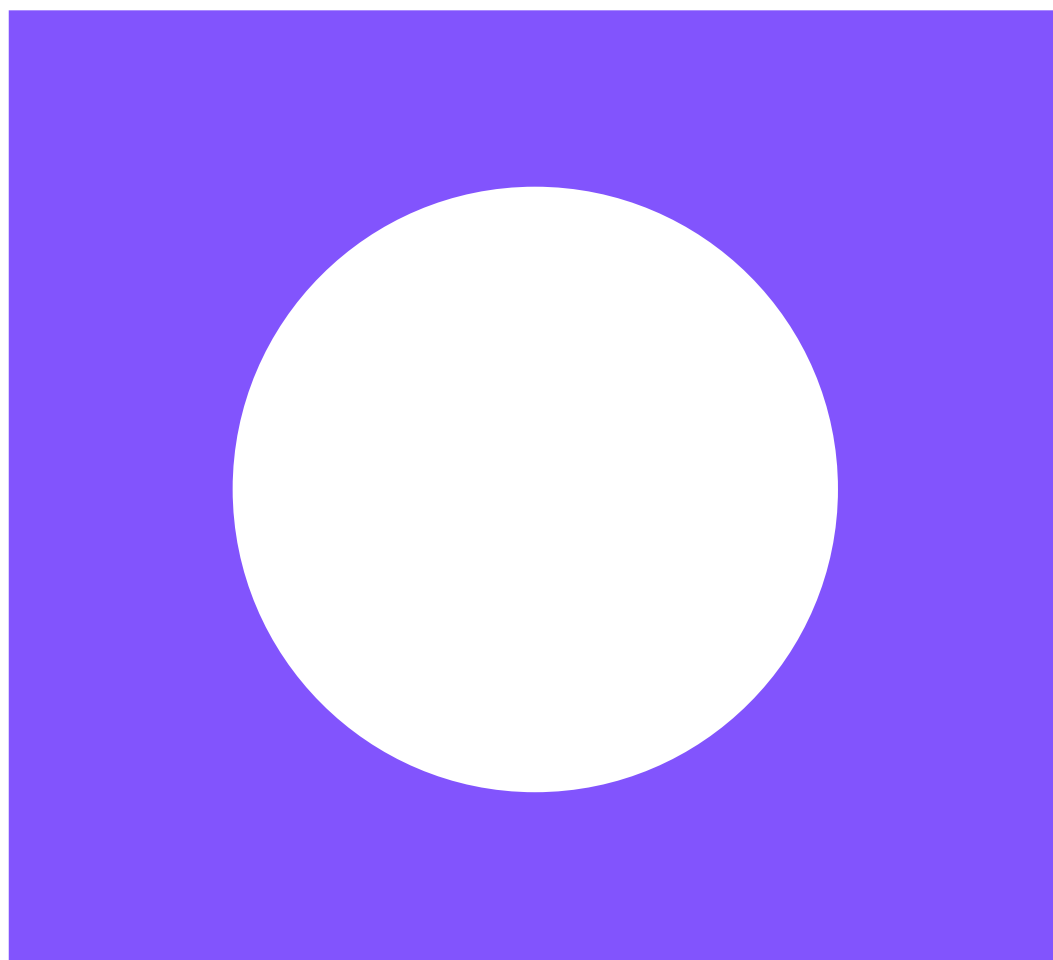




Donore 110 kV Substation

Report for the Screening of Appropriate
Assessment

July 2026

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Donore 110 kV Substation

Report for the Screening of Appropriate Assessment

July 2026

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1 Introduction

1.1 Project Overview

Mott MacDonald Ireland Limited (Mott MacDonald) has been appointed by the Electricity Supply Board to prepare this Screening of Appropriate Assessment (AA) to accompany a planning application for a new 110 kV/38 kV/MV Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) substation located north of the Drogheda Business and Technology Park, within the townland of Rathmullan, off the Donore Road, Drogheda, Co. Meath.

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

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

- Construction of 1 no substation compound (c. 5646 sqm) with 2.6m high palisade fencing and gates, containing:
 - 1 no. 110 kV GIS building (c. 707sqm footprint; c. 12m in height);
 - 1 no. 38 kV Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) building (c. 232sqm footprint; c. 7m in height);
 - 2 no. Bundled 110 / 38 kV Transformers (c. 5 m in height) with associated electrical equipment,
 - 2 no. Bundled 38 kV/ MV Transformers (c. 5m in height) with associated electrical equipment;
 - 2no. fire walls (c. 5.5m height by c. 5 length) separating the 110 / 38 kV Transformers and 38 kV/ MV Transformers;
 - 3 no. bundled Arc Suppression Coils (c. 4m in height) with associated electrical equipment;
 - Neutral earth resistor (c. 2m height) and neutral earth switch (c. 3.9m high);
 - Concrete post and rail fence (1.4m high).
- All associated site development works including provision of new site entrance, internal access, lighting poles (c. 4m high), 1 no. Emergency, stand-by Diesel Generator, 3 no. lightning monopoles (c.15m high), telecommunications, landscaping, site services including drainage, trenching and ducting and all other ancillary works.

It is planned that the Donore 110 kV substation will be tail fed (i.e. power fed from one direction only) from the Oldbridge 110 kV Station (as permitted under ACP Ref. No. 308628, and as amended by Meath County Council Reg. Ref. No. 22162). The Oldbridge 110 kV Station was approved as a Strategic Infrastructure Development, being directly connected to the 110 kV transmission line. The proposed Donore 110 kV substation will be tail fed from this already permitted substation.

1.2 Location of the Proposed Development

The proposed site is located north of existing development within the Drogheda Business and Technology Park (Figure 1.1). The M1 is located approx. 400m due west of the site, while the Meath/Louth County border is approx. 300m east. The primary land uses in the surrounding

area comprise of agricultural, residential, educational and industrial. Access to the site is proposed to be from the existing Business Park access road at the Donore Road and the existing roundabout at Drogheda College. The Amazon Data Centre and Oldbridge 110 kV substation site are located to the south/south-west of the subject site within the Business Park.

Figure 1.1: Location of the Proposed Development



Source: Mott MacDonald

1.3 Requirement for Appropriate Assessment

1.3.1 European Law

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

The Habitats Directive requires that where a plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a European site (s), (and where the plan or project is not directly connected with or necessary to the nature conservation management of the European site), the plan or project will be subject to 'Appropriate Assessment' (AA) to identify any implications for the European site(s) in view of the site's Conservation Objectives. Specifically, Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states:

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

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

1.3.2 Irish Law

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

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

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

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

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

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

- a. the Natura Impact Report or Natura Impact Statement, as appropriate;*
- b. any supplemental information furnished in relation to any such report or statement;*
- c. if appropriate, any additional information sought by the authority and furnished by the applicant in relation to a Natura Impact Statement;*
- d. any additional information furnished to the competent authority at its request in relation to a Natura Impact Report;*
- e. any information or advice obtained by the competent authority;*
- f. if appropriate, any written submissions or observations made to the competent authority in relation to the application for consent for proposed development;*

any other relevant information.”

1.4 Definitions

1.4.1 European Sites and Features

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

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

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

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

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

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

1.5 Statement of Competence

Authors

- **Siún Ní Cheallaigh** BSc (Hons), MSc, ACIEEM (Ecologist, Mott MacDonald) drafted the report. Siún is an Ecologist with four years of post-graduate experience in ecological consultancy. She has prepared Appropriate Assessments (AA) Screening Reports and Natura Impact Statements (NIS) reports for a variety of projects. Siún has experience carrying out walkover field surveys for protected species including birds, mammals and

amphibians. She also has experience performing Fossitt (2000) habitat surveys, breeding bird surveys, wintering bird surveys, and marine mammal surveys.

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

Surveyors

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

1.6 Methodology

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

- EC (2021) Assessment of Plans and Projects in Relation to Natura 2000 Sites – Methodological guidance on Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC
- EC (2018) Managing Natura 2000 sites. The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC Commission Notice C (2018) 7621
- DEHLG (2009) Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland Guidance for Planning Authorities (Revised 2010).
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (2013) Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment –
- Streamlining AA, SEA and EIA Processes: Practitioners Manual. Environmental Protection Agency.
- European Commission (2018), Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg.
- European Commission (2000a), Communication from the Commission on the Precautionary Principle, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg.
- European Commission (2013), Interpretation Manual of European Union Habitats. Version EUR 28.

- European Commission (2006), Nature and biodiversity cases: Ruling of the European Court of Justice. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.
- Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG, 2010b), Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government Circular NPWS 1/10 and PSSP 2/10 on Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive – Guidance for Planning Authorities

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

1.6.1 Desktop Study

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

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

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

1.6.2 Field Survey

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

In addition, visits were conducted on 08th and 22nd September 2025 to assess whether on-site drains were being used for commuting by otter (*Lutra lutra*) and other fauna.

1.6.2.1 Habitats and Flora

Habitat survey methods were conducted in accordance with the methodology described in *Best Practice Guidance for Habitat Survey and Mapping*¹. Habitats were classified to level three according to the scheme outlined in the *Guide to Habitats in Ireland*². Classification of European

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

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

Annex 1 habitats was informed with reference to the *EU Interpretation Manual for EU Habitats*³ having regard to the *Irish Vegetation Classification*⁴ where relevant.

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

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

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

1.6.2.2 Fauna Surveys

Otter

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

Trail cameras were set out on 08 September – 22 September 2025 to assess whether on-site drains were being used for commuting by otter (*Lutra lutra*).

Bats

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

Birds

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

Drainage ditches on the site were surveyed for nesting and forage habitat suitability for Kingfisher (Annex 1 listed⁷) a Special Conservation Interest (SCI) species of River Boyne SPA located relatively close by, approximately 1.4km northwest of the site.

Other Protected Species

No other Annex II listed⁸ species are likely to occur on the site including Marsh Fritillary. No suitable habitat occurs.

1.7 Consultation

ESB has engaged in pre-application with ACP in accordance with the provisions of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

A pre-application meeting was held with Meath County Council (MCC) on 11 November 2025 (reference PP2025/379C). This meeting was attended by Meath County Council, ESB and Mott

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

⁴ <https://biodiversityireland.shinyapps.io/vegetation-classification/>

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

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

⁷ Listed on Annex 1 EU Birds Directive (Council Directive 09/147/EC)

⁸ Listed on Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive

MacDonald and an overview of the proposed development, need for the proposed development and status of the current application was discussed.

MCC acknowledged the proposed development complies with the land use zoning on site. Matters discussed related EIA screening, grid connection for the proposed substation, landscape and visual assessment, archaeological assessment, and ecological surveys and inputs within and around the site. These are addressed in the Planning and Environmental Considerations Report (PECR) submitted as part of this application.

