, this watercourse is minor in nature and does not present a significant pathway for likely significant effects on this SPA.</p> <p>Therefore, due to the nature and scale of the Proposed Development, and the absence of a new pathway for Likely significant effect, no additional mitigation or best practice measures to avoid or reduce effects on European sites is required.</p> <p><b>No new pathway for likely significant effect on this European Site as a result of the Proposed Development has been identified, when considered in the absence of any mitigation, individually or in-combination with other plans or projects. This SPA is not within the Likely Zone of Influence of the Proposed Development. Therefore, it is not considered further in this assessment.</b></p> |                                                 |

## 4.1

## Likely Cumulative Impact of the Proposed Works on European Sites, in-combination with other plans and projects

In order to take account of cumulative in-combination effects, plans and projects that are completed, approved but uncompleted, or proposed (but not yet approved) should be considered in this context (European Commission, 2021). A search and review in relation to plans and projects that may have the potential to result in cumulative effects on European sites was conducted. This included a review of online Planning Registers, development plans and other available information and served to identify past and future plans and projects, their activities and their predicted effects.

## 4.1.1

### Projects

Assessment material for this in-combination impact assessment was compiled on the relevant developments within the vicinity of the Proposed Development. The material was gathered through a search of relevant online Planning Registers, reviews of relevant documents, planning application details and planning drawings, and served to identify past and future projects, their activities and their environmental impacts. All relevant projects were considered in relation to the potential for in-combination effects. All relevant data was reviewed (e.g. individual EISs/EIARs, NISs, layouts, drawings etc.) for all relevant projects where available.

The dominant land uses in the area were also considered in the assessment, these included agriculture, residential and road infrastructure.

- Permission for development of a 110kV substation, grid connection and associated infrastructure (**ACP Ref. 317706**)
- Cork County Council has made an application for the provision of a Motorway Scheme between Cork and Ringaskiddy, referred to as the proposed M28 Road Scheme. The proposed scheme comprises 12.5km. It commences at the Bloomfield Interchange on the existing N28/N40 junction and terminates at the Port of Cork to the east of the village of Ringaskiddy. Part of the Scheme is online along the route of the N28, (approx. 2km) but a substantial part of the scheme is off-line, from Carr's Hill to Ringaskiddy. The final 1.6km section of the road from Barnahely is a single carriageway, Protected Road Scheme and there is a proposed Service Area near the termination point (ABP Case Reference HA04.HA0053).
- The construction of 98 no. dwelling houses and all ancillary site development works. The proposed development consists of the construction of 4 no. 5 bedroom detached dwelling houses, 5 no. 4 bedroom detached dwelling houses, 12 no. 4 bedroom semi-detached dwelling houses, 48 no. 3 bedroom semi-detached dwelling houses, 20 no. 3 bedroom townhouses and 9 no. 2 bedroom townhouses. The proposed development also provides for a revised central amenity parkland from that previously permitted by Cork County Council Planning Reference 16/4289. Access to the proposed development will be via the existing junction with the Carrigaline Road and internal road network permitted by planning reference 16/4289 (as amended by planning references 20/4650 and 20/5451) (**Planning Ref. 215556**).
- Modifications to the permitted solar farm (Pl. Ref. No.: 17/6784, ABP Ref. PL04.303013). The modifications are within the boundary of the permitted development and will consist of: i) Changes to the layout and dimensions of the permitted solar photovoltaic layout which will decrease the solar photovoltaic footprint from c. 159,100 sq.m of solar panels, to c. 145,000 sq.m of solar panels on ground mounted frames (this modification is to allow for the inclusion of a proposed 110kV substation and grid connection which will be subject to a separate application); ii) Amendments to the internal track layout and the removal of the permitted battery storage unit; iii) 6 no. single storey inverter/transformer stations (reduced from 10 no. permitted inverter/transformer stations). Permission is also sought for the provision of a 33kV internal network cable (c. 3,760m underground with c. 114m of overhead line) linking the Ballinrea solar farm with the Ballinvuskig solar farm (c. 1.74 km to the northwest). The