On foot of queries from MCC relating to the grid connection, ESB clarified that the proposed Donore substation will be tail fed (i.e. power fed from one direction only), from the 110 kV busbar in the new Oldbridge 110 kV substation. This substation is located approximately 200m to the west of the Proposed Development and is connected to the existing 110 kV transmission line.

The grid connection will be via a new 110 kV underground double circuit trench, approximately 300m in length, which will be installed within private lands directly to the west of the proposed Donore 110 kV Substation. The proposed underground cable works do not form part of this planning application as they constitute exempted development under Section 4 (2) of the Planning and Development Act - Schedule 2, Part 1 Exempted Development – Class 26.

Class 26: The carrying out by any electricity undertaking of development consisting of the laying underground of mains, pipes, cables or other apparatus for the purposes of the undertaking.

1.8 Limitations

Only targeted otter surveys were completed. All other fauna species were surveyed on an ad-hoc basis during the multidisciplinary walkover survey on 31 July 2025. This is not considered to be a limitation as the Proposed Development is a relatively small project to install a new electricity distribution station in managed agricultural farmland where habitats of ecological value (field boundary habitats) will be retained.

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

2 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

2.1 Process for Screening for Appropriate Assessment

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

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

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

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

2.2 Management of European Sites

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

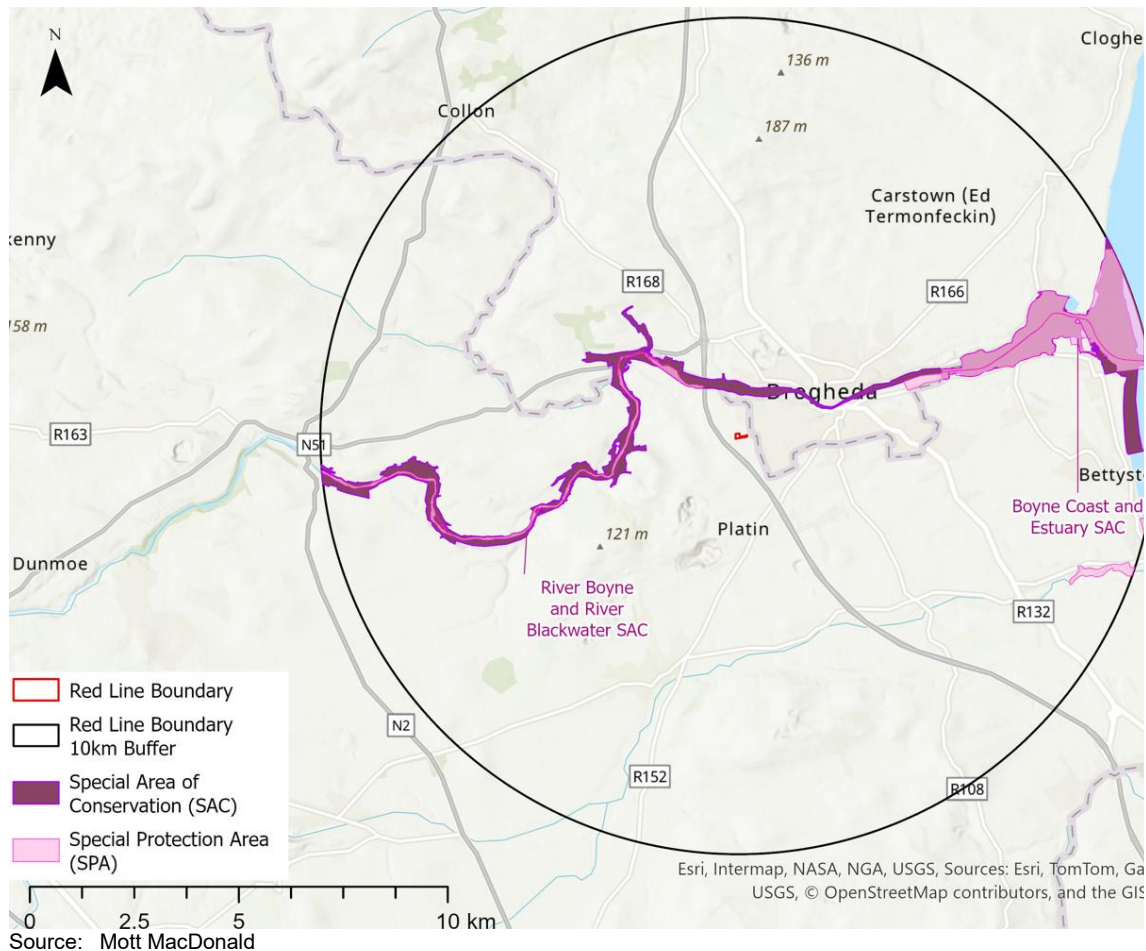
This screening assessment investigates, in view of best scientific knowledge, whether the Proposed Development, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, would be likely to have a significant effect on European Sites. This report considers the likelihood of significant effects on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

A summary of the Proposed Project has been described in Section 1.1.

The Proposed Development is not located within or adjacent to a European Site. The closest European site is the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC, located approximately 0.6km from

the Proposed Development. The location of the Proposed Development in relation to European Sites is presented in Figure 2.1.

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



2.3 Baseline Environment

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

2.3.1 Habitats and Flora

No rare or threatened species, species listed under the Flora (Protection) Order 2022, or Annex I habitats protected under the Habitats Directive, were recorded or are likely to occur within the site.

There are no Annex I habitats or Annex II plant species present within the Proposed Development site or immediate vicinity.

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

The habitat types and ecological valuations are described in greater detail in Chapter 8 of the PECR accompanying this application.

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

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

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

- Arable crops (BC1)
- Drainage ditches (FW4)
- Dry meadows (GS2)
- Hedgerows (WL1)
- Scrub (WS1)
- Recolonising bare ground (ED3)

The site of the Proposed Development is primarily comprised of an arable barley field (BC1) of c. 8.5 ha (Figure 2.2) with hedgerows (WL1) and scrub (WS1) along the field boundaries. There is a mixed broadleaved woodland (WD1) outside the southwestern boundary.

The northern and southern boundaries of the site are lined with scrub (WS1), containing wych elm (*Ulmus glabra*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and dogrose (*Rosa canina*). The western boundary is marked by a combination of hedgerows (WL1) and scrub (WS1), containing hawthorn, elm, elder, dogrose and bramble.

To the east, the arable barley field (BC1) ends and transitions into an area of scrub (WS1) and dry meadows (GS2) of c. 2 ha. The scrub is comprised of grey willow (*Salix cinerea*), hawthorn, bramble, dogrose, elder, ash and elm. Within the dry meadows, false oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), meadow foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*), meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*), black medick (*Medicago lupulina*), meadow vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), red bartsia (*Odontites vernus*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), rosebay willowherb (*Chamaenerion angustifolium*), knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), ragwort (*Senecio squalidus*), creeping cinquefoil (*Potentilla repens*), red clover (*Trifolium pratense*), hard rush (*Juncus inflexus*), bush vetch (*Vicia sepium*), broad-leaved dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*), spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), great willowherb (*Epilobium hirsutum*), bird's foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara*) were identified. No development is proposed in this area.

Near the entrance to the site there is a small area of recolonising bare ground (ED3) habitat, containing species such as red clover (*Trifolium pratense*), rosebay willowherb (*Chamaenerion angustifolium*), hawkbit (*Leontodon saxitalis*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) and daisy (*Bellis perennis*).

Within the southern boundary of the site, there is a drainage ditch (FW4) measuring approximately 1.5m deep and 3.4m wide. This drainage ditch appeared dry on the date of survey but may be wet at other times of year.

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



2.3.2 Invasive Species

No invasive species listed under the First Schedule of S.I. No. 374 of 2024 were recorded or are likely to occur within the site.

2.3.3 Mammals

No evidence of the presence or activity of any protected mammal species, including otter, was detected during the field surveys. Camera traps set out from 8 September – 22 September 2025 did not detect any evidence of otter or other mammals.

2.3.4 Birds

The following Annex I listed bird species have been recorded over the last twenty years in the 10km² grid square (O07) which includes the site, refer to Table 2.1.

Table 2.1: Annex I bird species recorded in 10km (O07) grid square overlapping the Proposed Development

Common, Scientific Name	Date of Last Record	BoCCI Status (Gilbert <i>et al.</i> , 2021)
Golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>)	16/01/2022	Red
Hen harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>)	15/03/2020	Amber
Kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>)	15/08/2025	Amber
Little egret (<i>Egretta garzetta</i>)	25/04/2021	Green
Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)	25/10/2021	Amber

Common, Scientific Name	Date of Last Record	BoCCI Status (Gilbert <i>et al.</i> , 2021)
Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	2017 National Peregrine Survey	Green
Whooper swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>)	11/10/2024	Red

Source: NBDC

The site does not provide important habitat for any of these species. Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) is an SCI of the River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA close to the site. However, the site of the Proposed Development does not contain suitable habitat for kingfisher. No evidence of kingfisher was found during site visits. No suitable breeding habitat (nesting banks) or aquatic habitat occurs on or in the vicinity of the site.

The site is not likely to attract regular or significant numbers of waterfowl or wading bird species being surrounded by housing and industrial developments. It is not a site subject to regular winter bird surveys or counts including I-Webs⁹. Whooper swan and other waterfowl concentrate in lands west of the M1 along the River Boyne Valley while coastal areas are where waders and waterfowl associated with Boyne Estuary SPA concentrate.

No evidence of mobile SCI bird species, including waterfowl associated with Boyne Estuary SPA, was recorded within the site during the site visits.

2.3.5 Aquatic Ecology/ Fisheries

There are no major waterbodies or watercourses within the Proposed Development site. The on-site drainage ditches are ephemeral (dry out) and have no fishery value including possible QI species in the River Boyne SAC. Drainage ditches are tenuously hydrologically connected to the nearest named watercourse to the site - Sheephouse 07 (EPA_code 07S34) which is c. 400m to the northwest. The site is in total 1.2km from the Boyne River which is included in the Boyne River SAC and has salmonid QI. It is also a Salmonid River (SI. 293)¹⁰.

2.3.6 Other Protected Species

No suitable habitat exists on the site for fauna species listed on Annex II and/ or Annex IV of the Habitats Directive.

2.4 Description of the Proposed Development

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

- Construction of 1 no substation compound (c. 5646 sqm) with 2.6m high palisade fencing and gates, containing:
 - 1 no. 110 kV GIS building (c. 707sqm footprint; c. 12m in height);
 - 1 no. 38 kV Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) building (c. 232sqm footprint; c. 7m in height);
 - 2 no. Bunded 110 / 38 kV Transformers (c. 5 m in height) with associated electrical equipment,
 - 2 no. Bunded 38 kV/ MV Transformers (c. 5m in height) with associated electrical equipment;
 - 2no. fire walls (c. 5.5m height by c. 5m length) separating the 110 / 38 kV Transformers and 38 kV/ MV Transformers;

⁹ I-Webs sites. I-WeBS Coverage

¹⁰ S.I. 293: European Communities (Quality of Salmonid Waters) Regulations, 1988

- 3 no. banded Arc Suppression Coils (c. 4m in height) with associated electrical equipment;
- Neutral earth resistor (c. 2m height) and neutral earth switch (c. 3.9m high);
- Concrete post and rail fence (1.4m high).
- All associated site development works including provision of new site entrance, internal access, lighting poles (c. 4m high), 1 no. Emergency, stand-by Diesel Generator, 3 no. lightning monopoles (c.15m high), telecommunications, landscaping, site services including drainage, trenching and ducting and all other ancillary works.

The proposed Donore 110 kV substation will be tail fed from (i.e. power fed from one direction only) from the new Oldbridge 110 kV substation which is connected to the 110 kV transmission line.

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

2.4.1 Substation Compound

The new substation compound is c. 5646sqm in size. The proposed 110 kV/38 kV/MV substation compound consists of a 110 kV GIS building (approximately 12m in height, 14m in width and 50.5m in length) and 38 kV GIS building (approximately 7m in height, 8m in width and 29.17m in length).

The 110 kV GIS building is c. 707 sq. m. in size and consist of eight 110 kV bays whereas the 38 kV GIS building is c. 235 sq. m. in size and consist of fourteen 38 kV bays and eighteen MV (20 kV) bays.

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

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

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

The colour under consideration for the building is an olive green (RAL 6003). The ultimate choice of finish and colour of the metal cladding coating will be determined at the detailed design stage of development and agreed with local authority prior to the commencement of construction.

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

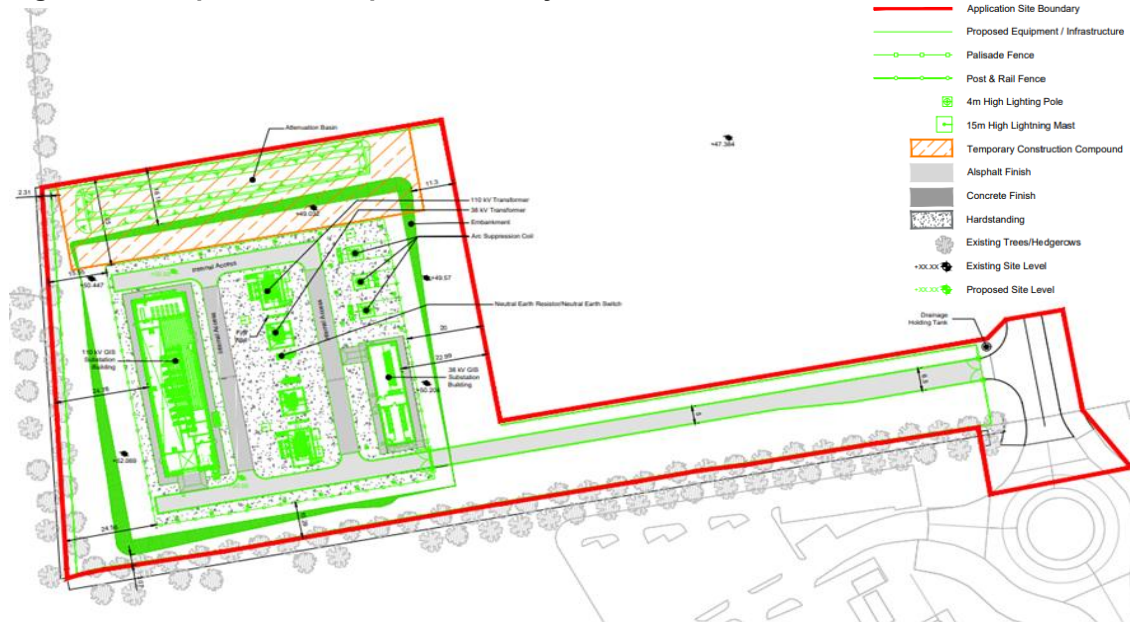
The substation compound will also include one standby diesel generator located south to the 110 kV GIS building and three banded Arc Suspension Coils (ASC) north of 38 kV GIS building. The diesel generator and the three ASCs will be used during fault/emergency operations.

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

As shown on planning drawing 229101684-MMD-01-XX-DR-C-0121, 3 no. lightning monopoles (15m in height) are proposed within the substation site.

The proposed site layout is shown in Figure 2.3. For more details on the proposed location and layout of the proposed facility, refer to Planning Application Drawings 229101684-MMD-01-XX-DR-C-0110 and 229101684-MMD-01-XX-DR-C-0121.

Figure 2.3: Proposed Development Site Layout



Source: Mott MacDonald

2.4.2 Access Road

The proposed site will be accessed via the existing IDA Business and Technology Park access road on Donore Road and the existing roundabout at Drogheda College, located immediately at the southern boundary of the Proposed Development. This route connects to the M1 Motorway to the west.

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

Two new internal circulation/access roads are proposed within the GIS substation site as shown on Planning Drawing 229101684-MMD-01-XX-DR-C-0121. A new internal access road will be constructed within the proposed GIS substation site (approximately 157m in length and 5m in width). This road ties-in to the entrance to the substation compound at the western end and forms a T-junction with the access road at its eastern end. An internal road (approximately 41m in length and 9.5m wide) is proposed to connect the northern side arm of the roundabout to the eastern end of the internal access road.

The geometric design for the direct access is in accordance with the Geometric Design of Junctions (priority junctions, direct accesses, roundabouts, grade separated, and compact grade separated junctions) (TII, 2023)¹.

2.4.3 Services and Utilities

2.4.3.1 Water Supply

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

Potable water supply for the GIS building is proposed to be sourced via a new connection from the existing public watermain located along the existing road network to the south of the proposed site, subject to connection request application to Uisce Éireann. A Confirmation of Feasibility (CoF) was received from Uisce Éireann on 24 October 2025 (pre-connection enquiry reference CDS25007951), as provided in Appendix 3.2 of the PECR.

2.4.3.2 Wastewater Drainage and Treatment

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

Once the substation is operational, domestic type wastewater will be produced by the onsite welfare facilities (toilet, wash hand basin and mess room sink). The wastewater will be collected in a proposed waste water storage tank. The waste water storage tank will be located outside the substation compound (refer to planning drawing 229101684-MMD-01-XX-DR-D-0100), near the entrance gate to the substation site. This will ensure easy access for wastewater to be tankered off the site, as necessary, by a licenced haulier.

2.4.4 Surface Water Management

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

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

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

The proposed surface water management system will be designed to ensure that no flooding of the proposed site occurs for the critical storm with a 1 in 100-year return period, including a 30% allowance for climate change. A line-end attenuation basin will be proposed to allow the discharging flow to be restricted to the pre-development greenfield runoff rate.

A proprietary flow control device (e.g. a 'Hydro-Brake' or similar) will be used to restrict discharge from the pond to pre-development 'greenfield' equivalent runoff rates. The allowable discharge rates will be calculated using the Institute of Hydrology Report 124 methodology and selected in accordance with the requirements of Volume 2 of the GDSDS. The flow will be discharged via a headwall outfall to the existing field ditch located along the west boundary of the site. The discharge rate is in accordance with the guidance given in Section 6.3.3.1 of the GDSDS to maintain an appropriate orifice size and reduce the risk of frequent flooding of critical local infrastructure.

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

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

To create a flat area for the compound the existing ground will be regraded. As a result of these earthworks the site will be in a cut along its south and west boundaries. Surface water runoff from the cut slope will be intercepted by shallow ditches at the foot of the cut and discharged into the existing field drain adjacent to the site without attenuation.

The existing culvert at the site access at the roundabout will need replacement as the result of the road construction and ground cable laying works.

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

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

The proposed surface water drainage layout is shown on planning drawing 229101684-MMD-01-XX-DR-D-0100 and further drainage details are discussed in Appendix 3.1 Surface Water Management Plan.

2.4.5 Lighting

Lighting will not be a continuous feature of the operational substation and will be manually operated by an activation switch located within the GIS substation. Lighting will be sensor activated.

Site lighting is proposed around the perimeter of the site. A total of 20 no. lighting poles (4m in height) is proposed to be erected and are indicated on the planning drawing 229101684-MMD-01-XX-DR-C-0121.

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

2.4.6 Fencing and Barriers

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

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

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

2.4.7 Biodiversity Enhancements Measures

Extensive woodland planting with native species is proposed as part of the proposed development, refer to Appendix 12.2 of accompanying PECR. With effective implementation of the hedgerow planting and low maintenance management of grassland, residual effects to habitats are assessed as positive effects at a local scale. There will be a net increase (c.a. 243 m) of hedgerow habitat and existing hedgerows (c.a. 393 m) will be bolstered with additional planting. In addition, c. 0.8 Ha of grassland within the site will be managed for pollinator insects and to promote natural regeneration of native grassland.

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

A proposed attenuation basin (SUDS) will provide a surface water wetland feature that will be kept open and may attract bats and birds and increase the biodiversity value of parts of the site with semi natural grassland.

2.4.8 Construction Phase Activities

2.4.8.1 Construction Schedule

The construction works will include site preparation works, construction of the main building and structures, and site finishing works. It is envisaged that the civil works will take approximately 12 months to complete. Following this, electrical installation and commissioning will take place, for approximately 18 months.

Table 2.2: Outline Construction Schedule

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

2.4.8.2 Construction Plant and Machinery

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

Table 2.3: Construction Plant & Machinery

Phase	Plant	BS5228-1 Reference
Site Preparation	Track Excavator	C2.22
	Pneumatic Breaker	D2.11

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

Source: ESB, 2025

2.4.8.3 Construction Methodology

Site Preparation and Enabling Works

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

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

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

GIS Building

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

- The foundation works will commence after the completion of the site grading. The foundation installation includes – excavation, form work, steel reinforcement and concrete placement. Excavated materials will be reused on site or disposed off-site to an appropriately licensed facility.
- Following the installation of the foundation, construction activities for the erection of structural steelwork will commence.

- Cladding and building finishing work and the installation of building services, eg, drainage, internal access road, will be undertaken once the structural frame and steel support structures are completed.
- Construction of permanent surface water drainage works.
- Miscellaneous civil works including paving, permanent fencing, landscaping and completion of works.

Access Road

Two new internal access roads will be constructed within the GIS substation site connecting the local property road to the substation. The internal road proposed to the northern side arm of the roundabout is approximately 41m in length and 9.5m wide and the extended road connecting to the substation compound is approximately 157m in length and 5m in width. The corner radius of 9m is proposed where the extended road forms T- Junction with first internal road.