- proposed development includes all associated site works and ancillary infrastructure. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been prepared in respect of the proposed development and the NIS will be submitted to the Planning Authority with the application **(Planning Ref. 234563)**.
- The construction of a single dwelling house, the construction of a detached domestic garage, the closure of the existing site entrance, the construction of a new site entrance, the installation of a new connection to public water mains, the installation of a wastewater treatment unit and associated raised soil polishing filter, and all ancillary works **(Planning Ref. 214245)**.
  - Construction of a dwelling house, a garage for domestic purpose, installation of a domestic water treatment system, construction of a new vehicular entrance and to carry out all associated site works **(Planning Ref. 217371)**.
  - The construction of 98 no. dwelling houses and all ancillary site development works. The proposed development consists of the construction of 9 no. 5 bedroom detached dwelling houses, 1 no. 4 bedroom detached dwelling house, 22 no. 4 bedroom semi-detached dwelling houses, 30 no. 3 bedroom semi-detached dwelling houses, 26 no. 3 bedroom townhouses and 10 no. 2 bedroom townhouses. Access to the proposed development will be via the existing junction with the Carrigaline Road and internal road network permitted by planning reference 16/4289 (as amended by planning references 20/4650 and 20/5451) **(Planning Ref. 215936)**.
  - The construction of 12 no. dwelling houses comprising 8 no. 3 bedroom semi-detached dwelling houses and 4 no. 4 bedroom semi-detached dwelling houses and all ancillary site development works. The proposed development is a change of plan from that permitted by Cork County Council planning reference 16/4289 (as amended by Cork County Council planning reference 19/5801). Access to the proposed development will be via the existing junction with the Carrigaline Road and internal road network permitted by Cork County Council planning reference 16/4289 **(Planning Ref. 215151)**.
  - Proposed development of a 110kV substation, grid connection and associated infrastructure **ACP Ref. 317706)**.
  - The construction of 98 no. dwelling houses and all ancillary site development works. The proposed development consists of the construction of 3 no. 5 bedroom detached dwelling houses, 3 no 4 bedroom detached dwelling houses, 14 no 4 bedroom semi-detached dwelling houses, 46 no 3 bedroom semi-detached dwelling houses, 18 no 3 bedroom townhouses and 14 no 2 bedroom townhouses. The proposed development also makes provision for a two storey creche with associated surface car park, bicycle parking and bin stores. The proposed development provides for the extension of the Janeville Spine Road permitted by planning reference 16/4289 (as amended and extended by planning references 20/4650, 20/5451, 21/5556 and 21/5936) to accommodate the provision of a new vehicular entrance to Janeville from the Rock Road (L-2490) with associated footpath and road upgrades. The proposed development also comprises minor amendments from that previously permitted by planning reference 21/5936 to the west of the site **(Planning Ref. 224809)**.

#### 4.1.2 Plans

The following Development Plans have been reviewed and taken into consideration as part of this assessment:

- Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028
- Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030

The review of these Plans is provided below in Table 3-2.



Table 3-2 Review of Plans

| Plans                                         | Key Policies/Issues/Objectives Directly Related to European Sites in The Zone of Influence                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Assessment of Potential Effects on European Sites                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028</b> | <p><b>BE 15-2: Protect sites, habitats and species</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Protect all natural heritage sites which are designated or proposed for designation under European legislation, National legislation and International Agreements. Maintain and where possible enhance appropriate ecological linkages between these. This includes Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Marine Protected Areas, Natural Heritage Areas, proposed Natural Heritage Areas, Statutory Nature Reserves, Refuges for Fauna and Ramsar Sites. These sites are listed in Volume 2 of the Plan.</li> <li>b) Provide protection to species listed in the Flora Protection Order 2015, to Annexes of the Habitats and Birds Directives, and to animal species protected under the Wildlife Acts in accordance with relevant legal requirements. These species are listed in Volume 2 of the Plan.</li> <li>c) Protect and where possible enhance areas of local biodiversity value, ecological corridors and habitats that are features of the County's ecological network. This includes rivers, lakes, streams and ponds, peatland and other wetland habitats, woodlands, hedgerows, tree lines, veteran trees, natural and semi-natural grasslands as well as coastal and marine habitats. It particularly includes habitats of special conservation significance in Cork as listed in Volume 2 of the Plan.</li> <li>d) Recognise the value of protecting geological heritage sites of local and national interest, as they become notified to the local authority, and protect them from inappropriate development</li> <li>e) Encourage, pursuant to Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, the protection and enhancement of features of the landscape, such as traditional field boundaries, important for the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.</li> </ul> <p><b>BE 15-3: Local Authority plan making</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Ensure that biodiversity issues are considered at the earliest possible stages of plan making;</li> <li>b) Ensure that plans and strategies comply with nature conservation legislation and policy as required (fulfil Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment requirements); and</li> <li>c) Carry out ecological impact assessment of plans and strategies as appropriate.</li> </ul> <p><b>BE 15-4: Local Authority development and projects</b></p> | <p>The Development plan was comprehensively reviewed, with particular reference to Policies and Objectives that relate to the Natura 2000 network and other natural heritage interests. No potential for cumulative impacts when considered in conjunction with the current proposal were identified.</p> <p>There will be no impact on designated sites as a result of deterioration in water quality, habitat loss, or disturbance. Best practice preventative measures will be implemented to avoid effects on water quality, as outlined in Section 5.2.1 of this report. There will be no adverse effects on the QIs/SCIs of European Sites, as a result of deterioration in water quality from the proposed modifications.</p> <p>There will be no adverse effects on sensitive aquatic receptors listed as QIs/SCI.</p> |