Both access roads will be concrete roads. Based on the available preliminary ground information details, concrete pavement slab 175mm thick laid on a 225mm sub-base is proposed. Beneath these two layers, a granular capping layer is proposed to enhance the ground stiffness. The alignment and long sections for the two newly proposed roads are detailed in the drawing 229101684-MMD-01-XX-DR-C-0121.

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

A suitable road design will be developed once the final ground investigation report is received. The concrete road pavement details are shown in drawing 229101684-MMD-01-XX-DR-C-0162.

Temporary Construction Compounds/Laydown Areas

A temporary construction compound/laydown area is proposed to the north of the substation. The location of the temporary compound/laydown area is indicated on Planning Drawing 229101684-MMD-01-XX-DR-C-0121.

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

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

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

Construction Traffic and Personnel

During construction phase, the anticipated material volumes are approximately 5,200m³ of stone fill and approximately 7,250m³ of excavation material.

Based on these volumes, it is estimated that traffic movements will peak at 20 HGV vehicles (40 HGV movements) per day during the civil construction works. In total approximately 700-800 HGV vehicle movements are anticipated, to import site equipment, plant, materials, including stone & concrete during civil works, the majority of which will be front loaded in the early stage of the construction works. The above vehicle assumptions are for the estimated volume of imported and exported materials.

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

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

Construction Access

Construction plant and vehicles will access the site via the existing IDA Business and Technology Park access road on Donore Road and the existing roundabout at Drogheda College, located immediately at the southern boundary of the Proposed Development. This route connects to the M1 Motorway to the west.

Haul Routes

It is envisaged that the route to the site will be from the M1 motorway to the Donore Road, via the IDA park road network.

This would be subject to the Traffic Management Plan (Appendix B to the CEMP) for Construction Phase.

Construction Working Hours

Construction activities will be undertaken during 07:00 – 19:00 Monday to Friday and 08:00 – 14:00 on Saturday, subject to agreement with the Local Authority.

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

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

2.4.8.4 Construction Environmental Management Plan

A CEMP has been prepared and submitted as part of this planning application. The CEMP will be implemented during the construction phase. The CEMP will remain a 'live' document which will be reviewed regularly and revised as necessary in consultation and agreement with the local authority to ensure that the measures implemented are effective.

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

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

2.4.8.5 Resource and Waste Management Plan (RWMP)

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

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

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

2.4.8.6 Traffic Management Plan (TMP)

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

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

2.4.8.7 Environmental Supervision and Monitoring

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2.4.9 Operation and Maintenance

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

2.4.10 Health and Safety Considerations

Project Supervisor Design Process

ESB Engineering and Major Projects are appointed to the role of Project Supervisor Design Process (PSDP).

The PSDP ensures co-ordination of the work of designers throughout the Proposed Development. This is to ensure effectiveness in addressing and co-ordinating safety and health matters from the very early stages of the Proposed Development.

Project Supervisor Construction Stage

ESB will appoint a Project Supervisor Construction Stage (PSCS) of the Proposed Development when they appoint Contractors to carry out the works. The PSCS will be responsible for developing the construction stage Safety and Health Plan, co-ordinating the work of Contractors and providing PSDP with information required in the Safety File.

2.5 European Sites in the Zone of Influence

2.5.1 Introduction

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

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

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

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

- The footprint of the Proposed Development for direct damage to habitats
- No significant dust effects are likely based on the Proposed Development. However localised dust deposition may occur during construction. Dust effects to ecological receptors was

identified as 50m based on guidance from the Institute of Air Quality Management¹¹. As such, the Zol is taken as 50m for dust effects within this AA.

- 74m for moderate noise effects (>65dB LAeq to wetland bird species, based on noise modelling conducted for the project (refer Chapter 7 accompanying PECR). This assessment indicates that the noise levels drop to 65dB at 74m from noise source during construction phase of the Proposed Development i.e. imperceptible effect. Worst case noise levels during operational phase are 36dB at 74m from the noise source (imperceptible effect).
- 300m for visual disturbance to waterfowl¹²
- 150m for breeding otter holts¹³
- Catchment wide Zol for surface waterbodies
- 250m for groundwater dependant terrestrial ecosystems (GWDTEs)¹⁴
- 8km for marsh fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia*)¹⁵
- 1km for breeding raptors¹⁶
- No other mobile Qualifying Interest species are likely to be within the Zol.

2.5.2 Source-Pathway-Receptor Assessment

Projects have the potential to impact on European sites beyond the footprint of the project itself. National Guidance¹⁷ states that screening for AA should be carried out for any European site within the likely Zol of a plan or project. For projects, the guidance recommends that Zol must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reference to the nature, size and location of the project, the sensitivities of the ecological receptors, and the potential for in-combination effects.

In order to establish the Zol of the Proposed Development, desktop and field survey data on protected habitats and species was mapped using a Geographic Information System (GIS). The potential Zols associated with the project are outlined in Section 2.5.1. GIS data was then interrogated for source-pathway-receptor connectivity.

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

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

¹¹ Institute of Air Quality Management (2024) Guidance on the assessment of dust from demolition and construction.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table 2.4: Source-Pathway-Receptor Assessment

Site Name (Code) and Conservation Objectives	Distance between the Proposed Development and European Site (straight line) at closest point	Qualifying Interests (QIs) / Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of the European Site (* denotes priority habitat, breeding birds only noted otherwise wintering)	Source-Pathway-Receptor Assessment	Potential for Significant Effects
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)				
River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC [002299] ¹⁸	0.6km	- Alkaline fens [7230] - Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0] <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River lamprey) [1099] <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355]	The Proposed Development is located entirely outside of the SAC boundary. As such, there is no potential for direct impacts to QI in the SAC. An ephemeral drainage ditch has potential hydrological connectivity to downstream watercourses connected to the River Boyne estuary. The ditch is approximately 540m (overland connection) from the Sheephouse stream (EPA Code: 07S34). The Sheephouse stream then flows another 0.8km to the Boyne estuary (River Boyne and Blackwater SAC). The onsite drainage ditch does not contain suitable habitat for river lamprey or salmon. It is considered that there is a tenuous source-pathway-receptor link. It is assessed that there is no potential for impacts on aquatic QI including river lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) or salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>). This assessment is informed by the poor hydrological drainage ditch connectivity, flat topography (limiting flows), relatively small scale of the proposed	Given very tenuous source-pathway-receptor link exists to the SAC and no evidence of QI species or habitats were identified during walkover surveys, the potential for likely significant effects can be excluded noting standard controls will be incorporated for local protection of water quality during the temporary construction phase and standard SUDS design during operation.

¹⁸ NPWS (2021) Conservation Objectives: River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC 002299. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Site Name (Code) and Conservation Objectives	Distance between the Proposed Development and European Site (straight line) at closest point	Qualifying Interests (QIs) / Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of the European Site (* denotes priority habitat, breeding birds only noted otherwise wintering)	Source-Pathway-Receptor Assessment	Potential for Significant Effects
Special Protection Area (SPA)			development and standard pollution controls during construction and drainage design (SUDS), as described in Section 2.4.4. No evidence of ex-situ otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) activity was found during site walkover surveys or on camera traps deployed between 8 September to 22 September 2025. No suitable habitat for holts was found during site walkover surveys. No impacts are likely to otter.	
River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA [004232] ¹⁹	1.1km	Kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>) [A229]	The Proposed Development is located entirely outside of the SPA boundary. As such, there is no potential for impacts to habitats within the SPA itself. A drainage ditch on the southern boundary appears to be wet at certain times of year. It does not provide suitable nesting or forage habitat for ex situ Kingfisher. No evidence of kingfisher or suitable habitat for kingfisher was found within this ditch during site walkover surveys. There is no suitable habitat within the Proposed Development site to support ex-situ kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>), there is no	Given no source-pathway-receptor link exists to the SPA and no evidence of SCI species were identified during walkover surveys, the potential for likely significant effects can be excluded.

¹⁹ NPWS (2024) Conservation Objectives: River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA 004232. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Site Name (Code) and Conservation Objectives	Distance between the Proposed Development and European Site (straight line) at closest point	Qualifying Interests (QIs) / Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of the European Site (* denotes priority habitat, breeding birds only noted otherwise wintering)	Source-Pathway-Receptor Assessment	Potential for Significant Effects
			potential for impacts on kingfisher. Given no suitable habitat and very tenuous hydrological connectivity no viable source-pathway-receptor links have been identified.	
Boyne Estuary SPA [004080] ²⁰	3.8km	- Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] - Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] - Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] - Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] - Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] - Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] - Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] - Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] - Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] - Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] - Little Tern (<i>Sternula albifrons</i>) [A885]	The Proposed Development is located entirely outside of the SPA boundary. As such, there is no potential for impacts within the SPA itself. A drainage ditch on the southern boundary appears to be wet at certain times of year. There is very tenuous hydrological connectivity between this ditch and any significant nearby watercourses. The site of the Proposed Development is unlikely to be used by foraging waterbirds during the breeding or wintering season due to the unsuitability of the habitat.	Given no source-pathway-receptor link exists to the SPA and no evidence of SCI species were identified during walkover surveys, the potential for likely significant effects can be excluded.

²⁰ NPWS (2013). Conservation Objectives: Boyne Estuary SPA 004080. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Site Name (Code) and Conservation Objectives	Distance between the Proposed Development and European Site (straight line) at closest point	Qualifying Interests (QIs) / Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of the European Site (* denotes priority habitat, breeding birds only noted otherwise wintering)	Source-Pathway-Receptor Assessment	Potential for Significant Effects
North-west Irish Sea SPA [004236] ²¹	9.0km	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]		
		- Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) [A001] - Great Northern Diver (<i>Gavia immer</i>) [A003] - Fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>) [A009] - Manx Shearwater (<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>) [A013] - Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] - Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) [A018] - Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065] - Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] - Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] - Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] - Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184]	The Proposed Development is located entirely outside of the SPA boundary. As such, there is no potential for impacts within the SPA itself. A drainage ditch on the southern boundary appears to be wet at certain times of year. There is very tenuous hydrological connectivity between this ditch and any significant nearby watercourses. The site of the Proposed Development is unlikely to be used by foraging waterbirds or seabirds during the breeding or wintering season due to the unsuitability of the habitat.	Given no source-pathway-receptor link exists to the SPA and no evidence of SCI species were identified during walkover surveys, the potential for likely significant effects can be excluded.

²¹ NPWS (2023). Conservation Objectives: North-west Irish Sea SPA 004236. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Site Name (Code) and Conservation Objectives	Distance between the Proposed Development and European Site (straight line) at closest point	Qualifying Interests (QIs) / Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of the European Site (* denotes priority habitat, breeding birds only noted otherwise wintering)	Source-Pathway-Receptor Assessment	Potential for Significant Effects
		- Great Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus marinus</i>) [A187] - Kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>) [A188] - Roseate Tern (<i>Sterna dougallii</i>) [A192] - Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] - Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) [A194] - Guillemot (<i>Uria aalge</i>) [A199] - Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) [A200] - Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) [A204] - Little Gull (<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>) [A862] - Little Tern (<i>Sternula albifrons</i>) [A885]		
River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA [004158] ²²	8.4km	- Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] - Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] - Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140]	The Proposed Development is located entirely outside of the SPA boundary. As such, there is no potential for impacts within the SPA itself. A drainage ditch on the southern boundary appears to be wet at certain times of year. There is very tenuous hydrological	Given no source-pathway-receptor link exists to the SPA and no evidence of SCI species were identified during walkover surveys, the potential for likely significant effects can be excluded.

²² NPWS (2012). Conservation Objectives: River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA 004158. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Site Name (Code) and Conservation Objectives	Distance between the Proposed Development and European Site (straight line) at closest point	Qualifying Interests (QIs) / Special Conservation Interests (SCIs) of the European Site (* denotes priority habitat, breeding birds only noted otherwise wintering)	Source-Pathway-Receptor Assessment	Potential for Significant Effects
		• Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>) [A143] • Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] • Herring Gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>) [A184] • Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	connectivity between this ditch and any significant nearby watercourses. The site of the Proposed Development is unlikely to be used by foraging waterbirds during the breeding or wintering season due to the unsuitability of the habitat.	

2.6 Projects and Plans that May Act In-Combination

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

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

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

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

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

A search of planning applications²³ submitted within the last 5 years within 3km of the Proposed Development was undertaken in August 2025 to examine projects with potential for in combination effects. Five years is considered an acceptable timeframe for this search given the rural location, potential impacts identified for the project alone, and relatively small scale and localised nature and extent of impacts associated with the Proposed Development.

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

Given the AA conclusions for these projects, location of these projects (outside European sites) and no adverse effects likely from the Proposed Development; it is assessed that there is no potential for in-combination effects.

2.7 Summary of Potentially Significant Effects

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

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

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

Project Plan	
Brief description of the project or plan	• The Proposed Project comprises a new 110kv/38 kV/MV Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) substation on a c. 1.69 ha site at Donore Road, Drogheda, County Meath, as illustrated in Figure 1.1. • The Proposed Development is within improved agricultural lands of low ecological value.
Natura 2000 Site	
Brief description of the Natura 2000 site(s)	The application site is within 10km of five European sites (Figure 2.1). This site is considered the only European sites possibly within the Zone of Influence of the Proposed Development:

²³ Planning Websites: [Map Search | An Bord Pleanála \(pleanala.ie\)](#), <https://www.eplanning.ie/MeathCC/searchtypes>

Project Plan

- River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC
- River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA
- Boyne Estuary SPA
- North-west Irish Sea SPA
- River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA

There is at most a very tenuous hydrological connectivity between the Proposed Development and these European Sites..

Nationally available data on protected habitats and species and hydrological pathways was mapped using Geographical Information Systems (GIS). This data plus aerial photography was interrogated for source-pathway-receptor connectivity between the Proposed Development and European Sites.

Considering the location of the project site boundary and absence of significant connectivity (hydrological, physical or ecological), no source-pathway-receptor link was identified between the Proposed Development and any European site.

Assessment Criteria

Describe the individual elements of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to impacts on the Natura 2000 site.

No individual element of the Proposed Development will adversely affect any Natura 2000 site.

Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the Natura 2000 site by virtue of:

- Size and scale;
- Land-take;
- Distance from the Natura 2000 site or key features of the site;
- Resource requirements (water abstraction etc);
- Emissions (disposal to land, water or air);
- Excavation requirements;
- Transportation requirements;
- Duration of construction, operation, decommissioning etc;
- Other.

- There will be no land take within the European Site boundaries.
- Water and other resources will not be taken from the site.
- No impacts are predicted as a result of transportation.
- There is no potential for the Proposed Development to cause water quality degradation of any European Site.
- Standard construction controls and SUDS design will ensure local water courses are not impacted. No specific mitigation is proposed for protection of European sites.
- The construction works have the potential to result in the disturbance of wildlife due to an increase in noise, lighting and visual disturbance locally but not in any European Site.

- Describe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of:
- Reduction in habitat area;
- Disturbance to key species;
- Habitat or species fragmentation;
- Reduction in species density;
- Changes in key indicators of conservation value (water quality etc.);
- Climate change.

- Vegetation clearance and excavation of lands to accommodate the works will increase soil erosion, dust and runoff from site resulting in increased sedimentation locally but will not present a risk of impact to European Sites.
- Release of construction pollution may cause a sudden change in the chemical composition of the site e.g. change in alkalinity from concrete runoff but will not present a risk of impact to European Sites noting standard pollution controls will be implemented to control runoff from works areas. No specific mitigation is proposed for protection of European sites.
- Operational discharge of contaminated water is possible in the absence of a suitable contaminated storage tank incorporated in the design and maintenance of same. No risk of impact to European Sites is likely given SUDS design will be incorporated into the proposed development.

Project Plan

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

3 Appropriate Assessment Screening Conclusion

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

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

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

Table 3.1: Findings of No Significant Effects Matrix

Name of project or plan	ESB Donore 110 kV Substation
Name and location of European sites	• River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC [002299] • River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA [004232] • Boyne Estuary SPA [004080] • North-west Irish Sea SPA [004236] • River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA [004158]
Description of the project or plan	New 110Kv/38Kv/MV distribution station on a c. 1.69 ha site at Donore Road, Drogheda, County Meath.
Is the project or plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site?	No
Are there other projects or plans that together with the project or plan being assessed could affects the site?	No
Assessment of Significant Effects	
Describe how the project or plan (alone or in-combination) is likely to affect the Natura 2000 site	No likely effects were determined from the Proposed Development
Explain why these effects are not considered significant	No likely effects were determined, therefore, there can be no alteration of the conservation condition or objectives of the European Site due to the proposed works
List of agencies consulted: provide contact name, telephone and/or email address	None
Response to consultation	N/A
Data collected to carry out the assessment	
Who carried out the assessment?	Siún Ní Cheallaigh, Ecologist with Mott MacDonald
Sources of data	Referenced provided throughout report within footnotes
Level of assessment	Desktop study and site visit

Appendices

A. In-Combination Effects

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

Planning Reference	Description	Date Granted	Potential for In-Combination Effects
MCC: 211479	A solar panel array consisting of up to 500m2 of solar panels fixed to metal frames and placed on the ground and all associated works	Decision due date 27/09/2021	An Appropriate Assessment (AA) report was submitted with this planning application. The AA concludes that the proposed works, individually or in-combination with other projects, would not have significant effects on any European site. As such, no potential for in-combination effects with the Proposed Development is identified
MCC: 22972	The development at Downestown, Duleek, Co. Meath will consist of a 10-year permission for the construction of a solar PV energy development within a total site area of approximately 18.92ha, include solar PV panels ground-mounted on steel support structures and all associated infrastructure.	Not yet granted	An Appropriate Assessment (AA) report was submitted with this planning application. The AA concludes that the proposed works, individually or in-combination with other projects, would not have significant effects on any European site. As such, no potential for in-combination effects with the Proposed Development is identified
MCC: LB160898	The development at Garballagh, Thomastown, Gillinstown and Downestown, Duleek, Co. Meath will consist of permission for a period of 10 years to construct and complete the development of a Solar PV Energy development with a total site area of 150.29 hectares, including Solar PV panels ground-mounted and all associated infrastructure.	Not yet granted	An Appropriate Assessment (AA) report was submitted with this planning application. The AA concludes that the proposed works, individually or in-combination with other projects, would not have significant effects on any European site. As such, no potential for in-combination effects with the Proposed Development is identified
MCC: LB160998	The development will consist of the development of a solar photovoltaic panel array with a maximum export capacity of 20 MW, comprising up to 88,800 no. solar panels on ground mounted steel frames, 1 no. on site 38kV substation (consisting of single storey substation control building, transformers, battery storage container and associated cabling and infrastructure), 20 no. electrical transformer/invertor station modules and all associated site services and works on a site area of 43 hectares, located in the townlands of Julianstown East, Julianstown West and Ninch, Co. Meath. Permission is sought for 10 years. The application is accompanied by a Natura Impact Statement.	Decision due date 27/01/2017	An Appropriate Assessment (AA) report was submitted with this planning application. The AA concludes that the proposed works, individually or in-combination with other projects, would not have significant effects on any European site. As such, no potential for in-combination effects with the Proposed Development is identified

Planning Reference	Description	Date Granted	Potential for In-Combination Effects
MCC: LB190812	The development at Donacarney Little, Co. Meath, will consist of the construction of a total of 67no. dwellings, two and three storey in height, comprising 41no. 3-bed, 8no. 4-bed, 6no. 2-bed dwellings and 12no. 2-bed apartments in detached, semi-detached and terraced format, together with all associated site development works including a pumping station, landscaping and boundary treatment, public lighting, roads, footpaths and cycle paths and regrading of the site and construction of retaining walls/structures. The application site falls within lands previously granted planning permission for development under ABP Ref. PL17.235104 (P.A. Ref. SA/900673) and will be accessed via the permitted and partially constructed roadway off the R150 through the residential development known as Glen Boann under construction as permitted under ABP Ref. PL17.235104 (P.A. Ref. SA/900673) (as extended by LB/150160 and further extended by LB/181265 and amended by LB/180738 & LB/180982). Significant further information/revised plans submitted on this application	22/01/2020	An Appropriate Assessment (AA) report was submitted with this planning application. The AA concludes that the proposed works, individually or in-combination with other projects, would not have significant effects on any European site. As such, no potential for in-combination effects with the Proposed Development is identified
MCC: LB191735	The development will consist of alterations to existing road infrastructure within the site and clearance of the site (including removal of existing internal roadways and removal / diversion of services) to make way for the proposed development. Construction of a two storey (with mezzanine levels at both storeys) data storage facility building with a maximum overall height of c. 25 metres, containing data halls, associated electrical and AHU Plant Rooms, a loading bay, maintenance and storage space, office administration areas, screened plant and solar panels at roof level, all within a building with a total gross floor area (GFA) of c. 28,573 sq.m; Emergency generators (26 no.), emission stacks and associated plant are provided in a fenced compound adjacent to the data storage facility, along with a single emergency house supply generator; A 6 MVA substation and associated 6MVA electricity connection;	31/03/2020	An Appropriate Assessment (AA) report was submitted with this planning application. The AA concludes that the proposed works, individually or in-combination with other projects, would not have significant effects on any European site. As such, no potential for in-combination effects with the Proposed Development is identified