|  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |
|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Ensure that biodiversity protection is considered at design stage for works and development planned and progressed by Cork County Council and that all such projects comply with nature conservation legislation and policy as required;</li> <li>b) Fulfil Appropriate Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment requirements and carry out Ecological Impact Assessment in relation to Local Authority plans and projects as appropriate.</li> </ul> <p><b>BE 15-6: Biodiversity and New Development</b></p> <p>Provide for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity in the development management process and when licensing or permitting other activities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Providing ongoing support and guidance to developers on incorporating biodiversity considerations into new development through preplanning communications and the Council's guidance document 'Biodiversity and the Planning Process – guidance for developments on the management of biodiversity issues during the planning process' and any updated versions of this advice;</li> <li>b) Encouraging the retention and integration of existing trees, hedgerows and other features of high natural value within new developments;</li> <li>c) Requiring the incorporation of primarily native tree and other plant species, particularly pollinator friendly species in the landscaping of new developments;</li> <li>d) Fulfilling Appropriate Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment obligations and carrying out Ecological Impact Assessment in relation to development and activities, as appropriate;</li> <li>e) Ensuring that an appropriate level of assessment is completed in relation to wetland habitats subject to proposals which would involve drainage or reclamation. This includes lakes and ponds, watercourses, springs and swamps, marshes, heath, peatlands, some woodlands as well as some coastal and marine habitats;</li> </ul> <p>Ensuring that the implementation of appropriate mitigation (including habitat enhancement, new planting or other habitat creation initiatives) is incorporated into new development, where the implementation of such development would result in unavoidable impacts on biodiversity - supporting the principle of biodiversity net gain.</p> |  |
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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030</b></p> | <p><b>Objective 2 - Meet Urgent Conservation and Restoration Needs</b></p> <p><b>Outcome 2A:</b> The protection of existing designated areas and species is strengthened and conservation and restoration within the existing protected area network are enhanced</p> <p><b>Outcome 2B:</b> Biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside are conserved and restored – agriculture &amp; forestry</p> <p><b>Outcome 2C:</b> Biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside are conserved and restored – peatlands &amp; climate action</p> <p><b>Objective 2D:</b> Biodiversity and ecosystem services in the marine and freshwater environment are conserved and restored</p> <p><b>Outcome 2E:</b> Genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species is safeguarded</p> <p><b>Outcome 2F:</b> A National Restoration Plan is in place to contribute to the ambition of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and global nature restoration targets</p> <p><b>Outcome 2H:</b> Invasive alien species (IAS) are controlled and managed on an all-island basis to reduce the harmful impact they have on biodiversity and measures are undertaken to tackle the introduction and spread of new IAS to the environment.</p> | <p><b>Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030</b></p> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|



4.1.3

## **Conclusion of in-combination/cumulative assessment**

The review of plans and projects that is described above did not reveal any additional potential pathways for effect on European Sites that may have arisen as a result of those plans or projects.

There were no Annex I habitats identified within the works site boundary and there was no evidence of Annex II species or SCI species using the areas of habitat surveyed. There was no evidence of protected fauna using the proposed study area.

No pathway or mechanism for the development works to result in any significant effect on any European Site, was identified when considered on its own during the assessment process and therefore, there is no potential for it to contribute to any such effects when considered in-combination with any other development.

5.

## ARTICLE 6(3) APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING STATEMENT AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1

### Data Collected to Carry Out Assessment

In preparation of the report, the following sources were used to gather information:

- > Review of NPWS Site Synopses, Conservation Objectives for the European Sites
- > Review of 2025, 2019, 2013 and 2007 EU Habitats Directive (Article 17) Reports.
- > Review of online web-mappers: National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Teagasc, EPA, Water Framework Directive (WFD), Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI), Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI), Irish Wetland Bird Survey I-WeBS & Geohive online Environmental Sensitivity Mapping tool
- > Review of Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCCI) in Ireland 2014-2019 (Colhoun & Cummins, 2013)
- > Review of OS maps and aerial photographs of the site of the Proposed Development.
- > Review of other plans and projects within the area.
- > Review of planning pack of the permitted grid connection.

5.2

### Concluding Statement

It is concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt, in view of best scientific knowledge, on the basis of objective information and in light of the conservation objectives of the relevant European sites, that the Proposed Development, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, will not have a significant effect on any European Site.

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