Planning Reference	Description	Date Granted	Potential for In-Combination Effects
	A water sprinkler pump room, MV Building, unit substation, water storage tanks, humidifier tanks and diesel tanks and filling area; Modification of the existing entrance to the subject site (from the estate road to the east), which will function as a secondary entrance providing for emergency and construction access. A new main entrance and access control point to the lands is proposed (also from the estate road to the east) and a single-storey gate house/ security building at this entrance with a GFA of c. 29.5 sq.m.; Construction of internal road network and circulation areas, footpaths, provision of 50 no. car parking spaces and 26 no. cycle parking spaces within a bicycle shelter; Landscaping and planting (including provision of an additional planted berm to the northern boundary, and alterations to existing landscaping adjacent to the entrance to the Business and Technology Park), boundary treatments, lighting, security fencing, bollards and camera poles, bin store, and all associated site works including underground foul and storm water drainage network, attenuation areas, and utility cables, on an application site area measuring 19.46 hectares. An EIAR has been submitted with this application		
MCC: LB200484	This Phase #2 development is for 86 units consisting of 14no. 3 bedroom two storey semi-detached dwellings, 24no. 3-bedroom end of terrace dwellings, 14no. 3-bedroom mid terrace dwellings, 8no. 2-bedroom mid terrace dwellings, a standalone two storey Creche and 26no. 1-bedroom apartments within a 5 storey block with associated Bin/Bicycle storage, shared car parking, communal roof top garden to apartment block, new site entrance onto Matthews Lane with all associated landscaping, site development and civil works. Significant further information/revised plans submitted on this application	15/03/2021	An Appropriate Assessment (AA) report and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) report were submitted with this planning application. The AA concludes that the proposed works, individually or in-combination with other projects, would not have significant effects on any European site. As such, no potential for in-combination effects with the Proposed Development is identified
MCC: LB201519	The continuation of the use and further quarrying of limestone within the 57.5Ha site, granted by Substitute consent (PL17.su0088), comprising extraction from a 20.6Ha area which includes a lateral extension of 6.2Ha, using conventional drilling and blasting techniques and mineral	Decision due date 10/06/2021	An Appropriate Assessment (AA) report and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) report were submitted with this planning application. The AA concludes that the proposed works, individually or in-combination with other projects, would not have significant effects on any European site. As such, no

Planning Reference	Description	Date Granted	Potential for In-Combination Effects
	reduction using mobile crushing and screening to a depth of 30mAOD. The development includes some 3.4Ha of advanced woodland planting, new administration office and workshop, associated septic tank with raised sand polishing filter and an oil interceptor with soak-away trench. A weighbridge with an associated dispatch office and ancillary structures to include a wheel wash and the potential in line relocation of 110kv transmission poles and the reuse of the northern void 3.24Ha at a reprofiled level of some 40mAOD using on site overburden to provide for a new low level location for a replacement concrete batching plant for the existing plant (01/4203) and a concrete block making yard with restoration of the lands to biodiverse habitats upon completion of extraction. The application is accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report and a Natura Impact Statement. Significant further information/revised plans submitted on this application		potential for in-combination effects with the Proposed Development is identified
MCC: 211669	The construction of 96 no. dwellings consisting of 4 no. one-bed apartments accommodated in 1 pair of two-storey semi-detached maisonettes (type A & A1), 6 No.2 bedroom two storey terraced dwellings (type G, G1) and 83 no. 3 bedroom terraced and semi-detached dwellings (Type B2, B3, D2, D3, E2, G2, G3) and 3 no. 4 bed detached dwellings (Type H) including landscaping, new roads, footpaths, cycle paths and open space including play area and all associated works. A new pedestrian and cycle link is proposed to Sheephouse Road from the site. The vehicular access to the development will be from the public road at 'The Boulevard', Oldbridge Manor. A Natura Impact Statement will be submitted to the Planning Authority with the application	Decision due date 08/03/2022	An Appropriate Assessment (AA) report and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) report were submitted with this planning application. The AA concludes that the proposed works, individually or in-combination with other projects, would not have significant effects on any European site. As such, no potential for in-combination effects with the Proposed Development is identified
.MCC: 212412	A residential development comprising 95 no. residential units, a childcare facility and associated outdoor play area, road infrastructure, all associated open space, cycle and pedestrian infrastructure, services and all other associated development on a site of c. 6.138 hectares. The 95 no. residential units proposed consist of 49 no. houses (comprising 31 no. 3 bedroom units, and 18 no. 4 bedroom units), 6 no. duplex apartments (all 3 bedroom) and 40 no. apartments (7 no. 1 bedroom units, 30 no. 2 bedroom units,	Decision due date 25/07/2022	An Appropriate Assessment (AA) report and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) report were submitted with this planning application. The AA concludes that the proposed works, individually or in-combination with other projects, would not have significant effects on any European site. As such, no potential for in-combination effects with the Proposed Development is identified

Planning Reference	Description	Date Granted	Potential for In-Combination Effects
	and 3 no. 3 bedroom units) in 1 no. apartment building and above the proposed childcare facility. The proposed childcare facility with a GFA of 532 sq. m is located within a two storey building with apartments above. The proposed houses are 2 to 3 storeys in height and the duplex/apartment blocks are 3 to 4 storeys in height (with the apartment building including a 5 storey corner element). The development includes road infrastructure comprising of a link street (including changes to the previously permitted road infrastructure under Reg. Ref.: LB/180620), junction arrangements, pedestrian crossings and a road to the east to facilitate a connection to the existing school on Mill Road (Gaelscoil and Bhradain Feasa). The road infrastructure also includes proposed cycle lanes/paths, footpaths, grass verges. The development includes associated site and infrastructural works including all associated road infrastructure, foul and surface / storm water drainage (including upgrading of water services on Mill Road), surface water management including attenuation and storage features, a pumping station, watermain and utilities, 177 no. car parking spaces, 159 no. cycle parking spaces, public open space including a linear park, bin and bike stores, landscaping consisting of new tree planting, hedges, berms and grass planting, boundary treatments, public lighting, ESB substation, and all associated site and infrastructural works. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) will be submitted to the Planning Authority with the planning application. The lands are primarily located to the north of Colpe Road and to the west of Mill Road and Gaelscoil an Bhradain Feasa and are bordered to the south west by the Dublin-Belfast railway line. The site also takes in a section of Mill Road to northeast of the main application site. The lands are within the townlands of Colp West, Stameen, and Mornington. Significant further information/revised plans submitted on this application		
MCC: SH305552	"DIRECT APPLICATION TO AN BORD PLEANALA - SUBMISSION TO AN BORD PLEANALA". (i) demolition of existing farm buildings/structures (1160sqm) on site; (ii) construction of 661 no. residential dwellings and a neighbourhood centre adjacent to the site's eastern boundary, consisting of a childcare facility (486sqm), café	05/03/2020	An Appropriate Assessment (AA) report and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) report were submitted with this planning application. The AA concludes that the proposed works, individually or in-combination with other projects, would not have significant effects on any European site. As such, no

Planning Reference	Description	Date Granted	Potential for In-Combination Effects
	(63sqm) and retail unit (318sqm); (iii) a 4-arm signalised junction and works to Rathmullan Road, including the widening of the existing carriageway to 6 metres and the provision of a 2 metre wide footpath linking the proposed development to the River Boyne Boardwalk; (iv) 2 no. priority junctions (one along the site's eastern boundary to provide access to the neighbourhood centre and one along the site's southern boundary to provide a second access to the development), realignment and upgrade works to the unnamed local road along the site frontage to the south of the new signalised junction with Rathmullan Road; (v) Construction of a strategic foul water pumping station in the north-eastern corner of the site; and (vi) all associated site, landscaping and infrastructural works, including foul and surface water drainage, attenuation areas, open space areas, boundary walls and fences, internal roads and cycle paths and footpaths. The 661 no. residential dwellings consist of the following:		potential for in-combination effects with the Proposed Development is identified
MCC: SH311028	201 no. residential units (all apartments) on a site of 1.74 hectares. Residential units proposed are located within 5 no. proposed apartment buildings of 5 no. storeys in height over basement. The proposed apartment units comprise 53 no. 1 bedroom apartments, 132 no. 2 bedroom apartments, and 16no. 3 bedroom apartments. The 5 no. apartment buildings comprise the following: • Block 1 is five storeys in height, and will accommodate 53 no. apartment units, comprising 18 no. 1 bedroom units, 31 no. 2 bedroom units, and 4 no. 3 bedroom units. • Block 2 is five storeys in height and will accommodate 37 no. apartment units, comprising 8 no. 1 bedroom units, 26 no. 2 bedroom units, and 3 no. 3 bedroom units. • Block 3 is five storeys in height and will accommodate 37 no. apartment units, comprising 9 no. 1 bedroom units, 25 no. 2 bedroom units, and 3 no. 3 bedroom units. • Block 4 is five storeys in height and will accommodate 37 no. apartment units, comprising 9 no. 1 bedroom units, 25 no. 2 bedroom units, and 3 no. 3 bedroom units.	23/11/2021	An Appropriate Assessment (AA) report was submitted with this planning application. The AA concluded that these proposed works would have no significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites. Given the conclusion of the AA, no potential for in-combination effects is identified with the Proposed Development.

Planning Reference	Description	Date Granted	Potential for In-Combination Effects
	• Block 5 is five storeys in height and will accommodate 37 no. apartment units, comprising 9 no. 1 bedroom units, 25 no. 2 bedroom units, and 3 no. 3 bedroom units. A single basement level is proposed beneath Blocks 1 and 2, to accommodate car parking, bicycle parking areas, bin stores, and circulation areas. The development includes associated site and infrastructural works including all associated road infrastructure, bicycle and pedestrian facilities (including bicycle and pedestrian route through the site resulting in alterations to the existing Southgate Centre car park), foul and surface / storm water drainage, surface water management features, 181 no. car parking spaces, public and communal open space, bin and bike stores, lighting, landscaping and boundary treatments, 1 no. ESB substation, services, access arrangements, and all ancillary works. The development includes associated site and infrastructural works including all associated road infrastructure, bicycle and pedestrian facilities (including bicycle and pedestrian route through the site resulting in alterations to the existing Southgate Centre car park), foul and surface / storm water drainage, surface water management features, 181 no. car parking spaces, public and communal open space, bin and bike stores, lighting, landscaping and boundary treatments, 1 no. ESB substation, services, access arrangements, and all ancillary works.		
MCC: 2360212	The proposed development will comprise a 170MW (electrical output) Open Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT) Power Plant. The proposed development will comprise an electricity generating plant which will use Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) as fuel and will be connected to a previously consented 110kV substation (ABP-303678-19) and associated site works and improved access from the R152. The development comprises the following elements: a) Three gas turbine buildings (each 990m²) each housing 1 no. turbine, 1 no. generator and auxiliary equipment with a total of 269 MWth (thermal output) generating capacity all on concrete plinths. b) The power plant will have three exhaust stacks (25m in height), one exhaust stack per OCGT. Therefore, each	Decision due date 15/02/2024	An Appropriate Assessment (AA) report and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) report were submitted with this planning application. The AA concludes that the proposed works, individually or in-combination with other projects, would not have significant effects on any European site. As such, no potential for in-combination effects with the Proposed Development is identified

Planning Reference	Description	Date Granted	Potential for In-Combination Effects
	OCCGT will comprise a standalone Large Combustion Plant. The power plant may need to utilise, selective catalytic reduction (SCR) (18m high, 4.5 width, 14m length) for nitrogen oxides abatement. c) Water treatment plant comprising: • a 275m² Deionising Building (6m high x 11m wide x 25m long) • a raw water treatment tank of 2,262m³ (12.8m high) • a deionised water tank (max. volume of 3,925m³). 15.4m high • a processed water tank of 450m³ (9m high) • 1 no. 20m² firefighting water tank of 45m³ (2m high) • 1 no. 25m² firewater module (4m high x 5m wide x 5m long) • 1 no. 41m² sanitary foul water cesspool tank of 79m³ located underground (1.98m high x 2.5m wide x 16m long) • a bulk chemical storage area (4.75m wide x 7.75m long) d) 2 no. HVO tank (max. storage of 2300 m³ of HVO per tank), 13m high with a diameter of 15m and associated fuel pumping and filtering equipment and pipework, within a 43.5m L x 45.5m W x 1.5m Bund capacity is 2970m³. e) 1 ammonia tank –1.8m high x 3.5m length with bund 2.5 m x 5 m with a height of 1.5 m. f) 1 no. fuel polishing system (3m high x 6m wide x 24m long). g) 2 no. 110 kV transformers each 160m², and each measuring (5m high x 10m wide x 15m long). 3 no. Lightning Masts (18m in height) and kiosks,cable gantry connection to the adjoining consented 110 kV Substation. h) A 520m² services building (6m high x 13m wide x 40m long). i) A 160m² Switchgear (MV) building (5m high x 6.1m wide x 26.3m long). j) All other miscellaneous and ancillary site works, including: 12 no. Car parking spaces and 1 No. fuel unloading bay, one lowered site platform area, new internal roads and hard and soft landscaping including material berms (1.2m to 2m high), a temporary construction compound, temporary		
MCC: 2360296	EirGrid PLC, with the consent and approval of the Electricity Supply Board (ESB), intends to apply to Meath County	04/01/2024	A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) report was submitted with this planning application. The NIS concluded that following

Planning Reference	Description	Date Granted	Potential for In-Combination Effects
	Council for permission for works associated with the proposed uprate of the existing Louth – Woodland 220 kV overhead powerline (OHL) between the existing Louth 220 kV substation in the townland of Monavallet, County Louth and the existing Woodland 220 kV substation in the townland of Woodland, County Meath. The Louth – Woodland 220 kV OHL is approximately 61.5km long and comprises 207 no. steel lattice tower structures. The existing circuit is located within the functional area of Louth County Council and Meath County Council. Approximately 38.5km of the existing OHL circuit is located within the functional area of Meath County Council and approximately 23km is within the functional area of Louth County Council. A separate planning application is being lodged with Louth County Council. The Proposed Development within the functional area of Meath County Council is located in the townlands of Cardrath, Broomfield, Balrenny, Higginstown (Slane Electoral Division), Coalpits, Mooretown (Slane Electoral Division), Cashel, Crewbane, Rossnaree, Fennor (Painestown Electoral Division), Newtown (Painestown Electoral Division), Rathdrinagh, Thurstanstown, Painestown (Painestown Electoral Division), Knockharley, Veldonstown, Kentstown, Danestown, Proudstown (Skreen Electoral Division), Macetown (Skreen Electoral Division), Painestown (Macetown Electoral Division), Frankstown, Riggins (Kilbrew Electoral Division), Reask (Kilbrew Electoral Division), Hallstown, Cabinhill, Flemingtown (Ratoath Electoral Division), Twentypark, Lagore Little, Brownstown (Ratoath Electoral Division), Bradystown, Curkeen, Commons (Ratoath Electoral Division), Gormanstown, Wilkinstown (Dunshaughlin Electoral Division), Powderlough, Raynestown, Derrockstown, Mill Land (Dunshaughlin Electoral Division), Parsonstown, Rathregan, Portan (Dunshaughlin Electoral Division), and Woodland. Five (5) temporary construction compounds and associated access routes are located in the townlands of Knockmooney, Slane, Rath, Flemingstown and Tuiterrath. The Proposed Development works within the functional area of County Meath will comprise:		mitigation, the proposed works will not adversely affect any Natura 2000 sites. Given the distance between these proposed works and the Proposed Development (6km) and the conclusion of the NIS, no potential for in-combination effects is identified with the Proposed Development.

Planning Reference	Description	Date Granted	Potential for In-Combination Effects
	the replacement ("restringing") of the existing overhead line circuit conductor with a new higher capacity conductor; the strengthening of up to 25 no. tower foundations;		
MCC: 2360336	The development will consist of a facility for the recovery of waste concrete on a 1.8ha area at Annagor Quarry, as conducted previously at this site. The recovered materials will meet the Environmental Protection Agency End of Waste Criteria. A Waste Facility Permit will be sought for this activity.	13/08/2024	An Appropriate Assessment (AA) report was supplied with this planning application and concluded these proposed works were unlikely to have significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites. Given the distance between these proposed works and the Proposed Development (6km) and the conclusion of the AA, no potential for in-combination effects is identified with the Proposed Development.
MCC: 23495	A 10-year planning permission for a Solar PV Energy Development with a total site area of c. 41.3ha, to include solar panels mounted on steel support structures, associated cabling and ducting, 11 No. MV Power Stations, 1 No. Client Substation, 10 No. Battery Storage Containers, 1 No. Temporary Construction Compound, tracks, boundary security fencing and security gates, CCTV, landscaping and ancillary works. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been submitted to the Planning Authority with the Application. Significant further information/revised plans submitted on this application	20/02/2024	A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) report was submitted with this planning application and concluded that these proposed works were unlikely to have significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites. Given the distance between these proposed works and the Proposed Development (7km) and the conclusion of the NIS, no potential for in-combination effects is identified with the Proposed Development.
MCC: 2460133	The proposed development includes the removal of interim accommodation permitted under Ref. No. LB190739 and Ref. 21/2336, and the construction of a new, 1,000 no pupil post-primary school (Roll No. 68348A), which will comprise of 43 no. classrooms, with associated laboratories and specialist classrooms, Multi-Purpose Hall, a Physical Education Suite including a Physical Education Hall, and all ancillary teacher and pupil facilities with a gross floor area of c. 11,302sqm over 3 no. storeys. The proposal includes the removal of all interim accommodation on site, arranged across 12 no. blocks, with a cumulative GFA of c.4,203sq m (previously permitted under Reg. Ref. LB190739 and Reg. Ref. 21/2336) including the removal of 1 no. interim accommodation block, constructed under exempted development (c.249 sq m). The proposal also includes the demolition of a single-storey c. 190sqm derelict building, associated with the former	27/02/2025	An Appropriate Assessment (AA) report was submitted with this planning application and concluded that these proposed works were unlikely to have significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites. Given the distance between these proposed works and the Proposed Development (5km) and the conclusion of the AA, no potential for in-combination effects is identified with the Proposed Development.

Planning Reference	Description	Date Granted	Potential for In-Combination Effects
	agricultural use of the site. 27/02/205Vehicular access to the subject site is proposed via a new priority-controlled T-junction located on the new link road to the southwest of the site, with associated tie-in works to the existing road network; 2 no. pedestrian and cyclist access points and 2 no. pedestrian only access points to the southwest boundary of the site; staff and visitor parking spaces and designated drop-off and set down facilities. The development will also include the provision of 1 no. external storage building (c.50sqm); 1 no. bin store; bicycle and scooter parking; vehicle and bus drop off/set down areas; internal access roads; hard and soft play areas including 6 no. hard play court areas; piped infrastructure and ducting; plant and plant room; LPG Tanks Compound; electrical switch room; landscaping and boundary treatments; PV panels; EV parking facilities; external courtyards; disabled car parking spaces; site clearance works, comprising of the partial removal of hedgerows and a number of trees; stepped access routes; street and security lighting; signage; 2 no. attenuation tanks; surface water drainage and SUDs measures (including green roof provision); 5 no. flagpoles; piped infrastructural services and connections, hard and soft landscaping, ESB Substation, changes in level and all associated site development and excavation works above and below ground. The total site area is 5.26Ha. Significant further information/revised plans submitted on this application		
MCC: 221718	The proposed development will consist of an uprate of the existing Drybridge to Platin 110 kV Overhead line (OHL) {approximately 5.6km long and comprising 33no. structures (excluding LCIM 13a and LCIM 14 which are consented under separate planning application) and 2no. gantries between the existing Drybridge 110 kV substation in the townland of Tullyallen, Co. Louth and the existing Platin 110 kV substation in the townland of Platin, Co. Meath). The majority of the existing OHL circuit is located within the functional area of Meath County Council with less than 0.5km in the functional area of Louth County Council. The proposed uprate development is located in the townland of Tullvallen in Countv Louth and the townlands of Oldbridge, Sheephouse,	04/04/2023	A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) report was submitted with this planning application and concluded that these proposed works were unlikely to have significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites. Given the distance between these proposed works and the Proposed Development (3km) and the conclusion of the NIS, no potential for in-combination effects is identified with the Proposed Development.

Planning Reference	Description	Date Granted	Potential for In-Combination Effects
	Rathmullan, Donore and Platin in County Meath. The proposed uprate development will comprise: • the replacement ("restringing") of the existing overhead line circuit conductor wires with a new higher capacity conductor including installation of a new fibre communication connection; • the replacement of 11 No. existing polesets (including 1 No. wooden poleset conversion from strain to suspension poleset structure} and 5 No towers (4 No steel angle masts and 1 No. steel end mast in Platin 110kV substation - this unit will be replaced and reoriented) - any replacement structures will be constructed at, or immediately adjacent to the existing structures they will replace, will be along the same alignment as existing, and will be of a generally similar appearance with minor increases in height generally between 0.5-1m with the highest increase in height of a structure being 2m; • replacement and reorientation of steel end mast in Platin 110kV substation; • replacement of gantry in Drybridge 110kV substation; • foundation strengthening works at 1 No. steel angle mast; • the replacement of steel members at 3 No. steel angle masts; • painting of all steel members at 2 No. steel angle masts; • replacement of hardware and fittings at all structure locations; • replacement and relocation of fibre communication structures; • all associated site development works; • all associated temporary site development works to gain access to the existing structures including clearance of vegetation, disassembly and reassembly of gate posts/ piers and removal and reinstatement of existing fencing.		
MCC: 2461063	A 150kW Solar Panel Array fixed to metal frames and anchored to the ground, with inverter control room, underground cable ducts and all associated works, within the curtilage of lands. Significant further information/revised plans submitted on this application.	08/08/2025	An Appropriate Assessment (AA) report was submitted with this planning application and concluded that these proposed works were unlikely to have significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites. Given the distance between these proposed works and the Proposed Development (6km) and the conclusion of the AA,

Planning Reference	Description	Date Granted	Potential for In-Combination Effects
			no potential for in-combination effects is identified with the Proposed Development.
LCC: 2360272	The development will consist of the construction of an ESB substation (approx. 43m2) and generator compound to supplement the existing electrical supply to the St Mary's Hospital campus and support the various HSE facilities found on the St Mary's site. In addition to the proposed ESB substation, an enclosed medical gas manifold store building (approx. 17m2) will be constructed within the landscaped area between St Mary's Hospital and the new community nursing unit building to provide additional healthcare support and provision. The proposals will also incorporate realignment of previously agreed car parking and landscaped areas to facilitate the inclusion of the proposed ancillary support buildings.	22/10/2028	The planners report for the project stated that the proposed project " <i>it is not considered that the proposed development would be likely to have a significant effect individually or in combination with other plans or projects on a European site (Special Area of Conservation or Special Protected Area) and as such an Appropriate Assessment (Stage 2 AA) is not required</i> ". As such, no potential for in-combination effects is identified.
LCC: 22663	Retention permission for a new Kingspan Environmental BA Biodisc wastewater treatment unit coupled with a twin set of Kingspan modular reedbeds and tertiary treatment provided by a constructed integrated filter bed which replaces the original septic tank and soakaway along with any associated site works	04/12/2027	The planner's report noted the potential for impact in the absence of mitigation to the Dundalk Bay SPA (0004026), Dundalk Bay SAC (0000455), Clogherhead SAC (0001459)
LCC: 23184	Retention and completion of an ESB Substation Kiosk at Tullybrook, Slane Road, Tullyallen, Drogheda, Co Louth.	15/01/2029	The planners report for the project stated " <i>I am satisfied that no appropriate assessment issues arise and it is not considered that the proposed development would be likely to have a significant effect individually or in-combination with other plans or projects on a European site (Special Area of Conservation or Special Protected Area) and as such, an Appropriate Assessment (Stage 2 AA) is not required</i> ". As such, no potential for in-combination effects with the Proposed Development is identified.
ABP: 305819	217 no. residential units (137 no. houses, 80 no. apartments) creche and associated site works.	28/02/2020	An Appropriate Assessment (AA) report was submitted with this planning application and concluded that these proposed works were unlikely to have significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites. Given the distance between these proposed works and the Proposed Development (5km) and the conclusion of the AA, no potential for in-combination effects is identified with the Proposed Development.

Planning Reference	Description	Date Granted	Potential for In-Combination Effects
ABP: 312205	Amendments to mixed use development resulting reduction from 522 residential units to 517 units. Alterations for revised open public spaces, roads, and services layout.	30/08/2022	An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report was submitted with this planning application. The inspector's report for the project stated that the amendments to the proposed project <i>"would not, in my opinion, alter the findings of the original EIA...there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development."</i> As such, no potential for in-combination effects with the Proposed Development is identified.
ABP: 303568	Proposed electrical substation and associated 110kV and MV infrastructure required to connect ground mounted solar PV generation to the electrical transmission system, underground cabling and all associated ancillary site development work.	22/07/2019	A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) report was submitted with this planning application. The inspector's report for the project stated that <i>"it is reasonable to conclude that on the basis of the information on file, which I consider adequate in order to issue a screening determination, that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, would not be likely to have a significant effect on the River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA (004232) and SAC (002299), the River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA (004158), or any other European site, in view of the site's Conservation Objectives, and a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is therefore not required."</i> As such, no potential for in-combination effects with the Proposed Development was identified.
ABP: 303678	Air insulated switchgear 110kV transmission substation.	17/01/2020	The inspector's report for the project stated <i>"I am satisfied to conclude that there would be no adverse effects on the integrity of European sites arising from the proposed development in combination with other plans or projects."</i> As such, no potential for in-combination effects with the Proposed Development is identified.
ABP: 303799	250 no. dwelling units (94 no. houses, 156 no. duplex/apartments), creche and associated site works.	10/06/2019	An Appropriate Assessment (AA) report and Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) report were submitted with this planning application. The inspector's report for the project stated, <i>"the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects would not be likely to have a significant effect on any European site."</i> As such, no potential for in-combination effects with the Proposed Development is identified.
ABP: 306021	544 no. residential units (260 no. houses and 284 no. apartments), creche and associated site works.	07/07/2020	An Appropriate Assessment (AA) report and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) report were submitted with this planning application. The inspector's report for the project stated, <i>"it has been ascertained that the proposed development, individually or</i>

Planning Reference	Description	Date Granted	Potential for In-Combination Effects
			<i>in combination with other plans or projects would not adversely affect the integrity of the 2 no. European sites listed above, or any other European site, in view of the site's Conservation Objectives." As such, no potential for in-combination effects with the Proposed Development is identified.</i>
ABP: 308628	110kV gas insulated switchgear substation compound, associated dropdown transmission lines, and associated development at Drogheda IDA Business and Technology Park, Donore Road, Drogheda, Co. Meath	28/04/2021	An Appropriate Assessment (AA) report and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report was submitted with this planning application. The inspector's report for the project stated, " <i>it is reasonable to conclude that the proposed development would not be likely to have a significant effect individually or in combinations with other plans or projects on the following European sites...</i> " As such, no potential for in-combination effects with the Proposed Development is identified.
ABP: 309308	20 year permission for a 13.5 hectare extension to existing Overburden Management Facility The application is accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). The application requires an Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) Licence and the facility operates pursuant to an existing IED Licence (EPA Ref No. P0030-05.	08/07/2021	An Appropriate Assessment (AA) report was submitted with this planning application. The AA concludes that the proposed works, individually or in-combination with other projects, would not have significant effects on any European site. As such, no potential for in-combination effects with the Proposed Development is identified.
ABP: 309401	Planning permission for a period of 10 years to construct and complete a solar PV development.	10/05/2023	An Appropriate Assessment (AA) report was submitted with this planning application. The AA concludes that the proposed works, individually or in-combination with other projects, would not have significant effects on any European site. As such, no potential for in-combination effects with the Proposed Development is identified.
ABP: 310729	An Appropriate Assessment (AA) report was submitted with this planning application. The AA concludes that the proposed works, individually or in-combination with other projects, would not have significant effects on any European site. As such, no potential for in-combination effects with the Proposed Development is identified.	14/04/2022	An Appropriate Assessment (AA) report was submitted with this planning application. The AA concludes that the proposed works, individually or in-combination with other projects, would not have significant effects on any European site. As such, no potential for in-combination effects with the Proposed Development is identified.
ABP: 310768	Continuation of the use and further quarrying of limestone within the site which was granted by Substitute Consent (PL17.SU0088)	03/03/2023	An Appropriate Assessment (AA) report, a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) report and an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report were submitted with this planning application. The NIS concludes that the proposed works, individually or in-combination with other projects, would not have significant effects on any European site. As such, no

Planning Reference	Description	Date Granted	Potential for In-Combination Effects
			potential for in-combination effects with the Proposed Development is identified
ABP 311427	New 110kV substation and associated compound and ancillary equipment to facilitate the connection of Gaskinstown solar farm to the electricity transmission network.	14/04/2022	An Appropriate Assessment (AA) report was submitted with this planning application. The AA concludes that the proposed works, individually or in-combination with other projects, would not have significant effects on any European site. As such, no potential for in-combination effects with the Proposed Development is identified.
ABP: 317209	10 year permission for the construction of a solar PV energy development.	16/08/2024	An Appropriate Assessment (AA) report was submitted with this planning application. The AA concludes that the proposed works, individually or in-combination with other projects, would not have significant effects on any European site. As such, no potential for in-combination effects with the Proposed Development is identified.
ABP: 317568	Upgrade of Gorman to Platin 110 kV overhead line (OHL) (19.76km long and comprising 109 supporting structures) along with all associated site works. NIS lodged with application.	22/10/2024	An Appropriate Assessment (AA) report and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) report were submitted with this planning application. The AA concludes that the proposed works, individually or in-combination with other projects, would not have significant effects on any European site. As such, no potential for in-combination effects with the Proposed Development is identified.
ABP: 322341	Large-scale residential development: Construction of a mixed-use development comprising 322 dwellings, a community centre and sports hall, a neighbourhood centre and a district public park, a convenience anchor retail unit and a creche together with all other associated site works. EIAR and an NIS was submitted to PA. Revised NIS submitted with Further Information. The application is available to view on www.boynevillagelrd.ie	28/07/2025	An Appropriate Assessment (AA) report and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) report were submitted with this planning application. The AA concludes that the proposed works, individually or in-combination with other projects, would not have significant effects on any European site. As such, no potential for in-combination effects with the Proposed Development is identified.
ABP: 245760	Upgrading of the existing water and sludge treatment process system at Staleen Water Treatment Plant, provision of new external perimeter fence.	07/03/2016	An Appropriate Assessment (AA) report was submitted with this planning application. The AA concludes that the proposed works, individually or in-combination with other projects, would not have significant effects on any European site. As such, no potential for in-combination effects with the Proposed Development is identified

Planning Reference	Description	Date Granted	Potential for In-Combination Effects
ABP: 248028	Solar voltaic panel array with a maximum export capacity of 20 MW of 88,800 no. solar panels. A Natura Impact Statement accompanied the planning application.	13/03/2018	An Appropriate Assessment (AA) report and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) report were submitted with this planning application. The AA concludes that the proposed works, individually or in-combination with other projects, would not have significant effects on any European site. As such, no potential for in-combination effects with the Proposed Development is identified
ABP: PA0050	10 year permission to facilitate further replacement of fossil fuels with alternative fuels and allow for the introduction of alternative raw materials in the manufacturing of cement at :	11/04/2018	An Appropriate Assessment (AA) report and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) report were submitted with this planning application. The AA concludes that the proposed works, individually or in-combination with other projects, would not have significant effects on any European site. As such, no potential for in-combination effects with the Proposed Development is identified
ABP: QD0013	Further quarry development comprising continued use of the existing site and ancillary facilities.	24/10/2018	An Appropriate Assessment (AA) report was submitted with this planning application. The AA concludes that the proposed works, individually or in-combination with other projects, would not have significant effects on any European site. As such, no potential for in-combination effects with the Proposed Development is identified

